

23RD
ANNUAL

Honoring Queer Youth Leaders & Allies in Santa Cruz County



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2020 | VIA LIVE STREAM



Congratulations

to all Queer Youth Leadership Award nominees and their allies, past and present!



Since 1997, the Diversity Partnership Fund at the Community Foundation has invested over \$1 million in local causes that promote inclusiveness and social justice to better the lives of LGBTQ+ people in our community, now and for future generations.



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October 9, 2020

Dear friends and community,

Welcome to the 23rd Annual Queer Youth Leadership Awards! It is a great pleasure to join you this evening to celebrate and listen to the stories of our Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Pansexual, Intersex, Asexual, and ally youth leaders of Santa Cruz County. The Annual Queer Youth Leadership Awards is a tradition that celebrates the diverse identities and achievements of LGBTQ+ people who make our community a culturally richer and more vibrant place.

We celebrate LGBTQ+ youth and allies tonight who inspire us with their deep and lasting positive impact. Some of them have done this by taking remarkable actions to help make their schools and communities safer spaces. Others have demonstrated impactful leadership by standing out and being proud and true to themselves. We honor them because their visibility propels this movement forward, helping to create environments that help others feel welcomed and embraced.

Together, by continuing to recognize, support, and uplift the voices of our LGBTQ+ youth, we can help re-write the caustic narratives that attempt to politicize and weaponize love and identity. We have an opportunity to celebrate our diversity in race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and ability as a source of strength that can help catalyze a shift toward justice and fairness for all in our community. We stand in solidarity with all of our youth who are leading the way to a better future for people of all identities.

Thank you to all of the partners within our schools and our community such as the Queer Youth Task Force of Santa Cruz County who continue to support and champion our LGBTQ+ and ally youth leaders. It is an honor to join you to be part of this important event. Congratulations to this year's QYLA awardees and nominees!

Sincerely,

Dr. Faris Sabbah
Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools

Queer Youth Task Force

23rd Annual Queer Youth Leadership Awards

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Stuart Rosenstein - Chair
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Dean Maynard
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Oct 10, 2020

WELCOME!

Thank you for attending the 23rd Annual Queer Youth Leadership Awards. Tonight the Santa Cruz County community comes together to celebrate and recognize some of today's young Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Questioning (LGBTIQ) leaders and their individual and organizational allies. The Queer Youth Task Force of Santa Cruz County is proud to welcome you to this year's awards ceremony. Please join us in recognizing all the nominees for the following award categories: the Queer Youth Leadership Award, the Ally to Queer Youth Award and the Organizational Ally to Queer Youth Award. Thank you to the many volunteers and sponsors of QYLA!

Core Production Team of the 2020 Queer Youth Leadership Awards

¡BIENVENIDOS!

Gracias por asistir a la vigésima tercera Entrega de los Reconocimientos a los Jyvenes Líderes "Gay". Esta noche la comunidad de Santa Cruz se une para celebrar y reconocer a los jyvenes líderes gay, lesbianas, bisexuales, transgéneros, intersex y los que están cuestionando. Así mismo, estos premios reconocen a los aliados de estos jyvenes y a las organizaciones que participan en la vida de estos jyvenes como sus aliados. El Task Force o Grupo de Acción para el "Gay o Queer" está orgulloso de darles la bienvenida a esta ceremonia. Favor de acompañarnos al reconocer a todos los nominados en las siguientes categorías: el Reconocimiento a los Jyvenes Líderes "Gay," el Reconocimiento a los Aliados de los Jyvenes "Gay" y por último el Reconocimiento a la Organización Aliada con los Jyvenes "gay." Gracias a los muchos voluntarios y patrocinadores de QYLA

El Equipo Principal de Producción de los Reconocimientos a los Jyvenes Líderes "Gay" 2020

Our Vision of the Future: A vibrant community where every youth thrives in their expression of actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity. Our Mission: The Queer Youth Task Force (QYTF) is comprised of individuals and organizations that work with, or support, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and questioning (LGBTIQ) youth. We strive to improve the quality of life for all LGBTIQ youth in our community, as well as children raised in homes where LGBTIQ people live by: Fostering strong inter-generational collaboration by soliciting feedback from, and working with, youth; Identifying queer youths' unmet needs and evaluating responses; Strategizing and implementing new resources, and improvements to existing resources; Improving awareness of available community resources and fostering collaboration of services; Supporting LGBTIQ related education, advocacy, inter-agency interactions and media opportunities; Addressing perceptions of queer youth by themselves, their families, their schools and the community. Our mission is intended to proactively enhance understanding and respond if oppression occurs. The Task Force is a fiscal agent of The Diversity Center.

Pronouns Guide

An individual's gender pronouns can be binary masculine, binary feminine, gender neutral, beyond the binary, or culturally specific. Some individuals are comfortable with more than one set of pronouns and may designate both sets when introducing themselves, on their name badge, or as part of an electronic signature or virtual platform such as Zoom. There are thousands of pronouns, and with the increased awareness for gender inclusive language, these terms are always growing. It should be noted that a person's pronouns are not "preferred" as this implies it is not necessary to identify them in this way. Always use the pronouns individuals' identify as their accurate pronouns.

E/Ey	Em	Eir	Eirs	Eirself
He	Him	His	His	Himself
Per	Per	Pers	Pers	Perself
She	Her	Her	Hers	Herself
Sie	Sir	Hir	Hirs	Hirself
They	Them	Their	Theirs	Themself
Ve	Ver	Vis	Vers	Verself
Zie	Zim	Zir	Zirs	Zirself

They/theirs usage as a singular pronoun dates back to the 16th century, and has received much criticism in the last few decades as pressure for gender inclusive language has increased. Many will veil socialized transphobia by insisting "they" is only a plural pronoun in "correct" English, but it has been used in a singular context for centuries. One should never tell another person that their pronouns are "incorrect." For more information on how to ask, please see the section "Appropriate ways to ask about someone's pronouns" below.

Of note, "they" was officially recognized by linguists as a gender-neutral pronoun at the American Dialect Society in January 2016, and the Post's style guide ratified the usage of "they" in 2015. Post copy editor Bill Walsh explained that the singular they is "the only sensible solution to English's lack of a gender-neutral third person singular personal pronoun."

"He" is a masculine pronoun and "she" is a feminine pronoun. Both pronouns can be used by all genders. They are not restricted in any way to the gender binary as many non-binary individuals will use one or both depending on how they identify. Spivak pronouns are gender neutral pronouns that are constantly being created as individuals develop

language to describe their identity and/or gender experience. These include some of the pronouns listed above. Many culturally specific gender pronouns also fall in this category.

Appropriate ways of asking about someone's pronouns include:

- Offering your name and pronouns in your introduction before asking for theirs
- For our new virtual world: include your pronouns with your name on virtual platforms like Zoom
- Politely asking how someone would like you to address them: "What pronouns do you use?"

If you make a mistake, don't panic! Apologize, use their correct pronoun, and move on in the conversation. If you are unsure about how to use someone's pronoun, it is always better to ask than to assume and misgender them.

Similarly, it is never appropriate to assume, and generally it is not appropriate to ask for information about an individual's "real name," sex assigned at birth, genitalia, hormone or surgical treatments.

Program



Opening: What Motivates You to Speak Up for Equality?

Welcome

Performance

"Lean on Me" performed by Samuel Udo

Dr. Faris Sabbah

Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools



Honoring Queer Youth Leadership Award

Nominees

Queer Youth Leadership Award

Awardee Anthony Flores

Performance

"Broken Heart Beat" performed by Liam Walters

Queer Youth Leadership Award

Awardees Camila Snyder-Alaniz & Matthew Domenichelli



Honoring Ally to Queer Youth Award

Nominees

Ally to Queer Youth Award

Awardee Michelle Brandt

Tribute to Unsung Hero's

Voting

Chloë Rae Adolfo & Gail Pellerin



Queer Youth Leadership Award

Awardee Jeydon Hernandez-Cordero

Queer Youth Leadership Award

Awardee Caleb Lennon

Tribute to LGBTQ Trailblazer

Carter Wilson



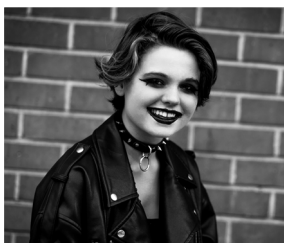
Honoring Organizational Ally to Queer Youth

Nominees

Organizational Ally to Queer Youth

Awardees Santa Cruz Derby Groms and Santa Cruz Derby Girls

Finale



What everyone should know about

Bullying

It is against the law!

Bullying violates the following California laws: Ed Code 200, Ed Code 220, AB 9 Seth Law, AB 537, AB 394, AB 777.

BULLYING DEFINED:

Bullying is defined as a systematic, deliberate, on-going, power based, targeted, hostile and illegal act.

Bullying includes but is not limited to: being made fun of, rumor spreading (whether true or false), being pushed, shoved, tripped, spat on, excluded from a group, being physically or sexually abused. Cyber bullying is the fastest growing type of bullying.

TARGETS:

Bullies select vulnerable targets, systematically train their targets to submit, and seek bystanders who passively accept or actively encourage or join in the act.

Bullying is the second most unreported crime. Fully a third of all students in American schools report being bullied on a daily basis. 160 million students stay home from school each day because they are afraid of being bullied. Bullying hurts everyone: the victim, bystanders and the bullies themselves.

