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PRIDE EDITION

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FENWAY HEALTH

Men's Event Raises More Than \$650K, story and photos **pp4 & 22**

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DYKE NIGHT PRODUCTIONS

Brings Sandra Valls & Crys Matthews to Perform in Beantown **p15**

PHOTO: BERRY WETCHER/20TH CENTURY FOX



CAMERON DIAZ

New England Exclusive on Bisexuality & "The Other Woman" **p20**

SYLVAIN BRUNI

PHOTO: ALEX MANCINI

LGBT PRIDE: A REGIONAL GUIDE TO PRIDE IN NE **p3**

OUT FILM CT: FILM FESTIVAL IS ROLLING **p8**

PRIDE MAP: PULL-OUT SECTION **pp11-14**

Exclusive with Boston Pride's Pres. **p6**

'12 Years a Slave,' race, gender, sexual orientation and the tactics to promote such ignorance

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

OPINIONS Pride season is not only a time of year where we come together as one community, celebrating, advocating, and affirmatively being who we are, or supporting family and friends that belong to the LGBT community. *Pride n. a feeling or deep pleasure or satisfaction derived from one's own achievements.* As a community we have made great strides into 2014 at the municipal, state and federal level. We have more rights today, largely due to the Obama administration's support of the LGBT community, than at any other point in history. But, what happens when one day we have achieved, legally at least, the same status as our heterosexual counterparts? Is the concept of pride dated? No, it is not.

Recently, I watched a movie called "12 Years a Slave." If you haven't seen this film, which is based on a true story, I highly recommend it. I was embarrassed and appalled throughout. Although there are stark differences in the type of discrimination that the African American community has faced and continues to face when compared with the mainstream LGBT movement, this movie did a brilliant job at repeatedly reminding the audience of how those in power use religion, the Bible, and politics to purposefully persecute a marginalized community. Although the premise is substantially different, those tactics as displayed in the movie are nearly identical to those faced by the LGBT community today. I couldn't believe that after so many years since the protagonist's

Ask any member of a racially or ethnically marginalized group about their experiences and what type of discrimination they have faced as a result of the color of their skin and others' ignorant perspectives and the answer shouldn't shock you. Educate yourself. The same applies to homophobia, transphobia, misogyny, etc.

plight that the hearts of those around us really haven't changed much at all.

So long as there are kids being taunted in school because of their sexual orientation or

gender identity, so long as schools deny teachers the rights to include the LGBT community when sex education is taught, so long as youth are being kicked out of their homes solely for being LGBT, so long as judgment is preached from the pulpit and congregations blindly accept those teachings—even if that message is in direct conflict with the sermons preached by the Christ that they so often proclaim their love for—so long as one person is discriminated against in private sector jobs, so long as the right-wing fundamentalists continually modify their political strategies to ensure the LGBT community does not have equal rights, even sinking to the level of publishing fabricated studies to convince the masses of their agenda, an agenda I don't fully understand, so long as women's rights (socially and at all levels) and pay are not equal and we're treated as second-class citizens. So long. It is not only about the legality and the recognition of us, all of us, and the many subcultures of the LGBT community, it is about what is in the heart of those that surround us. I am fully convinced that lessons of love and acceptance must begin at home first. But, if a family belongs to a church, for example, that preaches discrimination on any level, then likely, that is the message that the parents will teach at home too. And, that is just one of the many ways that discrimination continues to perpetuate its vicious cycle.

Today, many marginalized communities

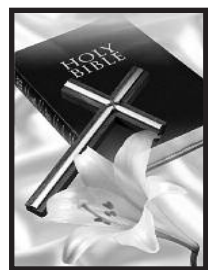
have rights that once were evaded in the past. However, does that mean that racism, for example, no longer exists? Of course not. Ask any member of a racially or ethnically marginalized group about their experiences and what type of discrimination they have faced as a result of the color of their skin and others' ignorant perspectives and the answer shouldn't shock you. Educate yourself. The same applies to homophobia, transphobia, misogyny, etc.

I've often spoken and written about the necessity to understand the struggles of the subcultures to our LGBT community as it relates to race and ethnicity, gender identity, women's rights, and so on. This pride season is an ideal time to immerse yourself in your community, not only with those that relate directly to you, but it is an ideal opportunity to involve yourself in groups that indirectly relate to you as well. To be an advocate for the LGBT community means to undeniably understand the LGBT community as a whole and work toward changing the minds and hearts of those around you. How will you show your Pride?

*Nicole Lashomb is the editor-in-chief of TRT. Reach her at The Rainbow Times at: editor@therainbowtimesmass.com.

Faith, Family and God – The Pope's bad science

By: Paul P. Jesepe*/TRT Columnist



In the past, I cautioned LGBTQ Christians, especially Catholics, not to expect too much from the nice man wearing white now living in the Vatican. I also said his comments about not judging sinners, specifically LGBTQ children of God,

though unintentional, were a form of spiritual abuse.

Sadly, Pope Francis, a well-meaning man attempting to instill an arrogant, monolithic organization with greater kindness, inclusion and compassion, has again expressed views that are spiritually abusive to same-gender families.

In April, Pope Francis told the International Catholic Child Bureau that same-gender parents are not fit to raise children. The remarks were published in the Vatican Information Service. He said, in part, "it is necessary to emphasise the right of children to grow up within a family, with a father and a mother able to create a suitable environment for their development and emotional maturity. Continuing to mature in the relationship, in the complementarity of the masculinity and femininity of a father and a mother, and thus preparing the way for emotional maturity."

The comments are not based on science.

Sadly, Pope Francis, a well-meaning man attempting to instill an arrogant, monolithic organization with greater kindness, inclusion and compassion, has again expressed views that are spiritually abusive to same-gender families.

According to the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry (<http://tiny.cc/r1oiex>), "Current research shows that children with gay and lesbian parents do not differ from children with heterosexual parents in their emotional development or in their relationships with peers and adults. It is important for parents to understand that it is the quality of the parent/child relationship and not the parent's sexual orientation that has an effect on a child's development." This is one of many favorable studies regarding LGBTQ parents.

The Pope also told his audience, "I would like to express my refusal of any type of ...

Read the rest of this story online at <http://wp.me/p22M41-2RV>

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

[Re: Boston Pride Announces Five Headline Musical Acts for 2014 Festival] **WOW! The Line** this year is amazing!

—Henry Panquin, Online, Boston, MA

Dear Editor

[Re: A Bathroom Issue? Considering the Options for Transgender People in Restrooms] **Well I was out by a woman** when I was trying to have a bra fit. I am on HRT, the woman had two of her daughter with her and they saw me in there and called the cops saying "there is a man in the ladies dressing room." Well, I did six hours in jail and ... no charges were given. This was in 1996 and I still don't know what I did that I was held for six hours for.

—Jane Crowell, Online

Dear Editor,

[Out of the Darkness Walks Raise Funds, Awareness for Suicide Prevention, for LGBTQ people too] **On October 4th**, the Merrimack Valley Out of the Darkness Walk for Suicide Prevention will be held at the Vandenberg Esplanade in Lowell. We would love to have you join us. Thank you!

—Mary Beth Traynor, co-chair, Online

Dear Editor,

[Re: A Bathroom Issue? Considering the Options for Transgender People in Restrooms] **Allow me to offer some supporting data**, recently published by Media Matters.

Experts in 12 states—including law enforcement officials, government employees, and advocates for victims of sexual assault—have debunked the right-wing

See More Letters on Page 23

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LGBT New England Pride celebrations abound in 2014, high expectations

By: Lauren Walliser/TRT Assistant Editor

PRIDE SEASON 2014

From Rhode Island to Maine, New England Pride season is full of celebrations throughout Massachusetts and other states in the region. Each year, LGBTQ people and allies come together not only in solidarity and support for equality, but also to showcase the diverse and unique facets of their communities.

The first of this year's events, **Northampton (Noho) Pride**, will be held May 3. J.M. Sorrell, spokesperson for the event, shared the meaning behind this year's theme.

"The theme 'Unity in Diversity' was chosen for all participants—LGBT people and allies—to recognize and support our multiple identities. When we gather once a year, we open our hearts to each other in empathy to honor our similarities and differences."

Noho Pride originally began as the "Northampton Lesbian and Gay Liberation March in 1982. Historically held the first Saturday in May, Sorrell said it set a trend for other events throughout the region.

"Northampton has the distinction of being 'Lesbianville,' and as such has a higher than usual proportion of lesbians in the LGBT communities in the surrounding areas," Sorrell said. "Every LGBT pride event in the region, the country and the world is unique and important to all of us."



Boston Pride will take place June 6 through June 15, 2014 in Boston, Mass.

