

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight  
Education Network of Boston  
18th Annual Conference



Conference Program Book  
Saturday, March 29, 2008



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Dear Conference Participants,

Welcome to our 18th 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 and expressions.

This has been a remarkable year, one filled with many challenges as well as many reasons to celebrate and feel hopeful about the future. As we pause to remember the 10th anniversary of the tragic murder of Matthew Shepard as well as the murder in February of young Lawrence "Larry" King, an 8th grader from California, we are heartened and moved by the many examples of individuals and communities coming together to heal and to create meaningful and positive change. Right here in Massachusetts there is a bill pending, which would extend protections for individuals on the basis of gender identity and expression. Gay-Straight Alliances (GSAs) in schools throughout the state continue to work toward raising awareness and creating safer, more respectful and truly inclusive school communities. Our conference theme this year is "Teaching Respect: Embracing Your Voice as a Force for Change". We hope to inspire you to think about your schools and communities and to find ways to get your voice heard and 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 proud to be holding our conference again 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 burst of energy! We start the day with a special performance by slam poet Kit Yan and folk-rocker Melissa Li who together make the duo Good Asian Drivers. Part of their nation-wide tour includes a performance at this year's conference and this dynamic pair will deliver honest and fun personal stories through their music and poetry about being queer Asian Americans. They will entertain, but will also make us think about the power of words and the impact that individuals can have on others.

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. This year we have several workshops that focus on gender identity and gender expression, an issue that many schools have expressed a desire to learn more about.

We are thrilled to have the Mayor of Boston, Thomas Menino welcome us back from lunch and give us some inspirational words as he introduces our keynote speaker, Gunner Scott. Gunner is the Director of The Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition where he is currently involved in the campaign to pass the Massachusetts House Bill 1722, "An Act Relative to Gender-Based Discrimination and Hate Crimes" for gender identity and gender expression protections. He is a nationally recognized activist, educator, and community organizer on transgender rights, LGBT health issues, LGBT partner abuse, and addressing access issues for the transgender community. Gunner is a powerful example of the impact that one person can make and he is an inspiration to us all.

Finally, we will end the day with a special musical performance by Rose Polenzani, a local musician whose talent and lyrics will leave people feeling moved, mesmerized, and inspired.

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!

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## **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.

# GLSEN Boston Conference Outline

8:15 a.m.	Registration & Coffee	Lobby
9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	<p>Welcoming Remarks</p> <p>Moment of Silence</p> <p>Remembering Lawrence King &amp; the 10 Year Anniversary of Matthew Shepard</p> <p>Morning Performance: Kit Yan and Melissa Li of Good Asian Drivers</p>	Auditorium
10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Workshop A	See program for workshop rooms
	Break	Nibble & Network
11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.	Workshop B	See program for workshop rooms
	Break	Nibble & Network
12:45 p.m. -1:30 p.m.	Lunch	Cafeteria
1:40 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	<p>Special Guest Remarks: Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino</p> <p>Keynote Speaker: Gunner Scott</p>	Auditorium
	Break	Nibble & Network
2:40 p.m. – 3:55 p.m.	Workshop C	See program for workshop rooms
	Break	Nibble & Network
4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	<p>Special Closing Performance: Rose Polenzani</p>	Auditorium

# KeynoteSpeaker

**Gunner Scott** is the Director of The Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition where he is currently involved in the campaign to pass the Massachusetts House Bill 1722, "An Act Relative to Gender-Based Discrimination and Hate Crimes" for gender identity and gender expression protections. He is a nationally recognized activist, educator, and community organizer on transgender rights, LGBT health issues, LGBT partner abuse, and addressing access issues for the transgender community. He has provided trainings for the last eight years to wide variety of community organizations, colleges/high schools, criminal justice, health, and social service professionals. He is also the creator of the eight year old Gender Crash Open Mic, designed for queer and transgender performers.

He has written articles for What's Up magazine, Sojourner Women's Forum, and "Agitate and Activate", the introduction to Pinned Down by Pronouns, a 2003 Lambda Literary nominee anthology published by Conviction Books. He was a contributing editor to "Responding to Hate Crimes: A Community Resource Manual" a National Center for Transgender Equality publication and the "Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation" chapter of the 2005 Our Bodies, Ourselves book. He is on the National Board of Advisors for the National Center for Transgender Equality and a Commissioner on the Massachusetts Commission for GLBT Youth. He is the recipient of the of the Richard L. Schlegel National Legion of Honor Award, American University, 2006; recipient of the Massachusetts Gay/Straight Youth Pride's Courage Award, 2006; recipient of the Tiffany Club's 2006 Founders Award and the 2005 Man of Year Award; and was a Boston Pride Parade Marshall in 2004. He is also attending Goddard College where he is studying social justice and public policy.



