

Lotus Rising Project

youth led social change

December 2010 EZine

800-466-7005 ext 5

www.lotusrisingproject.org

lotusrisingproject.myshaklee.com

711 Medford Center #154

Medford, OR 97504

In this Issue

Comment on DADT

Interview w/ Youth

100 Families

Events

Classifieds

Programs

NSNS

SOGSASN

Teen Theater

Del's House

Vision Statement

We envision a world without oppression, where respect and compassionate activism create a climate in which people can freely express their sexual orientation and gender identity without fear of retribution. In this world, everyone creatively contributes to social change and youth are empowered to actively build the world in which they want to live.

Mision Statement

Lotus Rising Project is a youth initiated, compassion-based service organization that embraces diversity. We create community and social change through respect, education and responsible action.



**DON'T ASK DON'T TELL
R E P E A L E D**

Comments by Beth Coye, Commander, US Navy (ret)

**Beth's
Thoughts to
Lotus Rising
Project on
DADT Repeal
Christmas Eve 2010**

Dear LRP Community,

I served in the U.S. Navy as a closeted lesbian for twenty years and chose to leave the service early because of my sexual orientation and my unwillingness to continue to violate my integrity and myself. It was a difficult decision, interrupting a promising career. Since 1993 and the passage of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell law, as some of you know, I've worked hard with other gays and lesbians and straight allies across the nation to overturn this unjust law and the military's policies that have followed the law.

I've learned several lessons on my journey to freedom and justice that might be useful to you; here are a few:



Always be true to yourself.

“This above all: to thine own self be true,
And it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man.”

Shakespeare, Hamlet

Never give up on your personal dreams. For fifty years I had a little grey cloud over my head, because I could not say “It’s My Navy Too,” with conviction and honesty. But as of this past week, I’ve seen my dream come true and am at peace with Big Daddy Navy and our federal government’s stance on military gays. The grey cloud has lifted.

You always can find individual friends, both gay and straight, to help you with your troubles or share your dreams. I’ve been fortunate to work with both gays and straights — civilian and military — along my path to freedom for me and other military gays.

To get along well in this life, especially for us minorities, takes teamwork and community. Find your team. Search for your right community or communities. I cherish my faith community, Unitarian Universalists who have kept me going in the roughest of times. I also treasure my LGBT community and my Navy community.

Happy Holiday Season and best wishes in this New Year,
Your friend, Beth F. Coye, Commander, U.S. Navy (ret.)

To submit your own contribution to the LRP zine, email your idea to Delaine at lotusrising-project@gmail.com. Put “E-zine or E-News” in the subject line.

100 Families Campaign: Help Achieve the Dream of Queer and Ally Community Space

“Where is your Center?”

“Can I come to the Community Library?”

“I wish we had a space all our own, queer and ally space, housing.”

It’s not unusual for a non-profit to have a small, volunteer run business with which to raise awareness, teach skills and create sustainable funding for their work. Hospice has a Boutique in Ashland, Habitat for Humanity has the ReStore in Medford, Girl Scouts have cookies, JANIS in Portland has an organic farm. The youth at LRP considered several options for a business along these lines and chose to partner with Shaklee Corporation. Shaklee requires no investment from LRP and provides the website, products, warehousing, research, shipping and 100% guarantee so we can focus our resources on sharing the products and learning business skills. Shaklee is also a Certified Climate Neutral company, has a business model that supports diversity and opportunity, and creates quality products for living in harmony with nature everyday.

We are looking for 100 families who will set up a member discount account and redirect \$50 of their monthly spending through our volunteer run on-line store. This will provide LRP with sustainable monthly funding for community center space. If you are not able to commit to \$50 a month, your business at any level is appreciated. Please contact Frankie Rarick or Delaine Due for help getting started with something that will fit your life and budget.

There are over 300 wonderful, natural, green, organic products to choose from including nutritional supplements, personal care, weight management, sports nutrition, and household cleaning.

Free Member Account and Free Shipping on first order now through December 31!
 Minimum \$70 order required for free membership offer.

Shopping List

Shower Gel Dishwash Liquid Multivitamin Snack bars Sports Drink Toothpaste Beano Clorox Wipes		Enfuselle Shower Gel Get Clean Dishwash Concentrate Vita-Lea or Vitalizer Cinch Protein Bars Performance Sports Drink Mix New Concept Organic Dentifrice EZ Gest Germ-Off Wipes
--	---	--

www.lotusrisingproject.myshaklee.com

You may also be a founder for space by making a tax-deductible monthly cash pledge of \$50 or more (\$600/yr) to LRP. For more information, contact a Board Member at 800-466-7005 ext 5 or lotusrisingproject@gmail.com with “pledge” in the subject line.

Join Us for a **Ribbon Cutting Grand Opening** of our On-Line Store

Come see, smell and taste what’s available. Drawing for free products.

