

Along the Rainbow: 2024 Pride Month Newsletter

Compiled and Edited by Steven Goings, aka

Quazar (to subscribe send your email to

sgoings@csumb.edu with the subject:

Subscribe Rainbow)

Welcome to Week 2 Along the Rainbow!

If you missed our inaugural edition last week, you can [click here](#) to see what you missed!

I had a rather grounded start to the Pride Season this year. My good friend and roommate Karen Cusson, directed a play reading of The Laramie Project

in a two night production at the Epiphany Episcopal & Lutheran Church of Marina. It was good; standing-ovation good!

The play is in the style of verbatim theatre in which all of the lines are from direct interviews of the real life participants. The Matthew Shepard Foundation [website](#) writes,

"After Matthew's murder in 1998, members of the Tectonic Theater Project in New York City traveled to Laramie, Wyoming, to interview residents about how the attack on Matt had affected the town. These transcripts were



*transformed into the play **The Laramie Project**, which tells the stories of real people who lived at the epicenter of one of the nation's most heinous anti-gay hate crimes.*

*The Laramie Project is one of the most frequently performed plays in America, as its messages still resonate with audiences today. The Matthew Shepard Foundation supports dozens of productions of **The Laramie Project** and its epilogue **The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later** every year across the country. It's the goal of the Matthew Shepard Foundation to create an environment where people are afforded an opportunity to discuss the play and its messages, the hate they encounter in their own lives, and how they can work collectively to build a more understanding and compassionate community."*

The next morning, I brought my pup, Sheena, to her first Pride parade in Santa Cruz where we marched along in the Monterey Peninsula Pride contingent. Taking in these vastly different experiences back-to-back, I can't help reflecting on the astonishing breadth of LGBTQ+ experience.

For millennia, sex and gender minorities were incorporated into indigenous communities and societies around the world until the rise and spread of corporate patriarchal religions which drove us underground and systematically attempted to erase us from living memory. Consequentially, our movement is born out of pain, suffering and oppression.

But, like the phoenix, we are immortal and are eternally resurrected from the ashes of homophobia and transphobia into a spectacular display of resiliency, flamboyance and fabulousness.

Therefore Pride Month includes all the hues of the human experience. In equal measure, Pride Month is a time to honor and commemorate the pain, struggles and sacrifices of generations of fallen heroes, sheroes and queeroes; to embody as best we can the righteous rebel energy of Stonewall that says "we're not putting up with this s--t anymore; and to celebrate the extraordinary achievements of our movement and our people along the rainbow!

-- Quazar

Along the Rainbow Land Acknowledgement by Quazar



Photo by Ohlone Coastanoan Esselen Tribal Chairwoman Louise J. Miranda Ramirez

Along the Rainbow acknowledges that our local LGBTQ+ communities live and thrive on the traditional, ancestral territories and homelands of the Esselen, Rumsen, Costanoan and Ohlone people. As an oppressed community ourselves, we must acknowledge that we reside on land stolen from indigenous people through physical and cultural violence. That cultural violence included the transmission of colonial Christian homophobia and transphobia to indigenous communities through boarding schools and missions with the express purpose of suppressing Two-Spirit people who went from being regarded as holy by their own indigenous communities to being regarded as deviants by European, Mexican and American settlers. To support and learn more about the surviving indigenous communities of Monterey, we encourage you to visit any of their websites:

www.esselentribe.org

www.ohlonecostanoanesselenation.org

www.costanoanrumsen.org

Upcoming LOCAL Pride Celebrations

Monterey Peninsula Pride Parade & Celebration Information:

- Date: Saturday June 29, 2024
- Time: 11 am (parade); 12-3pm (celebration)
- Place: Downtown Monterey
- Parade: Hartnell & Polk Street
- Celebration: Custom House Plaza
- Theme: Be Queer Here
- Contact: Beth at bethwalker@peninsulapride.org
- Website: <https://www.peninsulapride.org/>



Pararo Valley Pride Info:

- Date: Sunday Aug 18, 2024
- Time: 11 to 4 pm
- Place: 340 East Beach Street, Watsonville
- Contact: Info@pajarovalleypride.org
- Website: <https://pajarovalleypride.org/>

Salinas Valley Pride Celebrations Info:

- Date: Saturday Oct 12, 2024
 - Time: 11 to 3 pm
 - Place: Central Park, Salinas:
 - RSVP: SVPC Facebook page;
<https://www.facebook.com/events/328793883176744>
 - Website: <https://www.salinasvalleypride.com/>
-



MONTEREY PENINSULA

PRIDE

EVENTS:



MONTEREY PENINSULA PRIDE

APRIL 10, 2024

BE QUEER HERE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release: Monterey Peninsula
Pride Parade and Celebration 2024



Monterey, CA - Join Monterey Peninsula's LGBTQIA+ and ally community for a family-friendly day of camaraderie, joy, and pride on Saturday, June 29, 2024, as we march and dance down Alvarado Street and celebrate at the Monterey State Historic Park's Custom House Plaza.

