

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)

Celebrating Queer Community Activists, *Along the Rainbow!*



I just want to take a moment to say how thoroughly I am enjoying the process of pulling together a celebration of queer community activists in association with [Monterey Peninsula Pride](#) this year. Since we launched MPP as a pride planning team of organizers in 2017 and as a fully-fledged non-profit in 2018, most years I have facilitated a post pride discussion panel following the annual parade and celebration.

These have been really fun!

This year is different in a number of ways. First off, it is a week *before* Pride. Typically the post pride panel is either a few hours after the Pride Celebration or its the next morning. Either way, as a volunteer starting at 9 in the morning, I am usually too wiped to attend the Pride After-Party. This

year, I plan to party hearty with the best of them!

My personal circumstances are also a lot different this year. Along with 84 other employees, as a result of an extreme budget deficit, I have taken up CSUMB's offer of a six-month salary buy-out to voluntarily separate from the university I have been part of since 2006. Three other LGBTQ+ community activists with long associations with CSUMB, Professors Deb Busman and Dave Reichard as well as Senior Chaplain Father Jon Perez are leaving as well -- that's over 80 years of service just between the four of us!

Wanting to celebrate my colleagues, I convinced them all to be panelists this year along with Monterey Peninsula Pride's primary founder, Tyller Williamson and the great JT Mason who was recently nominated for the annual Bahai Human Rights Award.

Delving into their histories in order to faithfully portray the depth and scope of their activism and community impact has been nothing short of inspirational. The abbreviated bios of two of our panelists, Deb Busman and JT Mason were featured in last week's *Along the Rainbow*. This week's edition features Dave Reichard; Father Jon and Tyller's bios will be featured next week.

I am grateful to [***The Village Project, Inc.***](#) (an LGBTQ+ friendly, predominantly African American counseling and family resource center) for hosting us this year and to Monterey Peninsula Pride for trusting me year after year to facilitate the panel. Although the panel will be recorded by activist videographer Wes White, streamed on Zoom (<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89267392538>) and TVPI social media platforms, I encourage you to attend in person if you can. However, given the quality of our panelists, in-person seating is limited and if you wish to attend in person you should REGISTER NOW to reserve your seat at <https://rb.gy/3zdbrt>

As co-leads of the LGBTQ+ Employees Affinity Group at CSUMB, Dave Reichard and I are leaving the university just after successfully launching the brand new LGBTQ+ student success center, the [***Rainbow Raft Pride Center***](#) under Dave (and Tyler St. Pierre-Young) 's leadership. As such, the *Celebrating Queer Activists* panel will also be a soft fundraiser for the Pride Center as well as Monterey Peninsula Pride and The Village Project.

Even if you can't attend in person or at all, I hope you will consider financially supporting these fine organizations, [***Along the Rainbow:***](#)

Partner Donation Links:

<https://tinyurl.com/MontereyPride>

<https://tinyurl.com/VillageProjectINC>

-- Quazar

FROM THE LGBTQ+ VIDEO ARCHIVES

Facilitated by Quazar



2017 Post Parade Panel

[Video Link](#)

Featuring Panelists:

- Amanda Milhalko
- Captain Avner Even-Zohar
- Heather Flescher
- Stefanie Berman
- Tyller Williamson

2018 Monterey Peninsula Pride Panel [Video Link](#)

Featuring Panelists:

- Father Jon Perez
- JT Mason
- Rachel Henry
- Reilly Skinner (now Ezra Lambert)
- River Navaille
- Tyller Williamson

2019 Monterey Peninsula Pride Panel [Video Link](#)

Featuring Panelists:

- Derek Gutierrez
- Paul Richmond
- Mickey Welsh
- Tyller Williamson
- Vicky

2023 The Village Project Trans Mental Health (Virtual) Panel [Video Link](#)

Featuring Panelists:

- Angel Scott
 - Karen Cusson
 - Kayde Castonguay
 - Tyson Dryer
 - Willow Celeste
-

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 respected members of 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:

PRIDE IN OUR PARKS

Saturday, June 15, 2024
9:00 AM 12:00 PM
Fort Ord Dunes State
Park

Join Salinas Valley Pride Celebrations (SVPC), California State Parks Foundation, and the Monterey District Natural Resources Volunteer Program for a very special LGBTQIA+ volunteer day at Fort Ord Dunes State Park!



We need your help to remove invasive wild mustard from the fragile and dynamic dunes. Meet at the Fort Ord Dunes State Park main parking lot — at the end of 8th/9th Street in Marina. Bring water, snacks, closed-toe shoes, and sun protection. Tools, training, and gloves will be provided. LGBTQIA+ folx and allies of all ages and abilities are welcome! Coffee and breakfast burritos will be provided by SVPC!

