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## ELIZABETH WARREN

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## POLITICAL GUIDE 2012

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PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK.COM



# How race could affect this election gravely

By: Nicole Lashomb/ TRT Editor-in-Chief

OPINIONS

If you're anything like me, you may be experiencing some anxiety this election cycle—severe anxiety. I've always been a news junkie. But now, every day, all day, I've found myself checking various news outlets for the latest polls and the latest zingers by political candidates to a point of no return. I have obsessively donated to campaigns that my wife and I have a vested interest in, the ones that will do their best to ensure our safety and protections for the future not only as members of the LGBT community, but as members of other marginalized communities as well.

It has baffled me how someone as deficient as Mitt Romney can even be close to the President in any of these polls, especially considering all of the President's achievements to date (see page 13 for LGBT achievements alone). Romney has been caught blatantly lying about his plans and "beliefs," which happen to change from day to day based on what he thinks select audiences want to hear. As President Obama put it, he is suffering from a severe case of "Romnesia." He wants to stifle women's rights, LGBT rights, racial and ethnic groups' rights, immigrant rights, and virtually all other rights that do not align with his narrow perspective of humankind; or in this case, mankind. His mankind—white, heterosexual, and rich. Then, I got it.

According to a recent report by the Associate Press, "51 percent of Americans now express explicit anti-black attitudes, compared with 48 percent in a similar 2008 survey."

But, there is reason. Whenever any margin-

alized group moves forward, there is always a backlash, usually twice as hard. Think about the "anti" movements directed toward the LGBT community and others through racism, sexism, and many other "isms," compared to four years ago. The "majority" feels threatened with the social progress we've made, whether they know it or not. We are moving forward as a nation, largely in part to the president's vocal support of personal freedoms. Yet, such advances have also drawn the extremists out of the woodwork.

Race matters. Think about the bumper stickers, cartoons, posters, videos, etc. that portray President Obama in a negative light or as a stereotype. Sure, I've heard it. Bush was made fun of too. This goes far and beyond being the brunt of a joke. I bet Bush was never lynched in a grotesque effigy. Was he? We are polarized in the worst kind of way.

The results of the survey depicted that by racial prejudice alone, President Obama "could lose 5 percentage points off his share of the popular vote in his Nov. 6 contest against Republican challenger Mitt Romney."

Not surprisingly, most of the study's participants that were found explicitly racist identified as Republican by a whopping 79 percent.

In this Presidential election, there is a clear choice to make—either a choice for acceptance, tolerance and inclusion or a choice that will benefit a privileged few. Before casting your vote on November 6, please do your homework. If there is anything I've learned in this election cycle is believe nothing of what you hear and only half of what you see, particularly when it comes to Willard Mitt Romney. Does the figure 47% come to mind? If not, Google it.

# Thanksgiving: Remembering colonialism, genocide and the actual truth about the holiday legacy

By: Jason Lydon\*/TRT Columnist



November sees the end of the election season and the beginning of the winter holidays. This is when we trade debates on television for debates over shared meals. We trade candidate ads for commercials con-

vinced by the United American Indians of New England. It is a time for Indigenous people to tell a side of the story that is washed away by fake stories about pilgrims and Indigenous people having a happy dinner together. It is sad that Christina Ricci's Wednesday Addams tells more truth about what the holiday really is in the film "Addams Family Values" than most young people get in their schools.

The gathering in Plymouth strives to tell some truth about the legacy of Thanksgiving. The first Thanksgiving was not in 1621, the meal shared by Indigenous people and the Pilgrims. Rather, the first Thanksgiving was declared by the Governor of the Massachusetts Colony, William Bradford, in 1637. It was not a celebration of kinship between the European colonizers and the Indigenous people, it was a celebration of the Pequot massacre. In his declaration, Governor Bradford wrote that the celebration was to be, "a day of celebration and

See Indigenous on Page 23

**...incarceration of Indigenous young people is unconscionable, the impacts of drug and alcohol use and the continued theft of land are all part of the ongoing oppression of Indigenous people.**

vincing us to rack up credit card debt buying presents. Of course, we also trade Halloween candy for my personal favorite, Christmas music and candy canes. I want to take this opportunity to reflect on a particular holiday of this month, Thanksgiving.

Holidays can be really tricky times for us as queer and trans folk. For many of us, there are not families to celebrate with and there are not safe places to go when others are having big dinners. The holiday season can be triggering for those of us who are struggling with sobriety. When it comes to Thanksgiving, there is also that pesky history of colonialism and genocide that it conveniently tries to cover up.

I have been blessed with a family that not only accepts my queerness, but also puts up with my radical politics. Thanksgiving is the only consistent holiday my family gets together for year after year. We gather together on the South Shore of Massachusetts, in Kingston, and share a few days with each other. On Thanksgiving morning, a group of us always head out to Plymouth, not for the Thanksgiving parade, but for the annual commemoration of the National Day of Mourning. This is an event and march coor-

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I was so glad to see a story about John McGovern coming to town (well a nearby town). I went to see him and had a blast. I thought his Catholic-Irish jokes were about me. Anyway, the show was great and I have a ne secret crush!

—Dustin Donovan, Hartford, CT

Dear Editor,

I found out about Dr. Beemyn's book in the last issue of the Times. I was so engaged that I went out and purchased the book, which I highly recommend to anyone who is not under the gender binay. Thanks Dr. Beemyn for such a great book.

—Lucas Breen, Somerville, MA

Dear Editor,

Thanks so much for all you do for NAGLY. I read your message to NAGLY and we are very grateful that you always help us out. Just wanted to send you the love.

—Nadine Ramsey, Salem, MA

Dear Editor,

I read the political endorsements, although I'm not sure if I'll be voting for Tierney. You made a good point about his support for the community, but can I forget about the rest of the stuff? On the other hand, Tisei is Republican and will vote as such. Not sure.

—Ritch Veille, Boston, MA

## OUR TOP PICKS



**Get Out the VOTE**



**President Obama**



**Elizabeth Warren**



**Joe Kennedy**



**John Tierney**



**Niki Tsongas**

READ ABOUT OUR ENDORSEMENTS: BIT.LY/SRZLWU

## The Rainbow Times

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I am a partner, an editor, and a runner.  
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- Oriol



Oriol (left) has lived with HIV since 1992.

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# Warren Campaign targets Gay vote with get-out-the-LGBT-vote rally

By: Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter

IN THE LIMELIGHT

Her campaign strategists know that in as a close a race as this one — multiple polls show her with a one-to-two point advantage — Elizabeth Warren needs every single vote to send Republican US Senator Scott Brown packing. In other words, gay votes may really matter on Election Day.

Perhaps that's why the Warren campaign rolled out star power the likes of U.S. Senator Al Franken of Minnesota, specifically to fire up gay voters.

"You are looking at a senator who won by 312 votes," Franken told an enthusiastic gathering of 100 people in Cambridge on Friday afternoon, Oct. 19, at Warren's campaign office.

"My charge to you is work your butts off," he said.

## Brown absent for SNDA

The Minnesota senator spoke first hand of his disappointment in Brown's refusal to back a bill Franken introduced in the Senate, the Student Non-Discrimination Act (SNDA), federal legislation which aims to protect LGBT youth from harassment.

"Basically, [the bill] gives kids the right not to be bullied and the right to do something, if they are," he said, citing statistics that 99 percent of LGBT youth in this country report being bullied, with 30 percent saying they have missed a day of school in the last month because they are afraid.

Youth suicides from kids who were bullied in Minnesota have made national headlines.

"I asked Scott Brown to co-sponsor

[SNDA]," said Franken, adding, initially, Brown told him "I'll get back to you."

Ultimately, "He wouldn't do it," Franken said.

But Warren, a former elementary school teacher, supports anti-bullying protections, explaining on Blue Mass Group blog posting why.

"We need to help teachers and administrators create and foster an environment that welcomes students and their families, whether kids are being raised in a single parent household, by their grandparents, or by their lesbian moms or gay dads. All children — straight, questioning, perceived, gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender — can thrive in school only when they are truly safe and secure," she wrote.

## Cambridge key leaders

At Friday's rally, Cambridge city councilors E. Denise Simmons, who also serves as vice mayor, and Marjorie C. Decker, along with attorney Ellen Zucker revved up a loyal base that has good reason to pink slip Brown and every reason to back Warren.

"As I look out over the room, I see a lot of folks who have been fighting for LGBT equality for a very long time," said Zucker, who served as president of the board of directors for MassEquality during the several-year Beacon Hill battle to block a proposed anti-gay ballot measure aimed at rolling back same-sex marriage rights ushered in the by the Supreme Judicial Court's Goodridge decision.

"Mr. Brown, we remember you from your days in Massachusetts when 25 times you voted against marriage equality," she said, referring to the many times lawmakers during



**U.S. Senate candidate Elizabeth Warren speaks to veterans at North Shore rally in Boston, Massachusetts.**

numerous Constitutional Conventions took votes on same-sex marriage.

Zucker also recalled Brown's standing with, at the time Governor Mitt Romney, in casting a lone GOP vote to defund the Governor's Commission on GLTB Youth.

Initially established by an executive order of Republican Governor Bill Weld in 1992, the Governor's Commission became an independent agency of the Commonwealth Massachusetts in 2006 through legislative action.

The Commission recommends and advocates to all branches of state government effective policies, programs, and resources for GLBT youth

**Anti-LGBT comments from Brown**

Brown served as a state senator (2004 to 2010) before winning a 2010 special election to fill the seat left vacant by the death of Senator Edward M. Kennedy. Prior to his state Senate tenure, Brown served in the state House of Representatives from 1998 to 2004).

During his tenure as a state representative, Brown also made critical comments in 2001 — reported in the Boston Globe — about then state Senator Cheryl Jacques, saying it was "not normal" for a woman and her partner to have children, going so far as to disparage their "alleged family responsibilities."

"This is a man who does not respect our lives

**To read the rest of this story visit:**  
<http://tinyurl.com/8kcfwca>

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# Emails show Romney thwarted equal treatment of Gays as Mass. Governor

By: Lisa Keen/Keen News Service

BOSTON, Massachusetts — A new revelation surfaced about Mitt Romney Thursday (October 25), revealing yet another step he took as Massachusetts governor to thwart equal treatment of gays in the state.

The Boston Globe (<http://tinyurl.com/8pmz2dt>) said it was able to obtain records from an anonymous source this month that shows then Governor Romney tried to block the state Registry of Vital Records and Statistics from complying with a state Supreme Court decision that allowed same-sex couples to marry. The court decision required all state agencies revised documents necessary to comply with the court's ruling and, for the Registry that meant revising birth certificate forms to accommodate the designation of two same-sex parents instead of only a "mother" and a "father."

The Globe said the Registry sought to change the word "father" on the birth certificate form and have it say "father or second parent" instead, in recognition of the fact that many lesbian couples were and would continue to use the forms. The Globe said Romney rejected the plan and instructed his legal staff to individually review the birth certificate applications of every same-sex couple.

"Only after winning approval from Romney's lawyers," said the Globe, "could hospital officials and town clerks...cross out by hand the word 'father' ...and write in 'second parent'."

The Globe said it discovered the effort after reviewing dozens of emails and legal memos

sent between the governor's office and lawyers at the state Department of Health, which includes the Registry. In a December 13, 2004, email to Romney's general counsel Mark Nielsen, the DPH's deputy general counsel Peggy Wiesenber warned that Romney's instructions violated state law and compromised "the integrity of the vital record-keeping system."

According to the Globe, Wiesenber warned the Romney administration that Romney's plan would likely pose problems for the children of same-sex couples later in life when they registered for school, applied for a passport or dri-

struct[ed] the hospital to list mother & same sex spouse as the second parent on the child's birth certificate."

However, the Globe did find one instance in

ver's license, or registered to vote.

The Globe found few instances of Romney's actions leading to a denial of a proper birth certificate for a child of a same-sex couple. Wiesenber's email refers to at least 23 cases of lesbian couples giving birth to children conceived using anonymous donors. But in all 23 of those cases, according to Wiesenber's email, Romney's General Counsel "in-

which a lesbian couple asked that the second parent be identified as "wife," instead of "second parent." That request, according to the Globe, was denied. And in a second case, Romney's chief legal counsel Brian Leske rejected a request to list both same-sex parents on the birth certificate because the parents were not married.

