



PRESENTER BIOS

Rev. Joe Agne

Rev. Joe Agne is the pastor of the Memorial United Methodist Church in White Plains, NY. Rev. Agne is a persistent ally for LGBT causes and has built the Memorial United Methodist Church into a strong welcoming and affirming congregation.

Erica Asher

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Erica is the Youth Counselor for Westchester Jewish Community Services' Center Lane. Erica received a bachelor degree from SUNY Purchase. Previously worked in the White Plains School District as a Teacher's Assistant with Autistic children. She also worked at the White Plains Youth Bureau as the Teen Lounge Coordinator, where she shaped the program to encourage and expand the minds of young people. She has always been passionately dedicated in making a difference in the lives and the communities of young people and to provide a safe welcoming atmosphere to all.

Sara Braun, LCSW

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Ms. Braun is a seasoned Human Services professional with 10+ years experience working with adolescent and pre-adolescent populations. Employed at Westchester Jewish Community Services from 1995 until 2007, she worked in a variety of settings including: middle and high-school counseling centers and an after-school program for LGBT youth. Currently, Ms. Braun is a Social Worker for the Rye Youth Council, working with middle school students. Ms. Braun is also an adjunct professor at Fordham University, teaching courses in Social Justice, and Human Behavior. Ms. Braun was educated at Columbia University School of Social Work.

Jamie Curtis

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Jamie joined PFLAG in May 2003, where she is its Senior Field and Policy Coordinator responsible for working with chapters in the eastern part of the United States. She also works on PFLAG's outreach to communities of faith. Prior to this, Jamie was the Field and Policy Associate helping to manage chapter services. Before coming to PFLAG, Jamie worked with underprivileged youth in Washington, D.C. Jamie graduated from American University with a bachelor's degree in international relations.

David Diamond

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David is a Special Education Supervisor for the Lakeland Central School District and is the adviser for Lakeland and Walter Panas High School Gay-Straight Alliances, as well as the technical director for the theater program. He is a volunteer at Center Lane and has consulted with a number of area schools to start or improve their GSAs. In addition, he has been a co-chair of the Hudson Valley Chapter of GLSEN. Previously, David has also worked for the NYS Education Department as an Associate in Special Education, as well as a number of area public and private schools, both day and residential as a teacher, administrator, and recreation specialist. David has also taught courses at the undergraduate and graduate level at Westchester Community College, Manhattanville College, Long Island University, and Marymount College. He earned a BA in English from Columbia College, and has three Masters Degrees from Columbia University Teachers College.

Eva Dolgin

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Eva Dolgin is the LGBTQ Coordinator at Victims Assistance Services, a component of Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc., a non-profit organization that provides advocacy, support, and clinical services to victims of crime in Westchester County. She is an active member of the NYS LGBTQ Domestic Violence Network. Eva is a facilitator of TRUST, a psycho-educational support group for LGBTQ teens run by CANDLE (Community Awareness Network for a Drug-Free Life and Environment) in Rockland County. Eva is a presenter/facilitator and planner of Queer Spirit Camp, a leadership development program and retreat for LGBTQ young adults (18-24) and allies, developed by and held at Easton Mountain. Eva is currently working on her Masters in Social Work at Fordham University.

Adam Frankel

Adam Frankel came out several years ago to family and friends, and has ever since been an advocate for the LGBT community. He began doing so as a co-founding member of his middle school's GSA and continues to fight for equality and justice for all.

Elena Gaby

Elena is a 16 year old senior at Walter Panas High School. She has been involved with her GSA since she was a freshman and has been a co-president since her sophomore year. In her spare time, she dances Ballet and Jazz, as well as choreographs her school's musicals. Currently, they are working on *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Elena has participated in Equality and Justice Day, has organized Day of Silence and Ally Week activities, and would like to mention how excited she is to be a presenter at PrideWorks for the second time!

Diane Gonzalez

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Diane has been involved, for the past twenty years, in the planning and implementation of various school activities: Teen Scene Program, High School Peer Education- Anti-Bullying Training, Multicultural Club, Year long- No Name Calling Program, CANDLE liaison, Anti-violence- staff development training, Student Character Education Program, Co-Chair School Tone Task Force, Rainforest Club advisor, and Volleyball coach. She is presently a member of National Education Association (NEA's) SOGI committee, NYSUT's CHR committee, and NEA-NY's HCR committee.