Maximum participants: 40

To RSVP, email Volunteer.Monterey@parks.ca.gov

ROULETTE HOUR @ PEARL HOUR

Saturday, June 15, 2024

10:00 PM - 11:55 PM

Pearl Hour

214 Lighthouse Avenue Monterey, CA 93940

A drag, burlesque, & variety show the second Saturday of every month! At Pearl Hour with fabulous hosts [@the_rogue_roulette](#) and [@khloe_quarterpounder](#).



MONTEREY BAE PRIDE DRAG BRUNCH

Sunday, June 16, 2024

11:00 AM 1:00 PM

Paper Wing Theatre

711 Cannery Row

Monterey, CA, 93940

Gather your squad and get ready for a Pride celebration that will leave you GAGGED! Join us June 16th for Monterey Bae Drag Brunch at Paper Wing Theatre. Doors open at 11AM, show starts at 12PM. Hosted by resident cutie [@luluvee.jpg](#) with her cast of baddies [@phagatronzdrag](#) [@stephinfections](#) [@greasepaint_the_clown](#)

For more info and ticket purchase, visit [here](#).

Steph Infection

Greasepaint

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 I, MONTEREY, CA
RESERVE TICKETS AT PAPERWING.COM

QUEER SOUND BATH @ LOVERS POINT PARK

Sunday, June 16, 2024
7:15 PM 8:30 PM
Lovers Point Park
631 Ocean View Boulevard
Pacific Grove, CA, 93950

A note from our facilitator, Kacey Rodenbush - a sound bath is a meditative experience where participants are “bathed” in the vibrations from a variety of sound healing instruments, including quartz crystal singing bowls aligned with the frequencies of the body's chakra system, chimes, rain stick, a crystal harp

and planetary sound bridges. For optimal comfort, please bring a yoga mat or blanket for laying down. You may also consider bringing a light covering for the eyes and a bolster/pillow for head and/or lower back support.

Queer Sound Bath



At Lovers Point Park



Sunday, June 16th, 2024 at Golden Hour

Gathering begins at 7:15 pm, Sound Bath begins at 7:30pm

KRML 94.7 - PUB TALK W/MONTEREY PENINSULA PRIDE

Thursday, June 20, 2024

5:00 PM 6:00 PM

Alvarado Street Brewery

Mission Street & 7th Ave Carmel Plaza, Suite 112

Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA, 93921

We join our friends at KRML 94.7 Radio to chat about Monterey Peninsula Pride and all the happenings during Pride Month! Tune in, stream online, or join us in person at Alvarado Street Brewery in Carmel for all things Pride!

For more info, [visit here.](#)

A promotional poster for a 'Pub Talk' event. The background is a dark, teal-tinted photograph of a pub interior with wooden beams and tables. The word 'PUB TALK' is written in large, bold, white capital letters, with a light green speech bubble outline behind it. Below the title, the text 'THURSDAY AT 5:00PM' is displayed in white. At the bottom left is the KRML 94.7 FM logo, which consists of a white circle containing a silhouette of a bear. To the right of the logo, the text 'KRML 94.7 FM' is written in white. At the bottom of the poster, the text 'WATCH THE LIVE VIDEO STREAM ON INSTAGRAM' and 'TUNE IN AT KRML.COM OR 94.7FM' is written in white.

PUB TALK

**THURSDAY
AT 5:00PM**

 **KRML
94.7 FM**

*WATCH THE LIVE VIDEO STREAM ON INSTAGRAM
TUNE IN AT KRML.COM OR 94.7FM*

Rainbow Pride Panel

Active (clickable) links for flier below:

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>

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, Ouazar, 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>

TATTOOS AND PRIDE FLASH FUNDRAISER

Saturday, June 22, 2024

12:00 PM 8:00 PM

Wholehearted Tattoo

140 West Franklin Street #205

Monterey, CA, 93940

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

MONTEREY PENINSULA PRIDE 2024 - PARADE & CELEBRATION

Saturday, June 29, 2024

11:00 AM 3:00 PM

Custom House Plaza

20 Custom House Plaza

Monterey, CA, 93940

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.



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



In The Spotlight!

**About
Dave**

Reichard

**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**



Dave's local activism started when he arrived in 1999 to teach as a part-time lecturer at CSUMB. In his early years on campus, Dave served as faculty advisor to the LGBTQ student organization, *All in the Family*. Because many of the students at that time feared being out on campus, they had meetings in Dave's shared office, ideal since it had no windows. From that experience, Dave learned how important it is for LGBTQ+ to be and feel safe, to be and feel welcome, and to have a sense of belonging.

