

Subject: GLSENAlert: Teaching Respect for All '99
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From: GLSEN Alert <glsenalert@glsen.org>
To: "GLSEN News" <GLSENAlert@glsen.org>

An important message from GLSEN-Alert, the electronic news service of GLSEN.

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network -- GLSEN
121 West 27th Street, Suite 804
New York, NY 10001
212-717-0135; 212-727-0254 - fax
glsen@glsen.org
<http://www.glsen.org/>

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) proudly presents its third annual national conference: Teaching Respect for All '99

October 1-3 - Atlanta, Georgia
Westin Peachtree Plaza

Early Bird Registration Rates are available now!

Visit www.glsen.org to register today.

Teaching Respect for All '99 is the most comprehensive networking and skill-building experience available for those working to end anti-gay bias in America's K-12 schools. Whether you're an activist, educator, student or parent, Teaching Respect for All '99 will offer the resources you need to make a difference.

Here's a snapshot of the three-day weekend:

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1

GLSEN is pleased to present seven pre-conference institutes. National experts and seasoned activists will join us to convene these full-day, interactive sessions. Capacity is limited, so sign up soon.

Institutes include:

Responding to the Right Wing
Youth Organizing 101 - Building Youth\Adult Partnerships (for youth and adults)
Youth Organizing 201- Theory and practice, power and politics (for youth only)
Becoming A Change Agent
Organizing with an Anti-bias Agenda

LGBT Educators Empowerment
Making Media Work for You

Full institute descriptions are available on-line at www.glsen.org

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2

Kicking off Saturday's events is a keynote address by U.S. Congressman John Lewis (D-Georgia). Representative Lewis first came to national attention in the early 1960's as a Freedom Rider and as the chairperson of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, which he helped to form. He was also a planner and speaker at the historic March on Washington in 1963. Today, he serves as a leader within the Democratic Caucus of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Following the keynote address, conference attendees will be able to choose from over 65 workshop selections. Although specific titles are yet to be determined, workshop tracks will include beginning and advanced sessions in community organizing, youth organizing, public policy and advocacy, in-school programming and resources, and media.

GLSEN is proud to present a special workshop track entitled, Changing Southern Schools. This comprehensive track will examine the ways in which Southern history, culture, and political trends impact our work to create school communities that are free from anti-gay harassment and intimidation.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3

The morning begins with two more workshop sessions, which will be followed by the 1999 Pathfinder Awards Ceremony and brunch. The Pathfinder Awards honor individuals and organizations that have cleared new ground in the fight against anti-gay bias in schools.

The conference will conclude after the Pathfinder Awards ceremony with entertainment by comedian Margaret Cho.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION IS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE ON-LINE AT:

www.glsen.org

Register today to qualify for Early Bird discount rates.

Travel and hotel information is also available on-line. Stayed tuned for youth and limited income scholarship information.

For additional information please feel free to contact GLSEN at (212) 727-0135.

Printed registration brochures will be available by June.

Visit the GLSEN Blackboard online: <http://www.glsen.org/>

Past GLSENAlert posts are archived on the GLSEN Blackboard:
<http://www.glsen.org/pages/sections/news/glsenalert/>

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FRIEDA TAKAMURA

Article on GLSEN website: <http://www.glsen.org/pages/sections/people/citizens/023.article>

Frieda is a GLSEN National Board Member, and is a field rep for Instruction/Human Relations at the Washington Education Association (WAS), the state affiliate of the National Education Associate (NEA).

What was school like for you?

Fine. I actually became a teacher because of my successes in school. Being of Japanese descent in a predominantly Anglo-American environment, the expectation was always to do better than the dominant group. I also had very strong role models, who were teachers.

How did you get involved with GLSEN?

Hmmm. I'm not sure how I first got involved. I've always been involved in human and civil rights issues. As an activist in this realm, it was a natural progression to become involved in lesbigit issues. As a member of the board of Hands Off Washington, a broad-based coalition group organized to fight the two anti-gay amendments in Washington a few years ago, I came in contact with a number of groups. GLSEN was one of them. I then met Kevin Jennings and was most impressed with him and the work that he did.

What do you do with GLSEN?

I'm a member of the National Board. I also act as a resource for the Washington chapter. We've been able to help provide both financial and resource assistant through WEA. Additionally, I've been able to alert members of WEA to GLSEN's work.

What are your hopes for GLSEN?

Even in Washington, a state that sees itself as being fairly progressive, there is room for improvement. Not always do we see lesbigit issues as ones that affect everyone -- especially

within schools. We tend to switch off our discrimination radars when we deal with lesbigat issues. Many of us can't make the jump from issues of race and gender to understand that discrimination is simply discrimination. We also need to continue to build coalitions. Outreach has to happen at GLSEN. This is more the case when we speak of students as their lives are still before them as healthy adults. We can't simply talk to the "choir", which is something that has happened to many groups aligned along ethnicity. I am particularly inspired by Suzanne Pharr who says (paraphrased), "If one of us faces discrimination, then we all do."

What's the best part of your involvement with GLSEN?

The incredible networking. I've come to realize that I'm not the only one concerned about these issues- which is the way I feel at times. I've met a number of colleagues and friends who are involved in this work everyday as well.

What do you do for fun?

I've got a good family life. My husband and I live on a mini-farm, which is on two acres. We have a Norwegian Fjord pony (who weighs 800 lbs and resembles a hydrant), lots of cats, ducks, chickens and a dog. I also have a garden. I am a voracious reader and I work hard to read works by women of color. Most of what I read has a multi-cultural bent. Right now I am reading *Gangster of Love*, a Filipino author, Jessica Hagedorn's, second book.