

24<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNUAL

# HONORING QUEER YOUTH LEADERS & ALLIES IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

QUEER  
YOUTH  
LEADERSHIP  
awards

SATURDAY  
MAY 8, 2021  
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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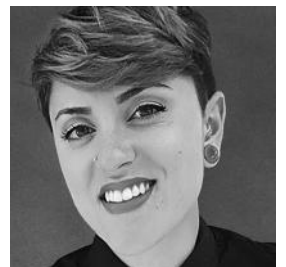


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MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

809 Center Street, Room 10, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 • (831) 420-5020 • Fax: (831) 420-5011 • [citycouncil@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:citycouncil@cityofsantacruz.com)

April 28, 2021

Dear Future Leaders:

I am so pleased to be able to congratulate you on your achievements and leadership as allies and members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, Questioning, Pansexual, Asexual (LGBTIQ+) community. Celebrating you is both celebrating our future and our past. The LGBTIQ+ community has always fought for equality, compassion, and fairness for all, and we have joined across all communities to lift as many people up as we can. We have benefited from so many trailblazers and advocates across all communities, and you are part of that legacy. As an openly lesbian Mayor, I am so pleased to welcome everyone to the 2021 Queer Youth Leadership Awards!

It is important that with all our struggles that we also celebrate, and that is the purpose of tonight. The theme for tonight is Celebrating Queer Joy Outside the Local Universe, and, indeed, the past year has been unlike any earth experience that we have had before. This year has taught us that our community can be separated physically but that our support and strength for each other can still shine through our actions, social media posts, and through our compassion and commitment to making the universe a better place for all. And that is what we need to imagine as leaders and activists—that WE become part of the solution, part of the activism, and part of the rebuilding, and that we lift as many as possible to a better life.

For each terrible statistic that we read due to COVID and for each disturbing act of selfishness, violence, and hate, we must look for the light and joy in each other's eyes and actions. If you as young leaders can focus on that light and that joy, you will lift us up and show that caring is a superhero power that transcends all acts. I look forward to seeing your light shine and grow and bring goodness to our recovery as a community, as a nation, and for the world to see and celebrate.

I am so proud of all that you stand for and have achieved. Celebrate your goodness tonight with your family and keep working at being you and doing well!

Congratulations,

Donna Meyers  
Mayor



# City of Watsonville

*"A Community of Opportunities"*

April 26, 2021

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 24th Annual Queer Youth Leadership Awards. I am honored to be joining with you to celebrate this momentous event. I am not only the Mayor of Watsonville, but am also the first openly gay Mayor to hold the seat in the City's history. Paving the way for future generations has always been important to me. It is imperative to have voices of all backgrounds represented at the table of governance - this includes the LGBTQ+ community. Many of us have been working for years to create leadership opportunities for future generations. So, I am hopeful that soon we will need more than one hand to count our LGBTQ+ leaders on.

I am a product of the Pajaro Valley Unified School District. I was an E.A. Hall Falcon and a Watsonville High School Wildcat. Currently, I am teaching at Pajaro Middle School. I am proud to have grown up in this very community that you are now a part of. I was able to cultivate amazing long-lasting friendships that I still have today. We live in a very special place here in our bay. Santa Cruz County is home for me and has been a part of so many of my lasting memories. I am hopeful you have those same experiences.

I encourage you to embrace this moment. This past year we were faced with a pandemic that has impacted us all in so many different ways. As we are coming out of these difficult times, it is important to reflect on this past year, while embracing the opportunities that lay ahead of us. We are all so proud of the work you have done under these circumstances. I am sure it wasn't easy, but you did it. Being able to navigate through times like these and excel tells me that you are all remarkable humans

Again, congratulations to all the nominees, awardees and every single person who makes our community safer, healthier and a better place for the entire LGBTQ+ community. You are Santa Cruz County. We are family!

Regards,

Jimmy Dutra  
Mayor, City of Watsonville

# 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	Er	Ers	Emself
He	Him	His	Hirs	Himself
Per	Per	Pers	Pers	Perself
She	Her	Her	Hers	Herself
She	Sir	Hir	Hirs	Hirself
They	Them	Their	Theirs	Themself
Ve	Ver	Virs	Vers	Verself
Zic	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:** Intergalactic Robot Dance

Welcome

**Mayor Donna Meyers & Mayor Jimmy Dutra**  
City of Santa Cruz & City of Watsonville



**Performance**

"Born This Way" Interpretive Dance by Estelle Gonzales

**Honoring Queer Youth Leadership Award**  
Nominees

**Queer Youth Leadership Award**  
Awardee Estelle Gonzales



**Keynote**

Living Healthy Through COVID presented by Ashlyn Adams

**Queer Youth Leadership Award**  
Awardee Reyes Morales Warne



**Honoring Ally to Queer Youth Award**  
Nominees

**Ally to Queer Youth Award**  
Awardee Rachel Morales Warne

Tribute to Unsung Heroes



**Performance**

"Lover Boy" performed by AJ Ouse

**Queer Youth Leadership Award**  
Awardee Q Licht

**Queer Youth Leadership Award**  
Awardee Gloria Panttaja



**Tribute to LGBTQ Trailblazer**  
Jo Kenny

**Honoring Organizational Ally to Queer Youth**  
Nominees

**Organizational Ally to Queer Youth**  
Awardee Queer and Trans Youth Council of Santa Cruz County

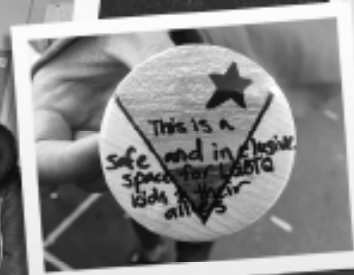
Finale



# 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

# EMCEE'S & PERFORMERS OF THE 24TH

## ANNUAL QUEER YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS

### Emcee's



#### LUCY LUDINGTON

Lucy Ludington (she/her and they/them) is a sixteen-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 a nineteen-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.

### Keynote Speaker



#### ASHLYN ADAMS

Ashlyn (she/her/sir) raised herself and her siblings in the Bay Area and came to Santa Cruz for college. She considers herself to be a professional in the arts and sciences of connecting people with resources, giving movie recommendations, helping you fix your computer, fitting everything in the car, and providing basketball commentary. Her collard greens are incredible; her band is just here to have fun. She lives with her wife and two pretty cute dogs.

### Performers



#### AJ DAVEY OUSE

AJ Davey Ouse (he/him) has been performing for most of his life. He has performed in musical theatre, dance, and instrumental and vocal music. Some of his favorite roles include Hope in Urinetown, Ella in Cooking Can Be Murder, and Dance Corps in Elf the Musical. He is so excited to be part of the QYLA this year, as both a nominee and a performer!



