

# The Rainbow Times

The Freshest Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Newspaper in New England

PHOTO: DALE STINE

PHOTO: MEENO



**A VERY  
GAGA  
HOLIDAY**  
p5

PHOTO: CHUCK COLBERT



**TRANSGENDER  
EQUAL RIGHTS BILL  
PASSES IN MASS**  
p3

**NORTHAMPTON'S PRIDE  
& JOY REOPENS**

p9

PHOTO: RICHARD VADEN



**The Best of 2011: TRT's Coverage & Year in Review** p7

**Boston Pride Hosts 2nd Annual Holiday to Benefit Youth Pride** p6

**Check out "Mikey Rox's Ultimate Guide to Gay Gift Giving"** p18 & 20

**The  
YEAR in  
QUEER**  
with D Alexander  
p13



# Yes, Rick, the “family” is the bedrock of our society

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

**OPINION** As the 2012 Presidential election nears, the Republican candidates have become more and more preposterous and pervasive in their personal views about Americans, our collective society and neo-conservative views. In what I believe to be a desperate attempt at gaining wide support around the country from their historically social conservative base, the potential presidential candidates have focused on hot buttons issues once again such as gay marriage and the institution of “family.”

Regardless of unfounded claims, a 2011 Gallup poll discovered that a majority of Americans support same-sex marriage. Nearly every political classification saw a rise in the percentage of their affiliated members who favor marriage equality--Democrats, Liberals, Conservatives, Moderates, and Independents, with the exception of Republicans. Their “approval rating” was the exact same as last year, only 28%.

According to a report from the Huffington Post, potential Republican candidate Rick Santorum stated:

“We have to fight the battles in the states,” he said at an Iowa Thanksgiving Family Forum “We cannot defer. We can’t say, ‘The 10th Amendment, they can do what they want.’ This is too important for that. There’s a basic and central value. The family is the bedrock of our society. Unless we protect it with the institution of marriage, our country will fall.”

The concept of “family” has been polluted

by politicians and other pseudo-leaders like Santorum for decades. I equate this rhetoric to be used in the same convoluted way that the term “Christian” has been tarnished too. Families come in all forms and true Christians or any other religious group for that matter should not spread hate and discrimination.

I agree with Santorum, the family is the bedrock of our society and our country will fall unless we protect the institution of marriage--ALL marriages and ALL families.

However, let’s set aside moral corruptness and the “right” for leaders to actively discriminate against the LGBT community. Does he even realize the success and economic growth that has taken place in the states that have allowed gay marriage? Or is he battling his internal demons so much that he can only focus on the anti-gay movement, regardless of how much it would benefit the nation?

Last year, CBS news reported that in states that allow gay marriage such as Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and Iowa, hundreds of jobs have been created due to the nuptials and millions of dollars infused into state economies.

If gay marriage had not been overturned in California, gay couples were projected to spend \$684 million on flowers, cakes, hotels, photographers and other wedding services over a three-year time period alone. This information can be verified by the Williams Institute at University of California, Los Angeles School of Law.

So, considering all things Mr. Santorum, I’m not sure who exactly would support your

**See Opinion on page 3**

## Calling all LGBT business owners, here’s an opportunity for you

**By: Jenn Tracz Grace\*/CABO’s Executive Director**

Are you LGBT? Do you own a business? Did you know there is LGBT business certification you can receive that provides you with access to corporations that are looking to do business with you? This concept is called “supplier diversity” and there are many certifications available, for example: women-owned businesses, minority-owned businesses, disability-owned and veteran-owned businesses, among others. The LGBT business certification is recognized by hundreds of major corporations who are looking to buy goods or services from small-business owners like you.

If you are reading *The Rainbow Times*, I’m willing to bet you are familiar with the Human Rights Campaign and their Corporate Equality Index (CEI). The CEI ranks corporations on their policies and practices as they relate to LGBT employees. On the 2012 index, part of the scoring criteria is whether or not a corporation is actively seeking out LGBT businesses in their supplier-diversity initiatives. This translates into big business for those business owners with a product or service that a corporation may need.



Jenn Tracz Grace

The National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce is the certifying body for this program and any local affiliate can assist you in becoming certified. I am your resource in Connecticut and there are resources in each other state you may reside in. If you want to be pointed in the right direction, please e-mail me, jtracz@thecabo.org. There are huge business opportunities to be had through these initiatives, so please take advantage of them!

CABO is able to provide services to its member in large part due to our corporate partnerships, which include Aetna, Foxwoods, Murtha Cullina LLP, Comcast Business Class, Bearington Insurance, Nutmeg State Federal Credit Union, Clear Channel Radio, The Rainbow Times, MAD Digital Print Solutions and Barmont Productions. Each of these businesses has something great to offer and their commitment and support to the LGBT community is what separates them from the rest. We highly encourage you to do business with one or all of them.

\*In her role as Executive Director, Jenn is responsible for maintaining and growing membership, developing strategic business partnerships and overseeing the day-to-day operations of the organization. In addition to being CABO’s executive director, she also is a small business owner specializing in planning, branding, social media and design services.

## Pinkwashing in Israel distracts attention from larger human-rights violations, a call to action

**By: Jason Lydon/TRT Columnist**

The month of November was “Out in Israel Month,” as organized by the Consulate General of Israel, Israel Campus Round Table, Jewish Community Relations Council, the Boston LGBT Film Festival, among others. Individuals riding the MBTA throughout the Greater Boston Area were bombarded with ads celebrating Israel’s inclusiveness of LGBT people. In an OP-ED last month, Sarah Schulman explains the history of what is called “pinkwashing,” the branding of Israel as a safe-haven for LGBTQ folks while simultaneously directing attention away to the heinous human rights abuses Israel is perpetrating against the indigenous people of Palestine. She directs readers’ attention to the work of Jasbir Puar who names the propensity of LGBTQ support for militaristic nationalism, such as celebrating the repeal of Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell with no analysis of the empire building led by the U.S. military, “homonationalism.” It is ideologies like these that those of us with privileged racial, class, gender and citizenship identities need to be cautious of adopting while we think we are achieving rights or “equality.”

In response to the pinkwashing agenda in Boston a group of people came together to write letters, distribute petitions, and organize attendance or pickets of particular events. The letter to the Boston LGBT Film Festival began as such: “We would like to thank you for your inspired contributions to the LGBT community and to Boston, more generally. Your past film selections evince a commitment to diversity and a preoccupation

with social justice.

Given this excellent history, we are dismayed by your partnership with ‘Out in Israel’ and the corresponding film selection, ‘Mom & Dad: I Have Something to Tell You.’ Through this partnership, you make use of your authority to lend positive publicity to a government whose human rights violations have attracted worldwide censure. Moreover, you form a partnership with ‘Out in Israel’ in spite of an international cultural boycott of Israel -- led by Palestinian artists and allies -- to protest the brutal and illegal occupation.” The letter continued, informing the leadership of the film festival about the reality of Israel’s occupation of Palestinian land and the ways they are using our communities to legitimize their continued colonization. The letter was signed by nearly 100 individuals and yet the Boston LGBT Film Festival continued to use its name as a sponsor of the Consulate General of Israel’s campaign.

Another local organization, Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD), partnered with the “Out in Israel” campaign for a breakfast panel conversation. A letter was also sent to GLAD, which will hopefully lead to a meeting between community members and GLAD lead-

**See Pinkwashing on page 13**



Jason Lydon

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I’ve been a loyal reader of the Rainbow Times for almost 2 years and I commend you for the work you do. I see that your team has diversity on its cover and throughout the paper. I have followed your trans coverage and your LGB too. I think you appeal to many of us, young and old, white and people of color, English and Spanish speaking and you try to put it all into one very good publication. But, I have to mention that I’ve failed to see more bisexual coverage. By being your Facebook fan I’ve seen such coverage there, but not as much in the paper. I’d like to see more of it in the years to come. And, one last thing, I attend most of the events in Northampton and western Massachusetts. I must say that I am disgusted by the gay men and their lack of support of our community. As a trans man, I see how very nicely welcome I am in gay circles and when I speak of other events, put out by our lesbian sisters, I see that gay men are mostly absent from them. I don’t understand this behavior and I resent it because I am a trans man, but I’m also a feminist. I think that the lack of gay support at other events shows a disdain from the gays towards the lesbians and it further disrupts the community. Just because we’re surrounded by lesbians doesn’t mean that we shouldn’t be a part of and support their events. It seems as if it were a “divide and conquer” type of misogyny that I truly condemn. It is to the point that I’ll start going to more and more lesbian events to show my support. Shame on those of you who claim to be members of this community but who divide with your actions. You know who you are, the elite, powerful and non-majority but divisive gay males. Thank you, but no thank you!

-- Joseph Multon, Easthampton, MA

**See Letters on page 3**

## The Rainbow Times

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# Governor Patrick signs Mass. Transgender Equal Rights Bill

## Successful Senate & House vote; law will go into effect July 12, 2012

By: Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter

Gov. Deval Patrick has made history once again by quickly signing the Transgender Equal Rights Bill last week. Prior to the historic signature, the Massachusetts House of Representatives approved its measure on Tuesday evening, Nov. 15. The law will extend civil-rights and hate-crimes protections to transgender residents by July 1, 2012.

The vote was 95 – 58, with only one Republican voting in favor of the bill, Representative Daniel B. Winslow of Norfolk.

"This is our moment," said attorney Jennifer Levi, Transgender Rights Project director for the Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders.

"There is a deeper understanding in this building about the need for these protections," Levi said, adding, "The number of people who have now met with legislators and talked about the reality of their lives made the issue understandable."

"There are no legal arguments left to oppose civil-rights protections," said Levi.

The transgender civil-rights bill will add protections based on "gender identity" to the statutes banning discrimination in employment, housing, education, and credit. It would also add gender identity to current hate-crimes laws.

The measure, however, does not include protections for public accommodations, such as hotels and restaurants, restrooms, locker rooms, public buildings and transit, including subway and bus lines.

That omission bothers a lead sponsor of the bill, Representative Carl M. Sciortino, Jr. (D-Medford). But he said, the bill is a step forward "It makes sure that people who have faced violence and discrimination have legal remedy."

Public accommodations provisions were in-

cluded in an earlier version of the bill but were dropped in a redrafting of the measure by the House Committee on the Judiciary, whose chairman is Representative Eugene L. O'Flaherty (D-Chelsea).

The bill's detractors zeroed in on fears about public safety in restrooms and locker rooms. In an effort to derail the measure, opponents derisively labeled it a "bathroom bill."

Under current law, race, color, religious creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, among other categories are protected classes. The bill would add the term gender identity to the list.

The bill defines that term as "a person's gender-related identity, appearance or behavior, whether or not that gender-related identity, appearance or behavior is different from that traditionally associated with the person's physiology or assigned sex at birth. Gender-related identity may be shown by providing evidence including, but not limited to, medical history, care or treatment of the gender-related identity, consistent and uniform assertion of the gender-related identity or any other evidence that the gender-related identity is sincerely held, as part of a person's core identity; provided however, gender-related identity shall not be asserted for any improper purpose."

Beacon Hill was a whirl of activity yesterday as lawmakers attempted to close out the legislative session.

The vote on the transgender bill came before 9:00 p.m. and after an unsuccessful attempt to refer the legislation to the Ways and Means Committee for study on the measure's effect on state finances.

The vote also came after lawmakers defeated

an amendment, proposed by Representative Paul Frost (R-Andover), to gut the bill of its civil-rights protections, leaving only provisions for hate-crimes protections.

Earlier in the day, a small group of lawmakers opposed to a bill said it would distract the Legislature from creating jobs and improving the economy and that the bill would usher in a flood of lawsuits and hurt small business.

"This is a bill about Beacon Hill once again taking up the wrong priorities," said Representative Marc Lombardo, a Republican from Billerica. The bill "exposes small businesses to unwanted

**See Equal Rights Bill on page 10**

### Opinion from page 2

anti-gay campaign, certainly not the majority of Americans--they already stand in our corner--remember? Even 28% of Republicans support marriage equality. Considering these numbers, who exactly are you trying to influence by introducing such volatile comments? The other 72% of Republicans? It cannot be ignored that Independents are often the individuals that end up deciding the election. Spreading hate for the LGBT community doesn't seem to win their vote either. But, please, allow your ludicrous rhetoric to continue. It makes us that much closer to attaining marriage equality simply by keeping you out of office.

*Nicole Lashomb*

*\*Nicole Lashomb is a seasoned journalist and graphic designer. She holds an MBA from Marylhurst University and a Bachelor's de-*

### Letters from page 2

Dear Editor,

I didn't care for your endorsement of Michael Bardsley. I think that had he been less negative in his campaigning, he could've won. But, I did like your endorsement of Alex Morse. He rocks!

-- Jason Trumbull, Holyoke, MA

Dear Editor,

The column by Pastor Jesepe particularly spoke to me with reference to Apostle Paul and his love for others. It made me meditate about the lack of love that many of us in the GLBT community share, or not. I was at an event not too long ago when a trans guy was speaking negatively about community organizations and even the Times. I did not like it and it was embarrassing to me as a trans woman. I think that love amongst all of us is what will really resonate and unite us when mainstream right wing America hits us with a low blow, as it often does. To put down GLBT efforts by organizations that support us is the same as joining and preaching hatred for the right wing movement. Any GLBT organization, business and individual that engages itself or himself in these types of deprecating insults should be considered as anti-gay as NOM, American Family Association, the Christian Coalition, Abiding Truth Ministries, Concerned Women for America, MassResistance and many others. If you don't love your community, then don't be a part of it. If you are spiritual at all then practice this: "If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all."

-- Jane Hurteau, Springfield, MA

## Stand up for LOVE

**FACT: 63% of all HIV/AIDS cases in the US are in gay and bisexual men and infection rates are rising among men who have sex with men.**

Fenway Health is seeking HIV-negative men who have sex with men to participate in a vaccine trial to determine the safety and effectiveness of an investigational HIV vaccine.

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## Faith, Family, and God -- Holiday Stocking Stuffer

**By: Paul P. Jesepe\*/TRT Columnist**

Everyone loves a stocking stuffer. It doesn't matter if it's small. Size isn't important. Don't be embarrassed if it's modest. There is no such thing as too small. Don't worry about its staying power. Do what you can with what you have. The depth and quality of love is expressed in many ways. Just the effort says you care.

