

# 17th Annual GLSEN Boston Conference!



Teaching Respect- Empowering Youth and Adults for Change

**Conference Program Book**

Saturday, March 31, 3007



**GLSEN**®

**B O S T O N**

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# Welcome!

Dear Conference Participants,

Welcome to our 17th Annual GLSEN Boston Conference! We are thrilled to have you join us, along with hundreds of other students, educators, parents, counselors, administrators, support staff, and allies who have come to help us in our work to make schools truly safe and inclusive for every student, staff member, and family of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

This has been a remarkable year, one filled with many challenges as well as many reasons to celebrate and feel hopeful about the future. Our focus this year is one that is positive, hopeful and empowering as we look at ourselves and at our future and continue the work of creating safe, inclusive and stronger communities. Our conference theme this year is "Teaching Respect- Empowering Youth and Adults for Change". We hope to inspire you to think about your schools and communities and to find ways to feel powerful, effective and a part of bringing people together to fight for justice, equality and the value and worth of every individual.

We are thrilled to be holding our conference this year at the historic English High School, part of the Boston Public Schools. Boston Public Schools has made a strong commitment to providing safe, supportive and successful environments where all students and staff can thrive, both personally and academically. Hosting this year's conference at The English High School is a symbol of this commitment to our young people.

Our day begins with a welcoming program of speakers who will inspire us about the power of individuals and the effect that each of us can have on our schools and communities. The vast array of workshops offered throughout the day are designed to give you a chance to hear someone's story, to gain new curriculum ideas, to understand the issues that individuals face in their schools on a deeper and more personal level, to network and share ideas and resources with others from throughout the state, and to gain the tools that will help you to create meaningful change in your own school environment. We are impressed with this year's offerings and feel they contribute to our focus of empowerment, respect and hope. We have several workshops that focus on the impact of race, age, gender and culture as it relates to coming out and feeling safe as a GLBTQ individual. We have a special solo performance of the

theater piece, *Still Married*, by Karen “Mal” Malme of Queer Soup. We also have workshops that focus on building and strengthening GSA’s in schools, so that the support and work can continue once this day is over.

Our keynote speaker this year is Sol Kelley-Jones. Sol is a second generation queer activist and artist who passionately believes in the interconnection between struggles for justice and the radical potential for creative coalitional organizing. As the daughter of lesbian parents, Sol grew up on the frontlines of the LGBTQ movement in Madison, Wisconsin. She actively countered the harmful effects of heterosexism from her youngest years, developing anti-homophobic and anti-racist school curriculum, leading LGBTQ cultural competency and diversity trainings for teachers and youth. At the age of 10, Sol’s compelling testimony at a hearing on same sex marriage produced front-page headlines and she stepped into a role as a national spokesperson on behalf of LGBT families, which continues to this day. She is a powerful example of the impact even one person can make and she is an inspiration to us all.

Finally, we will end the day with a special performance by the Boston Gay Men’s Chorus which will help attendees leave feeling energized, entertained and inspired to go back to their school communities and continue the work toward creating safe and inclusive school communities.

Thank you to all the people who helped to make this day possible, especially our many workshop presenters, and for all of you who are here because you care about our schools and want to be part of creating a future where all our school communities are free from prejudice and intolerance. We hope that over the course of the day you will hear some new perspectives, gain skills to take back with you, and make connections with other allies in this important work.

Have a wonderful day!

## Vision

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network of Boston envisions a future in which every child learns to respect and accept all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression.

## Mission Statement

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network of Boston strives to assure that each member of every school community is valued and respected regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. We believe that such an atmosphere engenders a positive sense of self, which is the basis of educational achievement and personal growth. Since homophobia and heterosexism undermine a healthy school climate, we work to educate teachers, students and the public at large about the damaging effects these forces have on youth and adults alike. We recognize that forces such as racism and sexism have similarly adverse impacts on communities and we support schools in seeking to redress all such inequities. GLSEN Boston seeks to develop school climates where difference is valued for the positive contribution it makes in creating a more vibrant and diverse community. We welcome as members any and all individuals, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity/expression or occupation, who are committed to seeing this philosophy realized in preK-12 schools.

