

# The Rainbow Times

Your LGBT News in Western MA, the Capital District of NY, Northern CT, & Southern VT

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## Opinions

# Ann Coulter: Rhetoric with no substance

By: Nicole C. Lashomb/TRT Editor-in-Chief

Recently, I was up late channel surfing when I came upon a face well known to many—Ann Coulter. There she was in all of her unwarranted, bigoted glory ranting, as usual, a rhetoric that was not only difficult to follow based on her apparent lack of knowledge about the subject matter, but because of the sheer embarrassment I felt for her. I was more than baffled by what was coming out of her mouth.

I remember back in 2005 when I was watching a similar aired event where she was speaking, and interestingly enough, her rhetoric hasn't expanded at all. Her verbose was as flaccid as ever. As usual, she spoke about her pro-war sentiments, her opposition to abortion, her definition of what makes a person a great conservative, all while she mocked, belittled and degraded everyone else around her, including Romney & Giuliani!

Coulter attempted in an inarticulate manner to clarify many of her beliefs that night. While emphatically stating them, she was sure to mention that Liberals and Democrats lack intelligence and are "dumb" in her words. Liberals and Democrats are "ungodly" in nature and believe in harming others. Unbelievable! However, according to Coulter, Conservatives are the ones who believe in God and Liberals believe they are God. Did I miss that lesson because I always remember the religious right acting out of hate on God's

behalf.

Also, according to Coulter, Conservatives believe in the defense of the United States, not the Liberals because Liberals believe in amnesty. I often ponder if those vocal Conservatives even know what amnesty is or how it is granted because certainly if they understood the concept, they would realize that they haven't a leg to stand on.

Shamelessly, she bragged as she declared that she was well known for her attacks on people. Even with an audience of conservatives, she failed to engage many of them. It was like watching a bad 70's horror film.

Praising Bush, degrading Hillary Clinton, John Edwards, Barack Obama and John Kerry, Coulter had it all figured out. As neo-conservative as she is, she was quick to admit that none of the Republican candidates were any good for the presidential running because they were not conservative enough!

Perhaps the most shocking statement was that, according to Coulter, journalism should not be objective. Ok—if it is not objective then it is subjective. Wouldn't that be a great way to brainwash the nation! Don't we already have enough people in powerful positions trying to do so? Not surprisingly, she praised FOX! It takes one to know one.

After I watched the disturbing broadcast, I went to a favorite site of mine—[moveon.org](http://moveon.org). If you have not yet visited this site, please do.

[See Coulter on p. 4](#)

# Love, Rights...and the Rest of It

By: JM Sorrell/TRT Columnist

This is some of the "rest of it." Twelve days of Christmas. Eight days of Chanukah. Let's split the difference. Here are recommended activities for *The 10 Days of Chanukas*:

1. Visit, call, or write to old people in your life. The holidays can be a difficult time for those dealing with loss. If you don't have anyone, go to a nursing home and bring cheer with you. Help with an activity.

P.S. You're a putz if you ignore this mandate.

2. Ask for forgiveness from one or more of the @!# schmucks you have offended this year.

3. Let go of your anger for all of the assholes who do not know how to drive, who cut you off, who are self-absorbed and dangerous. If you are one of these people, stop making the rest of us angry! What do you mean, I need anger management courses?

4. Whilst shopping, allow one person to go in front of you in line this month. At the very least, refrain from giving a dirty look to the person who beat you to the cash register or side-swiped you in the aisle.

5. Smile when you get dreck and schmatas for gifts.

6. Tzu gut iz umezumt (too good is unhealthy). Be real with empathy and compassion rather than embracing the mainstream thin-blooded, abstract pity and cheer; i.e.; "happy holidays" with no substance.

7. Refrain from "happy holidays" to



J.M. the JP

strangers and people who do not celebrate Christmas. Everyone knows it is a not-so-cleverly-disguised "merry christmas" and a tossed bone to Jews, Pagans, Muslims, etc. Instead, say "Peace" if you are compelled to verbalize year-end warmth and good wishes.

8. Schlep to the schmendrik's house for the sake of your partner and/or family.

9. Be a mensch about the goyisha essen that abounds in work places and everywhere else this time of the year.

10. Do an Oprah thing. Without premeditation, act kind in a moment you may otherwise ignore. Stay present.

Finally, if you are feeling sad, use humor to get you through December. Yiddish expressions such as: Gott vet helfen—vie helfst nort gott vet helfen (God will provide—if only God would provide until God provides) are a good start. Buy a book or rent a movie rife with the humor and pathos that moves you. Peace.

J.M. Sorrell is a Justice of the Peace and a card-carrying member of the human race. Peace is foremost on her wish list for all of us. A healthy and joyous 2008 to you.

# The Controversial Couch

Lie back and listen. Then get up and do something

By: Suzan Ambrose/TRT Columnist

The holidays.

These words have a way of conjuring up images of going home, being with the ones you love, dreamy Norman Rockwell snapshots of life the way it outta be, Betty Crocker cookies, the singing of carols—and let's not forget drinking hot buttered rum while chestnuts are roasting on the open fire (Although, I've yet to see this tradition enacted!).

Yes, it's the holiday season, and even without the bells, and the trees, and the chubby men in tight fitting red suits, one can't ignore the fact that it's here, even if you wanted to. Not to mention that most of us feel the need to go home for the 'holy-days'...by desire or (alas!) obligation.

Fa La La La La—Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and all the rest; it's that most wonderful time of the year!

Yes, that special time to see the folks who gave birth to you or the siblings you were raised, with who may (or may not) share your family values.

Oh joy to the world—not necessarily mine, nor yours.

I'm hoping that many of you look forward to seeing your family during this season of love and togetherness. That the gift giving is a joyous experience, and driving or flying to see The Parents & Co. is something you anticipate with the glee of the child in an amusement park ("Oh goodie, I'm almost there!").

But being gay at Christmas, or any other holy day you'd like to interject here, isn't always an Ave Maria moment.

Far too many of us in the GLBT communi-

ty, do not feel the warmth of the family fire. We're a lot more in sync with the characters on the island of misfit toys.

What happens when Christmas time isn't all 'Merry and Bright?' When having gay apparel isn't enough?

Far too many of us are not accepted by the churches or houses of worship we grew up in with open arms. Regardless of the fact that we love, revere and cherish the rituals that have become us and, indeed, are still us to some extent. Many religious institutions leave us with an 'all-or- nothing' take on the Holy Days. Not gay? You're in. Gay? Those doors are closed—firmly and distinctly.

*I'm tired of hearing religious leaders, who claim to speak about what's truly spiritual, dismiss us as unworthy of being good, kind, virtuous individuals that are incapable of being filled with the spirit of something sacred. Gays and lesbians have the same needs, fears and desires as all other spiritual beings. We are not a category unto ourselves when it comes to cherishing family, or values, and what those words represent.*

Family—and family values.

What these words reflect have been stolen by the religious right, and used callously against gays and lesbians for decades by those who would dare to speak for a creator we know made us exactly the way we are, with a purpose in mind.

My parents put the family values lessons into action like this (I'll give you the PG version): "Please don't bring home any evidence of your gayness; no partners, hand-holding

[See Couch on Page 3](#)

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter in response to an editorial recently submitted questioning, or rather challenging the need for a transgender pride march separate from the LGBT pride in Northampton.

While the sentiments of that letter come with good intention, to pull together as one LGBT community, or even as one FAMILY, they sadly ignore the interactions that really take place in this community. Trans people, and more broadly gender variant and gender non-conforming people of all identities, are often excluded from the mainstream LGBT movement. This occurs through LGBT conferences that only focus on lesbians and gay men, LGBT rights organizations without one trans person in a position of power, or through hateful looks and ignorant comments, which perhaps leave the deepest scars.

This is not to say that all LGB people are not trans allies, not at all. TRT, for example, is an LGBT newspaper which is posting announcements for this trans pride event. And the 300-plus organizations that stood up against a non-gender inclusive ENDA bill show that some people are not willing to "leave behind" a part of their community.

[See More Letters to the Editor on Page 4](#)

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# National LGBT Leaders Renew Commitment to HIV/AIDS

*Call for Urgent Response From NIH, CDC and LGBT Community to Devastating Impact on Black Gay Men*

WASHINGTON—Leaders of the LGBT civil rights movement issued an urgent statement five days after gathering in Washington, DC, amid continuing signs of the unabated impact of the HIV epidemic across the United States. The leaders are calling for a renewed effort to address the HIV epidemic and its devastating impact, especially in black gay communities. The gathering was convened by the National Black Gay Men's Advocacy Coalition and the National Coalition for LGBT Health.

"When the AIDS crisis began, the LGBT community came together with great force," said Darrel Cummings, Deputy Director of the LA Gay and Lesbian Center, a member of the National Coalition for LGBT Health's executive committee who led the call for the gathering. "But with the advent of effective treatments, the growth of organizations focused just on HIV, and as the epidemic has moved into communities of color, HIV has largely fallen off the agenda for the leading LGBT civil rights groups."

A 2005 study from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in five major cities showed that 46% of black gay men had acquired HIV and that 67% of them were unaware of their HIV status. Surveillance data released by the New York City Health Department in September 2007 and other recent reports



has heightened the concern of the leaders about the epidemic's continued impact, especially among black gay men.

"It is shameful that 25 years into the epidemic, the National Institutes of Health has not done the research and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has not given us the tools to stop the impact of HIV in black gay communities," said Ernest Hopkins, Policy Committee Chair for the National Black Gay Men's Advocacy Coalition and director of federal affairs at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

Of 129 interventions developed to address HIV in African Americans, only

one has been designed or adapted for black gay men. Additionally, very little research has been conducted to determine the actual reason for the disparity of impact seen among black gay men in the United States.

"Our communities cannot accept that our lives are not worth the effort to engage in the research, prevention and care necessary to improve our health and better our lives," the leaders' statement reads.

In addition to Cummings and Hopkins, the LGBT leadership organizations participating in the meeting and their representatives were: Arcus Foundation (Cindy Rizzo), Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (Rashad Robinson), Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (Joel Ginsberg), Lambda Legal (Kevin Cathcart and Bebe Anderson), Log Cabin Republicans (Patrick Sammon), National Black Justice Coalition (Earl Plante), National Stonewall Democrats (Jon Hoadley) and the Task Force (Matt Foreman).

Also participating were Hutson Innis, a member of the National Coalition for LGBT Health executive committee, Rudy Carn, chair of the National Black Gay Men's Advocacy Coalition, and A. Cornelius Baker, National Policy Advisor for the National Black Gay Men's

Advocacy Coalition.

The National Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Health is committed to improving the health and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals and communities through public education, coalition building and advocacy that focus on research, policy, education and training.

The National Black Gay Men's Advocacy Coalition is committed to improving the health and well-being of Black Gay Men through advocacy that is focused on research, policy, education and training.

**Don't forget to  
check out the  
Ultimate Guide  
for Gay Gift Giving!**  
*p. 12 & 13*

## Couch from Page 2

girlfriends or Irish clatter rings. No "so, who are you seeing now?" conversations, but plenty of "I know a nice lad from church you should meet" hints. Ugh.

And let's not forget the novenas and prayer cards with masses being said in my name - a prayer for the damned, one might say, since I wasn't about to reject my god given love of women.

'Don't ask, don't tell' went into effect way before the military started using it.

But, back to the Christmas Spirit ...

This month, men playing Santa in Australia are being asked not to say "ho ho ho!". Why? Because it might offend someone! And, instead, it's being suggested they say: "ha ha ha!"

The idea of Santa saying "ha ha ha" conjures up in my mind, an image of little kids running terrified through the mall. "Mommy, why is he laughing at me?" If "ho ho ho" could be considered offensive, "ha ha ha" could be deemed intolerant.

It doesn't feel so *Jolly Ole St. Nick* in our world sometimes.

What's offensive isn't the Christ in

Christmas, nor the "ho ho ho" that could be interpreted as racially explosive, or the manger with the baby on the lawn of the town common—it's a lack of understanding the real reason for the season.

So whether you're celebrating Solstice, Hanukkah, Kwanza, Ramadan or Christmas, take a moment to reflect on this truth—we are all human beings. We are all family. For the GLBT community, we may be the only family some of us have at this point in our lives. And it's time to show the world what kind of family values we hold for ourselves.

So look around you. Open your hearts and your homes. These mistletoe moments can be lonely and confusing for many in our community.

This is the time for family interaction, regardless of whether it's with a family you were born into, or one of your own making. Celebrating all that is dear to us and recognizing everything we have to be grateful for—that is the key to the real *Feliz Navidad*.

**As of JANUARY 1, 2008, it is  
LEGAL in 30 states to FIRE  
someone for being GAY,  
LESBIAN OR BISEXUAL.  
It is LEGAL in 38 states to FIRE  
an employee for being  
TRANSGENDER.**

**TRT**

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## In 'The Name of God'

# Priest sex abuse trial headed to jury

BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP)—Closing arguments are expected soon in the case of a man suing the Roman Catholic Diocese of Vermont over his alleged molestation by a priest more than 30 years ago.

James Turner, 47, of Virginia Beach, Va., accuses the diocese of covering up and failing to respond to the sexual misconduct of then-Rev. Alfred Willis. He accuses the now-defrocked former priest of performing a sex act on him in a Latham, N.Y., hotel room in 1977 after the ordination of Turner's older brother.

Mark Keller, a former Chittenden County state's attorney, on Friday challenged claims that the late Bishop John Marshall pressured him in an effort to prevent potential criminal child sex abuse charge against Willis.

Susan Via, former assistant prosecutor in Keller's office, told the jury in videotaped testimony earlier this week that Marshall told Keller he would commit the "sin of scandal" by investigating claims Willis molested boys



in Milton in 1980.

"The first time I ever heard that term 'sin of scandal' was when I was contacted by one of the lawyers about this case," Keller said. "I don't recall ever hearing the term 'sin of scandal' before."

Norman Blais, who served as deputy prosecutor in Keller's office, also said he didn't remember the "sin of scandal" comment.

Diocesan lawyers have said the church was not aware that Willis was a child sex predator and argue that Turner knew the impact of the abuse years ago.

The statute of limitations restricts when a person can file a civil lawsuit in such cases.

Turner said he told his brother and mother about the abuse in 1981 but said he did not know the effect it would have on his life until after 2002. Diocesan lawyers say he also told a former wife in the 1990s.

The diocese completed its testimony and presentation of evidence on recently. Closing arguments will take place soon.

### Coulter from p. 2

*Moveon.org* seeks to bring truth to the citizens of this country. It puts the genuine interest of the consumer and the American people first. I am tired of people such as Coulter and their attempts at tarnishing the names of good people who have good intentions at hand. *Moveon.org* is one tool that we can use to combat such people. The Conservatives have been working a long time together, politically

### Letters to the Editor from Page 2

The author is right to say that the LGBT movement has come a long way, but he is not right to say that there has been "enough." And certainly not when statements are being made that trans people should be included in the LGB community, as if they are a tack on. In fact, trans people started this community at Stonewall, and if there were going to be gatekeepers, it would be the trans and gender non-conforming people whose predecessors paved these progressive roads.

It is true that segregated events might separate the community. Trans pride will not be that, however, unless the LGB community wants it that way. Though it is separate from the LGBT pride, it is not a closed affair. Just as the mainstream pride welcomes allies that want to celebrate in the diversity of this world, trans pride is open to people from all walks of life. Personally I am not trans, yet still working to organize this march. This will be the first trans pride march in New England, the first visible celebration of its kind. The LGB community in the area should be pleased that such an event would take place in their town. The event is not meant to segregate, but rather to acknowledge that trans and gender non-conforming people are an integral and triumphant part of the LGBT community, and should be honored as such. All are welcome at this event,

## Christian group sues over student discrimination law

By: Juliet Williams/AP

SACRAMENTO (AP)—A Christian group based in Southern California is suing the state over a law that prohibits discrimination against gays in schools.