For a full schedule or performers and the day's activities, visit www.nohopride.org.

Boston Pride is the largest of New England's annual Pride celebrations and one of the largest in the United States. This year will mark the 44th anniversary of the Boston Pride Parade, the second longest running LGBTQ parade next to New York.

"We celebrate the LGBT community, but we are also inclusive of the community at large and embrace the support everyone has given us over the years," said Sylvain Bruni, Boston Pride's new president.

With the celebration kicking off June 6 and running through June 15, the theme for Boston Pride 2014 is "Be Yourself, Change the World."

"The theme encourages the LGBT community to embrace what makes each individual unique and to use those qualities to change the world for the better," Bruni said.

Bruni shared several differences to this

year's festivities, including that the parade will start an hour earlier than in past years, beginning at 11 a.m. on June 14, due to the ongoing construction at the Government Center MBTA station at City Hall Plaza, where the festival will take place. The construction in the area will reduce entry space into the festival, making it necessary to allow for additional time for participants and spectators to enter. Additionally, Bruni said their entertainment line-up is more diverse than it has ever been, and so far includes Mary Lambert, A Great Big World, Alex Newell, JD Samson and Jeanie Tracy, with more to be announced soon.

Other events include the Flag Raising cer-

emony June 6, Pride Day @ Faneuil Hall, Pride Queeraoke, Pride Night at Fenway Park, the Pride Youth Dance, the LGBT Senior Pride Tea Dance, the Boston Dyke March, the Back Bay Block Party and the JP Block Party. For a full schedule, visit www.bostonpride.com.

Following Boston Pride, **North Shore Pride** will be celebrated June 21 with an ecumenical interfaith service, followed by a festival with vendors at the Salem Common, a parade, and other events through the day.

"Since inception, the motto of North Shore Pride has been unity in our

See Pride Season 2014 on Page 23

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Men's Event raises \$650k+ for Fenway Health, Mayor Walsh announces two gay appointments

By: Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter

Once again, the creative black-tie gala of dinner and dancing sold out. The Men's Event, one of Fenway Health's signature fundraisers and one of the gay community's largest affairs in New England, raised more than \$600,000 for the local neighborhood health-care facility, which has grown to become one of the nation's, if not world's, leading medical care providers and research institutions for LGBT people.

This year's 21st annual gathering drew more than 1,300 mostly gay, bisexual and transgender men and some women to the Boston Marriott Copley Place Saturday evening, April 26. Local comedian Jimmy Tingle, a Cambridge native, served as master of ceremonies.

"We have two mayors in the house tonight, two mayors," Tingle told attendees, referring to the current mayor, Martin J. "Marty" Walsh, and former mayor Thomas M. Menino, whom Fenway Health honored at the gala with its prestigious Congressman Gerry E. Studds Award.

The award is given each year at the Men's Event to honor "individuals of integrity and selflessness who embody the spirit of service and provide positive leadership for the LGBT community." Congressman Studds represented southeastern Massachusetts in the U.S. Congress from 1973 to 1997 and became the first openly gay congressional member in 1983 when he proudly acknowledged his sexual orientation standing on the



Massachusetts Secretary of Public Safety, Andrea J. Cabral; Dean Hara, spouse of the late U.S. Representative Gerry E. Studds; Fenway Health CEO Steve Boswell; former Boston mayor, Thomas M. Menino; Men's Event co-chairs Rob Krasow, and Matthew E. Thompson; Fenway Health board of Directors chair, Douglas Spencer; and Men's Event co-chair Joe Caputo.

congressional floor. Studds passed away in October 2006.

In his remarks, Mayor Walsh praised Fenway for its "wonderful work," adding, "No community partner does more to support our city than Fenway Health does. It's a global leader in healthcare for men and women in the LGBT community. That leadership not only keeps our residents healthy, it brings great benefits to our entire city," enabling "us to attract and retain a vibrant and talented workforce. That's a huge advantage for us in our mission to become leaders in the innovation economy and in the arts and culture."

Walsh also used the Men's Event to announce new appointments in his administration. One of them is Jerome Smith as new head of the Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS). Before his appointment, Smith served as chief of staff for state Senate President Therese Murray. Before that, Smith was outreach coordinator for the LGBTQ community in Boston.

"Jerome has the perfect combination of skills for this position," said Walsh. "I think there is some important symbolism, too, in his appointment. ONS is all about neighborhoods. In many ways, it's the heart of city

government."

"Jerome is the first person of color, and the first gay person to fill this post," he said. "I think this shows that the gay community is no longer treated as a separate entity in our city."

Walsh also announced Ken Brissette as the city's new tourism director. "But first let me congratulate Ken and his partner Tom on their engagement," said Walsh.

In appointing Brissette, Walsh said that during the campaign, "artists told us the arts are much more than a tourism strategy, and our tourism industry told us that, as wonderful as our cultural scene is, attracting visitors requires a broader base of activities."

Consequently, he said, came the decision to give the arts and tourism their own departments, with a new arts chief to be announced soon.

For more than six years, Brissette has served as chief operating officer for the state tourism office. Before that, he was a travel industry executive in the private sector. Brissette is a former Boston Public High Schools teacher.

In addition to Boston's two mayors, the event drew Maine's openly gay congressman, U.S. Representative Mike Michaud, who is also a gubernatorial candidate.

The Men's Event also attracted Massachusetts state and local elected officials, including Steve Grossman, state Treasurer and candidate for governor, state Senator and Majority Leader Stanley Rosenberg, as well as state Representatives Gloria L. Fox, ...

To read the rest of this story visit:
<http://tiny.cc/trp1ex>

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Strong support at Grossman LGBT gubernatorial fundraiser

By: Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter

BOSTON, Mass.— As the Massachusetts gubernatorial race accelerates, two Democratic candidates are already staking out turf among LGBT voters, hoping to shore up early support before heading into the state party convention. So far, state Attorney General Martha Coakley and state Treasurer Steve Grossman have secured considerable followings within the gay community, with Grossman's recent fundraiser as just one measure of his strong LGBT backing.

"We've done our job and contacted more than 1,700 people to let them know of our support for Steve Grossman," said Carl Rosendorf, speaking to a fundraising gathering at Cinquecento in April.

The fundraiser invitation, billed as an "LGBT and Allies Reception," read like a who's who among local LGBT community leaders and political movers and shakers, including the names Ron Ansin and Jim Stork, Steve Boswell and John Neale, Gary Cohen, David Goldman and Jacques Abatto, Michael Kelley and Ricardo Rodriguez, Bryan Rafanelli, Alix Ritchie and Marty Davis, state Senator Stan Rosenberg, and Marc Solomon, headlining the event co-chair list, along with 45 co-hosts.

"That's what elections are all about," added Rosendorf, also a co-chair. "People telling people and raising money. That's what campaigns are all about."

Rosendorf introduced special guest Howard Dean, former Vermont governor and 2004 presidential candidate, who spoke, as others did, to Grossman's character, noting "integrity" as a defining attribute. Grossman was an early supporter of Dean's failed presidential bid despite the candidacy of native



Democratic candidate for governor of Massachusetts, current state Treasurer Steve Grossman, address attendees at LGBT community fundraiser, held in Boston's South End neighborhood.

son John Kerry, then a Massachusetts U.S. senator, who became the Democratic Party's nominee that year in an unsuccessful attempt to unseat President George W. Bush.

"Steve is who he is and believes in who he is," said Dean. "He says things he believes in and is not afraid to take unpopular stands."

Dean noted Grossman's early support for LGBT rights, including marriage equality.

"Barbara gets credit for that," Dean explained, referring to Grossman's wife, who served as the first straight MassEquality board member during the battle on Beacon Hill to protect the Supreme Judicial Court's landmark 2003 *Goodridge* decision.

In introducing him, Dean said, "I think Steve Grossman is going to be the next gov-

Read the rest of this story online at
<http://wp.me/p22M41-2RS>

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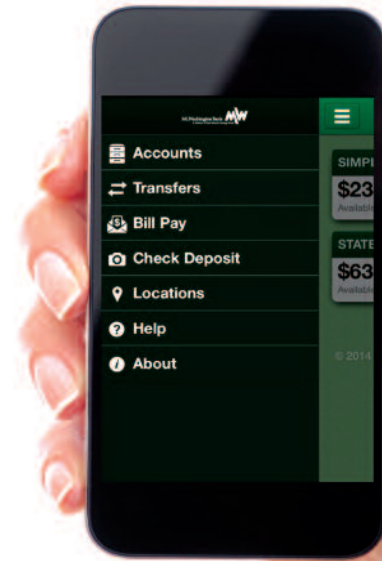
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Forcing The Spring: Erasing history in NE

By: Lisa Keen/Keen News Service

To say there's been a flurry of discussion around the release of a new book Tuesday on the legal case that challenged California's Proposition 8 would be an understatement. The book, *Forcing the Spring*, by New York Times writer Jo Becker, has been thoroughly pilloried by many plugged-in LGBT activists and journalists this week, both publicly and privately. While a few have attempted to cut Becker some slack for documenting some behind-the-scenes litigation and political strategies, most fault her for an approach that seems hell-bent on making Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin and conservative icon attorney Ted Olson into the white horse heroes of an upcoming Hollywood docu-drama about How the Marriage Equality Movement was Won.