Romney led an unsuccessful effort as governor of Massachusetts to push the legislature to try and overturn the historic 2003 state supreme court ruling in Goodridge that said the state constitution requires treating same-sex couples the same as straight couples in the issuance of marriage licensing. He also testified before Congress in favor of a U.S. constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage. And he quashed an existing governor's council to advise ways to help LGBT young people.

The Globe said birth certificates revised to comply with the Goodridge decision did not become available until after Democratic Governor Deval Patrick took office in January 2007.

The Globe said that, in June, it formally requested records related to the Romney administration's deliberations on birth certificates but that the Department of Public Health "withheld most of the documents," saying they reflected information protected by the attorney-client privilege. The documents were later provided to the Globe from "a source who requested anonymity."

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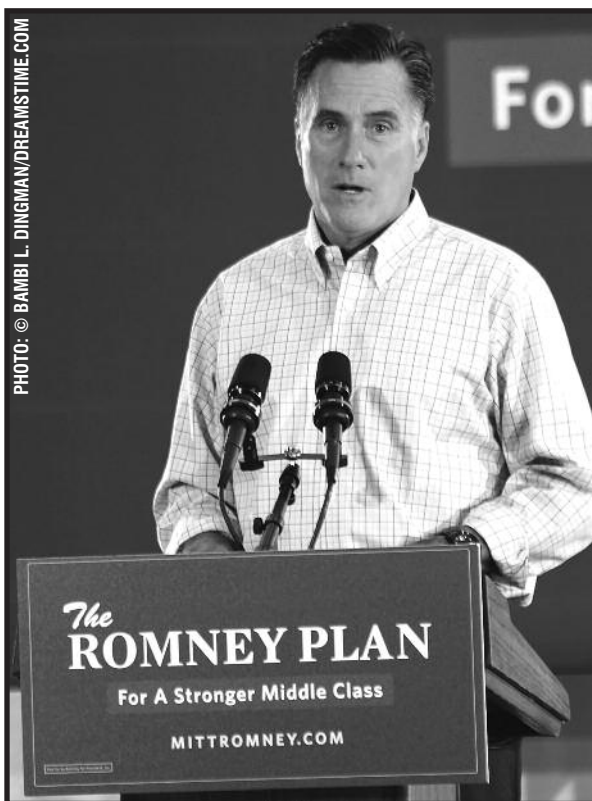


PHOTO: © BAMBI L. DINGMAN/DREAMTIME.COM

*"I believe that every citizen has the right to love and marry whom they choose. We need to end discriminatory policies like the Defense of Marriage Act, fight for passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, and address the devastating effect of bullying in schools for LGBT youth."*

*-Joe Kennedy*

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## LGBT guide to election night 2012

By: Lisa Keen/Keen News Service

It's a close race for the White House, a close race for Tammy Baldwin's bid to the U.S. Senate, five unpredictable outcomes on marriage related votes, and an openly gay caucus in Congress that could total either three or six by the end of the evening.

The stakes and the consequences of the results are so high that many LGBT people will be staying up late November 6 to watch it all unfold.

The National Election Pool, A coalition of mainstream media organizations who conduct exit polling in order to project results, is doing things differently this year to accommodate the increase in early voting. They predict, as a result of their modifications, projections may trickle out more slowly this year than in the past. But this guide will give political enthusiasts some idea of when the most important results will start becoming apparent.

### 7 p.m. Eastern

Polls close in the first six states, including the crucial swing state of Virginia. All six states hold a total of 60 electoral votes and, chances are, 44 will go to Romney and 3 to Obama. The wild card is Virginia, with 13 electoral votes that have been hard to predict for weeks. If they go to Romney, Democrats will need to get a drink. But if they go to Obama, Republicans might start pacing. Another important race in Virginia will be the outcome of the race for Virginia's open U.S. Senate seat – If pro-gay Democrat Tim Kaine wins, another sigh of relief; but if anti-gay George Allen wins, Democrats will have to start worrying about the majority in the Senate.

**Best case scenario:** Romney wins Indiana, Kentucky, Georgia, South Carolina and Obama wins Vermont and Virginia.

**Electoral count:** Romney 44, Obama 16

**Senate marker:** Good news if Kaine beats



Allen

### 7:30 p.m. Eastern

The most important news to listen for at 7:30 is who's winning Ohio. This has become perhaps the most important of the battleground states and its 18 electoral votes are seen as absolutely critical to Romney's chances of counting up to 270—the total electoral votes needed to win the White House.

**Best case scenario:** Romney wins North Carolina and West Virginia, Obama wins Ohio

**Electoral count:** Romney 64, Obama 34

### 8:00 p.m. Eastern

Eight o'clock is when the Big Kahuna of electoral votes comes flooding in – 210 in all. Of those, 96 are expected to go to Obama, including 20 from Illinois. Romney is likely to pick up 81, including 38 from Texas. The big question is who will pick up Florida's 29 and New Hampshire's 4.

**See LGBT Election Guide on Page 8**

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## Book Reviews: Spirituality book reviews: Gay Amish, Magnificent Journey and Spiritual Self-Esteem

By: Paul P. Jesepe/TRT Book Reviewer

Three recent books about LGBTQ spirituality offer very different insights. In doing so, they underscore how diverse, complex and different a faith journey is for each person.

**"Lifting the Spiritual Self-Esteem of the LGBT Community"** by Khepra Ka-Re Amente Anu takes on world religions from an African cultural perspective. His tone is angry, militant, impatient and passionate in critiquing religions with his understanding of history, sociology and anthropology. Religion's artificiality is the common theme underscored by the author. It is made by deeply flawed men and women with insecurities and prejudices. He hopes the book serves as a resource to LGBTQ individuals who are made to feel shame or guilt through religion.

**"Magnificent Journey"** by Rev. F. Jay Deacon, the former Director of the Unitarian Universalist Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns, has an impressive pastoral and theological pedigree. He defangs fundamentalism (religious extremism) in a gentle, cerebral manner leaving an LGBTQ reader with hope and solace for the present and future. The author is an introspective, very learned man who has a special perspective on religion and spirituality. You get the sense he's an "old soul."

Rev. Deacon is a gifted man who is able to take what seem to be very diverse topics and issues and bring them together in prophetic analysis and discussion. His focus is on wholeness, not the duality that often pits people against one another. His book is worthy of seminary study as well as for ordinary folk who explore his or her place as an individual and part of a larger family. In a very "de Charinian" manner he writes of a "religious vision" and "an evolutionary, integral spirituality — that perceives this roaring Universe of Life as unfolding."

He acknowledges the angst individuals have on a spiritual journey or just living life and empathizes with it. Rev. Deacon is a spiritual pioneer looking to learn and explore. He invites the reader on a journey of "inescapable purpose as a roaring engine of creativity."



**"The Literary Party: Growing Up Gay and Amish in America"** by James Schwartz is an extraordinary collection of poetry. The poems are about love, rejection and awareness. Although these are topics long written about, the poems crafted by Schwartz are very different. They are raw, honest and unpretentious with an underlying struggle to be Amish or understand his childhood faith as an LGBTQ child of God. Each poem is a gem demonstrating spiritual depth and awareness. To that end, I end this book review column with an excerpt from one of his poems:

### "The Lesson of Love"

...  
His morning smile an awakening.  
His singular embrace. Unbreaking.  
A fire of rekindled length.  
Unfurling in my new strength.

The feeling of two hearts sealing.  
A tribal, mystic rite of healing.  
Bruised limbs, congealing to stand.  
By dual embrace of heart and hand.  
Love unrested lies invested.  
Now ours is tried.  
Wrested.  
Humanity's humility harks to learn.  
The lesson of love in life's return.

*\*Paul is an attorney and seminary trained priest. He writes the "Faith, Family, and God" column for TRT. He is Founder of www.CorporateChaplaincy.biz.*

## LGBT Election Guide from page 7

Also at 8 p.m., polls close in Maine and Maryland, where voters are being asked to determine whether the state can begin issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples. LGBT supporters want a "Yes" vote on Question 1 in Maine and a "Yes" for Question 6 in Maryland.

And the Senate race between incumbent Republican Scott Brown and Democratic challenger Elizabeth Warren has been seen as a very important factor in determining who will control the Senate.

**Likely scenario:** Romney 174, Obama 134

**Best case scenario:** Maine votes "Yes" on Question 1 and Maryland votes "Yes" on Question 6

**Best Senate scenario:** Warren beats Brown

**Best House scenario:** Openly gay U.S. Rep.

David Cicilline wins re-election from Rhode Island and openly gay Richard Tisei wins his bid for a U.S. House seat from Massachusetts' 6th Congressional district, becoming the only openly gay Republican in Congress.

### 8:30 p.m. Eastern

Arkansas' six electoral votes will almost certainly go to Romney.

**Likely scenario:** Romney 180, Obama 134

### 9:00 p.m. Eastern

At 9 is when the second largest number of electoral votes come online. Romney will likely pick up 30, Obama will pick up 60. The question marks are Wisconsin and Colorado, with 10 and nine respectively.

Add to Wisconsin this twist: Liberal openly gay U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin has a real chance of becoming the first openly gay person to be elected to the U.S. Senate. She's in a very tight race against popular former Governor Tommy Thompson.

And add to Minnesota, with 10 electoral votes, hosting a vote on a ballot measure — Proposed Amendment No. 1—to amend the state's constitution to ban same-sex marriage. Except for the ballot measure, which can attract a large turnout from conservatives, Minnesota can lean Obama.

**Best case scenario:** Romney 210, Obama 213

**Best Senate scenario:** Baldwin wins

**Likely scenario:** Minnesota votes "Yes" for Proposed Amendment 1

**Best case scenario:** Openly gay State Rep. Marc Pacon wins Baldwin's old seat, openly gay U.S. Rep. Jared Polis wins re-election from

Colorado, newcomer Sean Maloney wins a U.S. House seat from New York's 18th District, and newcomer Kyristen Sinema wins the U.S. House seat from Arizona's 9th.

### 10 p.m. Eastern

Only 27 electoral votes are up on the boards after 10 and Romney has a good hold on 15 of them. Up for grabs are six electoral votes in Iowa and six in Nevada. Obama has campaigned heavily in both states and has a good chance to pull those to his column.

Also of interest is the vote on Iowa Supreme Court Justice David Wiggins who —like three colleagues before him—must survive a retention vote but one in which anti-gay

**... if all goes well in the first 3 hours, President Obama takes the White House with the electoral escort of California's 55 electoral votes, putting him well over the 270 needed.**

forces are determined to oust him.

**Best case scenario:** Romney 225, Obama 235

**Best case scenario:** Wiggins wins

### 11 p.m. Eastern

This is the hour when, if all goes well in the first three hours, President Obama takes the White House with the electoral escort of California's 55 electoral votes, putting him well over the 270 needed. In fact, at 10 p.m., Obama will likely rake in 78 electoral votes — from California, Washington, Oregon, and Hawaii. Romney will pick up a total of only seven from North Dakota and Idaho.

Also of interest in this hour will be the vote in Washington State on Referendum 74. A Yes vote will preserve a marriage equality law the legislature passed earlier this year.

**Best case scenario:** Romney 232, Obama 313 and secures the White House

**Best case scenario:** Washington votes "Yes" for Referendum 74

**Best case scenario:** Openly gay Democrat Mark Takano wins the U.S. House seat for California District 41, representing southern California. His victory could, if Mark Pacon wins Baldwin's seat, bring the openly gay caucus in Congress back up to four (with the loss of retiring Rep. Barney Frank and Senate hopeful Tammy Baldwin)

### Midnight

Alaska's three electoral votes will come in for Romney, but the party will be over.