In 2000, CSUMB LGBTQ community members (students, staff & faculty) organized on campus to help defeat Proposition 22, the Knight Initiative. Despite the best efforts of these campus organizers, it passed and defined marriage in any California statute as only between one man and one woman. Dave worked with students to help them understand what that meant—and how they needed to keep going, as organizing is a marathon not a sprint.

Another focus of Dave's organizing—promoting LGBTQ public history—emerged when he became involved in the [***GLBT Historical Society***](#) in San Francisco while commuting to work at CSUMB. It was at the GLBTHS that Dave developed his understanding of the real organizing power of community-based history. So, when the GLBTHS decided to open a new [***GLBT History Museum***](#), Dave stepped up as an Associate Curator for several exhibits, including one section on queer youth organizing, something he was inspired to do because his work with CSUMB students. He also served on the board of directors, including a term as co-chair. Dave left the board when he and his husband, Nelson, fully moved to the Monterey Peninsula in 2016.

After coming back to Monterey County, Dave wanted to help make LGBTQ history matter in our own local communities. Building on his experiences in San Francisco, he co-founded the [***Monterey County LGBTQ History Project***](#) which began as a collaboration with [***Rainbow Speakers and Friends***](#). After a successful launch event at Father Jon Perez's [***church in Marina***](#), folks began donating materials.

Dave organized venues to make these local histories more visible in our community. For the two years that Monterey Peninsula Pride was held in Seaside, for example, he created displays of local LGBTQ history and for several years, and also worked with students in his LGBTQ history course to uncover local queer and trans histories. A new online exhibit, showcasing the Monterey County LGBTQ History Collection is available at

<https://digitalcommons.csumb.edu/exhibit/monterey-county-lgbtq-histories/>

Pride organizations

Dave's work with local Pride organizations dates to his very first years here. After meeting local activists Matt Friday and Brice Carlson in 1999, Dave got involved with Pride of Monterey County which organized early Pride celebrations in the 1990s and into the early 2000's here. For Pride in 1999 and 2000, Dave did everything from connecting Pride organizers with other CSUMB staff, faculty and students, to creating fliers, to working the BBQ grill on the day of Pride!

Once he moved to the area from San Francisco, Dave was one of the organizers and on the first board of Monterey Peninsula Pride, which sponsored the first pride march and celebration in many years on the Peninsula. Dave served on the planning committees for Pride in 2017 and 2018 (when it was here in Seaside) and in 2019 when it moved to Monterey. Dave was one of the organizers for both virtual Pride celebrations during the pandemic in 2020 and 2021, working with folks from all the local pride organizations to ensure continuity of the celebrations when they were unable to meet in person. Dave continues to volunteer with Monterey Pride today.

In his last couple of years before retiring from CSUMB at the end of June 2024, Dave stepped up as co-lead of the LGBTQ+ Employees Affinity Group. Most recently, Dave also served as the faculty director of the new Rainbow Raft Pride Center at CSUMB, a first for the campus. After a very successful launch event in May, the center is poised to become a hub for LGBTQ+ students and their allies on campus—a place to meet, gather, host programs and events, and provide resources.

The culmination of Dave's LGBTQ+ organizing and research is the June 2024 publication of *Here Are My People: LGBT College Student Organizing in California* which is on sale now at <https://www.amazon.com/Here-Are-People-Organizing-Contemporary/dp/0820366331>

**About
Karen
Cusson,
Tik Tok**

Minister

Karen Cusson

SHE/HER/HERS



Karen Cusson (formerly “Ken”) has been on an intensely new journey since her wife died of cancer in 2017.

Karen is a transgender woman who now, happily, identifies as She/Her. She would be quick to tell you that she has found incredible peace, authenticity, and wholeness as a result of conquering her fear of being herself and boldly embarking on her new journey.

"My name is Pastor Karen Cusson. I serve on the Board of Directors of Salinas Valley Pride Celebration and am a well-known actor/director in Monterey County's theater community. I am in the process of writing my autobiography tentatively entitled "A Fire's Light". As a creator on TikTok, I encourage up to 20,000 weekly viewers to trust God and fearlessly be real, genuine and authentic. My congregation is, quite literally, the world! My message is that God loves us just the way we are!"

Karen knew, at 8 years old, that the person she saw in the mirror was not who she really was, but in 1958, such a concept was totally unacceptable - her parents, her brothers, the whole world kept seeing her as a boy ... but inside of her was a girl screaming, “I am not a boy!”

