

GSA Newsarama  
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Read GSA Newsarama online at [www.GSAforSafeSchools.org](http://www.GSAforSafeSchools.org). Visit our website to download past issues of Newsarama in clean, easy-to-read PDF format.

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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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Celebration of Leadership to Honor Seven Amazing Individuals

On Saturday, May 17th, GSA for Safe Schools will hold their 12th Annual Celebration of Leadership Awards Dinner at the Monona Terrace in Madison.

This year, Celebration of Leadership will shine the spotlight on seven individuals from Wisconsin, all of whom are being honored for their work in creating safe schools and communities for LGBT people and their allies.

This year, GSA for Safe Schools is awarding \$1,000 scholarships to four graduating high school seniors. Allow me to introduce the 2008 scholarship recipients:

Miles Walser – Madison West High School  
Angela Filer – Evansville High School  
Cassie Williamson – Hartford Union High School  
Seth Stratton – River Falls High School

In addition to the four scholarship recipients, two individuals will be recognized with the Community Activist Award, and one person will receive the Educator Award. This year's award recipients are:

COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS:

Isabel Medina – Madison West High School  
Craig Adamski – Teens Like Us/Top TEN at Youth Services of Southern WI

EDUCATOR AWARD:

Colleen Capper – Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

CONGRATULATIONS to this year's awards recipients, and THANK YOU for all you do to make Wisconsin schools and communities safer and more welcoming for LGBT people and their allies!

We will be adding photos and short bios for our award recipients to our website, so keep an eye on [www.GSAforSafeSchools.org](http://www.GSAforSafeSchools.org) for that update.

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Headlines  
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1. Highlights from Day of Silence 2008

The reports are in: Day of Silence 2008 was a resounding success!

Although the resistance movement to Day of Silence has grown over the years, I've heard from many of you that participation in Day of Silence was up and that people sat up and took notice.

I want to take a moment to recognize a couple of stand-out examples of grassroots activism at its finest that I heard about:

Here in Madison, some of the highest participation in Day of Silence happened in the middle schools! Nearly 350 students at Sennett Middle School signed a petition and wore ribbons of support. GSA advisor Caryl Hodgman said that students at Sennett are really “stepping up to the plate to talk about the issues at hand.” Across town, Cherokee Middle School had another stellar turnout on Day of Silence, selling just under 250 ribbons. Way to go, middle schoolers!

Although we were forced to cancel the Breaking the Silence rally in Madison due to weather, a number of rallies and vigils still took place that night. The Sheboygan Press featured a really great article about the rally that was being organized by the students of North High School’s GSA. (See the article in Related Readings: News and Publications section below.)

Thank you to everyone who took part in this national day of action. I think I’ll end this piece with a quote from a GSA advisor (who shall remain anonymous) about this year’s Day of Silence:

“I always knew it was a physical struggle for any group to earn their civil rights...I just didn’t know how mentally and emotionally tiring it was. I learned SO much. I can’t wait for the hoopla again next year!”

Hear hear.

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## 2. Leadership Training Institute Application Deadline Still Rolling

Since Day of Silence was last week, and the end of the year is such a busy time for folks, we are continuing to scoot back the deadline to apply for LTI.

We’re looking for current high school juniors, sophomores and freshmen who want to develop their skills so they can take on leadership roles in their GSAs and schools next fall. Your school doesn’t have to have a GSA to attend LTI; at Leadership Training Institute, you’ll learn a lot of the things you’d to know to get one up and running at your school.

Download an application for LTI today at [www.gsaforsafeschools.org](http://www.gsaforsafeschools.org).

Still not convinced that LTI is the place for you? Give Brian J. a call at 608.661.4141 or drop him an email at [brianj@gsaforsafeschools.org](mailto:brianj@gsaforsafeschools.org).

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Related Readings: Events 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.

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### 3. Last Week to Apply for GLSEN Jump-Start Team

Next Friday, May 9th is the deadline to apply to become a student organizer with the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN).

GLSEN is searching for its next team of student leaders! The Jump-Start 2008-09 National Student Leadership Team will be a group of middle and high school students who will support student organizing nationally. Jump-Start students represent various regions across the country and receive training on strategic action planning, coalition building, leadership skills, and up-to-date information on safe school policies.

