



NEWS

Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network

www.glsenhudsonvalley.org

Spring 2005

GLSEN is an education organization creating safe schools for all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students.

We are making LGBT bullying, harassment and name-calling unacceptable in America's schools.

We engage and empower educators as partners in creating schools where every student can fully participate in school life, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression.

We are ensuring that the national education agenda to create effective schools includes LGBT issues.

OUR CHAPTER

Our chapter, founded in 1997, is comprised of sub-chapters in Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Orange, Dutchess and Ulster counties.

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NEWSLETTER

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13 — NATIONAL DAY OF SILENCE

Day of Silence, a project of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) in collaboration with the United States Student Association (USSA), is a student-led day of action where those who support making anti-LGBT bias unacceptable in schools take a day-long vow of silence to recognize and protest the discrimination and harassment -- in effect, the silencing -- experienced by LGBT students and their allies.
- from www.DayofSilence.org

Across the country last year, an estimated 450,000 students in over 3,000 K-12 schools and hundreds of colleges took part in the *Day of Silence*. That number will likely increase significantly on this year's *Day of Silence* — Wednesday, April 13, 2005.

In the six counties that comprise the Hudson Valley chapter of GLSEN, widespread participation in dozens of high schools is anticipated. GSAs report more support in their schools, and GLSEN has provided more resources.

www.DayOfSilence.org is a rich source of information, including a history of the day — initiated by students at the University of Virginia in 1996, a manual of ideas and tips for making the day more successful, and promotional materials. We've reprinted the "Fact Sheet" inside this issue.

For breaking news and to register for the April 13 *Day of Silence*, visit the website.



www.DayofSilence.org

BREAKING THE SILENCE

GLSEN Hudson Valley and Center Lane will co-sponsor a special event from 4-6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in White Plains. The event is free and open to the public.

Students, teachers, and organizers will gather to report how the day was observed in their schools, reflect on the significance of the event, and celebrate.

Refreshments will be served. For further information, please contact GLSEN Hudson Valley or Center Lane.

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HEALING THE HURT — A BIG SUCCESS!

The sixth annual "Healing the Hurt" Conference on Nov. 15 attracted a capacity crowd of 500 people to the Crowne Plaza Hotel in White Plains. Nearly 200 high school and middle school students were enthusiastic participants this year. Here's a sample of comments from the evaluation forms.

It was awesome...everyone is friendly and open, and I wish the world was a giant Healing the Hurt Conference. I learned a lot... I feel like I can make more of a difference. (HS student)

I loved this! I respect people who are GLBT more than ever now because I never knew what they had to overcome and had to face... People need to know this information. (HS student)

Entertaining and excellent, easy to use suggestions about how to deal with homophobic comments in schools. (Elementary School Social Worker responding to "What to Say to 'That's so gay'" workshop)

The students are really craving this type of experience. Much thanks for your incredible work. (Teacher, GSA advisor)

I learned more than I could have ever thought...really opened my eyes to the lives of transgendered people. (HS student who attended "Trans 101" workshop)

I can't wait to get started writing letters and lobbying, etc.. (HS student at "Let's Get Politically Active" roundtable)
The 2 Reverends were inspiring, and many well informed, thoughtful questions were asked and answered. (HS student at "The Great Marriage Debate" workshop)

This was superb! The best activity/workshop [in which] I've participated in 3 years at Healing the Hurt. (Teacher, GSA advisor at the roundtable discussion of "Coming Out: When, How, Where")

Wide-ranging and expressive; great to hear young people speaking freely in a supportive environment. (College student/youth worker at the open discussion about LGBT issues)

Save the Date—Monday, November 14, 2005
The 7th Annual Healing the Hurt Conference
at the Westchester County Center, White Plains



NO name-calling week
January 24-28, 2005

This year *No Name-Calling Week* was observed in more than 6,000 schools nationwide from January 24-28, 2005.

Some of our Westchester and Rockland county schools sent reports of how the week went.

In **Yonkers**, Middle School students attended mini workshops during their English classes that helped them to understand the negative effects of bullying and name-calling. Members of the Yonkers High School Gay Straight Alliance conducted the workshops. The students also gave out lollipops with inspirational quotes and statistics that called attention to the hurt caused by name-calling and hate language.

