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In this issue you'll find: Paris 2018 scholarship, tennis, hotel, B&B & transportation booking and registration info, IGLA 2016, 2022 Gay Games XI updates, AGA, IGLFA, The Troubleseeker

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September 2016



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, thank you for your support of our mission to promote equality in sport and culture and to produce the premiere international LGBT and gay-friendly event known as the Gay Games.

Registration opened in May 2016 for Gay Games 10 Paris 2018 and we're nearly at 2,000 participants. We highly recommend securing accommodations as we're expecting these Games to be the largest in history. Complete information follows below, as well as scholarship application links.

As the world just completed the 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio, we could not be more excited to continue our path to Paris -- starting with the Annual General Assembly in Sydney this October!

With greatest respect,



Joanie Evans, Female co-president



Kurt Dahl, Male co-president

GAY GAMES 10 PARIS 2018

Register today www.Paris2018.com 4-12 August!



You deserve the best, so book your trip now!

Paris 2018 is pleased to welcome you to one of the most beautiful destinations in the world. The best deals go

first, so don't delay! In order to offer the best possible experience at the most attractive prices, Paris 2018 recommends that you to book your accommodation and travel services exclusively with our official partners, [KTS France](#) and [MisterBandB](#)

From youth hostels to boutique hotels, including bed and breakfast and apartment rentals, or even palaces in the heart of Paris, the beautiful "City of Light," our travel partners have selected a wide range of accommodation solutions at all prices with special conditions for Paris 2018 participants at the lowest possible rates.

Please choose [KTS France](#) for hotel bookings and transport (by air, train, etc.) in Europe and from your home. KTS France also offers a great choice of excursions in and around Paris to make your stay in France memorable. Visit <http://travel.paris2018.com> or email: paris2018@ktsvoyages.fr for any group or special requests.



Book through [Misterbnb](#) for bed and breakfast and apartment rentals where you can "stay like a gay local!" [Book now!](#)



Take advantage of the 2016 early bird rates – register for Gay Games 10 and book your travel now!



Paris 2018
Gay Games 10 Application Form
Gay Games 10 Formulaire de candidature



Gay Games 10 Paris 2018 Scholarship Applications are now being accepted

It is now less than two years before the Gay Games 10 Opening Ceremony and the Federation of Gay Games and Paris 2018 are now accepting applications for Gay Games 10 Scholarships.

[To view and complete the scholarship application, click here.](#) The deadline for submitting a scholarship application is 1 October 2017. Applications will be reviewed after that deadline and decisions will be finalized and communicated on or before 1 January 2018.

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 Scholarship Fund was endowed to the FGG in 1995). Since 1998, over 800 scholarship candidates have participated in the Gay Games.

Donations to the Gay Games 10 Scholarship Fund may be made [here](#).

For any questions about the Gay Games 10 Scholarship Program, please [email here](#).



Paris 2018 is pleased to announce that registration for tennis is now open!

A **60€ early bird tennis fee**, specific for the new registrants only, will be available from Saturday 4 Sept. to Sunday 18 Sept. 2016. After 18 September, the tennis fee will be 70€.

This tennis fee is in addition to the basic registration fee, which is at this time 130€ (or 95€ for residents of the Île-de-France region; who will not receive the Transport Pass).

The tennis tournaments will be organized by Double Jeu Tennis Paris ([DJTP](#)), with support from the Paris Tennis League ([LPT](#)) and the Gay and Lesbian Tennis Alliance ([GLTA](#)).

[CLICK HERE to register today!](#)

Rendezvous with Paris in 2018!

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IGLA 2016 by Louis Flint Ceci, SF Tsunami Aquatics

The IGLA 2016 in Edmonton was the swim meet I almost missed. I have been attending the Gay Games since Vancouver in 1990. I especially enjoyed watching the swimming, diving, and synchro events. But after Amsterdam in 1988, I decided I wanted to do more than attend, more than just watch. The folks down on the pool deck were having so much fun! I decided I wanted to be right down there with those great guys and gals in Speedos.

My first Games as a competing swimmer was Sydney in 2002. I was lousy at swimming, but I had a good time. By Paris IGLA in 2007, I had improved enough to win my first medal, and I participated in my first Pink Flamingo. Then at the Gay Games in Cologne, I discovered swimming relays with the San Francisco Tsunamis, earning a bronze in the men's 240+ age group. I vowed never to miss another IGLA meet.

But I almost didn't make it to Edmonton. First, two of the four men who made up our 240+ relay team in Stockholm last year couldn't make it. Were there enough "gentlemen of a certain age" on the Tsunami team that we could once again compete in relays? I and my training buddy, Christian Hellwig, decided that even if we were the only two geezers left on deck, we'd still go.

Then, the day before we were to leave, Christian had a bike accident. A bad one. Instead of being my chief rival in the Men's 65-69 age group, he was in intensive care. Instead of packing, I spent that afternoon cancelling his flight and our hotel reservations. Should I go? I visited him in the ICU. He was pretty banged up. "Go," he said. I went.

And there, in Edmonton, the magic happened. I won gold medals in two of my four individual events. Three other swimmers over 60 (and one just enough under to make a difference) banded together for four Tsunami 240+ teams, and two more gold medals came our way. And to top it off, Team Tsunami won the Pink Flamingo!

I passed all this along along to Christian as it happened. It cheered him tremendously, and he immediately started texting me with plans for Miami in 2017 and Paris in 2018.