#### ESTELLE GONZALES

Estelle (they/them) has been dancing with Pacific Arts Complex since the age of two. Their love for dance shows as soon as they step foot on stage. Estelle considers PAC studio, dance team, and teachers a second home and family, and a place to find peace and normalcy through the past year's pandemic. Estelle is a very hard working, passionate person and dance has helped them on their journey to where they are today.

# Congratulations!

## Cabrillo College Congratulates the Queer Youth Leadership Honorees of 2021

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.



THE OFFICE OF  
STUDENT EQUITY

Improving the world, one student at a time.

*Cabrillo, a humanizing place to start your 2022 education!*

# Queer Youth Task Force

## 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Queer Youth Leadership Awards

Queer Youth Task Force  
Steering Committee Members  
Stuart Rosenstein - Chair  
Cassie Blume  
Dean Maynard  
Phillip Gomez  
Stella Moreno

Queer Youth Task Force  
P. O. Box 3143  
Santa Cruz, CA 95063  
(831) 427-4004  
www.QYTF.org  
info@QYTF.org



May 8, 2021

### WELCOME!

Thank you for attending the 24<sup>th</sup> 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 2021 Queer Youth Leadership Awards

### ¡BIENVENIDOS!

Gracias por asistir a la vigésima cuarta 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" 2021

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.

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](http://safeschoolsproject.org)  
[qytf.org](http://qytf.org)  
[diversitycenter.org](http://diversitycenter.org)  
[transteenproject.org](http://transteenproject.org)  
[genderspectrum.org](http://genderspectrum.org)  
[pflagcc.org](http://pflagcc.org)  
[transfamiliesca.org](http://transfamiliesca.org)  
[stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov](http://stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov)  
[parentsagainstbullying.com](http://parentsagainstbullying.com)  
[stopcyberbullying.org](http://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**

Congratulations to the 2021 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!

Adam Spickler  
Cabrillo College Trustee  
Pronouns: He | They  
Trans | Queer | Progressive  
amspickler@yahoo.com  
831-588-0692



# 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 LGBTQ and allied students. Cabrillo is a great place to start your college career. Please visit us at [www.cabrillo.edu](http://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 all the 2021 Queer Youth Honorees. You make us so proud!

*"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

# NEW VOICES

LGBTQQAI+ YOUTH  
PERFORMANCE  
PROGRAM

## Calling all LGBTQAI+ creatives, ages 15-19!

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

### Now enrolling for Fall 2021

Apply today at

[www.westperformingarts.com/new-voices](http://www.westperformingarts.com/new-voices)



creative  
performing  
arts

congratulates all 2021 QYLA nominees!

# Step Up!

## A Message from LGBT Trailblazer Jo Kenny

Dear Friends,

When I was young I wish someone had told me to go for it, to think about all the different things I might want to do in my life and try them out. To believe in myself, recognizing that I have value and worth. In making this commitment to myself, I would find what makes me happy and fulfilled. This is what I wish for each of you!

I grew up in a time when everything was strictly segregated by race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, and class. Rich white men controlled everything and everyone. Looking at the world of today, not much has changed, as you, too, are growing up in a toxic environment.

Don't get me wrong, we worked hard and made many important changes, particularly as a queer movement. For example, I came out in 1978 just as the homophobes in California tried to pass a law that would allow LGBT and allied teachers to be fired, just for being LGBT or an ally. Locally we came together and ran an amazing campaign based on "coming out" and educating the community that they actually knew LGBT people. We made bus ads with our photos. Many of us came out at work and we handed out business cards that identified us as LGBT. We came together as a statewide community and won that battle. Not too long ago we waged very sophisticated campaigns across the country to win the right to marry and in many states we've also won full civil rights.

Yet, every time we've won a "right," the primarily white, fundamentalist right-wing organize against us all the harder. Right now more than 30 state legislatures are voting on anti-trans bills. The very same people are taking voting rights away from Black and other People of Color and denying women control of our own bodies.

You are coming of age in this time of major upheaval and the world urgently needs you to bring your experiences and prospective to become an agent of change. Seriously, the threat is so big no one can sit on the sidelines. Over the last 50 years there are some things that have helped sustain me on this journey and I want to share them in hopes that they work for you. My experiences have taught me to:

1. Build community where-ever you go. Surround yourself with people who are caring and supportive of you and one another.
2. Speak your truth-to yourself and to others.
3. Listen deeply. Learn to be an ally to other oppressed people.
4. Find people who are different from you and invite them in. We are strongest as a community when we have a diversity of life experiences and thoughts surrounding us.
5. Step up and then step back. Learning to be the spokesperson for your group is just as important as learning to step back and make space for someone else to be in the lead.
6. Participating in democracy is fulfilling, but it is not easy. Find what brings you joy and do it.

Looking forward to seeing you at the next rally,

Jo



*Congratulations*

TO ALL 2021  
QUEER YOUTH  
LEADERSHIP  
NOMINEES  
& AWARDEES

IT'S TIME TO  
CELEBRATE!



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



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

# 2021

## 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.

# QUEER Youth Leadership Award

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## **ESTELLE GONZALES - AWARDEE**

Pronouns: they/them/theirs

Student, Watsonville Charter School of the Arts  
Active Member, Watsonville Charter School of the Arts GSA Junior

Estelle Gonzales is a fourth grader at Watsonville Charter School of the Arts where they are an active member of the school's GSA Junior club. Estelle came out as pansexual at age eight and has been a shining example as a young person who feels free to be themselves. Estelle is a model to other young people that it is possible to be out and supported by your family, even in elementary school. Last fall, Estelle recorded a video for the PVUSD board about the importance of GSA clubs in elementary schools to support LGBTQIA+ students and prevent bullying. During distance learning, Estelle continues to attend GSA and always has their camera on with their pansexual flag in the background. Estelle is described as "truly amazing, inspiring, and self confident."



## **GLORIA PANTTAJA - AWARDEE**

Pronouns: she/her/hers and they/them/theirs  
Student, Harbor High School

Secretary, Harbor High School Queer-Straight Alliance (QSA); Host, Fall 2020 Queer, Trans, & Allied Virtual Summit; and Actor, New Voices

Gloria Panttaja is actor and activist who is the secretary of Harbor High School's QSA; was host of the Fall 2020 Queer, Trans, & Allied Virtual Summit, and participated in the first New Voices artist cohort, a queer youth performance program. At Harbor High, Gloria has presented information about gender and sexuality to health classes and is a member of the book club Project Lit, where they helped plan a community author talk with Dashka Slater. As a member of New Voices, Gloria created and performed their own original queer performance piece titled "Indecision" which explores the questions and struggles of identifying as bisexual. In addition to hosting the summit, Gloria also created and presented a workshop on queer history. Gloria is described as "a true leader."

