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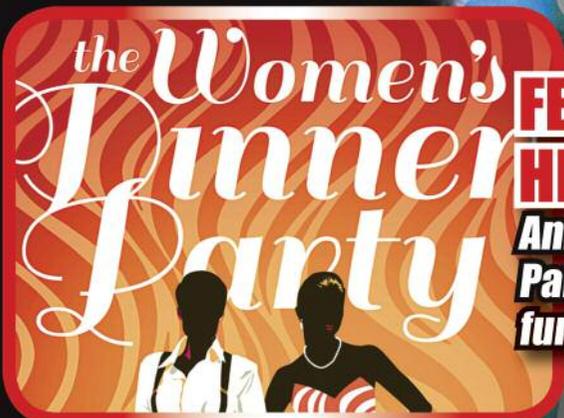


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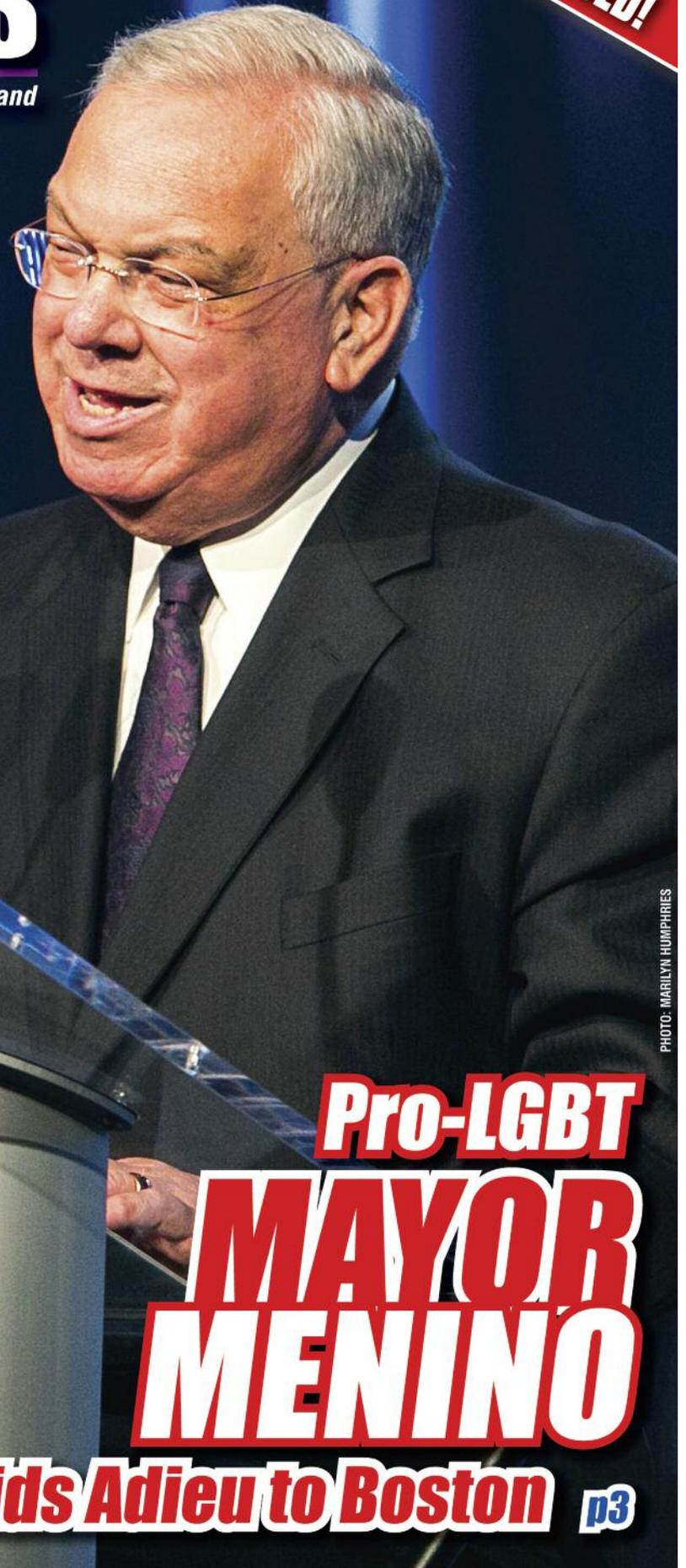


PHOTO: MARILYN HUMPHRIES

**Pro-LGBT
MAYOR
MENINO**

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Hate the sin, not the sinner, they say

By: Nicole Lashomb*/TRT Editor-in-Chief

OPINIONS In modern politics where the conservative movement is losing ground as the country moves in favor of supporting LGBT rights, the rhetoric of such Conservatives has become more than manipulative and is consistent of falsely reversed victimization. Somehow, although these anti-equality Conservatives have equal rights under the law and no one attempts to strip them of their rights, they claim that they are the ones being persecuted by others who assert that they are bigots. Ironic, isn't it? Even more confusing and grossly ludicrous is when those same Conservatives profess to love and support the LGBT community. Yes, the same community that they rally against to deprive it of its rights and take hostage the lives of many through declarations and actions that demoralize the human spirit. I've personally heard it and maybe you have too — hate the sin, not the sinner.

Most often, these types of imprudent and conflicting statements and actions stem from religious leaders and their congregations like San Francisco's Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone.

"We love you, we are your neighbors, and we want to be your friends, and we want you to be happy," he said via a sermon as he di-

rectly addressed the LGBT community. "Please understand that we don't hate you, and that we are not motivated by animus or bigotry; it is not our intention to offend anyone, and if we have, I apologize; please try to listen to us fairly, and calmly, and try to understand us and our position, as we will try to do the same for you."

A group of people that discriminate against others *are* bigots, even by the most basic definition of the word. And, yes, it is offensive in the same way it would be if the LGBT community tried to invalidate and overturn heterosexual marriage and write-off their children. I'm confident that they would not be interested in hearing our "position on it." Discrimination is discrimination, no matter how you try to sugarcoat it with "love" or not.

It is impossible to "love" the LGBT community and want it to thrive when those same opponents work endlessly to ensure that it is not seen as equal, that our marriages, sexual orientation and gender identity are invalidated, that believe we are not worthy of being parents despite many scientific studies that have proven them wrong, and that condemn us to hell. Those words and oxymoronic actions are hateful, prejudicial and intolerant bigotry at its best. Being a member of the LGBT community is *not* a position, nor an opinion, it is our identity.

See Sin-Sinner on page 11

Faith, family, and God: Humility & Pope Francis

By: Paul P. Jesepe*/TRT Columnist

Before you go any further take a Valium, enjoy a cocktail, or get your Tagamet ready. Your blood pressure may spike.

Pope Francis I, the newly enthroned leader of 1.2 billion Catholics, does not support marriage equality and LGBTQ adoption of children. Yet his humility and training as a Jesuit, an order of pragmatic, well-educated priests, offer hope for long-term change.

As an Argentinian cardinal, he kissed and washed the feet of AIDS patients and walked the streets of the most dangerous areas of Buenos Aires without an escort to serve the poor. He cooked his own meals and used public transportation, giving up perks provided with his office.

He unsuccessfully attempted to persuade Argentina's Catholic bishops to support civil unions. Although once they voiced opposition, Francis, like any good company man, attacked marriage equality. His willingness to consider civil unions, however, suggests a man seeking middle ground, especially as more Christians consider Rome's position wrong.

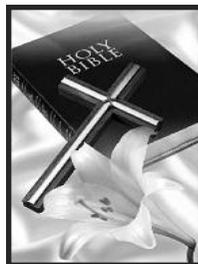
Does this mean the Catholic Church will change its views on gay marriage and child

adoption? No. It suggests, however, the pope is far more likely to listen, respect and welcome LGBTQ Catholics. Change will not occur overnight, particularly in a worldwide, 2000-year-old institution with entrenched, very powerful conservative officials.

Humility provides Francis spiritual security and his Jesuit education offers the intellectual backbone to ask quietly, "Are we, the leaders of the church, ever wrong?" He is well aware history says "yes."

Humility often comes with finding common ground. It brings people together. Humility takes many forms. It can encourage, for example, a person to put aside personal views to exchange ideas and opinions while always respectful of the other individual. Humility is a two way street which, in this case, may lend itself to more dialogue with LGBTQ Christians.

See Pope Francis on page 14



Immigration reform applies to everyone

By: Jason Lydon*/TRT Columnist



The national newspapers, Internet blogs and every television news program are all covering the political dialogue on "comprehensive immigration reform." Questions range from issues of incarceration (incorrectly called detention), drones at the Mexico border, pathways to citizenship, DREAM Act eligible youth, family unification, "good" vs. "bad" immigrants, Secure Communities initiative and so much more. Comprehensive immigration reform has created a reputation of being a catch-all phrase for solving all the problems with immigration in the United States. I would encourage readers to keep a few of the following things in mind when you hear about immigration reform and consider where we as LGBTQ people need to direct our attention.

One of the pieces that continues to be completely ignored is the role of Free Trade Agreements in causing immigration. Due to policies such as the North American Free Trade Agreement, Central American Free Trade Agreement and the growing Trans Pacific Partnership, we are watching corporations and capital travel across borders with no regulation. The U.S. controlled World Trade Organization, World Bank and International Monetary Fund enforce regulations on countries that force them to cut social programs in

order to meet the "structural adjustment" requirements mandated for loans and financial support. During his State of the Union speech, President Obama reiterated his commitment to immigration reform, while in the same speech pushing for a finalized agreement on the Trans Pacific Partnership. While claiming to be supporting the needs of immigrants on the one hand, President Obama continues to push forward policies that force people to flee their home countries to try to find work. Any immigration reform that does not include a critical reflection on the role of globalized capitalism is a false solution.

