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Andrew J. Spano, Westchester County Executive
County Board of Legislators

Resources

Directory of Resources for the
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender
Community

March 2009

Directory of LGBT Community Resources

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Andrew J. Spano
County Executive

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to release this updated publication which connects you to the various resources available for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, their families and friends.

The new Directory of LGBT Community Resources provides information about organizations, programs and policies in Westchester County and the surrounding area. It is a printed version of our Web site for the LGBT Community, which you can access at www.westchestergov.com/lgbt.htm.

I am proud that Westchester County has shown tremendous leadership in promoting policies and services that help protect LGBT people and their families. This directory is another helpful resource for the LGBT community.

Sincerely,

Andrew J. Spano
County Executive

Westchester County Government Resources

LGBT COMMUNITY LIAISON

(914) 995-5742

ymc1@westchestergov.com

Yvette Christofilis is the County Executive's Liaison to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Community. She serves as a "bridge" between the county government and the LGBT community and ensures that the County does the best job it can of serving the needs of the community. She is also the Director of the Office of LGBT Affairs.

LGBT ADVISORY BOARD

(914) 995-5742

The Westchester County LGBT Citizens' Advisory Board was established to advise the County Executive on issues important to LGBT community. Recommendations from the board may be in the areas of legislation, services, programs, funding or anything else the advisors deem appropriate. The LGBT Advisory Board holds monthly meetings that are open to the public.

DOMESTIC PARTNER REGISTRY

Westchester County Clerk's Office

(914) 995-3070

http://www.westchesterclerk.com/LegalDivision_DomesticPartners.htm

Westchester County offers a Domestic Partner Registry for unmarried couples who would like to have their relationship recognized and documented. Forms are available online and can be submitted in person or through the mail. The fee for registering is \$35.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

(914) 995-7710

www.westchestergov.com/hrc.htm

In Westchester County, it is unlawful to discriminate against individuals based on their sexual orientation or gender in employment, housing, credit and places of public accommodation. The Westchester County Human Rights Commission provides timely and confidential assistance for people who believe they have been victims of discrimination.

Local Community Organizations

CENTER LANE / WESTCHESTER JEWISH COMMUNITY SERVICES

(914) 358-1006
jstewart@wjcs.com
easher@wjcs.com

Center Lane, which is a program of Westchester Jewish Community Services, is Westchester's only community center for LGBT and questioning adolescents that provides a safe haven that fosters a positive sense of self, reduces isolation and addresses high risk behaviors in GLBTQ youth. Services include: support groups; a drop-in center; educational and recreational activities; short term individual, group and family counseling; and community awareness training programs about LGBT issues.

GATEWAY PROGRAM AT WESTCHESTER MEDICAL CENTER

(914) 493-1753
Donna Festa

The Gateway Program is a mental health program serving the LGBT communities of the Hudson Valley. Services include individual, family and group psychotherapy that are provided by Identified Professionals or Professionals who are allies of the LGBT communities. Gateway provides mental health services to the Transgender Community in a safe and accepting environment. Therapists are trained Gender Specialists who work with each individual to reach their own unique potential.

GLSEN (GAY LESBIAN AND STRAIGHT EDUCATION NETWORK) – HUDSON VALLEY CHAPTER

(914) 962-7888
glsenhv@aol.com
<http://www.glsen.org/hudsonvalley>

The Hudson Valley Chapter of GLSEN strives to ensure that each member of every school community—regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity—is valued and respected. services include monthly meetings, conferences and in-service courses for educators.

LAMBDA PEER SUPPORT SERVICES

(914) 514-3220

www.lambapeers.org

Lambda Peer Support Services, Inc. (LPSS), an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization, provides workshops, ongoing and short term discussion groups, and other programming for the LGBTQ community. All activities are conducted by trained facilitators under the supervision of certified clinicians. Through its programs and services, Lambda Peer Support Services strives to foster a sense of community, erase stereotypes about homosexuality and reduce the pain caused by homophobia, discrimination and prejudice.

THE LOFT: THE LESBIAN, GAY BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY CENTER, INC.

(914) 948-4922 – Helpline

(914) 948-2932 – Office

www.loftgaycenter.org

Located in White Plains, The LOFT is a not-for-profit, community-based organization serving the LGBT community of the lower Hudson Valley and working to further the cause for inclusion, diversity and pride through education, advocacy and celebration. The LOFT is home to 20 groups and programs, including Silver Connections, a program for LGBT seniors ages 55+. Founded in 1983, The LOFT provides a safe gathering place for the LGBT and supportive community and advocates for full equality for all LGBT people.

