

NEWS

November 2, 2017

For Immediate Release

‘Transgender Day of Remembrance,’ A Day of Mourning, A Day of Action

San Mateo, CA – November 16, 2017 – 5:30-7:30pm

Please join the San Mateo County LGBTQ community at the San Mateo Pride Center, 1021 S. El Camino Real, San Mateo, California, 94402, for *Transgender Day of Remembrance* (TDoR) on Thursday, November 16th, 2017 from 5:30-7:30pm. Dr. Jei Africa will give the keynote address for the day and County Supervisor, Dave Pine (District 1) will provide welcoming remarks to the community.

Transgender Day of Remembrance is a genuine tribute to those who have lost their lives to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice. The day serves to raise awareness of the threat of abuse and violence faced by members of the transgender community and to remember those who were victims of that violence. Although not every person represented during the Day of Remembrance self-identified as transgender— each was a victim of violence based on bias against transgender people.

What is *Transgender Day of Remembrance*?

The number of reported cases of transphobic based hate crimes has more than doubled since 1999 -Over the last decade, more than one person per month has died due to transgender-based hate or prejudice, regardless of any other factors in their lives. This trend shows no sign of slowing. *Transgender Day of Remembrance* occurs globally on the 20th of November.

History

The *Transgender Day of Remembrance* was established in 1999 by Gwendolyn Ann Smith, a transgender activist to memorialize the murder of Rita Hester in Allston, Massachusetts. Since 1999, *Transgender Day of Remembrance* has been held annually and quickly evolved from a local gathering started by Smith into the International Days of Action. In 2013, *Transgender Day of Remembrance* was observed in over 200 cities throughout more than 20 countries.

The *Transgender Day of Remembrance* raises public awareness of hate crimes against transgender community members. It's the day when public mourning occurs for the lives of the transgender community members who might otherwise be forgotten. The *Transgender Day of Remembrance* also reminds non-transgender people that transgender people are their children, parents, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and partners.

Event Details

What: *Transgender Day of Remembrance*

Program:

- Keynote Speaker Dr. Jei Africa
- County Supervisor David Pine (District 1)
- Community Speakers: Rhett Henderson, Alyss Swanson, Lexi Shimmers
- Refreshments, Alter-building, Call-To-Action, Procession

Event Co-Sponsors: San Mateo County PRIDE Initiative, LGBTQ Commission of San Mateo County, the San Mateo County Pride Center and the San Mateo County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Office of Diversity & Equity.

The PRIDE Initiative was established in 2007 through San Mateo County's Behavioral Health and Recovery Service's Office of Diversity and Equity with the mission of being an inclusive environment for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and two-spirit communities of San Mateo County. The Initiative has a diverse and growing number of individual, business, and nonprofit organizational members in the community.

The LGBTQ Commission of San Mateo County was founded by the Board of Supervisors in June 2014 to improve the quality of life and well-being of LGBTQ County residents, further the cause of inclusiveness, and advocate for policies affecting the LGBTQ community. The eleven Commission members developed an LGBTQ community wellness survey that is now being analyzed and the results will directly determine the Commission's strategic initiatives for 2018 and beyond.

The San Mateo County Pride Center is a partnership between StarVista, Peninsula Family Service, Outlet of Adolescent Counseling Services, Daly City Partnership and Pyramid Alternatives in collaboration with San Mateo County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services. The San Mateo County Pride Center opened its doors in July 2017 with the mission to create a welcoming, safe, inclusive, and affirming community climate that fosters personal growth, health, and opportunities to thrive for individuals of all ages, sexual orientations and gender identities through education, counseling, advocacy, and support.

The Office of Diversity and Equity (ODE) is the hub for information and resources on addressing health disparities. More than ever, they believe that creating better health outcomes and opportunities for clients, means making a much stronger connection to broader social justice and equity efforts. ODE is dedicated to addressing health disparities, health inequities, and stigma in the areas of mental health and substance use, and supporting wellness and recovery among underserved, unserved, and inappropriately served communities in San Mateo County.

Where: 1021 S. El Camino Real, San Mateo, California, 94402

When: Thursday, November 16, 2016 from 5:30 – 7:30pm

Media

For more information the media can contact:

Regina Moreno, LMFT SMC PRIDE Co-Chair (BHRS) (650) 312-5352 or rmoreno@smcgov.org	Lisa Putkey, Program Director San Mateo County Pride Center (650) 591-0133 or lisa.putkey@sanmateopride.org
---	---

General Public

Event is free and open to the public.

###

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