Hollywood movies do have a tendency to skew the historical record for audiences that have not been paying attention to the real world events; and, if it does come to the silver screen, *Forcing the Spring* will carry an impressive credential—that it was based on a book by a “Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist” (even though she co-authored the entry that won).

The intense negative reaction from the LGBT community to Becker's book indicates the prospect that the marriage equality

movement's real history will be lost is very troubling to many LGBT people who have watched and been part of that movement. It did not begin with the Griffin-Olson lawsuit in 2009, but with individual couples as early as the 1970s and with veteran civil rights legal activists beginning in Hawaii in the 1990s.

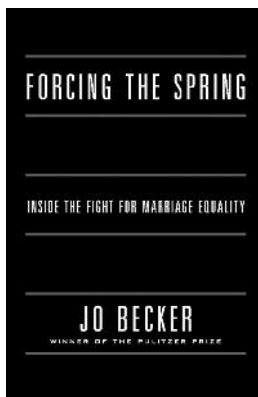
Conservative gay commentator Andrew Sullivan led the assault on Becker's book this week. In his April 16 blog entry (<http://tiny.cc/jlasex>) for his “The Daily Dish,”

Sullivan berates Becker for suggesting Griffin is on par with legendary black civil rights activist Rosa Parks. He dismissed the book as riddled with “jaw-dropping distortion,” such as Becker's claim

that the marriage equality movement “for years had largely languished in obscurity.”

Sullivan's assault was joined quickly by an impressive string of critiques: writer-activist Dan Savage (“a bullshit ‘history’ of the movement for marriage equality”—<http://tiny.cc/jmasex>), former New York Times columnist Frank Rich (<http://tiny.cc/cnasex>—“For a journalist to claim that marriage equality revolution began in 2008 is as absurd as saying civil rights struggle began with Obama.”), and White House strategist Jim Messina ...

Read the rest of this story at:
http://tiny.cc/beckert_trt



A glimpse inside the mind of Sylvain Bruni, Boston Pride's new president

Since 2004, Sylvain Bruni has been an integral part of New England's Largest LGBT Pride celebration and organization, Boston Pride. When former president, Linda DeMarco decided to step down from her long-held position to move into the Vice Presidential role this year, it only made sense that Bruni would lead. According to DeMarco, the Board of Directors “could not have chosen anyone more qualified” to serve as her successor.

In this exclusive TRT interview with Bruni, he shares his perspective on Boston Pride, not merely the 10-day celebration, but as a vast reaching organization, even into the world of politics to forward the rights, struggles and visibility of the LGBT community across the region and beyond.

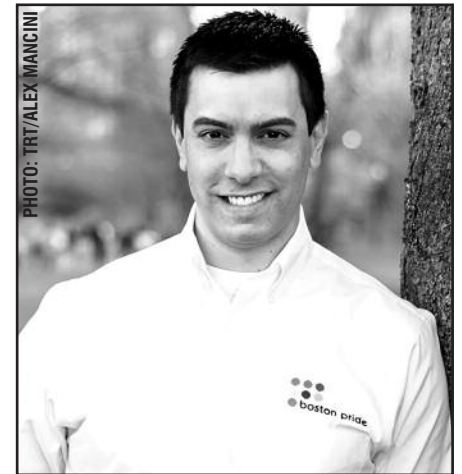
The Rainbow Times: You've been involved with Boston Pride since 2004, ultimately leading to a seat on the Board of Directors, also overseeing multiple events and supervising the organization's information technology, security and communication divisions. How have these responsibilities helped to prepare you to lead the largest Pride organization in New England?

Sylvain Bruni: Having been a volunteer for Boston Pride for many years, then an event chair on the committee and then a board member has allowed me to understand the logistical intricacies and inter-dependencies that impact the success of the Boston Pride celebration. In my view, it is paramount that the leadership in an organization truly experiences what and how work is being performed by the various members they lead. Consequently, having first-hand experience of what it means, for example, to install toilets at a festival, to greet guests at the entrance of a party, to organize the parade line-up, or to negotiate contracts with entertainment agencies gives me a full appreciation not only of what I can ask of members of Boston Pride, but also of potential operational and programmatic improvements.

Q. What has been your most proud Pride moment to date?

A. I can recount many proud moments, but I would place at the top of the list the first Boston Pride Parade that I coordinated, and my combined interview of Jason Collins, Joe Kennedy, and Barney Frank in last year's parade.

When I was coordinating my first parade, I was stressed out of my mind, trying to make sure that the porta-potties were set up in the right location, that the crowd control volunteers had their safety vests on, that registration and line-up were progressing smoothly, that no gap was forming between groups during the march, and so on. I was just so absorbed in the logistics of the event that initially I didn't step back to look at the marchers and the crowds. But when I did, about mid-way in the parade on Charles street, I realized that thousands and thousands of marchers and parade watchers were there enjoying the day and free to be who they are in a safe space, I realized that this was my and my team's doing. We had put on this huge event! And people were liking it! It was a huge success and a personal pride. The interview with Jason Collins, Joe Kennedy and Barney Frank was a totally different story. As the interviewer on the pa-



Boston Pride President, Sylvain Bruni

rade grounds for the BNN broadcast of the event, I was trying to spot marchers whom I wanted to interview – a careful balancing act between choosing representatives from the community, non-profit organizations, businesses, our Pride partners and sponsors, volunteers, and elected officials or candidates. And when the three of them came within range, together, this was a moment made-for-TV, a historic opportunity for Boston Pride to record on tape how important this moment was. The first openly gay NBA player with a pioneering gay member of Congress, with his successor in the House, newly elected U.S. Rep. Joe Kennedy, all three marching for equality and visibility. I was extremely proud to be on the Boston Pride team that made that moment possible.

Q. This year there was a major uproar over open LGBT participation being denied in the traditional South Boston St. Patrick's Day Parade, making significant headlines in both LGBT media and mainstream media alike. Boston Pride, decided to participate in the Veterans for Peace St. Patrick's Peace parade instead, to protest this discrimination. Why was this an important decision for the organization? What message were you hoping to send the community?

A. This was the third year that Boston Pride marched in the St Patrick's Peace Parade. It was very important for us that the LGBT community be represented in the Peace Parade by a strong and well known organization. Our job at Boston Pride is to make our community visible, to provide a platform for any organization or individual to affirm themselves, their identities, freely and openly. The Allied War Veterans Council, the organizers of the traditional parade, stand completely in opposition to this: they want LGBT people to hide who they are, to go back into the closet. For years, Veterans for Peace has been a strong ally organization to the LGBT community: they stand for the equality of LGBT folks and our open participation in the St. Patrick's celebration. Therefore, when they invited us back to the Peace Parade, accepting their invitation was just the right thing to do. By participating in the Peace Parade, we sent the message that LGBT people won't be silenced or hidden...

See Bruni On Page 23

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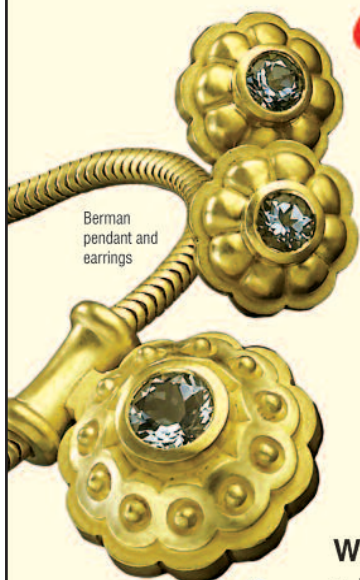
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Out Film CT's LGBT Film Festival is rolling

By: Christine Nicco/TRT Reporter

HARTFORD, Conn. Out Film CT, a non-profit cultural organization dedicated to presenting outstanding LGBT cinema and other theatrical events throughout the year, culminates in a nine-day Connecticut LGBT Film Festival. This June, the festival marks its 27th year, making it Conn.'s longest running film festival, according to the organization's website.

The Rainbow Times caught up with one of the organization's co-directors, Shane Engstrom in this exclusive interview. Engstrom shares his passion for celebrating and rediscovering the ideas important to the LGBT community on film and in the community, even leading to its new more inclusive name change.