The theme for 2024 is "Be Queer Here." This theme serves two essential aspects of our organization and community. First, it reflects our firm commitment to supporting LGBTQIA+ individuals and communities, promoting acceptance, and ensuring that queer identities are respected and celebrated without erasure. Second, it is a nod to the reality that while San Francisco and the broader Bay Area are often associated with queerness and celebration, this spirit can also thrive right here in Monterey! Our community has always existed, and we want everyone who visits Monterey, or calls this place home, to understand that they can embrace their authentic selves.

The day will start with the Pride Parade, which will kick off at 11:00 a.m. starting on Polk Street near Alta Bakery. Our Grand Marshal, Quazar Goings, will lead the parade down Alvarado Street where we will end at Custom House Plaza. When asked about the importance of queer existence, Quazar said that "being queer is a rare and precious gift; queer lives transform a drab and monotonous existence into a creative celebration of joy and authenticity."

Following the parade, the celebration will take place at Custom House Plaza by Fisherman's Wharf at 12:00 p.m., and includes speakers and entertainment. Local musicians will get the dance party started and there will be drag performances by queens Rogue Roulette and Khloe Quarterpounder, and others!

New this year is our Queer Youth Awards portion of the stage program where we will award a number of queer students with scholarships to honor their commitment to going above and beyond in advocating for the local LGBTQIA+ community.

We will have over 65 local agencies tabling during the celebration portion of our event representing healthcare, non-profit, wellness, faith-based, art groups, and local food trucks that will provide meals and refreshments. This is a FREE event for the all ages, although donations are encouraged.

Monterey Peninsula Pride would like to thank the many individuals, businesses, and organizations that are making this event possible!

Please visit www.montereypeninsulapride.org or follow @montereypride on Facebook and Instagram for more information. If you're interested in getting involved as a volunteer, tabling, as a sponsor, or would like to sign up for email updates, please reach us via the email below.

Press Contact: info@peninsulapride.org

Melissa Lewis, Co-Chair
831-227-1184

Beth Walker, Co-Chair
650-619-0567



MONTEREY PENINSULA
PRIDE

QUEER YOUTH RECOGNITION SCHOLARSHIP

In support of the queer youth on the in our area, Monterey Peninsula Pride is excited to announce our first ever Queer Youth Recognition Scholarship. The Queer Youth Recognition Scholarship encourages the applications of queer youth who have demonstrated resilience in the face of challenges, advocated for the queer community or have contributed positively to the community on the Monterey Peninsula.

Applications will open on Friday, April 5th, 2024 and be closed on Tuesday, April 30th, 2024. Queer youth selected for these scholarships will be recognized at our Monterey Peninsula Pride Celebration on June 29th, 2024 at Custom House Plaza.

Scan the QR code below or visit the link in our bio for more information on application requirements!



MONTEREY PENINSULA
PRIDE



RAINBOW PRIDE PANEL

A CELEBRATION OF QUEER
ACTIVISTS



SATURDAY, JUNE 22
11 AM -1 PM

THE VILLAGE PROJECT, INC
1069 BROADWAY AVE,
SUITE 201, SEASIDE, CA

On Zoom at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89267392538>

Or to attend in-person, pre-
registration required at:

<https://rb.gy/3zdbrt>

A Monterey Peninsula Pride Program
Co-Sponsored by The Village Project, Inc. &
CSUMB Rainbow Raft Pride Center



In their role as **Grand Marshal** for Monterey Peninsula Pride's 2024 Parade and Celebration, Quazar, has personally selected a group of local queer activists whose accomplishments you are invited to discover & celebrate!

MEET THE PANELISTS:

David A Reichard, Professor of History and Legal Studies, Emeritus, CSUMB

Debra Busman, Professor of Creative Writing and Social Action

Father Jon Perez, Vicar, Epiphany Church, Marina

Tyller Williamson, Monterey Mayor and Monterey Peninsula Pride co-founder

JT Mason, Whites for Racial Equity & Palenke Arts



Partner Donation Links:

<https://tinyurl.com/MontereyPride>

<https://tinyurl.com/VillageProjectINC>

<https://tinyurl.com/RainbowRaftPrideCenter>

Rainbow Panel Active (clickable) links from above:

- On Zoom at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89267392538>
- Or to attend in-person, pre-registration required at:
<https://rb.gy/3zdbrt>

Partner Donation Links:

<https://tinyurl.com/MontereyPride>
<https://tinyurl.com/VillageProjectINC>
<https://tinyurl.com/RainbowRaftPrideCenter>