# Keynote and Guest Speakers



**Sol Kelley-Jones** is a second generation queer activist and artist who passionately believes in the interconnection between struggles for justice and the radical potential for creative coalitional organizing. As

the daughter of lesbian parents, Sol grew up on the frontlines of the LGBTQ movement in Madison, Wisconsin. She actively countered the harmful effects of heterosexism from her youngest years, developing anti-homophobic and anti-racist school curriculum, leading LGBTQ cultural competency and diversity trainings for teachers and youth, and both serving on the National Board of COLAGE and starting a thriving local chapter. At the age of 10, Sol's compelling testimony at a hearing on same sex marriage produced front-page headlines and she stepped into a role as a national spokesperson on behalf of LGBT families, which continues to this day. As a teen, Sol spoke at national LGBTQ conferences in Oakland, Chicago, and New York, before 500,000 people during the Millennium March on Washington, and

appeared in countless stories in the national and local media. Increasingly targeted for her activism and pride in her own queer identity during her middle school years, Sol refused to be silenced, and instead, turned her talents toward creating forums for other marginalized youth. One of Sol's proudest accomplishments is as co-founder and former youth artistic director of Proud Theater, an award-winning theater troupe and support group for queer youth now in its seventh successful year. Presently, a sophomore at Hampshire College, Sol fuses art, heart and activism through her self-designed major: Performing Resistance: Re-imagining Justice-making. She continues to integrate her work for racial and economic justice, peace, civil liberties and ecojustice into her queer activism. Sol has received numerous awards and recognitions for her activism from organizations including: The Point Foundation, national and local GLSEN, COLAGE, Madison Transgender Association, OutReach Inc, Family Pride, Rainbow Families Wisconsin, ACLU, NOW, Urban League, Brick "Do Something," and the Madison Rotary. Sol has also been featured in books such as Love Makes a Family, Friends and Family, and Generation Fix, magazines from Alternative Family to Teen People, and newspapers from the Village Voice to the Los Angeles Times.



## Denise Simmons, Cambridge City Council

I am a lifelong resident of Cambridge with a deep commitment to improving the quality of life for Cambridge residents. I own a small business and am closely attuned to the needs of small business owners. I am raising my grandchildren who are currently in Cambridge public schools. My 10 years on the Cambridge School Committee attest to my commitment to the quality of our public schools. Prior to serving on the School Committee, I served as Executive Director of the Civic Unity Committee of the City of

Cambridge, working on equity and fairness. I am also a Justice of the Peace.

I am currently serving my second term on the Cambridge City Council, chairing the Human Services Committee and the Committee on Cable TV, Telecommunications, and Public Utilities. I'm a member of the National Committee on Youth, Families and Education (National League of Cities); the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee; the Cambridge Kids Council Board of Directors; the Massachusetts Municipal Association; and the NAACP.

# The Boston Gay Men's Chorus:



## "You've Gotta Have Friends: The Songs of Bette Midler and Barry Manilow"

We are thrilled to have a group of singers from the Boston Gay Men's Chorus join us in closing out this year's conference. We are sure that this performance will leave people inspired, moved and energized to create meaningful change in their schools. The 150 voice Boston Gay Men's Chorus uses the power of music to create a more tolerant society. Currently celebrating its 25th anniversary, the internationally acclaimed BGMC is known for its outstanding musicianship, creative programming, and groundbreaking community outreach. Under the dynamic leadership of Music Director Reuben M. Reynolds III, the BGMC builds bridges to all people by providing a positive, affirming image of the gay and lesbian community.

## GLSEN Boston Conference Outline

8:15 – 9:00am	Registration & Coffee	<i>Lobby</i>
9:00 – 9:45am	Opening Program: <i>Denise Simmons, Cambridge City Council</i>	<i>Auditorium</i>
10:00 – 11:15am	Workshop A	<i>See program for workshop rooms</i>
	<i>Break</i>	<i>Nibble &amp; Network</i>
11:30 – 12:45pm	Workshop B	<i>See program for conference rooms</i>
	<i>Break</i>	<i>Nibble &amp; Network</i>
12:45-1:45pm	Lunch/Network	<i>Cafeteria</i>
1:50– 2:30pm	Keynote Speaker: <i>Sol Kelley-Jones</i>	<i>Auditorium</i>
	<i>Break</i>	<i>Nibble &amp; Network</i>
2:40 – 3:55pm	Workshop C	<i>See program for conference rooms</i>
	<i>Break</i>	<i>Nibble &amp; Network</i>
4:00 – 4:30pm	Closing Performance: <i>Boston Gay Men's Chorus</i>	<i>Auditorium</i>

# GLSEN Boston Conference Workshop at a Glance:

## Workshop A (10:00-11:15)

Room numbers beginning with a "4" are on the 4th Level of English High:  
Room numbers beginning with a "3" are on the 3rd Level of English High

