

TIMELINE

1950S AND 1960S

"My experience from growing up (in the 1950s and 60s) through my early 20s was that it (being a gay man) was highly shameful, one doesn't talk about it, and people were being locked up and given lobotomies as a result of being assessed as being gay or lesbian." – Jerry Solomon

"When I was a kid (in the 1950s), I told my sister I was in love with a girl.... My sister, five years older, set me straight as it were, by telling me that girls can't love girls. The sad part of this story for me was I felt my heart retreat and fold in on itself." – Lauren Crux

"We grew up in the '50s. Sex roles were very stratified. If I thought about what I wanted to be when I grew up, I could be a mother with kids, a nun, work in a factory or an office. Our options were very narrow. You could be a nurse or a teacher... The women were always subservient to the men." – Jo Kenny

- Discrete gay bars are the primary meeting spots for gays and lesbians; but homosexuality is illegal and local police raid the bars and arrest patrons
The Kinsey Report finds in 1948 that 10% of the adult male population is predominantly homosexual
- The Mattachine Society (1950) and the Daughters of Bilitis (1955) are formed in California to give male and female homosexuals throughout the US a sense of community
- Lavender Scare, part of the Red Scare, leads to an Executive Order by President Eisenhower allowing firing of homosexuals from federal jobs, calling them "sexual perverts" and saying they are security risks (reasoning that they could be blackmailed by Communists)

***"I started to look up 'lesbian' when I was first in college (in the late 1960s) and the description at that time was so horrendous that I couldn't possibly be that evil creature that they were describing. Lesbians were considered to be depraved..... night creatures visiting bars..... carrying a lot of shame."* - Kater Pollock**

***"The Mattachine Society and Sisters of Bilitis had organized homosexuals in the 50's and 60's. They protested and picketed the White House in dresses and suits, sometimes with paper bags over their faces."* - Jerry Solomon
1960s**

1965 - University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC) established.

1969 The Stonewall Riots in NYC mark the first major resistance to police harassment of gay people at bars. Patrons of the Stonewall Inn bar in New York City resisted arrest. Police raids were common occurrences at gay gathering places in the 1950s and 60s, but this time a crowd formed to protest that night and many more people joined the protests over several days. The Gay Liberation Movement begins.

A number of other movements also started in the 1960s/early 70s, including civil rights movement, the movement against the war in Vietnam, the women's liberation/feminist movement, the environmental movement, the counterculture/hippie movement and the movement for farm workers' rights.

"I did boycott work for the United Farmworkers...I got involved with Veterans Against the Vietnam War.... The Vietnam War, that was the movement that made a difference in our generation." - Jo Kenny

"People ask me where I got my passion for working for the Diversity Center and supporting LGBTQ+ people today. Well I learned about the power of people gathering together for a cause when I marched with Cesar Chavez for farmworkers' rights in 1970. It touched my soul." Stella Moreno

1970S

" In the 70s, lesbians and gay men started finding each other through bars, coffeehouses, communal households, music events, theater, sports, and for women UCSC's Women's Studies. But it was an underground existence." - Pat Dellin

"The overwhelming majority (of people in the 1970s) did not want to talk about it (gay people), did not want to know we existed, and didn't want their children around us." - Jo Kenny

"My expectation when I moved to Santa Cruz (in early 1970) was that If I wanted community I would have to be active in developing community,

because nothing existed.” – Jerry Solomon

1971 - Bettina Aptheker teaches the first women's studies course at UCSC.

1971 - UC Santa Cruz holds first gay and lesbian conference. Titled, Homosexuality: Exploring An Alternative to Sexual Expression, 120 people attend.

"When I went to graduate school (in the early 1970s) there was no program for gays and lesbians, there was no class about gays and lesbians, there was no support group for gays and lesbians. There was no mention of it at all..... (The administration of my PhD program) tried to throw me out of the program in my last year.)They didn't succeed.)" – Jerry Solomon

1973 The American Psychiatric Association removes homosexuality from its official list of mental disorders

1973 Olivia Records, a collective to record and distribute women's music, is formed.

"Women's Music ... changed many of our lives. It's profound music ... the literature and the music were everything." – Lauren Crux

1974 - Lesbian and Gay Men's Union (LAGMU), the first local LGBTQ organization, was formed at Cabrillo College. It organized the first Santa Cruz Pride the following year.

