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Pride: Is it really still necessary?

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

OPINIONS Pride. Is it really still necessary? This type of question has often surfaced during discussions

around my dining room table. In liberal states—or commonwealths like Massachusetts—and particularly in cities like Boston, Provincetown and Northampton where the gay community is often found well integrated into society, one may think that Pride isn't imperative anymore. I cannot think of a more flawed perspective.

According to the Southern Poverty Law Center (www.splcenter.org), Massachusetts alone has 6 active and documented hate groups. Of these groups, at least 2 of them are LGBT-specific, not to mention the rest which tend to generalize hatred directed toward LGBT, racial and ethnic populations. Perhaps you've heard of some of them such as *Mass Resistance* or Scott Lively's *Abiding Truth Ministries*. These hate groups are not concentrated in rural, under populated areas. They are in our own backyard, from the West to the East.

It is undeniable that New Englanders tend to have it better sometimes—more than many other areas of the country—but Pride is not only about having it “better.” It is about erad-

As long as there is hatred ... those rainbow flags should always be blowing in the wind on Pride Day and every other day of the year.

icating homophobia, transphobia, sexism, racism and all other of the many -isms that apply to our community. It is about making it impossible for hate groups to terrorize others by dismantling their physical and financial support, which currently enables them to spread their vile bigotry. It is about being visible and proud, providing hope for those who may be struggling with their own sexuality or whose family has abandoned them due to who they are. It is about educating those around us about what it means to be LGBT. It is about mentoring youth and supporting their deci-

sions to come out and providing health care options for those who may be HIV+ or who may need other services as well. It is about being a whole, vibrant and thriving community that is united in moving forward, together. As long as there is hatred in this country and people's lives are being taken, spiritually or physically, as a result of their gender identity or sexual orientation, those rainbow flags should always be blowing in the wind on Pride Day and every other day of the year.

*Nicole Lashomb holds an MBA from Marylhurst University & a Bachelor's from SUNY Potsdam. Contact her directly at her TRT e-mail: editor@therainbowtimesmass.com.

Faith, family, and God: Thinking about relativism & keeping a clear LGBTQ perspective

By: Paul P. Jesepe*/TRT Columnist

Religious leaders, especially those opposed to LGBTQ civil and human rights, narrowly define relativism as pop culture's attempt to impose or project its values on God, thus undermining society. According to them, relativism is enabling political correctness to compromise sacred, timeless truths.

Evidently, it is possible to force the Maker of the Universe, the Giver of Life, the Big Kahuna who started the Big Bang, to accept social and societal whimsy. Just imagine, Paris Hilton and Kim Kardashian can boss God around!

It is a flawed, illogical premise worth understanding because it contributes to the bigotry and prejudice injected into religion by men and women. Note, I wrote men and women. Do not confuse religion, humankind's tool to enhance spirituality, with God. Incidentally, as is always meant in these columns, God is without gender, male, female, or a combination. Otherwise, God is limited.

Spiritual LGBTQ folks, especially Chris-

tians, also may find this brief, inadequate discussion of relativism personally useful in wrestling with nagging, often subconscious angst. In my travels, I encounter many LGBTQ people of faith who still wonder if living their personal truth might in some small way offend

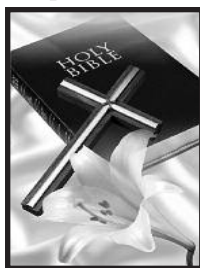
God. The answer is no.

Because a church teaching has been around for 1,000 or more years, written by men, does not mean someone knew the will of God or correctly interpreted the Bible.

Several LGBTQ Catholics have suggested to me they might be living in sin, but God forgives and still loves them. This is spiritual self-abuse and unhealthy. You are not living a sin. Because a church teaching has been around for 1,000 or more years, written by men, does not mean someone knew the will of God or correctly interpreted the Bible. The Big Bang occurred over 13 billion years

ago. Keep time and human history in perspective. Truth does not change, understanding does.

See Relativism on page 23



Paying attention to marginalized LGBTQs

By: Jason Lydon*/TRT Columnist



I had the pleasure of attending Youth Pride as an adult ally on May 18th. I was overcome with joy watching youth walk around holding hands, carrying signs for free hugs and kisses. Some of the at-

tendees were shirtless and covered in sparkles, others were in meticulous Goth outfits. There were young people dancing, picking up resources, flirting, getting HIV/STI testing and creating a space to celebrate their queerness. It is incredible to watch how things have changed since I attended my first youth pride in 1997, or in 1999 when my Mom and I spoke together on the steps of the State House. I will never forget being introduced to the LGBTQ movement as a teenager. I was trying to survive violent bullying at school. I was blessed to be supported by adults and lifted into leadership positions. I learned that my voice mattered even as many others were trying to silence me.

While much has changed, there are still so many things left undone. LGBTQ young people are still taking their lives at alarming rates, harming their bodies, being pushed into the streets, forced to bring weapons to school to defend themselves and losing services through cuts on state and federal levels. Yet there is still so much to find pride in.

I take pride in a history that prioritizes the experiences of criminalized LGBTQ people, queer people of color, transgender people, poor queers and those who will remind us that assimilation will never equal liberation.

LGBTQ youth are resilient, powerful and fierce. Queer youth of color are organizing balls to celebrate each other even while throwing shade. Homeless youth are using art and storytelling to force people to pay attention in Harvard Square. Youth in Springfield are organizing Know-Your-Rights trainings and informing other youth how to navigate the realities of policing. Youth

across Massachusetts are starting and maintaining Gay/Straight Alliances, educating their peers and challenging the adult dominance of LGBTQ community work. LGBTQ youth are also getting crushes, going on dates, making out, exploring sex and breaking each others' hearts. Adults have the responsibility to support, nurture and encourage youth leadership while stepping back and offering comfort when it is needed.

See Liberation on Page 23

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the great article (STONEWALL Veterans' Association Commemorates 44th Anniversary).

The Stonewall Rebellion was the Rosa Parks moment for the LGBTQ community. Any struggle for human rights and dignity should never be forgotten. I applaud you for getting the true story of the Stonewall Rebellion from the veterans who were there and who continue to this day the fight for equality.

— Bob Isadore, Internet

Dear Editor,

This is far too sad [Adult Film Star Commits Suicide After Husband's Death].

The Sick people who push religion down everyone's throat...also have a major effect on politics...so people are still dying because of the idiots on both the "church" and the statehouses"

They didn't have to kill each other..but if the fear of separation of the one you love is so great, it can effect your mental stability, your brain chemical imbalance ... and then when one of them kills them self...the other one, cannot live alone ..and the anguish if far to great.

— Maury Lubman, Internet

State vs. federal marriage laws: Where does Gabriel Gomez stand?

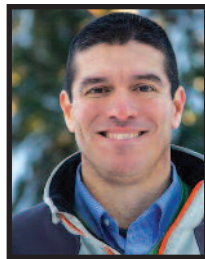
Some concerns are raised over candidate's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender stances

By: Lauren Walliser/TRT Reporter

IN THE LIMELIGHT

In a special election to replace Senator John Kerry following his resignation to become U.S. Secretary of State, Representative Ed Markey (Democrat) and former Navy SEAL Gabriel Gomez (Republican) will vie to fill the position on June 25. As the election approaches, questions have been raised regarding Gomez's stances on LGBT issues, particularly when it comes to the role of states versus the federal government in deciding marriage laws.

Ned Flaherty—Projects Manager at Marriage Equality USA who manages the National Marriage Map—said he attempted to contact Gomez's campaign four times to get his stances on the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), equal immigration rights for LGBT citizens, the Domestic Partnership Benefits & Obligations Act, the Tax Parity for Health Plan Beneficiaries Act, the Respect for Marriage Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). He said his inquiries were never returned. In the Republican primary debates, Gomez stated that he supports the repeal of DOMA on the federal level, but believes states must also be left with the power to decide how to interpret marriage laws.



Gabriel Gomez
PHOTO: FB CAMPAIGN

"Gabriel Gomez claims to oppose all discrimination, yet he also wants every state to be able to discriminate against all of its own same-gender couples, and also discriminate against all same-gender couples from other states," Flaherty said. "His claims are contradictory. Gomez wants the 29 states that already banned same-gender civil marriage via law, or constitution, or both to continue doing that."

Gomez's campaign website states that he opposes discrimination of any kind and supports same-sex marriage. Will Ritter, press secretary for Gabriel Gomez for Senate explained what informs the candidate's position.

"Particularly, he was touched by a personal friend of his who is gay who was kicked out of the Naval Academy although he was one of the top recruits," Ritter said.

Ritter said he does not think Gomez's stance is contradictory, confirming that Gomez supports repealing DOMA, but stands by the position to allow states to enact their own laws.

"There's kind of three levels here, and

while he wants to repeal DOMA, he still thinks that a state should be able to effectuate their own marriage laws and vote or decide on the state court level how they want to interpret marriage," Ritter said. "And then you get your classic 10th amendment argument that if you don't like the way that your state has put the laws together or interprets that law, then you can vote with your feet and you can leave."

Ritter went on to clarify the candidate's position.

"When it comes to laws and legislation on the federal level, which is the office he's running for, he believes that DOMA, which is a federal law, should be repealed, and that's all he wants to do on a federal level," said Ritter. "So as far as the states, obviously he hopes that what is happening now that we're seeing almost monthly, states deciding to legalize gay marriage, he hopes that continues. But it's sort of a question of how far do you want the federal government to go in making that happen."

Flaherty claims that as a Republican, Gomez supports the Republican Party



Ned Flaherty
PHOTO: TED GRACE

platform, which he said contains 12 specific plans to oppress LGBT citizens.

"Gomez' party adopted a series of anti-LGBT resolutions on 12 April, including prohibitions against same-gender civil marriage nation-

wide in both state and federal law," Flaherty said. "Gomez' party declared mixed-gender marriages as 'holy' which makes same-gender marriages 'un-holy' and is a clear violation of the separation of church and state."

Flaherty noted that Gomez' party vowed to block all immigration reform if any clauses for LGBT fairness are added. However, Ritter said Gomez supports equal immigration rights for LGBT citizens. As for the Domestic Partnership Benefits & Obligations Act, Ritter said Gomez' stance is consistent.

"He does not believe that there should be any difference between a homosexual couple's benefits and a heterosexual couple's benefits if they're married," Ritter said.



Rep. Ed Markey
PHOTO: FB CAMPAIGN

See Gomez on Page 20

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Boston Pride: "Moving Forward...Proud, Strong, United"

Organization's committee expects record-breaking crowds for week-long events

By: Lauren Walliser/TRT Reporter

Boston Pride Week 2013 will be held from May 31-June 9 in various locations throughout the city, bringing together more organizations and record-breaking crowds than ever before. The 2013 theme, "Moving Forward...Proud, Strong, United," was created by the Boston Pride Committee to acknowledge the accomplishments the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community has achieved while acknowledging that there is more work to be done.

"In my view, Boston's LGBT community has witnessed much adversity throughout the fight for equality over the past few decades," said Boston Pride President Linda DeMarco. "In working together, the community has become a leader in the fight for LGBT rights. Pride Week this year will celebrate the importance of continuing to lead this nation in the fight for equality as a united front."

The annual Flag Raising will kick off Boston Pride Week on May 31 in City Hall Plaza and is hosted by Mayor Thomas Menino. Elected officials and others who support the LGBT community will attend. Menino was also chosen as the 2013 Parade Grand Marshall through an online vote open to the entire community.

"Mayor Menino is a true friend of the Boston Pride Committee, and all of the residents and visitors of our great city," said Rob Zuromski, board member for Boston Pride. "I feel it is a great tribute to our longtime mayor, long time pride participant, and long-time advocate of the LGBTQ [community] to have him as our Grand Marshall."



