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PHOTO: Q & A

PHOTO: GIL DIAZ

PHOTO: BOSTON PRIDE/MARILYN HUMPHRIES

PHOTO: SEAN SULLIVAN/TRT



# The Times, the Terriers and philanthropy

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

**OPINIONS** Over the past several months, *The Rainbow Times* has begun to focus more on its philanthropic work. Thanks to our advertisers, subscribers, readers, and fans, we've been able to do so. Since last month, we are now sponsoring *The Terriers*, a Beantown Softball League team. We were thrilled that this opportunity presented itself and greatly look forward to attending games and rooting on our team this season. They are the ones who will be wearing *The Rainbow Times* logo on their baseball caps. We know they will represent us well!

Recently, we attended the Fenway Health Women's Dinner Party and pledged monies to help name their new mammography suite. A total of \$165,000 was raised for that suite in addition to the \$440,000 for the life-saving services and programs at Fenway Health.

Last year alone, *The Rainbow Times* provided more than \$23,000 worth of in-kind and cash donations to non-profit organizations working for the betterment of our community. However, we don't want our philanthropic work to stop within the LGBT

circle alone. While there is much need within it, we also must reach beyond ourselves to include others in need. An example of this can be seen with *The One Fund Boston*, a foundation which raises money to help the families most affected by the heinous crimes that took place at the Boston Marathon on April 15. Our community belongs to all of us. All of us should be in this together, Boston Strong. I'm sure you can think of many community organizations that you would like to donate to. Do it. Get involved. We are.

For the next year and going forward indefinitely, *The Rainbow Times* will donate nearly 20% per subscription ordered to local agencies to assist in moving their work forward. One Fund Boston will be one of the recipients. But, if you have another charity in mind, please make a note of that when purchasing your subscription and we'll be happy to make the donation there instead. It really is about paying it forward.

We've got a lot of work to do.  
\*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.

**For the next year and going forward indefinitely, *The Rainbow Times* will donate nearly 20% per subscription ordered to local agencies to assist in moving their work forward.**

## Faith, family, and God: Tragedy — experiencing life and not asking “why” is helpful

By: Paul P. Jesep\*/TRT Columnist

The question most often asked after a tragedy or during suffering is “why.” Hate crimes, terminal illness from AIDS, ongoing legal discrimination and emotional abuse toward the LGBTQ community, or the recent mindless, terrorist attack in Boston, will prompt people to ask of themselves and others this difficult question.

Some will turn to religious and spiritual leaders wanting to know why the Creator permits such things. The simple answer, if one exists, is that the Maker of the Universe does not.

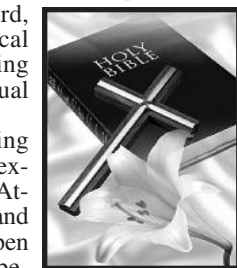
Why is a search for our own meaning pre-determined by mortality? Throughout history, great thinkers have asked why without success. It is like walking on a treadmill going nowhere, and worse, without burning calories.

Why is there a universe? Why are there terrorists? Why are there dogs and cats? Why are there fleas, ticks, lawyers and mosquitos? Why am I different? Asking why uses up an enormous amount of energy. Let go. Otherwise, if you are not on the treadmill going nowhere, you

will find cold, hard, deceptively logical facts without feeding an inherently spiritual hunger.

Instead of asking why, focus on the experience of living. Attempting to understand why bad things happen to good people becomes an endless conversation within your head. Every kind of experience, though some are threatening and very painful, has the potential to lead to self-discovery.

**The Boston tragedy is now a sad chapter in American history. The responses so far showed a national, not Boston or New England, experience. Although no one can ever question the indomitable spirit of any Bostonian, there were no Bostonians on April 15.**



Do not spend time asking why mountains have grandeur, chirping birds sound sweet, or autumn colors are magical. Experience them by being alive. It does not matter whom or what created them. They exist. They are reality. Love, hate, tragedy and happiness are reality. They just

are. Life just is. This does not diminish or fill the void that loss and heartache bring. Yet they too are ...

**See Boston on page 23**

## Privilege within the Boston bombings

By: Jason Lydon\*/TRT Columnist



When writing for a LGBTQ newspaper the constant question in any situation is, “What's the queer angle to this story?” As I reflect on the tragic bombing of the Boston Marathon and the subsequent search for the suspects involved, the same question comes to my mind. There is the story of Javier Pagan, the LGBT Police Liaison in Boston who is in the widely circulated photo of Boston police responding after the blasts. Pagan's perspective on the day is getting covered by local, national and international LGBTQ media sources. The search for LGBTQ individuals involved is nearly instant. We have a sense

that we are amongst the heroes and the victims and we have a collective knowing that our stories have a history of being left out. I find myself having this reaction and then I pause for a moment and think about those who wish and pray that their people, that their story, could be left out. Immediately following the bombing, the label of Muslim terrorists began to be applied and young Brown men started to be targeted, even one Saudi man who was injured by the blast and running from the site like everyone else. One political commentator, Dave Zirin, added his perspective on Twitter, “Unbelievable — yet all too believable — that in addition to ‘Driving While Black’ and ‘Flying While Muslim,’ we now

**White people, for instance, will not be racially profiled when people who cause harm are of our race. When white people attack, harm and kill many people, they are not called terrorists and are often categorized as mentally ill (i.e. Newtown, Aurora, Oak Creek).**

have ‘Running from a Bomb While Brown.’ As we search for the queer stories, we need to do so with attention to who we are identifying with and who we are stepping on top of.

Uncovering queer stories is about more than finding people who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual and/or transgender. Queer stories are found where there are blurry borders. Sarah Kendzior, an anthropologist, wrote an article reflecting on the attention the Tsarnaev brothers are bringing to Chechnya. In her piece, “The wrong kind of Caucasian,” she writes, “Despite the Tsarnaevs' American upbringing, the media has presented their lives through a Chechen lens. Political strife in the North Caucasus, ignored by the press for years, has become the default rationale for a domestic crime.”

Before the Tsarnaevs were announced as the suspects there was discussion back and ...

**See White Supremacists on Page 23**

### The Rainbow Times

*The Freshest LGBT Newspaper in New England - Boston Based*

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## Op-Ed: Boston Bombings; a tragedy, not a celebration

By: Keegan O'Brien\*/Special to TRT

Last month, on the night of Friday April 19th, after news reports that one suspect in the Boston Marathon bombings had been killed and another was captured, the media became fixated on crowds of Bostonians taking to the streets to “celebrate.”

There is nothing to celebrate. This week has been a tragedy at every level. It began with the horrific bombings at the Boston Marathon, killing three people, wounding over 180, and traumatizing an entire city. It finished with a gunfight that left two dead and the whole city locked down as thousands and thousands of police and military personal conducted a massive manhunt for a 19-year-old.

A city I've called home for my entire life suddenly felt under siege, and in many ways, it was. Boston became engulfed in a schizophrenic climate of anxiety and heartache, racism and fear, solidarity and empathy.

While a small number of (overwhelmingly white) students at private universities engaged in a grotesque display of arrogant nationalism, with little regard for the ...

**Read the rest of this story online at: <http://tiny.cc/m237vw>**

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# One of our own: A story of an unsung hero, BPD's Officer Javier A. Pagán

## Exclusive account of the Boston Marathon Bombing and healing through strength and love

By: Nicole Lashomb/TRT Editor-in-Chief

### BOSTON BOMBINGS

After participating in police detail with the Boston Police Department, BPD, for the past 17 years at the Boston Marathon, openly gay GLBT Liaison/Community Service Officer Javier A. Pagán, thought he would be working at a typical race. This time he wasn't. On April 15, Patriot's Day, Officer Pagán was assigned to assist in crowd control at the finish line of the marathon – the very blast site where Boston was hijacked by two alleged terrorists that detonated two bombs which injured hundreds and killed three.

In this one-on-one interview with *The Rainbow Times*, Pagán, along with his husband Pedro Velázquez, shares his on-scene account of what took place during the bombings and how they are dealing with the aftermath.

**TRT:** You are seen in the middle of the first explosion in a photo circulating on the Internet that depicts you and two other officers running toward an elderly man who had fallen in the race due to the blast. What went through your mind when you heard the explosion? Did you know it was a bomb or did it just not settle in until the next explosion?

Javier Pagán: I was assigned to the finish line for crowd control. Once the winners

crossed the finish line I moved about 20 feet from where the initial bomb went off so that viewers could take pictures of their friends crossing the finish line. I heard an explosion behind me and at first I thought it was a generator exploding. When I looked back and saw the dark smoke and windows smashed I got closer and then I heard another explosion further up.

**Q.** What happened once you heard the 2nd explosion? What were your thoughts? What did you do?

JP. I was trying to wrap my head around what happened and what I saw. I have never seen so many injured people all at once. So much is going through your head. You rely



Javier Pagán and Pedro Velázquez.