If you're looking to complete your gift-giving with something special or add a little bit extra in the stocking this year then please consider doing it in the spirit of the holiday's meaning. A donation to AliForneyCenter.org in the name of a friend or family member will go a long way to lessening the consumerism that has become the reason for the season.

The Ali Forney Center in New York City takes care of homeless LGBT and Searching youth. These are teens who have been rejected, abandoned, and emotionally abused. They are our greatest treasure, our brightest hope, and are some of the most vulnerable among us.

According to Carl Siciliano, executive director of the Ali Forney Center, "LGBT youth homelessness has become an epidemic." In an article, Siciliano refers to a 2010 report by the Center for American Progress: "as much as 40 percent of the entire homeless youth population in our country is LGBT. Even in a place as liberal and accepting as New York City, an LGBT teen is eight times more likely to become homeless than is a straight teen."

Siciliano has worked with homeless LGBT youth for over 17 years. This tireless advo-

cate and his committed team have witnessed firsthand "the suffering of thousands of these teens."

"I have no doubt that this twofold phenomenon of family rejection and homelessness," he observes "is the most terrible expression of homophobia in our times."

Most unfortunate, however, is the response from the LGBT adult community. Siciliano notes that the response has been "appallingly little. In the entire country, fewer than 250 shelter beds have been established for more than 100,000 homeless LGBT youth. Protecting homeless LGBT youth does not register on the radar of the political priorities of our movement. Our national advocacy organizations devote few, if any, resources toward homeless LGBT youth, and have developed no national strategy to respond to their horrific plight."

Although LGBT and Searching adult advocates have made things like marriage equality, military service and DOMA priorities, the homeless youth have been forgotten.

"I strongly believe," writes Siciliano, "that if we truly made the safety and welfare of these kids a strong priority, then LGBT-supportive politicians would not dare try to throw them in the streets and jeopardize their lives to resolve their budget challenges."

State and city budget cuts have slashed programs for homeless youth programs by 50 percent. If every reader of The Rainbow Times made a gift in someone's name this holiday season in any amount then he or she can take comfort knowing that the world is a little less cold and harsh. You can play a direct role in giving meaning to the holiday designated to celebrate love, peace, goodwill and fellowship.

**See Faith, Family, and God on page 9**

## TRT Book Review: The Gay Gospels

**By: Paul P. Jesepe\*/TRT Columnist**

Dr. Keith Sharpe, a Christian gay writer and activist in London, has authored a new book titled *The Gay Gospels*. He takes what can often be a heavy religious topic and presents it in a crisp, readable, direct manner.

Each chapter is started with one page executive summaries. It makes the book especially valuable as a resource to confront opponents of LGBT and Searching acceptance. If the well-crafted summaries are used, however, then do so after reading the actual scripture passages he discusses. It's best to know what he's discussing and not regurgitate it.

The author covers a lot of ground from analyzing Sodom and Gomorrah to the perceived homophobia of Apostle Paul. If you've ever read other pro-LGBT and Searching Christian writers you'll find that this book takes a fresh approach.

In several cases his discussions are provocative. Some pro-LGBT and Searching Christian writers, historians, and theologians, however, would not agree. He discusses at length, for ex-

ample, the sexuality of Jesus. In light of the close male relationships Christ had the author invites the reader to consider Jesus' gayness. The Bible describes John the Evangelist as Jesus' "beloved" disciple.

Dr. Sharpe suggests that the relationship may have been more than platonic. He writes of Jesus' humanness. According to the author, the patriarchal churches cannot deny that Jesus was sexual, experienced desire, and had "erections and nocturnal emissions as all other men do."

For some it won't be the conclusions that he generates that are necessarily new, but the process to get there that makes the book an interesting read. Others who want nothing to do with religion will find Dr. Sharpe's book a very warm invitation to see how the Bible is pro-LGBT and Searching. And for activists the book's executive summaries can be a very valuable tool. For more information go to [www.TheGayGospels.com](http://www.TheGayGospels.com).

\*Paul also writes the *Faith, Family, and God* column in *The Rainbow Times*.

## Thinking Out Loud: Homosexual Difficulties: The scary truth about one Osmond brother's family-friendly website



**Abby Dees**

**By: Abby Dees\*/Special for TRT**

I had meant to write about serious LGBT news this week, but I accidentally fell down the sinkhole of celebrity gossip—in particular, the goings on of one Alan Osmond (yes, those Osmonds). It started with a video of the former star discussing how Chuck Norris was consulted to help make the boys less effeminate. They wanted to be "tough," Alan said an unsettling number of times.

When I hear about people hiring experts to make them less girly, it has a faint smell of gay panic. Naturally, I wanted to know more. I learned that Alan is the proud owner of thefamily.com, dedicated to "strengthening the family" through inspirational words and clip-art about God, gardening tips, holiday recipes, and countless nerve-rattling reports on the imminent collapse of civilization. Homosexuality—or "homosexual difficulties"—is right up there with Marxism and tsunamis.

I don't mean to pick on Alan, because he's not the most egregious homophobe around. But his website is riveting because it's a perfect template

for being a far-right wing nut. Here's how:

Give regular props to Glenn Beck. Fill your blog with video links showing an over-caffeinated Beck at his blackboard of doom. Also use lots of capital letters and exclamation marks, especially for words like "AMERICA," "CAPITALISM," and "TERRORIST!" For extra hysteria, post bogus forwarded emails about Nancy Pelosi and Obama as if they're news.

Tell people to be afraid, very, very afraid. Then tell them not to be afraid because they're righteous and good. Repeat. It helps to suggest that we're preparing for some kind of war, but be vague about the specifics. Periodically get sentimental about WWII. Those were the days, even if you were born in 1949.

Use cartoons to explain how China is about to buy Europe. On that note, post subtlety racist cartoons about Obama to lighten things up, and throw in a link to the "2011 Woman Driver Awards." Also, feel free to pitch your multi-level marketing body-care line in between stories on who's really behind the Occupy Wall Street movement (The Nazis and the Black Panthers).

And don't forget the homosexual agenda. What all of this has to do with the family is not completely clear. And when it comes to homosexuality

**See Thinking Out Loud on page 13**

**When I hear about people hiring experts to make them less girly, it has a faint smell of gay panic.**

## Wear red for World AIDS Day



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# A very Gaga Holiday, Queen Latifah, Cheyenne Jackson and Nathan Lane

By: Romeo San Vicente\*/Special for TRT

DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD



## A Very Gaga Holiday Season

Leave it to Lady Gaga to avoid the typical when it comes to holiday specials. Instead of joining the Christmas onslaught and risking getting lost in the shuffle of one-off TV events, Gaga's A

Very Gaga Holiday will not only allow her to get the jump on every other entry but put her in the more rarefied atmosphere occupied by very few other Thanksgiving-themed and other holiday specials. In other words, she's chosen the esteemed company of Charlie Brown over Kathie Lee Gifford. The ABC special will feature Gaga performing her new single "Marry The Night" as well as her recent duet with Tony Bennett, "The Lady Is A Tramp." She'll be interviewed by Katie Couric, perform her version of "White Christmas" (it never hurts to hedge your bets) and help chef Art Smith make deep-fried turkey with waffles — presumably, while dressed as a bottle of Mrs. Butterworth's syrup.

## Queen Latifah needs to talk to you about...

Back in 1999, Queen Latifah was still transitioning from a hip-hop career, where she was known primarily as a rapper, to a film and singing career. And around that time she got her own talk show, *The Queen Latifah Show*. It didn't last long, but that was before Oprah left the field wide open for a successor and the last 11 years saw Latifah's career skyrocket to the A-list (even though her sexual orientation remains the subject of public speculation, prompts discussions of "glass closets," and, to this moment, isn't quite 100-percent confirmed). So now a new show is in the works, produced by Latifah's Hollywood pals Will and Jada Pinkett Smith, and their business plan is a shrewd one: it's not hitting airwaves until the fall of 2013, which ought to give the current crop — Anderson Cooper, Bethenny Frankel, Steve Harvey, Ricki Lake and Jeff Probst — time to thin their own ranks via cancellations.

## Watch out, the Original Dragon Tattoo Girl is coming back

Rooney Mara may be the woman American audiences eventually recognize most in the role of Lisbeth Salander after the English-language version of *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo* hits theaters in December, but it was Noomi Rapace, the star of the original trilogy of Swedish films, who carried those movies to this side of the world in the first place. As the hard-bitten, crime-busting lesbian computer genius, Rapace shocked audiences with her character's capacity for violence and her



PHOTO CREDIT: JOE SEER/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

charismatic chilly presence left an indelible mark on every minute of the series. Now Rapace is re-teaming with *Dragon Tattoo* director Niels Arden Oplev for an English language film co-starring Colin Farrell. In *Dead Man Down*, she'll play a woman who seduces a gangster just so she can blackmail him afterward. The film starts shooting in early 2012, with a probable 2013 release date to follow. Sounds like another role that calls for a strong woman, and Rapace is more than capable of it. Just don't call it typecasting; think of it as building a brand.

## Cheyenne Jackson and Nathan Lane, playing it straight?

What kind of sitcom would you expect to see from two gay actors like Nathan Lane and Cheyenne Jackson? How about one where there's no mention of any overly gay plot? No? Well here goes: USA has greenlit an untitled comedy pilot from Oscar nominee Douglas McGrath (*Bullets Over Broadway*) that will star Lane, Jackson and *Scrubs* vet Ken Jenkins. Centered on an unlucky actor (Lane) whose fledgling Broadway career is derailed when his elderly father becomes ill, he'll return fish-out-of-water-style to his Texas hometown, befriending his father's doctor (Jackson) in the process. Obviously, one or both of the characters could turn out to be gay, but right now that's not information anyone's been given. Frankly, it would be an interesting development if neither character were written gay. Jackson already plays a heterosexual character on *30 Rock*, and it would provide further proof that openly gay actors can take on any role they're asked. Neil Patrick Harris and Zachary Quinto can't be expected to carry that burden alone, right?

*\*Romeo San Vicente never stopped believing, but then again he never really started in the first place. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.*

## The Psych Drama Company announces its production of Hamlet

Performances will take place from Nov. 30 – Dec. 17

BOSTON, Mass.—The Psych Drama Company announces its inaugural production of *Hamlet*, playing November 30 through December 17, 2011 at the Boston Center for the Arts' Plaza Black Box Theatre.

Directed by noted psychologist, Dr. Wendy Lippe, the play also features Lippe as the female, "melancholy Dane." *Hamlet* marks the first of the Company's scheduled explorations of Shakespearean and Greek drama. Each performance of the play will be followed by a discussion led by professionals in the fields of psychology, criminal justice and theatre—and includes Dr. Thomas Gutheil, and Dr. Phil-

lip Freeman. *Hamlet* also boasts an original musical score, composed by the Boston indie band Varsity Drag, headed by Lemonheads co-founder, Ben Deily.

Ticketing for *Hamlet* is available via Boston Theatre Scene. For single tickets, please call 617-933-8600 or visit [www.bostontheatrescene.com](http://www.bostontheatrescene.com).

About the Boston Center for the Arts: The Boston Center for the Arts (BCA) is a nonprofit performance and visual arts center. Its mission is to support artists in the creation of new work that connects with and enriches the lives of the broader public. For more information, visit [www.bcaonline.org](http://www.bcaonline.org).

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# Hear Me Out... for the holidays Michael Bublé, Glee

By: Chris Azzopardi/Special for TRT

## Michael Bublé, Christmas

The crooner's sex appeal isn't just surface hotness, though no one's going to fault his boyish features.



It's all over "Santa Baby," taking the typically-for-chicks tune and adding some machismo to it - baby becomes "bubby." And instead of a sable, he wants a manly watch.

With his deep drawl, and his tongue firmly placed in his cheek (don't get any ideas about getting your bells jingled), the time-traveling troubadour pulls off the Eartha Kitt classic most charmingly. Then again, he does justice to most of the classics - 14 of them, and a new one called "Cold December Night" - on his first full-length Christmas album, a project the Frank Sinatra-meets-Dean Martin singer was made for. It's why songs like "Holly Jolly Christmas" and "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas," both beautifully orchestrated by schmaltz master David Foster, fit his classic-sounding voice like hand and glove. To play up his old-soul appeal, he invites the Puppini Sisters for a very merry '60s-styled swing on "Jingle Bells." He stretches his chords on a divine "Ave Maria," has a "White Christmas" with Shania Twain and does a lovely, for-the-fireside version of "I'll Be Home for Christmas." Most surprising is his poignant change-up of Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas is You," pulling back on the

pep and zeroing in on the lonely lyrics of desperation for a lover who's away during the holidays. But not Bublé. He sounds right at home for Christmas.

Grade: B+  
**Glee: The Christmas Album, Volume 2**

Not to be a Grinch, but is more Glee music really at the top of anyone's Christmas list? But here you have it anyway: 12 tracks from a TV show so in love with itself that every few months we must be reminded of how awesome they think they are.



The McKinley High kids are best when they're not being themselves - you know, gleeful. A standout on the second disc of Christmas songs from the glee club is, predictably, Rachel's (aka Lea Michele) appropriately gloomy reading of Joni Mitchell's "River," just her peerless voice and a piano. Moments of minimalism trump all else: "Let It Snow" is a charming duet between Chris Colfer's Kurt and Darren Criss' Blaine, with ad-libs, finger snaps and a similar whimsy to "Baby, It's Cold Outside" from the first set. But the strongest of all the songs doesn't even belong to a New Directions gleek. Instead, that honor goes to Glee Project runners-up Lindsay Pearce and Alex Newell, who sing "Do You Hear What I Hear?" like they're trying to win their way in (this stirring tour de force should do it). The rest? As tacky as those Christmas sweaters grandma

knits. "Extraordinary Merry Christmas" isn't extra ordinary; it's Christmas-through-Katy Perry trash. Same goes for "Do They Know It's Christmas," originally a 1984 charity song that just sounds hokier in their hands, and the '80s romp "Christmas Wrapping" is completely lacking in melody. And they wonder why Sue Sylvester hates them.