Other events featured early in the week include Pride Day at Faneuil Hall, the LGBT Senior Pride Tea Dance, and the Royal Pageant. Boston Pride's Human Rights and Education Committee will present "Out In Sports: Moving Forward – A Panel Discussion on LGBT People in Sports" Wednesday, June 5 at the Boston Public Library. The panel will be moderated by Patrick Burke of the You Can Play Foundation. Panelists include Steve Buckley, Boston Herald sports columnist; Caitlin Cahow, 2x medalist, Olympic U.S. Women's Hockey Team, Boston Blades; Nevin Caple, Division 1 basketball player at Fairleigh Dickinson University and Founder of Loveathlete; Keelin Godsey, track and field coach at Williams College; Pat Griffin, professor emerita at University of Massachusetts Amherst, founder of Changing the Game and author of *Strong Women, Deep Closets*; Steve Harrington, Gay Games athlete; and James Nutter of GO! Athletes. Jason Collins, the former Boston Celtic who recently came out as gay, will also march in the parade.

According to Zuromski, in 2012, Boston Pride was the first Pride in the nation to have

its own app that helped connect the community with the festivities. New to Boston Pride this year is the first "Pride Night at Fenway Park" to be held June 6. According to Sylvain Bruni, board member for Boston Pride, Boston Pride has partnered with the Red Sox to bring the LGBT community to Fenway Park to cheer for Pride and for the Red Sox in their game against the Texas Rangers.

"This is the first time ever that an MLB team put together an official LGBT event,

"This year, we recognize that our name, Boston Pride, symbolizes the spirit, courage and conviction of everyone connected to the City of Boston, especially in the aftermath of the tragic bombings at the Boston Marathon."

— Boston Pride Board President
Linda DeMarco

and we are so very proud it is happening in Boston," said Bruni. "The Red Sox have demonstrated a strong commitment to diversity. This will be big!"

The Boston Pride Festival will be held Saturday, June 8 from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. at City

Hall Plaza as the last stop for the Boston Pride Parade, which will kick off at noon in Copley Square. The Festival is the last stop on the parade route and will include entertainment, such as The Family Zones, the Main Stage Lounge, Artisan Avenue, and over 100 vendors. This year's headliner for the entertainment portion of the festival will be award-winning musical duo Karmin, chosen by the Boston Pride Entertainment Committee.

"They are a local band who became a YouTube sensation and exploded on the national scene over the last year," said Bruni. "They are a very LGBT-friendly band with a large gay following."

Other events include the Boston Pride Block Party: JP Edition, Boston Pride Block Party: Back Bay Edition, and the Boston Pride Youth Dance.

Bruni and Zuromski acknowledged that the theme for Boston Pride this year was chosen prior to the tragedy that occurred at the 2013 Boston Marathon. However, they also noted the theme has taken on a deeper meaning since the event.

"This year, we recognize that our name, Boston Pride, symbolizes the spirit, courage and conviction of everyone connected to the City of Boston, especially in the aftermath of the tragic bombings at the Boston Marathon," said DeMarco. "The outpouring of support and interest in participation in the Parade and other Pride events has been tremendous as we look forward to a fantastic week to celebrate the LGBT community."

For more information visit Boston Pride at: www.bostonpride.org/prideweek/.

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Friday, May 31

CINESTUDIO

7:30 p.m.

Shorts:

- Two Guys in a Backyard
- Bouddhi Bouddha
- Omar
- Something Real

Feature Presentation:
G.B.F.

Opening Night Gala
 follows the film

Saturday, June 1

CINESTUDIO

3:00 p.m.

Short:

- Danny's Parade

Feature Presentations:

I AM GAY AND MUSLIM

— and —

**TAKING A CHANCE
 ON GOD**

PROGRAM 1 CINESTUDIO

7:30 p.m.

Shorts:

- Sabbatical • F***buddies
- Jackpot • Dirty Talk

Feature Presentation:
OUT IN THE DARK

PROGRAM 2 REAL ART WAYS

7:30 p.m.

Short:

- Brighton

Feature Presentation:
BYE BYE BLONDIE

Sweet Reception follows
 the film at Real Art Ways

Sunday, June 2

CINESTUDIO

3:00 p.m.

Short:

- My Neighbors
 (Meine Nachbarn)

Feature Presentation:

**RAID OF THE
 RAINBOW LOUNGE**

CINESTUDIO

7:30 p.m.

Shorts:

- The Queen of
 my Dreams
- Teens Like Phil
- Neighbors (Vecinas)

Feature Presentation:

MARGARITA

Monday, June 3

CINESTUDIO

7:30 p.m.

Short:

- From Lucas to Luus
 (Van Lucas naar Luus)

Feature Presentation:

**WILL YOU STILL LOVE
 ME TOMORROW?**

Tuesday, June 4

CINESTUDIO

7:30 p.m.

WOMEN TAKE CHARGE
 (Women's Shorts Program)

- Deep Down
- Lovely
- Lust Life
- (A) Typical Couple
- Polaroid Girl
- Once
- It Gets Bitter
- Coffee & Pie

Wednesday, June 5

CINESTUDIO

6:00 p.m. Centerpiece Reception

7:30 p.m.

Shorts:

- Cold Star
- I Don't Want to Go Back Alone
 (Eu Não Quero Voltar Sozinho)
- Papa's Boy
- The Pigeon Family
- It's Consuming Me

Feature Presentation:

I AM DIVINE

Thursday, June 6

CINESTUDIO

7:30 p.m.

Feature Presentation:
LAURENCE ANYWAYS

(Sneak Peek)

Friday, June 7

PROGRAM 1

CINESTUDIO

7:30 p.m.

Shorts:

- Happy Hour
- Let's Get Soaking Wet
- Fresh Fruit • Genderfreak

Feature Presentation:
**SOONGAYA: DANCE
 OF THE ORCHIDS**

Preceded by G.A.Z.E.
 (gay happy hour) from
 5:30-8:30 at Real Art Ways

PROGRAM 2

REAL ART WAYS

9:00 p.m.

Short:

- Flamingo Pride

Feature Presentation:

**IN THE NAME OF
 (W IMIE...)**

Saturday, June 8

CINESTUDIO

3:00 p.m.

Short:

- Prora

Feature Presentation:

THE RUGBY PLAYER

7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM 1

SPOTLIGHT THEATRES

Short:

- The Package (O Pacote)

Feature Presentation:

THE GO DOC PROJECT

7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM 2

CONNECTICUT SCIENCE

CENTER

Short:

- Gay Women Will
 Marry Your Boyfriends

Feature Presentation:

ROUTE OF ACCEPTANCE

Closing Night Party at the
 Connecticut Science Center follows the films

Thinking Out Loud: Proud of Cuba!

By: Abby Dees*/Special for TRT



In the information packet for my recent trip to Cuba, I immediately noticed this small caveat: "While Cuba is becoming more and more open-minded with regard to cultural diversity, same-sex partners may not feel as open to express themselves. Havana is quite cosmopolitan in this regard, but smaller villages are not as accustomed to open expression or affection by LGBT community members." It must have taken some poor soul hours to craft this in a way that didn't sound like this: "Don't act too gay in Cuba."

Imagine my surprise when I met our guide for the day in the town of Remedios, four hours from Havana. With his purse and eyeline, Marco practically floated along as he pointed out the sights. Though we weren't on an LGBT-themed tour, Marco had no problem stopping regularly to admire the male eye-candy (lots of that in Cuba), and answering our questions about LGBT rights as comfortably as he described the lovely colonial architecture. I was struck that the tourist office had no problem sending someone so—shall we say—fabulous to lead a random group of Americans around. I couldn't see this happening back home. Things have changed a lot in Cuba.

Despite the supposed social equality that Cuba's government has espoused since the 1959 communist revolution, until only recently, LGBT people have been outright persecuted. It's ironic that just as McCarthy was rooting out gays and lesbians for being (of course) communist sympathizers in the U.S., Castro considered homosexuality a decadent product of capitalism. You really couldn't win. We Americans mellowed out around the pinko/gay thing somewhat, but the Cuban Communist party was calling homosexuality "incompatible with the revolution" well into the '70s and sending people to labor camps for it. Many who fled the island were LGBT people escaping brutality and imprisonment.

Only in the 1980s did the official government line begin to change. Even Castro has publically apologized for his homophobia,

though he stopped short of starting a PFLAG chapter. You might have heard that Mariela Castro—Fidel's niece and the daughter of current president, Raul—is a leading LGBT activist, and fiercely challenging her father's own policies (she's traveling the U.S. speaking on LGBT rights as I write). One wonders if, kind of like Republican Senator Rob Portman, Fidel and Raul's political positions softened when a family member told them to get over it. Sometimes when it comes to family, human nature trumps political ideology.

Marco, our lovely guide, tells me over coffee that he feels very free to sashay through Remedios. He is famous there, by the way, for designing the elaborate costumes used in the town's famous annual festival, Las Parrandas, and no one is under any illusions that he just hasn't found the right girl. But he also admitted that Remedios is an artsy place, and like all artsy places, there's some permission to be a bit queer, so to speak.

I asked if he felt he was treated as an equal in Cuba, and he proudly replied, "¡Sí!" And same-sex marriage? I got a terse, "No." However, in five years, "es posible."

Same here, I thought, even though I've now lost count of how many states got same-sex marriage this year alone. Full equality isn't quite around the corner for either of us, but it's in sight. As I sipped my cafe con leche in that very different country, talking with Marco, I pondered how so many different paths can take you to the same place.

Later during my trip another local said to me, "The successes of the revolution"—and there were some, despite great failures—"had little to do with communism and everything to do with the Cuban people." That is a bigger statement than he likely meant in the moment. It made me think about our own LGBT revolution—hopefully a more peaceful and —and how it has nothing to do with politics or even national identities. Instead, it has everything to do with each of us being honest about who we really are, doing it with courage, and standing together. Happy Pride, everyone, whether you're in Cuba, the U.S. or anywhere else.

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

First-Ever LGBTQ History Walking Tour of Northampton, June 16th

"Journey through Lesbian Mecca" will recall key organizations & locations

NORTHAMPTON, Mass.—The first-ever walking tour to reveal the untold history of Northampton's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community will take place on Sunday, June 16 at 2:00 p.m. and everyone is welcome. Offered by the Sexual Minorities Archives as a benefit for the non-profit Sexual Minorities Educational Foundation (SMEF), Inc., the 2-hour walking tour, Journey Through Lesbian Mecca, will include more than 40 stops concentrated in a three-mile area in and around downtown Northampton. Many of the locations on the tour were sites of organizations and businesses in the 1970s through the 2000s that helped shape the LGBTQ community's emergence in the area and the city to establish its national reputation as a welcoming place for LGBTQs. The tour will also cover sites as old in history as 1899, and spaces owned or operated by LGBTQs today.

To develop the tour, research was conducted by volunteers at the Sexual Minorities Archives, a national collection of LGBTQ literature, history, and art located in Northampton; and at the Sophia Smith Collection at Smith College. Elizabeth Kent, M.A., Brandeis University and Smith College alumna, and Bet Power, Executive Director of SMEF, Inc. and Curator of the Sexual Minorities Archives, will guide the walking tour.

"The current climate of inclusion of LGBTQs in Northampton didn't begin today and it didn't come from nowhere," said Bet Power. "National attention began for Northampton's lesbian community in the 1980s due to the extensive underground of groups and businesses they built here in the 1970s. By 1995, author Michael Lowenthal said 'Northampton is something of a lesbian Mecca, to which all dykes must make at least one pilgrimage during their lives.' Today there are scarce few lesbians, gay men, trans people, bisexuals, and queers living in the U.S. who have never passed

through Northampton or lived here at some point in time."

Past and present locations with LGBTQ histories will be visited and discussed, such as The Egg, The Common Women Club, Greasy Gorgon Garage, Ye Rose Tree Inn, Hover House, Womofyre Books, Pulaski Park, Gala Bar, the Grotto, Dyke Dorms, and more. Even sites of lesbian graffiti in the

'Northampton is something of a lesbian Mecca, to which all dykes must make at least one pilgrimage during their lives.'

city will be covered, and the tour will swing through locations on the Smith College campus, too.