The group, Murietta-based Advocates for Faith and Freedom, filed the lawsuit Tuesday in U.S. District Court in San Diego.

It claims the law is unconstitutionally vague and violates student privacy.

State Sen. Sheila Kuehl, a Santa Monica Democrat who is openly gay, wrote the bill, which was signed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in October.

She says it is intended to consolidate existing state education laws that already prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Opponents say the law promotes homosexual, bisexual and transgender lifestyles to children.

and financially to make their voices heard. Through *moveon.org*, you can make your voice heard. It is our physical and fiscal attempt to put an end to such mindless blather—one Conservative at a time. America is progressive. It always was until the wrong people got into power many years ago. Now it is our turn. For more information visit: [www.moveon.org](http://www.moveon.org).

whether they are racial justice allies, union allies, economic justice allies, reproductive justice allies, sex worker allies, or LGB or straight allies. This is an opportunity to show that this is one community!

The author states that trans people have been accepting of him, and understand the pains and joys he has been through. Perhaps more productive than criticizing the existence of a trans pride march, is to dialogue and work with the members of the LGB community that are not as accepting of their trans family, and those people certainly do exist. I don't doubt that the letter to which I'm responding comes with good intentions, so I encourage this individual and those with similar sentiments to get involved and see why trans pride is something to be heralded.

This letter is not meant to alienate the author, the LGB community, or anyone else. Rather, it is intended to acknowledge that we should all support the desires and needs of any part of our population that want to stand together and walk for their rights. Good for them! And even better if their allies want to celebrate this bravery, because either way, it is happening!

In solidarity,  
Alicia Jay, Springfield, MA

Want to send your letter to the Editor?  
[therainbowtimesnews.com/contact.html](http://therainbowtimesnews.com/contact.html)

## Pope urges more church teaching

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI on Saturday criticized what he said was the tendency of debate at international organizations to ignore "natural moral law" in their efforts to make a more peaceful world.

He cited what he called a "selective defense of human rights" in discussions at international organizations—an apparent reference to the United Nations' provision of family planning services to women around the world.

The Vatican opposes artificial contraception and abortion.

At an audience with Catholic-inspired nongovernmental organizations, Benedict urged groups working with the United Nations and other organizations to redouble their efforts to

make the Catholic Church's social teachings better known and accepted.

The Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, said the pope's remarks were not an attack on the United Nations, which the pope is scheduled to visit in April, but merely reflected his long-standing concern over the failure to have a firm moral basis in political debate.

The Vatican is not a U.N. member state but is a permanent observer without a vote. In 2004, the U.N. General Assembly voted to give it the right to intervene in debates without seeking permission, the right of reply and the right to have its documents circulated.



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## Featured Business

# The Chez Est: Much more than a typical nightclub

By: Nicole Lashomb/TRT Editor-in-Chief

With a variety of themed nights, a long running happy hour, a full menu and a seven-day-a-week operation, *The Chez Est Nightclub* has been tagged as having "something for everyone," according to its General Manager and Booking agent.

"The tag line is that 'there's something for everyone at The Chez,'" said Bryan Couzens, General Manager and Booking Agent, *The Chez Est Nightclub*, Hartford, Conn. "This could not be truer. Each night is themed differently. [We have] Latin night every third Saturday, which is New England's longest running Latin Dance Party, Club Lucy also New England's longest running ladies party every 2nd Saturday, Drag shows, Karaoke, Retro night; 70's and 80's, theme parties, guest performers, etc."

Although *The Chez* is largely patronized by gay men, Couzens claims that the mix of the Nightclub crowd is substantial.

"We are noticing a large influx in college guys and girls," Couzens said. "The comments they all seem to make is that the music is better, and the people are friendlier. *Latin night* and *Ladies night* get a large

er female to male ratio. [When] we have performers such as the American Idol stars or the National Recording artists, we get a range of young and old, gay and straight."

A few Star performances of the past include artists such as 80's Superstar *Tiffany*, *Expose's* Lead Singer *Gioia*, 70's icon *Jeanie Tracy*, Drag greats such as *Lady Bunny* and *Trai La Trash*, American Idols *Kimberley Locke* and *Frenchie Davis*, International superstar *Kristine W.*, amongst others.

Aside from its diverse clientele, acclaimed performance artists and amenities, *The Chez* has been noted for its contribution to the community and surrounding services.

"The Chez has always been a leader in community support. Long before I started, there were always fund-raising events done for local charities," said Couzens.

According to Couzens, when he became responsible for sponsorship and fund-raising, organizations and groups such as the Imperial Sovereign Court of CT, a non-profit drag organization that raises money for local charities, *The Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective*, an organization



DJ ESCAPE

providing health services and STD education for the LGBT community, and Out Film, formerly know as the CT Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, benefit from contributions on behalf of *The Chez*. The Chez also sponsors the CT Bull Moose Women's Rugby team, the Southern New England Softball league of which the Chez has a team, and the Friendship Bowling League of which the Chez has two teams.

The Chez came to existence thanks to a straight ally who believed in the LGBT community explained Couzens.

"The Chez Started in 1975 due to a very supportive and good hearted straight man who had a gay stepson with no where to go in the mid 70s—a time when being gay was not accepted at all," said Couzens.

*The Chez Est* is opened seven days a week and 365 days a year. Check them out at 458 Wethersfield Ave. in Hartford, Conn. For more information about *The Chez Est*, visit [www.chezest.com](http://www.chezest.com). To view a complete schedule of show dates and times, visit their myspace page at <http://myspace.com/ChezNightclub>.

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## Queer Local News

# Curtain call: Joseph, Elvis, 12 gay men and a Technicolor Dreamcoat

By: Nicole Lashomb  
TRT Editor-in-Chief

A packed house and a standing ovation was how the final night curtain call of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* ended.

Directed by Matt Meers, this musical performance was riveting, exciting, comical and thought provoking.

"I've done this show several times," said Meers. "It was fun pulling it together and trying different things."

Meers also expressed his sentiments of working with his cast.

"I love working with these people," he said. "We are all friends"

Set in the biblical days, Joseph's brothers, jealous of their fathers affection toward him, sold him into slavery to rid him from their family.

Perhaps the highlight of the show was when Joseph's father was desperately grieving what he thought was the loss of his son. Ironically, calling that the highlight was based upon the manner in which Joseph's father grieved as he paraded through the crowd in mourning and wailing his tears of sadness. His acting drew laughter from the audience.

While Joseph was imprisoned, his naturally-born prophetic nature was discovered and he was given a beautiful Technicolor Dreamcoat.

It wasn't until the end of the show that his father realized that Joseph was still alive and finally reunited with his brothers.

According to different cast members, whether it was opening or closing night,



Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat cast. Joseph is reunited with his brothers. Photo: Black Cat Theater

there was a lot of energy on the stage and in the audience.

"All of the shows went really well," said Thomas Kreek. "It felt good all of the time. I fed off of the audience a lot for my performance."

Joseph's character furthers.

"It went wonderful," said Nick Adams (Joseph). "We had a great cast and we worked so hard. Matt is a good Director and it didn't even feel like work while we were preparing the show. We are all like a big family and every time we got together, we had fun."

Thunderous applause was echoed through the auditorium as the final curtain call drew. The show concluded.

"The closing night was stronger in the sense that there was a different energy," said Mark Carmien, a brother of Joseph and the owner of Pride & Joy. "For the opening night you are full of jitters and then comes the closing night and it's a bittersweet when

it is over."

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor

*Dreamcoat* was held at the South Hadley High School Auditorium in South Hadley, MA. The show was presented by *The Black Cat Theater*.

About Black Cat Theater

The Black Cat Theater is celebrating its 22nd year of offering outstanding theater productions at an affordable cost to the community. With an all volunteer cast and under the direction of Matt Meers, BCT's production last of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* had a great cast of players with cast members throughout the region. To find out more about BCT or to get involved in an upcoming show, visit [www.blackcattheater.com](http://www.blackcattheater.com), call 413-563-6023 or e-mail [dlarder@metholyoke.edu](mailto:dlarder@metholyoke.edu).

## Transgender Day of Remembrance: Our trans community here at home

By: Nicole Lashomb/Editor-in-Chief

SPRINGFIELD, MA—In lieu of the National Transgender Day of Remembrance,

dozens of family members, friends and allies gathered at *Blue Moon Coffee Roasters, Springfield, MA* for a vigil dedicated to honor those whose lives were taken just for being themselves: transgender.

"This is about UNITY, but also about people who lost their lives because they were who they were," said Sandy Ortega, Program Director I-CTR, Baystate Brightwood Health Center, Springfield, MA.

The commemoration was held to honor Rita Hester, who was murdered in San Francisco in 1998. Her murder ignited the "Remembering Our Dead" web project and the first remembrance candlelight vigil in 1999. Since then, each year, people all around the world have hosted events in honor of Trans victims who have gone before us.

"Vigils as this one, raise public awareness of hate crimes against trans people," said Deja Nicole Greenlaw, UNITY member. "It gives our allies a chance to step forward with us and stand in vigilance. There is violence still today against Trans individuals and it must stop. So, we do this to show the public that there is a need for this to stop."

Monday, November 20th was the official National Transgender Day of Remembrance. This day aims to honor those who have been

murdered because of anti-transgender hatred or prejudice.

"This is, as a trans person, the most important day of the year," said Keri Stebbins, Moderator, Pioneer Valley UNITY.

This event was sponsored by UNITY, a transgender support group, *Baystate Health Systems, Blue Moon Coffee Roasters, D.J. Rockin Reenie, Mass. Department of Public Health, Outreach Van, and The Rainbow Times*.

"It took a lot of guts and energy to do this with the expectation that the [mainstream] media was going to be here," said Ortega. "The fact that they were not here is a disrespect to all of us."

Throughout the service, messages of honor, dedication, and servitude were echoed for the departed.

"They are not forgotten, they are still remembered and we will finish their lives for them," said Ann Stebbins, UNITY member.

Other vigils to honor the *Transgender Day of Remembrance* were held at *Greenfield Community College* and the *Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse in Amherst*.

To view a complete listing of those being honored and remembered, visit [www.gender.org/remembers/index.html#](http://www.gender.org/remembers/index.html#).

### Why TDR is important\*

- Crimes against transgender individuals often remain invisible to the public, unreported, and unsolved. The Transgender Day of Remembrance serves to raise public awareness of hate crimes against transgender people, an action that media frequently does not perform.

- The Day of Remembrance publicly mourns and honors the lives of our brothers and sisters who might otherwise be forgotten. Through the vigil, we express love and respect for our people in the face of national indifference and hatred. This day reminds non-transgender people that transgender people are their sons, daughters, parents, friends and lovers.

- The Day of Remembrance gives allies a chance to step forward and stand in vigil, memorializing those who have died as a result of anti-transgender violence.

- The Day of Remembrance provides communities with an opportunity to discuss the need to protect students against discrimination and harassment based on gender identity and expression.

\*[www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org)

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# Melissa Ferrick at IMA: Rocking the barn

By: J.M. Sorrell

TRT Writer/Reviewer

On November 17th, over 150 people attended the Melissa Ferrick concert held at the barn for The Institute for Musical Arts (IMA) in Goshen, Massachusetts.

The audience, mostly comprised of women in their 20's and 30's, sat on an eclectic collection of chairs and couches of all kinds arranged in a shell-shape around the stage as they listen to Ferrick perform.

June Millington, co-founder of the Institute for the Musical Arts, introduced the singer/songwriter.

Melissa Ferrick played two sets with energy and an intimacy not encouraged in larger venues. She played new and old songs alike, and she showed patience and humor while sound system problems persisted in the first set. If you missed this concert, you can see her with Erin McKeown and Alix Olson at the Calvin Theater in Northampton, MA on December 31 at 8pm or at the WAMC Performing Arts Studio in Albany, NY with Chris Pureka on January 26, 2008. For more information about Melissa and her upcoming events, please visit her website at [www.melissaferrick.com](http://www.melissaferrick.com).

The Institute for the Musical Arts was founded by Ann Hackler and June Millington in Northern California in 1986. It operated its studio and programs from Bodega, CA's historic Old Creamery until 2001 when property

## TRT's exclusive interview with Melissa Ferrick\*

**Q: How many CD's have you released?**

A: Two on Atlantic; Three on W.A.R. records; and Six on my own label, Right On Records

**Q: When was your first CD released?**

A: 1993 on Atlantic it was called "Massive Blur"

**Q: How do you define or describe your genre of music?**

A: Singer-Songwriter/alternative acoustic

**Q: Which venues do you prefer for concerts?**

A: Small theaters like 800 capacity seated venues

**Q: Describe how you feel when you perform collaboratively v. solo?**

A: It's different with a full band-more fun on stage, but less intense. I enjoy playing solo live because of the battle within myself to make or break the song; the moment. It is a vulnerable, passionate, visual and audible experience unlike any other that has become my livelihood.

**Q: You are such a talented artist, and I imagine that people have inspired you along the way. Would you like to mention anyone in particular?**

A: Sure, lots of people inspire me currently, and of course in the past. As a kid I listened to a lot

of Joan Armatrading, The Beatles, Crosby stills Nash and Young, Eric Clapton. Certainly, this was my parents taste in music at the time. I was studying classical music so I was exposed to a broad range of music. Now I am inspired by younger artists like, Brandi Carille-who is doing so well commercially and totally keeping her wits about her. And to unknown acts like Nicole Reynolds.. as well of course are my favorites; I always buy their records when they come out: Aimee Mann, Elvis Costello, Bruce Springsteen, Ani DiFranco, Dave Matthews, Ben Harper, Fiona Apple, etc....

**Q: As you grow, do you find yourself moving in new directions musically? Or is there a signature sound that is all your own?**

Hmm ... I try to move in new directions—I think that is more likely to be heard through the production, rather than my song writing though. I am trying to improve as a writer and as a performer but the growth is little by little. It's like when you have a kid; you can't tell how much taller they're getting but then when I see them (my nieces and nephew) after having not seen them for only two weeks, it's like "Oh my gosh, your huge!" I hope my fans can hear my growth from album to album.

\* By: J.m. Sorrell

was purchased in Western Massachusetts for a permanent facility. The institute has a non-profit status of 501(c)3 with a mission to support women and girls in music and music-related businesses. Rooted in the legacy of progressive equal rights movements, IMA's development is guided by the visions, needs and concerns of women from a diversity of backgrounds and has grown from the need to nourish ourselves and each other.

Phoebe Snow, Cris Williamson, and Bonnie Raitt, amongst others, serve on the Advisory Board.

Millington spoke to the audience about the Native consideration of thinking ahead for the future seven generations of girls and women with the intention of turning this space over as time goes on. She clearly pronounced that IMA is sacred space.

For more information about the IMA and the programs they offer, visit [www.ima.org](http://www.ima.org).

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## QueerJustice

# Divorce, child support, and what to expect from the Court System?

By: Jennifer Dexter\*/T/RT Law Columnist  
Dear Readers!

I apologize for my absence. But I am back and ready for your questions.

I get many questions regarding the divorce process, child support, how to change or modify an existing Divorce Decree and what to expect from the Court system. So this will be the first of four articles discussing and describing the ever elusive Divorce process.

Most people believe that the first step in getting a divorce is coming up with a large retainer for an attorney; but actually the Probate and Family Court is very pro (people who are unrepresented) friendly.

To begin the process you need to file a Complaint for Divorce. You must file your

complaint in the county where you last lived with your spouse. If the divorce is contested, or the two of you can not agree on anything, you would file a Complaint under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 209 section 1B. Should you and your partner find yourselves on common ground you can file a joint complaint for divorce under section 1A of Chapter 209.

Your complaint under section 1A should be accompanied by an "Affidavit of Irretrievable Breakdown", a certified copy of the marriage



Atty. Jennifer Dexter

license, a notarized separation agreement as well as the signed complaint. (Please note that if you do not file a separation agreement with the complaint it must be filed within ninety days). Be aware that there is required paperwork which the Clerks can assist you with in both 1A and 1B cases including but not limited to a financial statement. (In the Court House you will find many pamphlets which will explain everything.) Be aware that your financial statement is signed under the pains and penalties of perjury. You must honestly disclose all of your assets as well as your debts.

