

# Along the Rainbow: 2024 Pride Month Newsletter

Compiled and Edited by Steven Goings, aka

Quazar (to subscribe send your email to

[sgoings@csumb.edu](mailto:sgoings@csumb.edu) with the subject:

Subscribe Rainbow)

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## *Along the Rainbow Land Acknowledgement by Quazar*



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

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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](http://www.esselentribe.org)

[www.ohlonecostanoanesselenation.org](http://www.ohlonecostanoanesselenation.org)

[www.costanoanrumesen.org](http://www.costanoanrumesen.org)

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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/>
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**MONTEREY PENINSULA**

**PRIDE**

**EVENTS:**

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**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>

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## 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

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## **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



peninsulapride.org



# Monterey Pride Afterparties

## Pride Weekend Kick Off Party

@Compact Disco (DJs Kenny Summit & Monkeyman)

5PM - 2AM | June 28 | \$10 cover | 21+

## Official Pride Afterparty

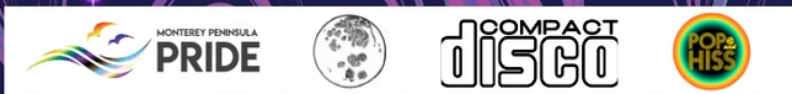
@Pearl Hour (DJ Luna M)

8PM - 1AM | Saturday, June 29 | \$20 cover | 21+

## Afternoon Tea Dance

@POP & HISS (Music by @declanjamesmusic)

2PM - 6PM | Sunday, June 30 | \$5 cover | All ages



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# In The Spotlight!

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**About  
Father**

# Jon Perez

**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**

*To the degree that I became a “activist” it was simply to have the right to hold my partner when he was dying.*

Jon Perez grew up in a religious culture as opposed to a religious family. In fact, as a child he experienced religion as a refuge from an abusive dysfunctional family. He came to the recognition that he was gay after high school when he found himself in a relationship with a man – a relationship that he eventually recognized as a gay relationship.

Following a horrific car accident in 1986, Jon Perez moved back to the Monterey Peninsula from San Diego in order to be closer to his family. Jon’s partner at the time, Michael Williams, was HIV + and Jon soon began volunteering at the Monterey County AIDS Project. In 1992, Jon participated with 10,000 protesters in Washington DC in a successful attempt to prevent cuts to AIDS funding. It was also one of the last times the AIDS quilt was displayed in full.

Like many gay couples during the height of the AIDS epidemic, Jon found that because there was no legal recognition of his partnership with Michael, he had no rights that he could exert when Michael was dying in hospice in 1990. An incident with a homophobic nurse who freaked out about Jon comforting his partner in his sick bed led to a law suit in which Jon won a settlement that allowed him to occupy an apartment at the hospice to support his partner after visiting hours. Jon took over Michael’s position on the National Gay and Lesbian Board of the ACLU after he passed on in 1991.

Jon was working as a support manager for Jen Air Kitchen Appliances when Michael died. The cultural climate of time was such that he could not



tell anyone what he was going through at the time. Jon's subsequent corporate jobs included stints at Raytheon and General Electric.

Jon had an epiphany a few years later when he was helping at the altar at an Episcopal Church in Washington, he realized this is what he is meant to be doing and he entered seminary in Seattle where he was on track to become a regional priest. Don, Jon's partner at the time was also dying of AIDS and became so angry in his final days that he cancelled his insurance, leaving Jon with \$250,000 in debt when he passed in 1995.

In Feb 1996, Jon officially became a social worker for MCAP where he managed the AIDS Drug Assistance Program. Also, in 1996, although not yet ordained, Jon was made the Vicar of Epiphany Episcopal Lutheran Church in Marina. He was clear at the time, that he might not precede to priesthood because he was gay as he recognized that some bishops were simply not going to ordain a gay person.

Nevertheless, Epiphany thrived under Jon's leadership. His congregation is the largest social service NGO facilitator serving Marina. Epiphany programs include the Thomas Carmen Food Pantry and Senior Breakfast Program. Over the years, Epiphany has hosted AA meetings, supported court mandated anger management classes, and stored tents and sleeping bags in their Emergency Closet for the homeless in collaboration with Marina police and the Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program (I-HELP).

After years of internal struggle, the Episcopal began officially ordaining gay priests in 2005, Father Jon Perez.

In conjunction with his service at Epiphany, Father Jon also serves as the senior chaplain for CSUMB and also served on the Lutheran Episcopal Coordination Committee and as an advisor to the Department of Defense Military Chaplains on LGBTQ+ Pastoral Care for which he was recognized by the Obama White House.

