

**From:** [Mauraan C. Schultz](#)  
**Subject:** Seattle Commission for Sexual Minorities - April 2009  
**Date:** Monday, April 20, 2009 4:01:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
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# Seattle Office for Civil Rights

## Seattle Commission for Sexual Minorities



eNewsletter, Issue 4

April 2009

[www.seattle.gov/scsm](http://www.seattle.gov/scsm)

### Our Mission

To effectively address and pre-sent the concerns of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered citizens of Seattle to the Mayor, City Council, and all City Departments.

### Commissioners

Mauraan C Schultz  
David S Beard  
**Co-Chairs**

NaaSira Adeeba  
Aurea Astro  
Lillie Cridland  
Cristina Dodson  
Shelley Ho  
Tom Hubbard  
David Iseminger  
Aiden Key  
Jean-Paul Page  
Joseph Siddiq

### What's Happening? CALENDAR of EVENTS

#### APRIL

April 27

**Rock the Folk Out**

April 30

**Dining Out For Life**

#### MAY



**Equal Rights Washington**  
Every Wednesday Night

May 8

**Say it Out Loud**

DASA Sponsored Event  
Shoreline Conference Center  
Call 368-4122 for more info

May 16

**Bling Bling Bingo**

### In this issue:

- [Greetings from your New Commission Chairs](#)
- [Home Alive is Still Alive](#)
- [Commissioner Highlight: Meet Dave Iseminger](#)
- [LGB Two Spirit Community Health Forum](#)
- [How Healthy Are We? LGBT Health Disparities Report](#)
- [Call for Commissioners](#)
- [Thank You and Farewell to Joseph Daniels and Beth Gappert, Commissioners](#)
- [What's Happening? Calendar of Events](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

### Greetings from your New Commission Chairs

Welcome to Spring! As the first quarter of 2009 closes and the great Pacific Northwest thaw is underway, the Washington LGBT community has accomplished a great deal in our continued efforts towards being recognized as a protected class. Currently in the state legislature, the Domestic Partnership Bill 5688 has passed the Senate and is en route to passing the House. Senate Bill 5952, which adds gender identity and expression to the hate crimes statute, has passed the Senate and the House Committee. Both look to be passed out of the legislature and signed by the Governor in a matter of weeks. Congratulations to all those who have worked so diligently to make these happen – including the Commission's own Dave Iseminger!

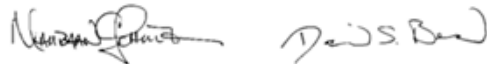
Running in lock step, the Seattle Commission for Sexual Minorities held its strategic planning meeting in February and has renewed its commitment to the LGBT community and the City of Seattle by electing two new co-chairs, Mauraan C. Schultz and David S. Beard as well as creating three new internal committees: Internal Affairs, Government Relations and Programs & Outreach. As the new co-chairs, we are committed to continuing our efforts to bring the Commission out of City Hall and in front of our constituents by more aggressively involving ourselves in the issues the community cares about and translating these into feedback and recommendations for Mayor Nickles and City Council. So, expect to see the Commission at more community events asking you what you think and how we can represent you. Come by and see us!

On a less positive note and as a continuation of last year, we have been watching our global economy rapidly decline and the focus shift from well beyond 'fat trimming' to direct cost cutting and reprioritization of goals for the immediate future. The Commission is closely monitoring the budget changes within the City of Seattle and will be providing City Council with recommendations to minimize the impact of budget cuts for our community.

Recently, the Commission held a forum at the Seattle Library on reporting on the health disparities in the LGB community. The study, prepared by the University of Washington and sponsored by the Commission (see article on the Forum [add link]) reports key findings related to increased health risk in the areas of smoking, asthma, alcohol abuse, HIV and mental distress within the community. With the current economic conditions challenging governments at all levels to cut costs and reprioritize goals for the immediate future, we continue to monitor the budget changes within the City of Seattle which directly impact our community.

As the new Co-Chairs, we are excited and encouraged by the diversity and talent of our Commissioners to address and represent specific issues in the community. We are always seeking individuals that would be interested in working with City government and representing the wonderfully diverse community that we have here in Seattle. Please contact either of us and tell us what you think, if you would like to join forces with us and how we can better represent all of us in the Seattle LGBT community!