# Special Performances



## Good Asian Drivers

An oversized tour bus is pulling up to every Main Street in America. Instead of wave after wave of Asian tourists, blinding you with their cameras, you find a tranny boi at the wheel and a guitar-strapped lesbian at his side. Kit Yan, a Hawaii native, whose suitcase had been packed to the brim with slam poetry, is teaming up with folkrocker Melissa Li for the incredible Good Asian Drivers Tour. Together, this radical duo will traverse the United States and cut across four different time zones as they deliver honest and personal stories through their music and poetry about being queer Asian-Americans, while proving to the nation that they are indeed good, if not excellent, drivers.

## Kit Yan

Kit Yan wants people to realize that being queer is more than okay. He uses humor and realism to accomplish this mission and leaves the audience begging for more. Originally from Waipahu, Hawaii, Kit is a transgendered boi posing as a "model queer minority" to change the world through poetry. He has been slamming in the Boston slam scene since he was 18 and has won numerous slams all over Massachusetts. Kit was featured with nationally recognized poets like Jason Carney, Iyeoka Okoawo, Reggie Gibson and Michael Brown. Before the age of 21, he landed a spot in the Lizard Lounge National Slam Team, competed in the Individual World Poetry Slam, and won the world's largest slam.

Kit fires up the audience by screaming in their faces about his personal experiences on identity, gender, politics, and cultural struggles, all the while retaining the status of being an all around nice guy. Kit has slammed and performed at colleges and schools including Harvard, Wellesley College, Babson College, UMaine, Colby, Tufts University, Olin College, and Northeastern University. Kit released his first CD, but is now working on revamping it to include his newly testosteroneed voice.

*"And amongst all the professionals twice (his) age in the show, 'queer college kid' Kit Yan is a slam force to be reckoned with, a name and presence which has been spreading like wildfire ..."*  
-Bay Windows

## Melissa Li

This lesbian singer-songwriter and filmmaker, most recently won the honorable Jonathan Larson Performing Arts Foundation award for her first musical "Surviving the Nian", produced by The Theater Offensive in the Spring of 2007. Surviving the Nian is the story of a young woman who returns home to Hong Kong for Chinese New Year with her African-American lover. The unfolding of the family drama that ensues directly confronts stereotypes facing queers and Asians in mainstream society today.

Her music is a mixture of folk rock and pop, with a hint of soul and a whole lot of queer, and heavily influenced by Ani DiFranco, Jonatha Brooke, Kris Delmhorst, Deb Talan, Melissa Ferrick, and a slew of other pop/rock/folk divas. Through deeply personal acoustic songs, often punctuated with a vocal style reminiscent of hip hop, Melissa rants about love, loss, and social injustices.

She has performed at the Brattle Theater, Somerville Theater, and Boston Pride main stage to an audience of hundreds. She has also performed in most colleges and universities across New England. She has definitely carved a name for herself as one of the most talented and popular Asian-American performers in Boston, having performed for over 8 years in Boston.

*"...Witness the debut of a young, sure talent. Li is not one to settle for the status quo; she'll be going places."*  
-Boston Globe

# Special Performances

Special Closing Performer

## Rose Polenzani

In the small, sweet music scene of Cambridge, MA, Rose has found her niche as a collaborator with artists like Session Americana, Jennifer Kimball, Austin Nevins, the Resophonics, and Brian Webb. Her newest collaboration has been "Sub Rosa: The Secret Society of Friends and (one) Stranger," a sort of curated hoot/open mic Rose hosts once a month at Lizard Lounge in Cambridge. Rose toured the UK in January 2008, with Sharon Lewis (formerly of Pooka), in support of a limited-run CD called "Kings and Queens," which featured the pair on piano, guitar and harmonies. In Rose's early career, she toured nationally with "Voices on the Verge," a project featuring Erin McKeown, Jess Klein, Beth Amsel and Rose as a folk-rock quartet. Rose has recently gone mad for making videos with her friends, most notably her duet videos with Rose Cousins of Halifax.

Still, there are times when Rose finds herself alone in her room with her Tascam recording machines, making music on her own.

Having released records on Rykodisc (2001) and Daemon Records (founder Amy Ray of the Indigo Girls signed her in 1999), Rose has recently been releasing records DIY fashion as her collaborations turn into small-run releases and quirky, beautiful side projects. Her next official release will be "When the River Meets the Sea", a much-anticipated recording with Session Americana, recorded live-in-studio at Hi-n-Dry in Cambridge.