Father Jon is especially proud of Epiphany's cultural and political diversity. About 15 to 20% of the congregation is queer and indeed, Epiphany became a spot for the queer community to gather. From 1998 to the mid-2000's Epiphany hosted World AIDS Day commemorations with MCAP and John XXIII Ministries. Notably, vigils were held at Epiphany for both the 2016 Pulse Street Massacre in Orlando and 2022 Club Q shooting in Colorado Springs. Monthly meetings of Rainbow Speakers and Friends have been hosted by Epiphany for years. Father Jon has also, served as a board member of the Lesbian & Gay Rights Northern California Chapter of the ACLU, and as club advisor for the Pride Club at CSUMB. He is a proud recipient of the 2009 Ralph Atkinson Civil Liberties Award from the Monterey County ACLU for his work supporting marriage equality and civil rights for all during the campaign against Proposition 8.

Father Jon is currently celebrating 22 years with his husband Robert Munoz. He navigates the world with the help of his guide dog Arlington. Father Jon, Robert and Arlington will soon be retiring to Spain.

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## About Tyller Williamson, Mayor of Monterey



**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**

Tyler Williamson grew up in a military family. His mom served in the Navy for 20 years. After graduating high school, the Navy Academy Preparatory School in Newport, Rhode Island. When Tyler found himself struggling academically, he expected remediation and instead was summarily discharged. He now thinks his discharge was due in part to being clocked as a closeted member of the LGBTQ+ community who just wanted to “dance and sing”. Years later, Tyler said reflected, “it was a very macho environment, very masculine. I’m about love and compassion and getting along.”

After attending Junior College in San Diego, Tyler traveled with his family to Monterey where he attended Cal State Monterey Bay earning his Bachelors degree in Pre-Law Human Communications in 2013. Five years earlier, Tyler had volunteered for the 2008 Obama Presidential Campaign. In fact, Tyler took a year of absence from his studies at CSUMB in 2012 in order to help secure Obama’s second term in office. Campaign staff were so impressed with Tyler’s organizing skills that he was pressed to run the campaign out of the San Francisco headquarters as Deputy Regional Field Director. It was also during this time, that he came out fully as a gay man.

While Tyler was earning his degree at CSUMB, he also began working at the travel office of the Naval Post Graduate School. In over a dozen years with NPS he worked in various positions including as executive assistant to

the chief information officer. After CSUMB, he enrolled in the Naval Post Graduate school himself and now has a Masters in Business Administration.

Much local Democratic Party activism surged on the Monterey Peninsula following the election of the 45<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, and Tyller was involved in the Democratic Central Committee for Monterey County and Indivisible Monterey Bay. Tyller was soon approached by then Seaside City Council Woman Kayla Jones to organize a gay pride march in 2017 in the City of Seaside. Tyller quickly recruited an organizing team and was the undisputed driving force in developing Monterey Peninsula Pride. In 2018, Tyller successfully ran for a seat on Monterey City's Council. Even more impressively, despite being vastly outspent by his incumbent rivals, Tyller was elected as Mayor of the City of Monterey in 2022 there by becoming simultaneously the first Black Mayor, the first Gay Mayor and the youngest Mayor in the history of Monterey.

As if running a city is not enough, in 2022, Tyller also joined the boards of the Community Foundation of Monterey County and the non-profit known as BLAAC (Black Leaders and Allies Collaborative). Tyller lives on Franklin Street in Monterey in a home he bought with his partner, Ivan.

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## A MESSAGE FROM SANTA CRUZ PRIDE:

Thanks for all you did to make our Pride 2024 events so awesome. Please take a minute to provide your feedback:



## 2024 Pride Events Feedback Please



*Beacon  
of Pride*  
SANTA CRUZ PRIDE  
2024



<https://forms.gle/KnTHxviqCyf2Ujz58>

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## VOLUNTEER FOR PARAJO PRIDE!

WE'RE LOOKING

FOR  
VOLUNTEERS!!!!

We need your help to  
make Pride  
happen!!!!

We're seeking  
volunteers for Pajaro  
Valley Pride taking  
place August 18th in  
Watsonville.

If you're interested,  
visit our website.



**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**  
IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO MAKE PRIDE HAPPEN  
AND WE'RE LOOKING FOR OUR VILLAGE!

**VOLUNTEER  
FOR PVP 2024!**



**SIGN UP NOW!**



**SIGN UP AT  
THE LINK  
BELOW!**

<https://pajarovalleypride.org/volunteer2024>

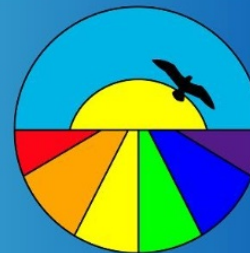
<http://pajarovalleypride.org/volunteer2024>  
#pride #volunteer #pajarovalleypride #watsonville

## MARCH AND TABLE AT PAJARO PRIDE!

Would you like  
to March or be  
a vendor at  
Pajaro Valley  
Pride?



**WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE  
A VENDOR AND/OR  
MARCH AT  
PAJARO VALLEY PRIDE?**



**APPLICATIONS ARE  
NOW OPEN!**



**APPLY AT  
THE LINK  
BELOW!**

[www.pajarovalleypride.org/vendormarch2024](http://www.pajarovalleypride.org/vendormarch2024)

# More Events



**OUR GENTE  
PRIDE MONTH  
CALENDAR  
2024**

<b>JUNE 12</b> 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	<b>SALINAS REMEMBERS PULSE</b> COMMUNITY MEMORIAL GATHERING THE EPICENTER: 737 S MAIN ST, SALINAS, CA 93901
<b>JUNE 13</b> 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM	<b>VIRTUE: PRIDE TALENT SHOWCASE</b> EPICENTER FUNDRAISER FEATURING DRAG, BURLESQUE, DANCE, AND MORE! FOX THEATER: 241 MAIN ST, SALINAS, CA 93901
<b>JUNE 15</b> 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	<b>SJ EARTHQUAKES PRIDE NIGHT</b> SOCCER GAME, WITH SPECIAL TICKET PROCEEDS BENEFITING OUR GENTE PAYPAL PARK: 1123 COLEMAN AVENUE, SAN JOSE, CA 95110
<b>JUNE 22</b> 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	<b>HERE, QUEER, &amp; THRIVING!</b> LGBTQ+ OPEN MIC NIGHT AND HEALTH FAIR PALENKE ARTS: 530 ELM AVENUE, SEASIDE, CA 93955
<b>JUNE 26</b> 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	<b>CHOSEN FAMILIES WORKSHOP</b> ADULTING 101 COLLABORATIVE WITH MUTUAL AID YOUTH LEADERS THE EPICENTER: 737 S MAIN ST, SALINAS, CA 93901
<b>ALL MONTH</b>	<b>HEALTHY SPOT FUNDRAISER</b> 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](mailto:OURGENTE@EPICENTERMONTEREY.ORG)



# 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](mailto: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!



**Sapphic Factory**

a modern queer joy dance party ☐

come dance and be free to the music of muna, chappell roan, fletcher, phoebe bridgers, boygenius, kim petras, marina, elio, ashnikko, girl in red, tegan and sara, and more. ☐

collaborating with plus1 to donate a portion of proceeds from each ticket sold to local lgbtqia+ charities

**[Tickets Here](#)** (\$16-\$25) 18+



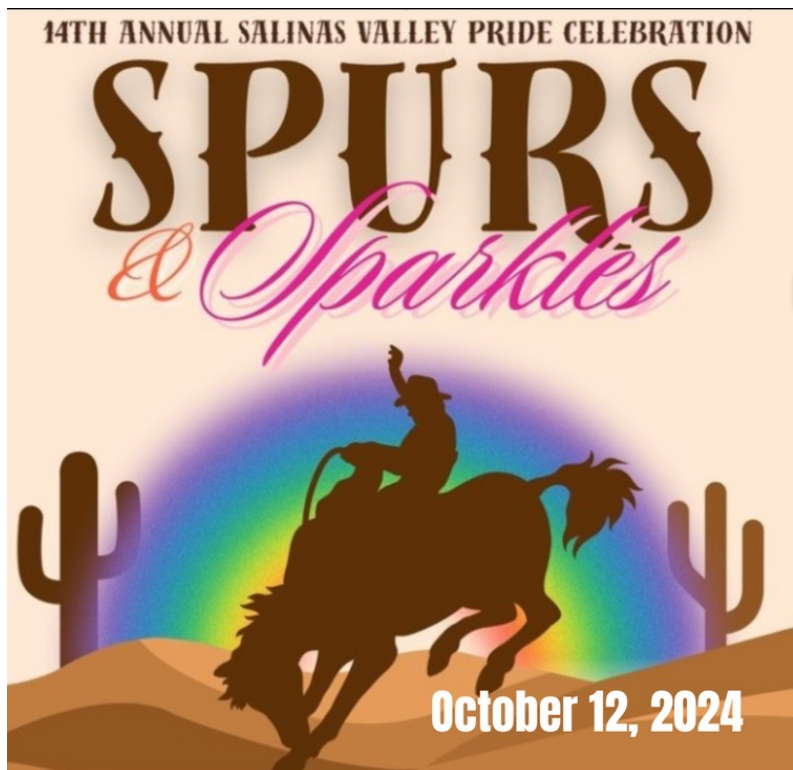
SVPC is kicking things off a little early by officially announcing the theme for SVPC's 2024 Pride Celebration .... Spurs & Sparkles! ☐

Where: Central Park,  
Salinas, California

When: Saturday, October  
12th, 11am-3pm

Get ready to kick up your  
boots and shine bright!

Let's come together to  
honor our roots,  
embrace our differences,  
and celebrate love in all  
its



forms. [#SpursAndSparkles](#) [#SVPC](#) [#MontereyBay](#) [#Salinas](#) [#SalinasValleyPride](#)

RSVP to our Facebook Event: <https://ow.ly/9tYZ50RGc9P>

Details on Tabling, Volunteering, and more at:  
<https://ow.ly/IRAe50RGccE>

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# RE-OCCURRING EVENTS

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**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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:Nic.Laflin@diversitycenter.org)  
for more information



**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](mailto: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](https://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

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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



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