PHOTO: TRT/SEAN SULLIVAN

on your training and you think about the possibility of more bombs and you start telling the runners to keep moving and then with the help of volunteers, runners, and police we pulled the barricades out to make room for the medical staff to do their work. While this is all going on an unattended bag was found under the bleachers by the entrance of the Boston Public Library. Not knowing if it was a bomb I ran to the entrance of the library and told the security to lock the doors and not let anyone out and take

cover. The BPD Bomb Unit was on scene and started to request people to move back. So, I started to clear the area.

**Q.** Was your husband, Pedro Velázquez, or

your friends/family watching you on TV? JP. No, I reached out to them to inform them of what had happened.

**Q.** How did you feel emotionally during the catastrophe? What about in the aftermath?

JP. At first you don't have time to feel anything. You just have to act. Afterwards, I was in shock and numb. You start wondering, "what if I had not moved?" I managed to go into a convenience store and used their phone to call my husband Pedro Velázquez. I don't think, at first, I made any sense. I was crying and trying to tell him I was okay and what had happened. I told him to call my sisters and to tell them that I was safe.

**Q.** When you received Javier's phone call that day, what was going through your mind as his husband and also as a retired NYPD police sergeant who served for 20 years and was a first responder during the September 11 attacks?

Pedro Velázquez: The day of the [Boston] terrorist attack, Javier called the house. I was off and watching a movie on TV. I picked up the phone and he said "I'm ok." Ok from what?, [I asked.] "Two bombs went off at the Marathon, but I'm ok." He asked me to call his sister to let her know that he was ok. His voice said it, but it didn't sound like he was. Facing your mortality is a jarring experience. My immediate reaction was to get down there. I knew that the place would be locked tight within minutes so instead, I did

**See LGBT Boston Hero on Page 6**

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# Mayoral hopefuls weigh in on LGBTQ rights: Share track records, passions for their support

By: Lauren Walliser/TRT Reporter

IN THE LIMELIGHT

Boston Mayor Thomas Menino has been touted by many as the most pro-LGBTQ mayor in U.S. history. As the candidates line up in the race to replace Menino — who recently announced he would not run for reelection — they shared how, if elected, they would continue to support and advance the rights of Boston's LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer) citizens.

Boston City Councilor Michael P. Ross shared that throughout his personal and professional life, he has stood up for the rights of Boston's LGBTQ community.

"My mother is a 71 year-old proud and openly gay woman who has been in a committed relationship with her partner Sheryl for over three decades," Ross said. "My mother taught me that we don't judge people by how they look or who they love, but rather what they do and how they treat others. This principle has guided my career in public service. If elected, I will build on the work of Mayor Menino and my own advocacy on behalf of equal rights and opportunity of our LGBTQ friends, neighbors, and loved ones in Boston."

As for direct action and participation, Ross said he has marched in the Boston Pride parade for 13 consecutive years and was one of the first elected officials in Massachusetts

to support marriage equality, specifically when the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) was proposed in the Massachusetts State Legislature. He said he was the original co-sponsor of transgender legislation that led the way for cities and towns across the Commonwealth and for recent state legislation. He also said he has made openly gay leaders key members of his City Council office staff, including his Chief of Staff.

"I learned from my father, a survivor of the Holocaust, that there is no such thing as an innocent bystander and we all have a duty to ensure the society we live in is just, equal and fair," said Ross. "As Mayor, the pursuit of equal rights and opportunity for every citizen of Boston—including the LGBTQ community—would be a cornerstone of my administration and policies to support this principle would be my highest priority."

John R. Connolly, Boston City Councilor At-Large, said he has been a proud ally of the LGBTQ community as a city councilor. He said he led efforts to bring the Gay Games to Boston, worked with Councilor Ayanna Pressley in support of Hate Crime legislation, and supported Transgender Awareness Week celebrations. He also served as pro bono legal counsel to the



Mike Ross

Pridelights Foundation.

"It is imperative that Boston continues to lead the way in protecting individual rights and remains a supportive and safe haven for all residents in every neighborhood," Connolly said. "We need to ensure that acceptance is pervasive in our homes, communities, schools, and government. Vigorously defending our most fundamental rights and continuously expanding our anti-discrimination laws to protect our citizens — irrespective of race, creed or sexual orientation — must remain a priority."

Boston City Councilor Robert Consalvo said he applauds Mayor Menino for his support of LGBTQ rights in Boston and joined with him in support for 11 years as a Boston City Councilor.

"Early in my career I went to work in Washington, DC for the late Senator Ted Kennedy, and watching him fight so hard for the poor, the voiceless, children, the elderly,



Rob Consalvo

and working families laid the foundation for my idea of what public service is all about," Consalvo said. "He taught me that government is about helping people — all people — pure and simple. I pledge to continue my high level of support for the LGBTQ agenda

at the local, state, and national levels."

Consalvo said that despite criticism from opponents, one of his first acts in his first campaign for elected office was to march in the Gay Pride Parade in Boston with friends, family, and supporters.

"I was an outspoken supporter of gay marriage right from the start," said Consalvo. "I supported and worked for the passage of Boston's ordinance to ban discrimination against transgendered persons. I proudly join in the raising of the Gay Pride flag every year on City Hall Plaza, and intend to continue that tradition if elected Mayor."

Massachusetts State Representative Martin J. Walsh said that he often talks about the fact that his vote on Equal Marriage in the Massachusetts House is the vote he is most proud of in his entire legislative career.

"People sometimes ask me if it was a difficult vote," Walsh said. "It wasn't. Sure, I received some calls from constituents who weren't happy. But it was easy. It was clearly the right thing to do. I come from the most diverse neighborhood in Boston. In fact, the zip code I live in — 02125 — was recently named one of the most diverse in the country. I will always do all I can to pro-



Martin Walsh

**See Mayoral Candidates Page 23**

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# New England pride organizations celebrate LGBT community with festivals & education

By: Ashley Mark/TRT Reporter

May marks the beginning of pride season in New England, and celebrations across the region have evolved into more than just a party. From Boston to Portland, North Shore and Northampton, the LGBT community will be celebrating triumphs, advocating for change and raising awareness about current issues.

Boston Pride is celebrating its 43rd annual parade this year, themed "Moving Forward, Proud, Strong, United." The Boston Pride Parade and Festival began as public events to celebrate the LGBT community, according to Boston Pride President Linda DeMarco. "Now it has evolved to incorporate the entire diverse community of Boston and supports and advances the issues of equality that the LGBT community cares about," DeMarco explained.

DeMarco expects a large turnout this year for all events, and reported that attendance was estimated at about 750,000 last year. The events will extend beyond entertainment and parties to include important educational opportunities for participants.

"The Human Rights and Education Committee will hold a public event during Pride Week to delve into the issue of LGBT people in sports, and we are expecting a great response," DeMarco said.

North Shore Pride has also worked tirelessly to ensure that its celebrations do not rely on a party atmosphere to attract participants and supporters, explained President Hope Watt-Bucci.

"While the event is a celebration, North



Boston Pride Parade marchers.

Shore Pride ensures that it is inclusive of all members of our community," Watt-Bucci said. "With that inclusiveness comes access for members of our community to educational and networking opportunities for services and information. Last year we had over 40 vendors, the majority of whom provided education and networking to the community."

This year is North Shore's second pride celebration, and it has grown tremendously since last year, according to Watt-Bucci.

"Through our efforts we have been able to continue our mission of education and advo-

cacy," she said. "We have met with most of the North Shore GSAs and are sponsoring a pre-pride dance for them this year. We are very excited about joining with our youth to ensure that we provide a safe and progressive event."

Watt-Bucci started North Shore Pride, Inc. in response to continued episodes of hate crimes against LGBT community members on the North Shore.

"Having a Pride event for our local community had always been an interest of mine, but the occurrences of hate in my own neighborhood was the impetus I needed to form an

organization that could provide education and advocacy for LGBT persons in the North Shore community," she explained. "My goal for this organization is true unity in our community."

In Maine, the Portland Dyke March was established in 2005 in response to a lost sense of community among queer women.

"We felt invisible and overlooked, like we didn't have a place, or an event, to call our own," explained Sarah Holmes, one of the Portland Dyke March organizers. "We struggled to find connections to other lesbians and dykes and queer women in the community after Sisters, Portland's only lesbian bar, closed."

Holmes also lamented that they felt the Maine Pride organizing was not inclusive of their community. "So, we created the Portland Dyke March as a way to highlight our visibility, create ways for people to get involved and to start rebuilding community," she explained. "Our mission statement says that we are creating an empowering movement that fosters community and celebration for dykes and the people who love them. This is what we continue to bring to Pride in Maine."

The Portland Dyke March continues to march in Southern Maine Pride, but also hosts its own stand-alone events that continue to grow.

"In 2006, we held our first stand-alone event the Friday night before the Pride Parade and Festival. We had 150 people show up that first year," Holmes said.

**See InterPride on page 18**

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**LGBT Boston Hero from page 3**

the next best thing, and headed to Javier's District. I just wanted to be there when he was released so that I could drive him home. I know that I was a mess after 9/11, and I figured that the sooner I hugged him and help him get out the horror of the day, the easier would be for him to heal.

