

# The Rainbow Times

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

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Happy Holidays!

PHOTO: HBGC



**HBGC'S  
2014 GALA**  
Doing More to  
Empower LGBTQ  
Blacks & Latinos p10

PHOTO: IN THE MAKING PROJECT



**"IN THE  
MAKING"**  
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PHOTO: SIMMONS COLLEGE



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**SIXTH CIRCUIT: MARRIAGE BANS UPHELD, NEGATES DOMA RULING** p7



## Promise Place School & bidding adieu to 2014

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

**OPINIONS** Happy Holidays! During this time of year, our team compiles a comprehensive list of all our exclusive and original reporting. This year is no different. We pride ourselves in our commitment to the community and bringing issues that are important to our readers to the forefront of our work. During the last twelve months alone, we have published more than 140 exclusive articles, which are detailed on page 6.

On December 6, Massachusetts will make history again in pioneering efforts for the LGBTQ community as Promise Place School, an organization dedicated to providing a safe and nurturing living and educational environment for unaccompanied LGBTQ youth and young adults, holds its first annual gala to benefit homeless youth.

In various capacities, I've had the pleasure of closely working with the school's founder, Erica Kay-Webster, who has done an amazing job of launching this effort. TRT would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Erica and her team for tackling youth homelessness head on, which continues to be an epidemic in our

**Massachusetts will make history again pioneering efforts for the LGBTQ community as Promise Place School, holds its first annual gala to benefit homeless youth.**

community. According to the organization's website, research has shown there are 600,000 LGBTQ youth ranging in age from eleven to into their twenties. Due to the nature of homelessness most of our youth never have the opportunity to complete their education.

Promise Place School will undoubtedly change the lives of many.

**See Editor 2014 on Page 14**

## Letters to the Editor: Homophobic Rox

Dear Editor,

Mikey Rox's piece in your Dec. 3 edition, "9 Reasons Why Coming Out On A Holiday Isn't A Good Idea," was homophobic and wrong. Here are 9 reasons why:

1. Coming out to family causes division, according to Rox. His argument implies that there is something inherently bad about being gay, and that disruption is the mostly likely outcome. I contend that the opposite is true. Coming out to family is a bold, brave and joyful act, and, thanks to decades of work by many activists and allies, today's families often celebrate the LGBT identity of members. Telling the truth should never be presented as something that is divisive to togetherness. It assumes that unity depends on lies and secrets. It also shames and blames the victim. It is NOT coming out that causes division; it's homophobia.

2. Rox says coming out creates awkwardness. It ought to not EVER be considered awkward to tell one's family the truth, unless one is ashamed and embarrassed. Clearly, Rox has a lot of shadows in his own closet. It permeates his entire piece. Please, friends, come out with self-respect and joy, and give your family a chance to celebrate with you. Introduce your boyfriend or girlfriend with pride. Of course, common sense should apply. Do not come out to a dangerous audience. But if there's even a chance that your family could be in your corner, go for it. Even if they're not...if you're too strong to collude with their homophobia any longer, go for it. Just have an exit plan, if things get too rough. But never feel ashamed or embarrassed. Never think of yourself as an awkward reality, or a problem.

3. Rox says coming out risks being kicked out, so just keep quiet and pretend. Live the lie that makes your family comfortable. First of all, I call bullshit. Second, I think Rox needs therapy for his own internalized homophobia. Third, is it better to lie and pretend for a chance to eat turkey, or to live openly and proudly, with loving friends? Many LGBT people my age did lose our families of origin. We formed new families of loving friends. But today, society is different. More and more families remain supportive and loving. (Thank you, PFLAG!) The truth ought to never depend on protecting the comfort of homophobes, at the expense of the LGBT person. Being out matters. It protects from the kind of self-hatred that permeates Rox's piece.

4. Rox says it's better, when it comes to your family, to keep silent and live a lie, because your friends might be too busy over the holidays to support you, if your family reacts badly. Seriously? Then maybe they aren't really friends. LGBT people understand what it means, to come out to family, and we do support each other. We become loving family, when needed. Clearly, Rox is coming from the closet on this. If you are not out, and don't have a supportive friendship circle, then yeah, you might feel very much alone, after you drop the bomb. Come out to friends and build your support network. Let them know that you're planning to come out to your family over the holidays. Keeping them in the loop is always important.

5. Rox says coming out may offend those who consider the holiday to be Holy. Seriously? This point is so blatantly homophobic

that I honestly can't believe TRT agreed to publish this garbage. Being LGBT is sacred and holy, and telling the truth is a sacred act of power. We are all beautiful children of God, and no queer child should have to lie, to prop up religious homophobia. Rox needs therapy, and a good Pride March! 6. There's no time for a serious discussion when home for the holidays, so Rox says don't spill the beans. Right... Just keep quiet about your dirty little sacrilegious secret and tell your family in an e-mail. At this point I think it's clear that Rox is a self-hating homosexual man who really ought not be giving advice on coming out. I believe in courageous, proud coming out. I think the

**See Letters to Editor on Page 15**

**This Season  
BE SAFE &  
GIVE BACK!**

**The Rainbow Times**

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in New England—Boston Based*

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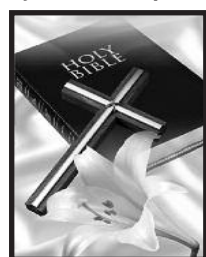
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**HAPPY!**  
*Holidays!*

**TRT WISHES YOU  
LOVE, TOGETHER-  
NESS & A FABU-  
LOUS NEW YEAR!**

## Faith, Family & God: Creating blessings for yourself & others

By: Paul P. Jesepe\*/TRT Columnist



In November, I gave a workshop on integrating spiritual care with mind and body health. Too often we compartmentalize, losing a sense of wholeness. Even if you consider yourself an atheist or humanist, there is something holy, divine and inherently spiritual about your being.

One of the questions explored involved meaning and purpose. Finding relevance in a cold, complicated world is a very personal matter that can only be explored by crafting questions unique to one's sojourn. Crafting and living those questions can bring on a new awakening about who we are and our place in the world.

"What is the meaning of life?" and "Does God exist?" are circular questions too often asked with much energy wasted. The better questions involve an individual's meaning in life at the present and how you "experience" something holy, joyful and meaningful

today. In using the word holy, I don't mean angels or hearing the voice of a supreme being, though it's perfectly acceptable if you have the benefit of such grace. Instead, I'm referring to our individual sacredness and making an integrated connectivity to life and community. Put another way, think of yourself as a "creator" who can channel energy to bring about good things.

This channeling "creates" blessings for yourself and others, including those difficult to like, in an ever unfolding cosmos. The cosmos offers an open invitation to create goodness by directing energy. If you're a person of faith, consider yourself a "co-creator" with the Creator, helping to bring heaven on earth using your personal energy to fuel greater love, kindness, empathy, and compassion. If you're without be-

lief, you are still empowered to create by managing energy.

Today, at this moment, is your reality. What will you create with your energy? Will you ask for the manager at a restaurant to compliment a member of the wait staff for great service? Will you go to the kitchen door and ask for 30 seconds of the chef's time to gush over the meal? Will you buy a

**See Blessings on page 12**

**"What is the meaning of life?" and "Does God exist?" are circular questions too often asked with much energy wasted.**



# Simmons new undergraduate admissions policy welcomes transgender women

By: Clara Lefton/TRT Reporter

IN THE LIMELIGHT

BOSTON, Mass.—This Fall, Simmons College became the third traditional women's college in the United States to welcome transgender women as students, according to an announcement made by Simmons President Helen Drinan, a Mount Holyoke graduate, who wrote a letter to the undergraduates and published a piece in The Huffington Post (tiny.cc/dm2vpx).

"In recent years, we have seen an evolution in societal norms surrounding gender identity and expression. Traditional notions of womanhood and femaleness are being challenged, and new laws are emerging to protect transgender individuals, i.e. those who do not subscribe to the traditional gender binary," Drinan explained in her note to the Simmons community.

The new policy will specifically apply to undergraduates, as the graduate programs at Simmons are co-educational. The school's latest admissions rule details that it will be accepting students born female, as well as those who identify as female, but were born as male; this also includes transmen who were born female. Although this is the first time Simmons has openly addressed their policies towards admitting people other than those who were born female, in the past they have admitted these students, as well as those who are gender variant. This formal-



**Simmons College recently announced a new undergraduate transgender admissions policy.**

ized policy includes the input of a Simmons Transgender Task Force that incorporated a variety of professors, registrars, trustees and more.

"Women's colleges were created to empower women to go into any field that they want and be able to do whatever they want—fighting against patriarchy and breaking down 'male-dominated' fields and gendered norms," explained Erin Butterfield, Simmons Class of 2015. "Therefore, accepting anyone who is not a cis-man—someone who is born a man and identifies

as such—follows those values completely. Gender nonconforming people who were born female and trans men can come to Simmons because they were raised as females and have faced oppression and patriarchy. Trans women are women, so of course they are welcome."

Since these three colleges have changed their admissions policies in the last year, it has sparked a debate among other schools as to whether or not they should change their admissions policies as well. All three of the school's current policies do not explicitly re-

quire transgender people to undergo medical hormonal adjustments, gender reassignment surgery or legal name change. The only specific criteria for those who are born male is for them to self-identify as women in order to be admitted.

"I am against Mount Holyoke's policy to admit and allow continued enrollment of students who were not born biologically female or identify as male," said Aria Berliner, who graduated from Mount Holyoke in 2010. "Without proof, what's stopping someone from exploiting the policy from attending Mount Holyoke? [It's] a great school and I know male students from the surrounding colleges who have taken courses at Mount Holyoke because of its academic rigor and diverse course offerings. How does [the school] ensure that biologically born male applicants that identify as male do not take advantage of the system?"