Registration is limited to 30 people. The requested donation is \$20 general and \$10 for seniors ages 60+, students, and low-income individuals. To reserve your place or for more information, email: sexualminorities.archives@yahoo.com or call 413-584-7616. Tour-goers may pay in advance or on the day of the tour. You may also visit the Sexual Minorities Archives on Facebook at <http://tiny.cc/i7vpxw> to learn more.

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- support group
- línea de crisis bilingüe
- refugio de emergencia
- grupo de apoyo

The Network/La Red:
Acabando con el abuso de parejas en las
comunidades LGBTQ, poliamorosas y
sadomasoquistas

puede ser el abuso de pareja íntima



Staff from the LGBT Aging Project, Fenway Health and The Fenway Institute at the May 15, 2013 announcement that the Aging Project is joining Fenway Health. (L-t-R): Bob Linscott, Assistant Director of the LGBT Aging Project; Dale Mitchell, Chair of the LGBT Aging Project's Board of Directors; Dr. Stephen L. Boswell, President & CEO of Fenway Health; Lisa Krinsky, Director of the LGBT Aging Project; and Aimee VanWagenen, Interim Director of Administration and Operations at The Fenway Institute.

LGBT Aging Project Joins Fenway Health

BOSTON, Mass.—The LGBT Aging Project, New England's premier organization for cultural competency training, programs and advocacy for LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) older adults, will become an affiliate of Fenway Health effective July 1, 2013. The LGBT Aging Project will become part of Fenway's research, education and policy division, The Fenway Institute. This new affiliation will reinforce the commitment of both the LGBT Aging Project and Fenway Health to the growing LGBT older adult community.

"The LGBT Aging Project will maintain its mission, identity and staff with the Fenway Institute as our new home," said Lisa Krinsky, Director of the LGBT Aging Project. "We are excited to join the Fenway family, and to grow our programs to positively impact the lives of larger numbers of LGBT older adults and caregivers. We are equally excited to help Fenway expand their work in LGBT aging."

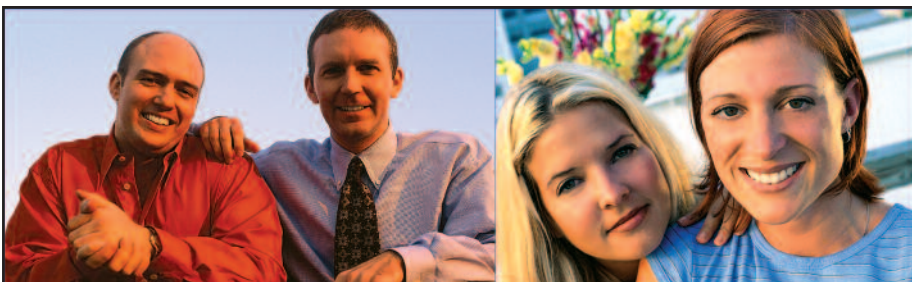
This affiliation will tightly integrate community-based services, training and advocacy for LGBT older adults with research relevant to the aging LGBT population and access to health care. The resulting synergy will increase visibility for LGBT older adults and their unique social service and health care

needs. As part of The Fenway Institute, the LGBT Aging Project will continue to build upon its successes in providing training, capacity-building, and community-based services and collaborate with Fenway faculty and staff to conduct critical research on the LGBT older adult community. This will help sharpen training, outreach and educational efforts at both organizations.

"Fenway is extremely excited by this partnership. As more members of our community reach their 50s, 60s, 70s and beyond, care and services for LGBT older adults are going to be increasingly important," said Stephen L. Boswell, MD, Fenway Health President and CEO. "We look forward to working with the staff of the LGBT Aging Project on growing their programs and tapping into their expertise to help Fenway better serve our elders."

Founded in 2001 by a group of advocates from both the aging service network and the LGBT community, the LGBT Aging Project is dedicated to ensuring that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender older adults have equal access to the life-prolonging benefits, protections, services and institutions that their heterosexual neighbors take for granted.

To read the rest of this story visit:
http://tiny.cc/trt_lgtagingfenway



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Airocide: Breathe easy and let your breath be taken away, even Ellen has one in her studio

How much do you really know about germs and bacteria beyond the fact that they exist and can cause very bad things? Think about it.

Watch the news, read a newspaper or turn on any number of health advice shows these days and you'll get the message loud and clear—germs and bacteria are everywhere. Got it!

That's the fact. Now what's the solution?

The steady drumbeat of news and information about the spread of germs and bacteria has not only awakened a burgeoning nationwide obsession with hand washing and hand sanitizers, it has also spurred a well-founded, if moderately overheated,

paranoia about laying hands on anything public, be it a door handle or the railings along walkways. All of which is good news for the most part, because after all, knowledge is power and as both Maya Angelou

Airocide was developed by NASA, approved by the FDA and has been shown to substantially reduce the presence of bacteria and mold (up to 75% in households).

and Oprah are fond of saying, "When you know better, you do better."

But what about the air we breathe? Air is the one element with which we have the most contact and yet it is also the one over which we exert the least amount of control. You can control what you touch, what you eat and even the cleanliness of your envi-

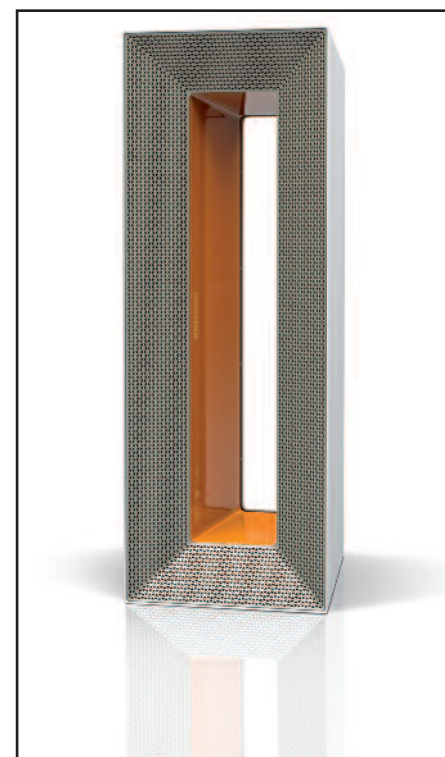
ronment. But air? Well that's a trickier affair.

Up until recently, my only experience with air filtration systems had not proved particularly impressive. Every example that I saw was either too huge, too loud, too cumbersome to deal with or just too plain ugly. And given that I am of the school of thought, that a healthy lifestyle and a stylish existence need not be mutually exclusive, none of these former examples would ever do.

Then one day, I tuned into a segment of Ellen and found myself transfixed as she talked about the air purifier that she uses in her studio. It's called Airocide and it's neither bumbling nor clumsy looking. In fact, it's quite chic. Not to be overly dramatic, but as soon as I laid eyes on it, I almost felt like the heavens had opened up and delivered a miracle.

Slim and sleek, with dimensions and design that allow it to blend seamlessly with any décor, Airocide resides comfortably at the intersection of function and fabulous. Add to that the fact that Airocide was developed by NASA, approved by the FDA and has been shown to substantially reduce the presence of bacteria and mold (up to 75% in households) and the stylish solution to fixing that tricky problem with all the particles and gases that pollute the air we breathe daily became pretty obvious to me.

And did I mention that Airocide also fights odors ... particularly pet odors? Well yeah, it does that too, all while it basically eliminates the gases and particles in the air that make life for asthma and allergy suf-



ferers such a challenge.

Stylishly cleaner air? What's not to love about that? Now that you know better, it's time to do better.

Find out more about Airocide online at: www.airocide.com/ellen.

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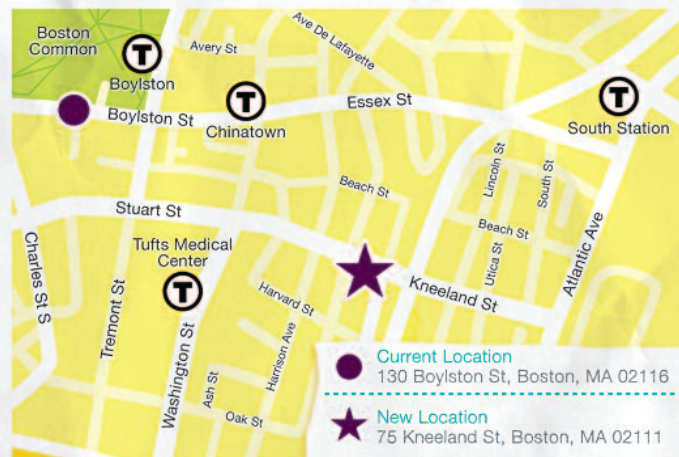
The Borum is moving to a newly renovated space at **75 Kneeland Street** in Boston, not far from our current home and the Tufts Medical Center Orange Line MBTA station. For more about the anticipated **July 1, 2013** move, visit move.sidneyborum.org, email information@fenwayhealth.org or call **617.457.8140**.

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Hennepin: The quiet revolution for LGBT equality

By: Lisa Keen/Keen News Service

Nearly every LGBT person knows about “Stonewall”—the spontaneous resistance to police intimidation of LGBT patrons at the Stonewall bar in New York City in June 1969.

Relatively few know about Hennepin in May 1970.

Events in both places became powerful catalysts for change in the way mainstream society treats LGBT people.

Stonewall took the form of hundreds of LGBT people using riots and defiance in a major city, refusing to obey laws that were hate-motivated and discriminatory on their face. Hennepin was one gay male couple, wearing suits and ties, walking into a county clerk’s office in the Midwest and applying for a marriage license.

Stonewall inspired the creation of thousands of LGBT organizations, newspapers, and communities that grew enough political strength to win elections, change laws, and insist the world understand that gay people are here —“Get Used to It.”

Hennepin garnered a relative lightning flash of media attention—a story in *Look* magazine, appearances on two nationally televised talk shows, and a summarily dismissed appeal of their lawsuit by the U.S. Supreme Court. Its specific goal—to allow same-sex couples to obtain marriage licenses the same as male-female couples—appeared to fail.

Now, 43 years to the month after Jack Baker and Mike McConnell walked into the Hennepin County clerk’s office and filled



out an application for a marriage license, their quiet revolutionary act stands as a monument to perseverance and success.

To say Richard John (Jack) Baker and James Michael McConnell were ahead of their time is an understatement.

They are considered the first same-sex couple to walk into any municipal clerk’s office in the United States and apply for a marriage license. They were the first to sue the local clerk when their application was refused, and the first to take their lawsuit to

the U.S. Supreme Court.

They are also likely the first same-sex couple ever to *obtain* a marriage license, albeit through a sleight of name-change. According to a variety of news reports, Baker and McConnell were joined in marriage by a pastor in September 1971 after they obtained a marriage license from Mankato, Minnesota. An un-bylined “special” article in the January 7, 1973, *New York Times* reported that, in addition to their initial lawsuit over the rejected marriage application, Mc-

Connell adopted Baker in August 1971 “with the goal of securing tax and inheritance advantages.”

“At that time, Mr. Baker legally assumed the name Pat Lynn McConnell, while continuing to use the name Baker in his daily affairs.” Then Baker, using his newly adopted name, filled out a marriage license application with McConnell in Mankato, a small city west of Minneapolis.

“On Aug. 16, 1971, Blue Earth County issued the license, and, on Sept. 3, Mr. Baker and Mr. McConnell were married in a private ceremony in Minneapolis by the Rev. Roger Lynn of the United Methodist Church,” noted the *Times* article. Although the Blue Earth County Attorney challenged the legitimacy of the license, a Hennepin County grand jury “found the question not worth pursuing,” and thus, left the license intact.

Baker and McConnell’s actions garnered other publicity in the early 1970s—publicity that took some courage on their part, given the volatility of the time. They appeared on the *Phil Donahue Show* and the *David Susskind Show*, nationally televised talk shows. They were profiled briefly in *Look* magazine’s cover story on “The American Family.” Their willingness to identify themselves as gay touched many individual gays around the country.

