



TOWER HAMLETS

CELEBRATE LESBIAN, GAY, BISexual AND TRANSGENDER HISTORY MONTH FEBRUARY 2009

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS NO PLACE FOR HOMOPHOBIC HATE



Tower Hamlets
Primary Care Trust



Tower Hamlets Partnership



The Tower Hamlets Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Forum works to engage the borough's LGBT community, helping local people shape the services they receive.

Three of the organisations involved in the Forum are in the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index of the top 100 'gay friendly' employers in the country. Tower Hamlets Council is the highest ranking London borough on the index at 7th, the Metropolitan Police are 33rd and Tower Hamlets Primary Care Trust (PCT) is the only health authority in the top 100, ranking 58th.

This achievement reflects the commitment of local agencies to work effectively with LGBT staff and communities in Tower Hamlets. It is also a reflection of the shared aim to build 'One Tower Hamlets': a place where people from different backgrounds work together to tackle inequalities and make the borough a better place.

Local partners have a strong record of understanding and engaging the borough's diverse communities and are committed to tackling discrimination. The

Forum is one way to provide a voice for the local LGBT community, enabling LGBT residents to share their concerns, ideas and hopes for life in the borough and helping them to contribute to developing excellent local services.

Get involved! Come along to a Forum meeting on the last Tuesday of each month.

Make your voice count.

For more information email
towerhamletslgbtforum@googlemail.com

Introduction

Welcome to the LGBT History Month information brochure. The following pages include details about all the events and activities planned for the month of February 2009. It will be an exciting few weeks, with a wide range of activities taking place. I hope that everyone in the borough, not just our LGBT community, will get involved.

History Month is a chance to recognise the contribution that LGBT people make to our borough. Our LGBT communities are also local parents, and working people like nurses, policemen and women, school teachers and business people. We can celebrate our shared history in February, but the messages of equality, fairness, and acceptance especially in the face of hatred and violence from the ignorant few, must last beyond this History Month. These events planned are meant to be a celebration,

but they will also allow us a time to remember all those who have suffered the injustices of homophobia.

This February, I hope everyone will help to build One Tower Hamlets and Stop Hate in all its forms.

Paul Fredericks,

Chair of the Tower Hamlets LGBT Forum

Tower Hamlets Council is pleased to support LGBT History Month 2009. History Month is a chance to reflect on the borough's LGBT past, remembering the many people who have helped to make Tower Hamlets the vibrant and diverse borough it is today.

During the last year, we have witnessed some terrible and unacceptable cases of homophobic hate crime in our borough. We must remember that these events are the actions of a small minority who must not be allowed to undermine our strong shared history of living and working side by side in this borough. The council is committed to working with local people, partners and the Police to tackle hate crime in all its forms so that together we can ensure that Tower Hamlets is 'No Place for Hate.' To promote this message this February we are also running a 'No place for Homophobic Hate' billboard campaign across the borough sponsored by local organisations.

Enjoy History Month and I look forward to seeing you at some of the events planned.

Cllr Sirajul Islam,

Deputy Leader of the Council and
Lead Member for Diversity and Equality

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Events

Tower Hamlets Lesbian Gay Bisexual (LGBT) and Transgender Community Forum Workshop

Date: Monday 23rd February

Time: 6-9pm

Venue: Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, London E2
(Nearest tube: Bethnal Green).

Celebrate, reflect and participate

- Want to have your say on issues affecting the LGBT community in Tower Hamlets?
- Do you have questions or concerns that are affecting your life as an LGBT person?
- Want to build a stronger LGBT community in Tower Hamlets?

The Forum invites local people to attend a special event to celebrate and reflect on the Forum's achievements and participate in a discussion about developing the forum.

At the event you will get an opportunity to have your say about what LGBT issues the Forum should be focussing on and how in 2009. You will also get to hear about what the Council will be doing to promote sexual orientation

equality in Tower Hamlets over the next three years with the launch of its first Sexual Orientation Equality Scheme.

If that's not enough, the Forum is also scouting for a new Chair and is looking to establish a new steering committee. Why not come along, get involved and join the celebration!

Contact:

Hafsha Ali | 0207 364 4762 | hafsha.ali@towerhamlets.gov.uk

FREE

Launch of LGBT History Month 2009

Date: Friday 30th January 2009

Time: 6.30pm

Venue: Arts Pavilion, Mile End Park, Grove Road E3
(Nearest tube Mile End)

Hosted by Mile End Park

LGBT History Month 2009 kicks off in style with a free event where everyone's welcome. Come along for entertainment, discussion, music and refreshments and find out what LGBT History Month is all about. We will be entertained by the musical and spoken word performances of Denis Fernando and Craig Jenkins. Special guest Cyril Nri, patron of the national LGBT History Month and celebrated actor, director and writer, best known for his role as Supt Adam Okaro in the Bill will help us celebrate in style.

