



LGBT Youth News

Fifty Attend Gay Day at Magic Kingdom

Youth members from OYA joined members from Pridelines of Miami and Lakeland Youth Alliance to enjoy the Magic Kingdom during the annual Gay Day celebration. A total of 50 youth and chaperones wore red shirts on June 5. Walt Disney World PRIDE helped to secure donated passes for most of the youth members. The rest were donated by parents and volunteers with a couple purchased with car wash revenue.

"It's just amazing to see two men and women walking around here holding hands," said one of the youth members.

Joy Metropolitan Community Church hosted the members of Pridelines in the Page House for a lock-in on Friday night prior to the big day. OYA members used

the House for their lock-in on Saturday night.

A big thank you to all the volunteers, parents, and donors for making this a memorable experience for our youth.



Some of the youth members who experienced Gay Day at the Magic Kingdom. Many for the first time.

Big News on the Horizon

A safe house for LGBT homeless youth and a home for OYA is on the horizon. It could be a reality as early as October. To receive the latest updates on this developing news and more — please join our email list at www.orlandoyouthalliance.org.

Forty percent of all homeless youth identify as LGBT. Orlando is far behind the rest of the country in adequately addressing the problem.



Summer 2010

MISSION

OYA's mission is to provide a safe space for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth ages 13-20

in Central Florida.

OYA is a 501c3 non-profit organization founded in 1990.

Board of Directors

Michael Slaymaker, MHR
Jim Barrett
Laura Stiles
Kimberly Bowles
Bill Mallahan
Phillip Schoppe
Dustin Carter
Floyd Benfield
Nay Burton
Patrick Howell
Dan Grell
Andrea Sheldon, LMHC

Communities Empowering Youth Grant

The Human Services Associates are in their third year of executing a federal *Communities Empowering Youth* grant. In January H.S.A. began funding various projects and expenditures to help OYA in capacity building endeavors.



Know Thyself.
- Plato

H.S.A.'s most recent gift will help to fund curriculum design for the LGBT History & Cultural Studies classes. The classes will be offered to OYA and Orange County Public School Gay Straight Alliance students later this fall. Dr. Patrick Finnessey of Teaching-

Out.org was selected to design the curriculum. Dr. Finnessey is an experienced educator with over twenty years of commitment to North American education. He earned his doctorate in Curriculum Design from the University of Illinois with a concentration in Gender and Women's Studies. The curriculum will include a combination of individual and group activities, reading & research projects, materials from the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN.org) and guest speakers from PFLAG, the GLBT History Project among others.

Through OYA's partnership with the H.S.A. several collaborative opportunities have developed. One example is OYA Board member, Andrea K. Sheldon, LMHC, will conduct sensitivity training for the volunteers and staff at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Florida.

Calendar of Events

Every Tuesday — Peer-to-Peer Youth Support Group

9/25/10 - LGBT Homecoming Dance

10/10/10 - *Come Out with Pride* Parade & Festival at Lake Eola

10/19/10 - LGBT History & Culture classes begin

All OYA volunteers must pass a criminal background check.

Youth Member Spotlight

Justin Townes may seem like a shy young man, but he doesn't let that get in his way when there is work to be done. Justin has been a member of OYA since he was 15. He recently graduated from Boone High School in May. In 2008 Justin, with friends Kaffa and Nathaniel, approached a faculty member and the principal at Boone to start a Gay Straight Alliance. It was the first GSA in the school's history. Over 40 members attended the first meeting.

Justin is currently a student at Joe Blasco Make-Up Artistry Training Center.



Justin Townes in between two other Boone High School graduates and fellow OYA members at the Magic Kingdom.

PH's Babes in Bonnets

The annual Parliament House's *Babes in Bonnets* fundraiser was held on Palm Sunday. This year's beneficiary was once again OYA. Michael Wanzie and Darcel Stevens coordinated the event. Ten volunteer celebrities paraded across the Footlight Theater wearing elaborate bonnets. Approximately 60 patrons attend the event on the rainy Sunday afternoon. The bonnets were paired with prizes from local merchants and auctioned off. Over \$3,000 was generated.