"Shortly after I arrived in Santa Cruz in January 1976 I attended my first LAGMU (Lesbian and Gay Men's Alliance) meeting at Cabrillo College. It was a radical act to meet in public in those days and to suggest that LGBT people deserve the same rights as other citizens in the US.... We had found our voice, we stepped out of the shadows of shame, began parading our pride...we weren't going to be silent any longer." – Jerry Solomon

1974 - Santa Cruz Women's Health Collective established the Santa Cruz Women's Health Center, still existing today. The founders and original volunteers were mostly lesbians.

"The first thing I got involved in was the Santa Cruz Women's Health Center in the later 70s... It was created around the issue of access to OB/GYNs who were women, access.... to family planning.... It was a collective, so all the decisions were made by the group. The hierarchy was flat..... That now the Santa Cruz Women's Health Center. But it grew out of this small group of women....." – Jo Kenny

1974 - The UCSC Women's Studies department and Bachelor's of Arts degree was approved after strong support and demand from students.

1974 - Amazon Women's Music Project holds a women's music festival in the Santa Cruz

mountains, one of the first in the nation; attended by 1500 women.

" That was the time when women's music was really starting to take off.... I was so thrilled to be in this room with all these women, with all these amazing voices." - Gloria Nieto

1974 Breakfast in Bed, organized by the Women's Radio Collective, begins broadcasting women's music on KZSC, continues today

"We expressed ourselves and built a new image of ourselves through art, poetry, women's music, theater and film. We fought our way into jobs that had not yet been open to women, becoming carpenters, plumbers, electricians, truck drivers, auto mechanics. We became strong and played together in softball teams, judo and aikido. We met together- and talked- and wrote- about every imaginable issue affecting our lives. We published Matrix and the Rubyfruit Readher. And through all these activities we created a strong, vibrant community where being a lesbian was a beautiful thing." -Kater Pollock

1974 - Gays Over Forty Collective established, continues to 2000.

1975 - Santa Cruz Pride. Third oldest Pride in California, has been held every year since. Originally called a "rally" for rights. 200 people attended the picnic in San Lorenzo park and workshops at Cabrillo College.

"(The first Pride in Santa Cruz) came out of LAGMU which was a coalition really and it was a very positive feeling. It felt like two communities coming together to celebrate our gayness and also in honor of Stonewall, what the gay prides originally started out as, honoring that rebellion and our right to be proud of ourselves. There was a tug of war between the lesbians and the gay men across the San Lorenzo River and that was a lot of fun..... That was part of the bridge building between gay men and lesbians." - Kater Pollock

1975 - The Gay and Lesbian Alliance (GALA) is formed at UCSC

"I think there was real difficulty in the first few years in what I call the local movement. Men and women had different issues. And gay men were certainly not immune from sexism or miscogeny." - John Laird

"In the lesbian community we were actually fighting two battles at once- as women, to be recognized as powerful, equal human beings, and as gays, to be free to love who we chose." - Kater Pollock

"We were all still underground in those days (late 1970s)... so we (gay men and women) had to know each other out of survival." - Gloria Nieto

1975 - Santa Cruz County, by action of the County Board of Supervisors, becomes the first in the country to adopt a non-discrimination policy for its employees based on sexual orientation.

"There were a lot of homophobic people in power in the city of Santa Cruz, on the City Council (in the mid 1970s). The Gay Pride movement was just beginning and we had role models from New York and San Francisco, but Santa Cruz was still pretty provincial at that time." - Larry Friedman

1975 The Consenting Adult Sex Bill legalizes homosexuality in California

1976 - Publication: Rubyfruit Reader is a newsletter published for lesbians in Santa Cruz by a small collective of writers.

1976 - Second Annual Gay Pride Celebration is a week-long event, including workshops at Cabrillo College, a dance with the SF all women rock band, Sweet Chariot, an Evening of Gay Music including Pat Smith and Clytia, and a picnic with games in Delaveaga Park

1977 Santa Cruz Pride holds its first parade.

1977 Publication: The Matrix women's newspaper started, founded by lesbians, published monthly to 1990

"Any time something new, a new idea, came up, we had to write about it because there was no internet, there was no other way of communicating. So all these alternative publications were immensely powerful. It was the only way we had to share ideas....." - Kater Pollock

1977 Anita Bryant goes on her "Save Our Children" tour to support anti-gay ballot measures around the country

1977 Focus on the Family is formed, one of a number of conservative Christian organizations with opposition to LGBT rights being a focus of its work.