**Best case scenario:** Romney 235, Obama 313

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– The Boston Globe

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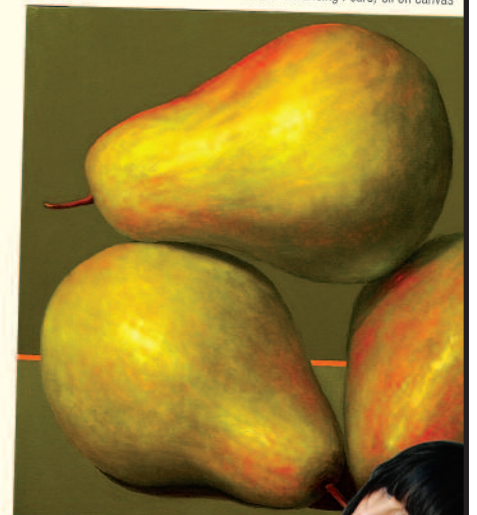


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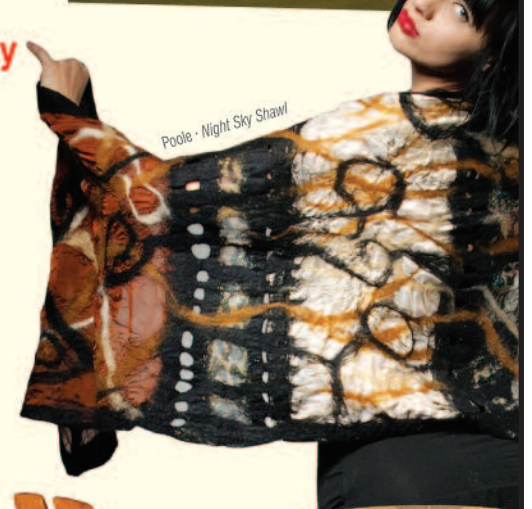
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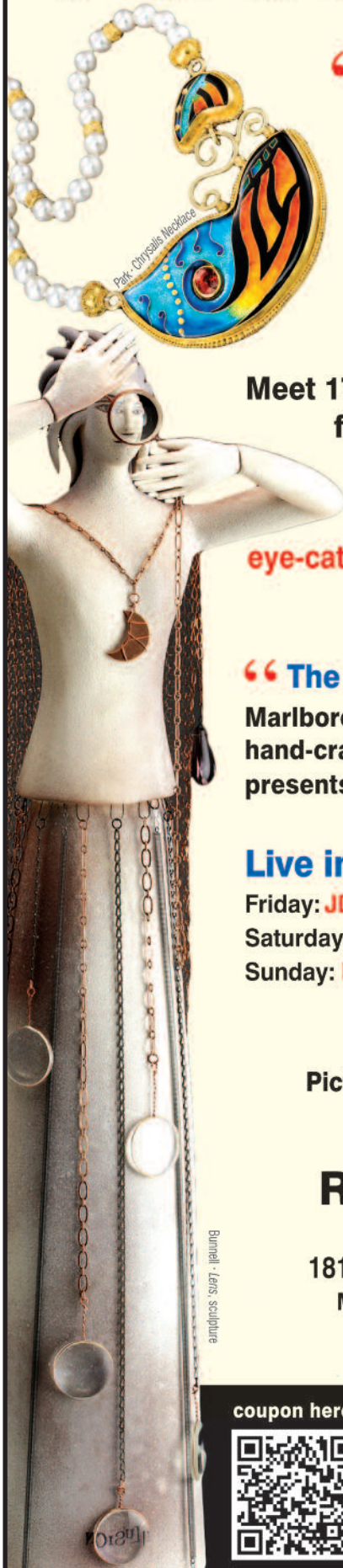
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# Joe Kennedy passionate about LGBT rights in Mass. debate

By: Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter

BOSTON, Massachusetts — The gay-rights question came near the end of the second debate between Republican Sean Bielat and Democrat Joseph P. Kennedy III in the race to fill the seat being vacated by retiring U.S. Representative Barney Frank in the 4th Congressional District.

Sure enough, sharply contrasting answers from the two candidates open a window into their differing philosophies about the rights of gay Americans and their potential for LGBT advocacy.

"The rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are key parts of the American dream," said Aaron Frechette, editorial page editor of Fall River's Herald Review, who was one of several people serving on a panel that questioned the candidates at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth's Advanced Technology and Manufacturing Center where Bielat and Kennedy squared off on Wednesday, Oct 10.

The debate, cosponsored by UMass Dartmouth and MassINC, a nonpartisan think tank, was live streamed over the Internet.

"In order to afford all residents of those rights, Massachusetts is challenging the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act [DOMA], which forbids federal recognition of same-sex marriages that are performed in Massachusetts and other states," Frechette continued.

"This is two-part question," he said. "Would you support [the] repeal of DOMA? And what



PHOTO BY: CHUCK COLBERT

Democrat Joe Kennedy for Congress is Massachusetts 4th district marching in Boston's Pride Parade this June.

is your philosophy of extending equal rights to all Americans?"

"No, is my first answer," Bielat responded. "You need some sort of framework, some sort of legal construct to where you have a state that recognizes gay marriage or a state that doesn't. There has to be some way of having a legal exchange. There may be a better way, but at the present you can't ignore that."

**See Kennedy on page 21**



PHOTOS: JENN ALTON



# InterPride 2012 Conference: A Success

By: Emily Scagel/TRT Assistant Editor

BOSTON, Massachusetts — Thirty years ago, Pride coordinators created InterPride to increase outreach and effect positive change through networking, collaboration and education within Pride groups. Since then, InterPride has held Annual World Conferences to accomplish this mission. Boston Pride, the host committee for the 2012 InterPride Annual General Meeting, AGM, wanted to bring this year's conference back to where it began—Boston. This move, according to Sylvain Bruni, Interpride 2012 co-chair and Boston Pride board member, is a testament to the achievements of the past three decades.

Anna Dubrowski, InterPride 2012 co-chair and Boston Pride committee member, added that the four-day event had representation from 17 countries and over 80 organizations, including over 100 new delegates.

"[We were] all working toward making our Prides more successful and opening the door for more people to step up and be brave enough to start their own Pride," said Dubrowski.

Delegates from across the world, including Spain, Iceland, Greece, Canada, the UK, France and Germany, gathered to learn, celebrate and network throughout event. Bruni stated that the conference was a huge success.

"Attendance was at an all-time high, the educational program included more workshops, panels and discussion sessions than at any previous AGM, and the feedback we received was extremely positive," said Bruni.

Success, in Bruni's words, was due to the hard work of the host committee and the open and collaborative planning process.

"Rather than planning the conference in a vacuum separate from InterPride, we decided early on to look outwards and to work closely with the InterPride leadership and member organizations," explained Bruni.

Pride organizers were surveyed from around the world about their interests, what topics they wanted the conference to address and what they wanted to accomplish and learn. From that, Bruni said, they were able to "tailor the conference content to what attendees really wanted to get out of the event."

John Trobaugh, a first time delegate from Worcester Pride was interested in this new experience.

"I was not sure what to expect at first," said Trobaugh, but "I really enjoyed the InterPride Boston conference. One of my goals as a new co-chair was to connect with our immediate neighboring community. What I got was much more! We will need to budget for InterPride every year." Trobaugh added that he learned much to bring back to his organization.

According to Bruni, the conference exists to assess what work has been accomplished over the past year and lay out the groundwork for the upcoming year. In addition, it offers a venue for education and networking.

"There is so much to learn from one another and the conference is one of the best ways for all to meet and network. We can all talk to folks from various parts of the world and learn how they have solved their Pride organizing problems, how they motivate their community to be active, how they manage their volunteers, how they get sponsors, etc.," explained Bruni. "It's really about sharing best practices so we can all be more efficient and serve our respective communities better."

In addition, Bruni stated that this AGM had a degree of professionalism that the host committee infused in the conference, leading to many unique firsts.

"For the first time, there were many parallel



Mass. Governor Deval Patrick with Boston Pride President, Linda DeMarco at the 2012 InterPride Conference held in Boston, MA this year.

PHOTO: JENN ALTON PHOTOGRAPHY

tracks in the educational program, the large majority of sessions were taught and presented by professionals rather than Pride organizers, a professional registration system was used that automated information collected, the conference had its own app for iPhone and Android phones, an outreach campaign was put in place to get students and Pride organizers from hostile environments to attend and a pre-conference was offered," said Bruni. "Since Boston is known as the 'City of Firsts,' it was only befitting that Boston Pride would push the envelope and take the conference to a whole new level."

Dubrowski added that there were also unique events and attendees. She explained that this was the first time the conference had brought youth groups, and the first time a sitting Governor, Deval Patrick (D-Mass), had attended an AGM to address delegates. Dubrowski said that "the cameras were nonstop, and by the time he left, he had inspired everyone to tears!"

Patrick sent a strong welcome to the delegates, something that some may not experience in their homeland.

"Governor Patrick told delegates that 'although [they] might not be welcome in [their] own State Houses or supported by [their] governments, [they] will always be welcome in the Massachusetts State House, and always supported by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,'" said Bruni.

The 30th Anniversary Gala Dinner at the JFK Presidential Library and Museum honored InterPride founders and was another Boston first, stated Dubrowski.

According to Bruni, "they expressed, like no one else could have, how much progress the Pride movement and InterPride made over the last 30 years ... They told us that we should be very proud of the work we do, and that we should continue pushing for even greater visibility and equality, all over the world, so that 30 years from now, even more people around the world can benefit from Prides. This meant a lot to everyone in the room and I think it pumped us up for another 30 years of Pride work!"

Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive for Boston Pride, said Bruni.

"We were told that 'Boston placed the bar really high for future conference organizers,' which really made us proud."

Dubrowski agreed that feedback has been tremendous.

"The Mayor's office, as well as the tourism office have sent over congratulations, but my best note of thanks came from the three founders [of InterPride] who attended," she said. "They were so proud to have met all the people they inspire to keep their mission moving forward."

More information about InterPride can be found at [www.interpride.org](http://www.interpride.org). The 2013 AGM will be held October 10-13 in Montréal.

## EROS 2012 Film Festival

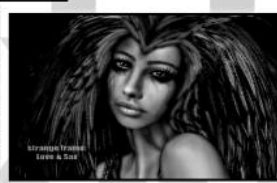
November 7-11, 2012



Wednesday, 11/7 • 7:30 p.m.  
Facing Mirrors  
(Aynehaye Rooberoo)



Friday, 11/9 • 9:00 p.m.  
Loose Cannons



Saturday, 11/10 • 9:00 p.m.  
Strange Frame



Thursday, 11/8 • 7:30 p.m.  
Gayby



Saturday, 11/10 • 2:30 p.m.  
Call Me Kuchu



Sunday, 11/11 • 2:30 p.m.  
The Laramie Project



Friday, 11/9 • 7:00 p.m.  
My Best Day



Saturday, 11/10 • 7:00 p.m.  
Four



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## LGBT BEREAVEMENT GROUPS

Fall 2012

### General Loss (Boston Area)

For LGBT people of any age who are experiencing the loss of a parent, friend, partner/spouse, family member or other loved one.

Location: Brookline

Registration: (617) 477-6610

Wednesday Evenings: 6:30 to 8pm

Dates: Oct. 3 to Nov. 28

1

### General Loss (Cape Cod)

For LGBT people of any age who are experiencing the loss of a parent, friend, partner/spouse, family member or other loved one.

Location: Harwich

Registration: 1-800-631-3900, x7715

Tuesday Evenings: 5:30 to 7pm

Dates: Oct. 23 to Dec. 11

2

Co-sponsored by Cape Cod VNA

### Partner/Spouse Loss

For any LGBT people experiencing the loss of a partner or spouse.

Location: Cambridge

Registration: (617) 477-6610

Thursday Evenings: 6 to 7:30pm

Dates: Nov. 8 to Jan. 10

3

### About the LGBT Bereavement Program:

The LGBT Bereavement Groups are funded by the Mass Department of Public Health and facilitated by Ethos and The LGBT Aging Project. **All groups are free** and run for 8 weeks. All groups require pre-registration. For more information on the LGBT Bereavement Program contact Bob Linscott at (617) 477-6610 or [blinscott@lgbtagingproject.org](mailto:blinscott@lgbtagingproject.org).



LGBT  
AGING  
PROJECT



# Openly gay vs. solidly pro-gay: Tierney-Tisei showdown

By: **Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter**

Massachusetts Congressman Barney Frank's retirement this year does not necessarily mean the Bay State is losing a gay House member.