At the **Highlands Campus of White Plains Middle School**, the week kicked off with a Poster Contest advertised on the morning announcements along with inspirational quotes. A different quote was delivered each morning to encourage the students to end name-calling. The Student Organization sponsored the events for the week and judged the Poster Contest. Teachers on the 7th and 8th grade levels received copies of lessons aimed at increasing student awareness. The lessons fit easily into the curriculum. On the 6th grade level, students did a variety of activities throughout the week to set the stage for the assembly on Friday during which they viewed the No Name-Calling Video. Afterwards, students moved into breakout groups to discuss the issues raised during the week and to strategize on how to use the information to make the school a safer place for everyone.

At **Chestnut Ridge Middle School** there were many activities with some still to come. There was a Poster Contest, and every teacher in the school taught lessons with their students on a rotating schedule. Announcements were made every morning to stress the importance of ending name-calling and bullying. All students in the 7th grade read *The Misfits* by James Howe; the author visited the school on February 28th for an assembly.

Peter Gouveia, a teacher at **Rye Middle School**, reported that posters and morning announcements increased students' awareness of the week. Students were asked to wear red on Wednesday to bring attention to the issue of "No Name-Calling." Guidance counselors spoke to the students about "No Name-Calling" and showed students part of a Dr. Phil show in which students (and their families) struggled with name calling in their schools — very powerful. Rye students also participate in an advisory program, and some advisors created posters about the week and discussed with the students issues about bullying.



From My Desk

GLSEN Hudson Valley is alive and doing very well, thanks to our many of you reading this newsletter. On behalf of our sub-chapter and our steering committees, I want to thank all of you who have and who continue to support us financially. I also want to thank all of the volunteers who give of their valuable time and expertise to move us forward.

I'm pleased to tell you that our chapter has been collaborating with numerous organizations over the past year, including the Mental Health Association of Westchester. The national MHA produced a wonderful resource, "What Does Gay Mean?" and, together, we and the local association have presented workshops at BOCES, the local PTA conference, and The Guidance Expo. We will also provide a workshop, under their auspices, at a conference focusing on suicide prevention. Of course, we continue our work together with Westchester Jewish Community Services' Center Lane, the youth support program in White Plains, Westchester PFLAG and the Westchester County's liaison to the LGBT community, who recently founded their Speakers Bureau, of which we are a part. Next fall, we will begin a new relationship with a local Planned Parenthood by presenting a workshop at their conference. The other exciting news for our chapter is our full-day speakers training on Saturday, March 19th, called The Lunchbox 2 Training. Anyone who is interested in being a speaker and advocating for LGBT youth should consider attending. We welcome anyone, LGBT or straight, young, old, or in-between! See below for more information and to register.

Mary Jane Karger

GLSEN'S NEW LUNCHBOX 2 - TRAINING DAY SET FOR MARCH 19

GLSEN Hudson Valley will host a **Lunchbox Training Session** -- open to adults as well as students -- on Saturday, March 19 in White Plains. Participants will engage in a variety of activities from the new Lunchbox 2. Our goal is to help those of you who might want to become speakers for GLSEN Hudson Valley or other LGBT organizations, learn techniques and gather materials to be able to present meaningful workshops / presentations to students, school staff and community groups. The expert trainers will be from GLSEN's national office.

The **GLSEN Lunchbox** is a tool kit for educators and community members - a comprehensive program providing users with the background knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to make

schools safer and more affirming places for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) students. Newly revised and expanded, the kit contains over 40 training exercise cards, a binder with 140 pages of handouts/resources, a video with nine excerpts from GLSEN, Human Relations Media and Women's Educational Media, 25 GLSEN Safe Space stickers, and a GLSEN highlighter and photo holder. For details and to place an order, visit the educators' section at www.glsen.org. Price: \$129.95

The local March 19 training session will be in the very comfortable Fireside Room of the Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave., White Plains, NY. The church has a big parking lot and is convenient to bus and train transportation.



The date is Saturday, March 19, 2005 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The cost is just \$10. **Late registrations will be accepted but please call or e-mail today!**

Contact GLSEN Hudson Valley for more information: (914) 962-7888 or e-mail us: westchester@glsenhudsonvalley.org.

BENEFIT PARTY SATURDAY MAY 21

Save the date! You're invited to celebrate with Chapter members, families, and friends. There will be good food, drink, and lots of conversation— from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Mt. Kisco Presbyterian Church. A buffet supper will be served.



