The leaders of the Beyond Differences leadership retreat in San Rafael on Friday.

Harita Kavai, 17, of San Rafael, talks about how her experiences growing up led to an interest in community activism during the Beyond Differences leadership retreat in San Rafael on Friday.

The 17-year-old at Terra Linda High School student spoke about a litany of issues: class, race, gender, immigrant status and same-sex marriage. She wanted everyone's identity to be celebrated and that diversity be valued.

“I learned there’s a lot of people who have experienced the same things that I have,” she said. “It’s all starting to make sense.”

Youth activists listen to a presentation by poet Gabriel Cortez during the Beyond Differences leadership retreat.

The leaders of the Beyond Differences leadership retreat in San Rafael on Friday.

Harita Kavai, 17, of San Rafael, talks about how her experiences growing up led to an interest in community activism during the Beyond Differences leadership retreat in San Rafael on Friday.

The 17-year-old at Terra Linda High School student spoke about a litany of issues: class, race, gender, immigrant status and same-sex marriage. She wanted everyone's identity to be celebrated and that diversity be valued.

“I learned there’s a lot of people who have experienced the same things that I have,” she said. “It’s all starting to make sense.”

Youth activists listen to a presentation by poet Gabriel Cortez during the Beyond Differences leadership retreat.

The leaders of the Beyond Differences leadership retreat in San Rafael on Friday.

Harita Kavai, 17, of San Rafael, talks about how her experiences growing up led to an interest in community activism during the Beyond Differences leadership retreat in San Rafael on Friday.

The 17-year-old at Terra Linda High School student spoke about a litany of issues: class, race, gender, immigrant status and same-sex marriage. She wanted everyone's identity to be celebrated and that diversity be valued.

“I learned there’s a lot of people who have experienced the same things that I have,” she said. “It’s all starting to make sense.”

Youth activists listen to a presentation by poet Gabriel Cortez during the Beyond Differences leadership retreat.