I had the pleasure of attending an event organized by a coalition of Asian/Pacific Islander, API, organizations on March 21st at MAP for Health in Boston on the impact of immigration on LGBTQ API communities. There were around 40 people in atten-

See Immigration on Page 14

The Rainbow Times

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,
Eric, I want to thank you for the great job you did sharing this information [Report: Gay & Bisexual Men More Vulnerable to HIV Transmission]. I received the CDC report as I know many others did around the country, but the way you simplified the information makes it so much more digestible for anyone to understand. This is what is need in the community at-large, including those of us who work in the field. To have statistical data made easy to understand. Great Job!

—Rev. Edward Burks, Online

Dear Editor,
I think it's amazing what the biker chics have done! I'm actually from a small town in Ohio, my girlfriend, of ten years and I have been riding for about 8 years ... Anyway I think it is absolutely the coolest bike club so far I've seen or heard from!!! What you girls are doing is amazing!!!!

—Heather Layton, Online

Dear Editor,
Nice online coverage of news and events on your site. For a monthly, you keep yourselves pretty busy with online stories. Thank you!!!

—James Rova, Boston, MA

Boston's LGBTQ community reacts to Menino's departure

Local leaders reflect, share their gratitude following the mayor's re-election announcement

By: Lauren Walleser/TRT Reporter

On Thursday, May 28th, Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino announced that he will not run for re-election after holding the position for twenty years. During his time in office, Mayor Menino has been touted as the most pro-LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer) mayor in U.S. history, most recently by MassEquality, who released a statement following the mayor's announcement.

"He was an early supporter of marriage equality," said MassEquality Executive Director Kara Suffredini. "He was an early supporter of transgender equality. He was an early supporter of programs addressing public health needs related to HIV/AIDS. And he has never been shy about using his office as a bully pulpit to encourage other political leaders to do the same."

When Boston citizens began applying for marriage licenses after same-sex marriage became legal in Massachusetts in 2004, Mayor Menino's office ensured their safety as they filed with the City Clerk. Most recently, Menino participated in the DOMA (Defense of Marriage Act) justice rally at City Hall Plaza on March 28th, where he instructed that the rainbow flag be flown in honor of the historic Supreme Court hear-

ings being held on Proposition 8 and DOMA.

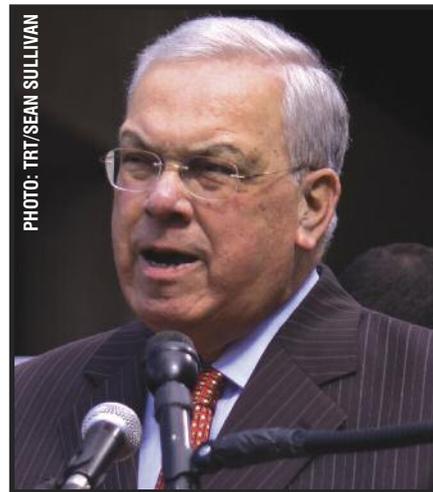
Corey Yarbrough, Executive Director of the Hispanic Black Gay Coalition (HBGC) and

Joel Marshall, Chair, HBGC Board of Directors, also shared their gratitude towards Mayor Menino.

"His leadership in articulating that all people deserve to be treated equally regardless of who they love helped establish Boston as one of the most LGBTQ-friendly cities in the nation to live," said Yarbrough and Marshall. "As our vision states, 'We envision a world where Latino/a and Black LGBTQ individuals can comfortably and unapologetically incorporate themselves in their racial/ethnic community and mainstream LGBTQ community simultaneously.' We feel that Mayor Menino also believes in this vision as his office has met with us multiple times over the years to discuss making our vision a reality."

Stephen L. Boswell, MD, President and CEO of Fenway Health, also commented on the Mayor's vital role as an ally for the LGBTQ community.

"Mayor Menino has been an incredible ally to Boston's LGBT community from his first term as Mayor until today," Boswell said. "His visible and vocal support of civil rights and equality for all Boston residents has helped to make this city one of the most welcoming places for LGBT people in the



Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino, on March 27th, showing his support again for marriage equality during MassEquality's Boston Rally for DOMA. A day later, Mayor Menno announced he would not run for re-election.

world. We'll be losing a valuable ally when Mayor Menino leaves office, but hopefully our next Mayor will be equally supportive of our community."

According to Boswell, the mayor has attended almost every major fundraiser for Fenway Health during his time in office and

played a vital role in the capital campaign to build their Ansin Building at 1340 Boylston Street.

"It's hard to overestimate just how much of a positive impact his leadership has had on the overall health and well-being of Boston residents and the LGBT community in this city."

Perhaps his most publicized act of support for the LGBTQ community was Mayor Menino's letter to Chick-fil-A president Dan Cathy last year after the restaurant chain announced plans to open locations near the Freedom Trail in Boston. Because of Chick-fil-A's open proclamations against same-sex marriage, Menino told Cathy the company would not be welcome in Boston.

"You called supporters of gay marriage 'prideful.' Here in Boston, to borrow your own words, we are 'guilty as charged.' We are indeed full of pride for our support of same-sex marriage and our work to expand freedom to all people," Menino wrote in his letter. "There is no place for discrimination on Boston's Freedom Trail and no place for your company alongside it."

Rebecca Haag, President and CEO of AIDS Action, shared in a press release how Mayor Menino has been an advocate for people living with HIV and AIDS throughout his tenure, championing the cause even when other politicians during the time were afraid to come forward with their support.

See Mayor Menino on Page 12

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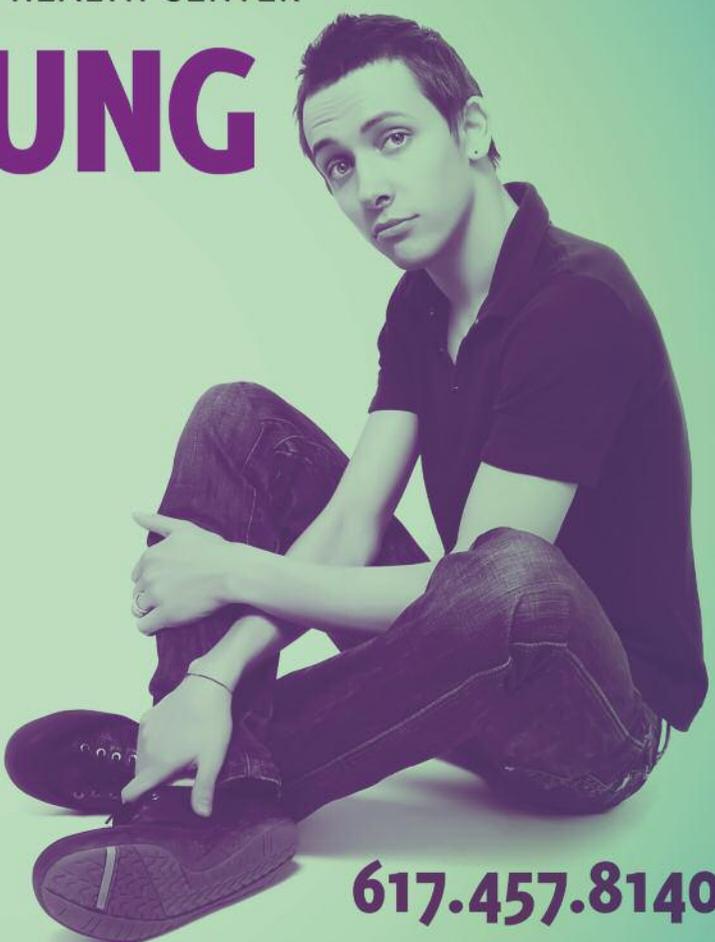
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High Court on DOMA: Exclusion and animus, blame on Pres. Obama

By: Lisa Keen/Keen News Service

EQUALITY & HISTORY

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On March 28th, the argument in the U.S. Supreme Court over the Defense of Marriage Act sounded at times as if President Obama was on trial for enforcing the law even though he considers it unconstitutional. At other times, it sounded like Congress was on trial, for attempting to cloak its moral disapproval of gay people under the guise of seeking “uniformity.” And at the end of two hours, LGBT legal activists seemed cautious but optimistic that there are five votes to find DOMA unconstitutional.

It was the second and final day of two historic sessions at the nation’s highest court to hear oral arguments in cases challenging the federal law denying recognition of marriage licenses granted to same-sex couples and challenging a state law banning same-sex couples from obtaining marriage licenses.

Edith Windsor

Wednesday’s case, U.S. v. Windsor, posed the question of whether Section 3 of DOMA violates the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. New York lesbian Edith Windsor filed the lawsuit with the help of the ACLU when the federal government demanded she pay more than \$360,000 in estate taxes after her same-sex spouse died.

Surviving spouses in male-female marriages do not have to pay estate taxes.

The first 50 minutes of the two-hour argument was given to a discussion of whether the case was properly before the court, given procedural questions. On the issue of whether DOMA’s constitutionality, former George W. Bush Solicitor General Paul Clement, an attorney hired by the Republican-led Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group (BLAG), said the Congress, in passing the law in 1996, did not discriminate against gays but simply decided to define the term “marriage” “solely for federal law” in order to ensure “uniformity” in the deliverance of benefits.

“It’s rational for Congress to say its treating same-sex couples in New York the same as same-sex couples in Nebraska,” said Clement.

That assertion did not go unchallenged.

5 Justices challenge DOMA proponents

Justices Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, Stephen Breyer, Anthony Kennedy, and

Ruth Bader Ginsburg all questioned Clement on it.

“What gives the federal government the right to be concerned at all about the definition of marriage?” asked Sotomayor, noting that marriage has always been considered an area of state law. She suggested members of

Congress appeared to create a law to disfavor a “class they don’t like.”

When Clement suggested Congress was helping the states by putting the issue on “pause” and letting the states work through the democratic process in deciding the law in each state, Kennedy noted that DOMA seemed instead to be “helping states if they do what [members of Congress] want them to do.”