Kind regards,



[Mauraan C. Schultz](#)

[David S. Beard](#)

[Back to Top](#)

### Home Alive is Still Alive

by *Allena Gabosch*

Home Alive, a Seattle based anti-violence non-profit organization, is still offering affordable self-defense classes and providing public education and awareness. In January and February there were news reports that Home Alive was closing its doors. While Home Alive did close its studio and office on Capitol Hill, the organization has not shut down.

In keeping with Home Alive's belief that self-care and self-awareness are vital to self defense, the organization's board decided to slow down the organization's program to take care of some much needed organizational capacity building, including financial planning and systems.

Currently, volunteers and instructors are working hard to make the necessary changes to create a sustainable Home Alive. As one of the volunteers, we are highly committed to continuing to offer affordable self defense to Seattle. Among other steps forward, we have increased our grassroots fundraising efforts. As spring approaches there are a variety of ways to connect with and support Home Alive. For example, if you are interested in hosting a self defense class, attending open classes or volunteering, e-mail home alive at [outreach@homealive.org](mailto:outreach@homealive.org). You can also donate on-line at [homealive.org](http://homealive.org). Home Alive is still gratefully accepting donations to support their work to provide self defense classes to all people

at South Lake Union Navel Reserve Building  
Lifelong AIDS Alliance  
Mom's Pharmacy

May 21

**Seattle Commission for Sexual Minorities Monthly Meeting**

6:30PM-8:30PM  
City Hall (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)  
Public Welcome  
[Email for more info](#)

JUNE

Pride Month

June 13

6:00PM

**Adam and Steve Bingo**

at South Lake Union Navel Reserve Building  
Lifelong AIDS Alliance  
Mom's Pharmacy

June 18

**Seattle Commission for Sexual Minorities Monthly Meeting**

6:30PM-8:30PM  
City Hall (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)  
Public Welcome  
[Email for more info](#)

June 28

Pride Parade

Downtown Seattle

Pride Festival

Seattle Center

**Got an Event?**

[Email the Commission](#)

[Back to Top](#)

**Programs & Outreach Committee**

Contact the Commission Media & Marketing Committee and tell us what you think!

[Email Us!](#)

Phone: (206) 902-6447

[Back to Top](#)

**Contact Us!**

Contact your Commissioners in any of the following ways:

regardless of their ability to pay.

[Back to Top](#)

**Commissioner Highlight: Meet Dave Iseminger**

Hi, I'm Dave Iseminger. In addition to being a Commissioner, I am a graduate student at the University of Washington pursuing my law degree and a master degree in Public Health. As a lobbyist for higher education issues in Olympia during the 2009 Legislative Session, I've been able to learn first-hand how our community can best advocate and promote change for issues important to us. I also volunteer monthly at Lifelong Aids Alliance's Gay Bingo events! I joined the Commission in 2008 because of my passion for law, policy, and LGBT issues. Building bridges among various groups in our community and working with city officials to understand our issues is an amazing opportunity. I hope that many of you reach out to the Commission and express law and policy concerns you have so that we can work to address them with the Mayor and City Council. One of my primary goals as a Commissioner is promoting policies and laws that are fully inclusive of the LGBT community. I've been fortunate to work intimately on the passage of a trans-inclusive hate crimes bill in Olympia this Session. It is important to me that no member of the community is left out in our journey for full equality.

Because of my love for law and policy, I am also a bit of a national legal guru. I spend much of my spare time tracking LGBT bills in various states and reading news articles about these bills. If you ever want to know what is happening in North Dakota, Vermont, or Delaware feel free to ask!

[Back to Top](#)

**LGB Two Spirit Community Health Forum**

by *Aiden Key and NaaSira Adeeba*

On Wednesday, March 18th, the Seattle Commission for Sexual Minorities and the Seattle Office for Civil Rights sponsored the LGB Two-Spirit Community Health Forum to explore health disparities within the LGB community. The forum was held in the Bertha Landes room of City Hall and moderated by City Council Member Tom Rasmussen. Approximately fifty community members were in attendance.

The LGB Two-Spirit Community Health Forum profiled two important bodies of research. The first, presented by Dr. Karen Fredrikson-Goldsen of the UW School of Social Work, looked at the health disparities present within King County's lesbian, gay and bisexual communities. Through an informative presentation of her research, Dr. Fredrikson-Goldsen made a strong and undeniable case that sexual orientation is a definitive social indicator for health disparities within these communities and, in comparison to, their heterosexual community counterparts. Dr. Fredrikson-Goldsen acknowledged the study's limitations as she commented on the inability of the research to tap into some of the most marginalized populations such as the transgender community. Among the many policy implications were a need for increased access to health services for low-income LGB residents; expansion of prevention and outreach programs; increased cultural competency trainings; and recognition of LGB demographic characteristics within all intake forms and procedures.