PFLAG (PARENTS, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF LESBIANS, GAYS, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER PERSONS) — WESTCHESTER CHAPTER

(914) 245-8236

info@pflagwestchester.org

www.pflagwestchester.org

PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of LGBT people, their families and their friends through support, education and advocacy. Local monthly meetings and telephone support are available.

THE RAINBOW ALLIANCE OF WESTCHESTER, INC.

(914) 517-1345

allrainbownews@aol.com

www.rainbowall.com

The Rainbow Alliance of Westchester is a non-profit, nonpartisan organization committed to providing the LGBT community with a safe, nurturing, respectful and nonviolent environment that celebrates our cultures and offers support and education for members of the community.

STRAIGHT SPOUSE SUPPORT NETWORK— WESTCHESTER CHAPTER

P.O. Box 261-H, Scarsdale, NY 10583-8761
westchesterny@straightspouse.org
www.straightspouse.org

The Straight Spouse Support Network of Westchester provides support and resources for men and women whose current or former mates are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender. Our mission is to ease trauma, cope constructively with painful issues and nurture the strength to rebuild broken lives.

TRANSGENDER SUPPORT GROUPS

(914) 948-2932
info@loftgaycenter.org

Transgender Support Groups meets monthly at the LOFT for social and support groups for all transgender and gender-variant individuals and their partners.

WESTCHESTER LESBIAN CONNECTION

(914) 517-5455
wlctheplace2b@yahoo.com

The Westchester Lesbian Connection is an organization that promotes events for women in a safe space focusing on social, recreational, educational and theatrical activities. Planning meetings are held once a month where anyone can share their ideas for programs and events.

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY

Make sure you have a safety net of legal documents including wills, health care proxies, adoption, and parenting agreements.

The resources in this booklet can help you be prepared.

Social/Support Groups

AIDS-RELATED COMMUNITY SERVICES (ARCS)

(914) 785-8326
jdewey@arcs.org
www.arcs.org

ARCS is solely dedicated to providing HIV/AIDS services to people in New York's Hudson Valley region. Provides free, confidential testing. Spanish speaking counselors available. For HIV testing, call (914) 345-8888.

CalLEN-LORDE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

(212) 271-7200
www.callen-lorde.org

Callen-Lorde provides complete health care services for LGBT people and people living with HIV/AIDS regardless of ability to pay.

THE LINK

(845) 364-LINK
link4women@yahoo.com

The LINK serves lesbians age 18 and over by holding low-cost social events and other activities in Rockland County.

NYC LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER

(212) 620-7310
www.gaycenter.org

The LGBT Community Center in New York City has grown to be the largest LGBT multi-service organization on the East Coast and second largest LGBT community center in the world. It offers a wide variety of programs and maintains an extensive web listing of NYC resources.

SAGE—SERVICES & ADVOCACY FOR GLBT ELDERS

(212) 741-2247
www.sageusa.org

Incorporated in 1978 as Senior Action in a Gay Environment, SAGE is the nation's oldest and largest social service and advocacy organization dedicated to serving LGBT senior citizens. SAGE has locations in all five boroughs of New York City and SAGE's programs and services for LGBT seniors who will be aging in place in their own communities provide the link they need to a safe and welcoming community.

VCS COMMUNITY CHANGE PROJECT

(845) 634-5729

info@gaypriderockland.org

www.gaypriderockland.org

VCS Community Change Project in Rockland County offers a range of programs and services by and for the LGBT community including counseling, a community education series and Gay Pride Rockland.

Legal Help

LAMBDA LEGAL HELP DESK

(212) 809-8585

www.lambdalegal.org

During Help Desk hours, Lambda Legal staff respond directly to people who are seeking legal information and assistance with sexual orientation-related and HIV/AIDS-related discrimination.

LESBIAN AND GAY IMMIGRATION RIGHTS TASK FORCE

(212) 714-2904

www.lgirtf.org

LGIRTF is a coalition that addresses the impact of discriminatory immigration laws on the lives of those in the LGBT community and immigrants who are living with HIV/AIDS.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR LESBIAN RIGHTS

(415) 392-6257

www.nclrights.org

NCLR is a national legal resource center which primarily focuses on the rights of lesbians and their families. Resources are also provided to gay men, and bisexual and transgendered individuals on key issues. The web site offers downloads of essential legal documents for protecting relationships and establishing parenting arrangements.

SERVICE MEMBERS LEGAL DEFENSE NETWORK

(202) 328-3244

www.sldn.org

SLDN is a national, non-profit legal services, watchdog and policy organization dedicated to ending discrimination against and harassment of military personnel affected by "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and related forms of intolerance. Call (800) 538-7418 for free, confidential legal counseling.