If Richard Tisei, a former 25-year state lawmaker and unsuccessful candidate for lieutenant governor, prevails in a close congressional race, Massachusetts will make LGBT history once again — sending the first out-incumbent Republican to Capitol Hill.

Openly gay since he came out publicly in the Boston Globe in November 2009, Tisei, 50, is a pro-choice Republican who has refused to sign the Grover Norquist no-new-tax pledge.

Pro-small business, Tisei has been with his partner, Bernie Starr, for 18 years. Together, they own a real estate brokerage company.

A self-styled “fiscal conservative and libertarian on social issues,” he is not the ordinary face of the far-too-often overtly antagonistic, anti-gay, GOP. “I believe the government should get off your back, out of your wallet, and away from the bedroom,” Tisei said during a recent telephone interview.

During a press conference last month, when the Tisei campaign rolled out several local Democrats who endorsed him, this reporter asked, “Why would a gay Democrat vote for you, in effect giving Speaker John Boehner [of Ohio] another vote to advance an arguably hostile agenda? How would you stand up to the national Republican hostility to LGBT rights and gay equality?”

“First of all, there are a lot of issues in the country,” Tisei responded, citing “\$16 trillion in debt, every dollar borrowing 40 cents from



**Congressman John F. Tierney during a recent debate.**

PHOTO: CHUCK COLBERT

China, with 23 million people who are out of jobs, either unemployed or underemployed. We need leadership to get the country back on track.

“But on the issue of equality, I have a track record standing up and saying everyone should be treated equally under the law,” he said.

As a state senator Tisei backed same-sex marriage, voicing immediate support for the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court decision in Goodridge. He also co-sponsored legislation, which has now become law, adding “gender expression” and “gender identity” to the state’s civil rights and hate crimes provisions.

And yet, Tisei’s opponent, Democratic Representative John F. Tierney, 61, has a solid pro gay-rights record in his own right. So much so that the Human Rights Campaign political action committee, which has endorsed Tierney, gives the 16-year incumbent a near perfect 99 percent average scorecard rating.

Still, Tisei said, “You will never have full equality in this country unless you have members of both parties who are willing to stand up and say every American should be treated equally, and it becomes a settled issue.”

Accordingly, the nonpartisan Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund has endorsed Tisei.

“I do think that being gay and in the [Republican] caucus, I will be able to change hearts and minds,” he said.

To be sure, Tisei is in a tight race with an eight-term incumbent. A recent Globe poll showed Tisei leading Tierney by a 37 percent to 31 percent margin, but with 30 percent of respondents still undecided.

Last weekend, Rothenberg Political Report reclassified the race to “Lean Republican” after weeks of a “Toss-up” rating.

## Family problems

Tierney’s re-election difficulties stem from family matters. His brothers-in-law running of an illegal gambling operation has haunted him. Tierney’s wife, Patrice, pleaded guilty to “willful blindness” for her role in overseeing the finances of the \$1 million a year, off-shore gaming operation, which the congressman believed to be legal. Patrice Tierney served a one-month prison sentence last year and agreed to a guilty plea for tax fraud.

Tierney has been not been charged with any wrongdoing. “There is a clear statement from the judge that I was not involved in any way or shape,” said Tierney during an interview in his campaign headquarters.

But Tisei and congressional Republican leadership, namely Boehner, along with Majority Leader Eric Cantor of Virginia, Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy of California, and other GOP “Young Guns and Tea Party extremists, aligned with [my] opponent, don’t talk about that,” Tierney said. Instead, “they’ve spent millions of dol-



**Congressional candidate Richard Tisei at a recent press conference.**

PHOTO: CHUCK COLBERT

lars, raising doubts” about his judgment and integrity.

The outside conservative group YG Action has poured more than \$1 million into TV ads attacking Tierney’s ties to the brothers-in-law gambling ring.

The National Republican Congressional Committee has also financed ads on Tisei’s behalf, attacking Tierney.

And Tisei has received financial backing from high-profile gay conservatives, including Ken Mehlman, former Republican National Committee chairman, according to the *Washington Post*.

For his part, Tierney has struck back, linking Tisei to the Tea Party and an extreme right-wing GOP agenda.

At the same time, Tierney has lined up backing from the entire Massachusetts congressional delegation, including Barney Frank, along with former HRC executive director and Attleboro native Joe Solmonese, other LGBT activists from the district, and organizational backing from Gay and Lesbian Labor Activists Network. Earlier this month *The Rainbow Times* endorsed Tierney.

**Read the rest of this story at:**  
<http://tinyurl.com/8u6cfdp>

## Holly Folly

**Provincetown 2012**  
**November 30 ~ December 2**

## Provincetown Winter Weekends

Martin Luther King Jr. Day ~ January 19-21, 2013

Valentine's & President's Day ~ February 14-18, 2013

**PBG**  
Provincetown Business Guild  
PROMOTING LGBT TOURISM

[ptown.org](http://ptown.org)





# PROGRESS

## FOR THE LGBT COMMUNITY



2009

**JUNE 17**

Ordered the federal government to extend key benefits to same-sex partners of federal employees

**JUNE 29**

Hosted the first-ever White House LGBT Pride reception

**AUGUST 12**

Awarded the highest civilian honor, the Medal of Freedom, to Billie Jean King and Harvey Milk

**OCTOBER 21**

Created a National Resource Center for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Elders

**OCTOBER 28**

Signed the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act into law

2010

**JANUARY 1**

Banned discrimination in federal workplaces based on gender identity

**JANUARY 4**

Lifted the ban that prohibited people with HIV/AIDS from entering the United States

**MARCH 23**

Enacted the Affordable Care Act, reforming health care in America by lowering costs, expanding choice, and improving health care quality

**APRIL 15**

Ensured hospital visitation and medical decision-making rights for gay and lesbian patients

**JUNE 9**

Allowed transgender Americans to receive true gender passports without surgery

**JUNE 22**

Clarified the Family and Medical Leave Act to ensure family leave for LGBT employees

**JUNE 22**

Released America's first comprehensive plan to prevent and end homelessness, which includes homeless LGBT youth

**OCTOBER 1**

Awarded a grant to the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center to work with LGBT foster youth

**OCTOBER 21**

Recorded "It Gets Better" video to support LGBT youth experiencing bullying

**DECEMBER 21**

Led a United Nations measure to restore "sexual orientation" to the definition of human rights

**DECEMBER 22**

Signed the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"

2011

**FEBRUARY 23**

Declared DOMA unconstitutional and announced the administration will no longer defend it in court

**MARCH 10**

Hosted first-ever White House Conference on Bullying Prevention in America's schools

**MARCH 31**

Completed an Institute of Medicine study on LGBT health, the first of its kind

**MAY 27**

Issued guidance to foster safer working environments for transgender federal employees

**JULY 19**

Endorsed the Respect for Marriage Act, a legislative effort to repeal DOMA

**AUGUST 18**

Clarified the meaning of "family" to include LGBT relationships, helping to protect bi-national families threatened by deportation

**AUGUST 19**

Supported lesbian widow Edith Windsor in her suit against DOMA

**SEPTEMBER 15**

Ended the Social Security Administration's gender "no-match" letters

**SEPTEMBER 20**

Implemented the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"

**SEPTEMBER 30**

Permitted military chaplains to officiate same-sex marriages where legal

**OCTOBER 1**

Addressed the annual Human Rights Campaign dinner for the second time

**OCTOBER 13**

Alison Nathan becomes second openly gay appointee to be confirmed to the federal bench under President Obama's nomination

**OCTOBER 20**

Awarded Citizens' Medal to Janice Langbehn, lesbian mother whose story paved the way for hospital visitation rights for same-sex couples

**OCTOBER 31**

Included specific data on health needs of lesbian and bisexual women in the Health Resources and Services Administration's "Women's Health USA 2011" federal report

**NOVEMBER 1**

In his presidential proclamation of National Adoption Month, President Obama called for equal treatment for same-sex adoptive parents

**DECEMBER 1**

On World AIDS Day, recommitted the U.S. to creating an AIDS-free generation

**DECEMBER 6**

Created first-ever U.S. government strategy dedicated to combating human rights abuses against LGBT persons abroad

2012

**JANUARY 28**

Announced HUD's new rule protecting against housing discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity

**FEBRUARY 2**

Announced White House LGBT Conference Series to address issues affecting LGBT Americans, including health, housing, and safety

**FEBRUARY 7**

Promoted equal access to quality health care by enabling searches for health plans with same-sex partner benefits on Healthcare.gov

**FEBRUARY 13**

Proposed a 2013 federal budget for an economy built to last, including providing security for the LGBT community

**MARCH**

Ensured transgender veterans receive respectful care according to their true gender through the Veterans Health Administration

**MARCH 15**

Michael Fitzgerald, fourth openly gay nominee under President Obama, is confirmed to the federal bench in California

**MARCH 16**

Came out against North Carolina's Amendment 1, prohibiting same-sex marriage in the state

**MAY**

President Obama and Vice President Biden announced their support for same-sex marriage

**JUNE 26**

The Pentagon celebrated LGBT Pride month for the first time

**JULY 16**

Launched the "Let's Stop HIV Together" campaign to fight HIV stigma

**JULY 19**

Announced nearly \$80 million in additional grants to fund HIV/AIDS care and ended AIDS Drug Assistance Program wait lists

**JULY 19**

Honored six LGBT Champions of Change

**JULY 22**

The President welcomed attendees to the 19th International AIDS Conference

**"We don't look backwards, we look forward... We are not afraid of the future. Our destiny is not written for us, it's written by us. And we can write that next chapter together."**

—President Obama



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# Transgender Day of Remembrance: Why do we die? Looking at two of many reasons

By: Deja Nicole Greenlaw\*/TRT Columnist

TRANS NEWS



It is November, and to a transperson, our thoughts turn to the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance. This is the day when we pay homage to all of those transgenders who have died because of who they are. In this particular column, I will explore two of the causes of why we die.

Most of the transgender people who have died did so at the hands of men who have sex with them. The usual scenario is not what you might think, that the man and the transperson hook up and upon realizing that the transperson has different genitals than expected, the man suddenly snaps and kills the transperson. This is not so. In reality, the man knows that this person is trans and desires to have sex, does so, and afterward something else snaps in the man. What could make him murder his lover? I can't say for sure, but I believe that it is because the man may think that loving a transperson is unacceptable in society, and that if anyone ever finds out, he fears that

he will pay dearly for it.

There are many men who desire to have sex with and love a transperson. I know this for a fact because of the presence of many internet porn sites that offer pictures and movies of

They may be afraid of being called gay or a weirdo. Of course there is nothing wrong with having sex and loving a transperson, but currently society still places us into a taboo category.

## What I am saying is that a big part of why he decides to kill us after sex is because of the way society views us.

transwomen. I've personally experienced desires from men, as I am on several internet dating sites and I receive emails from men interested in me. Most of the time these men never even get to the point of asking me out on a date. Sometimes we do set a date, but I get stood up. Occasionally a man will actually show up.

Why do these men show interest in me, yet won't meet me in person? It's most likely that I am a fantasy for them and nothing more, because they are scared of what others might think. They may truly desire me, but they cannot bring themselves to be with me in public because of fears of their friends and family members finding out that they like a transwoman.

Now, I am not taking the blame away from a man who murders a transwoman. Make no mistake, I believe that a murderer is a murderer. What I am saying is that a big part of why he decides to kill us after sex is because of the way society views us. He cannot, and will not, accept that he wants to be with us, and he is afraid of the repercussions of society. The easiest way to erase these feelings is to kill us. No one will ever know. He will then be free from the social stigma of having been with a transperson.

The other reason that we die is through suicides. We may grow tired of the way that society looks at us. Imagine, every single day that you wake up, you have to face the reality that you were not born in your correct gender and that

you must do things to try to correct these issues. You may encounter stares, looks of disapproval, being ignored by people who don't want anything to do with you, and then you return home to an empty home because people are afraid of being with you. Oh, you may have many friends, and people may love you, but it's not the kind of love that makes people want to share their life with you.

