

# The Rainbow Times

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

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INGRAHAM  
SHOWS YOU  
HOW...**

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PHOTO: JIM MORGRAGE



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## TRT Endorsements for Massachusetts Mayoral Candidates

By: Nicole Lashomb/TRT Editor-in-Chief

**OPINION** In a matter of a few days, the municipal elections will take place in Massachusetts. Not only is it important to vote, but to also be an informed constituent of who you want to represent you. Many people are often swayed by what others say or think instead of doing the research for themselves. I freely admit that I have been guilty of such irresponsible voting in the past. After the fact, I've learned that not only did I vote for a candidate that was opposed to certain fundamental values I hold; there was nothing I could do at that point to change my vote. It had been cast. Through this lesson, as much as I love my family and friends and value their opinions, I've learned to do the research myself.

In Massachusetts, we are fortunate enough to have candidates that are often supportive of the gay community. This year is no different. Mayoral elections for Northampton and Holyoke are particularly important this year. For Northampton, Michael Bardsley takes on David Narkewicz and Alex Morse takes on incumbent Elaine Pluta. Bardsley and Morse are not only gay inclusive and friendly, these two candidates are openly gay men alike. Although Narkewicz is not gay, his candidacy represents one of great commitment to the LGBT community, similar to Bardsley and Morse. I am confident that all of these candidates will work for the betterment of the LGBT community alike. However, after a great deal of deliberation, The Rainbow Times proudly endorses Michael Bardsley and Alex Morse.

This decision was not taken lightly. In Northampton, it came down to extensive experience in several different sectors of city government as well as a lifetime proven record for dedication to the working class and the LGBT community from an insider's view—a gay man's view. We were particularly touched by his words, spoken and via his site. His humble nature may prove to be central to understanding the changing Northampton population (racially and ethnically). A teacher himself, Bardsley understands first-hand the problems arising from a failed educational system. Understanding such a system is crucial to the betterment and sustainability of a strong educational structure, preparing better leaders and competing in a world where others are capitalizing where the U.S. once was doing it. We believe Michael Bardsley is that choice.

For Holyoke, Morse is the robust candidate who exudes change to better a city that has fallen victim to the status quo. His passion for all Holyoke citizens and the betterment of its members is something that Morse has seen first-hand too—he is a native of Holyoke. His degree in urban development from Brown University undoubtedly will assist him in fulfilling his duties as the Mayor of Holyoke. A fresh face to politics is just what this city needs to effectively create necessary change, we believe.

Regardless of whom your choice is this year, I urge you to inform yourselves about all municipal candidates that you are responsible for voting into office. Carefully examine the reasons why you are choosing them and educate yourself about their track record. Only then will you have the answers to what is right for you.

*Nicole Lashomb*

\*Nicole Lashomb is a seasoned journalist and graphic designer. She holds an MBA from Marylhurst University and a Bachelor's degree from SUNY Potsdam. To send a letter to the editor, email editor@therainbowtimesmass.com.

## And the Award(s) go to...

By: Jenn Tracz Grace\*/CABO's Executive Director

On October 18th CABO held its 4th anniversary celebration, business expo and awards event. First, we thank everyone who joined us. We had a great turnout and for the 4th year in a row Connecticut Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman was our guest of honor.



Jenn Tracz Grace

The anniversary event was so much more this year as we introduced our first annual awards ceremony. We honored three stellar individuals in three key areas; a corporate leader, a business pioneer and a community champion.

The Corporate Leader Award presented by Loughlin Fitzgerald was awarded to Steve Heise of Foxwoods Resort Casino. He is the Vice President of Human Resources who is truly committed to the advancement of LGBT employees and individuals within the organization. It was under Steve's guidance and direction that transgender identity and expression was added to Foxwoods employee non-discrimination policies in 2010.

The Business Pioneer Award presented by We Care Computers was awarded to Kristin Andree of Andree Media & Consulting. Kristin has been a proponent of LGBT inclusion for many years as a straight ally to our organization. Kristin was one of CABO's first members going back to early 2008. She is a symbol of creating equality in the workplace.

See And the Award(s) go to on page 22

## Thinking Out Loud: Am I post-gay yet? Or am I just overcompensating for old gay stereotypes?

By: Abby Dees\*/Special for TRT

Have you become complacent about being gay? I have. As LGBT rights evolve, and LGBT life becomes more normalized to mainstream America, some of us have the good fortune to be blasé about being gay. It's a normal response to progress, but there might be something else going on as well: overcompensation.



Abby Dees

I live in a liberal neighborhood in Los Angeles, and except when I have a deadline for one of these columns looming, I do not think about being a lesbian. At no point in my day do I stop and think, "Oh, wait, I'm a lesbian — what's our special gay laundry technique again? Despite what my straight guy friends hope, when I kiss my partner at the end of the workday, I do not think, "Let's have a hot lesbian kiss now before we make dinner." My lesbian life is boring, maybe even a let down. This is probably as it should be.

By contrast, though, many of my straight friends (who I don't mean to keep maligning, really) think that I'm all-gay-all-the-time and perhaps oversensitive to the subject. I've written a book about communicating with your LGBT loved one, I've got this here column, and I am prone to screaming in a tic-like fashion at the TV when sweet-faced TV preachers say that God loves all his children, but probably loves straight people a little more. I get how this looks to my friends.

But I don't really put that much energy out in a specifically gay-ish fashion. In fact, I probably babble on way more about a greater passion in my

See Thinking Out Loud on page 22

## The Occupy movement could grow even stronger by joining other local activist groups

By: Jason Lydon/TRT Columnist

Mike Konczal, a fellow with the Roosevelt Institute who focuses on financial reform, structural unemployment, consumer access to financial services, and inequality recently wrote, "As people think a bit more critically about what it means to 'occupy' contested spaces that blur the public and the private and the boundaries between the 99 percent and the 1 percent, and as they also think through what Occupy Wall Street might do next, I would humbly suggest they check out the activism model of 'Project: no one leaves.'"

The No One Leaves Project is an anti-foreclosure movement in Western Massachusetts. The protesters root their work from a model developed by City Live/Vida Urbana, a similar grassroots organization in Boston known as the Sword and the Shield. Using this model, the No One Leaves organizers encourage residents to both stay in their post-foreclosure homes, using community-based blockades and vigils to keep people in their homes. The movement also keeps tenants informed about all of their legal rights to fight to protect their access to their homes.

The Occupy movement currently underway is exciting, complicated, and essential. There are Occupy gatherings in over 1,500 cities worldwide, including at least seven in Massachusetts and dozens more throughout New England. And the movement is growing stronger. Police forces throughout the United States have arrested nearly 2,000 peaceful protesters who are part of these encampments and marches. It's clear that

something is happening and people who weren't paying attention before are beginning to pay attention now.

Those of us on the ground at Occupy Boston are beginning to think about what we should do next. Some are preparing to bring in exorbitant amounts of hay to keep everything warm while others are considering beginning to occupy foreclosed homes, precisely what Konczal is suggesting. Not only will occupying foreclosed homes be warmer, it is a direct challenge to the idea that the bank has any right to take them in the first place.

Occupy Boston began the same weekend organizations from around the country came to the city for the Right to the City Coalition. This incredible congregation of poor people's organizations and organizations based in communities of color brought a shared analysis of economic, racial and gender inequality to Boston's attention. Through their shared power they targeted Hyatt, Verizon, and most especially, Bank of America.

The foreclosure rates remain high in this country, with one happening every 13 seconds, or 6,500 per day. The Bank of America who sponsors pride marches all around the country is the same bank that evicts low-income people, pri-

See The Occupy Movement on page 22

## The Rainbow Times

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## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I will have to admit that I was, for many months, very upset with Pres. Obama's lack of work with the GLBT community too. Although angered at the time, I still noticed that he moved more towards fulfilling some of those promises he made. Hopefully, he is not doing so to get re-elected. However, you (Ms. Lashomb) are right to point that he has done more for our cause than any other president before him and definitely more than any GOD presidential candidate. At first, my vote was not going to go with Obama, but reflecting in the words that you wrote and the other information online, I think I will. By the GOP candidates and voters booing the gay soldier, they sent us the stronger message ever: "We don't care about gay people. You are not a priority no matter what you do for our country. If LGBT kids are dying, it's not important either—someone may be booing or cheering their death from a distance, when they read the news or watch it on TV." After all, if these politicians don't even say anything about doing something to stop bullying (which is what happened with this gay soldier, it was just done to an adult this time), then why should we even care to listen to their garbage-filled souls? I, like you, will vote for Pres. Obama too. He may not be able to go out there and say "I support gay marriage" because let's face it, if he did, he'd lose the election. But, he cares more than any other U.S. President that I've voted for and I am an Independent voter. I hope others are listening too because the few steps that we've moved forward can be easily taken away if the GOP wins again.

-- Charles Livingston, Cambridge, MA

Dear Editor of the Rainbow Times,

First and foremost I want to say congratulations on all of the success of TRT! It truly means a lot to open your publication and see

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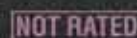
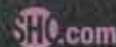


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## Faith, Family, and God -- Was Apostle Paul Gay?

By: Paul P. Jesepe\*/TRT Columnist

There's been much and growing speculation in recent years about Apostle Paul's sexuality. Long identified -- incorrectly -- for wanting to ban women from the priesthood, it's debated that when Paul lamented about an ailment he was talking about being gay. It's a theory fueled in a growing number of books and articles very light on research.

Although it doesn't matter what his sexuality might be, there is no biblical or historical evidence to even hint that Apostle Paul was gay. He did complain about a personal struggle, but it's impossible to determine what he meant. There is not enough information available. There is some circumstantial evidence that suggests he had a speech impediment and didn't like public speaking. Yet even that's speculative.

There's another myth about Paul. He was hostile to women and didn't want them to be leaders in the church. Paul wrote tailored letters about specific problems in certain places.

In one case, he wrote that women should be quiet in church. There are several ways that this can be credibly interpreted. One involves that women must be quiet if their heads are not covered. (Keeping the head covered is a sign of reverence.) Another is that if a woman is going to be a church leader she must work it out with her husband since the family was dependent on her contributions for its survival. The apostle also may have been directing his annoyance in one of his letters to a small group of women who were often very disruptive. These individuals needed to be silent during services.

There are five instances in which Paul acknowledges the role and importance of female leadership in the church. He identified these women as playing a key role in promoting Christ's gospel to love God and unconditionally love one another as Jesus loved them.

In Romans 16:1-2 (Chapter 16, Verses 1 through 2) a woman named Phoebe served as deaconess in the church in Cenchrea. Paul respectfully mentions Priscilla and her husband Aquila (Acts 18:2 & 26; Romans 16:3, and I Corinthians 16:19) as first-rate co-pastors in Ephesus. He calls Euodia and Syntyche (Philippians 4:2-3) "true yokefellow" for their faithful work alongside him in advancing the gospel. He also identifies Junia (Romans 16:7) as someone who shared similar pastoral burdens.

Remember, just because someone says something and it's frequently repeated doesn't make it true. Do your own investigating. Most important be intellectually honest with the material and yourself. Women do have a biblically sanctioned role as pastors in the church supported by Apostle Paul. Wanting to believe he was gay, however, is wishful thinking or poor research.

Regardless of your depth of faith or religious tradition -- Jew, Baha'i, Muslim, Wiccan, Mormon, Buddhist, atheist, agnostic, humanist, Christian, or other -- Apostle Paul shared some beautiful thoughts about love worth reflecting over:

*Though I speak with the tongues of ... angels, but have not love I have become ... a clanging cymbal ... And though I ... understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.*

*And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor ... but have not love, it profits me nothing.*

See Faith, Family, and God on page 22

## Creep of the Week: The infamous Linda Harvey (Mission America) on gay pediatrician's care of children

By: D'Anne Witkowski\*/Special for TRT

Your son just fell off the monkey bars, shattering a kneecap and busting out some teeth. Your kid is screaming in pain, blood all over his face, and you're trying to calm them down on the ambulance ride to the hospital saying, "It's okay, you're going to be okay," while trying to keep terror out of your voice. When you get to the hospital your son is whisked away on a stretcher to be seen by an ER doctor.

Sounds like a nightmare, doesn't it? No, not the your-child-getting-seriously-injured thing. I mean, come on, accidents happen and in this fictitious scenario he's going to be sore and on crutches for a little while and looking like a Jack-o-lantern until his front adult teeth come in, but fine. No, the nightmare is the fact that the paramedics, x-ray technicians, nurses, and doctors who cared for your son could be "known homosexuals."

A terrifying thought.

Granted, a health care provider's sexual orientation probably isn't the first thing on a parent's mind when their child is sick or injured. Thankfully, Linda Harvey of Mission America reminds us what's important when it comes to child health and welfare.

On her Oct. 18 radio show Harvey warned parents about the dangers of gay and lesbian care takers. "How do you feel about open homosexuals tending to your child in a health care setting? Do you think these folks provide good role modeling at a time when your child is very vulnerable?" she asks, adding that her concern stems from the gay and lesbian employee group at Children's Hospital in Columbus.

Harvey was stunned to learn that the group had done some scandalous things. According to Harvey, "they participated in last June's gay pride parade (and) in a health expo on adolescent health this summer and that they're concerned about same-sex partner benefits. They're also planning to be identified with rainbow lapel pins."

That's right: rainbow lapel pins, which means "open homosexuals."

"Let's say your eleven year-old has broken her leg rather badly and needs to be in the hospital a few days, which would you prefer: a nurse who's proud of her lesbianism, who has rainbow identifiers on her work clothing, or a nurse

who does not?" Harvey asks, knowing that any sane and loving parent would rather take their chances at home with some pliers and duct tape than subject their child to a lesbianism-flaunting nurse.

Harvey continues, "If you want your children to admire people who proclaim a homosexual lifestyle, they're involvement with your child during a hospital stay is sure to be an influence."

That's right, parents. One day you're telling little Billy how dangerous and sinister homosexuals are and the next day he's in traction and a nice lesbian is bringing him Popsicles and a gay doctor is responsible for the fact that he'll walk again. That's just not fair to Billy. Better that he never know kind, helpful, professional gay people exist at all.

