

LGBT Equality: Our Work Has Just Begun

Every November NCJW BCS conducts a community-wide advocacy forum. The year's program will be "LGBT Equality: Our Work Has Just Begun." This meeting, free and open to the public, will take place on Wednesday, November 9, at Temple Emeth, 1666 Windsor Road in Teaneck. Refreshments/business meeting will begin at 12:30 pm with the program to follow at 1:15 pm. Our distinguished presenters will discuss the gains made to protect LGBT individuals and what the community can do to help end discrimination and harassment and promote equal rights for LGBT individuals.

Steven Goldstein will deliver the keynote address. Mr. Goldstein, Executive Director of the Anne Frank Center for Mutual Respect, achieved national renown as the longtime leader of Garden State Equality. From the time Mr. Goldstein founded the organization in 2004 it amassed 150,000 members and won a record-breaking 216 new civil rights laws at every level in the state. After leaving Garden State Equality in 2013, Mr. Goldstein became an associate professor of law and political science at Rutgers University in Newark. Mr. Goldstein has been a television producer, a senior staff member in both houses of Congress, a lawyer for the U.S. House Judiciary Committee and communications director for the late U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg.

State Senate Majority Leader Loretta Weinberg will serve as moderator of the program. She was elected to the NJ State Senate in November 2005 after serving in the Assembly for 14 years. Senator Weinberg is vice-chair of the Legislative Oversight Committee, the Joint Committee on Economic Justice and Equal Employment and has been appointed to an ad hoc committee to review domestic violence and the New Jersey court system. She also sits on numerous statewide commissions and has been at the forefront of LGBT advancement and anti-discrimination throughout her career.

Assemblyman Tim Eustace, member of the panel, served four years as Mayor of Maywood (2008-2012) and currently represents District 38. He was the first openly gay person elected to the NJ legislature as a non-incumbent. He led the movement to allow same-sex couples to adopt legally in New Jersey, and he and his husband have two adopted sons. Assemblyman Eustace is Co-chair of the NJ Legislative LGBT Caucus and Vice-chair of the Health and Senior Services Committee. He has sponsored numerous legislative initiatives in support of the rights of LGBT people.

Jane Clementi, mother of Tyler Clementi and panel member, is the founder and a board member of the Tyler Clementi Foundation. She works to end bullying in schools, workplaces and faith communities and speaks in support of LGBT rights and the need for families and communities to embrace their LGBT populations. A registered nurse, she has spoken to businesses, universities, high schools and churches.

Hetty Rosenstein, panel member, is the NJ State Director of the Communications Workers of America, the largest union representing state workers. Ms. Rosenstein represents more than 70,000 working families, including more than 40,000 state workers, 15,000 county and local workers, and thousands of workers in the telecommunications and direct-care industries. She is a strong and vocal advocate for employee rights and LGBT rights and equality.

Please join us for this important discussion!