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June 2015**Welcome to Participate!, the newsletter of the Federation of Gay Games.**

On behalf of the Federation of Gay Games (FGG) Board and Honorary Life Members, we extend our greetings and hopes that 2015 continues to be full of exciting times, sports and engagement in your communities.

We at the FGG continue the important work of engaging the world in our mission of promoting equality through the organization of the premiere international LGBT and gay-friendly sports and cultural event known as the Gay Games. We are excited about the 2018 Gay Games 10 in Paris, and you'll learn more news in this issue of Participate!

The Gay Games was conceived in 1980 by Dr. Tom Waddell as a vehicle of change and is built upon the principles of Participation, Inclusion, and Personal Best™. Since 1982 the Gay Games have empowered thousands of LGBT athletes and artists through sport, culture, and fellowship. The Federation continues this work in many ways, including the inclusion of the world's sport community into one quadrennial event, being the vehicle of change, and having more participation than ever.

We invite you to stay engaged with the FGG and world's athletes in all ways, and we continue to encourage ideas—and future athletes—to the 2018 Gay Games and to 2022 and beyond.

**Joanie Evans**, Female co-president**Kurt Dahl**, Male co-president

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Celebrating Marc Naimark

On 12 April 2015, we announced with great sadness that [Marc Naimark](#) is no longer of this world.

As a tribute to all of Marc's work for the LGBT sport and culture community, a Gay Games Scholarship Fund has been established in his name. Donations in Marc Naimark's name can be made to the [Marc Naimark Scholarship Fund](#). Proceeds from the Marc Naimark Scholarship Fund will be awarded to deserving applicants wishing to attend [2018 Gay Games 10 in Paris](#). Questions: [email Emy Ritt](#).



Since Marc's involvement with the Gay Games in 1998, we have had the privilege to witness his kindness and compassion, his brilliance and genius. Thanks to his diligence and patience, FGG and the Gay Games benefited from so many of Marc's ideas and initiatives.

Unbeknownst to us, the ever-present kindness and compassion that was Marc's trademark masked a tortured soul, even from his loved ones.

Although his chair at the table is now empty, as our hearts are, we know that Marc has moved onwards and upwards to a better place.

Our thoughts are with Jimmy, his partner of 10 years.

We will keep you informed of any further news and thank you for your compassion.



LGBT Sports Summit: June 2015

The FGG will be represented by Les Johnson, our VP for External Affairs, at the 4th Nike LGBT Sports Summit in Portland, Oregon. This year Nike donated an additional USD 100,000 from sales associated with its #BETRUE collection directly to the LGBT Sports Coalition for joint projects to eliminate homophobia in sports. The FGG is proud to be a founding member of the Coalition and will continue to work with its partners on several projects to raise LGBT visibility in sport. The Coalition has also launched its new logo and announced plans for a website. In the meantime, follow news from the Coalition here: <https://www.facebook.com/lgbtsportscoalition>



GLISA and FGG announce Joint Memo of Understanding

Development and production to begin for One World Event in 2022

On 19 May 2015, the Boards of the Federation of Gay Games (FGG) and the Gay and Lesbian International Sports Organization (GLISA) were pleased to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the development and production of One World Event to be held in 2022.

The MOU is a reflection of the results of a Survey available to members of both organizations following Gay Games 9 (third quarter 2014). More than 2,000 responses were received and collated and reflected the desire of the global LGBTIQ for a single sports, human rights, and culture event for 2022. "This was an historic occasion for members of the global LGBTIQ community to express its wishes with respect to the directions of our two organizations; they didn't disappoint," said Tamara Adrian, Co-President of GLISA.

The MOU provides for the identification of a joint FGG/GLISA "Site Selection Committee" which will be tasked to develop and oversee the site selection process. This process will include development of a Bid Framework, a Letter of Interest stage, a review of the bids from various host organizations, and a selection by members of both organizations. This process will begin second quarter 2015 with the identification of Committee members and will conclude with the host voting process no later than the fourth quarter of 2017.

Additionally, the MOU provides for the creation of a "Transition Commission" which will steer the development of a single organizational body to deliver future One World Events. "Both our Boards are looking forward to the results of the virtual and face-to-face consultations presently being hosted by the Working Group," said Joanie Evans, Co-President of the FGG. "To date, the results are consistent with the results of the survey."