Be aware that there is a fee associated with the filing, but should you not be able to afford it, you can file an Affidavit of Indigency. The

Court, upon a finding of indigency, may pay for the filing fee as well as the sheriff's service fee under 1B.

After all the paperwork is completed, signed and filed, the court will send you correspondence letting you know your next court date.

\*Attorney Jennifer L. Dexter earned her JD at The Western New England College of Law in Springfield, Mass. She is a member of the Massachusetts Bar and has a Solo General Practice in the Pioneer Valley Area.

The information contained herein is intended for educational purposes only and does not represent legal advice. If you have legal question send it to: [queerjustice@comcast.net](mailto:queerjustice@comcast.net)

# Can Oprah help Obama? Celeb endorsements are courted and coveted

By: Jocelyn Noveck/AP National Writer  
NEW YORK (AP)—Call it the "O Factor." Oprah Winfrey picks a "favorite book" or a "favorite thing," and poof, it's a best seller.

And now Winfrey's "favorite senator," Barack Obama, hopes the O Factor will work for him, too, as the talk-show host and media icon prepares to campaign for the presidential candidate in the early voting states of Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina.

But can Winfrey's influence, vast as it is, extend to the political realm? But then again, how many celebrities have the reach and the power of Oprah Winfrey?

"Oprah's in a category of her own," says Todd Boyd, professor at the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts. "She's not a movie star. She's not a rock star. She's a brand. She's one of the few people in the world who can be identified only by one name."

"And yet, with all that, you can't necessarily extrapolate to politics," says Boyd. "You could argue that she didn't get to be popular by being political. Politics has never been a big part of her persona. This is not a slam dunk."

Courting celebrities generally is a mixed bag, say political consultants who've been involved in the process. First, there's the negative perception of Hollywood in some parts of the country as a place full of wealthy liberals out of touch with real concerns. That's why George Clooney, for example, has kept his support for Obama out of the public realm for now.

"As far as openly campaigning, he thinks it hurts the candidate," says Clooney spokesman Stan Rosenfield. "You lose the heartland."

Then there's the fact that a campaign needs to be cautious.

A poll conducted in September, not long

after Winfrey held a fundraiser for Obama, by the Pew Research Center found that 69 percent of respondents, or nearly seven in 10 Americans, would not be influenced by Winfrey's endorsement of a political candidate. On the other hand, 60 percent believed her support would help Obama, and only 3 percent said it would hurt him.

There's no question that Winfrey's status is unique. She's above Hollywood, straddling the worlds of entertainment, media and philanthropy. "The Oprah Winfrey Show" reaches close to 9 million Americans each day and is syndicated to 135 foreign countries. Then there's "O," her magazine, and her Web site. Winfrey's philanthropy has been well-publicized, especially her funding of a school for girls in South Africa.

With all that, Winfrey's influence with women viewers, and voters, is surely of concern to the other Democratic candidates, who might have equal-time concerns.

But legally, the show would be on solid ground even if it featured Obama every day (he's only been on twice). The equal-time provision of the Federal Communications Act provides exemptions to news interview shows, and the FCC has ruled that interview segments on talk shows get the same exemption. As it is, Winfrey says she will not use her platform, only her personal voice, to advocate for Obama.

The Clinton campaign, in an e-mail to The Associated Press, said of Winfrey: "We're fans and we think it's great she is participating in the process. Everyone has wonderful supporters, and we're proud of ours"—such as Steven Spielberg, Magic Johnson and Barbra Streisand, who threw her support behind Clinton on Tuesday.

And of course, Clinton has her husband, Bill, hitting the trail—"arguably as much of a media rock star as Oprah," says Kaplan, now

a professor at USC's Annenberg School of Communications. "This is the game," Kaplan says. "And on the Republican side you have Mike Huckabee saying, 'I'll see your Oprah and raise you Chuck Norris.'" (Other notable endorsements include Robert Duvall for Rudy Giuliani and, for Edwards, Bonnie Raitt and Jackson Browne.)

Whether or not Winfrey ends up helping

Obama, Boyd, the USC professor, suggests that she has little to lose with her loyal fan base. But if Obama were to get elected, he adds, Winfrey has a lot to gain.

"Oprah is very powerful," Boyd says. "Like most powerful people, she wants to demonstrate her power. She wants to be a kingmaker. If she can get a president elected, that's a big line on an already long resume."



Buddy G My Two Moms and Me. www.BuddyG.tv Developed and Produced by Us2 LLC, The Home of Buddy G My Two Moms and Me. Omaha, NE. The DVD retails for \$10. Animation by 3 D Magic Factory

# Family cartoon appeals to LG parents

By: Grisel M. Ocasio, Publisher  
The Rainbow Times

A one-of-a-kind and premiere cartoon series starring a little boy with same sex parents will be available to everyone soon, directly from Omaha, NE.

Margaux Towne-Colley, Executive Producer and one of two writers, said to The Rainbow Times that she hopes that the cartoon is well-received by gay and lesbian families as well as everyone else.

"This is a cartoon where he has a sidekick and a lot of adventures," said Towne-Colley. "It is just another cartoon with the fact that he has two moms that love him and support him along the way."

Buddy G is the cartoon's main character, a 5-year-old boy who loves science and wears a mini computer strapped to his arm to solve problems. The first episode's purpose, according to Towne-Colley, is to teach lessons about honesty along with the teaching of how a

metal detector works, for instance.

Towne-Colley and her partner created "Buddy G My Two Moms and Me" because of the inspiration that the arrival of their son gave them six years ago. According to Towne-Colley, they hope that families like theirs can relate to the cartoon through their own life experiences.

"It already has been a fantastic family adventure, a great experience for us, we want him seeing and grow up being a happy healthy man," said Towne-Colley. "Our hope is that it will help him as well as all of the other kids that have two moms and two dads."

According to the Towne-Colley, future episodes will include other families including ones with two dads.

The first DVD episode of "Buddy G" can be found online at <http://buddyg.tv> and its cost is \$10. The site also sells T-shirts and other "Buddy G" gear.

For more information visit: <http://buddyg.tv>

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# Tips and pointers to surviving the Holidays

By: Dr. Renee Lang, N.D./TRT Health Doctor

Most of us indulge ourselves over the period known as "the holidays."

These days the holidays begin on Thanksgiving and end sometime after the New Year. The indulgences include food, sweets, and alcohol. Other problems include not getting enough sleep and dysfunctional behavior with our relatives. For most people the holidays exponentially increase stress.

All of these factors combine to undermine health and wellness, causing weight gain, illness, insomnia, and fatigue. The television advertisers know people tend to regret their behavior and suffer the post-holiday blues. So they begin airing weight loss commercials sometime around the end of December into the first weeks of January to take advantage of



DR. RENEE LANG

people's New Year resolutions. Unfortunately, many people begin a resolution only to quit shortly thereafter.

This season try doing something different. Prepare ahead of time to prevent some of the self-flagellation. If that doesn't work, then follow the rebounding advice below to get yourself back on track.

## PREVENTATIVE CARE DURING THE HOLIDAYS HYDRATE:

One of the best things to do for yourself when consuming alcohol, caffeine, sugar, and salty foods in excess is to drink adequate

water. Proper hydration includes drinking at least 64 ounces of water and/or herbal tea daily. The recommended amount increases with consumption of the above due to their dehydrating effects. A good idea would be to drink a glass of water between each alcoholic

likely be impaired from lack of sleep.

Rebounding: Get back on a regular schedule of eight hours nightly, or more if you need to catch up from lack of sleep.

## MODERATION

When sitting down to a meal, eat your veg-

## One of the best things to do for yourself when consuming alcohol, caffeine, sugar, and salty foods in excess is to drink adequate water.

and caffeinated drink.

**REBOUNDING:** Drink at least 64-80 ounces of water daily. Even minor dehydration causes symptoms in many people including headaches, fatigue, depressed mood and more.

## EXERCISE

Exercise increases metabolism, mood, and immunity. Taking a 20 minute walk daily provides both needed exercise and needed space if things get tense in the house. To offset the extra calories, exercise on an empty stomach so that the body uses the stored fat instead of the sugar from a recent meal.

**REBOUNDING:** Remember to exercise on an empty stomach to burn calories and stored fat most efficiently. Eating prior to exercise increases insulin levels and prevents optimal weight loss. Mixing cardio and weight training provides the ideal program for weight loss.

## Sleep

Adequate sleep ensures proper hormone balance, mood stability, and blood sugar regulation. Do your best to continue to get eight hours of sleep per night. Try ear plugs if others in the household stay up late partying. Try not to get lured by department stores into shopping at 4am when your judgment will

etables first. This creates a sense of fullness and helps to decrease binging on the sugar and high-fat items at the table. Eating vegetables also provides a powerhouse of nutrients that help with mood support and energy levels.

**REBOUNDING:** Eat your vegetables, whole grains, fruits, and lean meats. Avoid saturated and hydrogenated fats and sugary foods. Eating adequate protein will decrease cravings and increase mood. Adults need about .35gm per pound of body weight; a 150 pound adult needs 51 grams of protein daily. Eating 15-20 gm before noon (breakfast and a snack) will help stabilize blood sugar and mood.

## COMPASSION

Remember to have compassion for yourself during the holidays. Excessive indulgence pervades most gatherings and little support exists for those wishing to be healthy. Forgive yourself for not sticking to every rule, and acknowledge what you did do. Laughter acts as an excellent stress reliever and sometimes may be the best way to get through a difficult encounter.

I hope this offers some helpful tidbits on how best to traverse the holidays. Good luck and remember there's always next year!

## Auto Q & A: Outback vs. Forester

By: Stephen M. Lewis  
TRT Auto Columnist

Ladies & Gentlemen: Here's a question right up my alley!

**Q: Is the Outback a very durable car? Is it better than the Forester? I've heard that the Forester is an all wheel drive and safe, but I'm not sure what else it has that makes it safe to drive in New England. I'm always on the road and I buy cars every 2-3 years. Any suggestions?**

—Janet Wright, W Hartford

A: The Subaru Forester & Outback are both 5 Star Crash Rated vehicles. This is the highest rating there is!

The "Jaws of Life" is a tool used to extricate people out of their vehicles after an accident. I have been told by several firemen that "Jaws of Life" has come out with new instructions for use on Subaru only due to the strength in the integrated roll cage in every Subaru.

Foresters, Outbacks & Imprezas are all equally durable. They all have the same tried



Stephen M. Lewis  
President, Steve Lewis

and true power train (engine, transmission and all wheel-drive). If you go online in any Subaru chat room, you'll be amazed at the accolades.

Every vehicle that Subaru has made in the last 10 years has been on Consumer Reports' *Recommend List*. Subaru was just given the *Automatic Recommend* status by Consumer Reports. They are 1 of only 2 manufacturers whose vehicles are automatically recommended before testing.

Somewhere I read: "Airbags save lives, Subarus save airbags"

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If anyone needs to learn more, call me personally for an appointment.

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Happy Holidays and Happy & Safe Motoring!

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## Queer Cinema You Can't Miss!

### X's & O's (LESBIAN)

Genre: Comedy, Romance; Rating: Not yet rated  
Distribution: Limited Release  
Starring: Jill Bennett, Lynn Chen, Judy Marte  
Status: In production; Release Date: 12/01/07  
Synopsis: A group of single friends looking for love. One of the friends is a lesbian (Bennett) who falls for a beautiful girl (Marte).

### Dirty Laundry (GAY)

Genre: Comedy; Rating: Not rated  
Distribution: Limited Release; Director: Maurice Jamal; Starring: Rockmond Dunbar, Loretta Devine, Jenifer Lewis, Marcus Patrick; Release Date: 12/07/07; Synopsis: Patrick (Dunbar) is a successful gay magazine writer with a big Southern family he hasn't seen in 10 years. When they come for a visit, all the family secrets come pouring out.

### Amnesia—The James Brighton Enigma (GAY)

Genre: Drama; Rating: Not yet rated  
Distribution: Limited Release  
Director: Denis Langlois  
Distributor: K Films Amerique  
Starring: Dusan Dukic, Norman Helms, Louise

Laprade.; Release Date: 00/00/00

Notes: Winner of the Best Canadian Feature at the *Inside Out Toronto Lesbian and Gay Film Festival*  
Synopsis: A young man (Dukic) wakes up naked in a vacant Montreal parking lot, remembering nothing of who he is, except for the fact that he's gay. After he is arrested, he begins to understand his past.

### Almost Myself (TRANS)

Genre: Documentary; Rating: Not yet rated  
Distribution: Limited Release; Director: Tom Murray; Release Date: TBA  
Notes: Premiered at 2006 Newfest  
Synopsis: Director Tom Murray explores the lives of a group of diverse MTFs in this documentary.

### Beyond Conception (LG)

Genre: Documentary; Rating: Not yet rated  
Distribution: Limited Release  
Director: Johnny Symons  
Release Date: 00/00/00  
Synopsis: Director Johnny Symons follows several gay and lesbian couples who wish to have children with the help of technology.

## Inglañol Latin Beat

# Latinos: One “Raza?” Acknowledging our Multiracial Heritage in an LGBTQ Context

*“Neither black nor white, but multi-racial, Latinos fit uneasily in the racial structure that both defines and confines Boston’s social and political life.” —Miren Uriarte*

There’s no question that the Latino community is diverse. Latinos can have any skin tone, hair texture, body shape, eye shape, etc., and all are part of the same “raza;” at least by name and association. Self-identified Latinos can be Caucasian Hispanics with no racial Latino ancestry—identified as such by their geographical location and linguistic and cultural ties; Afro-Latinos, whose ancestry can be traced to the slave trade’s route through Latin America; Latinos with Asian heritage (such as Japanese communities in the Dominican Republic); Latinos whose ancestry comes mainly from the native peoples of Latin America—or a combination of any or all of these things. In the United States in particular, racial mixing between Latinos and other ethnic/racial groups adds additional diversity to the Latino community.

Why is it that those at the forefront of many Latino movements (including queer ones) tend to be Hispanics (Spanish speakers) of European ancestry? The majority of Latinos in the country are in fact not of Caucasian descent, so what can we do to confront and change the racism so prevalent within the Latino community? This column is far too

brief to both confront these issues and provide all the answers. I do, however, wish to challenge Latinos and non-Latinos alike to examine our construction of race and sexuality—especially within the limits of Boston’s queer community.

Being of mixed and/or “ambiguous” ancestry is a challenge enough—adding a queer identity to the mix complicates things further. Individuals either view their culture and sexuality as deeply intertwined; or they may choose to disconnect the two. Valerie Arellano is a Mexican and Salvadorian American bisexual woman who says that her sexuality is very simple to her—she is attracted to both men and women, and it has nothing to do with her skin color or the language of her parents. She confronts both racism and queer phobia; but doesn’t necessarily see the two to be connected. Mary Trotti\*, however, sees things differently. A Salvadorian woman with Palestinian heritage, she has encountered intense xenophobia from Salvadorians who view her as racially impure in some way. She knew that coming out in El Salvador would be far too difficult—her identity as a lesbian would only add to the discrimination she already faced daily. While eventually attending a multiracial high school helped heal some of the scars of her racially charged youth; she has, while in Boston, only begun to confront a sexuality she



Members of our Community, Ivanna Lee and Friend.

Photo by Eric Hess

knows she can never take back home with her.

In Boston’s GLBT community, Somos Latin@s LGBT Coalition is doing its part to make a space for Latinos of all ancestries. While Boston is often an inhospitable place to be both queer and of color, Somos Latin@s is a diverse organization dedicated to helping self-identified LGBT Latin@s find a safe community. Our Board of Directors is a

diverse one, with members who are, for example: half Puerto Rican/half Italian, half Afro-Colombian/half South Asian, Latin American adoptee, half Latino/half Turkish, and half African/half Caribbean. It is an inspirational group to work with and it certainly makes the complexities of my own identity easier to deal with— as well as giving me a strong sense of pride.