We'll also present 2005 Leadership Awards to students and adults whose work on behalf of GLBT youth has been notable. Nominations for this award are now being accepted. Please use the nomination form in this newsletter. The deadline is April 15.

This year's party will see the return of the popular Gift Raffle. The gifts are fabulous! The benefit committee is still searching for special gift items, so contact us if you'd like to contribute something. Raffle tickets will be mailed with the invitations and will also be available during the party. Watch for your invitation in the mail.

ELECTION RESULTS

Pursuant to Chapter By-laws §3.1.2, GLSEN Hudson Valley members voted in the fall to elect the Chapter Board of Directors for 2004-2005:

Co-chairpersons: Westchester: **Mary Jane Karger**; Orange: **Jan Whitman**; Ulster: **Rob Conlon** and **Melissa Servant**; Rockland: **Mimi Goodman**, **Diane Gonzales**, **Diane Schneider**, and **Susan Solar**.

At-large (Westchester): **Ori Cruz**, **Carleen Gilot**, **Linda Prendergast**, **Jill Schneider**, **Bev Weiner**, and **Michael Witsch**.

Congratulations and a big THANK-YOU to these activists, who volunteer their time and talent to manage the affairs and lead the activities of the chapter. GLSEN Hudson Valley welcomes nominations -- adults or students -- to our Board; please contact the chairperson in your county.

FILM REVIEW by Linda Prendergast

“**LET'S GET REAL**”: video and curriculum guide.
Lessons and Activities to Address Name-Calling and Bullying

The video can be viewed straight through (35:28 minutes) or in segments ranging from five to six minutes for each story.

Target Audience: middle/junior high school
Available (at no cost): GLSEN Hudson Valley Library

From the folks who brought us **IT'S ELEMENTARY** and **THAT'S A FAMILY**, this curriculum package is another success for Debra Chasnoff et. al.

Name calling and bullying are evident in ALL of our schools. We know these issues need our attention, and yet we don't always know how to begin a conversation in our classrooms, youth groups, and community organizations. Here is a tool to help us do just that.

When the filmmakers asked young people to tell them why “they were singled out or targeted for harassment, issues such as race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, body size and immigration status, among others, came to the forefront.” The students said “these issues are rarely, if ever, discussed in an honest way as part of the curriculum.” The young people in the film are not actors; they are speaking in their own voices on these issues.

The curriculum guide is a rich resource enabling the teacher/facilitator to engage the students in a meaningful dialogue - to develop empathy, to name the feelings, and to recognize that each of us has probably been a target, a bully and/or a bystander. The ultimate goal is to develop strategies for change – for each individual to be part of the solution rather than part of the problem.

This film is one of the 1,000+ items available from GLSEN Hudson Valley. Linda Prendergast is a longtime health educator (just retired) in the Scarsdale Public Schools. - Ed.

What is the Day of Silence?

Day of Silence, a project of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) in collaboration with the United States Student Association (USSA), is a student-led day of action where those who support making anti-LGBT bias unacceptable in schools take a day-long vow of silence to recognize and protest the discrimination and harassment -- in effect, the silencing -- experienced by LGBT students and their allies.

Who started the Day of Silence?

In 1996, students at the University of Virginia organized the first Day of Silence with over 150 students participating. In 1997, organizers took their effort national and nearly 100 colleges and universities participated. In 2001, GLSEN became the official organizational sponsor with new funding, staff and volunteers.

Has the Day of Silence Project been successful?

In 2002, the Day of Silence became the largest one-day student-led grassroots action on LGBT rights in American history. Since then, the event has grown from 150,000 student participants to an estimated 400,000 students in 2004. GLSEN spokespeople have appeared on national media outlets including CNN and NPR, with extensive local media coverage from coast to coast.

Why do we need a Day of Silence?

GLSEN's 2003 National School Climate Survey found that more than 4 out of 5 LGBT students report verbal, sexual or physical harassment at school and 29% report missing at least a day of school in the past month out of fear for their personal safety. The Day of Silence helps bring us closer to making anti-LGBT bullying, harassment and name-calling unacceptable in America's schools.

Does the work end after the day is over?

