



PFLAG Cape Cod

*Providing Support, Education & Advocacy to Parents,
Families, Friends, Allies & Members of the LGBTQ Community*

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Dear Supporter of PFLAG Cape Cod,

As we approach the start of the new fiscal year on October 1st, I would like to take this opportunity to not only encourage you to join, rejoin, or renew your membership at **www.pflagcapecod.org**, but to also let you know what we have been up to at PFLAG Cape Cod.

When I first took over as President of the chapter from Denise LaBarre in November, no one could have imagined how much our lives would change a few months later. But here we are, adapting to our new reality and doing our best to maintain our well-being. In late February, we held our last in-person support meeting, and a few weeks after that, everything abruptly came to a halt. But we quickly pivoted to an online format and had our first ever *virtual* support meeting at the end of March. To my very pleasant surprise, the new format has attracted more people to our meetings for support, as well as for a sense of community and connection, something so desperately needed at that time and since. Due to the success of these virtual support meetings, we will continue to offer them every month, even after our in-person meetings resume in Brewster and Barnstable.

Over these past six months, many of us have been keeping busy working on projects around our homes, and we at PFLAG Cape Cod have kept busy working on a few projects of our own. The first of two fundraising partnerships is with TD Bank's "Affinity Membership Program", where PFLAG Cape Cod receives a donation from TD Bank for every existing or new customer that signs up (please check back on our website for more information), and the second is with Beacon Financial Planning of Cape Cod, who has pledged donations of \$1,000 a year for the next five years to be used for our participation in the Provincetown Carnival Parade as well as our scholarship program! We are also very excited about the creation of the podcast series *Profiles in LGBTQ Courage*, soon to be launched on our website, on social media, and other online platforms. Comprised of interviews with several of our members and supporters, this high-quality series will become an oral history featuring fascinating stories of coming out, acceptance, and love. And then we will partner with Barnstable No Place for Hate for a series of virtual "Bystander Training" workshops to be held this coming winter for members and supporters of PFLAG Cape Cod. Given the current climate of social and political unrest, any guidance on how to best navigate challenging situations is welcome.

Finally, I would like to remind you about our upcoming **Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 18th at 4:00 pm**. This year's meeting, like so many other events, will take place online via Zoom, so it could not be any easier to attend. Our Guest Speaker will be Lori Duron, author of the book *Raising My Rainbow* in which she chronicles the adventures of raising a fabulous gender creative child! I encourage you to attend this virtual event, so please visit our website for more information and be sure to keep an eye out for email updates on this and other activities, including those noted above.

As always, I thank you for your time and commitment to PFLAG Cape Cod. Without it, we could not continue fulfilling our mission of providing support, education, and advocacy to parents, families, friends, allies, and members of the LGBTQ community, right here on Cape Cod!

Sincerely,

Joe Lima (he/him/his)
President, PFLAG Cape Cod

"PFLAG envisions a world where diversity is celebrated and all people are respected, valued, and affirmed inclusive of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression."