

Workshop Session #1: 12:30pm – 1:45pm

Intersection of Racial/Ethnic & Queer Identities on Health and Wellness

Disparities in health outcomes are a reality for racial & ethnic minorities. Living as a queer person can also be dangerous to your health. This workshop examines the intersecting aspects of our lives as queer people of color and its impact on our health. This workshop will also offer strategies for improving our health and wellness.

Gilbert Achay is originally from Hawai'i. After two years at the University of Hawai'i, he moved to Minneapolis to study child development at the University of Minnesota. His professional experience includes work in the youth development and public health arena. Currently he is a Youth Programs Manager at Pillsbury United Communities, is on the boards of the Rainbow Health Initiative and the Minnesota Asian/American Health Coalition, and serves as a council member on the Minnesota HIV Planning Council.

Isaiah Brokenleg will have a biography.

Antonio Cardona has been active in community organizing for the past 10 years, working primarily with GLBT communities and communities of color. He is a Blue Cross Blue Shield Fellow and is also a coach for the Minnesota Partnership for Action Against Tobacco's Fellowship, Leadership, and Advocacy Institute to Advance Minnesota's Parity for Priority Populations.

Queer POC Social Spaces: How Do We Find Them? How Do We Create Them?

Can't get to dance salsa or do electric slide at your local queer bar? No faces in the crowd that look like yours? This is a common experience for Queer People of Color. This workshop explores examples of queer social spaces and provides ideas and tools to build social networks within our communities of color and within the larger "White" queer mainstream.

Fue Khang is one of the Co-Founding members of the Hmong College Student Association of Minnesota. He is an accomplished student and campus organizer, and his passion to serve people is evident in his numerous achievements, including the GLBT Outstanding Undergraduate

Award, the Hmong Student Organization Executive Award, and being a Certified Student Leader. Fue was the first male Homecoming Queen at St. Cloud State University.

Kevin Xiong was born and raised in Stockton, CA and moved to Charlotte, NC when he was 12. Now 25, and in St. Paul, he is currently in school at Devry University pursuing a degree in Business Administration with an emphasis on Human Resources. He is a proud and out gay person. His family is very accepting of him, thus enabling him to move here to the Twin Cities to pursue his membership with SOY. Kevin has been a part of SOY since 2003, and he is currently the standing Vice President.

Joe Ward has over 25 years of management experience in Corporate America. He has worked in a variety of industries from retail, to news and print media, to sales and marketing. He became more involved in GLBT rights and organizations when he met Nick Metcalf, who at that time was the Executive Director for Minnesota Men of Color. Joe became increasingly more intrigued and interested in what Nick was trying to accomplish – it made sense to him that it was, and still is, the right thing to do. Joe then got involved with Nick's organization and, in 2002, eventually started Soul Essence, which established itself as the African American pride host for the State of Minnesota. Soul Essence has been in existence for over 5 years and continues to grow and expand. Their scope now includes not only being the pride host, but also serving as a valuable resource for the African American community and working with youth of color. Soul Essence has now taken steps to partner effectively with other GLBT organizations in the Twin Cities and the relationships continue to flourish. At last count, Soul Essence, under Joe's leadership, has partnered with over 25 agencies in the last five years. Joe gets personal gratification knowing that Soul Essence is making a difference within the GLBT African American community as well as the larger mainstream GLBT community as well.

Herbalism and Homeopathy

This workshop is on healing by Nature and the fact that the Spirit is the true healing agent, defined as Energy Medicine. Participants will discuss Herbalism and go over the practical use of key herbs for HIV/AIDS and also cancer. The workshop will also discuss Homeopathy and how to

select one remedy, among 2000, that fits the exact symptoms and causation of an illness.

Robert Gallagher started Present Moment Herbs & Books 26 years ago, which has a very tight focus on providing natural healing modalities for the treatment of illnesses, chronic or acute. He is a firm non-believer in medical drug therapies. His store offers alternative therapies, specializing in Herbalism, Homeopathy, Flower Essences, and Traditional Chinese Medicine, among other modalities.