WHOLEHEARTED TATTOO

&

Monterey Peninsula Pride

Present

TATTOOS & PRIDE

FLASH FUNDRAISER BENEFITTING
M.P.P.S' QUEER YOUTH RECOGNITION SCHOLARSHIP

Saturday June 22nd 12-8pm
140 w. Franklin ste 205

PRE-DRAWN FLASH DESIGNS CELEBRATING LGBTQ+ CULTURE
BLACK AND GREY \$80
RAINBOW \$100



CELEBRATE MONTEREY PRIDE

SATURDAY, JUNE 29

11am: Parade on Alvarado Street

12pm - 3pm: Performances, food, and music at Custom House Plaza

Pride is free and all ages and identities are welcome



@montereypride



MONTEREY PENINSULA
PRIDE

peninsulapride.org



MEET THE PRIDE 2024 GRAND MARSHAL

Quazar (they-them-their) currently identifies as a bigender androsexual. Quazar is a founding organizer for Monterey Peninsula Pride, is a former president of the organization, and now serves as an emeritus board member. Quazar's roots in activism lay in their struggle to integrate intersectional identities whose communities were often at odds with one another; specifically, African American, Christian and LGBTQ+ identities and communities.



MEET THE PRIDE 2024 GRAND
MARSHALL - QUAZAR

Seeking a spiritual community where they could be openly gay, they moved from Seaside to San Francisco in 1987 and got involved with an LGBTQ+ serving new age / omnifaith church called Radiant Light Ministries. Radiant Light taught that our spiritual potential is activated by serving our communities.

At 43, they enrolled at Cal State Monterey Bay as an undergraduate where

they discovered their inner activist. Quazar's graduating capstone project was *Queer Spirit: Queer Navigations of Christian Cultural Terrain*. They were a co-founder of the LGBTQ+ student club Out and About (now the Pride Club), and was among the first group of CSUMB's Rainbow Graduates in 2010. In 2014, they were recognized for their HIV/AIDS activism by Central Coast HIV/AIDS Services.

Over the years, Quazar has co-designed LGBTQ+ Safe Zone training for CSUMB, Hartnell and Interim, Inc. Quazar is among the original organizers of Monterey Peninsula Pride's first parade and program in 2017. Each non-COVID year they have organized the MPP's interfaith welcome and pride panel.

Last summer, they facilitated a transgender mental health panel for The Village Project, Inc. This summer at the Village Project, they will be facilitating a celebration of local LGBTQ+ activist a week before Monterey Pride's parade and celebration.

Quazar currently works at CSUMB, where they co-facilitate the LGBTQ+ counseling and support group for students and co-facilitate the CSUMB LGBTQ+ Employees Affinity Group which was instrumental in developing CSUMB's Rainbow Raft Pride Center which opened in May 2024. They are honored to serve as Monterey Peninsula Pride's Grand Marshal for its 2024 Parade and Celebration.

In The Spotlight!

About JT Mason

Community Activist to
be celebrated at
Rainbow Panel Event

Sat June 22; 11 to 1 pm

The Village Project, Inc
1069 Broadway Ave,
Suite 201, Seaside

[Click Here](#) to Register
for Free In-Person
Tickets



JT grew up in the Unitarian Universalist Church. She says, “part of your DNA when you are raised that way is social action. We have seven principles one of which is the belief in the inherent worth and dignity of all. So, to put my faith into action is to be a community organizer.”

As a young adult, JT, began her community organizing within the women’s movement. She was instrumental in creating the vibrant and thriving women’s community in the Monterey Bay Area. In 1978 she co-founded Demeter Resources, a non-profit organization which focused on women and lesbian rights, news and music. Demeter also promoted women’s athletics, sponsoring entry-level and advanced women’s softball and basketball teams. JT was named one of Monterey County’s Outstanding Women by the Commission on the Status of Women in 1992. Between 1995 and 2000, she sat on the national board of the Association of Women’s Music and Culture.

JT began her career in public radio hosting a variety of shows on KAZU and KUSP starting in 1979. JT worked for 28 years at KAZU as the long-time programmer of My Sister’s House, Monday Morning Folk and the Roadside Café.

JT has also had three decades worth of association with the Monterey County Chapter of the National Coalition Building Institute where she has served on leadership teams for various community workshops focused on prejudice reduction and multicultural community building.

In 1999, JT and her wife Gretchen became the first openly same sex couple to legally adopt a child in Monterey County.

In 2001, she began working as a youth counselor and teacher at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula working extensively with children and youth educational programs. She was also very involved in the congregation’s anti-racism and anti-oppression efforts. As part of her commitment to anti-racism work, JT, contributed to the anthology Combined Destinies, White’s Sharing Grief About Racism in 2013. In 2015, she co-founded two different organizations, Whites for Racial Equity and Palenke Arts.