Contact:

Barry Clark | 020 7364 5347 | barry.clark@towerhamlets.gov.uk

FREE

Healthy & Active

History Walk: 'Pirates and Widow Twanky'

Date: Sunday 1st February

Time: 2pm sharp

Venue: The exit from Tower Hill Tube Station

The popular LGBT History walks return in 2009, with the first walk exploring the LGBT history of the Docklands. Uncover fascinating facts and surprising stories, from an alternative history of the Tower of London to learning about the lives of the gay pirates who docked in the borough. The three hour walk winds up in Limehouse, with chances to pause and reflect on the area's history in some of the many riverside pubs along the way.

Contact:

Lizzie Guinness | 0207 364 4218 | lizzie.guinness@towerhamlets.gov.uk

FREE

Promoting Health & Wellbeing Day

Date: Friday 13th February

Time: 10-3pm

Venue: Positive East, 159 Mile End Road, E1
(Nearest tube Stepney Green)

Supported by Tower Hamlets Primary Care Trust (PCT)

Come along for useful advice and information from colleagues at Mile End Hospital and the PCT. Find out more about diet, nutrition, HIV/Aids and smoking cessation and enjoy free massages, stalls, workshops, prizes and competitions.

Contact:

Dilwar Hussain | 020 7092 5418 | dilwar.hussain@thpct.nhs.uk

FREE Tower Hamlets **NHS**
Primary Care Trust



Football - Phoenix FC vs. the Met Police

Date: Sunday 15th February

Time: 12pm

Venue: John Orwell Sports Centre, Tench Street,
Wapping, London E1W
(Nearest Tube: Shadwell DLR)

East London's first ever gay football team, Phoenix FC (www.phoenixfootball.co.uk) take on a team of local police representatives. Come and cheer on your favourites!

Contact:

PSCO Lee Hawkins | 020 8721 2853 | lee.hawkins@met.police.uk

FREE



History Walk: 'Pink Triangles, Thespians and Glam Rock'

Date: Wednesday 18th February

Time: 5.30pm sharp

Venue: Leaves from Kindertransport Monument
(next to MacDonald's) at Liverpool Street Station.

The second History Walk will explore the LGBT History of the Spitalfields area. Find out how the Nazis treated gays and lesbians and uncover the contribution that LGBT communities made to the rich theatrical history of the area. The walk will last 2 hours, ending on Fieldgate Street.

Contact:

Lizzie Guinness | 0207 364 4218 | lizzie.guinness@towerhamlets.gov.uk

FREE

The Arts

gayWise Bytes – Musical Theatre Workshop

Date: Wednesday 4th February

Time: 6.30 – 8.30pm

Venue: Arts Pavilion, Mile End Park, Grove Road E3
(nearest tube Mile End)

In association with Wise Thoughts.

Simon Stephens, workshop leader and GFest 07 artist, will be leading a free interactive workshop which will explore some well known musical theatre stories.

Everyone is invited to get involved! Simon is also artistic director of theatre company Imaginary Forces.

Contact:

Subodh Rathod | 020 8889 9555 | info@wisethoughts.org

FREE (Booking essential)



gayWise Bytes - Theatre Workshop for Young People

Date: Saturday 7th February

Time: 2 - 4pm

Venue: Arts Pavilion, Mile End Park, Grove Road E3
(nearest tube Mile End)

In association with Wise Thoughts.

Craig Jenkins, workshop leader and GFest 08 artist, will use poetry and performance to explore sexuality. Craig has worked for a number of high profile companies and organisations and will be using both traditional and contemporary approaches to get everyone thinking!

Contact:

Subodh Rathod | 020 8889 9555 | info@wisethoughts.org

FREE (Booking essential)



15 Years of DIVA Magazine

Date: Thursday 19th February

Time: 7pm

Venue: The Women's Library, 25 Old Castle Street, E1
(Nearest tube: Aldgate East)

£6/4 concessions

This special event will celebrate fifteen years of DIVA, Europe's biggest-selling lesbian magazine. Join Jane Czynszelska (Editor) and Louise Carolin (Deputy Editor) as they talk to Stella Duffy (Writer) about how magazines like DIVA cater for their readers. This talk is part of the Women's Library's exhibition 'Between the Covers: Women's Magazines and their Readers' which runs until Wednesday 1st April 2009.

Contact:

The Library Reception | 020 7320 2222 |
moreinfo@thewomenslibrary.ac.uk

THE WOMEN'S LIBRARY

celebrating and creating research links



gayWise Bytes – Drama Therapy Workshop**Date:** Tuesday 24th February**Time:** 6.30 – 8.30 pm**Venue:** Studio 2, Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, E2
(Nearest tube: Bethnal Green)

In association with Wise Thoughts.

