



Dear Students, Educators, and GLSEN Washington Supporters,

A big thank you goes out to all of the presenters and participants of this year's Youth Leadership Conference! We are thankful to those who joined us virtually and committed your time to learning and making steps towards better schools for LGBTQ+ youth. Now, we are looking through your feedback and working to make next year even better.

Our Policy Coordinator, Amanda Klecan, was interviewed by Parent Map about why school libraries need LGBTQ books. Read the article [here](#). Read more about Amanda in our March Newsletter [here](#).



Upcoming event...

National Physical Education and Sports Week is May 1-7. We will be re-airing our conference morning keynote given by Sue Bird and holding a short workshop after. Read Sue's bio [here](#).



We are here to support you!

Connect with us on social media or contact us through phone or email!



(206) 330-2099



www.glsenwashington.org





@glsenwa

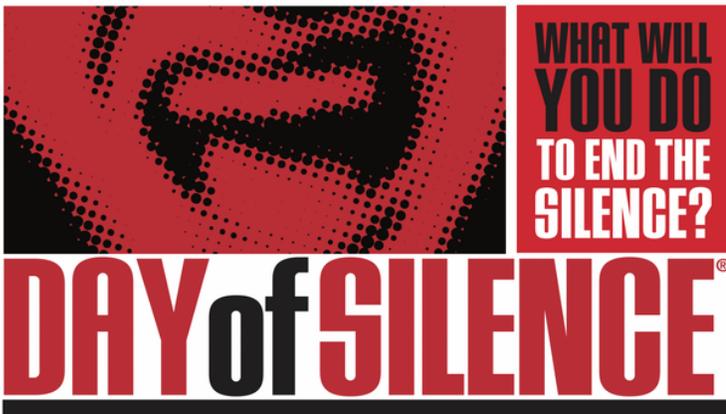
APRIL 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
ALL MONTH! Arab Heritage Month					1 Freedom Seeds (HOLD) Ends	2 World Autism Awareness Day
3 ALA's National Library Week Begins	4	5	6	7	8	9 ALA's National Library Week Ends
10 National Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21		23
24	25	26 Lesbian Visibility Day	27	28	29	30

Day of Silence

10 things to do for the Day of Silence

1. Wear t-shirts, stickers, or other items that show your support.
2. Set up a table and pass out speaking cards, stickers, and other materials.
3. Be silent for part of the day, but for another part of the day (or the next day), organize an assembly or panel discussion on issues that affect LGBTQ+ and allied students.
4. Create a "Stop the Silence" wall, where students who support the Day of Silence and ending anti-LGBTQ+ bullying and harassment can write their comments of support.
5. Find "speaking allies" that speak on behalf of silent students for the day. The speaking allies can explain to others the purpose of those who are silent and even perform skits or use other creative means of building awareness.
6. Have a silent lunch to recognize the Day of Silence. End this period by spending some time discussing how you feel LGBTQ+ students and their allies are silenced because of harassment, discrimination and abuse, and brainstorm ways you can help end the silence.
7. Ask a supportive teacher to let you talk for five minutes at the beginning of class about what the Day of Silence is, and why you think it's important.
8. Write a letter to the editor for your school newspaper, explain your feelings about discrimination, harassment and abuse in your school, the Day of Silence, and why it's important to you.
9. At the end of the day, do a silent count down.
10. Have a Night of Noise party after the Day of Silence. This can include a speak out, poetry readings, food, music, and more.



**My Silence,
My Story.**

I'm participating in **GLSEN's Day of Silence**, a national youth movement highlighting the silencing and erasure of LGBTQ+ people in schools.

Over 4 in 5 LGBTQ students don't see positive LGBTQ representation in their curriculum, nearly 9 in 10 experience harassment or assault, and almost a third miss school because they feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

Together, we can **Break The Silence**, making our school more inclusive for all. **Join me by texting SILENCE to 21333 or by visiting glsen.org/DayOfSilence.**



To find guides and additional resources, click [here](#).

March Retrospective



We were honored to have Harmony Devany recite her Anti- Land Acknowledgement at our conference last month.

Follow her on Instagram @talulas_jewelry and read her bio from our conference booklet [here](#).

Her words were a call to action. *The GLSEN Washington State office is located on land stolen from multiple Coast Salish tribes.* While true, statements like these are not enough; it does little to shed light on the enduring negative effects of colonization on Indigenous communities. We see this legacy in the current crisis of Indigenous people going missing at alarming rates. According to research conducted by the Urban Indian Health Institute in Seattle, in Washington State, Indigenous women go missing at four times the rate of white women.