- 1A.** Beyond Stonewall (Room 401)
- 2A.** Creating A Cultural Competency School and Classroom Workshop 101 (Room 402)
- 3A.** Embracing Diversity: Lessons From Safe Schools Programs in the Jewish Community (Room 403)
- 4A.** Family and Gender Diversity in Children's Literature (Room 404)
- 5A.** Gay Around the Globe (Room 405)
- 6A.** GSA Makeover: 10 Ways to Make Your GSA Better Than Ever (Room 406)
- 7A.** Is Displaying a Safe Zone Sticker Enough? Creating a Positive and Inclusive Middle School Community (Room 407)
- 8A.** UGLY DUCKLINGS CAMPAIGN: Creating Safe, Equitable and Inclusive School Environments for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (GLBTQ) Youth LGBT Youth & Elders: Building Bridges, Honoring Our History (Room 408)
- 9A.** O.K., So Your GSA is Supported and Thriving, Now What? (Room 409)
- 10A.** Respect and Empowerment from Within (Room 410)
- 11A.** Still Married: Tales of Love and Legality, A Solo Performance Piece (Room 411)
- 12A.** Transgender 101 (Room 412)
- 13A.** Exploring Our Spiritual Journeys (Room 413)
- 14A.** Crossing Lines: Identity and the Sexuality Spectrum (Room 414)
- 15A.** Students and Educators Sharing Work and Building Communities of Practice in Western Massachusetts (Room 315)
- 16A.** Making the Case: Communications Strategies for Responding to Critics (Room 316)

## Workshop B (11:30-12:45)

Room numbers beginning with a "4" are on the 4th Level of English High:  
Room numbers beginning with a "3" are on the 3rd Level of English High

- 1B.** Out of the Closet – Over the Rainbow (Room 401)
- 2B.** Creating A Cultural Competency School and Classroom Workshop 101 (Room 402)
- 3B.** Dreaming Ourselves Deep: Exploring Our Visions for Powerful Classrooms (Room 403)
- 4B.** Using Your Voice as a Teaching Tool – A Poetry Workshop for Adults (Room 404)
- 5B.** Gay Around the Globe (Room 405)
- 6B.** Keeping Your GSA Active and Strong – Ideas for a successful GSA (Room 406)
- 7B.** You Are Not Alone: LGBTQI Rights as a Global Revolution (Room 407)
- 8B.** UGLY DUCKLINGS CAMPAIGN: Creating Safe, Equitable and Inclusive School Environments for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (GLBTQ) Youth (Room 408)
- 9B.** True Colors Presents: Love of our Lives (Room 409)
- 10B.** Hineini: Coming Out in a Jewish High School, a film screening (Auditorium)
- 11B.** What is the T in GLBT? Transgender Youth Panel (Room 411)
- 12B.** Adventure Programming with LGBT Youth and Using Experiential Education to Create Inclusive School Communities (Room 412)
- 13B.** Mission Impossible? Designing and Facilitating a 45 Minute Youth-Led Training on GLBT Issues, Homophobia & Name Calling (Room 414)
- 14B.** Bisexuality 101: Myths and Realities (Room 415)
- 15B.** LGBT Youth & Elders: Building Bridges, Honoring Our History (Room 315)
- 16B.** Organizing A No Name-Calling Week In Your School (Room 316)

## Workshop C (2:40-3:55)

Room numbers beginning with a "4" are on the 4th Level of English High

- 1C.** Out of the Closet – Over the Rainbow (Room 401)
- 2C.** Negotiating Healthy Relationships For Queer Youth– (Network/La Red) (Room 402)
- 3C.** Dreaming Ourselves Deep: Exploring Our Visions for Powerful Classrooms (Room 403)
- 4C.** Using Your Voice as a Teaching Tool – A Poetry Workshop for Youth (Room 404)
- 5C.** Starting a GSA in a Middle School (Room 405)
- 6C.** Resistant Administrations: How to Get Your School and Community On Board (Room 406)
- 7C.** You Are Not Alone: LGBTQI Rights as a Global Revolution (Room 407)
- 8C.** The Truth About Love (Room 408)
- 9C.** True Colors Presents: Love of our Lives (Room 409)
- 10C.** Respect and Empowerment from Within (Room 410)
- 11C.** What is the T in GLBT? Transgender Youth Panel (Room 411)
- 12C.** Networking GSA's – Making an Impact through Solidarity (Room 412)
- 13C.** Exploring Our Spiritual Journeys (Room 413)
- 14C.** Queerspawn: A Quiet Identity (Room 414)

# GLSEN Boston Conference Session Descriptions

## Workshop A (10:00-11:15)

Room numbers beginning with a "4" are on the 4th Level of English High

Room numbers beginning with a "3" are on the 3rd Level of English High

### **1A. Beyond Stonewall**

*Eva Rosenberg, Student, Harvard University, former GLSEN Boston Board Member; Lane Levine, GLSEN National Student Organizing Fellow, former GLSEN Boston Board Member*

There is more to American queer history than Stonewall, the AIDS crisis, and marriage equality. Queer history is a diverse and complicated story, and we will take a look at its rich details spanning many centuries and groups of people.

