About Our Chapter

The Danville/San Ramon PFLAG Chapter meets the third Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville, CA 94526.

Although we meet at the DCC, PFLAG is not affiliated with any religious organization and our meetings are always confidential. Check our website here for more information.

Membership & Donations

PFLAG Danville/San Ramon Chapter is a tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization and all donations are tax deductible. Please send donations and/or change of addresses to:
PFLAG Danville/San Ramon Chapter, P.O. Box 40, San Ramon, CA 94583. Click here for a printable donation form.

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to PFLAG Danville San Ramon whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com.

Our upcoming chapter meetings are as follows:

- Monday, March 18, 2019
- Monday, April 15, 2019
- Monday, May 20, 2019
- Monday, June 17, 2019

Our meetings are always the third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

2018 Gender Spectrum Conference & Professionals Symposium

July 6-8, 2019
Click here for more information.
The 2019 Gender Spectrum Conference and Professionals’ Symposium—July 19-21, 2019

“Claiming My Gender”

Part summer camp for kids, part support and learning weekend for parents, part peer support and education for teens, the Gender Spectrum Conference is the oldest and largest conference in the U.S. exclusively for families with Transgender, Non-binary and Gender-expansive children and youth. The Conference weekend is preceded by a day-long Professionals’ Symposium where youth-serving professionals come together to discuss the most up-to-date information and best practices for serving gender-expansive children and youth.

Check back for registration and more information later this spring.

For 2018, the theme of both events was “Claiming My Gender.” At its core, this theme speaks to the way individuals make sense of their personal gender and other aspects of who they are. Workshops recognized that many aspects of identity—including race, religion, socioeconomic status, language and other factors—influence everyone’s experience of gender, and that beyond naming these intersections, people are claiming their gender with a wide diversity of strategies to navigate and find congruence in these aspects of their lives.

The Gender Spectrum Conference provides attendees the opportunity to explore how gender fits into their lives and the lives of children and teens. Workshops will incorporate discussions, writing, research, the arts, and more. Parents and family members deepen their knowledge and understanding of gender and related issues and learn how they can best support the children and youth in their lives in their gender journeys.

Online Discussion Groups for Parents and Other Adult Family Members

Faith and Gender: A Discussion Group for Parents and other Adult Family Members of Gender Diverse Youth. This group will meet for three sessions on Tuesdays, March 26th, April 2nd and April 9th, 6:00 PT / 8:00 CT / 9:00 ET. Register here.

Comunicar a miembros de la familia y amigxs acerca de la identidad de género de su hijx: una discusión grupal para padres y otros adultos miembros de la familia (Discussion Group for Spanish-speaking Parents). Regístrate ahora

Facilitators Support Group: this group is for anyone who runs a group that serves youth and/or families that wants to learn about issues related to gender and youth. The group meets on the first Thursday of the month at 11 am PT / 2 pm ET, the next meeting is on March 7. Register here.
### March 2019

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- **March 4:** Rossmoor Social Justice Fair
- **April 18:** Chapter Meeting—7 PM
- **April 28:** Board Meeting—5:30 PM

### April 2019

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- **April 15:** Chapter Meeting—7 PM
Biden Foundation Teams Up with LGBTQ Groups on Family Acceptance Campaign

Hilary Berman said her transgender son, Xander Ruth, had a “very difficult” time in school, starting in the sixth grade.

“He was bullied in middle school,” she told NBC News. “He felt the school tolerated the bullying, and he didn’t share how hard it was to me until later.”

But while Ruth lacked support among many of his peers, he always had the backing of his family, according to Berman.

“We love our son and want to empower him,” Berman explained. “Our children look to us for approval and security, so I think it’s essential to nurture them and allow them to be who they are.”

Now 16, Xander Ruth is thriving in a public high school for the arts. In his spare time, he likes to practice kung fu, and he intends to continue his studies after graduation. “I want to go to college and study film,” he said.

Berman and Ruth, both of California, acknowledged that family and community support were instrumental in helping him make it through those tough middle school years.

Xander Ruth’s story is one of several included in the newly announced Advancing Acceptance campaign, a collaboration of the Biden Foundation, the Movement Advancement Project and Gender Spectrum. The campaign seeks to raise awareness about the importance of family acceptance for transgender and gender-nonconforming youth through video testimonials and a collection of resources for youth, their families and policymakers.

“It’s critical for families to know that their words and actions can make the difference between a happy, healthy, thriving child — or one at greatly elevated risk of depression, suicidal behavior and other harmful outcomes,” Ineke Mushovic, executive director of Movement Advancement Project, an LGBTQ think tank, told NBC News. “Too many families, and the lives of too many transgender children, have been devastated by parents who reject these children or try to force them to be someone they’re not.”