Grade: C  
**Dave Koz, Ultimate Christmas**

'Tis the season for the saxophone. Dave Koz's fourth Christmas album is essentially a cash-grab compilation gleaning tracks from his three previous holiday albums - *December Makes Me Feel This Way*, *A Smooth Jazz Christmas* and *Memories of a Winter's Night* - that tacks on two newbies: an intro and an outro (woopy doo!). Definitely not for people who get enough of this on the elevator, this smooth-jazz collection still offers some nice twists in composition, taking "Please Come Home For Christmas" into a bluesy direction with *Idol* finalist Kimberly Locke's singing. But it's a package that, despite tradition, needs some shaking up.

**She & Him, A Very She & Him Christmas**

She & Him make this Christmas their own with carols that aren't cookie-cutter, taking gentler approaches to the same-old. Part of why it works without sounding monotonous is Zooey Deschanel's darling, no-frills voice, a force that pulls you in with just the first few notes of "The Christmas Waltz," tiptoeing in softly with guitar and a beautiful lilt that's delicately matched. More standard fare is just as solid: the intimacy on "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" captures the song's nostalgia and "Silver Bells" is performed prettily just with a ukulele. *A Very She & Him Christmas* is a very nice surprise -

See Hear Me Out on page 13

# Boston Pride prioritizes youth programs for holiday event

## Google among Honorees of New Pink Trumpet Awards

BOSTON, Mass.—Boston Pride, hot off a successful Latin@ Pride Week in September, hosts their 2nd Annual Holiday Event on Saturday, December 10 at the United South End Settlements, 566 Columbus Avenue, Boston. The event- a spirited blend of cocktail party, casino night and awards reception- will flaunt the organization's first-ever Pink Trumpet Awards. Proceeds from the event, which will run from 7-11PM, will benefit the 2012 Youth Pride Celebration, which Boston Pride took ownership of last year.

Local non-profit and LGBT sports celebrity, Marc Davino, will receive the Mission Award and Google, a champion of LGBT equality in the workplace, will be on hand to receive the Vision Award. Awards will also be presented to Fenway Health, MassArt, Staples, and BU School of Medicine for their participation in the 2011 Pride Parade.

"Google has had a longstanding commitment to diversity and raising our voice to protect the rights of our employees. We're honored to receive this award and look forward to continuing our work with the LGBTQ community," says Lauren Hannah-Murphy of Google.

See Youth Programs on page 13

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# The Best of 2011: TRT's Coverage & Year in Review

## January 2011

- Stronger America with DADT repeal: <http://bit.ly/vAy2XC>
- LGBT Health in MA, CT, & RI: A special report on nearby agencies supporting inclusive health care: <http://bit.ly/uRLvut>
- New HIV prevention tool is effective; though implementing 'PrEP' remains a challenge: <http://bit.ly/tQ22JU>
- DOJ files opening Brief in DOMA Lawsuit: <http://bit.ly/swZaEX>

## February 2011

- Connecticut Supreme Court rules in favor of gay couple in parenting case: <http://bit.ly/tlrP2S>
- Gov. Patrick Signs Historic Executive Order Protecting Transgender State Employees: <http://bit.ly/fnF0gl>
- Openly Gay Morse Runs for Mayor: <http://bit.ly/rIOCPf>
- The Rainbow Times wins the 2011 Boston Pride Guide bid: <http://bit.ly/tzYP44>

## March 2011

- Beware: Anti-LGBT groups in New England—our gayborhoods: <http://bit.ly/tBWWxa>
- Boston Pride organizes memorial vigil, seeks to raise awareness of international hate crimes: <http://bit.ly/uT1Ou1>
- Public forum engages black community, LGBT people of color for common cause: <http://bit.ly/rtIjyb>
- President Obama, Justice Department back off 'Defense of Marriage Act': <http://bit.ly/uL4SOT>
- True Colors XVIII Conference: Gathering held to empower and educate queer youth: <http://bit.ly/tPkt1B>
- Senator Kerry Co-Sponsors Bill to Protect LGBT Students: <http://bit.ly/uJDh0T>

## April 2011

- Police repression is not just an old story: Third largest perpetrators of anti-LGBT violence: <http://bit.ly/vPY8J8>
- UMass system widens protection to also include Gender Identity and Expression: <http://bit.ly/sFhsay>
- Openly Gay Justice Nominated to MA Highest Court: <http://bit.ly/fPybnW>
- Roundtable discussion addresses domestic-partner abuse in the Black LGBT community: <http://bit.ly/sxx5lp>
- Historic LGBT Health Study Released: <http://bit.ly/tkV7bM>

## May 2011

- RI House Speaker reverses course, backs civil unions: <http://bit.ly/rIQ174>
- Latin Vision: Personas GLBT sin viviendas y desamparadas: ¡Es la realidad! <http://bit.ly/tY8ul2>
- Queer Insurgency hopes to fill in the blanks at Noho Pride: <http://bit.ly/stL3D7>
- Mass. LGBTQ Bar celebrates openly gay SJC justice, honors retired Chief Justice Margaret Marshall: <http://bit.ly/kdVexm>
- Catholic Church opposes civil unions, after Fox backs them, MERI to hold rally: <http://bit.ly/sEX7II>
- Fenway Health celebrates two decades of women's philanthropy: <http://bit.ly/s6N014>

## June 2011

- InterPride 2012 set for Boston: <http://bit.ly/tXRS0a>
- SAGE Western Mass Launches LGBT Elder Services: <http://bit.ly/s8oeSx>
- The bitter truth in the Sacred Grounds: <http://bit.ly/sloe7W>
- Three Decades of Pride in Northampton: <http://bit.ly/sd3IOc>
- Springfield, Mass. Gay man beaten, others

watched and cheered: <http://bit.ly/vpVo4X>

- Challenging the oppression and prejudice that divides us: <http://bit.ly/sOp9p8>

## July 2011

- Living with HIV - A Survivor's Story: Rhode Island's Darren Wells shares his experience: <http://bit.ly/uRDLZZ>
- Gay Catholics feel Pride at Mass: <http://bit.ly/pFcTQl>
- RI House Speaker subject of YouTube parody: <http://bit.ly/tSzamH>

## August 2011

- New York State ushers in Marriage Equality: Here comes the Brides and Grooms: <http://bit.ly/s5dLPY>
- Leaders from East to West respond to Scott Brown's lack of support for LGBT youth: <http://bit.ly/u2au52>
- There's a lot we can learn from the too early demise of singer Amy Winehouse: <http://bit.ly/rJGXot>
- Wave of Hate Crimes has Puerto Rican LGBT community living in fear; Mainstream media fails to provide adequate coverage: <http://bit.ly/tmjSvY>
- Rhode Island couple speaks out against the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA): <http://bit.ly/rZYeSH>

## September 2011

- Latino Supplement: Memorable Quotes by Latino Leaders & Allies: <http://bit.ly/uDTuvu>
- 2011 Momentum Report: A milestone for LGBT rights that keeps on evolving today: <http://bit.ly/oD81TW>
- Domestic violence among same-sex relationships remains major problem, particularly among women: <http://bit.ly/uezQ3B>
- HIV infections remain high among gay/bisexual men, who appear to make up the majority of those infected: <http://bit.ly/sVXkbG>
- CT's CABO wins LGBT Chamber of the Year

Award: <http://bit.ly/uh5m7s>

- North Shore LGBTQ support group (nAGLY) holds 4th Annual Fundraiser: <http://bit.ly/vKJXPf>

## October 2011

- Boston, nation, celebrate the end of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,' big win for LGBT rights: <http://bit.ly/nnVxW6>
- MTPC celebrates 10 years of transgender advocacy: <http://bit.ly/uYLBqk>
- AIDS Walk raises money and awareness in Western Mass.: <http://bit.ly/rOIFKn>
- Providence Slutwalk attempts to reclaim a derogatory word: <http://bit.ly/pwpAKv>

## November 2011

- Massachusetts is ahead of the curve in HIV infection-rate reductions, but there's still a lot of work to be done: <http://bit.ly/tpJqSi>
- Suicide-prevention conference draws attention to LGBTQ suicide risks: <http://bit.ly/todJj3>
- The 99-percenters of Occupy Boston proud not to belong to the remaining minority: <http://bit.ly/vN14pF>
- Catholic columnist resigns over "devil-makes people-gay" commentary: <http://bit.ly/s71s8H>
- Organization Leaders react to Passage of Transgender Bill Equal Rights: <http://bit.ly/t6Vif7>
- GLAD continues legal offensive against DOMA: <http://bit.ly/vmMkpW>
- DOMA under legal fire from gay service members: <http://bit.ly/tgzzTW>

## December 2011

- Transgender rights bill passes House and Senate, Gov. Patrick Signs Bill: <http://bit.ly/seLBjh>
- Reactions to the Passage of the Transgender Equal Rights Bill: Community Leaders Speak Out: <http://bit.ly/t6Vif7>

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## Creep of the Week: Jerry Cox perfect notion of family, then Sandusky and the gays

By: D'Anne Witkowski\*/Special for TRT

Newsflash: homosexuality and pedophilia are not the same things. Equating the two makes as much sense as equating adopting a pet kitty from a shelter with luring a stray into your yard so you can torture and kill him. Surely anyone who thought the two were the same would be insane.

Though they still might be invited to talk on Public Radio International, specifically the To the Point program, when the topics are the Penn State child abuse scandal and same-sex couples adopting kids. Nice juxtaposition there, guys.

Special guest on the program was Jerry Cox of the Arkansas Family Council, a group that tried like the dickens to prevent gays and lesbians from being foster parents in Arkansas to no avail.

Cox seemed to equate gays wanting to foster or

adopt children with Penn State child-rapist Jerry Sandusky (who fostered kids in the past). Not that this comparison makes sense, but that's not Cox's job. His job is to spew anti-gay invective whenever a microphone gets near his face.

"I find it interesting that we talk about the Penn State situation, and then when we talk about other situations where certain categories of people say it's our right to adopt, it's our right to be a foster parent, in both of those situations the rights of children seem to be put in second place," Cox said.

Let's crack the code. "Certain categories of people" most certainly means gays. And when he says "in both of these situations" Cox is clearly equating letting a known child-rapist foster children with allowing gay people to foster children.

In only one of these "situations" are

the rights and needs of a child "in second place." Hint: it's the child being fostered by the child rapist and second place is far too high of a finish. Last place is more like it.

For Cox, the most important things to look for in a foster family are one penis and one vagina.

**Cox seemed to equate gays wanting to foster or adopt children with Penn State child-rapist Jerry Sandusky (who fostered kids in the past). ... There are millions of homes with stable one-penis-one-vagina structures oh so perfect for foster children. The problem is they're apparently very well hidden.**

"If you have a same-sex couple with an adopted child, what you're in effect saying is that moms don't matter or dads don't matter," he said. "Little girls grow up, little boys grow up and they need both of those role models to grow up in a balanced way."

Mind you, Sandusky is a married-to-a-woman man, which means his family structure meets these criteria. What Cox means by balanced, I don't know. Perhaps he's worried two moms will teach a boy to pee sitting down or two dads might teach a girl to pee standing up.

When To the Point hosts suggested that children would perhaps be better off in a house with same-sex parents rather than languishing in the foster care system, Cox rejected the notion.

"Some - times we sound as if those are the only two choices," Cox said. "It's like, child be institutionalized or be in a same-sex home or cohabiting home, or whatever. And I'd like to challenge this a little bit, to raise our sights a little

bit, and say, you know, the state surely can do better than that."

Yeah, stupid state. Being stuck in an orphanage on one hand, living in a household with two stable and loving foster parents who happen to be gay on the other. It's like Sophie's choice!

Of course, says Cox, those aren't the only options.

"With all the millions of stable homes that are out there, surely the state of California the state of Pennsylvania, the state of Arkansas, wherever we are, surely we can find stable homes with a married mom and dad for these children," he said.

Got that? There are millions of homes with stable one-penis-one-vagina structures oh so perfect for foster children. The problem is they're apparently very well hidden. We're just not looking hard enough. So come out, come out wherever you are. Cox has a pick-up truck full of kids with your (heterosexual only, please) names all over it.

*\*D'Anne Witkowski has been gay for pay since 2003. She's a freelance writer and poet (believe it!). When she's not taking on the creeps of the world she reviews rock 'n' roll shows in Detroit with her twin sister.*

## 2012 BIG EAST Women's Basketball Championship Tickets on Sale Now

**Tourney Returns to Hartford for Ninth Straight Year**

HARTFORD, Conn.—Full-session tickets for the 2012 BIG EAST Women's Basketball Championship Presented by American Eagle Outfitters are on sale now. The Championship, returning to Hartford, Conn. for the ninth-straight year, will be played at the XL Center March 2-6, 2012.

All 16 BIG EAST teams are invited to battle for the conference's automatic NCAA tournament bid. Package tickets to all 15 games of the championship will remain priced at \$99.00 each, discounted by nearly one half of the face value.

The City of Hartford has embraced the annual event, resulting in unparalleled success for the Conference, leading all leagues nationally in average attendance. The City of Hartford has embraced the annual event, resulting in unparalleled success for the Conference, leading all leagues nationally in average attendance.

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The 2011 BIG EAST Championship brought plenty of excitement to the XL Center. The final game featured a match-up that was a preview of an NCAA semifinal. Top-ranked Connecticut held off No. 3 seed Notre Dame to win the 2011 crown. It was Connecticut's 16th title, including six of the last seven. It was Notre Dame's fifth trip to the championship game. Both teams advanced to the 2011 NCAA Final Four, playing each other before Notre Dame defeated the Huskies and advanced to the title game.

The BIG EAST is the largest and most diverse Division I conference in the country. It was formed in 1979 and represents the athletic interests of 16 member institutions including the University of Cincinnati, University of Connecticut, DePaul University, Georgetown University, University of Louisville, Marquette University, University of Notre Dame, University of Pittsburgh, Providence College, Rutgers University, St. John's University, Seton Hall University, University of South Florida, Syracuse University, Villanova University and West Virginia University. The BIG EAST Conference has captured 32 national championships in six different sports and is a founding member of the Bowl Championship Series. For more information on the Conference and its membership, please visit [www.bigeast.org](http://www.bigeast.org).