Like many other local community activists, JT, attended the vigil called by the Monterey County Branch NAACP on the steps of Seaside's City Hall in response to the murder of nine worshipers at AME church in Charleston, South Carolina. At the vigil, Ann Todd Jealous, challenged white folks in attendance not to return to their lives as usual following the vigil. JT, really heard her and so she brought together local white activists to found Whites for Racial Equity where she has served on the steering committee since its inception. WRE has served as a launching pad for White folk to get involved as allies in backing the efforts of organizations that serve people of color such as the NAACP, the Village Project and Palenke Arts.

Palenke Arts was co-founded with Juan Sanchez and a committed group of artists and educators to address the issue of inequity in the arts by imbuing their programs with high-interest, culturally relevant art and music programs. JT served as the founding board president. Following the 2016 Pulse Street Massacre of LGBTQ+ People of Color at an Orlando gay nightclub, Jt joined local efforts to build greater activist networking capacity within the queer community by working to establish the non-profit, Monterey Peninsula Pride. JT has provided years of support for Salinas Valley Pride as well.

Other community organizing has included:

- Board membership on the TWCA where se played a part in the launch of its domestic violence crisis line and the creation of the Mildred Lawson safe house for women and children
- Several years volunteering for Hospice of the Central Coast
- Many years as a foster volunteer for Animal Friends Rescue Project for whom she has nurtured countless litters of kittens and for which she adopted several rescue pups and kittens over the years.

JT has also had a great impact on her frequent collaborators.

- Palenke Arts founder, **Juan Sanchez**: "JT is a true visionary, she believes in the power of love, spirituality, social justice and the arts to transform communities."
- UUCMP Revs. **Axel and Elaine Gehrman**: She and her wife Gretchen have hosted numerous fantastic church events at their home. JT has used her beautiful artistic skills to create a number of gorgeous mosaics gracing the walls of our church. Our gratitude and appreciation for her are beyond words, and we aspire to be more like her in all we do."
- **Sue Parris**, national president of the Board of Directors of NCBI International: "JT has committed countless acts of kindness and generosity to individuals and families (many people of color, immigrants and other marginalized folks). We'll never know how many lives she has touched."
- Singer/Songwriter **Holly Near**: "JT worked in public radio 28 years at KAZU. There was also the aspect of how JT presented herself to the

public, an out lesbian living a busy life, loving a partner, adopting a child, doing social change work. In some cases, her very presence on the air, her humor, her open heart saved lives.”

About Deb Busman

**Community
Activist to be
celebrated at
Rainbow Panel
Event**

**Sat June 22;
11 to 1 pm
The Village Project,**

Inc 1069 Broadway Ave, Suite 201, Seaside



[Click Here](#) to Register for Free In-Person Tickets

"My mom was an activist and union-organizer so my activism probably started in the womb, and most certainly in baby carriages on picket lines. She was active in civil rights and farmworker struggles so growing up I just assumed that fighting for justice was just what one did."

1978 -- First Monterey Bay activism was 1978, working to defeat the **Briggs Initiative**, along with lesbian comrades Mickey Welsh, Kathy Stoner, JT Mason, Bev Harrison, and Claire Parish, and straight ally Dick Criley with the ACLU

1978-1985 -- Co-founded **Demeter Resources**, a nonprofit women's organization, dedicated to the growth of the feminist community and the development of women's culture in the Monterey Bay area. Worked as editor, typesetter, production/design artist, and press operator for *Demeter*, Monterey area newspaper that explored feminist issues and concerns and provided information on organizations and activities of interest to the local women's community. Topics addressed include sexuality, race, gender equality, sexism, gay rights, reproductive rights, and violence against women. Issues also include poetry and articles about books and music. Also worked to organize women's music events, bringing lesbian and feminist artists to the Monterey Peninsula. Also organized women's sporting leagues, with beginner and advanced softball and

basketball teams.

1994-2005 -- Founding member of the Monterey Bay Area chapter of the **National Coalition Building Institute**, formed to promote grassroots leadership training and facilitate coalition building between community social action organizations. Conducts community workshops on diversity, unlearning racism and anti-oppression work in the schools, churches, government agencies, businesses and non-profit agencies.

1995-1999

Executive Assistant, **Friends Outside in Monterey County**, a non-profit prisoner advocacy organization. Assisted with the operation of the Community Prisoner Mother/Infant Program, Employment Program, Visitor Centers at Soledad and Salinas Valley State Prison, and Community Corrections Re-Entry Center. Coordinated community services for inmates preparing to re-enter society. Wrote grants for corporate and United Way funding; prepared operational grants for continued contracting with the Federal Bureau of Prisons and the California Department of Corrections

1981-1996

Owner of **Copiworks/Fine Print, a women-owned, openly queer, community print shop** in Pacific Grove, serving printing and copying needs of private sector and non-profit community agencies. Mentored and apprenticed young women entering the fields of offset printing and graphic design.