**Q. Is there anything that trained you professionally or personally for this type of attack and your reaction/s to it?**

JP. No training can prepare you for what happened. Unless you have served in the military, nothing can prepare you for this. We're trained on how to secure scenes where possible bombs may be and to wait for the bomb squad. I guess you just never know how you will react to something until it happens. Some people will freeze, some will run away and others will run towards.

**Q. Are you more vigilant now that you've lived through this?**

JP. Most definitely. Vigilant, but not giving in to fear.

**Q. How did you feel emotionally during the bombing and how are you coping with its aftermath?**

JP. Emotionally it felt like a roller-coaster ride. I was grateful to be alive, sad that lives were lost and that so many were injured. I spoke with members of the BPD Stress Unit and my husband who was on duty in New York City as an NYPD officer when September 11, 2001 happened. I have a great family at home and at work and a great group of friends who called and made sure I was okay and offering a shoulder to cry on or an ear to listen.

**Q. Pedro, do you feel that your experience with 9/11 allowed you to better understand Javier's experience? How?**

PV. My experience with 9/11 absolutely allowed me to better understand Javier's experience. I learned that the best thing for him was to talk about it, tell his story. I knew to dissuade him from feeling guilt. For me, the guilt was overpowering. I didn't have any kids, and my friends that did perished. Going to funeral after funeral reinforced that feeling. I knew that the lack of sleep would come. I knew that he would be angry at times. I knew not to take it personally because he was just dealing with his feelings. I knew that he would need a lot of love and I knew that he

needed for me to demonstrate my joy that he lived.

**Q. Since the bombings, how have you handled it when Javier goes off to work?**

PV. I couldn't sleep more than a few hours at a time when he was working. My sleep patterns returned when the second perpetrator was caught. Now I know how the loved ones of cops feel. I was under the false illusion that because Boston is a smaller city, he's safe. The realization that the man that I love could just be taken from my life became real.

**Q. How do you put it behind you? What advice can you give others on how to put it behind them?**

JP. At this moment I am taking it one day at a time. All I can say to someone is, if you experience something like this talk to someone about it.

PV. I think that time will heal his psyche wounds. I think that I'm the guy that's going to get him there. I'm just glad that he lived and I get to have him for many years to come.

**Q. Were you proud of Bostonians' reactions to it, how strong they were, how stoic and united the city became?**

JP. I think the Webster's Dictionary is going to have to add "Bostonians" to its definition of *proud*. I have never been prouder of this city, its neighboring towns and its residents.

**Q. What do you say to others (runners from Boston and abroad, police colleagues, bystanders, etc.), about the next Boston Marathon?**

JP. It is going to be a great marathon 2014. We will be strong!

**Q. Did you get to read the blue electronic billboard displayed on Interstate 93, just 10 miles from the explosion site, by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) union? It read: COWARDS, alternating with PRAY FOR BOSTON. The billboard's message changed once the 2nd suspect was caught. Then it read:**

**I was under the false illusion that because Boston is a smaller city, he's safe. The realization that the man that I love could just be taken from my life became real.**



**GOTCHA!, alternating with THANK YOU BOSTON POLICE. Other signage often used for road advisories along I-93 read: THANK YOU ALL, WE ARE ONE BOSTON.**

JP. I heard about it. It made me proud to be a member of a union and to be supported by so many union members.

**Q. Why are you so proud of Boston?**

JP. Boston has given me so much. I was raised here. I went to Raphael Hernandez Elementary, John W. McCormack Middle,

Boston Technical High and Suffolk University all in this great city. I never wanted to leave and for the past 18 years I have dedicated myself to serving the citizens of Boston and I still live in the city. Bostonians are a tough group of people. These senseless acts will only make us stronger. We do not give in to fear.

**Q. The New York Yankees, a longtime rival of the Boston Red Sox, stood in solidarity with Boston during this time of crisis. The day following the bombings, after the third inning, Yankee Stadium erupted into the song of Sweet Caroline, a long standing Boston Red Sox tradition. What do you think of that?**

JP. It was a classy move on the Yankees part. Thank you New York City and all others who sent their good wishes to Boston.

**Q. Although you escaped that dreadful day with no physical injuries, others were not so fortunate.**

JP. This incident makes you appreciate your

family, friends and everyday even more. May we never forget Martin Richard, Krystle Campbell, Lu Lingzi and MIT Police Officer Sean Collier. [Get well wishes and] a speedy recovery to MBTA Police Officer Richard Donahue and all of those who were affected by this senseless incident.

For now, Javier and Pedro take it one day at a time and stand as one in their testament of fortitude and boundless love. Like the people of Boston, the city's general stance of resilience shown through an outpouring support by the government and its people. Shortly following the attack on Boston, Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick and Boston Mayor Menino announced the formation of The One Fund Boston, a fund dedicated to raising money to assist the families most affected by the events of the Boston Marathon. To date, the foundation has raised more than \$26M from people and businesses around the country and world. To make a contribution to The One Fund Boston, please visit their site at: [www.onefundboston.org](http://www.onefundboston.org). We are One Boston.

**Prides Around You**

**Jersey Pride**, June 2, [www.jerseypride.org](http://www.jerseypride.org)

**Brooklyn Pride**, June 8, [www.brooklynpride.org](http://www.brooklynpride.org)

**Philly Pride**, June 9, [www.phillypride.org](http://www.phillypride.org)

**RI PrideFest**, June 15, [www.prideri.com](http://www.prideri.com)

**Southern Maine Pride**, June 15 [www.southernmainepride.org](http://www.southernmainepride.org)

**Central New York Pride**, June 15 [www.cnypride.org](http://www.cnypride.org)

**NYC Pride**, June 18-29, [www.nycpride.org](http://www.nycpride.org)

**Pride Toronto**, June 21-30 [www.pridetoronto.com](http://www.pridetoronto.com)

**North Shore Pride**, June 29 [www.northshorepride.org](http://www.northshorepride.org)

**NH Pride Fest**, [www.nhpridefest.com](http://www.nhpridefest.com)

**Worcester Pride**, Sept. 7 [www.worcesterpride.org](http://www.worcesterpride.org)

**Pride Vermont**, Sep. 15, [www.pridevt.org](http://www.pridevt.org)

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# 25th Connecticut Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

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# Connecticut Gay & Lesbian Film Festival promises good screen fun at Cinestudio

By: Brook Rosini/Special to TRT

The 26th Annual Connecticut Gay & Lesbian Film Festival (CTGLFF) is set to light up the silver screen at Cinestudio with films of interest to LGBT audiences from May 31-June 8, 2013. *The Rainbow Times* got in touch with Shane Engstrom, Director of Out Film CT, and Jen Kaplan, Director of Marketing for CT-GLFF, to find out more about the festival, its mission, and this year's must-see films.

**Brook Rosini: What made you decide to put together this festival?**

Engstrom: AlteRnaTiveS, the original name of the organization that created the film festival, was founded in 1987 as a gay and lesbian cultural organization in Hartford. The organization explored a variety of different activities including theater, film, a gay history project, and a literary journal, *Invert*, which produced four issues. The Connecticut Gay & Lesbian Film Festival is the one project that survived and flourished over the years, becoming the wonderful community event it is today.

**Q. How long have you been doing it?**

Engstrom: The film festival is now in its 26th year. It is Connecticut's longest-running film festival. Personally, I've really enjoyed being involved with the festival for the past 13 years, six of those as the Director. We have a very faithful core group of volunteers who have also been involved for many years. Our longest-standing

member, Suzanne Shayer, has been involved with the film festival for the past 21 years.

**Q. What is the process for submitting a film, and what are the criteria for acceptance in the festival?**

Engstrom: Filmmakers and distributors send screener DVDs to us for consideration. The films must contain content of interest to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community. They can be feature films, documentaries or short films. Then the fun begins, and the screening committee watches the films — usually as a group — and evaluates and discusses them. Then in early April, we have one final meeting where we consider all the films we watched over the course of the year to come up with a final lineup for the festival.

**Q. What are the goals of the festival?**

Engstrom: The primary objective of this nonprofit cultural organization is to plan, organize, and sponsor the annual Connecticut Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, providing an essential forum for original, creative voices, opinions, and viewpoints, which are often overlooked and ignored in the mainstream media. The film festival presents U.S. and international films by gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) filmmakers,



PHOTO BY: ROBYN BEECHE  
"I Am Divine" screening Wednesday, 6/5/13 at 7:30 p.m. at Cinestudio.

about the GLBT community, or of interest to the GLBT community, especially those that might not otherwise be available for viewing in this region.

Kaplan: The Festival also provides an important educational resource, creating dialogue about issues important to the GLBT community, including youth bullying, religion, HIV awareness, and marriage equality.

**Q. What kind of audience does the festival serve?**

Kaplan: The audience is comprised of all types of members of the GLBT community and its allies. The ages range broadly from people in their 20s to their 70s. We have a very loyal following and attendees who have been coming for upwards of 10 years. However, we also get folks who are new to the area or just heard about the festival who are attending for the first time.

