



OUTSPOKEN

Volume 6, Issue 1

Winter 2009

Sponsored by: The Rainbow Room and
Planned Parenthood Association of Bucks County

SPEAK Out! Performs at Gay Bingo!

The crowd went wild as SPEAK Out! entered the stage for its season premiere at FACT's (Fighting AIDS Continuously Together) Gay Bingo event in New Hope on September 16, 2008.

The audience was unsure what to expect, as nobody knew what topic the peer education theatre troupe was covering.

The opening scene began with the hit, "Final Countdown", as the gladiators circled up for trash talk. The audience was "infected" with laughter as STI's battled contraceptives and barrier methods for 3 rounds in a spoof of "American Gladiators," called "STI Gladiators." Judging from the audience response, SPEAK Out!'s performance was a big hit, and many people hope we will perform at Gay Bingo again next year.

- Corey, BCCC student



WELCOME!

OUTSPOKEN is a product of the Rainbow Room, Bucks County's center for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning youth & their allies! OUTSPOKEN is a FREE resource, created by & for LGBTQ youth!

▼ The Rainbow Room ▼

Bucks County's LGBTQ Youth Center (ages 14-21)
Wednesdays, 6 to 8 PM
PPABC Doylestown Office
The Atrium, Suite 2E
301 S. Main Street, 18901
215-957-7981

rainbowroom@ppbucks.org
<http://www.ppbucks.org/rainbowRoom.htm>

To receive the Rainbow Room weekly e-mail with information on Rainbow Room programs & events, send your name and e-mail address to rainbowroom@ppbucks.org!

Staff AIM Contacts:

KateRRoom
MarleneRRoom

- ▼ empowerment
- ▼ activism
- ▼ unity
- ▼ support

Rainbow Room Calendar

For info on upcoming events, visit our website (listed above).

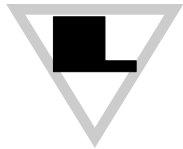
February 14-21, 2009—
National Condom Week
www.nationalcondomweek.com

March 8-14, 2009—National
LGBT Health Awareness Week
www.lgbthealth.net

April 27-May 3, 2009—
Equality Forum in Philadelphia.
For more info, visit
www.equalityforum.com

June 14, 2009—Philly Pride
Parade & Festival. For more
info, visit www.phillypride.org

October 11, 2009—OutFest in
Philadelphia. For more info, visit
www.phillypride.org

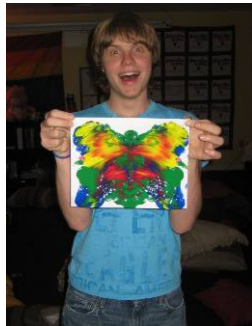


Rainbow Room Weekly Meetings

Wednesdays

6-8pm in

Doylestown



OutFest '08

On October 12th 2008, a group of Rainbow Room youth boarded the train early in the morning to go down to Philadelphia for OutFest. Personally, OutFest is my favorite pride event, and I was excited to go. It definitely didn't let me down.

Shortly after we'd arrived, our table was set up beautifully and artistically with different kinds of condoms, latex dams, and pamphlets. It was a day of great weather, great atmosphere, and fun time to hang out with friends in a very open and accepting environment. Outfest is sort of like a huge LGBTQ block party. There are stands selling different items, stands giving out safer sex supplies, and stands with raffles. It's really a great time, and I sincerely hope that everyone will be there next year!

- Julia, Central Bucks West student



Staff Member Spotlight: Kate, Rainbow Room Coordinator

I guess first off, tell us a bit about yourself.

I'm Kate, I'm the new Rainbow Room Coordinator. I'm also the Director of SPEAK Out! (Sexuality Peer Education & Advocacy Krew) and a Community Health Educator.

You seem like a busy woman! What do you do in your spare time?

I like to spend time with friends, practice yoga, go dancing, and volunteer as an educator in prisons and jails.

Prison, that's really interesting. Tell me more about that...

I started volunteering when I was 19 at a Connecticut State Prison with the Alternatives to Violence Project. Since then, I've worked in six correctional facilities in three states, teaching topics ranging from dance, poetry and theatre to conflict resolution, anger management and non-violence techniques.

Sounds like really important work. What led you from working in prisons to working at Planned Parenthood? That's a big change!

All of my work in prisons, jails, schools, and community settings has been focused on social change through personal empowerment. Though the issues and challenges the various populations face are different, my purpose and vision are the same: empowering people to make positive change in their own lives and in the greater community.

How have things been as Rainbow Room Coordinator so far?

Pretty good. Rainbow Room is a change from the North Philadelphia community center and the Boston public high school I taught at before. There's a big difference between working in urban and suburban settings. Change within communities can be challenging, and people have had to get accustomed to me. Christine (*the former RR Coordinator*) and I aren't the same person. Not better or worse, just different. The way we do things is naturally going to be different.

Tell me a bit about what you're working on right now. Where are we heading in the future as Rainbow Room?

A big part of my vision is upping youth involvement, making Rainbow Room a youth-run program, versus a program for youth. I want to expand partnerships with other LGBTQ youth centers in the area, so youth can see themselves as a part of Rainbow Room, but also as a member of the larger, supportive LGBTQ community.

- Paul, Boston University student



The many faces of Kate

Puzzles

A brand-new section of OutSpoken!