2012 – present

Advisory Board Member for **The Village Project**, a non-profit counseling and education center founded to strengthen families through the delivery of community based, culturally specific services for the African American and other under-served communities in Seaside

CSU Monterey Bay

1999-2024 -- **Professor and Director of the Creative Writing and Social Action Program.**

- Taught courses and presented at conferences on Social Action Writing as a source of resistance and empowerment, claiming the traditionally marginalized voices and stories of queer and BIPOC folx.
- Coordinator *Writers From the Edge* visiting writers series, bringing folx to campus like Angela Davis, Bettina Aptheker, and bell hooks.
- Organized "Voices of Liberation" with Black Panther leaders, and
- "Writers for Mumia--An Evening of Social Action Writing," to raise awareness

2001-2020 -- **Coordinator of Service Learning** for the Department of Humanities and Communication. Served as liaison between campus and Monterey, Seaside, Salinas, and Castroville communities, strengthening ties and reciprocal partnerships, and developing meaningful community needs-centered curriculum.

2010-2016 – **Author**

- 2010 -- Co-edited anthology, *Fire and Ink: An Anthology of Social Action Writing*, awarded Silver Medal in ForeWord Reviews' Book of the Year Awards competition
- 2015 -- Published autobiographical novel, ***Like a Woman***, about queer kids coming of age on the streets of L.A.
- 2016 -- Finalist for Lambda Literary Award for Lesbian Fiction, novel *Like a Woman*

2012-2016 -- Co-founder and Faculty Advisor for the **CSUMB College Chapter of the NAACP**

- In 2015, Deb received the **Civil Rights Advocate and Ally Award, from the Monterey County NAACP** for her dogged intervention in the case of Dennise Jackson, an African American CSUMB student who turned to the NAACP campus chapter for assistance. Ms. Jackson was wrongly discriminated against when she was kicked out of student housing due to a mutual altercation with her white roommate who was not similarly asked to leave. Additionally, formal charges were filed against Ms. Jackson. Through the work of Deb Busman, it was ultimately determined that the original CSUMB police report was biased and the charges were dropped.

About Tyler St. Pierre-Young

**Founding Staff Coordinator
for the CSUMB Rainbow
Raft Pride Center**

Tyler St. Pierre Young is a dedicated advocate with a passion for serving individuals with disabilities and fostering inclusive spaces for queer and trans folks. With a heart full of compassion and a commitment to social justice, Tyler has made significant contributions to the LGBTQ+ community through both advocacy and tangible action.



As the Testing & Deaf/Hard of Hearing Coordinator at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) Tyler is devoted to creating accessible

and welcoming environments for people with disabilities. Tyler believes that everyone deserves to be seen, heard, and valued, and he strongly believes in equal access to education for everyone. His efforts have not only provided necessary support to individuals with disabilities but also educated and empowered others to champion accessibility within their own communities.

Tyler's impact is perhaps most visible in his role in establishing and opening CSUMB's first LGBTQ+ student resource center, named the Rainbow Raft Pride Center. Recognizing the need for a safe and affirming space for LGBTQ+ students, Tyler worked alongside students, colleagues, and university officials to bring this vision to life. The Rainbow Raft Pride Center now stands as a vibrant hub of support, education, and celebration, offering resources, programming, and a sense of belonging to countless students. Tyler's leadership in this initiative has left an indelible mark on the campus and has provided a lasting legacy of inclusion and acceptance.

In all his endeavors, both at CSUMB and beyond, Tyler embodies the spirit of Pride, working to uplift marginalized voices and create a world where everyone, regardless of their identity, can live authentically and joyfully. His work exemplifies the power of community-driven advocacy and highlights the importance of creating spaces where everyone can thrive.

About Monterey Peninsula Pride

- [Website](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Donate](#)



OUR VISION

Monterey Peninsula Pride aims to create and contribute to a vibrant, multifaceted LGBTQIA+ community for a more connected, celebratory, and inclusive Monterey Bay area.

OUR MISSION

Monterey Peninsula Pride creates celebratory and safe spaces for LGBTQIA+ expression and allyship across the Monterey Peninsula.

OUR VALUES

Monterey Peninsula Pride envisions a social climate in which *LGBTQAI+

people and communities thrive in collaboration with friends, family, allies, and supporters.

We dream of a community in which all genders and sexualities are equally welcomed and celebrated.

