

Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance

Fighting for equal rights since 1971
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April 12, 2014

Dear Friend of GLAA:

We like to celebrate our anniversary by honoring others. Thus at our annual reception on April 30 we'll present [Distinguished Service Awards](#) to three stalwart activists: Jerry Clark, Earl Fowlkes, and Alison Gill. And we'll clink glasses with many other friends, in and out of public office, who have helped keep D.C. at the forefront of LGBT progress.

We're sprucing it up this year, moving to [Policy Restaurant and Lounge](#) at 14th and T NW on the hottest new "restaurant row" in town. (After all, at GLAA we're all about policy!) We'll have a tasty selection of passed hors d'oeuvres, some happy hour bar specials, and a complimentary champagne toast.

This week's primary election showed how the political landscape and players change. There is still a need for experienced, independent voices, year-in and year-out, to defend our community's interests in the face of new challenges.

So what still needs doing? We lay it out in our policy brief, [Building on Victory](#), the fruit of consultation with activists from across our community. Building coalitions, developing expertise, and engaging those who make and execute public policy are still the way to wield influence—and to ward off interference by Congress, which often treats the District like a plaything.

GLAA's voice continues to be heard through the political tumult. With our 2014 Election Project we have [obtained answers](#) from D.C. candidates on a range of LGBT issues. With our allies we won [transgender healthcare coverage](#) and worked to improve [relations with police](#). We even shared lessons from our marriage equality victory with local students (for example, my [oral history](#) taped by students at Cesar Chavez Public Charter High School). We and others are now raising our voices to repeal the District's discriminatory [Prostitution Free Zones](#), which target transgender women of color and solve nothing.

Our collective "seat at the table" is about much more than having an LGBT person in an elected post; our community won its respected place over many decades of advocacy and civic involvement.

GLAA's volunteer, collaborative approach has a solid track record of winning results. But maintaining the policy chops and political savvy to get policies enacted and implemented requires sustained commitment. Your support is a smart investment in forward-looking activism.

On April 30 at Policy (1904 14th Street NW), please join our reception as we renew our commitment to keeping the flame of LGBT equality and justice alive. You can RSVP using our [anniversary flyer](#) or make your ticket donation via PayPal at <http://glaa.org/anniversary/>.

Hope to see you there!

Rick Rosendall
President