We must also celebrate the achievements of Indigenous people. Apayauq Reitan (Iñupiaq) became the first out trans woman to compete in the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race this year (follow her on instagram @huskyderp). Read more [here](#).



National Deaf History Month

March 13th - April 15th

These dates were chosen because they are the anniversary of

March 13th, 1988 - Deaf President Now Protest: For its first 124 years, Gallaudet University never had a Deaf president. After **student-led protesting** in 1988, I. King Jordan became the first Deaf president of Gallaudet. Read more [here](#).

April 15, 1817 - Establishment of American School for the Deaf in Hartford, CT as the first permanent public school for the deaf.

Read and watch Nyle DiMarco and Chella Man Talk the Power of Deaf Queer Community [here](#).

Read Deaf Lesbian Seattleite artist Ann Silver's bio [here](#) and view her art [here](#).



“

Being born into this identity and this body, it's not like you want to be political or you want to face hate, or you want to speak up about certain issues... Of course you're going to create art about that because art is about passion and what hits you the hardest

- CHELLA MAN

He is featured in GLSEN's LGBTQ+ History Cards, which can be purchased [here](#).

Read his bio [here](#).

Arab/MENA/SWANA Heritage Month

To learn more about the differences between the terms Arab, MENA (Middle East, North Africa), and SWANA (Southwest Asia and North Africa), click [here](#). This article is written by queer Lebanese-American dancer Nadia Khayrallah. Check out their website [here](#). @nadiakhayrallah on instagram

Arab, MENA (Middle East, North Africa), and SWANA (Southwest Asia and North Africa) communities continue to be deeply negatively impacted by the rise in Islamophobia and discrimination that proliferated in the wake of 9/11. The Middle East is often painted as unrelentingly homophobic. While it is true that homosexuality is criminalized in multiple Middle Eastern countries, we must interrogate our bias. Considering the Middle East synonymous with LGBTQ+ oppression overlooks the vibrant history and current lived experience of LGBTQ+ people in the Middle East and the Arab/MENA/SWANA diaspora.

"Undated photograph of Egyptian comedy genius Ismail Yassine (1912–1972) in a women's nighty. Yassine famously donned full drag to portray the character of 'Al Anisa Hanafi' in the movie of the same name in 1954. "Miss Hanafi" was the first Arab film to address trans issues and gender re-assignment in Egypt, and it was a smashing success."

- Marwan Kaabour & Iman El Kafrawi



Watch Activists Discuss Being LGBTQ+ in the Arab World [here](#).

Read *Audacity in Adversity: LGBT Activism in the Middle East and North Africa* from Human Rights Watch [here](#).

Graduation



Scholars Celebration

Saturday, May 14

After two long years, the Greater Seattle Business Association (GSBA) Scholars Celebration returns as a brunch on Saturday, May 14! We'll gather at the Seattle Waterfront Marriott to meet our remarkable 60 GSBA Scholars, hear their stories, and celebrate our graduating scholars.

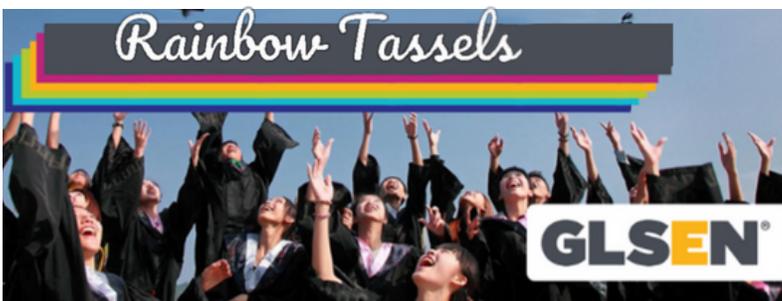
This year, the GSBA Scholarship & Education Fund is proud to invest over \$500,000 in our cohort. You won't want to miss out on this heartwarming celebration of these talented LGBTQ+ students and their accomplishments.

To learn more & register, click [here](#).

Presented by



Honor your graduating students with Rainbow Tassels!



GLSEN Washington State wants to award a free rainbow tassel and certificate of achievement to every graduating senior in Washington State high schools who has participated in a Gender-Sexuality Alliance (or related club dedicated to reducing anti-LGBTQ+ harassment in schools).

For more information and to order your tassels, go to:
www.glsenwashington.org/rainbow-tassel

To be able to provide free programs like this one, we rely on donations. Please consider making a tax deductible donation [here](#).

Seeking Board Members



GLSEN Washington State is looking for mission-driven, organized and energetic people to join our Board!

