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HEALTH & WELLNESS ED.

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PHOTO: PROVIDED BY THE WILBUR

Part II: The Salvation Army Fiasco, clarified

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

OPINIONS Many thanks to each of you who participated in our online discussion pertaining to my last editorial regarding Salvation Army and its anti-gay stance, whether by sharing this editorial on your social media network, passing it along to a friend or by taking the time to share your thoughts directly on our website. I have received an incredible amount of passionate feedback about it, positive and negative alike, which has caused me to further consider my convictions concerning this topic.

In regards to the post about the Snopes article that one user referenced, I am not sure what point was trying to be made. I read the blog referred to by "Jim" in depth and I don't think it proves that the Salvation Army is not anti-gay. However, what it did say is that the interpretation of certain biblical passages used in its handbook regarding homosexuality are left open to those who read the Bible, including various church leaders, religions, etc. I think that it's fairly obvious that even Christian churches greatly differ in how the Bible is perceived or interpreted. The question here is not whether the interpretation of each church is accurate, but rather how the Salvation Army Church interprets the Bible regarding "homosexuality," as it solicits monies from us all.

The Salvation Army has made its position clear for many years. This is not news to those of us who have been persecuted by religious beliefs. According to its website, at least until recently when the link was con-

The question here is not whether the interpretation of each church is accurate, but rather how the Salvation Army Church interprets the Bible regarding "homosexuality," as it solicits monies from us all.

veniently removed, under their "positional statements," regarding the topic of homosexuality, it stated: "Scripture opposes homosexual practices by direct comment and also by clearly implied disapproval. The Bible treats such practices as self-evidently abnormal. ... Attempts to establish or promote such relationships as viable alternatives to heterosexually-based family life do not conform to God's will for society."

You can see the removal of one of these links at: <http://tinyurl.com/ykagnut>.

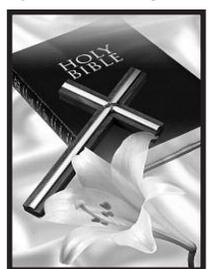
Regarding the PhotoShopped photo also referenced in the same post, I would hope that no one would be as foolish to believe that it was an actual photo of Salvation Army volunteers posing with an anti-gay sign. There would be legal ramifications against that, I'm sure. In addition, I imagine that many who viewed that "sign" (had it existed) and were unaware of the organization's stance on gay people, would be much less likely to donate to the organization. That photo was something that someone posted on Facebook to allegedly make a statement about the organization's tainted past regarding gay people. I think most people would agree that Facebook is not a credible source of information.

So, my point is that many Christian churches such as the United Church of Christ, the Metropolitan Community Church, Presbyterian Church, the Episcopal Church, and others, are open and affirming to gay people and do not believe that being gay "or acting on it" is a sin, unlike the Salvation Army, as it has been proclaimed by the organization and various members/leaders of it throughout many years.

See Salvation Army on page 10

Faith, Family and God – Don't shoot the Duck

By: Paul P. Jesepe*/TRT Columnist



requently, I've written about being true to one's sacred Creation as Created by the Creator. This Creation is defined, in part, by responses to those who harm or marginalize your personhood. How you meet the meanness of others

can be moments of transcendence and enlightenment. I'm not thinking of an eye for an eye.

There's been much hubbub about a Louisiana-based reality show called "Duck Dynasty" (<http://tiny.cc/rer28w>). In a recent interview, the family's bearded patriarch, Phil Robertson, made several homophobic remarks (<http://tiny.cc/2fr28w>), which he says are biblically based, causing A&E to temporarily suspend the show, though the money making reruns didn't stop. Recently, a video of an anti-LGBTQ sermon Robert-

How you meet the meanness of others can be moments of transcendence and enlightenment. I'm not thinking of an eye for an eye.

son gave several years ago surfaced adding to the controversy.

A&E dropped the ball in its handling of A&E dropped the ball in its handling of the controversy. Similarly, so did Cracker Barrel (<http://tiny.cc/9lp48w>), which initially stopped selling the show's products until it felt a backlash from customers who love Robertson.

To read the rest of this story visit: <http://tiny.cc/trtduck>

Tom Daley dives into the LGBT Twittersphere

By: Dan Woog*/Special to TRT



Another day. Another Olympic diver. Another coming-out story.

Tom Daley's recent video was remarkable for its unremarkableness. He never used the "g" or "b"

word. He said simply, "In spring this year my life changed massively when I met someone. They make me feel so happy, so safe and everything just feels right. That someone is a guy."

In today's age, that should be that. Speculation about the British medal winner's sexuality has abounded for years, with many men's gaydars going gaga whenever the 19-year-old popped up on the telly. (Women, don't give up yet. Daley said later in the video, "Of course I still fancy girls." Welcome to the 2010s.)

Predictable praise poured in. On Twitter, Facebook and other social media, Daley was lauded for his honesty, cited for his courage. In a non-Summer Olympic year, when news about divers rarely surfaces, Daley's turn in the media spotlight was largely positive.

But – just as predictably – haters gonna hate. It's easy to spew anonymous venom online, and spewers sprang into action. Sitting in their caves, they did their best to one-up each other with what they thought were clever, hilarious



Tom Daley

or "now-we've-really-got-him!" reactions.

It's as if Greg Louganis, Bruce Hayes and Matthew Mitcham never existed. Earth to homophobes: "Gay diver" is no longer an oxymoron. In fact, it's fast becoming a stereotype.

But on and on they sputtered, cloaked behind the anonymity of social media. "You just lost a fan, go to hell!!! Faggot" was a typical example. The fact that Daley had revealed a bit of information about himself – news about his love life that gets lapped up when a male athlete dates a female – was apparently enough to send some former fans into the deep end.

Like this one, who was so furious he forgot to use basic punctuation: "I can't believe Tom Daley is gay I'm not a fan of his anymore! he's going to hell it's Adam and Eve not Adam and Steve." I am sure Daley was gobs-macked by that clever witticism, which has only been heard 10 gazillion times, and debunked just a

Read the rest of this story at: <http://wp.me/p22M41-zzl>

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

[Sotomayor Story] I have been in a same sex relationship for over 16 years. I helped raise my partners 2 boys. One of those boys is finishing his 2nd bachelor's degree. He has served an LDS mission. He is in the army reserves and he recently married in the temple. The other boy is in the Army. He is married and has 3 children. The 2 kids I raised in a traditional marriage did not finish school and are in dead end jobs. Noone can convince me that same sex marriages affect kids adversely. Utah leaders need to learn what it means to separate church and state. Let people govern their own lives as long as it is not hurting anyone else and same sex marriages don't hurt anyone. —Lela Walcher, Online

Dear Editor,

Charlie [Crist] will take any side to get elected. He is a professional office holder. —Peter Gelezius, Online

Dear Editor,

We need an across-the-board decision by the Federal Government. Here in TN, they've gone as far as to create a new holiday- "Traditional Marriage Day" in which the wording of the bill quotes The Holy Bible. Why does the State feel it has the right to continually define marriage? Exactly what is "Traditional" Marriage in Tennessee seeing as even Interracial Marriage is STILL outlawed by the State Constitution along with Same Sex Marriage? —Brandt Hardin, Online

Dear Editor

I gave the the Salvation Army only a \$1.00 this year. Wonder Why???? —Donald j. Knaub, Online

Marriage implications of ruling: Justice Sotomayor ponders Utah

By: Lisa Keen/Keen News Service

IN THE LIMELIGHT

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor is pondering whether to grant a stay of a federal district court's order that the state of Utah stop enforcing its ban on marriage for same-sex couples.