**Room: 401**

### **2A. Creating A Cultural Competency School and Classroom Workshop 101**

*Al Toney III, Partner, AK Consulting Services*

Learn how to develop potential action steps to create a more inclusive learning and social environment within your school, classroom and community. This workshop will help participants begin to increase sensitivity to cultural differences in the classroom, school and the community and to help them develop awareness of how stereotypes and misinformation about various groups can impact the interactions and morale of students and co-workers. We will also help participants learn how to identify useful behaviors and skills that help to create a respectful, productive, and comfortable work environment for all students and employees. Finally we will help participants learn effective methods of dealing with student, employee and community conflicts around difference and help them to identify strategies for creating work environments that support diversity and respect in the classroom, school and in the community.

**Room: 402**

### **3A. Embracing Diversity: Lessons From Safe Schools Programs in the Jewish Community**

*Andrea Jacobs, Director of Education, Keshet - moderator  
Idit Klein, Executive Director, Keshet*

*Irena Fayngold, Director of the documentary Hineini  
Coming Out in a Jewish High School*

*Dr. Susie Tanchel, Associate Head of School, Gann Academy  
David Levy, Middle School Director of Prozdor Community  
Jewish High School, Chair of Keshet Board*

*Jewish high school student*

In this workshop, we will look at different approaches to creating GLBTQ safe spaces in Jewish schools and youth programs. What are the lessons we can learn from the experiences of GLBTQ Jews and their allies and how

can we apply them in our work for GLBTQ rights in both religious and secular environments.

**Room: 403**

### **4A. Family and Gender Diversity in Children's Literature**

*Kim Westheimer, Educational Consultant, Trainer*

Learn about a penguin's two dads, a dog's case of mistaken identity, and a boy's pink shirt collection. We'll review books and see their connections to Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. Educators and people who love to read to children are welcome.

**Room: 404**

### **5A. Gay Around the Globe**

*A panel of GLBT individuals from different cultures sharing their experiences*

Panelists will share how their cultures and ethnicity have impacted their identities as gay and lesbian individuals. (Panelist include people from India, Vietnam, African Americans from the Southern United States)

**Room: 405**

### **6A. GSA Makeover: 10 New Ways to Make Your GSA Better Than Ever**

*Edward Byrne, Managing Director, Project 10 East, Inc.  
Chadwick Johnson, Vice-President Project 10 East, Inc. and  
teacher, Fenway High School*

Is your GSA feeling tired, rundown, predictable, or unappreciated? Give it some love and come get a GSA makeover! We will show you 10 new and affordable ways to reenergize your GSA to make it better than ever. Whether you're faced with old ideas, no money, low attendance, or little school support; these 10 ideas will give you the boost of energy you need to be successful. This makeover will give you the chance to be that wonderful, beautiful, unique GSA you know you are.

You've been working hard. Don't you think you deserve it?

**Room: 406**

### **7A. Is Displaying a Safe Zone Sticker Enough? Creating a Positive and Inclusive Middle School Community**

*Marc Lewis, former GLSEN Boston Board Member and RJ  
Grey Junior High School Teacher in Acton, MA*

You've put a Safe Zone sticker up in your classroom (or haven't). Now, how do I respond to my principal who says, "This is a high school issue"? What do I say to my colleague who wants to know why I don't have a safe zone sticker up for every other minority group? How do I respond to the parent who believes that any discussion on this topic is inappropriate for students this age? Come to this facilitated discussion to talk about these and other questions, share your experiences, and leave with language and responses that will work for you.

**Room: 407**

# GLSEN Boston Conference Session Descriptions

## **8A. UGLY DUCKLINGS CAMPAIGN: Creating Safe, Equitable and Inclusive**

*School Environments for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (GLBTQ) Youth*

*Lyn Mikel Brown, Ed.D., Jeanette Richelson, & Megan Williams*

Ugly Ducklings is a national campaign, collaboratively produced by two grass-roots Maine organizations, Hardy Girls Healthy Women and Greater Waterville Communities for Children and Youth, to combat biased-based harassment and suicide of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (GLBTQ) youth. The Ugly Ducklings Community Action Kit is a compilation of strategies, activities, and resources gathered from local, state, and nationally recognized experts and advocacy groups to use in communities, schools, families, and faith-based organizations. It includes the documentary film Ugly Ducklings, interviews with Maine youth, and interactive features, such as discussion questions and activities.