Research published in the journal Pediatrics found “lesbian, gay, and bisexual young adults who reported higher levels of family rejection during adolescence were 8.4 times more likely to report having attempted suicide.” The 2009 report also found these young adults were nearly six times more likely to report high levels of depression and more than three times more likely to use illegal drugs.

Read the rest of the article here.
You Are Invited

DCC's 20th Anniversary of Open & Affirming

We welcome and value all God's people.

SAVE THIS SPECIAL DATE

SUNDAY, MAY 19 AT 9:30 AM
Danville Congregational Church
989 San Ramon Valley Blvd
Danville, CA 94526
Best and Worst for the LGBT Community in 2018
(Stats compiled by PFLAG National)

Bests
There was solid LGBTQ+ visibility in television this year. We can thank Ryan Murphy for no small amount of that exposure, thanks to his show POSE and its trans cast members. Lena Waithe became the first black, openly queer woman to grace the cover of Vanity Fair, while PFLAG mom Betty DeGeneres’s daughter continued her reign as the queen of daytime. Even cartoons made the LGBTQ+ community’s presence a major part of the story, with the first animated same-sex wedding proposal (and so, so much more) in STEVEN UNIVERSE (from the incredibly creative mind of its non-binary female, bisexual creator, Rebecca Sugar, the first female to independently create a show for Cartoon Network). Plus, there was the long-anticipated kiss between fan favorites Princess Bubblegum and Marceline in the ADVENTURE TIME finale (a show that Sugar worked on prior to creating STEVEN UNIVERSE). Overall, the LGBTQ+ community saw record gains in visibility, with more LGBTQ+ people of color than white LGBTQ+ people; read a comprehensive report from our friends at GLAAD.

LGBTQ participation in politics was an all-time high in the 2018 midterms. There was a “Rainbow Wave” of LGBTQ+–identified people who ran for office—and were subsequently elected—across America. According to the Victory Fund, an unprecedented 432 openly LGBTQ+ candidates ran for elected office this election cycle, and 244 of them won their races.

There were a number of great “cultural” and business firsts for LGBTQ+ people in 2018. Angela Ponce became the first transgender woman to be crowned Miss Spain and the first openly trans Miss Universe contestant, and Patricia Manuel was the first transgender boxer to compete and win a professional fight. The Pentagon signed in its first transgender recruit (see more on trans military service, sadly in the Worst below), and Beth Ford, a lesbian and mother of three, was named CEO of Land O’Lakes—the first openly gay woman to lead a Fortune 500 company. Nickelodeon recently featured its first-ever same-sex couple on its family game show Double Dare. And coming up? The Rose Parade will make history with its first lesbian Rose Queen!

Although there are still many challenges ahead (see the Worsts below), there was a major stride forward for LGBTQ+ parenting: Five states—California, Massachusetts, Nevada, Vermont and Washington—now allow a birth parent and another parent of any gender to complete a simple form at the hospital, making them both legal parents with the full force of a court order (unlike a birth certificate). GLAD Senior Staff Attorney Patience Crozier told Mombian’s Dana Rudolph that VAPs are “a real game changer.” There’s more coverage on VAPs, and a fantastic full “Parenting Year in Review” at Mombian; check it out!

Conversion therapy bans continue to roll across the country. Delaware approved legislation in 2018, becoming the fifth state this year, along with Hawaii, Maryland, New Hampshire, and Washington. They join California, Connecticut, Illinois, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Vermont—as well as Washington, D.C.—which already have bans in place. Florida has introduced legislation to ban this dangerous practice, which they will consider beginning in the 2019 legislative session, and Texas State Rep. Celia filed her bill on a ban, which will be considered when the Texas Legislature begins its session in January. At a local level, advocates in Birmingham, Alabama are also working toward an ordinance banning the practice. Harrisburg, Virginia is considering a local ban, and Denver might become the first city in Colorado with a ban. All in all, this is excellent, and much-needed, progress, and PFLAG has been proud not only to support this legislation across the country, but also to partner on the excellent film Boy Erased—including a PFLAG–featured poster for the film—which is a true story about one family’s experience with this harmful practice.

