

GSA Newsarama  
Volume 6, Issue 12  
February 20, 2008

Read GSA Newsarama online at [www.GSAforSafeSchools.org](http://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.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Special Feature

Candlelight Vigils Held in California for Lawrence King

### Headlines

1. GSA for Safe Schools Spring Conference: Don't Miss It!
2. Apply Now for the GSA for Safe Schools Scholarship
3. Community Activist and Educator Awards: Nominate Someone Today

### Related Readings: Events and Opportunities

4. 2007 RAY Leadership Awards: Nominate Someone You Know
5. Scholarship Opportunities for LGBTQA Students
6. Proud Theater Open Mic Fundraiser
7. LGBT Youth and Cyberbullying Survey
8. Blades Against AIDS Open Skate Fundraiser
9. 5th Annual Wisconsin Teen Poetry Slam
10. Free Screening of Documentary Film "Cut" Next Week

### Related Readings: News and Publications

11. Manitowoc Herald Times Reporter: Same-Sex Couple from Kiel to Wed
12. 365gay.com: Tennessee Bills Would Ban Anything Gay in Schools, Gay Adoption

\*\*\*\*\*

### Special Feature

\*\*\*\*\*

## Candlelight Vigils Held In California for Lawrence King

Many of you may have heard by now about the murder of California Junior High student Lawrence (Larry) King last week. Our hearts are saddened by this tragedy and our thoughts go out to all affected by this act of violence.

Larry King was a 15 year-old student at E.O. Green Junior High in Oxnard, California. On Tuesday, February 12th, Larry was shot by a classmate at school and suffered critical injuries; he was taken off of life support three days later and passed away.

While the motivation of the act is unknown, Larry did identify as gay and his murder is being prosecuted as a hate crime. Friends have reported to the authorities that Larry was often bullied for his orientation and gender expression.

When events like this happen, it's common to experience a wide range of feelings: you may feel great anger or sadness, or you may not feel anything at all. These feelings are normal, and may change over time. We encourage you to seek out a trusted adult (like a GSA advisor) or friend with whom you can share your feelings.

Candlelight vigils are being held for Lawrence King in many California cities on Wednesday.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Headlines

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 1. GSA for Safe Schools Spring Conference: Don't Miss It!

The GSA for Safe Schools Spring Conference is a mere two weeks away. Our student planners are working tirelessly to make the event memorable, fun and educational. Here are a few quick reminders:

The Spring Conference is on Friday, March 7th at First Baptist Church

The Spring Conference starts at 9AM (registration) and ends at 5PM

The Spring Conference is open to all WI high school and middle school students

The Spring Conference will knock your socks off (in a good way)

All students who want to attend MUST have a signed registration form. If you're 18, you can sign it yourself. If not, we need a parent or guardian's signature too.

Registration forms can be sent in ahead of time or brought to the conference that day. The cost of the conference is \$7 (we're providing lunch), and a limited number of scholarships are available. If you have any questions, or think you might need a scholarship, give Tim a call at (608)661-4141 or email him at [tim@gsaforsafeschools.org](mailto:tim@gsaforsafeschools.org).

\*\*\*\*\*

## 2. Apply Now for the GSA for Safe Schools Scholarship

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](http://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](http://www.gsaforsafeschools.org)

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

\*\*\*\*\*

## 3. Community Activist and Educator Awards: Nominate Someone Today

Have you nominated someone for the GSAFE Community Activist or Educator Award yet? No? Why the heck not?

Nominate someone today by going to [www.gsaforsafeschools.org/nominate.html](http://www.gsaforsafeschools.org/nominate.html).

Awards are open to all Wisconsin activists and educators, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. The Community Activist and Educator Award recipients will also be honored at our Celebration of Leadership banquet on May 17th in Madison.

Examples of activities that might bring an applicant to the attention of GSA for Safe Schools include, but are not limited to:

- A teacher or administrator who has been active in supervising the formation or continuation of a Gay-Straight Alliance.
- A teacher, administrator, or community activist who has consistently included LGBT materials in their course curriculum or work place.
- Someone who has organized an event that has promoted the idea of fair treatment and safety for LGBT students, family and community members.
- Someone who has been an active part of community efforts involving LGBT issues.

