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Dear Supporter

In this issue: Change the Life of an Artist or Athlete, Paris 2018 updates, Tom Waddell Awards, Gay Games Champion Outreach

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January 2018



**Welcome to Participate!, the newsletter of the Federation of Gay Games.**

Happy New Year! 2018 is finally here, and we cannot wait to share Paris 2018 - Gay Games 10 with the world, promoting LGBT+ equality in and through sport and culture! Make plans TODAY for the best registration rates and join us for and register at [Paris2018.com](http://Paris2018.com). Standard fees continue until 30 April 2018.

Please consider our [Gay Games Scholarship Program](#) and DOUBLE your impact thanks to a major benefactor. Our scholarship program was established to encourage financially-challenged participants from underrepresented populations from around the world to take part in the Gay Games, with support from the Roy M. Coe Scholarship Fund. (The Roy M. Coe Scholarship Fund was endowed to the FGG in 1995). Since 1998, over 800 scholarship candidates have participated in the Gay Games.



And finally, on our final lap to Paris, we extend our sincere appreciation to all Honorary Life Members, volunteers, donors, champions, and all past and future Gay Games participants; all are truly changing the world!

With greatest respect,



**Joanie Evans**, co-president



**Sean Fitzgerald**, co-president



***Make plans today for best rates!***

**REGISTER NOW** [www.paris2018.com/registration/](http://www.paris2018.com/registration/)

**Only 200 days to go! D-200!** Opening Ceremony will take place in less than 200 days!

**6,100+ Registered Participants** have already registered for the fabulous Celebration of Diversity, which will take place next August 4-12 in Paris - with 36 sports, 14 cultural events, 2 ceremonies, 1 village, and a sports conference. Participants from over 75 countries will meet in Paris to compete, play, share, and have fun. Will you join us?

**MAKE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS** and Discover Paris with KTS France, a travel agency that offers discount opportunities for accommodations, teams and groups, excursions and more!

**EVENT TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE!** Check out some of the options for your trip to Paris -- parties, concerts, sightseeing, and the famous Pink Flamingo!

**MERCHANDISE SALE - 15% OFF** Order your merchandise now at a reduced rate!



**YOUR LOCAL PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES:** If you would like to organize your own Paris 2018 promotional event, we can send you the videos and presentations. For marketing materials, if you are based in North America, email [marketing@gaygames.net](mailto:marketing@gaygames.net).

**SIGN UP** for the [Newsletter](#), **FOLLOW** on [Facebook](#), **CONTACT** [Paris 2018](#)

**LEARN** [about our security priority](#)

**COUNTDOWN TO PARIS: Earlier registration = lower fee**

**GAY GAMES 2018**

REGISTER NOW AT [PARIS2018.COM](#)  
OPEN TO ALL #ALLEQUAL #GAYGAMES  
@PARIS2018

سنة سعيدة  
FELIZ ANO NOVO  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
新年快  
EIN GUTES NEUES JAHR  
あけましておめでとう  
FELIZ AÑO NUEVO

GELUKKIG NIEUWJAAR  
**MEILLEURS VŒUX**  
с новым годом  
FELIČAN NOVAN JARON  
FELICE ANNO NUOVO  
नया साल मुबारक

**PARIS 2018**  
**GAY GAMES 10**  
ALL EQUAL

### ***Change The Life Of An Artist Or Athlete That Can't Do It Alone***

Help the Federation of Gay Games "Change the World" by helping athletes and artists who need financial assistance to participate at Paris 2018 - Gay Games 10!

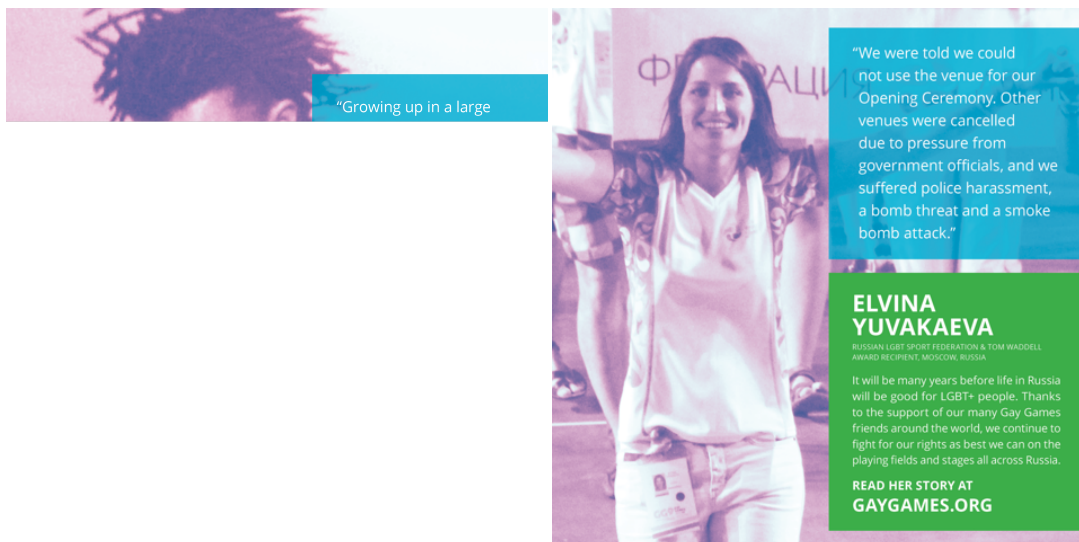
[Make your donation to the Gay Games Scholarship Program today](#) -- and what you give will have **DOUBLE** the impact, thanks to a major Gay Games supporter.