1977 LGBTQ people form the Freedom Democratic Caucus to influence local politics

"The Freedom Democratic Caucus was formed in ... 1977... And that was basically our attempt to influence local democratic politics and to make sure that there was a plank in the platform of the Democratic party for gay and lesbian rights." - Jerry Solomon

1978 The Rising Moon Women's Center opens on lower Seabright Avenue.

1978 The original Rainbow Flag to represent the LGBT community debuts at the Gay Pride Parade in San Francisco.

"In Santa Cruz at that time (late 1970s) there were 3 gay bars (in Santa Cruz).

We had such a nice nightlife here that people from San Jose and San Francisco would come down to party.” – Jerry Solomon

“It was soccer, softball and the bars. We went to Mona’s (Gorilla Lounge), the Dragon Moon..... It would be belly up to the bar after the game..... Alcohol was a big part of the scene. Bars were always a safe place where we could go, where we could dance with the same gender.” – Gloria Nieto

1978 - The statewide Briggs Initiative, which would have barred gay employees in schools, fails at the ballot box just weeks before Harvey Milk is assassinated. There is a strong local Santa Cruz campaign against the measure, spearheaded by a locally formed group - The Community United to Defeat the Briggs Initiative (CUDBI).

“The Briggs Initiative.....was the first time the LGBTQ community came out politically.....I remember going to the school board... and they were technically my boss..... I came out publicly around the Briggs Initiative. It wasn’t a small coming out.” – Jo Kenny

1978 SF’s Harvey Milk, the pioneering openly gay councilmember, and SF Major George Moscone are murdered by fellow councilmember Dan White. After a verdict of manslaughter, massive protests occur, including the White Night Riots.

1979 - Men’s Gay Volleyball started, still happening weekly. This is one of the oldest gay organizations in Santa Cruz.

1979 - weekly Gay Men’s Meeting started

1979 The Women’s Health Collective publishes “Lesbian Health Matters!” the first book in the US on lesbian health

1979 The First National March on Washington draws 100,000

1979 Harry Hays starts the Radical Faeries in Arizona

1980S

“We rallied (in the late 1970s) against Anita Bryant’s homophobic “Save Our Children” campaign. We successfully fought the Briggs Initiative that threatened to block gays from teaching or working in public schools. We demonstrated after the murder of Harvey Milk. And in 1983 we elected our own gay mayor, John Laird.” – Kater Pollock

1980s - Santa Cruz Area Radical Faeries group formed. The group helped support LGBT youth programs.

1980 - Closet Free Radio Collective established by UCSC. One of the oldest LGBT radio shows in the U.S. "Closet Free Radio". Still active today.

1981 - John Laird is elected to the Santa Cruz City Council as an openly gay man– his openness was revolutionary

1981 - Undercover police entrap and arrest gay men at Capitola beach, and the Sentinel publishes their names and photos. 200 LGBTQ+ folks and allies protested at the Capitola City Council meeting and the entrapment was stopped.

1981 AIDS is first reported

***"Gays and lesbians were beginning to get some rights (in the early 1980s), were beginning to be seen in media and normalized a little bit.... There's promise everywhere Then this terrible disease (AIDS) comes.... that gets associated with gay men.... What looked like an ascendancy, a recognition and earning of rights, suddenly turned around dramatically."* - Jerry Solomon**

1982 - Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County established.

1983 - John Laird was chosen by his Santa Cruz City Council peers to be mayor, becoming one of the first openly gay mayors in U.S.

1983 UCSC includes sexual orientation in its non-discrimination policy.

1983 Researchers discover HIV is the cause of AIDS; the number of new cases and deaths continues to climb each year until 1996.

1984 The Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee, BAYMEC, established. Political action group for Santa Cruz and surrounding counties, still active today.

1984 Lea Lawson Productions- brought women's music performers and comedians to Santa Cruz for 17 years.

1985 - Santa Cruz AIDS Project (SCAP) established. Focused initial response to the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s and continues to provide services through Encompass today

1985 - A Gay Evening in May variety show held yearly until 2002 brought LGBT people and allies together to celebrate and to raise money for LGBT programs. Biggest local LGBTQ indoor gathering, filling the Civic Center.