Schools can prevent bullying by teaching anti-bullying through role modeling, early education and prevention programs, staff training, direct intervention and consistent discipline policies that are published and broadcasted to all. Bullying can be stopped by assertive targets, bystanders who speak up and adults who intervene effectively.



For sources and more information, visit:
SafeSchoolsProject.org

RESOURCES:

safeschoolsproject.org
qytf.org
diversitycenter.org
transteenproject.org
genderspectrum.org
pflagscc.org
transfamiliesca.org
stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov
parentsagainstbullying.com
stopcyberbullying.org

DOCUMENTARY:

Kids in Crisis: You're Not Alone
(PBS Milwaukee)

PHONE NUMBERS:

National Suicide Hotline
1-800-273-8255

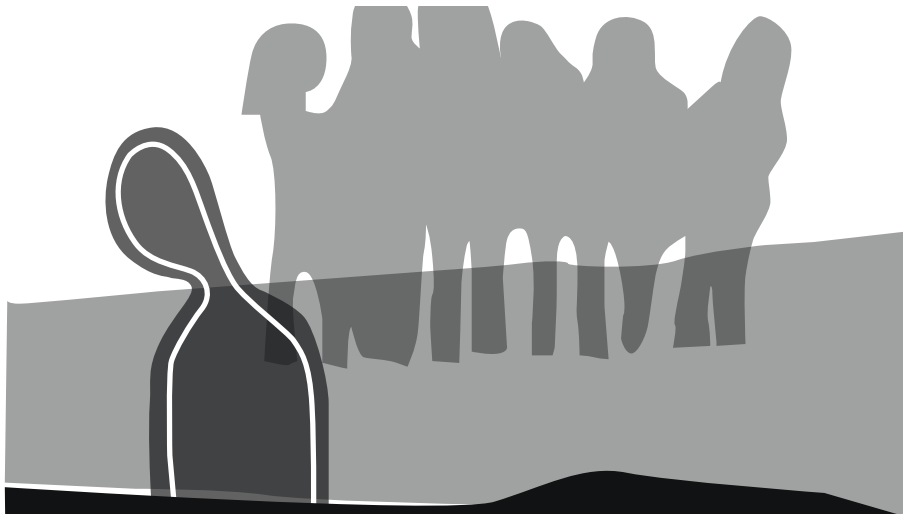
The Trevor Project
(Helpline for LGBTQ youth and families)
1-866-488-7386

Crisis Text Line
Text 741741
for any crisis support

Transgender Lifeline
1-877-565-8860

Medical or other emergencies
call 911

Each of us has a role to play to stop bullying



TARGETED STUDENT

1. write down in a journal what happened, the time, the date, who was there and witnessed what took place.
2. tell your parents/ guardians what is going on and how you feel about it.
3. tell your friends what is going on and ask for support, seek out a trusted teacher, coach, spiritual leader or adult.
4. do not act without thinking things through.
5. understand that this is not your fault.

TEACHER

1. ask the student to tell you how they have been bullied, by whom and what exactly took place.
2. ask the student who and what gives them the best support at this time.
3. tell the student that you heard them and that you will help them make a plan.

BYSTANDER

1. gather friends around the bullied friend and stand together in between the target and the bully.
2. with physical violence, film it on your phone and call the police.
3. get the target to safety and tell someone.
4. if you can't take some action yourself, tell someone you trust who has the power to help.

PARENTS

Recognize your child is being victimized and may feel helpless.

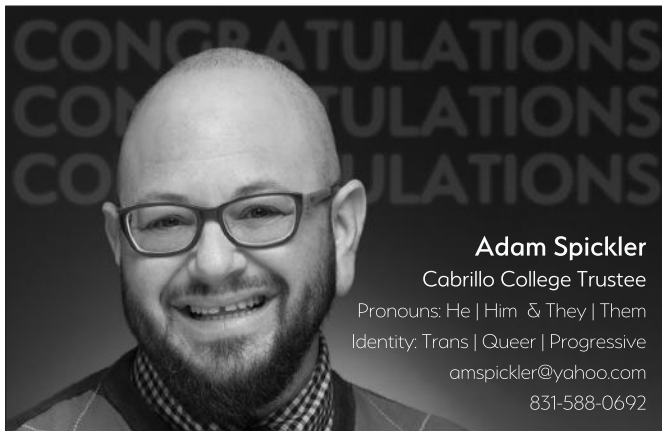
1. ask your kid to tell you everything that took place and how they are feeling. Tell them you are there for them and that bullying is wrong.
2. talk with supportive confidants about what went on, devise plans to cope with and support yourself and your kid.
3. speak to the teachers, administrators and or police for remedies.

ADMINISTRATORS

1. arrange to meet with each of the families separately.
2. set a designated time to make sure the bullying has stopped.

For sources and more information, visit:

SafeSchoolsProject.org



Adam Spickler

Cabrillo College Trustee

Pronouns: He | Him & They | Them

Identity: Trans | Queer | Progressive

amspickler@yahoo.com

831-588-0692

Congratulations to the 2020 Queer Youth Leadership Awardees and Nominees. Thank you for showing the world what it means to be a leader who lives their truth out loud!

Cabrillo College 

The experiences I had as a Cabrillo College student helped shape who I am today. Now as a Trustee I'm proud to help ensure our college is safe, welcoming and empowering for all LGBTIQ and allied students. Cabrillo is a great place to start your college career. Please visit us at www.cabrillo.edu to learn more.

the **GLBT Alliance**
of **santa cruz county**

Keeping queer progressive voices present at all levels of political action

Congratulations to the 2020 Queer Youth Honorees, you make us proud!

And, congrats to the Queer Youth Task Force on 23 years of Queer Youth Leadership Awards!



"I believe that telling our stories, first to ourselves and then to one another and the world, is a revolutionary act. It is an act that can be met with hostility, exclusion and violence. It can also lead to love, understanding, transcendence, and community."

Janet Mock, Trans Activist



Calling all LGBTQQA+ performers ages 16-19 years old!

Interested in performing, writing, activism, or social justice? Come learn the tools you need to amplify your voice!

Applications open until Oct. 14th

Program is FREE to all applicants.

Apply today at

www.westperformingarts.com/new-voices



creative performing arts **congratulates all 2020 QYLA nominees!**

This project was made possible with support from California Humanities, a partner of the NEH. Visit www.calhum.org.



Free Advice:

A Message from LGBT Trailblazer Carter Wilson

Dear Queer & Trans Youth,

When I was the age of you young people being honored here, I knew I wanted to be a writer, and I had an unnatural love of show business in all its forms, but I had no idea how I was going to earn my daily bread, or that I was going to live this long. I ended up teaching in universities, four of them, including UC Santa Cruz for 34 years, in order to support my writing habit. (Being a writer has given me great pleasure but has only produced moderate amounts of cash).

Teaching turns out to be a version of show business, which some teachers never understand. A few will try to bore you into submission rather than enlighten you through making you laugh and remember. I am 18 years retired, and that long removed from the fun aspect of teaching, which is preaching to the young. So now I get one more shot at it.

I haven't heard anyone actually ask for my advice, but if you did I would say as a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning person the best thing to do is always remember that you are different and instead of letting your difference sour your life, use it, work it. "We" (different people) have become more "acceptable" to the heterosexual majority in recent years—though not entirely, the landmines of hatred are still out there to be stepped on—so our tendency might then be to want to blend in.

DON'T DO IT! Every time I go to the great annual Pride Parade in San Francisco I come away mightily moved by how joyous and even giddy it makes us Differents when we discover all over again how many of us there are and what a variety there is among us. That is strength and affirmation in numbers.

On an individual level, your difference will make you see things others don't. It will make you critical, but in the good eyes-wide-open sense. So maybe your parents will favor their straight children. So what? You have given them not only a different hair color every week, you give them the opportunity to support and love Different, Exceptional, Imaginative, Courageous YOU! (And if they don't take the opportunity, that's their problem, right?).

Everything original comes from people with an unusual take on things.

As a writer I try to avoid clichés (which you could define as previously-thought or used thoughts if you like), and I know "love your difference" has become a cliché. On the other hand, sometimes a saying of a few words can help you light a small candle on a dark night in the woods.

And having said that much, I think I should stop, send you my best wishes, and cease.

Best,

Carter Wilson





Congratulations

**TO ALL 2020
QUEER YOUTH
LEADERSHIP
NOMINEES
& AWARDEES**

**IT'S TIME TO
CELEBRATE!**



BAYMEC
MOVING EQUALITY FORWARD

www.baymec.org

Congratulations to all the
QYLA Nominees & Awardees
— and their families & friends

Thank you for your work and
vision to community



QYTF

QUEER YOUTH TASK FORCE
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

QYTF.org / (831) 427-4004 / info@QYTF.org



**JIMMY
PANETTA**
for CONGRESS

**Congratulations to all the
QYLA Nominees & Awardees!**

Authorized and paid for by Jimmy Panetta for Congress PO Box 103, Carmel Valley, CA 93924 FEC ID# C00592154

2020

Queer Youth Leadership Award

Designed to honor the leadership of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex or Queer (LGBTIQ) young people throughout Santa Cruz County.

Four awardees will receive a cash award of \$250, as well as the opportunity to designate a queer youth friendly project or nonprofit organization in their community to receive a \$500 donation.

Given annually to queer youth who are 12 to 18 years of age to acknowledge their accomplishments and the contributions they have made to their communities, whether this be in their homes, schools, religious institutions, athletic or academic teams, or other social groups.