The state's new attorney general filed a petition Tuesday to the court to grant the emergency stay, after being denied a stay by both the federal district court and the Tenth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals. Sotomayor is the justice designated to handle such requests from the Tenth Circuit.

Attorneys for the plaintiff couples filed their response brief today.

Sotomayor can make a decision at any time on whether to grant a stay, or she can ask the full court to weigh in. If she refuses to grant the stay, Utah has the option of asking the full court to consider its request.

Earlier this week, in another Tenth Circuit case, Sotomayor granted a temporary stay of

a provision in the Affordable Care Act that requires employers providing health insurance, including certain religious-oriented employers, to cover birth control.

In the same-sex marriage ban case, Utah Governor Gary Herbert and Attorney General Sean Reyes relied on the Supreme Court's two marriage decisions last June. The request for a stay argues that the *U.S. v. Windsor* decision, striking the Defense of Marriage Act's key provision, made clear that the federal government "cannot constitutionally disregard State laws allowing same-sex marriage."

But, says the state, the federal district court decision in *Kitchen v. Herbert* exercised "an outright abrogation" of the state's definition of marriage.

The Utah brief calls each same-sex marriage in Utah "an affront" to the state and its citizens' ability to define marriage "through ordinary democratic channels."

It argues that a stay is necessary to "minimize the enormous disruption" that might be caused by "potentially having to 'unwind' thousands more same-sex marriages...."

The Utah brief calls each same-sex marriage in Utah "an affront" to the state and its citizens' ability to define marriage "through ordinary democratic channels."



PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia M. Sotomayor

The response brief for plaintiff couples, Peggy Tomsic and James Magleby, says a stay of the district court decision would impose "an intolerable and dehumanizing burden that no family should have to endure."

Utah voters adopted the ban on same-sex marriage and any other form of same-sex relationship in 2004 through a ballot measure known as Amendment 3 to the state constitution. Two other statutes enforce that ban.

On December 20, in a lawsuit brought by private attorneys, U.S. District Court Judge Robert Shelby declared the ban unconstitutional.

In making its case for a stay, Utah's brief said the question presented by *Kitchen* is "the same question" presented by last session's Proposition 8 case. But unlike *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, said the Utah brief, the *Kitchen* case presents no questions concerning legal standing. Last June, the Supreme Court declined to rule on the constitutionality of California's voter-approved ban on same-sex marriage because the party appealing the case lacked legal standing to do so.

Meanwhile, the Utah legislature is preparing to take up yet another constitutional amendment—one to specify that churches cannot be made to host same-sex marriage ceremonies in violation of their religious views. There seems to be less controversy surrounding this new ban. Openly gay State Senator Jim Debakis told the Salt Lake City Tribune (<http://tiny.cc/quf68w>) that he doesn't know of anybody who wants to force churches to perform ceremonies against their beliefs. The legislature convenes January 27.

Local papers have reported that between 700 and 900 marriage licenses have been issued to same-sex couples since the December 20 order barring further enforcement of Amendment 3.

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MassEquality selects MA House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo for political icon award

By: Chuck Colbert/TRTReporter

MARRIAGE EQUALITY
 BOSTON, Mass.—There is good reason to commemorate ten years of same-sex marriage in Massachusetts. The statewide, grassroots organization largely responsible for protecting equal marriage rights, MassEquality, intends to celebrate not only that achievement, but also transgender equality while raising awareness of other battles yet to fight. The occasion for celebration is the group's third annual Icon Awards, to be held February 27 at Boston's Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel.

The Icon Awards recognize "extraordinary contributions to LGBTQ equality" in political, corporate, community, and philanthropic arenas. The awards this year spotlight game-changing allies in efforts to ensure a majority of pro-LGBTQ lawmakers, or champions, on Beacon Hill. Some of the work these champions under-

take includes advancing protections for transgender people in public spaces, improving HIV/AIDS prevention, supporting older LGBTQ adults, improving healthcare access, and ensuring a fairer workplace for LGBTQ individuals and couples. MassEquality has already announced one of this year's honorees as political icon, Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, Robert A. DeLeo, who has served in that role since 2009.

"Speaker DeLeo has been an essential partner to MassEquality in its continuing campaign to ensure that every LGBTQ person in Massachusetts is equal, safe and free, from cradle to grave," said MassEquality Executive Director Kara Coredini in announcing the selection. "He listens, he asks questions, and he takes action because he cares. His steadfast leadership and commitment to justice has made possible passage of the Transgender Equal Rights Law, creation of the nation's first statewide commissions to address LGBTQ youth homelessness and LGBTQ aging, and increases in financial support for services for LGBTQ young people, older adults and survivors of intimate partner violence and more."

Since 1991, DeLeo, a Democrat, has represented the 19th Suffolk District, which includes Winthrop and part of Revere. From 2005 to 2009, he chaired the House Ways and Means Committee. For his efforts, Speaker



PHOTO: ROBERT A. DELEO

Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, Robert A. DeLeo

"guts and determination to wrestle with the nitty-gritty of governing."

A graduate of the Boston Latin School, DeLeo holds a bachelor's degree from Northeastern University and a law degree from Suffolk University.

"As a legislator, it is my job to fight for the rights of all Massachusetts citizens," said DeLeo. "I am proud of the work we've done to promote equality for those in the transgender community, particularly through the landmark 2012 Transgender Equal Rights Bill. MassEquality has been an invaluable partner in this regard and I thank them for their unyielding commitment."

Looking ahead, DeLeo pledged "to continue our work in the House so that residents facing adversity have the confidence to live

their lives unhindered by hatred."

In addition to leadership on transgender equality, MassEquality is honoring DeLeo for his ongoing efforts to address the epidemic of LGBTQ youth homelessness, end bullying of LGBTQ youth, and ensure state support for life-saving social services for older LGBTQ adults, survivors of intimate partner violence, and people living with HIV/AIDS.

While on the House Committee on Ways and Means, DeLeo championed LGBTQ civil rights as one of the first state legislators in allocating funds to support gay youth. As MassEquality noted in a press statement, he has continued that leadership role with a commitment to supporting unaccompanied homeless youth in Massachusetts, of which an estimated 40 percent identify as LGBTQ.

A decade ago, LGBT advocates fought on Beacon Hill as lawmakers began deliberating the Supreme Judicial Court's (SJC) green light to same-sex marriage. To marshal resources and win allies, MassEquality was formed with the organization playing a critical role over the three years it took to defend the SJC's landmark *Goodridge* decision, safeguarding equal marriage rights in the Commonwealth and beyond. The LGBT community prevailed in early 2007, when lawmakers refused to pass along to voters a proposed constitutional ban on same-sex marriage. Accordingly, the MassEquality Icon Awards celebration pays tribute to lawmakers who defended *Goodridge* in the Legislature at that time.

See DeLeo on Page 13

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AIDS: Signs of progress, worries about cuts

By: Lisa Keen/Keen News Service

HEALTH & WELLNESS

More than 9,000 people with HIV were on a waiting list for federal assistance in buying their medications in August 2011. Last month, President Obama announced that that number was down to zero.

“At one time, the need was so great that over 9,000 people were on the waitlist,” said the president, at a White House ceremony marking World AIDS Day. “We vowed to get those numbers down. And I’m proud to announce that we have cleared that waitlist. We are down to zero. And we’re going to keep working to keep it down.”