Thanks to allies like the staff in The Rainbow Times, InNewsweekly, Tish Sterling of Fran’s Place in Lynn, Councilman Felix Arroyo, Representative Liz Malia, Boston Police Officer Javier Pagan, and many others, we have been able to build a strong network in the area to help those self-identified GLBT Latinos of all colors and ancestries.

Please join us to celebrate our diversities during our 5th Annual Latino Pride of New England during May 2008 or during our monthly events. Visit Somos Latin@s LGBT Coalition’s website for further information on these events.

\*Pseudonym used

Written by Raquel Evita Saraswati, a local writer/poet, dancer, and activist. Find her in My Space or at [www.raquelevita.com](http://www.raquelevita.com) Edited and Translated by Carmen Oquendo Villar and Wilfred W. Labiosa. [www.somoslatinoslgbt.org](http://www.somoslatinoslgbt.org)

## ¿Latinos son sólo de una Raza? Reconociendo nuestras Herencias Multi-raciales en el contexto GLBT

*“Ni negros ni blancos, pero multi-raciales Latinos caben difícilmente en la estructura racial que define y confina las vidas sociales y política de Boston.”—Miren Uriarte*

No cabe duda alguna de que la comunidad latina es diversa. Los Latinos pueden tener cualquier tez de piel, textura de pelo, forma corporal, u ojos, y tod@s somos parte de la misma raza, por lo menos por nombre y asociación. Los Latinos pueden identificarse como anglosajones Hispanos con ninguna historia racial latina en sus antecedentes pero envés se pueden identificar por su localización, geografía, lenguaje, y lazos culturales. Esto es diferente de los Afro-Latinos quienes se pueden identificar y trazar sus raíces a través de Latino América por las rutas de esclavos traídos en los intercambios durante la época de esclavitud. Los Latinos también se pueden identificar con lazos asiáticos, como las comunidades de japoneses estableciéndose en la República Dominicana; los Latinos con lazos trinchitos con las per-

sonas nativas de Latino América se sienten conectados a algunas de estas tribus y comunidades nativas; y los Latin@s en general se pueden identificar con alguna combinación de alguna de estas, una sola o con todas. En los Estados Unidos en particular, las mezclas raciales entre los latinos y otros grupos étnicos añaden a la diversidad que se encuentra en nuestras comunidades.

¿Por qué es que las personas que guían los movimientos latinos (incluyendo los movimientos GLBT) son Hispanos que hablan español con antecedentes europeos? La mayoría de los latinos en este país son individuos que no tienen lazos anglosajones, ¿qué podemos hacer para confrontar y cambiar el racismo prevaleciente entre la comunidad Latina? Esta columna es muy corta para dialogar y confrontar estos temas de lleno y poder proveer respuestas, pero si quiero poder comenzar un diálogo para motivar la mente de tod@s los lectores. Si quiero retar a los Latin@s y a otr@s que no son Latin@s a examinar su construcción racial y sexual en especial a esos que viven entre los límites de la comunidad GLBT local.

Siendo yo una persona de historial ancestral mixta y ambigua es un reto, además siendo una persona que se identifica como gay complica la situación. Hay individuos

que ven su cultura y sexualidad profundamente ligadas o hay otr@s que pueden elegir desconectar la una de la otra. Valerie Arellano es una mexicana y Salvadoreña-Americana Bisexual que dice que su sexualidad es muy simple ya que está atraída a ambos, mujeres y hombres y no tiene que ver nada con su color de piel, cultura o el lenguaje de sus padres. Ella confronta el racismo y la homofobia pero no ve la conexión entre ambos temas. Mary Trotti\*, lo ve diferente. Ella es una mujer de El Salvador con antepasados de Palestina, quien confronta xenofobia de los salvadoreños ya que la ven como una persona de raza impura. Ella sabía que salir del “closet” en El Salvador como lesbiana iba a ser más difícil ya que iba a confrontar más discriminación de la que ya ella confronta diariamente. Cuando fue a una escuela secundaria multirracial en el área de Boston, ella notó la diferencia y comenzó a aliviar los golpes que sufrió en su juventud. Fue entonces que comenzó a confrontar su identificación sexual con los demás, la cual ella sabía que nunca iba a poder expresar en su casa natal.

En la comunidad GLBTQ de Boston, la coalición de Somos Latin@s LGBT está haciendo su parte para construir un espacio para Latinos de todos los linajes. Mientras que Boston es a menudo un lugar inhospitable para aquell@s personas de color y GLBT, Somos Latin@s es una organización diversa dedicada al hallazgo de aquell@s per-

sonas que se identifican como GLBT para ayudarlas a encontrar una comunidad segura. Nuestra mesa directiva es una diversa compuesta por miembros de varias culturas e identidades. Por ejemplo, tenemos a un Puertorriqueño con descendencia Italiana, a otra mitad Afro-colombiana y mitad Sur Asiática, otra adoptada de Latino América, a otra mitad Latina y mitad Turca, y a una africana-caribeña. Es un grupo de participación con personas variadas, que me ayudan a trabajar con las complejidades de mi propia identidad más fácilmente y me dan un sentido fuerte de orgullo.

Gracias a nuestra@s aliad@s como el personal de este periódico, The Rainbow Times, Inn Newsweekly, Tish Sterling de Fran’s Place en Lynn, el Concejal Felix Arroyo, la Representante Liz Malia, el Oficial Policaco de Boston Javier Pagan, y a much@s otr@s personas que nos han ayudado a construir una red de apoyo en esta área para la comunidad Latin@ GLBT de color con multiplicidad de raíces ancestrales.

Esperamos que se unan a nosotros@s para celebrar nuestra diversidad durante el 5to Festival de Orgullo Latin@ GLBT en el próximo Mayo, 2008 y en nuestras actividades. Esperamos verlos! Para detalles visiten nuestra página electrónica.

\*Seudónimo usado

Escrito por Raquel Evita Saraswati, una activista, poeta, y bailarina local. Visita su página en “My Space” o [www.raquelevita.com](http://www.raquelevita.com); Traducido y editado por Carmen Oquendo y Wilfred Labiosa. [www.somoslatinoslgbt.org](http://www.somoslatinoslgbt.org)

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## Deep Inside Hollywood



By: **"Romeo San Vicente**

### **Katherine Heigl Speaks The Ugly Truth**

"Ugly" isn't a word that describes Emmy-winning *Grey's Anatomy* and *Knocked Up* star Katherine Heigl, but T.R.

Knight's BFF is about to go before the cameras for gay director Robert Luketic in a romantic comedy called *The Ugly Truth*. The story centers on successful TV producer Heigl hiring one of those harsh, tell-it-like-it-is relationship advice professionals for her show. His brash style conflicts with her views on the world, naturally, until she begins to find that his "ugly truth" style of dating tips really do help her find the guy she's always wanted. In other words, another film to confirm that straight people really are an odd bunch, made all the more subversive - one hopes - by having a gay director at the controls. No word on a male lead yet, but a start date of April 15 is set, so audiences will probably see how ugly it all gets sometime in early 2009.

### **Rogen and Banks Join Smith's *Porno***

Kevin Smith loves the gays, and we love him right back. The *Clerks* and *Chasing Amy* writer-director always includes queer elements in his literately raunchy comedies, and he even graced the cover of gay lifestyle magazine *A Bear's Life*. So there's bound to be some same-sex action included in his upcoming *Zack and Miri Make a Porno*. Romeo has mentioned this film before, but now some recasting of the leads (Rosario Dawson was Smith's muse on this at first) is on deck: Seth Rogen and Elizabeth Banks (he of *Knocked Up*, she of *Fred Claus*, both of *The 40-Year-Old Virgin*) will play the title characters, a platonic pair of best friends who enter the world of amateur porn to help pay the bills. But will the experience make them discover they're not so platonic? Find out when *Zack and Miri* opens in 2008.

### **Guinevere Turner TV Project Gets a Go**

If Romeo ran Hollywood, his first official act - even before paying writers what they're worth - would be to give writer-actress Guinevere Turner (*Go Fish*, *The Notorious Bettie Page*, *American Psycho*) all the work she can handle. So it's exciting to hear that Turner will be putting on her actress cap again for *Don't Go*, an upcoming TV pilot about the lives and loves of the residents of an L.A. fourplex that sounds like *Melrose Place* meets *The L Word*. The racially mixed cast includes several African-American up-and-coming actors as well as South Asian *Chutney Popcorn* star Nisha Ganatra, so it sounds more like the real L.A. than the TV version we so often get. Romeo—who's still not running Hollywood, alas - can't wait.

### **Van Sant, Campion, Penn All Have 8**

When directors aren't busy dealing with the stress of helming a feature-length film, sometimes they like to unwind by popping off a little short film. Witness this year's art-house hit *Paris, Je t'aime* for the proof on that. And now, a less winsome, more activist-minded anthology film is in the works, titled simply *8*. The project involves eight directors focusing on various international crises, including hunger, poverty, education, child mortality, and the shortage of adequate drinking water in developing nations. Gay director Gus Van Sant, acclaimed filmmaker Jane Campion (*The Piano*), Oscar-winning actor and sometimes director Sean Penn, and controversial French director Gaspar Noé (*Irreversible*) will all participate, with Noé tackling AIDS in a short called *SIDA*. It might not sound like a lot of laughs, but with these directors on board, you know it's going to be compelling viewing. Look for *8* in art-houses sometime in 2008.

\*Romeo San Vicente wonders if "8" will be a real eight or an Internet eight. He can be reached care of this publication or at [DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com](mailto:DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com).

## The Rainbow Times & NoHo Pride present our Holiday Open House



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# THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO GAY GIFT GIVING

BY MIKEY ROX



## GIVING TREE

Start a new gift-giving tradition with Lindsay Olives' Holiday Olive Tree (\$50, [lindsayolives.com](http://lindsayolives.com)), the proceeds from which will benefit The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation, a non-profit dedicated to planting edible, fruit-producing trees and plants to support needy populations in the United States and around the world. By purchasing a single tree you'll help plant entire groves for disadvantaged communities while sprucing up the front yard of a friend or family member. You'll also help reduce the amount of returns Target receives from all the thoughtless tchotchkes you hand out at the holidays.



Photo courtesy of Lindsay Olives

## HOT DOG

Show your pet some love with the Komfort Pets Carrier (\$299, [komfort-pets.com](http://komfort-pets.com)), a climate-controlled case with patent-pending conduction/convection technology that offers both heating and cooling capabilities. Designed to take advantage of the natural methods by which a pet regulates its own body temperature, this cutting-edge carrier features a sophisticated LCD control panel; a folding handle for maximum portability; and safety features, such as overload protection and an "overttemperature" indicator light. Though not as posh as Louis Vuitton's Sac Chien that celebrities insist on toting, this still stylish alternative is clearly more practical. Take that, Jessica Simpson.



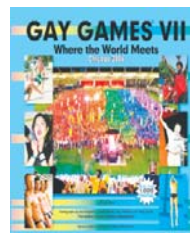
Komfort Pets Carrier

## OLIVE ANOTHER

Reenact scenes from "Cocktail" with The Perfect Temperature Martini Maker (\$99.95, [hamacher.com](http://hamacher.com)). This cool contraption shakes or stirs your dirty drink until it reaches the optimal temperature of 34 degrees, ensuring that every sip that touches your lips is as refreshing as the first. The 20-ounce stainless-steel shaker can accommodate enough ingredients for two, while a line on the inside denotes the amount of ice versus vermouth needed to create a classic concoction. Tom Cruise not included.



The Perfect Temperature Martini Maker



Olympic-like events, and scenes from the

## BREAK A SWEAT

Gay Games aren't just what twinky 20-somethings engage in after 2 a.m. The real thing is comprised of more than 11,000 athletes competing in 31

2006 Gay Games —held in Chicago, Ill., from July 15 to 22— are available in Gay Games VII: Where the World Meets (\$49, [lulu.com](http://lulu.com)), by author Tracy Baim. Included within the book's 208 full-color, glossy pages are more than 1,000 images of the event's sports, culture and ceremonies, as well as an overview of the past seven Gay Games, which have visited such cities as San Francisco, Amsterdam and Sydney. Featured photographers include Steve Becker, Amy Moseley and Patsy Lynch, to name a few.

## BLOWN AWAY

You're a big boy now, and your stemware should show it. Designed by Simon Pearce, the hand-blown Wellesley Collection (\$55-\$60, [simonpearce.com](http://simonpearce.com)) features 15 functional pieces intended for day-to-day use — from brunches and baby showers, to Friday nights in front of the flat screen. Precise manipulation, timing and placement by master artisans are required to achieve the elegant wisp of glass that defines each piece, offering a touch of refinement and grace to every occasion. A Wal-Mart special these ain't.



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## WRAP THAT PACKAGE



Naughty or nice? You decide in Ristefsky Macheda's holiday-inspired skivvies (\$12.50-\$34.95, [rmunderwear.com](http://rmunderwear.com)). With fashion forward styling, the red and white contemporary trunks and briefs feature contrast-paneled rear seams that make daring declarations, while the all-white athletic logo briefs provide support and promise unrestricted leg movement and maximum ventilation. Need another reason to change your underwear? Through

December, Ristefsky will offer its red hipster briefs — combining a figure-hugging design with unrivaled support — for half price. Which gives you new authority to be a ho-ho-ho.

## SIDEBAR

### STOCKING STUFFERS

Pump up your Christmas perk with S y z m o ([www.syzmo.com](http://www.syzmo.com)), the first USDA-approved organic energy drink and the only certified Glycemic Index Tested carbonated beverage in the world. It's not, however, proven to reverse the effect of Tom Turkey's tryptophan. Flavors include Original, Passion and Prickly Pear.



Stuff his stocking with sex and supernatural storylines with here! TV's "Dante's Cove: Guilty Pleasure Collection" (\$49.92, [www.dantescove.com](http://www.dantescove.com)) on DVD. In

addition to the first two seasons, this five-disc package is loaded with features that'll have you both howling at the moon quicker than you can say Old Saint Nick.

Give those winter-worn cheeks a boost with Evian's redesigned Brumisateur facial spray (\$5-\$15, [evian-couture.com](http://evian-couture.com)). Nature's solution for a glamorous glow in the dead of the dry season, this sleek spritzer combines balanced mineral composition and remarkable purity to rehydrate harsh-looking skin. The brighter side? It's cheaper than Botox.



Evian Facial Spray



Fill your home with the seasonal sounds of Darlene Love's "It's Christmas, Of Course" (\$15.98), featuring a

dozen neo-classic Christmas covers originally recorded by artists like The Pretenders, Tom Petty and James Brown. Afterward, pretend you're Santa Claus and have a hottie sit on your lap.

\* Who is Mikey Rox? Who gives a %\$#@! But you can visit him at [www.myspace.com/roxmikey](http://www.myspace.com/roxmikey).

## GOT GAME?

Step up what you're spittin' with eye-popping MiniCards by MOO (\$19.99, [moo.com](http://moo.com)).



MiniCards by Moo

These unique, pocket-sized cards allow you to keep in touch with potential suitors while avoiding the stalkers. Each card in a pack of 100 can be personalized with your own images uploaded to Moo's Web site, with as much or as little text as you choose. Which means that when you're at the bar, business

cards won't mix with pleasure — eliminating that awkward explanation at the office as to why "Leather Larry" is waiting in the lobby.

## STAR-CROSSED LOVER

Viewed as blasphemous by some, the Star of David Rosary by Cruz Azur (\$125, [cruzazur.com](http://cruzazur.com)) was ironically created to symbolize unity among diverse denominations. Eighteen-inches long with a clasp to connect it, this controversial conversation piece was handmade using 925 sterling silver and features a 3-centimeter-by-3-centimeter star bound by black glass beads and sterling wire. The Star of David Rosary is the perfect present for multicultural friends who say to hell with religious restriction and hello to avant-garde style.



