

# WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS :: DEC. 11 - 17, 2005

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Message from the Director
2. Pride Agenda Town Hall Meeting
3. Open House at the LGBT Resource Center for Faculty and Staff
4. Final Meeting: Open Doors
5. Community Wide Dialogues
6. Calling All Holiday Angels
7. Student Rights are Human Rights
8. Survivors' Art: The Art of Caring
9. Transgender Identity Development Study
10. New York Same Sex Marriage Ruling Overturned

\* \* \* \* \*

## LGBT RESOURCE CENTER NEWS

### **1. Message from the Director**

I write to inform you that Andrew Augeri has submitted his resignation letter from his position at the LGBT Resource Center. I tried not accepting it, but that apparently only happens in the movies.

Seriously, this is bittersweet. Andrew has done so much for the LGBT Resource Center and LGBT community at SU and SUNY-ESF. He has been our friend, the go-to person, the founder of Café Q, and, of course, the master of communications. He will be sorely missed. He has determined that now is the best time for him to strike out on new ventures. And I wholeheartedly support him in following his vision and life goals.

We are still in the process of determining exactly when his last day will be, but it will likely be the end of December or early January. A farewell party will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 20 at the LGBT Resource Center from 2-4 pm.

A process to fill this position will begin as soon as possible.

- Adrea Jaehnig

### **2. Pride Agenda Town Hall Meeting**

Tonight, Monday, Dec. 12 at 6:30 pm, is the Pride Agenda's Town Hall Meeting. The SU LGBT Resource Center is one of the co-sponsors.

The evening's theme is "Securing Legislation To Protect Transgender New Yorkers." Coordinated by the New York State GENDA Coalition and the Rainbow Alliance of Central New York, participants will:

- Learn effective community outreach strategies,
- Learn how to lobby your local and state legislators,

- Discuss why legislation to protect transgender and gender variant New Yorkers is good for everyone.

Rob Pusch from Project Advance at SU will be one of the speakers, along with Melissa Clark and Ethan Thomas Young. Ross Levi from the Pride Agenda will also be presenting.

The event takes place at the First Unitarian Universalist Church at 250 Waring Road.

This is a busy time of year, but please try to attend to learn more about, and show your support for, transgender inclusive laws including GENDA, the "Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act" (A. 7438/S.4794).

Questions? Contact:

Adrea Jaehnig, 443.3983, [aljaehni@syr.edu](mailto:aljaehni@syr.edu)

### **3. Open House at the LGBT Resource Center for Faculty and Staff**

On Monday, Dec. 19 from 3:30 - 5 pm, stop in to the LGBT Resource Center for some holiday cheer, warm beverages, and to meet and greet other LGBT faculty and staff. Also find out what's in store for LGBT faculty and staff over the break and during the spring semester! Those interested will go out to dinner afterward.

Questions? Contact:

Adrea Jaehnig, 443.3982, [aljaehni@syr.edu](mailto:aljaehni@syr.edu)

## **LGBT CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS**

### **4. Final Meeting: Open Doors**

Please come to the End-of-Semester Potluck Party on Tuesday, Dec. 13. This will be the last time Open Doors meets for this semester. Come for food and fun before you leave Syracuse.

Chinki Sinha and Chinelo Onwualu will host the potluck at their house at 115 Comstock Ave., Apt. 9. The place is near the intersection of Madison and Comstock. The party starts at 7 pm. If you need a ride, please call Varut ahead of time.

It is also a totally fabulous idea to let Varut know what you want to cook/bring. We don't want to end up with everyone bringing similar food. To give you ideas, here's what some people signed up for:

Chinki – Indian chicken

Chinelo – Stew

Roger – Stuffed cabbage

Varut – Thai red curry chicken

Dan – Cheese and crackers

Jay – Jay's super-delicious cake

Questions? Contact:

Varut Kosolbhand, 729.8451

## **SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY NEWS**

### **5. Community Wide Dialogues**

Do you want to...

- Enhance your cultural awareness to help you better serve customers and communicate with fellow employee?
- Enrich your life and understanding of different cultures, and make connections with new people in a safe environment?
- Come share your stories, hear others' stories, and grow together?

Joining a Dialogue Circle...they can help you achieve these goals!

CWD helps the Central New York community build trust and increase understanding necessary for finding common ground, developing relationships across racial divides, and working together towards action. The program provides a safe and effective process for participants to talk about and work on issues of racism and race relations with people from different backgrounds.

The Model for Dialogue

A racially mixed group of 10-14 people will meet in Dialogue Circles for at least 6 sessions, once a week for 2 hours each session. Two Dialogue Leaders will help the group work toward a productive discussion.

The circles help people work together to discuss important issues and encourage people to take action as individuals and as a community. There is no authority, and people are all equally important to the success of the dialogue.

Below are dates that the Community Wide Dialogue has available for adults who want to join a forming Dialogue Circle. If anyone is interested, please call Marissa Williams at 449-3552, ext 119 to sign up.

1. January 11, 18, 25, and February 1, 8, 15 – Wednesdays from 11 am-1 pm at Southwest Community Center, 401 South Avenue.
2. January 13, 20, 27, and February 3, 10, 17 – Fridays from 4-6 pm at the American Red Cross, 220 Herald Place.
3. January 23, 30, and February 6, 13, 27, and March 6 – Mondays from 7-9 pm at American Friends Service Committee 2013 E. Genesee Street.