The Day of Silence is one element of a larger effort to create safe schools for all LGBT students. Many communities, in addition to supporting the Day of Silence, host Breaking The Silence events, rallies, legislative lobby days, performances and more – both on the Day of Silence and all-year round. We are also asking our national leaders to support policies that create safe schools for all. Many communities are asking their local and state leaders to support and implement similar policies.

How do I get started?

Visit www.dayofsilence.org for an organizing manual and information. You should start to plan the event at the beginning of the spring semester. First, you should build a team of people who are passionate about the cause. You may want to organize through an established school group such as a gay-straight alliance (GSA), Amnesty International Club or other student club. Once you build a team, the next step is to create an Action Plan.

What is an Action Plan?

An Action Plan is a way to organize your tasks into a timeline that you can follow to achieve your goals. The Action Plan should address what will get done, when it will get done and who will be responsible for doing it.

What “tasks” do you recommend be part of the Action Plan?

There are many elements to keep in mind: goals and objectives, timelines, committing people to help with planning, reserving space for your day's events, fundraising for resources and guest speakers and exploring procedures for publicity. A more detailed explanation of these tasks and how to go about accomplishing them can be found on our websites at www.dayofsilence.org and www.glsen.org.

Visit the website for more information on getting started.—Ed.

CHAPTER ROUNDUP

Ulster News by Rob Conlon, Co-Chair

GLSEN-Ulster held our first GSA network meeting at Walkill High School -- some 20 students attended. The GSA Network meetings in our county will rotate through different school districts in order to allow for more attendance. We were very excited that students and teachers from Highland, New Paltz and Walkill attended *Healing the Hurt*. A representative from the Kingston City School Board also attended.

One of our goals this school year has been to raise the community's awareness of GLSEN and LGBT youth issues. To that end GLSEN-Ulster has reached out to a number of school districts to offer support and technical assistance. We will be offering workshops to faculty and staff of Roundout High School during an upcoming Superintendent's Conference day and we have met with administration, staff, parents and Board Members from the Kingston School District to explore ways GLSEN can assist them.

We are also excited that a number of area schools will be participating in the upcoming *Day of Silence*, including Kingston High School, the biggest in the county. And Highland Middle School will be observing *No Name-Calling Week* in March (instead of Jan. 24-28) due to a conflict with exams.

GLSEN-Ulster hopes to hold a wine & cheese gathering in the spring to further raise awareness, volunteerism and funds for Ulster based projects.

Dear Editor,

I want to commend the Daily Freeman for its November 28th article highlighting the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered ("GLBT") members of the Hudson Valley community. I was especially pleased by the article's focus on GLBT youth. The average age that individuals come Out of the Closet has dropped significantly over the last ten years. It is more and more the case that the coming Out process is happening in the hallways and classrooms of our community's schools.

As Co-Chair of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network ("GLSEN") here in Ulster County, I would be remiss if I did not offer GLSEN's help in addressing some of the issues facing GLBT youth and schools today. GLSEN's mission is to make schools and communities safe for everyone, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity. We work throughout the Hudson Valley in Ulster, Orange, Rockland, Westchester and Dutchess counties providing support to Gay-Straight Alliances; conducting in-school workshops and community education forums on GLBT issues; connecting students, teachers and parents to needed support; and providing educational resources through our large lending library of books and videos. I urge anyone who works with GLBT youth or seeks to develop school climates where difference is valued for the positive contribution it makes in creating a more vibrant and diverse community to visit GLSEN-Hudson Valley's website at www.glsenhudsonvalley.org to find the GLSEN representative in their county.

Thank you again for highlighting some of the many contributions that GLBT people make to the community everyday.

- Sincerely, Rob Conlon, Milton, NY

Orange News by Jan Whitman, Co-chair

Meetings are held at the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley, 195 Hudson St., Cornwall-on-Hudson. For a schedule of meetings and planned events, please contact me—845-534-5344. E-mail orange@glsen.org or write to GLSEN Hudson Valley—Orange, P.O. Box 7034, Newburgh, NY 12550.

CHAPTER ROUNDUP

Rockland News by Diane Schneider and Diane Gonzales. Co-Chairs

The Rockland County subchapter of GLSEN is growing by leaps and bounds. We enjoy representation from schools at all levels as well as representatives from CANDLE, the Community Awareness Network for a Drug-Free Life and Environment.