Star of David Rosary

# Best Gay Holiday Gift Ideas 2007



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## Gay Traveling

## Out of Town: A taste of Queer Key West



By: Andrew Collins\*

**A**mong famous gay resort towns, Key West has always stood out for its sheer embrace of total relaxation.

This laid-back tropical island in the Caribbean, closer to Cuba than to mainland Florida, is without pretensions. People rarely worry about what time it is, dress is casual and colorful, and the party scene is friendly and easygoing. Key West is neither fancy nor especially urbane—it's just a great place to laze in a deck chair on a bougainvillea-choked lanai, browse for beachwear and souvenirs along the main drag, Duval Street, or relax on a restaurant patio nosing on raw oysters and sipping mango iced tea or mojitos.

For a seasonal tourist town, Key West has plenty to offer when it comes to dining and nightlife. Few places draw more raves for out-standing food than Alice's Key West, where chef Alice Weingarten serves some of the most inventive food in town, including delicious smoked salmon Benedict at breakfast. A departure from Key West's predominant laid-back tropical look, Square One is a sophisticated restaurant with white table linen and fine china. The regionally inspired Continental cuisine includes escargot baked in a crepe with fresh spinach, garlic, feta, and a tomato beurre blanc. It's a top choice for a

romantic evening.

One of the better Italian restaurants in town, and also one of the gayest, La Trattoria has two dining rooms—the smaller one romantic and intimate, the larger better for groups of friends. The straight forward cooking draws high praise for such tasty creations as local shrimp sautéed with garlic, fresh tomatoes, and herbes de Provence in a white wine, lemon, and butter sauce. One of Duval Street's true places to be seen, Mangoes brims with colorful sorts. The composed salads, pastas, and grills - all with nouvelle Florida touches - are commendable. Consider rib eye steak Caribe (pan-charred with tamarind steak sauce and yucca).

Seven Fish, which occupies an old luncheonette and has a sleek, sophisticated interior, serves seafood-oriented bistro fare, such as crab and shitake mushroom ravioli. The slogan at Mangia Mangia is "pasta to the people," a philosophy reflected by the many varieties of heavenly homemade pasta, all fairly priced. The painstakingly preserved building has a lovely, quiet garden and redbrick patio in back. You'll need luck and persistence most nights to get a seat at Camille's, a small storefront bistro, but the friendly vibe and down-home comfort food are worth the trouble. Expect good salads and sandwiches, such as Philly cheese steak, and delicious pancakes for breakfast.

For arguably the best sandwiches and wraps on the island, try Lobo's - the oyster roll with

cheddar, bacon, and basil tartar sauce is a stand-out. El Siboney is a zero-atmosphere eatery - the place in town for humble, stick-to-your-ribs Cuban fare. Rickety tables are set with plastic tablecloths and paper napkins. Try such Havana specialties as conch chowder, garlic chicken, stuffed shrimp and crabs, platanos (plantains), and a sweet flan to top it off. As for traditional Cuban sandwiches, tiny 5 Brothers Grocery - on a side street in the historic district - serves the best around.

Much of the gay social activity in Key West takes place at resorts, some of which provide refreshments and snacks to guests during the afternoon and early evening. A handful of properties have bars open to the public, among them Pearl's Rainbow, the town's only guest house exclusively for women, and the ultra-cruisy, all-male Island House, which also has an excellent restaurant.

Most of the town's gay bars are along Duval Street. Here, the La-Te-Da guest house has a poolside bar, an intimate piano bar, and the Treetop Cabaret Lounge upstairs. Down a few blocks, the New Orleans-inspired Bourbon Street Pub is a cheery place with a small bar up front with cocktail tables, a larger outdoor bar in back (along with a lively pool area and hot tub), and video screens galore. Many nights you can catch awful (but still entertaining) drag shows on the stage in back. The same owners run the lovably raffish 801 Bar, Key West's definitive neighborhood hangout since the 1970s. There's almost always a crowd of gossiping locals around the bar. The adjacent One Saloon caters mostly to leather-and-Levi's types and is reached through 801's back door. Aqua Nightclub is best known for its raucous drag shows, which are headlined by the in-house drag troupe, the Aquanettes. This lively place also has strippers some nights, an impressive dance floor with high-tech laser-and-sound shows, and a cozy video bar.

Key West has a number of inns that cater either exclusively or predominantly to the gay market. One of the best is Alexander's, a long-popular gay resort with the relatively unusual policy of being both clothing-optional and welcoming to both women

and men. This makes Alexander's ideal for gay guys traveling with lesbian friends, or for any queer vacationers who enjoy a mixed-gender atmosphere. The effect is that the mood around the pool and hot tub tends to be less cruisy than at single-gender resorts. Aromatic tropical flowers, sun decks, rattan and wicker furnishings, and sparkling tiled bathrooms impart Alexander's with a classy but casual look. Also welcoming of both women and men but drawing a predominantly male crowd, Big Ruby's is less than a block from Duval Street, hidden behind high walls from noise and street traffic. The grounds feature towering palm trees and fragrant flowers, and an abundance of sun decks. Rooms are warm, contemporary, spotless, and full of light—all have TV/VCRs, mini-refrigerators, A/C, and ceiling fans. A complimentary full breakfast is included. As for the staff, you won't find a more professional bunch of guys in Key West.

Most of the town's men's resorts are along Fleming Street, the Historic District's main drag. Here you'll find Equator, which has plush rooms with contemporary Caribbean influenced furniture. Designer fabrics, feather pillows with comforters, Mediterranean-tile floors, large closets, and excellent sound insulation add to the comfort of each unit. The tradeoff is that the Equator's grounds, although nicely landscaped, are smaller than at some of its competitors; there's a compact pool and an oversize Jacuzzi tub.

For years the sprawling Island House—a former cigar factory on the eastern edge of the Historic District—was synonymous with sex, sleaze, and shabbiness. It's still synonymous with sex. But, happily, new owners have completely rebuilt the place, hired friendly and competent staff, and created lovely rooms with high-quality furnishings (all have VCR/TVs, refrigerators, safes, and plush linens). If you're seeking a steamy ambience but also first-rate accommodations and a safe, friendly environment, the Island House is your dream come true. Amenities, all of them available 24 hours, include heated pool, indoor and outdoor Jacuzzis, gym, sauna, steam room, and erotic-male-video lounge.

The largest gay resort in town comprises three distinct properties—the Oasis, Coral Tree Inn, and Coconut Grove—operated by the same management. This highly social, all-male compound has rooms available in a variety of configurations and prices.

See Key West p. 15



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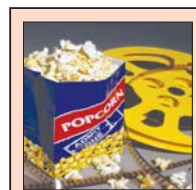
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 Bethlehem, New Hampshire



## Two trans members of HRC quit because of ENDA

WASHINGTON (AP)—Two transgender members of the Human Rights Campaign quit Tuesday, saying the group's support of an employment nondiscrimination bill that excluded transgender workers put them "in an untenable position."

Jamison Green and Donna Rose's resignations from the business council of the Human Rights Campaign are effective immediately, according to a joint letter. The Human Rights Campaign works for equal rights for gays, bisexuals and transgender people.

"Considering recent broken promises, the lack of credibility that HRC has with the transgender community at large, and HRC's apparent lack of commitment to healing the

breach it has caused, we find it impossible to maintain an effective working relationship with the organization," they said.

The House, with support from the Human Rights Campaign, earlier this month passed the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. The measure would make it illegal for employers to make decisions about hiring, firing, promoting or paying an employee based on sexual orientation.

But it does not protect transgender workers. That term covers transsexuals, cross-dressers and others whose outward appearance does not match their gender at birth.

Supporters of the bill say it would not have passed the House if it had included transgen-

der protection. However, many transgender activists and their supporters were furious at their exclusion from the legislation and lobbied to scrap it.

The bill is now in the Senate.

"HRC has always and will continue to be supportive of a fully inclusive ENDA that protects our entire community," said Human Rights Campaign spokesman Brad Luna. "While HRC was disappointed the bill did not include protections for transgender Americans, we believe it paves the way for additional progress to outlaw workplace discrimination based on gender identity."

Luna said: "We wish Donna and Jamison well in their future endeavors."

## One Big Event is One Big LGBT Triumph in Conn.

It was the party everyone was anticipating. It was the affair that took months of preparation. It was the event you had to be at. The *Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective's* annual fundraiser One Big Event was another great success! It's now not only a highlight on the calendar for LGBT folks, but for all hip and trendy people in the know. With a record-breaking crowd of almost 450, attendance is almost mandatory.

"We work hard to keep OBE fresh and exciting," said Linda Estabrook, Executive Director. "We purposely made changes that people had suggested to make this benefit even more successful." Change number one was a move to the Hilton Hartford Hotel. This allowed us to celebrate in the city where

we operate and to have a larger venue. Our good friend, Michael Wilson, from the Hartford Stage served as emcee this year. His warmth and charm delighted the audience. Everyone enjoyed the funky sounds of Paprika, Brooklyn 's all women's world music band. When the conga line began, we knew that the night was a hit."

Comedian Andre Kelley entertained the audience with his earthy humor during his performance. Many audience members hung out with him after his routine. The audience was notable for the celebrities in attendance, like Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez and his wife, Maria. "One Big Event always draws a varied crowd representing the LGBT community, their family members, straight allies and peo-

ple of many ethnicities. We are very proud that we have so much support from the people of Hartford and the state," observed Board President John McGarvey.

One Big Event is a great night out, but it is so much more. Through ticket sales, silent and live auctions and sponsorships, including our "Biggest" sponsor ING, the *Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective* was able to raise funds for the many services that it provides to the LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities. In the ever changing climate of government and foundation support, we depend more than ever on our friends and allies for our stability and future growth. One Big Event gives everyone the opportunity to celebrate the work that makes the Health Collective a unique institution in the greater Hartford community.

## Helping women cope with a breast cancer diagnosis: Free services available

NORTHAMPTON—Women living with breast cancer in Hampden, Hampshire or Franklin counties have access to free therapeutic services at Cooley Dickinson Hospital thanks to a grant from the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

Women can select from complementary therapy services such as Acupuncture, Aromatherapy using therapeutic touch, healing music, healing touch, Reiki, Peggy Huddleston's Prepare for Surgery, Heal

Faster™, self-hypnosis/guided imagery and therapeutic massage.

All practitioners providing these services are employees of Cooley Dickinson Hospital. They hold certifications, appropriate licensing and registrations, and pursue ongoing training in their fields of expertise.

For more information or to make an appointment, call Cooley Dickinson Hospital's Center for Complementary Therapies at (413) 582-2424.

### From Key West on p. 14

The Coconut Grove is the fanciest of the three, having been completely gutted and redone following a fire in 2006 - it now has some of the cushiest accommodations in town. Next door, the Oasis has less pricey but still attractive rooms and beautiful grounds. Across the street, the Coral Tree has simpler but more affordable rooms. Guests are free to enjoy the grounds of all three properties. Another all-male property with a somewhat cruisy vibe is the New Orleans Guest House, an attractive compound that's above the Bourbon Street Pub, right in the center of the Duval Street action. Rooms are well-outfitted and attractively decorated, and rates moderately priced.

Known as the Rainbow House until new owners took over a several years ago, the 38-room Pearl's Rainbow is Key West's only resort that's exclusive to women. Rooms are nicely

done, with rattan and wicker furniture, pastel-hued walls, large TVs, and refrigerators. Many different configurations are available, from simple budget-oriented units set away from the noise of the pools and decks, to more spacious rooms closer to the action, some with kitchenettes or separate sitting areas. The resort encompasses several buildings, including some cute cottages that once provided housing for the workers of a cigar factory that formerly occupied the main building. There are two heated pools, spacious sundecks, and lots of opportunity to chat with other guests. This is a wonderful hideaway, whether you're looking to make new friends or enjoy a little peace and quiet with your honey.

\* Andrew Collins is the author of *Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA* and eight additional travel guides. He can be reached care of this publication or at [OutofTown@qsyndicate.com](mailto:OutofTown@qsyndicate.com).

## The Night Owl

The best LGBTQ Clubs in our Gayborhoods! Check 'em out!

### Central & Western, MA

**Blu**  
105 Water Street  
Worcester, MA

**Club Car**  
64 Water Street  
Worcester, MA

**DIVA'S**  
492 Pleasant St.  
Northampton, MA

**Hot Knob**  
234 Chestnut Street  
Springfield, MA

**The Pub**  
382 Dwight Street  
Springfield, MA

**MB**  
40 Grafton Street  
Worcester, MA

**Sin City**  
350 Worthington Street  
Springfield, MA

### Connecticut

**Triangles**  
66 Sugar Hollow Road  
Danbury, Connecticut

**Chez Est**  
458 Wethersfield Ave.  
Hartford, CT

**Polo Club**  
678 Maple Avenue  
Hartford, CT

168 York Street Cafe

168 York Street  
New Haven, CT

**Bar**  
254 Crown Street  
New Haven, CT

**Gotham Citi Cafe**  
Church & Crown Streets  
New Haven, CT

**Partners Cafe**  
365 Crown Street  
New Haven, CT

### New York Clubs

**Water Works Pub**  
76 Central Ave.  
Albany, NY

**Club Phoenix**  
348 Central Ave.,  
Albany, NY 12206

**Joey's Bar**  
664 2nd Ave., Troy, NY  
518-237-4846

**Oh Bar**  
304 Lark Street,  
Albany, NY  
(518) 463-9004

**Fuze Box Bar**  
12 Central Avenue,  
Albany, NY  
(518) 432-4472

**Clinton St. Pub**  
159 Clinton St.,  
Schenectady, NY 12305  
518-377-8555

1 in 4 GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER adults say they have switched products or service providers BECAUSE they found a competing company that SUPPORTS CAUSES that BENEFIT the GLBT community.

Source: Wittek-Combs Communications/HarrisInteractive, Sept. 2007

# The Rainbow Times

Your LGBT News in Western MA, the Capital District of NY, Northern CT, and Southern VT



The one ...  
the only.

TRT

413.204.8959  
[therainbowtimesnews.com](http://therainbowtimesnews.com)

# LGBT Announcements

## TRT PRIDE Calendar from MA, NY, CT & VT!

(MA) **UNITY** is a Transgender support group which meets at 7 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of each month at Baystate Hospital, 3300 Main Street in Springfield, Ma.; and on the 4th Thursday at the Blue Moon Coffee Roaster located at 715 Summer Avenue, Springfield, MA. FMI: Deja 860-604-6343 or Keri 413-364-1749.

(MA) **SOCIAL GROUP FOR LESBIANS**; We always meet on the first and third Friday's of the month. For information call 413-687-2065

(MA) **EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION (EC)** is NOW available without a prescription at all Tapestry Health Services sites. (413) 586-2539.

(MA) **MATURE LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP**; Group for women 55+ meets monthly at the Northampton Council on Aging at 240 Main St., at 6 p.m.; second Monday of each month.

(MA) **DISCUSSION GROUP FOR LESBIANS 40+** meets every Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Stonewall Center at UMass. Topics chosen by group consensus the previous week. This is a warm and welcoming group of intelligent women. Information email to: JBGreenize@aol.com

(MA) **OLDER LESBIAN DISCUSSION GROUPS**; Amherst/NoHo Area. New members accepted on space-available basis. If enough interest, new groups may form. FMI: 413-247-3257 or 413-253-3049.

(VT) **MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP**; Any male 18 or older; an opportunity for men to share their experiences, thoughts, and feelings about life's journey. Support group not a therapy group. Free. Every Tuesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Brattleboro, VT. FMI: 802-258-3914.

(MA) **JOIN EMAIL GROUP FOR LGBT PARENTS** in the Pioneer Valley area at [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lgbt\\_parents\\_pioneer\\_valley/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lgbt_parents_pioneer_valley/) for exchanging information, chatting about our families, and organizing get-togethers and play-dates.

(MA, NY, CT & VT) **DISCRIMINATION BECAUSE YOU ARE QUEER?** Call The Rainbow Times, 413-204-8959; 518-391-2617.