Justice Ginsburg said DOMA appears to affect same-sex couples by turning their marriages into a sort of “skim milk,” in comparison to whole milk version enjoyed by male-female couples.

Justice Kagan perhaps hit the hardest note when she said the record of House proceedings around DOMA in 1996 seemed to in-

dicade Congress “had something else in mind than uniformity....something that’s never been done before.” She quoted a passage of the House report that said that DOMA was intended to express “moral disapproval” of marriage for same-sex couples. “That’s a pretty good red flag,” said Kagan.

Clement seemed to be caught off guard by the excerpt. “Does the House Report say that?”

The challengers of DOMA appeared off guard at times, too.

Purposeful exclusion leading to animus

Chief Justice John Roberts asked both Solicitor General Donald Verilli and plaintiff’s attorney Roberta Kaplan whether it would be permissible for Congress to adopt a definition for federal purposes that included gay couples, rather than excluded them.

Verilli said the House Report excerpt “makes glaringly clear” that DOMA was intended to exclude lawfully married same-sex couples.

“Are you saying that 84 senators were motivated by animus?” asked Chief Justice Roberts in follow-up to both Verilli and Kaplan.

Both Verilli and Kaplan clearly avoided saying that think DOMA was motivated by animus.

“It could have been a lack of reflection or ...”

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<http://tiny.cc/mrururw>

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Hundreds stand for equality at rally and candlelight vigil in Boston

By: Francisco L. White*/TRT Reporter

BOSTON, Mass. —March 27th was a day of high emotion and demonstrations of solidarity. In the afternoon, as the DOMA battle raged at the U.S. Supreme Court, over 500 LGBTQ individuals and allies gathered and filled City Hall Plaza. The historic rally, organized by *MassEquality*, featured an impressive lineup of speakers, including Mayor Tom Menino who was joined by members of Boston Pride in raising the rainbow flag.

“It’s encouraging to see politicians finally catching up to the people on this issue. ... America is for equality,” Menino said as he addressed the crowd. “This issue is about equality also. We’re going to make sure everyone has equal opportunity ... not just for some of the people, but for all [emphasis added]. ... As other states followed our lead in recent years, it should be an easy call for the Supreme Court today and tomorrow. ... We shouldn’t let justices stop our momentum [that] we have in America today.”

The event was attended by *GLAD*, *ACLU*, as well as several city and state politicians, including Senate candidate Congressman Ed Markey. Many attendees in the crowd held LGBTQ for Markey signs. Markey thanked Mayor Menino for “being a fearless leader” for the LGBTQ community and other minorities.

Rep. Carl Sciortino, of Somerville, delivered a powerful statement, saying, “We will, in the end, overcome every obstacle to our full equality.” He added that he is planning to marry his partner in October.



Needham, Mass. couple Jennifer Collins and Gretchen Randall, and their two children, Addison and Shea attended the MassEquality rally on March 26th at Boston City Hall Plaza.

Community leader and executive director of *¿Oíste?*, Alejandra St. Guillen, spoke of her personal experience as an openly lesbian Latina and explained that, though she has had to negotiate with relatives about her sexual identity, she “will not negotiate with the federal government of the United States, which was built on individual liberty.”

A lesbian couple from Needham, Jennifer Collins and Gretchen Randall, and their two children, Addison and Shea, were also at the rally. The difficulties of not having full rights

affect their family and other people’s understanding of it.

“It will allow us to not have to justify our existence to our kids and explain to them why people might not understand or might not agree that they can be normal, that they can be normal,” said Randall.

“I think it’s time that my family and my kids can grow up in a time when everyone is treated equally and it will prevent me from having to continue to explain to them why our family is treated differently just because of

who we are,” said Collins.

Perhaps most moving of all speakers was Keegan O’Brien, local activist and tutor at Bridge Over Troubled Waters, who mentioned several other issues that plague the LGBTQ community.

“It is a crime that, in the richest country in the world, we push LGBTQ youth onto the streets,” said O’Brien. “History has never been made by waiting for those at the top of society to deliver it for us. It is made by people like you and I coming together and organizing.”

Kara S. Suffredini, Esq., executive director of MassEquality described O’Brien as a rising star in the LGBTQ community.

An ally who spoke to *The Rainbow Times* without revealing his last name, Terrence R., from Cambridge, Mass., explained that he attended LGBTQ events, rallies, etc. in honor of his brother “who died of AIDS in 1973 and was instrumental in the Dallas, TX gay movement of the late 70’s, 80s and 90s. Everything I try to do is in honor of my brother.”

Terrence had accolades for the LGBTQ movement and power, while also explaining his views of what seems as an unregulated body—the U.S. Supreme Court—making a decision about the rights of citizens of the U.S.

“I have no idea what the Supreme Court will actually decide on. I have an opinion of the Supreme Court and it is that that body is

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Connecticut transgender conference explores health, law and transgender community

By: Ashley Mark/TRT Reporter

Transgender individuals face complex challenges within the health care and legal systems, but a leading conference in Connecticut is held to specifically address these issues and facilitate movement through these realms.

The Connecticut TransAdvocacy Coalition is hosting its seventh annual Transgender Lives Conference on April 27 at the University of Connecticut Health Center in Farmington, CT. The theme of the conference is "The Intersection of Health and Law" and will focus on the transgender and gender non-conforming perspective of the healthcare and legal systems.

"The everyday lives of transgender individuals are made more difficult by a complicated system of healthcare and laws, creating confusion and constant vigilance to protect homes, families and jobs," explained Diana Lombardi, a conference coordinator at the CT TransAdvocacy Coalition.

According to Lombardi, the conference's goal is to help transgender people navigate these systems effectively, focusing on health care, legal protection and documentation, employment, education and family. In the seven years since its inception, the conference has expanded to include keynote speakers and more diverse presenters.

"Additionally the conference has drawn a much larger diversity in age, race, ethnicity, sexuality and gender," Lombardi said. "Over the years, youth and family issues have grown in importance and engagement at the conference."

This year's conference will include dozens of workshops that address health care rights,

discrimination, documentation for transitioning individuals, transitioning and employment, family dynamics and protecting transgender children.

Emilia Dunham, study coordinator at The Fenway

Institute, is presenting a conference workshop with her fellow LifeSkills team members that focuses on the LifeSkills Project, an HIV study for young transgender women. "We hope to lead a practical discussion on ways to connect with traditionally underserved populations within the transgender community, including young trans women, trans people of color and low-income folks," Dunham explained. "We hope this workshop will lead to practical conversations that we can all take home around how we can best serve all members of our community."

Dru Levasseur, Transgender Rights Attorney with Lambda Legal, has participated in several of the previous Transgender Lives conferences and is presenting a workshop about the impact of discrimination on transgender health.

"The workshop will explore the intersec-



PHOTO: GLENN KOETZNER

Tony Ferraiolo and Dru Levasseur presenting a workshop

Levasseur explained.

Levasseur is impressed with the growth and reach of the conference, citing it as one of the leading transgender conferences in the country.

"They started by tapping into the expertise at home, in Connecticut, then built it from there," he said. "The conference now attracts national attention from experts in the legal and health field, as well as transgender community members, families, allies and cutting-edge activists."

While the conference is geared toward the transgender and gender non-conforming community, service providers and allies, anyone with an interest in the health and law issues of the community is encouraged to attend.

"We are open to all, provided they adhere to our basic tenets of confidentiality and af-

firmation," Lombardi stated. The conference also qualifies as Continuing Education Credits for the National Association of Social Workers and Certified Health Education Specialists, according to Lombardi.

"This year's keynote speaker will be Mara Kiesling, a nationally recognized trans advocate from the National Center for Transgender Equality," Lombardi added about the conference highlights. "We will also have a 'hang out' lounge where attendees can network, exchange ideas and engage in conversations related to the conference."

Dunham attended the conference last year, as a representative of the LifeSkills team and Fenway Health, and said it is a great opportunity to meet likeminded people with similar community goals.

"This conference provides a fantastic avenue to make meaningful connections with individuals from all different backgrounds, to share resources and connect in ways that will improve the health and wellbeing of the transgender community," she said.

According to the CT TransAdvocacy Coalition website, the conference seeks to redefine the relationships of transgender and gender non-conforming individuals.

"This conference is about our community redefining our interaction with the systems that have written our history. It is Connecticut's trans community organizing around our shared experiences to erase the invisibility that has disempowered us for so long," Lombardi said.

The conference is open to anyone interested in attending. For more information or to register, visit the CT TransAdvocacy Coalition website at <http://tiny.cc/14fpww>.

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7th Annual Transgender Lives Conference

Saturday April 27, 2013

UConn Health Center, Farmington, CT

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**Transgender Lives - The Intersection of Health and Law Conference
April 27, 2013 - Farmington, CT**

DOMA on the ropes: Will the Supreme Court deliver the knockout punch?

Bernadette Stark, Esq.*/Special to TRT

The country has been riveted this week as the United States Supreme Court heard oral arguments in two cases directly affecting LGBT individuals and families. At stake is federal recognition for same-sex marriages, as well as whether or not California will be the 10th state (plus the District of Columbia) to allow gays and lesbians to marry. The constitutionality of both the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) passed in 1996 and Proposition 8, a California voter-initiative which repealed legal same-sex marriage in California, are being challenged before the Supreme Court.

In *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, the Court addressed the constitutionality of Proposition 8, which was passed by a narrow margin of Californians (52 to 48 percent voted in favor of it). Proposition 8 repealed a decision by the California Supreme Court which legalized same-sex marriages in the state. Following a two-week trial in 2010, Federal District Court Judge Vaughn Walker issued a sweeping decision declaring Proposition 8 unconstitutional. He wrote that preventing gay and lesbian marriages violated equal protection under the law guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. The Ninth Circuit Court agreed and also struck down Proposition 8. That's the big question the U.S. Supreme Court can address in this case. But there's also another legal issue: since the state of California refused to defend Proposition 8, its supporters are carrying on the appeal. Many legal observers think that the supporters do not have standing to carry on the ap-

peal and that the Supreme Court will dismiss the case without ever answering the big question of equal protection. That would leave Judge Walker's 2010 decision intact – and Proposition 8 would be considered unconstitutional, opening the way up to same-sex marriages in California. However, if the Court chooses this path, the effect of the Court's decision could be limited to California, unless it addresses the equal protection arguments.

