



May 1, 2017

Dear Friends,

I am writing to invite you to take a stand with the Hudson Valley LGBTQ Community Center on Sunday, June 4th during **Hudson Valley Pride Month**. We will march down Main Street in New Paltz and then celebrate in Hasbrouck Park at our Pride Festival.

Our Pride theme this year is ***Taking A Stand***, and we urge you to take a stand with the Center. The time has passed to sit on the sidelines; we need you in the middle of Main Street marching with us. Help make this our biggest march ever and show the world our collective strength.

As you may know, in February 2004 the same-sex weddings performed by then New Paltz Mayor Jason West pushed the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning (LGBTQ) community to the forefront in New York and across the nation. Those weddings led to the first New Paltz Pride March & Festival held in June 2005 which in turn led to the formation of the Hudson Valley LGBTQ Community Center.

The Pride March and Festival has continued to grow ever since. Last year at our 12th annual March, over 200 community members braved the rain and walked along Main Street, ending in beautiful Hasbrouck Park where close to 2,000 people danced, listened to great music, dined on delicious delights from a variety of food trucks, and went booth by booth visiting vendors and not-for-profit organizations.

It was a great day and spirits were high and there was a sense of hope and expectation about the coming election and a bright future. We now know the future held something very different. After making strong gains in LGBTQ rights over the past 15 years, recent events have put LGBTQ civil liberties on the chopping block and now—more than ever in recent history—we are not only celebrating our resiliency but fighting for our rights.

This year building on our history of success, we are expanding Hudson Valley Pride week to a month of events and activities that focus on advocacy, education, empowerment and celebration. There is still a lot of work to be accomplished, but we also need to celebrate each other and how far we've come.

Many people don't know this, but the majority of expenses for the Pride March and Festival and related activities are paid for by the Center. We have some wonderful co-sponsors of Pride, but that only covers a fraction of our costs. We have been steadfast in our commitment to Pride since its inception, and are proud to continue to oversee all the events, but we need your help.



In addition to marching with us I am asking you to help us cover the cost of the March, Festival and more than a dozen events and activities scheduled for the month of June. This year they include an Opening Cocktail Reception; a Pride Kick-Off Dance; a multi-generational panel discussion, *What it Means to be Proud*; a screening of the documentary film, *The Freedom to Marry*; a Youth Dance Party; a Know Your Rights Training and a Pride Sing-a-long, to name a few. Please see the enclosed calendar for a full listing of all events and activities for Pride Month.

Thank you in advance for supporting the Hudson Valley LGBTQ Community Center. Together we will be ***Taking a Stand***, affirming the rights of the LGBTQ community and making a difference.
Sincerely,

Jeff Rindler
Executive Director

Yes! I am *Taking a Stand* and supporting the Center during Hudson Valley Pride Month. Please accept my contribution of:

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 Other

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Credit Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____ CCV: _____

I am *Taking a Stand* and marching with the Center on June 4th. I will be marching as an:

Individual Name: _____

Group Name of Group: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Mail to: Hudson Valley LGBTQ Community Center, PO Box 3994, Kingston, NY 12402
You can also make your donation and sign up to march by visiting our web site:
www.lgbtqcenter.org or call us at 845.331.5300.