The new admissions policies also open up a debate as to whether or not women's colleges should admit students who were born female but later identify as men. According to some, these policies may send mixed messages as to whether or not they acknowledge trans men's identities as seriously as trans women's.

"I do have a problem [when] a woman decides to attend a women's college and then decides to go through with the biological changes: taking hormones to become a trans male, while attending the institution. They knowingly chose to attend a women's ...

**See Simmons on Page 15**

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# LGBTQs to celebrate holidays with accepting, inclusive religious & spiritual orgs.

By: Lauren Walliser/TRT Assistant Editor

BOSTON, Mass.—With the holiday season approaching, LGBTQ people who are spiritual and/or religious may be looking for places of worship, congregations, or other organizations through which they can celebrate while also feeling safe and accepted. The New England area offers many progressive Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and other groups of various denominations who are dedicated to inclusion of LGBTQ people, as well as those that are explicitly run by and for LGBTQ folks and allies.

Keshet is a national grassroots organization that works for the full equality and inclusion of LGBTQ Jews in Jewish life. Based in Jamaica Plain, they serve LGBTQ Jews, leaders and staff of Jewish institutions, queer and ally Jewish youth, and parents and family members of LGBTQ Jews.

“Keshet strives to cultivate the spirit and practice of inclusion in all parts of the Jewish community,” said Bonnie Rosenbaum, director of communications at Keshet. “Our work is guided by a vision of a world in which all Jewish organizations and communities are strengthened by LGBTQ-inclusive policy, programming, culture, and leadership and where Jews of all sexual orientations and gender identities can live fully integrated Jewish lives.”

The organization offers trainings, community building, and a number of other services, in addition to events and rallies for LGBTQ equality and social justice. This year, the group will celebrate Chanukah

with two events in the Boston area. The first, Keshet’s 21+ Chanukah Party, will be held Dec. 13 from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. at a Keshet member’s home in Boston.

“We’ll kick off the festivities with a communal *havdalah* [service] to mark the end of Shabbat, followed by a night of music, dancing, schmoozing, noshing, and drinking,” said Rosenbaum.

The second event, Eight Stories, will be held Dec. 21 at 3 p.m. at The Boston Synagogue. The event is free, open to all ages, and will include storytelling, crafts, traditional fried food, singing, dancing, and the lighting of the menorah at 4:45 p.m. For more information and to RSVP for these and other events, visit [www.keshetonline.org/events](http://www.keshetonline.org/events).

“Simply put, if we don’t create inclusive Jewish institutions, we are going to lose some of the best and brightest in our community!” said Rosenbaum. “We know that the Jewish community is strongest, most vibrant, and most relevant when *all* Jews are actively included and valued.”

Leah Schwartz, a 17-year-old who attended one of Keshet’s weekend gatherings for LGBTQ Jewish teens and their allies, shared the benefit of joining the group.

“As a gay student in a Jewish day school, I often feel like I am the odd one out,” said Schwartz. “At the Shabbaton, I finally felt like there was no part of myself I needed to hide, and I was able to embrace myself in its entirety. Being reminded of how great it feels to be open has made me more coura-



PHOTO: JORDYN ROZENSKY

Keshet members march in Boston Pride.

geous and determined to work to make all Jewish spaces ones where we can be open and honest.”

In Providence, R.I., The Reverend James Ishmael Ford, senior minister of First Unitarian Church of Providence, said the congregation has been committed to addressing LGBTQ concerns for decades.

“I’m proud to be able to say that in the run up to our achieving marriage equality in Rhode Island, our congregation was the leading religious voice in support, it being our principal social justice issue for the past six or so years,” said Ford. “While we have a relatively high percentage of LGBTQ people in our congregation, I think the reason we currently have no specifically focused activities is that we’ve largely achieved a level of normalization and comfort among us, and so LGBTQ folk can come here and simply be ordinary members without having to be supported in particular ways.”

Ford said they are also open to specific activities as needed.

“I conducted a memorial service recently where I learned the deceased and his husband actually met at a gay men’s professional support group here many years ago,” Ford said.

While Ford admits they’ve had less expe-

rience with transgender issues, they’ve also sponsored several activities, workshops and events to educate their community.

Holiday offerings by the church include a focus on remembering the story of Hanukkah Dec. 14, joining it with the work of Amnesty International; a multigenerational Christmas Pageant Dec. 21; and Christmas Eve services Dec. 24. For more information go to: [www.firstunitarianprov.org](http://www.firstunitarianprov.org).

In Western Mass., South Congregational Church, United Church of Christ in Springfield regularly flies the rainbow flag above their front door, hosts events for World AIDS Day, and has built relationships with organizations such as OUT NOW and Northampton Pride.

“Our Gay-Straight Community group of LGBTQ and straight members of South Church meets regularly to focus on the interests and needs of the LGBTQ community and to build a stronger relationship with our straight members,” said Bill Conley, moderator, South Congregational Church, UCC. “A recent meeting hosted OUT NOW leaders and youth to understand the issues and needs of homeless and near-homeless LGBTQ youth in our area. We hope to help address the needs.”

**See Spiritual on Page 10**

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Vanessa Rodriguez (Harvard Class of 2016) expresses her frustration with stereotypes about lesbian women.

## “In the Making” highlights issues beyond marriage, gives voice to LGBTQs

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.—Charged with the assignment of creating an activism project for his “Queer Practice” course, Harvard College Senior Curtis Lahaie joined forces with Kyle McFadden, Harvard Class of 2018, to found In the Making ([www.inthemakingproject.com](http://www.inthemakingproject.com))—a photo project featuring LGBTQ and allied Harvard students and alumni sharing their stories and opinions about how the LGBTQ Movement is a work in progress.

Lahaie has worked for many LGBTQ nonprofits while at Harvard, including the Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund, the LGBT & AIDS Project of the ACLU, and Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD).

“One major issue discussed at these organizations is how to convey to the larger public that nationwide marriage equality is not the end of the LGBTQ Movement,” said Lahaie. “Given the recent flurry of rulings on same-sex marriage, I wanted to find a way to communicate—in an accessible and powerful way—that the LGBTQ Movement is still a work in progress; it’s in the making.”

Given, McFadden’s background as a freelance photographer who was also interested in social activism, Lahaie reached out to him to join as a co-creator. Together, they refined the idea, and it became “much bigger than just something for a class,” according to Lahaie.

“We reached out to the Harvard student community through primarily LGBTQ student organizations, social media, and word of mouth,” McFadden said. “While the ma-

jority were current LGBTQ Harvard undergraduates, we were enthusiastic about including allies in the project as well; we can’t progress our movement without their help.”

The messages in the photos cover a wide array of issues important to LGBTQ and allied people, including breaking down stereotypes, challenging transphobia and biphobia, and confronting the intersectional issues of racism and heterosexism. While Lahaie and McFadden worked with those pictured to refine their messages, participants ultimately chose the lines written on the chalkboard in each photo.

“There is a real need for queer and trans people to share their stories,” said Lahaie. “Watching the participants write their messages on the chalkboard was often a visceral experience. You could tell that they felt passionate about their messages and truly wanted to share them.”

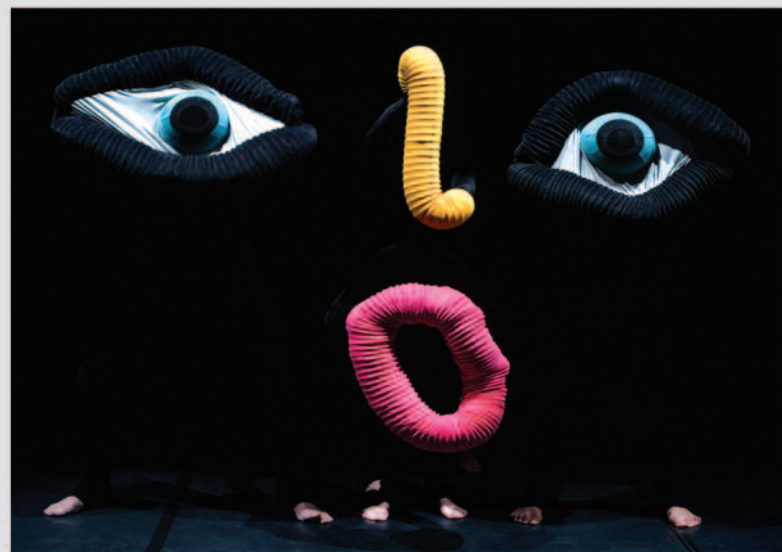
Lahaie noted that while marriage equality is important to achieve nationwide, the focus on that issue has overshadowed others still pressing for many LGBTQ people.

“The reality is that for some segments of the LGBTQ community—such as some queer and trans people of color and LGBTQ youth—safety is a top priority, not marriage,” Lahaie said. “We think organizations involved in the LGBTQ Movement should join forces with organizations working to achieve racial and economic justice. Our identities can’t be reduced to our sexualities and gender identities alone.”

**See In The Making on Page 14**

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# TRT's Exclusive Coverage 2014: It Happened ... We Covered it!