(NY) **Bisexual Brunch**; First and third Sundays of the month, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Rainbow Cafe, 332 Hudson Ave., Albany. FMI: Viktoria 518-438-6315.

(NY) **Bagel Bunch**; Tuesdays; 10:30 a.m.; Older gay men's social and discussion group. Bruegger's, Hannaford Plaza, Central Ave., Albany.

(NY) **Capital Pride Singers**; Mondays @ 7 p.m.; LGBT/LGBTaffirming; mixed chorus; St. Andrew's, Episcopal Church, 10 No. Main St., Albany, 12203; FMI: 435-4636.

(NY) **Capital District Prime Timers**; Provides social, cultural, and recreational opportunities for mature gay and bisexual men. Open to men age 21+. FMI: [jallison2@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jallison2@nycap.rr.com) or CDPT 595 New Loudon Rd #202 Latham NY 12110

(NY) **Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Men Support Group**; Mondays; 7 p.m.; Support group for GBT men to talk about coming out, sex, religion, dating, relationships, and other issues affecting men in the GBT Community; CDGLCC @ 332 Hudson Avenue in Albany. FMI: Q Diamond at (518) 462-6138 or [qdiamond@cdglcc.org](mailto:qdiamond@cdglcc.org).

(NY) **Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Support Group**; every other Tuesday; 7 p.m.; Designed for multi-cultural lesbian and bisexual women who are questioning their sexuality, recovering

from newly ended relationships, struggling with depression or just women needing the support of their peers. Meet at CDGLCC at 332 Hudson Avenue in Albany. FMI: Q Diamond at (518) 462-6138.

(NY) **Youth Group**; Friday nights; 7 p.m.; 332 Hudson Ave. in Albany; Group offers peer support to LGBT& questioning individuals ages 13-19. A supportive environment for LGBTQ youth and their straight allies to discuss issues of coming out, family, school, work, and relationships among their peers. Another group meets in **Saratoga Springs** at 624 Broadway every other Wednesday, a group in Hudson at 742 Warren St. every other Wednesday, and a group in Schoharie County that meets twice per month. FMI: Q Diamond (518) 462-6138.

(NY) **Confidential HIV Testing**; first Wednesday of each month; 8-8:30 p.m.; Provided by Project H.O.P.E., a program of the AIDS Council of Northeastern New York. Testing offered at the CDGLCC, 332 Hudson Ave., Albany. FMI: 518-462-6138.

LGBTQ TEA DANCE AT DANCE NORTHAMPTON. Second Sunday of every month; 3-6 PM; \$8 (includes lesson at 3:00)

FMI: [www.dancenorthampton.com](http://www.dancenorthampton.com)

The December 09 lesson will be Two Step.

### CONTRADANCE

Saturday, December 08, Montague Grange, 34 Main Street, Montague, MA. Caller: Brendan Taaffe, Music by: The Flying Garbanzos. Time: 7:00-10:00 PM. Cost: \$10-\$7 (\$5 with student ID). FMI: Call 413-247-9604 or 413-586-9610 or <http://www.lcfd.org/westma>

(NY) **Out Dancing** (for the LGBTQ community); every Wednesday evening; 7 to 8 p.m.; Saratoga SAVOY, 7 Wells St, Saratoga Springs, NY. 518-518-8751 - 518-1322 <http://saratogasavoy.homestead.com/files/out-dancing.html>

(NY) Dec. 3; **PrideWorks for LGBT Youth Conference**; 8:00a - 3:30p; Westchester County Center, White Plains, NY; 9th annual full-day conference addressing issues of lgbtq youth and their allies in our schools and communities. Cost is \$85 for adults, \$50 for college students and \$30 for high school and middle school students.

(CT) Every Sunday; **ALL LGBT YOUTH to the Rainbow Room**; at the Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective; from 3-6 p.m.; 1841 Broad Street, Hartford, CT; for LGBT youth and allies. The Rainbow Room is a drop-in space for LGBT youth up to 21 years old ... Come hang out at Rainbow Room.

(MA) **TransForming Families** - Transgender Support Group; Parents, partners, children and their transgender loved ones. Topic/discussion/support group meets twice a month; Wednesdays, 7:30 - 9 p.m. in Hadley, beginning December 5. FMI: [www.transforming-families.org](http://www.transforming-families.org) or 413-522-0522

(MA) December 5. **BSSC POTLUCK DINNER**. 7:00 pm, Unitarian-Universalist church, 175 Wendell Avenue, Pittsfield, MA. Open to the GLBTQI community and friends. Bring a main dish, salad, veggie or dessert to share. Beverages provided. PLEASE NOTE: We now have a sign-up sheet for volunteers to help set up, host (welcome newcomers) and clean up at each potluck. Please help us lighten the work by taking a turn. We'll email or call you to remind you. Thank you!

(MA) Dec. 6; **New England Transgender Pride March and Rally Planning Meeting**; 7-9 p.m. Tapestry Health, 365 Bay Street, Springfield, MA. The New England Transgender Pride March and Rally is the first

transgender pride march in New England. The planning meeting is open to all people who support gender diversity and the gender-variant community. FMI: [glaze@glaze0101.com](mailto:glaze@glaze0101.com).

(MA) **Free Breast Cancer Services**; Cooley Dickinson; Women can select therapy services such as acupuncture, aromatherapy, therapeutic touch, healing music, healing touch, Reiki, Reiki, Peggy Huddleston's Prepare for Surgery, Heal Faster™, self-hypnosis/guided imagery and therapeutic massage by CD employees that hold certifications in these therapy techniques. FMI! 413-582-2424.

(MA) Dec. 7; **Dan Kennedy CD Release Concert** featuring Dan Kennedy (piano), Juan Carlos Carpio (guitar & bass) and John Hughes (African drums & kora); 7:30 p.m.; Unitarian Universalist Meeting House; 121 N. Pleasant St., Amherst, MA; \$9; FMI; 413-253-2848; [www.dankennedy.us](http://www.dankennedy.us) Produced by 3-time Grammy Award winner Will Ackerman, co-founder of Windham Hill Records, the new age EP Lantern by Dan Kennedy is being released, and you're invited. Each CD Release Concert will feature piano, guitar, bass, plus African drumming and kora playing, with video projections.

(CT) Dec. 8; **Women's Health Screening Day**; in collaboration with Hartford Hospital, HGLHC will be offering FREE mammograms. Appointments are required to receive a free mammogram (please arrive 15 minutes prior to your scheduled appointment to complete necessary paperwork). All other services are provided on a walk-in basis from 9:00a.m. - 2:00p.m. We urge all lesbian, bisexual and trans women to "Take the Time" for these important preventative measures. FMI or to make an appointment: Kathy Fowler at (860)278-4163 ext. 16 or Donna Shubrooks ext. 13.

(MA) December 8. **ALPHABET SOUP SHOPPING TRIP TO NORTHAMPTON** (St. Stephen's group). Meet at St. Stephen's at 10:00 am for car pool OR in front of Thorne's at 11:30. Followed by a Holiday Open House at Beth's in Hinsdale at 7:00. FMI: email: [lbowerbannister@gmail.com](mailto:lbowerbannister@gmail.com).

(MA) Dec. 8 - **Jolgorio de Navidad en el World Trade Center** (Xmas Partying and Carolling at the World Trade Center for the LGBT Latin community and allies). Para detalles o comprar tu boleto visito (for details or to buy a ticket): [www.eljolgorio.org](http://www.eljolgorio.org). Evento abierto a nuestra comunidad Latina GLBT....¡¡¡¡¡zalo!

(MA) December 9. **"TRANSCEND" MEETING**. 7:00-8:30 pm, South Congregational Church, 110 South St., Pittsfield, MA. Monthly social/support meeting for the Trans community. Sponsored by BSSC. FMI call Judy: 413-243-2382.

(MA) **East Coast Female to Male Group Meeting**; 3-6 p.m.; 146 Riverbank Rd., Northampton; Topic: "Your Gender Identity and Sexual Relationships" How do you experience and express your gender identity in your intimate relationship? Can you ask for and receive what you want and need? Come explore a hot topic in a cold month! This particular meeting is OPEN TO FTMS ONLY (that includes the full spectrum of female-born, masculine-identified persons).

(MA) December 11; **Tapestry Health Training about Transgender issues** Entitled "Transgender People, HIV and Access to Care: a Training for Service Providers"; 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Lord Jefferey Inn in Amherst. The workshop will provide basic information about transgender issues and present strategies, standards of care, and resources for incorporating appropriate, effective support in the clinical, therapeutic or advocate relationship.

(MA) December 12; **UMASS FINE ARTS CEN-**

**TER Center Series Cherish the Ladies - A Celtic Christmas Celebration**; 7:30 p.m.; Fine Arts Center Concert Hall, UMASS Amherst; FMI: 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or [www.fineartscenter.com/tickets](http://www.fineartscenter.com/tickets)

(VT) Third Sunday of Every Month; in Brattleboro, **Open to anyone whose identity or expression doesn't fit neatly into the gender binary**, including transpeople of all genders and sexual orientations: transgender(ed), transsexuals, FTMs, MTFs, non-op, pre-op, post-op, cross-dressers, bi-gendered, genderqueer, genderfluid, questioning, etc.; Confidentiality guaranteed. The November meeting will be on Sunday, November 18 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm. FMI: Benjamin Robin: [robin@benjaminrobin.net](mailto:robin@benjaminrobin.net)

(NY) December 13; **FREE Financial Planning Workshop** with Thomas J. Walling; 6 p.m.; CDGLCC - 332 Hudson Ave., Albany. A workshop exploring financial issues regarding the GLBT community including: partner planning issues, protection issues, documentation to have, investment planning, utilization of Domestic Partner benefits, Retirement Planning, Estate Planning, as well as financial issues affecting singles in today's environment. RSVP via email: [qdiamond@cdglcc.org](mailto:qdiamond@cdglcc.org)

(MA) Dec. 14; **TRT & NOHO PRIDE OPEN HOUSE**; 5-9 p.m.; Beer tasting, appetizers, music, and lots of mingling. LGBTQ and allies invited, please 21+.

(NY) December 14; **Movie Night showing: "The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green"**; CDGLCC, 332 Hudson Ave., Albany, NY; 7:00 pm, FREE! Ethan (Daniel Letterle) is an adorable 26-year year old professional assistant, self-proclaimed serial monogamist, and all around nice regular guy, who is looking for love in all the wrong places.

(NY) Dec. 15; **Progressions Concert Series: Nervous But Excited**; CDGLCC, 332 Hudson Ave., Albany, NY; 8:00 PM, Doors 7:30 PM, \$10/\$8 students - All ages! FMI: Carrie at 518.462.6138, x.11.

(NY) December 18; **CDGLCC Book Club**; 7pm; CDGLCC - 332 Hudson Ave, Albany, NY; Reading: Confession by Jim McGreevey; FMI: contact Q at [qdiamond@cdglcc.org](mailto:qdiamond@cdglcc.org)

(NY) Dec. 18; **Albany Pride Planning Committee Meeting**; CDGLCC, 332 Hudson Ave., Albany, NY; 6:00 p.m.; FMI: [capitalpride@cdglcc.com](mailto:capitalpride@cdglcc.com)

(MA) Dec. 23; **LESBIAN HOLIDAY POTLUCK PARTY**; 4:30 p.m.; Socialize, Mingle Dance in the Company Of Wonderful Women; 2 King St. Hatfield; FMI: Marylou 413 687- 1225

(NY) December 24th and held monthly thereafter **Ask-A-Lawyer Legal Clinic**: Serving the LGBT community Geri Pomerantz, Esq. and Anne Reynolds Copps, Esq.; 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.; Consultations will be held by appointment only. FMI: 518.432.4188 to schedule an appointment or speak with a lawyer.

(NY) January 15; **Pride Planning Committee Meeting**; CDGLCC, 332 Hudson Ave., Albany, NY; 6:00 p.m.

(NY) January 19; **Progressions Concert Series**; CDGLCC, 332 Hudson Ave., Albany, NY; 8:00 p.m. Doors 7:30 p.m.; \$10/\$8 students - All ages! FMI: Carrie at 518.462.6138, x.11.

Mark your calendar: Dec 14th  
TRT's Holiday Open House Party  
This is a  
**21+**  
event  
5-9 p.m.  
221 Pine Street, Ste. 358  
Florence, MA

Submit your non-profit calendar event/s\* to [calendar@therainbowtimesmass.com](mailto:calendar@therainbowtimesmass.com) or [calendar@therainbowtimesnews.com](mailto:calendar@therainbowtimesnews.com)

\*Certain restrictions apply. Small for-profit events/groups, 35 words or less, are considered for a small fee. Large/for-profit events are not considered. All submissions appear online.

## The next step in the fight for CT marriage equality

By: Anne Stanback/TRT Guest Columnist

Anne Stanback, Executive Director of Love Makes a Family, talks about how a decision in the Kerrigan marriage equality case before the Connecticut Supreme Court may lead same-sex couples down the aisle, or to the Legislature.

By the time you read this, Connecticut could either be the second state in the country to allow same-sex couples to legally marry...OR...we could be gearing up for a huge push in the 2008 legislative session to win marriage in the General Assembly.

As I write this, we are still waiting for the Connecticut Supreme Court to issue its ruling in the Kerrigan case (Kerrigan & Mock v. Connecticut Department of Public Health, our state's marriage lawsuit). This case, brought by our partners at GLAD, seeks to end the exclusion of same-sex couples from marriage, arguing that the Connecticut civil union statute constitutes a discriminatory separate and unequal status for same-sex couples.

But as we wait on the court, Love Makes a Family is not just waiting around!

We are hoping for a win, but we are preparing for a possible loss. That means organizing and mobilizing grassroots supporters like you across the state to urge state legislators to support a marriage equality bill if the Supreme Court sends the decision back to the General Assembly.

Love Makes a Family's strategy has not shifted since we began this fight for marriage seven years ago. Our efforts to identify and build new support for marriage equality and to mobilize that support in the form of constituent contact with legislators has only increased and intensified.

**IF WE WIN IN THE COURT...**

We could not have better legal minds working on the Kerrigan case than our partners at



GLAD and their cooperating attorneys. And based on everything we have seen and heard, there is no reason to believe we cannot win in court.

If we win, same-sex couples will finally have access to full equality under Connecticut law. Couples will be able to legally marry and will be afforded the dignity, respect and legal protection that marriage provides.

But as we saw in Massachusetts, a Connecticut Supreme Court win will not cause our opponents to just throw in the towel. Anti-gay organizations like the Family Institute of Connecticut are already talking about attempts to amend our state Constitution to permanently ban marriage for same-sex couples.

It is imperative that Love Makes a Family organize effectively on the front end so that we avoid the costly, divisive referendum battle that we have seen in other states. We are prepared to fight that fight if we must, but it will be far better to prevent a vote to amend the Constitution in the first place.

Protecting a win and avoiding a fight to amend the Constitution means continuing to expand our base of support and keeping those supporters vocal and organized.

**BUT IF WE LOSE IN COURT...**



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If we lose the marriage case in the Supreme Court, our only remaining recourse will be the Legislature. The good news is that Love Makes a Family has been building support in the Connecticut General Assembly for seven years. And while the full legislature has not been ready to vote on marriage thus far, the momentum to pass a marriage bill if we are rebuffed by the Supreme Court will be stronger in 2008 than it has ever been or ever will be again.

The way we will win in the legislature is very straightforward. We need 76 members of the House and 19 members of the Senate to vote with us. And we need Governor Rell to sign the marriage bill once it reaches her desk.

The support for marriage equality in the legislature has grown significantly since civil unions became law in 2005. We are close to our magic numbers, but we still have work to do.

Our focus right now is on convincing enough undecided legislators (and Governor Rell) that supporting marriage equality is not just the right thing to do...it is the politically smart thing to do. At the same time, we are working to turn pro-marriage legislators into marriage leaders.

Winning the freedom to marry here in Connecticut is critically important, not just to families in our state, but to the marriage movement nationally.