# GLSEN Boston Conference Workshops - At A Glance

## WORKSHOP A

(10-11:15 AM)

- 1A. Hineini: Coming Out in a Jewish High School, a film screening
- 2A. GSAs in Middle School!?!?
- 3A. Blow it Up! Learn to Use Your Voice to Create Loud Change
- 4A. Supporting Gender Variant Youth and Their Families: Consider Adding a "T" to your GSA
- 5A. Unmasking Identities
- 6A. What Happened to ENDA?
- 7A. Empowering Middle School LGBTQ Students
- 8A. The Dating Game/Living Genders: The Embodiment of Self in Gender Non-Conforming People
- 9A. Exploring Gender Non-conformity, Identity, and the Power of Language
- 10A. What is the T in GLBT? Transgender Youth Panel
- 11A. Honoring All Colors of the Queer Rainbow: Organizing Anti-racism Work in GSAs and Why It's Important
- 12A. Creating Context and Power Dynamic: How to Influence Policymakers and Legislators
- 13A. Resistant Administrations: How To Get Your School and Community On Board

## WORKSHOP B

(11:30-12:45 PM)

- 1B. Anyone and Everyone, a film screening
- 2B. Beyond Binaries: Identity and the Sexuality Spectrum
- 3B. Blow it Up! Learn to Use Your Voice to Create Loud Change
- 4B. Paragraph 175: Homosexuality in Nazi Germany
- 5B. Unmasking Identities
- 6B. Healthy Personal Boundaries
- 7B. Your Silence Speaks Volumes: Organizing a Powerful Day of Silence

- 8B. Translating the Gender Landscape: Creating Awareness and Activism
- 9B. Queerspawn – Children of LGBT Parents in Schools
- 10B. "You Can't Say That!"
- 11B. Honoring All Colors of the Queer Rainbow: Organizing Anti-racism Work in GSAs and Why It's Important
- 12B. Creating Context and Power Dynamic: How to Influence Policymakers and Legislators
- 13B. GSA Makeover: 10 New Ways to Make Your GSA Better Than Ever
- 14B. Make Your Own Summit!

## WORKSHOP C

(2:40-3:55 PM)

- 1C. Empowering LGBT Youth Through Theater
- 2C. Beyond Binaries: Identity and the Sexuality Spectrum
- 3C. GSAs in Middle School!?!?
- 4C. Paragraph 175: Homosexuality in Nazi Germany
- 5C. Supporting Gender Variant Youth and Their Families: Consider Adding a "T" to your GSA
- 6C. Healthy Personal Boundaries
- 7C. "You Can't Say That!"
- 8C. The Dating Game/Living Genders: The Embodiment of Self in Gender Non-Conforming People
- 9C. Queerspawn – Children of LGBT Parents in Schools
- 10C. What is the T in GLBT? Transgender Youth Panel
- 11C. Exploring Gender Non-conformity, Identity, and the Power of Language
- 12C. The GSA Goes to College: Making the Leap from High School to College as a Student Activist
- 13C. HB 1722: Know Your Rights
- 14C. Coming Out to Parents as GLBT



# GLSEN Boston Conference Session Descriptions

## WORKSHOP A

### FULL DESCRIPTIONS & ROOMS

(10-11:15 AM)

#### **1A. Hineini: Coming Out in a Jewish High School, a film screening**

Dr. Andrea Jacobs, Director of Education, Keshet

Keshet will offer a screening of the 60 minute documentary film Hineini: Coming Out in a Jewish High School about the struggle of a student to start a GSA at her Jewish high school and the impact of her campaign on the lives of other students and teachers at the school. The film is a wonderful model of the power that students can have to change the climate of a school and the importance of supportive relationships between out students and teachers. Following the film there will be time for a very brief discussion.

**Time: 1A**

**Room: Auditorium**

#### **2A. GSAs in Middle School?!?**

Lane Levine, Student Organizing Associate, GLSEN National

Middle schools are the next big thing for student-led safer schools organizing! In this workshop, we will talk about what it takes to start a GSA in a middle school, why it's different from GSA's in high schools, what people's concerns are, and how it can be awesome!

**Time: 2A, 3C**

**Room: 402, 403**

#### **3A. Blow it Up! Learn to Use Your Voice to Create Loud Change**

Stump Olsen, Program Director, Youth Pride, Inc.  
OUTspoken Playaz

Every time a queer identified person walks into a room, an explosion of stereotypes occurs just by being ourselves. This is one heck of a teachable moment. Learn how to use your queer power to create positive change wherever you go!

