Traveling OUT(side) Seattle
**The Perspective.** A quarterly publication from Seattle's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and allied chamber of commerce.

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**SUMMER 2018**

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**FROM THE CHAIR**

**BY BREW NESS, BOARD CHAIR**

SPRING HAS COME AND GONE, and summer is here in full swing. It’s that time of year that we in Seattle get a chance to enjoy our outdoor spaces, and it feels like we make more time to spend with our friends and family.

Every weekend it seems there is a wedding, an AquaSax, Mariners, Reign, Sounders, or Storm game. Every weekend it seems there is a wedding, an AquaSax, Mariners, Reign, Sounders, or Storm game. So whether you are traveling around the globe, across the country, or visiting a fellow GSBA member business or around the nation and the globe to spread the word that Equality is Good Business. So the question is, what can you do in these tumultuous times? To quote our friend Rick Steves, “The great value of travel is the opportunity it offers you to pry open your hometown blinders and look at the world from a different perspective. And when we implement that world view as citizens of our great nation, we make travel a political act.” It’s been said that travel is the cure to many “isms” but there in the world. By visiting new places, connecting with new people, and truly working to understand our beautiful differences, we leave a little of us behind, and bring back just a little more of the world home with us. You don’t have to go far to find Seattle families to find people who think differently, eat differently, or have different values than you. Breaking down barriers and “isms” is a political act, and something you can do while having the time of your life.

So whether you are traveling around the globe, across the country, or visiting a fellow GSBA member business in Walla Walla, Spokane, Portland, Bellingham, or even as close as Vashon Island, take the time to relax and recharge. But also keep in mind that we all can be ambassadors to others who may not have the same freedom we do to be ourselves. And almost definitely, they may not have a network of 1,300+ LGBTQ and allied businesses who welcome them as they do. Yours in, and for, equality.

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**IN YOUR BUSINESS**

**BY LOUISE CHERNIN, PRESIDENT & CEO**

FROM WALLA WALLA TO TAIWAN, GSBA is spreading its wings and sharing its message that equality is good business to a wider audience. Our trade and cultural missions have long been part of chamber work, it was not until the past year that GSBA ventured beyond its Puget Sound borders to explore expanding its business outreach both internationally and domestically. The impetus for these new ventures came from our membership, which is also expanding to include members from other cities, states, and even internationally.

Our trade and cultural mission to Taiwan grew out of our relationship with one of our newest partners and members, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce and the Walla Walla Trade Mission was the result of working with Walla Walla and one of our tourism members, Inquisitours. In each case, we saw the value of broadening our membership base and opening up opportunities for our members to expand with whom they do business. However, the most important reason to expand beyond our region is to connect with LGBTQ business owners, many of whom live in areas in which services and even safety is less secure than in Seattle.

Certainly, Walla Walla is a welcoming and beautiful city but what was perhaps as apparent as we drove across the mountains was how much more welcoming to gather as a community when people live miles apart and have fewer organizations that provide services to the LGBTQ community or even our own trade mission. There is no LGBTQ business group like GSBA in most of the state or around the world, giving us not just an opportunity but also a responsibility to share information and resources. In the case of Taiwan, we have been able to bring back just a little more of the world home with us. You don’t have to go far to find Seattle families to find people who think differently, eat differently, or have different values than you. Breaking down barriers and “isms” is a political act, and something you can do while having the time of your life.

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ANNETTE BERGEVIN, co-founder of Bergevin Lane Vineyards, is passionate about her home and her business. A fifth-generation Walla Walla native, she says that growing wine isn’t just a hobby, it’s her family’s legacy. “When I left Walla Walla, it was scary to be gay. So when I came back pregnant and with a wife, we were afraid what people were going to say,” recalls Annette. “But people were fantastic! All the farmers were fantastic. We worked hard, looked everyone in the eye, and said ‘Here we are!’”

Over four days in Walla Walla wine country, we continuously met a strong community building on their region’s legacy and agricultural bounty to create some of the finest culinary and cultural experiences in the Northwest.