The case heard on Wednesday, *Windsor v. United States*, provides a direct attack on DOMA, Section 3, which is the part of the law that defines marriage as between a man and a woman for the federal government's purposes. That case involves an 84 year-old widow from New York, Edie Windsor. Ms. Windsor's wife of 5 years, but partner for over 40 years passed away in 2009. Had her partner been a man, she would have paid nothing in estate taxes. However, since her spouse was a woman, the federal government, because of DOMA, did not recognize her marriage and she was billed over \$363,000 in federal estate taxes. She filed a lawsuit in federal court challenging DOMA, which she won at both the district court and the circuit court level, when both courts declared that DOMA was unconstitutional. Since then, the Department of Justice issued a statement explaining that it could no longer defend DOMA's constitutionality and it stopped defending the law in Court. Later, the Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group of the House of Representatives (BLAG), intervened in the suit "for the limited purpose of

defending the constitutionality of Section 3" of DOMA. With a standing issue – can BLAG pursue this action? Also, since the United States, under the Obama administration, agrees with the Circuit Court's decision that DOMA is unconstitutional, can the Supreme Court even hear the case since both of the "aggrieved parties" (the United States and Windsor) agree that DOMA is unconstitutional? Once again, the Supreme Court could choose to avoid the larger question of equal protection for gays and lesbians and decide the standing and jurisdiction issues.

Although there is no way to tell how the Court will rule simply by the questions they

asked, there were several significant moments, which might give some clues on how the justices perceived the case. Most court observers were keeping a close eye on Justice Kennedy, who is usually the "swing vote" on close issues and who has historically sided with the more liberal justices on cases affecting LGBT rights. He appeared persuaded that DOMA intruded into the power of the states to regulate marriage, to which the federal government must usually defer. At one point during oral arguments in *Windsor*, Kennedy also noted that the federal government was "intertwined with citizens'

See Knockout DOMA on Page 12



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LGBTQ news from around the country: The good, the bad and the ugly

By: Emily Scagel/TRT Assistant Editor

GAYBORHOOD Charlotte, NC LGBT athletics report reissued, urges systemic change

Campus Pride has reissued the Campus Pride 2012 LGBTQ National College Athlete Report in lieu of recent developments in college athletics, as well as the ongoing LGBT harassment impacting sports culture. The executive director of Campus Pride stated that videos and statements by teams about being an ally are just surface level, and that systemic change is what is needed. The organization is committed to releasing an online index that will allow colleges to benchmark LGBT-friendly policies, programs and practices.

Los Angeles, CA

Study finds 900,000 LGBT immigrants

A study estimated that there are approximately 637,000 LGBT-identified adult documented immigrants in the United States, as well as 267,000 undocumented. The report found that 71 percent of the undocumented LGBT adults were Hispanic, and 15 percent are Asian or Pacific Islander. The leader of the study said that under current immigration policies, the 900,000 LGBT immigrant adults in this country may face separation from their partners if they are not able to sponsor each other for work visas.

New York, NY

Guide released for elder care service providers

A new data collection guide has been released

by SAGE that will help service providers collect the information they need to better understand and serve LGBT older adults. The guide, Inclusive Questions for Older Adults: A Practical Guide to Collecting Data on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, will help providers ask questions in a safe and respectful way. Identities of LGBT older adults are rarely included in research studies, service intake forms and client notes on federal and local levels, so if providers want this information, they must collect it themselves.

Puerto Rico urged to reverse same-sex parent ruling

Lambda Legal and Fundación Artículo II are urging Puerto Rico's Supreme Court to reconsider and reverse a ruling, and either grant a second-parent adoption to a lesbian couple, or to hold their case until the federal Supreme Court rules on DOMA. A Lambda Legal Staff Attorney stated that Puerto Rico's adoption law condemns gay and lesbian couples, as well as their children, to an inferior and stigmatized status.

Providence, RI

Coalition of Mayors in support of marriage equality forms

Rhode Islanders United for Marriage has launched Mayors for Marriage Equality. The campaign director for Rhode Islanders United for Marriage stated that it is an incredible testament to their leadership that so many city executives have chosen to stand up and endorse same-sex marriage legislation being considered in the Senate. The group includes the Mayors of Warwick, Central Falls, Pawtucket, North

Providence, Cumberland and Providence.

Catholic group forms, urges same-sex marriage legislation

Catholics from across Rhode Island have announced the formation of Rhode Island Catholics for Marriage Equality, and are urging the Senate to pass marriage equality legislation. The group has more than 100 members and is made up of Catholics from parishes and communities across the state.

Religious leaders speak out against discriminatory bill

A group of religious leaders in Rhode Island have spoken out against a new Senate bill that would allow individuals and small business to discriminate against same-sex couples, and would roll back existing discrimination laws under the claim of protecting religious liberty. The executive minister of the Rhode Island State Council of Churches stated that faith should uplift us and bring us closer together, not used as an excuse to divide and exclude.

Santa Fe, NM

Case made for marriage equality in New Mexico, declared legal

New Mexico's capital city has issued a legal memo and resolution declaring same-sex marriage legal in New Mexico. The memo notes that New Mexico's laws define marriage in gender-neutral terms and that a list of prohibited marriages does not include same-sex couples, among other statements that outline the case that marriage equality is already legal under New Mexico law.

Washington, D.C.

Latino voters want inclusive immigration reform for lesbian and gay couples

Immigration Equality/Latino Decisions released results of a poll that show that 64 percent of Latino voters favor inclusive immigration reform for lesbian and gay binational couples. The executive director of Immigration Equality stated that immigration reform is the most important issue to Latino voters, and the voters want reform that includes all families.

Federal ban on HIV-positive organs for HIV-positive recipients lifted

The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee has approved the HIV Organ Policy Equity Act, which will lift a federal ban on the donation of HIV-positive organs to HIV-positive recipients. This act could save as many as 1,000 people yearly, and would decrease waiting time for HIV-infected individuals as well as uninfected individuals.

\$45 million lost HIV/AIDS funding

Congress approved a spending bill that failed to continue \$35 million in emergency relief funds for AIDS Drug Assistance Programs. This loss could result in 8,000 individuals living with HIV being removed from ADAPs and losing access to lifesaving medication. The bill also fails to continue \$10 million in emergency funds for Ryan White Part C clinical programs. The director of legislative and public affairs for the National Minority AIDS Council stated that this will have a devastating impact on those living with HIV or AIDS, and will inhibit NMAC's ability to combat the spread of the disease.

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Fenway's 22nd Annual Women's Dinner Party: Health, fun & fundraising

By: Brook Rosini/Special to TRT

The Women's Dinner Party is an annual fundraiser for Fenway Health that brings together more than 1,200 lesbian, transgender, and bisexual women and their friends and supporters for a night of dinner and dancing. This year, the Women's Dinner Party will be held on Saturday, April 6, from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Boston Marriott Copley Place. The event starts out with mingling and a silent auction, with the program and dinner taking place at 7, followed by dancing. The Women's Dinner Party serves as a social event for women in the LGBT community, and raises awareness of women's health issues as well as funds for Fenway Health.

According to Timothy Harwood, Vice President of Development at Fenway Health, The Women's Dinner Party was the first event of its kind in the country. Now in its twenty-second year, Harwood characterizes the first Dinner Party as a guerilla effort to instill philanthropy and increase the patient population by presenting Fenway's women's health services before over 500 elegantly dressed women.

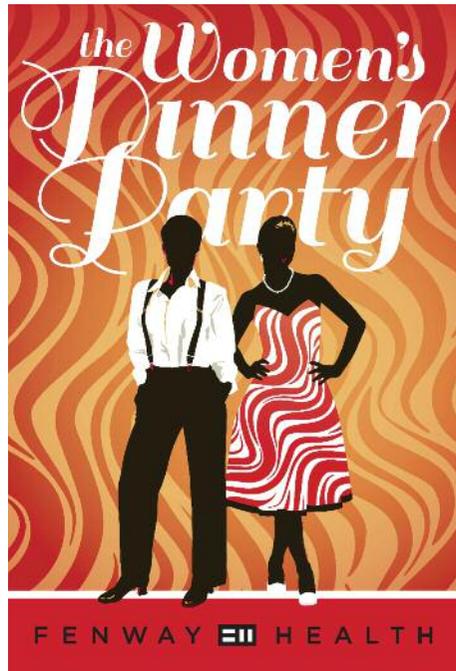
"It was also hoped that it would galvanize the attention of Fenway's Board and staff and result in an increased focus on women's health," Harwood says.

As a result of its success, Fenway's development office ended up creating a similar gala for men — The Men's Event.

"Both events raise critical unrestricted funds that allow us to provide care and services to every person who comes through our

doors, regardless of their ability to pay," explains Harwood. "This helps us do things like begin offering mammograms to help detect breast cancer early, before it can be felt and when it is easier to treat; help nearly 300 victims of bias crimes, domestic violence, sexual assault and police misconduct each year; care for nearly 1,800 young people at our Sidney Borum, Jr. Health Center; and provide more than \$300,000 in free and discounted medication to patients in need each year."

Although both events serve essentially the same function, the difference is in the audience they serve. "Everyone is welcome at either event, but the crowd at The Women's Dinner Party tends to be made up of lesbian and bisexual women, transgender people, and their friends and supporters. The Men's Event skews more heavily towards gay and bisexual men, transgender people,



and their friends and supporters," says Harwood. "Both events are a lot of fun!"