Youth Programs

CANDLE—YOUTH PRIDE—TRIANGLES (YOUNG ADULT)

(845) 634-6677

www.candlerockland.org

A confidential group for young adults (age 18-23) who want to discuss sexual orientation, gender identity and transitioning to adulthood. Meets Wednesdays 6:30-8pm in Rockland County. At the Web site, click on Community-Based Programs and then select Triangles.

CANDLE—YOUTH PRIDE—TRUST (YOUTH)

(845) 634-6677

www.candlerockland.org

A confidential group for high school-aged youth who want to discuss sexual orientation, gender identity and growing up. Meets Tuesdays 6:30-8pm in Rockland County. At the Web site, click on Community-Based Programs and then select TRUST.

TWENTYSOMETHING NYC

contactus@20somethingnyc.com

www.20somethingnyc.com

TwentySomething is a social and support group that provides an alternative to the bar and club scene in NYC for LGBT people in and around their twenties. Activities include regular meetings as well as outings to movies, concerts, plays, restaurants, and coffee nights.

YOUTH ENRICHMENT SERVICES (YES)

(212) 620-7310

www.gaycenter.org/youth/about

A program of the NYC LGBT Community Center, YES offers free and confidential support services, leadership training and social activities to LGBT and questioning young people between the ages of 13 and 21 in a safe, affirming, alcohol and drug-free environment.

OTHER YOUTH RESOURCES:

www.westchestergov.com/pdfs/LGBT_PrideWorksYouthResources2008.pdf

Transgender Resources

NEW YORK TRANSGENDER RIGHTS ORGANIZATION

(914) 428-7247

joannmp@optonline.net

NYTRO works to gain legal protections for transgender people in Westchester County and New York State. In addition, social support and legal assistance are provided for people who are transitioning.

THE GENDER IDENTITY PROJECT

(212) 620-7310

gip@gaycenter.org

www.gaycenter.org/health/gip

A program of the NYC LGBT Community Center, the Gender Identity Project offers individual peer counseling, information and referral, alcohol/tobacco/drug use counseling, HIV/AIDS prevention and intervention services, support groups, forums and community education, and professional education and sensitivity training. All services are free and confidential.

GENDER PUBLIC ADVOCACY COALITION

(202) 462-6610

www.gpac.org

GenderPAC works to end discrimination and violence caused by gender stereotypes by changing public attitudes, educating elected officials and expanding legal rights.

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR GENDER EDUCATION

(781) 899-2212

www.ifge.org

IFGE advocates and educates for promoting the self-definition and free expression of individual gender identity. IFGE maintains an extensive bookstore and publishes a magazine addressing issues about gender identity and expression.

TRANSGENDER LAW AND POLICY INSTITUTE

www.transgenderlaw.org

The TLPI advocates for transgender people by bringing experts and supporters together to work on law and policy initiatives designed to advance transgender equality.

Advocacy for the LGBT Community

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION (ACLU)

(212) 344-3005

www.aclu.org

The ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project coordinates an extensive legal program and conducts a broad range of public policy and public education activities.

EMPIRE STATE PRIDE AGENDA

(212) 627-0305

www.prideagenda.org

The Pride Agenda is New York's statewide lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) civil rights and advocacy organization. Its mission is to win equality and justice for LGBT New Yorkers and their families. Through education, organizing and advocacy programs, alliances are formed between LGBT people and allies in government, communities of faith, labor, the workforce and other social justice movements to achieve equality for LGBT New Yorkers.

FAMILY EQUALITY COUNCIL

(617) 502-8700

<http://www.familyequality.org/index.html>

The Family Equality Council (formerly Family Pride) is the national advocacy organization committed to securing family equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer parents, guardians and allies. Our work consists of strategically linked initiatives—broad in scope, but simple in vision—love, justice, family, equality.

GAY & LESBIAN ALLIANCE AGAINST DEFAMATION (GLAAD)

(212) 629-3322

www.glaad.org

GLAAD is dedicated to promoting and ensuring fair, accurate and inclusive representation of people and events in the media as a means of eliminating homophobia and discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation.

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN (HRC)

(202) 628-4160

www.hrc.org

The Human Rights Campaign provides a national voice on LGBT issues and works to advance equality based on sexual orientation and gender expression and identity. Among the issues HRC deals with are aging, the workplace, parenting and youth and campus activism.

MARRIAGE EQUALITY NEW YORK

(877) 772-0089

www.marriageequalityny.org

The sole mission of Marriage Equality New York is to secure the freedom and rights of same-sex couples to enter into legally recognized civil marriages, having all the federal and state benefits and responsibilities which that entails.

NATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN TASK FORCE

(202) 393-5177 / (212) 604-9830

www.thetaskforce.org

The Task Force builds the grassroots power of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community to win complete equality by training activists and building the organizational capacity of our movement. As part of a broader social justice movement, the Task Force works to create a nation that respects the diversity of human expression and identity and creates opportunity for all.

NATIONAL YOUTH ADVOCACY COALITION

(800) 541-6922

www.nyacyouth.org

NYAC is a social justice organization that advocates for and with young people who are LGBT or questioning to end discrimination against these youth and to ensure their physical and emotional well being.

THE NEW YORK CITY GAY AND LESBIAN ANTI-VIOLENCE PROJECT

(212) 714-1184

(212) 714-1141: 24 hour, bilingual crisis hotline

www.avp.org

AVP serves lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual and HIV-positive victims of violence by providing free and confidential services.

Campus LGBT Groups and Resources

PACE UNIVERSITY—PLEASANTVILLE

Gay/Straight Alliance

SDCA@pace.edu / (914) 773-3767

Pace University's Gay/Straight Alliance can be reached:
c/o SDCA, Kessel Student Center, 861 Bedford Road, Pleasantville, NY 10570.
E-mail: SDCA@pace.edu; Web: www.pace.edu; phone: (914) 773-3767.

PACE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

LAMDBA

Professor Darren Rosenblum, Advisor

drosenblum2@law.pace.edu / (914) 422-4259

LAMBDA Legal is the nation's oldest and largest legal organization working for the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, and people with HIV/AIDS. The mission of the Pace Lambda Law Students Association is: (1) to promote the visibility of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender students at Pace Law School; (2) to serve as a forum to discuss areas of law that affect the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender community; (3) to foster diversity and understanding in the Pace Law School community for all people regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity; (4) to serve as a vehicle to increase networking opportunities for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender students to help overcome the bias Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender job applicants typically encounter.

SARAH LAWRENCE COLLEGE

Natalie Gross, Director of Diversity

ngross@sarahlawrence.edu / (914) 395.2575

Queer Variety Coalition, QVC@gm.sl.c.edu. Their mission is to provide safe, fun, and educational programming for the student body as a whole with a special emphasis on students who identify as Queer.

TransAction, transaction@gm.sl.c.edu. A club that provides a forum for students to discuss the ways in which our campus can be more supportive of community members whose gender identities fall outside the standard male and female binary. These discussions will then serve as a platform for activism.

SLC Acts Up, slcactsup@gm.sl.c.edu. SLC Acts Up works to develop an awareness of LGBT/Ally issues at Sarah Lawrence.

MANHATTANVILLE COLLEGE

Gay-Straight Alliance
mville_gsa@yahoo.com / (914) 323-5164

Manhattanville College's Gay-Straight Alliance can be reached by contacting its advisor Tara Cooley at (914) 323-5164 or via e-mail at cooleyt@mville.edu.

CAMPUS PRIDENET

www.campuspride.net

A national online community and resource network committed to student leaders and campus organizations who work to create a safer campus environment free of homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, heterosexism and genderism at colleges and universities

NATIONAL CONSORTIUM OF DIRECTORS OF LGBT RESOURCES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

www.lgbtcampus.org

Born at the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force's Creating Change Conference in San Diego (November, 1997), the mission and vision of the National Consortium of Directors of LGBT Resources in Higher Education is to achieve higher education environments in which lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students, faculty, staff, administrators, and alumni have equity in every respect.

THE LAMBDA 10 PROJECT

www.lambda10.org

Online Community for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Fraternity Issues

Helpful Phone Numbers and Web Sites

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| GAY AND LESBIAN NATIONAL HOTLINE | (888) 843-4564 |
| GAY AND LESBIAN SWITCHBOARD OF NY | (212) 989-0999 |
| HIV/AIDS TESTING SITES | (914) 813-5256 www.westchestergov.com/ health/AIDS_Services.htm#HIV ClinicSchedule |
| THE LOFT'S HELPLINE | (914) 948-4922 |
| NYC ANTI-VIOLENCE PROJECT | (212) 714-1141 |
| VICTIMS ASSISTANCE SERVICES | (914) 345-3113 |
| VAS'S LGBTQ COORDINATOR | (914) 995-5526 |
| NEWSPAPERS AND GUIDES | www.gayyellowpages.com www.gaycitynews.com www.nyblade.com |

REGISTER TO VOTE!

Westchester County Board of Elections
25 Quarropas Street
White Plains, NY 10601
(914) 995-5713

www.westchestergov.com/citizenparticipation_boe.htm

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“All . . . people, regardless of sexual orientation or identity, deserve a safe and supportive environment in which to achieve their full potential.”

Harvey Milk