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PRIDEFEST.ORG
PRIDE FEST SCHEDULE
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 4 (11AM-7PM)

MAIN STAGE
HARRISON/BROADWAY

11
ERIC BLU PRESENTS...
FONDO, DEJAVU, STROBE, TANIA, TIDOR, SPRING, MICHAEL, OAKLE, AND DAVE ARCHER

12
LATINx SHOWCASE
FEATURING CARMAN, LIONA BROWN, SHI, SHI HOOD, DEBRA DE SEBRA, ST. LAURENT, AND A TRIBUTE TO REGIA FEATURING ALICIA MANES

1
Pride ASIA SHOWCASE
FEATURING QUEEN SEASONING ON ARNOLD CHAN, CHANTELLE, SINGER SONGWRITER MUSICAL DANCE HIVE DO, VIVA AND ACCLAMATION VERTICAL, DJ LSP

2
BEAUTYBoiz
FEATURING SUMMERNAUTS AND PERFORMANCES BY IRENE DUQUOIS, ANDREW SCOTT, HOTFRONT SHADE AND FLAMELESS SHADE

3
#BLACKHOTSUNDAY
ADRA BUS PRESENTS "BLACK, BISSEX & BEYOND IT" SHOWCASE FEATURING MYKO FALLS, D. DYNASTY, TAQUETA, DESTRUCTIVE TEASE AND KISS THIS ASS

4
DRAG QUEEN SHOWCASE
HOSTED BY GAY'S START AND FEATURING PERFORMANCES BY AMORA DEE BLACK, OVAL, AND MISS TEXAS TROPI

5
BUBBLING WITH PRIDE
THE BIG BOLD BELINDA BISHOP OF THE PINK, ANITA (SPARKLE ROQUE) HOSTS A CONCERTO IN SPACADE WITH DJ COCO COURTENE AND OTHER LOCAL DRAG STARS!

6
DYKE MARCH SHOWCASE
CONTINUING THE TRADITION OF CAMP AND THE VERSATILE TALENT WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY, FEATURED ARE PHANT ELIOT, KIOMI GROSSA, MELLY GRAVES, JAYCEE AUBERIN, AND SIRE VIOLET.

DANCE STAGE
REPUBLICAN/BROADWAY

11
ART OF HOT, CARISSA ILLY (FLIGHT CREW)
KIJE, PORTLAND

1
DJ DEREK PAVONE
EAGLE, STEAMERS, BOTTOM 40, FLAMMABLE

3
CRESCENT LOUNGE
WITH LIVE SINGERS AND A DJ

4
DJ RIZ
KEEN, BE-BAR

5
UNITING SOULS MUSIC
RAMBO & LSP
FEATURING DANCE PERFORMANCES BY LIL AND KENAGOOGIE

PRIDE FEST SCHEDULE
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 5 (11AM-7PM)

MAIN STAGE
HARRISON/BROADWAY

11
FAMILY PRIDE
FAMILY PRIDE EVENT WITH ALEXANDRA MANALO DOGGY DRAG CONTEST WITH ALEX AND DONNE MAHON

12
#BLACKHOTSUNDAY
ADRA BUS PRESENTS "YOUNG, GILTED & BLACK MUSIC" FEATURING GAYE WET, LACEY GAVELS, FRANCESCA, AND KIKICK

1
BEAUTYBoiz
FEATURING SUMMERNAUTS, FLAMELESS SHADE, ROSETTE DELTA, HOTFRONT SHADE, AND BRUNO BAEWATCH

2
INDIQUÉER
INSIDE OUT DRAG QUEEN HALLEY NAVARRO (QUEOLAND) AND FRIENDS INCLUDING ROBYN DIVAMONDO AND KORI SMALL VILLAGE (VAKMA)

3
BUBBLING WITH PRIDE
THE BIG BOLD BELINDA BISHOP OF THE PINK, ANITA (SPARKLE ROQUE) HOSTS A CONCERTO IN SPACADE WITH DJ COCO COURTENE AND OTHER LOCAL DRAG STARS!

4
LATINx SHOWCASE
FEATURING JOKO MOE, CESAR HART, LATIN ROSE, TAMIMA OLIVER, AND A TRIBUTE TO CASSA CRUZ FEATURING LA HORTA

5
ERIC BLU PRESENTS...
FEATURING TOM KARST, DAVID MARSHALL, AND JON NOBLE

6
TRANS POWER HOUR
HOUSE OF MONEY, FEATURING MOTHER TANGA MAMET, THE HOSTESS AND MC, PHAT BRAT MURMIL DIAMOND JL, ROSE MONEY, AND KELCE MOONSHINE.

