

Lesbian
Gay
Bisexual
Transgender

E D U C A T I O N
O U T R E A C H
S E R V I C E S

Out Words

Sexuality & Communities of Faith

Religion. Spirituality. Faith. Higher power.

No matter what you call it, for many LGBT people, beliefs and practices rooted in religious or spiritual traditions are an important part of their lives.

There are LGBT people in every sect, branch and type of religion. For many, the welcoming spiritual home offered by their community of faith is a warm and comforting place of togetherness that affirms the diversity of their congregants. For some, their faith involves passionate belief and complex struggle as a result of their religion's official stance on sexual orientation or same-sex unions.

Want to learn more about faith and sexuality? Check out:

Reconciling Ministries Network www.rmnetwork.org

Seeks to enable full participation of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities in the life of the United Methodist Church.

The United Church of Christ Coalition for LGBT Concerns www.uccoalition.org

Provides support and sanctuary to all our LGBT sisters and brothers, their families and friends; advocates for their full inclusion in church and society; and brings Christ's affirming message of love and justice for all people.

The World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Jews www.glbtejews.org

Works to create an environment where LGBT Jews worldwide can enjoy free and fulfilling lives.

Soulforce www.soulforce.org

An interfaith movement committed to ending spiritual violence perpetuated by religious policies and teaching GLBT people the nonviolent principles of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. toward the liberation of sexual and gender minorities.

Al Fatiha Foundation www.al-fatiha.net

Dedicated to LGBT Muslims.

Affirmation—Gay & Lesbian Mormons www.affirmation.org

Serves the needs of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender LDS and their supportive family and friends.

Dignity USA www.dignityusa.org

Working for respect and justice for all gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons in the Catholic Church and the world through education, advocacy and support.

More Light Presbyterians www.mlp.org

Seeking the full participation of LGBT people of faith in the life, ministry and witness of the Presbyterian Church.

Gay and Lesbian Vaishnava Association www.galva108.org

Providing a positive place where third-gender devotees and guests can associate together and utilize their time to learn more about Krsna consciousness and advance in spiritual life.

Metropolitan Community Churches www.mcccchurch.org

This Fellowship of Churches plays a vital role in addressing the spiritual needs of the LGBT community around the world.

A bibliography of recent books is available in the Resource Room.



Inside this issue:

Alumni News	2
LGBT Center—By the Numbers	2
Upcoming Events	3
Student Worker Joins the LGBT Center	3
Book Notes	4

Lisa Maurer, Coordinator
Center for LGBT Education,
Outreach and Services
Ithaca College
150 Hammond Center
Room B16
Ithaca NY 14850
(607) 274-7394
Lmaurer@ithaca.edu

www.ithaca.edu/lgbt

First Ever IC LGBT Alumni Gathering



Guest speaker Tara Foley ('02) addressed the 2nd Annual Rainbow Reception for LGBT and Allied Graduates at the close of the academic year 2003–2004 as parents, friends, and family gathered to honor the accomplishments of our talented graduating seniors.



IC's Escalante Quartet welcomed graduates, families, students and supporters.



Alumni from 1991 to 2003 gathered for lunch, networking and a history lesson, complete with scrap books and stories from years past.

The following afternoon, current students and alumni gathered for the first-ever LGBTA networking event. Students and alumni found common ground in some of the challenges and opportunities

they faced both then and now. Alumni also expressed interest in the new ideas and directions our current students are pursuing.

Stay tuned for further information on the next alumni gathering. LGBT and Allied Alumni can also join the new listserv for Ithaca College LGBTA Alumni.

If you know someone who would like to join, encourage them to contact the LGBT Coordinator!

LGBT Center by the numbers...

- ✓ **28** LGBT Center Student Volunteers in the 2003-2004 Academic year
- ✓ **3,300+** LGBT Center Visitors in the 2003-2004 Academic year
- ✓ **670** titles in LGBT Center lending library
- ✓ **14,432** hits to LGBT Center website since going live in September 2002.
- ✓ **4** = number of times LGBT Pride Flag flies over campus
- ✓ **3** = number of times LGBT Pride Flag stolen while flying on campus

What's in a name?

Some people may remember when the first lesbian and gay student group at IC gathered under the name GALA nearly 25 years ago. Others will remember when a "y" was added to make GAYLA, which later became BIGAYLA, and then a sister organization was born and *Created Equal* ushered in a new era of student activism for social justice and an end to homophobia.