**Room: 408**

## **9A. O.K., So Your GSA is Supported and Thriving. Now What?**

*Melissa Buttaro, GSA advisor at Lexington High School for the past 10 years*

This is an "advanced" workshop for advisors whose GSA's are active, well established and supported. This discussion-based session will focus on moving your GSA to the next level and dealing with some of the issues unique to our groups (turnover, leadership, ex's, siblings, "inappropriate"/difficult topics, etc.)

**Room: 409**

## **10A. Respect and Empowerment from Within**

*Yves Augustin, Social Worker and Holistic Consultant, giveer@yahoo.com*

This workshop will provide participants with necessary tools to shift their thinking in order to find the true source of respect and empowerment through a four-step approach: awareness, acceptance, alliance, and action.

**Room: 410**

## **11A. Still Married: Tales of Love and Legality", A Solo Performance Piece**

*Karen "Mal" Malme, Co-founder, Producer, Performer & Writer with Queer*

*SoupTheater,; Advisor to NAGLY (North Shore Alliance of GLBT Youth)*

This is a new solo performance piece which explores the issues of marriage, queer and gender identity, and the performer's work as a door to door equal marriage canvasser.

**Room: Auditorium**

## **12A. Transgender 101**

*Julia Brindisi - The Bromfield School Student Advisor and GLSEN Northeast Regional Student Organizer; Hannah Brown - GLSEN Northeast Regional Student Coordinator*

This workshop is designed to introduce participants to language and terminology related to gender, and gender identity/expression and to learn techniques to break down gender barriers and to look at different ways people identify. By attending this workshop, participants will not only become more knowledgeable about the subject, but also learn to embrace peoples' diversities, to understand an individual's difficulty to express themselves under societal, individual, & group oppression, to recognize that we are all working towards the same goal, and to network with other people.

**Room: 412**

## **13A. Exploring Our Spiritual Journeys**

*Barb Greve, Intern Minister, Arlington Street Church*

Religion is often used as a weapon against BGILQQT people and yet many of us continue to be religious people. We will explore the role religion plays in our lives and share our spiritual journeys.

**Room: 413**

## **14A. Crossing Lines: Identity and the Sexuality Spectrum**

*Robyn Ochs*

How do we assign labels to our complicated and unique experiences? At what point on the sexuality spectrum does heterosexuality turn into bisexuality, and bisexuality into homosexuality? We will discuss uses and limitations of the Kinsey scale and other measures of sexual orientation, and factors such as sex/gender, time, and much more. This engaging workshop will transform your thinking!

**Room: 414**

## **15A. Students and Educators Sharing Work and Building Communities of Practice in Western Massachusetts**

*Brian J. Rachmaciej, Ed.D.,ABD, Educational and Clinical Consultant*

Western Massachusetts is located approximately 80 miles outside of Boston, therefore, our geographic location limits educators and youths regular contact with GLSEN Boston. Western Massachusetts has great diversity in its populations and the needs of GLBTQ youth and educators mirror the diversity of our population. Sharing our work and building communities of practice that can support the development of culturally sensitive and culturally supportive programming is important to successful outcomes.

**Room: 315 (Note: located on 3rd level)**



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## **16A. Making the Case: Communications Strategies for Responding to Critics**

Daryl Presgraves, GLSEN National Communications Department

More and more schools are taking crucial action to address anti-LGBT bias and behavior in schools that negatively affect school climate and create barriers to education. Educators and community members leading these efforts sometimes encounter resistance from various stakeholders. This workshop is designed to enable you to make an effective case for the importance of dealing with LGBT issues in education, while being respectful of differing opinions and points of view.

**Room: 316 (Note: located on 3rd level)**

## Workshop B (11:30-12:45)

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## **1B. Out of the Closet – Over the Rainbow**

Eva Rosenberg, Freshman at Harvard University, former GLSEN Boston Board Member

Obviously, being out is a big deal. But what happens next? What is your identity, and how do the labels that you or others assign to you affect that identity? Come talk about it!

**Room: 401**

## **2B. Creating A Cultural Competency School and Classroom Workshop 101**

*Al Toney III, Partner, AK Consulting Services*

Learn how to develop potential action steps to create a more inclusive learning and social environment within your school, classroom and community. This workshop will help participants begin to increase sensitivity to cultural differences in the classroom, school and the community and to help them develop awareness of how stereotypes and misinformation about various groups can impact the interactions and morale of students and co-workers. We will also help participants learn how to identify useful behaviors and skills that help to create a respectful, productive, and comfortable work environment for all students and employees.

Finally we will help participants learn effective methods of dealing with student, employee and community conflicts around difference and help them to identify strategies for creating work environments that support diversity and respect in the classroom, school and in the community.