The Gay Games Scholarship Program was established to encourage financially-challenged participants from underrepresented populations from around the world to take part in the Gay Games with support from the Roy M. Coe Scholarship Fund. (The Roy M Coe Sponsorship Fund was endowed to the FGG in 1995). Since 1998, over 800 scholarship candidates have participated in the Gay Games. Please help us continue this important work and make a donation today!

[Please watch and share this video](#) with others to help learn about and to promote our scholarship program and Paris 2018 - Gay Games 10.

[DONATE NOW](#)





## PARTICIPATE!



Do you know of a major sport or cultural event where the FGG should be promoting Paris 2018 - Gay Games 10? If so, please send an email with details to

[marketing@gaygames.net](mailto:marketing@gaygames.net).

The FGG has a number of marketing materials that can be used at selected events, on social media and elsewhere. We've been promoting Gay Games 10 at dozens of events and yours could be next!

## Tom Waddell Award

The FGG is pleased to announce that nominations are open for the Tom Waddell Award. This is the highest recognition offered by the FGG, and is presented at the opening ceremony of each Gay Games to one man and one woman who have made outstanding contributions to the Gay Games movement and the cause of equality.

A nominee must:

- Inspire pride through leadership and excellence in sports, culture, or volunteerism
- Devote their energies to the success of the Gay Games and/or related activities without regard for personal gain
- Participate at their personal best
- Personify standards of commitment, selflessness, and love of humanity



Anyone may nominate a qualified person: [please email the FGG for the nomination form](#). Deadline for nominations is 15 March 2018.

## My Gay Games Outreach Over the Past Year

*by Sheppard Wahnnon, Gay Games Champion*





I've been very busy this past year helping to spread the word about the Paris Gay Games. It started right after the AGA in Sydney when I visited Fiji. Since I had no Gay contacts there I relied on Grindr to find some Gay locals. For the first time ever I actually met someone through Grindr, an Indo-Fijian named Rahul. I learned all about the challenges of being Gay in a country with several traditional religions: Christianity, Muslim and Hindu. Rahul is a Hindu. It isn't easy but thanks to the United States State Department under Secretary Clinton our embassy in the capital Suva is a sanctuary. And Rahul learned a lot about the Gay Games. I would really like to pursue this contact as I don't believe the FGG has never had a lot of participation from Oceania outside of Australia and New Zealand.

Other Gay Games promotional highlights:

- Buenos Aires World Congress of LGBT+ Jews: Reached out to a local Gay soccer player recommended by FGG Board Member Martha Ehrenfeld and gave him a supply of Spanish language Gay Games brochures.
- Gay Games at IML (International Mr Leather) in Chicago
- Madrid World Pride with fellow Front Runners and at their human rights conference
- Palm Springs international Gay Square Dance Convention
- Provincetown bookshops, hotels, Internet cafes, restaurants and pizzerias. (Of which later in the season friends returned to replenish)
- Montreal's first ever Canada Pride: In Montreal I volunteered to staff a Gay Games table and march with the Gay Games contingent in the pride parade. I will say, we had a great reception from all those who saw us marching.
- Paris World Congress of LGBT+ Jews
- Oslo and Bergen Gay bar

So, in the end I did a whole bunch of fun Gay things in eight countries on four continents and also two cities in the United States. I tried to spread the good news about our amazing Gay Games. I hope I made a difference because the Gay Games sure have made a big difference in my life.

*Editor's Note: Sincere thanks to Shep and his participation, passion, support and personal best helping include so many people in the Federation of Gay Games mission, changing the world!*

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**Share your stories of Participation, Inclusion and Personal Best™ with the hashtag #gaygames**

Since the first Gay Games in 1982, the Federation of Gay Games mission promotes equality in and through sport and culture and ensures that the Gay Games, the world's largest sports and culture festival open to all, take place every four years under the founding principles of Participation, Inclusion, and Personal Best™.

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**[Please join our scholarship cause of sending artists and athletes to Paris 2018 - Gay Games 10](#)**