After reading about Baker and McConnell in *Look* magazine’s cover story, a Birmingham, Alabama, man called the telephone

See Hennepin on page 23

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On moving forward: Exploring Boston Pride's 2013 strong theme; its significance

By: Deja Nicole Greenlaw*/TRT Columnist

TRANS NEWS



The Boston Pride theme for 2013 is "Moving forward ... Proud, Strong, United!" This signifies the struggle that LGBT people have faced and how they are moving together to make things better. I find that this is a wonderful and true message--every word of it. Congrats and thank you to the person/people who came up with this year's theme!

When I read what this year's theme was, I knew exactly what my June column was going to be. I was so taken by its message, and I wanted to break this great theme into sections and explore what I believe is meant by each.

As the first section states, yes, we have to move forward. We cannot sit back or stop and rest, because there are those who will try to take away any gains that we have previously made. It's sad and, frankly, quite irritating that there are others who want to limit our rights. In this land there is to be equal rights for all and an opportunity for everyone to each enjoy their life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. How straightforward is

that? How wonderful that statement is! What is it that these people who look to limit us do not understand?

These "limiters" usually operate under the guise of religion, claiming that their way is God's way and the only way, period. They

for all time. It's plain and simple bullying. It's not very accepting, not very friendly, not very fair and certainly not very American. Still they think that God is on their side and they think that they are doing "God's work" when they try to limit our rights. It's their

We need to be united to ward off this prejudice, this awful agenda that the limiters have. We must stick together and watch each other's backs, and be prepared to step up for the good of all.

quote verses from various religious books, which are aimed at us and our rights. They will tell you that these verses are the words of God, but no one can prove that these are really God's words. The reason is that these verses are not the words of God, but men, and might I add, not women, but men, written thousands of years ago. Make no mistake, God didn't write any of these verses, men did.

Why did they write them? To try to control us? Why do they want to control us? So that we will remain in the shadows and closets

agenda. We must never lose sight of that fact. We must move forward.

The second section is the word "proud." Too many of us lived/still live in shame, fear and self-loathing, not because we are evil, are not human, or are abominations, but because of the disparaging public relations agenda that is used against us. If you hear it enough times, you will believe these awful things, especially if you are an LGBT child. How many of us had stressful times growing up with the feeling that we were not normal? We grew up thinking that we were terrible

people. Now we realize that it was all false, and for the first time in our lives we can actually be proud of who we are!

The third section is "strong." Yes, we must be strong. There will be opposition to us and sometimes it will not be pretty, but we must be strong. We LGBT people are still being bullied, physically beaten and murdered because of who we are. We must not cower, we must not hide, we must be strong. Too many people have taken/are still taking the hits of prejudice against us, and we must stand up to this awful prejudice and be strong.

The fourth and last section is "united." We need to be united to ward off this prejudice, this awful agenda that the limiters have. We must stick together and watch each other's backs, and be prepared to step up for the good of all. We cannot do it in factions, we must be united. Our numbers are much greater when we are one, and we need all of us working together to get it done.

Putting all the four sections together gives us a roadmap, a blueprint and a mission statement that was thoughtfully crafted and made for this year's 2013 Boston Pride theme, "Moving forward ... Proud, Strong, United!"

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

Ask a Boston Transwoman: Activism; six rules for effective activism in human rights

By: Lorelei Erisis*/TRT Columnist



This time of year more or less denotes the start of the season I like to think of as the "speaking and marching season." During this season, I make the rounds of various Pride Festivals through the summer months and then, as the weather begins to cool down and political passions begin to heat up, assorted rallies and marches. All this lasts from roughly May to November. Once winter hits, at least in New England, we all sort of hunker in again and the season of planning and meetings begins.

It's a cycle I have come to know well. It's the activist cycle. I know the rhythms of it through close involvement. I have spoken, marched, chanted, led, followed, organized, canvassed, served on boards and generally gotten mixed up in any number of causes.

All of this has happened on top of a life lived adventurously, in which I have had much occasion to meet people of all stripes, hear their stories and, most importantly, spend countless hours thinking about and discussing what makes them tick. There are a number of things that I've learned, specifically as it applies to activism, that I would like to share with you my dear readers.

Everything starts from grassroots.

No matter the size of the movement, or the importance of the cause, everything starts with just a few people deciding to do something, working together to fix a perceived wrong or injustice and gathering more people to that work.

Even the most unwieldy organization still breaks down to individual members doing the work on the ground. Each link in an organizing chain is still comprised of individual people, with their own thoughts and motiva-

tions. Without all these people doing their own small parts, it all falls apart. **Ultimately, it's all about human rights.**

While we may be working with individuals who have individual concerns and particular motivations, most of the political causes and social movements I've encountered can be expanded out to being ultimately about a fight for human rights, and that's important to remember.

You might be working to change one small thing or to make life better for a specific

often found inspiration from authors as wide ranging as Noam Chomsky, J.F.K., Sun Tzu, Fran Lebowitz and Robert Anton Wilson.

Keeping my interests varied helps me avoid falling into ruts, and often it allows me to provide a spark of inspiration where a fresh idea is needed.

Get involved. Insert yourself.

I hear people complaining all the time about how such-and-such organization does not have any members of their particular social group or identification, and good on

to hit someone, despite your lifelong and deeply held pacifism.

Excuse yourself from the movement for a few minutes and go find some people who have nothing at all to do with your grand and important work. Have a drink, watch "The Simpsons," chill with some friends who love you just because you're nifty.

If it weren't for the friends I have outside of my activism work, I would be a burnt-out, empty husk of an activist.

When I have stepped away, remembered to live the life I'm fighting for, for a few minutes, I always return refreshed! I am recharged, freshly activated and ready to fight, so my friends don't have to.

Every crowd is an audience.

This is a great example of taking ideas from one realm into another. It's a realization I came to early in my career as an activist, and one that seemed obvious to me having come from many previous years of performing and entertaining people.

We may want to think that the people who are listening to our impassioned speeches or encountering our deft protests are something different than the audience for simple entertainment. Let me assure you, in all the ways that matter, they are very much the same.

They still have an expectation of being influenced, moved and, yes, entertained. You have to get their attention and keep it, if you want to change their minds. You will have to rouse their passions if you want them to march. They will remember better when you are funny or engaging, and will drift away if they grow bored.

It's okay to entertain while you enlighten. After all, entertainment is simply about moving people in some way, and isn't that exactly what you're trying to do? Slainte!

**Lorelei Erisis is an activist, adventurer and pageant queen. Send your questions about trans issues, gender and sexuality to her at: loreleieris@gmail.com.*

This time of year more or less denotes the start of the season I like to think of as the "speaking and marching season."

group of people. If you ask yourself truly, "Why should this happen?" "Why must this wrong be righted?" you will very likely come to the answer that in a caring and responsible society, *all* people, *everywhere*, deserve the same basic rights as human beings.

Cross-pollinate your work. Learn from outside sources.

This is one that has helped me immensely. Of course I think it's important to make a detailed study of the causes you are invested in. Often though, many of my biggest successes have come from taking an idea or principle I learned elsewhere and applying it to the cause at hand.

While a great deal of my activism and writing deals with transgender issues and gender/sexuality, I make a point to keep myself educated on a wide range of topics. I have always been a voracious reader and I have

them for identifying the deficiency. Bully I say!

Now what are you going to do about it?

Whatever the reason, sometimes the only way to rectify it is if someone steps up and says, "I'll be that person who is missing." You may not even want me here, but you need me here. So here I am, whether you like it or not.

Now, I know, this may not be pleasant. It's likely not going to be a walk in the park, but if you really believe this integration needs to happen, somebody is going to have to be that first token. The starter culture, if you will.

And why shouldn't it be you?

Make and cultivate friends outside your activism.

You are burnt out. Your legs hurt and if you have to spend one more minute arguing about the misogynistic class imperative of heteronormative social redistribution, you are going

Dixie Chicks' singer Natalie Maines gets real, talks lesbian hair, crush on Maddow

By: Chris Azzopardi*/Special to TRT

To quote a Dixie Chicks song, fearless frontwoman Natalie Maines has "been a longtime gone."

Seven years after one of the most successful country music acts released *Taking the Long Way*, and its unapologetic single "Not Ready to Make Nice" in response to the singer's political dig at then-President George W. Bush, Maines goes her own way for her first-ever solo album, *Mother*. Parting with longstanding bandmates Emily Robison and Martie Maguire for the album (don't worry, she says there's a "50/50" chance for a reunion LP), it's also decidedly not country.

In our recent chat, Maines revealed why she went rock (country "seemed so fake"), how being disowned—and her new short hair—made her feel closer to the gay community and whether now, a decade after her Bush outburst, she's ready to make nice.

Chris Azzopardi: You're sporting that punkish 'do; before, with the Dixie Chicks, it was the long, blond locks.

Natalie Maines: I know. Well, with the Chicks, I definitely felt like I was playing dress up a bit – but I liked it!

Q. Are you conscious of your look and how it represents the music?

A. With two kids, there's not enough time in the day to spend on what I look like; this is a much easier look. And it fits my personality more. I had short hair growing up, and it always felt right for me.

Q. Has the short hair scored you more lesbian cred?



Natalie Maines of the Dixie Chicks, whose first-ever solo album, *Mother*, is out now.

A. (Laughs) I barely leave my house. So maybe. But the lesbians liked me already! Yeah, this is definitely a lesbianish haircut

I've got going on. I don't mind. I love Rachel Maddow. She would be my lesbian girl crush.

Q. Why Rachel?

A. She's hot! And she's smart and beautiful ... and I like her hair.

Q. I could see it working out between you two.

A. Yeah, I think that would work. I don't know if my husband or her girlfriend would think so. (Laughs)

Q. You've always had a really loyal gay fan base, even before you publicly chastised George W. Bush. How do you explain your connection with gay fans?

A. We had some very costume-y, over-the-top looks that the gays do appreciate. (Laughs) But after the controversy, I feel like there was even more of a connection, and that's just because we both know how it feels to be hated just for who we are – not for doing anything, bothering anyone, murdering anyone or being arrested. Just for being us. Apparently, that's not good in some people's eyes. But also, too, to just continue being and let other people get used to it—learning to be OK with yourself and just putting it out there, and people can either like you or not, but it's really on them.

Q. Were you noticing more support from the gay community at shows after the incident?

A. Yeah. And we would get lots of emails, and a lot of the community would come right up and say, "I love that you did this. I didn't listen to your music before, but after this, I went and bought every record." However it was that they showed their support...

Read the rest of this story at:
<http://tiny.cc/7iupxw>

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The Rainbow Times' Terriers, from the Beantown Softball League. See more photos of the Terriers on page 21 and online at: <http://tiny.cc/trtterierrpics>. PHOTO: TRT/SEAN SULLIVAN

Beantown Softball League's Terriers hold strong place

By: Sean Sullivan/TRT Sports Correspondent

The cold and heartbreaking month of April has finally made way for a beautiful and warm May and an even more promising June. And what do most Bostonians traditionally do to welcome in the weather? Play ball.

Established in 1978, Beantown Softball League is the largest athletic organization in New England open to LGBT and allied community members. Boasting 27 teams and three divisions based on competition and skill level, the Beantown Softball League fosters sportsmanship and friendly competition, according to their website.

This year, *The Rainbow Times* has sponsored the Terriers with Paul Gagnon as the coach. The Terrier's skipper is excited to be taking the helm. Gagnon has been involved with the league since 2005 and is also the league's field director. The Beantown Softball League is something that Gagnon, along with many others have worked to embrace and involve more of the community each year. And it's shown.

"We have seen the league grow from just 20 people to over 500 and we're at that again [this year]," said Coach Gagnon. "With so many more people joining the league, the community is benefitting from gathering all

sorts of people from all over the city. We have different fundraisers for different charities. So we always try to get more people to get involved with the community here in Boston."

Although opposing teams are competitors, Gagnon said that team interaction with other teams and bringing in new players is critical to how the league survives.

"Friends come in, even allies, sisters and brothers, they all come to play," he said. "I like to see everyone's families interacting with each other and expanding our family as well."

The Terriers are not only out to join friends of their community. They have a solid squad and are looking for a strong season.

"They're looking really great," Gagnon said. "We have some good competition. The division this year is about the same size as last year. I think we have 9 teams and they're looking very strong. Everyone is improving and, I'm not going to jinx it, but we're going to play swell."