**Room: 402**

## **3B. Dreaming Ourselves Deep: Exploring Our Visions for Powerful Classrooms**

*Saida Agostini, Social Justice Teacher Institute Director, The City School*

The most powerful movements and learning spaces are those where our imaginations are set free. This session is an opportunity for us to just do that—what would our classrooms look like if they had no boundaries? Our community will share and build a collective model of engaged learning grounded in social justice, explore best practices, and activities. All of the activities come from the Social Justice Teacher Institute.

**Room: 403**

## **4B. Using Your Voice as a Teaching Tool – A Poetry Workshop for Adults**

*Shantanette Patrice, Social Worker, Teen Health Center, O'Bryant High School, Boston, MA*

This interactive workshop uses poetry as a tool for people to discover, develop and exercise their voice as a teaching tool. In the workshop participants will examine writing and speaking as a teaching tool. This workshop is for people of all skill levels who want to tap their creative juices, and have fun in the name of teaching respect.

**Room: 404**

## **5B. Gay Around the Globe**

A panel of GLBT individuals from different cultures sharing their experiences

Panelists will share how their cultures and ethnicity have impacted their identities as gay and lesbian individuals. (Panelists include people from India, Vietnam, and African Americans from the Southern United States)

**Room: 405**

## **6B. Keeping Your GSA Active and Strong – Ideas for a successful GSA**

*Abbie Hodlt, Advisor, Arlington High School and members of the Arlington High School GSA;*

*Caroline Cox-Orrell, student leader, Newton North GSA, GLSEN Boston Board Member*

What kinds of activities and events can your GSA get involved in to make a difference. Does your GSA sometimes seem without direction? Come hear about different ways that your GSA can become more active and new ways to engage other kids in your school and community.

**Room: 406**

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## **7B. You Are Not Alone: LGBTQI Rights as a Global Revolution**

*Ashley Pushkarewicz, Diversity Affairs Coordinator, Fisher College. GLSEN Boston Board Member*

The workshops will cover legal issues such as: LGBTQI rights as human rights, immigration, marriage, and criminalization of homosexual acts. It will combine brief stories of individuals who are working internationally. I will also talk about how violence against LGBTQI people is connected to political and social instability. The Holocaust and the current state of Iraq will be cited as examples.

**Room: 407**

## **8B. UGLY DUCKLINGS CAMPAIGN: Creating Safe, Equitable and Inclusive**

*School Environments for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (GLBTQ) Youth  
Lyn Mikel Brown, Ed.D., Jeanette Richelson, & Megan Williams*

Ugly Ducklings is a national campaign, collaboratively produced by two grass-roots Maine organizations, Hardy Girls Healthy Women and Greater Waterville Communities for Children and Youth, to combat biased-based harassment and suicide of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (GLBTQ) youth. The Ugly Ducklings Community Action Kit is a compilation of strategies, activities, and resources gathered from local, state, and nationally recognized experts and advocacy groups to use in communities, schools, families, and faith-based organizations. It includes the documentary film Ugly Ducklings, interviews with Maine youth, and interactive features, such as discussion questions and activities.

**Room: 408**

## **9B. True Colors Presents: Love of our Lives**

*The Theater Offensive's True Colors: Out Youth Theater,  
Evelyn Francis, Director of Education*

True Colors is for queer youth and allies who create original plays based on their personal experiences. True Colors will perform scenes from their new show, which will be followed by a discussion and theater games to get you started on your own play!

**Room: 409**

## **10B. Hineini: Coming Out in a Jewish High School, a film screening**

*Andrea Jacobs, Director of Education, Keshet  
Idit Klein, Executive Director, Keshet, Executive Producer,  
Hineini*

*Irena Fayngold, Director, Hineini*

Come see the documentary film, Hineini: Coming Out in a Jewish High School and meet the director and producer after the screening. Hineini tells the inspiring

story of one student's courageous fight to establish a gay-straight alliance at a Jewish high school and the transformative impact of her campaign on the whole community.

**Room: Auditorium**

## **11B. What is the T in GLBT?**

*Transgender Youth Panel*

*Moderated by Grace Sterling Stowell, Executive Director of BAGLY (Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth)*

A panel of young Trans individuals share their experiences of growing up as transgender and the issues that they have faced as they navigate school, adolescents and young adulthood.

**Room: 411**

## **12B. Adventure Programming with LGBT Youth and Using Experiential Education to Create Inclusive School Communities**

*Jess Simmons, Program Director, North Star Adventure*

This workshop will give educators an opportunity to look at how adventure programming might be relevant to creating positive GSA's or helpful in aiding students to look at their biases. It provides practical exercises to be used in groups. Overall this workshop will allow individuals to look at how experiential education is important to schools and the fight for equality.