# QUEER Youth Leadership Award



## **Q LICHT - AWARDEE**

Pronouns: he/him/his

Student, Scotts Valley High School  
Student Media Lead, Scotts Valley High School  
Sexuality and Gender Acceptance (SAGA) club  
and Creator, Purple Sticker Project

Q Licht is the Student Media Lead for Scotts Valley High School's Sexuality and Gender Acceptance (SAGA) club, a leader for LGBTQIA+ inclusivity in schools, and the creator of the Purple Sticker Project. As a Girl Scout, Q created the Purple Sticker Project after identifying the need for more and easier to access LGBTQIA+ books and media in school libraries. Q identified criteria for analyzing various media, built a website, and labeled those media with purple stickers to be easily identified and accessed. He also created bookmarks, posters, and stickers for the school library. Q presented the Purple Sticker Project at the Queer, Trans, and Allied Student Summit and is now developing plans to bring the Project to additional sites in Santa Cruz County.



## **REYES MORALES WARNE - AWARDEE**

Pronouns: he/him/his and they/them/theirs

Student, San Lorenzo Valley High School  
Activist, The GSA Network and Queer and Trans  
Youth Council of Santa Cruz County (QTYC)

Reyes Morales Warne is a student and activist at San Lorenzo High School who works with The GSA Network and The Queer Youth Task Force (QYTF), and is a member of the Queer and Trans Youth Council of Santa Cruz County (QTYC). Reyes has been doing intersectional activism in the LGBTQIA+ community for years. They work with The GSA Network at the state level and locally with the QYTF to come up with themes for summits and participate in student panels and projects to speak about the intersections of disability, race, and gender identity. Reyes is currently working with the QTYC to create a website to support closeted youth. Reyes is always willing to take on opportunities to raise the visibility of queer youth, people of color, and neurodivergent individuals.

# QUEER Youth Leadership Award

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## **AJ OUSE - NOMINEE**

Pronouns: he/him/his

Student, Soquel High School

President, Soquel High School Queer-Straight Alliance (QSA)

AJ Ouse is the QSA president at Soquel High School and a leader in Soquel band and theater classes. As QSA president, AJ facilitates meetings with skill and his leadership has doubled the size of the club. AJ trains younger students in leadership so they may run for leadership positions in the QSA next year. During distance learning, AJ has worked to create meaningful and safe social events for club members and allies, such as movie nights and a Love,Victor Club that meets to watch and analyze episodes of the TV show "Love, Victor." AJ's leadership even allowed the club to secure a grant from the Santa Cruz Community Foundation to pay for food to be delivered to students' homes during the next movie night.



## **CAMILA SNYDER-ALANIZ - NOMINEE**

Pronouns: she/her/hers and they/them/theirs

Student, Santa Cruz High School

President, Santa Cruz High School Rainbow Alliance and Councilmember, Queer and Trans Youth Council of Santa Cruz County

Camila Snyder-Alaniz has been president of Santa Cruz High School's Rainbow Alliance for three years and is a member of the Queer and Trans Youth Council of Santa Cruz County. Camila has been credited with reviving the club and has led the club in sponsoring several events such as Queer Movie Nights and National Coming Out Day. Even during distance learning, Camila continues to provide safe spaces for LGBTQIA+ students through virtual club meetings and has supported their classmates through these difficult times. As a councilmember Camila has supported closeted youth through the creation of a website of resources. Camila is described as someone who is "attentive to issues, and who provides amazing ideas" for club members to work on. Camila was a 2020 Queer Youth Leadership Awardee.

# QUEER Youth Leadership Award



## **CHLOË RAE ADOLFO - NOMINEE**

Pronouns: they/them/theirs  
Student, University of California, Berkeley and  
2020 Soquel High Graduate  
Youth Leader, Queer Youth Task Force

Chloë Rae Adolfo is a 2020 graduate from Soquel High School and is currently at UC Berkeley studying Molecular Environmental Biology. While at Soquel High Chloë participated in theater and sports and was an emcee for the Queer Youth Leadership Awards for two years in a row where they were commended for being “dependable, clear, energetic, and dedicated.” During the pandemic, Chloë worked with the Queer Youth Task Force and other collaborators to create several Public Service Announcements to support the LGBTQIA+ community. Their PSAs included information on how to be counted on the census, how to register to vote, a promotion of GSAs, and a powerful “We See You” PSA that spoke directly to LGBTQIA+ youth who were sheltering at home and isolated from their support networks.



## **GEORGIA BROWN - NOMINEE**

Pronouns: she/her/hers  
Student, Harbor High School  
President, Harbor High School Queer-Straight  
Alliance (QSA)

Georgia Brown is the co-president of the Queer-Straight Alliance at Harbor High School where she has been credited with welcoming and supporting younger students who are new to the school and club and are struggling with distance learning. Georgia has attended several of the GSA Network’s trainings and she uses what she’s learned to bring new and challenging ideas to the club. Last fall, Georgia used her skills in graphic design to create a beautiful presentation on queer history for the Queer, Trans, and Allied Student Summit. While working on the project, Georgia encouraged the participation of other students and helped coordinate the division of labor in researching queer history, creating the slides, and practicing the presentation, which was a hit and received positive feedback from attendees.

# QUEER Youth Leadership Award

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## **JAMIE VEDITZ - NOMINEE**

Pronouns: he/him/his

Student, Alternative Family Education (AFE)

Member, Diversity Center Youth Program

Jamie Veditz is a member of The Diversity Center's Youth Program who is credited with helping save the lives of youth in crisis during the pandemic. Jamie has been attending the program for years, and over the past year of virtual programming he has helped support his peers in numerous ways. Jamie has welcomed every newcomer and makes himself available to answer younger youth's questions and has researched and shared doctor and surgery information for trans youth. Recently, Jamie helped soothe and monitor the mental health of youth in crisis while program managers contacted emergency support. Jamie is described as having "the heart of a stellar social worker and the calm head of a dispatcher" and is described as "a beacon of hope and compassion" for his peers.

## **KELLY BAKER - NOMINEE**

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Student, Scotts Valley High School

President, Scotts Valley High School Sexuality and Gender Acceptance (SAGA) club

Kelly Baker is the president of the new Sexuality And Gender Acceptance (SAGA) club at Scotts Valley High School where she has been advocating for her LGBTQIA+ peers. Kelly is described as "a natural leader" and was offered the position as president after writing a thoughtful and powerful email to the school's principal in regards to the LGBTQIA+ experience on the campus. As president, Kelly created a shared Google Doc for club members to record both positive and negative experiences on campus as LGBTQIA+ students and invited both the principal and vice principal to a SAGA meeting to review the document. Kelly's advocacy and professional manner impressed administration and led to immediate positive change on campus, including changes and new goals for inclusivity in curriculum and campus culture.