Not that Harvey is trying to denigrate gay and lesbian health professionals. "Let me be clear that folks involved in these behaviors can be certainly competent workers," she says, "but they are tacking onto their workplace identity one that is highly offensive to many people and can be erroneously influential to children who won't, or shouldn't, see the whole picture of how this behavior really manifests itself."

Got it? If the lesbian nurse could just, say, show the child a video of herself having lesbian sex and going to hell then children would get the full perspective. But Harvey

would object to that, too.

Harvey's advice to parents? "You may want to consider writing a letter that you file with your pediatrician that should your child ever be hospitalized, you do not want your child to be treated or cared for by (gay employees) except in the case of an emergency situation," she says.

If Harvey were really serious she'd drop the "emergency situation" exception. But then again, no decent parent could stand to watch a child suffer or let a child die in the name of shielding him or her from nefarious homosexual influence. And no decent doctor or nurse of any sexual orientation is going to let a child suffer or die just because he or she has anti-gay nuts for parents.

\*D'Anne Witkowski has been gay for pay since 2003. She's a freelance writer and poet (believe it!). When she's not taking on the creeps of the world she reviews rock 'n' roll shows in Detroit with her twin sister.

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# Massachusetts is ahead of the curve in HIV infection-rate reductions, but there's still a lot of work to be done

IN THE LIMELIGHT

By: Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter

Thirteen leading U.S. organizations in the fight against HIV/AIDS have called on the Food and Drug Administration and Gilead Sciences to approve pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, for HIV prevention among gay and bisexual men, also referred to as men who have sex with men (MSM), and transgender women.

In an Oct. 18 letter, the not-for-profit organizations and coalitions — including Fenway Health and the AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts — urged the FDA and Gilead to approve antiretroviral drugs for prevention now for MSM and transgender women and not wait until the drug regimen's safety and effectiveness for (heterosexual) women is assessed.

"Critical and necessary efforts to understand how PrEP interacts with hormonal contraception, or how PrEP may impact pregnancy ... should not delay access to a potentially lifesaving form of HIV for MSM," the letter states.

Antiretroviral medication in the form of a pill, marketed by Gilead as Truvada, has been shown to be effective in treatment of HIV.

More important, recent trials have shown that antiretroviral drugs, along with behavioral intervention strategies, hold the potential to prevent new HIV infections — reducing the risk of infection as much as 42 percent among transgender women and MSM.

"This has great potential to be a game changer in the fight against AIDS for gay men," said Sean Cahill, Ph.D., the newly appointed director of Health Policy Research at The Fenway Institute.

"If we have an intervention that could poten-

tially bring down new infections, why would we not want to do that?" said John Gatto, senior vice president of Programs at the AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts.

"Truvada has already been proven to bring down new infections among gay and bisexual men while its efficacy among heterosexuals is unclear," he said, adding, "We don't want to wait any longer when we could prevent new infections among the highest at risk, the highest-prevalence population while more study is done on others."

During telephone interviews, both Cahill and Gatto voiced a note of urgency. They pointed to data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, which estimates that MSM account for more than half of all new infections nationwide, about 50,000 annually, with the overall rate of HIV infections remaining level for recent years.

But, in 2009, the last year of available data collection, an estimated 64 percent of all new HIV infections were in MSM, primarily because of unprotected anal intercourse, said Cahill, even though they are estimated at only 2 percent of the population, he said.

"Gay and bisexual men continue to bear a disproportionate burden of HIV," Cahill said, "especially black and Latino gay men. We need to try new approaches that complement what we already know works."

Worse yet, the HIV risk for MSM is growing. For example, between 2006 and 2009, CDC estimates found a 34 percent increase in HIV infections in young MSM and an even higher increase — 48 percent — in young African American MSM over the same time period.

What accounts for the continuing problem of HIV/AIDS infection within the gay community is an open question.

But the baby boom generation of gay men,

"who lived through the early stages of the epidemic and saw our friends die, understand HIV/AIDS as a public health crisis," said Gatto. "Now, younger populations who don't have that experience don't relate to this as a public health crisis in the same way," he said.

"Substance abuse remains a problem in the gay community, and that contributes to risk behaviors," Gatto added.

"The broader picture," said Cahill, "is there are way too many STDs in the US, almost 20 million every year. Half are occurring among young people ages 15 to 24."

"We do a bad job of promoting sexual health in this country," Cahill said. "We are not teaching sex education in the schools, not providing people the information they need to keep safe."

Nonetheless, new HIV infections are down in Massachusetts. Why is that?

AIDS Action Committee's Gatto pointed to several contributing factors. One is that state lawmakers passed legislation granting a Medicaid waiver, which enables people with an HIV-positive status access to treatment. In other states, only those with AIDS diagnoses are eligible.

"The sooner people are in treatment, the less likely they are to transmit the virus to others when in a situation [where transmission is possible]," Gatto said. "Getting people into treatment helps bring down the infection rate because there is less virus in the system and [therefore] less likely to be transmitted."

Another factor, he said, is the state's 2006 health care reform, which while not guaranteeing access to treatment has increased enrollment in health insurance and health care.

Yet another factor, Massachusetts does not have a waiting list for the HIV Drug Assistance Program, unlike in other states where newly di-

agnosed people do not necessarily have access to treatment right away, Gatto said.

Additionally, the state has good behavioral-intervention strategies, including HIV testing, needle exchange and syringe access.

"There are studies that show once people know their HIV status, they are less likely to engage in risky behavior," said Gatto. "The more people who get tested, the less likely they may transmit the virus to others," he explained.

In another risk-reduction measure, lawmakers passed legislation in 2006 that permitted syringe access through any pharmacy and without a prescription. Previously, injection drug users had to rely on one of the four needle-exchange locations in the state.

Other targeted behavioral intervention programs, including social support wraparounds for MSM, transgender persons, and homeless youth, may also account for reduced HIV-infection rates in Massachusetts.

Altogether, "Targeted behavioral interventions are evidence based and proven to be effective," said Gatto. "Massachusetts is ahead of the curve when you look at HIV/AIDS nationally."

Indeed, the state is the only one in the country to see dramatic reductions in new diagnoses of HIV. Over the last decade, the state has cut new diagnoses of HIV by 59 percent, which will save the state more than \$1.6 billion in health care costs.

Over the same period, thanks to better health outcomes, the number of people living with HIV in the state has risen by 42 percent.

Will continued cuts in state and federal funding for the demonstrably effective HIV education and outreach put these gains at risk? Time will tell.

Meanwhile, experts like Gatto and Cahill are calling on the federal government to use every tool available to reduce new infections.

## Stand up for LOVE

**FACT: 63% of all HIV/AIDS cases in the US are in gay and bisexual men and infection rates are rising among men who have sex with men.**

Fenway Health is seeking HIV-negative men who have sex with men to participate in a vaccine trial to determine the safety and effectiveness of an investigational HIV vaccine.

We are seeking volunteers: HIV-negative men, ages 18–50, who have been a top or bottom in the past 6 months. Volunteers receive compensation for their time and travel expenses, as well as confidential HIV counseling and testing.

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THE FENWAY  
**II**  
INSTITUTE



# Northampton's Mayoral debate for the LGBT community offered important insights from each candidate, trans rights and domestic violence as key issues for the community

By: Tynan Power/TRT Reporter

David J. Narkewicz and Michael J. Bardsley squared off in a debate specifically for the LGBT community and its allies, amid the season's first snowstorm on October 29th. The event, held at The State Room in The Center (35 State St., Northampton), was organized by Bet Power, Executive Director and Curator of the Sexual Minorities Archives, and Jean Seavere, one of the co-founders of Out Books on Wheels. Around 40 members of the LGBTQ and allied community gathered to hear the two candidates talk about social justice and civil rights, especially as it pertains to the LGBTQ community, and to pose questions that might not be raised in a general debate.

"This forum on social justice and civil rights

is very appropriate for Northampton which has a long progressive history," said Narkewicz, who is currently serving as Northampton's Acting Mayor. He cited many examples from the city's history, including its involvement in the Underground Railroad and such notable activists as Sojourner Truth and currently Frances Crowe, who he said "leads by example."

"Even in just the past two weeks," he said, "the Transgender Civil Rights March, Occupy Northampton, Slut Walk Northampton, and Stand Up for Tibet have shown that the spirit of activism is alive in Northampton."

"I can never know what it's like to live an LGBT life," the heterosexual Narkewicz said, "but I know exactly what it's like to be a straight ally."

**"... You do have rights," Bardsley told a trans woman. 'The problem is that other people don't recognize that. That's what we need to change.'"**



PHOTO: TYNAN POWER

Northampton Mayoral Candidates' David Narkewicz, left, and Michael Bardsley before the debate.

Bardsley, a gay man who has been a visible figure in the LGBT community for many years, began with a recollection of a gathering of LGBT and allied people in 1995, after voters repealed the city's non-discrimination ordinance.

"We were united because we felt we had a common enemy and our rights had been at

To read the rest of this story online, visit: <http://bit.ly/sI4Yks>

## Suicide-prevention conference draws attention to LGBTQ suicide risks

By: Tynan Power/TRT Reporter

It is generally accepted that suicide rates in the LGBTQ community are especially high.

Yet, there are no official statistics to back that up, according to Dr. Ann Haas, a medical sociologist with the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention. However, she says, that doesn't mean it's not true.

"It's important to understand there is no official set of data," Haas told an audience of professionals gathered for a conference on suicide prevention held at The Log Cabin Banquet and Meeting-house in Holyoke last month. "We just don't have any information about suicide rates."

She explained that the lack of data is a result of U.S. death certificates' not including sexual orientation or gender-identity information. In some cases, it might not even be possible to get accurate information from survivors. Young people, for example, might not have come out.

What is known about LGBTQ suicide risk comes from other kinds of statistics. Haas cited a 2009 study that showed that men in same-sex domestic partnerships were eight times more likely to die from suicide than men in heterosexual marriages, and twice as likely as men who had never been married or partnered. She called these results "startling."

Another study of lesbians and gay men revealed that gay men were four times more likely than

straight men to have attempted suicide; lesbians were twice as likely as heterosexual women to have made an attempt. Lesbian and gay male youth report three times more attempts -- and those attempts are four times more likely to be considered "medically serious" -- than their straight peers.

Statistics for transgender people are even more rare, and more startling.

Haas provided data from the 2009 National Transgender Discrimination Survey, which showed that 41 percent of transgender people reported making a suicide attempt, but it's not clear when those attempts took place.

"The lack of age-related data on lifetime attempts is a problem," Haas said, explaining that it's not

clear if the risk is higher in youth than in adults and, if so, by how much.

"We certainly pay more attention to LGBT youth than we do to LGBT adults," she said. "As a result, in the popular mind, this seems like a youth problem."

One thing is clear about youth risk in general: "Youth attempt suicide more," said Haas, "but they don't succeed more."

"A suicide attempt is a risk factor but not a strong predictor of completed suicide," Haas continued. Fewer than 10 percent of people admitted to the hospital after a suicide attempt actually die from suicide in the next 10 years.

Haas also noted that it is significant that there is an increased risk of depression and other mental disorders, including substance abuse, among LGBT people. These, in turn, become risk factors for suicide.

In the NESARC survey in 2010, there was a clear correlation between increased rates of mental disorders and a combination of lesbian, gay or bisexual identity, behavior and attraction. Men who reported only same-sex behavior or attraction, but not identity, had higher rates of mental disorders than men with only heterosexual experiences and attraction. On the other hand, women who reported same-sex behavior or attraction, but not lesbian identity, had lower rates of mental disorders than their counterparts who reported only heterosexual activity or attraction.

The NESARC survey and the National Transgender Discrimination Survey were significant, according to Haas, because they underscore the dangers of lumping different demographic groups together, as can happen in research on LGBT populations.

"We don't have consistent definitions of terms," Haas noted. She explained that behavior is often used as the defining criteria because it is the criteria used in the health care model of risk, as with data regarding men who have sex with men, where identity is less relevant.

"Identity may be the strongest predictor [of suicide risk], especially with regard to mental disorders," Haas said.

Bullying, also, can lead to risk factors of suicide such as depression, anxiety and substance abuse. Yet, according to Haas, bullying alone does not appear to statistically increase risk of suicide in a significant way.

Another major factor Haas cited was access to health insurance, with 22 percent of LGBT people lacking health insurance versus half that number among heterosexual, cisgender individuals.

"If you look at health insurance access and the

See Suicide-prevention conference on page 13

## The Hispanic Black Gay Coalition welcomes over 90 LGBTQ youth of color to First Annual Youth Empowerment Conference

BOSTON, Mass. -- In October, the Hispanic Black Gay Coalition (HBGC) in partnership with Greater Boston Parents for Lesbian and Gays (PFLAG) hosted their first annual LGBTQ Youth Empowerment Conference. The conference, held at Epiphany School in Dorchester, was designed and held for LGBTQ youth and allies of color under 21. Over 90 youth of color participated in the day, including students who travelled from Holyoke and Worcester to partake in an event filled with community building and leadership development opportunities.

"As a teacher at Chelsea High School, I thought this conference was great because kids now have an outlet and get to see different role models that I know I didn't see growing up. It's a big deal as a queer person of color to be able to have adults you can look up to and know that there is a future and it's not as scary as it seems when you're first coming out as a young person," said Patricia Arevalo, one of the day's volunteers.

The conference started with a passionate keynote address from Dr. Ravi K. Perry. Dr. Perry made national headlines earlier this year when he was selected the first openly gay President of a local NAACP chapter at the age of 28. Encouraging youth to never give up and to not let others define them, he shared "I knew my orientation to love was not about seeking validation, but affirmation... I empowered myself to be myself no matter who initially supported me. That passion and attitude of the heart... is what made me who I am today."