Requirements for the GSA for Safe Schools Community Activist and Educator Award are:

- + Community activist or educator
- + Resident of Wisconsin
- + Completion of nomination information

Application Deadline: March 20, 2008

Announcement: April 2008

Nominate someone today! <http://www.gsaforsafeschools.org/nominate.html>

\*\*\*\*\*

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.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 4. 2007 RAY Leadership Awards: Nominate Someone You Know

Speaking of nominations, here's another chance to recognize someone who's doing great work and making the world a better place for LGBT youth and their allies:

The 2007 Rainbow Alliance for Youth (RAY) Leadership Awards will be given to six individuals/organizations in recognition of their significant contribution to LGBT youth development last year. Awards will be given in six categories:

- Youth Leadership Award (ages 14 to 18)
- Youth Leadership Award (ages 19 to 24)
- Adult Ally Award
- LGBT Youth Program Award
- Youth Development Specialist Award
- Youth Community Partner Award

Nomination forms can be downloaded here  
<http://www.diverseandresilient.org/youth/documents/ythnomform07-08.pdf>  
and are due on FEBRUARY 29th.

Questions? Email Rachel Federlin at [rfederlin@diverseandresilient.org](mailto:rfederlin@diverseandresilient.org) or call her at (414)390-0444.

\*\*\*\*\*

## 5. Scholarship Opportunities for LGBTQA Students

Here are the details on three scholarships that are available for LGBTQ students and their allies:

### + Parents, Friends and Families of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)

WHO SHOULD APPLY: High school seniors who have demonstrated an interest in service to the LGBT community

DUE: March 15th, 2008

SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT: \$2,500 to \$10,000 (16 total)

MORE INFO HERE: <http://www.pflag.org/Scholarships.1236.0.html>

### + Point Foundation

WHO SHOULD APPLY: High-achieving students who identify as LGBT and have demonstrated an interest in community service

DUE: March 1st, 2008

AVERAGE SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT: \$13,000

MORE INFO HERE: [www.pointfoundation.org](http://www.pointfoundation.org)

### + Dr. Alma S. Adams Scholarship

WHO SHOULD APPLY: Individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to community service or used the visual arts/media to convey culturally appropriate health messages on behalf of disadvantaged populations (specifically around tobacco usage)

DUE: April 15th, 2008

SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT: Up to \$10,000

MORE INFO HERE: <http://www.americanlegacy.org/adams-scholarship.aspx>

\*\*\*\*\*

## 6. Proud Theater Open Mic Fundraiser

Proud Theater, Madison's very own LGBTQ youth theater troupe, is holding a fun and exciting evening of open mic activities on March 8th, 2008 from 7 PM to 9:30 PM and will be held at the Escape 100% Fair Trade Java Joint & Art Gallery, located at 916 Williamson Street in Madison, Wisconsin.

The event, titled "At the End of the Rainbow II", ties in nicely with the theme of Saint Patrick's Day as well as Proud Theater's own tradition of celebrating rainbow imagery that symbolizes LGBTQ unity and diversity. It is being held as a fund-raiser for the Proud Theater organization.

Proud Theater is an award-winning, exciting and innovative youth theater program designed to foster self-expression and self-empowerment for Madison-area youth ages 13 to 19 who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer/questioning (LGBTQ), or who are the sons or daughters of LGBTQ parents, or allies of the LGBTQ community at large.

"At the End of the Rainbow II" will feature many surprise guests and local talent mixed in throughout the evening, including youth from around Dane County and from Proud Theater. The evening is open to all who want to share their voices and talents with the world.

All proceeds donated to the pot "at the end of the rainbow" will be used to help finance Proud Theater's year-end culminating performance which opens May 29th, 2008 at the Bartell Theater in Madison. People wishing to participate in "At the End of the Rainbow II" are encouraged to sign up for a 5 minute spot in advance by emailing event organizer Heather Renken at [hcrenken@gmail.com](mailto:hcrenken@gmail.com) or at [proudtheater@gmail.com](mailto:proudtheater@gmail.com). Walk-in participants will be included as space allows.

Other tax-deductible donations to Proud Theater can be written out to Proud Theater and sent to OutReach at 600 Williamson Street, Madison, WI 53703-3588. Celebrate Saint Patrick's Day early in 2008, and discover the pot of gold "at the end of the rainbow" with the youth of Proud Theater! Come join the fun and get a sneak preview of upcoming Proud Theater events!

\*\*\*\*\*

## 7. LGBT Youth and Cyberbullying Survey

A research team at Iowa State University is conducting a survey on cyberbullying and its impact on LGBT youth.

If you are in middle school, high school, or college, identify as LGBT and would like the opportunity to share any experiences you've had with cyberbullying, please take a few minutes to fill out this survey:

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=inXcDEo9Xqgg\\_2f0KY9QPZew\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=inXcDEo9Xqgg_2f0KY9QPZew_3d_3d)

Of course, all responses will be kept completely confidential.