We desire a vibrant, multigenerational community in which LGBTQAI+ children are nurtured, LGBTQ+ elders are honored, and people with varied abilities are embraced.

We envision a community in which LGBTQIA+ people of every culture, philosophy, and belief system can contribute.

We encourage a society in which every ethnicity appreciates their LGBTQAI+ members as a vital part of their communities.

We stand for a world in which LGBTQAI+ people are woven into the socio-political fabric of society and in which our voices and perspectives are heard in schools, board rooms, city halls, faith communities, town halls, sports arenas, and media.

We strive to increase LGBTQIA+ visibility on the Monterey Peninsula through listening and learning from all LGBTQIA+ expressions.

What do we want our community to feel? Joy, Gratitude, Visibility, Support, Belonging, Balance, Safety, Empowerment, Resilience, Longevity, Homegrown.

About The Village Project Inc

- [Website](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Donate](#)



The
Village
Project Inc.

Boa Me Na Me Mmoa Wo
Help Me and Let me Help You

OUR STORY

The Village Project, Inc. (TVPI) was founded to meet the needs of the underserved African-American community. We now provide services and advocate for the Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) and the LGBTQ+ community.

TVPI came to life as a result of the passage of the Mental Health Services

Act (MHSA) of 2004. Prior to our creation, focus groups were held, which stimulated the creation of an organization where BIPOC and LGBTQ+ people could work through the traumas they faced with the help of trusted practitioners who looked like them and understood their cultural dynamics.

Our state and county-wide work benefits our constituency by providing free counseling and other clinical and educational support services to youth, adults, and families, who have been historically unserved, underserved, or inappropriately served by mental health and educational systems in Monterey County.

OUR MISSION

We provide vulnerable adults, children, and families from historically underserved communities in Monterey County with culturally appropriate mental health services, educational support, and social advocacy so that they can become self-sufficient, self-directed, and self-determining members of the community.

More Events

*A special
screening
of the
documentary*



Conversations with Gay Elders

Join us to watch one in a series of six interviews and conversational documentaries focused on gay men whose journeys of self-discovery precede the era of Stonewall and Gay Liberation. The conversations explore how these men navigated being “different” long before there was any social or political context for a positive LGBT self-image.

CONVERSATIONS WITH GAY ELDERS was a cross-generational collaboration in which producer/director David Weissman (then in his early 60s) worked in partnership with gay men in their 20s and 30s as editors to profile gay men in their 70s and 80s.

**Filmmaker David Weissman (*The Cockettes, We Were Here*)
will be joining us at this presentation.**

Thurs., June 6th • 7-8:30pm

CSL Santa Cruz • 1818 Felt Street, Santa Cruz, CA

Attendance is free; donations accepted.

CO-SPONSORED BY:



**SANTA CRUZ AREA
RADICAL
FAERIES**

✦ Magic ✦ Intention ✦ Community ✦

QUEER NEW MOON RITUAL



Gemini



Friday June 7th 6:00- 8:00 pm

AT THE DIVERSITY CENTER

RSVP: tinyurl.com/april2024queernewmoon

Pride Marketplace

FOOD, DRINKS, & LIVE MUSIC

SATURDAY, JUNE 8TH
2:00-5:00PM

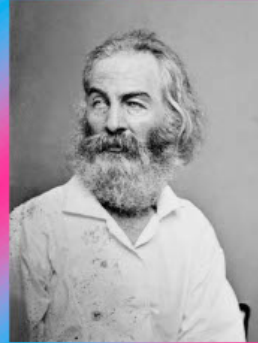


131 Front St. Santa Cruz, CA 95060

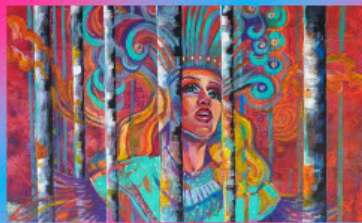
The Monterey Bay Poetry Consortium
welcomes you to an evening of poetry:

“All Their Looks and Words”

Kent Leatham & the Queer Legacy of Walt Whitman



*Featuring artwork
from “Queertopia”*



*by Paul Richmond
& Briden Schueren*

Saturday, June 8 @ 5:30 p.m.

Pacific Grove Public Library, 550 Central Avenue



Pacific Grove
PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Monterey Bay Poetry Consortium seeks to showcase the finest talents of the diverse Central Coast literary community, from Big Sur to Santa Cruz to the Salinas Valley and beyond. Free readings are held on the second Saturday of each month at the Pacific Grove Public Library. All are welcome. Follow us on Facebook, or contact Kent Leatham (kent.leatham.poet@gmail.com) for more information. This series is graciously co-sponsored by the Whitney Latham Lechich Poetry Trust.



PRIDE NIGHT!