**Q. What are some highlights of this year's festival?**

Engstrom: The Opening, Centerpiece, and Closing nights are always a highlight because of the festive receptions and parties that accompany the films. The opening night film is G.B.F., about the fight for supremacy between a school's most popular girls, who are on a quest to bag the big trend in fashion accessories, the Gay Best Friend. The Centerpiece film, I Am Divine, is the story of the international drag superstar Divine, who was introduced to the world in John Waters' films. The Closing night films, Route of Acceptance and The Go Doc Project, will be screened in down-

town Hartford at the Connecticut Science Center and the Spotlight Theatres. We're expecting several special guests, including directors and actors, to attend the screenings and the big Closing Night Party at the Science Center.

Kaplan: One of the highlights for me is the screening of two films with religious themes on Saturday, June 1 at 3 pm at Cinestudio on the campus of Trinity College in Hartford. The first film being shown, Taking a Chance on God, is based on the life of 86-year-old Catholic priest John McNeill and his experience as an activist and founder of LGBT Catholic group Dignity/New York. McNeill refused to be silenced by the Vatican on LGBT issues, which resulted in his expulsion from the priesthood. The film also shows his relationship with his partner of 46 years. Director Brendan Fay will be joining us to facilitate discussion following the screening. The other film, I Am Gay & Muslim, by director Chris Belloni, focuses on the challenges facing gay rights in the Islamic world. The men portrayed in the film openly share their personal experiences and talk about the ambiguity and secretiveness of the life they feel condemned to live, although some have openly acknowledged their sexual orientation.

The Connecticut Gay & Lesbian Film Festival is organized by Out Film CT, a nonprofit organization. All screenings take place at Cinestudio, 300 Summit Street, at Trinity College in Hartford, CT. Lead sponsors for the 2013 festival include Cigna, Pratt & Whitney, Mini New Country, Citizens Bank, and The Rainbow Times. For more information, to view descriptions of films being screened, or to donate, visit [www.outfilmct.org](http://www.outfilmct.org).



PHOTO BY: KATE ROMERO  
Paul Iacono and Megan Mullally in G.B.F., screening Friday, 5/31/13 @ 7:30 p.m. at Cinestudio

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# 2013 New England PRIDE Map

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# Boston PRIDE Parade

JUNE 8 • 12PM



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## BOSTON PRIDE WEEK 2013

May 31-June 9

**FRIDAY, MAY 31**  
12pm: Flag Raising; City Hall Plaza

**SATURDAY, JUNE 1**  
10am - 5pm: Pride Day at Faneuil Hall; Faneuil Hall Marketplace

**MONDAY, JUNE 3**  
6:30pm: Royal Pageant at Machine; 1254 Boylston St.

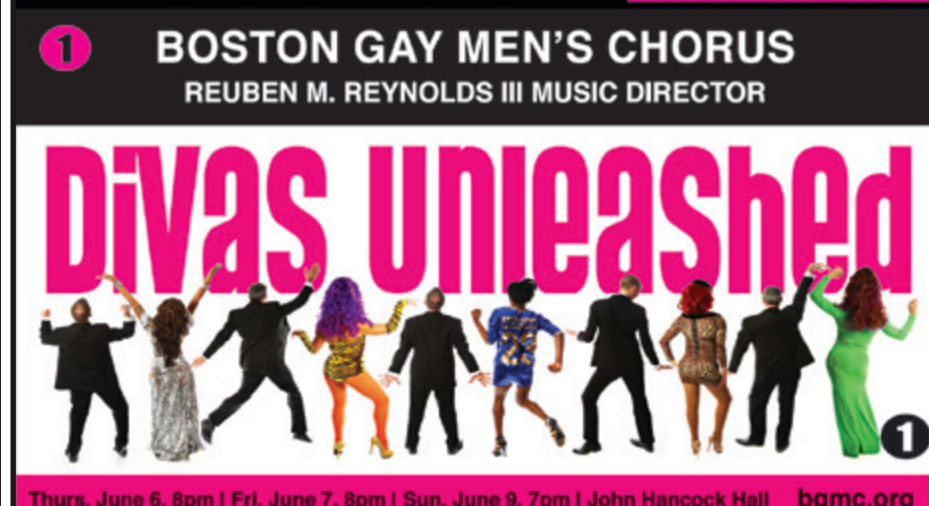
**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5**  
6-8pm: Human Rights & Education Discussion on LGBTs in Sports; Boston Public Library

**SATURDAY, JUNE 8**  
12pm: Boston Pride Parade  
12pm - 6pm: Boston Pride Festival; City Hall Plaza  
2pm: Esme Women's Block Party; 1 Boylston Place, Boston  
7pm - 11pm: Boston Pride Youth Dance; Boston City Hall

**SUNDAY, JUNE 9**  
12pm - 7pm: Block Party: JP Edition; Perkins St, Jamaica Plain  
12pm - 8pm: Block Party: Back Bay Edition; St. James Ave., Boston

**FMI: [bostonpride.org](http://bostonpride.org)**

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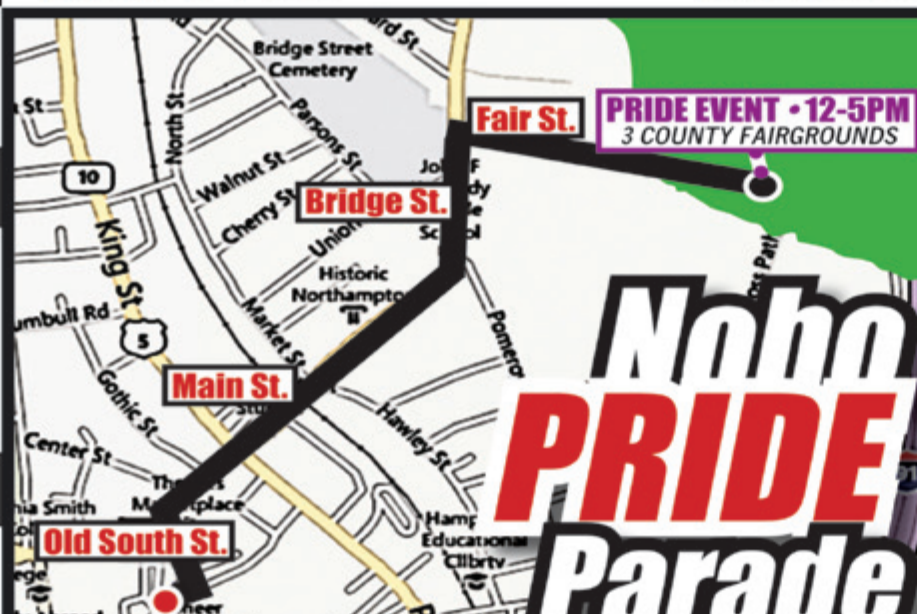
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**North Shore PRIDE**

**PRIDE PARADE**  
MAY 4 • 12PM

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**SPRINGFIELD PRIDE**

**THURSDAY, MAY 30**  
12pm: Flag-raising at City Hall  
Springfield City Hall • 36 Court St.  
6:30 pm - 9:00 pm: "This is Who We Are" Film Screening; Robyn Newhouse Hall at CMSS; 127 State St.

**FRIDAY, MAY 31**  
6:30 - 10:00 pm: So You Think You Can Drag? STCC; Scibelli Hall  
Theater; 1 Armory St.; FREE

**SATURDAY, JUNE 1**  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm: Family Pride Day, Location TBA; FREE  
11pm - 2am: Pride Party; Location TBA; FREE

**SUNDAY, JUNE 2**  
10:00 am - 12:00 pm: Interfaith Service; Location, TBA  
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm: Town Hall: Faith and Sexuality; Location TBA

**MONDAY, JUNE 3**  
6:30 - 9:00 pm: Open Mic Night; Location, TBA

**TUESDAY, JUNE 4**  
6:30 - 9:00 pm: LGBT-themed Film Screening; STCC; 1 Armory St.

[FMI: springfieldmasspride.org](http://FMI:springfieldmasspride.org)



**North Shore PRIDE**

**JUNE 29 • SALEM MASS.**

12pm: The Parade will kick off on Margin St., turning right on Norman St. and head down New Derby. It will continue to Derby St. and onto Hawthorne Boulevard where it will end at Salem Common

1pm-5pm: Pride Festival at Salem Common.

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[FMI:northshorepride.org](http://FMI:northshorepride.org)

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# Why transgender rights are the key to the future for us all; even marriage equality

By: Deja Nicole Greenlaw\*/TRT Columnist

TRANS NEWS



Fighting for transgender people's rights is fighting for the rights of everyone. For every gain that we transgender people make, the world gets a little better. Not convinced? Then please read on.

Let's get right to the current, big issue -- public accommodations. First of all, it's kind of silly that we even need this law because countless transgender people have already been using public accommodations for years without any problems. When you think about it, do we really need a law for this? Still, we should get something on the books because in certain situations this will help other folks as well as transgender people. A law will help anyone who does not fit neatly into the gender binary of being either male or female. The truth is that there are lots of males who are perceived as females, and lots of females who are perceived as males. This may sometimes become a problem. One incident that comes to mind happened just a few years ago at New York City Pride, where a lesbian person entered the

ladies' room of a restaurant and was told to get out and use the men's room. Yes, believe it or not, this happened in New York City, and yes, it happened during NYC Pride! Evidently this woman did not fit someone's idea of what a woman is and this caused a

the couple is now a lesbian couple. Along the same lines, many transwomen have fathered and raised their children. If you think about it, what difference does it make if they were presenting as a male at first and presenting as a female now? They are still the

We, as humans, have lived for thousands of years in various civilizations. In some of those years and in some of those civilizations, gender really didn't matter. In many of those years and in many of the civilizations, gender greatly mattered. Why? What's the difference? Why the difference? I'll tell you why.