# QUEER Youth Leadership Award



## LUCY LUDINGTON & ISAAC

### LUDINGTON - NOMINEE

Pronouns: she/her/hers/ and they/them/theirs

Pronouns: he/him/his

Co-emcees, 2020 Queer Youth Leadership Awards

Lucy and Isaac Ludington are out and proud siblings who have participated in theatre arts and improv at West Creative Performing Arts and who co-emceed the 2020 Queer Youth Leadership Awards. Lucy and Isaac are both creative and skilled actors who have created original performance pieces that explore the queer experience. Lucy and Isaac moved to Santa Cruz from the midwest five years ago and found community in our local theater programs, and both siblings came out as queer through the support of their theater community. When the Queer Youth Leadership Awards went virtual due to the pandemic and needed a dynamic emcee, Lucy and Isaac rose to the occasion. Their creativity, confidence, and self-acceptance



## MARIE HARRISON - NOMINEE

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Student, Soquel High School

Vice President, Soquel High School's Queer-Straight Alliance and Councilmember, Queer and Trans Youth Council of Santa Cruz County (QTYC)

Marie Harrison is the vice president of Soquel High School's QSA and a member of the Queer and Trans Youth Council (QTYC) of Santa Cruz County. Marie moved to Santa Cruz from out of state two years ago and has become an integral part of the LGBTQIA+ youth community. As QSA vice president, Marie has helped grow the membership of the club, handles paperwork and finances, and is a strong advocate for the Ace community. As part of the QTYC, Marie has worked to help create a website for closeted LGBTQIA+ youth by gathering coming out stories to feature online and supports her fellow councilmembers with web design. Marie is described as "humble and intelligent" and is not

# QUEER Youth Leadership Award

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## **NICO OLMSTEAD - NOMINEE**

Pronouns: he/him/his and they/them/theirs  
Student, Aptos Junior High School  
Leader, Aptos Junior High School Pride Club

Nico Olmstead is an out and proud member of the trans community and a leader in Aptos Junior High School's Pride Club. Nico is described as someone whose confidence is contagious. Nico shares openly about himself and his experiences which has helped bring visibility to the trans community at Aptos Junior High. Nico is described as a role model at the school's Pride Club who has attended every meeting and often helps plan and staff events. Nico has worked with school staff to ensure future LGBTQIA+ students have a safe and supportive campus by helping plan the construction of a non gendered bathroom as part of the school's gym renovations. Nico's openness and pride have helped educate school staff and students and has positively affected his entire school



## **RAQUEL JACINTO - NOMINEE**

Pronouns: she/her/hers  
Student, Watsonville High School  
Vice President, Watsonville High School SAGA club

Raquel Jacinto is vice president at Watsonville High School's SAGA club where she has helped build community and engagement during the pandemic. Raquel volunteered to become vice president at the beginning of the school year despite being in distance learning. In the past few months, Raquel has helped organize a socially distanced meet-up of SAGA and ASB students to create a video for National Coming Out Day which was shared widely on social media, she has helped organize fundraisers for the SAGA club including advertising at local businesses. Raquel also helped with a sweatshirt distribution where club members designed sweatshirts. Raquel leads virtual club meetings with patience and kindness for students having difficulty with the virtual format and has brought the club members together during this difficult time.



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## **CONGRATULATIONS** to the 2021 QYLA Nominees & Awardees!

I'm thankful to you, as well as all LGBTQIA+ leaders  
and their allies, for your commitment to making our  
community safer for all.

*John Laird*



Paid for by John Laird for Senate 2024, FPPC ID: 1434540, 343 Soquel Avenue #426, Santa Cruz, CA 95062, info@LairdforCASenate.com

# Congratulations QYLA 2021 Nominees & Awardees!

Thank you for your leadership!

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Congratulations to all of the nominees and awardees of the 2021 Queer Youth Leadership Awards.

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**Congratulations  
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Awardees and those who  
love and support them!**

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**Congratulations  
to all the  
nominees!**



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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!*



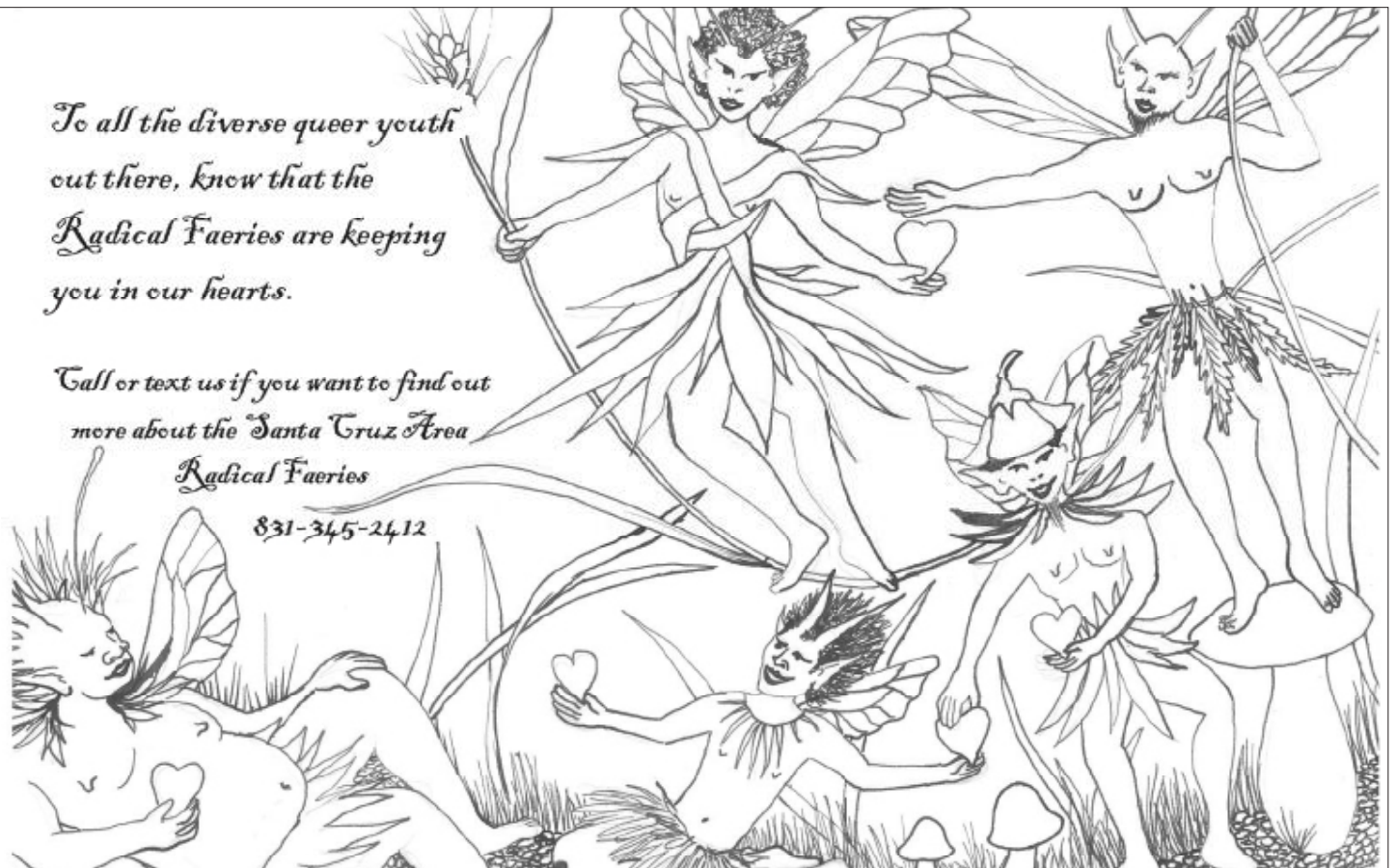
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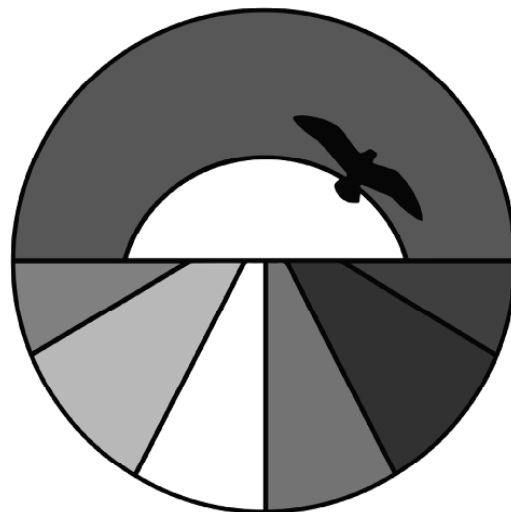
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**Congratulations to all the QYLA  
2021 Nominees and Awardees!**