# Reopening of Northampton's Pride and Joy draws crowds to new location in Thorne's Marketplace

By: Nicole Lashomb/TRT Editor-in-Chief

NORTHAMPTON, Mass.—After months of preparation, Northampton's Pride & Joy successfully launched its grand reopening at its new location in Thorne's Marketplace in downtown Northampton last month. Commonly dubbed as the unofficial LGBT community center of Northampton, Pride & Joy has long been considered the heart of the LGBT community for the past 20 years. Acting Mayor and Mayor Elect David Narkewicz and District Attorney David Sullivan were both present at the celebration and joined in the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

"This isn't just a store; it is a social and political institution in Northampton," said District Attorney David Sullivan. "When times were tough for the LGBT community, this really was the place that was the heart of the political movement, the social movement, and really was there for the community to understand that everyone should be included."

Co-owners Jennifer Harlan and Joy Rain purchased the store during pride season from former co-owners, Kelly Wagoner, Melissa Borchardt, and Jeff Wheelock.

"On Pride Day this past May — the final day the old store was open for business — we stood outside passing out fliers letting people know the store would be re-opening at a later date," said Harlan. "We made the decision to make the new store family-friendly based on the fact that we saw so many lesbian moms and gay dads leaving their kids outside the store while they went in to shop. We wanted to create a store where all families can feel comfortable shopping with their children."

Shortly after the purchase, Harlan and Rain

prepared to move the store from Crafts Avenue to its current location.

"We changed locations because we wanted the store to be in the heart of Northampton and Thorne's Marketplace is just that," said Rain.

Several LGBT & allied supporters filled and overflowed the store and hallways of Thorne's Marketplace in celebration of Pride & Joy's new beginning as they were treated to savory pastries provided by Paul & Elizabeth's restaurant and festive ice cream from Herrell's, also located in Thorne's Marketplace. Evelyn Harris performed throughout the night.

"What a beautiful store," said local filmmaker Barbara Allen, echoing sentiments heard from many at the event. "I hope people remember to shop local and shop here."

With the new store come a new vision and a new product focus.

"Our vision for the store is to be a celebration of Northampton and a destination for the LGBTQ community and allies," Rain explained. "This means we must carry retail items that our customers want. This commitment means that the store needed to begin to offer more high quality clothing, LGBTQ gifts and Northampton souvenirs. We are committed to carrying a selection of resources books that cover topics including LGBTQ parenting, coming out, children's books, and the trans community."

Although change is inevitable, Rain is hopeful that the 20-year old store will live on in the hearts of its customers while embracing its new concept.

"The store's new tagline, 'Live & Let Shop' is about a fun store where customers purchase items that celebrate their identity and maintain a legacy ... thank you for being



District Attorney David Sullivan and Mayor Elect David Narkewicz participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony marking the grand reopening of Pride & Joy with its new co-owners, Joy Rain and Jennifer Harlan. (L-R: D.A. David Sullivan, Joy Rain, Mayor Elect David Narkewicz, and Jennifer Harlan)

part of the legacy," she said.

Northampton's Pride & Joy is located in Thorne's Marketplace at 150 Main Street in

downtown Northampton. To learn more about the store, please visit: [www.nohoprideandjoy.com](http://www.nohoprideandjoy.com) or call 413-727-3758.

## Faith, Family and God from page 4

Sicilaino offers a challenge to the LGBT and Searching adult community. "I hope that we will become the community that our children need us to be." Yes, LGBT and Searching teens are our children. Please consider offering

a donation in someone's honor this holiday season at [AliForneyCenter.org](http://AliForneyCenter.org).

\*Paul is an author, attorney, and a seminary trained, ordained priest in greater Albany, N.Y. E-mail questions about faith to [Dilovod@aol.com](mailto:Dilovod@aol.com).

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# Reactions to the Transgender Equal Rights Bill Passage

By: Christine Nicco/TRT Reporter

The Rainbow Times asked community leaders, attorneys, and activists about what it meant to have the Transgender Equal Rights Bill pass in Massachusetts. Their reactions of the passage and subsequent signing of this Bill by MA Governor Deval Patrick, are transcribed below.

"Having protections in place at the state level will help tremendously in being able to advocate for policies and practices that support rather than discriminate against transgender people at the institutional level. I finally feel included in the state in which I live and work."

-- Genny Beemyn, Director, the Stonewall Center, UMass Amherst

"The lives of our Transgender family members is about to change. And finally, for once, for the better. This is a great day in our state and we applaud the incredibly dedication of MTPC and its partners who worked tirelessly to ensure the passage of this legislation. Today, we celebrate!"

-- Keri Aulita, Boston Pride Deputy Director

"This bill adds "gender identity" to the state's non-discrimination statute and will amend

existing hate crime laws to explicitly protect people targeted for violence and harassment joining other protected classes such as race, religion, creed, color, national origin, and sexual orientation. Massachusetts joins the 13-15 other states that have this protection as well as the many businesses that include trans protections as well.

... As a young trans woman I've been lucky, but I've still experienced employment and housing discrimination and have endured harassed on the streets, at school and even in health care settings. All this discrimination adds up to have severe health consequences for transgender people and it's no wonder that a recent national trans survey showed that 41% of trans people have attempted suicide which is around 20x higher than the general population. To cope, many of us use substances, drink, use tobacco because of crippling rates of depression in this community, but when we go into doctor's offices, we're often either completely refused services, experience harassment or receive substandard care.

Fortunately we have a tool to do something

about this endemic discrimination. We have rights in Massachusetts, finally! This is a major step in the right direction, but we'll need to work together to ensure this is enforced so that transgender people have the same fairness in this society that most take for granted. I can't speak more strongly about the supreme monumental importance of this bill!!"

-- Emilia Dunham, Senior Research Associate, The Fenway Institute

"For a state that was second in the nation with gay rights in 1989, and first in the nation with same-sex marriage in 2004, non-discrimination protections for transgender people are long overdue."

-- Joanne Herman, Author of Transgender Explained For Those Who Are Not, Board Member, Fenway Health

"We give thanks to the legislators who assisted in this endeavor of the Transgender Equal Rights Bill. Congratulations to all! This will show the state, the region and the Nation that legislation like this one are needed and that it will provide equal rights to all in our society. This will provide our transgender brothers and

sisters with the recognition and rights that they deserve! Congratulations to MTPC, Rep. Sciortino, and all who participated in this process and who have been instrumental in making this Transgender Equal Rights a reality!"

-- Wilfred Labiosa, CASPAR Executive Director & Boston Pride Vice-President

"With the passage of the this bill, An Act Relative to Transgender Equal Rights, transgender residents of the state of Massachusetts will have long-awaited vital protections in employment, education, housing, credit, and hate crimes which they desperately need. The bill offers represents an historic step forward in supporting full civil rights protections for the transgender community. The bill does not include public accommodations protections, so while we are celebrating the tremendous protections it does offer, we need to be mindful of our continued need to work to ensure equal access and opportunity for all residents regardless of how they identify or express their gender identities."

-- Ruben Hopwood, Coordinator, Transgender Health Program, Fenway Health

## Equal Rights Bill from page 3

ed press and litigation and opens up the door to social change that would take away the rights of hard working men and women and parents."

"This bill does not promote business," he added. "We need to be focused on one thing in this Legislature: jobs, jobs, jobs."

Joining Lombardo outside the House chambers were Representatives Kevin J. Kurose (Uxbridge), Peter Durant (Spencer), Keiko M. Orrall (Lakeville), Steven L. Levy, (Marlborough), James J. Lyons, Jr. (Andover), Angelo L. D'Emilia (Bridgewater), Paul Adams (Andover), and Shaunna O'Connell (Tauton), among others — all of them Republicans.

Lombardo's comments came at a 10:30 a.m. press conference, which took place as news spread the transgender bill had received a favorable report from the Joint Committee of Judiciary. And therefore, it would be taken up by the full House of Representatives.

"The bill comes with flawed assumptions," said Representative Mark Adams during the press availability. "It assumes that transgender individuals need special protections in order to participate fully in society."

"It encourages politicians to cater to special interests rather than working on issues that promote the common good — lower taxes, good paying jobs, and cleaner environment," Adams said.

"Massachusetts has been very progressive on hate-crime laws, and we have plenty of laws on

the books," he said. "If transgender people have opportunities for recourse if they feel they have been discriminated against."

Adams also said the bill "caters to Boston special interests instead of what is in the best interests of the Commonwealth."

For her part, Representative Shaunna O'Connell said, "The bill is very difficult to interpret" and is "vague." And yet said "O'Connell, "No one in the Legislature tolerates violence against any person at all."

Advocates for the transgender bill, however, remained resolute. They day before, activists held their own press conference. Many of them were on hand Tuesday to hear opponents — and to push back.

"Right now it's legal for a business to fire a transgender person for no other reason than their gender identity," said Sciortino. "A fully functioning, hardworking individual can be told, 'No, you're not welcome to work here, you're not welcome to live here,' for no other reason than gender identity."

"I'd like to remind opponents that transgender people are human beings," said Gunner Scott, executive director of the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition. "Some lawmakers forget that."

"Civil-rights protections never hurt anyone," said Levi. "Providing support in the workplace for all employees is good for business."

## Ask Lambda Legal – Options after Don't Ask Don't Tell

By: Peter Renn/Staff Attorney for Lambda Legal

Dear Ask Lambda Legal,

I'm a former U.S. service member who was discharged under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." Now that the law has been repealed, can I re-enlist? What can I do about my discharge status?

First, I'd like to thank you for your service to the United States — all of us feel immense gratitude for your bravery and commitment.

On September 20, 2011, the discriminatory law known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) was repealed, and, as a result, lesbian, gay, and bisexual service members can now be open about their sexual orientation, if they so choose, without fear of discharge. However, the repeal will not automatically reinstate the estimated 14,500 service members who were discharged under DADT—like you—nor the tens of thousands more who were discharged under the discriminatory policies that preceded DADT.

While the majority of those discharged under DADT received honorable discharges, hundreds of others did not. Less than honorable discharges can have lasting impact, such as limiting access to GI Bill protections and benefits or Veterans Administration healthcare. In addition, veterans often must submit their discharge paperwork when applying for jobs outside the military and the problem of "bad paper" can harm employment prospects. Discharge docu-

ments can "out" someone to potential employers, and if the paperwork indicates less than honorable circumstances, employers may conclude the person had engaged in misconduct. If you did not receive an honorable discharge, but should have, you may be able now be eligible to upgrade your discharge, depending on your individual circumstances.

If you are interested in re-enlistment, prior service members discharged under DADT are evaluated according to the same criteria as other service members seeking reentry, without regard to their sexual orientation.

This is especially important for female and minority service members, who were disproportionately discharged under DADT. For example, in 2008, non-white service members represented 29.4% of the total military population, but comprised 45% of all DADT discharges, and women made up 15% of the armed forces but comprised 34% of discharges www.palmcenter.org, www.palmcenter.org, www.servicemembersunited.org, www.servicemembersunited.org.

Finally, it's important to remember that the repeal of DADT falls short of protecting everyone in the LGBT community and those living with HIV. The medical regulatory ban is still in place for aspiring or current service members who are transgender. The Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA, prevents the military from providing spousal benefits

to same-sex partners, even if you were married in a state that has marriage equality laws. People living with HIV are still prohibited from enlisting in the armed forces, and those already enlisted who test positive face assignment limitations. As far as we've come, there's still much work that remains.

If you have any questions or need legal information, contact Lambda Legal's Help Desk at www.lambdalegal.org/help.

To read this column in Spanish please check out page 21.

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# BOSTON LATINO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

PHOTOS: GLENN KOETZNER



## HELPS

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
			20							21				
22	23	24		25						26				
27			28				29	30				31	32	33
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37					38					39				
40					41					42				
43				44						45				
			46					47				48		
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55						56						57	58	59
60						61					62			
63						64					65			

### Across

- 1 Dick under a Bush, e.g.
- 5 Intense attraction, with "the"
- 9 Amelia Earhart, for one
- 14 Jason went cruising in this
- 15 Hairy twin
- 16 \*ACT UP founder Kramer
- 17 Piece of Mary's little pet
- 19 Classic toothpaste brand
- 20 \*GoldenEye actress
- 22 Bruins great Bobby
- 25 Breakfast on Pluto actor Stephen
- 26 Versatile vehicle
- 27 Go over again
- 29 Helps, and a type of activism for the  
starred clues in this puzzle
- 31 Retired speedster
- 34 Range of the Rockies
- 35 Sweet opening?
- 36 \*Angels in America writer Kushner
- 37 \*Butterfield 8 Oscar winner
- 40 \*Richard of And the Band Played On
- 41 Janet or niece Hunter
- 42 Hubert's successor
- 43 Fruity drink
- 44 Lollobrigida of film
- 45 "Dr. K" of baseball
- 46 Kevin Bacon in Footloose
- 47 Awfully long time
- 48 Away from NNW
- 49 \*My Life on the D-List star
- 55 Vonda Shepard's "It's \_\_\_ Kiss"
- 56 Actually
- 60 \*Sharon of If These Walls Could Talk 2
- 61 Baltic Sea tributary
- 62 Pennsylvania city
- 63 One with an hourglass figure
- 64 Bianchi and Hulce
- 65 Pay for a pad

### Down

- 1 Jim Morrison portrayer Kilmer
- 2 Preposition that goes either way
- 3 One that gets laid
- 4 Gay guy, in Brit slang
- 5 Protection for your head
- 6 Japanese industrial center
- 7 Crack the whip at, e.g.
- 8 Hist. or sci.
- 9 Stones for starting fires
- 10 Run out
- 11 Gershwin and Levin
- 12 Sea flier
- 13 Phillippe, once of One Life to Live
- 18 Hot breakfast fare
- 21 Sit in on
- 22 Brand of Mexican food
- 23 Staggered
- 24 Go to bed
- 28 Sleep lightly
- 29 Allstate rival
- 30 Point of view intro, at Gay.com
- 31 They go well with plaids
- 32 Makes noise in bed
- 33 Power of old films
- 35 In view
- 36 "Equal justice under law," to a gay basher
- 38 Cause to have an orgasm
- 39 Tone deafness
- 44 It regularly blows its top
- 45 Tammy Baldwin's pages, e.g.
- 46 River of Cologne
- 47 The Deep Six actor Zimbalist
- 49 Star-\_\_\_ tuna
- 50 Start to climax
- 51 McAn of shoes
- 52 Historic Stonewall event
- 53 Front end o' China
- 54 Glenn Burke, formerly
- 57 Land of O. Wilde
- 58 Kind of man, in Oz
- 59 To now



**Pinkwashing from page 2**

ership. This letter opened with explicit attention to the Boycott, Divestment, Sanction Movement that has been organized by Palestinians, a campaign that includes a cultural boycott of any events that forward the Israeli agenda of deflecting attention from their human rights abuses. The organizers against pinkwashing of Israel ask for a moment of consideration: "Consider, for instance, what Israel looks like to gay Palestinians. For these individuals, Israel is *anything but* a haven of freedom and inclusivity. Subject to the omnipresence of Israel's gay-inclusive military, Palestinians' movements are controlled and monitored by hundreds of Israeli checkpoints and obstacles throughout the West Bank. Throughout Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem, Palestinians face the threat of home demolition and increasing violence at the hands of Israeli settlers. Even Palestinians who legally live in Israel contend with institutionalized inequity in the form of at least 70 discriminatory Israeli laws." GLAD has a responsibility to look at how they partner with different organizations and what it says to the larger LGBTQ community.