In the past, Jump-Start students have held local safer school summits, trained teachers, lobbied for safe school legislation, supported peers who have started Gay-Straight Alliances (GSA), contributed to GLSEN resources, organized various days of action in their local communities and networked and supported student clubs across their state. GLSEN is currently accepting applications from students who have prior leadership experience or seek to develop these skills. Students must fill out a brief application form and provide a recommendation letter from a school faculty/member and a letter of support from a local organization.

Students can access the application and more information at <http://www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/news/record/2040.html>.

Applications are due May 9th. For further information please contact the Director of Student Organizing, Benny Vasquez at [bvasquez@glsen.org](mailto:bvasquez@glsen.org).

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### 4. Queer-Friendly Proms in Madison and Appleton

It's Prom Season! Here are a couple of queer-friendly proms that we know about:

MADISON: Hosted by Teens Like Us, the 2008 Pride Prom will be held again at the Lussier Family Heritage Center (3101 Lake Farm Road) on Friday, May 23rd. Doors will open at 7PM and close at 10PM. There will be food, a DJ, Prom Court and a handful of schnazzy door prizes for some safe sex savvy winners.

All Teens Like Us events are open to middle school- and high school-aged youth, and are alcohol, drug, tobacco and harassment free! A \$5 donation will be requested at the door, although no one will be turned away for inability to pay.

FOX VALLEY: Hosted by the GLBT Partnership of the Harmony Café, the 2nd Annual Gay Prom will be on Saturday, May 31st at the Liberty Banquet Hall in Kimberly, Wisconsin (800 Eisenhower Drive).

Open to youth ages 14 to 24, this formal-optional event will have prizes and a Prom Court. No alcohol, drugs, tobacco allowed (and anyone under the influence will not be allowed to enter).

Do you know of an LGBTQA Prom coming up that isn't listed here? Let Tim know at [tim@gsaforsafeschools.org](mailto:tim@gsaforsafeschools.org) and he'll get the word out.

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#### 5. Apply for a Plum Grant Through DoSomething.org

Do you have a great idea for a BIG project, but don't know how you will fund it? DoSomething.org helps to support young people who want to make a difference in their communities.

One of the ways they do this is by offering grants to fund new or existing projects. Plum grants in the amount of \$500 are given out WEEKLY. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and held for three months for consideration.

For more information about how to apply and who's eligible, visit: [http://www.dosomething.org/plum\\_youth\\_grant\\_application](http://www.dosomething.org/plum_youth_grant_application)

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#### 6. Bigtime Entertainment All-Ages Concert at the Klinik in Madison

Do you like live music? Do you like supporting local artists and good causes? Then you should check out "Bigtime Entertainment" at the Klinik Bar in Madison. On Sunday, May 11th, the Klinik will be having an all-ages show that features 5 local bands and performers.

Clara Aas, a student from Darlington High School, will be one of the performers that night, presenting an acoustic show. She has graciously offered to donate the proceeds of what she makes that night to GSA for Safe Schools.

Doors open at 5:15PM, and the show will last until around 10PM. Tickets are \$8, and make sure to specify that you're buying tickets for Clara's performance.

The Klinik is located at 520 S. Park St. in Madison.

Thanks, Clara! You're a rock star.

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## 7. Scholarships Available for LGBT UW-Madison Students

Since the 1998 academic year, the GLBT Alumni Council has been awarding scholarships to undergraduate students attending or planning to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Recipients of this award demonstrate a commitment to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community, and maintain outstanding academic achievement. Each recipient also demonstrates a financial need for assistance in paying for their education at UW-Madison.

Applications are due on June 16<sup>th</sup>, and may be downloaded here:

<http://www.uwalumni.com/glbtag>

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## Related Readings: News and Publications

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## 8. The Sheboygan Press – 400 Expected at Rally

Although this rally also had to be cancelled due to inclement weather, it received some great publicity on word of mouth. Two Sheboygan GSA students are quoted in the article, explaining the purpose behind Day of Silence:

<http://tinyurl.com/4kfbcz>

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