**Celebrating your Leadership!**

Wishing you all a successful and bright 2022!

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## The Diversity Center | Santa Cruz County

...celebrate all of the nominees  
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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

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For more info, visit: [diversitycenter.org/youth](http://diversitycenter.org/youth) or email: [youth@diversitycenter.org](mailto:youth@diversitycenter.org)

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# 2021

## **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

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## **RACHEL MORALES WARNE - AWARDEE**

Pronouns: she/her/ella

Founder, LGBTQIA+ Graduation Celebration

Rachel Morales Warne is a local activist who has a long history of stepping up to interrupt oppression, from protesting with ACT UP during the AIDS epidemic to advocating for LGBTQIA+ youth today. In 2020, Rachel had a vision of an LGBTQIA+ graduation celebrating all of our local queer and trans graduates. Well into planning this event, Rachel was sidelined by the shelter-in-place order, but she quickly pivoted and created the virtual event "LGBTQIA+ Graduation Celebration" which included many guest speakers offering empowering messages to both openly LGBTQIA+ and closeted graduates at a time when many were feeling isolated. Rachel is both a fierce activist and the mom who makes sure all the young people around her are seen, affirmed, and loved for who they are.



## **ASHLYN ADAMS - NOMINEE**

Pronouns: she/her/sir

Youth Program Coordinator, The Diversity Center

Ashlyn Adams is the interim co-director and Youth Program coordinator of The Diversity Center. Ashlyn works tirelessly to support the LGBTQIA+ community. Under Ashlyn's leadership, The Diversity Center has provided much needed support to LGBTQIA+ youth experiencing mental health concerns during the pandemic through online programming that has created a safe and brave space for LGBTQIA+ youth. Ashlyn advocates for the mental health of LGBTQIA+ youth and has partnered with Santa Cruz County Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health to start conversations on how to combat isolation during the pandemic and to provide referrals to LGBTQIA+ inclusive therapists. Ashlyn has also worked hard to make space for QTBIPOC in Santa Cruz County and has expanded bilingual services, set up free tutoring services, and provided food distribution to LGBTQIA+ families in need.

# Ally to Queer Youth Award



## **CELESTE GUTIERREZ - NOMINEE**

Pronouns: she/her/ella

Student Leadership and Engagement Coordinator,  
Santa Cruz County Office of Education (COE)

Celeste Gutierrez is the Student Leadership and Engagement Coordinator at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education (COE), and a strong ally to the LGBTQIA+ community. Celeste runs the Santa Cruz County Alliance for Youth Action, a student leadership group, and she invited the Queer and Trans Youth Council of Santa Cruz County to join to amplify LGBTQIA+ voices. Celeste models inclusivity by displaying the rainbow flag in her office, always includes her pronouns in her email signature and when introducing herself in meetings, and always works to make all the youth groups she works with LGBTQIA+ inclusive. Celeste makes sure there is LGBTQIA+ representation in COE youth events, and when it comes to youth issues, she ensures that LGBTQIA+ youth are not forgotten or left out of the narrative.



## **DAYNA SINOPOLI - NOMINEE**

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Speaker, Triangle Speakers

Dayna Sinopoli is an out and proud transgender woman who has shared her story and inspired others as a member of Triangle Speakers for several years. Dayna speaks openly about her transition, what it's like to live as a transgender woman, and the challenges she has faced in a way that is both vulnerable and relatable to straight and LGBTQIA+ people alike. Audience members who have seen Dayna speak have shared that they see her as an inspiration and fierce advocate for herself and others. Dayna engages with her audience and shares her story to make the world a better and more just place for LGBTQIA+ youth, and in doing so helps pave the way for the next generation and gives hope to LGBTQIA+ youth who may be struggling.

# Ally to Queer Youth Award

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## **GAIL ATLANSKY - NOMINEE**

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Director of Student Services, Santa Cruz City Schools

Gail Atlansky is the Director of Student Services at Santa Cruz City Schools and has a long history of supporting and advocating for LGBTQIA+ students. Gail chairs the Santa Cruz City Schools (SCCS) LGBTQ+ Task Force where she has grown membership and spearheaded the creation of safe space stickers for local businesses to display in their windows to show support for LGBTQIA+ youth. Gail was instrumental in implementing the Safe School Index in SCCS and has advocated for trainings for school staff on LGBTQIA+ issues. Gail also made it possible to have LGBTQIA+ student information disaggregated from the Healthy Kids Survey so schools can better meet the needs of LGBTQIA+ students. Gail is a strong advocate for all our SCCS LGBTQ+ staff and students.



