

GSA Newsarama
Volume 5, Issue 18
July 13th, 2007

This newsletter is created by Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools to keep students, school professionals and other community members up to date on the issues, events and news items that may be of interest to those working within Wisconsin schools, communities, gay-straight alliances and similar clubs. If you are no longer interested in receiving this update, simply reply to this email requesting that your name be removed from the list. Please include your current school, or previous school if you have graduated or are no longer in school.

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Feature

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OutReach is Madison and South Central Wisconsin’s lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community center, which has been providing great programming and support to the local LGBT community for over three decades.

On Friday, July 20th, OutReach will be holding their 15th Annual Awards Banquet at the Monona Terrace in Madison. Our very own Brian J will be honored as Man of the Year at this event in recognition of everything he has done to make Wisconsin a safer, more welcoming place for LGBT and all people.

Other awards recipients are:

- Petrovnia Charles, Woman of the Year
- Leanna Ware, Ally of the Year
- Madison Gay Hockey Association, Organization of the Year
- Mark Steward, OutReach Volunteer of the Year
- David Clarenbach, Courage Award

Congratulations to all of this year’s awards recipients! Brian J and a few of the other award winners will be interviewed this Sunday night on Forward Forum, a progressive talk radio show on 1670 AM. The program will begin at 7 P.M.

And if you feel like givin’ Mama J some appreciations, I’m sure he would love to hear them. Here’s his email address: brianj@gsaforsafeschools.org

Headlines

1. Join GSA for Safe Schools and Teens Like Us at Madison Pride

Madison Pride takes place the weekend of July 21st and 22nd. GSA for Safe Schools and Teens Like Us will be joining forces to provide a number of fun activities that weekend. On Saturday, we’ll have a booth at the Magic Picnic and we’ll need help passing out information and administering temporary tattoos for the younger kids who are visiting the family stage. If you are interested in volunteering for a two-hour shift, drop Tim Michael an email at timm@gsaforsafeschools.org.

On Sunday, we've reserved a spot in the parade, and we're looking for folks to march with us. The parade starts at noon, and we'll be meeting at the GSA for Safe Schools office at 9:30 AM to make posters and signs for the parade. At 11 AM, we'll move over to Proudfit Street to get in line with the rest of the parade folks. If you'd like to join us, stop by the GSA for Safe Schools office (301 S. Bedford St., Suite 1, Madison) any time between 9:30 and 11 that morning.

After the parade, Teens Like Us will be hosting a free BBQ with food, refreshments, games and prizes. The BBQ will be taking place from 2PM to 6PM in Brittingham Park, by the bridge that goes over West Washington Avenue.

If you have any questions about Pride Weekend activities, email or call Tim at (608) 661-4141. Please be aware that there is a \$5 dollar admission fee to get into the Magic Picnic on Saturday, but on Sunday it is FREE!

2. Save the Date – GSA for Safe Schools Walk/Run/Eat 2007

On Saturday, October 13th GSA for Safe Schools will be holding a walk/run event at Franklin Elementary School in Madison. The event will feature a one-mile walk and a 5K run (we decided to drop the 10K run this time around), and all attendees will be fed a delicious lunch provided by Queen Anne's Catering.

We are beginning our search for students who would like to be team captains for their GSA or school club. Team captains will be responsible for recruiting their friends, teachers, families and neighbors for the event, as well as assisting us in keeping track of registration and pledges raised by students at their school.

If you are interested in being a team captain for your school or club, please email Tim Michael at tim@gsaforsafeschools.org.

Related Readings: Resources and Opportunities

GSA Newsarama is a publication of GSA for Safe Schools (GSAFE). Events, resources, and news items listed under the "Related Readings" sections of GSA Newsarama are not sponsored by GSAFE and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of GSAFE.

3. GLSEN 2007 National School Climate Survey

Every two years, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) conducts a National School Climate Survey to give lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning (LGBTQQ) students the opportunity to share their middle school and high school experiences. The survey is completely anonymous, and GLSEN uses the results to inform education policymakers and the public about the problem of anti-LGBTQQ bias in K-12 schools across the nation.

If you attended high school or middle school some time in the last year (2006-2007), identify as LGBTQQ, and are at least 13 years of age, please take a few minutes to complete the survey: <http://www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/student/library/record/2061.html>

The information gathered from this survey will help GLSEN and other social justice organizations lobby and advocate for the rights of all students to be treated with respect in their schools. Many students in the past have used the survey results to advocate with their teachers and administrators for safe schools for LGBTQQ students.

4. 3rd Annual Rainbow Community Potluck Picnic in Milwaukee

On Saturday, July 28th, Project Q will be joining a number of other Milwaukee organizations to host the 3rd Annual Rainbow Community Potluck Picnic. The picnic begins at 11AM in Lake Park Picnic Area # 4 off of Lake Drive (enter at Newberry Blvd. – look for the rainbows!) in Milwaukee. Lunch will be served at 1PM, and since it's a potluck, they are asking everyone to bring a dish to pass. Here are the food "assignments":

If your last name begins with __, please bring:

A - K: Desserts (cake, pie, fruit, etc.)

