

OCTOBER 2016

THE  
**ENLIGHTENMENT**

QUEER HISTORY MONTH EDITION

**OCTOBER 2016**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3 Opening Ceremony: Ask and Answer w/ Vivek Shraya & Chase Joynt 3PM Horizon Room	4	5	6	7 Drag Show 7 PM Williams Center MPR	8
9	10 Columbus Day Bisexual & Pansexual 101 tables 9 - 5 PM McEwen	11 National Coming Out Day Table 9-5 PM Mcewen	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 Asexual 101 table 9-5 PM Mcewen	19	20	21 Trans Clothing Drive Tables Williams Center 9-5 PM	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 Trans Clothing Drive Tables Williams Center 9-5 PM	29
30	31 Halloween					

On September 28<sup>th</sup>, the Black Student Union held a Candlelight Vigil to discuss the injustices, racism, and discrimination at Fredonia and around the country. The theme was "Black Lives Matter" and the need for change.



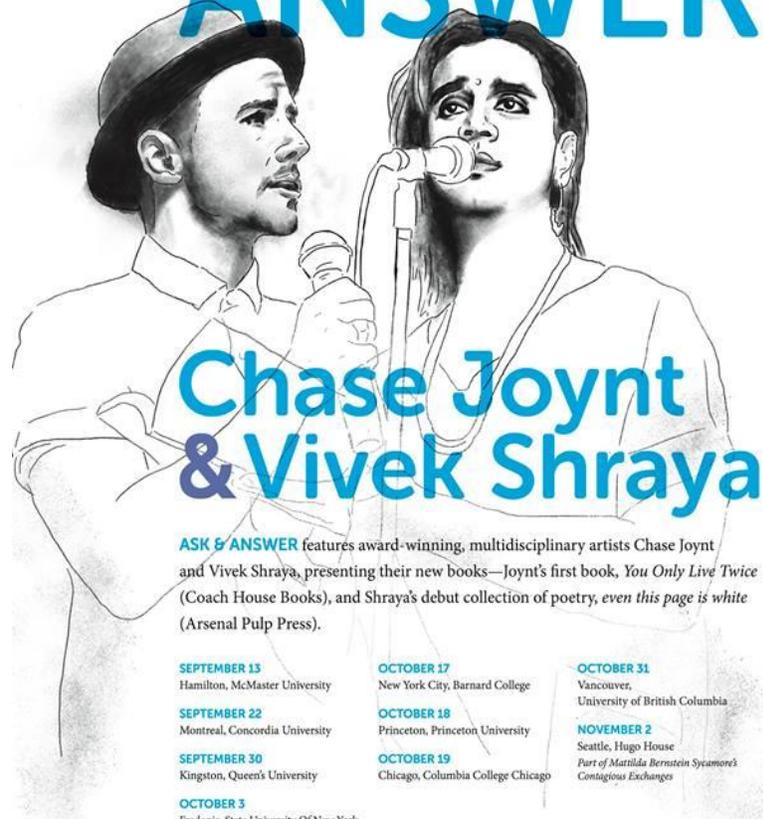
**BLACK**

**TRANS LIVES**

**MATTER**

Within the Black Lives Matter movement, there has also been some hush about the black transgender and non-binary lives that have been kept silent since the movement rose. Rae'Lynn Thomas was murdered by her ex-boyfriend. But she is just one story of many. Although her murder was not related to police violence, her story must be told to spread awareness of the discrimination being faced within just one of many intersectional identities in the black community.

# ASK & ANSWER



## Chase Joynt & Vivek Shraya

**ASK & ANSWER** features award-winning, multidisciplinary artists Chase Joynt and Vivek Shraya, presenting their new books—Joynt's first book, *You Only Live Twice* (Coach House Books), and Shraya's debut collection of poetry, *even this page is white* (Arsenal Pulp Press).

<p><b>SEPTEMBER 13</b> Hamilton, McMaster University</p> <p><b>SEPTEMBER 22</b> Montreal, Concordia University</p> <p><b>SEPTEMBER 30</b> Kingston, Queen's University</p> <p><b>OCTOBER 3</b> Fredonia, State University Of New York</p>	<p><b>OCTOBER 17</b> New York City, Barnard College</p> <p><b>OCTOBER 18</b> Princeton, Princeton University</p> <p><b>OCTOBER 19</b> Chicago, Columbia College Chicago</p>	<p><b>OCTOBER 31</b> Vancouver, University of British Columbia</p> <p><b>NOVEMBER 2</b> Seattle, Hugo House <i>Part of Matilda Bernstein Syamone's Contagious Exchanges</i></p>
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CHASE JOYNT



VIVEK SHRAYA

chasejoynt.com | @chasejoynt  
vivekshraya.com | @vivekshraya  
#askandanswertour

Please join Pride Alliance at their Opening Ceremony!  
They will be co-sponsoring this event with Women's Student Union and the Women's and Gender Studies Program for the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Gathering. Chase Joynt, a moving-image artist, and Vivek Shraya, a singer songwriter, short story writer, and visual artist stop by Fredonia on their tour to feature their publications, and discuss gender, race, and transition.

This event will take place on Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 3 PM in the Horizon Room in the Williams Center. We hope to see you there!