Sex: Keeping it Real, Getting it Hot, and Making It Safer

This workshop will share new and innovative, engaging, experiential, sex-positive exercises that promote communication, informed choice and safer sex. Topics include: latest terms and trends and what they mean, as well as other topics for men who have sex with men (gay, bisexual, Two-spirit, queer).

Al Forbes is Principle Consultant for A.L. Forbes Consulting Services. He has extensive national experience in HIV/AIDS education and prevention work, as well as work on issues affecting African-American gay men and queer people of color. He trains around the country on topics as varied as Harm Reduction, Spirituality, Dating for GLBT Youth, and Grant Writing. He has used his many talents to further the cause of many social justice organizations, including Gay Men of African Descent, the National Youth Advocacy Coalition, Gay Men's Health Crisis, and Men of Color Against AIDS.

Beyond Gay Marriage: Developing a Queer People of Color Agenda

We have a national movement and national organizations pushing for the rights of LGBT people. Most of that Queer agenda focuses on "Gay Marriage;" however, queers of color experience many of the same problems of their racial/ethnic communities of origin. This workshop will discuss other issues – such as immigration, access to quality education and healthcare, adoption/second parent adoption and more -- which impact Queer People of Color.

Ann DeGroot has been the Executive Director of OutFront Minnesota, the state's premier advocacy and public policy organization for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and allied community, since its founding in 1987. In this leadership position, Ann was instrumental in the organizing and lobbying that led to an amendment to the Minnesota Human Rights Act in 1993, which protects citizens from discrimination, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Brandon Lacy Campos is a 29 year old, queer, mixed-race, positive, playwright, poet, and organizer from Minneapolis. He has worked locally and nationally in the queer, racial justice, economic justice, and anti-war movements. He is currently a Grant Writer with Camp Heartland and a Democratizing Elections Fellow with the Liberty Tree Foundation for the Democratic Revolution--a national leftist think tank based in Madison, WI.

Raquel (Rocki) Simões is a white Brazilian who came to the United States to go to college, discovered Rice Krispie Treats, feminism and lesbianism (not necessarily in that order), and decided to stay for awhile. She lives in Powderhorn Park with her partner of 12 years, Susan Raffo, and their daughter, Luca. After many years of worrying about immigration status, Raquel got her green card in 2001, shortly before Luca's birth. As white parents, they try to figure out how to raise a child with an awareness of her white privilege and a motivation to join others in ending white supremacy.

Lisa Sass-Zaragoza has worked in the educational arena for the last 15 years in both rural and urban settings, as a youth worker, teacher, community organizer, school administrator, and consultant. Currently, she works as the Outreach Coordinator for the Department of Chicano Studies at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

Workshop Session #2: 2:00pm – 3:15pm

Faith and Spirituality: Healing Mind & Soul

Some Queers have rejected organized religion because of their frequent and wholesale bigotry against homosexuals. Still, many Queer people long for a spiritual life. This workshop will look at ways to re-connect faith and spiritual pathways that lead away from religious bigotry, prejudice,

and violence, and towards spiritual communities that offer welcoming spaces to LGBT/Queer people.

Lupe Castillo, Moderator, will have a biography.

Dr. Dia Cha is Associate Professor of Anthropology and Ethnic Studies at St. Cloud State University. She has received numerous national academic awards for her research, teaching, service to the community, and tireless work as a champion of gender and ethnic equality. In 1994, she received both the Outstanding Woman Award at Metropolitan State College (Denver) and the TRIO Achievers Award of the National Council of Educational Opportunity Associations (Chicago). In 2002, she was the Hmong Women's Action Team (St. Paul, MN) recipient of their National Hmong Women's "Courage to Make a Difference" Award. Dr. Cha has also been widely published, including the books *Hmong American Concepts of Health, Healing and Conventional Medicine* (2003) and *Dia's Story Cloth: The Hmong People's Journey to Freedom* (1996).