Co-chaired this year by Lori Griffiths, Pat Hamilton, and Jennifer L. Jones, all women who are active supporters of and advocates for the LGBT community, the event is also an occasion for presenting the Dr. Susan M. Love award. The award is given to honor and celebrate a woman or organization that has made a significant contribution to the field of women's health. The Love Award is given in honor of its founding recipient,

Dr. Susan M. Love, a pioneer in the fields of women's health and breast cancer.

This year, the Love Award will go to Dr. Ursula Matulonis, Medical Director and Disease Center Leader of the Medical Gynecologic Oncology Program at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School.

Through her long and distinguished career as a physician and a researcher Dr. Matulonis has proved her commitment to the health and wellbeing of women everywhere. Like Dr. Love, Dr. Matulonis is a leader in her field of gynecologic cancer care, treatment, and research, caring above all else for the health of the individual.

"Dr. Matulonis is a true inspiration who has dedicated her career to improving the lives of women with cancer. Warm and compassionate on the personal level and a thought leader in the scientific community, she has significantly advanced our knowledge on how to treat ovarian and uterine cancers," said Dr. Jennifer Potter, Director of Women's Health at Fenway and a former Love Award winner. "A strong advocate for systems change, she also works tirelessly to improve the entire experience of cancer care, from initial diagnosis through years of survivorship and end of life care. I am thrilled to see her honored with this award."

To donate to Fenway Health or purchase tickets to the Women's Dinner Party, visit www.womensdinnerparty.org or contact Fenway at 617.927.6350.

Online Coverage

Prop 8: <http://tiny.cc/h5otuw>

St. Patrick's: <http://tiny.cc/4rptuw>

Photos: <http://tiny.cc/4iptuw>

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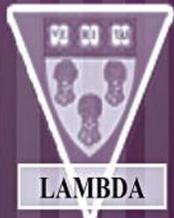
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Being who you are and finding that elusive peace with your true self

By: Deja Nicole Greenlaw*/TRT Columnist

TRANS NEWS



Ever since I can remember I've wanted to express female. However, I don't know how I felt before my memories began. When

we are very young it doesn't really matter because we don't know anything about gender. Oh sure, your parents may dress you in a frilly dress or pants and a shirt but it has no meaning to you when you are a baby. It is not a concern until you get to a situation, such as school, where there is a very noticeable gender divide. If you are trans, that's when the confusion begins.

All of a sudden you realize that there are girls and boys. This is when the socialization of gender begins. You fall into one group or the other determined by what gender clothes you wear. Your clothes are chosen by your parents who dress you according to your genitals. I had boy genitals, my mom dressed me as a boy, and therefore I was socialized as a boy.

At first you just accept your parents' take on your gender, after all, you are dressed like all the others of your assigned gender.

You may notice that something is not quite right but you don't question it because you are confused and afraid, especially if you are socialized as male, as it happened to me. You see other males who do not fit the male roles and they are ridiculed. You keep quiet.

You may try to deny your confusion and try your best to fit in with your "assigned" gender. You may try to be tough and do manly things or be soft and do womanly things or you may just withdraw from the world. Any way you deal with it, you are building your

You have no confidence, no peace, just confusion. You become anxious. You become anxious because you now know that you are very different from everyone you know. You may hear your friends, relatives, or coworkers talk about these folks who change gender and they may make fun of them. Your heart sinks as you hear everyone laugh.

Deeper and deeper you go into your confused, anxious closet, until one day you know that you can't take it anymore. You now know that you must explore who you really are before you go to your grave. You know that you have to give yourself a chance and so you begin. You begin to live as your true gender for a few minutes or hours at a time. Those minutes and hours grow into nights and weekends and the more that you spend in your true gender, the better you feel. Finally you get to the point where you know that you must live full time as your true gender. All of a sudden the confusion goes away, the anxiety goes away, your confidence rises and that wonderful feeling of peace is finally within you. It's an incredible feeling that you've never had before. You have finally found your peace!

**Deja Nicole Greenlaw is a local transwoman who has 3 grown children and works at 3M. She can be contacted at dejavudeja@sbcglobal.net.*

You fall into one group or the other determined by what gender clothes you wear. Your clothes are chosen by your parents who dress you according to your genitals.

As time goes, on you grow older and the feeling that something is not right remains with you. That feeling will haunt you all through your life.

When you get to the age of puberty things get worse. The secondary sex characteristics begin, there is an even sharper divide of gender and your confusion grows deeper. You are now on the way to becoming an adult, male or female, whether you like it or not. Most of the children your age are very happy with these changes but you are not. All the while this confusion is rapidly growing and it occupies a huge part of your time.

life on confusion. You have no real confidence. You have no real peace. You try your best to live your life as your assigned gender and the confusion is thrown deep in your "closet."

Then one day you learn about people who are physically born one gender but become the other gender. You research all you can on these people, their stories and although you want to be like them you feel that you could never do what they did, live in their true gender. It is the very essence of who you are, but you do not believe that you could do it. You do not believe in yourself.

Ask a Transwoman: The etiquette & power of names; how to handle uncomfortable situations

By: Lorelei Erisis*/TRT Columnist



Hi Lorelei,

I had this happen to me in Boston last week. I had a woman who I hadn't seen in over 20 years come up to me and say, in a very loud tone and in a very public place, my former legal name. In response I politely and calmly informed her that

was no longer my legal name. Yet she responded by "I'm not calling you by that (my current legal name)." Not wishing to cause a scene in the middle of such a public place I left.

Later that day I had the misfortune to run into this person again, and again they kept calling me by my former name. I calmly pulled out my ID and was prepared to show her. Her response was "I don't want to see it and I'm still going to call you by that name." I responded in a sharp tone that she had no right to call me by that name. In return, she walked off in a huff.

Was there a better way to handle a situation like that? How do you deal with people who won't call you by the name you currently have, despite whatever proof that it is your legal name? And how would you handle the same situation? Admittedly Curious, Kari

First of all Kari, I'm sorry that happened to you. It was rude and quite unacceptable. I also think you handled it remarkably well.

Unfortunately, this is something that most trans people have to deal with more than we'd like to. In fact, it is something I have found that pretty much anyone who has occasion to change their name has to deal with,

cheese ...") still makes me twitch when I hear it, and surprisingly for such a simple, short name, no one could ever get it right. I was called, Matt, Max, Pat, Nick, pretty much anything but Mac. It was just unusual

... names certainly do have power, which is why some cultures allow a person to choose their own name when they reach adulthood, often as part of an accompanying ritual. Names can shape who we are and how we are perceived.

not just trans people.

Working, as I have, with all manner of artists, activists, adult workers and others who have had reasons to adopt new names and sometimes entirely new identities, I hear a lot of the same themes that trans people have to deal with. People who know, or who somehow find out your old name, will often insist on using it instead of your preferred newer name. They seem to feel that it makes them somehow special, or gives them some power over you, and to some extent that is true, if by "special" you mean, "a big jerk."

And yes, names certainly do have power, which is why some cultures allow a person to choose their own name when they reach adulthood, often as part of an accompanying ritual. Names can shape who we are and how we are perceived.

Let me tell you, my old boy name, "Mac," was no treat. To the day I changed it, people thought that calling me "Big Mac" like the hamburger, was about the funniest thing they'd ever thought of. The "Big Mac" jingle ("Two all-beef patties, special sauce, lettuce,

enough to set me apart from the get go.

So, when I started using Lorelei, which, curiously, people seem to have a much easier time with, I was happy for the change quite beyond it fitting my proper gender. Though that doesn't mean there wasn't a struggle to get people to start using it.

Socially speaking, I found that strangers and new acquaintances had the easiest time and the people who've known me the longest, the hardest time.

This is how I tend to deal with these situations. First thing to do is really sussing out intention. Is a person simply using my old name out of long habit, or out of some inane sense of privilege or power play? The former I am a lot more patient with, the latter, not so much.

And of course when discussing the past, things get really, really dicey. This is where even the most well-intentioned people have the hardest time.

With most folks, when they use my old name I will usually deal with it the way I deal with pronoun mistakes. In the begin-

ning, I'll generally give the well-intentioned ones a couple of passes before I speak up. Then, whenever they use the wrong name, I simply and quickly correct them and encourage the conversation to move on. I will continue to do this, simply, quickly and politely, until it becomes annoying and starts throwing the flow of the conversation out of joint. Much like the way my English major mother used to sweetly but firmly correct my grammar mid-sentence (and still does!).

This is where I find peer pressure to be sometimes quite useful. By staying very cool, polite and sweet about my corrections, I basically make the person who is misnaming me (or misgendering me), start to seem like kind of a jerk (or insert stronger, less journalistically professional language here ...). And especially if the other people in the room (or the organization or group of friends/family) are using the correct name (and/or pronoun) for me, then that's when peer pressure really does a lot of the heavy lifting. It flips the tables and makes the misnamer the odd one out.

Sometimes though, even that doesn't work. Occasionally I'll get a bureaucrat or some such that simply refuses to use my new name and will not be corrected. Those people will always be out there and often nothing we can do will change them. In those cases, I simply grit my teeth after it becomes clear no amount of correction will help, and as soon as possible, I will simply do as you did; walk away and write them off.

I also find that really loud, really angry punk rock helps too. But maybe that's just me. Slainte!

**Lorelei Erisis is Miss Trans New England 2009. Send your questions about trans issues to her at: loreleierisis@gmail.com.*

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Mensaje al Alcalde Menino: ¡Gracias por todo su apoyo!

Por: Wilfred W. Labiosa* / Columnista de TRT

LATIN VISION



PHOTO: ERIC HESS

Acabo de escuchar las palabras del Alcalde de Boston, Thomas Menino, de que no va a correr por otro término. ¡Qué tristeza increíble! Yo tuve la oportunidad de trabajar para la Ciudad de Boston unos años atrás y para este increíble hombre y político. También tuve la oportunidad de trabajar con él y su personal al organizar las actividades de Orgullo de Boston y Orgullo Latino. Le doy gracias a él por muchas cosas, entre ellas por tener un personal tan increíble que ahora puedo llamar amigos.

