



OCEAN COUNTY LIBRARY

Connecting People ... Building Community...Transforming Lives

101 Washington St., Toms River, NJ 08753-7625

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www.theoceancountylibrary.org

Susan Quinn, Director

May 21, 2015

PRESS RELEASE

What: sexual orientation workshops to be offered @ 4 library branches

When: 6 p.m. at the following branches -

Little Egg Harbor, Tue. 5/26

Pt. Pleasant Boro, Mon. 6/8

Toms River, Tue. 6/9

Island Heights, Mon. 6/15

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OCL to present gender workshop at 4 branches

TOMS RIVER - Corrine O'Hara, R.N. will lead a Tools for Teens workshop at four Ocean County Library branches to help people develop an understanding of sexual orientation and gender identity.

The workshop, "Understanding Differences: Looking at Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation," will also give participants the opportunity to create strategies for fostering a safe environment for the LGBTQ community.

Professionals, parents and teens develop a greater understanding of gender differences and choose to support variation in gender expression through education, according to O'Hara. That leads to a decrease in harassment and violence towards young people who are perceived as different.

O'Hara has more than 21 years' experience providing sexuality education to adolescents at HiTOPS, a Princeton-based non-profit organization whose mission is to promote adolescent health and well-being. She provides consultation to schools and in-service trainings throughout New Jersey on LGBTQ issues.

Each program will begin promptly at 6 p.m. and will be held:

Tuesday, May 26 at Little Egg Harbor, 290 Mathistown Rd. 609-294-1197

Monday, June 8 at Pt. Pleasant Borough, 834 Beaver Dam Rd., 732-295-1555

Tuesday, June 9 at Toms River, 101 Washington St., 732-349-6200 or 609-971-0514

Monday, June 15 at Island Heights, 121 Central Av., 732-270-6266.

The programs are free and open to the public but sign-in is required. Sign-in will be held between 5:30 and 6 p.m.