**Room: 412**

## **13B. Mission Impossible?: Designing and Facilitating a 45 Minute Youth-Led**

*Training on GLBT Issues, Homophobia & Name Calling  
Kathy Keegan, Project 10 East - GSA at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School*

Have you ever had this experience? Your Principal, Executive Director or other manager asks you to do a training on GLBT Issues and gives you some kind of impossible time frame to work with? Well, our GSA lobbied to do a training for all faculty and they gave us 45 minutes!! Now the next part is how to do a meaningful training that is led by youth in a short time frame. Come to our workshop to learn how to do the impossible! Youth and adults from Cambridge Rindge and Latin School will deliver a training for how to organize the workshop like the one we ran for 200 faculty members. We will share our training "script" and open a dialogue about the challenges and joys of doing this critical type of training.

**Room: 413**

## **14B. Bisexuality 101: Myths and Realities**

*Robyn Ochs*

What is bisexuality? Is there no such thing as bisexuality or is everyone really bisexual? Or is it more complicated than that? In this workshop we will examine these

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questions as well as biphobia in lesbian, gay and heterosexual communities with the goal of better understanding bisexuality and bisexual identities. People of all sexual orientations are welcome to attend.

**Room: 414**

## **15B. LGBT Youth & Elders: Building Bridges, Honoring Our History**

*Bob Linscott, Outreach and Education Coordinator LGBT Aging Project, Former GLSEN Boston Board Member*

Gay and Lesbian Elders are a precious asset. Their stories are our history. Unfortunately ageism rears its ugly head in the gay world as in the straight world and we all retreat to our separate camps. Currently there is an exciting project between SpeakOut Boston and the LGBT Aging Project to train LGBT Elder Speakers so they can bring their oral histories into GSA's and community groups and begin to bridge this generational divide. This workshop will feature several LGBT Elders who will share their stories of coming out before Stonewall, in times when mentioning the word "gay" could get you arrested. We will also talk about the "LGBT Senior Speakers Bureau" and give you information about bringing a speaker into your GSA.

**Room: 315 (Note: located on 3rd floor)**

## **16B. Organizing A No Name-Calling Week In Your School**

*Lane Levine, Student Organizing Fellow, Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, GLSEN National*

This presentation on GLSEN's Education Department's No Name-Calling Week program will be both informative and interactive. Participants will receive a thorough overview of the history and content of No Name-Calling Week, as well as gain tangible tools and tips for implementing No Name-Calling Week in their schools and communities.

**Room: 316 (Note: located on 3rd floor)**

## Workshop C (2:40-3:55)

Room numbers beginning with a "4" are on the 4th Level of English High

## **1C. Out of the Closet – Over the Rainbow**

*Eva Rosenberg, Freshman at Harvard University, former GLSEN Boston Board Member*

Obviously, being out is a big deal. But what happens next? What is your identity, and how do the labels that you or others assign to you affect that identity? Come talk about it!

**Room: 401**

## **2C. LGBT Dating Violence 101: Strategies for Prevention and Support**

*Ariel Berman, Community Programs Coordinator, The Network/La Red: Ending Abuse in Lesbian, Bisexual Women's and Transgender Communities*

This workshop will present an overview of LGBT dating violence. Through a combination of presentation and group discussion we will develop strategies of prevention and support for LGBT youth experiencing dating violence.

**Room: 402**

## **3C. Dreaming Ourselves Deep: Exploring Our Visions for Powerful Classrooms**

*Saida Agostini, Social Justice Teacher Institute Director, The City School*

The most powerful movements and learning spaces are those where our imaginations are set free. This session is an opportunity for us to just do that—what would our classrooms look like if they had no boundaries? Our community will share and build a collective model of engaged learning grounded in social justice, explore best practices, and activities. All of the activities come from the Social Justice Teacher Institute.

**Room: 403**

## **4C. Using Your Voice as a Teaching Tool – A Poetry Workshop for Youth**

*Shantanette Patrice, Social Worker, Teen Health Center, O'Bryant High School, Boston, MA*

This interactive workshop uses poetry as a tool for people to discover, develop and exercise their voice as a teaching tool. In the workshop participants will examine writing and speaking as a teaching tool. This workshop is for people of all skill levels who want to tap their creative juices, and have fun in the name of teaching respect.