The second, and very dynamic presentation led by Dr. Karina Walters, highlighted the Honor Project, a national research study conducted by the Indigenous Wellness Research Institute. The Honor Project looked extensively at the unique variables of the Two-Spirit and American Indian LGB communities. While this resulted in an extraordinary quantity of data, the Honor Project found some community-specific issues that highlighted the need for this kind of research. One example included the discrepancies observed in regular condom use by bisexual men depending on the gender of their sexual partner. Another example was the direct negative health impact of the constant accumulation of "micro assaults" (ex. racial jokes) based on cultural identity.

This forum was a great opportunity for our collective communities to gain a broader perspective on the realities that come with an LGB/Two-Spirit identity and to also learn the unique characteristics within these communities as well. A big thank you to the Honor Project and the UW School of Social Work. Keep up the great work!

For more information on these studies, please contact David Beard at [dbeard@sexualminorities.org](mailto:dbeard@sexualminorities.org)

[Back to Top](#)

**How Healthy Are We? LGBT Health Disparities Report**

The Health Disparities Project provided valuable research on the health status of the Seattle-King County LGBT community generally; and then the Two-Spirit Project described the health challenges facing the LGB/Two-Spirit community in the Northwest and emphasized the diversity within the LGBT community and the importance of looking at this diversity in health research. Each presentation focused on resiliency and provided policy recommendations. Please refer to the [Health Disparities Report on the SCSM website](#) for these recommendations.

The Two-Spirit Project recommended that any public health research needs to include two-spirit and Native American demographic and socio-cultural factors. The question and answer period was dynamic and covered issues like policies, research methodologies, results from the research, and comments from those who have worked in LGB/Two-Spirit communities over the years. Attendees included key community figures and city officials such as Bob Wood, Sally Freidman, Julie Nelson and our friends at Seattle-King County Public Health. Also, the attendees included Native-American and two-spirit community leaders. Thank you all for attending!

One of the startling statistics uncovered in the report was that the HIV rate among two-spirit men is 30%. The Seattle Commission for Sexual Minorities is determining next steps to ensure that LGBT, Two-Spirit and native individuals are represented on all public health surveys, research and funding initiatives and will be working with Seattle-King County Public Health on how best to include LGBT, Two-Spirit and Native American communities.

SCSM congratulates all those involved on delivering an much needed, informative and all around excellent forum!

[Back to Top](#)

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or visit our website: [www.seattle.gov/scsm](http://www.seattle.gov/scsm)

## Call for Commissioners

Occasionally, the Seattle Commission for Sexual Minorities (SCSM) sees some of our committed Commissioners move on to new, exciting opportunities. SCSM now has positions open for impassioned members of the community that would like to make a positive impact while representing the LGBT community to the Mayor of Seattle, City Council and City Departments.

Do you have an interest in event planning, marketing and/or communications? Do you have a special knack for information technology or graphic design? Do you have a passion for health care or public health? Contact [Lillie Cridland](#) and let her know of your interest, we'll help you with the rest!

[Back to Top](#)

## Thank You and Farewell to Joseph Daniels and Beth Gappert, Commissioners by *Charlie Butler*

Joseph Daniels joined the Commission over five years ago and served as Co-Chair of the Commission for two of those years. During his extended involvement with the Commission, Joseph formed strong relationships with members of the Seattle City Council, leaders of local community organizations, and under-represented individuals. Joseph helped to shape the Commission's focus on many important issues facing the local LGBTQ community, reaching out to different populations including seniors, communities of color, and the public health community.

Beth Gappert joined the Commission two years ago and has served as Chair of the Recruitment, Administration & Government Committee for one of those years. Beth has been instrumental in the formation of liaison relationships between Commissioners and local government officials. Beth organized efforts surrounding greater Commission efficiencies and took part in the re-writing of the Commission bylaws. Beth also worked hard to improve the new Commissioner recruitment process.

Joseph and Beth have been a pleasure to work with; their contributions, passion, and positive attitudes will truly be missed. All the best, Joseph and Beth!

[Back to Top](#)