## TRT's 2014 Original & Local Coverage via Lauren Walleser

Promise Place School for **LGBTQ Homeless Youth** to host 1st Annual Gala – <http://goo.gl/Y81ij5>

The **Femme** Show: Challenges Assumptions, Subversive Femininity – <http://goo.gl/0MUZqa>  
LGBTQ Organizations Celebrate **Hispanic** Heritage Month – <http://tinyurl.com/ox24qa4>  
Local Orgs. Implement New **HIV/AIDS** Care Advances, More Methods for Treatment – <http://ow.ly/F6rYu>

Men's Styled Clothing Line for Women & **Trans men** – <http://tinyurl.com/pobsm6z>  
Local Musical Parodies **Westboro** Baptist Church, Fighst Hate with Laughter – <http://ow.ly/F6rJZ>

Campus Pride 2014 Top 50 List of LGBT-friendly Colleges & **Universities** – <http://ow.ly/F6rQ0>

**Salem** Mayor uses negative calls to raise \$ for **nAGLY** – <http://tiny.cc/awf5px>

**LGBT Aging** Listening Sessions: Voice to concerns for older adults – <http://tiny.cc/5wf5px>  
Comic & New England native **Julie Goldman** talks Boston Scene, identity & truth in Comedy – <http://tiny.cc/uxf5px>

**Sexual Minorities Archives**: Fights to stay active in Northampton – <http://bit.do/UZFU>

**Promise Place School** to provide permanent housing, education for LGBT homeless youth in MA – <http://bit.do/UZFW>

Boston Area orgs. & clubs cater to LGBTQ community & **inclusion** – <http://bit.do/UZF4>

**Equaldex** offers web database, timeline of LGBT laws, organizations & news Globally – <http://bit.do/UZF8>

TRT Exclusive: **Markey** announces legislation to support **international** LGBT rights, more – <http://bit.do/UZGa>

**Boston Pride** Parade & Festival celebrate 44 years in New England – <http://bit.do/UZHq>

**Senior Pride** Tea Dance celebrates 11 years of supporting LGBT elder community – <http://bit.do/UZHr>

Boston Pride, **Mayor Walsh** host 20th annual **Rainbow** Flag raising at City Hall – <http://bit.do/UZHx>

Boston Pride 2014 invites you to "Be Yourself, Change the World" – <http://bit.do/UZHD>

**ESME** Women's Block Party pays tribute to long-time DJ Linda Lowell – <http://bit.do/UZHH>

**Smith** Students continue to protest Smith Admissions' Policies for transgender women – <http://bit.do/UZHL>

RI: CSPH provides venue for community to share "**Sticky Stories**" – <http://bit.do/UZHM>

**Dyke Night** Productions hosts LGBT Comedy Night: Features Sandra Valls & Crys Matthews – <http://bit.do/UZHT>

Pride abounds at 2014: New England Pride Celebrations – <http://bit.do/UZJm>

**Waltham House** Celebrates 11 Years of Serving GLBTQ Youth at Annual Fundraiser – <http://bit.do/UZJp>

**RI** & Mass. orgs. raise \$ to fight **HIV/AIDS**

Through Dining Out for Life® – <http://bit.do/UZJr>

**Fenway** Study: Inadequate Pap Tests in transgender men – <http://bit.do/UZJw>  
Fenway's **Sidney Borum**, Jr. Health Center moves offices – <http://bit.do/UZJE>  
New England **same-sex couples** share tips on **Valentine's** – <http://bit.do/UZJK>  
Annual **Taste of the South End** raises \$ for AIDS Action Committee – <http://bit.do/UZJP>  
Changes Underway to Boston's **Latin@ Pride**, oldest in the U.S. – <http://bit.do/UZJS>  
**MassEquality** on HRC's Municipal Equality Index 2014 - <http://tiny.cc/qgd5px>

## TRT's 2014 Original & Local Coverage via Chuck Colbert

In Apology to Trans Community, **HRC** pledges push for broad LGBT bill – <http://tiny.cc/avd5px>  
**History Project** honors Byron Rushing, Omar Thomas for Contributions to LGBT community – <http://tiny.cc/wvd5px>

One More Time: **Maura Healey** for AG – <http://tiny.cc/txd5px>  
LGBTs push to expand **Civil Rights Act** – <http://tiny.cc/wyd5px>

Equal Justice for LGBTs Animates **Warren Tolman** in AG Race – <http://tiny.cc/26d5px>  
Social Media envisions world free of intimate **partner violence** – <http://tiny.cc/n9d5px>  
LGBT Super PAC, **MassSpirit**, launched in MA – <http://tiny.cc/28d5px>  
LGBT groups against **ENDA's** Religious Exemption – <http://tiny.cc/lde5px>

**Photographing** Marriage Equality—BCAE Hosts "Sip the Rainbow" – <http://tiny.cc/1ce5px>  
Strong support at Grossman LGBT gubernatorial Fundraiser – <http://tiny.cc/kce5px>

**Men's Event** Raises \$650k-plus for Fenway Health – <http://tiny.cc/uge5px>

Candidates speak to LGBT community at **gubernatorial** Forum – <http://tiny.cc/nhe5px>  
Maura Healey in historic campaign for MA AG – <http://tiny.cc/5he5px>

Fenway: \$500k+ at 23rd Annual **Women's Dinner** Party – <http://tiny.cc/pie5px>  
LGBTs March in **Southie's Big Parades** – <http://tiny.cc/jje5px>

Marriage Equality **champs** honored ten years out – <http://tiny.cc/6ne5px>

Negotiations for Gay-Inclusive **St. Patrick's** Day Parade under way – <http://tiny.cc/xoe5px>

**Tisei** vs. Tierney rematch likely in Mass. 6th Congressional District – <http://tiny.cc/hpe5px>  
South Boston St. Patrick's Day Parade **saga** continues – <http://goo.gl/d1Rzm8>

LGBT groups still seek to march in South Boston's St. Patrick's Day Parade – <http://goo.gl/GeBkel>

**MassEquality**: House Speaker **DeLeo** for political **Icon** Award – <http://goo.gl/QpG57r>

## TRT's 2014 Original & Local Coverage via Clara Lefton

Food unites **elderly** LGBTs through **Supper Clubs** – <http://goo.gl/XHsuiZ>

**Fantasia Fair** Hosts 40th Annual Conf. in **P-town**, Mass. – <http://goo.gl/91AOf4>  
**HBGC** hosts 4th Annual LGBTQ Youth Empowerment Conference – <http://goo.gl/00A8M6>  
New England programs combat high substance & **alcohol** abuse rates in LGBTQ Community – <http://goo.gl/641Ty3>

**Comic Book Capers** storm Cape Cod for annual P-town Carnival – <http://goo.gl/mpkP3w>  
New England LGBT fall event preview guide: Upcoming Events – <http://goo.gl/4fhsZV>

## TRT's 2014 Original & Local Coverage via Christine Nicco

Disproportionate **intimate** partner violence in the LGBTQ community – <http://bit.do/UZKt>  
Healey: The clear choice to uphold LGBT rights – <http://bit.do/UZKB>

**Macklemore** & Marriage Equality steal the show at the Grammy's – <http://bit.do/UZKD>

**AIDS Action**, MassCreative & MassBudget react to **Gov. Patrick's** budget – <http://bit.do/UZKJ>

**Rosie O'Donnell** to set stage on fire at The Wilbur – <http://bit.do/UZKN>

## TRT's 2014 Original & Local Coverage via Lisa Keen/Keen News Service

Breaking: **Pres. Obama** signs executive order to protect LGBTs – <http://bit.do/UZL4>  
**High Court**: Companies can discriminate based on religion – <http://bit.do/UZL5>  
Tenth Circuit agrees **Utah** ban unconstitutional – <http://bit.do/UZL9>

Nine out of 12 LGBT candidates advance – <http://bit.do/UZMa>  
June 26th: Lawrence/**Windsor** Anniversary – <http://bit.do/UZMd>

Pres. Obama asks staff to prepare **Executive Order** – <http://bit.do/UZMg>

Supreme Court: Another LGBT month of 'Major Moments' – <http://bit.do/UZMi>

Judge dismisses most of **NOM** lawsuit against IRS – <http://bit.do/UZMk>

**Houston** Mayor's 'Very personal' battle could turn intomost important political battle for LGBTs – <http://bit.do/UZMA>

**Gallup** Poll shows opinion on same-sex marriage up – <http://bit.do/UZMB>

The Fourth **Circuit** Clash: Marriage Equality – <http://bit.do/UZME>

Two Same Sword Edges: **Becker** Book Lessons, Part 2 – <http://bit.do/UZMG>

Lessons From the Becker Book Part 1: Driving **Rosa Parks** – <http://bit.do/UZML>

NC gets a unique kind of lawsuit against marriage ban – <http://bit.do/UZMP>

Forcing The Spring: The Becker **marriage equality** book outrage – <http://bit.do/UZMV>

10th Circuit: Will banning same-sex couples from marrying violate the **Constitution**? – <http://bit.do/UZMX>

Fenway: Health Risks of **LGBs** not well documented – <http://bit.do/UZNg>

Supreme Court seems to lean toward **religious exemptions** – <http://bit.do/UZNu>

Sixth Circuit issues stay until Wednesday – <http://bit.do/UZNB>

RI **Gay Speaker of the House** resigns following raid – <http://bit.do/UZNG>

Breaking: **Michigan** gay marriage ban struck down – <http://bit.do/UZNL>

Westboro Baptist Church leader, **Phelps**, is dead – <http://bit.do/UZNT>

High Court: Can corporations exercise religion to **discriminate**? – <http://bit.do/UZN2>

Ruling: **Tenn.** to recognize marriages of 3 same-sex couples – <http://bit.do/UZN6>

Breaking: Miss. House votes to study **Religious Liberty** bill – <http://bit.do/UZPw>

**Mississippi** House may vote to discriminate – <http://bit.do/UZPy>

**KY** federal judge orders recognition out of state same-sex marriages – <http://bit.do/UZPz>

**Arizona** Gov. vetoes anti-gay bill – <http://bit.do/UZPC>

Federal Judge in **Texas** strikes ban on same-sex marriage – <http://bit.do/UZPG>