Both the FGG and GLISA support the commitment to ensure the Site Selection process will reflect transparency of information, openness of communication, and inclusivity of member organizations.

Both organizations are committed to transparency of information, openness of communication, and inclusivity of member organizations. In this spirit, the FGG has posted the well known, "Cologne Report" at www.gaygames.org, which includes the "Team SF proposal" as one of the five options listed in Article III. The Cologne Report is a collaborative effort that helped lay the groundwork for both

organizations to work together to produce one quadrennial LGBT sports and culture event for the world.



We are looking forward to seeing you in Paris!

Registration Opens June 2016: www.Paris2018.com

4-12 August 2018

15,000 participants from 70+ countries

Open to All - Prestigious Venues

36 Sports - 14 Cultural Events - 1 Academic Conference

VALUES: Diversity, Respect, Equality, Solidarity,
and Sharing (our 'DRESS code')

Friends, Cheres Ami-e-s: With 1,185 days to go until the start of Gay Games 10, we are very pleased to send you this newsletter, which we plan to update every quarter:

[Please click here for latest newsletter from Paris 2018](#)

LEARN more with the Paris 2018 [Brochure](#), [Presentation](#) and [Video](#)

BECOME a [Corporate Partner](#), [Volunteer](#), **SIGN UP** for the Paris 2018 [Newsletter](#)

FOLLOW on [Facebook](#), **CONTACT** via email: contact@paris2018.com

2015 Annual General Assembly: 16-18 October

16-18 October 2015
Limerick, Ireland
Castletroy Park Hotel

The Federation of Gay Games Annual General Assembly (AGA) brings together delegates from its members, associate members and board members. Its institutional role is to elect the Federation's Board of Directors, to amend the FGG's bylaws, and in its Site Selection configuration (full members plus board), choose the hosts of the Gay Games.



The FGG Board of Directors will also meet twice: Thursday, October 15 and newly elected board members will join the board meeting to be held Monday, October 19, 2015.

Accommodation Booking: We have an amazing rate with our Partner Hotel, the Castletroy Park hotel, as well as some of the surrounding hotels in the area. In order to make your booking with the Castletroy Park Hotel, [you will require a booking form which is available here](#). This form must then be emailed to the Castletroy Park hotel on reservations@castletroypark.ie who will then process your booking. You will not be able to book online as the entire hotel has been booked out for the AGA.

Flight Deals: For your flights, we have arranged discount codes with United Airlines and Delta Airlines into Shannon International Airport (SNN).

- **United Airlines** is offering discounts of 2% to 10% off published fares. Save an additional 3% off by booking your reservations at www.united.com by inserting ZUW3769690 in the Offer Code box or Call United reservations & Refer to Z Code ZUW3 and Agreement Code: 769690. To avail of United Airlines discount delegates must arrive and depart from Shannon Airport (SNN)
- **Delta Airlines** is also offering discounts of 2% to 10% off published fares. Visit www.delta.com and enter meeting code NMLKT or Call Delta reservations & Quote Meeting Code NMLKT

Schedule and Agenda: We are working on a jam-packed schedule to make this AGA a productive and informative one for all our delegates. More details will be released as it becomes available.

Board Positions: If you are considering putting yourself forward as a candidate for one of the positions which are up for election, please indicate your interest by emailing [Sean Fitzgerald](mailto:Sean.Fitzgerald@fgg.org). A full list of positions are also available from Sean.

JOIN US! <http://gaygames.org/wp/about-the-fgg/join-us/>

Pride Cheerleading Association

We Are Family!

On June 28 members of the Pride Cheerleading Association (PCA) come together to raise funds and create awareness for causes that support those with life challenging conditions. These volunteer-leaders have been waiting for this moment all year: Pride Season!

You may recall their captivating performances in Cleveland at the Gay Games. From opening ceremonies to their jaw dropping competition then onto closing ceremonies, these cheerleaders raised \$6,000 for the Federation of Gay Games Scholarship Fund in just 10 days! Now, these extraordinary teams strut their stuff with gravity defying stunts and exciting choreography in their respective cities or where it all began, San Francisco! Check'em out and support them with your generous donations.