Throughout the day, youth attended a series of workshops that empowered them in a variety of areas including health and wellness, advocacy, college prep and success, and leadership. Most workshops were led by youth of color in partnership with lo-

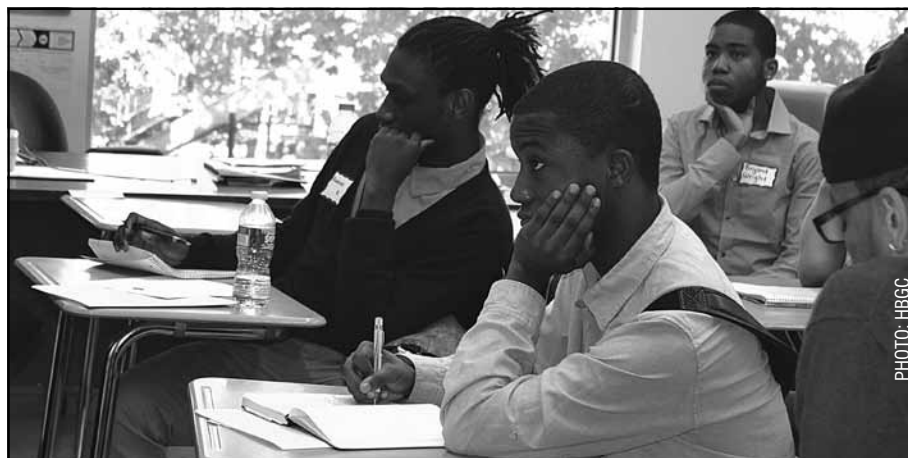


PHOTO: HBGC

Youth take notes during a morning session on HIV 101 and Risk Reduction

cal agencies, such as MassEquality, Fenway Health, The Theater Offensive, and Renewal House. Many of the workshops offered tangible next steps for students to stay involved as advocates and leaders.

"I loved, loved, and loved the Healthy Relationships workshop, but my favorite workshop today was the one on learning how to pick the right college. I'm in that process right now so that was really helpful to see which schools would be affirming to me as a person of color and as a member of the LGBT community," said conference participant Al-lain Cherenfant.

The day was also filled with a resource fair featuring 15 agencies invested in LGBTQ youth of color and concluded with youth reflections on how the

conference has impacted their ability to serve and lead their community.

"This was an amazing day for HBGC and our community," said Corey Yarbrough, Executive Director of HBGC. "To have such a huge turnout shows that we truly do have a community of LGBTQ youth of color invested in their future and ready to do their part to make a difference in the world. We look forward to hosting an even larger conference next year."

The Hispanic Black Gay Coalition (HBGC) works to inspire and empower Hispanic/Latino and Black LGBTQ individuals to improve their livelihood through activism, education, outreach and counseling. Learn more at [www.hbgc-boston.org](http://www.hbgc-boston.org).



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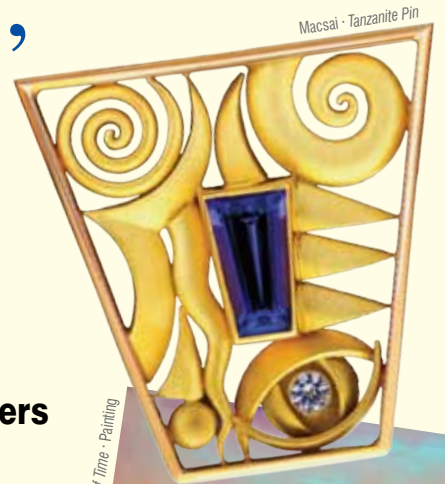
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# Cyndi Shines: After all these years, singer/activist isn't so unusual – she's just human

By: **Chris Azzopardi**/Special for TRT

Twenty-five years ago, Cyndi Lauper's "True Colors" shined through – on the radio, and in the hearts of so many. It was in the midst of the horrifying AIDS epidemic when she lost her dear gay friend, came across the song, and made it into a hit that comforted millions.

"I was very much in mourning," the 58-year-old icon recalls of the chart-topper, the title track from her 1986 album, in our recent chat. "I was sad and I wanted to be able to do something. He wanted me to sing a song for him, and I had written one ("Boy Blue"). That didn't work out too good, because I wrote about my feelings – which were big."

But "True Colors," originally written by Billy Steinberg and Tom Kelly for Anne Murray, spoke to her. Years later, it's not just a song; it's an anthem for everything that Lauper – a selfless, admirable activist for the community – stands for. As part of her True Colors Fund, she launched a project last year, the Give a Damn Campaign, to create awareness of LGBT discrimination with the help of high-profile celebrities, many of them heterosexual.

"In any civil rights movement, you need everybody," Lauper says with heartfelt indignation. "That's how you win. You need your straight allies."

She had them on the tour, also named after the song, which ran for two years and featured Debbie Harry, Margaret Cho, The B-52s and Erasure. Now, Lauper's showing her support with a shelter, recently opened in Central Harlem, to offer supportive housing for LGBT youth without any place to go, who may have been thrown out of their own homes. A mother herself, Lauper can't fathom a parent disowning their child.

"Parental love should be unconditional," she says. "Love your kid for who they are or who they aren't. The parent/child bond should never be broken."

But if it is, they have a place that loves them: the

True Colors Residence. Lauper's quick not to take all the credit, though; she names off a list of important key players who made this – a six-story, 30-bed facility, the first permanent establishment of its kind in New York – happen. Her manager, Lisa Barbaris, is one of them, along with the West End Intergenerational Residence, a non-profit focused on providing housing for homeless families and the elderly.

"I was the famous person there, but a lot of people did a lot of work," she says of the shelter's official opening in September. "I was just the one who cut the ribbon. It's an interesting project because it's a low-income housing project, which makes it work on so many other levels. It's kind of fabulous."

Same could be said for Lauper's career, officially launching in the early '80s – during an out-of-control house party that had the singer persuading her parents to whoop it up, all for a little single called "Girls Just Want to Have Fun" off her 1983 debut *She's So Unusual* – as the New Yorker shot to superstardom instantly with funky-punky sunburst hair (one of many colors we'd see throughout the decade) and her outrageous fashion sense. She, like Madonna, was Gaga before Gaga existed. Lauper had the eccentricity, and she certainly had the hits.

There was the sweet charm of got-your-back ballad "Time After Time," a song still in heavy rotation nearly 30 years later. "A magical time," she calls it now. "She Bop" blasted myths of masturbation, promoting it as something just as routine as brushing your teeth. The video – and "all my friends and family that showed up in the video with me" – is what she remembers most.

There was also "We Are the World," the all-star charity single – a monster one, at that – featuring Michael Jackson, Diana Ross and Lauper. Her fondest memory: "That I walked in with almost the same jacket that Michael had on, and I changed it really quick. But I was upset anyway because I had the

flakes in my hair, because I was doing that performance-art piece for the American Music Awards and didn't have time to clean up. I was having a moment."

In the next three decades, Lauper would have many more moments. She would win Grammys. Have a son. Sing to a disgruntled group of flyers at an airline terminal. Flub the "Star-Spangled Banner," and gracefully recover from it, as she did recently before the US Open just this past September.

Looking back, what would she have told her younger, more "unusual" self? "I know I said all the wrong things to the right people," she laughs, "but probably not listen all the time to everything everybody told me. That there was a bigger world out there."

A world she's still happy to be a part of. "I've been told, 'No, it'll never work.' It's always the same. But I'm still working."

Something she was told she could never do – by Sony, her label at the time – was the blues. She sure showed them. "To Memphis, With Love" is Lauper's latest release, a live CD/DVD combo that captures one night of her most recent, and one of the more extensive, tours in her career. The songs performed are off last year's "Memphis Blues," her baby she'd been working toward her whole career. Her 11th studio album, the project scored the top spot of the Billboard Blues Chart for 14 consecutive weeks.

"It's the spirit of the blues that propels you into an otherworldly state," she says. "Basically, that's what you would hope for from music."

While editing the docu-style DVD, filmed at The Warehouse in Memphis and featuring special guests Jonny Lang and Tracy Nelson, Lauper had to do the unthinkable for anyone who can't stand mirrors: look at herself for hours on end.

"Once you get over the fact that you thought you looked different but this is what you really look like, it's fine," Lauper laughs. "It's always that way. You can't ever take yourself seriously."



PHOTO: ELLEN VON UNWERTH

Cyndi Lauper

Next up for Lauper? New original music, which she's currently working on; writing for the Broadway show "Kinky Boots"; and a memoir that's still in the early stages. A reality show, set to air early next year, is also in the works.

Lauper's also determined to get the True Colors Tour, on hold because of the economy, back off the ground.

"It's going to take a minute to figure out how to do it right but I'll get it back," she says. "I always wanted it to be a little party, a real festival in one place – different stages, food and music. But I don't know really how to do that. I'm not a businessperson; I'm an artist that wanted an inclusive tour with straight people and gay people and transgender people – everybody mixed together. That was my big dream."

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# Straight Talk *From A Gay Man*

For decades, I have been a strong and clear voice for civil rights for all members of our community.

As the picture from the 1984 pride march indicates, I was a peacekeeper during those years when those marching to demand equal rights had to face angry, hateful protesters. I put myself on the line.

After my years as a peacekeeper, I served on the planning committee and I have been a speaker and emcee, on two occasions, at the pride march rally.

In 1989, I was the first openly gay person to be elected for public office in Northampton when I won a seat as a Hampshire County Commissioner.

In 1998, as a city councilor, I provided the leadership in writing and sponsoring the legislation that created the Northampton Human Rights Commission.

In 2005, I was the sole sponsor of the ordinance that protected the rights of transgendered people in Northampton.

As a public school educator, I have actively promoted, since the 1980s, safe school practices, including developing an anti-bullying initiative and identifying GLBT safe zones for students.

I founded the Gay/Straight Alliance at Amherst Regional High School.

In 1985, I represented Massachusetts for the National Education Association in its apartheid protest outside the South African Embassy in Washington, D.C. During this non-violent human rights action I was arrested; charges were later dropped.

In 1996, I was the first recipient of the Men's Resource Center of Western Massachusetts' "Challenge and Change" Award.

In 1998, I received an award from Northwestern District Attorney's office for my "efforts to foster diversity and promote respect in government."

In 2001, I received an Award of Distinction from the Northampton Area Lesbian & Gay Business Guild, in recognition of my service to the lesbian and gay community.

In 2007-2008, I was recognized as the Outstanding Counselor in the College Admission Process in Massachusetts for my efforts in having at-risk high school students successfully complete the college admissions process.

In 2008, I received the Martin Luther King, Jr. Annual Citizen Award from the MLK Jr. Committee of Amherst, Inc in recognition of my "contribution and dedication to Truth, Justice and Peace within the Amherst Community and Beyond."

In 2009, I was a speaker at the New England Transgendered Pride March.

I have dedicated my professional and political life to advocating for the human and civil rights of all people. I have

listened to those who have felt alienated and marginalized and have fought on the frontlines against all forms of prejudice and discrimination. As a foot soldier and as a leader, I have a solid record of being there for those in need during difficult times. I have delivered for the GLBT Community.

I am now asking for something in return. On Tuesday, November 8, I ask for your vote to be the next mayor of Northampton. In advance, I thank you for your support.

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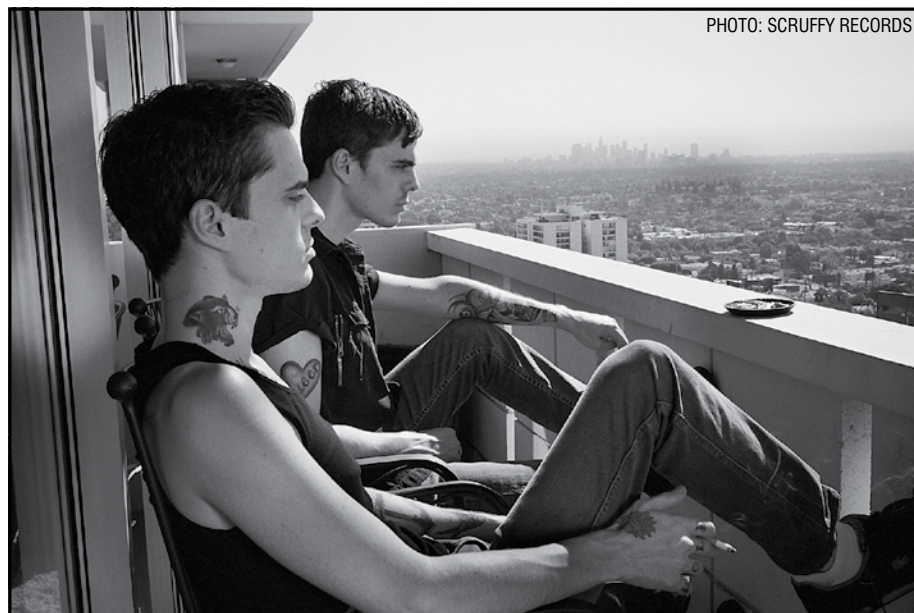
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## Queer Hip-Hop Nation from *Elephant*: The unique twin brother gay rappers

By: Edward Jonas/Special for TRT

Coleman and Jackson Vrana make up the controversial band, Elephant—the only white, twin brother, queer rappers on the music scene today.

Originally from Oklahoma, they came out when they were 14 and were bullied and harassed every day until they finally left home at 18. Coleman fled to New York while Jackson went to London. They reunited in Los Angeles where they formed their band and grew a following with their provocative gay-activist lyrics and in-your-face performances.

They caught the attention of 80's pop icon, Josie Cotton – who invited the duo to collaborate on the 2010 remake of her cult classic *Johnny Are You Queer?* – and were quickly signed to her record label. Now the dynamic duo aim to make some noise on a national level and that's exactly what they're doing with their debut release, *Queer Nation*.

**Edward Jonas:** How do you describe "Queer Nation"?

**Coleman Vrana:** It's an in-your-face track that turns hip hop on its head and confronts homophobia with a lot of filthy language.

**Q:** Did you intend for it to be controversial?

**A:** Absolutely. We intentionally pushed the limit with all four of the tracks on the *Queer Nation* EP.

**Q:** So it's representative of the rest of your upcoming album?

**A:** Definitely, but we go to some pretty unexpected places and our political interests and aims extend beyond LGBT-related issues.

**Q:** When did you and Jackson first realize you had musical talent?

**A:** We grew up performing in angsty punk bands as teenagers. There was never an instrument we didn't want to learn our way around in some kinda way growing up.

**Q:** When did you boys come out?

**A:** At 14. After that, we were huge targets in middle and high school.

**Q:** Those bullying years seem to play a big part in your music today.

**A:** Most of our songs were written with the angst-ridden motivation we got from those days. We connect with a ton of teenagers who are exactly like we were a few years ago.