**Time: 3A, 3B**

**Room: 403**

#### **4A. Supporting Gender Variant Youth and Their Families: Consider Adding a "T" to your GSA**

Andrea Razi, LICSW, Intervention Coordinator/Social Worker, Arlington High School  
Jennifer Thomas, LICSW

Attendees will explore the spectrum of gender identity and consider a model of transgender identity development. Role-plays will allow adults and youth to further consider challenges in helping create safe spaces for gender variant youth to be themselves.

**Time: 4A, 5C**

**Room: 404, 405**

#### **5A. Unmasking Identities**

Janna Jackson, Assistant Professor University of Massachusetts,  
Boston Graduate College of Education

Based on Dr. Jackson's recent book Unmasking Identities, this interactive workshop takes the audience on a journey through the lives of nine gay and lesbian teachers to uncover her model of gay teacher identity development.

**Time: 5A, 5B, adult only**

**Room: 405**

#### **6A. What Happened to ENDA?**

Abigail Carpenter-Winch, Junior, Cambridge Rindge and Latin School GLSEN National Jumpstart Team  
Caroline Cox-Orrell, Senior, Newton North High School, GLSEN Boston Board Member

This workshop will discuss the events that passed in excluding gender identity and expression in the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. We will also discuss the upcoming Gender Non-Discrimination Act and discuss the legal rights of transgender folks. We will use ENDA and the Gender Non-Discrimination Act to discuss the isolation of trans folks in the queer community.

**Time: 6A**

**Room: 406**

# GLSEN Boston Conference Session Descriptions

## **7A. Empowering Middle School LGBTQ Students**

Park School Middle School Students  
Katharine Callard, Faculty Advisor, GSA  
Alan Rivera, Faculty Advisor, GSA

Park School students will talk about the benefits and challenges of organizing and running their GSA at the middle school level. While high school GSAs are increasingly common, the concept of the middle school GSA is just now catching on. We're proud of our middle school GSA (now in its 4th year), believe in the importance of addressing LGBTQ issues with middle school students, and would like to share our experiences with others.

**Time: 7A**  
**Room: 407**

## **8A. The Dating Game/Living Genders: The Embodiment of Self in Gender in Non-Conforming People**

Hadley Smith, Co-founder, TRANSLATE GENDER  
Shannon Sennott, Co-founder, TRANSLATE GENDER  
Chris Pienta, Translate Workshop Facilitator  
T.S.: Translate Workshop Facilitator

This experiential group workshop explores the connections among gender identity, biological sex, and sexuality in an effort to unravel the complexities and meanings of "Embodiment" and the language(s) we use to define a Self.

**Time: 8A, 8C**  
**Room: 408**

## **9A. Exploring Gender Non-conformity, Identity, and the Power of Language**

Laura Kuper, Clinical Research Assistant, Former President of Vassar College's Queer Coalition  
Al Ittleon, Student and President of Brandies University's Umbrella Queer Organization

Come explore transgender identity, and discuss the ways in which language interacts with the queer community. Focus will also be on ways to increase visibility without simplifying or essentializing the experience of transgendered individuals.

**Time: 9A, 11C adults mainly, youth familiar with topic**  
**Room: 409, 411**

## **10A. 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.

**Time: 10A, 10C**  
**Room: 410**

## **11A. Honoring All Colors of the Queer Rainbow: Organizing Anti-racism Work in GSAs and Why It's Important**

Arthi Sundaresh, Youth Advocate, Youth Pride, Inc.  
Laura Huaranga, OUTspoken Program Assistant, Youth Pride, Inc.

This workshop discusses systems of power and sources of oppression. We will define racism and discuss the significance of this oppression today, how it impacts everyone, and why it is important to incorporate anti-racism work into GSA organizing.

**Time: 11A, 11B**  
**Room: 411**

## **12A. Creating Context and Power Dynamic: How to Influence Policymakers and Legislators**

Matt Goldsmith, GLSEN Boston Board Member  
Benny Vasquez, GLSEN National Student Organizing Director

Understand how both students and community activists can influence legislative processes. We will have a critical discussion on what is "power", power relationships, and where students fit into the power dynamic.

**Time: 12A, 12B**  
**Room: 412**

## **13A. Resistant Administrations: How To Get Your School and Community On Board**

Edward Byrne, Managing Director, Project 10 East, Inc.

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

# GLSEN Boston Conference Session Descriptions

other LGBT 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, confidently and convincingly present a rationale to support their activity and student group, and propose 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.