**Saturday January 8th
 1-3pm
 Medford Public Library**



Welcome Jenny Mensch, new customer.

First 100 Families on \$50 or more autoship receive free gift and their name on “**The Wall that Did It All.**”

Thank You

1. Matthew Reynolds
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.

Spotlight

Connor Cox,
Junior,
South Medford HS

On a road trip to Presentation Day for an MRG grant, I had the privilege of interviewing Connor Cox when he took a break from writing his junior paper on Brandon Teena.

LRP: What do you like to do?

Connor: Play with my kitty, music, video games, movies.

LRP: What are your favorite movies and books?

Connor: *Scott Pilgrim Vs the World* because of the borderline video game style. *Keeping You a Secret* [by Julie Anne Peters, a coming of age story about high school girl, Holland, who falls in love with the new girl on campus, Cece.] And, *Make the Yuletide Gay* because it's the best gay Christmas movie ever.

LRP: What's the hardest thing about being a teenager?

Connor: The way adults stereotype us and think we're all bad kids [there are a couple of exceptions].

LRP: Who is your hero?

Connor: My brother. He went through so much sh-- with his dad and he is helping my mom. He dropped out of school to take care of mom when dad left shows a lot of responsibility.

LRP: What's your favorite food?

Connor: Jell-O!

LRP: Favorite thing about LRP?

Connor: NSNS. Knowing people that think about and understand things that other teenagers don't get. Having the chance to find my Self in a different way than others might.



LRP: How can LRP make a difference?

Connor: #1 Conquer the world with Jell-O. #2 More resources like housing to help more people...a fat budget! More connection to adults in the community...I feel like I don't really know them.

LRP: If you were king of the world...

Connor: More acceptance...oodles of acceptance.

LRP: What's your definition of compassion?

Connor: Love and Acceptance

Equity Workplace Giving Program

An easy way to give and make a difference: Equity Foundation has a wonderful workplace giving program in which all Oregon State Employees and University

Employees can participate. Please go to ecfd.oregon.gov and make your pledge on-line today. Simply follow the steps and choose Equity Foundation, Lotus Rising Project and have a portion of your paycheck automatically contributed to Lotus Rising Project.

Thank you in advance for your generosity. Every little bit helps us make positive change in the hearts, minds and lives of LGBTQQIA people in our local community.



Parentheses

“The way parentheses allow us to speak
without speaking... eyes learn to see between lids,”
Angie Estes.

The way my bustier holds the moisture of
your breath, the way drag queens click

their lacquered heels, the way button-fly Levi’s
hold silicone, the way wings of the dove

fold morning to mother of pearl. The way
waxing and waning cup light. The way

the beak of the thrush in Verona
breaks full throated to song. The way

the Cobra Lily shyly bears its stamen,
the way the child, two handed, raises a glass to her lip.

The way the parenthesis of my questions ask
permission. The way the velvet sprung jewelry box

holds the ransom. The way lesbian lovers,
in their blatant tryst, kiss. The way the luster

of our lips pronounce poems. The way
the leather sweat of her thighs clamp the Ducati,

the way the top and bottom teeth of her pliers
extract the stripped screw. The way sun-dried sheets

encase our bodies in the husk of September. The way
labia
plie and tip up the clitoral whorl. The way our lungs,

two windbags, hold our confessions. The way
two palms pushed together offer up this piston of
prayer.

Julie’ Weber’s poem Parentheses was a finalist for the
2010 Oscar Wilde Poetry Award and is currently in
print at Q Review (qreviewonline.com).

Queer Work Writing Group

Call for Active Poets (and any writers) writing Queer
Work to form a group where we can share new poems,
get submission ideas and support each other in revi-
sion. e-mail Julie Weber westcoastjewel@charter.net

NSNS Looking for Mentors

(Queer, Ally, PFLAG...)

If you are over 25 years old and want to connect with
the youth in our community, please join us for the
open meetings of Not Straight Not Sure. 4th Mondays.
Next meeting: Monday 24 from 7-9pm at Medford
United Methodist Church at Laurel and Main. Topic
will be dreamboards for the New Year.

Rainbow Group Begins

New spiritual support group for LGBTQ people begins
in January 2011. Group will meet Mondays, 6-7 pm in
UCC church social hall. 717 Siskiyou Blvd. Ashland
A clean and sober event. EVERYONE WELCOME.
Facilitated by Julian Spalding. For more information
call 541-482-1981 or email: ucc@opendoor.biz www.uccashlandoregon.org

The Klamath Basin Lambdas

An LGBT social/support/advocacy group based in the
Klamath Falls area. Whether you find yourself stuck
in the closet, whether you want to declare it from the
rooftops, or whether you’re an ally, you are welcome.
Monthly meetings at 133 North 4th St (at Pine St),
downtown Klamath Falls. Every third Tuesday at 6:00
PM. Help and advocate for LGBT residents of the
Klamath Basin. Contact: mail@klambda.org

Rogue Valley Lavender Womyn

A social and networking group for queer womyn.
RVLW members organize outings or events such as
brunch, potlucks, hiking, bird watching, photo outings,
geocaching, camping....plus whatever we can think of.
Some of us are single, others are not, and either is
welcome. Some events are grown-ups only and some
include our children. Please join us!
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/roguevalleylavender-womyn/>

Volunteering to help with Lotus Rising Project programs and events will make an impact in some young person's life, either through our work with Not Straight, Not Sure; Gay Straight Alliances in our high schools; Teen Theater, Del's House or Alternative Prom.