During their teen and young adult years, Ken (that was what would eventually become their dead name), discovered that their greatest joy was in helping others. With their desire to do this, and their love of God, they discovered [**The Salvation Army**](#). While in their Seminary, they met a very special woman, who would become their wife of 36 years and with this special woman, Ruth, would have three daughters.

After serving for over 20 years, Ken and Ruth left the Salvation Army in 1995, and came to Salinas where Ruth had grown up, to re-start their lives of serving. Here, they raised their family ... but lost their youngest to Leukemia at 7 years of age.

Ken continued their desire to serve God in a number of churches throughout Monterey County. Then in 2003, they discovered their ability to entertain audiences as an actor on local stages. Ken went on to play lead and supporting roles in almost every theatre company in Monterey County. That also led to serving as President of the Monterey County Theatre Alliance for six years.

In 2013, Ken started serving the homeless community of Monterey County as the Executive Director of [**Victory Mission**](#), in Salinas' Chinatown, where

they would serve for 6 years. During those 6 years, Ken was able to create new programs, re-model the facility, re-develop the appreciation of Victory Mission's programs for the homeless community and re-build the financial position of the Mission. During that time, they also served on the [CoC Leadership Council for Monterey County](#), the Salinas Downtown Community Board, the Chinatown Business Committee and the Chinatown Homeless Action Team.

However, through all of that time, there was the constant, internal anguish of a woman, inside him, begging to live! After 17 years of marriage, Ken found the courage to come out as a Transgender woman, to her wife. When she did, Ruth amazed Ken by accepting her completely—even often suggested that Ken start their transitioning journey because Ruth saw the inner conflict that was so deep within. But Ken refused – Ken knew it would become a nightmare for her and their daughters because of the hatred for the LGBTQ community by the conservative Christian church. However, she promised her that if she could ever transition without hurting anyone else she would make it happen.

Sadly, Ruth died from breast cancer in 2017.

In 2019, after almost 60 years of wearing a mask that filled their life with internal anguish and constant duplicity, Ken kept their promise to their beloved Ruth and made the decision to let her... Karen ... out and live! After over a year in therapy, and numerous consultations with many doctors, and a LOT of prayer and research, she finally started their journey of full transition to becoming Karen.

Then, as a result, in 2022, Karen was asked to resign from her leadership position at Victory Mission.

In November 2020, Karen, answering a challenge from a friend to do so, started posting videos on TikTok talking about her life, as well as giving support and encouragement to the international LGBTQ community, urging us not to give up on God. She has created over 500 videos on TikTok, telling her story and sharing the truth of how God loves us ... just the way we are! She also holds live discussion sessions on TikTok twice a week. Her videos and live sessions have so far reached almost 6 million people, with close to 330,000 followers in over 24 countries.

During the LIVE sessions, she faces incredible hatred and opposition, fearlessly and sympathetically – answering questions, countering hatred with patience and understanding and giving suggestions for those seeking the courage to “come out” amidst a variety of difficult, challenging circumstances.

Karen is currently working on an autobiography tentatively titled “A Fire’s Light”. She is enjoying her “retirement” with her work on TikTok, the occasional acting/directing opportunity and playing with her best friend Willa (a Terrier/Chihuahua).

About LGBTQ+ Supportive Services at the EpiCenter



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

The Epicenter was launched through a partnership of Monterey County Child Welfare Services and VOICES (Voice Our Independent Choices for Emancipation Support). VOICES is the first youth-designed and youth-led program in the nation for transition-age foster youth. After successfully replicating its program in Sonoma and Santa Clara Counties, VOICES was invited by Monterey County Child Welfare Services in 2013 to launch a VOICES-like program in Salinas.

Beginning in January 2013, VOICES engaged Monterey County youth and adult leaders in a planning process to address the needs of current and former foster youth. Throughout the process, youth reported that the lack of a centralized, youth-oriented location makes it difficult to learn about opportunities and to access resources. Again and again, youth expressed the desire for a place with no closed doors: where they don't have to "qualify" for services because of their demographics or circumstances. Most importantly, they emphasized the need for a new Center to be positively oriented towards wellness and connection, not negatively oriented towards overcoming Monterey's gang problem.