**Time: 13A**

**Room: 413**

## WORKSHOP B

### FULL DESCRIPTIONS & ROOMS

(11:30-12:45 PM)

#### **1B. Anyone and Everyone, a film screening**

Pam Garramone, M.Ed., Executive Director, Greater Boston PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People)

Greater Boston PFLAG will screen the film, *Anyone and Everyone*. Catholic, Jewish, Hindu, African American, Cherokee Indian, Puerto Rican, Mormon, Japanese, Southern Baptist, American, Asian Indian, Italian, Presbyterian, Protestant, Christian, Bolivian, Methodist...Connected by having a son or daughter who is gay, parents across the country discuss their experiences in the documentary *Anyone and Everyone*. In it, filmmaker Susan Polis Shutz depicts families from all walks of life. Individuals from such diverse origins as Japanese, Bolivian, and Cherokee; as well as religions such as Mormon, Catholic, Hindus, and others share intimate accounts of how their children revealed that they're homosexual and discuss their responses. Parents talk about struggling with the pain their sons and daughters have dealt with, such as not being accepted by relatives and/or friends and being ostracized by religious congregations. The film will be followed by a discussion led by PFLAG parents.

**Time: 1B**

**Room: Auditorium**

#### **2B. Beyond Binaries: Identity and the Sexuality Spectrum**

Robyn Ochs

How do we assign labels to our complicated and unique experiences? We will discuss uses and limitations of labels and of the Kinsey scale and other measures of sexual orientation, and factors such as sex/gender, time, attraction and much more. This engaging workshop will transform your thinking!

**Time: 2B, 2C**

**Room: 402**

#### **3B. Blow it Up! Learn to Use Your Voice to Create Loud Change**

Stump Olsen, Program Director, Youth Pride, Inc.  
OUTspoken Playaz

Every time a queer identified person walks into a room, an explosion of stereotypes occurs just by being ourselves. This is one heck of a teachable moment. Learn how to use your queer power to create positive change wherever you go!

**Time: 3A, 3B**

**Room: 403**

#### **4B. Paragraph 175: Homosexuality in Nazi Germany**

Jeff Krieger, Social Studies Teacher, Ipswich High School

Identity and persecution of homosexuals in Nazi Germany is the focus of this workshop. Participants will explore the gay and lesbian culture in Germany by listening to music, sharing personal accounts, and taking part in interactive activities. This session will provide a unique opportunity to consider daily life for homosexuals in Germany before and during the Holocaust. Avenues for further research, ideas for implementing the material in a classroom setting, and additional resources will be included in the workshop.

**Time: 4B, 4C**

**Room: 404**

# GLSEN Boston Conference Session Descriptions

## **5B. Unmasking Identities**

Janna Jackson, Assistant Professor University of Massachusetts, Boston Graduate College of Education

Based on Dr. Jackson's recent book *Unmasking Identities*, this interactive workshop takes the audience on a journey through the lives of nine gay and lesbian teachers to uncover her model of gay teacher identity development.

**Time: 5A, 5B, adult only**

**Room: 405**

## **6B. Healthy Personal Boundaries**

Jessica Flaherty, Program Director, BAGLY (Boston Alliance OF GLBT Youth), Inc.

In this workshop, young people and adults who work with them will gain language around best practices and explore approaches to supporting healthy personal boundaries in the work they do together to ensure safe school communities for LGBTQ youth.

**Time: 6B, 6C**

**Room: 406**

## **7B. Your Silence Speaks Volumes: Organizing a Powerful Day of Silence**

Holiday Simmons, Student Organizing Associate, GLSEN National

Learn about one of the largest student-created and student-led actions in the country, and how to organize a successful Day of Silence event in your school or community. Official GLSEN DOS t-shirts will be given out!

**Time: 7B**

**Room: 407**

## **8B. Translating the Gender Landscape: Creating Awareness and Activism**

Hadley Smith, Co-founder, TRANSLATE GENDER  
Shannon Sennott, Co-founder, TRANSLATE GENDER  
Chris Pienta, Translate Workshop Facilitator  
T.S., Translate Workshop Facilitator

How do you gender yourself and others? This workshop investigates the gender landscape through informative conversation and an introductory deconstruction of interlocking forms of systemic oppression. Leave with tools to create change within your school!

**Time: 8B**

**Room: 408**

## **9B. Queerspawn – Children of LGBT Parents in Schools**

Elizabeth Castellana, Chapter Director, COLAGE of Greater Boston

Caroline Cox-Orrell, Senior, Newton North High School, GLSEN Boston Board Member

Julia Siegenberg, High School Sophomore, COLAGE Board Member

COLAGERS or Queerspawn are youth and adults with LGBT parents. They are often an invisible part of the queer community, and schools are the place where being out about our families has the biggest impact. We will discuss what the choice to be out at school involves for us, what makes a school safe for us and our families, and how we can be a resource in your schools, your GSAs, and in your student body. We will also discuss what we need to feel safe in your classroom.