**Federal** Judge strikes down **Va. ban** on gay marriage – <http://bit.do/UZPM>

Olympic Surprises — 1st Four Days – <http://bit.do/UZPP>

**Holder** gay marriage benefits announcement scrutinized – <http://bit.do/UZPS>

Judge in Virginia same-sex case says she'll rule "soon" – <http://bit.do/UZP9>

LGBT viewers guide to the **Olympics** – <http://bit.do/UZQb>

Major **Transgender** victory in Maine – <http://bit.do/UZQc>

Considerable LGBT disappointment in **State of the Union** Speech – <http://bit.do/UZQd>

LGBT **Momentum Report**: Surprises – <http://bit.do/UZQe>

Indiana House clears the bill – <http://bit.do/UZQf>

Virginia AG won't defend same-sex marriage ban – <http://bit.do/UZQg>

**Sochi 2014**: Putin adds fuel to controversy – <http://bit.do/UZQi>

Federal Appeals Court rules for **GID** – <http://bit.do/UZQq>

**Oklahoma**: Victory for marriage equality – <http://bit.do/UZQt>

LGBT **legal** activists praise Holder announcement – <http://bit.do/UZQu>

Traveling to **Russia**? State Dept. issues warning – <http://bit.do/UZQw>

Utah AG: Same-Sex marriages don't count – <http://bit.do/UZQx>

U.S. Supreme Court grants Utah stay – <http://bit.do/UZQy>

Justice **Sotomayor** ponders Utah – <http://bit.do/UZQB>

Charlie Crist: "I Was Wrong" – <http://bit.do/UZQE>

## TRT Endorsements

TRT Primary **Endorsements**: Governor, AG, Treasurer, Lt. Gov. – <http://bit.do/UZQS>  
TRT endorses Seth **Moulton** for Congress [http://bit.do/trt\\_moulton14](http://bit.do/trt_moulton14)



# Sixth Circuit upholds same-sex marriage bans in 4 states, negates DOMA decision

BOSTON, Mass.—The Sixth Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals upheld same-sex marriage bans in four states—Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee—in November. Those four states can now refuse to recognize same-sex marriage licenses from other states, as well as refuse to allow same-sex couples to marry within those states. This negates the 2013 *U.S. v. Windsor* ruling that held the third section of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which limited federal recognition of same-sex marriage, was unconstitutional.

“The Sixth Circuit’s decision goes against almost every other state and federal court ruling in the past year, which have found that denying people the freedom to marry is unconstitutional. Most importantly, the decision ignores the harms that couples face when they are denied the dignity and protections of marriage,” said Michael Premo, campaign manager of Why Marriage Matters Ohio. “There is real harm in getting the call that the love of your life has been rushed to the hospital, then learning you can’t see him, you can’t hold her hand, and you can’t make medical decisions on their behalf because you’re not recognized as family.”

The recent Sixth Circuit ruling occurred in a Cincinnati, Ohio court by a 2-to-1 decision. Since it took place in the Court of Appeals, a federal court, it will likely require

the U.S. Supreme Court to review same-sex marriage as applied to the states sometime this summer during the closing of the court’s current term.

“It takes four justices to decide to take the case up,” said Jay Kaplan, a staff attorney for the ACLU of Michigan’s LGBT Project. “Justice Ginsburg had [said] about a month ago that the court was not necessarily in a hurry to take up a marriage case unless there was a split in one of the Circuit Court of Appeals, and she made specific reference ... with the 6th Circuit so now we have a split and now’s the time. There’s too much of a patchwork—the court needs to resolve this issue and we need finality on this.”

This appellate ruling is the opposite of what the Fourth, Seventh, Ninth and Tenth Circuits have all decided. The deciding justice, Jeffrey Sutton, founded the turn around on letting states have the capability to oversee themselves and distancing himself from what he considered social issues.

“If there is any silver lining to be found, it is that the U.S. Supreme Court is more likely to take up the issue of marriage equality this term, and may finally provide the national resolution this issue deserves,” Premo expressed. “The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals’ decisions have been overturned by the Supreme Court more than 81 percent of the

time, the highest of any Circuit Court of Appeals in the country, and we are hopeful the Supreme Court will overturn this ruling and provide all loving and committed couples the freedom to marry across the country.”

Although many states are still facing a variety of debates with regards to LGBTQ rights, other states have finalized the issue of same-sex marriage. In particular, Massachusetts became the first state, back in 2004, to recognize same-sex marriage as legal.

“We in Massachusetts know from 10 years of experience that communities are healthier and families are stronger when everyone is treated with dignity and respect. We look forward to the day when communities all over America benefit from the freedom to marry,” stated K.C. Coredini, executive director of MassEquality. “In the end, the 1st Circuit will be on the right side of history in having paved a path toward greater freedom and justice for LGBTQ families. It’s inspiring to witness the momentum for marriage equality across our country that began here in Massachusetts.”

Currently, 35 states offer same-sex marriage in the U.S. today. The District of Columbia (D.C.) and 18 states forbid employment discrimination based on gender

identity, while 21 states and D.C. forbid employment discrimination with regards to sexual orientation.

“The nation has its priorities wrong personally, and we should first guarantee employment, housing, and healthcare non-discrimination before fighting for marriage equality,” said Jane\*, a Vanderbilt University School of Nursing student and Tennessee resident of three years. “Right now, for example, you can legally marry a same-sex partner in North Carolina, put an announcement in the paper, and lose your job and your housing the next day, because there are no state-level protections for

employment and housing in NC. Every day that I choose to do LGBTQI advocacy work, I am putting my housing at risk, and while I would love the right to marry, I would prefer to know that a landlord couldn’t choose to evict me for who I love.”

It is possible that the U.S. Supreme Court will address the issue of same-sex marriage between June and July, when the court’s current term will end.

For more information on the Sixth Circuit decision, visit <http://tiny.cc/hem1px>.

\*Jane requested that her name be kept anonymous as a precaution against employment and housing discrimination.

PHOTO: WHY MARRIAGE MATTERS OHIO



Michael Premo, campaign manager of Why Marriage Matters Ohio



MassEquality Executive Director KC Coredini PHOTO: MASSEQUALITY

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# Hear Me Out: Idina Menzel, Nick Jonas and other albums' reviews

## Idina Menzel, *Holiday Wishes*

Idina Menzel is the luckiest person to have ever been called Adele Dazeem. The awkwardness of having her name butchered by John Travolta during this year's Oscars telecast gifted the Broadway icon with newfound clout, boosting her out of the gay niche and into mainstream notoriety. Now, Elsa the Snow Queen rides the snowy wave of her wintertime success and releases a Christmas album (because there's nothing

else you should be doing after your inner drag queen surfaces and all your repressed powers turn everything to ice). If you're expecting some kind of Christmas version of "Let It Go" from the *Frozen* superstar, well, let it go. *Holiday Wishes* is focused on simple, classic Christmas nostalgia: for instance, "Do You Hear What I Hear?," "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" and "Silent

Night" (not exactly the silentest of nights as Menzel can't help but belt). Producer Walter Afanasieff, who made magic with Mariah Carey in the early '90s, and also co-wrote "All I Want for Christmas Is You," heads Menzel's project, which includes a jazzy and not-quite-as-magical version of Carey's staple (with Kenny G on sax). And because Idina knows you want her to sing something Disney, she doesn't let

you down. Her lovely rendition of "When You Wish Upon a Star" is designed as a big ol' fashioned mega ballad that makes everything shine a little brighter.

Grade: B-

## Nick Jonas, *Nick Jonas*

It's basically impossible to stay hydrated amid all the crotch-grabbing, butt-exposing sexiness Nick Jonas has so generously donated to the thirsty people of the world. Giving

you yet another reason to suck down some H2O is the former Jonas Brother's self-titled solo album, the sonic component to the never-ending parade of partial nudity (but really, how many times do you think he cups his junk to reach falsetto?). Nick toys with his sexed-up image on "Teacher," an R&B-tinged, love-gone-sour song where he sounds like he's ready to get the ruler out and give you a

nice spankin'. "Take it off for me," he urges on the funky soul number "Take Over," referring to your "disguise" (i.e. clothes). With "Numb," he instigates a bump-and-grind; "Avalanche," with Demi Lovato, shows he's got soul—and not just vocally. There's a beating heart beyond that flirty façade. Then it's back to the bedroom for the Mike Posner-assisted slow jam "Closer." "Open up and let me in," he demands, mak-



ing dreams come true.

So yeah, if you think you're getting Justin Timberlake vibes, you are. If you're ashamed to get aural pleasure from a Jonas Brother, you shouldn't be. Like his clothes, Nick's shed the Disney act for this rite-of-passage project, indicative of his journey into maturity, into desire, into a girl's pants. The purity ring is off; he's literally and figuratively more naked than ever before. Dig in. Grade: B+

## Damien Rice, *My Favourite Faded Fantasy*

Following an eight-year absence, Ireland's Damien Rice returns with all new reasons for you to weep rivers of sadness. Maintaining the reflective folk style of his *O* debut and 2006's *9*, the Irish troubadour's trademark sound—and all the feels of heartbreak and wistfulness—reemerges on his third release, overseen by producer Rick Rubin. In terms of cohesiveness, *Fantasy* is Rice's best. But, particularly with "I Don't Want to

Change You" and "Trusty and True," the album's greatest triumph is its emotional payoff. Grab a pillow and let it out.

## Trisha Yearwood, *PrizeFighter: Hit After Hit*

For over two decades, Trisha Yearwood's been more than just another pretty voice. Beyond those powerhouse lungs are something equally as noteworthy: Songs to compliment them. A culmination of her most popular tunes, along with six new ones, *Hit After Hit* demonstrates that fact time after time. From 2005's standout single "Georgia Rain," to recent recordings like faith parable "Met Him in the Motel Room" and her spirited collaboration with Kelly Clarkson, "PrizeFighter," Yearwood proves once again she's still one of the best in the business.