DANCE STAGE
REPUBLICAN/BROADWAY

11
ART OF HOT, CARISSA ILLY (FLIGHT CREW)
KIJE, PORTLAND

1
DRUMMER TAKEOVER
QAD REFLEX & TOY A B

3
COLBY B
SEATTLE, NYC

4
DJ DANA DUB
THE EAGLE, TIMBERLINE

5
DJ TOMMY K
THE DUFF, DLF, THE ODYSSEY

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SEPTEMBER 3, 2021
SGN 3
Close out the summer right with PrideFest on Broadway

by Josephine Baird
SGN Contributing Writer

With summer coming to a close, it might seem like all the fun is following suit. But on Capitol Hill this year, summer is going out with a bang: the two-day PrideFest.

The event will be held on September 4 and 5, from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Broadway. It is free and open to the public. While PrideFest is usually held in June, this year it was moved to Labor Day Weekend due to record-breaking heat and COVID restrictions. As of now, it is set to return to its regular June spot next year.

PrideFest will include many shows on multiple stages along five blocks of Broadway, changing almost every hour (see the schedule for a list).

Because of the strain that the pandemic has put on the area's LGBTQ+ artists, PrideFest will showcase 100% local talent, such as Adru Boo, DJ Riz, BeautyBoiK, DJ Don Dub, and Anita Spritzer. There will also be a Lumixx showcase as well as a Trans Power Hour featuring local trans and nonbinary speakers and artists. The organizers behind the Dyke March and Pride Asia will also be producing shows.

Planners have also highlighted some artists by making them co-directors, in order to create a more "distributed and diverse group" deciding on talent and speakers for this highly anticipated festival.

Activities
In addition to live music and shows, there will also be a number of activities to participate in:

September 4:
Fierce and Feisty Yoga
To start the weekend off right, resident yoga instructor Morgan Zion will host a Fierce and Feisty Yoga session at the W Seattle on September 4 at 11:00 a.m. This will be a chance to detox, return to center, and get in the right mood for the rest of Pride. The cost is $25 per person, including a complimentary mimosa and all taxes and fees.

Morgan Zion's Fierce and Feisty Yoga – Photo courtesy of W Seattle
September 4:
Free Outdoor Movie
PrideFest and Three Dollar Bill Cinema will present a free outdoor movie, *Camp*, at the Capitol Hill Station Apartments Plaza at Denny and Broadway. *Camp* is a 2003 musical dramedy about a performing arts summer camp in upstate New York, featuring all the fun of teenage drama—and showstoppers! The viewing will start at 8:00 p.m., but people are invited to grab a seat starting at 7:00 p.m. While there is some seating available, prepare to sit on the plaza pavers. For comfort, bring low-backed concert chairs, pillows, and/or blankets. For dinner, there will be lots of delicious options from PrideFest vendors or nearby Broadway restaurants.

September 4:
"Silent Concert Saturday"
On Saturday, from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., at E. Mercer and Broadway, there will be a silent disco presented by The DJ Sessions. This all-day event is an all-ages, outdoor celebration in which participants share their love for electronic/hip-hop music in a community setting. Because it will be held at such an open location, dancing is encouraged.

Anita’s Brunch Bonanza
W Seattle
September 5
10:30am | $75
Soak up your Hill hangover with the best brunch bonanza in town before hitting up the festival.

September 5:
Anita’s Brunch Bonanza
A great option for in-between the Saturday and Sunday programming of PrideFest is Anita’s Brunch Bonanza, at the W Seattle, starring Anita Spritzer, the Big Belting Bitch. According to seattlepridefest.org, this will be a great opportunity to “soak up your Hill hangover with the best brunch bonanza in town before hitting up the festival.” The event will be hosted by W Seattle’s Living Room Bar. Seating starts at 10:30 a.m.; the show will start at 11:30 a.m. The cost is $75, including access to the brunch buffet, one mimosa, admission to the show, and all taxes, fees, and gratuity. A cash bar will also be available throughout the party. Tickets to the bonanza can be bought at www.eventbrite.com/e/anitas-brunch-bonanza-tickets-163990281145.

Of note
As with any celebration, it is not complete without the proper food and libations. There will be lots of options to keep one’s energy up, including food trucks, local restaurants, and beer gardens.