Trabajé para su administración en la Comisión de Salud Pública de Boston como el director de la oficina y asuntos de salud para la comunidad LGBT; aprendí tanto de esta experiencia y pude trabajar con personas increíbles como John A. Roger, Odessa, Rita, Hortensia, y tantos/as otros/as que dejaron sus marcas en mi para toda una vida. ¡Le doy gracias al Alcalde por apoyar esta Comisión y escoger a un Comisionado y líderes en el campo de salud pública tan increíble! ¡Gracias Alcalde Menino!

Durante esta experiencia conocí a dos

otras personas gay que trabajaban para la ciudad, Marco y Javier, y que eran Latinos a la vez. Uno como el aliado a la comunidad gay y Latina en la Oficina de la Comunidad en la Alcaldía y el otro como aliado a la comunidad gay en el departamento de la

Menino también lleva el record mayor con su participación activa en la parada de orgullo marchando y aprobando los permisos para usar la Alcaldía para el festival. También hay que rendirle gracias por que tomo la posición de no participar en la

bandera gay en la alcaldía durante Junio, el mes de Orgullo Gay en Boston.

En Boston estamos orgullosos/as de que podemos tener la parada de Orgullo GLBT todos los junios y que tenemos Orgullo Latino LGBT durante el otoño. Ambas son las celebraciones más viejas y estables de su clase en la nación. Gracias a su liderazgo podemos tener orgullo de Boston y también de las actividades LGBT que suceden en esta bella ciudad. Gracias a su liderazgo podemos tener orgullo de todas nuestras comunidades en la ciudad de Boston.

Al alcalde le quiero decir *gracias* y debemos celebrar su liderazgo como aliado a nuestra comunidad LGBT. Por supuesto que él no fue perfecto, pero ¿qué alcalde es perfecto/a, y que político cumple con todo lo que promete? *Nadie*. ¡Gracias Alcalde Menino por todo!

Gracias por tomar posiciones que no son populares todo el tiempo pero que son necesarias para una total igualdad. Se que en los próximos nueve meses podemos contar con su apoyo y que todavía va a hacer mucho por nuestra comunidad y ciudad. A los/as líderes que quieran esta posición van a tener que llenar un espacio grande y aprender de todos los años de liderazgo de nuestro Alcalde Menino. Va a ser una campaña interesante. ¡Gracias Alcalde Menino, alcalde del pueblo, y lo veo en la Parada de Orgullo en Junio para darle las gracias en persona!

Le doy gracias al alcalde [Menino] por su liderazgo y por apoyar iniciativas y posiciones para la comunidad LGBT. Menino siempre tomó posiciones de inclusión... ¡gracias!

policía. Le doy gracias al alcalde por su liderazgo y por apoyar iniciativas y posiciones para la comunidad LGBT. Es el primer alcalde en una ciudad cosmopolita donde existen estas tres posiciones y es el primer alcalde que apoyó pólizas de inclusión para la comunidad Transgénero.

Menino siempre tomó posiciones de inclusión... ¡gracias!

parada homofóbica de South Boston en el día de San Patricio. ¡Gracias!

Menino también fue el alcalde que participó activamente (siempre) para hablar a favor de beneficios iguales para todos/as en nuestra comunidad; él incluyó a la comunidad gay en su personal de empleo, en las pólizas, en sus discursos, y en el gobierno de Boston. Fue el alcalde que dejó izar la

Pregúntale a Lambda Legal: La reforma migratoria - Un asunto LGBT

Por: Iván Espinoza-Madrigal / Abogado



P. ¿Por qué trabajan los grupos LGBT en asuntos de inmigración y qué tiene que ver el reciente debate de la reforma migratoria con los derechos de personas y familias LGBT?

R. Nosotros a menudo escuchamos que nuestro

sistema de inmigración está roto. Pero pocas personas comprenden cómo este sistema daña desproporcionadamente a muchas personas LGBT y a personas que viven con el VIH. Ahora que se consideran propuestas para revisar y reparar el sistema de inmigración, se deben incluir una serie de protecciones cruciales que necesitarán las personas de la comunidad LGBT y las personas que están viviendo con el VIH.

Por ejemplo, el fortalecimiento de la unidad familiar ha sido un principio fundamental y bien establecido por la política migratoria. La unidad familiar y las redes de apoyo que éstas generan, contribuyen a una comunidad más estable y una sociedad más saludable. Siendo así, la ley migratoria ha reconocido que al cónyuge extranjero de un ciudadano/a de EEUU debe proveérsele amparo por las leyes de inmigración. Sin tal ayuda, las familias pueden ser separadas despiadadamente. Muchas personas LGBT sufren esta pesadilla ya que a las parejas binacionales del mismo sexo se les niegan estas protecciones. Una reforma migratoria integral debe promover y proteger la unidad familiar al reconocer los derechos de estas parejas.

También, la reforma migratoria debe ser ilustrada por las experiencias de los inmigrantes especialmente vulnerables. Muchas

personas transgénero, personas no apegadas a los estereotipos de género y personas que viven con el VIH huyen a EEUU para escapar de varias formas de persecución. Muchas de estas víctimas dependen del amparo que les ofrecen nuestras leyes migratorias de asilo político.

La reforma migratoria debe crear una vía a la legalización y a la ciudadanía estadounidense. Se aproxima que actualmente hay más de 418,000 inmigrantes indocumentados lésbico, gay, bisexual y trans-

a las investigaciones y a resolver crímenes. Este tipo de temor y el ocultar hechos trae consigo un alto número de riesgos a la seguridad pública para comunidades enteras.

La amenaza de deportación también crea peligros para la salud pública. Las personas sin documentos a menudo tienen miedo de buscar tratamiento médico en los hospitales. Esto presenta una barrera significativa para contrarrestar la epidemia del VIH ya que el acceso a la prueba de VIH y el tratamiento son pautas importantes en esta lucha. De

Siendo así, la ley migratoria ha reconocido que al cónyuge extranjero de un ciudadano/a de EEUU debe proveérsele amparo por las leyes de inmigración.

género en los EEUU. Sin esta vía, estos inmigrantes LGBT se quedarán atrapados en un "doble clóset"—con miedo de revelar su orientación sexual o identidad de género, y también atemorizados de revelar su estatus migratorio. La amenaza de deportación también trae riesgos de seguridad pública, ya que se ha reconocido que los inmigrantes son más vulnerables a ser víctimas de violencia. Las víctimas indocumentadas de discriminación y de crímenes de odio a menudo se encuentran sin resolución porque son renuentes a buscar justicia por temor de ser arrestados y deportados. Así mismo, los testigos sin documentos también dudan ayudar

esta forma, abriendo un vía a la legalización y ciudadanía estadounidense, beneficia a cada norteamericano sin importar la orientación sexual, identidad de género, estatus de inmigración o estatus de VIH.

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Si desea leer este artículo en inglés visite el portal del periódico en la Internet al: www.rainbowtimesmass.com y haga una búsqueda con las palabras "Lambda Legal" y conseguirá éste y otros artículos en inglés.

Sin-Sinner from page 2

Just as any movement in American history, one day we will be equal, whether it is through a Supreme Court ruling or an executive order by the President's administration, as it was through the Emancipation Proclamation. Although the Constitutionality of DOMA is currently under review by the Supreme Court, it is my hope that the Justices also consider the historical context of its construction. Following the Constitution as originally transcribed has proven to be erroneous and dangerous. Groups like women and African Americans would still not be freed people, as it was declared so many years ago.

* Nicole Lashomb, TRT's editor, holds an MBA from Marylhurst University and a Bachelor's from SUNY Potsdam. Reach her at: editor@therainbowtimesmass.com

¡Anúnciate en la Guía de Orgullo de Boston/Boston Pride

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ClimACTS! is uniquely FUN because it constantly explores new venues and themes. Since the fabulous Liz Page and Joan Parker created ClimACTS! in 2001, it's been the hottest queer benefit in Boston. This year's theme was UNBOUND and included live performances by Sherry Vine, Cazwell, and comedienne Marga Gomez. The Theater Offensive raised over \$100K to expand its youth leadership and development program, True Colors: Out Youth Theater.



PHOTOS: BOSGUY.COM & STEPHANIE LAFORTE

Mayor Menino from Page 3

"In the mid-1980s, during the darkest days of the AIDS epidemic, City Councilor Menino advocated employing 24 full-time outreach workers in the city of Boston to educate intravenous drug users about the risk of AIDS," Haag said. "This was cutting edge public policy at the time. He also insisted on two community health vans to be deployed to at-risk neighborhoods to provide general health education as well as AIDS prevention information and on increasing the availabil-

ity of drug treatment programs. He also pushed to implement a needle exchange program in the city."

According to Haag, the Mayor event helped raise money for a liver transplant for one of AIDS Action Committee's employees, Belynda Dunn, when her health insurer denied payment for the transplant due to her HIV positive status.

In a recent interview with WBUR Boston's NPR, the mayor said he would "stay very engaged in Boston's future," after leaving office, but did not give specific details.

Knockout DOMA from page 7

daily lives" as a result of DOMA and he questioned Congress' authority to pass such a broad law. If Kennedy does side with the four liberal justices, who all seemed poised to strike down DOMA, then we could see the end of this law and the beginning of federal recognition for same-sex marriages. This would not allow same-sex marriages in states where it is currently prohibited, nor would it necessarily require those states to recognize marriages from other states where it is legal (unless the court's language is broad and addresses the equal protection arguments).