\*Chris Azzopardi is the editor of *Q Syndicate*, the international LGBT wire service. Reach Azzopardi via his website at: [www.chris-azzopardi.com](http://www.chris-azzopardi.com).

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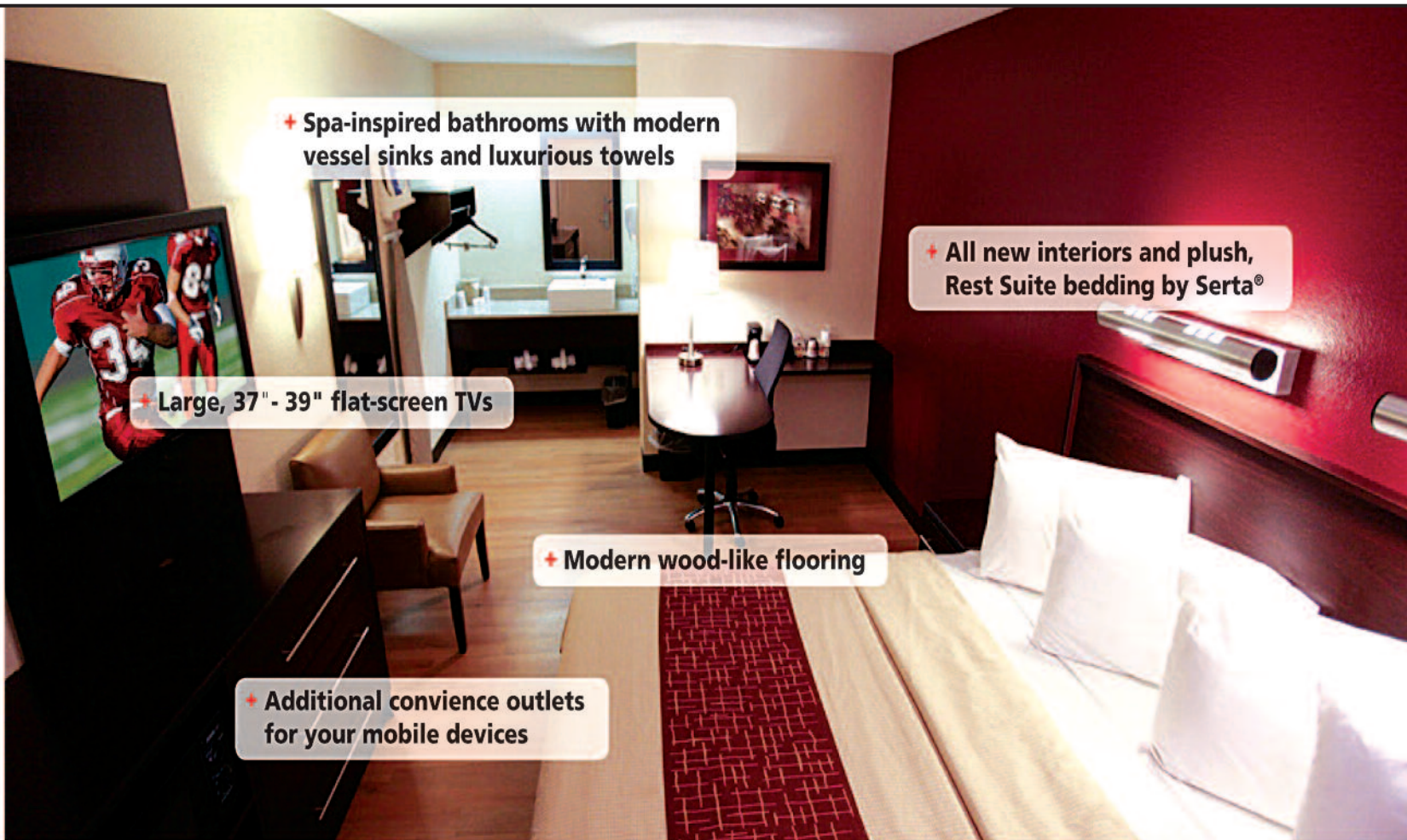
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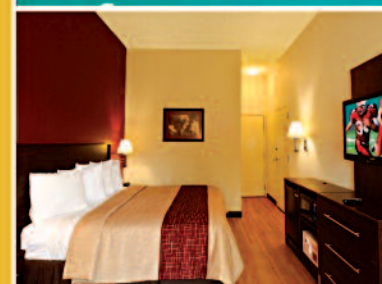
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# Zachary Quinto, HBO, Cherry Jones, Alan Cumming

By: Romeo San Vicente\*/Special to TRT

DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD



**Zachary Quinto meets *The Girl Who Invented Kissing***

Zachary Quinto landed himself in some hot water recently over his comments regarding gay men and their alleged “laziness” when it comes to HIV prevention (this, friends, is how you slyly call your friends a bunch of whores). It happens. You get famous and then someone asks for your opinion about a public health issue and boom, you forget you aren’t a scientist. But we’re in the habit of forgiving actors for saying silly things as long as they keep entertaining us, and Mr. Quinto keeps doing that, too. He’s about to star in *The Girl Who Invented Kissing*, the directorial debut of Tom Sierchio (writer of the awesomely weird *Untamed Heart*, the one with Christian Slater and Marisa Tomei and the baboon heart transplant). It’s about a mysterious, unnamed woman (Adelaide Clemens, *The Great Gatsby*) and her life-altering relationship with two brothers (Quinto and Stephen Graham of *Boardwalk Empire*). It also stars *Game of Thrones*’ Natalie Dormer. We’re going to guess that the unnamed lady is somehow magical, otherwise she’d just show some ID and not act like she

invented kissing. Meanwhile, we’re interested to see exactly what Quinto knows about kissing the opposite sex while not wearing Spock ears.

**The New Yorker Presents Alan Cumming**

Amazon, suddenly a player in televised content, has an entire roster of pilot shows planned for 2015. Naturally, because we’re really, really, sophisticated, the most promising and unusual seems like *The New Yorker Presents*, a docu-series that aims to recreate the experience of reading the legendary magazine. Best news: You won’t have to read a thing! The pilot episode will contain a short documentary from Academy Award-winning filmmaker Jonathan Demme, an interview with artist Marina Abramovic, one of those poems they always tuck into the bottom corner of a page in the middle of an issue, and a short film featuring Tony Award winner Alan Cumming (*The Good Wife*), based on a story by Simon Rich (*Saturday Night Live*). In other words, the whole thing sounds like an episode of *Yo Gabba Gabba!* with a Master’s degree. And if it gets a full series order, more middle-to-high-brow content will stream directly into your digital device, replacing your need to keep talking about Kim Kardashian’s butt. Very exciting.



Zachary Quinto  
PHOTO: DEBBY WONG

**Bros before other HBO shows, please**

Anthony Hemingway and Ben Cory Jones have something they want you to see. Yes, we know, you have no idea who these guys are. But trust us. And them. It’s called *Bros* and it’s a new series currently in development at HBO. Based on Jones’ own experience—to be directed by Hemingway (the World War II drama *Red Tails*) and co-produced by Lena Waithe (*Dear White People*)—the series concerns a young black gay man and his relationship with his two straight brothers. In a *Noah’s Arc*-free world, **Read the rest of this story at: <http://wp.me/p22M41-3hB>**

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HBGC Co-Founders, Quincey J. Roberts and Corey Yarbrough at HBGC's 5th Annual Gala.

## HBGC's Gala: Do more to empower LGBTQ Black & Latinos

BOSTON, Mass.—Last month, over 300 people joined the Hispanic Black Gay Coalition (HBGC) at its annual gala to celebrate the organization’s 5 year anniversary. The event, hosted at the Courtyard Marriott in downtown Boston, honored national leaders and local organizations working to advance LGBTQ people of color and fundraised to continue HBGC’s mission of inspiring and empowering the lives of Black and Latino LGBTQ people.

Participants got to learn more about the impact of HBGC throughout the evening with testimonials from program participants and staff members, ending with a passionate call from Corey Yarbrough, HBGC’s Executive Director, encouraging attendees to fi-

nancially empower Black and Latino LGBTQ communities.

“Tonight, I challenge all of us all to do our part to...build a stronger community invested in the possibilities of the future. A bold community that is not just present for the moments but committed to the movement. Not the ever-changing LGBTQ movement with an agenda that is often determined for us, but a movement of survival. A movement of radical love and inclusion, and a movement of pulling together the resources of our community to directly advance our community,” he said.

**To read the rest of this story visit: [http://bit.do/trt\\_hbgc14](http://bit.do/trt_hbgc14)**

### Spiritual from page 4

Conley shared that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender worshippers account for up to a quarter of the congregation on any given Sunday. The nursery and Sunday School are welcoming of children from LGBTQ families, and weddings and baptisms for LGBTQ families are also performed.

“Many of us grew up in families and religious institutions that assumed we weren’t included in God’s promise of a better life and grace through his Son Jesus Christ,” said Conley. “Consciously and unconsciously, that assumption affected our lives and relationships. It’s vitally important that churches like South Church boldly proclaim the promise applies equally to LGBTQ people and to demon-

strate it by inviting everyone into our church community and by recognizing the gifts each person brings to the Body of Christ.”

The church will offer Advent Rejoice nights on Wednesdays throughout the celebration of Advent, including a meal and reflection hour. A Living Nativity event will be held Dec. 21 complete with “animals in the Sanctuary” during the 10 a.m. service. A Christmas Eve candlelight service will begin at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 24 with lessons and carols. For more information, visit <http://socoach.org/>.