Word Search

Theme: Rainbow Room

F	S	S	E	N	T	I	F	U	N	O	K	V	R	O	M
A	S	I	R	R	H	E	A	R	T	D	C	A	L	M	I
L	P	E	A	C	E	G	H	O	I	U	E	L	N	Z	N
L	E	S	I	D	H	A	S	U	T	E	F	U	E	W	D
Y	A	C	N	I	V	T	L	E	L	U	D	E	M	A	H
C	K	O	B	B	R	O	U	G	U	W	P	S	E	B	R
T	O	F	O	O	D	B	C	O	Y	P	P	A	H	L	E
T	U	M	W	D	O	L	X	A	Y	J	I	P	E	I	S
L	T	A	F	Y	O	R	C	T	C	O	L	R	A	V	P
S	C	I	R	O	P	R	I	D	E	Y	L	O	L	E	E
P	L	E	C	T	R	L	S	L	I	L	O	I	T	N	C
I	E	D	U	C	A	T	I	O	N	Z	W	N	H	I	T
R	A	E	G	U	T	N	I	V	A	B	S	E	P	Y	V
I	N	R	X	E	S	S	H	E	Q	U	A	L	I	T	Y
T	D	E	L	I	C	I	O	U	S	F	H	S	E	R	F
A	S	H	A	R	E	H	U	M	A	N	I	T	Y	B	S

Word List:

- PEACE
- HAPPY
- JOY
- EDUCATION
- SEXUALITY
- HEALTH
- FRIENDSHIP
- HEART
- RAINBOW
- LOVE
- ADVOCACY
- EQUALITY
- FUN
- PRIDE
- SPEAK OUT
- YAC
- DELICIOUS
- GLEE
- HUMANITY
- RESPECT
- REAL
- FOOD
- YOUTH
- ALLY
- VALUES
- MIND
- SPIRIT
- FEEL
- COMFORT
- PILLOWS
- BODY
- CALM
- FITNESS
- LIVE
- SHARE
- COOL
- CLEAR
- CUTE
- FRESH
- CLEAN

Sudoku Puzzle

Level: Easy

9	8	3		5		4		
4				9				
				4		2	8	
				6		1		
1	5						6	4
		6		8				
2	1		3					
			1					5
		9		2		3	1	6

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215.348.CDCD www.sirenrecords.com

My Sunrise

Inside of me, a sun is rising.
 It brings with it realizations.
 It brings wisdom,
 And knowledge of myself.
 As my sun rises,
 Its colors boil,
 Wanting to be let out.
 Finally I can't hold in my sun!
 I must let out all of my colors,
 And shine!
 I let my sun break through my body,
 And let it out into the world
 Shining about with all of its glory!
 But some people are blinded,
 By all of my light.
 They try to hold me back.
 They try to *break* my sun,
 With all of its colors.
 They haven't succeeded yet.
 And until they do, *if* they do
 My color will shine on.

- Brett, Solebury School student

A Few of My Favorite Things

Bright hair glowing under a florescent light;
 Kisses on a playground;
 Brownie smiles;
 Hiding the stars;
 Anticipation reflected in train windows;
 Superlatives;
 Soft touches fluttering across the small of my
 back;
 Walking with no intention of arriving;
 The complacency of a lone phone booth;
 Ever-changing colors;
 Leaving with no intention of staying away.

- Sarah, Council Rock South student

My Epiphany

I am weak. I am different. I am ugly. I am told that I am an abomination. I am told that I will go to Hell. I am told that I am lesser of a person than those around me. I am expected to pretend that I am someone that I am not. I am expected to be a stereotype. And at the end of the day, I am required to smile and pretend nothing is wrong.

Being a gay teenager in America is a test of strength. With the anti-gay propaganda fed to children daily, it's a wonder we even have gay people. As if being judged by our peers isn't enough, some are exiled by their religions and dis-owned by their parents because of who they love.

I often dream of a world where coming out is a thing of the past. A world where anyone can love who they want, and no one else cares or interferes. Where beauty is not second-guessed and morals are derived from common sense instead of old traditions. A world where loves can coexist and hate would not be so easily conceived. I am convinced I will see this world someday; I just don't know how far I have to travel to see it.

I can recall coming out to my mom. I was driving, she was in the passenger seat, and it was dark out. I had already psyched myself out and I was more nervous than I had been in my life, trying to maintain my composure. I felt a rush, I was getting dizzy, I couldn't see straight, and I knew I shouldn't be driving. I kept telling myself that this will not get any easier and I have to just say it or else it will eat me up inside. So I did.

I am one of the lucky ones. I am lucky enough to have parents who accept who I am and love me unconditionally. My mom told me that the only thing she wanted was for me to be happy and that she still loves me. I could not have been more thankful; but that did not stop me from crying. I was not sure if they were happy tears or sad tears, but I cried in my room afterwards; and that is what I had to hide. I felt the weight get lifted from my chest and I was able to be myself.

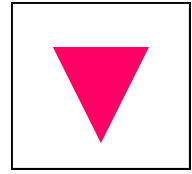
That is my epiphany. The world that I dreamt of is the world that I live in. I am not weak. I am stronger than anyone thinks I am and I can do anything. I am not ugly. I am beautiful no matter what anyone else says. Never again will I pretend I am someone that I am not. I just want to be me, I love myself, and that's all that matters.

The question I should ask is not how far I'm willing to travel to find my perfect world, but how hard I'm willing to work to make this world better.

- Jim, BCCC student



 **Planned Parenthood**[®]
Association of Bucks County



With active youth leadership, the Rainbow Room strives to provide a supportive and empowering environment for LGBTQ youth and allies to come together for social, advocacy & educational activities



Trevor Helpline: 800.4UTREVOR
BiUnity Philly: www.biunity.org
GLBT Peer Line: 800.339.PEER
LGBT Counseling Service: 215.732.TALK
PFLAG Bucks County: 215.598.8005
Trans Health Action: 215.732.1207

Contributors:

Corey, Julia, Paul, Brett, Sarah, Jim,
Youth Advisory Council, Rainbow Room
Youth & Siren Records! ♥

*The Views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of
Planned Parenthood Association of Bucks County's Board or Staff.*