As a civilization grows past a certain point, the ruling class looks to control the masses. To keep order, rules emerge and are packaged as social mores and/or are incorporated into a religion. If you hear it often enough, the rules now become the way of life. Some people truly believe in these rules even if it means that they are denied their own basic human rights. The ruling class has set the rules. Silence, the rulers have spoken!

Enter the transgender people. We question and challenge these rules that never should have been there in the first place. Let's take a real good look at things, shall we? Let's get back to where we were before the rulers of society developed the rules. If you think about it, transgender rights are the key to true total equality between the genders. Really! Think about it! Transgender rights are the key to the future for all of us!

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

**... this same argument and show that two men or two women can be married and that both couples can be parents. Why ... one designated male & one designated female?**

problem. A law would've helped the woman, but since there was no law as such, someone took it upon themselves to be a "gender judge" and she was falsely judged as male.

Now, let's take the subject of marriage and of being a parent. One has to wonder as to why we even need a law like this but, once again, we should have something on the books to help clear up certain situations.

Many transwomen have married and remain married to their wives. Does it matter that they now present as female? Are they not still married? The only difference is that

same person. They are still the parent of their children. It doesn't really matter, does it? You can take this same argument and show that two men or two women can be married and that both couples can be parents. Why does there have to be one designated male and one designated female? If you think about it; it really doesn't matter, does it? What is truly needed is two people in love, two people caring for their children and two people making a commitment. Now that is a family! The transgender woman and her wife are already doing this, so why can't others?

## Ask a Boston Transwoman: Moving forward from the bombing and becoming stronger

By: Lorelei Erisis\*/TRT Columnist



As I'm writing this column, I am sitting in the midst of a news storm. I have some things to say, and this is not going to be anywhere near my usual, informative-with-a-joke-tone kind of column. Although I promise I'll try to make it clear

how my thoughts tie into my usual subjects of gender and sexuality, the things I have to say right now are both more wide-ranging and very personally specific.

So if you're looking for your usual smarty-pants pageant queen, check me out next month. I've got a really good column about how to do activism with a smile that I had been intending to write.

But right now, I'm angry, I'm hurt and I'm very, very worried, and I wouldn't be at all surprised if a lot of my readers feel the same way.

A couple days ago, as of the writing of this column, someone blew up bombs in my home state, in the first city I ever knew and loved. I need not rehash the details, I'm sure that by the time this is published, you will all know everything there is to know. Perhaps the people who did this horrific act will even have been apprehended. I can only hope.

This is not a singular tragedy. As I write this, the smoke is still settling from the explosion near Waco, Texas that killed many more people. And my news feeds are regularly filled with reports of tragedies not unlike this bombing happening in countries all over the world, all the time. It is not even the worst tragedy of this type to occur on American soil. 9/11 was undeniably larger and more deadly. There are school shootings and wedding bombings and daily horror in other

places.

I know all this.

But this one happened in Boston, in Copley Square. A place I know so well, I can close my eyes and walk around the block in my head. I've trudged through slush there and watched the flowers of spring bloom. I've taken a date to the Boston Public Library. Sat on the steps to watch the crowds rushing by. I have stumbled drunk into the T stop at Copley. Last summer I stood in the very spot where the explosions went off as I waited to

I don't need to elaborate too much. What we need to remember is that once those rights have been relinquished, it can be damn hard to get them back.

It's not a difficult scenario to imagine IDs being scanned at checkpoints blocking off whole city blocks, cameras following our every move, random bag searches on the street. Even the profiling and detention of folks who "don't look right." It's already going on. Three days ago, a flight out of Boston's Logan airport was returned to the

they will have caught the perpetrators of this horror, but whether they are homegrown or foreign, black, brown, yellow, red or white, this can only be bad for people of color. In the coming weeks and months, people of color will be watched, harassed, hurt and likely even detained for no other crime than having extra melanin in their skin.

So, what does this have to do with trans people and LGBTQ people generally? Well, quite aside from the simple fact that many in our communities are people of color, especially in trans communities, they are already the most at risk for violence, harassment and discrimination. Aside from that, as I have often said in this column, the struggle for LGBTQ rights is a struggle for human rights. It is a struggle for the rights of oppressed people everywhere.

Additionally, I think most trans people understand quite well what it is like to be looked upon with suspicion and harassed simply for "looking suspicious," and for being different in a way that makes people uncomfortable.

We know the fear and danger a person can be put in by being taken aside for questioning; the humiliation, stress and real damage that come from having to produce identification to authority figures for no crime other than standing out in the crowd.

Finally though, it is this: If we do not speak up now, we do not stand up for our sisters and brothers. Stop and think and take a moment to check facts, sources and consider our own prejudices, before making accusations or passing along rumors. If we do not do these things, then those monsters who bombed my city, OUR city, truly will have done us lasting damage.

I hope that we are better than that. Stronger. I believe we are. *Slainte Chugat!!!*

*\*Lorelei Erisis is Miss Trans New England 2009. Send your questions about trans issues to her at: loreleierisis@gmail.com.*

**I hope that we are better than that. Stronger. I believe we are.**

march, fist raised high, in the Boston Pride parade at the head of the MTPC contingent.

The past few days, my email has been filled with check-ins from friends and family in and around Boston, letting each other know that they are okay. So far, no one I know was injured. I selfishly pray that continues to be the case.

As a Bostonian and a New Englander, I know we will pull through this. We are a strong people. And though we will not forget, Gods help whoever did this, because we are a famously tough bunch. Indeed, probably the most appropriate punishment for whoever did this would be to lock them into an Irish Pub in Southie just before closing on the night of a Red Sox game.

But we are hurt and we are angry, and this is what I'm worried about.

I'm worried that this will become another excuse to take away more of our precious rights in the name of "safety," and that the damage done by this horrific act will continue well beyond the amputated limbs and tragic deaths. We have seen how it happens,

gate and two men removed.

The reason? The two men were speaking Arabic, one of the most commonly spoken languages in the world, right after English and Hindi. They weren't even sitting together.

Also, in the immediate aftermath, a Saudi student, struck by the blast himself, with shrapnel wounds and burns, was tackled to the ground for "acting suspicious" and smelling like gunpowder. Yeah he smelled like gunpowder! He was just caught in an explosion.

The *NY Post* immediately trumpeted that there was a suspect in custody and the student's apartment searched by FBI agents. Eventually he was completely cleared and has apparently been doing all he can to help with the investigation. And yet, his name is still being bandied around by folks convinced there's something fishy there.

What was "suspicious" about him? It seems to be that he was brown skinned.

There's more, much more, but let me get to my point. Perhaps by the time you read this



# Moving Forward... Proud, Strong, United.

**Boston Pride Week 2013**  
*May 31<sup>st</sup> - June 9<sup>th</sup>*



Boston Pride is comprised of events and activities that aim to bring people together, stir the mind, shake up the dancefloor, create safe and healthy spaces, and make an impact. Kicking off the week with the Annual Flag Raising Ceremony, Pride Week 2013 will feature:

- MAY 31** Flag Raising @ City Hall Plaza
- JUNE 1** Pride Day @ Faneuil Hall
- JUNE 3** Royal Pageant
- JUNE 5** Human Rights Panel: LGBT and Sports
- JUNE 6** Pride Night @ Fenway Park
- JUNE 8** Boston Pride Parade
- JUNE 8** Boston Pride Festival
- JUNE 8** Boston Pride Youth Dance
- JUNE 9** Boston Pride Block Party: JP Edition
- JUNE 9** Boston Pride Block Party: Back Bay Edition



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More information on 2013 Boston Pride Week can be found online at [www.bostonpride.org](http://www.bostonpride.org)



# ¡El heroísmo en Boston se palpa en cada esquina, con cada acción!

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

LATIN VISION



PHOTO: ERIC HESS

Es increíble lo que todos/as hemos sobrevivido en Boston en las últimas semanas. Nada será igual y normal pero debemos comprender que tratar de regresar a una "normalidad" es lo que debemos hacer para poder sobrevivir y normalizar nuestros cuerpos, almas y mentes. Aunque no fuiste o participaste en el maratón, tu vida ha cambiado. El estrés y trauma que estas bombas tuvieron en nosotros/as, no se va a poder medir nunca. Es importante que todos/as hablemos de lo acontecido ya que ha marcado nuestras vidas para siempre. Debemos dialogar al respecto con la persona que uno/a se sienta más cómodo/a ya que es importante hacerlo para nuestra salud mental y la de los/as que nos rodean.