**Time: 9B, 9C**

**Room: 409**

## **10B. "You Can't Say That!"**

Shantanette Patrice, MSW, High School Therapist in a School Based Health Center

Many times we have heard homophobic or other disrespectful remarks and were at a loss as to how to respond. This interactive workshop is to help people enhance the skills that they already possess to address such issues. This will be a great way to learn and have some fun.

**Time: 10B, 7C**

**Room: 410, 407**

# GLSEN Boston Conference Session Descriptions

## **11B. Honoring All Colors of the Queer Rainbow: Organizing Anti-racism Work in GSAs and Why It's Important**

Arthi Sundaresh, Youth Advocate, Youth Pride, Inc.  
Laura Huaranga, OUTspoken Program Assistant, Youth Pride, Inc.

This workshop discusses systems of power and sources of oppression. We will define racism and discuss the significance of this oppression today, how it impacts everyone, and why it is important to incorporate anti-racism work into GSA organizing.

**Time: 11A, 11B**

**Room: 411**

## **12B. Creating Context and Power Dynamic: How to Influence Policymakers and Legislators**

Matt Goldsmith, GLSEN Boston Board Member  
Benny Vasquez, GLSEN National Student Organizing Director

Understand how both students and community activists can influence legislative processes. We will have a critical discussion on what is "power", power relationships, and where students fit into the power dynamic.

**Time: 12A, 12B**

**Room: 412**

## **13B. GSA Makeover: 10 New Ways to Make Your GSA Better Than Ever**

Edward Byrne, Managing Director, Project 10 East, Inc.

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?

**Time: 13B**

**Room: 413**

## **14B. Make Your Own Summit!**

Hannah Brown, Jump-Start Student Organizer  
Lane Levine, GLSEN Student Organizing Associate

Hold a summit or conference in your own community! Learn how to do it, what topics to cover, how to find space, how to get people to come, and how to make it amazing!

**Time: 14B**

**Room: 414**

## **WORKSHOP C**

FULL DESCRIPTIONS & ROOMS  
(2:40-3:55 PM)

## **1C. Empowering LGBT Youth Through Theater**

Mal Malme, Theater artist with Queer Soup Theater, Advisor For The North Shore Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth (NAGLY)

Theater has the power to inspire, empower, and encourage discovery of our unique and diverse voices. Through improvisation we will explore our individual identities while creating a space to unite us in a vision to educate others about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender lives.

**Time: 3C**

**Room: Auditorium**

## **2C. Beyond Binaries: Identity and the Sexuality Spectrum**

Robyn Ochs

How do we assign labels to our complicated and unique experiences? We will discuss uses and limitations of labels and of the Kinsey scale and other measures of sexual orientation, and factors such as sex/gender, time, attraction and much more. This engaging workshop will transform your thinking!

**Time: 2B, 2C**

**Room: 402**

# GLSEN Boston Conference Session Descriptions

## **3C. GSAs in Middle School?!?**

Lane Levine, Student Organizing Associate, GLSEN National

Middle schools are the next big thing for student-led safer schools organizing! In this workshop, we will talk about what it takes to start a GSA in a middle school, why it's different from GSA's in high schools, what people's concerns are, and how it can be awesome!

**Time: 2A, 3C**

**Room: 402, 403**

## **4C. Paragraph 175: Homosexuality in Nazi Germany**

Jeff Krieger, Social Studies Teacher, Ipswich High School

Identity and persecution of homosexuals in Nazi Germany is the focus of this workshop. Participants will explore the gay and lesbian culture in Germany by listening to music, sharing personal accounts, and taking part in interactive activities. This session will provide a unique opportunity to consider daily life for homosexuals in Germany before and during the Holocaust. Avenues for further research, ideas for implementing the material in a classroom setting, and additional resources will be included in the workshop.

**Time: 4B, 4C**

**Room: 404**

## **5C. Supporting Gender Variant Youth and Their Families: Consider Adding a "T" to your GSA**

Andrea Razi, LICSW, Intervention Coordinator/Social Worker, Arlington High School  
Jennifer Thomas, LICSW

Attendees will explore the spectrum of gender identity and consider a model of transgender identity development. Role-plays will allow adults and youth to further consider challenges in helping create safe spaces for gender variant youth to be themselves.

