

GSA Newsarama
Volume 6, Issue 10
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Read GSA Newsarama online at www.GSAforSafeSchools.org. Visit our website to download past Newsaramas in clean, easy-to-read PDF format.

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

Back in July, we reported that Madison has a new magazine for the LGBTQA (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning and ally) community. Now on its fourth issue, this free bimonthly periodical has only gotten bigger and better.

Our Lives' mission is "to clearly, candidly and openly reflect the diversity and optimism in our community".

The January/February issue of Our Lives is entitled "The Future of Us", and shines a spotlight on the challenges, and successes, of queer youth and their allies in Wisconsin.

For a full listing of locations where you can pick up Our Lives, visit www.ourlivesmadison.com. Our Lives magazine can also be read online at www.ourlivesmadison.com.

You may see some familiar faces in the current issue!

Headlines

1. GSA for Safe Schools Scholarship Applications Now Available

Hey seniors! Have you worked to make your school or community a better place for LGBTQ people and their allies? Do you plan to keep working for LGBTQ equality after you graduate?

Then we want YOU to apply for the GSA for Safe Schools 2008 Scholarship. GSA for Safe Schools is thrilled to be able to provide four high school seniors with \$1000 scholarships this year. Applications are available at www.gsaforsafeschools.org (or ask your GSA advisor for one!).

Completed applications are due on March 10th, and recipients will be announced in April. Scholarship recipients will be honored at our 12th Annual Celebration of Leadership at the Monona Terrace in Madison on May 17th.

Download an application today: www.gsaforsafeschools.org

Questions? Email Brian J. at brianj@gsaforsafeschools.org or call him at (608)661-4141.

2. GSA for Safe Schools Spring GSA Conference

It's official: the Spring GSA Conference will be held at First Baptist Church in Madison. We were so well-behaved and tidy at the Activist Retreat that the good folks at First Baptist invited us to use their lovely building again.

So join us on Friday, March 7th for a full day of icebreakers, entertainment and workshops galore. Some workshop topics will include...

- ...Trans 101: What Does that "T" in LGBT Mean, Anyway?
- ...Know Your Rights (and USE them!)
- ...Is It a Choice? The Nature vs. Nurture Argument

...and many more!

Information about times, price and registration will be headed your way in the next two weeks.

Questions? Email Tim at timm@gsaforsafeschools.org or call him at (608)661-4141.

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. PFund Scholarships for LGBT Youth – DEADLINE SOON!

PFund, the only Minnesota foundation dedicated exclusively to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) equality, recently announced it has \$50,000 for scholarships to be awarded for the 2008-2009 school year.

Scholarships are available to students ranging from high school to graduate students in both public and private schools, who are LGBT or come from an LGBT family and who are either legal residents of Minnesota or PLAN TO ATTEND AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN MINNESOTA. Awards are based on their efforts to advance awareness and support of LGBT issues, spurring visibility and dialogue on key issues.

THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS FEBRUARY 1ST, 2008. Applications and scholarship information can be found at www.pfundonline.org.

4. Madison Gay Hockey – Only 5 Weeks Left in the Season

Has your GSA taken a turn running concessions for the Madison Gay Hockey Association yet? No? How come??

Madison Gay Hockey Association (MGHA) is the premier LGBTQA ice hockey league in Wisconsin, providing an environment free of harassment and discrimination for members and friends of the queer community to play ice hockey and fulfill their athletic aspirations. MGHA is looking for GSAs and student clubs to run the concessions table at their games.

There are six teams in the league, and they compete in three back-to-back games every Sunday night. The games start at 6:40PM and each game lasts about 45 minutes.

The following dates are still up for grabs:
January 27th, February 3rd, February 17th, & February 24th.

So, if you and your GSA want to sell some hot chocolate and watch some hockey (while making money in the process!), call Tim at 608.661.4141 or email him at tim@gsaforsafeschools.org to get on the schedule. Once you're scheduled for a game, Tim will discuss the details with you (where to go, what to bring, etc.).

5. PFLAG Scholarships Available for LGBTQA Youth

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) has announced the availability of 16 scholarships for high school seniors who plan to attend an institute of higher education in 2008. PFLAG will be awarding three \$5000 scholarships, three \$2500 scholarships and up to ten \$1000 scholarships to students who self identify as LGBT or a straight ally, and demonstrate an interest in service to the LGBT community.

The application process may be completed online, or a hard copy of your application may be mailed in to the National PFLAG office at:

Suzanne Greenfield
Safe Schools Coordinator
PFLAG National
1726 M Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20036-4521

APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MARCH 15TH TO BE ELIGIBLE.

To read more about the available scholarships and find out how to apply, visit:
<http://www.pflag.org/Scholarships.1236.0.html>.

6. Valentine's Day Events Across the State

Details are still coming together for some of these events, but we wanted to let you know about some social get-togethers for LGBTQ youth and their allies that will be happening around Valentine's Day in Wisconsin:

Madison: Valentine's Dance hosted by Teens Like Us and Youth S.O.S.
Friday, February 22nd from 7PM to 10PM at the Lussier Teen Center
Questions? Email Abra or Craig at tlupride@yahoo.com

Milwaukee: Valentine's Day Speed Dating
Thursday, February 14th from 4:30PM to 7:30PM at Project Q
Questions? Email Warren at wscherer@mkelgbt.org

Appleton: Old School Hip-Hop Valentines
Saturday, February 16th from 5:00PM to 8:00PM at Harmony Café
Questions? Email Jesse or Charis at harmonycafe@gwicc.org

7. Point Foundation Scholarships Available for LGBT Youth

The Point Foundation offers scholarships to high-achieving LGBT students who demonstrate an interest in community service. Point particularly aims to alleviate the financial burden felt by students whose families have denied them support because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Applications are due no later than March 1st, 2008 and may be found at www.pointfoundation.org.

Related Readings: News and Publications

8. Naperville Sun: Anti-Gay T-Shirt Case Continues in Court

In the last issue of Newsarama, we featured a piece called "Speaking Out With Your T-Shirt", which gave a brief run-down of some of the laws and rules around a student's freedom of expression, particularly regarding messages worn on clothing.

In this news article, you can read about a student who has been told not once, but twice, by the courts that a t-shirt that says "Be Happy, Not Gay", is not protected free speech: <http://tinyurl.com/yt5sum>