## **GREG O'MEARA - NOMINEE**

Pronouns: he/him/his

Principal, Soquel High School

Greg O'Meara is the principal of Soquel High School where he is a strong advocate for LGBTQIA+ students. Greg supports Soquel's GSA and has advocated for LGBTQIA+ library materials and LGBTQIA+ history and comprehensive sex education training for staff. An active member of the Santa Cruz City Schools LGBT+ Task Force, Greg has worked with The Safe Schools Project of Santa Cruz County to in-service staff and actively distributes new materials and information on how to best support LGBTQIA+ youth. Greg makes available and encourages all Soquel High teachers to display "safe space" posters and stickers in English and Spanish and has conducted the School Climate Index every year since its creation. Greg works hard to make Soquel High a model school when it comes to supporting LGBTQIA+ youth.

# Ally to Queer Youth Award



## **HEIDI WINIG - NOMINEE**

Pronouns: she/her/hers  
Sexual Health Educator

Heidi Winig is a sexual health educator working in the bay area for the past twenty-five years. Heidi works with Cardea to advocate for quality and comprehensive sexual health education to be taught in all districts in Santa Cruz County. Heidi partners with Jamie Cutter to provide ongoing support for local teachers to provide queer inclusive and affirming sex education. Heidi is always ready to answer teachers' questions, and has been instrumental in helping teachers understand how to ensure parents are not "opting out" of LGBTQIA+ topics like understanding gender identity and sexual orientation. Heidi uplifts local health educators by highlighting inclusive work that is being done and connects them with state and national resources. Heidi always makes sure there are LGBTQIA+ voices being heard in sex education.



## **RYANE ORTIZ - NOMINEE**

Pronouns: she/her/hers  
Health and Human Biology Teacher, Aptos High School

Ryane Ortiz teaches health and human biology at Aptos High School where she has overhauled the school's health curriculum to be more LGBTQIA+ inclusive and has advocated for inclusive sex ed at the district level. Ryane volunteered to participate in The Safe Schools Project's six month long inclusive sex education training in 2018, and she continues to participate in the local Comprehensive Sex Education (CSE) Cohort where she is a leader among her peers. When schools went virtual last March, Ryane helped plan and execute the first ever virtual CSE Cohort meeting to help local health educators ensure their students still received queer inclusive sex ed during distance learning. Ryane is a leader in inclusive sex education and is an advocate for LGBTQIA+ students in all that she does.

# Ally to Queer Youth Award

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## **SAGE LEIBENSON - NOMINEE**

Pronouns: they/them/theirs

Equity Leadership Team, Santa Cruz County Office of Education (COE)

Sage Leibenson is a key member of the Santa Cruz County Office of Education's (COE) equity leadership team where they have led several initiatives that support the COE's efforts towards becoming an anti-racist organization that centers inclusion, equity, and diversity through an intersectional lens. They have been instrumental in developing the COE's three year plan for equity, and through "courageous conversations" with managers, Sage has expanded the COE's view of gender, resulting in creating a culture of sharing and listing pronouns on emails and Zoom meetings. Sage helped facilitate several LGBTQIA+ events including the month-long and interactive October 2020 LGBTQ History Month events. Sage is relentless in their advocacy for LGBTQ+ students and staff and has made the COE a more inclusive organization.



## **SHANDARA GILL, MSW - NOMINEE**

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Founder, Yoga For All Movement

Shandara Gill is the founder of Yoga For All Movement (YFAM), an organization that believes that yoga is a vehicle for social change and which advocates for yoga and mindfulness practices to be accessible to all people. To reach this goal, YFAM has collaborated with United Way's United4Youth, Live Oak Community Resources, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and the Live Oak Unified School District to connect youth with yoga instruction. Shandara worked with LGBTQIA+ youth on the Lost Childhoods exhibit at the Museum of Art and History which linked yoga and art to social change. Shandara also works with LGBTQIA+ youth within the dependency system through Encompass Community Services where she teaches yoga and mindfulness as a pathway towards empowerment, restoring self-regard, and building leadership development.

**Congratulations to the Nominees!**

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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](mailto: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](https://sccoe.link/lgbtq)

@sccstudentleadership  
 @santacruzcoe

# 2021

## **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.

# Organizational Ally to Queer Youth Award

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## **QUEER AND TRANS YOUTH COUNCIL OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY - AWARDEE**

The Queer and Trans Youth Council of Santa Cruz County, a program of The Queer Youth Task Force, provides local LGBTQIA+ youth with leadership skills and an opportunity to serve the local LGBTQIA+ community. Councilmembers work together to identify needs, plan, and implement projects to directly impact their community. The 2019-2020 council created and presented a training for school staff, and when shelter-in-place went into effect, they converted the training to a virtual platform to ensure educators still had access to the information. The 2020-2021 council meets weekly online and have identified the need for more resources for closeted youth and are creating a website designed to support closeted youth. The Queer and Trans Youth Council is a powerful example of LGBTQIA+ youth leadership in our county.



## **NEW VOICES - AN LGBTQQAI+ YOUTH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM - NOMINEE**

New Voices, a collaboration between West Creative Performing Arts and The Santa Cruz Art League, is an LGBTQQAI+ Youth Performance Program serving youth ages fifteen to eighteen in Santa Cruz County. Under the direction of Angela Ciandro, New Voices engages LGBTQQAI+ youth learn original performance making skills while in building essential life skills such as communication, self-reflection, and critical thinking as they explore their queer identities in a safe community-based environment. During its first year, New Voices held a Queer Cultural Heritage Exchange to build cross-generational community between participants and a panel of thriving queer community members. New Voices' 2020 original youth performance showcase debuted live via Zoom, reaching a large audience of local queer community members, many of whom were otherwise isolated from a safe queer space due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

# Organizational Ally to Queer Youth Award



## **PARENT/GUARDIAN & ADULT ALLIES SUMMIT: UNDERSTANDING GENDER - NOMINEE**

The Understanding Gender Summit, a collaboration between TransFamilies of Santa Cruz County and Gender Spectrum, and a program of the Safe Schools Project, is a free summit that supports families and adult allies in understanding gender diversity and helps them create safe and supportive environments for youth. The Summit presented their third event and first virtual event via Zoom in fall 2020, which included simultaneous Spanish interpretation and a workshop presented in Spanish, to ensure accessibility for Spanish speaking attendees. The Summit organizers created and delivered goodie bags of trans flags, buttons, and handouts to all attendees to give them a tangible connection to the event. The Understanding Gender Summit makes our community safer for trans and gender diverse youth by giving adults in their lives tools to support them and help them thrive.

**A coalition of dozens of local faith communities  
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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.

## **Congratulations to the 2021 QYLA Nominees and Awardees!**

Thank you TBE members Q Licht, 2021 Queer Youth Leadership Award awardee, and Heidi Winig, 2021 Ally to Queer Youth nominee for your work in the community!