All this proves you can't keep a swimmer down for long. We know how to hold our breath, and before long we're bobbing back up, looking for more fun in Speedos.

Pictured: Tsunami Men's 240+ 4x50 Meter Freestyle Relay Team, IGLA Edmonton 2016: L-R Lou Ceci, Kristian Nergaard, Phil Diers, John Landucci



2022 GAY GAMES XI TIMELINE



The Federation of Gay Games announced the 2022 Gay Games XI [host city selection process 3 March](#), followed by the [long list announcement 19 April](#), then the [list of cities continuing the bid process 1 July](#).

Monthly meetings with bidders are currently taking place, and bidders will present overviews of their city and team at the [Annual General Assembly, October 2016, in Sydney, Australia](#). Final Bid Books are due on 30 November 2016, and the vote for the host of Gay Games XI from three finalist candidate cities will take place in October 2017 at the FGG Annual General Assembly meeting in Paris, France.

The full timeline and process is available [HERE](#).

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

21-26 October 2016, Sydney, Australia

View the 2016 Legacy Award Winners [here](#)!



For the first time in sixteen years, Sydney will host the International Annual General Assembly of the Federation of Gay Games from October 21-24, with up to 100 delegates from over 20 countries.

The highlight of this event is the **Gala Awards Dinner on 24th October**. Represent your sport, club or organisation at this unique event and have the opportunity to mingle with gay Olympians, national and international LGBTIQ sporting peers. Plus support the gay and lesbian sporting clubs of Sydney.

[FGG's AGA Website](#) [Facebook Event](#)

IN THE NEWS...



The **Federation of Gay Games** issued two letters of congratulations regarding the Rio 2016 Olympic Games; one to [Thomas Bach, President of the International Olympic Committee](#), on the IOC's commitment to build a better world through sport, and the second one to [CDG Brasil for all accomplished presenting Pride House Rio](#).

The [International Gay and Lesbian Football Association \(IGLFA\)](#) has been selected as a [Top 3 finalist for the Inaugural FIFA Diversity Award](#). "I am so proud of the work that we've done for the past 24 years as an LGBT organization fighting for inclusion and for the 10 years that I have personally had the privilege to serve as a volunteer", states Kimberly Hadley. "To be recognized by the Global Football (Soccer) Body is absolutely wonderful!"



THE TROUBLESEEKER

Former FGG Treasurer, Alan Lessik's New Novel, *The Troubleseeker* Includes a Scene from Gay Games 8

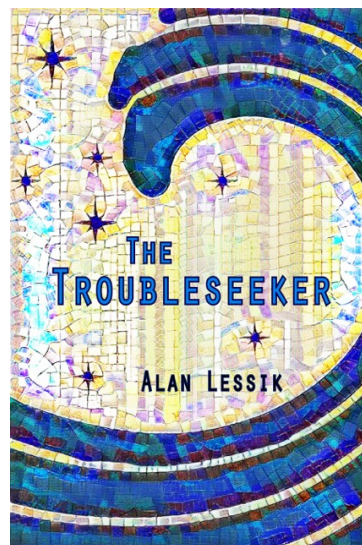
Former FGG Treasurer, Alan Lessik has just published the first novel to include mention of the Gay Games. His debut novel, *The Troubleseeker* follows the contemporary odyssey of Antinio, a gay man born in post-revolutionary Havana, Cuba through his later life as a refugee in Key West, Minneapolis, San Diego and San Francisco. Narrated by the ancient Roman Emperor and demigod Hadrian, *The Troubleseeker* weaves Cuban Santería traditions with classical Greek mythology to depict Antinio's quest to achieve both freedom and love. Antinio, who is a runner and throws the javelin participates in Gay Games 8 in Cologne where a climatic event changes his future.

The story was inspired by the life of his partner, René Valdes, who was a member of Team Seattle and later Team San Francisco. The novel has received critical acclaim from writers such as Felice Picano, Elias Miguel Muñoz and Jim Provenzano. Tim Miller said, "Alan Lessik's *The Troubleseeker* is an extraordinary novel and a deeply moving expression of love. Gathering its beautifully numinous mythic and cultural materials, the book deftly tells the story of our hero's journey, a gay Cuban man in the midst of life and historical tumult. With a soul-full daring to take risks, Lessik pulls us to witness the full heat of life and love inside the human heart."

Alan Lessik served on the FGG Board and was Treasurer for six years. He is a delegate to the Assembly for the International Gay Figure Skating Union and medaled in Sydney, Chicago, Cologne and Cleveland. In 2005, he and his skating partner filed a discrimination suit against a local ice rink which ultimately resulted in increased awareness and changes within recreational skating.

More recently, he has been leading the charge for changes in homophobic policies within US Figure Skating, the national body for amateur and professional figure skating. He is a writer, a zen practitioner, non-profit leader and long-time LGBT activist. His non-fiction works include news articles published in the Advocate, San Francisco Bay Guardian, and Frontiers. His contribution to KQED Radio Perspectives, "Judge Not His Death" was one of the

most commented on in 2014. The novel was inspired by the life of his partner, René Valdes, who was a member of Team Seattle and later Team San Francisco. The Troubleseeker is available in e-book and soft-cover on [Amazon](#) or through your local bookstore.



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Since the first Gay Games in 1982, the Federation of Gay Games has promoted equality in 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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