**Q:** What lessons have you learned as openly gay artists?

**A:** As artists, we constantly have to prove ourselves to everyone. As gay artists who intend to be taken completely seriously, we've learned

the struggle is tenfold. People expect us to represent them so specifically that we often have to take a step back and remember what got us here in the first place: our voices, our attitudes and our ideas.

**Q:** How do you feel about celebrities who won't come out of the closet?

**A:** It's hard to imagine staying closeted because our personal artistry comes from our need to express ourselves honestly. Maybe some people are okay with keeping their personal lives private, but we can't imagine expressing ourselves on stage or in the studio like that.

**Q:** What's the best piece of advice you've ever been given?

**A:** Josie Cotton told us that showcasing who you are with your own individual voice is the only way to be successful as an artist. Anybody with talent can be a musician or a performer, but only you can be you.

**Q:** What's the worst cliché about the gay scene?

**A:** The notion that gay men are somehow weak-willed or inordinately delicate people is insane. Fighting to be yourself to an intolerant society your entire life most definitely creates more strength in a person than frailty.

**Q:** Best cliché?

**A:** That we are a severely tight community that embraces everyone with open arms. I think it's true.

**Q:** Finish the sentence: A good night out starts with...

**A:** A fat blunt.

**Q:** It ends with...

**A:** A fat blunt. Shunda K from Yo! Majesty (*a lesbian hip hop group*) taught me how to roll em' the best.

**Q:** What comes first for you - sex or love?

**A:** Sex. Usually, emotions that stick around don't come into play until later.

**Q:** What's the best thing ever invented?

**A:** Over-sized colonial dolls.

**Q:** When the phone rings, who do you hope is calling?

**A:** Mary Tyler Moore—to tell us she's our real mother.

**Q:** What's next for Elephant?

**A:** We're working on a really exciting project: a gay vs. lesbian rap battle extraordinaire.

**Q:** You're not kidding about creating a *Queer Nation*.

**A:** Fists are getting tighter. A backlash is on the way. We can feel it.

For more information about the group and upcoming events visit: [elephantwave.com](http://elephantwave.com)

## TRT Hero: Gunner Scott, pioneering transgender rights in Massachusetts

By: Christine Nicco/TRT Reporter

Gunner Scott, a founding member and executive director of the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition (MTPC), a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to ending gender identity and expression discrimination, has been at the forefront of the transgender rights movement since 1998. In this role, he has truly been a father to many. Scott has been named a nationally acclaimed activist, educator, and community organizer on LGBT issues, particularly relating to health, partner abuse, and access issues for the transgender community.

Under the direction of Scott, the MTPC focuses on educating the public, advocating with state, local and federal government, engaging in political activism, and encourage empowerment of community members through collective action, according to the organization's website. To say that he is passionate about transgender rights and equality is an understatement. The MTPC pioneer can often be found working long days, late nights and his dedication to the transgender movement is palpable, even to those who do not know him personally. He has vested his life to the betterment of the LGBT community and that is why he has been nominated as a TRT Hero.

**Q:** What needs to be done to increase awareness of the importance of funding for HIV/AIDS?

**A:** Public education on why and how funding has helped to decrease HIV rates and the impact of the reduction in funding would have on the

HIV rates going up again. Additionally, transgender women in particular are dealing with significant rates of HIV with very few programs and services directed at that community, therefore increased resources are needed to increase services.



Gunner Scott

**Q:** Which people in the LGBT or allied community have been most influential in your life?

**A:** Rita Hester, Nancy Nangeroni, Grace Sterling Stowell, Sylvia Rivera, Penni Ashe Matz

**Q:** How can the average member of the LGBT community and ally make a difference in our struggle?

**A:** [By] contacting their state legislator about the Transgender Equal Rights Bill and their federal congressional members about the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA)

**Q:** What is the best advice you have ever been given to do the proactive things you do today for our community?

**See Gunner Scott on page 14**

## Superior Interior: Designer Joshua Ingraham Shows You How

By: Travis Laborn/Special for TRT

Joshua Ingraham holds himself to the same standard he does his designs—with class, integrity and always a surprise element of fun. He defines his style as 'Casual Luxury,' utilizing dark colors over light; classic, bold patterns rather than the safe and subtle; and strong fabrics with unusual textures.

Counted among New York City's top fifty designers by HousingWorks Design on a Dime for three years in a row, Ingraham encourages clients to make a statement with their surroundings. Nothing is impossible or ever too big. He believes even the budget conscious should crave rich, lush, fabulous things.

"You do not have to be wealthy to enjoy the luxurious things the world has to offer, as long as you follow my lead," he says.

Born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the out designer realized a knack for design at 14 when his mother allowed him to select his own bedroom paint colors. "I mean, every boy's dream, right?" he laughs.

Ingraham modeled his room after Sarah Michelle Gellar's bedroom in *Cruel Intentions*, painting the walls, doors and ceiling a deep navy blue, and adding a trim of baby blue with silver high-lights. "I probably thought if I painted my room the same as hers it would make me more like her. Sadly, my high school experience did not include summer romances with Ryan Phillippe."

He studied Architecture and Design at Tulsa University where he discovered he appreciated the creative freedom of interior design more. "Once I understood the only limitation I had in interior design were my own ideas, the possibilities became endless for me," he explains.

Ingraham says walls are meant to be broken down.

"Open up your spaces up as much as possible. It will give you more options as to what you can do with your floor plans and furniture."



He eschews the current trend of stainless steel kitchens with granite countertops.

"Alone, each material is fine but putting them together could leave your space feeling more outdated than when you began."

He also shuns the trend of master bathrooms with double sinks.

"There is never a need for two sinks," he argues. "That second sink rarely gets used. If you truly require two sinks, for design sake, use a deep trough sink with two separate but matching faucets."

The same goes for separating showers and bath tubs.

"Unless it is a true glass shower and soaking tub, please don't split these two up. It's a waste of space."

How you decorate your home is as important as what you wear, he says.

"When a person looks good, they exude a confidence that inspires others. The same holds true for the home. When the place where you rest your head and entertain your friends reflects you and your personality, it projects power."

"If everyone hired an interior designer, the world would be a better place," he laughs.





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- Personal Injury
- Consumer Protection Law



# TRT Heroes: Jenn Tracz Grace empowers the LGBT business movement

By: **Christine Nicco**/TRT Reporter

Jenn Tracz Grace is a familiar name within the Connecticut community and beyond. Although she wears many hats, perhaps she is best known in her role as the first executive director of the Connecticut Alliance for Business Opportunities (CABO), a statewide LGBT Chamber of Commerce. It is under Tracz Grace's leadership that CABO has grown exponentially and has won several accolades, including the LGBT Chamber of the Year award by the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. However, her professional accomplishments are not only what earned Tracz Grace this nomination for TRT Heroes. Like any unsung hero, it is her commitment to the betterment of our community through corporate education of the LGBT business sector. She uses her position to serve as a liaison to assist LGBT and allied business reach the mainstream market through spreading a message of inclusion, cohesion and integrity. Regardless of what hat she is wearing, Tracz Grace has dedicated her life to issues directly related to diversity, the LGBT community and empowering the LGBT business movement.

**Q.** Which people in the LGBT or allied community have been most influential in your life?

**A.** I am so blessed to run an organization where I am constantly surrounded by amazing people both part of the LGBT and allied community. With a membership base of over 150+ businesses I know a lot of people, all who truly bring unique things to the table that influence me on a daily basis.

Thinking back to when I was younger I can think of celebrities such as Ellen DeGeneres and how she came out on national TV in 1997 and what a huge deal that was. At the time when she did that it tanked her career for a while. Her resilience

is what makes her influential to me because she didn't stop because someone didn't like her sexual orientation it fueled her fire and allowed her to accomplish great things.

There are other influential leaders within the Connecticut community such as Anne Stanback and Carol Buckheit who led the charge at Love Makes a Family to gain marriage equality for the citizens of CT. Without their hard work, dedication and resilience I wouldn't have been able to marry my wife this past year.

**Q.** How can the average member of the LGBT community and ally make a difference in our struggle?

**A.** There are several things the average LGBT person can do to make a difference. Raise awareness. Be Visible. Educate. We all have the opportunity each and every day to educate and raise awareness about the LGBT community by simply being visible. Just because you are LGBT doesn't mean you must fall into any false stereotypes. Just be yourself and educate those around you about what it means to be LGBT. Rather than dodging a question as it may relate to your sexuality or gender expression, take the time to educate the person asking so they are better informed and can stop the cycle of unknowing. If each of us did that our allies could do it as well and it would gradually make an impact. Involve your allies whenever you can. Allies have a great voice that can champion our causes in places we may not, so take advantage of those opportunities. **Q.** What is the best advice you have ever been given to do the proactive things you do today for our community?

**A.** I was once told that it is easier to ask for forgiveness than it is to get permission. It's a com-

mon statement but it was more of the person behind the words. That is a motto that I operate on. If it sounds right, looks right and feels right, I'm going to do it. In order to advance the LGBT community in any way you must be proactive. You have to constantly be striving to see what is around the next corner and how you can make it better, faster or more efficient. I spend most of my days talking with business owners whether they are large corporations or small businesses. The best thing you can do is to listen to what they have to say and find a way to help the community at large.

**Q.** What have you done for the LGBT community individually or collectively that you are proudest of?

**A.** I am most proud of my work with CABO. If you had asked me 5 years ago where I would be today, I wouldn't have ever guessed it would be here. Within CABO my proudest moment was just this past August when CABO was named the Chamber of the Year by the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. There is something simply amazing about being recognized on a national scale for the work that is being done in your local community. It was a collaborative effort of our great board, volunteers and amazing members, and certainly a moment I will reflect on for quite sometime to come.

**Q.** What motivates your work within this community?

**A.** I would say my motivation comes from knowing that I can make a difference. When you think about LGBT rights and advocacy many people think of lobbying and the struggles to gain equality. But what I've learned and what keeps me going is that we all have an opportunity to make



PHOTO: GLENN KOETZNER

**Jenn Tracz Grace**

a difference each day based on where and how we spend our money – our economic impact. The Human Rights Campaign puts out a fantastic buying guide that highlights where you should spend your money based on whether or not these companies support the LGBT community or not. Following that guide makes a difference. Supporting the members of your local LGBT chamber of commerce, makes a difference. It's a matter of voting with your dollars. The economic power of the LGBT community is incredible

To read the rest of this story online, visit: <http://bit.ly/upWIBz>

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# TRT Heroes: Boston's Jim Morgrage rides to fight against HIV and AIDS

By: Nicole Lashomb/TRT Editor-in-Chief

James M. Morgrage, a successful businessman and altruistic leader for charitable good could be considered the poster child for kindness, selfless giving and empathy for those who are less fortunate. Jim, as those fondly refer to him in the Boston community, is the owner/manager of Club Café. He is also the founder and director of Harbor to the Bay (H2B), "a one day bike ride from Boston to Provincetown that improves community awareness, access to, and the quality of care for people living with HIV and AIDS," according to the organizations website. Morgrage founded this grass roots initiative, whose mission is to give 100% of what is raised through the ride to its four beneficiaries, Fenway Health Center, AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod, Community Research Initiative (CRI), and AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts (AAC). Under Morgrage's leadership, this 501(c)(3) has raised well over \$2M to assist in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Although he does not recognize himself as a hero in anyway, the perspective of others that define him as passionate and magnanimous with an incredible fortitude, affirms such a designation.

"Jim is the most dedicated person I know," said Frank Ribaud, friend and business partner of 14 years. "He is tireless in his support of all LGBT issues, but most importantly, his fight against HIV/AIDS. Jim and I, along with several Club Café employees and customers began the H2B AIDS ride 9 years ago. Jim has been the leader of the ride ever since, and works tirelessly on H2B issues all year long."

Since its launch in 2003, Harbor to the Bay (H2B) has become the leading AIDS Ride in Massachusetts. The organization's website credits its success to the commitment to donate 100% of pledges to its beneficiaries and the all-volun-

teer based business model.

"I believe we need to talk about the continuing rise in new HIV infections in all communities," said Morgrage. "I also feel it is important to educate the community as to what living with HIV/AIDS looks like today-the medications and side effect of those treatments."

And so he rides.

Stemming back to his childhood, Morgrage credits the lessons taught by his parents to be integral in his passion to serve others. Everyone has something to give, he said.

"I learned from my parents to get involved and to always do for others. Get involved, find a cause you like, believe in, and give of your time! We all have skills that we are good at and enjoy; all we have to do is give a few hours of our time weekly or monthly to make a big impact on the community."

Morgrage said that he is often motivated by inherent need and by other "amazing individuals" who are also doing similar work in the community.

"Michael Tye, Mary Breen, Joe Murphy, and Frank Ribaud all influenced me in showing me that one person can make a difference and indeed we should all try," he said. "They all lead by example of that philosophy and work very hard each and every day to remove obstacles in reaching these goals."

In addition to all that Morgrage does for H2B and other charity work through Club Café, he is most proud of being a buddy for those who are infected by HIV/AIDS he said.

"I have been involved in the Buddy program for more than 2 decades and I learn so much about myself and the struggles of these individu-

als in just sharing some time on their paths."

Although the LGBT community continues to face many struggles, Morgrage is hopeful that progress will continue to be made toward equality he said.

"It is my feeling that HIV/AIDS, bullying, and drug use and abuse are the three top issues of our community, followed by domestic violence," said Morgrage. "I [also] feel like change is happening so fast and people's opinions are changing daily. I think the media has had a large part in bringing these issues out of the dark."

Morgrage said he is not a hero at all, despite his benevolent nature.

"I think I just do what I can, and I love being part of this community and all we have done together to make a difference in this life time," said Morgrage.

And so he rides.



Jim Morgrage

PHOTO: PROVIDED BY JIM MORGRAGE

## Suicide-prevention conference from page 6

evidence for increased risk of mental disorders [among LGBT people], that's a very troubling combination."

Haas recommended a number of steps to aid in prevention, starting with improving the knowledgebase by gathering more information about deaths.

"We've got to find out what LGBT people are dying from," Haas said.