Volunteers are needed throughout the year to serve on the board or on a committee, to plan an event, to speak at a GSA meeting, to write and produce our newsletter (like this one), to staff a table at a parade, to whatever need shows up.

We are a Volunteer Organization! We need you! And if you don't feel like you have time to donate, you can send money. We operate on community donations, grants and proceeds from our on-line store.

Our greatest needs: Volunteer Coordinator (includes a stipend, when available), Prom Committee members, Fundraising and Marketing Committee members, NSNS facilitators, and Del's House advocates.

Please contact Julian Spalding (also Volunteer Coordinator for Pride) by email at lotusrisingproject@gmail.com with "Julian" in the subject line.



SEVA

Selfless Service performed without expectation of award

Committees

Social Justice
Marketing
Nominating
Fundraising
Prom
Policy and Procedure



MRG asked how we plan to create sustainable funding: please consider supporting LRP with a monthly pledge or by using our on-line store.

MRG Presentation Day and Grant Award

Connor (NSNS, SOG-SASN), Frankie (Board Secretary), and Delaine (NSNS) presented at Mackenzie River Gathering presentation day along with other amazing non-profits from Oregon. MRG has generously awarded LRP \$8500 for general operating expenses. We thank MRG for their initial and continued support of LRP.

LRP Funders: Thank You

MRG Foundation
Equity Foundation
Pride Foundation
Ashland Community
Food Store

Area Meetings

Not Straight Not Sure, support and recreation for LGBTQQIA youth ages 14-25 and their family and friends, meets 2nd and 4th Mondays at the First United Methodist Church, Medford (Laurel and Main). Please join us 4th Mondays as a mentor. Intake required for Members-Only meetings.

PFLAG, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays Meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the library (second floor) of Newman United Methodist Church in Grants Pass. It's located at 132 NE B Street. Bonnie Cameron at 541-659-9366 or Margaret Keip at 541-472-0052

Chrysalis, support for transgender adults
We meet the second Saturday of each month beginning at 7 pm at the Ashland First Congregational United Church of Christ 717 Siskiyou Blvd. The meeting will again be in the downstairs meeting lounge accessed from the basement door on the north side of the building. If anyone needs a place and time to dress before hand, I can be at the Church early to let you in.
Vicki Rae--HUTO vicki_rae@hotmail.com

January 2011: Community Calender

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 New Year's Day
2	3 Rainbow Group 6-7pm UCC, Ashland	4	5	6	7	8 LRP On-line Store Grand Opening 1-3pm Medford Library Chrysalis 7pm Ashland UCC
9	10 Rainbow Group 6-7pm NSNS 7-9pm Members Only	11	12	13	14	15
16 LRP Board Mtg 3-5pm Woolworth Bldg Medford	17 MLK Day Rainbow Group 6-7pm	18 Klamath Basin Lambdas K-Falls 6pm	19 PFLAG 7pm Grants Pass Newman UMC	20	21	22
23	24 Rainbow Group 6-7pm NSNS 7-9pm Open Meeting	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Community Response Team, a collaboration of human services/rights groups in the area who work to prevent and respond to Hate Crimes. A Hotline has been set-up and an Education (prevention) event scheduled for the fall. More information to come on both. For now, feel free to email lori at lori.warfield@lotusrisingproject.org

Wishlist

- Office space** in Medford- We are accepting donations and asking people to participate in the Shaklee fundraising program to support this goal. If groups would be interested in sharing the space to keep prices lower and to share equipment, etc., contact Lori at lori.warfield@lotusrisingproject.org.
- Rolling clothing hanging racks for Del's House clothing
- Peace on Earth** A time when people look back at today and can't believe that discrimination on the basis of gender and sexuality ever existed.

Plan Ahead: Mark your Calender

Bodacious Rainbow Ball

Friday February 11
7-10pm
Ashland RVUUF

6th Annual Alternative Community Prom

Saturday May 21

Enews/Website Contributions and Submissions

If you have something you want to include in the enews, please email us at lrp@lotusrisingproject.org and place "enews" in the subject line by the first of the month. Until volunteers step forward to help produce the ezine, there's no guarantee of a monthly edition. We reserve the right to edit content submitted.