The Rainbow Times: As Connecticut's longest running film festival, now in its 27th year, what do you attribute to its success?

Shane Engstrom: First, I would like to send out a huge thank you to our sponsors, without whom we wouldn't have been able to grow and flourish these past 27 seasons. I attribute our success to a couple of things: the dedication of our committee members and the support of our community. Many of our committee members have been involved with the festival for over a decade, and we've grown into a film fest family with a mission: to create a truly special arts and cultural event for the community each year.



PHOTO: STEVE COOPER

Shane Engstrom

Over the years, we have built a loyal following of supporters within the LGBT community as well as strong relationships with the corporate community that help to keep us financially stable. We would not be where we are today without this rich mix of support from our members and the community as a whole.

I'm also happy to welcome Laura Williams as our new Co-Director this year, sharing the vast number of duties and responsibilities involved with this multi-faceted event. Her leadership and passion will help the festival to continue to grow as an organization and to continue to be successful for many yearsto come. ...

See Out Film CT on Page 15



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GETTING TO ZERO: PROJECT ABLE'S ADVOCACY DAY



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10:00 -10:30 Registration

10:30 -11:30 Program

11:30 -1:00 Legislative Visits

Project ABLE (AIDS Budget Legislative Effort) is a statewide coalition of AIDS service providers, advocates and people affected by HIV. For more information, go to <http://www.projectablema.org> or contact 617.797.8488 or HIVProjectABLE@aol.com

Funding is needed for Massachusetts to get to ZERO new HIV and hepatitis C infections. More people need to be tested and, if infected, brought into care to stay healthier longer and reduce the the likelihood that infection will spread. As more infected people live longer, services are also needed for people to stay living in the community, and out of expensive institutional settings.

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A large black and white photograph of a shirtless man posing dramatically with his arms crossed over his head, set against a background of Provincetown, Massachusetts, including the lighthouse and harbor.

New England

PRIDE

2014

Map

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Boston PRIDE Parade
JUNE 14 • 11AM

PRIDE FESTIVAL/CITY HALL PLAZA
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PRIDE WEEK ●

JUNE 6 - JUNE 15

FRIDAY, JUNE 6
● 12pm: Flag Raising; City Hall

SATURDAY, JUNE 7
● 10am-5pm: Pride Day at Faneuil Hall; Faneuil Hall Marketplace

SUNDAY, JUNE 8
● 3-7pm: LGBT Senior Pride Tea Dance; 1200 Beacon St, Brookline

MONDAY, JUNE 9
● 6pm - 8:30pm; Human Rights & Education Forum, location TBD

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11
● 6pm - 8:30pm: Latin@ Pride; Details TBA

THURSDAY, JUNE 12
● 7pm - 2am: Pride Queeraoke; Midway Cafe, 3496 Washington St., JP
● 7pm: Pride Night at Fenway Park
● 8pm: Boston Gay Men's Chorus' Pride Concert: Feat. Alex Newell

FRIDAY, JUNE 13
● 11am - 1pm: Senior Luncheon; Club Cafe
● 7pm: Boston Dyke March; Commons
● 8pm: Boston Gay Men's Chorus' Pride Concert
● 9pm: Dyke March Official After Party, Milky Way, JP

SATURDAY, JUNE 14
● 11am: Boston Pride Parade
● 12pm - 6pm: Boston Pride Festival
● 2pm - 7pm: Esme Block Party
● 7pm - 11pm: Boston Pride Youth Dance; City Hall Plaza

SUNDAY, JUNE 15
● 12pm - 7pm: JP Block Party, Perkins St, Jamaica Plain
● 12pm - 8pm: Back Bay Block Party, St. James Ave., Boston



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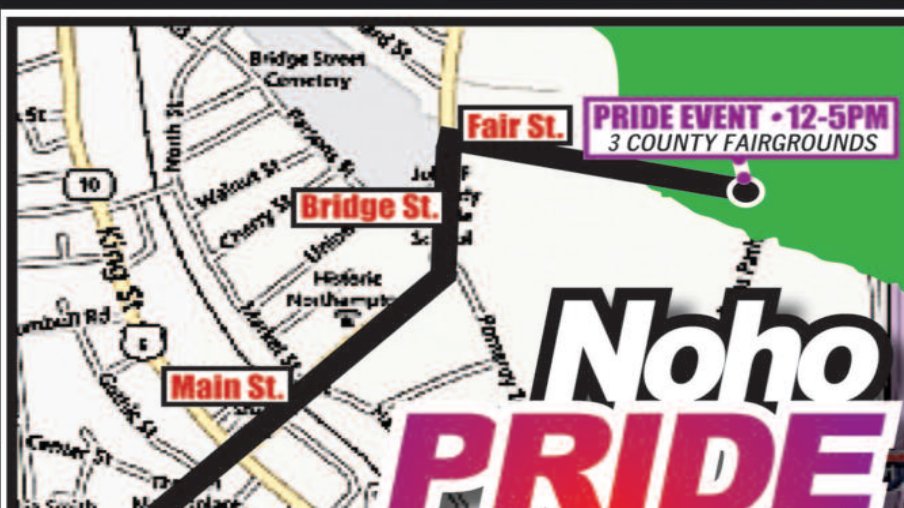
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Sunday, August 17th
Aquaman's Atlantian Pool Party
Fun in the sun at a wet and wild pool party with the Absolut Boys/Girls and the amazing DJ Andy Morris. Cover to benefit PBG's Carnival.
2:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Brass Key Guesthouse
67 Bradford Street

Monday, August 18
Richie Rich Vendor Fair (Free to Public)
Be a part of the hottest local artists, hand-crafts, antiques fair... the comics have to offer. The fair goes till 4pm.
12:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Bas Relief (behind Town Hall)
Comic Book Capers - First Issue
Costume Ball

Celebrate the 36th Anniversary of Carnival at the original Carnival Costume Ball. Hosted by Provincetown's very own Trampoline. Costumes will be judged for CASH Prizes, 1st - \$500, 2nd - \$250 along with crowns, sashes and the honor of being in the ever popular Carnival Parade! Cover to benefit PBG's Carnival. Costume Winners will be based on: Costume Creativity and Originality / Adherence to Theme / Craftsmanship & Costume Created by Contestant / Spirit & Sassy Attitude
9:00 - 12:00 a.m.
Boatslip Resort
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Tuesday August 19, 2014
Hall of Justice Watership Inn Party
Enjoy cocktails, beer, wine, light food and a special guest star with friends, new and old, at one of the founding Carnival inn parties.
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Watership Inn
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PHOTO: ANDI ROBERTS, ROBERTS FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHY



Crys Matthews opens for Sandra Valls at Dyke Night's comedy night May 16.

Dyke Night Productions hosts LGBT comedy night featuring Sandra Valls & Crys Matthews

By: Lauren Wallester/TRT Assistant Editor

BOSTON, Mass.—Dyke Night Productions, known for hosting many lesbian and LGBTQ-focused nightlife events throughout Boston, will present One Night StandUP, an event featuring comedian Sandra Valls and singer songwriter Crys Matthews, Friday, May 16 at Club Café.

Kristen Porter, founder of Dyke Night Productions and owner of The List: Boston's Queer Agenda, shared why she believes events like this are important to the LGBTQ community.

"Laughter is healing," said Porter. "LGBT people encounter micro aggressions every day. Combine homophobia with racism and transphobia and sexism...micro aggressions are additive to other stressors in our lives and contribute a great deal to the depression and isolation that research has reported is so profound in the LGBT community. Coming together with other LGBT people and LGBT performers provides a safe space to heal with laughter."

Porter said that while Dyke Night hosts the largest dance parties for women in New England, she also wants to provide events that are not late night and are attractive and accessible to LGBT people who have kids or parents they care for at home.

Headlining the event is Valls, voted by Latina Magazine as one of the "Top 33 Bad Ass Comics," one of Curve Magazine's "Top 100 funniest lesbian comics," and one of the "Top 10 faces to watch in 2010" by Diva Magazine.

TRT asked the nationally touring comedian to share her thoughts on comedy, activism, and her unique perspective as a

Latina lesbian performer.

Q: Why did you want to become a comedian, and how did you get started in the business?

A: I love making people laugh. I always have. It truly brings great joy to me. My comedy career was, literally, a gift. I remember my girlfriend and I were in couple's therapy...so lesbian of us. We were in couple's therapy and, well, she broke up with

me. I was, of course, devastated. Anyway, right after she broke up with me she was all, "What do you want me to do with your gift? I signed you up for a stand-up comedy class at Brookline Adult Ed." It was an early Christmas gift. Yes, she broke up with me right before Christmas! I was so upset! Who wants to laugh after you've been dumped? Then a good friend of mine advised me to go to the class since I didn't have any friends...they all went with her. So I went to comedy class with Rick Jenkins. He still does Comedy in Cambridge. Since that day, an amazing career was born.

