

Donna Freeman

How has this person provided service to the LGBTQ community? Donna Freeman, with Janet Nichols founded [Diablo Valley Girls](#), a non-profit social group that supports Northern California's transgender community. Donna also facilitates a Transwomen and Friends support group that meets at RCC every first and third Thursdays. Additionally, Donna is a member of RCC's IT Committee.

Background: Donna graduated from CAL with an engineering degree and worked for IBM and as a consultant for the Oakland Unified School District. She is also her neighborhood's resident "computer guru" and can be found reconfiguring RCC's complex network of computers, phones, and printers,

Donna is dedicated to connecting Northern California's transgender community. In 1991, along with Janet Nichols, she founded [Diablo Valley Girls](#), which met at the now-defunct LGBTQ club, Just Rewards, every first and third Mondays. When Just Rewards closed in 1999, DVG moved to [Club 1220](#)

Additionally, Donna facilitates a Transwomen and Friends Group, founded in 1993. Initially, the group met at Pacific Center's Walnut Creek office, and in 1996, became RCC's first group to meet. Of the group and its meeting at RCC, she states, "The group gives members the confidence for individuals to come out on their own. And it makes much more sense to meet at RCC, rather than at Club 1220. RCC is a legitimate presence." The group has recently added a Transwomen & Friends Movie Night, which meets on the third Thursday. She feels the movie night is important as it allows the larger community to meet trans people in a social setting.

Donna has seen the change and growth of RCC's programs and services and in particular, thanks Ben Barr for getting a transgender person on RCC's Board. She also applauds Michelle Herrera and Kris Switzer for creating and facilitating new groups for transgender youth (*Transitions* on the first and third Wednesdays and *Gender Voice* on the second and fourth Mondays).

Three words that describe Donna Freeman: Colorful, loyal, passionate



Photo: Donna Freeman