Early last month, dozens of people rallied outside of Brattle Theater where the film "Mom &

Dad I Have Something to Tell You" was being screened. While individuals were walking into the screening there was chanting, "Even if your army's gay, occupation's not okay," "hey hey homo, Israel apartheid's got to go," and others. The director of the film was present and filmed some of the picketing as well as conversation with the protesters. I had the opportunity to speak to him, and one of the pieces I wish I had shared is that even though the story he has to tell is beautiful and important, he is being used by the Israeli government to push forward their own agenda. Even though the story of young queers coming out and dealing with the struggles of internalized oppression in religious households is an essential story to tell, if you use this story in conjunction with the Israeli government then they are the ones who control the message. Even when we, as individuals, do not intend to participate in harm, unchecked privilege leads to a growing cycle of violence.

Even as "Out in Israel Month" comes to a close, the fight against pinkwashing does not. Sarah Schulman reminds all of us that "the long-sought realization of some rights for some gays should not blind us to the struggles against racism in Europe and the United States, or to the Palestinians' insistence on a land to call home." This is a call to action.

**Thinking Out Loud from page 4**

ual difficulties, Alan's having a lot more of those than I am. Don't get me wrong – he is compassionate towards homosexuals because he says so. He uses lots of warm language like "reach out" and "assist them." We are, never forget, the sons and daughters of God.

So how does he suggest his readers reach out to their LGBT loved ones? By gently telling them that homosexuality is an abomination. He has also provided some research links to back up his assertion that homosexuality is a choice – the "power of agency," he calls it. He even includes superscript footnote links for that extra bit of academic oomph.

Here's where Alan really let me down. You see, I got kind of excited that he might have found some anti-gay material that I could sink my teeth into. This isn't a masochistic impulse, but a genuine desire to have a substantive conversation about LGBT issues that calls me to respond with something more complex than, "You're a moron." I like to think that even people who

don't support us have come to their beliefs with a modicum of critical thinking. Without this, arguing for LGBT equality can feel like beating up a bowl of Jell-O.

So I clicked on Alan's footnote links and discovered that they all went to one place: a nearly identical screed on the LDS website. I kept digging and eventually found myself looking at the same few outdated studies that the anti-gay folks have been picking clean for 20 years, and more self-referential LDS material saying that homosexuality is a sin because they said so.

None of this is new. If you dress up fear and bigotry as "family-friendly" and then scare the crap out of the kids, you can still claim the mantle of wholeness. And it would be funny if Alan Osmond were a one-off, but he's not. He's scary precisely because he's so ordinary. "One Bad Apple" will never sound the same again.

*\*Abby is a civil rights attorney-turned-author who has been in the LGBT rights trenches for 25+ years. She can be reached through her website: queerquestionsstraighttalk.com.*

**Hear Me Out from page 6**

even for the hipsters who hate Christmas music. **Carole King, A Holiday Carole**

The legend shows her age on her first studio album in 10 years, disappointedly without a single new tune from the songwriting prodigy. Even her voice, ironed flat throughout, is a let down. "My Favorite Things" tries to recapture King's piano-pop work but comes off as a note-flubbed hack job. The over-enunciated

ding-dongs on "Carol of the Bells" do it a disservice, though the choir helps conceal King's weathered voice. Laughably awful, "Sleigh Ride" sounds more suited for an episode of *Mister Rogers*. Not until the coda, "New Year's Day," is there a truly memorable song that isn't upset by a completely off-key vocal. *A Holiday Carole*, unfortunately, is the coal of Christmas.

*\*Reach Chris Azzopardi via email at chris@pridesource.com*

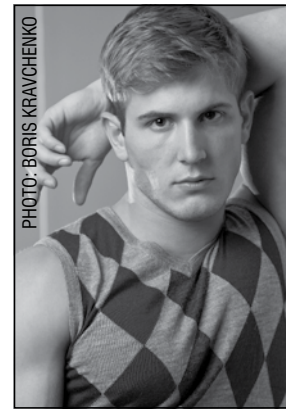
**Youth Programs from page 6**

Keri Aulita, Boston Pride's Director of Development, adds, "As a community-based organization, it's our duty to recognize great work being done by our constituents and we're delighted to honor Marc and Google. Of course, given the incredible suicide rate among LGBT youth, it's also critical that our Youth Pride program continues to thrive. We hope folks will come out to celebrate the season while supporting this important element of our work."

Tickets are \$10 in advance/\$15 at the door with a VIP option also available. For more information and tickets: <http://www.bostonpride.org/events/holiday>.



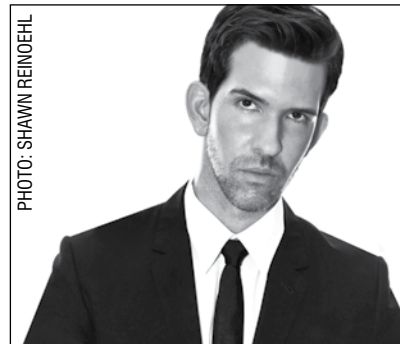
LaLa, Out diva



Scott Herman, Reality Fitness Star



D Alexander, Out musician



Out Musician Aiden Leslie.



Tony Moran, Circuit DJ

# 2011: The Year in Queer

By: Jimmy Newsum/Special for TRT

2011 has been a crazy see-saw year, with terrific highs like *Don't Ask Don't Tell* being repealed, Florida lifting its gay adoption ban and New York joining six other states in the union to legalize Gay Marriage. Also, another delightful gay character has joined prime time television -- we love Happy Ending's Max!

But there were deep lows too including the suicides of gay teens Jamie Hubley and Jamey Rodemeyer and the continued rise of hate crimes against gay and transgender people. We polled some of our favorite bold-faced names on how they will remember the past year in queer.

Q: What was the gay highlight of 2011?

AIDEN LESLIE: New York passing *Gay Marriage*. Not only was it history in the making, it was extra special because it happened over Gay Pride Weekend. To be in New York at the moment was incredible.

SCOTT HERMAN: The repeal of *Don't Ask Don't Tell*. It took long enough!

LALA: New York passing *Gay Marriage*. I'm available to perform gay weddings, ya'll!

TONY MORAN: The mainstreaming of the *It Gets Better* Campaign.

D ALEXANDER: Lady Gaga's "Born This Way" is the soundtrack to a year full of milestone events in the gay community.

Q: What was the gay lo-light of 2011?

LALA: 14-year-old boy, Jamey Rodemeyer, committing suicide.

TONY MORAN: Tracy Morgan's "Stab My Gay Son" joke.

AIDEN LESLIE: The Republican's controlling the House of Representatives. Its frustrating when there is no movement on so many important issues.

SCOTT HERMAN: Gay teen bullying and suicides.

D ALEXANDER: Gay teen suicides. It's time to stop teasing and start loving.

Q: What is the biggest issue facing the gay community today?

D ALEXANDER: Gay teen bullying and suicides.

LALA: Marriage equality.

TONY MORAN: Gay teen bullying and sui-

cides. We have to fight for our youth.

AIDEN LESLIE: The possibility of a Republican president. It would be sad to see the progress we have had made lose its momentum.

SCOTT HERMAN: Gay teen bullying and suicides.

Q: Who was the biggest out star of 2011?

TONY MORAN: Lady Gaga.

AIDEN LESLIE: Ellen DeGeneres and Ricky Martin.

SCOTT HERMAN: Neil Patrick Harris.

D ALEXANDER: Lady Gaga.

LALA: Lady Gaga.

Q: 2011 will forever go down as the year...

TONY MORAN: ...Osama Bin Laden and Muammar Gaddafi were finally taken down.

LALA: ...the gay community won its battle against *Don't Ask, Don't Tell*.

AIDEN LESLIE: ...the people lost hope in Obama. I think people have been quick to count him out, but I wouldn't be so sure.

SCOTT HERMAN: ...the people lost hope in Obama. He spent more time in People Magazine than behind his desk in the oval office.

D ALEXANDER: ...we repealed "Don't ask, Don't tell" and that the LGBT finally integrated itself into mainstream thanks to Gaga and Ke\$ha.

Q: Who do you hope will disappear into the gay abyss in 2012?

SCOTT HERMAN: The cast of *Housewives of New Jersey* and any show that has the word "Jersey" in its title.

LALA: Sarah Palin.

TONY MORAN: Michelle Bachman.

D ALEXANDER: Donald Trump, Tracy Morgan and *Jersey Shore*.

Q: How will you ring in 2012?

AIDEN LESLIE: Onstage, performing, doing what I love most.

TONY MORAN: I will be in the happiest place on earth: the DJ booth.

SCOTT HERMAN: I plan to celebrate with friends and family.

LALA: I'll be rockin' it hard with my tits out!

D ALEXANDER: I'll be on my hands and knees praying the world doesn't end. It would suck if my arrival on the red carpet was brought down by the apocalypse.



# **Busted 2011: CT TRANSADVOCACY COALITION'S FASHION SHOW**



PHOTOS: GLENN KOETZNER

## **HISPANIC BLACK GAY COALITION GALA 2011**





# Out of Town: Winter Adventures of Vail and Beaver Creek

By: Andrew Collins/Special for TRT

Colorado's most famous gay ski weeks are held in Aspen and Telluride, in mid-January and late February respectively, but over the past few years, Vail Gay Ski Week (<http://vailgayskiweek.com>) has begun drawing serious crowds. The gathering takes place in late March and includes the usual mix of fun on the slopes and hobnobbing back around the fireplaces and hot tubs. In winter, skiing and snowboarding may be the region's big draws, but it would be unfair to describe Vail ([www.visitvailvalley.com](http://www.visitvailvalley.com)) and nearby Beaver Creek ([www.beavercreek.com](http://www.beavercreek.com)) as mere ski towns. These scenic communities in the heart of the Colorado Rockies offer plenty of diversions.

Another misconception about Vail ([www.vail.com](http://www.vail.com)) is that it's a crowded, freeway-side ski park. True, the resort's Front Side can get busy on weekends and does overlook Vail's bustling villages and I-70, and this facility is one of the largest in North America, with some 5,300 skiable acres and nearly 200 runs. But there are many places on Vail Mountain to escape from the crowds, and skiers of all abilities will find challenging, varied terrain.

For more solitude, ascend to the upper slopes of Vail's Front Side to access the fabled Back Bowls, a glorious - and vast - swath of less-trammeled runs that descend down the back of the mountain. From there, additional lifts carry those seeking truly secluded terrain into Blue Sky Basin, a stunning patch of wilderness developed by the resort in 2000. In reality, from the majority of Vail's ski runs, you can't see a single mile of freeway or village infrastructure. Just avoid the Front Side, which is possible as long as you're comfortable with intermediate terrain.

If you're planning to ski at more than a couple of the seven facilities owned by Vail Resorts (Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge, Keystone, and

Arapahoe Basin in Colorado, and Heavenly and Northstar in Lake Tahoe, California), consider buying an Epic Pass ([www.snow.com/epic-pass.aspx](http://www.snow.com/epic-pass.aspx)), which offers great deals whether you're skiing for a week or a full season. Standard lift tickets for Vail are also good at nearby Beaver Creek.

Vail was developed as a planned resort community in 1962, designed with a nod toward the quaint chalet-inspired architecture of the Alps. Dozens of resorts, condos, shops, and restaurants have sprung up over the years, the earlier ones retaining the vintage, occasionally kitschy, aesthetic of Bavaria or Tyrol. More recently, Vail has seen a surge in ultra-luxury condo and hotel development. Several notable newcomers - Four Seasons, Ritz-Carlton, and Arrabelle at Vail Square among them - have upped the town's posh factor.

You don't need a car in Vail - the 10-mile paved, multi-use Gore Valley Trail wends through the village, and free buses run regularly among the key neighborhoods and connect with low-priced service throughout the entire valley. You can reach Vail by flying into Eagle County Airport (with direct flights to about a dozen cities), which is 30 miles west, or flying to Denver and renting a car or taking a bus - Vail is a two-hour drive from Denver (allow another 45 minutes from DIA, and account for slow-going on weekends and during rough weather). Vail is a 20-minute drive (shuttle bus service is available) from its smaller, swankier cousin, Beaver Creek.

The small but dapper town of Avon lies at the base of the Beaver Creek ski area and is home to several good restaurants as well as the superb Westin Riverfront Resort. It's a short, winding drive up the hill to reach fashionable Beaver Creek Village, home to 1,800 acres of superb skiing and snowboarding. Chains like Hyatt and Sheraton have impressive hotels set at Beaver



PHOTO: ANDREW COLLINS

## Skiing the Back Bowls at Vail Mountain.

Creek's main base village, which is also anchored by a large skating rink. Lifts and ski runs join Beaver Creek's main area with Arrowhead and Bachelor Gulch mountains - the latter has runs that trickle down to a sumptuous Ritz-Carlton. Almost improbably, given its location down on the Eagle River, the Westin Riverfront is an actual ski-in, ski-out resort - a gondola carries guests to a lift at Lower Beaver Creek Mountain (or you can take free shuttle buses up the hill to Beaver Creek Village). Head 5 miles west of Avon, and you'll find more upscale dining, lodging, and shopping in the town of Edwards.