The history of LGBT and allied student groups at IC is rich and complicated. Some years, groups gathered with a hush of secrecy, not knowing how the campus community would greet them; other years, the academic quad served as a backdrop for a week long public education project about LGBT people. Whatever the permutation, LGBT and allied students at IC routinely look for new and meaningful ways to meet the growing needs of sexual minority, questioning and allied students.

Last semester, BIGAYLA members began the creative and challenging process of finding a new name for their student group that would include all of the unique people and identities that they serve. With a new name and a group of energetic and creative new officers, ***prism*** is already off to a running start with ideas and programs in the works, including a conference call with Margaret Cho and the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force!

For more information, contact prism at www.ithaca.edu/prism

Fall 2004—Upcoming Events

LGBT Center Open House and Social Tuesday, September 2, 4 - 6 pm

See old friends, make new ones, find out about this year's exciting line-up of guest speakers and events, and learn more about LGBT Center services.

"Living with AIDS" panel discussion Wednesday, September 29

The Ithaca College AIDS Working Group presents this 17th annual event, 7 pm in the Emerson Suites.

Voices of Recovery—Monday October 4, 7 pm Klingenstein Lounge

A diverse panel shares their experiences, in coordination with National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week.

Coming Out Day Lecture 2004—Monday, October 11, 7 pm Clark Lounge

Author Kari Krakow shares her experiences in writing the first children's biography of a gay historical figure, The Harvey Milk Story.

LGBT Issues in Education Panel—Tuesday, Oct 26, 6 pm Campus Center Conference Room

Hear stories from the frontlines as LGBT professionals working in various education careers discuss their experiences and share advice for students pursuing careers in education.

Home for the Holidays

Date and location TBA—check the Center's website for more information!

The holidays and winter break can be a stressful time. Come build your confidence and skills!

Film Series!

Out of the Closet and Onto the Screen: Intersections of Sexuality and Faith in Film

*a yearlong film series at
Ithaca College
begins this semester.*

The series will present documentary films that explore sexual orientation and identity through the lens of faith.

Four films will be shown during the Fall 2004 semester:

*September 20th
"Family Fundamentals"*

*November 1st
"I Exist—Voices from the Lesbian and Gay
Middle Eastern Community in the United
States" and "Act of Faith"*

*December 1st
"The Smith Family"*

All films will be shown at 7 pm in Textor 102

*Would you like more information
about this film series?
Call the LGBT Center at 274-7394*

*Film series will continue this Spring;
more details to follow.*

Introducing the very first LGBT Center student worker!



The LGBT Center is thrilled to welcome Josh Redman '06 to our dedicated group of OMA Student Workers!

Visitors will see Josh's smiling face regularly in the LGBT Center on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, as well as in the Egbert Hall and Towers Concourse locations of the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

Josh will bring his energy and enthusiasm to a wide variety of LGBT Center projects and initiatives. Always ready with a suggestion or resource, Josh is excited to be taking on this new role.

C E N T E R F O R

*Lesbian
Gay
Bisexual
Transgender*

E D U C A T I O N
O U T R E A C H
S E R V I C E S

ITHACA

Lisa Maurer
Coordinator
150 Hammond Center
Room B16
Ithaca NY 14850
(607) 274-7394
Lmaurer@ithaca.edu

Check out the full-color version of this
newsletter on our
AWARD WINNING
website!

www.ithaca.edu/lgbt

Book Notes



**Made in God's Image:
A Resource for Dialogue
about the Church and Gender
Differences**

By Ann Thompson Cook
Dumbarton United
Methodist Church,
Washington DC, 2003

From the author:
Combining valuable
information, personal
sharing, and resources, this

booklet is a perfect starting place for any congregation,
family, or individual seeking to better understand
transgender issues and to provide a supportive
environment for all of God's children.

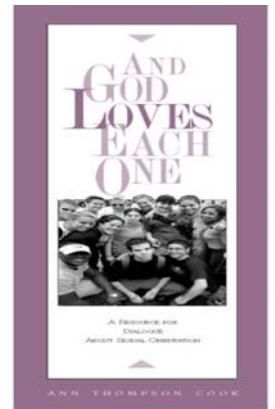
**And God Loves Each One:
A Resource for Dialogue About
Sexual Orientation**

Ann Thompson Cook
Dumbarton United Methodist
Church, Washington DC, 2004

From the author:
A catalyst for a new
dialogue about sexual
orientation
in churches and
communities.

It's about lighting a spark of learning.

It's about growing and bringing people together, united
by their profound faith that God indeed loves each one.



Both resources available in the LGBT Resource Room and at
www.madeinimage.org and www.godloveseachone.org