

GSA Newsarama  
Volume 6, Issue 6  
November 19, 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Feature

Tomorrow is Transgender Day of Remembrance

## Headlines

1. Save the Date: GSA for Safe Schools “Activist Retreat” on January 12th
2. World AIDS Day is December 1st

## Related Readings: Events and Opportunities

3. Fundraising Opportunity with the Madison Gay Hockey Association
4. Young Womyn’s Empowerment Conference Planning Meeting in Milwaukee
5. Young Queer Sports Club – It’s Not Too Late to Join the Game
6. Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin and Teens Like Us Present: Sex Talk
7. World AIDS Day Art Display at EVP Café in Madison

## Related Readings: News and Publications

8. SFGate.com: Same-Sex Couples Raising Children Less Likely to Be White, Wealthy
9. GenderPAC.org: Gender Norms Holding Back Women in the Workplace

\*\*\*\*\*

## Feature

\*\*\*\*\*

Tomorrow is Transgender Day of Remembrance

On Tuesday, November 20th, students and clubs all across the United States will be organizing events to commemorate Transgender Day of Remembrance. 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 remembrance. Here are 10 small-to-large activities that your GSA or student club could do to commemorate TDOR in your school:

1. Watch a movie that features transgender protagonists
2. Play Trans-Jeopardy to learn more about trans terms, people and history (I don't know if this actually exists, but someone should totally invent it if it doesn't!)
3. Create a display for your school that features well-known trans people (check out Newsarama 6.5 at [www.gsaforsafeschools.org](http://www.gsaforsafeschools.org) for examples)
4. Read poetry or prose that was written by or about transgender people
5. Have a discussion about gender and the role it plays in our society
6. Ask a speaker to come out and run a "Trans 101" workshop for your club
7. Create a memorial display at your school to remember those who have been killed and/or harassed for their gender identity or expression
8. If gender identity/expression isn't included in your school district's non-discrimination policy, find out what it would take to make that happen
9. Make sure trans students at your school are able to use the restroom that best fits their gender identity and expression; this might include asking for an all gender or gender neutral single-stall bathroom
10. Make every day a Trans Day of AWARENESS, not just remembrance

Transgender Day of Remembrance doesn't just have to happen on November 20th. What is your GSA or club doing to be inclusive of transgender or gender non-conforming students at your school?

For more information or ideas on how to make your club and your school more welcoming for trans students, check out GLSEN's Jump-Start Part 7 at: <http://www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/news/record/2226.html>

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Headlines

\*\*\*\*\*

1. Save the Date: GSA for Safe Schools "Activist Retreat" on January 12th

Do you want to take your activist skills to the next level?

Do you want to learn how to make 118.13, Wisconsin's pupil non-discrimination law, really come alive in your school?

Would you like to learn some strategies for challenging racism in your school and your club?

If YES, then mark your calendar for Saturday, January 12th. GSA for Safe Schools will be holding a day-long "Activist Retreat" in Madison. Applications and more info should be coming your way soon, so keep your eyes peeled.

\*\*\*\*\*

## 2. World AIDS Day is December 1st

World AIDS Day is dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic, and the theme for this year's World AIDS Day is "leadership". Last week, GSA for Safe Schools sent some materials to your GSA Advisor to help get the discussion going in your school or club.

"Teaching It Back" is a handout that lists simple strategies for creating awareness of HIV/AIDS in your school and with your peers and has some great ideas that your GSA or club could organize for World AIDS Day on December 1<sup>st</sup>. You can download it for free at [www.GSAforSafeSchools.org/resources.html](http://www.GSAforSafeSchools.org/resources.html).

For more materials and ideas on how to organize events for World AIDS Day, visit <http://www.worldaidscampaign.info/index.php/en/home>

\*\*\*\*\*

## 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. Fundraising Opportunity with the Madison Gay Hockey Association

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. Your GSA would be

responsible for providing the food and the equipment (cups, napkins, something to heat water if you want to make hot chocolate), but you get to keep all the money you make. On average, GSAs have been making \$75 or more running the concessions.

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 6:15 PM. 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), call Tim at 608.661.4141 or email him at [timm@gsaforsafeschools.org](mailto:timm@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.).

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 4. Young Womyn's Empowerment Conference Planning Meeting in Milwaukee

Project Q of Milwaukee has begun planning for their Young Womyn's Empowerment Conference, and they are looking for female-identified youth and adults to help out with that process. They have already had one planning meeting, but the conference is not until May, so there is still a lot of time to get involved. You can help determine what the focus of this conference will be!

The next planning meeting for the YWEC will be on Saturday, November 30th from 5:30 to 7:30 PM at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center (315 W. Court Street, Suite 101, Milwaukee).

Please contact Rachel Coles at Project Q for more information by calling (414)271-2656 x114 or sending an email to [rachel@projectq.org](mailto:rachel@projectq.org).

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 5. Young Queer Sports Club – It's Not Too Late to Join the Game

This past Sunday, Young Queer Sports Club held its first informational meeting in Madison. But fear not: it's not too late to join the game!

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](mailto: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 <http://www.myspace.com/yqsc> and their Facebook group, "young queer sports club".

\*\*\*\*\*

## 6. Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin and Teens Like Us Present: Sex Talk

Do you feel like you need to brush up on your safer sex information? Do you have questions about getting tested, or using barriers, or just relationship stuff in general?

Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin and Teens Like Us are holding their next session of "Sex Talk" on Tuesday, December 11th from 5 to 8:30 P.M. This event is free and open to LGBTQ and straight allies aged 13 to 19. Sex Talk will take place at Briarpatch, which is located at 1955 Atwood Ave., Madison.

For more information, send an email to [tlupride@yahoo.com](mailto:tlupride@yahoo.com).

\*\*\*\*\*

## 7. World AIDS Day Art Display at EVP Coffee in Madison

To commemorate World AIDS Day, EVP coffee house in Madison is displaying art made by local artists that look at the impact of HIV/AIDS on the world stage. The art will be on display through November 28th, after which it will be moved to a gallery and auctioned off, with all proceeds going towards fighting the AIDS pandemic.

EVP Coffee is located at 1250 E. Washington Avenue in Madison. Check it out!

\*\*\*\*\*

## Related Readings: News and Publications

\*\*\*\*\*

## 8. SFGate.com: Same-Sex Couples Raising Children Less Likely to Be White, Wealthy

A new study released by the Our Family Coalition, COLAGE and the San Francisco LGBT Community Center shows that in parts of the country, same-sex couples raising children are more likely to be people of color. It also shows that the average household income for these couples tends to be lower than that of married couples with children.

Pulling from U.S. Census data, this study challenges many common public perceptions of same-sex couples with children. To read the full article, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/25o7x3>

\*\*\*\*\*

## 9. GenderPAC.org: Gender Norms Holding Back Women in the Workplace

While much progress has been made, the struggle for equal rights for women in the U.S. is far from won. Four new studies reveal that “gender expectations” play a significant role in advancement in the workplace for women.

To read more, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2bkv23>

\*\*\*\*\*