***"AGEM (A Gay Evening in May).... was a huge production.... It worked two fold: It did produce money for the coffers of SCAP (the Santa Cruz AIDS Project).... And for one evening at least you could be in community and celebrate rather than deal with loss (from the AIDS crisis)."* – Jerry Solomon**

1985 The NAMES Project Memorial Quilt starts to memorialize individuals throughout the US who lost their battle with AIDS.

1986 - Publication: Lavender Reader, a gay and lesbian publication in Santa Cruz County, published quarterly to 1998.

"The Lavender Reader.... that was an incredible time. People were writing really amazing pieces. Scotty (Brookie) and I (co-editors) worked hand in hand to edit them, to look at it through the lens of queer ideology and feminist ideology." – Jo Kenny

1986 The City of Santa Cruz extends domestic partner benefits to its same sex employees, the third city in the nation to do so (after Berkeley and West Hollywood). The Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District also approves domestic partner benefits, believed to be the first transit system in the nation to do so. Both are achieved through labor negotiations.

"We didn't have any positive messages back then. Alcohol was a lot of tamping down the shame and the self-hate..... (I went to) a Lesbian AA meeting in '86..... I noticed that people stopped drinking after I did.... Some people didn't make it out." – Gloria Nieto

1986 US President Reagan's administration announces that treatment of AIDS patients is not a national concern.

"I had repeated situations where my house was shot at." – Jerry Solomon

1987 Act Up forms and stages protests against the US's slow response to the AIDS crisis; local Santa Cruz chapter forms.

1987 National March on Washington attracts 500,000, making it the largest civil rights demonstration in history. The date of the march, October 11th, becomes National Coming Out Day.

1988 - Lesbians of Color Alliance formed at UCSC.

1988 - Bulkhead Gallery, radical queer art and culture space, opens in downtown Santa Cruz.

"In every way that you can think of, both overt and covert, there were just signs that being outside the gender and sexuality norms were not going to be accepted." - Adam Spickler

1989 - UCSC Gay Lesbian Bisexual Network resource center established.

1989 - Diversity Center, initially established as the Santa Cruz Lesbian and Gay Community Center, now provides a suite of programming and includes the full spectrum of LGBTQ people.

1980s - PFLAG Santa Cruz established.

1990S

1990 (Feb) - Italian feminist and film theorist Teresa de Lauretis coined the term queer theory for a conference she organized at UCSC.

"By the time I arrived in the early 90s, queer activism was the norm." – Adam Spickler

1990 - Publication: LaGazette - monthly newspaper serving the women and lesbian communities, published until 2000.

1990 - Norma Jean's at Francos in Castroville - gay bar with a primarily Latinx clientele, still open.

1990 Santa Cruz Lesbian & Gay Pride is renamed Santa Cruz Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Pride.

"The turning point for me was at Gary Reynolds' funeral. He was 28, 29..... I remember thinking, who's going to step up, who's going to speak for him? And I was looking around the room and said it has to be me.... I have to step up. So I did." – Gloria Nieto

1990 Queer Nation/Santa Cruz forms, dedicated to radical public actions for political change.

1990s - Major corporations, including Disney and Coors, start offering health benefits to domestic partners

1991 Triangle Speakers - local LGBTQ speakers bureau brings panels to schools, worksites and other groups; provides panels today through the Diversity Center.

"The (Triangle Speakers) organization's strongest resistance and worst attacks from the community came during San Lorenzo Valley High School's Tolerance week may4-5, 1992. There were protests, threats to administrators, and some violence, including a rock thrown through the school window with a note attached decrying Triangle Speakers' participation in the event." – Cynthia Druley (from History of Triangle Speakers, 2001)

1991 The Santa Cruz Sentinel begins publishing announcements of same-gender commitment ceremonies on its wedding page.

1991 Santa Cruz Sheriff All Noren calls the LGBT community "vicious and devious" in a memo to Supervisor Gary Patton; the LGBT community responds by making "Vicious and Devious" t-shirts.

1991 Santa Cruz' first Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Prom is organized by Santa Cruz LGB Pride & UCSC's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Network.