SATURDAY, JUNE 8TH 7:00PM
CARDINALE STADIUM, SEASIDE, CA



Saturday, June 8

STRYKER FORCE
By Flex Party @
FlexPartyPride

8-9:30 PM

Bulldog Sport Club;
611 Lighthouse Ave.,
Monterey

General Admission: \$15.00



[**Click Here for Tickets**](#)

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF INCREDIBLE MUSIC, HOT GO-GO DANCERS, SINGERS, AND A STAR STUDED-DRAG SHOW. THIS IS A

NIGHT YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!!

Come join us at BULLDOGS SPORTS PUB for an epic night of fun and incredible music by DJ ATMOS, hot go-go dancers, singers, and a star-studded drag show to start off PRIDE month. THIS IS A NIGHT YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!! Experience the pleasure and excitement of our very own SOCCER HOTTIES and don't miss out on the action - mark your calendars and you might just SCORE.....A GOAL!!

Sunday, June 9


XYZ COMEDY
Featuring (Lesbian)
Comic Lulu Vee

7:30 PM

Sunset Center; Saint
Carlos Street at 9th Ave.,
Carmel

General Admission:
\$35.00

[Click Here for](#)
[Tickets](#)

A portrait of Irene Tu, a stand-up comedian, actor, and writer. She is wearing a vibrant, patterned short-sleeved shirt with a pineapple and floral design. Her hair is styled in a short, dark, textured cut. She is holding a piece of light green fabric or paper over her forehead. The background is a solid, bright orange color.

IRENE TU
SUNDAY, JUNE 9 AT 8PM

Irene Tu is an LA-based stand-up comedian, actor and writer who honed her chops in San Francisco. Her first comedy album WE'RE DONE NOW debuted in March of this year at #1 on the iTunes comedy charts. Irene has performed at Netflix Is A Joke comedy festival in the highly coveted "INTRODUCING" showcase. Her STAND-UP FEATURING set is the most watched reel on Comedy Central's Stand-Up's Instagram page, with over 2.7 million views. Paste Magazine praised Irene's "quick wit, relaxed stage presence, and hilariously off-the-wall observations" in this album that "ticks all the boxes of a winning introduction, and then some." She was named one of Vulture's "Comedians You Should and Will Know" and singled out in The SF Chronicle as an "artist on the brink of fame." She's a regular at festivals and clubs around the country and opens for comics like Taylor Tomlinson and Patton Oswalt.



UPCOMING WEBINAR

Navigating Intersectional Challenges: Supporting Two-Spirit Survivors Amidst COVID-19 and Housing Insecurity

Wednesday, June 12, 2024 at 1 PM MST VIA ZOOM

niwrc.org/events



Thursday,
June 13th

From 3-5 PM



Tween Time at The Diversity Center

PRIDE BRACELET CRAFTS

Ages 8-12 located at 1117 Soquel Ave



diversity center
santa cruz county



CALIFORNIA
STATE PARKS
FOUNDATION

Pride In Our Parks is back!

SATURDAY, JUNE 15TH, 9:00AM-12:00PM

FORT ORD STATE PARK

COFFEE & BREAKFAST BURRITOS PROVIDED BY
SALINAS VALLEY PRIDE CELEBRATIONS!



Sunday, June 16

MONTEREY BAE PRIDE
BRUNCH
Hosted By Lulu Vee

8-9:30 PM

Paperwing Theatre
Supper Club; 711
Cannery Row, Suite 1,
Monterey

General Admission:
\$40.00

[Click Here for
Tickets](#)

Greasepaint
Steph Infection
Phagatron

SUNDAY
JUNE 16
2024
DOORS
OPEN
@ 11AM

BRUNCH
&
MIMOSAS
SHOWS
START
@ 12PM

MONTEREY BAE
**Pride
Brunch**
Hosted by Lulu Vee

711 CANNERY ROW, SUITE 1, MONTEREY, CA 93940
RESERVE TICKETS AT PAPERWING.COM

Join LuLu Vee and her collection of dazzling queens and celebrate PRIDE month in style. Ticket includes entry to show and a delicious brunch buffet. Indulge in Bottomless Mimosas for an additional charge. It is an experience you will not want to miss!!

diversity center
santa cruz county



21ST, JUNE 2024

BINGO & LOTERÍA DRAG SHOW

FEATURING



XINISTRA GL'AMOUR



LITTLE MISS
CAFFINE



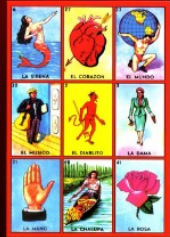
ROGUE ROULETTE



PRISMATIC FRIDAY BINGO & LOTERÍA AT 6:00 PM

Free | Bilingual | Snacks and Beverages | All Ages

Location: Raíces y Cariño (1205 Freedom Blvd, Watsonville, CA 95076)



HERE & QUEER & THRIVING!

a pride open mic night

Saturday, June 22

beginning at 6 PM (PST)

featured performer:

YOSIMAR REYES

music by
DJ AYUMI PLEASE

\$5 to \$10

suggested sliding scale donation
(no one turned away for lack of funds)

sponsored by:



530 ELM AVENUE
SEASIDE, CA 93955

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (831) 998-7291
OR EMAIL OURGENTE@EPICENTERMONTEREY.ORG

WALK IT OUT WEDNESDAY

Quarterly lunch and walking group for
LGBTQ+ seniors and allies in Watsonville!