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

**Temple Beth El &  
Out In Our Faith**

Rabbi Paula Marcus, Temple Beth El  
OutInOurFaith@gmail.com

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

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## CONGRATULATIONS NOMINEES AND AWARDEES!



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

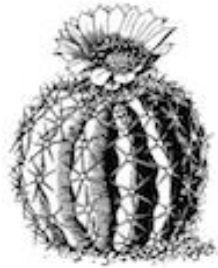


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**Congratulations  
to the 2021 QYLA  
Nominees and  
Awardees of Santa  
Cruz County — and  
their families &  
friends!**

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# 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.

## History of the QYLA

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.



# 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 24 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:** Hobe'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

**2021:** Via Live Streaming



# *In Memoriam: Bonnie Ronzio, Beloved Stage Manager and Force of Nature*

---

## **QYLA Stage Manager 2002-2020**

### **Bonnie died May 22 8pm, 2020**

Our dear friend and colleague Bonnie Ronzio, our beloved stage director for the past eighteen years at our own Queer Youth Leadership Awards, died in May of 2020.

This is in tribute to her.

Bonnie was a force of nature.

Inspired by her father, Frank Ronzio, an actor (*Escape from Alcatraz*, 1979) she became an excellent stage director.

Along with being our stage director, she directed the Actors Theater for over thirty years here in Santa Cruz, bringing to the stage the best actors and the best plays, often with an eye on gender, queer, political, personal, and social dilemmas for our town to see.

In the 1980's, Bonnie directed all the many years of "A Gay Evening in May," a local talent/dinner fundraiser queer show, that filled our Civic Auditorium with song, fun, and drag. The shows funded budding Santa Cruz County Queer service organizations, many you know and benefit from today. Organizations like: The Diversity Center, the Santa Cruz AIDS Project, Women Care, Women's Health Center, and our local Gay and Lesbian Chorus.

"A Gay Evening In May" was an important show financially, politically, and socially. The show invited all of Santa Cruz to be Queer for a night and have some fun. But, what the show really did was twofold: it introduced Santa Cruz County to our queer community whilst the show raised important seed money to fund the many important institutions within our budding community.

These shows took place in the 1980's when Queer people were first really coming out as and were an integral part of the larger Santa Cruz scene.

Bonnie did this all while raising a son full time, working full time in developing, and creating Natural Food Stores to bring you and me all good things to put in and on our bodies.

Bonnie Ronzio: dedicated, quick and snide witted, a determined warm on the inside/ hard on the outside, generous, generous woman. She was both inspired and inspiring.

She always stepped up, did the work, on time, in great style, with precision, and always made it work.

Bonnie did with her life what was not easy. Not so easy to put up our show in just one day, every year: lights, sound, timing, precision; a great show with a true heart, every show.

We miss her so very much.

Her friend,

Charlie  
Singer

Aptos,  
CA



*Photo by Jana Marcus*

# Thank You to Our Prestigious Judges!



## QYLA 2021 JUDGING FACILITATORS



### **JEN HASTINGS, MD**

**Pronouns: Jen**

**Volunteer Clinical Professor, UCSF, Department of Family and Community Medicine**

Jen is actively involved in supporting Transgender Services around the country. Jen was at our local Santa Cruz Planned Parenthood Mar Monte for over 20 years, and the founding Director of the PPMM Transgender Health Care Program. Jen is also involved in the Integration of Behavioral Health and Primary Care, Opioid Safety, and Mindfulness in Medicine. Jen is a member of the Medical Advisory Board of the UCSF Center of Excellence for Transgender Health, intimately involved with Medical Conference Programming for Gender Spectrum, and works to increase medical access and understanding about the gender journey.



### **KATHY CYTRON, LCSW**

**Pronouns: she/her/hers**

Retired Program Manager, Children's Behavioral Health of Santa Cruz County  
Kathy is a fierce advocate for equality for all, especially those in the LGBTQ community. She has been at Santa Cruz County Children's Behavioral Health for almost 27 years and has been recognized by the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors for her leadership in welcoming diversity. Kathy continues to empower and celebrate LGBTQ youth and their families. She goes about her work with a smile on her face, love in her heart, and a deep commitment to social justice.

# QYLA 2021 JUDGES



## **ADRIAN VILORIA**

Pronouns: they/them/theirs

2016 QYLA Awardee, 2016 Pride Youth Grand Marshal, Community Educator

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 help empower their communities to feel empowered to claim joy and find personal prosperity. Adrian believes that being Queer and Trans, for them, is simultaneously an act of self love and an act of rebellion, and they are proud of Santa Cruz County for honoring the love of such influential youth today.



## **ANGELA FARLEY**

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Executive Director, Teen Kitchen Project

At the tender age of four, my son had a bout with cancer. As a result, I was inspired to start a free healthy meal delivery program for families struggling with serious illness. Teen chefs are invited into a commercial kitchen to learn from professional chefs how to prepare healthy meals for their community and in the process develop valuable life skills. The clients we serve feel nourished and cared for during a challenging time. Our hundreds of volunteers feel connected to their community and each other as they serve and connect with each other. It is exciting to watch how this project unfolds in our community of Santa Cruz County, California.



## **FRANCISCO "PACO" ESTRADA**

Pronouns: he/him/his/el

Councilmember, City of Watsonville, District 4

Francisco "Paco" Estrada was born and raised in Watsonville, where he spent time helping his family grow raspberries and playing soccer. After completing his graduate work, Paco spent the next decade providing youth with vocational opportunities through the Sueños Program (SCCOE), while also teaching at Hartnell College. As a type-1 diabetic, Paco decided to join the Community Health Trust to advocate for health equity in the Pajaro Valley. That work, along with his support for youth programs, climate justice, and in uplifting community, served as the basis for a successful electoral run in 2018. In 2019, Paco had the honor of serving his hometown as the mayor. Today, Paco sits on the city council representing District 4.



## **JEYDON HERNANDEZ-CORDERO**

Pronouns: he/him/his and they/them/theirs

12th grade student, Delta, 2020 Queer Youth Leadership Awardee

Jeydon Hernandez-Cordero is a recipient of the 2020 Queer Youth Leadership Award, former member of the Queer Youth Task Force and Queer and Trans Youth Council of Santa Cruz County, and a leader in his school's QSA at Delta High. As a council member, Jeydon conducted research and helped create and present a training for school staff on laws, rights, and education codes that schools have to obey relating to LGBTQIA+ students, and adapted the training to a virtual environment after COVID started. Jeydon worked with the Department of Public Health on a gender training and has sat on panels to speak about his experience as a trans person of color. Jeydon plans to be an OB/GYN to provide better support to the queer and trans community around reproductive health care

# QYLA 2021 JUDGES



## **DR. SHANE HILL**

Pronouns: he/him/his  
Clinical Psychologist & Community Volunteer

As a clinical psychologist and community volunteer, Dr. Shane Hill has worked to support the queer/trans community and their families for over 23 years in Santa Cruz County. He has worked as a queer youth group facilitator, mental health consultant for the Diversity Center, founder of Queer Camp, co-founder/facilitator for 10 years of the Gender Diversity Consult Group, co-founder of the SC Transfamily Support Group, 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.



