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Dear Supporter

In this issue: Paris 2018 updates, NFL "Inclusion Party", International Memorial Rainbow Run, Tom Waddell Awards, NIKE Uniform Program, Women in Sport Conference

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February 2018



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

As the world celebrates the Winter Olympics in Pyeong Chang, South Korea, we encourage you to make plans TODAY and join us in Paris, France for Gay Games 10! Standard fees continue until 30 April 2018 at [Paris2018.com](http://Paris2018.com).

Please consider our [Gay Games Scholarship Program](#) and DOUBLE your impact thanks to a major benefactor. Our 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.



With greatest respect,



**Joanie Evans**, co-president



**Sean Fitzgerald**, co-president



***Make plans today for best rates!***

**REGISTER NOW:** [www.paris2018.com/registration/](http://www.paris2018.com/registration/)

**MAKE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS** and Discover Paris with KTS France, a travel agency that offers discount opportunities for accommodations, teams and groups, excursions and more!

**SHOW YOUR PARIS 2018 PRIDE WITH MERCHANDISE!** Check out their awesome online sale!

**EVENT TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE!** Check out some of the options for your trip to Paris -- parties, concerts, sightseeing, and the famous Pink Flamingo!

**YOUR LOCAL PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES:** If you would like to organize your own Paris 2018 promotional event, we can send you the videos and presentations. For marketing materials, if you are based in North America, email [marketing@gaygames.net](mailto:marketing@gaygames.net).



**SIGN UP** for the [Newsletter](#), **FOLLOW** on [Facebook](#), **CONTACT** [Paris 2018](#)

**LEARN** [about our security priority](#)

**COUNTDOWN TO PARIS: Earlier registration = lower fee**

## FGG sponsors first-ever NFL "Inclusion Party" on the eve of Super Bowl LII in Minneapolis

Returning to Minneapolis for the first time since the FGG Board held its mid-year meeting there in 2017, FGG Co-President Sean Fitzgerald and former Co-President Kurt Dahl attended the inaugural "Super Bowl Inclusion Party" hosted by National Football Alumnus and Gay Games Ambassador Esera Tuaolo.

Held on 31 January, over 500 diverse community members gathered and raised thousands of dollars for anti-bullying non-profits and homeless youth shelters. Nonprofits which benefited included Esera Tuaolo's non-profit [HateIsWrong.org](http://HateIsWrong.org), PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center, and Avenues For Homeless Youth. Presenters included football legends, television singers, Mayors and advocacy groups leaders.

The event was sponsored in part by the Federation of Gay Games. Co-President Sean Fitzgerald had this reaction to the evening: "It was amazing to attend the NFL Inclusion event in Minneapolis and see the amazing work Esera Tuaolo has done with his Hate Is Wrong campaign. Esera is one of our most visible Gay Games Ambassadors, and the Federation of Gay Games couldn't be prouder of how he has created this amazing event during the massive build-up to the Super Bowl, arguably the biggest sporting event in the USA. It's great to see yet another professional sports league embracing full equality, something that the Gay Games have stood for since 1982. I think it's no coincidence that Esera named this event

"Inclusion," since that is one of the three founding principles of the Gay Games. The others are "Participation" and "Personal Best," and these values will be on display later this year at Gay Games 10, taking place in Paris, France from August 4 - 12." Over 6,600 have already registered and up to 15,000 are expected for the 36 sports and 15 cultural events. We hope to see many of you there."



## Change The Life Of An Artist Or Athlete That Can't Do It Alone

Help the Federation of Gay Games "Change the World" by helping athletes and artists who need financial assistance to participate at Paris 2018 - Gay Games 10!

[Make your donation to the Gay Games Scholarship Program today](#) -- and what you give will have **DOUBLE** the impact, thanks to a major Gay Games supporter.

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 Sponsorship Fund was endowed to the FGG in 1995). Since 1998, over 800 scholarship candidates have participated in the Gay Games. Please help us continue this important work and make a donation today!

[Please watch and share this video](#) with others to help learn about and to promote our scholarship program and Paris 2018 - Gay Games 10.