The planning process included a comprehensive assessment of community readiness, the development of a team of nine youth-founders, and the creation of a highly effective Steering Committee, made up of leaders from Hartnell College and five County departments, including Mental Health, Child Welfare, Probation, Public Health and Health and Human Services. The Epicenter officially launched on September 4, 2014 with a Grand Opening attended by over 200 people. Among those attending were local elected officials, including but not limited to Monterey County Superintendent of Schools Nancy Kotowski & Supervisor Jane Parker, as well as local media representatives who highlighted the Epicenter on both radio and television news broadcasts. BTQIA+ community for a more

connected, celebratory, and inclusive Monterey Bay area.

OUR GENTE is the LGBTQ+ Services program of The Epicenter that exists to create safe environments and opportunities to affect positive change and growth for LGBTQ+ youth in Monterey County. Our Gente programming includes peer social support and community building for LGBTQ+ youth, community and agency trainings, special events, and peer support for parents and caregivers of LGBTQ+ youth.

QTYC (Queer/Trans Youth Collective) is a youth leadership program that provides workplace experience in a non-profit environment as an introduction to LGBTQ+ social advocacy and activism. Youth leaders are responsible for creating and facilitating Our Gente programming and offer peer support to other LGBTQ+ youth in the community.

Q-TURN is Our Gente's LGBTQ+ specific drop-in hours that happen every Thursday from 12 PM to 5 PM at The Epicenter. Youth participants are welcomed to an accepting environment where they can build community with LGBTQ+ youth and their allies and develop networks of support with their peers.

FLY (Families of LGBTQ+ Youth) is a social support group for the parents, caretakers, and adult family members of LGBTQ+ youth to help connect those people to peer support, to ask questions, and to learn more about the LGBTQ+ experience in a non-judgmental forum. FLY meetings take place on the third Wednesdays of every month at 6 PM at The Epicenter. RSVP with Jacob at jacob@epicentermonterey.org.

OUR GENTE LGBTQ+ BEST PRACTICES

TRAININGS are offered to local service providers, community groups, organizations, school faculty, and any other party interested in learning more about the LGBTQ+ community and the unique challenges LGBTQ+ youth face. 30 minute virtual "LGBTQ+ 101" presentations are offered free of charge.

For more information on Our Gente programming, please contact Jacob at jacob@epicentermonterey.org.

More Events



OUR GENTE PRIDE MONTH CALENDAR 2024

- JUNE 12**
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
SALINAS REMEMBERS PULSE
COMMUNITY MEMORIAL GATHERING
THE EPICENTER: 737 S MAIN ST, SALINAS, CA 93901
- JUNE 13**
7:00 PM - 11:00 PM
VIRTUE: PRIDE TALENT SHOWCASE
EPICENTER FUNDRAISER FEATURING DRAG, BURLESQUE, DANCE, AND MORE!
FOX THEATER: 241 MAIN ST, SALINAS, CA 93901
- JUNE 15**
7:30 PM - 9:30 PM
SJ EARTHQUAKES PRIDE NIGHT
SOCCER GAME, WITH SPECIAL TICKET PROCEEDS BENEFITING OUR GENTE
PAYPAL PARK: 1123 COLEMAN AVENUE, SAN JOSE, CA 95110
- JUNE 22**
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
HERE, QUEER, & THRIVING!
LGBTQ+ OPEN MIC NIGHT AND HEALTH FAIR
PALENKE ARTS: 530 ELM AVENUE, SEASIDE, CA 93955
- JUNE 26**
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
CHOSEN FAMILIES WORKSHOP
ADULTING 101 COLLABORATIVE WITH MUTUAL AID YOUTH LEADERS
THE EPICENTER: 737 S MAIN ST, SALINAS, CA 93901
- ALL MONTH**
HEALTHY SPOT FUNDRAISER
ROUND-UP DOLLAR AMOUNT FROM JUNE PURCHASES DONATED TO OUR GENTE
HEALTHY SPOT: 26200 CARMEL RANCHO BOULEVARD, CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA, CA 93923

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT OURGENTE@EPICENTERMONTEREY.ORG

Thursday,
June 13th

From 3-5 PM

Tween Time at The Diversity Center

PRIDE BRACELET CRAFTS

Ages 8-12 located at 1117 Soquel Ave





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](#)

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

SUNDAY
JUNE 16
2024
DOORS
OPEN
@ 11AM

BRUNCH
&
MIMOSAS
SHOWS
START
@ 12PM

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!!



LOTERÍA & BINGO

¡Drag Show Familiar!

06/21
3RD FRIDAY
3ER VIERNES

FREE! ¡GRATIS!
BILINGUAL / BILINGÜE
ALL AGES / TODAS LAS EDADES
SNACKS & BEVERAGES
BOCADILLOS Y BEBIDAS

6:00
P.M.

Raices y Cariño

1205 Freedom Blvd, Watsonville



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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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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