If Section 3 of DOMA is struck down by the Supreme Court, how will it affect those in same-sex marriages where it is recognized by the state (as in Massachusetts, New York and Connecticut)? It would finally allow same-sex couples in legal marriages to be treated equally with respect to social security, taxes, health insurance, immigration and over 1,100 federal benefits and programs which are marriage-based. These couples would be able to receive a social security benefit if one spouse passed away. They could be able to inherit from a spouse without estate taxes being applied. They could sponsor a same-sex fiancé for a visa to the United States and sponsor him or her for lawful permanent residency, allowing them to live in the United States together. There are hundreds of ways families would benefit financially and otherwise with the repeal of Section 3 of DOMA. Unfortunately, LGBT families would still have to engage in extra legal planning if the Court does not adopt the equal protection arguments regarding gays and lesbians because same-sex

marriages would still not be recognized in many states. As a result, if you travel or move to a state where same-sex marriages aren't recognized, you could still be at risk. Therefore, I would still advise same-sex couples to engage in estate planning with an attorney who is experienced in DOMA and LGBT family law issues. Health care proxies, powers of attorney and second-parent adoptions may still be advisable, even if Section 3 of DOMA is struck down. Therefore, you should consult with an attorney to discuss these issues if you are in a same-sex marriage.

It is clear that this is a historic opportunity for the Supreme Court to address the history of discrimination and inequality faced by LGBT Americans. "Marriage is a vital social institution," wrote Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall in the Goodridge v. Department of Public Health decision (which legalized same-sex marriages in Massachusetts). "The exclusive commitment of two individuals to each other nurtures love and mutual support; it brings stability to our society." The "marriage ban" the court held, "works a deep and scarring hardship" on same-sex families "for no rational reason." In both Hollingsworth and Windsor, the Supreme Court has an opportunity to affirm the dignity and equality of all individuals, and to halt the perception of LGBT individuals and relationships as "second-class."

**Bernadette Stark is an attorney who practices in Family Law/Domestic Relations with a concentration in LGBT issues. She is a founder and partner at the law firm of Dinsmore Stark, Attorneys at Law, which has a principal office in Northampton, Massachusetts. She can be reached at 413-341-3639 or bstark@dinsmorestark.com.*

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Sara Gilbert, Elton John, another Yves Saint Laurent Documentary, more

By: Romeo San Vicente*/Special for TRT

DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD



Sara Gilbert moonlights with *Bad Teacher*

Success breeds success. As a child star on *Roseanne*, Sara Gilbert won over the coveted sullen teen demographic with her portrayal of the smartass Darlene and now she's got daytime TV-watching moms on board for *The Talk*, a show she created, executive produces and co-hosts. But the siren song of sitcom stardom has ways of making already-hard-working people double down to the point of exhaustion, so off she goes back to the prime-time well with *Bad Teacher*, based on the 2011 Cameron Diaz film. Ari Graynor (*For A Good Time, Call...*) will star as a spoiled former trophy wife with a bad attitude now teaching school. Gilbert, cast against her former type, will play a shy, introverted English teacher. Look, if Kelly Ripa can do it so can Gilbert. But seriously, if this pilot goes to series she's just going to make all the other celebrity lesbians look lazy.

Mamie Gummer to play lesbian cop on *Backstrom*

Like mother, like daughter. Meryl Streep

played a lesbian in Woody Allen's *Manhattan* and Stephen Daldry's *The Hours* and now her daughter Mamie Gummer is doing it herself for TV. This fall's cop drama *Backstrom* will star Rainn Wilson as an out-of-shape, offensive, difficult detective (think *House* minus the Hugh Laurie charm) whose self-destructive impulses get the better of him and Gummer will take the female lead role of Nicole Gravely, a lesbian detective dealing with the breakup of her longterm relationship. OK, maybe it's less *House* than it is *Rizzoli and Isles*, if only one of them were a man and one of them an actual lesbian, but you get it. And whatever shape the eventual series takes, Gummer will have plenty of time for it since her former series, *Emily Owens, M.D.*, was canceled.

***Rocketman*: about Elton John, by Elton John**

As far back as 2005 Elton John's Rocket Pictures has had a biopic of John in development. Originally the rumors were that Justin Timberlake would play the outlandish pop star as an adult, then the plans went on the back burner and for a while it seemed like the whole thing might be dead in the water. But now the project pulses with new signs of life: a director in newcomer Michael Gracey and a script from Lee Hall (*Billy Elliot*, *War Horse*). The story will follow John from his boyhood as a piano prodigy to stardom with lyricist Bernie Taupin, featuring plenty of detours into elaborately choreographed *Moulin*



Ari Graynor

Rouge!-style production numbers. Now, if only Timberlake, whose film career is, at this point, pretty well established, would take on the part like all those premature reports promised, if for no other reason than it would be really cool to see him wear those "Pinball Wizard" shoes from *Tommy*. And, you know, that Donald Duck costume. Oh, all right, and to see him makeout with guys.

Even more Yves Saint Laurent films coming soon

The universe has decided that three documentaries about legendary fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent (*YSL: His Life and Times*, *Yves Saint Laurent: 5 avenue Marceau 75116 Paris*, *L'amour fou*) were not enough. So now there are two additional French-language narrative feature biopics in the works. *Yves Saint Laurent*, from director Jalil Lespert, will star Pierre Niney as the designer and Guillaume Gallienne as Pierre Berge, Laurent's longtime partner in life and business. This one's already been picked for American distribution by The Weinstein Company. But strangely enough, it's the other YSL film with bragging rights to bigger acting names, featuring acclaimed French star Jeremie Renier (*Atonement*) playing Berge and Gaspard Ulliel (*Hannibal Rising*) taking on the role of Laurent. No doubt it too will find a home in American arthouses eventually. But so it goes: in America we get competing asteroid, volcano and terrorists-attack-the-White-House films; in France it's dueling projects about flamboyantly famous designers. They always could one-up us like that.

* Romeo San Vicente doesn't mean to be mean, but that outfit would look much better on him. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyn-dicate.com.

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TOD@S This workshop is supported by TOD@S, an inter-agency collaboration of The Network/La Red, The Hispanic Black Gay Coalition, The Violence Recovery Program at Fenway Health, and Renewal House, a program of the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry.

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Op-ed: Obama, Clinton, & Gay Marriage

By: Keegan O'Brien/Special to TRT

A few weeks ago, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton released a video (<http://tiny.cc/97htuw>) officially announcing her support for same sex marriage, shortly after her husband (<http://tiny.cc/ubituw>) and former President Bill Clinton did as well, and just months after Obama (<http://tiny.cc/uiituw>). The same week several prominent GOP figures (<http://tiny.cc/vjituw>) also announced their support for marriage equality. This all occurred only a week before the Supreme Court is scheduled to hear historic cases challenging Prop 8, and the Federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), in which the Obama Administration has publicly come out on the side of LGBTQ rights.

Compared to President Bill Clinton's signing of DOMA and 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' and Bush's attempt to pass a constitutional amendment banning same sex marriage, politician's support for basic civil rights — such as marriage equality — is an enormous advancement for our community. Any time political figures recognize our humanity and advocate the simple idea that we should be treated with respect and dignity, it is welcomed. And, if the Supreme Court rules in favor of equality this week, that will be historic break through in the long struggle for justice.

That said, we deserve — and should demand — much more than rhetorical support from political figures. There's nothing brave or groundbreaking about politicians embracing same-sex marriage well after a majority of the populations support it. Coming out in support of marriage equality to gain votes,

campaign contributions, and further build support for U.S. austerity and militarism is political opportunism, plain and simple. The reason why politicians have recently come out in favor of same sex marriage is a direct result of the enormous pressure and organizing placed on the political establishment by LGBTQ activists.

Unfortunately, most in the LGBT political establishment have been unwilling to criticize Obama, Clinton or much of the Democratic Party and their tremendous gap between rhetoric and action. No one at the Human Rights Campaign has found it necessary to ask tough questions; why in a matter of months can the Obama Administration carry out an occupation in Afghanistan (<http://tiny.cc/6lituw>) and spend billions of tax payer dollars to bail out Wall St. (<http://tiny.cc/8mituw>), but can't find the time or energy to prioritize passing an all inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA)? Kind words are appreciated, but when in 29 states (<http://tiny.cc/3nituw>) it is completely legal to be fired or not hired due to your perceived or known sexual orientation, in 37 states for gender identity or expression, and 37 states have passed constitutional amendments banning same sex marriage, actions speak louder than words.

You wouldn't know this by watching CNN or listening to anyone in the Obama Administration most of the time, but there is an epidemic of LGBTQ youth homelessness and suicide.

Read the rest of this story at: <http://tiny.cc/hrituw>

Pope Francis from Page 2

As noted, the pope has the benefit of being a Jesuit, an order that loves learning and knowledge. Its rigorous educational standards are some of the best. Jesuits teach students to think, not parrot information all too common in public and private education.

Some have described Francis as a reformer expecting him to crack open the door to support LGBTQ civil and human rights. He is a reformer as it pertains to shaking up the byzantine, cloak and dagger Vatican bureaucracy. The pope will be a managerial and administrative reformer, not a doctrinal one. His top priority is dealing with bureaucratic inertia, corruption and institutional incompetence, not LGBTQ rights.

At the same time, he is a street-savvy man who cannot avoid the worldwide shift on LGBTQ civil and human rights. This includes South America and his native Argentina where Catholicism thrives. In addition, the latest poll in the United States indicates over half of all Catholics support

marriage equality. Added to this shift, is the increasing number of non-Catholic denominations celebrating the sacrament of marriage for same gender couples.

Although significant change regarding the church's position on certain LGBTQ rights is unlikely, the new pope may realize Rome must quietly re-think some of its positions. Otherwise, history and other Christian denominations will make Rome increasingly irrelevant. Perhaps Pope Francis will plant seeds, which will enable the Vatican to announce someday a blessing ceremony, distinguished from marriage, for same gender couples. It will not be perfect or complete justice and it will be delayed justice, but still progress.