Helming the trip were Guy and Robin Glaeser of Inquisitours. Together with Visit Walla Walla, the Glaesers wanted to organize a trip to meet with our members on the eastern side of the Cascades. GSBA has been increasingly serving LGBTQ and allied business across the entirety of Washington State, with members in more than 12 counties in 2017. We know from EQUALUX: TASTE OF GSBA that GSBA members are “People travel for hours or even days to get here…but we live here!” –ANNETTE BERGEVIN

Being Walla Walla, each day had a visit to a winery or brewery. Upon our arrival Thursday evening, we were treated to a welcome reception at Waterbrook and their fantastic grounds outside the city. Many members of the Walla Walla small business and LGBTQ communities joined us for some phenomenal food and sparkling wine overlooking the pond, bocce court, and horseshoe pit. Friday was dedicated to exploring some of the region’s 150+ wineries. We started the day bright and early with a drive around the beautiful rolling hills of countryside around the city, with Guy’s expert knowledge of the geography and geology helping us understand why Walla Walla has been such a hotspot for quality wine and food. At a thoroughly respectable hour of the morning we started our wine journey in downtown Walla Walla, where many tasting rooms are within walking distance of one another.

OLD FAVORITES —AND— NEW FRIENDS:

Four Days in Walla Walla

BY MATT LANDERS

fierce oenophiles, so of course the trip had to include our member wineries in Walla Walla, but it grew to become so much more than that. With the enthusiastic help of Inquisitours, a more rounded itinerary was planned that would take us through the burgeoning Walla Walla art scene, introduce us to small business owners, and connect us with LGBTQ leaders across Eastern Washington.

We departed Seattle in a thick cloud bank that enveloped us as we climbed up Snoqualmie Pass. As the firs and cedars gave way to larches, ponderosa pines, and sagebrush, the sun also emerged to the delight of the Puget Sound guests and remained out for the remainder of the trip. Spring had arrived in Walla Walla, with the vines just starting to bud, the wheat fields sprouting in vibrant green, and flowers of all sorts in bloom.

BY MATT LANDERS

Roger Cellars and Mark Ryan Winery started us off with personal tastings, with particularly rich arrays of reds. New friends from the night before, we found SuLei Winery and owners and partners Elaine and Tanya, to try their Roller Girl wines and an exceptional SuLei cabernet Sauvignon. Brown Family Cellars allowed us to bring a picnic lunch to their sunny patio, where we fell in love with our rose, a particular favorite of the GSBA staff. Goose Ridge, with the largest contiguous estate vineyard in the state, offered a great selection of wines as well as ciders from the Yakima Valley. A short (chauffeured) drive out to Va Piano gave us another lovely view of the green and gold hillsides from the burgeoning vineyards.

The arts and culture scene in Walla Walla is not to be missed. There are always big events happening around town, bringing visitors in from across the country for programs like the Tour of Walla Walla bike race, the bi-annual Walla Walla Chamber Music Festival, and the Balloon Stampede. As part of our tour, Guy organized a sculpture tour around the Whitman College campus and then visits to local artists in their galleries. Todd Telander’s landscape and animal paintings gorgeously reflected the natural world around the Walla, while Squire Broel’s more abstract totemic structures echo natural forms in their modernist design. Raised in Walla Walla and still connected to his hometown, Broel says that it is a testament to the community that he has been able to live in a small town, maintain his creativity and his own voice, and find significant national and international success.
Trade wars have been out of favor for at least two decades because most economists believe they don’t work to help domestic markets. They just drive up the cost of products. Small businesses remain the lifeblood of our communities. These are the places that serve our needs every day. Whether the dry cleaner, convenience store, or restaurant, small businesses are a cornerstone of our local economy and a major employer. Anything we can do in local government to support small business, we will. We can’t become complaisant, or we risk losing businesses to communities that are more supportive.

I am a strong supporter of our LGBTQ community and am pained whenever I hear about hate acts against our brothers and sisters. That is one of the reasons why I launched our Equity and Inclusion Initiative. To live in a healthy democracy, means to always be working to make it better and more equitable. My Equity and Inclusion Initiative works to ensure that every employee of Snohomish County feels welcomed and supported. We also want every individual or community to know that we will give them support and acceptance, no matter who they are, who they love, what they look like, or where they come from.

I look forward to working with GSBA and its members to help expand opportunity to Snohomish County and the broader region. I value our partnership and believe it is good for our community. Should you ever have ideas for business development or want to help us with our equity and inclusion work, please feel free to contact my office. Snohomish County welcomes all.

Diversity, like Nature, is Beautiful. We Take Pride in Both.