Workshop leader, Haydn Forde and Maurice Ord, will use exercises before launching an improvised enactment of a fairy tale/myth and therapeutic experience for workshop participants.

Contact:Subodh Rathod | 020 8889 9555 | info@wisethoughts.org**FREE** (Booking essential)**gayWise Bytes – Drama Workshop****Date:** Wednesday 25th February**Time:** 6.30 – 8.30 pm**Venue:** Green Candle, Oxford House, Derbyshire Street,
E2 (Nearest tube: Bethnal Green)

In association with Wise Thoughts.

Barcy Cogdale, will be running a theatre workshop exploring stories of the individual. Barcy is Artistic Director of award winning Ruby Tuesday Productions. Open to everyone - because everyone has a story to tell.

Contact:Subodh Rathod | 020 8889 9555 | info@wisethoughts.org**FREE** (Booking essential)

**Illustrated talk - Vera 'Jack' Holmes:
Cross-Dressing Actress, Suffragette & Chauffeur**

Date: Thursday 26th February

Time: 7pm

Venue: The Women's Library, 25 Old Castle Street, E1
(Nearest tube: Aldgate East)

Illustrated talk by Anna Kisby

The Women's Library holds archives that document women's lives from the 19th century to the present day. One archive relates to Vera Holmes, whose diaries, photographs and papers tell the story of her bohemian life as a cross-dressing actress, suffragette chauffeur to the Pankhursts and servicewoman overseas during the First World War. Join archivist Anna Kisby to find out more about this intriguing woman.

Contact:

Chandan Mahal | chandan.mahal@thewomenslibrary.ac.uk

FREE

THE WOMEN'S LIBRARY

celebrating and creating women's lives

gayWise Bytes – Film Night

Date: Friday 27th February

Time: 6.30 – 8.30pm

Venue: Morpeth School, Portman Place, E2
(Nearest tube: Bethnal Green)

In association with Wise Thoughts

An evening of short films selected from GFest 07 and GFest 08 featuring films from both national and international film makers including Vibracall, Not So Black & White, That Picture, Unsuitable Boy, Silent Bodies, Roya & Omid and 7 years.

Please note: these films are suitable for audiences aged 15 years and over.

Contact:

Lizzie Guinness | 0207 364 4218 | lizzie.guinness@towerhamlets.gov.uk

FREE



Parenting

Workshop: The Joys and Challenges of LGBT Parenting

Date: Sunday 8th February

Time: 9.30-4.00pm

Venue: Ocean Children's Centre, Harford Street E1
(Nearest tube Stepney Green)

Supported by Tower Hamlets Council Children's Services

Howard Delmonte is a workshop facilitator and gay parent. The day will be a chance to meet LGBT parents to celebrate different family set ups. There will also be an opportunity to discuss key issues such as family pressures, school and educational issues and to share concerns with others. There will be a free crèche and lunch provided, please book early to avoid disappointment

Contact:

Denise Mentessi | 0207 364 6734|

denise.mentessi@towerhamlets.gov.uk (Booking essential)

FREE Tower Hamlets Partnership



Writing Workshop for LGBT Parents

Date: Sunday 15th February

Time: 9.30 – 4.00pm

Venue: Ocean Children's Centre, Harford Street E1
(Nearest tube: Stepney Green)

Supported by Tower Hamlets Council Children's Services

A great chance to explore writing stories for children with LGBT parents, with workshop leader Clare Johnson. All levels of experience are welcome and there will be a free crèche and lunch provided. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis so please book early to avoid disappointment

Contact:

Denise Mentessi | 0207 364 6734|

denise.mentessi@towerhamlets.gov.uk (Booking essential)

FREE Tower Hamlets Partnership



Talking and Telling: Workshop for LGBT parents

Date: Saturday 21st February

Time: 9.45 – 3.45pm

Venue: Ocean Children's' Centre, Harford Street, E1
(Nearest tube: Stepney Green)

Supported by Tower Hamlets Council Children's Services

This free workshop is aimed at LGBT parents of donor conceived children aged 0-7 years. It will explore how to tell children about their conception, including practical help with timing and language. Free crèche and lunch provided. Please book early to avoid disappointment

Contact:

To book a place contact Olivia or Nina at the Donor Conception Network
| 0208 245 4369 | www.donor-conception-network.org.uk

LGBT and Thinking about Parenting?

Date: Sunday 22nd February

Time: 9.30 – 4.00pm

Venue: Positive East, 159 Mile End Road, E1
(Nearest tube: Stepney Green)

Thoughts about parenting can provoke a variety of feelings from joy, hope and fear. The day will be for any LGBT person who is considering or in the process of becoming a parent. There will be a chance to talk and think through a variety of issues including parenting and gender roles.