Reconocimientos Para Los Aliados a Jóvenes “Gay”

Diseñados para honrar a los aliados de todas las edades que hayan contribuido de manera importante a mejorar las vidas de los jóvenes Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender o Intersex (GLBTI) y los jóvenes que tienen familia GLBTI.

Cuatro ganadores recibirán un premio en efectivo de \$250 dólares, como también la oportunidad de desarrollar un proyecto para los Jóvenes “Gay” o una organización sin fin de lucro dentro de su comunidad y recibirá para este proyecto una donación en efectivo de \$500 dólares.

Dado anualmente a los jóvenes “Gay” con edad de 12 a 18 años, como reconocimiento a sus logros y a las contribuciones que hayan hecho para sus comunidades, tales como en sus hogares, escuelas, instituciones religiosas, equipos atléticos o académicos y otros grupos sociales.



ANTHONY FLORES – *AWARDEE*
Watsonville High School Student

Anthony Flores is a senior at Watsonville High School and an activist for the rights of both the LGBTQ and mental health communities. Anthony began his role in activism as an eight grader at Alianza Charter School where he helped lay the foundation for the school's GSA club. Anthony is passionate about educating others about mental health and ending the stigma of mental illness. At Watsonville High, Anthony co-created the school's Wellness Center to provide students a safe place to access resources. Anthony painted the room during winter break, and created a brochure on tips for self control. Anthony is an active participant of Pride Days, attends rallies, and educates students and staff about LGBTQ rights. Anthony is described as someone who embodies all of the characteristics of an empathetic leader.

CALEB LENNON – *AWARDEE*
Cypress High School Student

Caleb Lennon is an activist and GSA president at Cypress Charter High School. Caleb's activism for the LGBTQ community took off in middle school when he founded Shoreline Middle School's GSA. In high school, Caleb has worked with Live Oak School District to guide policies that support diversity and inclusion at schools and has educated staff on best practices for supporting trans students. President of his school's GSA, Caleb is also a mentor to younger trans youth and supports their transition to high school and their growth in their identities. To provide community for students in independent study and other non-traditional programs, Caleb is working to form an Alternative Education GSA. Caleb is always willing to educate and guide teachers in creating safe classrooms for LGBTQ+ students.



CAMILA SNYDER-ALANIZ & MATTHEW DOMENICHELLI – *AWARDEE*
Santa Cruz High School Students

Camila Snyder-Alaniz and Matthew Domenichelli are co-presidents of Santa Cruz High School Rainbow Alliance Club and are credited with helping the club regain momentum. This dynamic pair lift each other up and work in harmony to raise visibility of their club. Camila is described as poised and honest, and Matthew as gentle and thoughtful. Together they have spoken on several panels for educators, assisted in coordinating a panel of speakers for National Coming Out day, and hosted a Queer Movie Night for all county GSAs. In addition to this work for the LGBTQ+ community, Matt and Camila also excel in their academics and are in theater. When not leading Rainbow Alliance, Camila and Matthew can often be found providing academic or emotional support to their peers.



JEYDON HERNANDEZ-CORDERO – AWARD

Delta Charter High School Student

Jeydon Hernandez-Cordero is a member of the Queer and Trans Youth Council of Santa Cruz County and a leader in his QSA at Delta School. As a council member, Jeydon conducted research and helped create and present an interactive training for school staff on the laws that protect LGBTQ+ youth. Jeydon has consistently attended every conference, summit, and event his QSA has offered despite lack of transportation. Jeydon is resilient and seeks resources to help him show up, not just physically, but mentally and emotionally as well. In addition to his activism, Jeydon excels academically, earning As in his high school and college classes. Jeydon plans to be an OB/GYN to provide better support to the queer and trans community around reproductive healthcare.

ABBY SOTELO – NOMINEE

New Brighton Middle School Student

Abby Sotelo is an 8th grader at New Brighton Middle School and the vice president of her school's QSA. Abby first attended New Brighton's QSA as a 7th grader. While she attended consistently that year, she was described as shy and did not speak up during club meetings. Now, as an 8th grader, Abby has found her voice. She advocated for holding elections for club leadership positions and decided to run for vice president. She gave a wonderful campaign speech and proved she is no longer afraid to speak her mind. As QSA vice president, Abby organizes weekly activities and has taken on responsibilities such as directing the large QSA group each week. Abby has demonstrated her growth as a confident leader.



GUILLERMO MARES CERVANTES – NOMINEE

Watsonville high School Student

Guillermo Mares Cervantes is the vice president of Watsonville High School's SAGA club and is the school's 2020 Salutatorian. As vice president, Guillermo leads and co-leads SAGA meetings in an equitable and caring way. Guillermo helps create a full agenda for every meeting, and always makes sure all members of the club feel heard and supported. Guillermo helped plan the Fall 2019 Queer, Trans, and Allied Student Summit at Watsonville High School where he also gave a speech on stage. Recently, Guillermo helped create a training for Watsonville teachers that takes an intersectional approach to support teachers with inclusivity and sensitivity of LGBTQIA+ students. In addition to his achievements with SAGA, Guillermo is also described as an outstanding student whose hard work earned him Class of 2020 Salutatorian.





LINUS HARLESS – *NOMINEE*

Soquel High School Student

Linus Harless is the president of Soquel High School's Queer Straight Alliance and Feminist Club, as well as a member of the school's varsity band, choir, and theater. As QSA president, Linus collaborated with Soquel's ASB to celebrate National Coming Out Day during the school's Homecoming celebrations. The event included the rainbow door and a rainbow balloon toss, as well as the first ever QSA Homecoming float. As QSA president, Linus has also planned pizza and movie nights and the club's first annual Queer Prom. Linus has demonstrated maturity as they have worked through challenges and obstacles in their life, including ADHD, anxiety, and depression, and now leads and succeeds in several contexts. Linus is described as bringing vision, clarity, and purpose to their endeavors as a leader

NICK PERRY – *NOMINEE*

Sequoia Junior High School Student

Nick Perry is a student at Sequoia Junior High School and a leader on the Sequoia Schools campus. Through mentorship and collaboration with Sequoia Schools staff, Nick took initiative to start a GSA on Sequoia's campus. Nick came up with the GSA's philosophy and vision and shared it with adults on campus who worked to make it a reality. Now, with twelve students in attendance, Nick collaborates with staff to plan topics of discussion for GSA meetings, such as learning about important historical figures like Harvey Milk, and holding vulnerable discussions about gender identity. Despite being one of the youngest members of the GSA, Nick has been a role model for everyone at Sequoia, his peers; younger and older, and even adults on campus.



REYES MORALES WARNE – *NOMINEE*

San Lorenzo Valley High School Student

Reyes Morales Warne is a student at San Lorenzo Valley High School who helped put on the Fall 2019 Queer and Trans Student Summit at Watsonville High. Reyes is described as someone well versed in leadership skills and eloquent and outspoken when it comes to the needs of their community. Reyes worked with the Summit coordinator to help organize the event, composed the theme "Queer Youth Take Over the World" and co-wrote a paragraph for the Safe Schools Project website on why the theme was important. Reyes also helped designate the time slots and locations for the workshops, and on the day of the Summit, volunteered to work as a greeter for the entire event. Reyes has made an everlasting and positive impact on the Santa Cruz County queer community.





TABITHA HUMBLE – *NOMINEE*

New Brighton Middle School Student

Tabitha Humble is an eighth grade student at New Brighton Middle School and president of her school's QSA. Tabitha advocated for holding elections for club leadership positions and helped plan the campaign process, and she has taken on her leadership role with great enthusiasm. Tabitha has attended multiple YES Conferences and attends weekly planning meetings with her club's advisor to plan QSA activities, such as the Gender Unicorn, queer music through the ages, and more. Tabitha also took on the task of rewriting the QSA mission statement. Tabitha is described as having a commanding presence and as someone who will not back down from challenges. In addition to her work with the school's QSA, Tabitha is also committed to the performing arts and her academics.



**FROM ALL THE PROUD
PARENTS AND GUARDIANS**

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations QYLA!

We in the medical community support and admire your honest living and social activism.

**stay honest.
respect yourself.
make all your sex safe.
all ways.**

Charles Singer, RN, L.Ac., M.Ac., DNBOA
Licensed Acupuncturist and Registered Nurse

(831) 685-1800 x 2

Congratulations QYLA 2020 Nominees & Awardees!

Thank you for your leadership!

Proud Watsonville High School Alumni Class of 1978



KIM TURLEY

REALTOR®

DRE # 01125248

90 Mariposa Ave.

Watsonville, CA 95076



Bus: 831-722-3188 Ext. 106

Fax: 831-722-7899

Cell: 831-818-6367

Email: Kimturley1@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.TRICOUNTYHOMES.net

Congratulations to all of the nominees and awardees of the 2020 Queer Youth Leadership Awards.

Thank you for being the change and inspiring our community!

Your words, your support and your actions matter!

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La Selva Beach Community Church

An Open and Affirming United Church of Christ
Progressive, Inclusive, Responsive

"Where you're not just one in a million!"


**Congratulations
to all QYLA Nominees,
Awardees and those who
love and support them!**

Jane E. Grady, Pastor

🎵 David Larstein, Musical Director

✉️ lsbcc@sbcglobal.net

26 FLORIDO AVE. | 831.688.4033 | lsbcc.org



**BILL
MONNING**
CALIFORNIA STATE SENATOR, 17th DISTRICT

Congratulations to this year's Santa Cruz Queer Youth Leadership awardees, and to the Queer Youth Leadership Awards for a successful 23 year!