OYA extends a big thank you to the always charitable Don Granatstein and Susan Unger for their generous support of the LGBT youth of the community. Also our gratitude to all the volunteer performers, the prize sponsors, patrons and donors.



Donors as of 6/30/10

Over \$1,000

Human Services Associates
Orlando Fringe Festival
Orlando Magic
Parliament House
SunTrust Bank
The Zebra Foundation for Youth, Inc.
Universal Orlando Foundation
Universal Orlando Resort
Donald Rupe
Walt Disney World

\$101 - \$999

Jim Barrett
James Brower
John Cabrera
Keven Callahan
Larry Cook
Embassy Suites Hotel
Gecko CPA
Don Granatstein & Susan Unger
Louise Kirkpatrick
Bill Kitchen & Camilo Espinel
Lake Fairview Marina
Metropolitan Business Association
Robert Naylor
Pinero Preventive Medical
Ranger's Pet Outpost and Retreat
Jim Reese
SeaWorld Adventure Park

James G. Shepp
Edd Sinnott
Michael Slaymaker
Tres Chic Salon
Watermark
Drew Weinbrenner
Bill Woods
Jimi Ziehr

Up to \$100

Kimberly Besuden, D.C.
Enzian
Ethos Vegan Kitchen
GayDays, Inc.
Lawrence Glinzman
Dan Grell
Kres Chophouse
Matt McKnight
Mi Tomatina
Stanley Miles
John Mullen
Amanda Murphy
MyOptics
Bill Neighbors
Simon Property Group
Sparky's Pet Salon
Kevin Stewart
Laura Stiles
Guy Tomasello
Rachel Zimmer



The children
are our future.





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the community gay straight alliance



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OYA Produces Fringe Festival Play

OYA produced a play at this year's Orlando International Fringe Festival. The show, entitled **I ____ You**, was a contemporary musical theatre revue exploring the dynamics of gay & straight relationships. Alumni, community and current OYA members made up the cast and crew. Youth members gained experience in technical theatre, stage management and performance skills.

Kudos to **Donald Rupe** who directed the show. Heather Langs was the accompanist. Jimi Ziehr designed the program and Allen Overlander served as Sound Technician.

A unique feature of the play was to involve corporate and business partners into the show. The Over the Title Sponsor was **The Zebra Foundation for Youth**. The other Major Sponsors were **Universal Orlando Resort** and **Orlando Magic**. Ten businesses provided prizes for the audience members to win during the show.

Kelly Fitzpatrick, reviewer for The Orlando Sentinel, wrote "Some knockout performances included "I'd Rather Be Sailing" from "A New Brain" and "I'm Not That Smart" from "25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee." The female vocalists really stole the show."

Several audience members made specific mention of Joe Saunders performance of the "Caveman Song" from "Taxicabaret". "He had me in stitches!" remarked one patron.

THE ZEBRA FOUNDATION FOR YOUTH PRESENTS

I ____ YOU
A MUSICAL REVUE

Contemporary musical theatre revue exploring the dynamics of **gay & STRAIGHT** relationships performed by **LESBIAN, gay, bisexual, transgender youth** and the **allies** who support them.

5/21 FRI 5:30 PM 5/22 SAT 12:40 PM
5/23 SUN 4:30 PM 5/24 MON 9:20 PM
5/27 THU 8:50 PM 5/28 FRI 10:30 PM
5/29 SAT 11:10 PM

ORANGE VENUE \$10 • Orlando Shakespeare • Margeson Theatre • Loch Haven Park
For tickets visit www.orlandofringe.org

Proceeds from this show support **Orlando Youth Alliance**, a nonprofit organization, that provides a safe space for LGBTQ youth in Central Florida.

OYA! **FRINGE**