Comedy healed me then and it still heals me now. I still talk to my ex. She's super nice.

Q: What is your favorite thing about being a comedian and performing?

A: Some fans become friends. I love that. I have so many friends in so many states. I really love that. I love the exchange of energy from the stage to the audience. I love traveling with fellow comics and having fun with them. It's so much fun! Even with all the work we put in, and believe me, it's no picnic. It's truly a lot of work. Even with all that, my career is so much fun. The people



Sandra Valls headlines Dyke Night's comedy night May 16.

PHOTO: FREEDOM G PHOTOGRAPHY

Out Film CT from page 8

Q. When and why was Out Film CT created?

A. Out Film CT was created back in 1988 as an offshoot to the cultural organization called 'AlteRnaTiveS', which aimed to promote the arts within the LGBT community, including theater, film, a gay history project and a literary journal. The film festival is the one project that survived and flourished over the years, becoming the wonderful community event it is today. Jeff Kagan-McCann, who was one of the original members in 1988 is back with us this year, and we recently received a signed copy of the book *Hello, Gorgeous—Becoming Barbra Streisand* by William Mann, who is credited as the founder of AlteRnaTiveS.

Q. How has the festival evolved over time as the needs of the community have changed?

A. The very first festival was only four days, but over the years we've grown to a nine day festival, with multiple theater and after-party locations. The festival includes over 50 films this year, including features, documentaries and short films that cover every genre and subject imaginable. As the community has grown, the festival has grown and diversified with it.

Q. Why do you think it is important to present LGBT cinema?

A. Film is art, first and foremost. I think it is important for the community to see themselves and their lives celebrated in film. The Oscar nods to films like *Dallas Buyers Club* and *Brokeback Mountain* are far and few be-

tween. With the state of the Hollywood film industry today, it is extremely rare to see films at the local Cineplex that reflect the diversity of the LGBT community. That is our role. Nearly every film that we're showing is a film premiere for the state. If we didn't show them, most would never make it to the silver screen or be seen by as wide an audience.

Q. You recently changed your tagline to include LGBT instead of only gay and lesbian. How did this come to be? Why was it important to make this change?

A. The film festival committee has strived to be open and inclusive of the entire spectrum of individuals who make up our community for as long as I can remember, but our name didn't reflect that spirit of inclusiveness. In officially changing the name, we wanted to make the statement that we're not just a festival for gay men and lesbians; we're a festival for a much broader and more diverse community.

Q. You hold the LGBT Film Festival in early June and then the EROS Film Festival in the fall. How do these two festivals differ and why is it important that the community supports each?

A. We're one of the few organizations to be lucky enough to be able to host two film festivals every year. Of course the Connecticut LGBT Film Festival is more expansive, includes many more films, such as short films that people never get to see. The EROS Film Festival was created 16 years ago as a joint

Read the rest of this story at:
<http://wp.me/p22M41-2Rt>

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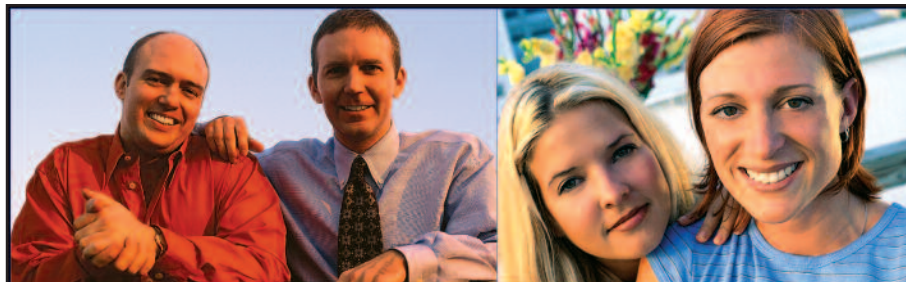


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LESBIAN TOP 10

1. Reaching for the Moon
2. Orange Is the New Black: Season 1
3. Blue is the Warmest Color
4. Kissing Jessica Stein Blu-ray
5. Lost Girl: Season 3
6. Margarita
7. Concussion
8. A Map for Love - Digital Only
9. A Perfect Ending
10. Kiss Me - Best Lesbian Movie of 2012!*

Courtesy: WolfeVideo.com

GAY TOP 10

1. I Am Divine
2. Hot Guys with Guns
3. Free Fall
4. Test
5. Five Dances
6. Pit Stop
7. GBF
8. Interior. Leather Bar.
9. The Birdcage Blu-ray
10. Stranger By the Lake

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En mayo celebramos el décimo aniversario del matrimonio gay

Por: Wilfred W. Labiosa*/Columnista de TRT

LATIN VISION



PHOTO: ERIC HESS

Ma y o comienz a con la certeza de que pronto el verano llegará. Durante este mes celebramos muchas cosas importantes como el día de las Madres, el día memorial de los que han perdido sus vidas en situaciones bélicas, el décimo aniversario en Massachusetts del matrimonio igualitario y el Día Internacional en Contra de la Homofobia. Estas dos últimas conmemoraciones son de gran importancia para nuestra comunidad, localmente e internacionalmente.

Durante este mes de mayo celebramos diez años de igualdad con las leyes relacionadas al matrimonio. Todos/as podemos casarnos legalmente con parejas del mismo género. Ya pasaron diez años. ¡Como vuela el tiempo! Hace diez años atrás una pareja se casó en Massachusetts; estoy hablando de la primera pareja de puertorriqueñas (y líderes en Puerto Rico por la igualdad) Ada Conde e Yvonne Alvarez. Tuve el privilegio de estar allí presente al frente de las escalinatas de la

ciudad de Cambridge y observar el cariño, el amor, y la fortaleza con las que estas dos personas se dijeron "SI" una a la otra y ¡clamaron, ante los allí presente, la igualdad y su amor! Ahora están encaminando a Puerto Rico requiriéndole a la corte federal en Puerto Rico que acepte su matrimonio legalmente en Puerto Rico. Sé que si alguien lo puede lograr va hacer estas dos personas. Lo van a lograr, ¡eso sí lo sé! Va a tomar tiempo, pero ¡sí lo van a lograr! Además de ser dos personas humanistas increíbles son también madres, hermanas, activistas, espirituales, demócratas, y líderes en su clase. Ellas nos representan aquí y allá, ¡siempre cargando con orgullo la bandera de Puerto Rico!

Además de esta pareja, miles de parejas dijeron que "SI". Me incluyo en este grupo de personas. Aunque en los pasados diez años con mi pareja han habido altas y bajas, siempre estamos ahí el uno para el otro. Aunque nuestras familias digan lo que digan, estamos ahí para apoyarnos en lo bueno y malo de la vida. Aunque viajamos a través del mundo y nos sentimos incómodos, estamos ahí para apoyarnos; y si nos ocurre algo, sabemos que la justicia y leyes están ahí para nosotros. Le rindo felicidades a todos/as los/las que se han casado en los últimos diez años en el estado de Massachusetts. Gracias a los/as aboga-

dos/as que lucharon por este derecho y a las parejas que fueron los que pusieron la "cara" por todos/as. ¡Gracias y muchas felicidades! Diez años después fíjense los muchos estados que se han unido a Massachusetts.

La fecha de importancia es Mayo 17, el Día Internacional en Contra de la Homofobia. Este año más que nunca será un día importante de conmemorar en África, Rusia, Latino América y el Caribe. Menciono estos ya que en África y Rusia ha habido un alto índice de homicidios de personas LGBT por las nuevas regulaciones homofóbicas instituidas. Las personas LGBT en Uganda están tratando de escapar de la homofobia ya que los/as queman en las calles y los asesinan en sus camas. Esto es bárbaro, ¿no estamos en el 2014? En Puerto Rico, en el pasado años hubo más crímenes de odio que nunca. Lo mismo ha sucedido en otros países de Centro América, Sur América y el Caribe. Ayudemos a educar al prójimo sobre la homofobia y aunque esa persona no acepte a las personas LGBT, sólo debe de respetar la diversidad en nuestra comunidad. Este es el momento de educar al prójimo; cada interacción puede cambiar la opinión de otra persona.

Entre personas LGBT hay un alto índice de depresión, de alcoholismo y droga adicción, de bulimia y tantos otros trastornos psicológicos. Por supuesto que no es solamente por la homofobia ya que hay otros problemas en sus vidas pero la homofobia juega un rol

importante en estos diagnósticos. Las personas que se suicidan lo hacen pues ya no pueden pensar en un futuro diferente sin homofobia. Tú puedes hacer algo. Educa a los demás sobre los problemas psicológicos que la homofobia trae consigo y/o rinde apoyo a las personas LGBT para que vean que sí puede haber un futuro, un mañana sin homofobia.