**Time: 4A, 5C**

**Room: 404, 405**

## **6C. Healthy Personal Boundaries**

Jessica Flaherty, Program Director, BAGLY (Boston Alliance OF GLBT Youth), Inc.

In this workshop, young people and adults who work with them will gain language around best practices and explore approaches to supporting healthy personal boundaries in the work they do together to ensure safe school communities for LGBTQ youth.

**Time: 6B, 6C**

**Room: 406**

## **7C. "You Can't Say That!"**

Shantanette Patrice, MSW, High School Therapist in a School Based Health Center

Many times we have heard homophobic or other disrespectful remarks and were at a loss as to how to respond. This interactive workshop is to help people enhance the skills that they already possess to address such issues. This will be a great way to learn and have some fun.

**Time: 10B, 7C**

**Room: 410, 407**

## **8C. The Dating Game/Living Genders: The Embodiment of Self in Gender Non-Conforming People**

Hadley Smith, Co-founder, TRANSLATE GENDER  
Shannon Sennott, Co-founder, TRANSLATE GENDER  
Chris Pienta, Translate Workshop Facilitator  
T.S.: Translate Workshop Facilitator

This experiential group workshop explores the connections among gender identity, biological sex, and sexuality in an effort to unravel the complexities and meanings of "Embodiment" and the language(s) we use to define a Self.

**Time: 8A, 8C**

**Room: 408**

# GLSEN Boston Conference Session Descriptions

## **9C. Queerspawn – Children of LGBT Parents in Schools**

Elizabeth Castellana, Chapter Director, COLAGE of Greater Boston

Caroline Cox-Orrrell, Senior, Newton North High School,

GLSEN Boston Board Member

Julia Siegenberg, High School Sophomore, COLAGE board member

COLAGers or Queerspawn are youth and adults with LGBT parents. They are often an invisible part of the queer community, and schools are the place where being out about our families has the biggest impact. We will discuss what the choice to be out at school involves for us, what makes a school safe for us and our families, and how we can be a resource in your schools, your GSAs, and in your student body. We will also discuss what we need to feel safe in your classroom.

**Time: 9B, 9C**

**Room: 409**

## **10C. 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.

**Time: 10A, 10C**

**Room: 410**

## **11C. Exploring Gender Non-conformity, Identity, and the Power of Language**

Laura Kuper, Clinical Research Assistant, Former President of Vassar College's Queer Coalition

Al Ittleson, Student and President of Brandies University's Umbrella Queer Organization

Come explore transgender identity, and discuss the ways in which language interacts with the queer community. Focus will also be on ways to increase visibility without simplifying or essentializing the experience of transgendered individuals.

**Time: 9A, 11C adults mainly, youth familiar with topic**

**Room: 409, 411**

## **12C. The GSA Goes to College: Making the Leap from High School to College as a Student Activist**

Vanessa Savas, Teacher, City on Hill Charter High School

Do you want to continue being a student activist after high school? Wondering how queer activism is different in college? Come share your fears and excitement while learning how you can continue to develop your activist leadership in college.

**Time: 12C, youth only**

**Room: 412**

## **13C. HB 1722: Know Your Rights**

Abigail Carpenter-Winch, Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition Youth Liaison, Junior, Cambridge Rindge & Latin School Junior

Did you know that in Massachusetts you can be legally fired from your job, harassed in school, and denied employment and medical services if you are transgender? Current state non-discrimination laws do not include gender identity and expression, but the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition is working to change this with House Bill 1722. Come learn about it!

**Time: 13C**

## **14C. Coming Out to Parents as GLBT**

Pam Garramone, M.Ed., Executive Director, Greater Boston PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People)

Meet parents who have a GLBT child to talk about coming out to parents and share your own experiences in a supportive environment.

**Time: 14C**

**Room: 414**

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Contact GLSEN Boston today to set up a training in your school.

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## Calling Student Leaders! Calling Dedicated Parents, Teachers and Other Adults!

Join the GLSEN Boston Board of Directors!

GLSEN Boston is currently accepting applications for the 2008-2009 Board of Directors.

Interested in making a significant contribution to ending homophobia in this generation?

Want to be part of an amazing group of educators, students and other members of the community?

Willing to dedicate several hours a week to an important cause?

Contact Frank Pantano at [frank@glsenboston.org](mailto:frank@glsenboston.org) for more information.