To find other churches, synagogues, and other religious and spiritual organizations throughout New England this season, visit [www.gaychurch.org](http://www.gaychurch.org).

## TOP 10 BEST SELLER VIDEOS

- LESBIAN TOP 10**
1. Tru Love
  2. The Nicole Conn Romance Collection
  3. Happy End
  4. Orange Is the New Black: 1
  5. Stud Life
  6. Heterosexual Jill
  7. Reaching for the Moon
  8. Lady Valor: The Kristin Beck Story
  9. Blue is the Warmest Color
  10. I Can't Think Straight

Courtesy: WolfeVideo.com

- GAY TOP 10**
1. Boys
  2. Love is Strange
  3. Sordid Lives: Blu-ray/DVD
  4. Lady Valor: The Kristin Beck Story
  5. Looking: The Complete First Season
  6. The Dark Place
  7. Getting Go: The Go Doc Project
  8. Eastsiders: The Movie
  9. Test
  10. I Am Divine



# iMis 10 Deseos para la comunidad LGBT en el año venidero!

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

LATIN VISION



PHOTO: ERIC HESS

¡Un año nuevo ya se aproxima! Otro año con esperanzas, deseos, y sueños llega. Espero que a todos/as se les cumplan sus deseos en este nuevo año 2015.

Quince (15) años ya en el 2000— ¡como vuela el tiempo! ¡Les deseo una Feliz Navidad, Hanukah, Kwanza y Feliz Día de los Reyes!

Antes de despedir el 2014, me recuerdo del refrán (y canción) de abriendo puertas cerrando heridas y me dio la idea para esta columna de mis 10 puertas/deseos para la comunidad LGBT.

Escribo esta lista sin orden, sólo con mi cariño y abogacía que siento por la comunidad LGBT. Fue difícil escribir una lista de deseos y escoger sólo 10, pero, aquí voy.

Mi **primer** deseo, es el de que todos/as obtengamos igualdad y que no hayan más crímenes de odio. Todos nos merecemos un mundo seguro. Si a todo/as nos tratasen por igual, entonces no habría que diferenciar entre estos crímenes. Y, que en paz descansen todos los que han fallecidos por crímenes de odio. ¡Paz para todos/as por igual!

Mi **segundo** deseo es que nuestra economía mejore y que todos los que perdieron sus trabajos debido al estado de la economía puedan conseguir trabajos. En este mismo deseo incluyo a tod@s l@s desamparados. ¡Qué en el 2015 puedan resolver sus casos y tener un techo a donde llamar Casa! ¡Suerte!

Mi **tercer** deseo es que tod@s acepten su orientación sexual y/o identidad de género y que reciban el cariño y amor que se merecen de sus amistades y familiares. ¡No quiero más suicidios en el 2015 por falta de aceptación!

Mi **cuarto** deseo es que tod@s acepten su orientación sexual y/o identidad de género y que reciban el cariño y amor que se merecen de sus amistades y familiares. ¡No quiero más suicidios en el 2015 por falta de aceptación!

Mi **quinto** deseo es que podamos recibir una justicia en todos los casos a nivel estatal y federal para que reine la igualdad y equidad para nuestras comunidades LGBT y de color.

Mi **sexto** deseo es que estas guerras acaben y que todo/as nuestros compañeros y hermano/as LGBT en la guerra, regresen sanos y salvos. Paz y prosperidad.

Mi **séptimo** deseo es que tod@s nos unamos en el 2015 y que abogemos por nuestros derechos como ciudadanos en este país. Unámonos y abogemos por derechos para nuestros/as hermanos/as transgéneros y



para que exista una reforma migratoria justa para tod@s, por el derecho a la adopción, al matrimonio (en los estados y Puerto Rico que todavía este derecho no existe) y por todos los derechos que nos merecemos. Necesitamos justicia para tod@s l@s inmigrantes que están viviendo en este país tratando de buscar un mejor futuro. Ya basta de tratar de tildarles como “ilegales” cuando tod@s somos parte de esta sociedad y país— ¡ya en muchos lugares hasta somos la mayoría! Igualdad.

Mi **octavo** deseo es que participemos de

actividades hechas para la comunidad LGBT para que nos hagamos contar. Much@s voluntari@s toman de su tiempo para planificar y hacer estas actividades para la comunidad Latina LGBT y comunidades LGBT. ¡Participación!

Mi **noveno** deseo es que respaldemos a esta publicación que nos apoya como comunidad Latina LGBT y a toda publicación que incluya nuestra voz Latina LGBT. Apoyemos a las publicaciones como ésta que están dirigidas por individuos de nuestra comunidad Latina y LGBT. Fidelidad y libertad de expresión.

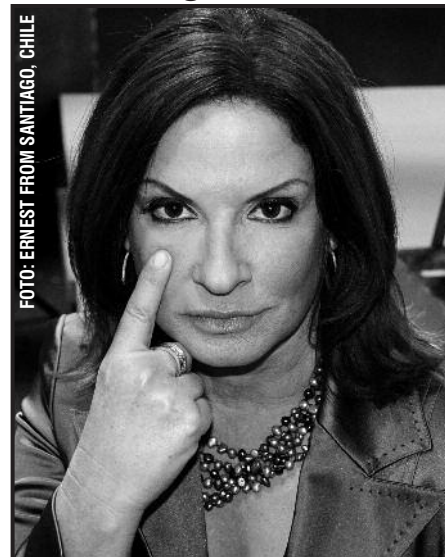
Y mi **décimo** deseo es que tod@s celebremos de la vida y que gozemos del amor, de los arco iris, de la luz, de la nieve, de la noche, de nuestras amistades y familiares, y de todo lo que la vida nos ofrece. Y como Walter Mercado ha escrito anteriormente, “Aplica buen humor donde reine la amargura y la exagerada seriedad. Ríete mucho y celebra cada día de tu vida como si fuera el último de tu existencia”. ¡Celebremos de nuestro Orgullo LGBT durante todo el 2015 y Feliz Año Nuevo! ¡Felicidades!

\*Escrito por Wilfred W. Labiosa. Editado por Grisel Martínez Ocasio. Para comentarios o sugerencias comuníquese con él por Facebook. El autor es un líder comunitario, activista y trabajador social.

## Dra. Ana María Polo, famosa presentadora de Caso Cerrado, por el matrimonio igualitario

Last month, HRC released two web videos featuring Ana Maria Polo, host of the renowned Telemundo show “Caso Cerrado,” for the organization’s Americans for Marriage Equality campaign. In the videos – one in English and one in Spanish – Dr. Polo speaks out in support of the right for committed gay and lesbian couples to marry nationwide, asking, “What right do we have to interfere with love?” Polo also discussed her participation in the campaign and her support for marriage equality on Telemundo’s “Al Rojo Vivo” with host, Maria Celeste.

Thanks to her legendary charisma, passion and objectivity, Ana Maria Polo is recognized as one of Hispanic television’s most prestigious personalities within the United States and abroad. Polo hosts the renowned Telemundo show “Caso Cerrado”, the first Spanish language program nominated for a Daytime Entertainment Emmy® Award. To read the rest of this story, visit: [http://bit.do/polo\\_trt](http://bit.do/polo_trt)



La famosa Dra. Ana María Polo de “Caso Cerrado” en Telemundo sale en apoyo de la igualdad de matrimonio para parejas del mismo sexo (ve su video en español aquí)

participación por la campaña y en solidaridad con el matrimonio igualitario con Maria Celeste del programa televisivo “Al Rojo Vivo”.

Para leer el resto de este reportaje o para ver el video de la Dra. Polo en inglés y español, visite: [http://bit.do/polo\\_trt](http://bit.do/polo_trt)

El mes pasado, La Campaña de Derechos Humanos (HRC, por sus siglas en inglés), destacó dos videos presentando a la Dra. Ana María Polo, presentadora del famoso programa de televisión de Telemundo, “Caso Cerrado” hechos por la organización de los Americanos Por Matrimonio Igualitario. En los videos—uno en español y otro en inglés—la Dra. Polo habla en apoyo al matrimonio igualitario para las parejas del mismo sexo comprometidas y sus derechos al matrimonio igualitario, al hacer la pregunta: ¿“Qué derecho tenemos a intervenir con el amor”? Polo también discutió su par-

<http://bit.do/hrcspan>

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# Bette Midler talks early LGBT support, 'diva' degradation, twerking and equal wig rights

By: Chris Azzopardi\*/Special to TRT—

LGBTQ ALLIES

Before the whole world knew her as “The Divine Miss M,” Bette Midler was ours. In the early '70s, bawdy, belt-y Bette was performing for the NYC bathhouse boys, and don't think she's forgotten it, either. “I mean, if I had a nickel for everybody that said they saw me at the baths,” says Midler in our recent interview, “I would be Joe Billionaire by now!”

Midler would go on to global fame, reaching beyond music to become a celebrated name in film, television and on the stage, winning Grammys, Golden Globes, Emmys and a special Tony Award. And now, the eagerly awaited return of one of show business's most versatile performers has arrived with the release of her first album in eight years, *It's the Girls!*, a tribute to some of the greatest female harmonies in history.

Midler talked about the anticipated tour she's about to launch in support of this latest effort—and the truck full of hairpieces she's schlepping along (“Cher has 55 wigs; why can't I?!”). She also touched on her early support of the LGBT community, the degradation of the word “diva” and her plan to avenge Mae West for sending her a cease and desist.

**Chris Azzopardi: You know how much we gays love our girls. How much do you keep your gay following in mind when you make music, particularly with *It's the Girls!*?**

Bette Midler: To tell you the truth, it really didn't cross my mind. The music I chose is music I had a lot of affection for. Some of these songs I've known since I was a little girl. I feel like if I have a strong feeling for this music; people will also have a strong feeling for it. The truth is, you cannot pander. You have to go with your gut and your heart and be true to yourself, and hope that people like it. They generally do.

