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August 2012

GASS Expanding- New Meetings!

A new trans support/discussion group will meet 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 7 to 9 PM starting Sept. 18th at:

The Q Center
2841 NW Kitsap Place, Silverdale

Someone is trans if they don't identify as the gender they were assigned at birth, whether or not they are currently living as that gender. Trans men, trans women, gender queer people, significant others, friends, family, and allies are welcome!

Contact Jill Davidson at jilldavidson53@gmail.com for information.

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AIDS Walk Kitsap is a fund raiser to keep the Q Center running. Your generous help will be very appreciated.

Trans-spiritual Council 2012 Convening

***This Year's Theme: The Story of Now: Affirming
Pathways / Building Spiritual Communities***

The Gender Alliance of the South Sound is very pleased and excited to have the opportunity to host the 4th Annual Trans-Spiritual Council "Convening of the Council" here in our home base of the South Sound, Tacoma, Olympia and Gig Harbor, Washington.

The Trans-Spiritual Council is a non-denominational collective of spiritual teachers, healers, writers and leaders who are also transgender. Together they represent a blending of spiritual traditions, including Christian, Buddhist, Hindu and Native American practices and precepts. The goal of the council is to affirm and honor the various pathways and encourage the bonding and building of community among those who share the vision of compassionate spirit rising around the world. Though the message of the council has particular resonance for the LGBTQ community, these thoughts and ideals are applicable to all people in their quest to

AIDS WALK KITSAP 2012

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
BREMERTON BOARDWALK
10 AM TO 1 PM

REGISTER ONLINE: AIDSWALKKITSAP.ORG
CALL (360) 698-3335

AidsWalkKitsap.org

RETREAT GOES WELL

It was a fun trip over to the coast just north of Ocean Shores for the GASS camping retreat this last weekend. Many smiles were seen. One of the stand out events was our talking circle on Saturday evening around the camp fire. It was like the talking circles GASS members share at the Rainbow Center and in Olympia but with the addition of the talking totem, in this case the beautiful walking stick provided by the beautiful Lonness.

It just seemed that those that held the stick talked a little more seriously, a bit deeper from their inner being. There were firmer voices heard holding more certainty. And those that were not holding it were just a bit more attentive, a bit more aware than without it. Perhaps we were sensing something special in that circle. Certainly we were witnessing a building and strengthening of us, a people, and a community.

Give us a weekend where we feel free enough to be who we are without fear, where we can strike up a friendly conversation with any of the twenty nine folks there from our tribe, where we have had enough food and rest, and we will make good cathartic talking circles.

Looking forward, GASS envisions a similar weekend with the talking circle starting earlier in the evening then evolving into a drumming circle. Such shared experience and sheer volume/power can be quite impressive. We would need a secluded property for that, of course; something to plan for next year, perhaps.

Thanks to all that attended for lending your energy to the group whole. We had those of that could not make it this time in our thoughts and hearts. All of us are the circles within and overlapping our other circles.

CAMPING IS FUN !!

better understand their self and the world.

Only once per year do the members of the council "convene." Previous Convenings of the Council have occurred in Albuquerque, NM and St. Paul, MN. This is the full council's first visit to the Pacific Northwest. This year's Convening will occur during the time of the Autumnal Equinox, with events from September 19-24, 2012. Events will take place in Olympia, Tacoma and Gig Harbor. All events are open to the public with no charge, though RSVPs are requested for some events. For more information about the events and to learn about the council go to:

transspiritcouncil.org

Funding for Name Changes

NameAid is a program provided by GASS to help people of low income pay for their legal name change.

Many trans people feel a name change sends an important message to the world, a message solidified and made official by a court order. The formal update is critical to getting other IDs and papers to reflect one's new name. **GASS will reimburse court and clerk charges to those trans persons changing their names who qualify for a reduced fee through WA State court rules.**



See the GASS website to learn more.

SPEAKERS & TRAINING

The Gender Alliance of the South Sound makes available presentations, speakers bureau and diversity training for South Sound area schools, colleges, organizations and businesses. Specialized programs designed for students from Middle School through post-graduate levels, and presentations for the workplace environment can be arranged.

If your school, organization or business has transgender students, employees or clients, you could benefit from the educational programs that GASS can provide.

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Q SOUTH SOUND CALENDAR

LGBTQ Events in Tacoma, Olympia & South Puget Sound Area

STAY IN TOUCH
QCal makes it easy to find what's happening!

This unique online calendar compiles events from a wide range of South Sound businesses and organizations and presents them in one convenient location on the web.

Please check out the calendar. By linking to the website and "liking" it you can help spread the word and make a stronger LGBTQA2I community.

Click here to go to to the



<http://southsoundqcal.com/>

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**Follow GASS
on Facebook**



For more information on the programs and more than 150 events that GASS is working on and providing this coming year please visit the website.



www.SouthSoundGender.com



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