Hay tantas personas que reconocer desde el gobernador, alcalde, superintendentes, corredores, hasta los/as seres especiales que respondieron primero y siguen respondiendo para asegurar nuestra seguridad y cuidado médico. Hay que aplaudirle a estos seres que respondieron primero a las emergencias, como los policías, enfermeros/as, guardias, bomberos, y todos/as y darle el respeto que se merecen. En especial quiero rendirle las gracias públicamente a uno de los policías que estuvo allí en la recta final del maratón

y que lo sintió todo. El fue afectado pero a la vez respondió primero, Oficial Javier Pagán; ¡Orgullo Boricua y gay!

Javier Pagán, salió del clóset a una temprana edad. Aunque creció en un hogar Católico siempre estuvo seguro de sí mismo y daba "el pecho" por situaciones no justas. Por lo que conozco de él, ya que lo considero un amigo, se que siempre confronta los problemas sin rodeos y con seguridad en sí mismo. Cuando fue nombrado como la persona enlace con la comunidad LGBT en el Departamento de la Policía de Boston, rápido lo llame y le hicimos una actividad en la organización pasada Somos Latin@s. En aquel entonces, ahora y siempre será orgullo Boricua y gay. En esa actividad (y todavía) a él le gusta hablar con la juventud y con otros/as personas LGBT Latin@s, ya que él habla de las oportunidades que tenemos como personas LGBT de superarnos.

Aunque no nos sintamos en el momento que no hay un futuro mejor, hay que buscar ayuda y lograr ese futuro. El ha mencionado anteriormente que al salir del clóset, su familia y amistades lo apoyaron y aceptaron pero reconoce que muchos/as en nuestra comunidad no tienen este apoyo; envés hay que crear esta posibilidad y buscar el apoyo en amistades y en la familia que uno puede formar y crear. Este apoyo y aceptación es lo que hace a Javier tan especial y tan querido por todos/as en nuestra comunidad. El siempre habla con su corazón en sus manos y con astucia.

En unas de esas veces que nos vimos, me mencionó que comenzó a salir con alguien



PHOTO: TRT/SEAN SULLIVAN

Javier A. Pagán y su esposo Pedro Velázquez.

— otro Boricua — y que se estaba enamorando de este muchacho policía. El encontró su amor y ahora creo más aún que son tal para cual ya que los dos son héroes. El se enamoró y casó con un Sargento de la policía retirado de Nueva York, Pedro Velázquez, quien también estuvo presente y ayudó cuando las torres en 9/11 se estaban derrumbando. El estuvo presente durante ese día tan horrible en nuestra historia. ¡Es otro orgullo Boricua y gay! Para mi, estas son una pareja de héroes que deben ser reconocidos por lo que son y merecen nuestro respeto. Aunque ellos no quieran (y lo mas probable que no quisieran que escriba esta columna) ¡el sello de héroes que deben ser reconocidos por lo que son y merecen! Hay que dar gracias y reconocer todos los días que hay personas como Javier en nuestras vidas y ciudad.

Hubo muchos/as héroes/heroínas durante esa semana de Abril pero sólo puedo hablar

de Javier ya que él es mi héroe. Gracias a todos/as los/as que hicieron tanto por nosotros/as durante esa semana en Abril. ¡Qué horrible estuvo lo acontecido! Pero cabe recalcar que no amerita hacer supuestas declaraciones de que todos/as los de esa área del mundo quieren hacernos el mal — ¡esto no es cierto! Sigamos viviendo nuestras vidas y tratando de volver a una normalidad. No mantengamos odio, tristeza, miseria, y furia hacia estas personas sino, lo contrario, vamos a compartir amor, felicidad y compañerismo con los/as que nos rodean ya que debemos vivir nuestras vidas a su potencial; ¡debemos tratar de vivir vidas saludables! Mi mamá siempre me dice, "no te vayas a dormir con odio y enojo hacia otra persona ya que no vas a poder dormir bien." Si la persona(s) no están disponibles, escriban una nota antes de dormir y sáquenselo "del pecho".

Antes de terminar, quiero de nuevo agradecerles a todas las personas que me hacen sentir un poco mas seguro hoy. Tengo que aceptar que viví una semana llena de estrés, pero gracias a mi familia, esposo y amistades la sobreviví. Por primera vez en mucho tiempo siento que me sentí vulnerable y con estrés pero al haber gente como Javier y al poder dialogar sobre mis sentimientos con otros/as me estoy sintiendo más seguro y estable cada día. Le doy gracias a todos/as los que trabajaron arduamente. Mis oraciones están con todos/as ellos/as, con los/as afectados/as y con las familias de las víctimas. ¡Gracias Javier! Y a todos/as vamos a echar ¡pa lante!

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## InterPride from page 5

"In 2012, we estimate that close to 600 people were a part of our events, from the pre-show and rally to the actual march and after-party."

While the Dyke March movement focuses on community and solidarity for queer women, Portland Dyke March organizer Erica Rand believes that prides all over the country should focus more on political issues.

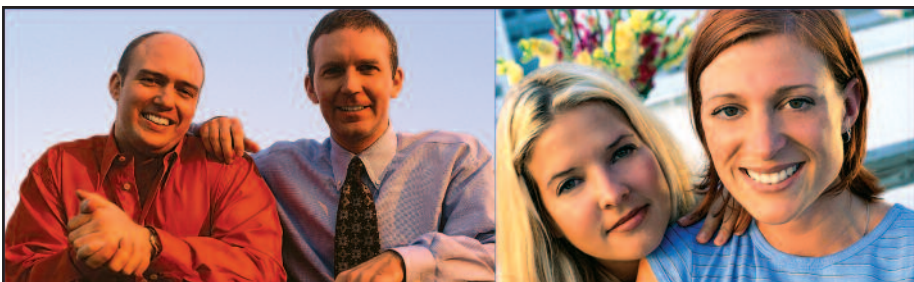
"While the increased participation of allies and young people is heartening, it would be great to have more attention to political issues that we face," Rand stated. "And not just issues narrowly defined as LGBT interests but also interconnected problems like racism, sexism, economic inequity, ableism, gender policing, war-mongering, inadequate health

care and other obstacles to social justice for all."

Paul Sanders, a regional director for InterPride, the International Association of Pride Organizers, agrees that a greater focus on social and political issues would benefit the pride celebrations in New England.

"I would like to see more displays at our local prides that show the plight of our queer brethren around the world, in hostile locations where even saying who you are carries potential death," Sanders said. "We have much to celebrate locally, but we cannot truly celebrate until every one of us has the same freedoms."

InterPride was established in 1982 in Boston to help unite the various organizations that put on pride events through guidance, education, networking and various



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## COLORS of Compassion pays tribute to rainbow flag

By: Lauren Walless/TRT Reporter

The COLORS of Compassion project will kick off as rainbow colored prayer flags with personalized messages from the LGBT community are presented to His Holiness The Dalai Lama on May 19, 2013 in Louisville, Kentucky. An internationally focused social justice initiative, the project focuses on creating and displaying flags in the tradition of Tibetan and Bhutanese prayer flags using the eight original colors of the LGBT Rainbow Flag, celebrating its 35th anniversary as a symbol of hope and empowerment for the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) community.

"I wanted to both publicly celebrate the compassionate attributes of people in the community, as well as stand in support of LGBT people around the world who are struggling with so many forms of discrimination, hatred and violence," said John Boswell, producer and founder of GetaVision and developer of the COLORS of Compassion project. "I really wanted a way to draw attention to both the positive, loving attributes of LGBT people, as well as the fear, persecution and struggles most of our family members live with on a daily basis."

The project is part of the LGBT Compassion Games through Compassion Games International, an outgrowth of the TED Prize and the Charter for Compassion. The LGBT Compassion Games unites LGBT people to engage in compassionate acts, community building, civic action for social health and economic justice initiatives. The activities planned for May and June will lead up to the



The journey begins from UN Plaza in SF, where John Boswell is standing. Final destination is the UN in NYC.

11 days in September (September 11- 21) when people around the world will participate in planned activities and random acts of kindness.

"The COLORS of Compassion is celebra-

Read the rest of this story and ERICA KAY-WEBSTER comments at:  
<http://tiny.cc/xs19vw>

## Gayborhood News? ... <http://tiny.cc/qyz9vw>

### Upcoming Prides

Noho Pride, May 4, [www.site.nohopride.org](http://www.site.nohopride.org)

Boston Youth Pride, May 18  
[www.bostonpride.org/youthpride](http://www.bostonpride.org/youthpride)

Springfield Mass. Pride, May 30-June 5  
[www.springfieldmasspride.org](http://www.springfieldmasspride.org)

Boston Pride, May 31-June 9  
[www.bostonpride.org](http://www.bostonpride.org)

other member benefits, explained Sanders. Sanders is one of the Regional Directors for Region 6, which includes Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington DC.

Because InterPride was started in New England, this region plays a large part in the history of the organization, and its future.

Sanders noted that InterPride is also evolving as the needs of local pride organizations evolve. "When we first started it was truly just about putting on a pride event," he explained. "Now we have Human Rights Committees and Solidarity Funds to help prides in hostile environments."

Sanders agreed that there has been a slow but visible evolution in prides throughout the region. "I think there is a party atmosphere in many places, but there is a movement to illustrate the balance of needs in the LGBT community, from marriage equality, immigration, workers' rights and transgender rights."