Alfonso Wenker is studying Justice & Peace Studies and Public Relations at the University of St. Thomas (UST). Alfonso is the former Co-President and current Community Outreach Coordinator of UST Allies, Co-Chair of the MN GLBTA Campus Alliance, and Co-Chair of the 2006 Minnesota OUT! Campus Conference, and recently finished a Development Internship with OutFront Minnesota.

Creating Change in Our Institutions as an Out Person of Color: A Conversation with Rusty Barceló

This workshop offers an opportunity to discuss issues of diversity and inclusion, from the personal level to the institutional level, with Chicana, lesbian community leader Rusty Barceló. Dr. Barceló has made it her life's work to help institutions of higher education acknowledge and address issues of diversity, equity and access.

Dr. Nancy "Rusty" Barceló is the Vice President and Vice Provost for Equity and Diversity at the University of Minnesota and a nationally-recognized leader in the field, with over 30 years of experience in equity and diversity in higher education. Dr. Barceló has been hailed as both a leader for transformational change around issues of equity and diversity as well as an astute visionary practitioner. From 2001-2006, Dr. Barcelo served as Vice President and Vice Provost for Diversity at the University of Washington, and was the Associate Vice President for Multicultural and

Academic Affairs at the University of Minnesota from 1996 to 2001. Dr. Barceló also served as the Assistant Provost for Academic Affairs at the University of Iowa. Dr. Barceló earned her Ph.D. and M.A. from the University of Iowa and her B.A. from Chico State University.

Sex Positive Women

This workshop is an exploration of sexual ideas, attitudes, and activities in the sex lives of lesbian, bisexual, Two-spirit, and queer women. It will include "show-and-tell" and speaker presentations to help participants build a healthier, more positive, integrative, and empowered approach to their sexual relations.

Roxanne Anderson will have a biography.

Culturally Informed Care, Self Care, and Prevention: A Native History and View Forward

Founder of the Two Spirit Press Room, Native activist Richard LaFortune has been at the forefront of creating awareness and sharing information about indigenous LGBT communities. In this workshop, Mr. LaFortune will look back at Native History and provide his assessment of current and emerging issues for LGBT Native People.

Richard La Fortune (Anguksuar) was born in 1960 in Bethel, Alaska and is a citizen of the Yupik (Eskimo) tribe. Richard was the Director of Training for the National Native American AIDS Prevention Center, and the Executive Director for Honor the Earth, an international environmental justice public education and grantmaking foundation. He was also a Program Officer with the Grotto Foundation. Richard began studying traditional history and culture with Elders and community members from tribes in Minnesota in 1979-1980. He then studied and influenced Native language policy development in other parts of the United States and Canada. Richard's professional work has been in health and human services, foundations, as well as arts and culture, with a dual focus on public policy and philanthropy. He is a co-founder and national director of Two Spirit Press Room, a GLBT Native cultural and media literacy program located in

Minneapolis. He regularly presents Two Spirit issues and concerns at seminars and conferences around North America.

Workshop Session #3: 3:30pm – 4:45pm

Going Back Home to Our Communities (Families Supporting HIV+ Members)

Whether it is back to the reservation, the barrio or the 'hood,' sometimes Queer people return to their families of origin after an HIV+ diagnosis. In this workshop, will teach skills and provide tools that families and communities can use to support HIV+ members.

DeAndrea Hillary-Lynch is 28 years old, HIV+ wife and mother. DeAndrea is currently working in the HIV community as an HIV/AIDS Community Educator.

Louis Taylor has worked with HIV/AIDS infected individuals and families for 6 years, including service providers for the last 3 years at various agencies, mostly non-profit. His primary focus is strengthening HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention.

Being an Ally to Communities of Color

Alliances between marginalized groups can be a source for change in the mainstream community. But many times our different experiences of privilege and oppression prevent us from coming together. This workshop will define what it means to be an ally across the different racial/ethnic, sexual identity, gender, and class categories, and offer tools and ideas for building and sustaining coalitions.