Adding bullying, threats and people making fun of you also contributes to your thoughts of suicide. Your parents, children, your ex and your friends may not want anything to do with you. That hurts very deeply and adds to your woes. Then the big one hits you. You get to the point that no matter what you do, you come to the realization that you will never be fully accepted in society as your correct gender. The combination of all of these things may result in you taking your life because you cannot take it anymore.

The bottom line is that until we get society to fully accept us, we will always be having Transgender Day of Remembrances.

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

## Ask a Transwoman: LGBT unity and trans solidarity part one; why we simply belong together

By: Lorelei Erisis\*/TRT Columnist



Why are Trans People included in the LGBT acronym? What does our struggle have to do with a person's sexuality? Shouldn't we be separate from that?

These are questions I have heard a lot, from both outside and within the

LGBT(+QIKA&GQ) community. The question makes a certain amount of sense, at least it does until you stop and think it through. And that is what I'm here to do. I hope you will come along with me.

It is my very strong belief that we do belong as an integral part of the LGBT community. But I also believe quite strongly that we must stand together ourselves as Trans People under the Transgender Umbrella. I will get to that in the second part of this two-part column.

First though, let me present to you why not only do we belong as part of the LGBT community, but why we *should* be part of that com-

munity.

I'll take it one letter at a time.

**L - Lesbian.** For this we must consider the journey that trans people travel. From male-to-female and female-to-male. So many of us find ourselves as part of this community at some point in our transition. Some by strong preference, others simply by the vagaries of our society's perceptions of gender and attraction. This could be applied equally to the gay community, but in reality, I find many more (though

All in all though, I have found the bulk of the lesbian community to be quite accepting of us, if sometimes imperfectly so, and I love them for it.

**G - Gay.** This is a big one, and the one that makes the most people question our inclusion. Beyond referring simply to gay men, this is often a catchall for anyone who is attracted to members of the same sex. "But we're not homosexual!" some trans folks will cry. To them I say that matters not one bit.

## When their partners announce their intention to transition it can play havoc with their own identities.

certainly not all) trans people find themselves passing through the lesbian community at some point in their transition.

Be it transmen, who often seem to come out as lesbians before accepting themselves as trans, finding support and comfort in that community, or transwomen, who though their attractions may not necessarily change, the social

perception of it most certainly does. Transwomen who like other women go from being perceived as "straight men" to "gay women."

Understandably, a lot of lesbians I have known find this enormously frustrating. When their partners announce their intention to transition it can play havoc with their own identities. Many fear the loss of "all the good butches." Still others find themselves trying to be comfortable around women who have alternate genitalia and the strong issues that can trigger for them.

We may have a fairly decent grasp within our communities of the differences between sexuality and gender, but until the outside world stops beating us up because we are different, committing hate crimes against gay and trans people because we violate their inflexible ideas of the gender norm, we belong. Until people stop refusing to hire us and see gay men and transsexual women separately instead of painting us together as effeminate men, we belong.

Until the hate-filled criminals who murder our brothers and sisters stop to ask whether we're women who have been misgendered as men or men who like to sleep with other men before they plunge the knife in, we belong.

Until we can all hold the same rights to marry those we love, serve the countries we believe in and own the democratic promise of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness unencumbered from the shackles of sexual orientation and gender identity, we belong.

Then there are the drag queens and the drag kings, some of whom decide to transition, but all of whom challenge society's notions of male and female. For years, they have been the ones on the front lines. Since Stonewall and Compton's Cafeteria, they have been the shock troops leading the way for both the gay and trans liberation movements. They have been our vanguards, and just as we should remember

to respect and take care of our military veterans, we must honor and respect the work our queens and kings have done to move us all forward.

**B - Bi.** Here we have the full frontal collision of gender expectations and sexual attraction. For trans people, all of the aspects of the gender binary in collision are why we must stand with bisexuals. Again, there is much here that has more to do with societal perceptions than with our own realities, but we are hardly immune to those perceptions even from within our community and ourselves.

We may not alter our attractions one bit and yet find ourselves being perceived as both heterosexual and homosexual over the broad course of our transition, or we may not alter our identity as "straight" though our attractions jump a gender. Or not. Unless we choose to remain perfectly celibate and un-attracted to anyone our whole lives, we can hardly help encountering the tangles of sexuality and gender that bisexual folks walk through themselves.

It is a matter of LGBT gospel that gender and sexuality are two different things, and that is quite correct. A lot of people need to hear that and be made to understand the difference, but if we can get past the 101 level of outsider education, we must acknowledge that the two don't exist in a vacuum. No matter how you may identify your gender or sexuality, if you are trans, it's likely you will have to deal with issues affecting the whole alphabet soup of our community. Whether we are Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans, Queer, Intersex, Kinky, Asexual or GenderQueer, we so often share so much more in common than not, and whether it is outside perception or our own experience often matters very little.

We must stand together. We must support each other, stand-up for each other, *fight* for each other. For together we are strong. That is why we belong. Slainte!

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

### Transgender Day of Remembrance Events

Transgender Day of Remembrance is held in November to honor Rita Hester, murdered on Nov.28th, 1998, according to [www.rememberingourdead.org](http://www.rememberingourdead.org). Hester's murder started the "Remembering Our Dead" web project and a candlelight vigil in 1999. This day is now set aside to memorialize those killed because of anti-trans hatred and prejudice. According to the site, TDOR serves several purposes; to raise public awareness of hate crimes against trans people, to publicly mourn and honor the lives of those who may be forgotten otherwise, to express love and respect in the face of indifference and ha-

tred, to give allies a chance to step forward and to memorialize those who have died from anti-transgender violence.

#### Massachusetts

**Boston:** Nov. 18; 4pm; St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral, 138 Tremont St.

**Lowell:** Nov. 15; 6:30pm; Christ Church United Northampton; Nov. 20; 5:30pm; Unitarian Society Meeting House, 220 Main St.

**Williamstown:** Nov. 12; 7pm; Williams College

**Worcester:** Nov. 18; 7pm; All Saints Church (Episcopal), 10 Irving St. More: <http://tinyurl.com/8m86klo>



# New Report: Knights of Columbus donate millions to fight Gay marriage

By: Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter

Sometimes they dress up like the Three Musketeers, donning fancy, feathery hats, and show up for a grand parade. More often they dress like regular guys, manning pancake breakfasts and parish fish fries. They are the nearly 2 million members of Knights of Columbus, an all-male Roman Catholic fraternal and service organization with a whopping \$16.9 billion in assets. And they are perhaps best known for the sale of insurance policies to fund a vast array of charitable activities.

But it was no act of charity four years ago when the Knights poured \$1.1 million into California to help pass Proposition 8. Indeed, the newly appointed Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco was one of the chief architects of Proposition 8. Under his guidance, Catholic organizations in California led the charge in financing the Prop 8 campaign.

And that \$1.1 million contribution was not the only big bucks the Knights doled out to fight marriage equality. In recent years, the organization has been funding with gusto quite an anti-LGBT equality crusade nationwide.

Overall, between 2005 and 2012, the Knights has donate \$6.25 million to anti-marriage equality initiatives. Most of the money went directly to fund ballot measures aimed at banning gay marriage in 12 states, according to a new report released last week by Equally Blessed, a coalition of pro-LGBT Catholic groups, which includes Call to Action, Dignity/USA, Fortunate Families, and New Ways Ministry.

The report is based on public Internal Revenue Service forms and campaign filings. Because the Knights have not yet filed I.R.S. forms for 2011 and 2012, the 37-page Equally Blessed report may well be under counting total contributions.

This year alone, for instance, the Knights contributed \$250,000 in Washington State and another \$250,000 in Maryland, as well as \$134,000 in Minnesota and \$1,135 in Maine — all to fight same-sex marriage. Voters in those four states face gay-marriage-related ballot measures on Election Day.

Besides direct funding of such state-level anti-gay initiatives, the Knights, between 2006 and 2010, gave \$9.6 million to organizations intending to “build a conservative and political culture,” according the Equally Blessed report, entitled “The Strong Arm of the Bishops: The Knights of Columbus and Anti-Marriage Equality Funding.”

Those organizations include its own Pontifi-



Charles Martel, president of Catholics for Marriage Equality. PHOTO: CHUCK COLBERT

cal John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and the Family (\$6.1 million), the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty (\$1.5 million), and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Ad Hoc Committee for the Defense of Marriage (\$1.1 million).

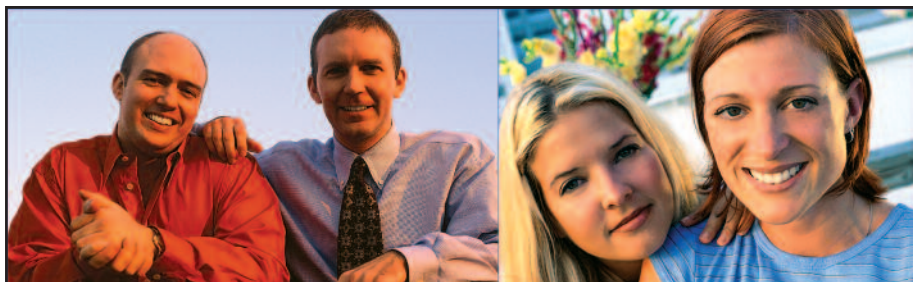
The Knights also contributed \$1.9 million to the National Organization for Marriage.

During a conference call last week, Marianne Duddy-Burke, executive director of the advocacy organization DignityUSA, based in Medford, said the Knights’ work “is being done under cover, using the [organization’s] good name and reputation and all the good work they do for the community.” She said, too, that many members of the fraternal organization would find its foray into politics “objectionable and inappropriate.”

“It’s vitally important that Catholics know that this huge amount of money is being spent to deprive people of civil rights. It is also essential that they understand that this spending hurts people. It hurts LGBT people, many of whom are Catholic, and it destabilizes their families,” Duddy-Burke said in a follow up telephone interview and e-mail correspondence, when asked what Equally Blessed intended with its report.

“We hope the awareness the Knights are aggressively seeking to marginalize LGBT people, will compel more Catholics to speak out for justice, and to let the Knights and other church leaders know that they object to what’s been done. Our church should be standing up for the

Read the rest of this story at:  
<http://tinyurl.com/92hflzr>



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# Fighting Forward: Dustin Lance Black votes for Obama; talks legacy

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

**D**ustin Lance Black has been on the frontlines of LGBT equality since his Oscar-winning screenplay for *Milk* presented him a platform to be one of the most prominent activists of this generation.

We got Black, 38, on the phone to talk about the dangers of having Romney in office, his film career — from his critical disappointment *Virginia* to the upcoming *Earthquake* — and how his late brother, who died this year, lives on in the fight for equal rights.

**Chris Azzopardi: With the presidential election just around the corner, are you having election jitters?**

**Dustin Lance Black:** Absolutely. Yes. I am having some election jitters. And I think for good reason. There's a lot at stake in this election. I'm not a partisan guy; I've supported both Republicans and Democrats in their races for elected office. But in this case, there is no question which president will look out for the lives of gay and lesbian people and which president doesn't think that we deserve equal respect and protection. They've said it loud and clear.

And so I threw my support behind Barack Obama wholeheartedly a couple of months ago, and I've been doing all I can — speaking across the country, even writing checks — to make sure that he does win. After he came out for marriage equality publicly, I think we need to make sure we give him our full support to get back into office with the mandate of making that a reality.