Bill

Internships Available
Santa Cruz Office: Room 318-A, 701 Ocean St, Santa Cruz (831) 425-0401

Congratulations to all the QYLA 2020 Nominees and Awardees!



Celebrating your Leadership!
Wishing you all a successful and bright 2021!

Pajaro Valley Pride
pajarovalleypride.org

The Diversity Center | Santa Cruz County

...celebrate all of the nominees and awardees. Thank you for your courage and your leadership!

Check out The Diversity Center's LGBTQ+ Youth Program!
 Queer Youth Meet-Up Fridays 3:30pm-6pm @ First Christian Church in Watsonville
 Queer Youth Meet-Up Saturdays 1pm-3:30pm @ The Diversity Center in Santa Cruz
 Gender Expansive Support Group Saturdays 4pm-5:30pm @ The Diversity Center in SC



For more info, visit: diversitycenter.org/youth or email: youth@diversitycenter.org

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santa cruz county

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Chapter

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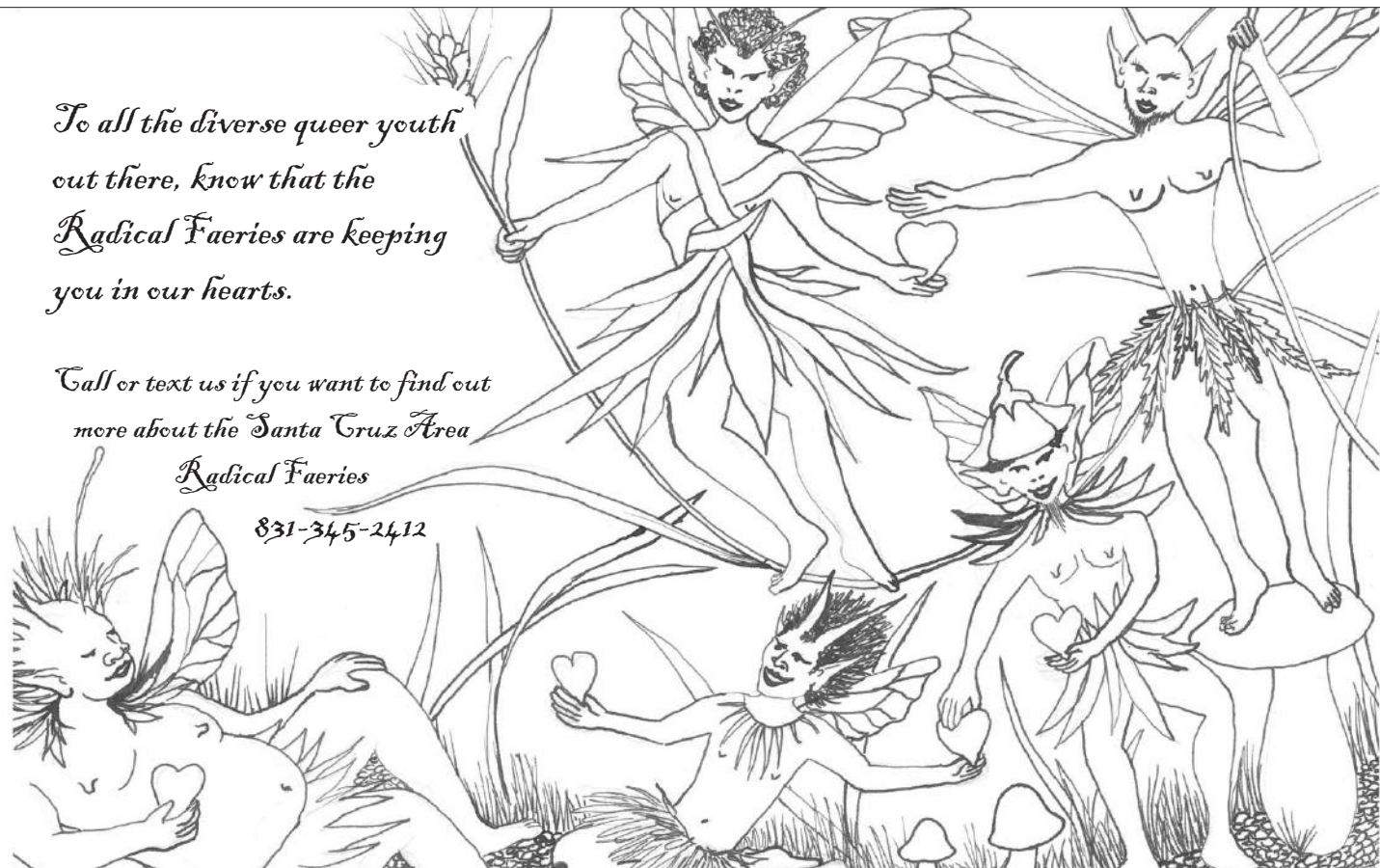
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- Quarterly Joteria Night
- Rainbow Ceremony (Spring)

RESOURCES

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- Clothing Closet
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- LGBTQ Books & Movies

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California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. congratulates
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Our future is bright in your hands!

CRLA provides free legal services to eligible low-income individuals,
including LGBTQ-related legal assistance.

Our Santa Cruz County regional office is located at 21 Carr Street in
Watsonville, (831) 724-2253.

2020

Ally to Queer Youth Award

Designed to honor an ally of any age who has made significant contributions to improving the lives of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender or Intersex (GLBTI) youth and youth who have GLBTI family members.

One non-monetary awards is given.

These awards are for allies who actively work to create safe spaces for Queer Youth. Examples include, creating support groups, increasing visibility of Queer Youth, inviting Queer speakers, or countering Queer oppression by stopping anti-queer slurs.

Reconocimientos Para Los Aliados a Jóvenes “Gay”

Diseñados para honrar a los aliados de todas las edades que hayan contribuido de manera importante a mejorar las vidas de los jóvenes Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender o Intersex (GLBTI) y los jóvenes que tienen familia GLBTI.

Un premio honorario.

Estos premios están dedicados a quienes trabajan para crear o apoyar ambientes seguros para los jóvenes Gay. Por ejemplo, a través de la creación de grupos de apoyo, el aumentar la visibilidad de los jóvenes Gay, el invitar a oradores “Gay” a las clases, grupos cuyo objetivo es oponerse a cualquier discriminación en contra de la gente Gay.

Ally to Queer Youth Award



MICHELLE BRANDT – Awardee
Co-Facilitator, TransFamilies of Santa Cruz County

Michelle Brandt is the Co-Facilitator for TransFamilies of Santa Cruz County, a supportive parent, and a tireless ally to LGBTQ+ youth. Michelle often spends her weekends tabling at events to help support local families in understanding gender diversity so they are better able to support their gender expansive youth. In addition to advocating at events and supporting her own gender diverse child, Michelle has collaborated with the Safe Schools Project and Gender Spectrum to create several "Understanding Gender" adult summits to better reach local parents and families and educate them on gender. Michelle's years of work and commitment to helping the families of trans and gender diverse kids have undoubtedly improved the lives of countless youths and made our communities stronger and our world better.

DR. FARIS SABBAAH – Nominee
Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Faris Sabbah is the Superintendent for the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and has made equity a cornerstone of his work. Dr. Sabbah works to end discrimination based on race, sexual orientation, and gender identity in Santa Cruz County. Dr. Sabbah has implemented subcommittees to include queer youth safety as part of school safety plans and supported the development and implementation of the LGBTQ School Climate Index. He attends county LGBTQ Task Force meetings and local queer events like Pride, youth summits, and the Queer Youth Leadership Awards to show his support and affirm the importance of queer youth. There are few other educational leaders who have invested as much time professionally, personally, or financially for supporting queer youth and families across the county and the state.



MICHELE DELIBERT – Nominee
Math Teacher, Sequoia High School

Michele Delibert is a math teacher at Sequoia High School and a strong advocate for queer youth. Michele identified the need for a GSA on the Sequoia campus and advocated for one for years. She has worked hard to ensure queer youth at Sequoia are visible and have opportunities. Michele has taken students on field trips, including to the Queer Youth Leadership Awards, and has provided support for trans youth in crisis by connecting them with resources and ensuring they stay connected to school. She is willing to have difficult conversations and call people out when using homophobic language, and she works to educate her students and colleagues on the importance of respecting pronouns. Michele has worked hard to provide LGBTQ+ students a safe place on the Sequoia School campus.

Ally to Queer Youth Award



RYAN BOSSON – NOMINEE

Spanish Teacher & QSA Advisor, Soquel High School

Ryan Bosson is a Spanish Teacher and QSA advisor at Soquel High School who has been credited with helping increase both club attendance and impact. When he took on the role of club advisor, Ryan had three objectives: promote QSA and increase attendance, provide structure, and increase visibility and impact on school culture. By many measures, Ryan has succeeded in all his objectives. Under Ryan's guidance, Soquel's QSA has doubled the number of events they participate in, has elected leaders and crafted a mission statement, and created an online forum to connect students with events such as National Coming Out Day, Back to School Night, and Open House. Ryan's leadership, love, and support has helped Soquel QSA have a positive impact on their school campus.

SHANNON KELLY – NOMINEE

Director of Upper School, Mount Madonna School

Shannon Kelly is the high school director at Mount Madonna School and she revived the school's GSA this year after a period of inactivity. Under Shannon's direction, Mount Madonna GSA has become active and now has student leaders and engaging meetings. The club has sponsored events such as Ally Week, which included inspiring videos of LGBTQ individuals being played at the beginning of the day throughout the classrooms, and Rainbow Spirit Days, where Shannon served rainbow sherbert in the quad for those who dressed in rainbows. Shannon helped bring the Triangle Speakers to Mount Madonna and organized discussion groups with the presenters to further educate the student community and continue to build an inclusive and safe school environment. Shannon has brought acceptance and enthusiasm to Mount Madonna School.