Snohomish.org | 888-338-0976

Snohomish County: Outdoors and Adventure Awaits

Port Gardner Bay, there are exciting outdoor adventures waiting to be discovered. Encounter breath-taking views and awe-inspiring innovations. Take to the skies in an ultralight, helicopter, glider or hot air balloon. Jump out of a plane (and free fall) if you dare to sky dive. If aviation is your passion, Seattle’s ultimate aviation experience is the Paine Field Aviation District where the past, present and future of flight coincide in five unique aviation attractions. Or let your senses by your guide to one of the nearly hundred breweries, wineries, distilleries, meaderies or cideries; there’s year round liquid arts festivals and events to tantalize your senses. Snohomish County is a welcoming and inclusive community. Lesbian, gay bi-sexual, transgender, queer and gender non-binary people are welcomed and celebrated. My wife and I love to explore the outdoors and after a long day of recreating indulge in crafted libations like a local. Even in the most rural stretches of the county, we have always been embraced like family and love discovering those authentic experiences in our own backyard.

So whatever you’re up for—whether camping or canoeing, kayaking or casinos, shopping or restaurants, aviation or the arts—we invite you to open up to life, to adventure, and to discovery in Snohomish County.
Four Staycation Destinations Just Outside Seattle...

The Chrysalis Inn & Spa

Located in Port Angeles, Washington, Domaine Madeleine was the first European-style luxury bed and breakfast in the region. In 1998, Jamie Weinhold-Collier and Jeri Weinhold purchased the inn from Madeleine, making it the first inn owned by a woman and her transgender partner. In 2014, Stephen Fofanoff and Christopher Warnock took over as full time management of the inn. As far as we know, Domaine Madeleine is the first inn in Washington State to be owned by a woman and her transgender partner, while also being managed by a gay male couple. In that regard, the Domaine Madeleine hits almost every letter in our LGBTQ community in one business.

The Domaine Madeleine is described like a perfect Olympic Peninsula getaway. “Picture your romantic getaway on a bluff overlooking the sea. Take in the sweeping views of Victoria, the San Juan Islands, Mount Baker, and the Dungeness Lighthouse. Explore nearby Alpine Mountains, Coastal Beaches, a Temperate Rainforest and much more—all year.” Whether you are looking for a way to wind-down after an Olympic hike, or just a quick weekend getaway, Domaine Madeleine is worlds away from the fast pace of Seattle city life. Private gardens set among old growth trees and intimate spaces are perfect for couples looking for a romantic getaway easily accessible from the city. GSBA members receive their lowest discount rates when staying from September 16, 2018 through May 16, 2019. Simply book online at domainemadeleine.com using the special rate code GSBADISC. Subject to availability (first-come, first-served so book early for best selection), but no minimum stays or blackout dates during that period.

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Resort at Port Ludlow

JUST A SHORT DRIVE NORTH OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND and across the Hood Canal bridge is a 37-room boutique waterfront inn that reminds you of a New England weekend vacation. The Resort at Port Ludlow is a charming beach resort carefully crafted with amenities to comfort and relax. Each room incorporates a fireplace and jetted tub, perfect for romantic getaways, in one of many rooms featuring stunning water or mountain views. The Resort at Port Ludlow is just far enough outside the busy city environment to provide relief, but close enough that a staycation can be planned with ease.

When not resting in your own private haven experiencing the warm hospitality and personal service of the inn, the village of Port Ludlow offers many enjoyable activities. From the Inn, you will have access to the Port Ludlow Golf Course, 30+ miles of hiking and biking trails; spa services; farm and cider tours; and a number of water activities like boating, kayaking, paddle boards, fishing, and crabbing.

The Resort at Port Ludlow is able to accommodate groups, too. Weddings, conferences, meetings, special events, or even social gatherings; the Inn can accommodate you and your group. With over 3,000 feet of meeting space, catering, and an award-winning restaurant, the Resort at Port Ludlow specializes providing highly personalized service to you and your guests.

To find out more go to portludlowresort.com/inn.

The Lodges on Vashon

 WHAT COULD BE A CLOSER DAY TRIP OR STAYCATION location than Seattle’s neighbor, Vashon Island? The Lodges on Vashon is an award winning destination that is about as hassle-free as it gets. Located just minutes away from the Vashon Island ferry terminal, these stunning lodges offer high-end amenities of a hotel, with ample privacy, independence, and access to local food, shopping, and entertainment. On the are 16 individual accommodations designed for a unique and relaxing experience, many of which are pet friendly. Feeling social? No problem! The Lodges on Vashon include communal spaces like The Public House for coffee, tea, and an oversized dining table, The Pavilion, perfect for an evening fire, stargazing, of an evening cocktail, and The Cottage, ideal for events and hosting.