Carl Schmid, an official at the AIDS Institute who has devoted considerable voice to shining a light on that waiting list, agreed the Obama administration deserves some credit. Schmid said the administration’s redirection of \$35 million in funding to the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) two years ago “really

helped” clear the waiting lists.

Carl Schmid, an official at the AIDS Institute who has devoted considerable voice to shining a light on that waiting list, agreed the Obama administration deserves some credit.

The vast majority of names on the waiting lists (96 percent) were in southern states. In August 2011, the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) showed Florida with 3,751 names on the waiting list; Georgia with 1,718; Louisiana with 961; South Carolina with 896; Virginia with 875; North Carolina with 316; Alabama with 130; Arkansas with 51. The only other states with waiting lists were Ohio with 247, Utah with 40, Montana with 29, and Idaho with 25.

And most of these same southern states have now declined federal funding under the Affordable Care Act to expand their Medicaid programs and to set up state-run exchanges that citizens can use to find affordable health insurance options.

Schmid said the lack of state-run...

Read the rest of this story online at <http://tiny.cc/trtaids13>

CT: Help for transgender patients’ surgeries

By: Christine Nicco/TRT Reporter

Late last month, the Connecticut Insurance Department issued a bulletin directing all health insurers operating in the state to pay for treatment relating to patients’ gender transitions, a medical benefit which has been long denied to the transgender community until now.

According to the bulletin, organizations licensed by the Department of Insurance and that write health insurance policies are to “ensure that there is no discrimination against insured individuals with gender dysphoria and ensure that individuals are not denied access to medically necessary care because of the individual’s gender identity or expression.”

After years of lobbying, the *American Psychiatric Association* finally updated the terminology when referring to transgender patients in the most recent edition of its Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), the DSM-V. To accurately depict the medical condition of transgender people, dated terms such as Gender Identity Disorder, often viewed as a mental illness, were replaced with Gender Dysphoria to reference the “in-

congruence between one’s experienced/expressed gender and assigned gender,” according to the Associated Press.

New England’s Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) Staff Attorney Zack Paakkonen said in a release that the organization “applauds the Connecticut Insurance Department for this significant step to ensure that transgender

people have access to life-saving, medically necessary care. First, it brings Connecticut health insurers into alignment with state and federal law prohibiting discrimination against transgender people in the health care setting. Second, the bulletin comports with the position of all of the major medical and psychological associations, which is that gender dysphoria is a legitimate medical

condition with a prescribed course of effective, medically necessary treatment that should be determined by an individual’s doctor rather than an insurance company.”

The Affordable Care Act, commonly referred to as *ObamaCare* also federally prohibits insurance companies from adopting practices that discriminates against transgender people.

The Affordable Care Act, commonly referred to as *ObamaCare* also federally prohibits insurance companies from adopting practices that discriminates against transgender people.

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LGBT inclusive groups still seek to march in South Boston's St. Patrick's Day Parade

By: Chuck Colbert*/TRT Reporter

BOSTON, Mass.—When Irish eyes are smiling, the world is bright and gay, or so go lyrics of the popular song. Except, historically, on St. Patrick's Day in South Boston, where openly gay groups are still not permitted to participate.

For several years, the parade organizers—Allied War Veterans Council—emboldened by a 1995 U.S. Supreme Court ruling, have denied marching permission for LGBT and peace veterans groups as a matter of First Amendment, free-speech rights. However, serious efforts are underway to change that.

"This is the year we all should put pressure on politicians," said Pat Scanlon, Vietnam veteran and coordinator of Veterans for Peace, Chapter 9, Smedley D. Butler Brigade, an organization banned from marching in the South Boston parade for several years.

Scanlon pointed to changing demographics of South Boston and a new mayor as hopeful signs the peace veterans contingent will be able to march, along with openly LGBT groups. Back in September 2013, Veterans for Peace applied to Allied War Veterans, but by December 9, 2013, when the peace-vet organization had not received a reply, Scanlon sent a follow up letter.

"The exclusion of Veterans for Peace, the LGBT community, and other peace organizations, from participating [in the parade] should come to an end," Scanlon wrote. "It is time that there be one parade that is open, inclusive and welcoming to any group wishing to celebrate this very special day. It is Saint Patrick's Day, a celebration of the patron saint of Ireland and Saint Patrick was a man of peace."

Scanlon's letter pointed not only to changing attitudes toward LGBT people in society at large, but also to cultural and social changes within South Boston.

"Many members of the LGBT community currently live, work and worship" in the neighborhood, he wrote.

In fact, two parades have trekked through the streets of South Boston since 2010 when the peace veterans first applied but were rejected. Scanlon said parade organizers used not wanting the word "peace" connected to



2013 St. Patrick's Peace Parade participants lining up for the procession.

the word "veteran" as reason enough to ban the group from marching. Last year, when the Veterans for Peace organized the second march, which took place one hour after the main event and was separated by Boston city street sweepers, the parade had more than 2,000 participants. Those who marched with the St. Patrick's Peace Parade included six bands, trolleys, duck boats, floats, and the like—all organized into eight separate divisions under the categories of veterans, peace, LGBT, religious, environmental, labor, political, social, and economic justice.

Scanlon, 66, a straight Irish American who grew up Catholic in Philadelphia and attended parochial schools for 19 years, explained his motivation.

"This is an injustice," Scanlon said. "An injustice against one is an injustice against all, and in one of the most progressive cities in the country, if not the world, to have this injustice taking place should not be tolerable."

The father of a gay son, Scanlon does not mince words in calling out the ban on LGBT groups.

"It's homophobic," he said. "It's exclusion. It's hatred. That's what all this is about."

In addition to applying to the Allied War Veterans Council, Scanlon said his group has also asked the City of Boston for its own parade permit with a 12 p.m. kick-off time, one hour before Allied War Veterans' start

time.

Michael Dowling, 59, a gay resident of South Boston for 35 years and president of the South Boston Association of Non-Profits, is taking another approach. He said the community-based non-profit association has applied to the Allied War Veterans, proposing "an inclusive unit called 'We are South Boston.'" The application, he explained, contains "really strong, inclusive language, including LGBT language with signs that would identify participants in the parade."

Dowling said he takes issue with Scanlon's outsider approach.

"The efforts of Pat Scanlon have helped perpetuate the hardships of the neighborhood and how it is portrayed," Dowling said.

He went on to explain why.

"Because when [Scanlon] calls the neighborhood bigoted and homophobic, he riles up those hatreds that are still there, and makes it more difficult for people to be out, and makes it more difficult for people to work here," said Dowling. "So it sets us back."

At the same time, both Scanlon and Dowling said they believe South Boston has indeed changed significantly in the last two decades.

"Everything in South Boston has changed," said Scanlon. "The neighborhood has changed, the politics have changed, the culture has changed, and [Catholic] churches have closed. The only thing that has not changed is the attitude of the six guys who run the parade. That too will change."

Dowling agreed with the changing demographics and attitudes, citing local civic

groups that are inclusive of LGBT people, namely One Southie and The New Southie, both of which have Facebook pages, and the West Broadway Citizens group, which Dowling said consists predominantly of gay men who live on that thoroughfare. Dowling said South Boston Association of Non-Profits is working with the neighborhood-based civic and social groups, among others, to gain permission to march.