**“Bonus Best”** PFLAG’s 45th anniversary! PFLAG celebrated 45 years of saving LGBTQ+ lives, one family at a time. It began simply in 1972, when Jeanne Manford marched by her son, Morty’s side, and a first meeting in March 1973. And now there are 400+ chapters across the country, with PFLAGers everywhere providing support, education, advocacy—and much-needed hugs at every Pride parade since 1973. We were moved by the notables who shared words of love and what PFLAG means to them; we were honored to celebrate Champions of Justice Rep. John Lewis, Rep. Jared Polis, Sen. Tammy Baldwin, and Rep. Barny Frank (ret) at our 45th Anniversary Celebration, and most of all— we are now further strengthened by the data, which proves what we have known for over four decades: Family acceptance saves lives. Here’s to the next 45 years—PFLAG’s legacy of love continues.

Worsts
As of this writing, 26 transgender people—of whom we know of—were murdered this year. The most recent, Kelly Stough of Detroit, was killed by a pastor in her community. Stough’s mother Jessica Chantae Stough told NBC News, “I want people to know that because she was transgender doesn’t mean that she was not loved, that she was not cared for. She has a family who cared about her, who loved her and I want them to know that transgender ladies—expressly those of color—they’re just not throwaways; people care about them.” According to a 2016 report from The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP), trans women of color are at greater risk of being killed in hate crimes than any other group, and the rates of these murders have been steadily rising for the last several years. Read more on other members of the trans community, whose lives were taken this year…far too soon.

The attempt to ban transgender servicemembers from the military continues, now making its way through the courts. The Trump Administration, however, attempted to play “legal leapfrog,” bypassing lower courts and asking the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the case instead. Transgender servicemembers and legal advocates (including our friends at GLAD and NCLR) filed briefs asking the U.S. Supreme Court to block the Trump Administration’s request, stating, among other things, that lower courts have not yet been given an opportunity for review and decision. Stay tuned to—or sign up for—Policy Matters, our bi-weekly policy and advocacy newsletter, for updates.

Yet another threat to the lives of our transgender loved ones came in the form of a memo, reported on by The New York Times, which stated that the current administration plans to define gender based on people’s external genitalia, as part of their larger efforts to roll back protections for transgender Americans. Over 1,600 scientists weighed in, stating that the redefinition isn’t grounded in science, while dozens of companies across the country spoke out against this potentially harmful action. Dozens of advocacy organizations spoke out, including PFLAG National in a statement from board member Stephanie Battaglini.

Anti-LGBTQ+ legislation overall was on the rise again in 2018, and not just the many active bills targeting trans persons. There was legislation introduced infringing on LGBTQ+ rights in the areas of adoption, schools, and healthcare access in states across the country. There was also a continued rise of so-called First Amendment Defense Acts (FADAs), and the spread of religious exemption laws. Kansas, Oklahoma and South Carolina this year joined Alabama, Michigan, Mississippi, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas and Virginia in allowing adoption and foster-care agencies to cite religious beliefs or moral convictions as reasons to reject otherwise qualified parents, including those who are LGBTQ+. PFLAG National co-leads the coalition to pass the Every Child Deserves a Family Act, a federal law to end such discrimination; the work is clearly not over. For a comprehensive review of this legislation—which is updated every Monday—visit our friends at the ACLU and be sure to stay current with our Policy Matters newsletter.

The continued marginalization of, and violence towards, a variety of communities made 2018 a particularly harmful and devastating year for many. Despite wins on DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and the travel ban (at least for now), and election gains in the midterms, immigrants continued to take legislative and administrative hits—with sometimes fatal consequences—throughout 2018. Police violence against people of color was on the rise, and the hashtag #LivingWhileBlackdressed incidents of people being reported for such non-crimes as “swimming while black,” “golfing while black,” and “using the restroom at Starbucks while black.” Despite continued issues of sexual harassment in the boardroom, sexual assault in the bedroom and elsewhere, a lack of access to healthcare for many, and the expiration of the Violence Against Women Act thanks to a partial government shutdown, women continued to push back in 2018.

We’ll end with our most important best: YOU!

From the addition of 23 new chapters providing peer-to-peer support, to the much-needed PFLAG–provided education which continues to move people forward on the ally spectrum, to the incredible advocacy both with legislators and one-on-one with neighbors, friends, colleagues and co-workers, there is no question that you top our list of bests. We thank you for all you’ve done in 2018—and will continue to do in the year ahead--to make this a world where diversity is celebrated and all people are respected, valued, and affirmed.
LGBT AND FRIENDS EVERY THURSDAY IN ALAMEDA AT AMC SOUTH SHORE LANES. First meeting is January 17 at 6:30 pm. Bowling starts at 7pm. Three people teams, all levels welcome, $16 a week. Starts January 17th, last day to sign up is January 31st. Contact: anthony.t.hoey@gmail.com