Kiwi Grady

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Kiwi is a Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) Chapter Organizing Associate in their national office. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts with a concentration in Gender and Sexuality

Studies, and a Master of Arts in Higher Education Administration, from the Gallatin and Steinhardt schools of New York University respectively. Past activities include founding T-Party, the first transgender college club in New York City, and work for the Gender Project, Outspoken, the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, NewFest: the New York LGBT Film Festival, the Hetrick Martin Institute, New York University's Department of Residential Education, and more.

Scott Hirschfeld

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Scott Hirschfeld is the Director of Curriculum for the Anti-Defamation League, a leading provider of anti-bias and diversity education training programs and resources. Before joining the ADL, Scott was Director of Education for the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN). Prior to his work in the non-profit sector, Scott was a classroom teacher and staff developer in the New York City public school system, during which time he earned an M.S. in Elementary Education and an M.Ed. in Educational Leadership from Bank Street College of Education.

James Howe

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James Howe is the author of over eighty books for young readers, including *The Misfits*, which inspired GLSEN's National No Name-Calling Week, and *Totally Joe*. While these two books feature the character of a gay 12-year-old boy, many of Jim's books — from his popular Pinky and Rex series to picture books such as *I Wish I Were a Butterfly* and *Horace and Morris but Mostly Dolores* — celebrate the acceptance of difference in oneself and others. He is also the author of the popular *Bunnicula* series and the highly acclaimed young-adult novel *The Watcher*, as well as the editor of two collections of short stories for teens: *13* and *The Color of Absence*. Jim has led many workshops for educators and students on writing and such topics as homophobia and name-calling.

Chip James, LCSW, CASAC

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Chip is a school social worker, psychotherapist, and consultant based in Nyack, NY. He is a trainer for CANDLE (Community Awareness Network for a Drug-free Life and Environment), the NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, and the American Psychological Association. Chip lectures extensively to teachers, mental health professionals, and in college and postgraduate professional training programs. He is a facilitator for TRUST, a psycho-educational support group for LGBTQ teenagers, sponsored by CANDLE and the Rockland County Youth Bureau. Chip has been a planner and presenter for the Common Threads Youth Empowerment Project, an annual youth retreat for GLBT students and their allies. He is available for consultation and staff development.

Jason Kane

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Jason earned his Ed.M. with a concentration in School Psychology from Teachers College, Columbia University. He is currently in his ninth year as School Psychologist at Putnam Valley High School and was recently named both the Westchester, Putnam and Rockland chapter and New York State 2008 Practitioner of the Year for of the New York Association of School Psychologists. Jason helped create and is currently the Co-Advisor of the school's Gay Straight Alliance. He is a member of the Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES Regional Crisis Team. He worked for several years with GLSEN Hudson Valley. Jason was a proud recipient of GLSEN Hudson Valley's Leadership Award in the Spring of 2007. He currently resides in the Riverdale, NY with his partner of five years.

Paul Karr

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Paul Karr joined GLAAD in early 2007 as the Director of the Media Field Strategy Program where he oversees a staff of regional strategists working with national, statewide and local LGBT organizations to help plan and coordinate media and communications work. Paul has more than ten years of experience in the economic justice movement as a union organizer, researcher, campaign strategist and communications expert. Most recently Paul was the Communications Director for the Center on Policy Initiatives, a San Diego- based progressive public policy think-tank where he established a communications model being implemented by similar think tanks throughout the country.

Michael Kavey

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Michael Kavey is the Arthur Liman Public Interest Fellow at Lambda Legal, where he advocates for LGBT youth. This includes litigation and other advocacy to protect students' freedom of expression and their right to attend school free of anti-LGBT harassment. In New York, Michael has spearheaded Lambda Legal's defense of student protections under the state Human Rights Law, a law which several school districts have attempted to weaken through litigation.

Michael received a B.A. and a J.D. from Yale University and an M.A. from Middlebury College. After law school, he clerked on the federal trial and appeals courts in Manhattan.

