

GLAD Chat



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March Social

The March Social will be held March 12; **the doors will open at 5:30, and we will eat at 6:00.** The potluck will start early because the Unitarian Universalist Church will be beginning its Environmental Film Series on the 12th with *Divide in Concord*. Jean Hill, a fiery octogenarian, is deeply concerned about the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Since 2010, she has spearheaded a grass-roots campaign to ban the sale of single-serve, plastic bottled water in her hometown of Concord, Mass. In the same town that incited the American Revolution and inspired Thoreau's environmental movement, can one senior citizen make history? A tense nail-biter of a vote will decide.

After the potluck, members will have three choices: they can watch the environmental movie; they can bring games to play, or they can socialize.

Congratulations Jim Barr

Springfield CORAL honored our own Jim Barr with the Community Service Award at the Ritz Ball on February 6th. It is well deserved for all he does for the LGBT community.

February Social Takes the Cake

A big GLAD Thank You to Rene Verry for bringing a homemade cake to the February social at the Main Hangar in honor of GLAD's 23rd Anniversary.

And another GLAD Thank You to Doug Gross for the birthday cake in honor of his birthday. They were both very well received.

Proposed Change to By-Laws

With the growing awareness of multiple genders in our community, the GLAD Board is recommends the removal of the words "male" and "female" from the title of co-chair to read just "co-chair."

The vote will take place during the March Social, and only members who have paid their dues will be eligible to vote.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 12 5:30 PM
GLAD Social. UUFD
3773 N MacArthur
Rd. Decatur

March 25 7:00-
10:00 PM ISU
Pride's 18th Annual
Charity Drag
Show Brown Ball-
room at Bone Stu-
dent Center ISU.
Student tickets
Free-\$5.00 sug-
gested donation.
General Admission
\$7.00. Reserve
and/or purchase
tickets at the
Braden Box Office

March 30 6:00 PM
GLAD Board Meeting
DMH Cafeteria

BISEXUAL RESOURCE CENTER DESIGNATES MARCH AS BISEXUAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Boston, MA – With a focus on the unique needs and experiences of bisexual+ youth, the Bisexual Resource Center (BRC) proudly proclaims March as Bisexual Health Awareness Month (BHAM) for the third year in a row.

Bisexual+ youth, who encompass a diverse spectrum of sexual identities (e.g. bisexual, fluid, no label, pansexual, queer), experience higher rates of suicidality, substance use, bullying, and sexual violence compared to their gay, lesbian, and straight peers. They are also less likely to be connected with programs and services, both at school and in their local community, that can best support them.

Therefore, Bisexual Health Awareness Month aims to raise awareness about these health disparities and to promote resources and actions that can improve the health of bisexual+ youth. BHAM will work in partnership with various LGBTQIA organizations, including the Human Rights Campaign, Trevor Project, BiNet USA, and Bisexual Women of Color (BIWOC), to achieve this mission. This year's campaign will also empower bi+ youth to share their health-related experiences and needs.

“With more and more youth coming out as bi+, the need to highlight their disparities becomes more crucial every day,” said BRC Co-Presidents Heather Benjamin and Kate Estrop in a joint statement. “It’s important that bi+ youth know that they are not alone, they are valued, and they have community.”

Throughout the month of March, BHAM will focus its efforts on bisexual+ youth with the following weekly themes:

- **March 1-4: (Statistics)** A focus on current statistics and research surrounding bisexual+ youth, including mental health, sexual health, and interpersonal violence.
- **March 7-11: (Intersectionality)** An emphasis on how race, ethnicity, gender, ability, and class can further impact social, economic, and health disparities among bisexual+ youth, particularly in regards to experiences of oppression and discrimination.
- **March 14-18: (Resources)** A spotlight on current resources, and the creation of new ones, that can improve the health and wellbeing of bisexual+ youth.

March 21-25: (Action) The promotion of programs, policies, and services that can work to prevent or decrease social, economic, and health disparities among bisexual+ youth.

The third year of Bisexual Health Awareness Month launches Tuesday, March 1st on the BRC’s [Twitter](#) (with hashtags [#BiHealthMonth](#) and [#BHAM](#)), [Facebook](#), [Tumblr](#), newly launched [blog](#), and [campaign website](#) <http://bihealthmonth.org/>

- The BRC invites individuals and organizations both in the United States and from around the world to become involved with this year’s campaign and to raise awareness about health disparities impacting bisexual+ youth in their own communities.

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