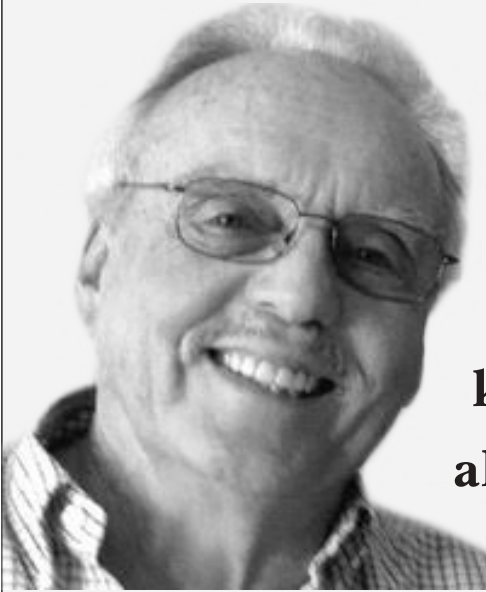


YVETTE CASTILLO – NOMINEE

Watsonville High School Student

Yvette Castillo is a student at Watsonville High School and a quiet leader that defends others. Yvette has attended Coming Out Days at Watsonville High and was a leader in organizing the event this year. Yvette works to create awareness of the importance of embracing diversity and she is always open to learning about new ways to support the queer community. This school year Yvette served as one of the founding creators of the Wellness Center at Watsonville High. Yvette even came to the school during Christmas break and helped paint the room. Yvette also organized the grand opening of the Wellness Center in January 2020. The event introduced students and staff to the center's goal of providing students with strategies to increase resiliency and overall wellness.

**In memory of
RICHARD WATSON-RILEY:
Soulmate, Teacher, Father, Friend**



“Richard would want you to feel the love that surrounds you, to be grateful for all that you have & all that you are able to do; to be kind to everyone and thoughtful in all that you do.”

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in our
faith
*Full acceptance,
many faiths.*

Temple Beth El & Out In Our Faith congratulates the 2020 QYLA nominees and awardees!

It is such an honor to support and celebrate this special annual community event!

Please contact us if your community is interested in becoming part of Out In Our Faith.

Rabbi Paula Marcus
Temple Beth El
OutInOurFaith@gmail.com

A coalition of dozens of local faith communities comprised of Jewish, Christian, Buddhist, Unitarian & non-denominational congregations in Santa Cruz County, promoting full inclusion of LGBT members.

Funded by the Diversity Partnership Fund of the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County & Temple Beth El / JCC.



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The Trevor Project is the leading national organization focused on crisis and suicide prevention efforts among lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer & questioning youth.



SANTA CRUZ
COUNTY OFFICE OF
EDUCATION

The Santa Cruz COE is proud to support student leadership initiatives and help create safe and inclusive school environments for all students and families, including LGBTQ+ youth. When students feel safe, supported, and included in school, they thrive.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S QYLA AWARDEES AND NOMINEES!

We are excited to announce the launch of the Santa Cruz COE Alliance for Youth Action in Winter 2021 in partnership with Queer and Trans Youth Council of Santa Cruz County. The Alliance will be a multi-disciplinary group comprised of a number of student leadership groups throughout Santa Cruz County to share ideas, learn new skills, and support one another's initiatives. The group will meet as a collaborative bi-monthly to build community, leadership, and sustainable change. For more information about this new offering, please contact Celeste Gutierrez at cgutierrez@santacruzcoe.org.

To learn more about LGBTQ+ updates and resources from the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, please visit our webpage at sccoe.link/lgbtq

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Congratulations to the Nominees!

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**Mazel Tov to QYLA
Leaders, Nominees
and Allies**

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Congratulations on the 23rd year of
QYLA and to all of the nominees and
awardees from the Silver Spur

QYLA 2021

Volunteer! Be part of the team!

**QUEER
YOUTH
LEADERSHIP** awards

Help plan the 2021 awards
www.QYLA.org

2020

Organizational Alliance to Queer Youth Award

Designed to honor an ally of any age who has made significant contributions to improving the lives of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender or Intersex (GLBTI) youth and youth in Santa Cruz County.

One non-monetary awards is given.

This organization has shown leadership in serving Queer youth.

Reconocimientos Organizados Por Los Aliados a Jóvenes “Gay”

Diseñados para honrar a los aliados de todas las edades que hayan contribuido de manera importante a mejorar las vidas de los jóvenes Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender o Intersex (GLBTI) en el Condado de Santa Cruz.

Un premio honorario.

Ha demostrado su liderazgo sirviendo a los jóvenes Gay.



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CONGRATS QYLA AWARDEES & NOMINEES, WE THINK YOU'RE SUPER!



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Organizational Ally to Queer Youth Award

SANTA CRUZ DERBY GIRLS AND SANTA CRUZ DERBY GROMS – AWARDEE



The Santa Cruz Derby Groms and the Santa Cruz Derby Girls are inclusive organizations that involve many queer, non-binary, and trans youth and adults as both skaters and league volunteers. Both organizations have taken active roles in supporting LGBTQ+ youth across Santa Cruz County by holding free skate nights for LGBTQ+ youth at the roller palladium and reaching out to local GSAs to provide free tickets to Derby games. Both organizations openly welcome trans and nonbinary people to play and embrace people of all body types. Both organizations proudly show the incredible skill, strength, and importance of LGBTQ+ athletes. LGBTQ+ young people involved with the Santa Cruz Derby Groms harness their incredible strength, defy gender norms, and build lifelong bonds through the sport of roller derby. * All group photos from 2019.



Creating Change Through Celebration

Acknowledging the Unacknowledged

As we celebrate and recognize tonight's young LGBTIQ leaders, we must pause to recognize that they are only a fraction of the LGBTIQ youth within Santa Cruz County. Due to fear, intolerance and bullying, many LGBTIQ youth are closeted and invisible to the LGBTIQ community. These "unsung heroes" are working to end homophobia and transphobia, and they are struggling daily to simply live a life free from bullying. Although they are not able to be here tonight, we must acknowledge their presence within our community and we must learn from their stories and the stories of today's awardees and nominees that there is more work to do. On behalf of the Queer Youth Leadership Awards, we wish to recognize all of the unsung heroes across Santa Cruz County who, despite all obstacles, are continuing to live true to themselves.

Mission Statement

The mission of QYLA is to improve the lives of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Questioning youth by increasing the positive awareness of Queer Youth Leadership, and increasing safe and welcoming environments in home, school, and community. QYLA honors today's Queer youth leaders and their allies in three award categories: The Queer Youth Leadership Award; The Ally to Queer Youth Award; and The Organizational Ally to Queer Youth Award.

In April of 1998, Santa Cruz County enjoyed the first Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth Award Ceremony and Banquet. The event was primarily produced by the grass-roots leadership of a core team of volunteers solicited from the local GLBT Youth Task Force and the wider community. The Youth Awards idea was born out of the Task Force's subcommittee to raise the visibility of Queer youth. The awards and banquet event was seen as a way to significantly increase the awareness of Queer youth in our community.

Queer Youth Task Force

The Queer Youth Task Force of Santa Cruz County (QYTF), meeting for nearly twenty two years, is comprised of individuals and organizations that work with, or support, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and questioning (LGBTIQ) youth. We strive to improve the quality of life for all LGBTIQ youth in our community, as well as children raised in homes where LGBTIQ people live.

History of the QYLA



Congratulations!

Cabrillo College Congratulates the Queer Youth Leadership Honorees of 2020

Equity at Cabrillo College is the commitment to cultivate an inclusive teaching and learning environment by providing equitable support, access, and opportunities for success that emphasizes historically underrepresented and emerging student populations.