**Q. You were welcoming to the gay community at a time when many weren't.**



PHOTOS BY: WARNER BROS. RECORDS

Bette Midler, whose album *It's the Girls* was recently released.

**When you look back at your early support for the LGBT community, what do you recall as being the moment that galvanized you to stand up as an ally?**

A. I had been in the theater for a long time, from the time I was a young person, and I'd always known gay people—and they were just, like, gay people! Just ordinary friends. People that you knew, and that you never thought twice about. You didn't think of them as being different, although looking back on my high school years, I think there

were a lot of people in my high school—this is so many years ago; this is 50 years ago—who probably were gay and didn't ever talk about it. As a matter of fact, one of the kids that I went to school with, an enormously popular guy—really funny, really wonderful—who was in my Latin class, wrote me before he passed away from AIDS to tell me

that he had been gay and that he had contracted AIDS.

So, I mean, what was the moment when I said that it was time to stand up? Oh my god—it never occurred to me *not* to. These were friends of mine—people that I had worked with, people that I had danced with, people I had broken bread with my whole life—so it never occurred to me not to. You do what you do because there's nothing else to do. There's no other option.

**Q. But to stand up for people who were seen as pariahs—that was taboo then. Did you experience any backlash for supporting gay people at the time?**

A. You know, I might have, but I was very well-protected in those days. I actually did not feel it. I remember the first big benefit that anyone had done for gay rights (“A Star Spangled Night for Rights” in 1977). I remember the poster, and it was at the Hollywood Bowl. Lily (Tomlin), Richard Pryor and Tom Waits were on the program, but nobody ever said LGBT then. That didn't exist. So that night, Tom Waits sang “Standin' on the Corner” and then Richard Pryor came out and Richard Pryor started off great. I don't even know if this is in your history books or anything, but he started off great and then worked himself up into a real frenzy as only he could. He said that the gay community had never supported civil rights and, “Where were you when we were riding and they were kicking us to the curb and we were being fire-hosed?” Then he said, “You all can kiss my rich, black a\$\$!” and he stomped off the stage. And I had to follow him! I mean, I'm just stripping it bare, but imagine what happened. So I went out and said, “You all can kiss my rich, white ass,” and of course then everything was much better, but it was such a curious evening.

I think Stonewall, in the middle '60s, was

**To read the rest of this story visit:**  
<http://wp.me/p22M41-3hw>

## Blessings from page 2

colleague a cookie or cup of coffee for no other reason than because they were having a tough day?

How will you engage in one act of kindness for a stranger or a difficult co-worker? Bring in a fresh baked pie. Walk around with an open box of chocolate at the office. Consider contacting Black and Pink ([www.blackandpink.org](http://www.blackandpink.org)), get a mailing list, and commit to sending out holiday cards to incarcerated LGBTQ folks.

At the time you read this, the holiday shopping season will likely be in full swing. Please don't shop till you drop. Doing so will not be true to your Creation as the Cre-

ator intended.

In addition to boycotting the so-called holiday classic Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer (<http://tiny.cc/1tjopx>) for its awful message to children (you're no good unless you can be used), scale back spending just a bit. If you must buy physical gifts, be sure they're less expensive so you have the resources to make a donation in a loved one's name. Consider a financial offering in their name for a homeless shelter, Human Rights Campaign ([www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org)), an animal rescue organization, American Civil Liberties Union ([www.aclu.org](http://www.aclu.org)) (ALCU), or the Ali Forney Center ([www.aliforneycenter.org](http://www.aliforneycenter.org)) that supports LGBTQ homeless youth, among many other possibilities.

Help channel energy and create something positive using direct acts of kindness and a donation to a good cause on behalf of someone else.

\*Paul is an attorney, seminary-trained priest and founder of CorporateChaplaincy.biz, a firm committed to the spiritual wellness of professionals. He is also author of “Lost Sense of Self & the Ethics Crisis: Learn to Live and Work Ethically” (<http://tiny.cc/wzjopx>).

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# "Being Trans is beautiful & should be celebrated:" Learning to accept yourself

By: Deja Nicole Greenlaw\*/TRT Columnist

TRANS NEWS



The title above is a partial quote from Laverne Cox. Her full quote, from her speech at University of Miami's Diversity Week (tiny.cc/bkvopx), states: "It took me a lot of years to fully internalize the fact that someone can tell that I am transgender and that is a beautiful thing—that being trans is beautiful and should be celebrated." Thank you, Laverne!

I wholeheartedly agree with this quote, but some trans people may not. Many aren't comfortable with being trans, and they will take issue when someone can tell they're trans. It takes a long time internalizing to get to where Laverne is, and some trans folk never fully get to that point. What I'm speaking of is the full acknowledgment and acceptance of yourself as trans, and then celebrating that fact. It often takes a lot of work to get there.

Let's start from the beginning. What usually happens when someone is trans is that at first, there is confusion, denial, shame, and guilt for wanting to be a gender other than the gender you were assigned at birth.

In my case, I was born physically male, but I wanted to be female. I was terribly confused because I knew that I had to continue being a boy or there would be trouble. Still, my desire was to be a girl. When I wore my mother's or sisters' clothes, I felt a much needed relief and a wonderful feeling that

was on to get out of the dress or whatever outfit I was wearing. Then I would feel shame and guilt, and I would promise to never, ever dress up again. It was a continuing love/hate cycle of dressing up and feeling bad about it.

My desire to be female followed me

## After a while, I stopped trying to be so feminine in every single way that I could think of and instead just concentrated on being me ...

this was totally right, but at the same time I also felt shame and guilt. After all, society teaches us that a boy is not a girl, and if I were to present as a girl in public, it could lead to taunting, ridicule, and possibly physical injury. Needless to say, I stayed deep in my closet.

I tried to deny my feelings. I would promise myself never to wear female clothing again, but every single time I had a chance, I was drawn to my secret female world. Off I went into a world that felt right even though society dictates it as wrong. I would just stand there looking at myself in the mirror wearing female clothing, and it felt so natural. It felt like home. Suddenly, I would hear a noise outside, a car coming in the driveway or a screen door open and the race

throughout my life, even though decades of marriage and raising three children. I stopped dressing up and went deeper into my closet, but the feelings never went away. Never.

It was the Taliban's attack on the Twin Towers and the Pentagon that brought me to finally face my feelings of wanting to be female. I suddenly realized that I was getting older, and that at any time a religious extremist could take my life, and I would never, ever even have a chance to try to be my real self. Just the thought of going to my grave without ever experiencing life as female scared me into exploring my truths.

So, off I went into a world with therapists who really knew very little of trans people, and into support groups where the goal was

"to pass" as a woman. The therapists and groups were laced with the old school idea of burying the fact that you were ever male and looking and acting as feminine as possible. It was hard for me. I was 6' 3" tall, had a low voice, man hands, and my hairline was too high. It was a lot to deal with my physical shortcomings. I wanted to be a woman, and I began to hate being trans. I had developed internalized transphobia.

After a while, I stopped trying to be so feminine in every single way that I could think of and instead just concentrated on being me and enjoying my new life. I soon found my smile, and I never lost it again. Slowly, it occurred to me that to find, accept and be yourself was the much larger goal. I discovered my inner beauty and began to celebrate being trans.

When I heard Laverne's quote, it immediately resonated with me. The goal is not to pass as a woman; it is to be who you are and to celebrate it. After a lifetime of torment, confusion, shame, guilt, and denial, there is now clarity. I now acknowledge, accept, and celebrate who I really am. I got there, Laverne got there, and others have gotten there too.

How about you? Have you gotten there?

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

## Ask a Trans Woman: Giving thanks to our community for their activism, support and more

By: Lorelei Erisis\*/TRT Columnist



As I write this, I've just come home from my second Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR) observance of the weekend. It's been an intense and emotional few days. Given this, as well as the intense nature of my column about TDoR last month, I thought I'd talk about something a bit more positive.

Thanksgiving is upon us and the year is drawing to a close, so it seemed a good time to remember some things for which I am thankful. This got me thinking about how, even though my own life is much more difficult than I sometimes let on, I have been helped out by so many wonderful people, and about how much I owe to the kindness of family, friends and my community.

You may be shocked to know this, but being an actor, an activist, and a writer are not especially lucrative professions, particularly if you add "...who is also a trans woman" to any of those. I'm not complaining; I love the work I do and feel lucky that I get to live the life I live. I get to meet amazing people and have incredible adventures. But frankly, very little of the work I do pays much of anything monetarily. The bulk of it is volunteer work. Sadly, being an outspoken 6'4" trans woman, even in a state with new employment protections, pretty much takes all of the old "pay the bills" kind of jobs I used to rely on off the table.

I make less money in a year than some people spend on their entertainment systems. Many other people in my situation would be homeless and hungry, and many are. I am sadly certain this situation is something that

is not unique among trans people, even rather well known trans people. And yet, I have a roof over my head, food in the pantry, a fairly stylish wardrobe, and a number of aging laptops that I keep just close enough to functioning that I am able to get my work

only managed the expense of razors by not thinking too hard about how much I couldn't afford them. But for my 40th birthday, an old friend started a crowdsourced fundraising campaign to help me get laser. Now, thanks to my friends and fans, I'm finally getting

## Sadly, being an outspoken 6'4" trans woman, even in a state with new employment protections, pretty much takes all of the old "pay the bills" kind of jobs I used to rely on off the table.

done. How can I complain?