Haas also recommended increased funding for LGBT suicide research and promoting awareness and understanding of LGBT suicide risk.

Gathered that day were hundreds from the health care community, benefiting from the information she presented, but Haas stressed that the information needed to reach LGBT people.

"We need to be sure that we're speaking to the LGBT communities."

She noted that one obstacle to working with the LGB community is the distrust caused by previous inclusion of homosexuality in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.

"It's been years since sexual orientation was removed [from the DSM]," said Haas, "but this lives on in the LGB community."

**VOTE**  
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### Gunner Scott from page 10

A. Remember to take care of myself, without enough sleep, down time, and self-care I will get rundown and be no good to the movement.

Q. What have you done for the LGBT community individually or collectively that you are proudest of?

A. Working to get the Boston City gender identity ordinance passed in less than a year and worked on the campaign for the statewide Transgender Equal Rights Bill.

Q. What motivates your work within this community?

A. Meeting other transgender people and their families and hearing their stories of struggle and success.

Q. What can be done about teen suicides that happen as a result of bullying or anti-gay sentiment?

A. It is not just anti-gay sentiment also anti-trans or anti-bi sentiment, sometimes bullying is based on gender expression and that perception that not being "masculine or feminine enough" equates being gay or lesbian. There is a need to challenge gender stereotyping.

Q. What are the top three issues that affect our community the most? What can you do to make a difference?

A. "Our community" is broad term and I would say that economic issues that are af-

fecting the rest of the country are affect LG-BTQ people, but are often not highlighted even by our community, covert and overt discrimination and the effects that has on a person's well-being and equality at every level for all LGBTQ people.

Q. Do you think that there are special needs in the Hispanic LGBT community that do not exist in the mainstream LGBT community?

A. I think because of the issues of racism still being prevalent in this country as whole and in the LGBTQ community, that many of our LGBTQ people of color community members are dealing with multiple layers that need to be addressed, including dealing with racism within LGBTQ communities and supporting and sustaining spaces, programs, and leaders in the LGBTQ people of color communities.

Q. Do you consider yourself a hero for the LGBT community?

A. No.

Q. Will full LGBT equality be achieved in this country during the next 10 years? 20 years?

A. Equality gains will continue to steadily grow over the next 10-20 years, but there is always backlash to fight against and our own apathy once one part of the LGBTQ community makes some strides.

### Letters from page 2

faces that look like mine! It's powerful, inspiring and empowering! The Rainbow Times is the ONLY lgbtq publication that is inclusive of lgbtq POC. And I truly just want to say thank you!

--Amir Dixon, Boston, MA

Dear Editor,

It was nice to see the various photo spreads of the many events you covered in the paper. I also noticed that you have even more in Face-Book. I wish you had more photos in the paper, however.

-- Karen Rosendale, Providence, RI



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# Alan Cumming visits a less groovy 1970s in Any Day Now

By: Romeo San Vicente\*/Special for TRT

DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD



The struggle for LGBT marriage equality and adoption rights makes the news pretty regularly now and each step forward feels like a small victory. Now imagine dealing with all of that in 1979. That's the subject of *Any Day Now*. So they axed *Roseanne's Nuts*. Big deal. It's not like she needed the money. And besides, the blue-collar comedy diva's Hawaiian macadamia farm isn't going to keep her from fulfilling her TV destiny. She just sold a show to NBC – the network that passed on *Roseanne* back in 1987, oops – and the title makes it sound like the Connor family might be back in business again. It's called *Downwardly Mobile*, about a trailer park family struggling to make ends meet. No, it didn't sound appealing to the Suits back in 1987, either, but look what happened: America responded to the grittier version of reality and poverty-based humor of Barr's first series and then went along for the ride when she introduced lesbian smooching later in the show's run. Who knows what she'll accomplish this time? Stay tuned as the outspoken heroine of the working class starts kicking up dust again.

**Roseanne Barr is Downwardly Mobile again**

So they axed *Roseanne's Nuts*. Big deal. It's not like she needed the money. And besides, the blue-collar comedy diva's Hawaiian macadamia farm isn't going to keep her from fulfilling her TV destiny. She just sold a show to NBC – the network that passed on *Roseanne* back in 1987, oops – and the title makes it sound like the Connor family might be back in business again. It's called *Downwardly Mobile*, about a trailer park family struggling to make ends meet. No, it didn't sound appealing to the Suits back in 1987, either, but look what happened: America responded to the grittier version of reality and poverty-based humor of Barr's first series and then went along for the ride when she introduced lesbian smooching later in the show's run. Who knows what she'll accomplish this time? Stay tuned as the outspoken heroine of the working class starts kicking up dust again.

**The Revolution will be televised and it will star Tim Gunn**

What are they replacing all of those canceled soap operas with? Talk shows, that's what. Ev-



Jena Malone

everybody wants to be *The Talk*, *The View* or *The Chew* these days, and ABC is aiming for another ratings grab with January 2012's *The Revolution*. The self-improvement/lifestyle-oriented show will include *Project Runway*'s Tim Gunn, fitness and nutrition guru Harley Pasternak and *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*'s gung-ho host Ty Pennington. And those are just the first three to be announced. Given the current trend of large panels with rotating experts and guest co-hosts, the field is still wide open for other names to hop on board and help the fledgling show make audiences feel guilty for sitting on the couch and watching TV. And in the long run, with Oprah more or less out of the picture, it's anybody's game to win the daytime sweepstakes. Best of all, it can only help *The Soup* with new material.

**Jena Malone aims for Lonely Hunter**

She was married to a man, but Southern literary icon Carson McCullers, the author of *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter*, was bisexual and frequently involved with women. And now her life story will come to the big screen in *Lonely Hunter*. The biopic is set to star acclaimed young actress Jena Malone (*Sense and Sensibility*, *Bastard Out of Carolina*), with lesbian cred behind the camera provided by screenwriter Sarah Schulman (*The*

*Owls*) and director/producer Deborah Kampmeier (*Virgin*, *Hound Dog*). Meanwhile, you can bet that indie A-listers will be lining up to grab the roles of McCullers' pals Tennessee Williams, Truman Capote, Ethel Waters and Gypsy Rose Lee. None of them will look as cool as Malone in McCullers's signature menswear, but they can give it a shot. Pre-production is where it's at right now, so it'll be a while before audiences get a chance to look at it. Read a book while you're waiting.

*\*Romeo San Vicente flies solo but he's never lonely. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.*

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Co-owners, Jennifer Harlan and Joy Rain, purchased the store over the summer and have been steadily working to create a renewed sense of energy, passion, and enthusiasm for the store. Its new location is in Thornes Marketplace.

## Northampton's Pride & Joy launches anew, grand re-opening celebration at new location

NORTHAMPTON, Mass.—On November 17, Northampton's Pride & Joy will hold its grand re-opening celebration. Since its inception in 1992, this store holds a special place in the hearts of the LGBTQ family. It is a destination, a rite of passage, and a top destination to buy fun queer gifts and Northampton souvenirs. The new co-owners, Jennifer Harlan and Joy Rain, purchased the store over the summer and have been steadily working to create a renewed sense of energy, passion, and enthusiasm for the store. The first step included moving the store to Thornes Marketplace, which is Northampton's favorite place to shop on Main Street, they said. Just down the hall from Herrell's Ice Cream and across from Left-Click, this much larger location offers customers the chance to enjoy shopping on both the upper and lower level of the store.

"Changing the location has been like joining a new family," said Jennifer Harlan, Co-owner, Northampton's Pride & Joy. "At Thornes, the store becomes part of something bigger, a special space in the heart of downtown that makes transparent its importance in Northampton."

With the facelift also comes the store's new tagline Harlan explained.

"Our new tag line, Live and Let Shop, sums up our vision," she said. "We want this store to be a destination for our LGBTQ community, and to also welcome our allies. We want our customers to be excited to come buy creative, high-quality products that celebrate the vibrancy of our community and our city."

The acting Mayor, David Narkewicz, and Northwestern County District Attorney, David E. Sullivan, will participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony at the grand re-opening.

"We hope everyone will come join this celebration, which in many ways represents the rebirth of Northampton's Pride & Joy," said Joy Rain, Co-owner, Northampton's Pride & Joy. "It will be a special time of reflection on just how important this store is to our LGBTQ community and the greater Pioneer Valley. As Jennifer says, our store is a place where, when

someone is questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity and fear their world is shrinking, they can come to this store and realize their world actually just got bigger. Our products will be fun and exciting, and we'll also provide resources such as books, contacts, and bumper stickers. Sometimes a phrase creates an opening for a conversation that can be life-changing."

Northampton has a long-standing reputation of being one of the most progressive cities in the U.S. and is often cited as the "lesbian capital of the U.S.," said Rain.

"Our store is truly a celebration of the city and is the go-to store for Northampton souvenirs and gifts," she said.

Harlan adds, "We are excited to unveil a new line of Northampton clothing and mugs."

Northampton Pride & Joy's Grand Re-opening is a historic day in our community a day that says our retail store will live on so, come be part of history and shop!

*What:*  
Come Out to Celebrate the Grand  
Re-Opening of Northampton's  
Pride & Joy

*When:*  
Thursday, November 17, 2011

*Time:*  
5:00 p.m.

*Where:*  
Northampton's Pride and Joy,  
Thornes Marketplace, 150 Main  
St., Downtown Northampton



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PHOTO: DAKOTA FINE

## Theater Offensive presents Fierce Love's triumphant return to Boston

**THE ARTS** ROXBURY, MA—The Theater Offensive is thrilled to present a revival of Pomo Afro Homos' *Fierce Love: Stories from Black Gay Life*. This show examines the vital issues of race, sexuality, and identity as a whole. *Fierce Love* performances will be held at Hibernian Hall in Roxbury on Thursday (November 17) at 8 p.m., Friday (Nov. 18) at 8 p.m., and Saturday (Nov. 19) at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Roxbury native and Pomo Afro Homos co-founder Brian Freeman returns to his hometown to direct and act in this "remixed" version of *Fierce Love*. The production has been adapted from the original 1991 version to include updated cultural references and a hip-hop musical number, while still maintaining the piece's core focus on the struggles of Black gay men in America.

With support from the National Performance Network, The Theater Offensive led the *Fierce Love* commissioning team with collaborators from Los Angeles, Washington DC, Burlington, New Orleans and Dallas. The Theater Offensive's OUT in Your Neighborhood strategy is a driving force behind *Fierce Love*, focusing on integrating queer theater into interactive community-based programs in Boston-area neighborhoods.

The Theater Offensive's ongoing Shout it OUT! collaboration with Hispanic Black Gay Coalition (HBGC Boston) will open *Fierce Love*'s Saturday matinee. Shout it OUT! will be a staged reading of original coming out stories from LGBT people of color. This work was developed in two workshop series with The Theater Offensive staff and Brian Freeman, in which community members learned to stage their writings for a broader audience.

The show is free to the public. The Hibernian Hall is located at 184 Dudley St. in Roxbury. For more information contact: www.theateroffensive.org.

The Theater Offensive grew out of the seminal street theater troupe United Fruit Company in 1989, led by current Executive Artistic Director Abe Rybeck. The creation of The Theater Offensive was a response to the founders' experiences as activist members of underserved, marginalized communities and active participants in the early years of the Rainbow Coalition. Throughout its history The Theater Offensive has furthered its mission "to form and present the diverse realities of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) lives in art so bold it breaks through personal isolation and political orthodoxy to help build a more honest, progressive community."

The Theater Offensive's OUT in Your Neighborhood strategy works with locally and nationally-known artists and community members to create original, groundbreaking and interactive works by, for and about the LGBT community, as well as through education programs, year-round community-based workshops, intensive engagement with at-risk youth, and street theater performances. Programming reflects the diversity of the city of Boston, gives voice to underserved LGBT community members, creates avenues for cross-cultural dialogue and breaks down the barriers of homophobia, bigotry and hate.



PHOTO: IRENE YOUNG



PHOTO: TYNNAN POWER

Holly Near with producer Barbara Allen

## Holly Near feeds the soul of her fans with a rare Northeast tour

By: Tynan Power/TRT Reporter

Holly Near filled the Unitarian Society in Northampton to capacity -- twice -- concluding a rare tour late this past October.

The stop in Northampton was more than luck for local fans. In addition to the appeal of the city's large lesbian population -- a demographic in which Near has had an enthusiastic following since the 1970s -- Near has a long connection with the event's producer, Barbara Allen of Wildrose Productions. The two have known each other for so long neither remembers when they met.

"Holly and I couldn't remember, either 1974 or 1975," Allen said, "when I helped produce a Women On Wheels concert in Los Angeles, featuring Near, Cris Williamson, Margie Adam and Meg Christian. Since then I've produced Holly individually several times over the years in California, as well as, in the mid '90s, a sold-out performance at the Academy of Music."

Near was joined this tour by her longtime pianist, John Bucchino, and Laura Love, a "folk/funk" singer/songwriter and bassist. Together, they performed two sets, sometimes harmonizing, other times letting one voice or musical element take center stage.

"I loved listening to Holly and Laura weave their strong voices in dynamic harmonies," said Allen. "John's musical genius on piano was obvious. I felt the energy pouring off the stage and through the audience."

As a cultural phenomenon for four decades, Near's been around long enough for several generations to become familiar with -- and passionate about -- her work. Fans were eager to share the experience with the younger generation, evidenced

See Holly Near on page 17



## Paradise City Arts Festival brings 175 craft designers & artists to its Marlborough, MA show

MARLBOROUGH, MA—This month, Marlboro, Massachusetts will be the Paradise City Arts Festival's home to 175 master craft designers and fine artists carefully selected from among nearly 1,000 applicants to participate in the 14th annual Paradise City Arts Festival, November 18, 19 & 20, at the Royal Plaza Trade Center in Marl-

borough, MA.

The selection of home furnishings ranges from the sleekly functional to highly sculptural. This show also features wearable art and a wide selection of jewelry in all price ranges. For those craving a new piece of art, Paradise City offers abstract and figurative paintings, lush landscapes, inspiring photography and large-scale sculpture.