In order to keep the Seattle community safe, PrideFest is requiring unvaccinated guests to wear masks and is strongly encouraging vaccinated guests to mask up. Proof of vaccination will be required in order to enjoy the beer gardens.

While PrideFest entry is free, this is a great opportunity to help out local nonprofits, arts and craft vendors, local stores, restaurants, bars, etc. Local small businesses are hoping for a much-needed boost after a difficult and slow year and a half.

Bring your mask, some cash, and a great attitude to this exciting event! After such a challenging season, this is a chance to celebrate life, love, and the ability to come together.

For more information and updates on this year’s PrideFest, go to https://ift.tt/3QGmger.
Re-elect Teresa Mosqueda to Seattle City Council Position 8

HAPPY PRIDE, SEATTLE! This month we honor the political struggle for ongoing visibility, protection, and celebration of our LGBTQ+ friends, family, neighbors, and community members.

As a progressive labor democrat, organizing has been a throughline in my career. For almost a decade, at the Washington State Labor Council, I fought for political inclusion and leadership of LGBTQ individuals. On Seattle City Council, I continue to stand in solidarity with LGBTQ community members and workers in the fight for housing, dignified workplaces, economic stability, and culturally competent health care for all! Then I ran for Seattle City Council to bring these values to legislation in Seattle’s City Hall.

Together, on the City Council, we’ve built diverse coalitions to pass progressive and impactful policy change. This is what creates healthy, thriving communities—and it is what drives me to run again. With your support, we can bring these policies to City Hall once again to build a stronger, more inclusive Seattle.

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Gaysha Starr has been performing and breaking down walls in Seattle as a drag queen since 1993. Today, she continues to perform, as well as still advocating for LGBTQIA+ rights and making changes to the face of corporate work.

In April 1993, Starr began performing. She did lip-syncs at the Brass Connection and Neighbors, and at the time, she said, “I couldn’t win a single lip-sync to save my life. I think I won one.”

In 1994, she ran in La Femme Magnifique International Pageant and became Seattle’s first winner. She described herself as an underdog drag queen, saying, “It took a lot of people to put me together. I had always had to borrow people’s clothes, always had to have someone paint my face, always had to have some do my hair. But then you would put me on stage, and I could take care of the rest.”

Drag career
Over the decades, Starr has watched drag evolve from a hobby to something performers could make careers out of. “[In my generation and era, we] drag queens never made money off of it,” she said. “We did it because we loved it. We did it because we were good at it. It was a nice hobby. And we did it to be accepted. And we did it for fun.”

On what drew her to drag in the first place, Starr said, “Before I came to terms with my gender identity, it was a way to express my femininity and, you know, I was always one of the girls with all the boys.” She said she also enjoyed the challenge of pageants.

Her involvement in drag has also been a way to travel and break down barriers. “When I was competing,” she said, “I was one of the only Asian drag queens for a very long time. There was a ten-year span that I was predominately the only Asian queen in Seattle, maybe Portland, and for sure in Idaho, so I got the chance to also travel and find ways to express and represent the API community.”

see GAYSHA STARR page 10
GAYSHA STARR
continued from page 9

“I am lucky that I still get invited to the party, and I still get asked to do things,” she added. “I think it’s pretty great that I have the longevity to find different ways to still be involved, and I’m very thankful for that.”

Career highlights
In her decades of experience, Starr has achieved a number of accomplishments. She brought home numerous drag awards, including Miss Gay Washington and Miss Gay Filipino. She was the first Miss Neighbors and the first Queen of the Seattle Queen Crawl, among others.

More recently, Starr fondly recalled her role at the 2019 Pride parade at Westlake Center. On the 40th and 50th Stonewall anniversaries, she co-hosted the main stage.

Current work
Starr learned from queens of the 1980s and 1990s and picked up skills like “how to MC and how to read a room and when to crack a joke and timing.” She uses those abilities today in fundraising, writing, hosting events, public speaking, and working virtually.

She has raised money for causes like HIV/AIDS, gender equality, marriage equality, and more, saying, “I don’t think a lot of people realize the power of a drag queen.” She also does other fundraisers, corporate events, and more. “I really like to challenge myself to go to places where you wouldn’t expect, you know, a drag queen, show girl, a transgender activist to go,” she said.

Starr also serves as the dean of the College of Former Emperors and Empresses, a community ambassador for Pride Asia Seattle, a member of the board of directors for the Imperial Sovereign Court of Seattle, and a Washington Drag Ambassador for Drag Out the Vote (to encourage voter registration).

