

Jersey Pride, Inc. and Garden State Equality
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UNITED 2017: New Jersey LGBT Organizations Host Unique Activism Conference

ASBURY PARK, N.J. – Jersey Pride, Inc. is joining with Garden State Equality to produce a unique conference on community activism and organizing to be held this month at the Asbury Hotel in Asbury Park. Intended to inspire and inform, the conference comes at a critical time in the wave of resistance efforts across the country and coincides with the ending of the new administration’s first 100 days in office.

United 2017: Community Activism & Organizing in an Age of AltReason will be a one-day conference held in Asbury Park, NJ, at the Asbury Hotel on Sunday, April 30, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It is intended to help engage, direct, and enable those interested in community organizing and activism to take steps knowledgeably, responsibly and with confidence and community.

“Our goal is for attendees to leave the conference with an understanding of and confidence in how to engage with the activism community,” said Laura Pople, conference organizer and president of Jersey Pride, Inc. “We also hope they learn how to prioritize issues they feel strongly about, how to use and interpret messaging and language, and, essentially, what to do with the energy, frustration and despair many are currently experiencing under the current administration, especially.”

One unique feature of the conference will be a “political carousel” held during the morning program. This session will offer informal question-and answer-sessions with four local politicians, enabling all conference attendees the opportunity to discuss critical issues with each.

The conference will kick off with a plenary address by nationally recognized media and communications expert and LGBT leader Cathy Renna. Reverend Gil Caldwell, a retired United Methodist minister and lifelong activist in the Civil Rights Movement, will close the conference with a presentation about his documentary *From Selma to Stonewall*. Other presenters include Kathy O’Brien & Axel Torres Marrero (Hyacinth AIDS Foundation), Aaron Potenza & Ben Fisher (Garden State Equality), trainer Lori Tarke, Michelle Julet (The Business of Doing Good), Carol Watchler (GLSEN), author Seth Rainess, Sue Doster (Co-chair, National Equality March for Unity and Pride), Gordon Sauer (SAGE), Michael Billy (Jersey City Stands) and Frank Van Dalen (Interpride).

The conference is sponsored by The Asbury Hotel and Out in New Jersey. The cost for attendance is \$75, with discounts for seniors and students. Scholarships are also being offered in

an effort to increase accessibility. Information and registration is available online at united.jerseypride.org.

The conference schedule includes morning and afternoon sessions as follows:

Opening Session	<i>Changing the World One Story at a Time</i>	Cathy Renna
Session1 Our Health. Our Birthright	LGBT Healthcare Policy	Aaron Potenza and Ben Fisher
	HIV Activism and Advocacy	Kathy O'Brien and Axel Torres Marrero
	Harnessing the Power of Emotions	Lori Tarke
Session 2 The Next Generation	Young Social Entrepreneurs	Michelle Julet
	From Within the Schools	Carol Watchler
	Trans 101	Seth Rainess
Session 3 Community Advocacy, Activism and Organizing	And We're Marching	Sue Doster
	Addressing the Needs of LGBT Seniors	Gordon Sauer
	Jersey City Stands: a Case Study	Michael Billy
Political Carousel	Q&A with elected officials	Congressman Pallone
		Assemblyman Reed Gusciora
		Deputy Mayor Amy Quinn, Sue Fulton
Luncheon speaker	LGBTI Human Rights Strategies	Frank Van Dalen
Closing Session	<i>From Selma to Stonewall</i> and intro by Cathy Renna	Reverend Gil Caldwell

Conference at a Glance (tentative timeline)

8:00-8:45 – Doors Open, registration and coffee with light refreshment
 8:50-9:00 – GSE and JPI welcome
 9:00-9:40 – Opening Plenary speaker: Cathy Renna
 9:50-10:35 – Political Carousel
 10:35-10:45 - Break
 10:45-12:15 – Session 1: Our Health. Our Birthright
 12:15-1:15 – Lunch w/guest speaker: LGBTI Human Rights Strategies
 1:15-2:45- Session 2: The Next Generation
 2:50–4:20 – Session 3: Community Advocacy, Activism and Organizing
 4:20-4:30 - Break
 4:30 – 5:00 – Closing Plenary: Reverend Gil Caldwell
 5:00 – 6:00 Roundup Cocktail hour sponsored by Tito's