

Illinois Gender Advocates



Advocacy for the Transgender and Gender Variant Community

A §501(c)(3) Charitable Organization

www.GenderAdvocates.org

Volume 4 Issue 5

May 2005

Pride Event Dinner Theatre Set for May 14

On Saturday, May 14, 2005 Illinois Gender Advocates will be sponsoring its joint fundraiser for IGA, New Spirit & About Face Youth Theater--a spring evening of dinner & theatre! New Spirit Metropolitan Community Church, 542 S. Scoville Ave., Oak Park, Illinois will be the host for the About Face Youth Theatre. This original play entitled "InsideOUT," will be presented by the members of About Face Youth Theatre, and is based on true stories of 14 to 20 year olds in Chicago. The play focuses on young people discovering their true selves while it documents a change in the way today's youth think about identity—a world where old labels such as "gay, straight, black, white, male and female" no longer apply.

Come and support our City's youth LGBT theatre. Help raise money for IGA, New Spirit and About Face. The dinner and play ticket price is just \$35.00. If you cannot attend, please consider purchasing an "Angel" ticket for the same price, which will permit a youth who is less fortunate to attend. Donations are welcomed. For more info contact www.genderadvocates.org, New Spirit, IGA board members and Transformations of Oak Park and Arlington Heights. Doors open at 7 p.m. Pasta dinner with salad served at 7:30 p.m. Bring something for the potluck dessert. Play starts at 9 p.m.

CALENDAR

Tuesday, May 3rd — REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING, 7:30 PM, Featuring a representative from the About Face Youth Theatre; New Spirit MCC, 542 S. Scoville Ave., Oak Park

Saturday, May 14th—IGA PRIDE EVENT, Dinner Theatre featuring the About Face Youth Theatre; Doors open at 7:00 PM, dinner served at 7:30, performance at 8:00; New Spirit MCC, 542 S. Scoville Ave., Oak Park; Tickets are \$35.00 per person

Friday, May 27th—IGA-TV on Chicago Access Network Television Channel 21 (only available on cable in Chicago) starting at 6:30 PM.; our program will be a Memorial Day observance of LGBT people in the military

Tuesday, June 7th— REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING, 7:30 PM; New Spirit MCC, 542 S. Scoville Ave., Oak Park

Tuesday, June 7th through Sunday, June 12th— Be-All 2005 Convention at the Sheraton Chicago Northwest, 3400 W. Euclid Ave., Arlington Heights; IGA will have a booth throughout the convention

How to contact us...

Illinois Gender Advocates

47 W. Division St., #391
Chicago, IL 60610

Telephone Hotline:

312-409-5489

Please leave a message.

We will get back to you as quickly as possible.

TYRA Youth Hotline:

Contact Casey at 773-935-3151

E-Mail:

IGA@genderadvocates.org

Web Site Address:

www.GenderAdvocates.org

Feedback...

Let us know what you think, or submit an article.

IGA Officers & Directors

Diana Williamson, Chair

DianaW@genderadvocates.org

Stevie Conlon, Vice Chair

Stevieconlon@genderadvocates.org

Gina Lake, Secretary

efgenesmith@hotmail.com

Marsha Jackson, Treasurer

MarshaJ@genderadvocates.org

Rev. Bradley Mickelson, Board Member

RevMickelson@genderadvocates.org

Lynn Rempert, Board Member

HERE Z RFR@aol.com

LGBT Hate Crime on the Rise: 8% Nationwide & 10% in Chicago

Center on Halsted Releases Annual Report on Anti-lgbt Hate Violence Crimes Center on Halsted's Anti-Violence Project (AVP) in conjunction with the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) reported a disturbing 8% increase in anti-LGBT violence and hate crime. Chicago Police reported a 10% increase in such hate crimes. The total number of victims nationwide also increased, rising from 2,042 in 2003 to 2,131 in 2004. In Chicago, numbers of victims rose 16% from 56 in 2003 to 65 in 2004. The number of female victims in Chicago increased 100% from 13 to 26 while male victims declined slightly and the number of transgender victims remained the same. The Chicago Police also reported a 10% increase in anti-LGBT violent crimes.

Perhaps most disturbing is the 11% increase across the country in anti-LGBT murders, which rose from 18 in 2003 to 20 in 2004. Four of those reported murders took place in Chicago and included a seventeen-year old African American transgender woman and her friend, aged eighteen and the mother of a two-month old. Suspects in the case have been captured and charged with shooting the victims and leaving them burning in their vehicle.

The other two Chicago murder cases were of gay men Charles Gibson, aged 54, and Kevin Clewer, aged 31. Whereas Gibson's perpetrator has been apprehended, Clewer's case remains unsolved. After reading the report, Clewer's brother Ron Clewer stated, "In looking at this year's report with all of these numbers, it was hard to see Kevin reduced to a statistic. If there is one thing that I hope that comes out of Kevin's murder and this report it's that people will recognize that behind each of these numbers, is a face and a person, a human being; and behind that human being are family and

friends who are left to mourn the loss of their loved one. My family's hope is that we will be a part of the change to end violence so no other family has to experience what we are going through now."

Clarence Patton, NCVAP's Acting Executive Director said: "In the last edition of this report it became all too clear that with respect to violence, the nation's LGBT communities had entered a very new, and very dangerous year in which all of us were under attack at levels not seen in recent years. This year's report has to be viewed as a follow-up to our report from a year ago." This report examines data compiled from almost 2,000 hate-related incidents in eleven states, cities and regions (Chicago, Cleveland, Columbus, Colorado, Houston, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania and the San Francisco Bay area). Additional information was included regarding Kansas City, St. Louis, Tucson, and Vermont. This was NCVAP's most complete examination of violence against LGBT people. For further information please contact www.centeronhalsted.org or call 773.472.6469.

Recent Oprah on Couples Coping with Transgendered Partners

On April 29, 2005 The Oprah Winfrey Show featured: "You're not the person I married." Oprah interviewed a woman and her husband who underwent a gender transformation and became a woman, and why they stayed together. Television rated (TV-14).

AIDS Walk 2005 Set for September 17

This year, IGA is seeking to renew its participation in the Chicago AIDS Walk, which will take place on Saturday, September 17th. Our goal is to recruit 40 or more transgender and other LGB people to help with the registration at the main staging area for the Walk. Anyone who wants to actually walk the route is certainly welcome to do so, but we are more concerned with the volunteer work involved in the early morning to late morning registration. Anyone interested in participating with us is asked to contact Gina Lake, IGA Secretary, at efgenesmith@hotmail.com.



GET INVOLVED, SUPPORT THE CAUSE OR JUST STAY INFORMED!

Application for New or Renewal Membership

YES, I would like to join () or renew () my membership in Illinois Gender Advocates.

Name(s) _____.

Name to Be Used on Mailing Label (if different from above) _____.

Address _____ **City** _____ **State** _____ **ZIP** _____.

Email address _____ **Phone Numbers** _____.

Membership Level (check one): () Student/Youth - \$10 () Regular Membership - \$30

() Supporting Member - \$100 () Benefactor - \$250 () Other - \$ _____

EVER BEEN A VICTIM OF A HATE CRIME OR DISCRIMINATED AGAINST DUE TO YOUR GENDER IDENTITY, EXPRESSION, OR IMAGE?

Yes / No (circle one) If yes, may we add your case to our report? Yes / No (circle one)

Please mail, along with your check or money order, to:

Illinois Gender Advocates, 47 W. Division St., #391, Chicago, IL 60610