Questions? Want to join:  
449.3552 ext.119, [www.irccny.org](http://www.irccny.org)

## **REGIONAL NEWS**

### **6. Calling All Holiday Angels**

AIDS Community Resources, which serves people in nine counties of the Central, Mohawk Valley, and Northern New York areas, is in need of individuals, families, and

groups willing to sponsor individuals or families for the holidays. The needs are basic (clothing, winter clothing, blankets, gas cards, or personal care items).

Currently, ACR is short 60 holiday angels. If you have the means and would like to help a needy family or individual living with HIV/AIDS, please contact Wil Murtaugh.

Questions? Contact:

Wil Murtaugh, 475.2430, [events@aidscommunityresources.com](mailto:events@aidscommunityresources.com)

### **7. Student Rights are Human Rights**

Under No Child Left Behind, military recruiters can easily obtain students' personal information and use it to assess and contact potential recruits. On Dec. 14 at 7 pm at the Syracuse City School District (SCSD) Headquarters (725 Harrison), the SCSD School Board will be voting on a new policy allowing high school juniors and seniors the right to opt-out of military recruitment. We need you there to urge the Board to advise high schools to implement the policy justly and quickly. This event is sponsored by the Military Alternative Education Project (MAEP).

Questions? Contact:

Candace, 472-5478

### **8. Survivors' Art: The Art of Caring**

The Art of Caring is an exhibit of images by survivors of domestic and sexual violence presented at the Delavan Art Gallery located at 501 West Fayette Street from Dec. 1-24.

Questions? Contact:

Crystal LaPoint, 425.0818, [clapoint@verahouse.org](mailto:clapoint@verahouse.org)

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **9. Transgender Identity Development Study**

Your help is needed for the first national study of the wide range of transgender identities (including transsexuals, cross-dressers, genderqueers, and other gender-diverse people). To complete the survey, to go: <https://web.survey.psu.edu/transgender>.

The survey is anonymous. No personal identifying information is asked, and all responses are submitted to a secure server where any computer identification is deleted from the submissions.

The research is being conducted by Dr. Sue Rankin of Penn State University and Dr. Brett Genny Beemyn of Ohio State University, and has been approved by the Institutional Review Boards of both colleges.

Questions? Contact:

Dr. Brett Genny Beemyn, [beemyn.1@osu.edu](mailto:beemyn.1@osu.edu), osuglbt (AIM)

## **10. New York Same Sex Marriage Ruling Overturned**

(*Lambda Legal*) The New York Appellate Division, First Department (a mid-level court in the state) overturned a lower court ruling on Thursday, Dec. 8 that had found that barring same-sex couples from marriage violates the state's constitution.

"While we believe the trial court got it right, we anticipated that this case would be heard before the state's high court," said Susan Sommer, Senior Counsel at Lambda Legal and lead attorney on the case. "This is a question of basic constitutional rights for same-sex couples and their families, and history shows that fairness under the law will eventually prevail."

Today's decision from the Appellate Division, First Department says limiting marriage to people of different sexes is not unconstitutional. It reverses the lower court ruling handed down in February 2005 that found that barring same-sex couples from marriage violates the state's constitution.

A dissenting opinion by Justice Saxe says that denying the rights and benefits of marriage to New York State's gay and lesbian "residents is contrary to the basic principles underlying our constitution, our legal system and our concepts of liberty and justice, and perpetuates a deeply ingrained form of legalized discrimination."

Lambda Legal filed *Hernandez v. Robles* in March 2004 seeking marriage licenses for same-sex couples in New York, arguing that denying them marriage violates the state constitution's guarantees of equality, liberty, and privacy for all New Yorkers. The trial court issued its ruling in Lambda Legal's favor in February 2005, and New York City decided to appeal. The mid-level appeals court heard oral arguments in September and handed down its decision today. Lambda Legal will now appeal today's decision to the New York Court of Appeals (the state's highest court).

In addition to *Hernandez v. Robles*, Lambda Legal has filed similar cases seeking marriage for same-sex couples in California, Washington and New Jersey. A decision from the Washington Supreme Court in the *Andersen v. King County* case is imminent.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **TO SUBMIT A NEWS OR CALENDAR ITEM**

Send articles, messages, or links to the *Weekly Announcements* editor at [jmtifone@syr.edu](mailto:jmtifone@syr.edu). Please include in the subject line "Weekly Announcement." All submissions must be received by Friday at 11 am to be included in the following week's edition and are subject to review by our editor.

### **CORRECTIONS, CLARIFICATIONS**

The LGBT Resource Center strives to report all news items fairly and accurately. If you find an error, please write to the *Weekly Announcements* editor at [jmtifone@syr.edu](mailto:jmtifone@syr.edu) and we'll correct any inaccuracies.

### **DISCLAIMER**

The views expressed in *Weekly Announcements* are those of the submitters and do not reflect the opinion, views, or policies of Syracuse University, the LGBT Resource

Center, or the editor of Weekly Announcements, unless otherwise noted. All readers are permitted to freely distribute the information contained herein.