The close proximity and ease of travel between Seattle and Vashon Island make The Lodges on Vashon the perfect location for weddings, retreats, planned gatherings, or even a quick romantic getaway. The Lodges on Vashon regularly partners with nearby restaurants, breweries, and arts on events, so there really is no bad time of year to visit. Check out lodgesonvashon.com for more information and to book your late summer staycation today. To find out more visit lodgesonvashon.com.

The Chrysalis Inn & Spa

BY CHRIS KEENAN

THE CHRYSALIS INN & SPA ON BELLINGHAM’S WATERFRONT is a 45-room boutique hotel, spa & restaurant. Four room types, being remodeled this spring, feature increasing degrees of luxury in the Pacific NW style and all include free wifi, free covered parking, and are dog friendly with a fee. Corporate retreats in innovative meeting spaces and stunning weddings can be hosted in the intimate Living Room with Bellingham Bay as a backdrop. Owner Mike Keenan, who sold a business in Nebraska, came to Bellingham in 1998 where he thought he would retire. Soon afterward he found the property where the Chrysalis now resides in the Fairhaven area. Seventeen years later, he’s still a very involved owner. The name “Chrysalis” represents the transformative stage of the butterfly—from cocoon to beautiful butterfly. “We want all our guests to feel that transformation when visiting our property,” says Keenan.

The Chrysalis Inn & Spa is heavily involved in the local community as members of the Chamber of Commerce, Tourism, Historic Fairhaven Association, Sustainable Connections, and most recently GSBA. “Having the message out there that we are a respite for couples looking for a romantic getaway easily accessible from the city, is important to us.” Visit thechrysalisinn.com for more!

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BY ERIC MOSS

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...when you need a little down time
ON APRIL 2, 2018, GSBA AND STARBUCKS COFFEE COMPANY connected certified LGBT-owned small businesses with corporate and government entities to explore contracting opportunities together. The day of workshops and small business pitching was held at the Starbucks Center in the south Seattle Starbucks Coffee Company headquarters. The morning kicked off with a welcome from James Hing, Starbucks Coffee Company Manager of Global Sourcing and Supplier Relations, Supplier Diversity, educating entrepreneurs about the art of getting in front of corporate decision makers, followed by an interesting presentation and explanation of the NGLCC toolbox by Elise Lindborg of ZippyDogs.

A delicious and nutritious lunch was presented and served by GSBA member Lendy Hensley and her team at City Catering Company.

The afternoon was filled with exciting small business pitches in the Shark-Tank-Style Fast Pitch Competition. Competing businesses included: Brand\Pride, Costello Law Firm, Killer Infographics, Lumenomics, Mind Over Markets, and Rainier Apparel PNW. After strong pitches by all competing businesses, Judges Roby Schapira (Wells Fargo Bank), James Hing (Starbucks Coffee Company), and Sandy Hanks (King County Business Development & Contract Compliance) provided feedback to all of the entrepreneurs and had a tough job to select just one winner.

Congratulations to Killer Infographics on winning the contest and the $1,000 prize! Congratulations also to our second place winner Lumenomics, and first runner up Brand\Pride!

Mark your calendars for April 1, 2019 for the next LGBT Business Matchmaker.

GSBA 2018 LGBT Business Matchmaker
GSBA and Starbucks Coffee Company partnered to present the second annual LGBT Business Matchmaker event.

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Travel and tourism companies that include values of fairness, equality, and inclusion in their business model help create safer spaces for LGBTQ tourists. Apoorva Gandhi, VP of Multicultural Affairs at Marriott International Inc. shared that Marriott’s corporate values prioritize fairness, inclusion, and equality in all of their business. These values are fundamental to their culture—and instilling these values wherever they operate help to create safe spaces for LGBTQ travelers and tourists around the globe.

Travel and tourism corporations have the power to make lasting political change. Corporations have the opportunity to create intentionally inclusive spaces wherever they operate—and this is a vital step in creating lasting, global change, an idea highlighted by Helen Kennedy, Executive Director at Eagle Canada Human Rights Trust.

Corporations have the power to make changes on a political level to create lasting changes. Part of this work involves asking the people ‘on the ground’ who live and work in the places where you do business. Ultimately, in order to create an authentic, safe, and strategic plan toward inclusivity—versus one that could be seriously destructive—we must listen to communities where we do business.

Three Ways the Travel Industry Can Create a More Equal World for All

BY AL SMITH

Travel and tourism have enormous global economic impact.