We have composed a letter to the principals of the schools in Rockland County, as our first task is to educate teachers about making their schools safe. We did a bit of peer education for *No Name-Calling Week*. The entire population of Chestnut Ridge Middle School read The Misfits and related it to bullying. GSA members from Ramapo High School and Nyack, who were trained to teach these students about this topic, did so during the week of Feb 1. (Local exam schedules conflicted with the national week Jan. 24-28.) GSA members said it was well worth the work because the middle school students really listened to them. They were impressed by the positive feedback they received from the seventh graders.

For information about GLSEN Rockland, please contact Diane Schneider at 845-548-3578.

GLSEN Leaders Active at CANDLE Conference

The co-chairs of GLSEN Rockland were a part of the seventh annual youth empowerment weekend retreat that CANDLE organized for high school students at the Stony Point Conference Center in early January. I was an advisor to three students and presented a workshop, "Peer Education: Bullies not Welcome Here". I designed it to help students make better presentations to other students at neighboring schools. Diane Schneider presented a workshop too, "The Boat Activity-Drowning in Prejudice." She was at the conference as an advisor to two students from Ramapo high school.

- Diane Gonzales, Co-Chair

Mimi Goodman and Susan Solar also attended and brought students from Clarkstown South HS. Mimi and Susan presented a workshop, "How To Respond to Hate in the Hallway." We talked about the barriers that exist within us, that sometimes make it hard for us to respond when we hear a hate-filled/homophobic comment; that young people especially find it hard to respond when it is an adult making the comment, including their parents. We talked about how one feels when they fail to respond. We presented several scenarios: (a) straight student who is an ally, and boss makes a homophobic comment, (b) being with group of friends who say oh that's so gay, and (c) student or teacher walking in hallway overhears comments from one student to another. We discussed the importance of addressing hate-filled comments every time, either publicly or privately depending on the situation. Response can range from "Don't say that!" or "Cut it out!" or "This is not acceptable!"...to a more lengthy discussion of prejudice.

- Mimi Goodman, Co-chair

Westchester News

We've listed our events calendar-style, since they're described elsewhere in this newsletter.



January 24-28 - National *No Name-Calling Week*

March 19 - *Lunchbox 2* Training - White Plains

April 13 - National *Day of Silence and Breaking the Silence* - White Plains

May 21 - GLSEN Benefit Party and 2005 Leadership Awards

PFLAG REPORT: GAY STUDENTS “LEFT BEHIND”

Gay students in the nation's public schools face a severe lack of support when it comes to gay-inclusive services, training, and policies, a recent report reveals. The gay advocacy group Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays released the National Schools Assessment on January 7th. Unlike other assessments that evaluate the school climate--that is, how safe or unsafe students feel--the PFLAG assessment evaluated the education system's response to the needs of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender students by measuring the existence and implementation of policies to protect GLBT students and resources to support them.

"Our findings help explain why so many people still hold on to damaging old fictions and profound misunderstandings about our GLBT family members and friends," said Ron Schlittler, PFLAG's executive director. "Misinformation goes unchallenged because accurate information is virtually banned in our schools."

While the assessment indicated a growing awareness of GLBT safe-schools issues, results also showed critical deficiencies in support of GLBT youths. Some important findings include:

- (1) 95% of school counseling services had little or no gay, lesbian, or bisexual resources;
- (2) 99% of school counseling services had little or no transgender resources;
- (3) 70% had no training for educators or staff on how to stop GLBT bullying;
- (4) 92% had no training for students on how to stop GLBT bullying;
- (5) 84% had little or no resources for parents about GLBT issues;
- (6) 59% did not include gay, lesbian, or bisexual students in their harassment or nondiscrimination policies; and
- (7) 75% did not include gender identity or expression in their harassment or nondiscrimination policies.

Schlittler also commended students for their promotion of safe schools. "There are encouraging signs. Nearly 39% of respondents reported the existence of support groups for gay and straight students that address the needs of GLBT students. PFLAG regularly receives requests for help from students trying to start gay-straight alliances in their schools. Sadly, however, these students are often the only members of school communities pressing for avenues to acknowledge and address their needs."

This is an abridged version of PFLAG's press release and is reprinted with permission. Visit www.pflag.org and choose "news" for the full story, including links to the complete report. - Ed.

