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The 1st Annual
Miss North Carolina
Continental Pageant

&

Miss North Carolina
Continental Plus Pageant

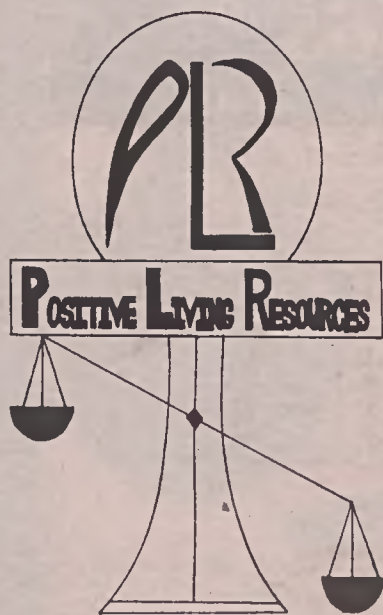
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**Task Force launches journalism
scholarship fund**

by David Elliot
Special to Q-Notes

WASHINGTON, DC—The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has released details on a new \$240,000 scholarship program for high school seniors and undergraduate college students who plan to pursue a bachelor's degree in journalism at an accredited four-year college or university.

The Messenger-Anderson Scholarship — believed to be the largest ever of its type — was donated by Larry Messenger and Jim Anderson in memory of Lawrence and Selina Messenger. "The Messengers believed that there is a pressing need to encourage gay and lesbian people to become more involved in shaping media coverage," explained NGLTF Executive Director Kerry Lobel.

"Fair coverage of GLBT issues insists upon the basic premise that all of us are created equally," Lobel added. "But media coverage today often begins with the discriminatory notion that equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people is somehow a matter for debate. By encouraging GLBT students to pursue journalism and by assisting them with their studies, the Task Force hopes to improve the way the GLBT communities and movement

are covered."

During each year of the program's duration, four Messenger-Anderson scholarships will be available at \$5000 the first year, followed by \$2500 the next two years for a total award of \$10,000. Winners are required to participate in the Messenger-Anderson Scholarship Intern Program at NGLTF offices in Washington, DC or New York City during the summer.

Guidelines and applications for the scholarship fund can be downloaded from the Task Force's web site at www.nglft.org. To meet eligibility requirements, applications must be postmarked by February 15, 2000. Winners will be announced in March, and the first awards will be distributed in August 2000. A committee of journalists in both the GLBT and the general circulation media will decide the winners.

NGLTF has a history of helping organize young GLBT leaders. In 1995, the group organized the Youth Leadership Institute (YLI), which brings together GLBT youth from different racial, cultural, religious and class backgrounds. So far, 95 graduates have emerged from intensive YLI trainings and have returned to their communities more confident and better trained and equipped to organize. ▼

**Shefa Fund grants earmarked
for Jewish GLBT programs**

by Sue Hoffman
Special to Q-Notes

PHILADELPHIA—The Shefa Fund (TSF), a public foundation that financially assists programs that move the Jewish community toward a more welcoming stance of GLBT Jews, recently announced that \$50,000 in grants had been earmarked for seven Jewish organizations across the country — including one in Durham, NC.

The Shefa Fund is the only national fund of its kind and the grants represent the first-ever awards from the group's Pooled Fund for Jewish Community Activism on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Issues.

The Fund's pooled contributions enable smaller-sum funders to combine their gifts for greater impact on specific funding priorities. More than 75 individuals and foundations united their contributions to support this initial round of grantmaking.

According to TSF President Jeffrey Dekro, the grants underscore the point that "gay, lesbian and bisexual oppression is a mainstream Jewish issue. Our communal leaders are concerned about Jewish continuity. By reaching out to GLBT Jewish adults and teens and promoting a more pluralistic community, The Shefa Fund hopes to expand the base of committed Jews."

The awards, recommended by an Advisory Board of experts from around the country, will

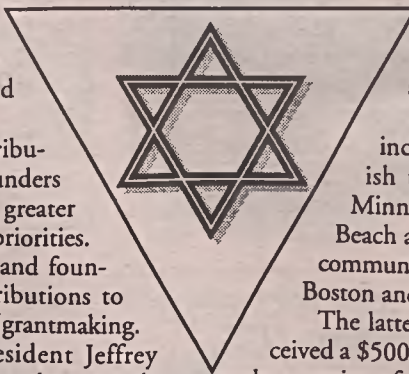
fund projects at both the local and national levels. The national initiatives include an effort by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) to raise awareness of GLBT issues within the ADL and in the Jewish community at-large through its World of Difference workshops.

"Since the Jewish community understands how it feels to be targeted, discriminated against and perceived as 'others,' it is important that its members welcome and celebrate gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Jews.... ADL is pleased to be working with The Shefa Fund to achieve our common goal," said Caryl Stern-LaRosa, head of ADL's Education Division.

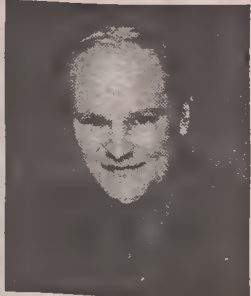
The local programs funded include support for GLBT Jewish teens and their families in Minneapolis/St. Paul, South Palm Beach and Philadelphia; and Jewish community-wide awareness projects in Boston and Durham.

The latter's Jewish Family Service received a \$5000 grant to underwrite a year-long series of classes, lectures, discussion groups, holiday observances and more designed to address the issue of Jewish communal diversity. Rather than focus strictly on GLBT issues, the organizers plan to weave them into broader themes like "The Diversity of the Family."

For more information or to make a contribution, write The Shefa Fund, 805 E. Willow Grove Ave., Wyndmoor, PA 19038, call (215) 247-9704 or email info@shefafund.org. ▼



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