**Q. What would a Romney presidency mean for the gay community?**

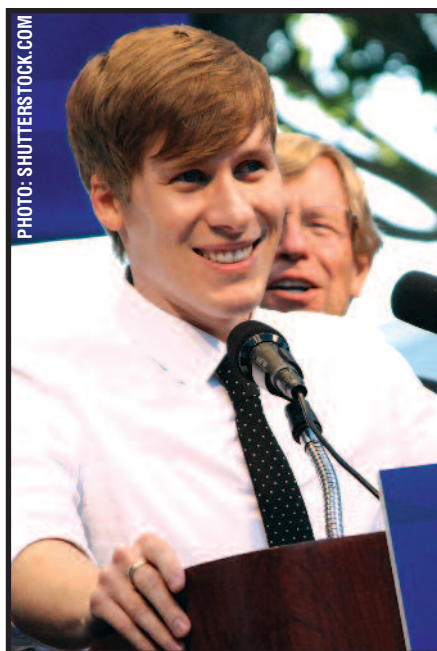
A. A Romney win is not just dangerous for the gay community but for anyone interested in equality. This is a president who seems to have trouble seeing outside of his own experiences. I don't think this is a man who has demonstrated any kind of empathy or understanding for people who are very, very different. The danger is not that he will get a lot of legislation passed that will hurt gay and lesbian people; the danger is he is likely going to appoint two Supreme Court justices, making this the most conservative court in history. That's what is at stake. And that doesn't just go for gay and lesbian people; that's gay and lesbian people, women, and workers — they all are about to see their protections stripped away. He explicitly said he believes these sorts of protections should be allowed to be put up for a vote. I find it absurd and criminal that he would say that minorities should have their rights put up to votes.

**Q. Who is in your binder of women?**

A. (Laughs) I don't have a binder of women, because there are so many women in my life, running my life, protecting me daily — they could not fit in any binder. There's no binder big enough for the women who make sure I am productive every single day.

**Q. 8, a play that portrays the courtroom proceedings that led to the overturn of California's Prop 8, has been making its rounds in cities across the U.S. since it premiered in New York and L.A. earlier this year. What's it been like seeing your work performed in so many theaters nationally?**

A. 8 has become something that I don't think



any of us involved ever imagined it could be; it's what we had hoped it would be. It's now in over 300 theaters across the country — mostly in theaters in states right now that have ballot initiatives regarding marriage equality — and it's being used for outreach and education.

**Q. As the writer of 8, how does it feel to you personally to see your work reach so many people?**

A. I was in the courtroom almost every single day, and I found it incredibly moving that for the very first time the opposition of equality had to come in, raise their right hand and tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. And when put under that scrutiny, their arguments completely fell apart.

None of the folks who go on television and bash gay people and bash gay families were willing to come to courtrooms to say the same things; some of this "science" that the opposition has had for so long, they weren't willing to present because they know it would fall apart under such scrutiny, under penalty of perjury.

It was also so moving to see the testimony of those who were fighting for equality and how open and honest we could be and how our testimony stood up to any criticism, because we're literally just telling our truth. It was as moving as it was equally painful to know that the opposition had, in a very strategic move, made sure that there were no cameras in this courtroom — that the world was denied access to this truth-telling moment.

For me, I wanted to find a way to honor what happened in that courtroom and bring it to America. This moment of truth in the gay and lesbian movement is now making its way to every corner of the country, so that every community has the opportunity to know the details of the case that is sitting in front of the U.S. Supreme Court right now. I've always said the truth will always find the light — and the truth,

**Read the rest of this story at:**  
<http://tinyurl.com/98dkt5p>

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An extraordinarily gifted vocalist whose sincere and romantic interpretations have made her a favorite in both the jazz and cabaret worlds, Monheit has garnered numerous accolades in the past decade. Her first album, *Never Never Land*, was voted top debut recording by the Jazz Journalist's Association and stayed on the Billboard Jazz chart for over a year. \*Pre-Concert Talk by UMass Vocal Jazz professor Catherine Jensen-Hole in Bowker Auditorium at 6:45p.m. **SPONSORED BY:** Cooley Dickinson, UMass Hotel, NEPR, Amherst Cinema

**KIDD PIVOT: "TEMPEST REPLICA"**  
Sunday, November 18, 7 p.m., Concert Hall, Chamber Seating  
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**NATALIE MACMASTER**  
Saturday, December 1, 8 p.m., Concert Hall  
Cape Breton fiddler Natalie MacMaster takes the audience on a musical sleigh ride through Nova Scotia at Christmastime with a spirited performance of traditional and contemporary Celtic melodies and Christmas carols. Fiddling fireworks, ferocious step dancing and music that spans genres accentuates MacMaster's lively performances, making her one of Canada's most captivating performers.

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**ARTS GIVE BACK:** In the spirit of the holidays please bring non-perishable food items to donate to The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. Visit [www.foodbankwma.org](http://www.foodbankwma.org) if you would like to make an online donation. Every \$1 donated provides \$13 worth of food to those in need!

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# Pregúntale a Lambda Legal: La policía parece estar pendiente de mi

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

*Estimado Lambda Legal,*

*P. Yo soy un hombre gay y por mucho tiempo he querido donar sangre. ¿Escuche que podría cambiar la política sobre los donativos de sangre por hombres gays, es verdad?*

R. Desde 1983, se ha prohibido que hombres gay donen sangre – de hecho, la política dice que si eres un hombre y has tenido relaciones sexuales con otro hombre desde 1977, no puedes donar sangre. Mientras la intención es disminuir la transmisión del VIH por una transfusión de sangre, esta política discriminatoria no es apoyada por la ciencia médica.

Este año, el Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos (SSH) comenzó a analizar políticas alternativas

que permitirían que algunos hombres gay y bisexuales donaran sangre. De acuerdo a planes para un estudio experimental, los hombres que tienen relaciones sexuales con hombres (HSH) podrían donar sangre después de un período de espera de cinco años o de un año después de su último encuentro sexual con otro hombre.

Lambda Legal y varias otras organizaciones pro-LGBT y del VIH enviamos una serie de recomendaciones a SSH acerca de cómo modificar la política y mejorar el estudio experimental. Mientras que la política actual ignora la ciencia médica, la propuesta de un período de cinco años o de un año de aplazo aún no concuerda con el plazo (mucho más corto) requerido para asegurar resultados del VIH exactos.

Es de suma importancia mantener seguras las reservas de sangre del país, y Lambda Legal sugiere que el período de espera para todos los donantes cuya conducta es considerada de alto riesgo, concuerda con—y no sea significativamente más largo que—el período de detección de la prueba usada por los bancos de sangre. En algunas pruebas de VIH, el período de detección para el descubrimiento del virus puede ser tan corto como de tres semanas, mientras que otras pruebas del VIH tienen un período de detección de hasta tres meses atrás. Sin embargo, para todas las pruebas relacionadas con el VIH, el período de detección sería considerablemente más corto que la demora de un año o de cinco años actualmente propuestas. Manteniendo períodos de espera cuatro a quince veces más largos que el período de detección correspondiente continuará restringiendo innecesariamente las reservas disponibles de sangre. Los donantes de bajo riesgo no deberían de ser rechazados en base de estereotipos en vez de principios científicos.

Sin importar la orientación sexual, el riesgo de adquirir

una infección sexualmente transmitida como el VIH varía con la frecuencia y el tipo de conducta sexual, tal como la práctica de sexo seguro del individuo. Por lo tanto, las preguntas que determinan la elegibilidad para donar sangre deben identificar aquellos que tienen poco riesgo para contraer el VIH y otras infecciones sexualmente transmitidas (tal como, HSH que están en relaciones monógamas o aquellos que practican sexo seguro consistentemente), y permitirles donar sangre.

Aunque aún no se haya efectuado ningún cambio a la política de donaciones sanguíneas,

nosotros tenemos optimismo que HHS adoptará nuevas políticas basadas en el conocimiento médico y la tecnología de detección actual, en vez de estereotipos discriminatorios injustificados acerca de hombres gays

y bisexuales. Si tienes cualquiera pregunta, o sientes que has sido discriminado basado en tu género, orientación sexual, o estatus de VIH, comunícate con nuestra Línea de Ayuda al 1-866-542-8336, o visita a: <http://tinyurl.com/8pda9c8>.

Para leer esta columna en inglés vaya a: <http://tinyurl.com/95jeq4w>.

**Desde 1983, se ha prohibido que hombres gay donen sangre – de hecho, la política dice que si eres un hombre y has tenido relaciones sexuales con otro hombre desde 1977, no puedes donar sangre.**

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# ¡Gracias por todo en Acción de Gracias!

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

**LATIN VISION**



PHOTO: ERIC HESS

Y a pronto este año termina y comienza otro, pero este mes ¡vamos a reflexionar y a dar gracias por todo! Al escribir esta columna no sabemos quien ganó las elecciones, pero de igual manera debemos dar gracias por vivir en una democracia en la cual podemos elegir a nuestros/as gobernantes. El sistema no hace sentido y no es perfecto pero todavía tenemos la opción y el derecho al voto, el cual no existe a través de el mundo. ¡Vamos a dar gracias por este derecho!

Debemos dar gracias por nuestras oportunidades de vivir en un estado progresivo y democrático. Tenemos el derecho a un plan de salud y cuidado médico, a una educación, al matrimonio gay, y que nuestros/as hermanos/as transgéneros tienen reglas en nuestro estado que les protegen. Algunas de estas oportunidades las hemos usado hasta el máximo pero otras han sido olvidadas o no le damos la importancia que ameritan. Debemos de tomar un rato y relexionar al respecto. Al reflexionar y dar gracias vamos a pensar sobre las maneras por las cuales podemos usar hasta lo máximo de estas oportunidades y pensar en formas de poder hacerlo como comunidad Latina y GLBT.

Debemos estar agradecidos por las personas que abogan por nuestros derechos como comunidad Latina y GLBT en nuestro estado. Al igual, debemos agradecer que existen organizaciones con base Latina que abogan por nosotros/as todos los días y a través de todo el año. Podemos opinar y mobilizarnos al lado de estas organizaciones y compartir como comunidad nuestros ideales, sueños de fraternidad y la libertad de expresión. ¡Demos gracias por esto!

Demos gracias por tener a legisladores aliados/as y GLBT en nuestra legislatura ya que

ellos/as abogan por nosotros/as todos los días. Hay tantos que agradecer que escojo no mencionar uno/a para que ellos/as no se ofendan. ¡Qué bueno que tenemos tantos/as en este estado ya que en muchos otros estados no hay ni uno; en mi Puerto Rico, en el 2012 fue la primera vez que hubo personas que estuvieron en las papeletas electorales abiertamente como personas GLBT y/o aliados – ¡esperemos que algunos/as de ellos/as fueron electos!

Gracias por que nuestro gobernador en Massachusetts nos entiende y aboga por nosotros/as! Como él, hay otros/as a través de la nación pero no en los cincuenta estados – resta tanto trabajo por hacer todavía.

Pero vamos a tomar este mes para dar gracias por todo lo que tenemos. No digo lo material pero lo que tenemos como por ejemplo: amistades, amor, felicidad, familia, la vida, y tantas cosas mas. El poder estar “presente” cada día y explorar nuestras vidas cada día es algo que debemos agradecer. En lo personal, yo doy gracias por tanto ya que tengo un grupo de amistades que me apoyan incondicionalmente, puede ayudar en traer el cambio necesario a mi comunidad Latina y GLBT, puedo vivir cada día al lado de una persona que me ama como soy, y más que todo doy gracias por lo que la vida me trae cada día – ¡lo bueno y lo malo ya que me supero como ser humano como consecuencia de estas experiencias!

¡Tomémos un momento de nuestras vidas para reflexionar y dar gracias por todas las cosas que nos rinde la vida! Por vivir aquí y no ¡‘aya! Demos gracias por todo aunque las cosas no salgan como quisiéramos. ¡Veamos el lado positivo de todo y demos gracias por todo! Demos gracias públicamente y privadamente pero demos gracias. Y vamos a hacerlo a través de todo el año y no solamente en Noviembre. ¡Gritemos intensamente GRACIAS y espero que todos/as tengamos un Feliz Mes de Acción de Gracias!

*\*Wilfred Labiosa, miembro de Unid@s: La Organización Nacional Latina LGBT, psicólogo y activista Latino LGBT de origen Puertorriqueño.*

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# Jodie Foster, Tyra Banks, Gregg Araki, Casey Wilson

By: Romeo San Vicente\*/Special for TRT

DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD



## Jodie Foster to direct money monster

Jodie Foster's next turn behind the camera—her fourth as director—is called *Money Monster* and it already sounds tailor-made to star the Oscar-winner herself. The story involves a financial advice-giving TV personality who, after delivering a series of bad tips, is taken hostage live on the air by a man who lost all his money following the advisor's lead. In turn, the life-or-death kidnapping becomes a *Network*-style ratings sensation. Casting is underway (nobody confirmed just yet) and production is set to begin in 2013. But let's talk fantasy rosters for a minute. Wouldn't it be cool if this lead character were a Suze Orman-gone-bad? And wouldn't it be amazing if Foster played her? With Michelle Rodriguez as the hostage-taker? And Lily Tomlin the negotiator? And Latifah the worried spouse? And Amber Heard and Heather Matarazzo and Kate Moennig part of the SWAT team? Casting department, please make this early Christmas wish a reality. You're Hollywood, after all; dreams are your business.