Unfortunately, too few pre-registrations forced the cancellation of **First Person – A Creative Expression Weekend**, October 29 -31 2004 at Camp Mariah in Fishkill, NY. Last year a wonderful group of GLBT and straight youth attended. According to organizer and creator, Alan Horowitz, the arts are a unique vehicle for telling stories in the first person, powerful expressions of feelings and experiences. The weekend, he explained, aimed to explore social justice issues through storytelling, multimedia arts activities, and team-building games.



GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCE NEWS

Rye High School's SAGA (Straight And Gay Alliance) has 10 active members. They began the school year by celebrating National Coming Out Day (October), wearing t-shirts proclaiming pride at being out LGBT Students or allies. Organizing and inter-club business has occupied the past few months. Right now, SAGA is planning to sell t-shirts -- "gay? fine by me." (www.gayfinebyme.org), to psych-up the school and greater community for the National Day of Silence. Also in the works, according to SAGA reporter **Donny Nordlicht**, are gay-themed poster campaigns, discussion groups à la Center Lane, and other preparations -- all aimed to get more people to participate this year in the Day of Silence on April 13. The club plans to observe Pride Month in June.

The Gay/Straight Alliance at Yonkers High School has held many fundraisers, including bake sales and raffles. 30 members meet every Tuesday after school. They put together a workshop for No Name-Calling Week [Jan. 24-28] and are now working on plenty of stuff for Day of Silence, says reporter **Davon Chance**. In the spring, they'll bring to the school "Between the Scams," monologues telling the real-life stories of teens with HIV/AIDS. They're also planning a workshop for high school teachers about GLBT issues. And they're organizing a Battle of the Bands fundraiser!

The GSA at Hastings High School won approval for joint middle school - high school GSA meetings. At the first get-together on February 1, the middle school students wanted to explore ways to relate GLBT issues to their school. The group also brainstormed ideas for future meetings. "We're all very excited!" says reporter **Sonya Rifkin**. The GSA is planning a re-vamped Day of Silence this year, and activities will include articles, Guerilla Theater, and discussion groups. The GSA expects a "massive turnout" of participants and supporters.

GLSEN will publish more reports from school GSAs in our fall newsletter. Please email your name and contact information -- along with some news, to glsen@aol.com. - Ed.

LGBT THEATER RESOURCES

Danny Zaccagnino performed "Condemned in the Classroom" for Long Island's *Pride for Youth* and will be part of Connecticut's *True Colors* conference in March this year. "Condemned in the Classroom" is a powerful one-man show about LGBT youth and teachers. A recent graduate of SUNY-Purchase, he has performed to rave reviews in area high schools and at last year's *Breaking the Silence*. Contact him via e-mail: **sinistr33@aol.com** By the way, he'll also be featured in the April 2005 YGA magazine (Young Gay America), a new bimonthly that gives a "print voice" to LGBT youth. Congratulations, Danny!

In May 2004, GLSEN Connecticut sponsored a performance of the play "**Building Houses on the Moon...LGBT Youth on the Frontier of Inclusion**" at Yale University for an audience of educators, student leaders and the public. The touring production is presented by Houses on the Moon, Inc. a professional theater company based in New York City. GLSEN Connecticut Co-chair **Leif Mitchell** thinks this is a wonderful tool to use in your efforts to make your campuses safer and more inclusive places for LGBT youth and staff. The play, by Emmy-nominated writer **Jeffrey Solomon**, is a collection of dramatic vignettes inspired by the real experiences of LGBT youth and staff. The audience in attendance at the event found the play to be entertaining, truthful and incredibly moving. Most importantly it sparked a lively post-show discussion that created awareness and increased sensitivity to LGBT youth issues and homophobia. You can read about the show and contact the theater company through their website at <http://www.housesonthemoon.org>, or call them at 646-228-2292.

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS...IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

A longer list of scholarship opportunities for LGBT youth was e-mailed to GLSEN members last year. We thought it timely and helpful to publish some of it here. Don't forget to check out opportunities locally! Good Luck to those who apply and please let us know if you receive any scholarships, so we can recognize you in our newsletter. -Ed.

Local Scholarships

Many community and civic organizations award scholarships. GSA members might very well qualify for their commitment to justice, tolerance and understanding. They may be rewarded for leadership, volunteerism, and community involvement. Students and parents should contact high school counselors and college financial aid offices.