# GLSEN Boston Conference Sponsors

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## GREATER BOSTON PFLAG

(Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transgender People)

**We're working to provide respect, dignity, safety, and equality for all GLBT people and straight allies through:**

- \* **Support groups**
- \* **Safe Schools & Communities Project**
- \* **Advocacy work**

**Contact us for speakers or support groups in your area:**

GBPFLAG office: **781-891-5966**

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# Acknowledgements

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**The 2008 Conference Committee...Caroline Cox-Orrell, Jackson Davidow, Morgan Darby, Adam Glick, Alicia Greene, Sarah Maxwell, Frank Pantano, Jeff Reardon, Amaad Rivera, Sherri Sklar, & Sam Zegas.**

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

*...and to all of our conference attendees who came here today to Teach Respect, Embrace Our Voices, to create safe, supportive and vibrant learning communities.*

## 18th Annual GLSEN Boston Conference

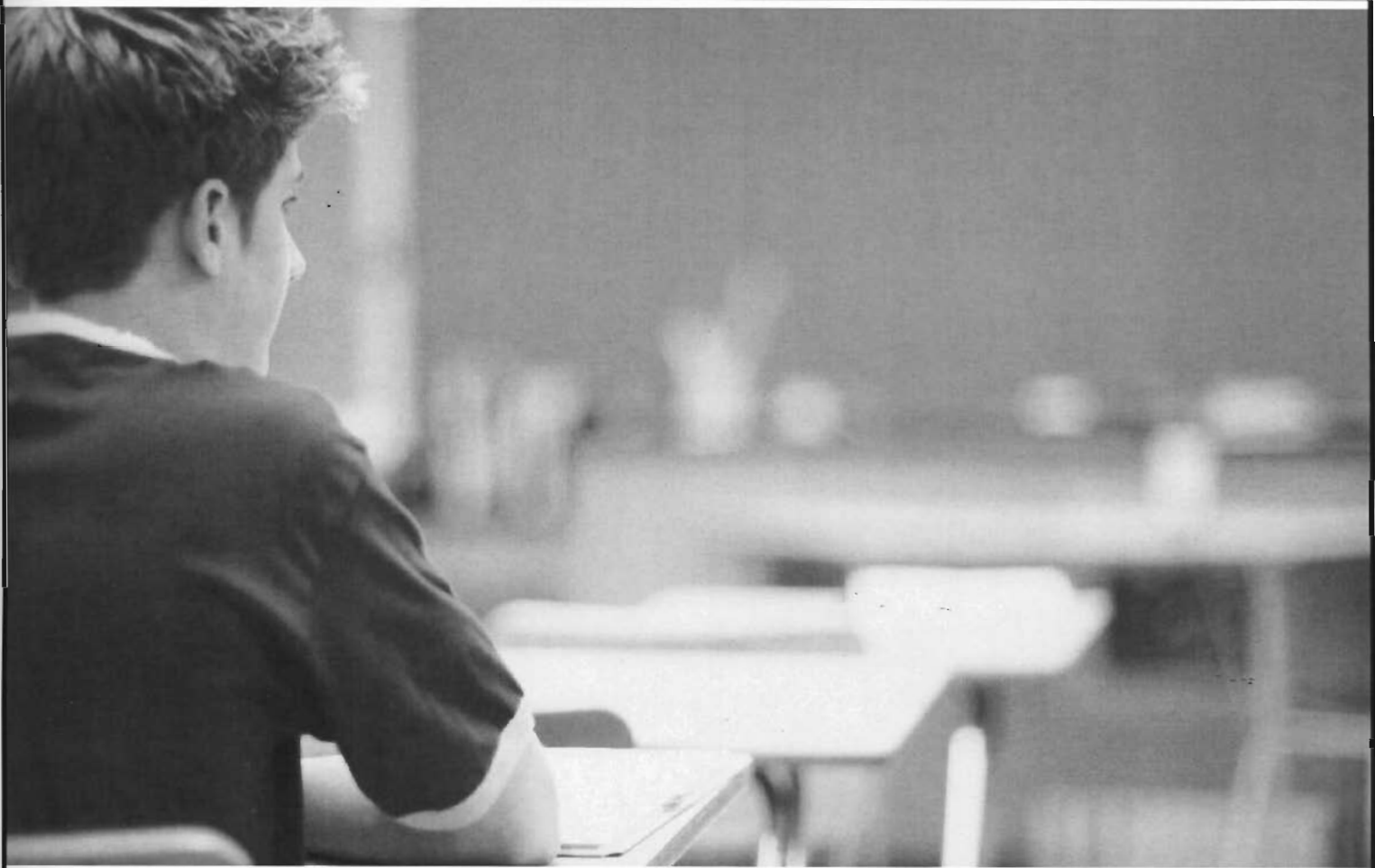


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supports GLSEN's mission to ensure a safe and nurturing learning environment for all students.



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