Emily Lindell has been and remains part of the problems of white supremacy – especially through her role in organizations that fail the individuals/communities they “serve” by perpetuating racism and class oppression. Emily challenges herself and her white peers to understand how we enact these harms so we can commit to ending them. Emily envisions an interconnected liberation of cooperation, surplus, and joy!

Owen Marciano is currently the Assistant Director of the GLBTA Programs Office at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and a part-time Youth Advocate at District 202. Owen has been working on GLBT education, training, and activism on college campuses for 6 years, and has made a lifelong commitment to doing educational and activist work around social, racial, and economic justice.

Ross Neely has been doing work around race, gender, and sexuality for the last seven years. He currently works for the GLBTA Programs Office at the University of Minnesota, coordinates the Transgender Commission and GLBT Systemwide Commission, and serves on the Minnesota GLBTA Campus Alliance Board. Ross is studying anti-oppression organizing and struggling to reframe ally development for himself and his work. Ross has a red beard.

Intergenerational Discussion on Gender and Race

Description goes here.

Reneka Evans was born in Memphis, TN and moved to the Twins Cities in the early 1990's. She is currently working at the African American AIDS Task Force in South Minneapolis as a Transgender Program Coordinator and a POL Program Specialist. Reneka is a member of the Soul Essence Board and a member of the Program in Human Sexuality (PHS) with the University of Minnesota. Reneka has been working in the HIV/AIDS and Transgender Community for over five years and plans to continue to service her peers in her community.

Marissa Higgins was born in Kansas City, MO. She started her transitioning over eight years ago, using doctor-prescribed hormone medications and living in the gender role that she preferred. Marissa is also a member of the Program in Human Sexuality (PHS) at the University of Minnesota since 200, and she is an active participant and member of the Trans-Unity Program at the African American AIDS Task Force. She also works in the transportation field seeking fair and equal justice for the transgender community in her current career.

Erika Kane is from Lil' Rock, Arkansas and Chicago. Born a male at birth. Living as male and female. Performing as Ms. Erika Kane at local clubs in Minneapolis.

NeeCee Taylor will have a biography.

Racism in the GLBT Community

Description goes here.

Jackie Cooper has 25 years of experience as a human resource generalist with a firm grounding in staffing and the AA/EEO/Diversity arenas. During her very successful career, she has held positions such as: Director of Diversity Development at Regions Hospital in St. Paul, Director of Affirmative Action and Diversity Development at the Metro Waste Control Commission in St. Paul, and Manager of Affirmative Action/EEO Programs at the Metro Transit Commission in Minneapolis. She has served as a St. Paul Human Rights Commissioner and also worked in various positions within that department for 10 years. Jackie consults and facilitates throughout the country. She has her BS from Central State University in Ohio. Jackie has partnered with iMpact HR Consulting for over 7 years on a professional basis, as both facilitator and consultant. She has presented training programs on behalf of iMpact at several organizations spanning a number of industries. Her work is routinely described as "engaging, knowledgeable and provocative" by participants. She is certified to facilitate a number of iMpact programs that focus on diversity, cultural awareness, workplace inclusiveness, and race and gender bias.

Dating and the Internet

More MSM are using the Internet to date, meet sexual partners and/or make friends. Men dating on the Internet have problems similar to those experienced in real time dating: communication, honesty, trust and physical compatibility. In addition these men experience issues unique to the electronic venue: bi-location, scheduling to meet and, lack of physical intimacy. This interactive workshop will draw on the Internet experiences of participants, discuss the pros and cons of Internet dating, and provide participants tips and suggestions to establish and maintain personal safety.

Al Forbes is Principle Consultant for A.L. Forbes Consulting Services. He has extensive national experience in HIV/AIDS education and prevention

work, as well as work on issues affecting African-American gay men and queer people of color. He trains around the country on topics as varied as Harm Reduction, Spirituality, Dating for GLBT Youth, and Grant Writing. He has used his many talents to further the cause of many social justice organizations, including Gay Men of African Descent, the National Youth Advocacy Coalition, Gay Men's Health Crisis, and Men of Color Against AIDS.