

GSA Newsarama
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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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Feature

Student of Color Summit in Madison on November 17th

On Saturday, November 17th, GSA for Safe Schools is partnering with the Urban League of Greater Madison, Freedom, Inc. Centro Hispano, Teens Like Us, and the Madison Metropolitan School District to host a summit for LGBTQ and allied students of color.

The summit will feature breakout sessions on: the portrayal (or lack) of LGBT people of color in the media; discussions about the different types of “isms”; HIV

and other STI prevention; and strategies for addressing and weathering racism in the larger queer community.

The summit will take place from 10AM to 4PM at Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin/Briarpatch in Madison, at 1955 Atwood Avenue. There is no fee for this retreat, but we would like to know who's coming (since lunch is on us!). So if you're interested, give Brian J. or Tim a call at 608.661.4141 or just hit "reply" to this email and type Tim a message.

A flyer for this event and driving directions to Briarpatch will soon be available on our website at www.GSAforSafeSchools.org. Help us spread the word!

Headlines

1. GSA Registration Drawing – Congrats Appleton North!

Early in the fall, we asked Gay-Straight Alliances and similar clubs to "officially" register through our website, to let us know who's out there. Along with that request came a little incentive: any school/group that registered through www.GSAforSafeSchools.com/gsa_register.html would be entered into a drawing to win \$50.

Well, this morning, Mama J. pulled a club out of the hat (actually, it was a bucket). And the winner was...Appleton North High School!

Thank you to everyone who registered with us, and congratulations to the students and advisors at Appleton North!

2. Fundraising Opportunity – MGHA Concessions

The new season of the Madison Gay Hockey Association (MGHA) has begun, and MGHA is looking for GSAs and student clubs to run the concessions table at their games. Your GSA would be responsible for providing the food and the equipment (cups, napkins, something to heat water if you want to provide hot chocolate), but you get to keep all the money you make. Last week, the Middleton Alliance for LGBT Equality made over \$75 for their student group!

There are 18 games total, and the season goes until the end of February. Most games start at 6:40, so your group would need to get there around 6PM. All the games are on Sunday nights, and last about 3 hours.

So, if you and your GSA want to make some money AND watch Brian J. showing off on the ice (this is his first season playing!), 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, what NOT to bring, etc.).

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. Transgender Day of Remembrance is November 20th

Transgender Day of Remembrance began as a memorial for Rita Hester, a transgender woman whose murder in 1998 has gone, like so many hate crimes against transgender individuals, unsolved.

Today, Transgender Day of Remembrance has become a day of action and education as well as a day of remembering. We encourage GSAs, student groups, and individuals to commemorate the day, whether it be creating a visual campaign in your school about the need for laws that are inclusive of transgender and gender nonconforming individuals, or simply taking the time to learn a little bit about some trans folks who have helped pave the way for LGBT equality. Here is just a short list of names you could research (thanks NTEP!):

1. Kim Coco Iwamoto
2. Georgina Beyer
3. Renee Richards
4. Sylvia Rivera
5. Christine Jorgensen
6. Riki Anne Wilchins
7. Alan L. Hart
8. Dean Spade
9. Kate Bornstein
10. Jamison Green

For more information about TDOR and ideas for organizing in your school, check out www.dayofsilence.org/tdr.html.

4. World AIDS Day is December 1st

The idea for World AIDS Day originated in 1988 at the World Summit of Ministers of Health on Programs for AIDS Prevention. Since then, World AIDS Day has been recognized on December 1st, and events are organized by governments, charitable organizations and citizen groups around the world.

World AIDS Day is dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic, and the theme for this year's World AIDS Day is "leadership". For materials and ideas on how to organize events around World AIDS Day, visit <http://www.worldaidscampaign.info/index.php/en/home>.

In addition, we're going to be adding a new resource to our website this week: "Teaching It Back" is a handout that lists simple strategies for creating awareness of HIV/AIDS in your school and with your peers. Be Smart. Be Safe. Get Tested. This handout has some great ideas that your GSA or club could organize for World AIDS Day on December 1st. Keep an eye out for it at www.GSAforSafeSchools.org/resources.html.