San Francisco	New York	Seattle
CHEER San Francisco	CHEER New York	CHEER Seattle
www.cheersf.org	www.cheerny.org	www.cheerseattle.org
Beneficiary: AIDS Housing Alliance	Beneficiary: Bailey House	Beneficiary: Camp Ten Trees

[VIDEO: Pride Cheer Association \(PCA\), Gay Games 9: Cleveland, Ohio, Opening Ceremony.](#)



Out On The Fields

Federation of Gay Games Collaboration

The FGG is credited as an acknowledged part of a major new study of homophobia in sport that was published on May 10th. This included results from a survey of over 9,500 people worldwide and asked them about their experiences of homophobia, including witnessing incidents of homophobic harassment. Participants were not only lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans but heterosexual too. The study gathered data from the US, UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Ireland. This was a



collaborative endeavor with both volunteers from the Bingham Cup and academics from the University of Victoria, Australia, Brunel University London, UK, The University of Winnipeg and Laval University in Canada, Pennsylvania State University (Sue Rankin) and the University of Massachusetts Amherst (Pat Griffin) in the USA.

The full Out On The Fields report (77 pages) as well as associated media summaries, press releases and infographics for each country can be found at the following URL:

<http://www.outonthefields.com/media.html>

The most surprising result from this study is findings coming from the USA, which fared the lowest and poorly on most of the key measures. For example Americans were the least likely to believe LGB people are accepted in sports culture. More than half of all participants thought they were 'not accepted at all' or only 'accepted a little' which is nearly double the numbers who believe this in Canada.

Americans were also the most likely to think homophobia is more common in sports than in the rest of society. Americans were also the most likely to witness or experience homophobia and American lesbians were the second most likely (after the UK) to say they had been personally targeted.

Tom Waddell Day Celebrated April 17

The legacy of Gay Games founder Tom Waddell was celebrated and honored at his Alma Mater, Springfield College in Massachusetts, USA.



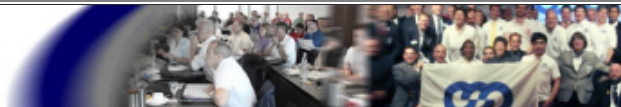
Springfield College President Mary-Beth A. Cooper, Prof. Martin Dobrow, Distinguished Springfield Professor of Humanities, Phyllis Plotnick '69 (founder of the Springfield College Tom Waddell Fund), and Rob Kearney '13, G'15 (Athletic training, concentrating in rehabilitation) Pro Strongman and world record holder, and Joey Abel with new plaque to be placed next to Tom Waddell's Hall of Fame plaque; at Waddell Day at Springfield College in the Cleveland E. and Phyllis B Dodge Room, Flynn Campus Center. Photo: Jeffry Pike

The stirring half-day event was attended by hundreds, including several of his fellow students from the class of 1959. It was organized by Professor Martin Dobrow, Distinguished Professor of Humanities, who worked closely with the Federation of Gay Games to assure that Tom Waddell was being accurately remembered at this event. The FGG was represented by Honorary Life Member Jeffry Pike who spoke live about Tom's most visible legacy... the Gay Games. Sara Waddell Lewinstein and daughter Jessica prepared a welcome video that was also shown at the event. Delivering the keynote address was Springfield College graduate student Rob Kearney, a strongman champion and the first openly gay man to actively compete in his sport at the international level.

When asked to characterize the reception on campus for this special event, Jeffry Pike said "Between 250–300 people attended the activities of Tom Waddell Day. Everyone was enthusiastic to see the injustice of omission righted and Tom's complete story recognized both on a plaque to hang near his Springfield College Hall of Fame plaque and in the lore of the school. Clearly current students, faculty, and alums, alike, radiated pride in their school, which now is dedicated to being proactive in social justice. The cross section of people in the room confirmed the relevance of the event to the Springfield College community, from the President of the College and several Trustees to current professors, from Tom's classmates from the Class of '59 to other alums who were moved by Tom's accomplishments, to the students present to hear the words of one of their fellow students, Rob Kearney, a professional

Strongman competitor and world record holder who recently came out.”

One of the goals of this event was to more accurately preserve Tom Waddell's legacy at Springfield College. When asked if that goal was achieved, Pike said “The enthusiasm and determination to tell Tom's story accurately impressed me. Professor Dobrow organized a meaningful and inclusive event that honored Tom Waddell beautifully. For the President of the school to stand up and reiterate the commitment of the College to address not only the injustice to Tom, but to other social injustices both on campus and in the community, moved many to tears.



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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 has promoted equality in and by sport and culture and ensured 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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