Are you great at program planning, grant writing, finances or volunteer recruitment? Joining our board is a fantastic way to bring your skills and expertise to help LGBTQ+ students in Washington State. Board members are expected to attend a monthly board meeting in addition to contributing about 5-10 hours of volunteer work a month.

If you have a strong commitment to GLSEN's mission and enjoy the administrative side of helping to run a small nonprofit, we'd love to hear from you!

Accessibility: Board meetings will continue to be held virtually, over Zoom, so as to ensure that they are as accessible as possible to community members with disabilities and to those who live outside of the Seattle area. Some of our volunteer opportunities are likely to become in-person in the future, but we will retain enough virtual volunteer opportunities that you would not need to be able to travel to Seattle in order to hold a board member position.

For position descriptions, click [here](#). To Apply, click [here](#).

Meet the Board

Marsha McDowell

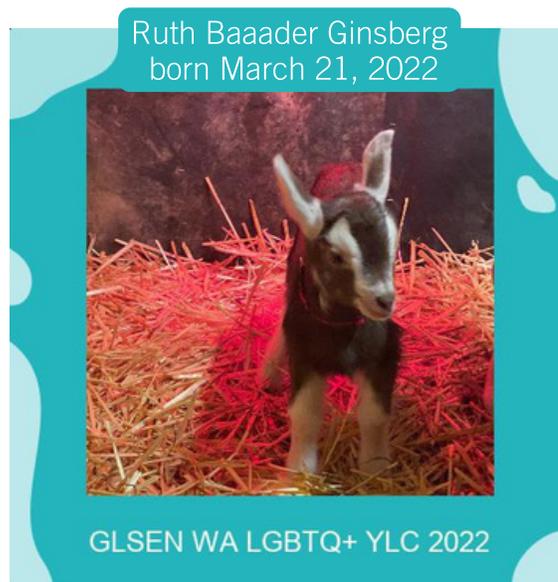


She/her
Treasurer

When did you start working with GLSEN?
July 2021

What do you do outside of GLSEN? (jobs, hobbies, other volunteer positions, etc.)

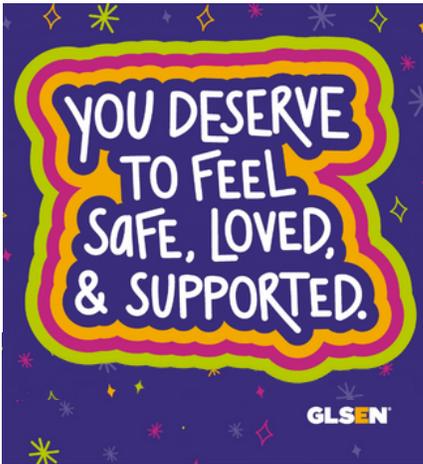
I am a stay-at-home parent and a graduate student. I love music, quilting, and being in nature. I also volunteer with my local food bank and am a volunteer coordinator for Social Justice Sewing Academy.



What is your favorite program that GLSEN offers?

Both the Rainbow Library and IN·clued sexual education are very important to me. I love books and believe you can never have enough books to learn about the diverse world we live in. Having LGBTQ inclusive books in school libraries allows for LGBTQ students to feel included and teaches others that diversity is wonderful. I grew up with very little sexual education so I love the IN·clued program to teach kids how to engage in safe sexual activity and advocate for their rights and bodily autonomy.

IN·clued
INCLUSIVE HEALTH CARE – YOUTH & PROVIDERS EMPOWERED



Why is creating inclusive schools important to you?

People come in all shapes, sizes, colors, and identities. Children need to know it's ok to be who they are and express themselves in ways that make them happy. Inclusive training allows for everyone to understand and support our differences without judgment and criticism. It is so important for children to belong and feel accepted. Inclusive schools help them with that and also gives them a safe place to be themselves.

Who is your favorite super hero and why?

Marsha P. Johnson. In the face of so much adversity she stood her ground and demanded equity. It took a lot of courage to fight for the transgender community, especially being a Black woman and having to fight racial discrimination as well. Plus she has a fantastic name!



Marsha P. Johnson is featured in GLSEN's LGBTQ+ History Cards, which can be purchased [here](#). Read his bio [here](#).

If you have any questions or need any resources, please send us an email (mail@glsenwa.org) or contact us on social media (@[glsenwa](#) on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [Facebook](#)). We'll get back to you soon.

If you would like to make a donation to GLSEN Washington to help our programming, you can go to www.glsenwashington.org. Thanks for your continued support!