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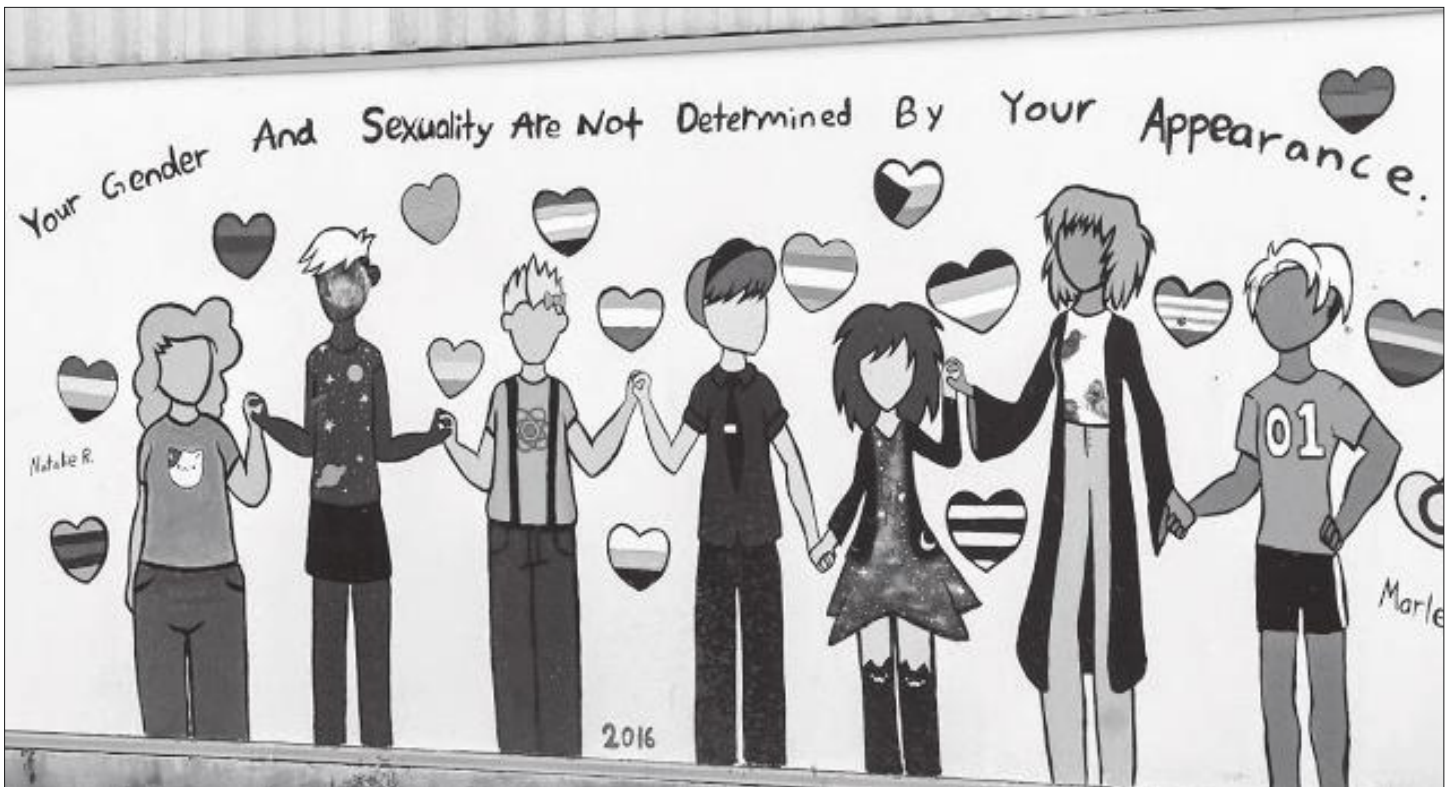
Congratulations

to all the SCCS Nominees & Awardees

*and to all the those working on behalf of LGBTQIA+ youth
in Santa Cruz County!*



Santa Cruz City Schools (SCCS)



PVUSD



to be an inclusive and caring community with meaningful supports for LGBTQ+ students!!



- | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Pajaro Middle | Mar Vista | Radcliff | WCSA | H.A. Hyde | Ceiba | Starlight | Alianza |
| Duncan Holbert | Valencia | Ohlone | Amesti | Ann Soldo | Aptos Jr | Calabasas | Freedom |
| Diamond Technology Institute | Aptos High | Lakeview | Mintie White | Rolling Hills | Hall District | Bradley | Rio Del Mar |
| New School | Watsonville High | Cesar Chavez | E.A. Hall | Virtual Academy | Adult Education | Renaissance High | |
| | MacQuiddy | | | Landmark | Pacific Coast Charter | Pajaro Valley HS | |



Join the community! @PajaroValleyUSD

QYLA Legacy Project

Mission

The intention of the QYLA Legacy Project is to document a unique organization that has continued for 20 years—an organization that honors, inspires and provides a platform for queer youth and their allies. We hope to include former awardees and nominees in the project, highlighting their experience with the QYLA's and where they are now. We also hope that this project can be used to educate the general public about the resiliency, heart, and activism of the queer youth of Santa Cruz County and their allies.

Be Part of it!

So much has changed in 23 years, but there is still so much work to be done. The Project will honor the progress QYLA awardees and nominees have made, while at the same time bringing attention to what's next. There are many ways to help preserve this important community event and ensure its continuation in the future.

QYLA has preserved all of the original bio's and video footage from most years of the awards, including news articles, video interviews with awardees and nominees, photographs and QYLA programs — documenting the over 400 nominees in the history of QYLA.

If you would like to be part of the QYLA Legacy Project, please contact us!

QYLA Legacy Project
(831) 427-4004
QYLA.org/legacy
legacy@QYLA.org
Facebook.com/QYLALegacyProject

Celebrating Queer Youth & Allies since 1998

Since 1998 the Queer Youth Leadership Awards has been recognizing queer youth across Santa Cruz County for being leaders within their communities. This annual gala event brings many intersecting identities together in celebration of queer youth, their allies, and all of their achievements. QYLA has been hosted in communities throughout Santa Cruz County, starting at a modest restaurant in 1998.

- 1998:** Hobee's Restuarant, Santa Cruz
- 1999:** YWCA Watsonville, Watsonville
- 2000:** Cocoanut Grove, Santa Cruz
- 2001:** Cocoanut Grove, Santa Cruz
- 2002:** Louden Nelson Community Center, Santa Cruz
- 2003:** Henry J. Mello Center, Watsonville
- 2004:** Harbor High School, Santa Cruz
- 2005:** Santa Cruz High School, Santa Cruz
- 2006:** Henry J. Mello Center, Watsonville
- 2007:** Harbor High School, Santa Cruz
- 2008:** New Brighton Middle School, Capitola
- 2009:** Scotts Valley High School, Scotts Valley
- 2010:** New Brighton Middle School, Capitola
- 2011:** San Lorenzo Valley High School, Felton
- 2012:** Shoreline Middle School, Santa Cruz
- 2013:** Pajaro Valley High School, Watsonville
- 2014:** New Brighton Middle School, Capitola
- 2015:** San Lorenzo Valley High School, Felton
- 2016:** Aptos High School, Aptos
- 2017:** Pajaro Valley High School, Watsonville
- 2018:** Soquel High School, Soquel
- 2019:** San Lorenzo Valley High School
- 2020:** Via Live Streaming



Thank You to Our Prestigious Judges!



QYLA 2020 JUDGING FACILITATORS



JEN HASTINGS, MD VOLUNTEER CLINICAL PROFESSOR, UCSF, DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY MEDICINE

2016 QYLA Awardee, 2016 Pride Youth Grand Marshal, and Cabrillo College Student. Adrian is an activist from Watsonville who currently attends Cabrillo College and will transfer to UCSB as a sociology major in the fall of 2018. Adrian strives to be unapologetically out and visible and hopes that he provides positive representation for marginalized youth. Adrian's long term goal is to become a sex educator and provide inclusive, intersectional, and representative sex education for all groups. Adrian strongly believes knowledge and empowerment go hand in hand and he is proud of Santa Cruz County for honoring such influential youth.



**KATHY CYTRON, LCSW
RETIRED PROGRAM MANAGER, CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH, COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ**

Executive Director, CASA of Santa Cruz County. Cynthia was a founding board member of Triangle Speakers in 1991 and served as a volunteer and Triangle speaker for more than 15 years. She served on the Diversity Task Force at its inception and later on its steering committee. She was a member of the Diversity Partnership Advisory Board of the Community Foundation for 9 years promoting education and funding for LGBTQ+ services and education. Cynthia is pleased to again be a judge of the QYLA and support youth and allies in our community

QYLA 2020 JUDGES



ADAM SPICKLER , CABRILLO COLLEGE TRUSTEE

Adam Spickler was elected as a Cabrillo College Trustee in 2018, representing 27,000 Santa Cruz County residents to the college. A proponent of student equity and equal access, Adam is the first openly transgender man elected to public office in California. Professionally, Adam manages housing and employment services contracts as a Senior Analyst for the County of Santa Cruz. Prior to this he was senior district staff for State Senator Bill Monning and former State Assemblymember John Laird. Adam is also an elected member of Santa Cruz County's Democratic Party and is an Equal Employment Opportunity Commissioner. He and his husband Scott live in Santa Cruz with their dogs, Penny and Juno.



ADRIAN VILORIA, 2016 QYLA AWARDEE, 2016 PRIDE YOUTH GRAND MARSHAL, AND UCSB 2020 GRADUATE

Adrian is an eager and passionate person who was born in Watsonville and found their flame for social justice early in their high school career. Despite being out from a young age, Adrian is relishing in their continual growth in being a mixed, nonbinary, queer person, and only hopes to empower their communities enough to feel safe to explore and appreciate their own identities. Their long term goal is to become a sex educator and to provide inclusive, intersectional, and representative sex education for all groups. Adrian strongly believes knowledge and empowerment go hand in hand and they are proud of Santa Cruz County for honoring such influential youth.



CHEVELLE WILLHITE, PH.D. STUDENT, CABRILLO COLLEGE 2018 QUEER YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD, AWARDEE

Chevelle Willhite is a student at Cabrillo College, a 2018 Queer Youth Leadership Awardee, and was a leader in Delta Charter High School's Queer-Straight Alliance for over three years. Chevelle is a quiet student but an outspoken advocate for queer justice who has been active in the local queer youth community for many years. Chevelle can always be found standing up for queer and trans justice at school and in the community. Chevelle co-created and presented a workshop on the Asexuality Spectrum at the 2017 Queer, Trans, and Allied Student Summit, and in 2018 he attended the Creating Change Conference in Washington, DC as a Youth Ambassador. Chevelle's activism is an asset to his community.



DORON COMERCHERO, FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF "FOOD, WHAT?!"