Sheela Lambert

Sheela Lambert is a veteran bisexual and LGBT activist and writes for a number of blogs such as the Huffington Post, The Advocate, AfterEllen, AfterElton, etc. She is a founder or co-founder of a number of bi organizations including the Bi Writers Association, Bi Women of All Colors, Bi Mental Health Professionals Association, the Bisexual Speakers Bureau and more. She edits a blog entitled Bidar, which reports on bisexuality in media, arts and culture. She is a frequent presenter on bisexuality at universities, colleges, conferences, high schools and in-service trainings. A lead activist with transgender activist Pauline Park, she spearheaded the successful inclusion campaigns that led to organizations such as the NYC LGBT Community Center, Heritage of Pride, and the NYC Film Festival changing their names from "Lesbian and Gay" to "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender." She also spearheaded the successful campaign to add bisexual as an award category to the Lammy book awards, for which she now serves as a judge. She edited the forthcoming anthology, *Best Bi Short Stories* and in 1993, produced and hosted the first weekly bi series on television, "Bisexual Network." She is or has been a member of the boards of Heritage of Pride, Queer Nation, Educational Coalition on Lesbian and Gay Youth (ECoLaGY) and the Manhattan Borough President's LGBTQ and Two Spirit Advisory Board.

Eric Marcus

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Eric Marcus is the author of *Breaking the Surface*, the #1 *New York Times* best-selling autobiography of Olympic diving champion Greg Louganis. He is also the author of several other books, including *What If Someone I Know Is Gay?*, *Is It a Choice?*, *Why Suicide?*, and *Making Gay History: The Half-Century Fight for Lesbian & Gay Equal Rights*.

Eric graduated from Vassar College in 1980, where he majored in urban studies. In 1984 he received a master's degree from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. In 2003 he received a master's degree in real estate development from the Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation.

Eric is a former associate producer for ABC's "Good Morning America" and CBS Morning News. He lives with his partner in New York City.

Anthony Marmo

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Anthony has been involved with HIV/AIDS Outreach and Education work for 20 years and has done Sexuality/Community Education for almost five years. Prior to joining Planned Parenthood-Hudson Peconic, Anthony was a special education teacher in NYC schools, where he holds tenure. He also worked for Long Island Gay and Lesbian Youth, educating teens and adults around issues of diversity. He has created programs for young men in the Suffolk County probation system and conducts male involvement workshops. Anthony also does outreach on Smart Wheels, the PPHP mobile education van. He holds a B.A. in Sociology and Dual NYS Certification for Social Studies/Special Education.

Jane Fossner Pashman

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Jane Fossner Pashman is the Assistant Project Director of the A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE® Institute in the New York office of the Anti-Defamation League. She received a B.A. from Northwestern University and has 10 years of experience working in education, beginning her career as a teacher and Teach for America corps member in Oakland, CA. After teaching in Oakland, Jane received a Masters degree from Teachers College, Columbia University, focusing on Peace Education and Conflict Resolution. Since then, she has worked for an international NGO, developing curriculum and resources for teachers on global issues, and lived in Slovakia, where she helped to initiate a program for high school students to work on a collaborative project with students from three other European countries.

Daryl Presgraves—Communication Department, GLSEN National

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Daryl Presgraves has been a part of GLSEN's Communication Department for the past five years and has helped to launch many of its national campaigns, such as Day of Silence.

Carmen Robello

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Carmen Robello is a Nuyorican born and raised in Brooklyn. She has spent the last three decades working on Wall Street. Carmen has always been a strong influence in her son's life. She has been on the PTA and many other groups at both school and in the community. Her son came out to her when he was 12. Since he came out, she has been very active in various LGBT functions to continue her support for her son and to fight homophobia to make a safe world not only for her son but also for other LGBT youth. She is on the board for PFLAG for Families of Color and is affiliated with Latino PFLAG.

Diane Schneider

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Diane is a high school health educator in Spring Valley New York. She is very active with GLSEN in the Rockland County area, where she is its co-chair. She is also proud of the GSA that she advises in her high school. She is an online professor and has been active with the Health Education Leadership Team for NY State. She brings you this workshop as part of her training from the National Education Association's (NEA's) LGBT Trainer of Trainers.