Durante este mes de Mayo, pensemos que todos/as somos diferentes y que nadie es igual—que todos/as somos humanos viviendo en este mundo y que sólo queremos el respeto y la igualdad. Espero que todos/as piensen en que pueden hacer durante Mayo 17. Yo estaré en Cuba con 25 delegados/as LGBT y aliad@s representando 12 estados, Puerto Rico y Holanda, compartiendo nuestras experiencias y hablando con personas sobre la aceptación de la diversidad LGBT. Estaremos compartiendo con ellos/as videos y charlas educativas. Además participaremos en ILGA, la Jornada Cubana En Contra de la Homofobia y de actividades a través de Cuba en las municipalidades de la Habana, Santa Clara, Cienfuegos, Holguín, Bayamo y Santiago. Para más información sobre esta Jornada y campaña educativa, visite: www.cenesex.org.

*Escrito por Wilfred Labiosa, PhDc, trabajador social y activista. Puedes opinar de esta columna por nuestra página de internet www.rainbowtimesmass.com o con el columnista por Facebook.

Pregúntale a Lambda Legal – LGBTs en centros de detención

Por: Jael Humphreys/Abogada de LambdaLegal



P: Tengo una prima que fue recientemente detenida por el Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE), y ella es transgénero. Ella tiene la intención de solicitar asilo en los Estados Unidos porque teme que será perseguida si es deportada. He oído que hay nuevas reglas para proteger a las personas transgénero en los centros de detención de inmigración. ¿Cuáles son?

R: Este mes, el Departamento de Seguridad Nacional (DHS) finalmente publicó los reglamentos de la Ley para la Eliminación de Violaciones en Prisión (PERA, por sus siglas en inglés) para prevenir, detectar y responder al abuso sexual y asalto en las instalaciones de confinamiento del DHS. Lambda Legal presentó comentario sobre los reglamentos propuestos por el DHS en Febrero, diciendo que las personas LGBT detenidas son particularmente vulnerables y están en mayor riesgo de asalto sexual y abuso físico.

Muchos inmigrantes LGBT huyen de la persecución a causa de su orientación sexual o identidad de género, sólo para enfrentar el asalto sexual y el acoso en los centros de detención de inmigración en los Estados Unidos. Las personas transgénero, en particular, corren un alto riesgo de abuso. El Servicio de Investigación del Congreso informó que el 20 por ciento de las denuncias sustanciadas de abuso sexual en estas instalaciones implican a las personas transgéneras.

Las protecciones de PREA adoptadas por el Departamento de Justicia en 2012 no se extendían a las personas en los centros de detención de inmigración, a pesar de que ellos enfrentan los mismos problemas que la gente en las prisiones, cárceles y calabozos. En mayo 2012, el gobierno de Obama trató el tema de la omisión y anunció que PREA aplicará a los centros de detención de inmi-

gración del DHS, así como las instalaciones del Departamento de Justicia, una decisión crucial.

Mientras que fue un importante paso adelante, las nuevas normas del DHS no son perfectas. Ellas no prohíben la deportación a quienes denuncian los abusos, y cubren a instalaciones contratadas con DHS únicamente cuando se negocian las modificaciones de los contratos, lo que puede significar un retraso de años. Por otra parte, el reglamento en su totalidad no toma en cuenta el aborrecible mandato sobre las camas del DHS, que el ICE interpreta como un requisito de tener que mantener y llenar 34.000 camas a diario.

Aunque los reglamentos no captaron todo de lo que los defensores LGBT habían pedido, hay algunos avances positivos. Las normas en general intentan reducir la prevalencia de la violación y el asalto sexual en los centros de detención de inmigración. Con respecto a las personas detenidas transgénero, se prohíben cateos con el único propósito de determinar las características genitales y prohíben las asignaciones de vivienda basadas únicamente en los documentos de identidad o de la anatomía física, y requieren que las instalaciones consideren la auto-identificación de género y el asesoramiento de la seguridad por la persona.

Ahora queda por ver cómo el proceso de implementación se desarrollará. Para los inmigrantes LGBT, es fundamental que los nuevos reglamentos adoptados del DHS se apliquen plenamente y con prontitud.

A menudo se dice que una sociedad se puede medir por cómo trata a sus miembros más vulnerables. Las personas LGBT invisibles en un centro de detención de inmigrantes están ciertamente entre los más vulnerables. No podemos darles la espalda.

Si tienes alguna pregunta o sientes que has sido discriminado por tu identidad de género, orientación sexual, o estatus de VIH comunícate con nuestra Línea de Ayuda al 1-866-542-8336, o visita nuestra página web: www.lambdalegal.org/ayuda.

To Cook Is to Love: A Foodie's Journal; Nutrition Remains an Ever-Evolving Science

By: John Verlinden*/Special to TRT

¡MUCHO GUSTO!



PHOTO: RACHEL POWER

Some recent food and nutrition studies brought to mind that old Woody Allen movie *Sleeper*. In it, Allen plays a health food store owner who was cryogenically frozen in 1973 and is defrosted 200 years later. In one scene, the scientists treating him tell us that wheat germ and organic honey, thought to be good for us, are not, and that by 2173 they've discovered that the healthiest foods are things deep fried, steak, cream pies and hot fudge.

While we're not quite there yet, there were some surprises in recent research reports. Saturated fat in meat, butter and cheese may not be so bad for our hearts after all. Study participants who ate higher levels of saturated fat did not have more heart disease than those who ate less, and those who ate higher amounts of "healthy" unsaturated fats—olive oil or vegetable oil—did not have less disease.

Salt may not be quite as bad as previously thought. This study concluded that Americans still need to reduce their salt consumption, but we may not need to cut it in half as current guidelines suggest. In addition, beer is apparently good for us. It may help the body in several ways, including lowering LDL—the bad cholesterol—increasing the good HDL, building strong bones and even reducing the risk of kidney stones. I'll have another IPA, please.

Lastly, chocolate is even better than we

thought. Study participants who exercised and ate lots of chocolate were thinner than those who exercised, but ate less chocolate. I wonder how hard it would be to install an M&M dispenser on the treadmill?

Of course, there has been lots of "push back" on these findings. Other scientists argue that samples were too small and methodologies were flawed, but these studies once again illustrate that nutrition science continues to evolve. We're learning more all the time, but figuring out how the foods we eat impact our individual bodies remains very complex.

For now, I recommend that we accept and add these findings to our own personal nutrition knowledge bank along with a healthy dose of skepticism and stay tuned. There will be many additional studies and analyses that will attempt to duplicate, fine tune or dispute these results. In the meantime, I continue to believe that the old adage of "moderation in all things," including butter, salt, beer and chocolate, is probably still the best advice.

To share your thoughts about these or other nutrition studies, ask a question or suggest a topic for a future article, contact me at john@muchogusto.com or visit www.muchogusto.com and join our Latin food forum.

Until next time—¡Mucho Gusto!, ¡Muchas Gracias! y ¡Buen Prochecho!

¡Anúnciate en la Guía de Orgullo Latino de Boston 2014!

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EXCLUSIVE: Cameron Diaz talks about her sexuality, her new movie: *The Other Woman*

By: Chris Azzopardi/Special to TRT

Cameron Diaz is all about breaking the rules ... especially when someone else is breaking them too. Strutting into a room at the Four Seasons at Beverly Hills, the actress surveys the space and lugs an oversized sofa chair to the opposite corner where she gets comfortable, her slender legs curled behind her, heels still on.

In person, Diaz really is the sweetest thing, but don't cross her. At least not in *The Other Woman*, where the actress, along with Leslie Mann and Kate Upton, serves some nasty shenanigans to a lover she learns is secretly married. (And because you need that sassy

colleague to give you sage advice on getting even, Nicki Minaj co-stars.)

For this gay press exclusive, the actress recalls the faux lesbian action on the set of *The Other Woman*, clarifies statements she made regarding her sexuality (don't call her bisexual), and advises the ladies to "step it up a little bit."

Chris Azzopardi: Recently I was at the gay club and they played that unforgettable sing-along from *The Sweetest Thing*: "The Penis Song."

A: No way! That's so awesome.

Q: Because of its girl-power fierceness, *The Other Woman* aligns itself with *Nine to Five*, *Sex and the City* and *The First Wives Club*. Why do you think gay men in particular are so drawn to these movies?