1992 - Santa Cruz City Council passes the "Santa Cruz Anti-Bias Ordinance" including sexual orientation and gender identity in jobs and housing. Other cities pass similar ordinances throughout Santa Cruz County.

1992 Anti-discrimination laws for sexual orientation go into effect in California

1993 The Santa Cruz Lesbian and Gay Community Center (now the Diversity Center) adds Bisexual to its name and mission.

1993 Herland Bookstore is established with a cafe in downtown Santa Cruz, serves as an important resource for the community, including LGBT Youth.

1993 - Proud Voices established by Santa Cruz AIDS Project as a support group for LGBT Youth.

1993 Don't Ask Don't Tell policy for the US military begins.

1993 800,000 people march in Washington, DC in support of gay rights.

1993 Brandon Teena is murdered in Nebraska.

1994 The American Medical Association (AMA) declares that homosexuality is not an illness.

1994 Santa Cruz Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Community Center changes its name to Santa Cruz Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center.

1994 The Santa Cruz Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Pride becomes Santa Cruz Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Pride.

1994 - The Santa Cruz Dyke/Trans March - Started out as the Dyke March, occurs the day before Santa Cruz Pride, continues today.

1995 UCSC holds its first Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Reunion.

1995 Queers of Color (QOC) is formed at UCSC.

1996 First Pink Saturday is organized by The Bulkhead - held the evening before Pride.

1996 First Camp Santa Cruz.

1996 President Clinton signs the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) prohibiting gay marriage.

1996 First Gay Straight Alliance established in a Santa Cruz high school and was called the "Rainbow Alliance" (At Santa Cruz High School). Santa Cruz GSA List.

1996 - First Gay Straight Alliance established in Watsonville at Salud Para La Gente resource center and was called the "Gay and Proud" (Near Watsonville High School).

1996 The anti-HIV treatment “cocktail” is introduced, dramatically increasing the survival rate and quality of life for people living with AIDS.

1997 School District GLBT Family Task Force established in Santa Cruz City Schools District and Pajaro Valley Unified School District to promote anti-discrimination and safe campuses for staff and students.

1997 Community Television began broadcasting various LGBT events which continued in the future.

1997 Ellen DeGeneres comes out, one of the first celebrities to do so, and makes the cover of Time magazine.

1997 - Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County established the Diversity Partnership Fund to benefit LGBTQ and social justice outreach. In 2005, through community fundraising, \$1 million was raised to permanently endow the fund. Every year, about \$40,000 in grants are awarded. One of the first diversity endowments like this in the U.S.

1997 - UCSC Lionel Cantú Queer Center established for support of LGBTQ students.

1997 - Queer Youth Task Force established by social workers. Operates the Safe Schools Program and the annual Queer Youth Leadership Awards.

1997 PinCurlz - annual entertainment show and fundraiser until 2007.

1998 - Queer Youth Leadership Awards (QYLA) established by the Queer Youth Task Force. Some funding from the Community Foundation Diversity Partnership and support from the Santa Cruz Area Radical Faeries.

1998 “Exposed,” a national queer conference, is organized at UCSC.

1998 - UCSC Lionel Cantú Queer Center and a local high school host one of the first LGBT youth conferences.

1998 - Santa Cruz County Mental Health establishes training program about sexual orientation and gender identity for clinicians, therapists and social workers (Transgender Training).

1998 County of Santa Cruz adds sexual orientation and gender identity to its nondiscrimination ordinance

1998 Matthew Shepard is murdered, bringing attention to hate crimes against gays

1999 - UCSC Lionel Cantú Queer Center established first queer high school youth program to end isolation for youth.

1999 - UCSC: first transgender student was hired in a paid position as the Transgender Programs Coordinator at the GLBT Resource Center.

1999 The first Rainbow Graduation held at UCSC.

1999 California adopts domestic partnership law, becoming the first state to recognize same-sex relationships.

2000S

2000 - The Santa Cruz Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center changes its name to the Diversity Center.

2000 The Knight initiative banning recognition of same-sex marriages is passed by California voters.

2000 California Law Passed: California Student Safety and Violence Prevention Act (AB 537, Kuehl). This law added new forms of protections in California schools including actual or perceived sexual orientation and actual or perceived gender identity. (More Info; California Department of Education AB 537 Task Force Report (2001).