Paradise City continues its celebrated series of themed exhibitions this November with the second installment of "Picturing the Music." In this curated show-within-a-show,

Paradise City's artists draw on music as inspiration. Jazz, swing, cabaret vocals and standards from a different band every day in the sunlit Sculpture Café add to the lively ambiance in the exhibition hall. And if you bring your holiday gift list, have your purchases gift-wrapped and support music in the public schools at the same time!



This stunning "Burl Bed" by furniture maker Ken Salem is one of thousands of works of furniture, home furnishings, fashion, jewelry, paintings and sculpture on view and for sale by 175 of America's most notable artists and craft designers. The Sculpture Café features live jazz every day and a special exhibit, "Picturing the Music."

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*When:*  
November 18, 19 & 20  
Friday 10am-5pm • Saturday 10am-6pm  
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*Admission:*  
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*For Information:*  
**800.511.9725**

**For more information & discount admission coupons:**  
**www.paradisecityarts.com**

### Holly Near from page 16

by numerous older attendees who brought children and grandchildren to the show.

At one performance, Holly Near welcomed a surprise guest: singer Evelyn Harris. Audience members had started to head out of the Great Hall for intermission, but instead stopped and applauded as the two embraced.

"Holly is a true activist and artist in every sense," Harris said. "She is a thoughtful risk-taker when it comes to her stage show as evidenced by the inclusion of Laura Love. Their voices are the same timbre so they blend effortlessly and her vocals as a solo and a harmonizer filled all the musical spaces."

"Holly is a trooper, reinventing her career over the decades to stay current and relevant," Harris continued. Harris' own acclaimed musical career also began in the 1970s.

For many who attended, Near's music has played a formative role in their personal and cultural history.

"My mother introduced me to Holly's music when I was fairly young. I can still remember the bemused looks I got when auditioning for school plays by belting out 'Mountain Song,'" said local folk singer-songwriter Arjuna Greist, who attended the recent performance. "Holly has always spoken to me as an artist with a clear vision, a strong voice, and an open heart, who knows how to fill a song with inspiration and information without being sappy or giving a lecture."

Near is known as much for being an activist and educator as for being an award-winning singer-songwriter. She is proud of the fact that her work has never depended on the support of "big record companies and corporations" — particularly significant during her recent tour, as the Occupy Wall Street/"We Are the 99 percent"

**See Holly Near on page 23**

## Youth Empowerment Conference - Aren't I Black Too? - Is Paris Still Burning? - AIDS, Arts & Activism

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**Time:** 6:30pm - 10:00pm

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# On the yearly Transgender Day of Remembrance, we remember lives lost too soon

## TRANS NEWS

By: Deja Nicole Greenlaw\*/TRT Columnist

Every November around the 20th you will find Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) events being held all around the world. These events are held to recognize and pay homage to our transgender brothers and sisters who have lost their lives, especially those during the past year, from November to November. Last year, many TDORs also began to include all of our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters who have also lost their lives. There is still a hostile climate for being different and some LGBT folks have felt this hostility and paid the price with their lives.

This year's transgenders who have died have met their fate at the hands of others in the following ways: throat slit, stoned, beaten, burned, stabbed, strangled, shot, and hemorrhage due to blunt-impact head trauma. Most of this group met their awful fate from men, especially those men who were looking for sex.

The general public might think that the typical scenario develops something like this: the man sees the woman, romance blossoms, foreplay begins and upon finding the sexual organ the man, in shock and anger, loses his composure and violently kills the woman. In reality, there are many cases in which the man knows that the woman



Deja Nicole Greenlaw

is trans and has consensual sex with her and, after the sex act, violently kills her. The transwoman suddenly becomes expendable after the sex. Can you imagine making love to someone and everything is so right and so nice and afterward suddenly you are being beaten, stabbed, shot, and/or strangled to your death? This is what these transwoman experienced in their final moments.

There are other instances in which transpeople have lost their lives. In other years there were incidents where young children were bullied, beaten and killed by their fathers or father figures who had trouble dealing with their son's preference for traditionally feminine things. I recall a few years ago that one father would beat and rip up the dolls and stuffed animals of the child and would slap him around to try to "toughen him up." This particular father would even go so far as to drop the child on his head. After one too many drops, the child died.

We all know and remember anyone who was

different in middle school and high school being bullied and attacked, just because they were different. Many gays, lesbians, transwomen and transmen can tell you stories about incidents in their own lives where they were verbally and/or physically abused.

To suffer discrimination is a terrible thing to endure. To be taunted, harassed, bullied, punched, kicked and beaten are things no one should have to endure. There is also a religious element that too often comes into play condemning those who are different and who do not "fit the mold." Threatening your child with eternal damnation is plain, outright bullying. I know too many friends who have suffered from the religious element in their families and neighbors. Please understand that many religious people are not like this and do not do these terrible things. But the ones who are should suffer consequences for these shameful, hurtful actions.

Enduring what others say and feel about you when you are different is hard. Many of us have faced the bullying and non-acceptance and too many of us have been ostracized from our families or at least by some family members. Many LGBT people have been divorced and their children have chosen to not acknowledge them anymore. Many family members do not want anything more to do with them. It's tough losing your

family support. Sometimes family is all you have. And sometimes you don't even have that.

It's a terrible price to pay for being yourself. It's as if the best thing that could ever happen to you is one of the worst things that could ever happen to them. Some transpeople, gays and lesbians simply cannot take the rejection and loss of former loved ones anymore and they take their own lives. This Day of Remembrance is for them too. We recognize and pay tribute to those who have had all they can take. Some religious extremists might say the reason these folks took their own lives is because they were wrestling with sin. In reality, they were wrestling with the ignorance and hate of others. Humans are social beings and to be cut out of families is a horrible thing. How can people justify hate and ignorance over love and acceptance?

It brings me to tears writing this column every year. There's still hostility based in ignorance and fear toward those who are different. To understand this situation more, please consider attending at least one of the many Transgender Days of Remembrance in your area, which are being held on or around the 20th of November.

\*Deja Nicole Greenlaw is a local transwoman who has three grown children and works at a local Fortune 500 company. She can be contacted at [dejavudeja@sbcbglobal.net](mailto:dejavudeja@sbcbglobal.net).

## Transgender children: letting kids be who they are

By: Lorelei Erisis\*/TRT Columnist

*I have a question for you. I'm trying to write an article about transgender children and the wisdom of allowing them to alter their physiology/biology before they are adults. I wanted to get your thoughts on it and approach it with sensitivity: I do a piece on cultural issues once a week for a right-wing-slanted radio show and want to use this as an opportunity to enlighten people about this issue in a way that you would approve of, which is why I'm approaching you for your thoughts.*

Finii From Hollywood

Hi Finii!!

I'm glad you asked! Your question is certainly the cutting edge of the transsexual debate and a pretty hot button issue, for everyone except the kids in question. For them, it seems to be very clear.

I've had the pleasure of meeting some transkids and even got to have a long conversation with a female-to-male (FTM) teenager at a conference last year. I was teaching a workshop, a sort of live version of this column, and he was the only person who showed up. Rather than scrap the time, I figured it was a great chance for intergenerational trans-to-trans dialogue. I'm glad I did. He was about as normal and well-adjusted as a kid that age gets. Bright, curious and happy.

Also at that conference was Kim Pearson, whom I've had the pleasure of meeting on a couple of occasions now. She's an amazing and dedicated woman who runs the organization, Trans Youth Family Allies (TYFA), which does some great work in outreach, education and support for transkids and their families.

If you're looking for good further information on transgender children, their lives and their treatment, the TYFA website is an excellent place to start (besides this column!). You'll find links to blogs by psychologists who treat transkids, as well as up-to-date news, personal accounts by transgender youth and their families and other useful resources.

Speaking as an older transperson, it's a pretty common theme for transgender and transsexual people to say "I have known since I was a kid." It's certainly true for me. I've known there was something askew about my gender since I had thoughts in my head. It just took me a while to

find the language and then accept what I knew.

I find that children, whether trans or cisgender have far fewer rigidly preconceived notions of gender than adults. They have an understanding that is more instinctual and straightforward. Unmuddled by all the rules, roles and boundaries most adults have had to learn to play by.

Transitioning early definitely makes a huge difference physically. For transwomen especially, the effects of testosterone "damage" are almost impossible to completely reverse. Five years on HRT (Hormone Replacement Therapy) has had a dramatic effect on my appearance, but it will never change my basic bone structure. Or do away with my facial hair, which must be dealt with through painful and expensive procedures like electrolysis and/or laser hair removal. Also, my voice will never physically change. There is only vocal training or very questionably effective vocal cord surgery. I'll never be less than 6'4" tall. The list goes on.

For transmen, the effects of HRT, the addition of testosterone, are more effective. Hair grows, the voice drops, muscles grow leaner. But they tend to be stuck being a little on the shorter side. And top-surgery can be expensive.

It's actually kind of entertaining to be in a room full of transpeople. You have a bunch of very tall women and very short men.

If HRT is begun at or around the time of actual puberty, it is magnitudes more effective. Height, voice, bone structure and body shape are all affected. Basically speaking, the first several years of HRT are a second puberty. If HRT is started young enough then puberty for a transperson is allowed to happen almost "normally" for their true gender.

I often have kids march straight up to me and ask if I am a boy or a girl. To which I usually respond either simply, "I'm a girl" or "I used to be a boy, now I'm a girl." Ninety percent of



Lorelei Erisis

## Northampton's Trans Pride March was poorly attended, a bad showing of support for an underserved community

By: Tynan Power\*/TRT Columnist

## TRANS MAN



PHOTO: GLENN KOSTZNER

Last year, I found myself in the awkward position of trying to carry a 15-foot banner in the Trans Pride march — by myself.

That day, no one else in the religious organization whose banner I held stood on the other end. (Fortunately, my extended family showed up to help.)

Later, some in the organization said they didn't know about the event. Others felt it was my job to organize a contingent. Many conversations later, it seemed clear to everyone that being a welcoming congregation means staying aware of LGBT events and showing up for them, as they've long done for Northampton's LGBT Pride march in May.

This year, news items ran in the organization's monthly and weekly newsletters, well in advance. Still, a few days before the event, I expressed concerns to some non-trans queer friends in the organization that no one would show up, again.

The morning of the Northampton Transgender Civil Rights March and Rally on Oct. 15, those friends — and the sole other trans member of the organization — showed up to carry the banner. Not one single straight, cisgender ally showed up.

I would consider this an internal organizational issue, except that this religious group was the only one that showed up at all.

A number of religious speakers were scheduled to give invocations at the rally inside First Churches, yet few were there when the rally started early — because they didn't march. Others, with good intentions and inspiring words, showed up later, when the rally was originally scheduled to start.

The event drew attention to the ongoing struggle for civil rights for transgender people, the only group under the "LGBT" umbrella whose rights are not protected under Massachusetts state law. Some important people were there:

Northampton's Acting Mayor David Narkewicz, who led the march and read the mayor's proclamation at the rally, mayoral candidate Michael Bardsley, and councilor-at-large candidate Bill Dwight. Still, few allies beyond the LGBT community showed up, and an embarrassingly small number represented the LGBs. Even the news media was absent, with the exception of *The Rainbow Times*.

The trans march organizers claimed between 75 and 200 total people at various points in the day; both estimates seemed inflated to me. I wondered where everyone was, especially the rest of the LGBTQ community and all the local "welcoming" and "affirming" religious groups.

What message does this send to transgender people? Especially youth, represented by two of the five contingents in the march?

To this 40-year-old, whose fairly thick skin has been weathered by years of activism, it sent a powerful and painful message of apathy.

I don't think that message is intentional. If the people I wanted to see there were polled, I'm sure the responses of "I didn't know when it was" or "I don't get along with Person X (in the trans community leadership)" would have far outnumbered the blatant "I don't care about transgender people or their rights." Yet those well-intentioned answers are ones we can't afford.

The trans community knows there is an "I don't care" camp out there. We know how to deal with them: ignore them and keep on trucking. But we are blindsided by well-intentioned allies who nonetheless don't make it their business to find out what's going on with trans rights, show up for trans events, and to keep with us, despite interpersonal conflicts or personal discomfort.

On Nov. 20, the trans community will gather again for the Northampton Transgender Day of Remembrance. We'll begin with a vigil through town to honor transgender people who have been killed or who have taken their own lives in the past year. As one of the co-organizers of the Day of Remembrance, I can't help but see the connection: community apathy, lack of support and lip-service push transgender people to the edges of society, where they are more likely to become victims of violence, or of the devastating despair that leads some to suicide.

See Trans Pride March on page 21

See Transgender Children on page 21



# The 15th-annual Art Beat for AIDS raises funds, awareness for a still-pervasive epidemic

By: **Casey Rocheteau**/TRT Reporter

Last month, the 15th-annual Art Beat for AIDS Care Ocean State (ACOS) was a triumphant success. Hosted in the posh Biltmore Hotel in downtown Providence, the art auction raised thousands of dollars for individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS. Several local artists donated their work, which ranged from political collages, like Raffaello La Mantia's "I Hate Wars," to erotic works like "The Kiss #2" by Jason Preston. There were also gift certificates, candles, jewelry and sculpture to be bid on in the silent auction.

Kalene Brennan, development manager of ACOS, described the event as "a great way to bring communities together. It's not often that our supporters and artists get together in the same space." She has been working for the organization for three years, and noted that it was a tribute to the work being done, as well as the event itself, that the fundraiser has been happening for 15 years, with many artists donating work year after year.

The crowd itself was a hodgepodge of people who had been contributing for years as well as newcomers. State senator Sheldon Whitehouse was also in attendance for the cause, as were several prominent figures in the Rhode Island community. Carol Lincoln, who works in customer service, was attending the event for her first year, and found that it brought "the opportunity to participate in a good cause" and bid on a custom-made silver necklace. She came to know about the event through her friend, Ms. Kitty Litter, who was buzzing about the room in an elegant black evening gown before co-hosting the live auc-

tion with Kim Zandy, a DJ from Rhode Island's 92 PRO-FM.

Two of the artists who had pieces in the live auction spoke with The Rainbow Times. Mark Freedman, who has contributed pieces to Art Beat for many years, said, "This is one of the worthiest causes out there."

He went on to say that, over the years, having close relatives and friends become victims of HIV/AIDS compelled him to keep contributing his work to the organization. Robert Rustermierr, another contributing artist, added, "I believe in this organization, and I make art, so if I can contribute a piece of what I do to this, cool."