It bears repeating that these communities abound with the usual diversions you might as-

sociate with acclaimed winter resorts. You can snowshoe, cross-country ski, take snowmobile tours, or simply stroll among the dozens of high-end shops in each village. You'll also find more than a dozen full-service spas among the area's resorts. At the Westin Riverfront, Spa Anjali offers a memorable Himalayan-inspired Abhyanga massage treatment as well as a red clover and mountain honey body mask. Other spas of note include the plush RockResorts Spa at the Arrabelle at Vail Square, and the serene Spa at Four Seasons Vail.

*To continue this story, please visit us online at: <http://bit.ly/uvJWtI>*

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# Book Marks: *Halsted Plays Himself & The Stranger's Child*

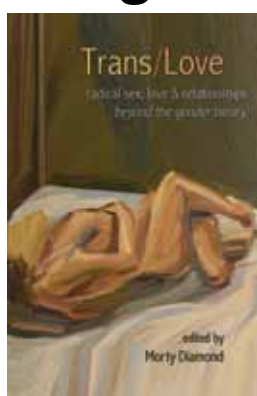
By: Richard Labonte/Special for TRT

*The Stranger's Child*, by Alan Hollinghurst. Knopf, 448 pages, \$27.95 hardcover.

For gay fans of Hollinghurst's first novel, *The Swimming-Pool Library*, his new work – seven years in the writing – may be something of a letdown: it doesn't contain the pyrotechnic combination of explicit sexual intensity and impressively perfect prose of either his debut or of his second novel, *The Folding Star*. In the author's fifth novel, readers will find more subtle sexual moments but even more impeccably perfect prose. The multi-generation, two-family saga spans almost a century, all the while tracking the at-first covert and eventually (after homosexuality is legalized in England in 1967) more overt lives of gay men. The novel opens in 1913, its five sections linked by the characters coalescing around and spinning off from Cecil Valance, a roguish lad who, brought to Cambridge friend George's home, seduces both George and his sister Daphne, scribbles a poem in Daphne's autograph book and – in the manner of real-life poet Rupert Brooke – dies soon after on a French battlefield. Tracing the afterlife of that poem, this character-rich novel is both languid and lyrical.

*Trans/Love: Radical Sex, Love & Relationships Beyond the Gender Binary*, edited by Morty Diamond. Manic D Press, 160 pages, \$14.95 paper.

Editor Diamond introduces this tender, lustful, wrenching, revelatory and celebratory anthology as “a love letter to the trans communi-



ty and beyond.” It is just that. The 29 contributors range from accomplished authors (Julia Serano, Sassafras Lowrey, Max Wolf Valerio, Imani Henry, Diamond himself) to artists in other media (photographer Amos Mac, filmmakers Ashley Altadonna and Silas Howard, performers Glenn Marla, Cooper Lee Bombardier and Kai Kohlsdorf) to assorted scholars, activists and organizers – even a stay-at-home dad, Patch Avery, who rehearses poetry while vacuuming. The diverse roster of writers is united, engagingly, by both the uncommon quality of their prose and the unvarnished honesty of their mini-memoirs, sexual escapades, transformative journeys and intelligent observations. Their contributions take the catch-all term “transgender” and explode it, in a style that is passionate, poignant and intensely personal, into varied components: transsexual, two spirit, genderqueer, intersex. Best of all, Diamond succeeds in his goal of compiling an anthology that transcends transgender readers – this collection's universal appeal, queer and beyond, is delectable.

See Bookmarks on page 19

# Transgender Day of Remembrance in Providence addresses pertinent issues in the community

By: Casey Rocheteau/TRT Reporter

In Rhode Island, the TGI Network and Youth Pride Incorporated (YPI) came together to hold a vigil and discussion for the Day of Remembrance in the Bell Street Chapel on Nov. 20. Fifty to 60 people were in attendance for the ceremony, which included speakers and a reading of the names of 23 transpeople who were victims of fatal violence over the past year. In the front of the room, candles had been lit representing each of their lives, and as their names and causes of death were read, each flame was snuffed out. At the end of the ceremony, those congregated lit their own candles from a single flame and sang “We Are a Gentle, Angry People” by Holly Near.

The Transgender Day of Remembrance can be seen as a day of mourning as well as a celebration of authenticity. The first TDOR was held in San Francisco in 1999 to recognize the loss of Rita Hessler, a transwoman whose murderer has never been brought to justice. According to Jaye Watts, the direct services coordinator at YPI, there had been events held in Rhode Island during the early years that had dissolved up until 2008, when they were resumed. Kim Stowell, managing editor of Options Newsmagazine, added that 2008 was also the year when “the murder of Angie Zapata led to the first time anyone was convicted of a hate crime against a transperson.”

Trevor Beard, the director of TGI, which is “the only statewide organization providing support and advocacy for the TGI (transgender, gender-variant, intersex) community in RI and surrounding areas,” spoke to the issue of hate crimes legislation. Beard stated that “Rhode

Island already has protections for the trans community under the nondiscrimination laws. However, we have been fighting for the past few years to get gender identity and expression added to the hate crimes monitoring laws, as there are no statistics on how many crimes are committed against the transgender community here in Rhode Island.” This was an issue that came out again during the panel discussion following the vigil. Watts pointed out that while Marriage Equality Rhode Island drummed up lines outside of the statehouse, hearings on the hate crimes bill would bring out small handfuls of people. The distinction was made between a couple's right to marry, and an individual's right to their own life and safety.

When asked about the passage of the Trans Equal Rights Bill in neighboring Massachusetts, Watts extended a heartfelt congratulations to the Mass Transgender Political Coalition and their allies, and pointed to the current issue in Rhode Island. While Rhode Island has had trans-inclusive nondiscrimination laws since 2001, “under the Carcieri administration, hate crimes monitoring bills made it to the governor twice and were vetoed. We look forward to the Rhode Island general assembly addressing this bill in their 2012 session and hope that we can soon join Massachusetts with a comprehensive hate crimes law that addresses penalties as well as monitoring.” One of the key pieces of monitoring would be to train law enforcement officers to be able to recognize a hate crime.

Providence's TDOR highlighted stories from several youth while the discussion also made it clear that such violence toward the community sent a message to other transpeople. When asked what she thought was the most pressing issue facing transgender youth today, Kim Stowell said, “Bullying is unquestionably the toughest thing trans youth face.” Watts added, “I think the most pressing issue is parental support and acceptance. I think this is a cornerstone of the foundation of care, services and advocacy that can make all the difference for a young trans person.”

Both Watts and Beard agreed that culturally competent health care and social service providers were also essential. The panel discussion included one trans-friendly pediatrician, who was one of very few in the state.

During the discussion, someone in the audi-

See Providence on page 23

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## TOP 10 BEST SELLER VIDEOS Courtesy: wolfevideo.com

### LESBIAN TOP 10

1. The L Word: The Complete Series
2. The Topp Twins: Untouchable Girls
3. Trigger
4. Circumstance
5. Mangus!
6. Leading Ladies
7. Becoming Chaz
8. Gigola
9. The Lovers & Friends Show: Season 4
10. Elena Undone

### GAY TOP 10

1. The Green
2. Judas Kiss
3. Make the YuleTide Gay
4. Mangus!
5. KickOff
6. Beginners
7. Mulligans
8. Unhappy Birthday
9. What Happens Next
10. Eating Out 4: Drama Camp



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 Bobby Rodriguez  
 Robin McHaelen  
 Bryan Couzens

Thank you for your  
 commitment to the  
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## FMI: [TheRainbowTimesNews.com](http://TheRainbowTimesNews.com)

The TRT Heroes 2012 Wall Calendar is produced by The Rainbow Times, LLC. The heroes with the greatest number of votes will be featured in this calendar. The calendar will be freely distributed in the Jan. 2012 issue of The Rainbow Times.





**Wantful** ★ Still don't know what to buy your bestie? Enter Wantful, an online gift service that allows you to assemble a wish list based on the holiday you're celebrating and other personal information about the gift recipient, including his or her age and gender, your relationship to that person, in what type of dwelling they live, and some of their favorite activities. Wantful will cultivate a list of gift recommendations using your answers, along with the amount of money you'd like to spend. Once you click customize and checkout, Wantful will send a printed catalog to the recipient displaying the items specifically chosen by you for them. Santa wishes he had it so simple. (Pricing varies; www.wantful.com)



**Freehands Gloves** ★ In a touch-screen world, winter can throw us for a loop. Ever tried to keep your hands warm and text at the same time? It's impossible – unless you have specially designed gloves. Available in an array of styles – like raggy wool, soft shell, fleece and leather – Freehands offers protection for your fingers and hands against the elements while allowing you to type away thanks to removable or padded tips compatible with touch technology. (\$18-\$75; www.freehands.com)



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**Just Dance 3** ★ The booty-shaking sensation is back just in time for the holidays. Just Dance 3 – available for Wii, Kinect for Xbox 360, and PlayStation Move – gets the party started with more than 45 top hits, including LMFAO's

"Party Rock Anthem," "Forget You" by Cee-Lo Green, Scissor Sisters' "I Don't Feel Like Dancing" and more. Game highlights modes such as Just Sweat It Out, with workout plans and playlists to help you stay fit, and Dance Crew Mode with up to four concurrent dance routines so even more people can join in on the fun. (\$39.99; www.gamestop.com)

# Mikey Rox's Ultimate Guide to Gay Gift Giving

What do you get a gay who has everything? Take your pick from these ideas, perfect for LGBT homebodies, adventurers, activists and more. By: Mikey Rox/Special for TRT



## Archangel Academy Series

★ Consider this series of supernatural novels "Twilight" for the homo set. Michael Howard and Ronan Glynn-Rowley meet at Archangel Academy, an all-boys school in Eden, a rural town in northwestern England. The boys are outcasts – Michael for being gay; Ronan for being a hybrid vampire. When Ronan turns Michael into a vampire without his consent, both are drawn into a dangerous and sexy new world full of secrets. Two books of three, "Unnatural" and "Unwelcome," are available now; the third, "Unwelcome," will be released in early 2012. (\$9.95; www.kensingtonbooks.com)



**Holiday Spirits** ★ The perfect holiday party is only as good as the spirits the shirtless mixologist serves. This year, stock your bar with the best of the best. • A Swedish liquor crafted with pure spring water and a freeze-filtration process, Rökk Vodka is chilled to subzero temperatures and charcoal filtered. Rökk is also a proud supporter of LGBT initiatives, most recently sponsoring the 22nd Annual GLAAD Media Awards. (\$12.99; rokkvodka.com) • Java and agave marry in Patron XO Café's blend of premium tequila and coffee essence to create an exquisite flavor that's perfect in cocktails and delicious on desserts. (\$24.99; patrongift.com) • Ultra-premium and artfully crafted, Van Gogh Blue Triple Wheat Vodka is a smooth and inviting blend of premium European wheat sourced from Holland, Germany, and France. Its distillery, recently renovated under the supervision of the Holland Monument Society, was given "Royal Appointment" in 2005 by Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands. Totally enough reason to wear your tiara. (\$29.99; vangoghvodka.com) • You'll want to wait until the party boys say goodbye to uncapped Stoli Elit, an ultra-premium, velvety smooth vodka ranked as The Best Tasting Vodka in the World by The Beverage Tasting Institute. It's best shared with that special someone. (\$59.99; elitbystoli.com) • It's Maker's Mark, but with a lot more body. Maker's 46, a full-flavored addition to the line, is bigger and bolder thanks to the addition of seared French oak staves. (makersmark.com) • Unless you plan to serve your bevs straight (as if), you'll need mixers. Q Tonic and Q Ginger are the safest bet this season – especially for those watching their weight. The Tonic contains just 24 calories per serving with 7 grams of carbs, while the Ginger has 60 calories and 15 grams of carbs. Compared to other leading national brands, Q is in a class of its own. (www.qtonic.com)

## Hugh Johnson's Pocket Wine Book 2012

★ Veteran oenophiles and wine newbies alike will enjoy the 35th edition of this best-selling guide from famed connoisseur Hugh Johnson. Highlights include a full-color supplement on Wines from the South of France, reviews of major brands and newly available brands, quick reference vintage charts, and suggestions for matching food with wine – a skill that every self-respecting gay should possess. (\$14.99; www.amazon.com)

**Zip-It** ★ Make that long flight to Ibiza a bit more bearable with Zip-It, a two-player crossword race game that can be played anytime, anywhere in as little as 20 second. From the makers of Bananagrams, Zip-It features 24 high-quality letter cubes package in a unique cloth, zippered pouch that stores easily in your carry-on or day bag. (\$14.95; www.bananagrams.com)



## Nikon J1

★ Combining the portability of a point-and-shoot with the interchangeable lenses of a DSLR, the Nikon 1 introduces a new way to capture photos and high-def video. A touch of the shutter button instantly captures a high quality image while simultaneously recording Full HD 1080p movies, and the exciting new Motion Snapshot mode captures fleeting moments like never before with a combination of moving and still images, bringing memories to life. Wonder if spokesman Ashton Kutcher tested his out that night in San Diego. (\$650; www.nikonusa.com)



## Computer Apparel Laptop Sleeve

★ American Apparel is the undisputed champ when it comes to too-tight V-necks in colors you've never seen before, but when you want a coordinating top for your laptop, Computer Apparel has the market on lock. Handcrafted and machine washable, the Original V Neck Sleeve is made from high-quality fabric and features thermal-knit padding for a tablet and a 13-, 15- or 17-inch laptop, and convenient pockets to stow chargers, documents, and phones or MP3 players. While the Original V Neck is, by nature, fashion-forward, it also adds a level of unexpected security: Your sleeve will thwart would-be computer thieves – unless, of course, they also have a cotton fetish. (\$59.99; www.computer-apparel.com)

SEE Ultimate Guide to Gay Gift Giving on page 20



# If you can't be with family for the holidays, find other company

TRANS NEWS

By: Deja Nicole Greenlaw\* /TRT Columnist

It's December and another holiday season is upon us. For some, that is wonderful news of spending time with the family. To others, it's a not-so-wonderful time to be spending time with family, as there are certain family dynamics and dysfunctions that arise. For still others, it's a time when your family does not want you to spend any time with them at all, period, holidays or not. Even if you showed up at their door during this time you still wouldn't be invited to enter. It's sadly true, but far too many of us are not included in our family's holiday plans, so we must look elsewhere to do something during this time when the world seemingly stops. Almost all businesses close down. There's not much to do except be alone and feel isolated.