## **TASHI LIEM**

Pronouns: they/them/theirs  
10th grade High School Student, 2018 Queer Youth Leadership Awardee

Tashi Liem is a 15-year-old sophomore at Santa Cruz High who identifies as genderfluid and queer, and is a passionate advocate for LGBTQ+ rights. In the past, they've been involved in projects to increase bathroom and locker-room accessibility for trans students, classroom presentations on gender identity and the importance of allies, student panels on LGBTQ+ issues in schools, and the development of lesson plans for middle schoolers on LGBTQ+ identities and history. Outside of their interest in activism, Tashi loves to write novels and screenplays, paint, and sew historical clothes.



## **YAZMIN HERRERA**

Pronouns: she/her/hers  
Associate Director of Programs, DigitalNEST

After graduating from the University of California Santa Cruz in 2012, Yazmin dedicated her career to help people realize their potential, encourage them to be lifelong learners, and figure out how we can fundamentally change the purpose of education and the way we educate. She co-founded the Digital NEST in 2014 after getting a lot of insight from her project and research assistant position at the American Institutes for Research in Washington, DC. Digital NEST is a non-profit youth career development center that CONNECTS youth to a skill-building community that helps them TRANSFORM into professionals who can CREATE successful careers, innovative solutions, and prosperous communities. She also serves on the board of two organizations whose missions align with her values and collaborate closely with the NEST- Watsonville Film Festival & The Everett Program at UCSC.

# 2021-2022 Grants, Scholarships, and Leadership Honorariums to LGBTQIA+ Youth and Clubs

In addition to honoring leadership during the 24th 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 Fund” LGBTQIA+ Club Grants

The Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County “Diversity Partnership” Fund is proud to announce the 2021-2022 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 request funding they would like to achieve that academic year. Each club may apply for up to \$500 and \$6,500 was awarded in February 2021.

The program, now in its sixth 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.

**Below are the clubs who received the grants, along with the projects the grants will fund.**

### **Aptos High School Pride Club:**

- A pride flag for the campus flag pole and small flags for all staff members to hang in their home office/classroom to show they are safe spaces
- Bring safe virtual communities to school

### **Aptos Junior High Pride Club:**

- Host LGBTQ Library Club celebrations
- Club Rainbow swag & goodie bags
- Create a club t-shirts or hoodies
- Food and supplies for club activities

### **Branciforte Small Schools Rainbow Alliance:**

- Rainbow Alliance swag bags and small pride flags
- Activities including a socially distanced tie-dye party

### **Delta High School QSA:**

- Food delivery to students’ during Zoom activities
- Supplies for virtual games, art projects and more
- Community-building to support mental health

### **EA Hall Middle School GSA:**

- Help establish a GSA club
- Purchase literature, resources, and swag

### **Lakeview Middle School QSA:**

- Make a promotional video for the Club to share
- Educate school communities about diversity
- Supplies for events like a virtual paint night event

### **Mission Hill GSA:**

- Introduce an all-gender bathroom
- Club events and activities; host a dance

### **Mount Madonna School GSA:**

- Member art design sticker give-away
- “Love is Love” spirit week before Valentine’s Day
- Host a session on gender inclusion during the ‘Learning Days’ symposium in January

### **Pajaro Middle School Rainbow Alliance Club:**

- Design a flag to represent the club
- Pizzas for a virtual party
- Club supplies for fundraising
- A safe space for students to feel a sense of community, especially for students who cannot be open and out at home

### **Rolling Hills Middle School Equality Club:**

- Materials for student designed Club t-shirts
- Pizzas for a virtual party

### **Scotts Valley High School SAGA:**

- Swag-bag goodies and materials for club activities
- Supplies for a cookie-making party, other club activities

### **Soquel High School QSA:**

- Tools, training to create + publish podcasts, and art
- Purchase crafts, booking speakers, for an end of the year Queer event like a graduation or digital prom
- Purchasing books for a Queer Library

### **Watsonville High School SAGA:**

- Provide resources for students who are struggling in unaccepting homes
- Videos including one for National Coming Out Day

# 2021-2022 Grants, Scholarships, and Leadership Honorariums to LGBTQIA+ Youth and Clubs

## Burton Scholarship

The Burton Scholarship In memory of Lillian Burton, this scholarship is a \$20,000 four-year award available for graduates or graduating seniors of any high school in Santa Cruz County who demonstrate financial need and academic excellence.

### Adrian Elizalde — Watsonville High School

This year's awardees include Watsonville High School senior Adrian Elizalde, a Pajaro Valley Pride member, and Watsonville High United Voices Club and Sexuality and Gender Acceptance Club leader. Adrian is a writer and hopes for a career where he can incorporate more representation into mainstream media and animation. Adrian will attend Yale University in the fall.

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**S** **COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**  
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

# Recognizing Our Volunteers

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We thank the community members who donated their time and who supported the project to help make the 2021 (virtual) Queer Youth Leadership Awards possible:

**In Memory of Alicia Nájera, LCSW (QYLA Judging Coordinator since 1998)  
and 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

2021 QYLA Theme - Queer & Trans Youth Council of Santa Cruz County

# Recognizing Our 2021 Co-Sponsors

## Thank You to our Co-Sponsors

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Angela Meeker  
Aptos High School Rainbow Alliance  
Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee (BAYMEC)  
Bay Federal Credit Union  
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Cherie Reveles in honor of Dan Gold and Pat LeCuyer  
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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  
Salud Para la Gente  
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  
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California State Assembly, 29th District  
Bea Rosenstein  
Big Brothers Big Sisters Santa Cruz County  
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  
Nonprofit Connection (NPC) Santa Cruz County  
PFLAG Santa Cruz County  
Rob Adkisson  
Ron Indra  
Senator John Laird, 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

# Congratulations to the Nominees and Awardees of the 2021 Queer Youth Leadership Awards!



## Our Vision

Healthy, Happy and Well-Prepared Children. Thriving Families. Connected Communities. Equitable Systems

## Our Mission

To ensure early childhood systems and supports foster equitable health, development and well-being for all young children and their families in Santa Cruz County.

Learn more: [www.first5scc.org](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.



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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  
ron.indra@QYTF.org  
www.QYTF.org | (831) 427-4014