One of the most sobering moments of the night came amidst the hustle and bustle of the live auction. While bidders feverishly raised their paddles in the air, TRT sat down with Dr. Lynn Taylor, a physician working with AID-SCOS. "This is still very much an epidemic," she said of HIV/AIDS, "and this is the *only* organization left in the state explicitly doing work around it. It's as if it's vanished from people's radars, but it's all I think about all day." About the organization, she said "I've never seen another organization where the money goes directly toward helping people. The people running things aren't paid much and are some of the hardest working folks I've ever met."

While the evening was filled with merriment and friendly banter, it was Dr. Taylor who put it all into perspective. Without organizations and events like this carrying the torch, she emphasized, people might not receive the care they so desperately need.



## The 99-percenters of Occupy Boston proud not to belong to the remaining minority

By: **Casey Rocheteau**/TRT Reporter

The catchphrase which many have picked up on from the Occupy movement is that participants consider themselves "the 99 percent," meaning that they are not part of the 1 percent of America's population that controls about a fifth of the country's income. Out of this, there has been a reaction that some are referring to as "the other 99 percent," groups of people who have been marginalized in ways beyond class. In speaking to some of the LGBTQ participants at Occupy Boston, one gets a clearer picture of how this is being dealt with within the community, and how the media is misrepresenting a complex group of people.

Jamaica Plain resident Cheryl DeSanctis spoke out against the misperception that this was a rud-

derless group, saying that "while the national media has undermined the movement and has slated it to be something it is absolutely not, it has been my experience that the Occupy movement has become something that the average person cannot ignore." Reed Miller, a member of the Queer and Trans Caucus at Occupy Boston agreed with this sentiment, saying that "there have been many highly strategic, broad-based coalition actions here in Boston and in other Occupied cities that have presented concise and well-framed sets of demands to specific targets. Those movements deserve attention and recognition; unfortunately, the media often doesn't bother to send down a reporter, much less a TV camera."

A raid on the encampment early on the morning of Oct. 11 gained a great deal of attention. The official reason given by the Boston Police Department for the arrests was that occupiers had expanded the encampment beyond what had been allotted to them and were encroaching upon a recently renovated area in the Greenway. Gunner Scott, executive director of the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition, likened it to "being arrested for trampling flowers."

"But if you look at the pictures," Scott said, "[it] was the police that were trampling flowers. It's an aesthetic value judgment between a corporate park and a tent city."

When asked if he felt as though Occupy Boston was a safe space for LGBTQ people, Scott responded, "There's no such thing as a safe space."

"The movement brings together a lot of different people, some of whom have unpacked their privilege and those who haven't," he said. "This is not about identity politics, it's about coming together out of class anger. Yes, people do encounter, or I have encountered, transphobia and homophobia, but not out of hatred, [but] out of ignorance. There's an opportunity to educate people and be educated by others. It's a give and take." He also stated that there are many homeless people involved, partially because it's actually a safer space for them to sleep. Many have purpose. And some of those folks are transwomen and LGBT youth.

Longtime Bostonian Zoe Peters was arrested protesting Bank of America the same day the occupation started and has been returning to participate on a regular basis. She acknowledged the divide within the movement, saying, "Almost every single General Assembly I have attended has been facilitated by white males. It is also important to note that I am not there every single night. Why? Because I have three jobs and I'm in school full time."

"We are united," she continued, "but by ignoring the multi-dimensional layers we will not be able to successfully move forward and create a system that actually benefits all, not just the 1 percent."

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# Tiene que haber una intervención necesaria para cambiar una lección

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

LATIN VISION



PHOTO: ERIC HESS

La comunidad Latina en Boston (o en cualquier otra ciudad) debe educarse en la política que les rodea. Como comunidad nos debemos informar sobre lo que está pasando no sólo en nuestro “patio” pero también en todo el estado y la nación. Debemos aprender de los diferentes puntos de vista antes de formalizar nuestros propios pensamientos o manera de pensar. No debemos asumir todo lo que leemos en los periódicos o lo que vemos en la televisión es la completa realidad y que envés sólo representa un punto de vista. Es importante leer artículos y ver noticias que son neutrales y aprobadas por las agencias nacionales e internacionales de noticias.

Yo noté esta mala educación de dos miembros de nuestra comunidad el pasado mes. Fui a una parte de Boston (no quiero mencionar el área ya que espero que todos/as los que viven allí no actúen de esa manera). Entré a un local que vende pollos y habían dos personas comiendo y conversando en voz alta en español sobre acontecimientos y como se sentían al respecto. Estaban utilizando palabras profanas en contra de la comunidad LGBT y diciendo frases sin sentido alguno; toda la conversación con un sentimiento vicioso. Estas dos mujeres adultas creían que eran pensamientos apropiados pero

en verdad eran poco espirituales, poco políticos y no cultos. Yo esperaba por mi comida y después me senté en un asiento cerca de ellas. Después de comer, decidí acercarme a ellas y comenzar un corto dialogo.

Me les presenté como ciudadano latino gay y que lamentablemente escuche parte de la conversación que ellas estaban teniendo. Ellas muy amablemente me dijeron que eran de Sur América y muy religiosas. Le dije que me estuvo interesante que ellas hablaran tan alto usando palabras profanas; ellas se disculparon. Ellas me hablaron de que en la conversación no sabían que decir ya que estaban tan furiosas por ver a unos vecinos de ellas besándose y tomados de las manos al frente de la casa. Ellas me dijeron que era la segunda vez que veían esto y que no querían que sus hijos/as vieran estos comportamientos. Ellas querían poder tener la oportunidad de votar en contra de los derechos para los homosexuales incluyendo que no ejerzan abiertamente en la milicia. Les expliqué que yo era parte de los matrimonios homosexuales en el estado y uno de los líderes de la organización para la comunidad Latina y LGBT.

Les expliqué además que si fuera por personas como ellas, nosotros como comunidad Latina (de color) estuviéramos todavía caminando al lado opuesto de la calle y no tendríamos los mismos derechos que tenemos ahora. Les mencioné que si fuera así, las relaciones bi-raciales entre latinos y personas blancas no existirían. Ellas me escuchaban y una de ellas me dijo que esta era la primera vez que alguien la hacía pensar al respecto de este punto de vista y de esa manera. Les indiqué también que las dos pen-

saran sobre todas las veces que quizás ellas se besaban (y otros heterosexuales) al frente de la personas LGBT sin saberlo – ¿cómo esto nos hizo sentir? Añadí que la próxima vez que su “pastor”, líder religioso o comunitario les dicte a ellas como actuar y pensar que por favor se acuerden de su descendencia como Latina y mujer ya que ambas fueron (y todavía podemos argumentar) están considerados en los grupos minoritarios.

Les dije que mi matrimonio es tan válido como el de cualquier otra persona y que nunca nosotros, como comunidad LGBT, hemos exigido un trato diferente a los demás o que ni las iglesias tienen que casarnos. Sólo pedimos el derecho como cualquier otra persona sin importar raza, religión, creencias ni demás. En esos minutos, creo que ellas y yo nos comprendimos y aprendimos del uno al otro. Quizás entendieron mi punto de vista. Sé que yo entendí un poco de donde surgieron estas ideas—de una religión e iglesia homofóbica y no de una espiritualidad llena de amor y aceptación. Entendí que ellas estaban guiándose por otros/as y que estaban mezclando religión con política y derechos humanos. Espero que me entendieran, quizás le cambié su manera de pensar sobre el asunto o por lo menos la eduqué al respecto. Deseo haber ayudado a esta pareja gay de alguna manera. No sé el nombre de ellas, no sé dónde viven, ni a que iglesia van o que creencia religiosa practican. Lo que sí sé es que las hice pensar mas allá de lo que ellas acostumbraban a pensar.

En pocos momentos, las hice conocer un poco de mí y le di un toque personal al tema. Terminamos la conversación con un adiós sen-

cillo y le dije que Dios las bendiga y ellas se sorprendieron de mi despido. Ella me respondió que a mi también lo mismo y que gracias por mi amabilidad. Al caminar a la puerta las escuche diciéndose una a la otra que deben considerar sus palabras ya que palabras pueden doler y causar daños.

Ellas me recordaron de la diversidad de la comunidad Latina y de que todos estamos en la tierra por un ser espiritual que algunos lo llamamos Dios, otros Jehová, otros Buddha, Yemaya, y tantos otros nombres, pero la mayoría sabemos que estamos aquí por algo “grande”.

Esto es una conversación de sólo minutos, ¿pero se imaginan que puede pasar si todos/as tenemos conversaciones de esta índole con los que conocemos? ¿Se imaginan como la comunidad Latina cambiaría la perspectiva que tienen de la comunidad Latina LGBT? Con el diálogo no argumentos, con una conversación no con gritos ni relajos, el mundo puede cambiar. No lo hagamos solamente durante Octubre 11, el día nacional para salir del clóset, pero atrevase a tener estas conversaciones a través de todo el año. Por supuesto esto es mi perspectiva, es sólo una perspectiva de una sola conversación pero de esta manera todos/as podemos ayudar a cambiar la perspectiva general. Quizás podamos comenzar a cambiar la mala educación de algunos latinos/as en nuestra sociedad y hacer una comunidad más amena, con menos violencia en contra de nuestra comunidad Latina LGBT. ¡Sólo quisiera una mejor educación para todos/as!

\*Escrito por Wilfred W. Labiosa, director ejecutivo de CASPAR Inc. y activista local.

## Pregúntale a Lambda Legal – Regreso a la escuela y el acoso escolar

Por: Iván Espinoza-Madriral, Abogado, Lambda Legal

**P:** Mi hija está en el colegio secundario y recientemente salió del clóset. Ha estado acosada por sus compañeros de clase, y estoy preocupado que esto afectará su salud y el trabajo escolar. ¿Qué puedo hacer para ayudarla?

**R:** Nadie se debe sentir inseguro en un lugar que se supone que es de crianza saludable. Sin embargo, el año pasado, 80 por ciento de estudiantes lesbianas, gay, bisexuales o transgéneros (LGBT) reportaron haber sido acosados. El acoso y la violencia tienen consecuencias terribles: pueden poner en riesgo el funcionamiento académico, y los estudiantes LGBT son más propensos a la depresión y suicidio. Aquí compartimos algunos pasos que puede tomar para proteger a sus hijos:

**Demuestre Su Apoyo:** Es esencial que los jóvenes LGBT sepan que sus familias los quieren y los apoyan. A pesar de percepciones erróneas, las personas LGBT no escogen su orientación sexual e identidad de género, y esas características no tienen que ver con el valor de una persona. Los padres también pueden recibir apoyo de organizaciones como PFLAG (202-467-8180, para español oprima 9).

**Conozca los Derechos de sus Hijos:** Todo niño tiene el derecho de recibir una educación pública gratis hasta el grado 12 sin importar la raza, la nacionalidad, el idioma o el estatus migratorio, sin temor a riesgo de discriminación o deportación. La Constitución de los Estados Unidos garantiza a todas las personas—incluso su hijo o hija LGBT—protección igual bajo la ley, y las constituciones estatales contienen protecciones similares. La ley federal conocida como Título IX, la cual aplica a las escuelas que reciben fondos federales, no sólo prohíbe la discriminación basada en el sexo, sino también acoso y discriminación por no amoldarse a los estereotipos de géneros. En algunos estados, se requiere que las escuelas tengan regla-

mentos contra la discriminación incluyendo orientación sexual e identidad y expresión de género. Pero aún si su estado no los tiene, puede que estén incluidas en las ordenanzas municipales o del distrito escolar. Lambda Legal ha logrado que las cortes acepten que la discriminación en las escuelas contra los jóvenes LGBT es legalmente inaceptable.

**Tome Acción:** Primero, haga un plan de seguridad con su hijo/a, el cual podría incluir una manera segura de llegar y regresar de la escuela, o pedirle a alguien que acompañe a su

escrito con la escuela y mantenga copias de todos los documentos que envía o recibe. Si encuentra que la queja no mejora la situación de su hijo, llame a Lambda Legal al 866-542-8336 (tenemos especialistas que hablan español). Si alguien amenaza o ataca físicamente a su hijo, comuníquese con la policía.

**Exija un Ambiente Seguro:** Sigue aumentando el número de distritos escolares que han tomado los pasos para hacer las escuelas más inclusivas y que apoyen a las personas LGBT. Por ejemplo, algunos han implementado reglamentos que prohíben la discriminación basada en la orientación sexual o identidad de género, han fomentado la creación de grupos de apoyo para estudiantes LGBT y han expandido el currículo para enseñar respeto hacia las diferencias de orientaciones sexuales e identidades de género. Además del apoyo que le provee a su hijo, considere reunirse con la facultad, la administración escolar y otros padres para discutir asuntos como la seguridad y el currículo contra la discriminación.

**Los Padres y sus Hijos sin Documentación Tienen Derechos:** La ley requiere que las escuelas ofrezcan a los estudiantes inmigrantes los mismos beneficios y servicios que les ofrecen a los demás. La ley lo protege a usted y a su hijo de la discriminación basada en raza, origen étnico, sexo, discapacidad, estatus migratorio, o nacionalidad. La ley le prohíbe a las escuelas públicas requerir información o documentación de estatus migratorio. Además, la ley federal le prohíbe a las escuelas compartir información académica de su hijo con alguien fuera de la escuela sin su permiso, a menos se trate de un asunto relacionado a la educación de su hijo. Esto prohíbe que las escuelas compartan documentos con la policía o agentes de inmigración sin una orden judicial.

Si tienes una pregunta legal o necesitas ayuda legal, por favor visite: [www.lambdalegal.org/ayuda](http://www.lambdalegal.org/ayuda)



Lambda Legal

making the case for equality

hijo/a. Segundo, mantenga, por escrito, información sobre los problemas que está teniendo su hijo. Incluya detalles de lo que ha pasado, las personas involucradas, dónde y cuándo el incidente tomó lugar, y posibles testigos. Tercero, denuncie todo acoso y abuso al director de la escuela. Los consejeros y maestros en quien usted confía podrían ayudarlo, pero la ley no los obliga a tomar acción al mismo extremo que al director. Presente una queja por

### Transgender Children from page 19

the time that's all the explanation needed and while I watch their parents sputter and twitch in confusion and discomfort, the kids just move on to whatever is next, with completely easy acceptance.