The Rainbow Times will have continuous coverage of the Terriers and the rest of the Beantown Softball League this season. For updated standings and more information about the league, please visit, www.beantownsoftball.com (no hyphens).



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Stephen Sondheim, Scarlett Johansson, Kevin Kline, Gay and the anti-Gay

By: Romeo San Vicente*/Special for TRT

DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD



Into The Woods casting gets ensemble-ter

Stephen Sondheim's *Into The Woods* is a big show with a lot of characters. And the film adaptation of this dark, musical fairy tale (to be directed by *Chicago*'s Rob Marshall), a story full of adult themes of loss, loneliness and courage, well, it needs more and more actors to flesh it out. We've already told you about the heavy hitters—Streep and Depp—taking the first roles as Witch and Wolf, respectively. And now negotiations roll on for Chris Pine (*Star Trek Into Darkness*) and Jake Gyllenhaal, soon to be cast as the two princes. Meanwhile, you can add Emily Blunt to those talks, as she looks to be the choice to play the wife of the Baker (Jams Cordery, *One Man, Two Guvnors*). At this rate this movie's going to have more people singing at the same time than *Les Miserables*, and this is only the beginning. It could, conceivably, wind up employing every living actor who can carry one of Sondheim's notoriously difficult-to-sing tunes. More details as they unfold...

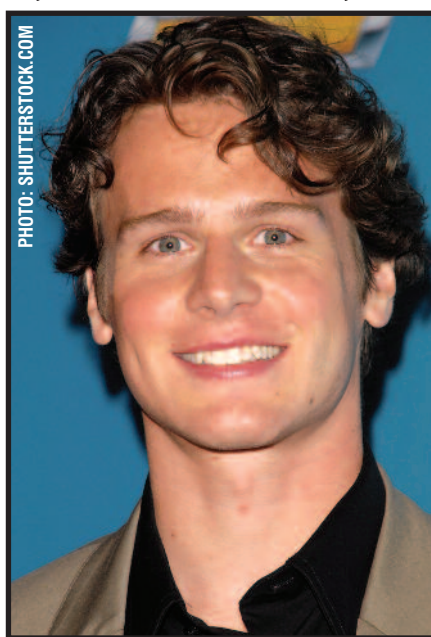
Scarlett Johansson steps behind the camera

She knows where she's going, that Scarlett Johansson. Knowing that acting career

longevity for almost any actress not named Meryl Streep is a finite quantity, the *Avengers* star is diversifying her career opportunities by stepping into the role of feature film director for the very first time. Johansson will helm an adaptation of Truman Capote's first novel, *Summer Crossing*, a work that was thought to have been lost for more than 50 years and only recently published for the very first time thanks to Capote's former editor. The story involves a 17 year-old girl who spends the summer alone in New York when her parents leave for Paris; she then falls for a parking attendant (the perfect way to get back at Mom and Dad). And in case you think this is just the whim of a dilettante movie star, you should also know that Johansson's been preparing for this moment alongside the Capote estate for years now, working with screenwriter Tristine Skylar on the adaptation and directing a short film, *These Vagabond Shoes*, starring Kevin Bacon, in the interim. Meanwhile, film history is on her side: nothing she does will be as poorly received as comic actress Nancy Walker's first and last film as a director: The Village People's *Can't Stop The Music*.

Kevin Kline's downward slide to *The Last of Robin Hood*

The legacy of Errol Flynn is a mix of glory and shame. Film history is kind to him, remembering the star at his best as one of Hollywood's most famous and handsome leading men of the 1930s and '40s in classics like *The Adventures of Robin Hood*. But his later life—he died at 50 of a heart attack—turned dark with career trouble, substance abuse and sexual scandals (one biographer even erroneously reported that he'd been a Nazi). And



Jonathan Groff

it's this troubled time that informs the new movie from gay directing team Richard Glatzer and Wash Westmoreland (*Quinceanera*), *The Last of Robin Hood*. Kevin Kline will star as the faded Flynn as he embarks on a *Lolita*-style relationship with a 15-year-old girl named Beverly Aadland (Dakota Fanning), one set up by the girl's mother (to be played Susan Sarandon). Not the most wholesome of storylines, to be sure, not to mention one that didn't end well for anyone, but sadly

fascinating all the same and in reputable hands thanks to Christine Vachon and Pam Koffler's Killer Films. The project is currently in production and should be ready to cause feelings of despair at this fall's film festivals.

Casting call: the gay and the anti-Gay

We reported earlier about the in-development HBO "gay friends" sitcom/dramedy from filmmaker Andrew Haigh (*Weekend*) and Michael Lannon (assistant director of *Interior: Leather Bar*, as well as *I Want Your Love*). Well, now it's got a series order and a cast: Jonathan Groff (*Glee*), Murray Bartlett (*Guiding Light*) and Frankie J. Alvarez (a newcomer whose only prior credit is as "Actor # 6" on *Smash*) will play a few of the gay San Francisco friends, with more to come as the production gains traction. And in the other corner, Uma Thurman will step into the orange juice-and-religious-intolerance-filled role of Anita Bryant in an upcoming biopic, the one from filmmakers Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman that chronicles the rise and fall of the former beauty queen, recording artist and O.J. pitchwoman as she stormed through the 1970s as an anti-gay activist, making enemies of queer people from coast to coast and destroying her career in the process. It's a film we're fairly certain isn't being created with the still-living anti-gay icon's blessing. But that's history, isn't it? You never know how it's going to judge you when you decide to make it. Go Uma!

*Romeo San Vicente prefers a Gwyneth Paltrow-endorsed kale smoothie to orange juice. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

Boston Pride Parade and Festival

June 8th, 2013

To get real-time info, download the free Boston Pride app on iTunes and Google Play



The Festival is located at City Hall Plaza, the last stop on the Parade route. Here you will find the main stage, the Beer and Wine lounge (for the 21+crowd), over 120 vendors, and the Family Zone !

More information on 2013 Boston Pride Week can be found online at www.bostonpride.org



boston pride

¿Orgullo en la comunidad Cubana sin homofobia? ¡Claro que sí!

Por: Wilfred W. Labiosa*/Columnista de TRT

LATIN VISION



PHOTO: ERIC HESS

Durante este mes de Junio, celebramos nuestro orgullo de ser lo que somos, personas LGBT diversas llenas de un espíritu y personalidades diversas. Acabo de regresar de la Jornada En Contra de la Homofobia en Cuba. ¡Esta campaña nacional nos enseña que las actividades deben ser tan diversas como nosotros/as somos! Les traigo muchos saludos a todos/as mis lectores desde esta Jornada y sus participantes (vean la página de internet de este periódico en YouTube—<http://tiny.cc/5kvpw>— y la de Boston Pride para un mensaje especial desde Cuba).

Esta Jornada Cubana en Contra de la Homofobia es una centrada en la fecha de Mayo 17, el día Internacional en Contra de la Homofobia, y a través de todo el país. La Jornada incluye paneles científicos, gala, tertulias, espectáculos, conciertos, conga/parada, y muchas otras actividades a través de todo un mes en muchas de las provincias del país y en la capital. La líder de esta Jornada y el movimiento GLBT en Cuba es una aliada al movimiento, Mariela Castro-Espín. Ella no sólo es la directora del Centro Nacional de la Sexualidad (CENESEX), sino que también es la hija del presidente de Cuba. Como aliada ella reúne a varios líderes LGBT de todas las provincias para planificar las actividades durante el mes de Mayo. He escrito sobre ella en el pasado y puedo decir que la conozco por varios años. Ella es una persona centrada en la idea de que todos/as debemos ser respetados por igual sin importar nuestro género, orientación sexual. Nada se debe anteponer a la igualdad, y equidad social. Con lemas tales como la diversidad es natural, dos

iguales también hacen pareja, y convivir en armonía es como esta Jornada promueve los valores e ideas que ella construye con líderes de la comunidad LGBT en Cuba. Por supuesto que ella es una figura polémica pero a la vez es una persona que nos defiende y aboga por la igualdad.

El lema principal de la Jornada de este año lo fue “Hogar es Amor, Respeto e Inclusión por una Familia Libre de Homofobia y Transfobia”. Aunque en Cuba no existe el derecho al matrimonio entre parejas del mismo sexo, ni hay derechos a la adopción tampoco, esto no implica que ellos no tienen al tanto la igualdad. Tanto es así que han tenido, por los pasados 11+ años, igualdad para las personas transgéneros y desde 1973 ninguna ley en Cuba es anti-sodomía. Cabe recalcar que desde el 1988 no hay mención alguna de que los homosexuales en las leyes y no pueden ser procesados/as por ser homosexuales, solo hay tal ley en Puerto Rico desde el 15 de mayo de 2013. Hay una gran diferencia entre países y leyes pero en un país comunista y socialista en el Caribe es un avance increíble (y modelo) de que las leyes hayan cambiado desde 1973. No estoy diciendo que Cuba es perfecta, por supuesto que no y que este país no tuvo etapas en contra de la comunidad homosexual y de



Mariela Castro (con el sombrero), hija del presidente de Cuba Raúl Castro, apoya las actividades de la Jornada en Contra de la Homofobia en Cuba.

PHOTO: WILFRED LABIOSA

ya que es una sociedad establecida en el machismo, marianismo, y la religión pero hay un diálogo que está germinando al respecto entre la sociedad y comunidad Cubana. El diálogo del tema LGBT se percibe entre sacerdotes y miembros de la comunidad, entre esos jugando dominos en la calle y estilistas, entre esos en la industria del turismo y aquellos/as viviendo en las ciudades urbanas como Ciego de Ávila, Sancti Spiritus, Santiago, Havana, Cienfuegos, y Trinidad, entre otras.

Cuba es una isla llena de dicotomías y política que muchos/as no entienden y envés se basan en la historia hablada; ¡si uno se basa en la historia hablada nunca habría progreso! Si uno no aprende del pasado no puede progresar en el futuro. Si uno no lee de la historia y sólo se basa en lo que uno escucha, nunca es culto/a y no aprende de los factores que se deben asociar a tal historia. Entre la comunidad LGBT en Cuba se palpa el cambio, por supuesto que hay algunos/as en la comunidad LGBT que se

esos/as que vivieron con VIH/SIDA. Lo que sí quiero hacer hincapié es que ahora por los pasados seis años hay un movimiento en contra de la homofobia y por tal se está hablando del tema más abiertamente. Hay homofobia entre la sociedad y la comunidad

quieren ir del país y no pueden, pero la mayoría están viviendo unos cambios increíbles que ni aquí ni en otros países se pueden palpar. Un ejemplo del cambio se ve en el Centro llamado El Mejunje en Santa Clara. Este Centro es uno diverso ya que no sólo tiene una cafetería, sino que también un teatro, galería de arte, taberna, y centro nocturno de baile y conciertos – ¿qué sitio hay así aquí en Massachusetts? ¿En Nueva Inglaterra? No lo hay. El manejador de tal espacio es un hombre gay llamado “El Papa del movimiento LGBT en Cuba”. La gente te conoce en este lugar y muchos otros lugares similares y quieren compartir contigo – no existe el “click” que existe entre nuestra comunidad LGBT. Hay gente transgénero, gay, lesbianas y bisexuales viviendo vidas diversas tal como la vivimos aquí, un poco más complicada por la situación económica, pero sin “clicks”, ¡llenos de vida, alegría, amistad, hermandad, y espíritu LGBT!

Durante este mes de Orgullo, espero que todos/as tomen un momento para aprender de nuestra historia LGBT. Lean, vean, y compartan con otros/as en nuestra comunidad LGBT ya que hay diversidad de la cual todos/as podemos aprender. Exhorto a que salgan de sus “clicks” y compartan con otros/as. ¡Mantengan las mentes abiertas! Cuba nos puede enseñar al respecto – no crean todo lo que se habla de Cuba, vean con sus propios ojos y hablen compartan con otros/as, como yo, ¡que he ido y vivido la diversidad LGBT en Cuba y de la Jornada! ¡Les deseo a todos/as un feliz mes de Orgullo LGBT! Qué todos/as lo pasen bien, y si van a beber, por favor ¡háganlo con precaución y con límites! ¡Les deseo caminos seguros LGBT y todo lo mejor durante este mes y a través de todo el año! ¡Que vivan con Orgullo LGBT y Latin@! Happy Pride!

