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e-Pw brings you a glimpse of events near and far, from around your neighborhood to around our world.

"Spring Fling" Dance this Weekend! - April 5th

JUST A REMINDER:

Saturday, April 5
SPRING FLING DANCE
Eagle's Hall
126 Camellia Way
in Modesto

Doors Open at 5 pm
Open to everyone 18 years
+
Tickets \$15 at the Door



****Raffles - Food - Dancing with DJ Diane Pena -Drinks - Fun****

Photographer on hand to capture your special moments with your friends.

If you want an opportunity to be a contestant and play the DATING GAME, please arrive by 6 pm.

Additional parking behind STAR Market on Yosemite next to El Castillo Restaurant.

This is a Fundraising Event hosted by the [Stanislaus PRIDE Day 2008 Committee](#) and [OWL Empire of Stanislaus County, Inc.](#)

See you there!

The 'Spring Fling' is the first of a series of year-long pride activities in the greater



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Event Highlights

April 4-5 - [PFLAG Yard Sale, Modesto, CA](#)

April 5 - [Spring Fling Dance, Modesto, CA](#)

April 19th - [OESCI Baron Event](#)

May 17th - Pride 2008
 Comedy Night

September 27 -
[Stanislaus PRIDE Day 2008](#)

Modesto area. May 17th will feature a comedy night with Karen Ripley (a favorite of LOGO TV viewers) at the State Theatre, followed by the Fellow Travelers GLBT historical photo exhibit (in partnership with the Modesto Art Museum) in June at Cafe Deva, and then the area's third pride celebration on September 27th at Graceada Park in Modesto: Stanislaus PRIDE Day 2008.

For more information visit www.spcpride.org

SPC Has Moved!

Come visit us in our new location in the lower level of the Great Valley Center at **201 Needham Street, located near five-points in downtown Modesto.**



We recommend using the side entrance on Elmwood Avenue. We have a sign posted with our own doorbell. Please ring and a Volunteer will assist you. If you enter the building through main entrance on Needham Street, go down the stairs immediately to your left and follow the signs.

Our hours of operation are Wednesday through Saturday from 3-7pm. We offer a lending library of 1300+ books, dvds, videos, and magazines, two internet workstations, free counseling services, a community bulletin board, and meeting space for small groups.

If you have any questions please contact Desiree Holden, Center Coordinator, by phone at 209-221-5252 or by email coordinator@stanpride.org.

PFLAG Yard Sale this Weekend - April 4 & 5

Friends of PFLAG Modesto:

Come to our first-ever Yard Sale on Friday, April 4 and Saturday, April 5 - 8 am to 2 pm both days in the Emanuel Lutheran Church parking lot at 324 College Avenue, across from MJC.





Shop for fantastic bargains!
All proceeds go to support the educational programs of PFLAG Modesto.

We will be accepting your generous donation of items Thursday, April 3, noon - 4 pm. Please bring items to the Luther Hall at Emanuel Lutheran Church.

For information call Alice Miller, 526-8812 or e-mail miller_clan@juno.com.

TransYouth Family Allies respond to Advocate article "Mixed Messages"

An announcement from TransYouth Family Allies about Larry King article in the Advocate



Dear allies and ally organizations,
This week's issue of the Advocate leads with a cover story about Lawrence King and asks who is to blame for his death. Please [read the article](#) and join us in our effort to refocus this conversation on the important work we are all doing to change the climate for GLBT kids in their schools and communities.

If you would like to be a published signatory of the following letter send an email to info@imatyfa.org and include your name or your organization's name along with your city and state as you would like it to appear on the letter. The letter will be updated on our website several times a day with the new signatures. On Friday morning, March 28th we will send the completed letter to the Advocate with a request that they take the time to feature the good works of our organizations rather than writing articles which imply that perhaps our GLBT youth are safer in the closet.

Respectfully,
TransYouth Family Allies Board of Directors
Kim Pearson, Shannon Garcia, Amy G., "Just Evelyn", Bruce Parker, Jamison Green, and Andrea James

To the Advocate:

We, the undersigned organizations, wish to respond to the article "Mixed Messages" by Neal Broverman

in the April 8, 2008 issue of The Advocate. The front cover of the magazine asks: "Who's to blame? We told Lawrence King he had the right to express his sexuality. Did we send him to his death?" We feel the article discusses an important topic in an unnecessarily provocative way.

The undercurrent of blame in the line of questioning posed to activists and administrators is unproductive and seems to be a cynical ploy to increase Advocate readership and revenue. It's unfair in the wake of this murder to ask those people working to make schools safer to second-guess their work. While incidents like this remind us of the climate that leads to violence against LGBT youth, that climate is where the blame lies.

Thoreau wrote, "There are a thousand hacking at the branches of evil to one who is striking at the root." Rather than pointing fingers and using inflammatory language, we wish to bring focus back to the root of this problem.

As groups united in the struggle to make schools safe for all youth regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity and expression, we say there is no "mixed message" here:

- The blame does not lie with Lawrence King.
- The blame does not lie with those working to make schools safer.
- Allowing intimidation and violence to force youth to suppress their sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression will only prolong the struggle to end that violence.

Other youth will be taunted, harassed, intimidated, beaten, and even killed before this struggle ends. None of them will be to blame, either. Those who tell them it's OK to be gay, and those who advocate for LGBT youth are not to blame. Rather than finding fault with them, we hope this incident will motivate everyone to work with us to change the climate in schools.

Our unified message: this climate of fear must stop, so all youth learn to respect diversity rather than fear and hate it. Those who wish to join us in this struggle can learn how to help by contacting any of the organizations below.

TransYouth Family Allies
Fight OUT Loud
Dr. Kelley Winters, Keystone, CO

Seacoast Outright, Portsmouth, NH
Transgender American Veterans Association (TAVA)
Ann Lorraine Jones, Tucson, AZ
The Liberal Catholic Church International, Diocese of
Arizona
FTM International San Francisco, CA
FTMI San Buenaventura Reed Erickson Chapter San
Buenaventura, CA
Rabbi Levi Alter
COLAGE, San Francisco, CA
Gay-Straight Alliance Network, San Francisco, CA

The SPC facility is open Wednesday through Saturday from 3:00 PM
until 7:00 PM.

*The mission of the Stanislaus PRIDE Center is to provide resources to
strengthen and support gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender
persons in Stanislaus and surrounding counties."*

The SPC has three areas of focus: Culture and Community; Education
and Information; Health and Wellness. PRIDE stands for "People
Respecting Individuality, Diversity and Education".

SPC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax
deductible. Federal tax ID 20-2676088.

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