Like Scanlon, Dowling is also seeking to gain support for their respective approaches from elected officials, including state Senator Linda Dorcena of the First Suffolk District and state Representative Nick Collins of the Fourth Suffolk District, both Democrats. South Boston falls within their respective legislative districts. Both Scanlon and Dowling have also contacted Boston's new mayor, Martin J. Walsh, and District Two City Councilor Bill Linehan, a lifelong South Boston resident, in hopes that they can broker a deal or solution to the standoff. Scanlon has also written to the Boston Police Department and penned an open letter to residents of the city.

Dowling said he is hopeful that the neighborhood insider's approach is the way out of the gay-ban situation, a way for the Allied War Veterans and everybody to move forward. Back in the early 90s when an openly gay group—the Irish American Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Group of Boston (GLIB)—marched in the parade, Dowling paid a steep price for supporting the gay group. Along the parade route, he handed out pink roses to gay, lesbian, and bisexual marchers.

"Every window in my house was broken," Dowling said.

He added, consequently, that he had every good reason "to beat up on the neighborhood."

"But I have chosen to replace hatred of our community with service to that community," Dowling explained.

A painter and noted artist, Dowling founded Medicine Wheels Production as a South Boston-based nonprofit organization in 2000. Its mission is "to transform communities from the inside out" through "the healing and transcendent power of public art." Medicine Wheel's signature event is on World AIDS Day. Another focus addresses youth drug abuse and teen suicide.

Neither Veterans for Peace nor South Boston Association of Non-Profits have ...

See St. Patrick's on page 13

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BOSTON PRIDE 2014 ... ADVERTISE!

Fenway programs offer broad range of healthcare services for LGBT community

By: Brook Rosini/Special to TRT

HEALTH & WELLNESS BOSTON, Mass.—For our health issue, TRT spoke with Chris Vivieros at Fenway Health to put together a guide to the institution's LGBT-oriented programs. Fenway Health offers a wide range of healthcare options for individuals in the LGBT community, as this comprehensive guide shows.

Dental and eye care

Fenway Health is known for medical and behavioral healthcare, but some might not be aware that the facility also offers family dental and eye care at their 1340 Boylston Street location. The Department of Dentistry at Fenway Health is a state-of-the-art dental facility utilizing the latest technologies in patient care and treatment. With new research demonstrating the relationship between oral and overall health, The Department of Dentistry's stated goal is to provide patients with access to high-quality oral health care. Learn more at www.fenwayhealth.org/dental or make an appointment at (617) 927-6127.

The Sidney Borum, Jr. Health Center

Fenway's Sidney Borum, Jr. Health Center at 75 Kneeland Street in Boston specializes in providing safe, non-judgmental medical and behavioral healthcare and services for young people age 12 to 29 who might not be comfortable going anywhere else. The Borum works with young people from all walks of life. Many of the Borum's patients are LGBT or questioning, living with HIV or street-involved. Find out more at www.sidneyborum.org or by calling (617) 457-8140.

Women's Health with obstetric services

Meeting the healthcare needs of all women, especially lesbian, bisexual and transgender women, is an integral part of Fenway Health's mission. The institution provides supportive and sensitive care regardless of a woman's sexual orientation, gender identity, age, race, religion, or ability to pay. The facility also boasts the first-of-its-kind Alternative Insemination Program, which has helped conceive nearly 500 babies, and its new radiology program offers mammograms and bone density screenings. Starting in January 2014, Fenway Health will add obstetric services. Learn more at www.fenwayhealth.org/women or call (617) 927-6000.

Walk-in HIV Counseling and Testing at Fenway: Sixteen

Fenway Health's historic space at 16 Haviland Street has served the LGBT community for more than 40 years. Walk-in HIV testing, including rapid testing, is available at Fenway: Sixteen Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (excluding holidays). For more information about services and programs at Fenway: Sixteen, or to speak to a counselor, call the HIV testing and information line at (617) 267-0159 or visit www.fenwayhealth.org/sixteen.

Fenway's Pharmacy with two convenient locations and free home delivery

Other lesser-known resources at Fenway



PHOTO: FENWAY HEALTH

Fenway's Sidney Borum, Jr. Health Center at 75 Kneeland Street in Boston specializes in working with LGBT young people.

Health are its two pharmacy locations. Fenway's main pharmacy is located at 1340 Boylston Street, with a sister location at Fenway: South End, 142 Berkeley Street. Both facilities are open to the public and offer free home delivery services for medications. As a bonus, those who receive healthcare at Fenway have the added benefit of onsite pharmacists consulting with their doctors about which medications will work best for them. Visit www.fenwayhealth.org/pharmacy for more information.

Transgender Health Program

The Transgender Health Program continues to expand to comprehensively address the needs of Fenway's rapidly growing transgender patient base. Currently, 1,100 transgender patients receive care at Fenway Health locations, an increase of over 900 patients since 2007. Fenway Health makes every effort to provide primary medical and behavioral healthcare and supportive services that are sensitive to the needs of people who identify on the transgender spectrum. The Transgender Health Program at Fenway aims to ensure quality and informed care for trans women, trans men, gender-queer, affirmed men and women, and others who have healthcare needs unique to gender expressions and identities that may vary from societally imposed expectations or norms. Visit www.fenwayhealth.org/transgender for more information.

Acupuncture for smoking cessation

A little-known statistic provided by Fenway Health indicates that LGBT people smoke at rates up to 70 percent higher than the general population—one of the highest smoking rates of all disproportionately affected subpopulations. The organization offers acupuncture for individuals interested in quitting smoking, stating that it can be a very effective tool to help calm nerves, reduce nicotine dependence, and improve overall health and well-being. For more information or to purchase a pass, contact Stefanie at sdilibero@fenwayhealth.org, or arrive at the facility at least 45 minutes before the end of a regularly scheduled acupuncture detox session. Visit www.fenwayhealth.org/acupuncture for more information.

SociallyGay.com

A new social media site that is dedicated to the gay community will be going live in March 2014. The site is going to be unique and not like anything that is currently online. The idea of SociallyGay is to have a site where people can meet for friendship, knowledge, like minded interests and just generally hanging out. This will not be a site about sex or dating. Here at SociallyGay we refer to the site as: **'a hook up site for everything in life but sex and dating.'**

As part of the SociallyGay site there is an online magazine, *SG Life*. *SG Life* will be published quarterly with the first issue going live, May 2014. The first issue is about gay weddings and the second issue is about adventure.

So, we need your help.

We want to reach out to the community.

We are looking for:

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- contributors
- people with great ideas and stories

- We are looking for someone who is planning a great wedding; we would love to cover it
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- We are looking for stories about the outdoor life in Colorado
- We are looking for athletes who have participated in Spartan Races, Extreme sports, or the X Games
- We are looking for someone who has hiked the Pacific Crest Trail
- We are looking for chefs and restaurant owners to share their stories and/or experiences
- But most of all, we are looking for freelance writers and contributors

SociallyGay.com

Please contact us at: sociallygay2014@gmail.com

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AMERICAN IDIOT

Tuesday, February 4, 7:30 p.m., FAC Concert Hall

The New York Times calls American Idiot "thrilling and emotionally charged, as moving as anything on Broadway!" Based on Green Day's groundbreaking rock opera of the same name, this daring new musical tells the story of three lifelong friends forced to choose between their dreams and the safety of suburbia.

(While Green Day certainly has fans of all ages, this musical contains adult content, strong language, and simulated use and ultimate rejection of drugs.)