*Escrito por Wilfred Labiosa, psicólogo y activista. Para conectarse visite su sitio en FB: www.facebook.com/wlabiosa.

Pregúntale a Lambda Legal: Revelando tu estatus del síndrome VIH

Por: Scott Schoettes/Director del Proyecto de VIH para Lambda Legal



P: Estaba leyendo acerca de unas personas que fueron procesados penalmente por tener relaciones sexuales y no revelar a sus parejas el hecho que tenían el VIH. ¿Cuales son las realidades en cuanto a las leyes y la revelación de tu estatus del VIH?

R: Lambda Legal lucha por abolir leyes de criminalización del VIH, aun así, hemos visto con frecuencia comentarios en blogs y hasta en nuestros artículos en la internet de personas que creen que aquellos viviendo con el VIH deberían ser obligados a revelar su estatus seropositivos antes de tener relaciones sexuales, y de no hacerlo deberían ir a la cárcel.

Quizás estas personas que dicen “por qué no revelas” no se dan cuenta de las dificultades—y a veces, el peligro—que tiene el revelar este estatus. Sabemos por experiencia que aun y cuando alguien revela su estatus del VIH, las autoridades pueden presentar cargos criminales y condenar a las personas bajo estas leyes. La responsabilidad le cae exclusivamente a la persona seropositiva para compro-

bar que él/ella reveló su estatus—y la resolución de cada una de estas situaciones depende de a quién le creas.

Lo que deberíamos hacer es crear un ambiente en el cual las personas viviendo con el VIH se sientan seguras de revelar esta información de forma voluntaria a sus parejas sexuales. Las leyes de la criminalización del VIH no ayudan en lo absoluto a promover este tipo de ambiente—y de hecho contribuyen a la desconfianza de no revelar. Si las personas que viven con el VIH serán expuestas a condenas criminales que normalmente son reservadas para ofensas mucho más atroces; entonces esto puede crear un ambiente de incertidumbre y llevar a que estas personas, por miedo a ser condenadas tan severamente, eviten o no se esfuercen por revelar su estatus. Todavía hay mucho por hacer antes que logremos reducir el estigma y la discriminación asociada con el VIH a un nivel en el cual las personas se sientan cómodas en revelar o ser abiertos acerca de su estatus.

Mientras tanto, todos debemos reconocer que el hecho de tener relaciones sexuales trae consigo ciertos riesgos, y que todos controlamos este riesgo y nuestro nivel de confianza. Si tu tolerancia para este riesgo es de cero, entonces tu no deberías tener relaciones sexuales con nadie, ¡y punto! Si tu tolerancia para este

riesgo está un poco por encima de eso, entonces tú solamente deberías de tener sexo seguro, dentro de una relación comprometida donde los dos se hayan hecho la prueba del VIH y hayan compartido los resultados. Y según tu tolerancia de riesgo puedes seguir subiendo esa escala de interacción sexual. El intentar de mantenerte a salvo del VIH dependiendo sólo en que tu pareja sexual revele su estatus es un plan diseñado para fracasar.

Desde una perspectiva de salud pública, el sistema actual de leyes y procesos criminales no funciona—no promueve la conducta que deseamos ni condena la conducta indeseada. Deberíamos de abandonar la idea que los únicos responsables de prevenir la transmisión del VIH son las personas seropositivas. Ahora que sabemos cómo tratar el VIH y cómo prevenir la transmisión, deberíamos de concentrar los esfuerzos en crear un ambiente en el cual las personas

no se sientan avergonzadas o atacadas basado en su estatus, y eso es lo que las leyes de criminalización del VIH hacen.

Si vives con el VIH y buscas recursos en tu estado, por favor llama a nuestra Línea de Ayuda al 1-866-542-8336 o visita a: www.lambdalegal.org/es/linea-de-ayuda.

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Out of Town: Four seaside gay-friendly getaways not considered by many

By: Andrew Collins*/Special to TRT

Four Unconventional Gay Seaside Getaways

Beach vacations come in many forms, especially in the context of gay and lesbian travel. Years ago, GLBT travelers seeking summer fun at the shore tended to focus on several tried-and-true resort communities, primarily Provincetown, Ogunquit, Rehoboth, Fire Island, Laguna Beach, Key West, and Saugatuck. Although all of these towns are as are still justly popular, with their lively gay beach bars and inviting accommodations, America has no shortage of quirky, scenic seaside communities with progressive bents and welcoming vibes.

Here are four great little coastal towns—two on the West Coast and two on the East Coast—you may not have thought much about, especially if you live outside the regions they're in. Each has plenty going for it, from an abundance of romantic, gay-friendly inns to urbane restaurants to memorable cultural and recreational assets.

Camden and Rockland, Maine

To experience a less-developed, ruggedly scenic part of New England, make the two-hour drive north of Portland, Maine to visit the historic seaside communities along western Penobscot Bay, including Rockland and Camden (www.mainesmidcoast.com). Maine's Mid-Coast is a place for quiet vacations, ideal if you're a hiker, photographer, fishing enthusiast, or sailor. Camden is home to a fleet of Windjammer sailing ships, which can be booked not only on multiple-day ex-



PHOTO: ANDREW COLLINS

View from Homer Spit of Kachemak Bay and Alaska's glacier-capped Kenai Mountains

cursions throughout the region but also for afternoon jaunts along Penobscot Bay.

The craggy 1,000-foot peaks of Camden Hills State Park delight outdoors enthusiasts—you can scamper along more than 20 miles of rugged nature and hiking trails through this unspoiled paradise—there's also overnight camping. The formerly workaday town of Rockland has come into its own in recent years, with several outstanding restaurants and cafes—don't miss In Good Company (www.ingoodcompanymaine.com), a dapper

neighborhood wine bar with creative American cuisine, or Primo (primorestaurant.com), where James Beard award-winning chef Melissa Kelly turns out stunning farm-to-table Mediterranean-inspired fare. The key draw in Rockland is one of the country's best small art museums, the Farnsworth, which focuses on noted regional artists of international acclaim, including Louise Nevelson, George Bellows, and the Wyeth, who are celebrated with their own wing.

Among recommended accommodations,

Camden is home to the GLBT-owned Camden Harbour Inn (camdenharbourinn.com), which is situated across from a harbor and has 18 warmly appointed rooms and suites, plus a terrific restaurant. In Rockland, the gay-owned LimeRock Inn (www.limerockinn.com) is a handsome painted-lady Victorian B&Bs whose rooms are outfitted with all the perks you'd expect of a modern hotel. A lavish breakfast is included in the rates, and downtown restaurants are within easy walking distance.

Homer, Alaska

You may not think of Alaska when you're planning a beach vacation, but the offbeat fishing town of Homer (www.homer-alaska.com) is an endearingly funky and gay-friendly coastal getaway popular both with residents and visitors to the Last Frontier. On the Kenai Peninsula and reached from Anchorage either by a stunning 220-mile drive or an easy 40-minute flight, the town is situated at the mouth of Kachemak Bay and affords dramatic views of the glacier-capped Kenai Mountains.

You can stroll among the cool coffeehouses and seafood restaurants along Homer Spit, which pokes out into the bay—good bets include Captain Patties Fish House, which serves delicious crab cakes and a nice selection of Alaska microbrew beers, and Coal Town Coffee & Tea. A must-see here is the fascinating Alaska Islands & Oceans Visitor Center, but also note

Read the rest of this story at:
<http://tiny.cc/7qlpxw>

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Meet & Greet: 6:30pm
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Categories are: Theme Presentation,
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Boston organization steps up to address LGBTQ bullying and makes changes

By: Ashley Mark/TRT Reporter

The safety of students and creation of affirming school environments is a growing focus among LGBTQ organizations. The Boston chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Inc. recently held a fundraising event to highlight the prevalent need for safer environments.

Greater Boston PFLAG's "Step Up! Stop the Bullying Now" event focused on making the situation better now, not waiting for things to better themselves through time.

"Initiatives like the 'It Gets Better' campaign bring hope, but also ask bullying victims to be patient because it gets better eventually," explained event co-chair Joan Parker. "To me that is like having an open painful wound, the pain of which one must endure until the passage of time ameliorates it. This is passivity, versus the activist strategies supported by the PFLAG campaign to stop the bullying now."

According to Greater Boston PFLAG president Deborah Peeples, the work of the organization fosters dialogue, creates safer environments and promotes open minds. The "Step Up!" event furthers this work and calls attention to creating positive change in the lives of LGBTQ students and allies.

"This event is important because it shines a spotlight on family acceptance and the continuing need to create safe climates for LGBTQ students, and promote respect for human diversity," Peeples added.

The event was held at the Party in the Park Tent in the Back Bay Fens' Kelleher Rose Garden, and was attended by over 600 guests, according to a press release. Honored guests included Rufus Gifford, Na-



PHOTO: MARILYN HUMPHRIES

GBPFLAG with Rufus Gifford, event honoree. L-to-R: Liz Page of Liz Page Associates; Holly Safford, co-chair of event and Founder/President of The Catered Affair; Greater Boston PFLAG President Deborah Peeples; Honoree Rufus Gifford; co-chair Joan Parker; and PFLAG Executive Director Pam Garramone at the 2013 Step Up! Make it Better NOW event benefiting Greater Boston PFLAG.

tional Finance Director for the Obama for America Campaign.

"As President Obama's informal ambassador to the LGBT community, Rufus represents a beacon of hope for LGBT youth," Peeples was quoted in the release. "Rufus has shown us all that there are no limits on life's plans."

The night also featured a live auction and a presentation of the Elise Frank Scholarship Awards, which highlighted the accomplishments of six high-school students whose actions have fostered greater support of

LGBTQ students in their schools.

"Step Up!" promoted PFLAG's educational work, but was also a fundraising event to support their important mission.

"The goal in all of our fundraising is to continue our bullying prevention and education programs for faculty and students in middle and high schools, to ensure the safety and respect of students who are targets of discrimination and harassment," Parker said.

Greater Boston PFLAG executive director Pam Garramone confirmed that the proceeds from the event will be used to continue and

enhance the organization's initiatives.

"We raised funds to deliver LGBT awareness and anti-LGBTQ bullying training to middle and high schools statewide, and in colleges, community, corporate and religious organizations," Garramone said.

Garramone agreed that change needs to occur now, through policies and practices that protect LGBTQ youth and help them feel welcome and included.

"We know that many of our LGBTQ youth are still at high risk for suicide, substance abuse and skip school because they don't feel safe," Garramone said. "There is still much work to be done to make it better now, no one should have to wait."

According to Peeples, "the event was fabulous! We filled a tent with folks from all walks of life, both LGBTQ and allies, who came together to support each other and our work. Besides sharing stories of unconditional love and acceptance, and highlighting people who change the world for LGBTQ people and families, the money we raise goes directly to supporting our Safe Schools anti-LGBTQ bullying programs."

"Step Up!" may be a one night a year event, but PFLAG's work extends into every day of the year.

"Each year, Greater Boston PFLAG delivers over 200 educational programs across the commonwealth, reaching over 12,000 people," Peeples explained. "Through our work we help change attitudes and build understanding so that LGBTQ family members and friends can live in a world that is safe and inclusive."

For more information about Greater Boston PFLAG, visit www.gbpfllag.org.

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First national Give OUT Day benefits nonprofits: 9 local LGBTQ organizations funded

By: Lauren Walliser/TRT Reporter

Give OUT Day—the first national initiative to mobilize donors across the country to give to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) nonprofits—was held May 9 as nine local nonprofits participated, earning money while raising awareness of their causes.

