

# QUEENS PRIDE HOUSE NEWS

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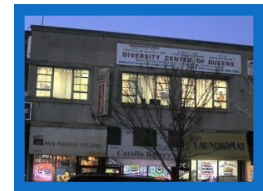
May 2011

## WELCOME TO QUEENS PRIDE HOUSE!

By Lianna Newman

As you're walking down 37th Avenue, and you arrive "What is QPH?" you ask. QPH is the LGBTQ Community Center of Queens. We strive to create a safe and nurturing space within Queens. "What can you find at QPH?" QPH has a variety of discussion groups, social events, opportunities to volunteer, a Library/Media Center, and you can receive assistance with health referrals. There are plenty of ways to get involved and it's a great place to come and hang out with friends!

to a building. You walk in, head up the stairs and turn left. As you enter through the double doors, a friendly face is there to greet you. Once you're there, check out the lounge, library and say hello the very welcoming staff and volunteers. In the library you'll see a wonderful collection of LGBTQ books and movies, which you are more than welcome to check out. You are in Queens Pride House.



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A Letter from Executive Director/Fiscal Report	2
Message to LGBT Youth/Community Potluck	3
St. Pat's Day Parade/Valentine's Day	4
Volunteering/Fun facts	5
Volunteer Spotlight	6
Health Report	7

## A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hello Everyone,

The welcoming reception I received since coming to Queens Pride House has been very heart warming and I thank everyone for that.

Although Queens Pride House still faces challenges in the upcoming year, I feel QPH is in a much better position to face them head on. We have new infrastructure in place and streamlined processes developed, which is helping QPH to increase its fundraising activities, program development, center usage, data collection and community outreach, all in order to meet the needs of the LGBT community of Queens.

Even with the budget cuts experienced by QPH the work product has increased ten-fold. A large part of that is due to an incredible amount of very talented volunteers stepping forward and saying that they believe in the mission of Queens Pride House and the services it provides.

Moving forward, QPH will also be seeking strategic collaboration partners to further the goal of increased programming. There are tough times still ahead for all non-profits and it is imperative that strong relationships are developed in a fair and equitable way to all parties in order to insure that vital funding we all need, keeps flowing to Queens.



One of my primary goals at QPH is to increase the LGBT voice of Queens. Many times we seem to get drowned out by others who don't represent the Queens LGBT community. To this end QPH will be increasing its visibility in the community as well as adding our voice at the state, national, and international arena.

I am excited about the changes still to come and I hope you are too.

Yours In Pride,  
Peter

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Dear Queens Pride House supporters & volunteers,

I am happy to report that Queens Pride House closed out 2010 solidly in the black, having surmounted the most serious fiscal challenge in our history.

Because of the state budget crisis last year, QPH faced the prospect of losing significant state funding, and we were forced to lay off staff members and reduce the number of hours the center was open.

In response, the staff and board of directors at QPH worked together with supporters and volunteers to spearhead a new fundraising campaign, the most successful in the history of the organization. The board of directors has decided to hold those funds in reserve in order to keep the organization going while waiting for funding due from funders. And volunteers have stepped up to help run the center.

QPH has completed its annual audit and filed informa-

tional tax returns with the State of New York and the Internal Revenue Service in the first week of April, six weeks before they were due. We will post the financial information from those returns by the end of April.

2011 will be another challenging year for us, as we have only replaced some of our lost funding and there is heightened competition for the reduced funding pool available to 501(c)(3) organizations. We anticipate that we will have to do even more fundraising this year, and we will use those funds to cover expenses necessary to keep our doors open.

On behalf of the board of directors and staff of QPH, I would like to express our appreciation for everyone who has contributed time, talents and funds to support the only LGBT community center in the borough of Queens.

Charles J. Ober  
Treasurer  
Queens Pride House  
Board of Directors



## DEAR LGBT YOUTH

By Urban Queering

Urban Queering, the youth leadership group at Queens Pride House, would like to share the following with LGBTQ youth about what we have learned:

- Don't be afraid to be yourself.
- Always feel free to express yourself.
- Don't be scared.
- Love, educate, protect and empower each other.
- Remember to stand strong for what you believe in.
- You are NOT alone, there are resources, hotlines, and support groups out here to be used.
- Lastly, always keep in mind: Difference is Beauty.

While being a part of the Urban Queering Youth Group we have attended/presented workshops about leadership, anti-bullying, HIV education, and information regarding resources and prevention methods. We participate in and coordinate social gatherings (i.e. parades, parties, movie nights, potlucks, and rallies). We also participate in health fairs and educate others by doing presentations for youth. We are a "Judgment Free Zone" with a confidential open forum. If you're interested in attending, we meet every Wednesday from 5-8pm at Queens Pride House.

Sincerely,  
UQ



## WHAT'S FOR DINNER? POTLUCK!

By Brandon Grossius

If you like to eat, socialize, cook, or just happen to be free on the last Friday of every month, come join our Community Potluck at Queens Pride House. The Community Potluck was created by the Men's Group held at QPH. The members of Men's Group came up with the idea to create a social event for everyone and the result was the Community Potluck! It's a creative way to celebrate diversity! Bring a dish, eat, socialize and hangout with your LGBTQ friends in Queens. The environment is friendly, welcoming and positive! Just bring your appetite and a dish!



Photograph by Elyaqim Mosheh Adam



Photograph by Elyaqim Mosheh Adam



Photograph by Elyaqim Mosheh Adam

## IRISH EYES WERE WATCHING QUEENS PRIDE HOUSE

By Kevin Wehle

On Sunday March 6th Queens Pride House had its first big outing of the spring. We marched in "the all-inclusive" St. Patrick's Day Parade in Woodside, Queens. This is the only St. Patrick's Parade like it in all of New York City. It was founded by Brandon Fey, who is a pioneer in working for equal rights for all Irish people. Not even the down pours stopped QPH from marching and letting the people of Queens know that, "We are here!"