## Like Tyra, only not

Celebrities: you like them so much you'll even watch sitcoms based on their lives. Or at least

that's what TV executives are banking future shows on. Tyra Banks, celebrity fashion stylist Rachel Zoe, songwriter Diane Warren and *Modern Family*'s Ty Burrell are all involved in sitcom pilots about themselves, with plots based on incidents from their own lives. Obviously, that doesn't necessarily mean that the main characters in these show are named Tyra, Rachel, Diane and Ty, but the idea is to create laughs and future syndication deals from the lives of really successful people, brands the public knows and follows. And, of course, none of this is unheard of. NBC, after all, scored prestige points, if not ratings, with seven seasons of *30 Rock*, loosely based on Tina Fey's years as head writer of *Saturday Night Live*. So there you go: hope. Wait. What's that? What about the disastrous 2001 sitcom *Emeril*, you ask? Well...



Jodie Foster

PHOTO: S. BUKLEY/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

sometimes... look, let's agree to pretend that one never happened.

## Araki's *White Bird* set to fly

The resolutely independent, often iconoclastic queer filmmaker Gregg Araki is getting his next project together and it's called *White Bird*. And in what is now part of the director's working model, he's hiring a cast of young, pretty up-and-comers to work through his script. The story is about a young woman (Shailene Woodley) whose life careers out of control after the disappearance of her mother (Eva Green). Wood-

ley is well known from *Secret Life of the American Teenager* and *The Descendants* (for which, it should be remembered, she was the recipient of the 2012 Cannes Film Festival Chopard "Female Revelation" Trophy). Her male co-star, meanwhile, is the soon-to-be-everywhere-at-

once Shiloh Fernandez. Not a household name yet by any means, Fernandez was last seen in the box-office bomb *Red Riding Hood*, but *White Bird* and five other films—including *The East* with Ellen Page and Alexander Skarsgard, as well as 2013's *Evil Dead* remake—ought to go a long way toward raising his Hollywood profile. Keep your arthouse eyes peeled for this one sometime next year.

## Casey Wilson: writing and acting *Ass Backwards*

*Gay Dude*, director Chris Nelson's first feature, is complete though not yet released. But he's already at work on his next film, titled *Ass Backwards*, written by the *Bride Wars* team of Casey Wilson and fellow writer-actor June Diane Raphael. A female buddy road-trip comedy starring Wilson and Raphael as best friends on a quest to win a pageant they always lost as children, it features Alicia Silverstone, Vincent D'Onofrio and Jon Cryer, as well as a cast of supporting lesbians (part of the action involves the women stopping at an all-female commune where singer/comic Lea DeLaria performs something akin to a striptease). And if none of this news means anything to you because you're not yet aware of Wilson's comic chops, then while you're waiting for the film to hit theaters you can watch her nearly-insane behavior weekly on *Happy Endings* as the manic best friend of network television's most slovenly homosexual character, Max (played by Adam Pally). And you should; it's the *Friends* where everybody talks really fast.

\*Romeo San Vicente is a fan of all happy endings. He can be reached care of this publication or at [DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com](mailto:DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com).

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# Cambridge hosts LGBT Town Hall

By: Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter

For the third time in eight years, the City of Cambridge hosted an LGBT town hall meeting — its purpose to provide a forum for community members to voice concerns and express interests directly to local government officials.

This year's gathering was held Saturday, Oct. 27, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at City Hall in the historic Sullivan Council Chamber. More than 50 people attended, with E. Denise Simmons, vice mayor, serving as host.

"I want to make sure that city officials hear from all of their constituents, and everyone must realize that [he or she] has a role to play in shaping community," she said. "Town meetings are as old as our democracy, and they are the best way for citizens and their representatives to have an unfiltered, honest discussion about the state of the community."

Attendees heard from two featured speakers. One of them was longtime Cambridge LGBT community leader Sue Hyde, who serves as director for the Gay and Lesbian Task Force's annual Creating Change conference, as well as the advocacy organization's New England field organizer.

Hyde spoke about "the renowned writer, educator, feminist, transcendentalist, and rebel Margaret Fuller," born in the city in 1810.

The Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House (founded in 1910), said Hyde, initially served as settlement house to provide information and services for immigrants, but now includes a wide range of services for all ages from infants to toddlers — serving a food pantry, an out-of-school-time lunch program for children, summer-camp youth outreach, health-related programs for seniors and men of color, community organizing, an open computer center, and free technology classes.

"As I thought more broadly about our overall project of securing social justice, and full equality under the law for LGBT people and our families," said Hyde, "I realized that much of our work to date has been to establish sanctuaries or safe spaces, much like the Margaret Fuller House for immigrants and low-income people, in which we seek respite from an unwelcoming and sometimes unsafe world."

"Our sanctuaries," she continued, referring specifically to the LGBT people, "included community centers, social and support groups, bars (of course), gay/straight alliances, and welcoming and affirming faith communities."

"But sanctuary spaces are just the beginning," said Hyde who went on to note Cambridge has gone "well past the sanctuary stage to a point of integration of GLBT people in every aspect of our civic, religious, and social life."

"We're here. We're queer. And while we go shopping, we also run the shops, manage the restaurants, drive the research and development at Kendall Square, teach the kids, raise the kids, pick up the trash, run the city government, and enjoy the rich and stimulating environment of Cambridge," said Hyde.

LGBT town hall attendees also heard from state Representative Byron Rushing of the Ninth Suffolk district, which includes Boston's South End neighborhood.

A longtime straight ally of the LGBT community, Rushing, in his keynote address, reminded attendees that democracy should protect minorities from "the



PHOTO: CHUCK COLBERT

**E. Denise Simmons, Cambridge Vice Mayor**

tyranny of the majority." In Massachusetts, he said, people do not get to vote automatically on civil rights issues such as same-sex marriage because the state's Constitution includes protections that keep the majority from deciding on minority rights.

Rushing was referring to provisions, which require the Legislature to approve proposed constitutional amendments through a citizen's initiative process before they are advanced for voter approval. In fact, three-fourths of Massachusetts' lawmakers must agree before voters get to decide.

And lawmakers turned down a proposed constitutional same-sex marriage ban in 2007, thereby denying majority vote on the minority rights of gay couples to marry.

"That vote was significant," said Rushing, because marriage equality did not result from "an activist court. There was a lot more than a group of smart justices."

The LGBT Town Meeting was sponsored by the Office of the Vice Mayor, in partnership with the *Cambridge GLBT Commission*, the *Cambridge Peace Commission*, *Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services*, and *The Rainbow Times*.

Established in 2004, the mission of the GLBT Commission is "to advocate for a culture of respect and to monitor progress toward equality of all persons with regard to sexual orientation and gender identity."

Commission co-chair John W. Gintell spoke briefly at town hall about two top priorities — improving the quality of life for LGBT seniors and youth.

"We have laws that protect LGBT people, but it's more than that. What are the policies and practices? What kind of training can be done for

Read the rest of this story online at:  
<http://tinyurl.com/9kxdw4v>

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# Creep of the Week: Birther & Anti-Marriage Equality Dinesh D'Souza

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

**CREEP NEWS**

Are you sitting down? Because this may come as quite a shock: Another anti-gay stalwart and "defender" of marriage has been caught in a marital mishap.

Now, I'm not a marriage counselor, but I feel pretty confident doling out this advice: if you've been married for 20 years, and are, in fact, still married, you should probably not go to a right-wing Christian conference with a woman who is not your wife, share a hotel room with her, and introduce her to your right-wing bros as your fiancé. That's just, well, tacky.

At best. At worst it's totally hypocritical bull\$&#t, though that is, as we've seen time and time again, par for the course.

Alas, this warning comes too late for Dinesh D'Souza, a right-wing author and media darling and his mistress, Denise Odie Joseph II, who not only share a philandering bed but also share odious views about marriage equality. A match made in Heaven, obviously. Well, at least a Heaven that has nothing to do with the "thou not commit adultery" thing.

All of this sexy scandal stuff came out right

ent kind of Jeremiah Wright type philosophy, summarized in the idea that America is the rogue nation in the world."

Got it? He hates traditional because he hates Christianity and he hates Christianity because he hates white people. The End. Amen.

Did I mention that D'Souza is one of those "birther" nuts? He's got a "book" and a "film" — and I use those terms skeptically here — about Obama that'll make a great gift for anyone you know who is totally racist and disconnected from real life.

D'Souza, who cheated on his wife in a flagrant way at a conference about living with Biblical principles or whatever, also lamented about the state of this country's morals and spirituality.

"I think that the deepest problems facing America and the West in the end are not political, they are spiritual," he said. "This is why it makes sense even as we debate policy issues, even as we debate moral issues, to turn to the maker of the universe, this maker of the universe that isn't just an absentee God like Obama's dad, a kind of absentee father who got things going and then took off but a God who cares about each one of us and certainly about our country."

Aw, snap! No he didn't! No he didn't just

**Alas, this warning comes too late for Dinesh D'Souza, a right-wing author and media darling and his mistress, Denise Odie Joseph II, who not only share a philandering bed but also share odious views about marriage equality.**

after D'Souza accused President Obama of aggressively "attacking the traditional values agenda."

"Why is Obama on the social issues — and I'm thinking here of abortion, I'm thinking here of gay marriage — why is Obama so aggressive in attacking the traditional values agenda?" D'Souza asked. "I think this is the problem, Obama doesn't like traditional Christianity because he identifies it with colonialism. Obama's own Christianity is more of a Third World liberation theology, a very differ-

call Obama's dad a God-like deadbeat. Oh, but he did. Because he, Mr. D'Philander, is so much better, so much more moral than some guy who contributed chromosomes to create the President of the United States.

\*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.

it  
could be  
partner  
abuse

**The Network/La Red:**  
Ending partner abuse in LGBTQ,  
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- support group

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- refugio de emergencia
- grupo de apoyo

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Acabando con el abuso de parejas en las  
comunidades LGBTQ, poliamorosas y  
sodomasoquistas

puede  
ser el  
abuso  
de  
pareja íntima



# LGBTQ news from around the country: The good, the bad and the ugly

**Boston, MA**  
**Fenway Hosts Book Signing Event**  
 Fenway will host a book signing for For People, Not For Profit: A History of Fenway Health's First Forty Years on Friday, November 16, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Fenway Health auditorium, 10th floor, located at 1340 Boylston Street (auditorium), Boston. Author Tom Martorelli will discuss his book and sign copies at the event. Reduced price copies of the book will be available for purchase at \$10 for the soft-cover version and \$20 for hardcover. Refreshments will be served.

**Massachusetts opens LGBT-specific sexual assault program**  
 The first LGBTQ-specific sexual assault program has opened in Massachusetts. Evidence indicates that sexual assault prevalence rates for LGBTQ individuals are much higher than that of heterosexuals, but there also is a lack of LGBTQ-specific services. In response, the Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project has begun the sexual assault program in conjunction with the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center. Before this program, there was no LGBTQ sexual assault case manager in the state, which added increased barriers for the LGBTQ population to receive necessary services.

**Los Angeles, CA**  
**Report shows high number of LGBT characters on television**  
 The annual TV report, "Where We Are On TV," that reviews scripted LGBT primetime

characters for the 2012-2013 season has been released. The report, issued by GLAAD, indicates that the number of LGBT characters on broadcast networks has risen to the highest ever recorded, as well as an overall LGBT character count increase on cable television. According to GLAAD President, this increase reflects a culture change in the acceptance of LGBT people in society.