June 26th 2024

Lunch 12:00 pm -12:45 pm

Neighborhood walk 1:00 pm -1:45 pm

**Walkers must RSVP to receive a FREE lunch from
Erik's DeliCafé. Please RSVP at
<http://tinyurl.com/junewalkitout>**

or call 831-768-3279

Meet us at the
Watsonville Senior Center
114 E 5th Street
Watsonville, CA 95076



The Diversity Center Presents

MAKE YOUR OWN RIBBON
DANCER WAND
@ THE WATSONVILLE YOUTH
CENTER

for youth ages 11-17

Wednesday June 26th

3:30 to 6:00 pm

30 Maple Ave,

Watsonville

Supplies
provided!



**RE-OCCURRING
EVENTS**



LOOKING FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY?

JOIN US ON SUNDAYS AT

UUCMP

IN CARMEL AT 10:30 AM

(in person and live streamed via zoom)

LEARN MORE AT WWW.UUCMP.ORG

Unitarian Universalism is a religion that unapologetically welcomes and celebrates the LGBTQ+ individuals, children and families in our congregations and communities.





Trans Masculine Support Group



**Each month on the 2nd and 4th Sunday
via Zoom from 6:00 - 7:30 PM**

This group offers peer support and social connections. All FTM, Transmen, masculine-spectrum, butch, boi, folks questioning their gender, etc. are welcome.

Join us for a support group for the 1st hour and then optional social time for the last half hour.



Contact
transmascgroup@diversitycenter.org
for the Zoom link and any questions.



PRIDE BOOTCAMP

COME JOIN US!

INSTRUCTOR: ASHLEY LAMORTE
LAMORTELIFT.COM

MONDAYS / 5:30PM
WEDNESDAYS / 5:30PM
SATURDAYS / 9:AM

60 Plus Rainbow Strollers Walking Group

A non-judgmental and leisurely
walking experience for LGBTQ+ seniors

All genders
welcome!



Walking 2
miles
maximum,
with
plenty of
breaks!

Every Tuesday, 1-3pm
Text Rich at 831-322-9827
to see where the group is
meeting





the diversity center

TRANS AND NON-BINARY SUPPORT GROUP

**Every Wednesday, from 7:30-9 pm
via Zoom. Ages 18+**

Email Nic.Laflin@diversitycenter.org
for more information



diversity center
santa cruz county

**PROUD
EVERYDAY**

CULTIVATING TRANS JOY

A virtual community group for trans and non-binary adults ages 18 - 30 to engage in reflection, discussion, and activities focused on cultivating joy and wellbeing

**EVERY THIRD TUESDAY
7 - 8 PM PST**

Facilitated by Emmett Griffith (he/him)



For questions, please contact
emmett.griffith@diversitycenter.org

 @emmett.the.educator



Monthly (2nd Thursdays)

LGBTQ+ GAME NIGHT
Monterey LGBTQ+
Network

7 - 9 PM

Springhill Suites Marina,
the Dunes on Monterey
Bay / 215 10th Street,
Marina

Free Event by "Cole"

Join us for our monthly social game night (2nd Thursday of each month). We will be playing Cards

Against Humanity or something similar so people can pick it up easily and jump in and out as needed. There is a bar that serves sodas and alcohol (whatever your pleasure), and they have some appetizers as well. Feel free to bring a friend or partner along, allies are very welcome . ****Adults only****





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UUCMP

IN CARMEL AT 10:30 AM

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TRANS & NON-BINARY

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK REQUEST

**HELP US SUPPORT OUR
COMMUNITY BY SHARING
YOUR EXPERIENCE**

tinyurl.com/TDCTransFeedback

TUTORING AND HOMEWORK SUPPORT FOR LGBTQ+ STUDENTS

Offered By:
BIRDS of a FEATHER TUTORING

Call or text 831-824-4281 to
schedule a time



LGBTQ+ SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



Walnut Avenue
— FAMILY & WOMEN'S CENTER —

VIRTUAL SUPPORT GROUP

Multicultural Equity Group | 1512 Vallejo Street | Seaside, CA 93955 US

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