

Picking Ourselves Up

November 9, 2016

Shock, disbelief, fear, anger, many of us have lived with these emotions this week.

Being LGBTQ in Silicon Valley has become more accepted with each year. Neighbors, friends, family, allies and politicians stand by us and with us. In the recent past I have asked myself "What does the future look like for LGBT Chambers? Necessary or obsolete?" Election day 2016 has answered these questions with a big kick in the gut. We will not be obsolete for quite a while. Be assured we will pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off and once again get back in the fight to protect what we have gained.

And once on our feet we must stand by and with other racial, ethnic, religious and disabled minorities as well as women, to honor our diversity and keep one another safe. The Rainbow Chamber leadership team will redouble our efforts to band with other diverse chambers to strengthen our voice in business and equality.

The time to start is **NOW**. There are many ways to show up, participate and support our community.

- **TODAY**, join our November campaign "[Light the Palms Red](#)" for World AIDS Day Nov. 30th - Dec. 1st. Make a donation in remembrance of a loved one lost to HIV/AIDS.
 - **TOMORROW**, go to the movies to support the Billy DeFrank LGBTQ Community Center at their [Annual Movie Fundraiser](#).
 - **NOVEMBER 30th**, join [The Health Trust's World AIDS Day Gala](#). The Health Trust AIDS Services provides critical support to low-income residents of Silicon Valley who are living with HIV/AIDS.
 - **NOVEMBER 30th - DECEMBER 1st**, Look for San José City Hall and the Circle of Palms to light up red. More details about World AIDS Day will follow. [Click Here](#) for what is planned so far.
 - **DECEMBER 2nd**, attend our [Annual Holiday Luncheon](#) . This event will benefit OUTLET which provides services for LGBTQ youth.
- **WEAR** a safety pin to tell people feeling marginalized "I believe in love, not hate. I will stand by you, sit by you, fight for you if someone comes out against you. I am a safe place."



We invite you to join us and get back into the ring.

Roark Clayton
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