SEASON SPONSORS: Baystate Health and Health New England/Event Sponsors: Finck & Perras Insurance, Coca-Cola, Hampshire Hospitality Group, Valley Advocate, WRSI 93.9FM



16th Annual Billy Taylor Jazz Residency

GRACE KELLY QUINTET

Thursday, February 13, 7:30 p.m., Bowker Auditorium

Kelly's saxophone skills recall the fitful style of Wayne Shorter while her vocal melodies put in her league with more pop-oriented artists such as Norah Jones. She has already gigged with the likes of Wynton Marsalis, Harry Connick Jr., and mentor Lee Konitz. Catch this rising star while you can.

SEASON SPONSORS: Baystate Health and Health New England/Event Sponsors: El Sol Latino, UMass Hotel and Conference Center, NEPR 88.5FM



SPIRIT OF UGANDA

Wednesday, March 5, 7:30 p.m., FAC Concert Hall

"Invigorating the stage with that elusive thing called joy" (New York Times). To the melodic tones of standing drums, with dramatic choreography, bright, layered rhythms, and gorgeous call-and-response vocals, a vibrant cast of 22 performers, ages 10-20, bring to life the sounds and movements of East Africa.

Pre-Concert talk at 6:30 p.m. at the University Club.

SEASON SPONSORS: Baystate Health and Health New England/Event Sponsor: WEIB 106.3FM

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Is GCS covered by insurance? Roadblocks may persist in your quest to become whole

By: Deja Nicole Greenlaw**/TRT Columnist*

TRANS NEWS



The year 2014 could be big for transgender people. There is a fairly good chance this year that gender confirmation surgeries (GCS)

will become covered by many private insurances and by Medicare. Connecticut and a handful of other states have recently mandated that insurance companies operating in their state cover gender transition, which includes mental health counseling, hormone replacement therapy, and GCS.

This is great news as the individual cost, especially for GCS, is way out of reach for many transgender people. At this time, all GCS surgeries are deemed cosmetic and not essential, so there is no insurance coverage in most cases.

Currently, most of the surgeries are performed by cosmetic surgeons or plastic surgeons who decide the price to be paid by the patient up front. If they don't have the required money, then there will be no surgery. In the future, with insurance covering surgeries, it will not be as cut and dry. Insurance

companies will cover the surgeries just as they cover any medical service. They will not meet and cover the surgeon's price; there will be a gap. The insurance company will set what they think is a fair price, which will most likely be pretty far from the surgeon's price. It is unclear what will happen next, but I do have an insurance story to tell about my

ready. They told me that their clients were very happy. Both surgeons confirmed that they would work with my insurance company.

First, I worked with my urologist and his staff. They presented their price to my insurance company and they were denied coverage. The urologist's staff informed me and I

I didn't want another surgeon, especially just a plastic surgeon. I wanted this particular team of surgeons, but ...

quest for GCS three years ago.

My insurance company elected to pay for GCS surgeries. The coverage was to begin on January 1 of the new year. I knew about this upcoming coverage, so I began working on my GCS that fall. I never really liked the idea of only a cosmetic or plastic surgeon working on my genitals, so I looked for other surgeons. I found a team of two surgeons, a urologist to do the inside workings, the altering of the urinary tract and the restructuring of the orgasm system, and a cosmetic surgeon to perform the outside finish work. I met with each doctor and they had worked together performing GCS several times al-

ready. They told me that their clients were very happy. Both surgeons confirmed that they would work with my insurance company. First, I worked with my urologist and his staff. They presented their price to my insurance company and they were denied coverage. The urologist's staff informed me and I went straight to my insurance company for assistance. A few days later, the staff informed me that the insurance would cover only one-eighth of the urologist bill. Back to my insurance company I went for help again, but the end result was now one-fifth of the urologist's bill. Once more I contacted my insurance company, and now the coverage was under 30 percent. My urologist and his staff were getting concerned. I was still determined to make this work.

The new year came and I got a call from my urologist's staff. Evidently my cosmetic surgeon had switched hospitals and was no longer working in the same hospital as my

urologist. I still had high hopes of having my GCS, but now I figured that it would have to be performed in two steps and in two different places. First, the urologist would work the inside and then, on a later date, the cosmetic surgeon would work the outside. My urologist was not comfortable with my two step surgery idea. In the meantime, my insurance company was not budging from their under 30 percent coverage. I contacted my insurance company several times. I contacted the urologist's staff several times. The breaking point was a 6 p.m. telephone call on a miserably sleeting winter night from my urologist. I could tell that he was calling me from his car because I heard his windshield wipers working. He told me that he was very sorry but that he could not do the GCS. He asked me to consider another surgeon. I didn't want another surgeon, especially just a plastic surgeon. I wanted this particular team of surgeons, but it wasn't going to happen.

So, when insurance coverage does begin for GCS, I cannot be sure of how anything will work out for anyone. However, people should be aware of potential roadblocks and a possible dead end as I experienced.

**Deja Nicole Greenlaw is a local transwoman who has three grown children and works at 3M. Contact her via e-mail at: dejavudeja@sbcglobal.net.*

Ask a Transwoman: The value of allies and how to be helpful in the fight for trans* rights

By: Lorelei Erisis**/TRT Columnist*



Lorelei, What can I do if I want to work for trans* issues/rights? I've been thinking about trans* concerns today, especially because we have a new/old employee moving from one campaign to the one I work on, who is trans but did not present as so for most of her time with our company. But it's something I've always felt strongly on—one of the social concerns I feel the most emotion/empathy about. So how does a (somewhat queer) ally person make a difference beyond getting the pronouns right? And how [does one] continue making that difference? —Trillium Rose

I so love this question, Trilli, and thank you for asking it. Though I certainly think it's important for trans* folks to advocate for ourselves and take the lead in our own struggles, I believe the value of allies

cannot be understated.

A lot of the most important work I do as an activist is quite outside the trans* community. This includes outreach to student groups, speaking at public rallies for causes I care about but which are not specifically related to trans* issues/rights, participating in academic panels, teaching improv. Even getting coffee at Starbucks or drinking at the neighbourhood

interaction with me, now have a tangible, personal connection to a trans* person. The political becomes personal. Ideas have connection to reality.

Ideally, this personal connection will inspire folks (like you!) to speak up in their own communities. Hopefully the next time they hear someone saying something bigoted or misinformed about trans* people at work, at

enough "regular folks" about an issue, it stops being "special interest" to them. It becomes something that impacts their positions and careers directly. In the case of legislators, they are less nervous that there will be opposition to their supporting trans* rights. Employers will be less concerned that hiring a trans* person may impact their business negatively, and businesspeople see a profit margin to be exploited!

I strongly recommend that you find out what organizations exist in your area that are working on trans* advocacy, especially ones that have trans* folks in leadership positions and are working from within the trans* community. Contact them and ask how you can help. Volunteer if you have the time to give. Donate if you have the money. There are many fine organizations doing important work on shoestring budgets with limited resources that could use all the help they can get! In Massachusetts, I highly recommend contacting the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition (MTPC). On a national level, there's the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE). Based in D.C., the work they are doing to support a trans* inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) is vital to the future of the trans* community in the U.S. These groups do fine work and can certainly point you in the right direction if you are unable to help them out particularly.

Finally, the most important thing you can do is remember to ask yourself these questions: Are trans* people properly represented in this situation? Is this space/organization/event, etc., inclusive and welcoming of trans* people? Can I contribute to a better understanding of trans* rights and issues here? If the answer to any of these questions is no, your job as an ally is to figure out how to change the answer to yes. Slainte! **Lorelei Erisis is an activist, adventurer and pageant queen. Send your questions about trans issues, gender and sexuality to her at: loreleiersis@gmail.com.*

Can I contribute to a better understanding of trans* rights and issues here?

diver bar can be activism. In many of these situations, I am the first trans* person lots of folks have encountered, or at least realize they have.