2001 Queer Youth Task Force and Diversity Center partner together in receiving a grant from the Community Foundation Diversity Partnership to hold a day long conference entitled "Meeting the Needs of Queer Youth" that brought together leaders from law enforcement, education, faith based communities, and community organizations.

2001 Queer Camp - annual summer camp in the Santa Cruz mountains for queer youth. Funded and supported by Santa Cruz Area Radical Faeries, Community Foundation Diversity Partnership and The Diversity Center.

2002 Bob Correa becomes the first paid staff person of the Diversity Center and the first Executive Director.

2001 Fab Friday- a social group for men, often doing fun and fabulous fundraisers for local LGBTQ organizations, starts.

2001 Sapphos' Sisters, a social internet group for LGBT women in the central coast and south bay region, is started.

2002 Santa Cruz's prominent gay politician, John Laird, becomes one of the first two openly gay men elected to the State Assembly.

2002 Bob Correa becomes the first paid staff person of the Diversity Center and the first Executive Director.

2003 - 60Plus Senior Program - established by The Diversity Center to bring LGBTQ seniors together and fight increased isolation experienced by many LGBTQ elders as they age.

2003 - California Law Passed: Comprehensive Sexual Health Education Law (SB 71, Kuehl). This law required that all materials and instruction in grades 7-12 be age-appropriate, medically accurate, and objective for students of all races, genders, sexual

orientations, ethnic and cultural backgrounds, and students with disabilities. (Ca State Dept of Education; Fact Sheet)

2003 - UCSC Regional History Project produces stories of LGBT people in Santa Cruz County. Publication: Out in the Redwoods.

2003 The GLBT Alliance of Santa Cruz County is formed "to include LGBT interests in all levels of political discourse."

2003 The California State Legislature passes a same sex marriage law, but Governor Schwarzenegger vetoes it.

2004 SF's Mayor Gavin Newsom allows same sex marriages.

2004 - Safe Schools Project of Santa Cruz County established by the Queer Youth Task Force to help schools implement AB 537, the California Student Safety and Violence Protection Act.

2004 The first Trans March and Rally is held in October.

2004 - Out in Our Faith established. Coalition of religious communities of Santa Cruz County supportive of LGBTQ people.

"There are a lot of gay people who go to church. I'm one of those." – Ernie Sanchez

2005 Trans* Teen Project established by Queer Youth Task Force for support of transgender youth.

2005 Planned Parenthood established the Transgender Healthcare Program. It has become a model for the nation.

2005 The Diversity Center moves to a visible storefront, its current location on Soquel Avenue.

2005 LYLYA (Latinas y Lesbianas y Aliadas) is formed.

2006 The Day of Dialogue is held, bringing together 80 individuals and representatives of LGBTQ organizations to consider LGBTQ needs and future services in Santa Cruz County.

2006 The Leadership Council, led by Clare Sheils, is formed to advise local LGBTQ organizations.

2007 LezCruz, a social group for lesbians, is formed.

"My colleague said to me, "I've never met a lesbian. I said, I bet you have and you just didn't know it. Like me, you just didn't know it....." - Stella Moreno

2007 California Law Passed: California Safe Place to Learn Act (AB 394, Levine). This law specified the State's responsibilities to keep schools safe and fight bias and harassment in schools by requiring the State Education Department to monitor anti-discrimination and harassment policies in schools. (More Info)

2007 California Law Passed: The Student Civil Rights Act (SB 777, Kuehl). This law protects students from harassment and bullying in public schools by making sure teachers and school administrators must afford all persons in public schools equal rights and opportunities regardless of their gender identity. (More Info)

2008 California again allows same sex couples to marry – lasts 5 months;16,000 same sex couples marry during this window. On the first day of legal marriages in California, more than 50 same-gender couples marry in Santa Cruz. (5 months later, new marriages were stopped with the passage of Proposition 8).

2008 California voters pass Proposition 8, eliminating same sex marriage rights (until court action allows them again in 2012). The local No on Prop 8 Campaign, organized by The GLBT Alliance, achieves a 71% No vote in Santa Cruz.

2008 The first Transgender Day of Remembrance is held in Watsonville.

2008 The first Watsonville LGBT Pride celebration is held.

2008 The Safe Schools Project is formed by the Queer Youth Task Force.

2009 The Day of Engagement, a meeting of individuals and representatives of LGBTQ organizations, meets to consider the future of LGBTQ programs.