Too many of us are not accepted by our family and although it hurts all year long, the hurt is mercilessly brought to the forefront during the holiday season. It's very painful to think about



Deja Nicole Greenlaw

the nice memories of holidays past and the cruel reality of now and what you have lost from your life. Humans are social beings and to be excluded from family gatherings leaves one with hurt, anger, a feeling of loss, a feeling of being unwanted, a feeling of depression and maybe even thoughts of suicide. This is not a good time of year to be alone.

You must make other plans to get through this time.

Find others who are in the same situation. Plan something to do with someone who also has no family plans. Go to the movies and share a meal together. Yes, the theaters are open and a movie is usually a good way to spend a few hours to forget about the world for a while, then off to dinner. Chinese restaurants are usually an option.

## This is why I stand up for trans rights

By: Lorelei Erisis\* /TRT Columnist

It's been a busy month for me and for the Trans Community and so I thought I might answer one of the most commonly asked questions that I get from folks. Basically: Why do I do what I do?

I was thinking about this last night as I attended the Northampton Transgender Day Of Remembrance ceremony. It was a powerful one and the second I had attended this weekend.

As soon as the reading of the names of transpeople who have been killed over the past year began, I started sobbing. Any of those names could have been me or one of my friends. It cut like a knife to listen to the multitude of brutal and torturous ways in which the lives of my trans sisters and brothers are cut short.

It's a reminder that violent, gruesome death could come to any of us at any time. Simply because of who we are.

Later in the ceremony, my fellow columnist Tynan Power conducted an exercise in which he had people stand up to demonstrate the visibility of those of us who put ourselves out there in the pursuit of trans rights and also to emphasize the importance of allies to help and protect us. As I stood in the small group of folks who had testified for trans rights at the statehouse, I realized how naked I was. How much of a target I often make of myself to those who hate us.

But I also thought about how important it is to do this work. How vital it is that those of us who can stand up to be heard and seen do stand up. It is only by saying "No More!" that we might stem the tide of discrimination that plagues our communities.

I thought to myself, "This is a reason I do what I do." Still, it is not the only reason. It is easy to read horror stories and think that being trans is a life of danger and despair.

But despite the difficulties, I have been enormously lucky. I have a supportive family and many loyal friends. I struggle, but I love my life! Making the decision to stop fighting my gender and be the woman I am was the best choice I ever made.

So I think it's also important for those of us who can stand up and to celebrate being transgender and transsexual. To let people know that for all the discrimination and difficulty, there is joy as well. There is laughter and community. And even sometimes victories.

This past week, after years of languishing in committee, and with the hard work of a great many individuals and organizations, Massachusetts finally passed the Trans Civil Rights Bill. A great thanks goes out to MTPC and Gunner Scott particularly for pushing to make equal rights for trans people in this state a reality. This is a victory for all of us.

This happened because folks like you demanded it. Because we all worked together and we believed.

Just days before this historic occasion, I was in Springfield for the Transcending Boundaries Conference. I am vice president of the board of directors and I was also teaching workshops, speaking on panels, emceeing events and performing with my longtime drinking partner, Widow Centauri. I also had the honor of moderating the spirited closing panel with transsexual author, playwright and performance artist Kate Bornstein, bisexual activist and editor Robyn Ochs and transgender author and shaman Raven Caldera.

My favorite thing about working this conference for the past several years has been getting to meet so many amazing people from a diverse intersection of communities. When I teach my workshop, "Gender Performance Through Improvisation," I enjoy the mind-blowing privilege of getting a whole room full of people up and just playing with each other! Queer, kinky, pan, poly, asexual, gays, lesbians, bisexuals, radical disabled folks, academics, trans people from drag queens to crossdressers and transsexuals, and even heterosexual, cisgender people, all playing together like kids on the playground. This is why I stand up.

And over the course of the weekend-long TBC I was especially blessed with the opportunity to spend a good deal of time with Kate Bornstein. A woman to whom I owe a great deal of gratitude for inspiring me to be who I am today. It was the discovery of her book, "Gender Outlaw" when I was in my early 20s that showed me that maybe I could be a transgender woman and still be a multifaceted artist too!

It is to Kate, Calpernia, Bet Power, Leslie Feinberg and all the others who have stood up before me that I owe my life. They who gave me the inspiration to carry on and be strong. They are why I stand up.

And to you, who are just discovering yourself and trying to live your lives proud of who you are. You, who need someone to point to and be inspired by. You are why I stand up.

You are why I do what I do.

Slainte!

\*Lorelei Erisis can be contacted via email at: loreleierisis@therainbowtimesmass.com.



Lorelei Erisis

If so inclined, you may want to go to any of the local churches for their holiday services. Maybe the music might make you feel better if only for a moment or two, or the feeling that you are part of a congregation. There are churches who will very happily welcome you, especially during these times and you may receive an invite to do something later on with some of the members. You never know!

There are other options to while away the hours during this holiday season. On Facebook last year I noticed that a couple of transwomen rented a room in a nice hotel for the holiday period and enjoyed the indoor swimming pool and the hotel restaurant during their stay. Afterward, one woman posted that from now on this is what she will be doing for the future holidays. Yes, to get away and to enjoy yourself is a wonderful idea!

If you cannot get away and if you cannot find someone else to spend some holiday time with you I suggest planning a nice meal for yourself that day. Watching movies on your television or computer is a good idea also. You could always tune in to TransFm, an Internet radio broadcast

by Ethan St Pierre. He will be airing his annual "Hellidaze" broadcast from 7 p.m. on Dec. 13 straight through to midnight on Dec. 25. This will be a special Hellidaze broadcast because this will be his last one. Actually, Ethan will cease broadcasting TransFM after this date.

Ethan has asked me to be on one of the final Hellidaze shows so we settled on Friday, Dec. 23. Check out any of the Hellidaze broadcasts and call in or e-mail to say hi.

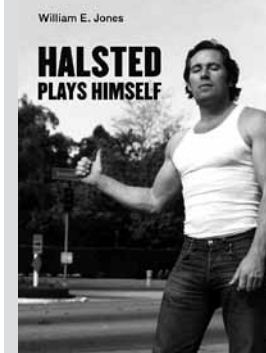
I hope that you have a nice holiday season whether you are with your family or not with your family.

I would also like to invite you all to my Springfield Transgender support group, UniTy's Annual Christmas/Holiday party to be held on Saturday, Dec. 17, starting at 6 p.m. at Club Oz, 397 Dwight St., Springfield, Mass. Come join us for good food, good entertainment, good dance music and good company.

\*Deja Nicole Greenlaw is a local transwoman who has three grown children and works at a local Fortune 500 company. She can be contacted at dejavudeja@sbcglobal.net.

### Bookmarks from page 16

*Halsted Plays Himself*, by William E. Jones. Semiotext(e) Native Agents, 200 pages, \$24.95 hardcover.



Once upon a time, gay porn films attracted the likes of Groucho Marx and Salvador Dali, were collected by New York's Museum of Modern Art and were reviewed in the *Village Voice*, *Daily Variety* and the *New York Post*. That

pre-AIDS era is chronicled with a kinky combination of serious research and sexual relish in Jones' narrative of the life and times of legendary porn performer and filmmaker Fred Halsted, whose films, from 1972's *L.A. Plays Itself* to his final film – they were films then, not videos – 1981's *A Night at Halsted's*, stand as exemplars of the intersection of experimental film and hot sex. The art-book-sized study is stuffed with movie stills that, in today's vernacular, are definitely NSFW, along with what few photos of Halsted's boyhood and pre-porn days the author found in the course of interviewing his subject's peers. Jones' slender but authoritative biography is fleshed out with reprints of film reviews, interviews, a smattering of dialogue from the *L.A. Plays Itself* and – another side of the man – samplings of his erotic prose.

*Out of Step*, by J. Lee Watton. A&M Books, 236 pages, \$17 paper.

It wasn't so long ago – like, three months – that lesbian and gay members of the American armed forces were subject to humiliating witch-hunts despite a desire to serve their country. Watton's account of just that happening to her and a small circle of friends more than 45 years ago arrives, then, at an opportune time. Her story is set in 1965 when, as a WAVE – a mem-

ber of the anachronistic Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Services – she left a frustrating family and a cloying boyfriend to enlist, sensing the need to escape from a preordained life of marriage-house-kids and from something less tangible: self-defined heterosexuality. Soon enough, despite stark warnings from superiors about too-overt friendships with other gals and the consequent horror of homosexuality, Watton's inner lesbian came out, nurtured by several similarly emergent female companions. The author's memories of furtive gatherings, fumbled touching and romance blossoming are heartwarming; her account of subsequent interrogations, in which friend was turned against friend by the Office of Naval Intelligence's feverish desire to ferret out alleged perversity, is heart-wrenching.

### Featured Excerpt

Halsted lived in disregard of what the world required of him. He made his own way. For a handful of years he made something extraordinary seem possible. Some saw him as a man who introduced sex without censorship into avant-garde films; to others, he was an experimental porn director; but Halsted himself had no interest in maintaining those boundaries. He believed in sexual liberation – indeed, in a kind of utopia – and he was willing to sacrifice any possibility of a conventional career for it. Detached from practical realities and courting controversy, he inspired intense reactions, and at their best, his films did the same.

– from *Halsted Plays Himself*, by William E. Jones

\*Richard Labonte has been reading, editing, selling, and writing about queer literature since the mid-'70s. He can be reached in care of this publication or at BookMarks@qsyndicate.com.

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## Running for My Life

By: Tynan Power\*/TRT Columnist

TRANS MAN



PHOTO: GLEN KOETZNER

Last December, I ran my first 5K. I came in a proud 2649th.

Although it was my first race, Northampton's annual Hot Chocolate Run for Safe Passage was nothing new to me. In fact, over the years, I have acquired a collection of Hot Chocolate Run mugs, each sporting polar bears and penguins in a design by cartoonist Hilary Price, creator of "Rhymes With Orange."

The mugs hold precious memories of dragging my sons out of bed early on Saturday mornings to go watch the run and participate in the two-mile family walk. Every year, we'd comment on the runners' skimpy clothes -- "They must be freezing!" we said, shivering in our own heavy fleece and colorful scarves. We'd take off with the crowd of walkers down Main Street. When we got back to the start point, there would be mugs full of unlimited hot chocolate and mini-marshmallows.

The runners seemed like an elite breed. Whether fast or slow, lean or paunchy, in technical running gear or sweatpants and hoodies, they seemed confident and focused. They seemed to be listening intently to their bodies. It made them seem alien -- and made me want to join them.

I've often struggled to feel connected to my body. For many trans people, our bodies are understandably not our best friends; sometimes we're not even on speaking terms. Yet the fact remains that we only get this one body in life. We can dress it and change it so it feels like a better place to hang out, but on a much more basic level, we have to take care of it. A lot of us do a poor job of taking care of our bodies before transition -- and years of bad habits don't magically improve with an injection of hormones.

I'm no exception. Over the years, I've eaten more than my share of junk masquerading as food, skipped medical appointments, and avoided working out. I've also been a victim of domestic violence. And though that was no choice or fault of my own, I think my disconnect from my body and belief that I didn't deserve better led me to stay in that relationship when I should have left.

That's what makes the Hot Chocolate Run so important to me. Each year, it raises funds for Safe Passage, which serves victims of domestic violence. It's a great opportunity to get moving -- to walk or run -- and it's a fun event for the whole community.

In 2009, when I promised myself I'd be one of the runners the following year, I worried that I'd look ridiculous -- the lone fat guy huffing and puffing along the road. When I gave myself permission and time to run, though, I found I didn't care if I looked ridiculous. I actually don't huff and puff. Whatever seems "more important" than my run on any given day is actually better handled after I run, when I'm focused and energized. Every time I run, I'm making a choice to take care of this one body, and this one life.

Last year, I wore my first race bib and a sticker that read "Another Man Against Domestic Violence." I was excited and nervous at the starting line. When I crossed the finish line, all that remained was focused self-awareness. My body, with all it has been through, is strong and whole. I am strong and whole: a runner, a survivor and absolutely another man against domestic violence.

For more information about the Hot Chocolate Run and Family Walk for Safe Passage, visit [www.safepass.org](http://www.safepass.org)

\*Tynan Power is a parent, a writer, a progressive Muslim leader, an interfaith organizer, and a (very slow) runner. He will be at this year's Hot Chocolate Run on Dec. 4, challenging himself to come in 2,648th.

**Boston Pride's 2nd Annual**  
Saturday, December 10, 2011, 7 to 11 PM  
566 Columbus Avenue  
United South End Settlements Lobby  
**Holiday Event**



### Tickets:

\$10 adv / \$15 door / VIP \$25 (incl. 2 drinks)  
[bostonprideholiday.eventbrite.com](http://bostonprideholiday.eventbrite.com)



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**\*\* Silent Auction \*\* Casino Tables \*\***

**Holiday Mash-ups by DJ Double D**

This is an 18+ event

Proceeds from this event will benefit Youth Pride 2012

For more info: [www.bostonpride.org/events/holiday](http://www.bostonpride.org/events/holiday)



## Ultimate Guide to Gay Gift Giving from page 18



### Cloud 9 Living

★ Reduce your carbon footprint this holiday season. The thoughtful and extremely fun activities offered by Cloud 9

Living eliminate the need to stand in line at a store and gives the recipient the gift of a consumable experience -- like a hot-air balloon ride or a snow-tubing adventure -- that reduces landfill and time waste; there won't be any packaging to toss out or the need to return a tangible item that nobody wanted in the first place. Just pure enjoyment for outdoor lovers and adventurers everywhere. (Pricing varies; [www.cloud9living.com](http://www.cloud9living.com))



### Pig of the Month

★ Perhaps we chose this because of its tongue-in-cheek approach to pork, but we can honestly vouch for its quality, too. Rib enthusiasts will start salivating the moment they receive this finger-licking gift that offers customizable packages that can include up to 10 slabs of six styles of ribs, including Memphis Baby Back, Key West Citrus, Carolina Mustard, Carolina Red, Hawaiian, or Texas -- along with bottles of sauce that complement each style. Sides and desserts -- like slow-roasted baked beans red velvet cake -- make the gift a hearty meal. (\$15 and up; [www.pigofthemonth.com](http://www.pigofthemonth.com))



### Nobis Outerwear

★ They say that heat escapes the head faster than any other part of the body, which is why it's good advice to wrap it up when the

weather outside of frightful. Nobis -- whose Fall 2011 Collection includes beanies, berets, caps and hats (there's a difference, y'all) for everyone on your list -- is the epitome of winter luxury featuring soft, detailed, handmade pieces on the cutting edge of style and comfort. (\$30-\$98; [www.nobis.ca/](http://www.nobis.ca/))

### Stonewall Equality Bracelets

★ Lyon Fine Jewelry's Stonewall Equality Bracelet deserves a special place in every stocking this year. Made of leather with silver detailing that resembles the equality emblem, the bracelet is a stylish accessory for the LGBT community and its straight allies. Twenty percent of the proceeds from the sale of each Equality Bracelet will be donated to Friendfactor, a gay-rights organization for straight supporters, which is building a movement to end



discrimination. (\$95; [www.lyonfinejewelry.com](http://www.lyonfinejewelry.com))



# ¡Los brazos que te abrazan hoy y en el 2012 pueden ser el mejor regalo de las Festividades!

Por: Wilfred W. Labiosa\* /Columnista de TRT

LATIN VISION



PHOTO: ERIC HESS

**D**urante el 2011, ¡qué muchas cosas malas nos han pasado! Pero durante estas situaciones siempre he visto gente abrazándose. Después de los tornados en la parte oeste de Massachusetts, después de las inundaciones en Vermont y Rhode Island, las nevadas en Connecticut, el estrés por la economía, y todas las demás situaciones ocurridas en el 2011, la gente siempre busca el apoyo de alguien y un abrazo. Los abrazos son muy importantes para nuestro diario vivir. Maya Angelou, la poeta reconocida, dijo: “Yo he aprendido que cada día debemos buscar y ‘tocar’ a alguien. Las personas aman un abrazo caluroso o simplemente alguien que de una palmada en la espalda y este ahí para ti.”