Although it’s clear and obvious that the travel and tourism industries have extensive global impact on economies and individuals, Fabrice Houdart, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, shared the facts and figures of this impact.

“The travel and tourism industry is one of the world’s largest industries with a global economic contribution of over 7.6 trillion U.S. dollars. Tourism provides 10% of the world’s GDP, 7% of global trade and as many as one in every 11 jobs globally.”

Because of this global economic impact and thus global power, the hospitality and tourism industries have a critical role to play in promoting equal rights for LGBTQ people. We occupy a unique position to increase safety and inbound LGBTQ tourism across the globe, ultimately boosting economic development for all.

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Although it’s clear and obvious that the travel and tourism industries have extensive global impact on economies and individuals, Fabrice Houdart, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, shared the facts and figures of this impact.

“The travel and tourism industry is one of the world’s largest industries with a global economic contribution of over 7.6 trillion U.S. dollars. Tourism provides 10% of the world’s GDP, 7% of global trade and as many as one in every 11 jobs globally.”

Because of this global economic impact and thus global power, the hospitality and tourism industries have a critical role to play in promoting equal rights for LGBTQ people. We occupy a unique position to increase safety and inbound LGBTQ tourism across the globe, ultimately boosting economic development for all.

Travel and tourism corporations have the power to make lasting political change. Corporations have the opportunity to create intentionally inclusive spaces wherever they operate—and this is a vital step in creating lasting, global change, an idea highlighted by Helen Kennedy, Executive Director at Eagle Canada Human Rights Trust.

Corporations have the power to make changes on a political level to create lasting changes. Part of this work involves asking the people ‘on the ground’ who live and work in the places where you do business.

Ultimately, in order to create an authentic, safe, and strategic plan toward inclusivity—versus one that could be seriously destructive—we must listen to communities where we do business.
Seven Must-Have Financial Conversations for Same-Sex Couples

SO YOU’RE THINKING ABOUT GETTING MARRIED.
Congratulations! But before the big day arrives, make sure you and your partner sit down for a serious financial discussion. It’s an important step for any couple, but one many people avoid because it’s too hard or causes tension in the relationship.

Unfortunately, not having the talk can cause more problems down the road—due to differences in personal money management habits as well as financial implications related to taxes, inheritance, retirement benefits, and more.

By discussing finances upfront, you both enter marriage with your eyes wide open and a plan in place for financial issues. To help you get started, we’ve outlined seven key areas to address with your partner before the wedding bells ring.

1) COVER THE BASICS
Why it’s important. Understanding your combined finances, as well as each other’s money management habits, can alert you to areas of potential conflict and also sets the context for discussions on bigger picture topics.

As you develop your goals, also create a budget to help you reach them. This may involve compromise as you negotiate priorities and determine where you might need to cut back on spending to boost your savings.

2) TACKLE TAXES
Why it’s important. Since the Obergefell ruling in June 2015, same-sex married couples can now file joint returns at both the federal and state levels. While that simplifies matters, it also means that marriage could have a more significant impact—for better or for worse—on your tax picture.

3) REVIEW RETIREMENT PLANS
Why it’s important. You and your partner need to understand each other’s vision of a good retirement—and how you’ll achieve it.

Review the beneficiary and surviving-spouse rights for any retirement or pension plans. You can also work with your Financial Advisor and tax advisor to develop a plan that can help maximize retirement while positively impacting your tax picture.

4) CONSIDER CHILDREN
Why it’s important. Put simply, children cost money. So if you have or plan to have children, you need to address the related financial needs.

Discuss potential “what ifs,” too. Specifically, if one parent passes away, will the surviving partner be able to maintain your family’s standard of living? You may want to investigate life insurance options to prepare for this possibility.* Same-sex couples need to pay particular attention to legal aspects of parenting. That is, who qualifies as the birth parent or legal parent? A family attorney can help you work through these issues.

5) INVESTIGATE HEALTH INSURANCE
Why it’s important. The Obergefell ruling means same-sex married couples should now have the same health insurance coverage options as heterosexual married couples. However, with this benefit in place, employers may not continue offering benefits to domestic partners, couples in civil unions, or other unmarried couples.

6) ESTABLISH AN ESTATE PLAN
Why it’s important. An estate plan helps ensure that your assets are managed as you wish, now and later.