[DONATE NOW](#)

**PARTICIPATE!**



Do you know of a major sport or cultural event where the FGG should be promoting Paris 2018 - Gay Games 10? If so, please send an email with details to

[marketing@gaygames.net](mailto:marketing@gaygames.net)

The FGG has a number of marketing materials that can be used at selected events, on social media and elsewhere. We've been promoting Gay Games 10 at dozens of events and yours could be next!

## JOCK TALK: If we remember, nothing is lost

*Guest article by Roger Brigham, FGG Honorary Life Member*

On Saturday, February 3, International FrontRunners and the Federation of Gay Games held the kickoff of their quadrennial International Rainbow Memorial Run, which raises awareness both of the Gay Games and AIDS – a debilitating illness and an empowering event whose histories are interwoven in the defining moments of our community.



[CLICK HERE to read full article courtesy The Bay Area Reporter](#)

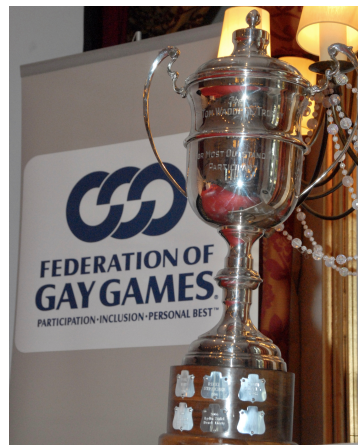
[CLICK HERE TO enjoy incredible photos of the International Rainbow Memorial Run event courtesy Topher Olsen](#)

## Tom Waddell Award

The FGG is pleased to announce that nominations are open for the Tom Waddell Award. This is the highest recognition offered by the FGG, and is presented at the opening ceremony of each Gay Games to one man and one woman who have made outstanding contributions to the Gay Games movement and the cause of equality.

A nominee must:

- Inspire pride through leadership and excellence in sports, culture, or volunteerism
- Devote their energies to the success of the Gay Games and/or related activities without regard for personal gain
- Participate at their personal best
- Personify standards of commitment, selflessness, and love of humanity



Anyone may nominate a qualified person: [please email the FGG for the nomination form](#). Deadline for nominations is 15 March 2018.





### NIKE Gay Games Uniform Program to return for Gay Games 10

The Gay Games Uniform Program is back. Save big on customized NIKE merchandise for your team! If your team is getting ready for Gay Games 10 in Paris, don't miss this opportunity to order customized NIKE wearable items at 30% discount prices. This program was a big hit in 2014 at Gay Games 9 in Cleveland + Akron...

- 87% of participating teams were very satisfied with the program
- 67% were glad they took part in the program
- 57% said the merchandise was a great value
- 71% said participating in this program was easy
- 64% said people commented favorably about my team's NIKE merchandise\
- The Gay Games Uniform Program is launching earlier this time, giving more teams the opportunity to get top-quality NIKE merchandise featuring your team's logo. Dozens of colors and styles are available.

The exclusive Gay Games Uniform program is presented by the Federation of Gay Games, NIKE, and BSN Sports.

If your team wishes to participate in this program, it's easy. One person from the team should complete an online application and pay the required administrative fee. The designated "Uniform Captain" will then be contacted by a professional representative of BSN Sports to set up the customized online "My Team Store" that your team will use to shop for the items you choose.

APPLY HERE: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GGUP>

Both FGG member organisations and non-member organisations in all countries are eligible to participate in this program. See the online application and program web page (insert link) for full details.

**[Make sure your team looks great in Paris. CLICK HERE for the Gay Games Uniform Program!](#)**

**[Paris 2018 Gay Games 10 Official Merchandise can be purchased HERE.](#)**



LGBT Women in Sport is a cooperative of women from the European Gay and Lesbian Sport Federation (EGLSF), Federation of Gay Games, (FGG) and Paris 2018 - Gay Games 10. These groups are co-organizing a weekend of discussion and sporting activities on sport for and about women.

**[CLICK HERE for the Facebook event and additional information.](#)**

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[forward to a friend](#)

**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 mission promotes equality in and through sport and culture and ensures 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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**[Please join our scholarship cause of sending artists and athletes to Paris 2018 - Gay Games 10](#)**