Basically, I make a point of getting outside my own trans* community bubbles as often as possible. All of these activities allow me to reach new allies. People who might not have thought about trans* issues, but through their

church and affected families will begin to heal from years of destruction that "faith" has caused to the LGBT community. I long for that day.

As for the Salvation Army, I look forward to when it releases a statement regarding its reformed belief that being gay and having "gay sex" is not a sin. Perhaps 2014 will be that year. In the meantime, they will continue to do damage control by back peddling, proclaiming to be proponents of the LGBT community, while hoping that the storm, caused by its long held beliefs, will somehow pass as they continue removing evidence from its website regarding the "sin" of homosexuality.

To view the conversation or add to it, please visit: <http://tinyurl.com/lysozwo>.

**Nicole Lashomb is the The Rainbow Times' editor-in-chief. Contact her at: editor@therainbowtimesmass.com.*

family dinner, in class, or online, they will be more likely to speak up, correct the misinformation, chastise the bigot, and stand up to the bullies.

The value of allies really proves to be useful when, inevitably, the ally translates this enlightenment and connection into their own language, the language of their peers and their community with the force of their "membership" in that community behind it. The difference this makes should not be underestimated. If you think of information and acceptance in terms of a virus, then allies are the most important carriers. They spread this "virus of understanding" to their own communities. They become an inoculation, a vaccine against bigotry and ignorance.

Let me be more specific. As an ally, there are lots of very useful ways you can directly advocate for trans* rights and issues. First and foremost, you can contact your local, state and national legislators. Tell them that you, a voter in their district, consider trans* rights to be important. Ask their position on trans* rights. Tell them about your own personal connections to these issues and why they are important to you. Ask your family and friends to do the same. If even one of them does, it is a step towards victory.

When legislators, or for that matter, employers and business people, hear from

Salvation Army from Page 2

The mere fact that certain churches believe that being gay, or should I say participating in gay sex is a sin, means that they inherently discriminate against or are biased against the LGBT community in its entirety, simply by believing that it is a sin in the first place and is something to repent for or be saved from. This is exactly the mentality that has led to so many suicides within the LGBT community and that continues to deprive it of its full rights.

Everyone knows you're not supposed to "sin." So, what message does that stance send to gay people? Sure, I am a sinner. However, my sins do not derive from the perfect being that God made me to be, in his image, gay and all. Only when we've acknowledged gay people to be equivalent to straight people, and their relationships and rights valued as such, is when the

Un Nuevo Año con nuevas esperanzas para nuestra comunidad

Por: Wilfred W. Labiosa*/Columnista de TRT

LATIN VISION



PHOTO: ERIC HESS

Espero que tod@s hayan tenido una linda época de fiestas y les deseo lo mejor para el 2014. Este año es el año del caballo (en el zodiaco Chino).

Los astrólogos dicen que el 2014 será un año para la amistad y las relaciones en general, donde se deben crear y desarrollar lazos estrechos entre tod@s. Este año se define como un año verde lleno de pasión, respeto a las cosas a nuestro alrededor y de prosperidad para tod@s en las relaciones. Dicen que será el año para mejorarnos como personas ya que el número 7 está lleno de energía y de luz.

El 2013 terminó con algunas victorias y otras desilusiones en el ámbito Latin@ y LGBT. Las desilusiones primero; el parlamento de Uganda paso la ley en contra de la comunidad homosexual haciendo la homosexualidad ilegal y enjuiciable – es un delito.

También hubo más crímenes de odio que en cualquier otro año en el mundo entero. Al igual, el gobierno de Estados Unidos no paso ninguna ley pro-emigración justa y apropiada como fue prometida, ni tampoco pasó el presupuesto que continuaba los beneficios de desempleo, cupones alimenticios, y un sin número más de beneficios. Esta situación ha puesto a millones de personas en una situación delicada y guiada a la pobreza. Esperemos que después de que l@s políticos regresen de sus vacaciones recuerden que su trabajo es para tod@s y no para aquell@s que ya tienen dinero y empleos. Tod@s votamos, ¿no?

Del lado positivo, 2013 terminó con otros dos estados pasando igualdad al matrimonio para personas del mismo sexo – Utah y Nueva México. Es increíble, pero como he dicho antes esto no significa que el trabajo por una igualdad y equidad termina con el matrimonio. Hay mucho por hacer. También hay que reconocer la victoria en Cuba con una ley que protege a la clase trabajadora LGBT. No se puede discriminar en el trabajo en contra de personas LGBT. Este país fue el primero en quitar de las leyes un lenguaje

anti-discriminatorio a la comunidad homosexual y ahora poco a poco están añadiendo protecciones a nuestra gente LGBT. ¡Revolución LGBT en Cuba! Espero que otros países en el Caribe sigan con esta revolución a favor de la comunidad LGBT.

¡Hay tanto que hacer en el 2014! Espero que tod@s puedan ayudar en traer el cambio tan necesario en nuestras comunidades LGBT y Latin@s. Todavía tenemos que abogar por pólizas justas de inmigración al igual que una igualdad en leyes para nuestra comunidad Latina y LGBT. Es tiempo de abogar para que tod@s tengamos el derecho a un hogar, para que jóvenes LGBT y Latin@s no vivan en las calles. Ya es hora que nuestras comunidades tengan la igualdad y el respeto que otras comunidades ya han recibido. Debemos de unirnos a organizaciones que abogan por esta igualdad y equidad, MassEquality, Unid@s, Oiste, Centro Latino y tantas más organizaciones locales y nacionales.

Hay que traer el cambio necesario, no se puede sentar a esperar. Todo lo contrario, hay que hacer algo para traer este cambio que queremos. Mariela Castro-Espín, unas semanas atrás lo dijo tan claro en una entrevista con la revista OnCuba: “todo el trabajo es para un proyecto emancipador...que es lo que deseamos para cada uno de nosotros... busquemos los códigos para una sociedad emancipada...yo creo que si vamos hacer justos y justas tenemos que trabajar por que si las parejas heterosexuales podemos las parejas homosexuales también deben poder.

El mundo nunca esta listo para el cambio, por eso hay que provocarlo, hay que hacerlo, hay que atreverse, para que todas las personas tengamos un espacio digno, hay que atreverse.” En el 2014, vamos atrevernos en abogar por lo que queremos – ¡igualdad y una sociedad emancipada!

En el 2014 necesitamos exigir la igualdad no importando el estado o la nación en la que vivamos. Aunque tengamos una igualdad al matrimonio todavía debemos exigir la igualdad de derechos en tantos otros ámbitos. El matrimonio no lo es todo – nunca lo ha sido y nunca lo será. L@s polític@s deben escuchar nuestras voces ya que nuestros votos l@s elijen a estos cargos/trabajos. A l@s líderes de nuestras comunidades LGBT no se dejen engañar y recuerden que tod@s merecemos la igualdad y equidad. No es la hora de sólo hablar sino es la hora de actuar. Es ya hora del cambio y de usar las herramientas y líderes para hacer de este cambio una realidad. Hay tant@s aliad@s que también debemos de trabajar para que con un grupo de personas podamos abogar por esta igualdad. El Caballo es un animal fuerte lleno de energías, así que propongo que tod@s actuemos como el caballo y que seamos fuertes, llenos de energías para que en el 2014 recibamos lo que queremos... una equidad e igualdad para nuestras comunidades LGBT y Latin@s. ¡Les deseo todo lo mejor para el 2014, Feliz (aunque pasado) Día de los Reyes y Felices Octavitas – Feliz 2014!

Pregúntale a Lambda Legal: Matrimonio y los beneficios conyugales de miembros del ejército

Por: Paul Castillo/Abogado de Lambda Legal



P. ¡Mi marido es un miembro del servicio militar y recientemente nos casamos! He leído que ahora tenemos acceso a los beneficios conyugales militares, pero no estoy seguro si es cierto. ¿Puedes aclarar lo que está a

nuestra disposición?

R. ¡Felicitaciones! Lambda Legal ha estado trabajando para ganar el matrimonio civil para las parejas del mismo sexo, y siempre nos alegra saber de más parejas que felizmente se comprometen y contraen matrimonio. Hay miles de protecciones y responsabilidades que vienen con el matrimonio civil, especialmente para los miembros del servicio militar y sus familias.

En junio, la Corte Suprema de los Estados Unidos anuló parte de DOMA, concediendo los beneficios federales de matrimonio civil a las parejas del mismo sexo que contraen matrimonio civil en estados donde las parejas gays y lesbianas pueden casarse legalmente. Después de esa decisión importante, el Departamento de Defensa de EE.UU. (DoD) emitió una directiva ordenando al ejército a proporcionar los beneficios conyugales y de familia, incluidas las tarjetas de identificación, a los cónyuges de militares en parejas del mismo sexo de la misma manera que lo hacen con cualquier otro cónyuge militar.

Los beneficios conyugales y de familia son importantes para muchas familias en el ejército en todo el país. Para recibir estos

beneficios, tienes que inscribirte en el sistema que verifica y administra tu elegibilidad para beneficios del ejército (DEERS, en inglés). DEERS proporciona acceso a muchos beneficios, inclusive programas para la moral, el bienestar y la recreación, la cobertura de TRICARE seguro médico, beneficios de educación, y el acceso a los economatos militares e intercambios. Consulta nuestra página de preguntas frecuentes sobre los beneficios conyugales militares después DOMA aquí: <http://tiny.cc/7v068w> (este enlace es en inglés).

La directiva del DoD es una gran noticia para las parejas del mismo sexo casadas legalmente, y debe ampararte a ti también. Sin embargo, sabemos por experiencia que algunos miembros de la Guardia Nacional han encontrado problemas. En septiembre, Lambda Legal representó Alicia Butler y primera teniente Judith Chedville, un miembro de la Guardia Nacional que sirvió en Irak y Kuwait. Después de que el DoD emitió las nuevas directrices, Butler y Chedville, quienes son residentes de Texas, fueron a Camp Mabry en Austin para tratar de inscribirse en DEERS. Incluso después de presentar una acta de matrimonio válida, se les negó el acceso al proceso de registro, y se les dijo que tendrían que viajar a una instalación federal para inscribirse, aunque el más cercano queda a tres horas.

Lambda Legal presentó una carta instando a las Fuerzas Militares de Texas que cumplan con la directiva del Do D y permitir que, no sólo Alicia y Judith, pero todas las parejas militares del mismo sexo casadas se

Lea el resto de esta historia en: <http://wp.me/p22M41-2zz>

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HAPPY NEW YEAR 2014!

Changes underway to historical Boston's Latin@ Pride celebration

By: Lauren Walleser/TRT Assistant Editor

BOSTON, Mass.—Boston's Latin@ Pride celebration—which has been honored to coincide with Hispanic Heritage Month in September in past years—undergoes changes as its organizing entity, Boston Pride, looks to create a Latin@ Pride event during Pride Week in June.

“Boston Pride continually strives to be inclusive of the entire LGBT community throughout the year,” said Linda DeMarco, president of Boston Pride. “We want to give the Latino LGBT community the best place to showcase their Pride by including Latino@ Pride during Pride Week. We hope

to raise awareness of Latino@ Pride by having a strong presence at our June celebration.”

When asked if Boston Pride will still be holding events for Latin@ Pride in September, Boston Pride Board Member Marco Torres stressed that the organization is looking for committee members to help with that decision.

“At the moment we are in need of committee members to begin the discussion on when and what we want to plan for Latin@ Pride during Hispanic Heritage Month,” Torres said. “I would like to plan some events during Hispanic Heritage Month. What and when those events will be is open for discussion.”

Torres added that pending the discussion, having a weeklong celebration in September is not guaranteed, but that the organization “will be doing something.” Torres said he is currently trying to reach out to get members of the Latino community involved in planning a June event.

Co-founder of Latin@



Pride in Boston, Wilfred Labiosa, is former vice president and board member of Boston Pride and current regional representative to the National Board of Unid@s: The National Latin@ LGBT Organization and

board member of MassEquality. The group Somos Latin@s LGBT Coalition founded Latin@ Pride and Unid@s. Labiosa said that though Somos Latin@s no longer exists, its members continue advocacy work under other local LGBT and Latino organizations.

“It was—and still is—important to represent the diversity of the Latin@ and LGBT communities so that society can see that there is representation of all ‘at the table,’” said Labiosa. “I had noticed—and still do—that many organizations do not include the Latin@ LGBT community when making decisions, developing strategies nor creating programs. Things are changing, but slowly. As my colleague Mariela Castro-Espin stated: ‘The world is never ready for change. For that reason, one needs to provoke it so that everyone has the right to that safe ‘space’ where one feels comfortable and good.’”

Labiosa said that Boston Pride has always wanted to incorporate diverse events during the week of Boston Pride.

“Although this change is occurring in 2014, I believe that Latino@ Pride should

still have a separate time to celebrate the diversity and showcase the richness of the Latin@ LGBT culture, either in May or in September,” said Labiosa.

Labiosa noted that Latin@ Pride has changed dramatically over the years from one or two events to a weeklong calendar of events.

“It began in the pageant scene and with a public health prevention message, and now it has changed to include a wide array of events, even before Boston Pride began to manage Latin@ Pride,” said Labiosa. “This year is the 10th year anniversary of this celebration and although many forgot this important anniversary, it is an important one as it is the longest and oldest celebration of its kind in the U.S.”

Labiosa said that in the future, he hopes Latin@ Pride will continue to be celebrated and showcased on its own.

“I believe that the Latin@ LGBT community deserves it, but more individuals need to step-up and volunteer to help plan these events,” said Labiosa. “It was hard back when we started and it still is. They also need sponsors that can step-up and support Latin@ Pride. It is a lot of work, but at the end it pays off. I always stated to the team that if we make the difference in one person’s life, then it was well worth the work. There are so many Latin@ LGBT folks and Latin@ allies that say thank you to me for formalizing this event in the area. For many,

To read the rest of this story visit: <http://wp.me/p22M41-2zE>

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St. Patrick's from Page 6

heard back yet from parade organizers. Both Dowling and Scanlon said they are preparing strategies if their applications are rejected. Undoubtedly, the issue will find its way to the office of Mayor Walsh, who told a reporter during the mayoral election last fall, "What needs to happen," is a private "conversation" away from the media's glare, with "organizers of the parade."

"As mayor, I will sit down with them and work out a compromise so that people can feel like they can march in the parade," Walsh explained. "This parade should be inclusive, and that goes for every other parade marching on public streets."

Meanwhile, MassEquality, the statewide grassroots organization, has also applied to march.

"We will continue to apply every year until MassEquality is permitted to march," said Kara S. Corendini, executive director.