Visit [www.lmfct.org](http://www.lmfct.org) and learn how to donate and get involved! Within minutes of the decision in the Kerrigan case, the LMF website will have ALL the information on Decision Day plans, including a press conference, rally, and (in the event of a positive decision) a party on the evening of the decision.

## Women's Health Screening Day for lesbian, bi & trans women in Connecticut

The Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective (HGLHC) will hold its next Women's Health Screening Day on December 8, 2007 in collaboration with Hartford Hospital, the Hartford region's largest and most comprehensive breast care provider. The HGLHC will be offering FREE mammograms. Appointments are required to receive a free mammogram (please arrive 15 minutes prior to your scheduled appointment to complete necessary paperwork). All other services are provided on a walk-in basis from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

According to Kathy Fowler, Women's Services Coordinator, a day like this enables lesbian, bisexual and trans women to obtain the vital health screenings and exams they may otherwise not receive.

"Lesbian, bisexual, and trans women have a greater concentration of risk factors for breast cancer and that breast cancer is most curable when detected early," said Fowler.

In addition HGLHC will also provide Pap testing, breast and cervical exams, STD diagnosis and treatment, vaccination against hepatitis A & B, screening for hepatitis C and HIV counseling and testing. All screening services are free. Donations are always welcome.

We urge all lesbian, bisexual and trans women to "Take the Time" for these important preventative measures. To make an appointment, call Kathy Fowler at 860-278-4163 extension 16, or Donna Shubrooks at extension 13.

## HELP WANTED IN HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

### Employment Opportunities

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**Barbacks**  
**Door Staff**  
**Inside and Outside Security**  
**Male Dancers and Go-Go Boys**  
**Asst. Manager - Restaurant or Bar Experience REQUIRED**  
**Website Maintenance**  
**Advertising/Email Design**  
**Leave Message- 860-216-1351**

**Looking for a job in MA in the healthcare industry? Turn to page 24**

## CT Neighborhood Organizations

**AIDS Testing:** [www.guardianhealth.org](http://www.guardianhealth.org)

**Gay Father's Group:** (203) 938-2881Hartford  
**Community Center:** (860) 724-5542CT Freedom to **Mary Coalition:** (203) 791-9553Love Makes a Family: [www.lmfct.org](http://www.lmfct.org) (860) 525-7777Married **Lesbian Support Group:** [tricolor@aol.com](mailto:tricolor@aol.com) (203) 430-9227

**Married Men's Bisexual Support Group of Hartford:** (860)264-5605Metropolitan Community **Church of New Haven:** (203) 397-2312New Haven **Gay & Lesbian Center:** [www.nhglcc.org](http://www.nhglcc.org); (203) 387-2252

**PFLAG Danbury:** [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org); (203) 797-4743Connecticut's Kids: (203) 256-8414

**Senior Lesbians Happily at Play (SLAPHAPS):** Kathy (203) 929-8113

**True Colors CT:** [www.truecolors.org](http://www.truecolors.org); (888) 565-5551National

**Runaway Switchboard:** (773) 880-9860Connecticut **Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF):** 135 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105 - (860)247.6090 **Info. and Referral program:** (800) 479-2949 or Greater Hartford 524-0601 - Statewide women's rights organization working to end discrimination and hate crimes; provides free legal information and referral to the LGBT community.

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## QPolitics

# GOP gay advocacy group slams Romney in new ad

WASHINGTON (AP)—A Republican gay rights advocacy group accuses Mitt Romney of “Mitt-flops” in a new radio ad that criticizes the former Massachusetts governor on his tax record.

The ad by the Log Cabin Republicans notes that Romney signed legislation in 2003 that increased taxes on New Hampshire residents who worked in Massachusetts. It also says Romney raised taxes on businesses, a point Romney disputes by saying he was merely closing tax loopholes.

“Mitt Flops—sounds like something you’d wear to the beach, but they could cost you,” the ad states. “Let’s see. Running for governor, Mitt Romney said he’d balance the budget without raising taxes. So what’d he really do? He raised taxes on some New Hampshire residents who worked in Massachusetts, taxing their income and their pensions.”

The ad represents yet another anti-Romney campaign by an independent political group that is hitting the airwaves with six weeks before the New Hampshire primary. This weekend, the Republican Majority for Choice, a group that advocates



abortion rights, is running television and newspaper ads in New Hampshire and Iowa accusing Romney of flip-flopping on abortion.

The radio ad represents the second effort by the Log Cabin Republicans to cast Romney as a flip-flopper. Last month, the group aired an

ad in Iowa and on national cable that sought to undercut his support among social conservatives.

Romney spokesman Kevin Madden said it was no surprise that a gay rights group would oppose Romney because he has supported a federal amendment that would declare marriage to be between a man and a woman.

“This negative attack and gross distortion of the governor’s record was launched and paid for by a group recognized as having Mayor (Rudy) Giuliani as their ‘favorite’ candidate,” Madden said. Giuliani has had the support of some gay rights groups in the past and has backed limited legal recognition for same-sex couples.

“Governor Romney has a stellar record of fiscal responsibility, having cut wasteful spending and worked to lower taxes as a chief executive focused on pro-growth economic policies,” Madden said.

The criticism from the Log Cabin Republicans is similar to criticism of Romney contained in Giuliani’s Web site, and in some cases the two camps cite the same sources.

But Log Cabin President Patrick Sammon said there was no coordination between his group and the Giuliani camp.

“We are not endorsing any candidates in this race,” he said. “We have members who are working and supporting different candidates. Gov. Romney is, as usual, trying to attack the messenger instead of responding to the message.”

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## An alternate twist to a bed time story

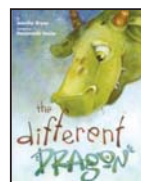
By: Suzan Ambrose/TRT Writer

Jennifer Bryan’s book, *The Different Dragon*, adds an alternative twist to every family’s treasured version of the bedtime story.

In the book, as the two Mom’s help their little ones get ready for bed, Noah and one of his moms, Go-Ma, together begin to create a story. They embark on a magical adventure where Noah meets a new friend – the dragon. He quickly finds out that this dragon isn’t your typical scary, ferocious dragon that you find in the otherwise traditional fairy tale.

Noah helps his new friend the dragon realize that he doesn’t have to be what others expect him to be. He can be any kind of dragon. This is an endearing tale that will give children and parents the opportunity to discuss that it’s OK to be different and to be proud of who you are. The essence of this is captured when Noah says kindly but firmly to the dragon:

“I’m a smart boy and I know some things.



I know that there are lots of different ways to be a dragon, and being fierce isn’t the only one way you have to be. You can be however you want. If you want to crush my sailboat and set it on fire and eat me up you can. Or we

can play badminton and then have some ice cream instead.”

What I enjoyed so much about this book is that although the story clearly brings up Noah having two moms, that aspect does not become the focus of the book. They are just a typical, average, everyday family. I fancy a time in the future when it can be like that for all GLBT families.

This children’s book is brilliantly written and illustrated (I love the cat being involved in all the adventures!). It is perfect for all types of families.

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# New Military Generals and Admirals Call for Repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell

*Military Leaders Say Repealing Policy Banning Gays and Lesbians from Military Service Would Be Beneficial*

WASHINGTON—On the 14th anniversary of the signing of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, 28 retired, high-ranking military leaders have signed onto a letter calling for the policy's repeal. In the years since Don't Ask, Don't Tell was enacted, over 12,000 men and women have been discharged from the military under the policy. This sign-on letter marks the single largest number of Generals and Admirals from the U.S. Armed Forces to come out against the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy at one time.

We support the recent comments of former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, General John Shalikashvili, who has concluded that repealing the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy would not harm, and would indeed help, our armed forces, the letter states.

The opinions of Flag Officers have played a critical role in shaping the policy on gay service. President Bill Clinton chose not to fully lift the gay ban because key military leaders opposed ending the ban. But now a significant number of General Officers are coming forward to acknowledge their opposition to the ban on open service by gay and lesbian members of the Armed Forces.

Some political leaders and academic experts said in 1993 that the military would

not be ready to allow openly gay service until society and the military had developed a more tolerant attitude toward homosexuality.

The statement of these 28 Generals and Admirals is evidence that these changes are occurring or have occurred already. Additionally, a December 2006 Zogby poll of soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan found that 73 percent of soldiers reported being comfortable in the presence of gays, and only 37 percent oppose repealing the policy. A May 2007 CNN/Opinion Research Corporation poll showed that 79 percent of Americans believe that gays and lesbians should be allowed to serve openly in the military.

The letter will be read by two of the generals who will represent a group of 28 at a joint event sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign, Servicemembers United Cabin

Republicans, Servicemembers Legal Defense Network and Liberty Education Forum to recognize the 12,000 men and women discharged from the military since the signing of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

The groups will mark the anniversary of the policy's signing by unveiling the "12,000 Flags for 12,000 Patriots" display on the National Mall. The tribute will begin on Friday, November 30 and continue through Sunday, December 2.

The New York Times has published a story about the letter. To read the story, go to <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/30/us/30military.html?hp>.

*Below is the full text of the letter.*

We respectfully urge Congress to repeal the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. Those of us signing this letter have dedicated our lives to

defending the rights of our citizens to believe whatever they wish. As General Colin Powell, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs said when the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy was enacted, it is not the place of the military or those in senior leadership to make moral judgments.

Scholarly data show that there are approximately one million gay and lesbian veterans in the United States today, as well as 65,000 gays and lesbians currently serving in our armed forces. They have served our nation honorably.

We support the recent comments of another former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, General John Shalikashvili, who has concluded that repealing the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy would not harm, and would indeed help, our armed forces. As is the case in Britain, Israel, and other nations which allow gays and lesbians to serve openly, our service members are professionals who are able to work together effectively despite differences in race, gender, religion, and sexuality. Such collaboration reflects the strength and the best traditions of our democracy.

*The Human Rights Campaign is America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender equality. By inspiring and engaging all Americans, HRC strives to end discrimination against GLBT citizens and realize a nation that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all.*



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## Featured Review

# NIFF: Northampton Independent Film Festival Review

By J.M. Sorrell  
TRT Reviewer

It would be impossible to write reviews for all of the films I saw over the course of two November weekends for Northampton Independent Film Festival's 13th year. An entire newspaper could be dedicated to comments, articles, interviews, and reviews for the many extraordinary films chosen for this year's screening.

Behind the scenes, a seriously, hard-working volunteer crew make this happen every year. A review committee chose 125 films from over 2,000 submissions. The coordination of the use of venues in downtown Northampton and at Smith College with the schedules of filmmakers, actors, and other film crew who come to talk with audiences and area film students is a feat in and of itself.

My greatest disappointment and surprise (this year and last year) is the low attendance for the most incredible films—some of which may not make it to Netflix anytime soon.

Attend the short films, everyone. The comedy shorts, five-college shorts, documentary shorts, drama shorts, mixed bag shorts—you name it, brilliant. As audience members, you must take the leap to attend these films you may not see otherwise. Descriptions do not begin to address the talent.

*Memories of My Melancholy Copy Machine* tells the story of a lonely office worker who falls in love with a copy machine, who loves



him back. Sound weird? It was 14 minutes of brilliance, was very touching, and stayed with me.

Also attend the documentaries and obscure films that you may not see again.

*The Water Front* is a 53 minute long documentary about environmental racism, government bias, and the exploitation of poor, African-American people in a once-thriving community in Michigan. Its messages are implicit, and the filmmaking is far better than your average Michael Moore movie.

*Body/Antibody* is a fictional story about a man with OCD who has not left his Manhattan apartment in 10 months. When he falls in love, the twists and turns that abound will keep you on the edge of your seat. The writing is skilled and unique, and the two principle (and very talented) actors were on hand with the filmmaker to discuss the film.

*Stay Away ... A Little Closer* is a 41 minute painful and poignant look at the life of John Ford Noonan, a Pulitzer Prize-nominated, Obie and Emmy award-winning playwright who struggles with addiction and mental illness. The filmmaker brought him to Northampton for a Q&A with the audience.

*Freeheld*—the story of New Jersey Police Lieutenant Laurel Hester and her campaign to obtain pension benefits for her partner, was shown at Smith. Cynthia Wade, the filmmaker, is alum of Smith College, and she was on hand for two days to talk with students in class and at the film showing. This is the fourth time I have seen the 38 minute film, and I was as moved and teary-eyed as the first time I saw it. Let's hope this one gets an Oscar nomination.

On the final night of the festival, Jane Clark's *The Touch* was shown at Smith College. It is an 8 minute accounting of the

lesbian poet, Renee Vivien, and her relationship with an Islamic woman in Paris 1906. It was artfully presented, and it raised more questions about Vivien's depression and health issues near the end of her life.

There have been more LGBT films in previous years at NIFF. I advise going to [www.niff.org](http://www.niff.org) to find a way to express what you would like to see at next year's festival. Also, sign up to volunteer and be prepared to work hard and have fun. Seriously, this is one of the best independent film festivals in the country. Let's not lose it.

### THE DISAPPOINTING STUFF

People seemed to flock for the opening night screenings, *The Future We Will Create: Inside the World of TED*, and the John Sayles movie, *Honeydripper*—both shown at the Academy of Music. These films were the least interesting films I saw at the festival.

*TED* is the inside world of mostly privileged people who get together to create change every year. The documentary would have drawn me in more effectively, I suspect, if it had been presented in a way that truly honors the intellect and work of those thinkers and artists who attended the conference.

I have long been a fan of John Sayles (ever since *Lianha*). I loved *The Brother from Another Planet*. *Honeydripper* was set similar to a Tennessee Williams play, and it portrayed an Alabama town in the 1950's. It was too trite, and much of the dialogue was as pedantic as a poor Terrance McNally script. The stereotype of the bad-ass African-American woman who whoops the man garnered laughs from the audience, and I found it rather boring and overdone, not to mention offensive.

Finally, a heartfelt congratulations and a tip of the hat goes to Jeffrey Dreisbach, the NIFF Director. Despite the demands and stresses of the festival, he was kind and warm and available every time I saw him. He seemed to be everywhere and to defy the law of Physics that would say you could only be at one movie at a time. Rather than draw attention to himself, he continually praised his team. Get involved and call NIFF at (413) 582-1832.

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# Dr. Lola: Sexpert & more

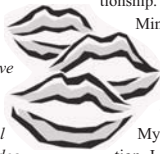
Dear Dr. Lola:

I am a bisexual man in a long-term (six years) polyamorous relationship. You'd think I wouldn't have many, if any, real sexual hang-ups. The thing is one of my lovers adopted a greyhound from the local shelter. Nice thing to do. Nice dog. Great dog. He just doesn't belong in our bedroom watching us have sex. That is too bizarre – even for me. I know he's watching – not just hanging out. Last week Jo-Jo actually jumped up on bed and started humping a guest. Luckily she laughed it off but still this cannot continue. What do I do about this situation? Any help you could offer would be appreciated. Thanks.

Bob  
Schenectady, NY

Dear Bob,

Have I got a bone(r) to pick with you! Okay –no seriously—your situation is not that unusual. With so many households having all manners of pets (animal and other), boundaries are essential. Setting limits and adhering to loving discipline is a requirement for a satisfying master and pet relationship.



Good pets crave this attention. Mine do.

This is my advice; first of all, I wouldn't issue any ultimatums. I love my chichi more than any lover I have ever met.

My dog would win without question. I suggest a compromise. Jo-Jo is probably bored and since he sees you all having fun he just wants to be part of the pack and have fun too. Granted this is not a party he is invited to—so let him have his own fun. When you know you are going to get busy toss him a Kong toy filled with his favorite treats or a little peanut butter with some biscuits inside it and quickly close the door. Kong's are excellent chew toys and greyhounds have notoriously bad teeth so this could be fun and healthy.

In addition to daily play and good amounts of exercise, having several toys around the house that make it fun and interesting to get at what is inside is a great way to minimize separation anxiety. Just to be on the safe side ask your veterinarian for advice on what sort of treats are best for keeping Jo-Jo busy, healthy and satisfied. Bone appetite!