5. Young Queer Sports Club – Are You Game?

Hey everybody, there's a new club in town.

Young Queer Sports Club (YQSC) was created by Miles Walser and Isabel Medina (two really, really cool Madison West seniors) and seeks to provide all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (queer) youth with a safe and accepting place to explore their athleticism through group-oriented sports and activities. YQSC's goal is to have a 10-12 week indoor soccer program this winter. No experience is necessary, but willingness to participate is essential.

If you're interested, e-mail youngqueersportsclub@yahoo.com with your full name, address, e-mail, and the best phone number to reach you.

Check out YQSC's MySpace page at www.myspace.com/yqsc and their Facebook group, "young queer sports club".

HEY ADULTS: YQSC is looking for adult volunteers, as well!

6. The Hear Me Project: 2007 Story Writing Contest

HEAR ME, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting positive health among youth and youth at-risk. The HEAR ME Project is a story-writing competition for youth ages 14 through 22 on HIV and other important issues.

Celebrities act as final round judges, and include filmmakers, authors, actors, playwrights, and scientists.

The Hear Me Project is looking for stories that are...

...up to 5 pages typed or handwritten legibly,
...about personal vulnerability to HIV/AIDS (your story can be either fiction or non-fiction; the characters in the story must be impacted by HIV/AIDS),
...original and have never been published.

The contest began on September 1st, 2007. Entries must be submitted online at www.hearmeproject.org or by mail to the following address: The HEAR ME Project, 375 Greenwich Street, 8th floor, New York, NY 10013. To be eligible, entries must be postmarked by December 1st, 2007. All components of the entry, including the entry form and essay, must be mailed in the same envelope, or submitted online at www.hearmeproject.org.

7. Transgender Week of Awareness Events on UW-Madison Campus

In observance of Transgender Day of Remembrance, the LGBT Campus Center at UW-Madison is planning "Transgender Awareness Week" from November 12-16th.

On Monday the 12th at 7pm, they will be putting on a program called the "Transgender Monologues" (in the tradition of the Vagina Monologues) which will explore the lives, struggles and beauty of the transgender and genderqueer community.

If you are a slam poet that writes about transgender identity, gender expression or gender identity concerns, the LGBTCC would love your participation in the night's events. In between monologues, they are planning to have artists perform pieces that pump up the audience and evoke strong emotions.

The Campus Center is looking for submissions for their "Transgender Monologues" program. These submissions should be 2-8 minutes in length. They can address any number of topics related to trans identity: coming out, dealing with oppression/unemployment/harassment, internal struggles with identity, hopes, fears, dreams, etc. These submissions can be made anonymously if you prefer. You are welcome to read your submission at the event yourself, or it can be read by a speaker.

For more information about Transgender Awareness Week on the UW-Madison campus, contact Maren Greathouse at greathouse@wisc.edu or call the LGBTCC at 608.265.3344.

8. Gay-Friendly College Admission Fairs this Fall and Spring

Are you thinking about going to college, but not sure how to pick one that is friendly and welcoming to LGBT people and their allies?

Campus Pride just announced dates for two national college admission fairs this Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 specifically designed for out lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students to find LGBT-friendly colleges and universities.

The Fall 2007 fair will be on Saturday, December 1st hosted on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, PA. The Spring 2008 fair will be on Friday, April 11th hosted on the campus of the University of California, San Diego. Free and open to the public, the fairs allow any student and their family the opportunity to interact with colleges and universities that value LGBT and allies. Registration is open to any college or university across the United States. Each fair will also feature expert advice about LGBT-friendly colleges, scholarship resources and even effective tips for campus visits.

The fairs are being held in coordination with the LGBT-Friendly Campus Climate Index (www.campusclimateindex.org), the only online resource of its kind that assists colleges and universities in learning ways to improve their LGBT campus life.

To learn more details about the upcoming Campus Pride College Admission Fairs or how to register your campus before the 30 day prior deadline, please visit Campus Pride (www.campuspride.org) or contact the organization at info@campuspride.org or 704-277-6710.