FoodWhat is a Santa Cruz County youth empowerment and food justice organization where youth engage in relationships with land, food, and each other in ways that are grounded in love and rooted in justice. FoodWhat provides a meaningful space where youth define and cultivate their empowerment, liberation, and well-being. Originally from the East Coast, Doron worked in the Bronx in his 20's in service of community gardeners then moved west to become a UCSC Farm and Garden apprentice. After two more years farming, FoodWhat was born. In building deep relationships with young people and being dedicated to creating inclusive, inspiring youth spaces, Doron continues to believe he has the best job in the world. Fifteen years in, he continues to lead FoodWhat with heart, laughter, and intention.

QYLA 2020 JUDGES



JAMES TARA LIEM , STUDENT, SANTA CRUZ HIGH SCHOOL 2018 QUEER YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD, AWARDEE

James Tara Liem (AKA James, Tara, or J.T.) is a fifteen-year-old tenth grader at Santa Cruz High School. They are a strong advocate for LGBTQ+ rights, and as a gender fluid Asian-American teen, they are also passionate about intersectional identity, expression, and representation. They love to read, write, design, and sew clothing, and create art. Some of their past queer activism projects include the fight for locker-room and bathroom accessibility for trans and nonbinary kids, classroom presentations on the importance of allies, and helping to develop and present several lesson plans for seventh- and eighth-graders on LGBTQ+ identities, history, and current events.



KEISHA BROWDER, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, UNITED WAY OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Keisha started her career in nonprofits as an executive leader with several Girl Scout Councils throughout the nation, and later was part of a team that created the nation's first citywide system for after school programs, the Providence After School Alliance/AfterZone. Keisha joined United Way of Santa Cruz County in 2012 as the Director of Community Giving & Marketing and was appointed to CEO in January 2018. Keisha has served on several nonprofit boards and in 2017 won the NEXTIES Mentor of the Year award. Keisha is a graduate of Leadership Santa Cruz and the prestigious United Way Worldwide Advanced Leadership Program and has developed one of the most advanced digital giving and donor engagement platforms in the United Way movement.



LISA GUTIÉRREZ WANG, PHD, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

Dr. Lisa Gutiérrez Wang is a clinical psychologist and Director of Children's Behavioral Health for Santa Cruz County's Health Services Agency (HSA). She leads the division's Trauma-Informed Systems (TIS) work which aims to advance trauma-informed care and facilitate healing-centered system change to mitigate the impact of stress, trauma, and oppression on the workforce and across diverse client populations. Prior to joining Santa Cruz County Behavioral Health in 2019, Lisa was the Behavioral Health Director at Center for Youth Wellness in San Francisco where she worked with CA Surgeon General Dr. Nadine Burke Harris and a multi-disciplinary team to advance Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) screening and the treatment of toxic stress.



DR. SHANE HILL, CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST AND COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER, 2016 ALLY TO QUEER YOUTH AWARD, AWARDEE

As a clinical psychologist and community volunteer, Dr. Shane Hill has worked to support the queer and trans community and their families for over 20 years in Santa Cruz. He has worked as a STRANGE facilitator, as a mental health consultant for the Diversity Center for many years, the founder of Queer Camp, founder and facilitator of the Santa Cruz Transgender Therapist Team for 10 years, co-founder of the Transfamily Support Group of Santa Cruz County, co-author of the UCSF Child and Adolescent Gender Center Youth Assessment Protocol, and has provided numerous Trans/Non-binary Cultural Awareness trainings and Gender Identity Clinical Trainings to hundreds of therapists, school employees, and organizations in Santa Cruz and throughout California.

2019-2020 Grants, Scholarships, and Leadership Honorariums to LGBTQIA+ Youth and Clubs

In addition to honoring leadership during the 23rd Annual Queer Youth Leadership Awards, we honor and celebrate some of the LGBTQIA+ student campus clubs and individuals who are making Santa Cruz County a safer place -- congratulations! To everyone who is also working to better our communities but not listed here, we salute you!

Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County “Diversity Partnership” LGBTQIA+ Club Grants

The Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County “Diversity Partnership” Fund is proud to announce the 2019-2020 LGBTQIA+ club grants!

These grants, awarded to Gender and Sexuality Alliances (GSAs), Queer-Straight Alliances (QSAs), Sexuality and Gender Alliances (SAGAs), Rainbow Alliances, and other student clubs, are opportunities for LGBTQIA+ clubs to write proposals each fall on projects they would like to achieve that academic year. Each club may apply for up to \$500, and over \$7,000 was awarded in 2019-2020.

The program, now in its fourth year, has inspired many LGBTQIA+ student clubs throughout Santa Cruz County. **Below are the clubs who received the grants, along with the projects the grants will fund.**

Branciforte Small Schools GSA:

- hold queer, trans, and ally ice cream socials and games
- host a tie-dye party
- purchase a button maker and supplies
- pay for food for meetings

Branciforte Middle School Rainbow Alliance:

- host a club faire
- host movie viewings with discussions
- facilitate informational presentations in classrooms and conduct preferred pronoun work with the staff
- purchase a flag, poster-making materials, tie-dye kits, incentive prizes for events, and decorations

Santa Cruz High School GSA:

- host a guest speaker from Diversity Center or Safe Schools Project and provide lunch for attendees
- create club merchandise (t-shirts) to improve visibility
- purchase table at QYLA awards
- host movie night in connection with all local GSAs providing popcorn and snacks.

Rolling Hills Middle School GSA:

- increase visibility of club through purchasing a button making machine
- design and buy club t-shirts.
- raise funds through “kindness grams” (flowers) for all students to buy and send for Valentine’s Day
- host mini-film festivals for the club during Thanksgiving, winter, and spring breaks and provide snacks

Pajaro Middle School GSA:

- host a school-wide visibility/education event for the winter
- purchase rainbow a welcome mat for the club
- design and purchase club t-shirts
- purchase button maker for visibility and fundraising campaign

Cesar Chavez Middle School GSA:

- hold a queer prom and include allies and supporters
- allow club members to attend staff planning meeting to help create a safer environment
- schedule a speaker to talk about bullying prevention at school student assembly and to come to the club to talk about their stories
- offer participation incentives in planned activities, e.g., food, decorations, etc.

Alianza Charter School GSA:

- design and purchase new t-shirts for club members
- promote being an ally to LGBTQ people
- co-sponsor a middle school Rainbow Dance along with Watsonville Charter School of the Arts (WCSA) GSA
- purchase snacks for social gatherings

Aptos High School AHSRA:

- in collaboration with other clubs, host Inclusivity Day to include Migrant Student Assoc. & Anime Club
- attend the YES Conference in San Francisco
- attend QYLA Awards
- participate in Day of Silence
- purchase food for events
- purchase whiteboards, buttons, and t-shirts

Delta School QSA:

- attend Youth Empowerment Summit
- attend Santa Cruz Pride
- implement school-wide events for Ally Week and Queer History Month
- build student resiliency and leadership skills

Lakeview Middle School GSA:

- design new t-shirts and wear them for Day of Silence and pride events
- purchase a QSA banner to use at events such as Pride parades
- purchase more button making supplies
- purchase rainbow flags to give to teachers to hang in their classrooms
- purchase snacks for club meetings and events.

Soquel High School QSA:

- hold game nights and movie nights
- begin building a LGBTQI movie library
- rent a flatbed truck for our homecoming celebration and parade
- practice color guard routines with LGBTQI flags to perform at events

Watsonville Charter School of the Arts GSA:

- hold Rainbow Middle School Dance in collaboration with Alianza Charter School

- more visibility with making and wearing buttons
- purchase LGBTQ+ themed books to establish a GSA library
- create GSA t-shirts
- host pizza parties to encourage more students to join and be allies
- expand GSA Junior library of picture books
- create a short film of our Be Yourself skit

Watsonville High School SAGA:

- create t-shirts for club members
- host Day of Silence and other significant events
- provide opportunities for creating art
- purchase a variety of LGBTQIA+ flags
- Provide snacks/food for club meetings and events such as Day of Silence , Harvey Milk Day, International Day Against Homophobia Transphobia, Biphobia and Transgender Day of Visibility

Pacific Collegiate School Rainbow Alliance:

- bring in speakers to discuss LGBTQ diversity for an all-school assembly
- hold annual Fall Fabu for all clubs and plan an activity around gender, sexuality, and race
- purchase food for planned events
- pay for flyers and pamphlets

Emerging Jedi Award

The Emerging Jedi Awards are to be given to youth and young adults (age 15-25) who have demonstrated strength of character/ community service and/or have honorably and skillfully faced adversity. These awards are recognition of positive character development rather than specific academic accomplishments.

Four (4) honorariums of \$250 are given yearly.

These Emerging Jedis are outstanding LGBTQ youth who are leading robust lives and being good neighbors in their communities.

2018 Awardees

Trisha Herrera - Student, UC Santa Cruz

Calista Getzschmann - Student, Aptos High School.

Migé Franco - Student, Cabrillo College and a Food What?! Alumni Staff Member

Sarananda Shanti Osheim - Editor, Queer Youth Updates of Santa Cruz County.

2019 Awardees

Marisol Roberts-Smith - Student, UC Santa Cruz.