## Marking World AIDS day, Mandela calls for more cooperation on stopping new HIV infections

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP)—The world must not grow complacent about AIDS because the number of new HIV infections still outpaces the number of those being treated for the disease, former South African President Nelson Mandela said at a benefit concert Saturday.

Since stepping down as South Africa's first black president in 1999, Mandela, whose son died from the disease, has championed the cause of people with AIDS. On Saturday, he drew a crowd of about 15,000 to his fifth international awareness concert, held this year to coincide with World AIDS Day.

Recent U.N. figures estimate that the number of AIDS cases fell from almost 40 million last year to 33.2 million in 2007.

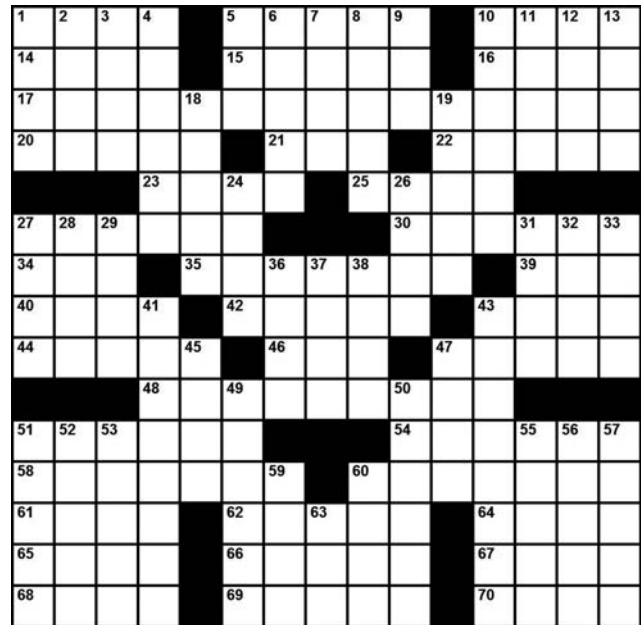
"This lower figure suggests that prevention programs have been successful in bringing down infection rates," Mandela said. "That trend is encouraging but it is still alarming



that for every person receiving treatment, four others are newly infected."

"If we are to stop the AIDS epidemic from expanding we need to break the cycle of new HIV infections. All of us working together with government, communities and civil society can make the difference that is needed. Together we have the power to change the course of destiny," he said to rapturous applause.

## Q Puzzle: "C'est Moi"



### Across

- 1 What guns shoot off
- 5 Big tops
- 10 Sweaty guys get pinned to them
- 14 Maude producer
- 15 Gladys Kravitz, for one
- 16 Star quality
- 17 27/30-Across played Georges in this Broadway musical
- 20 Pool party?
- 21 CBS show in which semen may be evidence
- 22 Makes oneself hard to find
- 23 Nature's blow job?
- 25 Ty, who waved a big stick
- 27 With 30-Across, "C'est Moi" singer
- 30 See 27-Across
- 34 Cheer for Lorca
- 35 Flower for Doris?
- 39 Oddball comedian Phillips
- 40 Period of service for Christine Quinn
- 42 Drag queen's hosiery hue, perhaps
- 43 Bit of gay advice?
- 44 Whale finder
- 46 Bloom of *The Producers*
- 47 Fantasizes about a hottie
- 48 Movie with voice roles by 27/30-Across and Judy Garland
- 51 Q, in a theater
- 54 No zip
- 58 Broadway musical in which 27/30-Across played Lancelot
- 60 Costar Julie in 58-Across
- 61 Tight group
- 62 Wet
- 64 Sappho's H's
- 65 Prefix with gravure, in "Easter Parade"
- 66 Material for nice stones
- 67 Cub slugger
- 68 Deity on Xena
- 69 Rootless rover
- 70 One that attacks a fly

### Down

- 1 Start of a Shakespearean title
- 2 Sexual partners, to the insensitive
- 3 What a knight takes to go clubbing?
- 4 Juicy fruit
- 5 *Cats* inspirer's monogram
- 6 Pass, as human rights laws
- 7 We, to "Fifty Million Frenchmen"
- 8 Like carbon monoxide
- 9 Lotion letters at South Beach
- 10 California home of Streisand
- 11 Barrie's getting on in years
- 12 It can bear fruit
- 13 Femme character in *Mango Kiss*
- 18 Out of one's \_\_\_\_ (ready for the rubber room)
- 19 "Hot dog!"
- 24 Prick
- 26 Enjoy the scenery at a gay bar
- 27 Goes to seed
- 28 It sicks Feniger's pan
- 29 Swiss town with a bear mascot
- 31 Do-overs for Amelie Mauresmo
- 32 Give out
- 33 Like *The Best Little Boy in the World*
- 36 Cry of one in bondage
- 37 Place for Proust
- 38 *Firebird* composer Stravinsky
- 41 Ian McKellen character holding a generator?
- 43 Gay to the max
- 45 Male actor named Julia
- 47 Give for a while
- 49 Beefeater, for example
- 50 Foamed at the mouth
- 51 Capital of Ghana
- 52 Balls in battle
- 53 Be a ham in *Hamlet*?
- 55 "Let's make it a threesome!"
- 56 Michael Landon's \_\_\_\_ *Teenage Werewolf*
- 57 Former leader of Syria
- 59 Take-out on a cheap date?
- 60 Nick was his master 63 Norma McCorvey's memoir \_\_\_\_ Roe

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Source: Witeck-Combs Communications/Harris Interactive, Feb. 2007

## Queer News in NY

# Lesbian Notions: Changing Family Values



By: Libby Post \*

We were in Provincetown for a much-needed vacation this year the week after "Family Week." There wasn't much evidence of the thousands of kids and parents who made the pilgrimage. No broken strollers strewn about like urban detritus. No echoes of children crying. All that was left were the contents of cash registers of local merchants and talk about how difficult it was to maneuver past all the strollers in tight store aisles.

The national LGBT family advocacy group, Family Pride, sponsors Family Week each year. This year, R Family Vacations got into the act as well. R Family is run by Kelli O'Donnell, Rosie's wife, and produced all the large-scale events in P-town that week—dinners, cabarets, etc.

Oh, how things have changed! I remember when we were quite tentative talking about our families. We didn't want to draw too much attention out of fear of legal retribution. Many of us in the community weren't looking to have families in the traditional sense of kids and parents. I, for one, fell into parenthood, since my partner had a child from a previous, straight marriage. My biological clock was never wound, let alone ticking, so having kids was never on my radar.

It's only been in the last decade or so that our families have really gotten onto anyone else's radar other than our own. It took until 1997 for the first state - New Jersey - to expressly authorize adoptions by lesbian or gay couples. No, the legislature didn't do it.

The courts did, in a case called *Gallucio v. New Jersey*.

Ten years later, lesbian and gay families in New Jersey - some from adoption or foster care, some biological in nature - now also have a civil unions law that is supposed to extend all the right and responsibilities of familydom on them as well. Given how difficult it has been for lesbian and gay couples who have been civil-unionized in the Garden State to exact benefits from their employers,

Nevada, New York, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and the District of Columbia also have policies or laws on the books that implicitly or explicitly state that sexual orientation cannot be a basis for preventing gay and lesbian people from adopting.

Given the number of children in need in this country, it is time for many of the country's adoption agencies and county departments of social services to take their heads out of their

those children are awaiting adoption, making foster parenting and adoption available to lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals who want children could solve this national problem overnight.

Right now, there are approximately 65,000 adopted children living with a lesbian or gay parent, accounting for 4 percent of all the adopted children in the country. An additional 14,000 foster kids are living with us as well—we're already raising 3 percent of those kids. Despite the histrionics of groups like Focus on the Family and the American Family Association, we make perfectly good parents. Reputable, professional organizations such as the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the American Medical Association, the Child Welfare League of America, and the North American Council on Adoptable Children all agree that sexual orientation has absolutely no bearing on one's ability to raise a child.

Gay or straight, some of us make good parents, and some of us don't. Who we sleep with has absolutely nothing to do with our ability to raise children. While many straight people don't necessarily plan to have children, it is a deliberate decision that lesbian and gay couples do not enter into lightly.

But we do enter it with a lot of love.

**Gay or straight, some of us make good parents, and some of us don't. Who we sleep with has absolutely nothing to do with our ability to raise children. While many straight people don't necessarily plan to have children, it is a deliberate decision that lesbian and gay couples do not enter into lightly. But we do enter it with a lot of love.**

I'm not convinced that those families will be fully covered by the law either.

But at least lesbian and gay couples can adopt and be foster parents in New Jersey. Florida still has an outright ban, as do Utah and Mississippi, only theirs is more like equal opportunity discrimination—only married couples are allowed to adopt, period.

Utah also forbids unmarried couples from becoming foster parents, while Nebraska has a policy that explicitly prohibits us from being foster parents.

Thankfully, many more states do not take such a draconian view regarding our families. California, Maryland, Massachusetts,

collective butts and start recruiting lesbian and gay foster and adoptive parents.

According to a recent report by The Williams Institute of the UCLA School of Law entitled "Adoption and Foster Care by Gay and Lesbian Parents in the United States," there are plenty of us to go around. Using the 2000 U.S. Census, the National Survey of Family Growth (2002), and the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (2004), the report estimates that there are two million or so gay, lesbian, and bisexual people interested in adopting. Given that half a million children currently live in foster care and more than 100,000 of

## Ithaca's Ben Nichols, professor and former mayor of Ithaca, dies at 87

ITHACA, N.Y. (AP)—Ben Nichols, a professor emeritus at Cornell University and a member of the Democratic Socialists of America who served three terms as mayor of Ithaca, has died.

Nichols, a professor of electrical engineering at Cornell for 40 years, died Saturday of natural causes after being admitted to Cayuga Medical Center, according to Bangs Funeral Home, which is handling the arrangements. He was 87.

Nichols, who served in the Army during World War II, was rooted in the American left and spent much of his life in politics. He was born on Staten Island in 1920 to parents who were Communist Party members. He helped his parents organize a union, supported the Spanish Loyalists during the Spanish Civil

War in the 1930s, protested segregation in the deep South, marched against the Vietnam War, and supported Jesse Jackson for president in the 1980s.

When Nichols was elected to the Ithaca Common Council in 1987, he said affordable

Nichols said at the time. "It goes without saying Ithaca wouldn't be anything like it is without Cornell. Cornell as an institution does not feel quite the same way about Ithaca."

Nichols served as mayor from 1989-95 and narrowly lost his bid for a fourth term. While

law, and that right extended to gay and lesbian marriages.

After leaving office, Nichols remained active in public affairs in Ithaca.

A private burial ceremony was held Monday at Lakeside Cemetery. A public celebration of Nichols' life was expected to be scheduled for the week between Christmas and New Year's, according to the funeral home.

**In 1995, Nichols supported the city council when it voted unanimously to endorse same-sex marriages. He said the U.S. Constitution guaranteed all citizens equal protection under law, and that right extended to gay and lesbian marriages.**

housing and new jobs would be high on his agenda, as well as having Cornell pay for its share of services.

"Cornell and Ithaca are intertwined,"

campaigning, he frequently discussed sensitive issues most candidates avoided, such as taxing developers to pay for affordable housing.

In 1995, Nichols supported the city council when it voted unanimously to endorse same-sex marriages. He said the U.S. Constitution guaranteed all citizens equal protection under

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Q Puzzle Solution from P. 21

# Happy Holidays from The OutField this season



By: Dan Woog\*

A new year is right around the corner. Pausing to look back and consider our blessings is a time-honored tradition, as much a part of the holidays as re-gifting fruitcakes and smirking at carols that command us to "don our gay apparel." As "The OutField" nears the end of its first year, let's look back at the men and women who make the gay sports world such an exciting, alluring, and fun place to be.

We'll start with out professional athletes. The list of big names, while still woefully short, is studded with men and women we can admire: Dave Kopay, Billie Jean King, Martina Navratilova, Greg Louganis, Esera Tuaolo, Sheryl Swoopes, John Amaechi. Let's hope, a year from now, that we can rejoice in the first openly gay American male athlete currently playing on a professional sports team. And then the second, third, and fourth.

We honor, too, the hundreds - probably thousands - of less renowned, but equally important, young women and men who are quietly and courageously openly gay on their college and high school sports teams. Cross-country

runners, soccer strikers, lacrosse middies, water polo goaltenders, football linemen, softball catchers - you name it, they're out there. Accepted by their teammates, these pioneers are altering their coaches' perceptions of them, while advancing their sports and all of American society. We don't know their names, but then again, we don't have to. Neon lights are not the only way to shine.

Let's not forget the out coaches among us - myself included. We know that while our sexuality is only a small part of who we are, it is important. Our impact on all the athletes we work with - straight, gay, and questioning; on and off the field, today and for the rest of their lives - is profound. The word "coach" has many meanings, and teaching young people how to block, kick, and dribble is a far less important one than helping them learn how to think, act, and contribute to the big, wide world.

We definitely appreciate our straight allies. In the sports world they take many forms: athletes who speak up in outrage over bigoted statements by ignorant teammates; readers who wrote encouraging e-mails to *Los Angeles Times* sportswriter Christine Daniels when she transitioned from male to female; former National Football League president Paul Tagliabue, who is not just the father of a gay son, but a passionate PFLAG

dad; marketing executives who go beyond paying lip service to their gay fans, and actually celebrate them. Gay men and lesbians aren't the only folks who understand that "gay sports" is not an oxymoron; our straight allies get it, too.

Thankfully, amateur sports are alive and well. I'm thrilled to see so many gay sports teams - even entire leagues - providing healthy, safe, and fun recreational opportunities for runners, rowers, ruggers, flag footballers, cyclists, skiers, Ultimate Frisbee fanatics, and probably even Ultimate Fighting fools. Ball fields are the new bars - and you don't have to wait until midnight to go.

Every sport has its own governing body. I'm in awe of the time and effort so many gay men and lesbians put toward planning tournaments and events for the rest of us. It's reached the point that an umbrella organization - the Gay and Lesbian Athletes Association - can sponsor conferences, respond to media queries, and act as a clearinghouse for all the rest of our disparate groups. Sure, we're not always happy about the competing Gay Games and OutGames. But it's a lot better than having no games at all.

One thing that is very cool is that athletes are hot. Male swimmers, female bodybuilders, football players sweating in the hot sun, hockey players sweating on the ice - they're all eye

candy. We are glad we can enjoy - and admit we enjoy - gazing at men and women who work hard to look good, who revel in their attractiveness, and who are winners on more than the scoreboard. Who needs the *Sports Illustrated* swimsuit issue when we've got Outsports.com?

Finally, "The OutField" is grateful for you. If you're reading this, you're part of a vibrant, exciting community. You understand the importance of sports as part of our broader gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community. You know the value of competition, the thrill of victory, and the agony of defeat after a hard day on the court, field, or diamond. You don't care whether your teammate, opponent, referee, favorite athlete, or most hated rival is gay, straight, polyamorous, or asexual. All you want is to run, jump, swim, throw or catch, or cheer for those who do.

You can have a seat at my holiday table any day of the year.

\* Dan Woog is a journalist, educator, soccer coach, gay activist, and author of the "Jocks" series of books on gay male athletes. Visit his website at [www.danwoog.com](http://www.danwoog.com). He can be reached care of this publication or at [OutField@qsyndicate.com](mailto:OutField@qsyndicate.com).

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**Looking for other women** for outdoor activities; biking, hiking, and cross country skiing. I like to cook, especially coming up with healthy tasty recipes. Walks in the woods, sitting by a cozy fire, enjoying all life has to offer. Contact: [Treesyster@aol.com](mailto:Treesyster@aol.com)

**Hey, just checking it out** - I am new to boston and looking to meet some friends who like to have fun!!

Maybe more. Contact: Ashley at [natwonder@gmail.com](mailto:natwonder@gmail.com)

### Men 4 Men

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### 3BiCurious

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