2010S

2010 US District Judge Vaughn Walker rules that Proposition 8 banning same sex marriage in California is unconstitutional (but marriages do not start again until Supreme Court action in 2012).

2010 President Obama repeals Don't Ask Don't Tell military policy.

2010 - Transfamily Support Group established by Santa Cruz therapists in support of families of transgender youth.

2010 - Queer Cruz, an information source for local LGBTQ events, is established.

2011 - California Law Passed: Fair, Accurate, Inclusive and Respectful (FAIR) Act (SB 48, Leno). This law required schools to provide general instruction and textbooks that include information on the contributions of "...lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans, persons with disabilities, and other ethnic and cultural groups" particularly in the area of social sciences. The act also added sexual orientation and gender identity to the state's existing anti-discrimination protections that prohibit bias in school activities, instruction and instructional materials. (More Info)

2011 - California Law Passed: Seth's Law (AB 9, Ammiano). This law, named after Seth Walsh, a young gay man who took his life because of bullying requires School Districts to adopt an anti-bullying policy and establish a process for investigating bullying complaints. (More Info)

2012 US Supreme Court allows the overturning of Proposition 8 to stand; same sex marriages recommence in California.

2012 California prohibits gay conversion therapy.

2012 The Santa Cruz Dyke March becomes the Santa Cruz Dyke and Trans March, held each year on the afternoon before Pride.

2013 - California Law Passed: California Law Passed: School Success and Opportunity Act (AB1266, Ammiano). This law affirmed that transgender youth have the opportunity to fully participate and succeed in schools across the state. (More Info)

2013 - Radio Show established, "Out in Santa Cruz" (KSCO Radio).

2014 - California Law Passed: California Law Passed: LGBT Cultural Competency for Health Care Providers (AB 496, Gordon). This law clarified that existing cultural competency training for health care providers (including school nurses) should include discussion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) issues. (More Info)

2014 The Community Foundation of Santa Cruz announces that it has awarded close to \$850,000 to 33 organizations serving the LGBT community in Santa Cruz County since 1997.

2014 - The Diversity Center holds its first of two LGBTQ Trailblazer events including Lifetime Achievement Awards, a reunion of trailblazers, and the beginning of gathering local LGBTQ historical documents.

2015 California Law Passed: LGBT Inclusive Sex Education (AB 329, Weber). This law updated the state's sexual health and HIV prevention curriculum to provide instruction that is comprehensive and inclusive of LGBT people and their families. This legislation ensures that all students have access to medically accurate and unbiased sexual health education. (More Info)

2015 California Law Passed: Help Teachers Combat Bullying and Support LGBT Youth (AB 827, O'Donnell). This law encourages schools to give teachers tools and resources to support LGBT students and create safer school environments. (More Info)

2015 The Diversity Center is awarded the Dolkas History grant by the MAH to record oral histories of 10 early LGBTQ trailblazers in Santa Cruz.

2014-2016 The Diversity Center gathers publications, photos, posters, buttons and other memorabilia from its archives and from donations from members of the community and donates it to the MAH to establish and preserve these materials in a new LGBTQ archive.

2016 The Diversity Center holds a second LGBTQ Trailblazers Reception at the Museum

of Art and History (MAH), with Lifetime Achievement Awards and a display of items from the new LGBTQ archive at the MAH.

2016 - Pajaro Valley Pride begins.

2016 - Big Brothers Big Sisters establishes Trans Youth Mentoring Program

2016 - Safe Schools Project earns Community Foundation Diversity Partnership grant to educate history teachers about LGBT history. [More Info.](#)

2017 - The Diversity Center conducts and videotapes interviews with 12 local LGBTQ trailblazers, supported by a grant from the MAH's History Forum.

2018 - Diversity Center purchases the building it occupies on Soquel Avenue, starts a \$1 million campaign to fund the purchase and to double its space for staff and community programs.

We envision a healthy, vibrant, and diverse LGBTQ+ community in Santa Cruz County, free from fear, hatred, and prejudice and safe in their persons, work, and homes; fueled by a spirit of collaborative leadership that fosters the sharing of resources, talents, and gifts with each other and with the greater community. - The Diversity Center of Santa Cruz