\*\*\*\*\*

## 8. Blades Against AIDS Open Skate Fundraiser

On Saturday, March 1st, the Madison Gay Hockey Association (MGHA) will be holding a fundraiser for the Madison AIDS Network: Blades Against AIDS.

Blades Against AIDS is an open skate which will take place at the Madison Ice Arena (725 Forward Drive). More than 250 people attended the event last year, bringing in over \$3,000 for the Madison AIDS Network.

Ice skates are available for attendees, so you don't have to have your own. Staffing and music for the event are provided by MGHA, and food is provided by Queen Anne's Catering.

This is an all-ages event. Tickets are \$15 for ages 16 and older, \$10 for ages 10 to 15, and \$5 for ages 9 and under. BRING YOUR STUDENT ID AND GET IN FOR \$5! The event goes from 8PM to 10PM.

Questions about Blades Against AIDS can be emailed to Shawn Waldron at [swaldron2@gmail.com](mailto:swaldron2@gmail.com).

\*\*\*\*\*

## 9. 5th Annual Wisconsin Teen Poetry Slam

Calling all teen poets, emcees, and storytellers - here is your chance to take center stage. This March and April is the 5th Annual Teen Poetry Slam, where dozens of youth poets from Madison and Milwaukee will show their excellence and compete for an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, DC for the Brave New Voices International Youth Slam this July. Sign up now!

MADISON SCHOOLS Semi-finals

March 31 - April 3

at East, West, Memorial, & LaFollette

Register with the poet-mentor at your school: <http://omai.wisc.edu/schools>

OPEN SLAM Semi-final

Friday, April 4, 9:00 pm

Memorial Union Main Lounge

Register with Josh Healey at [jghealey@wisc.edu](mailto:jghealey@wisc.edu)

\* Note: Poets can only compete in one semifinal, either at their school or at the open slam.

WISCONSIN SLAM FINALS  
Saturday, April 12, 7:00pm  
Orpheum Theater  
hosted by Baba Israel  
\$5 students, \$10 adults

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 10. Free Screening of Documentary Film “Cut” Next Week

On Monday, February 25th, director Wendy Schneider is hosting four back-to-back screenings of her award-winning documentary “CUT: Teens and Self-Injury”. Following the screenings, Schneider will lead Q&A sessions, sharing her experience of working on a two-year project intended to create more awareness and dialogue about self-injury among teenagers.

The screenings, which are free and open to the public, will take place on the Edgewood College Campus in the Anderson Auditorium at the following times:

Screening 1 – 3:00 to 4:30PM  
Screening 2 – 4:45 to 6:15PM  
Screening 3 – 6:30 to 8:00PM  
Screening 4 – 8:15 to 9:45PM

Here is a brief film synopsis: Using the words, artwork and music of the young people struggling to make sense of their lives, “CUT: Teens and Self-Injury” provides an intimate look a largely unacknowledged problem that affects many thousands of young people, their families and friends. Incorporating interviews with parents, mental health professionals and rock icon Shirley Manson, who talks in depth about her own experience with cutting, the film's power lies in the teens' own understandings of the sources of cutting, their difficulties in talking about their struggles with those closest to them, and their reports on their decisions to stop harming themselves. Urgent, searching, and profoundly moving, “CUT” issues a call to bring the problem of self-injury out of the shadows and reminds us that the first step towards healing is an honest acknowledgement of reality.

\*\*\*\*\*

Related Readings: News and Publications

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 11. Manitowoc Herald Times Reporter: Same-Sex Couple from Kiel to Wed

Just in time for Valentine's Day, the Manitowoc Herald Times Reporter ran an article last week about Judy Stock and Leigh Robert, a couple in Kiel, Wisconsin who will be taking a trip to Canada in a few weeks to legally marry one another.

Check it out here: <http://tinyurl.com/2r38b8>

\*\*\*\*\*

## 12. 365gay.com: Tennessee Bills Would Ban Anything Gay in Schools, Gay Adoption

In a slightly less heartwarming story, Tennessee Representative Stacey Campfield introduced a bill that would bar elementary and secondary schools from using "any instruction or materials discussing sexual orientation other than heterosexuality". Fortunately, the bill has been temporarily derailed so that it can be reviewed by the state Department of Education.

To read more, click here: <http://tinyurl.com/3avf7p>

\*\*\*\*\*