Pride events in New England, whether focused on the party atmosphere or the burgeoning issues facing the LGBT community, are all a celebration of heritage, change and acceptance.

"Boston Pride Parade has grown from a small protest march to one of Boston's biggest annual events," DeMarco stated. "It's a parade where the individual is celebrated and this year, in particular, we expect it will be a moment where all members of the community, regardless of orientation, will show their Boston Pride."

Watt-Bucci recalled a comment from a North Shore Pride participant regarding the importance of Pride events. "He told me he was straight, but tired of all the hate and wanted to show his support for the LGBT community," she described. "That's what lets me know that we are providing a service for our entire community and we will continue for as long as there is a need."

Sanders believes that Prides should aim to touch someone, help someone. "If a pride event makes even one person feel freer or helps open someone's heart or mind, then we have done our job."

Rand recognizes pride as significant for many people, for many reasons. "Pride events are ways to come together, meet people, and share public space," she said. "It's important that many queer people still face bigotry, shaming and violence that compromise and threaten our lives. Joy, celebration, hope and vision matter all the more."

This reporter, via *The Rainbow Times*, contacted a Noho Pride spokesperson several times with specific questions, but specific answers were not received by the time of publication.

To learn more about InterPride, Boston Pride, the Portland Dyke March and North Shore Pride, visit their respective websites: [www.interpride.org](http://www.interpride.org), [www.bostonpride.org](http://www.bostonpride.org), [www.mainedykemarch.com](http://www.mainedykemarch.com) and in its 2nd year now [www.northshorepride.org](http://www.northshorepride.org).



# Smith College rejects transgender woman application; more happens

By: Lauren Wallester/TRT Reporter

Protests continue after Smith College rejected the application of Calliope Mora Wong, a high school senior who was born male but now identifies as female, stating "undergraduate applicants to Smith must be female at the time of admission." While Wong identifies as female, her Free Application for Federal Student Aid listed her gender marker as male, prompting the college's decision to return her application.



documentation will reflect her status as a woman."

In order to have her gender marker legally changed, Wong would have to undergo gender reassignment surgery.

"It is totally inappropriate and ridiculous to expect a 17 or 18 year old to have had gender confirmation surgeries so that their documents all say that they are female," said GENNY BEEMYN, Director of the UMass Stonewall Center. "Someone at that age typically cannot get access to surgery, even if

Read the rest of this story online at: <http://tiny.cc/8h27vw>

**"... Smith is committed to continuing the conversation in the context of our mission as a women's college."**

"An application from a transgender student is treated no differently from other applications: every application Smith receives is considered on a case-by-case basis," said Kristen Cole, Director of Media Relations at Smith College. "Like most women's colleges, Smith expects that, to be eligible for review, a student's application and supporting

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# RI Mayors join Freedom to Marry campaign, state poised to recognize marriage equality

By: Ashley Mark/TRT Reporter

The freedom to marry for same-sex couples is only recognized in ten states and the District of Columbia. While there is national attention on the federal cases of marriage equality, mayors from all across Rhode Island recently joined the Mayors for the Freedom to Marry campaign. Rhode Island was the only state in New England that does not yet issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, although the legislation has recently passed in the Senate and will move to the House.

"By announcing their support of marriage, mayors from Rhode Island are joining the chorus of American voices across the country that understand why marriage matters to same-sex couples and their families," commented Marc Solomon, National Campaign Director for Freedom to Marry. "Mayors are uniquely equipped to explain why marriage improves the quality of life for their constituents, to share their own support for marriage with other elected officials and to show how mar-

riage makes cities and towns economically stronger."

Freedom to Marry is the campaign to win marriage nationwide, explained Solomon. Freedom to Marry drives the national strategy to ensure that same-sex couples in loving and committed relationships can marry in all fifty states, and that all marriages are treated equally under the law throughout the United States.

"Mayors for the Freedom to Marry is a nonpartisan, growing coalition of over 350 mayors from 35 states across the country who



Mayor Angel Taveras meets with other RI mayors before a press conference announcing their support of same-sex marriages

to join the coalition, recognized the contribution of same-sex couples to his community.

"Gay and lesbian Rhode Islanders reside in every city and town in our state, including our capital city of Providence," he stated. "They contribute to our communities as business owners, doctors, teachers, coaches, civic leaders and good neighbors. Providence derives

are making the case for marriage in their communities," he added.

Mayor Angel Taveras of Providence, one of six Rhode Island mayors

great strength from our diversity, and gay and lesbian families are a crucial part of that."

Taveras argued for the fundamental fairness inherent in the freedom for couples to marry on behalf of his constituents.

"My community joins with me in supporting fair and equal treatment and protection under the law for every citizen," Taveras commented about the support he has received from the residents of Providence. "Marriage gives couples the tools and the security to build a life together, to care for each other and to protect their families. Couples benefit from the peace of mind knowing that their families are safe and secure, and so do the communities in which they live."

The other mayors joining the cause, unavailable for comment, include Mayor Scott Avedisian of Warwick, Mayor Daniel McKee of Cumberland, Mayor Donald Grebion of Pawtucket, Mayor James Diossa of Central Falls and Mayor Charles Lombardi of North Providence.

For more information about Mayors for the Freedom to Marry, visit [www.freedomtomarry.org](http://www.freedomtomarry.org).

## Rhode Island youth nominated for esteemed privilege, engaged in communities, politics

By: Ashley Mark/TRT Reporter

Youth from across the country are empowering themselves to make changes in their school environments and engage others in powerful ways. In Rhode Island, Congressman David Cicilline is providing an opportunity for youth to address pressing issues in

their schools and influence public policy with his Congressional Youth Cabinet.

"The Cabinet is comprised of representatives from 27 high schools across Rhode Island's First Congressional District," Cicilline explained. "Each school selected one student to serve as their representative on the Cabinet, and representatives come from public, private and charter schools, with one home-schooled student."

In an effort to bring together students that are representative of the whole state, Cicilline explained that his office reached out to high school principals across the state and

asked them to nominate one outstanding student to be a representative on the Cabinet. "As a whole, the members of the Cabinet have demonstrated academic excellence while participating in an array of extracurricular activities," he added.

East Providence High School is one school that has a student representative on the Cabinet, and is proud of the student's appointment. The student was not available for comment, but Richard Silva, a guidance counselor and advisor of the student council, believes the student will bring great insight to the Cabinet. Silva



Congressman David N. Cicilline

PHOTO: OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN DAVID N. CICILLINE

also commented on the commitment to student safety at East Providence High School.

"As both a guidance counselor and an advisor, I have broached the subject of bullying many times with my students," he explained. "As a school, we remain proactive in providing and maintaining a safe learning environment for all our students."

Cicilline formed the Cabinet, currently in its first year, as a way to hear the priorities and concerns of his citizens. "As a member of Congress, it's critical for me to listen to constituents and understand the ways that federal policies impact their lives," he said. "The Congressional Youth Cabinet provides a forum to hear directly from young people about their concerns, such as bullying, the cost of higher education and jobs."

Sarah King, a student representative from Cumberland High School, said that the first meeting of the Cabinet was solely dedicated to the issue of bullying. "This branched off into the different facets of bullying, including cyber bullying, bullying based on gender or sexuality, the causes of bullying, and what could be done to stunt bullying."

Cicilline agrees that bullying is a prevalent issue in schools.

"Our first Youth Cabinet meeting looked at the issue of bullying in our schools, a significant concern not just for LGBT youth but for all students," he stated. "As several Cabinet members mentioned, we need to do a better job of raising awareness about the underlying causes of bullying and finding ways to reduce it."

Recently, in a press release from the offices of Representative Jared Polis of Colorado and Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida, it was announced that the Student ...

Read the rest of this story at: <http://tiny.cc/xwr9vw>

### TOP 10 BEST SELLER VIDEOS

Courtesy: WolfeVideo.com

#### LESBIAN TOP 10

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

#### GAY TOP 10

1. A Portrait of James Dean: Joshua Tree, 1951
2. Love Free or Die
3. I Want Your Love
4. Gayby
5. Any Day Now
6. Yossi
7. Gun Hill Road
8. The Wise Kids
9. Morgan
10. Broadway Damage

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More information on 2013 Boston Pride Week can be found online at [www.bostonpride.org](http://www.bostonpride.org)



# Boston Pride Parade and Festival

## June 8th, 2013



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## Transgender Day of Celebration comes to Boston

By: Emily Scagel/TRT Assistant Editor

The Metropolitan Community Church of Boston is hosting Boston's first Transgender Day of Celebration, a day complementary to Transgender Day of Remembrance that publicly celebrates transgender lives.

"Transgender Day of Celebration is an opportunity for trans people and all who love them to come together and celebrate," said **REV. JAMEZ TERRY**, pastoral leader of MCC Boston. "We celebrate our own trans lives, and we celebrate the trans people whose lives have touched ours."

Terry, with enthusiastic support from the Worship Committee of MCC Boston, suggested the event to be held in Boston, he said.