You and your partner should review your estate plan every few years or when you experience significant life events, such as marriage or children; as your estate value increases; or as your financial goals change. Same-sex married couples will now qualify for the unlimited marital deduction, which allows a surviving spouse to avoid potential estate taxes upon his or her spouse’s death.†

7) DISCUSS A PRENUPTIAL AGREEMENT
Why it’s important. This can be a difficult topic to address, since it implies the relationship may not last. But it’s an important way to help protect each person’s personal wealth. Discussing a prenuptial agreement could help facilitate other conversations about finances and your relationship.

PLANNING CAN HAVE ITS PAYOFF
Discussing these financial topics before you decide to get married can help you walk down the aisle with a firm financial foundation underfoot—and set the stage for financial harmony in your relationship.

*Always consult your tax advisor.
†Always consult a Financial Advisor.
Our firm does not offer legal or tax advice.
This article was written by/for Wells Fargo Advisors and provided courtesy of Steve Gunn, Financial Advisor in Seattle, WA at steve.gunn@wfadvisors.com or 206-144-6664.
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Going Somewhere?
Put the PacMed Travel Clinic on Your Itinerary Today!

IF YOU TRAVEL OUTSIDE NORTH AMERICA for business, school or pleasure, you’ll want to be in good health when you leave—and when you return. To be sure, make the PacMed Travel Clinic your first vacation stop. The Pacific Medical Centers Travel Clinic comprehensive services for adults and children include the following:

• Complete pre-travel exams
• Immunizations
• Malaria prevention tips and medications
• Country-specific travel advice
• Jet lag and sleeping adjustments
• Safe food and water suggestions
• Injury prevention and what to do when you’re away from home

Medication suggestions

For global travel, visit a travel clinic well in advance of your trip to review required and recommended travel vaccines, such as immunizations for malaria, typhoid or rabies. Give yourself at least three weeks prior to travel to get vaccinated because some require several steps spread out over time, and because their medical benefits typically won’t activate until 15 days after you receive them.

If you have a chronic illness, visit your provider or a travel clinic with plenty of lead time. Some destinations may pose challenges for you. Considerations might include high altitude, availability of clean water, proper storage for medications and available emergency services. It’s important to start your adventure with your chronic condition stabilized. We suggest consulting with your doctor several weeks before you depart.

If you will be taking a long flight, don’t forget to get up and move about often. Walk the aisles, stretch your legs and try some lunges, knee bends or toe lifts. When seated, look for ways to vary your posture. Airplane seats have been improving, with better lower-back support and available arm rests; some destinations even have “wings” that can be bent inward to support the side of your head. Look for footrests, too, which swing out to offer support for your ankles or knees. For lumbar support (lower back), try folding a thin sweater or purchasing a pillow. Therm-a-Rest has an inflatable one that is easy to pack. (The Travel Clinic charges patients directly for services. Contact your insurer to discuss coverage for travel medications and vaccinations.)
Welcome to one of our newest staff members at GSBA—Al Smith, Marketing Specialist!
The second half of a two-person Marketing and Communications team, Al joined GSBA in April to help keep the community and GSBA members informed of the many important GSBA initiatives happening here in Seattle and beyond. “Believe deeply in the intersection of equity for LGBTQ people and the end of gendered violence,” said Smith. “GSBA called to me because I knew that our work as a chamber and as a scholarship fund aligned with my personal and professional values.”

Before joining GSBA, Al wrote grants and headed the social media efforts of the nonprofit King County Sexual Assault Resource Center as the agency’s Grantwriter and Communications Coordinator. They are excited to put these unique skills to work for their community.

“GSBA has a long history of fighting for equity, and I’m ready to be a part of a group of dedicated people working to recognize all of the folks who’ve left on the sidelines as an LGBTQ community. I came to work for GSBA because I believe in the work we do. I really do believe that strong and diverse businesses build and support strong and diverse communities.”

Eric is originally from Northern California in the heart of the redwood forest, but has been living in Seattle for most of the past 18 years. “The Navy brought me to the Pacific Northwest, but I stayed because of the community. I haven’t been anywhere else that feels this much like home, with such an open and accepting group of friends,” says Moss.

In late February this year, GSBA welcomed our new Director of Communications, Eric Moss. Eric comes to GSBA from the Washington State Attorney General’s Office, Consumer Protection Division, where he managed statewide consumer protection education. Prior to working for the Attorney General, he spent several years working for nonprofit organizations in Seattle, and before that running English schools in Mexico. Eric has a BS in Communications from the University of Phoenix and is a US Navy Veteran.

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