My experience is that kids know. They just feel it in their bones if they are the “wrong” gender. It's adults who have issues and insecurities about transkids. So to strike a sort of balance, what is mostly done, at least so far as I understand it, is that transkids are placed on puberty-delaying drugs until they reach a legal age of consent. At which time they can choose to start HRT or not.

Given the wide range of when puberty actually begins for teenagers, this seems pretty reasonable. Isn't it better to let kids avoid years of pain, shame and questioning by letting them be who they already know themselves to be? Kids are smart, smarter than us sometimes. Why not listen to what they have to say about themselves, rather than force them into our own little boxes.

Be well friends! And keep those questions coming! I'm always here to help! Slainte!

\*Lorelei Erisis, former Miss Trans New England, can be contacted at: [loleleierisis@therainbowtimesmass.com](mailto:loleleierisis@therainbowtimesmass.com).

### Trans Pride March from page 19

The cycle needs to stop. And the change must begin with allies. This movement cannot afford apathy. Too many real lives are at stake.

To get involved with Northampton Transgender Day of Remembrance, email [northamptondor@gmail.com](mailto:northamptondor@gmail.com).

\*Tynan Power is an FTM parent, writer, Muslim and interfaith leader. He is the author of “The War on the Home Front: A Queer Family after 9/11” in the new anthology “Progressive Muslim Identities.” E-mail him at [tynanpower@yahoo.com](mailto:tynanpower@yahoo.com).



**Thinking Out Loud from page 2**

life: the Beatles, though one seems to think I'm oversensitive about John Lennon. So, even with people I care about, I find myself down-playing my already mild support for my own community. I confess that I worry my friends will say, "Oh, she's off again," just because I have to point out that however much you might like Rick Santorum's economic ideas, he actually used the words "man on dog" to explain his opposition to same-sex marriage.

I know why I'm biting my lip: I'm showing that I don't have a chip on my shoulder, that my lesbian identity is a joy-joy modern thing. I worry that if I make too many comments about injustice against LGBT people, people will think I'm – yes – an angry, miserable lesbian. I know better, but it's an old, deep reflex against an old image that hovers around whenever I have a moment of righteous anger or am feeling emphatic. I see it there, in its mannish gray suit and severe hair-do, but others may not.

If you are too young to know what I'm talking about, first, let me say how happy that makes me. Second, it's time for a LGBT history refresher. Please stop everything now and read Vito Russo's seminal *The Celluloid Closet* (or stream the movie). When I came out in the 80s, I was only too familiar with the persistent message in the media that Russo

so beautifully exposed: that all LGBT people were suicidal, homicidal, mistaken, or – in a strangely repetitive trope – vampires, before they got all cuddly. In movies from *Basic Instinct*, to *Personal Best*, to *The Hunger*, there wasn't a feel-good lesbian character to be found. This was so routine that when the sweetly positive lesbian flick, *Desert Hearts*, came out in 1985 in L.A., every lesbian I'd ever met was in that ticket line opening day, it was so exciting. The audience erupted when the film's lesbian ingénue arrived on the screen, defiant and joyful, driving backwards at 60 miles an hour in her convertible.

Now that we are moving quickly into no-big-deal-land, I sometimes feel like it's my job to be the model post-liberation lesbian, to treat this recent history as quaint and silly – which is a mistake. Last month a 17-year-old boy was shoved and taunted in Tennessee for wearing a GSA t-shirt at his school – his principal reportedly egged his tormentors on. That same week 14-year-old Jamey Rode-meyer killed himself in Buffalo, New York after relentless bullying. Those old images are still around, giving permission to violence and stupidity. We're not post-anything yet.

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

**Faith, Family, and God from page 4**

*Love suffers long and is kind;  
Love does not envy;  
Love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;  
Does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;  
Does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;*

*Bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.  
Love never fails.*

*\*Paul is an author, attorney, and a seminary trained, ordained priest in greater Albany, N.Y. E-mail questions about faith to Dilorod@aol.com.*

**And the Award(s) go to from page 2**

The Community Champion Award presented by CABO's President, Dena Castri-cone, was awarded to Diana Lombardi. Diana is a true all-star for the LGBT community within Connecticut. She works tirelessly for the CT TransAdvocacy Coalition, as well as volunteering for CTequality, True Colors, CABO and many others. Diana embodies a community advocate and champion. She has made a significant impact on the CT LGBT community.

CABO is able to provide services to its member in large part due to our corporate partnerships, which include; Aetna, Foxwoods, Murtha Cullina LLP, Comcast Business Class, Bearingstar Insurance, Nutmeg State Federal Credit Union, Clear Channel Radio and The Rainbow Times. Each of these businesses has something great to offer and their commitment and support to the LGBT community is what separates them from the rest. We highly encourage you to do business with one or all of them.

*\*In her role as Executive Director, Jenn is responsible for maintaining and growing membership, developing strategic business partnerships and overseeing the day-to-day operations of the organization. In addition to being CABO's executive director, she also is a small business owner specializing in planning, branding, social media and design services.*

**The Occupy Movement from page 2**

marily people of color, out of their homes after knowingly serving them high-interest mortgages. If our LGBTQ organizations calling loudly for human rights do not include fighting for people to be able to keep their homes, then what is human rights for us at all?

Konczal suggests that the Occupy folks start preparing to move into homes that have been foreclosed on. He explicitly articulates that these spaces are "contested" and "blur boundaries." This could not be a better moment for those of us who are queer to get involved. We know lots about blurring boundaries and contesting spaces of ownership. If we work, in authentic relationships, with organizations like City Live/Vida Urbana and Springfield's No One Leaves/Nadie Se Mude, the Occupy movement could become even stronger.

We as LGBTQ folks need to recognize that this is part of our liberation, and putting our bodies in the blurry boundaries and contested spaces is exactly what we can and should be doing. This is yet another moment for us to step up and share the responsibility for holding oppressive systems accountable for their treatment of our communities.

# To Cook is To Love: A Foodies Journal Food and Politics

By: John Verlinden\*/TRT Cuisine Expert



PHOTO: RACHEL POWER

**¡MUCHO GUSTO!** Even though it's still a year away the races for President and for U.S. Senator from Massachusetts are already in full swing. I couldn't be more excited! After food, the next big passion in my life is public policy. And, every four years my "foodie" and "political junkie" alter egos get the opportunity to work together.

Food is generally not a major concern on most people's minds when they're evaluating candidates and their positions on issues. So far the big issues this year are the economy, health care, housing, education, tax reform, business deregulation and government spending. Important stuff, but what's more fundamental than food and water?

There were three tiny little stories in the news this morning that caught my attention. They weren't related; none will probably get much attention. But, together they illustrate just how important food politics will become to each of us in the future, how complex the problems are and how difficult finding suitable solutions will be. The first story referenced a United Nations report advising that there are now 7 billion people on our planet and that a billion more will be added every twelve years, the second quoted a U.S. Department of Agriculture analysis stating that food prices in the U.S. are expected to rise 3.5-4.5% in 2011, and the third was a report that the White House will once again include healthy snacks (dried fruit) in its Halloween treats bags.

Three simple stories right, but they raise huge public policy questions. How do we feed so many people? What should we do to ensure average Americans will continue to afford and have access to food? How do we improve nutrition and address childhood obesity?

Over the next year as we suffer through the talking heads and talking points, the debates, the position papers, the mud-slinging and the annoying commercials about those other issues; in this column we'll explore some of the important food issues we'll be facing as a society.

Tell us what you are concerned about, share your opinion on the future of food politics, ask a question or suggest a topic for a future article – contact me: john@muchogusto.com or visit www.muchogusto.com and join our food forum.

Until next time – ¡Mucho Gusto!, ¡Muchas Gracias! y ¡Buen Provecho!

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# The OutField: Gay Sports' Hot 100 important moments in gay sports history

By: Dan Woog\*/Special for TRT

Q SPORTS



To John Amaechi's long list of achievements — former NBA basketball player, gay activist, human rights advocate — add another: Order of the British Empire.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth

II has tabbed the hoopster-turned-social entrepreneur for the "honour," bestowed Oct. 26 at Buckingham Palace. His selection has drawn kudos from disparate quarters. National Basketball Association commissioner David Stern called Amaechi "an inspiration to millions"; Director of Amnesty International UK Kate Allen cited his work "promoting a greater understanding of human rights in all sports."

Amaechi certainly deserves the Order. But he's not the only LGBT sports figure worthy of praise. The roster of gay sports figures — and their accomplishments — grows, seemingly by the day. Finally they've been compiled, all in one place.

It's quite an impressive list.

Outsports — the go-to website for all things sporting and queer — has released "the 100 most important moments in gay sports history." Reading what's happened since 1969 is both educational and empowering.

(Full disclosure: I helped research the list. And, I am proud to say, publication of my book "Jocks: True Stories of America's Gay Male Athletes," makes the cut — barely — at No. 99.)

The "Top 100" includes some names that are very familiar, some that are lesser known, and a few obscurities. All have contributed to the current, explosive and largely positive state of LGBT sports.

The list begins at No. 100 with "University of Florida settles lawsuit with Andrea Zimbardi." The 2004 case involved an honor student and softball captain, who was kicked off the team because of suspicions she was a lesbian. The settlement mandated the first-ever homophobia training for coaches and administrators at a major university.

Another important lawsuit occurred at Penn State, around the same time. Jen Harris was kicked off the basketball team by coach Rene Portland for — surprise! — being a lesbian. Port-

land was fined \$10,000 by the university. She later resigned.

Other less-than-stellar gay sports moments include New York Giants tight end Jeremy Shockey declaring he would not want a gay teammate; gay soccer star Justin Fashanu committing suicide, and Atlanta Braves pitcher John Rocker spewing homophobic comments in a Sports Illustrated interview.

Most of the top 100 events, however, are positive. The San Francisco Giants were the first professional sports team to make an "It Gets Better" video, encouraging young teens. Other squads, in a variety of leagues, followed suit.

New York Rangers hockey player Sean Avery is an outspoken proponent of gay marriage. His activism played a role in this year's vote by New York legislators to legalize same-sex nuptials.

Also in New York, "Take Me Out" — a play about a gay baseball player — made its mark on Broadway. Two significant things happened: It won a Tony Award for Best Play, and brought gay men who did NOT necessarily love theater, to the theater.

At the University of Pennsylvania, the formation of Penn's Athletes and Allies Tackling Homophobia and Heterosexism (PATH) presaged the rise of similar groups on other college campuses.

Allies were also in the news when Hudson Taylor — a straight University of Maryland wrestler — wore a Human Rights Campaign sticker on his headgear. He went on to form Athlete Ally, a support group that works tirelessly to challenge homophobia and transphobia in sports.

Some of the events on Outsports' list sound almost random. In 2010, the Stanley Cup — won earlier that year by the Chicago Blackhawks — had a position of honor at that city's Gay Pride parade.

Others are truly distinctive, like the publication in 1974 of Patricia Nell Warren's seminal novel "The Front Runner," and the first-ever Gay Games in 1982.

But it is coming out that may be the most prevalent and important thread throughout Outsports' list. Just as John Amaechi's announcement shined a light on pro basketball, other men and women have had similar effects on their own teammates, coaches and fans.

Virtually every sport is represented: football (Esera Tuaolo, Roy Simmons), baseball (Billy Bean), hockey (Brendan Burke), swimming and diving (Mark Tewksbury), golf (Muffin Spencer-Devlin), wrestling, mountain biking,

women's boxing, dressage, bodybuilding — even cricket and hurling.

The top two stories on the list, in fact, involve coming out: tennis star Martina Navratilova in 1981, and former football player Dave Kopay five years earlier.

Some of the sports in which LGBT athletes have come out are major. Others are minor, even obscure. Still — even in 2011 — it takes courage for any athlete, in any event, to say those few words.

John Amaechi said them four years ago. He

## Holly Near from page 17

movement against corporate greed and economic disparities spread to hundreds of cities across the world. In one break between songs, Near talked about attending one of the recent Occupy protests and sharing concern with a young man about the conspicuous absence of the generation between them.

Greist finds Near's ongoing independent success inspiring.

"She is the kind of musician I strive to be," Greist said. "Seeing her give a sold-out concert, alongside Laura Love, another performer I greatly admire, proved to me that independent artists can thrive."

Near is currently compiling documentation of the music and activism of the four decades of her career. On her website, Near is asking fans to submit their memories from any show in her long history, to help tell the "untold stories." In tough times, when many wallets are thin and belts are tight, live music performances can seem like a luxury. Holly Near's music fed a real hunger in her audience.

"Holly is such a charismatic storyteller and political activist, the audience left emotionally

filled and re-fueled from this show," producer Allen said.

None of that happened.

Instead, the Queen of England put a medal around his tall, gay neck.

\*Dan Woog is a journalist, educator, soccer coach, gay activist, and author of the "Jocks" series of books on gay male athletes. Visit his website at [www.danwoog.com](http://www.danwoog.com). He can be reached care of this publication or at [OutField@qsyndicate.com](mailto:OutField@qsyndicate.com).

filled and re-fueled from this show," producer Allen said.

"There will always be an audience hungry for good music that reaches beyond the superficial into the places that really matter," added Greist. "People are frightened and weary these days, and Holly's concert provided a respite through humor, harmony, and a sense of community."

In these times, Allen thinks creative works are far more than luxuries. Wildrose Productions is committed to producing cultural works — whether live events or film productions — that have deeper meaning. Though the name may not ring a bell, Allen's work has been in the public eye for years. Her documentary, "Young At Heart Chorus, The Early Years" can be found online at [youngatheartchorus.net](http://youngatheartchorus.net).

Now, Allen is codirecting Northampton's Pride March, "turning it around from marching out of town to marching to Veteran's Field," she said. "Currently, I'm working on a film about a gay elder and I am writing a lesbian dramatic film which I plan to produce. ... I believe though art and music we can, and will, change the world."

To learn more about Holly Near's historical documentation project, visit [hollynear.com](http://hollynear.com).



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