"This is not actually the first TDOC ever to take place, though it is among the first and is certainly the first in Boston," Terry explained. "So why Boston? Because we're here. Because being trans can be challenging, but it can also be a phenomenal blessing. Because there is a large, vibrant trans community in this city. Because we are a community that knows how to celebrate life. And because it is time that we celebrate *all* lives! This is an idea whose time has come, or as one commenter wrote on the Facebook event page, 'This is so overdue.'"

This event differs from Trans Day of Remembrance, as it does not focus only on violence and mourning, Terry added. Trans Day of Celebration brings the community together for a different purpose — celebrating lives.

"While many of us suffer severely from oppression of many sorts, our lives can not and should not be reduced to that dimension," said Terry. "TDOC is partly about taking back the public narrative, reminding ourselves and each other that we are alive, that we are multi-dimensional people, and that we have much to celebrate."

**KARA SUFFREDINI**, executive director

of MassEquality, agreed that there is more to the community than the focus on struggles.

"In our Commonwealth's journey to adopt vital safeguards for transgender youth, adults and families ... much of the spotlight has been on the struggles and challenges transgender people face in absence of statewide protections," Suffredini said. "But our Commonwealth's transgender community is also strong, beautiful, resilient and full of inspiring success stories."

She added that MassEquality is excited and supportive of this upcoming celebration and the visibility that it will bring to the contributions of transgender community members.

**BET POWER**, executive director and curator for the Sexual Minorities Archives, stated that he hopes an annual Trans Day of Celebration will begin in Western Massachusetts as well.

Power lamented the premise of Trans Day of Remembrance, stating "I have long felt uncomfortable with merely gathering once a year to read names of murdered trans people and tell details about how they were brutally killed, and nothing more, as if we are only bodies."

It is necessary to celebrate lives, he explained, adding that it is about time there was a day of celebration.

"We are alive, vibrant and interesting people. The LGBTQI community and our allies, and especially the general public, need to hear the truth about our lives and see us as who we are," said Power. "It is so important to counter stereotypes about us — the awful stigma of mental illness, victimhood and otherness that is put upon us. By celebrating our lives, we reject oppression and discrimination."

TDOC will be held May 19th at MCC Boston and will include a Trans Family Picnic, interfaith service, and a multi-genre performance. For more information, visit [www.mccboston.org](http://www.mccboston.org).

## To cook is to love: A foodie's journal; chocolate for spring

By: John Verlinden\*/Special to TRT

iMUCHO GUSTO!



PHOTO: RACHEL POWER

**Y**ay! It's finally here! What a long, hard winter. I don't think I've ever been more anxious for spring than this year. Perhaps my favorite thing about the warmer weather is the outdoor living

we get to enjoy here in New England. It's hard to imagine a better place to live if you enjoy cooking, dining and relaxing with friends and family outside.

Cookouts are my favorite spring and summer activities. I fire up the grill as soon as the weather turns nice, and it doesn't go dark until the first snow. And, I make up the first of many batches of my favorite barbecue sauce for *La Fiesta dia de la Madre* (the Mother's Day Feast), our first big outdoor party of the season. This delicious sauce from my new book "To Cook is to Love," is a merger of Mid-Western and Latin flavors — it's sweet and sour, smoky and spicy. You are going to love it! Use it in burgers and beans for that great barbecue flavor, it's ideal for basting chicken and ribs and it's a great dipping sauce to accompany steaks and grilled fish. Give it a try at your next cookout, and get ready for lots of compliments.

**Salsa Barbacoa (Barbecue Sauce)**

Yield: About 2 quarts

1/4 cup olive oil  
1 large onion (peeled & coarsely chopped)  
1 large green pepper (cored, seeded & coarsely chopped)  
6 cloves garlic  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon ground black pepper  
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin  
1 2-ounce can chipotle peppers  
2 28-ounce cans tomato sauce  
1 cup molasses  
2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar  
1 teaspoon liquid smoke

1. In a large saucepan, heat the oil over medium heat until fragrant. Add the onion and green pepper and cook for about three minutes. Reduce the heat to low, stir in the garlic and dry spices, and sauté for about two more minutes or until the onion is translucent and tender.
2. Add the remaining ingredients, cover and cook slowly for about one hour.
3. Remove from heat, set aside to cool and store in the refrigerator in a tightly covered container.

This sauce will keep for weeks in the refrigerator. It can also be frozen for future use.

\*Share your favorite barbecue spice ribs and sauces, ask a question or suggest a topic for a future article — contact me: [john@muchogusto.com](mailto:john@muchogusto.com) or visit [www.muchogusto.com](http://www.muchogusto.com) and join our Latin food forum. *Until next time — ¡Mucho Gusto!, ¡Muchas Gracias! y ¡Buen Provecho!*

## Boston From page 2

experiences, often cathartic and necessary for healing, closure and possibly leading to deeper self-awareness. In the broadest sense, they can provide spiritual perspective and with it new direction.

Experiences either empower or become destructive. The reactions to death, illness, job loss, romantic breakup, or a national tragedy define us individually and collectively. A nation or individual can believe in pain or experience it. Regularly eating a pound of chocolate for months after a breakup is belief in pain, not experiencing loss in a positive way.

It is easier to believe in something, often by asking "why me," than choosing the experience. Part of this may stem from unhealthy parental, religious, or societal conditioning.

The Boston tragedy is now a sad chapter in American history. The responses so far showed a national, not Boston or New England, experience. Although no one can ever question the indomitable spirit of any Bostonian, there were no Bostonians on April 15.

## Mayoral Candidates From page 4

test the civil rights of all of the people of Boston."

As for his work with the LGBTQ community, Walsh says he voted for the Transgender Rights Bill in 2011. He has also spent time with the young people at the Waltham House/Home for Little Wanderers. Most recently, he co-sponsored H. 2047, a bill to establish a commission on LGBT aging, to examine ways to better ensure the equality of access, treatment, care and benefits for LGBT older adults and their loved ones and caregivers.

## White Supremacists From page 2

forth about whether or not the people involved would be white supremacists following in the tradition of attacks on Patriots Day or if it would be Muslims. No other options were really getting any attention. In efforts to isolate the meaning of whiteness, it has become the practice of media and many individuals to strip the Tsarnaev brothers of their whiteness. Many articles were going around Facebook and other social media sites about the impact of white privilege in moments of violence. White people, for instance, will not be racially profiled when people who cause harm are of our race. When white people attack, harm and kill many people, they are not called terrorists and are often categorized as mentally ill (i.e. Newtown, Aurora, Oak Creek). The reality in this situation is that the suspects are white and Muslim. While I will continue to benefit from the white privilege in this situation, not having to defend who I am, as Dzhokar Tsarnaev

Moments after the tragedy there were no Boston Irish, Southend Italians, LGBTQ Bostonians, or Beacon Hill Brahmins. Although there is a human and understandable need to ask why collectively as a nation, this tragedy is experienced in a common humanity.

Joseph Campbell once said the "experience of being alive, so that our life experiences on the purely physical plane will have resonances within our own innermost being and reality" to "actually feel the rapture of being alive" is "what it's all finally about." The Boston tragedy, or any misfortune experienced on a personal, national, or community-wide level, cannot be about the "search for meaning," because it is too limiting and not likely to carry you very far. It must be about "the experience of meaning."

*\*Paul is an author, attorney, and a seminary trained, ordained priest in greater Albany, NY. He recently authored "Lost Sense of Self & the Ethics Crisis — Learn to Live and Work Ethically," and is founder of [www.CorporateChaplaincy.biz](http://www.CorporateChaplaincy.biz).*

The *Rainbow Times*, via this reporter, also attempted to interview candidates Felix G. Arroyo, Boston City Councilor; Charles Clemons, former Boston Police officer and co-owner of TOUCH 106.1 FM; Daniel F. Conley, Suffolk County District Attorney; Will Dorcena, community activist; Bill Walczak, community organizer; and David Portnoy, founder of Barstool Sports. These candidates did not respond to this reporter's queries.

The preliminary election will take place September 24, and the final election will be held November 5.

stands trial we will see how the social construction of race maneuvers in a way to maintain white purity and innocence.

One of the things I love about LGBTQ specific news sources is that they have the potential to ask questions that too often go unasked. As we think about the aftermath of the week long search for suspects and as we continue to heal from collective panic, I hope we can sit with many questions. Among them, what does justice and healing look like after an event like this? Where did all the homeless queer youth go while the city was on lockdown? How do we reconcile the solidarity pictures coming from Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan and elsewhere, when our government continues to drop bombs on people there? What precedent was set by the door-to-door search in Watertown with no warrants? As the prison rape jokes about Dzhokar Tsarnaev continue, how do we challenge desires for revenge? Queer stories will continue to unfold and my hope is that as they do, we find out where we are able to align ourselves with transformative justice and healing without perpetuating a nationalism that legitimizes the suffering of others. Take time to breathe, to tell stories, and to listen for opportunities to create a more just community.

*\*Rev. Jason Lydon is a Unitarian Universalist minister in Boston. He is a long time anti-prison organizer & 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. Reach Jason at: [jason@blackandpink.org](mailto:jason@blackandpink.org).*

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