## Queer History Month: Looking Back

By Shaun Feerick

Queer History Month is observed in October, and here in Fredonia, it contains some of Pride Alliance's most popular events, such as the Drag Show and National Coming Out Day. While Equality Forum, a non-profit organization focused on awareness and initiatives, and other organizations involved refer to October commemorations as LGBT History Month. Pride Alliance has used Queer History Month since 2014, citing "queer" as more inclusive in nature than even an expanded acronym. Queer History Month, or LGBT+ History Month, can be easily confused with Pride Month, but the two actually have distinct functions.

Pride Month in June draws attention to LGBT+ activism and politics while bringing LGBT+ people together in public spaces. Pride month, and the idea of Pride in the United States, is also inseparably tied to the Stonewall riots--the first Pride celebration is considered to be Christopher Street Liberation Day, which was coordinated by Brenda Howard and was first held on the one-year anniversary of the riots. Whereas June is a time for organization and public demonstration, October has more of an educational focus.

Rodney Wilson, a Missouri high school teacher, is credited for the original idea of adding LGBT+ History Month, but it was the efforts of many educators and community leaders that turned it into a nationwide observance. The month was specifically selected to fall within the school year, and October was chosen because Coming Out Day and other observances already took place in October. LGBT+ History Month focuses on education about prominent lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer historical figures. Since 2006, Equality Forum has provided content and educational guidance for LGBT+ History Month, selecting 31 historical figures to highlight each year, one for each day in October. Equality Forum also coordinates a national and international LGBT+ civil rights conference.

The characteristics used to determine who qualifies as a "queer historical figure" helps to illustrate the vast difference in intentions between Pride Month and Queer History Month. For example, this year James Buchanan, fifteenth President of the United States, was selected as one of the 31 historical figures. (All James Buchanan fans in the audience mark your calendars for October 8th.) Buchanan made negligible contributions to the LGBT+ movement, of course, but his love for other men is accepted or at least speculated about by a great number of historians. Whereas the idea of Pride is tied with activist movements for queer rights and liberation, Queer History Month directs our attention to important figures in history who were queer. (Of course, many of the historical figures celebrated on the LGBT+ History Month website *were* activists or prominent figures in the LGBT+ rights movement.)

Why is Queer History Month necessary, especially considering Pride Month was already being celebrated? Queer History Month and the groups that promote it are focused on bringing education about LGBT+ people to schools. LGBT+ people are somewhat unique in that they usually can't learn about their history from their families, and in fact, often have to hide their identities from their families. The HIV/AIDS crisis further separated LGBT+ youth from their pasts and made history more difficult to access; many of our elders who would otherwise be here to tell their stories were lost in the AIDS crisis. Access to history is access to a sense of identity that traces back centuries. People, especially within marginalized groups, can better deal with the problems in their lives if they have access to the role models that history can provide. History can give young people an idea of their futures; it can teach them how people like them have overcome hardship before. Finally, teaching a shared history of LGBT+ people emphasizes that we are not a scattered group of medical anomalies who pop up by chance. We are a community. Individuals can't do much in the realm of politics and civil rights; communities can do almost anything.

# Pride Alliance

## MEET THE E-BOARD!

*President: Victor Morales  
Vice President: Eli Jacobs  
Secretary: Vanessa Leounis  
Treasurer: Victor Morales  
Vice Treasurer: Ro Cichelli  
Events Coordinator: Caiden Igoe  
Vice Events Coordinator: Xander Driscoll  
Publicity Director: Avery Saccente  
President's Cabinet Representative: Nick Williams  
Safe Zone Rep: Gloria Kutianski  
MAAB Representative: Shaun Feerick*

*Faculty Advisors: Heather McEnterfer, Jennifer Hildebrand, John Arnold*



*Back row, left to right: Nick, Avery, Caiden, Vanessa, Gloria, Eli, Shaun*

*Front row, left to right: Ro, Xander, Vic*

# In case you missed it!



Native American Student Union President Riley Cox collecting donations to be sent to the North Dakota Pipeline Access.



Alexis Larkin, Sydney Flanagan, and Emily Prendergast collect signatures to pledge to end the Red Zone, working to create a safe environment.



Participants of this year's La Tomatina, an annual event hosted by Latinos Unidos!! Who doesn't love a tomato food fight?! Special thanks to President Horvath for capturing this moment!



The CMA had the pleasure of attending community outreach event at Dunkirk Middle School. In attendance was Mayor Rosa of Dunkirk; Patrice Douglas, BSU; Loretta Torain, Director of Upward Bound; & Jellema Stewart, Director of the CMA (not pictured).

**GENERAL BODY MEETINGS: ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**Awesome student led discussions!**

NASU – Thursday 8 PM Willy G103C  
WSU - Wednesday 8 PM Willy S204ABC  
BSU - Thursday 7 PM Willy S204ABC  
LU - Wednesday 8 PM G103B  
Pride - Tuesday 9 PM S204ABC  
Hillel -Wednesday (bi-weekly) 7 PM Willy G103C (next meeting will be held on October 5<sup>th</sup>)

**E125 Thompson Hall**

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**[multiculturalaffairs@fredonia.edu](mailto:multiculturalaffairs@fredonia.edu)**

**Website: [www.fredonia.edu/cma](http://www.fredonia.edu/cma)**

**Facebook: Fredonia CMA**

**Twitter: SUNY Fredonia CMA**

**Instagram: Fredonia\_cma**

**Secretary: Kim Miller**

**GA: Lee Coletti**

**Contact us for more information or stop by any day  
between 9 AM – 5 PM!**

