

Outstanding Speakers Highlight 23rd Annual Kitsap Human Rights Conference

On Friday, December 6th, the Kitsap County Council for Human Rights will hold its 23rd annual Kitsap Human Rights Conference. This year's theme is "The Ally Is YOU – Inspire – Empower – Unite" and it will be a day of speakers, workshops and networking, bringing people together to educate and strengthen the LGBTQI community and their allies. The conference will be held at the Kitsap Conference Center at Bremerton Harborside, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

The keynote speakers are Suzanne Engelberg, PhD, who will describe three powerful but simple steps straight allies can take to make an important difference in the lives of GLBTQI people, and Anthony Gipe, president elect of the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA). Gipe will be WSBA's first openly gay president.

Engelberg is a clinical psychologist and faculty member of the Doctor of Psychology program at Antioch University.



She has presented workshops locally and nationally on topics such as working with LGBTQ youth, adoption, parenting and children with special needs. Suzanne researches the experiences of people who have grown up in transracial adoptive families. She currently is conducting research on ways white adoptive parents do (or do not) prepare their children of color to succeed in a racist society.

Gipe served in the U.S. Navy as a Russian language interpreter and intelligence analyst and is currently of counsel to the Olympic Law Group, PLLC. He was a founding member of the Washington Leadership Institute Advisory Board and QLaw. Gipe recently completed service on the Washington State Bar Association's Board of Governors and was devoted to increasing minority participation in the profession and the Association



Afternoon workshops will include Brittany Steffen, MS LMFTA, who bring new perspective on what it means to raise children in a family culture that promotes LGBTQ inequality; a panel of Kitsap religious leaders who will share their stories of being part of open and affirming congregations; youth from Kitsap's Q Center will talk about the support they find in Kitsap County and what's still needed; and Dr. Tavis Taylor who will discuss transgender healthcare. Participants also will share a look at Kitsap's LGBT milestones and add their memories, creating a permanent historic record.

Adult tickets are \$65. Scholarships are available for student tickets.

For more information or to **purchase adult tickets**, go to <http://www.kitsapgov.com/hs/humanrights/hrcboard.htm>

For **student scholarships**, go to <http://www.kitsapsafeschools.org> or contact Kitsap Safe Schools at kitsapsafeschools@gmail.com , 800-503-7615.

Pre registration deadline is November 30, 2013.