MassEquality, Fenway Health, The Theater Offensive, The Network/La Red, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), Bisexual Resource Center (BRC), Family Equality Council, Hispanic Black Gay Coalition (HBGC), and North East Transwomen's Alliance Inc. (NETA) took part in the event, which utilized social media and online giving for a 24-hour donation challenge. More than 400 organizations from all 50 states participated nationally. The day was organized by Bolder Giving, in partnership with the Kevin J. Mossier Foundation and Forward Motion.

Kara Suffredini, executive director of MassEquality, said they were able to raise about \$1,000 during the event.

"From securing safe shelter for homeless LGBTQ youth, to ending discrimination

against transgender youth, adults and families, to protecting LGBTQ adults as they age, freedom isn't free," Suffredini said. "Give OUT Day provided an opportunity for MassEquality to engage our community and allies about the importance of ongoing support for the critical work that remains to ensure that everyone in Massachusetts is equal, safe and free from cradle to grave."

GLAD Director of Development Marie A. Longo said their organization raised a little over \$2,600.

"Give OUT Day gave us a fun way to engage with people, and gave our supporters a way to contribute that went beyond simply giving money," said Longo. "By sharing Give OUT links and other information on social media, they introduced GLAD and our message to people in their circles who may not have known us, and our whole community benefits from an increased understanding of the need to financially support LGBT nonprofits."

Brent Wright, director of programs at **Family Equality Council**, also said the event helped them reach new audiences.

"For Family Equality Council, participating in Give OUT this year was less about the dollars raised and more about guiding those new audiences to our website, where they learned about our work—the programs and services we provide—and then we hope many will sign up for our emails, register for our events or join our advocacy campaigns," said Wright.

Executive Director and Co-



PHOTO: MEGHAN REESE

Corey Yarbrough from the Hispanic Black Gay Coalition.

Founder of **HBGC** Corey Yarbrough also said the goal was to reach new donors and reengage past donors. Next year, he said they hope more LGBT organizations led by and for people of color will participate. They raised \$1,790.

"Our ability to raise so much in a 24-hour time period demonstrates that many are passionate about responding to the needs of Black and Latino/a LGBTQ people and generating more opportunities and resources for our population," said Yarbrough.

The Theater Offensive Managing Director Adrian Budhu said the group raised \$1,000 and one-third of Give OUT Day donors were first time donors to the organization.

"Yes, it's a bit of a competition on the day

of, but the community ties built are priceless," said Budhu. "We also had great success with our e-blast program, and look forward to further developing our email and social media outreach, as well as our lists, thanks to what we learned on Give OUT Day 2013."

NETA President Lillith Ponticelli said the event was an overall success and is already planning to participate next year.

"Give OUT Day helped NETA Inc. by exposure and cross platform network support and collaboration with other organizations providing services to the LGBTQ community," Ponticelli said.

Ellyn Ruthstrom, President of **BRC**, said they were happy to connect with new supporters and raised just over \$500.

"We didn't use a fundraising team this time but could try to use that component next year to see if we could improve the results," said Ruthstrom.

Philip Finch, vice president of communications at **Fenway Health**, said they raised a modest amount of money and gained one new member of their Young Leaders Council. For next time, he said they would need to boost their publicity efforts to raise more.

"I think some of the organizations that were able to raise a significantly higher amount of money than we did had different strategies than we did," said Finch. "I think we learned a lot from this and I think we can get a lot more out of it in the future if they choose to do it again next year."

The Network/La Red Executive Director Beth Leventhal said their organization raised \$280.

"It gave us national exposure and a lot of...

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Springfield City Hall

THURSDAY MAY 30 • 6:30 P.M.
“This Is Who We Are” Film Premiere
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Film Screening After Party
Smith’s Billiards (above Theodore’s)
207 Worthington Street • Springfield, MA

FRIDAY, MAY 31 • 7–9:00 P.M.
So You Think You Can Drag
South Congregational Church
45 Maple Street • Springfield, MA

FRIDAY, MAY 31 • 10:00 P.M. – 2:00 A.M.
TWIST: Martini and Music Bash
Shakago’s Lounge • 23 Hampden St. • Springfield, MA
Sponsored by Rafael Roman Entertainment & Westfield State Alumni

SATURDAY, JUNE 1 • 10 A.M. – 3 P.M.
Pride in the Park: LGBT Festival
Court Square • 1350 Main Street • Springfield, MA
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SATURDAY, JUNE 1 • 10 P.M. – 2 A.M.
Pride Party
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MONDAY, JUNE 3 • 6:30 P.M.
Open-Mic Night
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After two-decade-long campaign, RI becomes tenth state to legalize same-sex marriage

By: Clara Lefton/TRT Reporter

RHODE ISLAND During the first week of May, Rhode Island governor Lincoln D. Chafee signed a Marriage Equality Act that will allow same-sex couples to marry in the state. The Independent governor signed the act after the House of Representatives voted 56-15 in favor of marriage equality.

"We were certainly thrilled by the vote totals in both chambers," said Ray Sullivan, the campaign director at Marriage Equality RI. "It's further proof that elections and grassroots organizing really matter. In less than two years, we helped change not only the makeup of the General Assembly, by working to elect five new pro-marriage senators and ten new representatives, but we successfully tried to open the hearts and minds of incumbent members who had previously been opposed to marriage equality."

Beginning Aug. 1, 2013, the act will go into effect, allowing all Rhode Island same-sex couples the long sought-after privilege of marriage. Started in July 2011, civil unions became available to Rhode Islanders, but after this August, these will no longer be offered. Same-sex couples currently in civil unions will have the option to swap their title for marriage as well.

"I still get a chill every time I think about it," said RI State Representative Edith Ajello. "I am extraordinarily proud to have been a supporter and co-sponsor of the legislation for many years."



PHOTO: GOVERNOR CHAFEE'S OFFICE
Rhode Island Governor Lincoln D. Chafee signs the Marriage Equality Act, which will allow same-sex couples to marry in the state, into law.

The recently signed act was first brought to light on Jan. 3, 2013 by Senator Donna Nesselbush and Representative Arthur Handy, although Handy's influence extends further, as he had been pushing the bill consecutively for the last decade. Always a strong supporter of civil rights, the Representative never dreamed he would have such an important role in history. Upon winning his initial election he was asked to be a sponsor of the cause

and was more than happy to become a spokesperson in favor of the change.

"There were so many things that I think happened to help make this work, but I am really proud of my part ... I'm also proud to be part of this sort of group of folks in the state that have worked hard to get it forward," said Handy in an exclusive interview with *The Rainbow Times*. "I think that's the right path. I don't know that there's the legal capac-

ity to do [this on a federal level] today. So I think that states like Rhode Island and all the others that are [allowing marriage equality] are helping to keep moving that forward."

Before signing the act, Gov. Chafee took the time to write an opinion piece for *The New York Times* entitled "Why I Am Signing Marriage Equality Into Law," published May 1 and read internationally.

"Much of the argument for and against gay marriage has revolved around the morality of the issue," wrote Chafee in *The New York Times*. "Each side feels intensely that its position is more righteous than the other side's. I personally feel that Rhode Island is a better state, and America is a better country, when we are as inclusive as possible."

Moving forward, organizations that had been dedicated to marriage equality will be shifting their goals. For instance, Rhode Islanders United for Marriage will now be working as a resource for those who have questions about the process, timing and implementation of the marriage law on August 1.

"I am in complete support of the RI decision to pass same-sex marriage," said Sam Peterson, a 20-year-old from Newport, RI. "[Same-sex couples] should have equal standing in society. Personally, I look forward to when same-sex marriage is an integrated part of society and no longer has to be a story that is when real progress will be evident."

For more information about getting married in Rhode Island, visit www.riunited.org.

TOP 10 BEST SELLER VIDEOS

Courtesy: WolfeVideo.com

LESBIAN TOP 10

1. Mosquita & Mari
2. Cloudburst
3. Face 2 Face
4. A Perfect Ending
5. Strange Frame
6. Kiss Me - Best Lesbian Movie of 2012!
7. Molly's Girl
8. Young and Wild
9. Shamim Sarif 2-Pack
10. Jack & Diane

GAY TOP 10

1. A Portrait of James Dean: Joshua Tree, 1951
2. White Frog
3. Love Free or Die
4. I Want Your Love
5. Any Day Now
6. Yossi
7. Men To Kiss
8. Broadway Damage
9. Gayby
10. James Dean DVD 2-pack + free poster!

SOME UPCOMING PRIDE CELEBRATIONS 2013

Springfield Mass. Pride, May 30-June 5
www.springfieldmasspride.org

Boston Pride, May 31-June 9
www.bostonpride.org

Jersey Pride, June 2, www.jerseypride.org

Brooklyn Pride, June 8, www.brooklynpride.org

Philly Pride, June 9, www.phillypride.org

RI PrideFest, June 15, www.prideri.com

Southern Maine Pride, June 15
www.southernmainepride.org

Central New York Pride, June 15
www.cnypride.org

NYC Pride, June 18-29, www.nycpride.org

Pride Toronto, June 21-30,
www.pridetoronto.com

North Shore Pride, June 29
www.northshorepride.org

NH Pride Fest, www.nhpridefest.com

Worcester Pride, Sept. 7,
www.worcesterpride.org

Pride Vermont, Sep. 15, www.pridevt.org

Latin@ Pride, Fall 2013
www.bostonpride.org/latinpride

Gomez from page 3

When asked about Gomez's support of ENDA, Ritter could not give a definitive answer.

"I'd have to take a look at that, but I can tell you based on the principles of him thinking that heterosexuals and homosexuals should be treated in the same regard I can imagine that

he would support that as well, but we'd want to look at the specific act to make sure we knew what we were signing up for," Ritter said.

The Gomez campaign did not respond to further attempts to gain clarification regarding his stance on ENDA.

Ed Markey, his opponent, states under the LGBT section on his campaign website that he "has co-sponsored six bills to ban employment discrimination, legislation to change the tax code to allow domestic partners to qualify for employer-provided insurance, and supported legislation to provide

spousal health care, retirement and other benefits to all federal employees in same-sex domestic partnerships."

Markey is also a co-sponsor of the Respect for Marriage Act, which would repeal DOMA, has a 100 percent rating from the Human Rights Campaign and was endorsed by MassEquality. His campaign also did not respond to questions asking him to clarify his own positions and comment on those of Gomez.

The election will be held June 25 in Massachusetts. To view the National Marriage Map, visit <http://tiny.cc/gnhjxw>. For more information on Gomez, visit www.gomez-forma.com/. For more on Markey, visit www.edmarkey.com/.

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The OutField: A tale of two coming-out stories—One a huge success; the other, clouded by sexism

By: Dan Woog*/Special to TRT

When Jason Collins came out last month, Helen Carroll was furious.

The longtime sports project director at the National Center for Lesbian Rights had nothing against the 7-foot basketball center, who became the first still-active male athlete in a major American team sport to say "I'm gay."

But Carroll couldn't help thinking about something that happened just a couple of weeks earlier. Brittney Griner—the top women's college basketball player of 2013, number one WNBA draft pick, and quite possibly the best female hoops player of all time—came out as a lesbian.

Collins' announcement was a major media event. He made the cover of Sports Illustrated.

in general is abysmal. The assumption that there are lots of lesbians in sport is a double whammy."

But it is true that female athletes have been out longer, and in more sports, than males. Mariah Burton Nelson came out in 1976, as a Stanford University basketball player. She played professionally and has written six books about gender and sports.

Nearly four decades later, though, "being out takes courage," Nelson says. She commends Griner for living courageously and being a role model.

Nelson cites interviews with espnW, Associated Press and USA Today as evidence that the sports world is not ignoring Griner. In fact, Nelson says, "It would seem prurient if the

"And when the conversation began about gay athletes, the media was fascinated by the 'gay men in sports' story. The overall coverage of women's sports in general is abysmal."

He was on the network evening news. President Obama phoned with congratulations.

Griner's coming-out merited far less fanfare. There were few headlines. Talk shows ignored the news. The president never called.

A day later, Carroll had calmed down. She was glad for Collins, but felt badly Griner had not gotten a similar "day in the sun."

Carroll attributes the non-reaction to Griner to "the reality of sexism in this country. Men control everything."