MIDDLE MEN PEER SUPPORT GROUP
Regularly held peer support group at the Pacific Center for middle aged men. For more information contact Yves Augustin at giveer@yahoo.com

MONTHLY POKER GAME AT URBAN ISLAND, ALAMEDA
Come for an evening of poker: dealer’s choice, rotating deal, and about every hour we switch tables around so we meet new friends. House rules: gentleman’s poker, $1 max bet, three raises max per round, no five of a kind, no pot games (unless it’s a $1 limit). We’ll provide pizzas and chips and desserts and stuff and sodas and beer and water. At Steve Ferguson’s Urban Island Home Furnishings, 1901 Broadway, Alameda 94501. If you’re interested in joining in please send your interest to: steve@dogghouse.org

THE BILLYS
The mission of The Billys is to foster community, intimacy and personal exploration among gay, bi and queer men through shared values and heart-centered brotherhood. The Billys have many events during the year including a number of gatherings in rural settings in Northern California as well as pot lucks and heart circles in San Francisco, Sonoma County and the East Bay. Go to http://www.thebillys.org or call the Billy office at 707-545-1044 for more information.

EAST BAY NETWORK
East Bay Network (EBN) is an active organization dedicated to providing a social environment, activities and information for the adult gay, lesbian, bisexual community of the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond. EBN has over 160 members which includes singles and couples of all ages and ethnicities. With over 100 scheduled events each year, we provide many opportunities for members to interact socially with one another. We also co-sponsor and participate in events with other social groups throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. Some of our annual social events include: Summer pool parties. Year-round potlucks and picnics, Game nights, Weekend camping trips, House boating, White-water rafting, Local theater, arts and museums, International travel adventures. EBN events are open to members and non-members. Check us out at: http://www.eastbaynetwork.org

EAST BAY FRONT RUNNERS AND WALKERS
THE EAST BAY FRONT RUNNERS AND WALKERS is a group of lesbians, gay men (LGBTIQ) and friends who run in thrillingly scenic locations on the East Bay side of the San Francisco Bay every Saturday morning @ 9 am followed by brunch. www.eastbayfrontrunners.org

FIRST FRIDAYS
If you would like to receive a reminder of the "First Friday" social gatherings for gay men in the East Bay, plus an occasional reminder of other events in the East Bay that build community among gay men here, go to the following Yahoo group site and join up (this is a moderated group-your email address is hidden and the list is used for no other purpose) FYI, this is a separate group from East Bay Gay Guys Parties and they have completely separate email lists.http://groups.yahoo.com/group/eastbayguys

DISCOVERY
Discovery is a social group for Bay Area gay and bisexual men which conducts retreats, getaways, workshops and local social gatherings/outing. For more info check out www.discoverycommunity.org

LE CERCLE DES AMIS FRANCOPHONE
Join a gay French-speaking group that meets the first Friday of each month 7pm at different Bay Area locations for French conversation and potluck. See www.sffrancophones.org or contact STEFEN (510) 548-9845, stefen@stefenart.com or Ralph Singer (415) 861-3155. Info on Spanish and other language gay groups also available.

HUSBANDS OUT TO THEIR WIVES
Husbands Out to their Wives (HOW) Is a support group for married Gay or Bisexual men who either have or intend to come out to their wives. The only requirement is that a husband has made a commitment to themselves that it is necessary both for their personal well-being and absolute honesty with their wives to come out as a Gay or Bisexual man. Contact Ken at svnupsf@gmail.com for more info.
LGBT Film/TV Spotlight

Every month we highlight a film or TV program of unique interest to the LGBT community and their allies.

“Bohemian Rhapsody”

From Wikipedia:

Bohemian Rhapsody is a 2018 biographical film about Freddie Mercury, lead singer of the British rock band Queen. It follows the singer's life from when he joins the band in 1970 to their 1985 Live Aid performance at the former Wembley Stadium in London.

Bohemian Rhapsody received numerous accolades, including a leading four awards at the 91st Academy Awards for Best Actor (Malek), Best Film Editing, Best Sound Editing and Best Sound Mixing; it was also nominated for Best Picture. The film also won Best Motion Picture – Drama at the 76th Golden Globe Awards, and was nominated for the Producers Guild of America Award for Best Theatrical Motion Picture and BAFTA Award for Best British Film, while Malek also won the Golden Globe, Screen Actors Guild and BAFTA awards for Best Actor.
Your Announcements/Contributions

Have an event you want to announce? Want to contribute an article to our newsletter? Please drop us a line at srvpflag@gmail.com.