Meanwhile, Starr manages a Bellevue luxury retail store. She is celebrating ten years there and is also the company’s first openly Transgender employee.

About working with a majority of millennials as a Transgender woman, she said, “We did in the ’90s and 2000s is what the generations after us hopefully will benefit from, and I can’t wait to see what they do.”

Starr also works with GLSEN, an organization that supports LGBTQIA+ students. She was introduced to GLSEN by George Balam, the late SGN publisher. She said, “George came to me over 10 years ago and said, ‘This organization needs help, and I think you would be a great fit for them.’ So I said, ‘Sure, and I’ll also do fundraisers for them.’

She has also been a part of statewide student conferences with GLSEN. This led her to muse on the topic, “To be able to see kids and students, but most importantly their family and their educators, support them… I mean, just wonder what my life would have been like had I come out first in my gay years, and now transgender, how different and rich my life would have been had I been afforded these opportunities and this acceptance.”

On the weekend of September 4-5, Gaysha Starr will be a host at Capitol Hill PrideFest. On September 10, she will speak on a PrideFest panel with Aleka Monifa and Big Freedia about Transgender and POC activism. Connect with Gaysha Starr on Facebook or Instagram to keep up with her work.

Gaysha Starr – Photo by Brian Buck
GS Matencio – Photo courtesy of the artist
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BEAUTYBOIZ perform at PrideFest and Supernova

by Daniel Lindsay
SGN Contributing Writer

This weekend, as part of PrideFest, audiences at the Center Theater will experience local performances by the group BeautyBoiz’ Cast lineup of LGBTQ and QTPOC performers. The seven include a DJ, drag queens, and dancers, among others, with a different mix of local and Portland artists performing each day.

The show on Saturday, September 4 at 2 p.m. will feature Irene Dubois, Andrew Scott, and Kimberly Michelle Westwood. On Sunday, September 5 at 1 p.m., Flawless Shade and Roulette Delgado will take the stage. DJ Molanina and Hot Pink Shade will perform on both days.

BeautyBoiz will put on another show at the Supernova nightclub on Sunday evening, from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Titled ‘Revealed,’ it will feature many of the same performers as will be at PrideFest, with the notable addition of Jezzy Escada from the HBO ballroom show Legendary. BeautyBoiz creative director Kaleb Dameron described stepping into the venue as “being transported to another world.” Tickets cost $15 online, or $20 at the door.

While Dameron wanted to maintain an element of mystery for the upcoming shows, and thus avoided specifics, it is known that Roulette Delgado’s act at PrideFest will involve hip-hop and dancers. Dameron also described Flawless Shade from the Portland-based House of Shade as a “glamazon” and an “absolute joy.” All of them are “regulars” to the group.

Dameron describes the BeautyBoiz as a "Our audience is our extended family. We all rise together.”

Queer collective, similar to a drag house in many ways, but not limited to drag performances or traditional "sit-and-watch" formats. The group aims for more immersive experience, intermingling performers with the audience, and often forgetting a host or announcer in favor of flashing LED strips or other signals for more organic transitions between acts.

BeautyBoiz formed from a series of house parties in a tight-knit apartment complex. By 2016 the parties had outgrown the venue, but Dameron says the real turning point for him founding the group was Trump’s election that year. The events that followed — the Pulse nightclub shooting, and what he saw as a gradual loss of Queer space overall — only motivated him further. At the time, he was lucky enough to be living in the same building as Wesley Krugl, who was already building the "not-for-profit live arts production company” called Forward Flux.

Dameron said his greatest challenge and his greatest triumph, as creative director, has been making BeautyBoiz about more than “throwing parties,” and showing a real engagement with the community, while pushing against an ideology of competition. “Our audience is our extended family,” Dameron tells us. “We all rise together.”
Organized by Skyy Martini Ice, reigning Miss Gay Seattle LVI, the Imperial Court of Seattle has been volunteering at Northwest Harvest's SODO Community Market every month since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rates of food insecurity skyrocketed during the pandemic and remain disproportionally higher for LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC communities.

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If you've felt cooped up in the house, a little isolated, and in need of reconnection to Seattle's amazing LGBTQ community look no further than Anita Spritzer's Bubbling with Pride event.

mean, whether that be self-expression, diversity, love, happiness, laughter, smiles, all of those things. Community, I think, is a big one as well.

And I think that's exactly what we did. We have a great lineup, and it's so exciting. The title says it all. We are Bubbling with Pride and we can't hold it in it. 