We handed out candy to parade-goers and marched with our heads held high. We were excited to join the many groups that came to march, some of which included Irish Lawyers, Marriage Equality, ACQC, and there was even a group of Irish children dancers, just to name a few. Thanks to those who marched and attended the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Woodside was a wonderful event!

## VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE HIGHLIGHTS



Photograph by Elyaqim Mosheh Adam



Photograph by Elyaqim Mosheh Adam



Photograph by Elyaqim Mosheh Adam

## A HELPING HAND

By Kevin Wehle

Why is volunteering so important? Volunteers help us by providing a spectrum of services including but not limited to outreach, front desk, social media, maintenance, fund-raising, event planning, group facilitating, etc. Queens Pride House volunteers are extremely diverse in regards to race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, background, age, etc. Volunteers help us increase our visibility, which in turn enables us to help the LGBTQ community in Queens. As long as we are one, and we work for the whole community and the greater good, we shall, one day, have equality for everyone in the LGBTQ Community.



In my own experience volunteering with Queens Pride house, I've grown more brave and accepting of myself and others. I have met a lot of wonderful people and made good friends. I feel pure joy in my heart when I lead the QPH Men's Group and helping QPH put together special events. I even feel proud when I find myself, from time to time, cleaning QPH. Knowing my efforts are going to help people find resources like QPH, or have a great time at a special event my heart smiles. I love inspiring others to reach their full potential.

## THE MORE YOU GAY...

Test your knowledge about the LGBT community in media today.

1. Who was the 3<sup>rd</sup> State to Legalize Gay Marriage?

- A. Maine
- B. Iowa
- C. Vermont
- D. New Hampshire



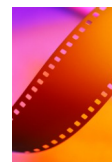
2. Which Lady Gaga song has been rumored to be the new anthem for the LGBT Community?



- A. Born This Way
- B. Boys Boys Boys
- C. Bad Romance
- D. Paparazzi

3. Which Actor/ Actress has played a LGBT role in a movie?

- A. Tom Hanks
- B. Charlize Theron
- C. Al Pacino
- D. All of the Above



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

By Amy Rushfirth & Ilona Margiotta

Queens Pride House is happy to shine a spotlight on volunteer Kevin Wehle! Kevin was born and raised in Queens, New York. He heard about QPH through Facebook and first got involved through the New York Bear Den (which meets at QPH on the 2nd Sunday of every month).

He then attended Men's Group and after hearing about budget cuts and our need for volunteers, he decided to get even more involved. Currently, Kevin is a part of the Fundraising Committee; he is the group facilitator for Men's Group (English), and helps out with whatever he can at QPH. Kevin said Men's Group is his favorite activity at QPH. "I like leading it. I like discussions with the guys. I like everything I do [at QPH], but this is my favorite!" said Kevin.



Kevin Wehle

# “Hard work pays off.”

places like [Queens Pride House], not just the bars.” Kevin believes that when society portrays the LGBTQ community in a stereotypical way, “the important things get obscured and relationships between people are often overlooked or ignored.”

When he's not volunteering at QPH, Kevin enjoys hanging out with friends, writing, and going to the movies. Kevin said while volunteering at QPH he has learned that “Hard work pays off.” He likes to see things evolving and more and more people coming through the doors to participate and volunteer.

# “It's just a great place for everybody to hang out.”

If he had to go to a desert island and bring one person, one food, and one movie, Kevin said he would bring Ben Affleck, Godiva Chocolate, and Boys on the Side. When asked if he is single, Kevin replied, “Absolutely—yes.” Kevin works as the Bargain Lead at Barnes and Noble and has worked there for 12 years. Kevin is also a published poet, and has his own self-published book out called, "Hairless....In a World of Big Hair."

excited to see more events and more programs. Kevin commented, “It's just a great place for everybody to hang out.” Kevin thinks the biggest challenge facing the LGBTQ community today is, “Having people know that there are

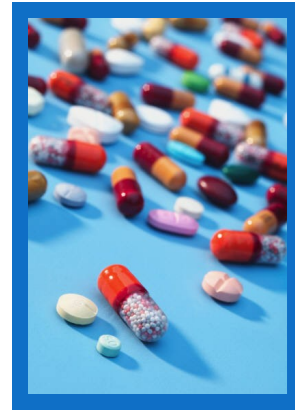
## LGBT PARTY DRUG USE

By Peter Pavich

Studies conducted since the 1970s have suggested a higher prevalence of alcohol and drug use in lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities compared to the general population. Many providers find there is a direct correlation between party drug use and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in urban gay male populations in their communities.

Of all the communities affected by the increased use of "party" drugs like Cocaine, MDMA (Ecstasy, X), Ketamine (Special K), Amyl Nitrate (Poppers), and Methamphetamines (Crystal Meth), gay men are perhaps most notably affected. There is clear evidence that much more prevention education is needed in this particular area of LGBT health related issues. In order to facilitate better acceptance of the prevention education the LGBT community must be receptive to the education being presented.

In addition to their dangerous physiological effects, these drugs cause disinhibition, incaution, and, some say, heightened sexual arousal. Healthcare providers believe they hinder safer sex practices, that they have catalyzed recently increased rates of Gonorrhea, Syphilis, Hepatitis A, and HIV in metropolitan LGBT communities, and that they are a serious LGBT health concern.



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