Jeydon Hernandez-Cordero - Student, Delta Charter High School

Chloë Rae Adolfo - Student, Soquel High School

Reyes Morales Warne - Student, San Lorenzo Valley High School

eQuality Scholarship Collaborative Award

eQuality Scholarship Collaborative awards \$6,000 - \$7,000 scholarships to honor and encourage students for their service to the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender community. Scholarships may be used for post-secondary education at accredited institutions - colleges, universities, and trade schools. Some of the scholarships are specifically for medical school

In 2020, eQuality awarded scholarships to 14 graduating high school seniors, two community college transfer students, one nursing student, and four graduate health care students. Eligible students are generally residents of northern or central California. Santa Cruz County has a proud tradition of students from Watsonville to Santa Cruz receiving this award over the years. In 2020, one recipient from Santa Cruz County received this award.

Caleb Lennon - Cypress Charter High School, Santa Cruz / Pitzer College Genentech Scholar

Recognizing Our Volunteers

We thank the community members who donated their time and who supported the project to help make the 2020 (virtual) Queer Youth Leadership Awards possible:

In Memory of Bonnie Ronzio (QYLA Stage Manager 2002-2020)

Emcees - Lucy Ludington & Isaac Ludington

Emcee Coach - Angela Ciandro

Flowers - Amy Scott, Ace's Flowers

Fundraising/Advertising - Stuart Rosenstein

Judging Facilitators- Kathy Cytron & Jen Hastings

Photography - Rebecca Stark Photography

Program Production - Scott Blackwell

Stage Manager Assistant - Charlie Singer

Video Production - Jeromie Whalen

Volunteer Coordinator - Joe Cosentino

Website - Jordan Iversen, Iversen Design

2020 QYLA Theme - New Brighton Middle School Queer Straight Alliance (QSA)

Recognizing Our 2020 Co-Sponsors

Thank You to our Co-Sponsors

Ace's Flowers
Angela Meeker
Aptos High School Rainbow Alliance
Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee (BAYMEC)
Bay Federal Credit Union
California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA)
Cabrillo College Office of Student Equity
Capitola-Aptos Rotary Club
Charles Singer, RN, L.Ac.
Cherie Reveles in honor of Dan Gold and Pat LeCuyer
Coffeetopia
Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County
Cruzio
Cynthia Druley
Edith Frederick
Emerging Jedi Award
First 5 Santa Cruz County
First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) – Watsonville
Friends of Jimmy Panetta
Friends of Kathy Ruiz Goldenkranz
Friends of Mark Stone
Friends of QYLA
G. Schulz
Gail D. Levine
In Memory of Connor Cockerham
In Memory of Richard Watson-Riley
Iversen Design
Jardines de San Juan
Jeremy Ray, Live Oak School Board & Dr. Jessica Ray
Kathleen Hughes
Out In Our Faith
Pat Dellin, fused glass artist
Pat LeCuyer and Dan Gold
Pajaro Valley Pride
Pajaro Valley Unified School District (PVUSD)
Phillip Gomez & Van Boughner
Rebecca Stark Photography
Safe Schools Project
Santa Cruz City Schools (SCCS)
Santa Cruz County Office of Education (SCCOE)
Santa Cruz Community Health Centers
Santa Cruz Sentinel
Sheri & Richard Watson-Riley
Temple Beth El
The Diversity Center
The Trevor Project
TransFamilies of Santa Cruz County
Woody Beville

Thank You to our Supporters

Adam Spickler, Trustee, Cabrillo College
Angela Firpo and Chris Martorana
American Civil Liberties Union
Santa Cruz County Chapter (ACLU)
Assembly member Mark Stone
California State Assembly, 29th District
Bea Rosenstein
Black China Bakery
Bookshop Santa Cruz
Boys and Girls Club of Santa Cruz County
Cantú Queer Center at UCSC
Capitola-Aptos Rotary Club
Chadeish Yameinu Jewish Renewal
Clare Sheils & Margaret A. Leonard
Claudio Schnier
Closet Free Radio Show, KZSC
Community Printers
Dharma's Restaurant, Bernie Shapiro
GLBT Alliance of Santa Cruz County
Greg SeaLion Cotten
James Olivas
La Selva Beach Community Church
Larry Almonte
Out in Santa Cruz Radio Show, KSCO
PFLAG Santa Cruz County
Rob Adkisson
Ron Indra
Senator Bill Monning, California State Senate, 17th District
Silver Spur
Suicide Prevention Service of the Central Coast
The Bagelry, John Hamstra
The Ugly Mug
The Watson Agency
Trans Teen Project
United Way of Santa Cruz County
Yoli Gallardo

Emcee's & Performers of the 23rd Annual Queer Youth Leadership

Emcee's



LUCY LUDINGTON

Lucy Ludington (she/her) is a 16-year-old junior at Alternative Family Education. She enjoys theatre, art, and music. She hopes to pursue a career as a musician and actress, and also hopes to bring more queer stories to the screen. She strongly believes that the QYLA is helping to empower queer youth and bring their stories to the forefront. Lucy is honored to be one of your QYLA emcees!



ISAAC LUDINGTON

Isaac Ludington (he/him) is an 18-year-old high school graduate. He has an extensive background in performing arts and enjoys reading, writing, and filmmaking. He is currently taking a gap year to pursue a number of personal creative projects. He wants to help make the world a more equal and just place through activism and storytelling, and deeply admires the work the QYLA is doing to bring the world closer to that goal.

Performers



SAMUEL UDO

Samuel Udo is a Scotts Valley High School Alum and spent the summer at Big Basin State Park as an interpretive aid. He is now at the Santa Cruz County Clerk's office working on the elections. While at Scotts Valley High, he was involved in student government as student body treasurer, and peer advocates (an student-run anti-bullying organization). Samuel created a video for Big Basin as a tribute to the resiliency of the redwood trees that went viral. QYLA shares a portion of that video. Samuel sings "Lean on Me."



LIAM WALTERS

Liam is a very unique individual. He is 18 years old, he is gender fluid, more on the masculine side though. He has gone through a lot throughout the years, but there is one thing that gets him back on his feet, and that is singing. He has a strong passion for singing, not to mention song writing. When Liam writes a song he puts his heart into it. You are bound to feel his emotions when he is performing. Liam wrote a song called; "A Broken Heart Beat" which is a song Liam wrote about when he realized even people who you think love you, will turn around and not accept you. He was with someone who would physically hurt him, constantly put him down, and attempt to take his pride away. Although it didn't work, it was a learning experience for him and really made him think about the pain he never wants to go through again. So in other words, he needed to put this song out there. He is a proud member of the LGBTQ community and would never take that back. He encourages you to take a step further into finding your happiness. BE YOURSELF!!



OUR VISION:

All Santa Cruz County children enter school ready to achieve to their greatest potential.

OUR MISSION:

To help children succeed in school and in life, First 5 Santa Cruz County invests in health, early learning and family support to promote optimal development of Santa Cruz County children.

Congratulations to the Nominees and Awardees of the 2020 Queer Youth Leadership Awards!

For more information on First 5, visit
<http://www.first5scc.org>



Bay Federal Credit Union would like to celebrate the **Queer Youth Leadership Awards** and their service to our community.

Congratulations to all of the award honorees, past, present, and future!

Thank you for making a real difference.



Making a real difference



OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

A Project of the Queer Youth Task Force of Santa Cruz County

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Safe Schools Project of Santa Cruz County is to raise awareness of the hostile atmosphere queer youth face on school campuses in Santa Cruz County, advocate for the enforcement of AB 537, The California Student Safety & Violence Prevention Act of 2000, and be a catalyst for action in each Santa Cruz County school district to make schools safer for all youth. Funded, in part, by the County Mental Health Act.

Objectives:

✓ Identify "safe persons" (faculty and staff) within each school district regarding AB 537 enforcement.

✓ Work with school administrators to create a "safe schools campaign" within each school district.

✓ Work with PTA's, Site Council's, adult allies, and "community teams" within each school district.

✓ Raise awareness of each school district's enforcement of AB537.

✓ Maintain a resource website for the Safe Schools Project in English and Spanish.

Overview:

Under the California Student Safety and Violence Prevention Act of 2000 (AB 537), all California public schools have a duty to protect students from discrimination and/or harassment on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. The California Safe Schools Coalition authored a report in 2004, The Safe Place To Learn Report, highlighting that when students are empowered with the knowledge of their safety rights and when school administrators enforce AB 537, schools have proven to be safer for ALL students.

The Safe Schools Project of Santa Cruz County (SSP) works in collaboration with local schools and local and state-wide community organizations to help guarantee the enforcement AB 537 locally, avoid duplication in resources and services, and utilize successful models where they may exist to support safer schools for LGBTIQ youth and their allies. The overall goal of SSP is for every queer and queer-friendly student, parent, and staff person in the K-12 system within Santa Cruz County to be knowledgeable of AB 537 and the rights that each student has to be safe on campus free from bullying or harassment.

Community Support:

The Task Force is asking for community support in two ways: volunteer support and financial support.

Volunteers who have experience with school districts or who have a general interest in supporting safer schools are encouraged to help the project meet its objectives.

Currently, SSP is operating with funds derived from the County Mental Health Act and community donations. In addition to securing funding for the coordinator and research assistant in 2014, SSP seeks to expand the project by securing funds for:

- Stipends for four youth internships
- Travel expenses for youth conferences
- Printing expenses for AB537 resources
- Advertising in local publications

Programs:

Some of the programs of the Safe Schools Project include:

- ✓ Safe School Liaisons
- ✓ Queer Youth Updates
- ✓ Internships
- ✓ QSA/GSA Summits
- ✓ Safe School Resources
- ✓ Community Action Teams
- ✓ Curriculum Development
- ✓ Leadership Conferences

Contact the SSP:
Ron Indra, Coordinator
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www.QYTF.org | (831) 427-4014