**Room: 404**

## **5C. Starting a GSA in a Middle School**

*Kat Callard, GSA Faculty Advisor, Park School in Brookline, MA.*

*Student members of the Park School GSA*

The workshop will focus on the reactions, both positive and negative, that faculty and students have had to our middle school GSA, and the challenges/rewards of starting and maintaining the GSA at Park. These topics will be explored through a viewing of a video which the students have made. There will be an opportunity for discussion after the video.

**Room: 405**

# GLSEN Boston Conference Session Descriptions

## **6C. Resistant Administrations: How To Get Your School and Community On Board**

*Edward Byrne, Managing Director, Project 10 East, Inc.,  
Chadwick Johnson, Vice-President Project 10 East, Inc. and  
teacher, Fenway High School*

This workshop will explore ways students, faculty, and staff can work with resistant administrators to build support for LGBT issues in schools. We will discuss actual cases where administrations were cautious about allowing a GSA and other GLBT focused activities in their school. This workshop will give you the tools, facts, and insight to appreciate the challenges administrators are faced with in these decisions. Participants will learn how to look at all sides of the issue, to confidently and convincingly present a rationale that supports their activity and student group, and proposes a viable solution. The goal will be to show how you and your administration are on the same side in making your school a safe and welcoming place for everyone. You will leave with successful tactics and convincing data to make a powerful case for your school.

**Room: 406**

## **7C. You Are Not Alone: LGBTQI Rights as a Global Revolution**

*Ashley Pushkarewicz, Diversity Affairs Coordinator, Fisher College. GLSEN Boston Board member*

The workshops will cover legal issues such as: LGBTQI rights as human rights, immigration, marriage, and criminalization of homosexual acts. It will combine brief stories of individuals who are working internationally. I will also talk about how violence against LGBTQI people is connected to political and social instability. The Holocaust and the current state of Iraq will be cited as examples.

**Room: 407**

## **8C. Truth About Love – Parents From PFLAG Share Their Stories**

*A Panel of Parents From Greater Boston PFLAG*

How do I come out to my parents? How do I teach them to accept me just the way I am? What if they say they love me but then never want to talk about it? What if they say it's just a phase? Share your experiences with PFLAG parents. Get answers to your questions, support and guidance. Find out how to get your parents involved in PFLAG.

**Room: 408**

## **9C. True Colors Presents: Love of our Lives**

*The Theater Offensive's True Colors: Out Youth Theater,  
Evelyn Francis, Director of Education*

True Colors is for queer youth and allies who create original plays based on their personal experiences. True

Colors will perform scenes from their new show, which will be followed by a discussion and theater games to get you started on your own play! The

**Room: 409**

## **10C. Respect and Empowerment from Within**

*Yves Augustin, Social Worker and Holistic Consultant,  
giveer@yahoo.com*

This workshop will provide participants with necessary tools to shift their thinking in order to find the true source of respect and empowerment through a four-step approach: awareness, acceptance, alliance, and action.

**Room: 410**

## **11C. What is the T in GLBT? Transgender Youth Panel**

*Moderated by Grace Sterling Stowell, Executive Director of  
BAGLY (Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth)*

A Panel of young Trans individuals share their experiences of growing up as transgender and the issues that they have faced as they navigate school, adolescents and young adulthood.

**Room: 411**

## **12C. Networking GSA's – Making an Impact through Solidarity**

*Julia Brindisi, GLSEN Northeast Regional Student Organizer; Lane Levine, GLSEN Student Organizing Fellow*

A conference with so many GSA's and student clubs in attendance is a perfect place to develop tools to solidify networks among us. Come explore ideas and concrete ways to make these happen in Massachusetts!

**Room: 412**

## **13C. Exploring Our Spiritual Journeys**

*Barb Greve, Intern Minister, Arlington Street Church*

Religion is often used as a weapon against BGILQQT people and yet many of us continue to be religious people. We will explore the role religion plays in our lives and share our spiritual journeys.

**Room: 413**

## **14C. Queerspawn: A Quiet Identity**

*Elizabeth Castellana, Co-director of Boston COLAGE,  
Caroline Cox-Orrell, Newton North High Student, GLSEN  
Boston Board Member and Julia Siegenberg*

"Queerspawn" are often a hidden group within schools. Hear from a small panel of queerspawn about their identity as children of LGBT parents, and their relationships to other members of the LGBT communities in schools.

**Room: 414**



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is only one of our passions.

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**Our many wonderful volunteers...** for their time and for being so helpful.

...And all of the conference attendees who came here today to Teach Respect, Empower Youth and Adults, and create safe, supportive and vibrant schools and communities.

The Boston Teachers Union  
supports GLSEN Boston  
and their goal of having our schools provide  
all a safe, nurturing education for all students.



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# 17th Annual GLSEN Boston Conference!

Teaching Respect- Empowering Youth and Adults for Change