Los abrazos cambian nuestras expresiones, nuestros sentimientos, nuestros sentidos, y tantas cosas más. Hay estudios que dicen que lo

psicológico, emociones, cuerpos, corazones y tanto más en nuestros cuerpos cambian al recibir o dar un abrazo. Dicen que es la forma más pura de manifestar nuestro cariño, afecto y amor. Hay muchos que le ponen títulos y nombres a los diferentes tipos de abrazos pero el mero acto de ser abrazado/a es lo más importante. Después de que el abrazo sea apropiado y no forzado, el acto puede cambiar el día y quizás algunas veces hasta nuestras vidas. En ocasiones, cuando me siento mal o con estrés y llego a mi casa, mi esposo está ahí y me da un abrazo y todo cambia. Otro ejemplo sucede con mi perrita, la abrazo y todo cambia. No importa a quién le das o quién te da un abrazo, puedes estar seguro/a que todo cambia.

Hace unos días vi la entrevista que le hicieron a la Senadora Gifford y entre todo note como el esposo y ella se daban las manos y se abrazaban. Cuando eso sucedía, todo cambiaba en la cara de la Senadora; el esposo dijo que siempre él le daba un abrazo y se daban cariños aunque las cosas se veían negativas. Y ahora miren como ella hasta camina y habla, no quiero decir que sólo los abrazos la curaron sino que la ayudaron a sentir energía positiva y a cambiar como se sentía cada día.

Después de que la nueva ley a favor de los derechos para nuestro/as hermano/as transgénero fue pasada y aprobada el mes pasado, nos abrazamos y besamos para celebrar este acontecimiento. En una boda, se confirma y ‘sella’ el acontecimiento con un beso y abrazo. Los abrazos son unas acciones imprescindibles en momentos positivos y en otros no tan positivos. Los abrazos nos ayudan a sentirnos mejor a la misma vez que hacemos sentir a la otra persona mejor. Los abrazos son la cura para la ansiedad, tensión, tristeza, y soledad.

En esta época de fiestas, recordemos esto y demos abrazos y dejemos que otros/as nos den abrazos. Este puede ser el mejor regalo del 2011. No nos cuesta nada excepto el esfuerzo de levantar nuestros brazos, movilizar nuestros músculos y movernos hacia la persona, traer los brazos juntos—un abrazo. Estos abrazos deben salir de lo más profundo de nuestra alma, desde lo más fondo de nuestro cuerpo.

¡Vamos a abrazar a todos/as! Hay muchas personas que no tienen hogar, que están tristes, que se sienten aislados/as, deprimidos/as, y sin familias/amistades, a estos/as vamos a darles abrazos y la esperanza de que todo puede cambiar. Estas personas necesitan de nosotros/

as. Vamos a dar de nuestro tiempo, ir a un albergue, servir comidas y dar abrazos a los/as más necesitados durante esta época de fiestas. Debemos aprender la importancia de un abrazo. Traten de dar por lo menos dos abrazos al día.

Si pudiera, les daría a todos/as ustedes un abrazo, pero espero que esta columna les enseñe la importancia de un abrazo y que todos/as reciban de mi parte un abrazo en esta época de Navidad, Hanukkah y Kwanzaa. Los/as quiero y le doy gracias por seguir leyendo esta columna. Les quiero dar un fuerte abrazo a las dueñas de este periódico (The Rainbow Times), a mi familia, a mi esposo y a todos/as mis amistades que me rinden apoyo incondicional durante todo el año. ¡Gracias!

Como Maya Angelou dijo: “He aprendido que las personas se olvidan de lo que tú les dices, las personas se olvidan de lo que tú haces, pero las personas nunca se olvidan como los haces sentir”. ¡Feliz Navidad y todo lo mejor para el 2012! ¡Les deseo mucho amor, paz y abrazos!

\*Escrito por Wilfred Labiosa, líder comunitario, psicólogo, y Director Ejecutivo de CASPAR, Inc. (www.casparinc.org)

## Pregúntale a Lambda Legal – ¿Qué hacer después de “No Preguntes, No Digas”?

Por: Peter Renn/Abogado, Lambda Legal

*Yo era parte de las fuerzas armadas de EE. UU. y fui despedido según la ley anti-gay “No Preguntes No Digas” (NPND). ¿Ahora que la ley ha sido revocada, puedo regresar? ¿Qué puedo hacer acerca del estatus de mi despedida?*

Primero, gracias por tu servicio a los Estados Unidos – todos sentimos una gratitud inmensa por tu servicio.

El 20 de septiembre de 2011, la ley discriminatoria conocida como “No Preguntes No Digas” (“Don’t Ask Don’t Tell”, en inglés) fue revocada, y como resultado el personal militar LGB ahora pueden ser abiertos acerca de su orientación sexual, si ellos tal escogen, sin miedo de ser despedidos. Sin embargo, la revocación no reintegrará automáticamente a los aproximadamente 14.500 ex-militares que fueron despedidos conforme NPND—como tú—ni a las decenas de miles más que fueron despedidos según las políticas discriminatorias que precedieron NPND.

Mientras la mayoría de aquellos despedidos a causa de NPND recibieron bajas honoríficas, cientos de otros no. Bajas con estatus menos que honoríficas pueden tener un gran impacto, como el limitar acceso a las protecciones y los beneficios de la Ley de para Veteranos de Guerra (GI Bill, en inglés) o a cuidados médicos por la Administración de Veteranos. Además, los veteranos a menudo deben someter su papeleo de despedida al solicitar trabajos fuera del ejército, y el problema de “papeleo malo” puede perjudicar perspectivas de empleo. Los documentos de baja pueden divulgar la orientación sexual de ex militares a empleadores potenciales, y si el papeleo indica algo que sea menos que circunstancias honoríficas, los empleadores pueden concluir que la persona se involucró en mala conducta. Si no recibiste una

baja honrosa, ahora tienes el derecho a cambiar el estatus de tu despedida, dependiendo de tus circunstancias particulares.

Si estás interesado en re-enlistarte, ex-militares despedidos a causa de NPND ahora son evaluados según los mismos criterios como otros ex militares que buscan reingreso, sin consideración a tu orientación sexual.

Esto es especialmente importante para las mujeres y minorías raciales, que fueron despedidos desproporcionadamente por NPND. Por ejemplo, en 2008, militares latinos y afro-americanos representaron 29.4% de la población militar total, pero constituyeron 45% de todas las bajas por NPND, y las mujeres formaron 15% de las fuerzas armadas pero constituyeron 34% de despedidas (www.palmcenter.org, www.servicemembersunited.org).

Por último, es importante recordar que la revocación de NPND no protege a todos en las comunidades LGBT y de personas viviendo con el VIH. La prohibición regulativa médica aún sigue vigente, afectando personas transgénero que quisieran ser o son militares. La Ley en Defensa al Matrimonio prohíbe que el ejército proporcione los beneficios conyugales a parejas del mismo sexo, aún si te casas en un estado que ofrece el derecho al matrimonio civil. Las personas con el VIH aún son prohibidas de alistarse en las fuerzas armadas, y esos ya adentro que resultan positivos se les impone limitaciones en las oportunidades de trabajo. Aún con los derechos que ya ganamos, todavía hay mucho trabajo por hacer.

Si tienes pregunta o necesitas información legal, por favor visita [www.lambdalegal.org/es/linea-de-ayuda/](http://www.lambdalegal.org/es/linea-de-ayuda/)

Para leer esta columna en inglés, visita: <http://bit.ly/s27Uwg> o léela en la página 10 de TRT.



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## Best 2011 LGBT Event Photo Coverage: The Rainbow Times' Photo Gallery



**D**on't miss the Year in Review TRT Photo Coverage of the Main events attended, covered and reported on by The Rainbow Times. It is always our pleasure to serve you. Join The Rainbow Times' FB Page <http://on.fb.me/oAfRx3> to become our Fan in the upcoming year & to never miss TRT's Extensive Photo Coverage of all events and topics from LGBTQ, Allies & Pride Events!

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# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LEADERS IN LGBT HEALTHCARE EQUALITY

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## NETWORK LEADERS

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San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center  
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St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center  
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The Human Rights Campaign is the nation's largest civil rights organization working for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality.





# The OutField: Galen Dodd blocks, hits, comes out and the response is unbelievable

By: Dan Woog\*/Special for TRT

**Q SPORTS** At 6-feet-4-inches – and still three months away from his 16th birthday – Galen Dodd might have been expected to play basketball. There's pressure to do so on every tall boy.

But Galen prefers volleyball. He appreciates the mental aspect of the game, along with its physical challenges. "I like to use my mind," the Southern California native says. "I like being mentally fit, not just physically in shape."

Galen is as intelligent and articulate as he is a powerful middle blocker and opposite hitter on his high school and club teams. He's also courageous. In August he came out publicly – to the world. Two months later he told his story on Outsports. He is believed to be the youngest athlete ever to do so on that website.

But this is 2011, not 1951 (or even 2006). Galen's teammates, coaches – even opponents – have been, he says, "100 percent supportive." In some cases, his openness has helped solidify friendships between Galen and straight teammates. That's impressive – even more so when you learn that a number of his club teammates attend an all-boys Catholic school. "The younger generation is a lot more accepting than their parents," Galen says simply.

In fact, after coming out Galen has met "a lot" of openly gay volleyball players, both male and female.

One is Travis Turner. He is the director of Balboa Bay Volleyball Club in Newport Beach – one of the top club teams in the nation – and while Galen was on a plane to Minneapolis in July for the Junior Nationals tournament, he heard members of Travis's team talking and joking about Travis's sexuality "in a good way."

Later, in Arizona for the USA Volleyball High Performance Training Camp and Championships, Galen met Travis. They talked only about volleyball, but back home in California Galen emailed him. He asked the coach about the advantages and drawbacks of coming out. A long phone conversation followed in which Travis said, "If a coach wants you and you can contribute to the team, nothing else matters."

A couple of days later, Galen decided to come out publicly. (His family and some friends already knew.)

Galen did it the 2011 way: on Facebook. Suddenly he was engulfed in a tsunami of positive responses. Some came from players he barely



knew. "They just wanted to say congratulations," Galen explains.

After three days, he had 82 likes and 47 comments. And, Galen says, "no one deleted me."

The Outsports story was next. It had been a source of support for Galen for months, he says, "and I just wanted to give back some

of what I'd gotten."

That story circulated quickly throughout the volleyball world. "Everyone at my club (Southern California Volleyball) saw it," he says. "My team loved it."

He was a bit worried about the response from his coach at Palisades Charter High School. But he too was "totally supportive," Galen says.

A former member of the Southern California

**But this is 2011, not 1951 (or even 2006). Galen's teammates, coaches – even opponents – have been, he says, "100 percent supportive."**

Volleyball Club sent the story – proudly – to every coach he knew. A Los Angeles teacher asked Galen to speak to the entire school. And, Galen says, he heard from several college coaches. They told him that when he's ready to look at schools, he should know that the environment on their campuses is welcoming and accepting.

Still, Galen's ride to out volleyball poster child was not always smooth. Last season – when many of his club teammates were from that Catholic school – he was closeted.

"Every practice I would hear some sort of comment about something or someone being 'gay' or a 'fag,'" he wrote on Outsports. "Each time I cringed thinking of how I would never be able to be who I truly am with them."

"Even though those terms are not meant to be harmful, and don't even seem relevant to what the speaker is trying to express, it has become common language among teenagers and young adults."

But that's all in the past. Galen's current club team is one of the best in the country. His teammates, he says, are "11 other guys that have my back." His two coaches are "nothing but fantastic."

So what's ahead for Galen Dodd? His answer is as clear as you'd expect from any high-level competitive volleyball player, gay or straight: "I am really excited about the new season. I have three more years of high school, and I can't wait to see what happens next."

And, he adds, "Our club volleyball team is going to Junior Nationals in Dallas. We lost in the bronze medal round last year. This time, we're looking to win it."

*\*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.*

## Providence from page 16

ence put a question in about the "TLBG" community, flipping the acronym to put the "T" first, which spoke to the level at which people in the room were dedicated to this community.

Kim Stowell, speaking on being an ally, put it this way: "The Transgender Day of Remembrance is an event that everyone should attend. It is horrifyingly tragic to hear the details recounted of the deaths of these innocent people. The LGB community needs to put some energy behind supporting their trans brothers and sisters." While the TDOR provides a yearly opportunity to do so, the fight for legislation and equal rights continues throughout the year.

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