Spritzer has been working on the coordination of the upcoming show for the last several months. While organizing their first big live event since COVID hit has been difficult at times, what wasn't was finding performers who were interested in joining in on the celebration. "The good thing about the time that we're in right now is that everyone is so eager to perform... Casting the show was hectic-split. It really didn't take too long."

Bubbling with Pride will have two shows, one on Saturday evening and one on Sunday afternoon (Sept 4 and 5). Both will be full of fashion, joy, and lots of drag. "I think drag helps empower the LGBTQ+ community in ways of just sheer expression," Spritzer said, explaining how, even in a community that celebrates diversity and self-expression, finding ways to feel comfortable in one's outward expression of gender and sexuality can sometimes still be a challenge.

Their hope is that drag performances can help people learn to "walk through life and express yourself however you want to express yourself, and people will love you for that." They also believe that drag is an important aspect of the community, because it helps to bring people together. "That's definitely harder to do in a global pandemic, but even though we haven't been able to be together physically, I think drag has still brought so many people together, whether it be virtually or even just comments on social media. That aspect of coming together is what makes drag so powerful!"

Spritzer credits the Seattle drag community for helping them to feel welcome and a part of something, even during the last difficult year. They hope that "Bubbling with Pride" can be seen as their love note to the community that has helped them to feel comfortable about their own self-expression.

"The Seattle drag community has been some of the most loving, diverse human beings I have ever met. I am just so grateful to be a part of the scene. It is never not exciting. It is always exciting wherever you go, whether it be Kremwerk or Queer Bar or Skylark, or any of those places. It is always so, so exciting. And the scene supports each other, and I think that's really important too!"

PrideFest will be a reflection of the incredible community Spritzer loves so much, an exciting weekend where people can come out and celebrate the energy and individuality that makes the LGBTQ community so unique. It is certain to be as surprising and unique as the community itself.

But for first-timers, Spritzer has some advice: "[People] can expect to see some big hair, they can expect to see some bright colors, and they can just expect to see exactly what the title says, us just bubbling with pride, being able to do what we do. There's going to be some amazing performances from some of my all-time favorite drag performers in the area. They can expect to see the amazing Cookie Couture, who is going to be DJing for us, and I am so excited... It's just gonna be a big ole' love fest, abig ole' Pride love fest!"

So, if you've felt cooped up in the house, a little isolated, and in need of reconnection to Seattle's amazing LGBTQ community, look no further than Anita Spritzer's "Bubbling with Pride" event. It is sure to put a smile on your face and quench your need for connection. Come on down and celebrate the amazing drag performances inspired by Seattle's own vibrant LGBTQ community.

For PrideFest details, go to www.seattlepridefest.org.
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LATINX PRIDE

by Lindsey Anderson
SGN Contributing Writer

If you’re looking for a celebration rich in culture at this weekend’s PrideFest, look no further than Latinx Pride. Organized by Latin Rose and Jack Mozie, the event will feature many of Seattle’s best Latinx LGBTQ+ performers and allies, bringing together community, family, and friends.

Latinx Pride will provide a space for Latinx Queer people to celebrate their intersectional identities and share parts of their lives with close families and friends.

Attendees will have a lot to take away from Latinx Pride. “Number one, they’re going to be talking about a lot of merchandise from me, lots of candles,” said Rose. “And they’re going to leave with positive vibes and positive energy. We’re out there happy-go-lucky, we’re going to jump into the crowd, we want to make sure everybody leaves happy with what they just heard. We’re out there with the vocals, with the dance moves, we’re really going to dance for you.”

Pride and the Latinx community

Aside from the exciting performances, the amazing and colorful energy, and the promise of many goodies to be had, Latinx Pride holds a special place for many members of Seattle’s LGBTQ+ community. The event provides a space for Latinx Queer people to celebrate their intersectional identities and share parts of their lives with close families and friends.

“We have such a huge Latinx community, and within the community such a big LGBTQ+ Latinx community, and we don’t serve that. At least we haven’t before,” said Mozie, speaking to the ways in which large Pride events have historically excluded people of color.

“We have had our own Latinx events for Pride produced by different people, but at Pride proper, we didn’t really had a focus moment that was just about that particular intersection, and I think having that now it has made such a big difference. At least for me, as a creator and even as an audience member, when I’m not on stage to go, ‘Hey, we are actually a part of this.’ It gives us our own space and also lets us celebrate our culture. Rose added. “Every culture is a little bit different, and seeing somebody and going, ‘Oh, that’s a reflection of myself up there,’ that’s a special thing.”