General Scholarships

The Astraea Lesbian Action Foundation <http://www.astraea.org/grants/index.htm>

The International Fund for Sexual Minorities The Lesbian Writers Fund The Margot Karle Scholarship

Fund for Lesbian and Gay Scholarships (FLAGS)

This fund provides financial assistance to gay, lesbian and bisexual students involved in the community. The scholarship amount varies and depends on financial need. The fund's Youth Project Scholarship Program also awards grants to tenth and eleventh graders who plan to pursue postsecondary education. The scholarship is awarded based on financial need, academic achievement and school or community involvement. For more information about either of these programs or an application, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to **Whitman-Brooks The Scholarship Fund PO Box 48320 Los Angeles, CA 90048-0320 Phone: 1-213-650-5752**

The LEAGUE at AT&T Foundation <http://www.LEAGUE-att.org/foundation>

The LEAGUE at AT&T Foundation Scholarship, Matthew Shepard Memorial Scholarship, Ed Chilcott Memorial Scholarship

Lee Dubin Scholarship Fund <http://www.colage.org/kids/scholarship.html>

COLAGE (Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere) and the Family Pride Coalition will be awarding at least four scholarships to daughters and sons of LGBT parents through their collaborative Lee Dubin Scholarship Fund. Each scholarship will provide up to \$1000 of funding for postsecondary students who have a demonstrated ability in and commitment to affecting change in the LGBT community. We especially encourage students working to combat homophobia and increase positive awareness of lgbt families to apply. We also strongly encourage individuals with demonstrated financial need to apply. **COLAGE Scholarship Committee 3543 18th St, #1 San Francisco, CA 94110**

Transgender Scholarship and Education Legacy Fund <http://www.tself.org/>

The International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE), will be awarding numerous scholarships to transgender identified students in the helping and caring professions through it's collaborative Transgender Scholarship and Education Legacy Fund (TSELF) in the United States and Canada. Each scholarship will provide supplemental funding for post-secondary students who have a demonstrated ability in and commitment to affecting change in the transgender communities through their commitment to working and being educated in the helping and caring professions. For more information, contact: **International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) TSELF Awards Committee P.O. Box 540229 Waltham, MA 02454-0229 Telephone: (781) 899-2212 Fax: (781) 899-2212**

An Uncommon Legacy Foundation, Inc. <http://www.uncommonlegacy.org/>

This program provides awards for projects that address lesbian social, cultural and educational needs. Consideration will be given to academic performance, honors, personal or financial hardship and especially service to the lesbian/gay community. The scholarship amount is \$1,000. The deadline is May 1. Applications in PDF and text formats and additional information may be found on the Uncommon Legacy Foundation web site. For more information, contact: **Scholarship Committee An Uncommon Legacy Foundation, Inc. 150 West 26th Street, Suite 503 New York, NY 10001 Phone: 1-212-366-6507**

Regional Scholarships

NYNEX Diversity Scholarship Awards (New York)

These awards help finance higher education for students from diverse cultural, ethnic, educational and special need backgrounds. To be eligible, the candidate must reside in NYNEX service territory. The scholarship amount is \$2,500. For more information, call **1-800-537-4180**.

The 2005 LEADERSHIP AWARD Nominees Are....

GLSEN-Hudson Valley needs your help to identify people - young and old, in our area who have done outstanding work supporting LGBT youth. We invite you to submit a nomination(s) and tell us about the great work being done. Our **2005 Leadership Awards** will be presented during our annual Benefit in May.

Fill out the nomination form and attach specifics on how the nominee has worked to change the community or school on behalf of LGBT youth. If you are nominating yourself, please include at least one letter of recommendation.

GLSEN 2005 LEADERSHIP AWARD NOMINATION FORM

NOMINEE: _____
Address _____
Telephone _____
Email _____



PLEASE INDICATE: STUDENT EDUCATOR OTHER _____

PLEASE ATTACH AN EXPLANATION OF WHY THIS NOMINEE SHOULD RECEIVE A GLSEN HUDSON VALLEY LEADERSHIP AWARD.

NOMINATED BY: _____
Address _____
Telephone _____
Email _____

MAIL TO: GLSEN-HUDSON VALLEY, PO BOX 604, YORKTOWN HEIGHTS, NY 10598

NOMINATION DEADLINE: April 15, 2005

PLEASE DIRECT QUESTIONS TO ROB CONLON AT ROBOTHY@HOTMAIL.COM or 914-948-7582.

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