L - S: Side dish (potato salad, noodle dishes, spring rolls, etc.)

T - Z: Snacks (veggies, chips, pretzels, popcorn, etc.)

Everyone is welcome to attend this picnic, whether you be gay or straight, young or old. If you have any additional questions please call Project Q at (414) 223-3220.

5. "Matthew's Place" Website Re-Launch – Feedback Wanted

The Matthew Shepard Foundation is pleased to announce the development of the new and improved "Matthew's Place," a site for young people to access safe, informative, interactive and cutting edge resources to help them create a hate-free world.

The website will include resources about LGBTQ youth-friendly shelters, outreach centers and empowerment programs across the country, as well as moderated chats, discussion boards, and informational columns from notable individuals in the LGBTQ and allied communities.

As they are putting this website together, the folks at the Matthew Shepard Foundation would like to hear from you. Whether you're a young person, or someone who works with young people, visit their website and fill out a short survey about what matters to you: www.matthewsplace.com

6. Apprentice Organizers Project: 2007 Applications Available

The Wisconsin Apprentice Organizers Project (AOP) is a program that seeks to strengthen the culture of organizing in Wisconsin by helping to develop and train new and diverse community organizers. The seven-month program pairs up people who have an interest in grassroots organizing (but have little or no experience) with a mentor in the field (someone who has a few years of experience), and is a fulltime paid position that will run from October 2007 through April of 2008.

This year, AOP will accept five apprentices to place at various organizations in the Madison, Milwaukee, and Racine areas. They are also looking for applications from potential mentors.

In addition, AOP is seeking applications (mentors and apprentices) from individuals with a disability and/or immediate family members of an individual with a disability as a part of a collaborative project with the Wisconsin Council on Developmental Disabilities. Apprentices and mentors entering AOP's program through this collaborative program will join the larger 2007-08 AOP apprentice/mentor cohort.

If you are interested in learning more about the program, or would like an application, please drop me (Tim) an email at tim@gsaforsafeschools.org. I am a graduate of AOP's program and can speak firsthand to what a positive and educational experience it was. Likewise, if you know someone who may be a good fit for AOP (either as an apprentice or a mentor), feel free to send them my way!

7. Galaxy in La Crosse Job Opportunity – Program Director

Galaxy is a program of the YWCA in La Crosse that exists to support, educate and empower lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, questioning and allied (LGBTIQQA) youth between the ages of 13 and 19. They meet for weekly programs and activities, attend community events together, go on group outings and road trips, participate in conferences, provide referrals, sit on panels for diversity days and other experience-based opportunities, have socials, and try out other cool ideas that people in their Galaxy dream up and enact.

Galaxy is currently seeking a new Program Director. This job position includes the planning and developing of creative weekly educational programs and the developing of an annual fundraising plan. A minimum of a Bachelor's degree is required. Three or more years of successful work experience in the non-profit field is helpful. This position requires outstanding oral, written and interpersonal communication skills. Candidate should have an educational background and working knowledge of LGBT issues, gender and sexuality and be self-directed professionals who can work collaboratively in a team environment. The ability to coordinate and motivate volunteers is essential. Please submit a letter of application, resume and references to

YWCA, attn: Linda Seidel
3219 Commerce St.
La Crosse, WI 54603.

8. Iowa Pride Network Job Opportunity: Outreach Coordinator

The Iowa Pride Network is a state-wide non-profit organization that works directly with students, helping empower them to start and enhance GSAs in their high schools and colleges, while building a statewide network that offers support, mentoring, educational, advocacy and networking opportunities.

Thanks to a three-year grant from the Liberty Hill Foundation, the Iowa Pride Network has created a new staff position: Outreach Coordinator. To learn more about this position, or to find out how to apply, visit:
<http://www.iowapridenetwork.org/outreachposition.html>

9. Centro Hispano Madison Job Opportunity: Youth Program Coordinator

The purpose of Centro Hispano's Juventud Program is to provide academic support to Latino youth through positive educational activities. Juventud aims to motivate Latino students to stay in school and to build a strong foundation for success in school. The program also strives to provide participants with knowledge of and pride in Latino culture and heritage. Youth Program Coordinators play the most essential role in this program by working to involve the community through:

- recruiting, training and placing volunteer tutors as needed during the school day and in after-school programs
- providing parents with the information necessary to be involved in their child's education through frequent parent meetings.

For more information about this job position or the qualifications required, please visit: <http://www.chdc.us/Job%20Openings2.html>

10. Rhode Island Youth Pride Inc. Job Opportunity: Program Director

Youth Pride, Inc. (YPI) is Rhode Island's only statewide nonprofit organization with programming dedicated to meeting the social, emotional and educational needs of youth and young adults impacted by sexual orientation and gender identity.

