Gay pride, or LGBT pride, is the positive stance against discrimination and violence toward lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBTQ) people. It promotes their self-affirmation, dignity and equal rights, while increasing visibility as a social group to celebrate sexual and gender diversity. Pride, as opposed to shame and social stigma, is the predominant outlook that bolsters most LGBTQ rights movements throughout the world. From the first pride event in 1970, events have ranged from solemn to “carnivalesque,” and are typically held during LGBTQ Pride Month or some other period that commemorates a turning point in a country’s LGBTQ history.

The value of Pride is illustrated by this recollection from one of ACS/Outlet’s supporters, who recalls participating in his first NYC Pride March 35 years ago in 1980. “I was overwhelmed with a sense of empowerment and self-assertion, yet also fear, knowing that if any of my bosses saw me marching, I could be fired. As we came within a block of the office building where I worked - a major international accounting firm - I was acutely aware of the performance evaluation I had recently been given, when they told me I was a splendid employee, and that they had no problem with my being gay, but they were concerned that clients might be troubled; so they asked me to ‘tone things down’. Participating in the march was my response... "You don’t get to tell me who to be - I am PROUD of who and how I am.”

### Blog Feature:

**Understanding the New Norms of Gender Identity**

*Written by: Dafne Luna, Outlet Program Coordinator*

While our society continues to move forward towards a more inclusive, safe, and equal society, we are constantly re-evaluating and interpreting how we exist in the world. As a queer woman, and a service provider for LGBTQ youth, I need to be up-to-date on how the youth in our community define their identities. The way in which younger generations define gender, sex, and sexuality is shifting, as is public discourse surrounding those topics. These changes have impacted our world in such a powerful manner that policies on a local, state, and national level are changing to align new definitions in the LGBTQ realm. My hope is that these new concepts will help establish a common foundation for the discussion that will continue to expand our ideas of gender, sex, and sexuality.

*Read the full blog post here!*

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**June 13th, 2015 | San Mateo Pride!**

11 am to 6 pm, San Mateo Central Park

Outlet youth will be participating in this Pride festival by setting up an information booth that teaches the community about sexuality and gender identity. The Outlet booth will also include a Gender Clothing Swap!

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**FRAMELINE Film Festival**

Outlet’s youth and De Ambiente groups are able to attend the annual San Francisco’s FRAMELINE film festival for the third year in a row thanks to generously donated tickets! Known for its landmark showcase of LGBTQ cinema, the festival takes place June 18th-28th at varying locations in the city.

*Save the Date!*

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**Out to Eat**

Friday, October 30, 2015 | 6-10 pm

Dolman Family JCC

3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto, CA

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**Stay Connected**

[Links to social media and website]