Like the other two groups, MassEquality has not yet heard back from parade organizers on the status of its application. However, the parade is not among MassEquality's highest priorities.

"... it is disappointing to see parade organizers continue to cultivate a climate of rejection and exclusion."

"The LGBTQ community in Massachusetts faces many issues more urgent than the ability to participate in a parade—youth homelessness, bullying, anti-transgender discrimination, HIV/AIDS, elder abuse, and more," Corendini explained. "But public rejection by an established cultural institution like the St. Patrick's Day Parade is significant in that it's emblematic of the more life-altering rejection our community members face every day. When Massachusetts is, in so many ways, a beacon of inclusion for the LGBTQ community, it is disappointing to see parade organizers continue to cultivate a climate of rejection and exclusion. At the heart of MassEquality's work electing pro-LGBTQ champions and advancing pro-LGBTQ legislation is changing attitudes, and each day because of that work we come closer to the day when this parade will be opened to all."

This year's St. Patrick Day Parade is scheduled for Sunday, March 17.

**Chuck Colbert marched in the 1992 and 1993 South Boston St. Patrick's Day Parade as one of 25 participants in the Irish American Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Group of Boston.*

DeLeo from page 4

"We are tipping our hats to the champions who defended Goodridge through the constitutional convention process, not the Goodridge case itself," said Mike Givens, MassEquality's communications manager.

Additional recipients of the Icon Awards in the categories of corporate, community and philanthropy will be announced in the weeks leading up to the celebration, as well as marriage champion honorees, said Givens. The co-chairs for this year's event are Lisa J. Drapkin and Richard Giglio, and the event will feature a special anniversary dinner prepared by celebrity chef Tiffani Faison. For more information on the event and MassEquality, visit www.massequality.org/events.

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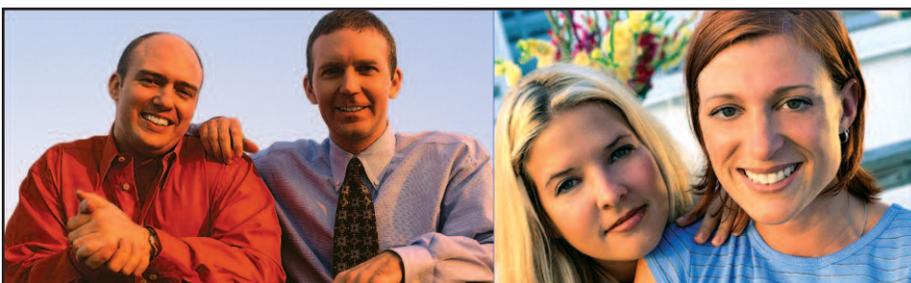
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GAY TOP 10

1. Four
2. Pit Stop
3. Free Fall
4. The Perfect Wedding
5. Old Dogs & New Tricks: Seasons 1 & 2
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PHOTO PROVIDED BY: THE WILBUR THEATRE

Rosie O' Donnell

Rosie to set stage on fire at The Wilbur

By: Christine Nicco/TRT Reporter

BOSTON, Mass. — The Wilbur Theatre is long known for having high profile celebrities perform on its stage. January 24 will be no different when the lights beam on LGBT comedic-icon Rosie O'Donnell at 7:30 p.m. After an intense couple of years filled with new love leading to a marriage with Michelle Rounds in 2012, followed by a heart attack later that year, which lead to national awareness of heart disease and prevention efforts amongst women, and a new member of the O'Donnell troupe arriving in 2013, O'Donnell is certain to have found a new perspective on life ... and the limelight. First taking to the stage as a comedienne, Rosie O'Donnell's quick wit, dry humor and New York accent attracted fans almost immediately. It wasn't long before she found herself jumping between stage and screen — small screen, anyway — as a regular personality on VH1.

Those VH1 appearances — along with successful gigs on every talk show from *The Tonight Show* to *Late Night with David Letterman* led to a number of roles in major motion pictures in the 1990s, including *A League of Their Own*, *Sleepless in Seattle* and *The Flintstones*. As the decade marched

on, Rosie turned up a number of less-popularly received films, including *Car 54, Where Are You?* It seemed as though Rosie's career needed new direction.

It may have seemed like a strange experiment—a tough New York comedienne taking on the more relaxed role as daytime talk show host. But when Rosie debuted on *The Rosie O'Donnell Show* in 1996, sparks flew. It wasn't long before she was dubbed the "Queen of Nice" and started picking up Emmys like they were going out of style.

In 2002, Rosie decided to give up the talk show life and return to her first love, stand-up comedy. Her return to stand-up was met with great success, though her tough style — a style she'd cultivated since the very beginning of her career — caught fans of "The Queen of Nice" off-guard. She still performs stand-up today.

To catch Rosie's one-time January 24 performance at The Wilbur, visit the theater at: <http://thewilbur.com/artist/rosie-odonnell>. Tickets range from \$29-\$59. For more information about Rosie, connect with her on FaceBook at RosieODonnellOfficial.

The Wilbur Theatre is located at 246 Tremont St. in Boston's Historic Theatre District.

AFWM to host *The Kinsey Sicks* at gala

HOLYOKE, Mass.—Viva!, the AIDS Foundation of Western Massachusetts' (AFWM) seventh annual gala, will be held on January 31, 2013 at the Log Cabin Banquet and Meeting House in Holyoke.

This year, AFWM welcomes *The Kinsey Sicks*, America's Favorite Dragapella Beautyshop Quartet. According to the Washington Post, "if you haven't made the acquaintance of *The Kinsey Sicks*, it's high time you did... Uproarious ... brilliant ... authentically joyful." The New York Times calls them, "the hottest ticket in town... taking the cabaret world by storm... voices as sweet as honey." You won't want to miss this one-of-a-kind event!



ing with HIV/AIDS in Hampden and Hampshire counties to live with dignity and hope. They provide emergency financial assistance for shelter, heat, medications and mattresses, keep support groups running, teach people who are infected and affected how to live their best possible quality of life and educate people who are HIV negative about how to remain that way. Tickets for this elegant night of fun and fellowship may be purchased for only \$60.00 each or \$600.00 per table of ten.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit www.aidsfoundationwm.org or contact the AFWM office at (413) 301-0955. Please make your check payable to AFWM (1168 Main Street, Springfield, MA 01103).

The gala will also feature a unique silent auction, including a baseball autographed by the World Series Champion Boston Red Sox's Dustin Pedroia, custom wine baskets, *A Night Out in Springfield* package, jewelry, high-end crafts and more. The exciting live auction will feature a stay at the luxurious Klimpton hotel in New York City with transportation and event tickets and a Chef at Home Dinner cooked by The Log Cabin's Chef/Owner, Mick Corduff. Gourmet fare will be available leading up to the show. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the show will begin at 8:00 p.m.

Viva! is one of only two major fundraisers to support AFWM's programs and services. All proceeds from this event help people liv-

The event sponsors are Baystate Health, C&W Realty, The Log Cabin/Delaney House, New England Pathology Associates, American Homecare Federation, Branford Hall Career Institute, Central Oil, CJC Event Lighting, Todd LeMieux, MassMutual, A Sponsorship in Memory of Christopher J. Festa, Active Lifestyle Fitness, Deliso Financial Services, The Rainbow Times, The Valley Advocate and WWLP/TV22.

The AIDS Foundation of Western Massachusetts, Inc. creates positive community impact through innovative & empowering education and support in Hampden and Hampshire counties. The ultimate aim is to end the spread of HIV/AIDS.

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