“I think that that is also, especially for the Latinx community a lot of us are very family based. A lot of us are immigrants,” added Mozie. “Being able to have that moment of pride, it means I get to share that moment with my mother, with my aunt, and my cousin. People who normally would go to neighbours or other Pride events will go to this with me, and ‘Hey, we’re gonna dance to some salsa today.’

“That means something to them and it allows us to get connected with people on a different level, so that having that opportunity at Pride, that’s something that means a lot.”

Latinx Pride also gives Latinx LGBTQ+ people the ability to share parts of their world with friends and family who might not understand them, bridging gaps between two vibrant communities.

The event is sure to be a hit, and Mozie and Rose want to make sure that everyone gets the chance to celebrate Latinx Pride. “I think just if anything, if you’re reading this article and you’re Latinx, come celebrate being you. I know a lot of times we live in a community that is very white-centric, and we don’t get much representation, but for this hour, we get to just be celebrated. So come be it gay as you want to be, as proud as you want to be, and just have fun.”

The Latinx Pride showcase will take place Saturday, Sept. 4 at noon and Sunday, Sept. 5 at 4 p.m. at Harrison and Broadway on Capitol Hill.
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St. Patrick’s Church is a welcoming, evolving Catholic Church located at the north end of Capitol Hill, 2702 Broadway E. We embrace all people as children of God and would like to invite LGBTQ community members to worship with us. As a parish, we have a strong emphasis on social justice and inclusion. This includes outreach to a women’s shelter, a supportive relationship with a faith community in El Salvador, weekly sign language interpreted Mass for the deaf and deaf-blind community, and welcoming developmentally disabled adults from the Fanthe community. Our choir and dance troupe are an integral part of our expression.

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This notice was paid by the St. Patrick LGBTQ+ Engagement and Accompaniment Circle of Parishioners, and several other Parishioners, who invite LGBTQ returning Catholics and others to join us in person or online. For more information about St. Patrick’s LGBTQ Circle of Parishioners contact John Dunn - dunn77v@aol.com

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IN MEMORY OF
TYLER
DECEMBER 19, 1991 – SEPTEMBER 22, 2010

TYLER CLEMENTI FOUNDATION
Standing up to end bullying

by John Dumb
St. Patrick Catholic Church
Special to the SGN

Before leaving for Rutgers University in the fall of 2010, Tyler Clementi had come out to both his parents. His father Joseph was supportive, but his mom Jane had to process the information, partly because of her evangelical background.

At college, Tyler’s roommate found some of Tyler’s communications on some Gay websites. The roommate set up his webcam to record what was going on in their dorm room when Tyler had asked for some privacy. The roommate and a friend observed Tyler and his male friend kissing.

The roommate proceeded to post comments about Tyler on Twitter, telling people where they could go to view his video stream of Tyler and his friend’s interactions recorded on two different occasions. Responding to the roommate’s invitation, other students were able to view the recordings.

Tyler found out about what had happened and complained to dorm and university officials. But not long after, all of this took place, he jumped from the George Washington Bridge into the Hudson River. His body was found a week later.

In 2011, Tyler’s parents established the Tyler Clementi Foundation, which promotes acceptance of LGBTQ+ teens and others marginalized by society. The foundation is a national nonprofit organization with a mission to end online and offline bullying in schools, workplaces, and faith communities. It promotes research, development, and education initiatives to determine causes and prevention of teen suicide.

One of the foundation’s activities is called becoming an “upstander.” In bullying scenarios, there are three roles: the victim, the bully, and the bystander. Typically the bystander tacitly condones the harassment by observing but not speaking up. The foundation believes that bystanders have a responsibility to get involved and stand up for their peers — becoming “upstanders” instead of bystanders.

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and churches, that want to actively participate in ending bullying. Materials for the foundation’s “Day of” program, which provides educational tools on how to stand up against bullying, can be downloaded on its website.

Also on the website, there are ten projects listed, all of which are aimed at getting the message out to different audiences. One of those is a letter from 14 Catholic bishops supporting the work of the foundation in standing up for at-risk LGBTQ+ youth and saving their lives. Many Catholic parishes, religious orders, organizations, and schools have signed on in support of this letter, including five in the Seattle area: St. James Cathedral, St. Joseph and St. Patrick Churches in Capitol Hill, Our Lady of Guadalupe in West Seattle, and St. Leo of Tacoma.

Take the Bystander Pledge at the foundation’s website: https://tylerclementi.org.
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