Part of the difference in reactions may also arise from the polar-opposite stereotypes surrounding men and women in sports. For years, it was "assumed" that many female athletes were lesbians. At the same time, most Americans could not believe any male athlete could possibly be gay.

According to Pat Griffin, a former coach and social justice professor at the University of Massachusetts who now directs Changing the Game: The GLSEN Sports Project, those assumptions are not only wrong—they're dangerous.

"The implication that it was somehow 'easier' for Brittney to come out, because she's in women's sports, worries me," Griffin says. "Yes, there are more women out as athletes and coaches. But there are still plenty who are not. There's still negative recruiting at the college level. The relative silence around Brittney's coming-out makes some people assume we've won the war. Well, we haven't."

Still, Griffin salutes the way in which Griner came out. "She just subtly said it. That's a great model for future athletes. It took so much courage for her to do this at the beginning of her professional career. I don't want that courage to get lost."

Griffin agrees with Carroll that the disparity in coverage of the two events has roots in male control. "The mainstream media has never really been interested in women's sports," Griffin says. "And when the conversation began about gay athletes, the media was fascinated by the 'gay men in sports' story. The overall coverage of women's sports

Washington Post, for instance, after routinely ignoring women's college basketball, suddenly shouted Griner's sexual orientation from the front page."

Griffin does not spare the gay media, and gay sports movement, from criticism. "I've seen panels about gay sports, and it's only gay men talking about gay athletes," she says. "Can the media focus on both gay men and lesbians? Probably not. But LGBT sports people can. We need to keep the spotlight on this issue, from every angle."

In addition, Griffin would like to see the focus move beyond professional sports. "College and high school is where athletes—male and female—are most vulnerable," she says. "I would hate to see this conversation driven solely by 'the first male pro athlete to come out.'"

Nelson would like to see gay college coaches included in the conversation. "When they start being openly 'who they are,' THAT will be newsworthy."

In the future, she adds, "who's gay, who's straight, who's bisexual or even transgendered will not be a big deal. That's my goal, anyway: to create a world where human diversity is appreciated but not surprising."

Which brings us back to Helen Carroll, and her reaction in the hours after Jason Collins came out.

"The fact that the president and Michelle Obama congratulated him—well, Brittney has been to the White House. She's met President Obama. But she didn't get a call. That infuriated me."

A day later, she says, "I was feeling, well, every person should be celebrated for coming out. Brittney and Jason should both get their day in the sun."

*Dan Woog is a journalist, educator, soccer coach and gay activist. His latest book is "We Kick Balls: True Stories from the Youth Soccer Wars." He can be reached care of this publication or at OutField@qsyndicate.com.

Hennepin from page 9

operator in Minneapolis to see whether there were phone numbers for Jack Baker and Michael McConnell. It's not that he wanted to call them, it's that he could hardly believe there were other men in the world like him—men who loved men.

"I have secluded myself in an apartment in Birmingham where I live alone away from parents and friends," wrote the man, whose hand-written letter to Baker is part of an archive at the University of Minnesota. "You and Mr. McConnell have more guts than any man I have ever met." He asked them to send him information about their gay political organization to "help make a new life for myself."

"At seventeen years of age, I have already experienced the deep hurt of loving one who can never possibly love you," wrote another young man, this one from a tiny rural town in Maine who said he had attempted suicide. He couldn't even bring himself to spell out the word "homosexual" in his letter, and he cautioned them not to include their return address on the envelope because "I'm still unable to speak at home." But he asked the couple to write "a hopeful clause" to him if they knew of any gay organization that might exist in Maine.

It's not clear whether Baker and McConnell were able to help the many individual people who wrote to them, but they continued their work of knocking on doors that had previously been closed to gay people—doors that many believed could get them killed.

The couple lived in a world rocked by violence over racial integration, President Nixon's invasion of Cambodia, the Kent State shootings, and the emergence of the more raucous movement for equal protection of the law launched at Stonewall. In many states, including Minnesota, laws back then were heavily stacked against gay people and it was still illegal to engage in oral or anal sex.

For whatever reasons, these two men believed in the system. They believed that they should trust the system to treat them with the same rights due to all American citizens. But despite the powerful burst forward provided by the Stonewall rebellion, many gay people at the time did not have the courage it took for Baker and McConnell to apply for that marriage license on May 18, 1970.

"The fear then wasn't that you'd be discriminated against, that was a given," said one Minnesota activist of the 1970s, in an article by the Associated Press last December "You were a lot more afraid that someone might come after you with a shotgun."

McConnell, in fact, lost his job at the University of Minnesota library because of the couple's activism. But still the men forged onward.

And not everyone in the gay community supported what Baker and McConnell were doing. It's not that they were *opposed*, but rather they felt the community's focus and resources needed to be concentrated on goals that were embraced by greater numbers in the community—goals such as laws prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment and housing, and striking down sodomy laws.

On the *David Susskind Show* in 1973, Baker said gay activists around the country had criticized him and McConnell, saying gay couples didn't need a marriage license. And in a 1993 oral history recording, Minnesota State Senator Allan Spear spoke about Baker and McConnell's efforts, saying marriage "wasn't the issue that most of the rest of us saw as a front burner issue."

Today, there is little doubt that marriage for same-sex couples is a "front burner issue." The U.S. Supreme Court will issue decisions before the end of June on two cases involving the legal rights of same-sex couples. And Minnesota passed a marriage equality law May 13, becoming the twelfth state plus the District of Columbia to treat same-sex cou-

ples the same as male-female couples in marriage licensing.

McConnell was on hand in the Senate gallery for the final passage of Minnesota's marriage equality law, just days shy of the 43rd anniversary of the date he and Baker first filled out the application for a marriage license in Hennepin County.

Though they have, from time to time, responded to questions via email, McConnell and Baker, both in their early 70s now, have eschewed interviews. Reached by phone this week, Baker summarily dismissed this reporter's request for an interview, saying "I don't give interviews to reporters, thank you,"

Relativism From page 2

According to some church leaders, society is changing the Creator's laws handed down by Moses, Abraham, the prophets and Jesus. Catholic and Protestant leaders have huffed and puffed about relativism's assault on faith, morals and religion. They blame falling attendance and church closings not on their leadership or inability to balance logic, science and common sense with faith, but to relativism encouraged, in part, by LGBTQ activism. This is less about changing God's laws and more about their loss of control.

Relativism has religious, philosophical and anthropological underpinnings going well beyond this article. The point is not to let the word stop you from challenging those using it, and you can do it on their terms, nor should you allow it to leave any doubt in your mind about living your truth.

Every day I wrestle with my faith. Is there a personal God engaged with my specific problems? Did God set life in motion with the Big Bang and walk away? What is the proper way to pray? I never waste

and hanging up.

But in a response to a question via e-mail by Minnesota Public Radio reporter Sasha Aslanian, McConnell had this reaction to the passage of the Minnesota marriage equality bill: "Yesterday was a very powerful experience for me. I am so proud of this generation! I'm just so elated to have been alive to see and experience this moment in time. Words cannot describe the feeling. When I saw all those thousands of young and older people together celebrating the victory today, it was overwhelming."

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time on guilt.

Stay focused on the larger picture. You are part of creation. Your grouping is not flawed. You may have quirky personality issues, as do we all, but your category of creation whether man, woman, Irish, Italian, Latino, gay, queer, lesbian, or transgender is not the problem.

I do not know the will of God and, by the way, neither does the Pope. I suspect, however, God is not losing sleep over anyone's sense of guilt. There is a universe to run and you have a life to live. Get on with it. In the process, respectfully and confidently challenge religious leaders who too often instill fear by throwing around words like relativism. God is not changing. Instead, humanity is getting collectively smarter and more spiritually mature.

*Paul is an author, attorney and a seminary trained, ordained priest in greater Albany, NY. He does spiritual health and wellness counseling for LGBTQ persons of faith. Reach him through www.CorporateChaplaincy.biz.

To cook is to love: Food allergies up, especially for kids

By: John Verlinden*/Special to TRT

iMUCHO GUSTO!



PHOTO: RACHEL POWER

What's up with that?

Why is this happening? A recent survey published by the Centers for Disease Control, CDC, suggests that food allergies among children under age 18 increased by over 50 percent in the last decade, and may now affect more than 5 percent of kids nationwide—that's millions of kids. Offending foods include milk, soy, wheat, peanut, egg, tree nuts, fish and shellfish. There's also evidence that peanut allergy has doubled in just the last five years.

These used to be very rare. How many kids with a food allergy did you know growing up? Now, they're commonplace—ask any school nurse. In nearly every classroom, one or more children have a food allergy, and because allergies are immune system disorders that can affect multiple body systems at once, they must be taken very seriously. Exposure to even small amounts can send victims into shock and even result in death, hence the bans on PB&J sandwiches in school lunchrooms and birthday party prohibitions that have lots of parents up in arms.

While theories abound, researchers don't know what causes a food allergy or why they



are on the rise. Is it something in the environment? Does heredity play a role? Maybe it's a result of changes in our food supply—food additives, GMO foods, antibiotics and hormones? Could it just be that hyper-vigilant parents are paying closer attention to re-

actions and seeking treatment? Or, is it a combination of these factors?

One theory gaining traction is that we're too clean. Some scientists believe that exposure to germs and parasites in early childhood may prevent the body from developing certain allergies. Could the legacy of our obsession with disinfectants and antibiotics, antibacterial soaps, sprays and sanitizing gels in the U.S. be a generation of kids with underdeveloped immune systems? Two findings in the CDC survey may bolster this theory—food allergy rates were highest among the most affluent participants, and foreign-born children had the lowest.

What do you think is going on? I'd love to hear your thoughts about childhood food allergies.

*Share your family's experience, ask a question or suggest a topic for a future article—contact me: john@muchogusto.com or visit www.muchogusto.com and join our Latin food forum. Until next time—¡Mucho Gusto!, ¡Muchas Gracias! y ¡Buen Provecho!

Liberation from page 2

I find it very appropriate that Youth Pride comes before the June Pride festival. My hope is that Youth Pride reminds us to pay attention to the parts of our LGBTQ communities that we too often ignore or speak for. Youth Pride is a reminder that youth have a voice of their own. We must lift up the voices of youth and all those who Pride festivals are quick to leave out.

While I spend many of my articles talking about the downfalls of many who claim leadership in LGBTQ communities, I have immense love for so much of who we are. When I get beyond the corporate marchers, I know I can find powerful and beautiful voices that echo through the streets as people march during Pride. I also know that there are many people present who may not get seen, honored, or celebrated for who they are. Here are a few things, in no particular order, I will be celebrating during Pride:

- Chubby bears walking around without shirts. These guys are some of my favorite challenges to the body fascism of gay male culture.
- The Hispanic/Black Gay Coalition's continuously growing presence in Boston and their influence on community work.
- The Network/La Red's outfits and attention getting to ending partner abuse in LGBTQ, polyamorous and BD/SM communities.
- Dogs in bandanas and other doggie clothes.
- People making out and ducking into alleyways to play.
- Sex workers, who are too often shamed, not often enough celebrated.
- Sober queers.

• Leather! Lots of hot sweaty people in leather chaps/shorts/harnesses.

• Queens who spend the entire day in enormous heels.

• Newly out queers/trans folks who are celebrating in public for the first time.

• Formerly incarcerated LGBTQ people getting access to other LGBTQ people without the same level of violence or surveillance.

• Our history. I take some of my greatest pride in remembering that it was not long ago that Charley Shively burned the Bible at Pride in protest of violence by the church against our communities. It was not long ago that Pride was a protest against the Vietnam war. It was not long ago that Fag Rag and Gay Community News marched in Pride. It was not long ago that Pride marched by a jail chanting along with the people inside. It was not long ago that nudity was a celebrated rather than censored part of Pride. I take pride in our history knowing that there are new directions I want to see our movement go. I take pride in a history that prioritizes the experiences of criminalized LGBTQ people, queer people of color, transgender people, poor queers and those who will remind us that assimilation will never equal liberation.

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

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