A: These women are underdogs. In *Nine to Five* it was really about discrimination. Gays and lesbians



PHOTO: BERRY WETCHER/20TH CENTURY FOX

Cameron Diaz

know what it's like to be discriminated against, to be the underdog and to have to fight to be seen. That's something that could

be relatable. It's that feeling of beating all the odds and pushing through, and continuing to go on even though you get beat down and

you feel like you can't possibly make it through.

Q: Going back, what movie of yours do you attribute to the beginning of your gay following?

A: I don't know!

Q: How about *Being John Malkovich* from 1999?

A: Because Lotte! I mean, of course! Lotte found out who she was. She was self-realized and empowered by it, and that's what I really loved about her—her recognizing herself and honoring herself, and no matter what she just kept going until she was able to fully express herself.

Q: Actually, Lotte sounds a lot like you. In the last few years you've been expressing your own sexuality with honesty and openness, saying in interviews with *Glamour UK* and *Playboy* that just because you're sexually attracted to women doesn't mean you're a lesbian. The Kinsey Scale actually suggests that everyone is a little bisexual. Is that what you believe too?

A: What I really think is a problem is that for some reason everybody needs to label. There needs to be a label for something, and you have to qualify it with a label. If we didn't put these labels on ourselves, I think we would probably live in a much better society. We would just let people be who they are and we wouldn't have to define them.

Over the years I've known people who are male who love women, who want to be in a

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

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Are you a girl? A child's question; reflections on the journey to living as a female

By: Deja Nicole Greenlaw*/TRT Columnist

TRANS NEWS



After a coffee date with my girlfriends on a beautiful Sunday afternoon, I came home to my apartment and found the two young girls who live downstairs from me outside of our building playing with their friend. One of the young girls just started school, so she is probably five or six. Her little sister is probably three, and their friend was also about five or six. Their parents are very nice people and the rapport between us has always been good, even though we are of different cultures. They are a family from India and they have an arranged marriage. Regardless, they have always been nice to me and I to them.

As I walked to my apartment door, I passed by the young girls as they were playing. I remarked what a beautiful day it was and how it's so much fun to play in the sun. The girls just looked at me and smiled. As I was unlocking my front door to enter my apartment, one of the young girls, the friend,

asked me "Are you a girl?" I smiled at her and said in a pleasant voice, "Yes."

It's interesting to hear what children ask. Kids are often curious and have no fear of asking questions. They just want to learn. The question she asked took me by surprise and made me think. I considered it a small

characteristics. We also retain some of our old male social characteristics. All of our life experiences have mostly been from the male perspective, so it's hard to get to and learn the female perspective. It's a very challenging learning curve, if you will.

I think in some ways I have been chal-

All of our life experiences have mostly been from the male perspective, so it's hard to get to and learn the female perspective. It's a very challenging learning curve, if you will.

victory that she didn't ask if I was a boy, or if I was a boy or a girl, or even if I was a girl or a boy. She just asked me if I was a girl.

I won't lie to you. It's not easy being transgender, especially those of us trans women who came out later in life. We have had decades of testosterone production working against us and the estrogen therapy has been under 10 years, so the testosterone effect is much higher than the estrogen effect. Yes, we still retain some of our old male physical

lenged even more than most trans women. After all, I am 6 foot 3 inches. I weigh in the upper 200 pound range, am hair challenged, was given a low voice, and my testosterone has been working unobstructed for 56 years. I have physically and socially been given the male gender in life, which was so deeply embedded for over five decades into my being, but it is all quite overshadowed by the fact that I am so overjoyed at finally being able to express as female every day of my

life.

Every day I wake up and I am so glad to finally be me. I am Deja! I am female! I remember how I felt in the past before I had the nerve to be me. I was always pining to live my life as female. It was always on mind. Always.

Yes, I did have a good life as a male and yes, I totally enjoyed being a husband and a father, but I always knew that there was something else that was missing in my life. I knew exactly what it was. I felt an overwhelming need to be and to express as female. Back then I didn't know that it was even possible to do so. I just kept my feelings buried way deep down in my soul. Finally, I had the nerve to let my feelings out. Now, I am living as female and have been a female full time for over six and a half years. Even if some folks today think I am still somehow male, I don't care. I know who I am.

After I told her the little girl who asked if I was a girl "Yes," she simply went on playing with her friends.

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

Ask a Transwoman: Why I don't hate RuPaul: thoughts on the *Drag Race* controversy

By: Lorelei Erisis*/TRT Columnist



By the time you read this, I really hope that the controversy around RuPaul's use of the word "She-Male" (a term almost universally considered to be offensive by the transgender community) in his show *RuPaul's Drag Race* will have slipped out of my news feeds, along with the heated exchanges it has inspired. However, I still think it's important to address.

The thing is, I really do think that RuPaul messed up. Not only that, but he handled it very poorly.

Let me make a confession here: RuPaul, despite not being a transgender woman, was an early inspiration for me. It's easy to forget in this still very young age of YouTube and Tumblr that not so long ago it was really tough for a trans woman to find many visible inspirations. For this showbiz oriented, 6-foot-4-inch young trans woman trying to find examples to encourage her, RuPaul was a beacon. Not only was he fabulous and outspoken, but he was taller than I am and still sexy and femme-y. For me, that was huge.

Most importantly though, RuPaul introduced me to the idea that it's all drag, not just the glittering gowns drag queens wear, but all the various "costumes" that we wear in our daily lives. That idea changed my whole world. It made me think about the messages we send by our appearances and how deeply that can influence people.

Given that, I don't think RuPaul is quite as unaware of the messages he sends than he would have us think. He's clearly a sharp enough character to have been able to make himself a household name even in small town America. Even so, I was ready to give

him a pass the first couple times he said insensitive or ignorant things about the trans community. I felt it was a case of the media giving his pronouncements about us more weight than they probably should have. After all, he's made it clear enough that he is not us. He is not a trans woman. He is a drag queen, which is related perhaps, but not the same thing.

Still, for better or worse, RuPaul has a responsibility. Whether you and I like it or not, he is the leading edge into people's living

He should have acknowledged just how much more influence he holds than the average drag queen with a show at the local gay bar, but he didn't. Instead, what we've gotten are hurt feelings and raised hackles.

That said, we're not helping matters, and no one on either side of this issue has clean hands. In what world does it help things for a journalist to come out and say "I f#@ \$king hate RuPaul" in a public forum?

"Hate" never helps anything. It was the only word my grandmother would not allow

with which I want to see people I otherwise like and respect associating themselves. However, as much as I disagree with the word "hate," I do understand the strong emotions behind it. I know the frustration and pain that can drive a person to make such emotionally charged statements.

On the other side of this issue—and probably what has been adding the most fuel to the fire—is not RuPaul. It's been the people standing up for him, folks trying to tell trans women how we are supposed to feel about not just RuPaul's use of the slur "she-male," but about the slur itself, and doing so in the most belittling way possible. Let me assure you, it really doesn't help matters to tell us we are overreacting, to dismiss our strong feelings about this.

We need to learn how to disagree without calling each other names. We need to respect our differences of opinion and use love and logic instead of hate and fear. All of us, including RuPaul, need to learn how to listen, how to apologize occasionally, and realize that hate never, ever, ever does anything but breed more hate.

Slainte!

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

Hate does nothing more than breed more hate and awfulness. Nazis hated the Jews. The KKK hates Black people. Many people in the world hate gay people and trans people. They hate us, and they don't care one bit if we disagree about RuPaul using a word. They hate him too.

rooms. He is many people's first encounter with gender variance of any kind. He is visible and people listen to what he has to say, and so, by now, he really should have known better. I don't even think it was such an awful thing that he used the word "She-Male" during a segment of the show in the first place. It's hardly the worst or most offensive thing to come out of reality TV, what with all the Honey-Boo-Boos and Duck Dynasties filling our airwaves. It was a relative blip of offensiveness.

Still, it was offensive and some folks were hurt. What RuPaul needed to do was listen for a second and then address this himself.

me to use in her presence. I might not like something. I might very strongly disagree, but hate is a strong word and an even stronger emotion and not to be used lightly. Hate does nothing more than breed more hate and awfulness. Nazis hated the Jews. The KKK hates Black people. Many people in the world hate gay people and trans people. They hate us, and they don't care one bit if we disagree about RuPaul using a word. They hate him too.

That's who you're lumping yourself in with when you say you "hate" RuPaul, or anyone else for that matter. It's not a crowd with which I want to associate myself or

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Pride Season 2014 from page 3

community,” said Hope Watt-Bucci, founder and president of North Shore Pride Inc. “As such, North Shore Pride, Inc. emphasizes our organization as a vehicle for understanding, education and equality. While our annual event is a day long celebration with a Parade, Festival and After Party, the Board of North Shore Pride, Inc. hopes to provide an opportunity for our community to unite, to have open discussions, have access to education on issues particular to the LGBTQ community, and most importantly, to have an opportunity to share with their families this day of unity.”