Free lunch provided. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

Contact:

Denise Mentessi | 0207 364 6734 |

denise.mentessi@towerhamlets.gov.uk (Booking essential)

FREE Tower Hamlets Partnership



Single Lesbian Mums' workshop

Date: Saturday 28th February

Time: 9.30 – 1pm

Venue: Ocean Children's Centre, Harford Street, E1
(Nearest tube: Stepney Green)

Supported by Tower Hamlets Council Children's Services

This workshop will be an opportunity to meet other single mums and safely explore a variety of issues around being a single mum. The session will look at the joys and challenges of family life, school and daily living. Free crèche and lunch provided. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Contact:

Denise Mentessi | 0207 364 6734 |

denise.mentessi@towerhamlets.gov.uk (Free but booking essential)

FREE Tower Hamlets Partnership



Look out for

Out in Time Exhibition

This fascinating exhibition depicts the lesbian, gay, bisexual transgender history of the East End who will be touring around venues in the borough during February.

FREE

No Place for Hate Roadshow

Find out more information about how we are tackling hate crime in the Borough at the No Place for Hate roadshow which will be touring the borough during February.

FREE

Regular Events

Rainbow Parents Group Meeting

Date: Sunday 1st February and every first Sunday of the month

Time: 2-4pm

Venue: Contact Rosie to confirm location

Rainbow Parents is a support and social group for lesbian and gay parents who live, work, study or socialise in Tower Hamlets or nearby. The Rainbow Parents group meets on the first Sunday of the month from 2-4pm so come along to meet other LGBT parents.

Contact:

Rosie Green | 07506 012282 | rainbowparents@googlemail.com

FREE

50+ LGBT Social Network

Date: Monday 2nd February and every first Monday of the month

Time: 4-8pm

Venue: Positive East, 159 Mile End Road, E1
(Nearest tube Stepney Green)

Isolation and loneliness are often experienced by older lesbians and gay men. The idea of this monthly social get together is to provide an opportunity for older lesbians and gay men to socialise, exchange views and meet new friends.

Contact:

Christine Sheppard | 0207 183 2996 | christine.sheppard@acth.org.uk

FREE

Rainbow Parents

Date: Monday 2nd February and every Monday

Time: 2-4pm

Venue: Eva Armsby Family Centre, 6 Glamis Road, Wapping, E1 (Nearest tube Shadwell DLR)

Supported by Tower Hamlets Council Children's Services
This meeting of Rainbow Parents is also open to children (aged 0-4 years). The popular session will include a chance to use the excellent outdoor and indoor facilities, including a soft play area, sensory room, arts and crafts and singing. Healthy snacks will be available. Rainbow Parents (and kids!) meet every Monday from 2-4pm.

Contact:

Angie Bates | 0207 364 3015 | angie.bates@towerhamlets.gov.uk

FREE

Tower Hamlets Partnership



The Queen Mary Legal Advice Centre – Pink Law Session

Date: Wednesday 25th February and every last Wednesday of the month

Time: 6 - 8.30pm

Venue: Queen Mary University, the Legal Advice Centre, Mile End Road, E1 (Nearest tube: Mile End)

Pink Law recognises the lack of free legal advice provided to the LGBT community in the UK. It offers confidential, free advice sessions specifically for the LGBT community for clients with concerns about employment discrimination, cohabitation and civil partnerships. The Centre was short listed for the Law Society Excellence Awards 2008 and won the Attorney General's Pro Bono Award 2008.

Please telephone for an appointment. Drop-in advice not offered.

Contact:

The Legal Advice Centre Office | 020 7882 3668 |
legal-advice-centre@qmul.ac.uk

Tower Hamlets LGBT Community Forum

Date: The last Tuesday of every month

Time: 6.30 – 8.30pm

The Tower Hamlets Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Forum works to engage the borough's LGBT community, helping local people shape the services they receive. Please contact Hafsha for more details. All welcome.

Contact:

Website: www.towerhamletslgbtforum.org

Hafsha Ali | 0207 364 4762 | hafsha.ali@towerhamlets.gov.uk

FREE

Step Out

Drop in times: Monday – Thursday , 4.00 – 5.30pm,
Friday 2 – 3.30pm

Venue: Step Forward, 234 Bethnal Green
Road, E2 (Nearest tube: Bethnal Green)

The Step Out Project based at Step Forward is a free and confidential service for young for young lesbian, gay and bisexual young people under 25 and those questioning their sexuality.

They provide individual support and group work activities in a safe, comfortable and welcoming environment.

Call or come to a drop-in session to find out more.

Contact:

Step Forward | 020 7739 3082 | scott@stepforward-web.org

FREE

A large print version of this document is available on request.

For more information on any events in the booklet including accessibility requirements or to find out more about the work of Tower Hamlets LGBT Forum contact:

Lizzie Guinness
Diversity & Equalities Team
London Borough of Tower Hamlets
0207 364 4218
lizzie.guinness@towerhamlets.gov.uk