YPI is currently seeing a new Program Director to lead the task force for LGBTQ youth, oversee the development and implementation of conferences, and assist in development and communications efforts as needed.

Three years of relevant experience required; Bachelor's degree in a related field (education, social work, counseling, etc.) required; Master's degree preferred.

To apply, please send a cover letter, resume and short (fewer than five pages) writing sample to:

Youth Pride, Inc.
Attn: Michelle Duso (PD Search)
171 Chestnut St.
Providence, RI 02903

You may also email your application materials to ypied@aol.com or fax it to (401) 274-1990.

11. New Mexico GSA Network Job Opportunity: Program Coordinator

The New Mexico Gay Straight Alliance Network is a youth-led organization that connects school-based Gay Straight Alliances (GSAs) to each other and community resources.

The New Mexico GSA Network is currently looking to hire a Program Coordinator to work in the Santa Fe Mountain Center in Tesuque. Applicants must have experience in youth organizing, working with LGBTQ youth, political activism, outreach, marketing, GSAs, and working with public and/or private school systems. They must have proven skills in grant/project management and be able to operate independently and follow through on assigned tasks. They must be culturally competent and responsible, as well as have the ability to build trust and rapport with youth and work in collaboration with other agencies/organizations. They must be at least 21 years of age and able to pass a background check and possess a clean driving record. Training/supervision will be provided.

Applicants must also have a passion for social activism! For more information about this job opportunity, please contact:

Jenn Jeverson
Therapeutic Adventure Program Manager
Santa Fe Mountain Center
PO Box 449 Tesuque, NM 87574
jenn@santafemc.org
505-983-6158 x13

Related Readings: News and Publications

12. Bay Area Reporter: Schools Emerge as Gay Rights Battlegrounds

From gay-straight alliances in Catholic schools to transgender Prom Queens, students across the country are on the cutting edge of the LGBT equality movement – and they're not afraid to speak out.

The Bay Area Reporter takes a look at the changing attitudes, and changing policies, that are being brought about by the amazing work of youth in schools: <http://www.ebar.com/pride/article.php?sec=pride&article=39>

13. WCBSTV: Apology Issued in Blackout of Gay Kiss in Yearbook

It was Andre Jackson's senior year at East High School in Newark, New Jersey. And like every other senior at his school, he was given the option of paying for his own page in the yearbook, which he could create.

Unlike the other students, however, one of his pictures was censored: a picture of Andre kissing his boyfriend was blacked out in marker by the administration, who deemed it inappropriate.

Pictures of opposite-sex couples kissing were not blacked out, however, which forced the administration to rethink their actions. While the administration has apologized and offered to print up new yearbooks for anyone that requests them, Jackson still feels slighted. You can read more about this at: http://wcbstv.com/topstories/local_story_176121451.html

14. Our Lives: Madison's LGBTQA Magazine

On July 1st, Our Lives Magazine hit the shelves in Madison. Our Lives is a new publication in Madison whose mission is to "clearly, candidly and openly reflect the diversity and optimism in our community." Our Lives is dedicated to improving their readers' quality of life by celebrating the people, establishments and events that encourage us to embrace our identities as individuals and as an LGBTQA community.

The first issue of this magazine talks about the growing popularity of the Madison Gay Hockey Association, interviews Felicia Melton-Smyth about her history of advocacy work, and discusses why PFLAG is still important.

To read more about this exciting new magazine, or to find out where to get one, check out their website at www.ourlivesmadison.com.

15. Inside Higher Ed: Dude, You're a Fag

In an interesting look at the pervasive name-calling culture in our schools, sociologist C.J. Pascoe writes about "fag discourse," which she defines as an almost compulsive name-calling ritual in which adolescent boys harass those who deviate from certain male stereotypes.

The original story and user comments* can be viewed online at <http://insidehighered.com/views/2007/06/28/pascoe>.

*Please note: some of the user comments posted in response to this publication may be deemed offensive and/or insensitive to LGBT people and their allies.

16. National Center for Transgender Equality: American Medical Association Adds Trans-Inclusive Policies

In a move applauded by the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE), the American Medical Association (AMA) has amended its policies to include transgender and gender nonconforming people.

Of particular note, the AMA policies call for an end to the discriminatory insurance policies that trans people often face – policies that disallow coverage for transition-related care, sex-specific care and even exclude ALL care for some trans people.

To read more about this amendment, click here: <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/17621.html> and then view Report #11.

17. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: CDC Expands Website to Include LGBT Health

The United States' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has expanded its website to include pages specifically devoted to health concerns affecting the LGBT community. From the front page, you can select links that lead to resources for lesbian and bisexual women, gay and bisexual men, and transgender individuals.

This is a good step and we encourage them to provide more and more information that speaks to the experiences and health needs of all LGBTQ people. To see for yourself, check out: <http://www.cdc.gov/lgbthealth/index.htm>
