

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **PLANNING MEETING AND SOCIAL EVENT WILL PROVIDE PROGRESS REPORT ON PROPOSED HUDSON VALLEY LGBTQ COMMUNITY CENTER**

#### **“JUST DESSERTS” ON FRIDAY, APRIL 28 TO FEATURE DESSERTS AND LIVE MUSIC AT ROSENDALE REC CENTER; FREE EVENT OPEN TO EVERYBODY**

KINGSTON, NY -- The next community-wide meeting for the proposed Hudson Valley LGBTQ Community Center will be held on Friday, April 28. “Just Desserts” will combine a progress report with a dessert reception and live music. The event is free to all, and takes place on Friday, April 28 at 7pm at the Rosendale Recreation Center on Route 32.

“The Center’s creation depends on our community’s involvement,” said Virginia Apuzzo, President of the Center Board of Directors. “We need to tap into the immense creativity and commitment in the Hudson Valley to make this dream come true. ‘Just Desserts’ offers our community a chance to see how far we’ve come in a short time, and invites them to join the project. We need volunteers who can help us create a home for our LGBTQ friends and neighbors.”

Attendees will receive an update on the many developments surrounding the creation of The Center. The Center just received formal status as a not-for-profit organization from the IRS New York State and the search for a building continues. Center board members recently met with Kingston Mayor James Sottile, who expressed his support for the Center.

The Hudson Valley LGBTQ Community Center would work with existing social service agencies to ensure that they sufficiently aware of the unique programs, needs and concerns of LGBTQ persons. Its mission to offer social services is particularly important, since gays and lesbians are underserved by the current infrastructure which overlooks their special concerns, whether they are teens or senior citizens. County schools offer no gay and lesbian history courses nor support for teens who face verbal harassment and physical violence for their sexual orientation. Nationally, gay and lesbian teens suffer higher levels of depression than their straight counterparts and are twice as likely to commit suicide due to homophobic treatment.

The first public meeting for the Center occurred last October in the City Council Chambers of Kingston City Hall. More than 200 supportive people attended.

**For more information on “Just Desserts” and the Center, contact (845) 430-4794 or visit [www.hudsonvalleylgbtqcenter.org](http://www.hudsonvalleylgbtqcenter.org).**

ATTENTION MEDIA: You are welcome to cover this event. For advance interviews with Virginia Apuzzo, President of the Center Board of Directors, please call our press attaché at (845) 687-2284.

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#### CALENDAR LISTING FOR YOUR COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Friday, April 28: “Just Desserts” - a Community Outreach Meeting & Social for the Hudson Valley LGBTQ Community Center, Inc. Update meeting followed by dessert, coffee, tea and live music. 7pm at the Rosendale Recreation Center on Route 32. Admission free. All welcome. For more info: (845) 430-4794 or [www.hudsonvalleylgbtqcenter.org](http://www.hudsonvalleylgbtqcenter.org)