**Paul is an author, attorney, and a seminary trained, ordained priest in greater Albany, NY. He recently authored "Lost Sense of Self & the Ethics Crisis - Learn to Live and Work Ethically," and is founder of www.CorporateChaplaincy.biz.*

Immigration from Page 2

dance, many of whom were youth. The co-director of the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA), Ben de Guzman, was one of the speakers that evening. In a recent *Huffington Post* article, de Guzman wrote a reflection on a study examining the realities of LGBT immigrants. In the article he states, "Some of the key findings reveal that the actual number of LGBT undocumented people in the U.S. are disproportionately younger and Asian than the overall undocumented population. The

percentage of Asian, LGBT undocumented immigrants is significantly larger than that of our straight counterparts. We are 15 percent of the LGBT undocumented immigrant population, as opposed to 11 percent of all undocumented immigrants."

The work of NQAPIA is an important reminder that while Latin@ people are constantly the public face of immigration, our approach to justice needs to acknowledge the realities of all immigrants. During the event, de Guzman told attendees that 60 percent of API people in the United States are foreign born. He also reminded attendees that as people are fighting for the

Uniting American Families Act, inclusive of same-sex partners, we all must remember to keep the inclusion of siblings and adult children as sponsors for citizenship. Mainstream LGBT groups need to work in coalition and listen to the needs of all LGBTQ people impacted by immigration so as not to fight for some at the expense of others.

The conversation around "enforcement" begs a much larger question of who, how and why people are being targeted for arrest, harassment, violence and deportation. An immediate moratorium on deportations is a moral requirement for any authentic immigration justice to be possible. Private corporations must be removed from the conversation, specifically the Corrections Corporation of America and Geo Group, as they continue to be financially invested in locking people up. We must stop the president from allowing drones to surveil the border of Mexico. We need to have a conversation about white supremacy. The long list of anti-immigrant legislation in the United States began with the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882, included the racist named Operation Wetback in 1954 under President Eisenhower to attack Mexican immigrants, and continues today fueled by white power structures' intention to maintain power and domination.

As we engage this debate as LGBTQ people, let us remember that we need not secure our own goals at the expense of other people. We also need not allow certain gay power players to define our strategies for victory. Get your voice in the dialogue and help us all toward a victory that celebrates amnesty rather than demonizes it.

**Rev. Jason Lydon is a Unitarian Universalist minister in Boston. He is a long time anti-prison organizer and founder of Black & Pink, an LGBTQ-focused effort working toward the abolition of the prison industrial complex. Jason is also an avid lover of famous people and blockbuster action flicks. You can reach Jason at jason@blackandpink.org.*

TOP 10 BEST SELLER VIDEOS

Courtesy: WolfeVideo.com

LESBIAN TOP 10

1. Strange Frame
2. Face 2 Face
3. Mosquita y Mari
4. A Perfect Ending
5. Nicole Conn Romance 4-Pack
6. Bob's New Suit
7. Kiss Me - Best Lesbian Movie of 2012!*
8. Molly's Girl
9. The Guest House
10. Lost Girl: Season 1

GAY TOP 10

1. Love Free or Die
2. I Want Your Love
3. A Portrait of James Dean: Joshua Tree, 1951
4. The Wise Kids
5. Yossi
6. Morgan
7. What Happens Next
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The OutField: Jarod Bormann goes to the mat for equality

By: Dan Woog*/Special for TRT

Q SPORTS



Like most Iowa boys, Jarod Bormann grew up on a wrestling mat. That's the unofficial state sport—the University of

Iowa has won 23 national championships, with Iowa State University adding eight more — so even though Jarod had a tough time at first, he stuck with it.

By 2002—his senior year of high school—he placed fourth in the state 1A tournament, at 150 pounds.

Coaches from some small schools recruited him. But on campus visits, he realized those colleges were just larger versions of high school. He wanted something different.

So Bormann headed off to Iowa State. He was not good enough to wrestle there. But the 31,000-student school in Ames—2 ½ hours from home—was exactly what he was searching for.

"I met all kinds of different people there," Bormann says. "I loved it. I no longer felt secluded. I experienced a lot of things I never had before."

As part of his growth, he reconnected with his biological father.

Bormann's parents divorced when he was 3. In seventh grade, as part of a court-ordered visitation hearing, Bormann learned his biological dad was gay.

That was an intense moment. "Middle school is a tough time for everyone," Bormann notes. "Then, when the therapist said, 'Your dad is gay' and added, 'We don't know if it's hereditary,' I kind of stopped listening to the rest. I'd always found girls attractive, but I wondered if that meant I was gay too."

Bormann never was angry that his father is gay, he says. He just wanted to have a normal life with his friends, without worrying about visitation with his grandparents. (His father lives in Florida.)

But in college—spurred by his wife—Bormann and his dad rebuilt their relationship.

"When I visited him, and saw him with his partner and the way they interacted, I realized they're just like any other couple," Bormann says. They talked about shared interests—technology, videography—and Bormann realized "who I came from." He is now, he says, "much happier as a person."

Bormann's respect for his father has influenced him as a high school and middle school English teacher, in tiny Elkader, Iowa. It's also influenced him as a wrestling coach. Central Community School no longer has a high school squad—the numbers are too low—so Bormann coaches middle school and youth teams.

Whenever he can, Bormann talks with his team about respect.

He does not necessarily cast it in specific gay terms, but his intent is clear.

"You have to respect anyone who is willing to go toe to toe with you on the mat," Bormann explains. "It doesn't matter who that person is, or what he does off the mat.



Jarod Bormann

If he's there, you have to respect him."

Bormann knows of no openly gay wrestlers. He thinks that, in such a "testosterone-driven" sport, coming out would be very hard. (Last year, in the state high school tournament, a heavily favored wrestler forfeited rather than compete against a girl.)

And, he admits, "there's a stigma that wrestling is a 'gay sport'—you know, 'two dudes in tights rolling around with each other.'"

Once, he heard a student in a hallway call it exactly that. Bormann told the boy to knock it off. That night at practice, the coach told his athletes, "Anyone who says this is a 'gay sport' doesn't have what it takes to wrestle. They don't have the dedication, work and passion that

you do. So that's why they try to put it down." He emphasized that "gay" should never be used as a slur.

By talking openly with his wrestlers, he says, "I hope they respect me more."

His openness extends to the media. In November, Des Moines television station KDSM aired a series on LGBT youth. Bormann was cited as "an incredible ally, and a role model for educators everywhere."

"Students who are born that way, and who put themselves out there, are very mature," Bormann says. "As an adult, I should be mature enough to support them."

Bormann said that he has three children. His youngest is 4 ½. "If one of them realizes he is born gay—and he's brave enough to talk about it—I'd want any adult to stand up for him."

The response was overwhelmingly positive. Former athletes and the parents of current students emailed him. Some thanked him in person. One said, "I'm proud my kids go to Central."

Bormann did not hear one negative comment—from a parent, a student or an athlete.

On and off the mat, that silence speaks volumes.

*Dan Woog is a journalist, educator, soccer coach and gay activist. His latest book is "We Kick Balls: True Stories from the Youth Soccer Wars." He can be reached via his e-mail at: OutField@qsyndicate.com.

To cook is to love: A foodie's journal; too much salt intake

By: John Verlinden*/Special to TRT

¡MUCHO GUSTO!



PHOTO: RACHEL POWER

Breaking news: New health study—We are eating too much salt and it's not good for us. Duh! I was surprised by the headlines that appeared subsequent to the presentation of a new Harvard Medical School study linking excessive salt consumption to disease and premature death. While some of the numbers from the study were impressive (excess salt is a factor in 1 in 10 heart related deaths in the U.S., and on average we consume nearly twice as much as the recommended daily allowance), this shouldn't have come as a surprise to any of us.

The links between sodium consumption and health are well established as scientific fact. Our bodies need it to function properly—sodium maintains fluid balance and it keeps muscles strong and nerves firing properly. But, too much sodium can lead to fluid retention and raise blood pressure, and over the longer term, to hypertension, kidney and heart disease.

Most of us know that moderating salt consumption is in the best interest of our long term health, but how do we do it? It's not simple, salt is in everything. And, it's not the salt we use cooking at home or add at the table that's killing us. On average, we Americans get 75 percent of our salt intake from packaged processed foods and from the meals we eat out at fast food outlets and restaurants. While cutting back on the obvious offenders (chips, cheese puffs, pretzels and salted peanuts) can help, much of the sodium we consume is hidden in other ready to eat processed foods including cereals, vegetable juices, soups, canned vegetables, deli meats, salad dressings, sauces, baked goods and more.

There are some simple things we can do to reduce sodium in our diets.

- Make fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables a big-



ger part of our everyday diet and reserve salty snacks for special occasions.

- Before purchasing processed packaged foods, examine the nutrition label and compare products, they're not all the same. And, don't assume that the sodium content listed on the label is for the entire package, check the serving size on which values were computed.
- Be mindful about what you're eating when dining out and request that dressings, sauces and condiments be served on the side.
- When cooking at home, add salt as part of the cooking process, not after or on top. Experiment by reducing the salt in your favorite recipes and spice them up with peppers and herbs. Substitute sea salt or salt sense for table salt—they are both real salt with real salt flavor, but because the salt crystals are larger and lighter, the amount of sodium per teaspoon can be up to a third less.

Until next time—¡Mucho Gusto!, ¡Muchas Gracias! y ¡Buen Provecho!

*Share your thoughts, ask a question or suggest a topic for a future article—contact me: john@muchogusto.com or visit www.muchogusto.com and join our food forum.

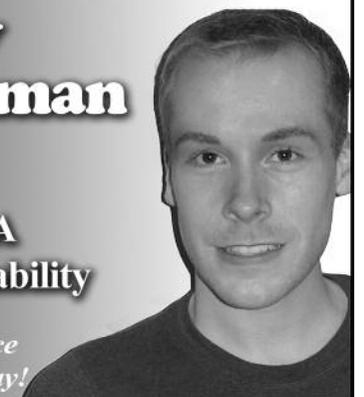
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