Bucci went on to explain that this year's theme of “How do you show your North Shore Pride?” was chosen in response to feedback that people and organizations were incorrectly referring to the event as Salem Pride. Bucci said she founded North Shore Pride, Inc. in 2012 after several anti-gay hate crimes occurred in the area.

“The primary purpose of the organization is to reach those LGBTQ persons, families and allies throughout the North Shore area who may be struggling or having difficulty and need assistance or want to connect with supports and resources on the North Shore,” said Bucci. “Although the event has been held in Salem, MA to date each year, we wanted to use our theme to bring persons and families from around the North Shore together and to let everyone in the North Shore know this is your event.”

Performer applications are still under review, but will include television and recording artist Alex Newell (also performing at Boston Pride), who is perhaps best known for playing Wade “Unique” Adams on *Glee*. Newell, who is from the North Shore, will also appear at a VIP reception with fans at the After Party at Murphy's Pub.

Bucci added that North Shore Pride, Inc. will highlight the achievements of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on behalf of the LGBTQ community, including the 10th anniversary of the right for same-sex couples to marry in Massachusetts and the fact that Salem became the fifth city in the Commonwealth to include public accommodations for transgender people in their anti-discrimination ordinance. In addition, North Shore Pride, Inc. will present monetary awards to community organizations that promote the mission of North Shore Pride, Inc., and will offer more family friendly activities at this year's Festival.

For more information on North Shore Pri-

Read the rest of this story at:
<http://wp.me/p22M41-2S1>

Bruni from page 6

we will remain visible. We're here, we're queer, get used to it! I'll just add that we shouldn't forget how Boston Pride also developed out of the anti-Vietnam War movement. So our struggles and movements have been linked for almost 45 years!

Q. As president, other than putting together the annual Boston Pride celebration, what other initiatives will you undertake?

A. Boston Pride will continue to produce year-round activities, like Latin@ Pride, the Holiday Event, and our open houses. Right now, my focus is to ensure that Pride Week is the most successful it's ever been. In fact, I already have my eyes on 2015, when Boston Pride will be celebrating 45 years of bringing our community together!

Q. What is a fun fact about you that not many people know?

A. I came to the United States because I wanted to become an astronaut and go to Mars!

Q. Former president Linda DeMarco said that the Board “could not have chosen anyone more qualified” to be her successor. Having such longevity as Boston Pride's president, what did that statement mean to you? What did you learn from her during her tenure?

A. Linda's statement meant a lot to me, indeed. She's been a model and a mentor for me. Although we have vastly different personalities, we do think alike and are 99% of the time on the same page when it comes to Pride. She taught me the mechanics of the City and of the State and educated me about the history of Boston Pride as an organization. Her mentorship was invaluable; to know where to go, you have to know where you come from!

Q. You're also very involved with InterPride and in 2012 served as co-chair for the annual conference held that year. You still serve as co-chair of InterPride's communications committee. Why is being such an active member important to you personally and professionally?

A. Being an active member of the community is important to me because I believe that everyone should contribute to it. It's about participating proactively in shaping what our community is to become, without necessarily expecting to gain personally from it. I believe that I, along with my colleagues at Boston Pride, have skills that help to fulfill a necessary function in our community: organizing our annual Pride celebration and providing visibility to LGBT people. This is a very “engineering-oriented” view of my

involvement, and that's my professional bias. I won't lie, though: I immensely enjoy being involved with Boston Pride and InterPride. I get to meet a lot of wonderful people, who contribute in extraordinary ways to our communities around the world. Working with them and providing them with the tools and means to increase their visibility is a great personal satisfaction.

Beyond that, just like many folks in the community, I first felt like I was part of “a” community when I attended Pride in Paris over a decade ago. So it's only natural now that I pay this experience forward. As we say at Boston Pride, “it's always someone's first Pride”... so we need to make damn sure that it's a great one! (laughs).

Q. How has Boston Pride evolved since 2007?

A. In the period 2007-2013, Boston Pride has focused on investment and growth. We invested in infrastructure (e.g., long-term lease of office space, IT hardware and software) and in event production logistics (e.g., equipment, signage) to ensure a medium-term decrease of our operational costs. This was a necessary step to control our expenses as the size of our programming was increasing: attendance at the parade, festival and block parties has grown tremendously over the last few years; many events have been added to the Pride calendar; and our participation in human rights activities and InterPride has increased. So we have become a much bigger organization. Yet, we're still entirely run by volunteers, so we had to adapt some of our business practices.

Beyond these operational considerations, Boston Pride has taken many steps, since 2007, to reach out to all parts of the community, in order to ensure that no one feels disenfranchised. We took the responsibility to plan Latin@ Pride when the previous organizing committee folded, and we jumped in to plan Youth Pride when its organizing committee needed assistance. We've changed the way the theme and marshals are selected for Pride Week, so that the community gets to decide (through online suggestions, nominations, or votes). We've made a conscious effort to reach out to the Trans community, and to the Bi community. We've developed partnerships or working relationships with many organizations, including those representing LGBT seniors, our straight allies, and communities of faith. Ultimately, we've continued to embrace the diversity within our community, to guarantee that Pride celebrations are reflective of our community.

Q. You are very involved in the community

other than your role for Boston Pride. You currently serve on MIT's LGBT alumni group, Fenway Health's Young Leaders Council, HRC Partners and the French American Chamber of Commerce in New England's Young Professionals Committee. Who or what is your inspiration to continue the type of work you do?

A. As I mentioned earlier, I believe that everyone should contribute in one way or another to the community. So, as long as I can afford it physically and financially, I'll continue to participate in or donate to these organizations. Apart from that, I'd say that I'm a very curious person: I want to know and to discover as much as possible while I can—and being involved in community organizations (whether it is in the LGBT community or the French community) is a means to achieve that.

Q. What do you think are the most pressing issues for the LGBT community? How will Boston Pride help to eradicate these issues?

A. There are obviously many issues that are pressing, and I couldn't rank them by priority—they are all important, and all deserve our attention: combating racism and biphobia within our community, fighting for employment non-discrimination or gender identity/expression non-discrimination, assuring access to healthcare for everyone, resolving LGBT youth homelessness and bullying, supporting LGBT seniors and bridging generational divides, ensuring proper media representation of our community, etc. Our mission at Boston Pride is to guarantee that our community's issues receive attention: we are here to provide a platform to those individuals and organizations that focus on each one of these issues (and all the other ones!), so they can broadcast their message to the whole community and to the world.

Q. Complete the following sentence using some or all of the following words ... hottie, serious, twinkie, bears, youth, seniors, parties, lesbian, gay, transgender, butch, femme.

A. Boston Pride is for everyone: twinkies and bears, youths and seniors, lesbian and gay, bisexual and transgender, butch and femme... and everyone else!

Q. What is your biggest hope for Pride 2014?

A. No rain...Shoot, I just said the “r-word!” On a more serious note, I hope that people download our app—it's free—and visit our...

Read the rest of this story at:
<http://wp.me/p22M41-2S4>

it could be partner abuse

617.742.4911 (v)

- bilingual hotline
- emergency shelter
- support group

The Network/La Red:
Ending partner abuse in LGBTQ, polyamorous and SM communities

617.227.4911 (tty)

- 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

Letters to the Editor from page 2

myth that sexual predators will exploit transgender non-discrimination laws to sneak into women's restrooms, calling the myth baseless and “beyond specious.” Please see this: <http://tiny.cc/w9vxex>.

—Janet Logan, Online

Dear Editor,
[Re: GLAD Urges 1st Circuit to Affirm Medically Necessary Care for Transgender Prisoner] This is good news. The state has dragged this case on for way too long, and they are wrong in withholding medically necessary treatment.

—Nuala Shields, Online

Dear Editor,

[Re: A Bathroom Issue? Considering the Options for Transgender People in Restrooms] Cool article with some **good talking points and counter arguments!** Thank you.

FYI: I used to use the term “transwoman” like you do. However, that implies that a “transwoman” is different than a “woman”. In the future, you might consider adding a space between “trans” (or “transgender”) and “woman” — just like there would be a space between “cisgender woman” or “Caucasian woman” or “young woman” or “old woman”. Running the two words together creates something that is not a woman and serves to differentiate and isolate us from cisgender women, which I presume is not your intent.

—Gwenyth Trip, Online

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THIS ONE IS GOING TO BE **HUGE**

The world is coming together for a Pride to remember: provocative art, celebrated film and fierce divas, DJs and rockers spanning over 25 city blocks. An entire city embracing who you are.

Join us for a global celebration of LGBTQ culture. Streets will turn into parades, parks into parties and strangers into friends.

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