The work I do pays little, yes. Still, I am thankful. The people I love and who love me make sure I have not just shelter, but a home. When I travel, there is always someone ready to put me up on their couch, feed me a meal, buy me a drink. If I can't afford the bus, there are friends who give me rides, even sometimes loan me their car. If I'm feeling down, it's only a matter of time before a random queer kid runs up to me excitedly in the street and hugs me, or I open my email to find a heartfelt message from a trans person telling me I helped them be brave enough to be themselves. There's someone thanking me for giving them an answer they couldn't find elsewhere, or for simply giving them community and friendship. Seriously, that sh\*t is better than Prozac!

Even with big things, there are people who help me out. Just this week, I finally began laser hair removal to get rid of my beard. I've been "full-time" now for several years, but I've still had to keep shaving my rather thick beard. I could never afford the treatment and

this crucial (for me) step in my transition started.

It's not just me though. I see our community coming together all the time to help each other out, to lift up those of us who have need. The very funny trans woman Tammy Twotone—my good friend and co-host of Tammy's Twist at The Broadway Comedy Club in Manhattan (next show, Dec. 19)—recently got an opportunity to play a random queer kid runs up to me excitedly in the street and hugs me, or I open my email to find a heartfelt message from a trans person telling me I helped them be brave enough to be themselves. There's someone thanking me for giving them an answer they couldn't find elsewhere, or for simply giving them community and friendship. Seriously, that sh\*t is better than Prozac!

Sure, the feuds and meltdowns get more reblogs on Tumblr. The bickering and the flame wars generate more tweets. But, if you look, there is a quieter community of amazing folks working to raise each other up and push us all forward.

The work to gain further acceptance and increase visibility for trans people is hard. It

pays poorly and sometimes it can seem daunting, if not impossible. However, there are good people doing that work, and behind those folks, there are many, many others who are ready and willing to do what it takes to help us succeed.

They—you—are why we do this work, and why we absolutely will prevail. I could never do the work I do without the amazing support that all of you give. None of us could. For that, I thank you. I am humbled by your support and by the quiet strength and determined resolve of our community.

I love you all dearly. Slainte!

\*Lorelei Erisis is an actor, activist, adventurer, and pageant queen. Please send your questions about trans issues, gender and sexuality to her at her TRT e-mail at: askatranswoman@gmail.com.





**In The Making from Page 5**

McFadden shared where he felt the LGBTQ Movement is headed, as well as what issues he feels we need to focus on moving forward.

"The purpose of the project isn't to point the LGBTQ Movement in one single direction, but rather to make clear that there's still so much left to do beyond achieving nation-

wide marriage equality," said McFadden.

"Many of the photographs expressed frustration with harmful stereotypes about LGBTQ people: 'No girl is too pretty to be lesbian,'

"Bi, not 'confused,'"

and "Gay promiscuous" are a few examples. Another theme focused on the incorporation of race and ethnicity into the LGBTQ Movement:

"Brown & Gay, but no less a person,"

"Where are the queer Asian stories?" and

"Intersectionality is my reality" are a few examples. Religion also appeared frequently:

"My identity is not a sin," "Your religion shouldn't control my life," and "Can't pray away my gay."

Vanessa Rodriguez, featured in the photo with the message "No girl is too pretty to be lesbian," further explained the issues she

**There is no room for me in this binary. There is only room for me in your porn. But I have a voice, and I am going to use it.**

**—Vanessa Rodriguez**

wished to express in her photo.

"I feel that femme lesbians, for the most part, are absent in the larger LGBTQ narrative," said Rodriguez. "Our absence from the narrative is in large part due to stereotypes—you have the stereotypically gay male and the stereotypically lesbian female. There is no room for me in this binary. There is only room for me in your porn. But I have a voice, and I am going to use it. This is my attempt to tell everyone to stop with the stereotypes. This is my attempt to make it clear that we exist. This is my attempt to write us into the story."

For Lahaie's photo, he came up the line "We're not done here," which is the message he hopes people will take away from viewing the project.

"I chose it because I thought it reflected the overall message of the project: that marriage equality is not the end of the movement. There's still so much left to do," Lahaie said.

In addition to the photo project, Lahaie and McFadden also started a fundraising campaign (<http://tiny.cc/u0nopx>) to raise money for Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), the National LGBTQ Task Force, and The Sylvia Rivera Law Project.

"While a primary goal of the project was



Moiya McTier (Harvard Class of 2016) addresses the doubts that others have about her sexuality.

to raise awareness about issues that are still pertinent to the LGBTQ community, we wanted to support some of the organizations that are actively addressing some of these issues," said McFadden.

The goal is to raise \$10,000 by January 2, 2015.

McFadden said they are also in talks with galleries at Harvard and beyond about adding a physical component to the project, which they hope will expand their audience and continue to spread the message. The first round of photos included 45 LGBTQ and allied Harvard students and alumni, although McFadden shared that they have since photographed several more.

Lahaie said people can get involved by making a contribution to the fundraising campaign, and also encouraged LGBTQ people and allies to accept the #inthemaking challenge by sharing their own photos on social media.

For more information and to view photos of those who have joined the challenge, visit: [www.inthemakingproject.com](http://www.inthemakingproject.com).

**Editor 2014 from Page 2**

At the gala, TRT will be presented with the "LGBT Champion in Media" award. We never take these recognitions for granted and we will continue to work diligently to honor the incredible work you all do at Promise Place School. Thank you!

If you are attending the event, we will see you there. If not, please consider making a donation. They deserve it and so do the youth who need their assistance. Visit [promiseplaceschool.org](http://promiseplaceschool.org) for more information.

As for the coming year, many new projects are about to lift off the ground and we will continue to partner with community organizations, some old and some new, in

our effort to help build the strongest community possible. As we bid adieu to 2014, we welcome 2015 with new opportunities, ambitions, and vigor. Happy Holidays to you and yours from all of us at The Rainbow Times.

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**Letters to Editor from page 2**

holidays offer a great opportunity to look your parents and siblings in the eyes and share your truth. (And, introduce a loved one, if they are with you.) My advice? Do the opposite, and think the opposite of every argument Mikey Rox presents, and you'll be fine. Better than fine! You'll be self-loving and proud. And you'll be treating your family with respect, rather than lying and keeping secrets from them, and assuming the absolute worst about them all. Give them the chance to be good.

7. Rox says it's selfish to turn the visit into the "me-show." Sigh. No Mikey, it isn't selfish for any family member to take the time, when family gathers, to share deeply personal, IMPORTANT information necessary to protect the authenticity of the relationship. Coming out qualifies as something very important and necessary to share. It's not selfish, to assume your loved ones want to know about your life.

8. Rox says don't drop the bomb and just leave, it's not fair. Actually, that depends. If they react negatively, and you feel that you are being disrespected or endangered, you may choose to depart. Or, they may be open and want you to stay and talk with them. It's entirely up to you, how you handle the situation after you come out. Again, and I can't stress this enough, give your family a chance to be good. Also, don't assume it's a bombshell. Most of the time, at least some of your loved ones have already figured you out, and have only been waiting for you to say it out loud.

9. Rox says the holidays are already high stress, so don't ramp it up by coming out.

Again, I call B.S. There is no greater stress than the closet, and no LGBT person should be advised to stuff it. Again, give your family a chance to be good, and don't hate yourself, or your information. It's not a dirty, sacrilegious secret. It's your precious, sacred truth, and your wholeness matters too.

I honestly do not understand why TRT ran this homophobic piece. I think it must have been an oversight. TRT has always supported LGBT Pride. Next time, I hope they run a piece describing how LGBT folks come out to their families gracefully, and are lovingly supported. Rox's deeply homophobic piece requires balance.

— **Trystan Marl Greist, Greenfield, MA**

Estimada Editora,

[Re: Derechos Humanos LGBT: La Religión no Significa Persecución] Excelente artículo, presenta nuestra realidad y necesidad de cambio a la equidad, al respeto y a nuestros derechos humanos. Bravo Jimagua!

— **Juan de la Torre, Online**

Dear Editor,

[Re: Detransition or Stand Your Ground? Transpeople Grapple with the Decision] Your last paragraph, Ms. Deja, is like you reached into my brain and wrote exactly how I feel on the matter!

I had SRS and regret it. A large part of my decision to have it was unrelenting pressure from my endocrinologists to "transition completely" (their term for transition with SRS – they viewed transition without it as something to be prevented.)

— **Danielle Whitrel, Online**

**Simmons from page 3**

college fully knowing that it is a women's college, and when you start to take the hormones, you are not a woman and should not be at a women's college. You can go by a male name, dress masculine, etcetera, but not change your biological make-up," said Deborah Birch, who expects to graduate in 2016 from Hollins College, a women's college in Virginia. "If an individual decides to start taking hormones and going through the biological changes, then the women's college they currently attend should '150%' fairly help the student with the transfer process to a new college."

Currently, the pool for women's colleges is shrinking with only 46 left from the 200 that existed in 1960. Of the three women's colleges that have changed their policies to include transgender women, two of them are based in Massachusetts.

"I am so excited that these institutions are, what I see, as staying true to their mission

and the reason they were founded," said Mason Dunn, the executive director of the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition. "In my mind these women's colleges were founded on a principle that no one should be denied access to education on the basis of their gender. So when women's colleges are embracing and accepting applications from trans women and non-binary identified individuals, they are really staying true to that."

Another recent catalyst for these admissions policy changes was a ruling by the Department of Education this past April allowing transgender students to be defended from prejudice under Title IX, a 1972 ruling that bans discrimination based on sex. Therefore, women's colleges have the potential to lose funding if they refuse admission to trans women.

To read the full statement about Simmons' new admissions policy and the policy itself, visit [tiny.cc/j51vpx](http://tiny.cc/j51vpx).

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