**New York, NY**  
**Federal appeals court rules DOMA unconstitutional**  
 The "Defense of Marriage Act" has been declared unconstitutional by a federal appeals court, ruling that it discriminates against married same-sex couples. The court holds that government discrimination against lesbians and gay men is now assumed to be unconstitutional. This is the first time that a federal appeals court has ruled that "heightened scrutiny," a higher level of judicial review, applies when the government discriminates against gay people. The law was challenged by Edith Windsor, who has petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court to hear her case.

**Gay men singled out by police, lawsuit filed**  
 A federal lawsuit was filed by Lambda Legal against Westchester County police for targeting LGBT people for humiliation and harassment. Against court orders, the Department of Public Safety released sealed information of men arrested in a sex sting operation, without mentioning that criminal charges had been dropped. This unlawful release harmed reputations, caused adverse employment consequences and mental anguish. The lawsuit asserts that the department violated equal protection by singling out gay men for harsher treatment and illegally identifying them to the media.

**Pledge asks teachers to make classrooms safe for everyone**  
 Three national education non-profits have launched an initiative asking teachers to make their classrooms Safe and Affirming for Everyone (S.A.F.E.). Teach for America, the Trevor Project and GLSEN seek to enlist educators as allies to prevent bullying and reduce risk, and create safe and affirming classrooms for students, especially those who are LGBT. Teachers can gain access to a resource library that will help create this welcoming environment by signing the pledge at [www.safeclassrooms.org](http://www.safeclassrooms.org).

**TLDEF helps trans woman win coverage for surgery**  
 A claim has been resolved by the Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund on behalf of a transgender woman who was denied coverage for sex reassignment surgery by her health-care provider. The provider denied her claim stating that the surgery was "cosmetic," and only reversed their position after TLDEF threatened to file a lawsuit.

**Campaign works to allow access to non-explicit LGBT websites in schools**  
 Schools across the nation are responding positively to a campaign addressing the discriminatory censorship of web content in public schools. ACLU's campaign, "Don't Filter Me," found that most schools did not realize that their filtering software blocked LGBT-related websites that are not sexually explicit. Anti-bullying resources and civil rights websites could not be accessed, yet anti-gay websites condemning homosexuality and opposing legal protections were not blocked. After the ACLU contacted the districts, most schools reconfigured the software so LGBT-related sites could be accessed on a viewpoint-neutral basis.

**Online hub provides legal information for LGBTQ youth**  
 A new online and mobile resource for LGBTQ youth has been launched by Lambda Legal. The "Know Your Rights" hub will provide information about laws and policies that serve to protect young people, at both the state and federal level. It includes legal and advocacy guidance on issues such as bullying, gay-straight alliances, transgender youth and out-of-home care settings. Expansion is planned for 2013 to include other resources for those facing discrimination.

**Portland, ME**  
**NOM continues to refuse to identify donors**  
 The National Organization for Marriage reported raising over \$250,000 to influence Question 1 on the fall ballot that would allow marriage equality. The anti-marriage organization disregarded Maine ethics laws by refusing to disclose donors and identify the source of its contributions. The campaign manager for Mainers United for Marriage said that voters deserve to know who is contributing and trying to influence the ballot vote.

**Providence, RI**  
**RI poll shows wide support of marriage equality**

A new WPRI poll showed that an overwhelming majority of Rhode Island residents support marriage equality and equal rights for same-sex couples. The poll surveyed 501 likely voters and found that 56 percent support marriage equality, with only 36 percent in opposition. The campaign director for MERI stated that this affirms the growing

momentum for marriage equality in Rhode Island, and that the poll should serve as a wakeup call to politicians that continue to be against equal rights.

**San Francisco, CA**  
**Scouts pledge pins to boy who came out as gay**  
 A nationwide movement of Boy Scouts giving up their Eagle Scout pins to support a Boy Scout denied his Eagle Scout status when he openly came out as gay during efforts to fight bullying has begun. The movement has rallied dozens of Scouts who have pledged their pins to the Boy Scout if the troop refuses.

**Washington, D.C.**  
**Legislative victory for LGBT business owners in California**  
 A bill has been signed into law in California which enables the Department of General Services to collect information on gay-owned businesses. The inclusion of this voluntary information will help to break down discriminatory barriers to LGBT business owners and will recognize their economic contributions. California is the first state to have a law dedicated to advancement of businesses owned by LGBT people.

**Church funds anti-equality measures, parishioners unaware**  
 The Catholic Church is funding discriminatory political campaigns in Minnesota, Maine, Washington and Maryland, where marriage equality is on the ballot this fall. In some cases, a report by the HRC found, parishioners may not even be aware that their dollars are being used for this purpose. The report found that the Church, along with the National Organization for Marriage, has spent around \$1.4 million on the four ballot measures, a total that makes them responsible for funding 60 percent of all anti-equality efforts. It was found that this directly opposes the values of the majority of Catholics, as according to a recent poll, nearly 60 percent support marriage equality and the poll also indicated that marriage equality is currently one of the issues of least concern.

**Youth who are out at school or to family are happier, says report**  
 A new report on LGBT youth indicates that young people who are out at school or to their immediate family report higher levels of happiness, optimism, acceptance and support. The report, called the "National Coming Out Day" report, is issued by the HRC and analyzes further the results of a survey of over 10,000 LGBT-identified youth that was first released in the "Growing Up LGBT in America" report. This new report also includes a call to action for LGBT youth, as well as their peers, parents, teachers and religious leaders.

**PSAs urge trans people to not give up their vote**  
 Public service announcements outlining how transgender Americans can keep their right to vote have been released by the National Center for Transgender Equality. The series, "Voting While Trans," aims to educate and prepare transgender people to vote in their state. Revised photo ID laws create barriers to voting for trans people, and more than 25,000 could lose their right to vote because of this. The message of the PSAs is to not feel discouraged and to not give up the vote.

### TOP 10 BEST SELLER VIDEOS

Courtesy: WolfeVideo.com

#### LESBIAN TOP 10

1. Kiss Me
2. Chely Wright: Wish Me Away
3. Lost Girl: Season 1
4. The Guest House
5. The Secret Diaries of Miss Anne Lister
6. Elvis & Madonna
7. Joe + Belle
8. The Perfect Family
9. Tomboy
10. Bound

#### GAY TOP 10

1. Funkytown
2. August
3. Weekend
4. Leave it on the Floor
5. Elliot Loves
6. Beauty
7. The Men Next Door
8. Kawa
9. Private Romeo
10. The Green

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# Faith, family, and God: You don't go to hell; exploring the myths and legends

By: Paul P. Jesepe\*/TRT Columnist

Many in the LGBTQ community, especially those of practicing faith, are surprised when I share that hell is myth, legend and folklore. Lucifer is Halloween fun, nothing more. If I'm wrong, there will be hell to pay.

Some argue Satan's strength comes from the spiritually bankrupt like me who deny Lucifer's existence. Based on such logic, vampires and werewolves

draw their strength from non-believers like me as well. Satan's greatest strength comes from people who want to blame a fictitious being rather than take responsibility for personal missteps.

If Lucifer does exist, pray for the dumb bastard's forgiveness and let's move on! If you don't believe Satan can be redeemed then you don't believe in miracles.

Faith and spirituality empower. They transcend superstition. Discernment and deepened consciousness is furthered. They teach hell is a metaphor, an allegory and something good-intentioned souls teach who are frightened of what is unknown to them.

**Faith and spirituality empower. They transcend superstition. Discernment and deepened consciousness is furthered. They teach hell is a metaphor, an allegory and something good-intentioned souls teach who are frightened of what is unknown to them.**

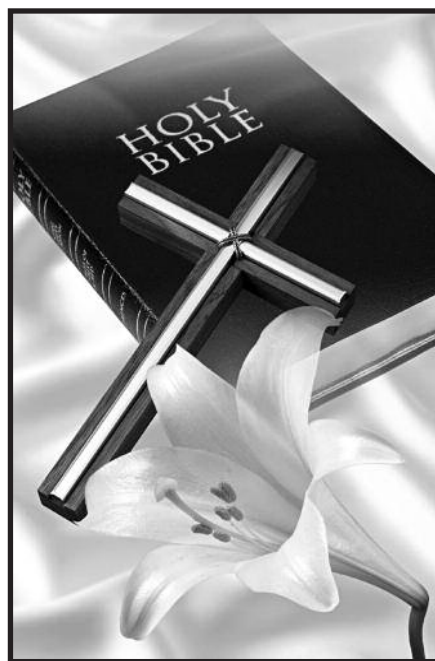
a metaphor, an allegory and something good-intentioned souls teach who are frightened of what is unknown to them.

Gerald Messadie, author of "A History of the Devil," observed "We are all someone else's Devil." Throughout history Jews, women, LGBTQ and racial minorities, among others, have been someone's demon. What the majority perceives as different is threatening. Satan

is manifested in cultural insecurities.

We make our own hell. It can be denying our self the opportunity to love and be loved. Hell can be a feeling of guilt or shame because we have allowed the negative opinions of others to become our reality.

In my case, hell is listening to Ethel Merman belt out show tunes with the volume turned up, suffering from prickly heat with a raw thirst, paralyzed on a deck chair in excruciatingly humid weather while musky, pungent smelling wet dogs drool on my face waiting for me to throw a ball. I'm a cat person.



Hell is not flames, sulfur and demonic creatures with pitchforks. Ask questions. Although exorcisms are still performed, why are they done in Latin, the language of the deranged Roman Emperor Caligula, and not Aramaic or Hebrew, the languages Jesus spoke? This isn't to suggest I don't believe in negative energy or supernatural beings, but that's another matter.

Why is the snake respected in many cultures as wise, but maligned in the West as evil incar-

nate? Did Satan actually tempt and corrupt Eve with an apple? Or is this an ancient teaching story where Eve, a giver of life, and Adam, her companion, are awakened to knowledge?

Similar to usurious credit card interest rates, hell compounds daily if logic, reason and common sense are not nurtured. Historically, hell goes back 4000 years to the Land of the Dead in the pre-Christian Tigris-Euphrates valley in present-day Iraq.

One of the most primitive human approaches to spirituality existing today is duality. Good and evil. Mature spirituality is unity, wholeness and completion, not division.

It is impossible to discuss in a short column the culture, history, religion, philosophy and theology regarding hell, Satan and eternal damnation. God (meant in a gender-neutral manner) empowers, frees us from fear, casts light on superstition and shows individuals a new way of seeing themselves in this mystical, extraordinary universe.

Standing in personal truth as a Creation of the Creator in a loving, monogamous, same-gender relationship cannot get you sent to hell. Positive energy created the cosmos. You create and are solely responsible for your own paradise. Do you really think Divine Truth who created stars, planets, the cosmos, life itself, could be so petty as to send you and your spouse to hell? It would be unbecoming of Holy Magnificence.

\*Paul is an author, attorney, and a seminary trained, ordained priest in greater Albany, NY. He is founder of Corporate Chaplaincy: [www.CorporateChaplaincy.biz](http://www.CorporateChaplaincy.biz).

## Equality needs a champion like Elizabeth Warren

By: Kara Suffredini, Esq.\*/Special to TRT

Eight years ago, we knew that if we won the right to marry in Massachusetts the rest of the country would follow.

We were right. Today, five other states and the District of Columbia recognize the marriages of same-sex couples, and it's only a matter of time before marriage equality is recognized in all 50 states.

But during the same time Massachusetts was debating marriage equality, Congress was considering the Federal Marriage Amendment—which would ban any legal recognition of the marriages of same-sex couples anywhere in the country.

The outcome of the November 6 election will determine whether our country continues to move forward in the march to full equality, or whether it returns to the days of fighting back mean-spirited measures like the Federal Marriage Amendment.

That is why I have been personally involved in supporting Elizabeth Warren for the U.S. Senate since the moment she launched her campaign.

If Republicans gain control of the Senate, we will be back on our heels defending marriage equality while urgently needed proposals protecting LGBTQ employees, youth and families gather dust on a shelf.

The stakes couldn't be higher. We have had huge successes in Massachusetts, not only with marriage equality, but also, in the last year alone, with the passage of the Transgender Equal Rights Law, improvements in screening and ...

**See Warren on page 23**

## Kennedy from page 10

"Any time you have some property rights or investment or money that belongs to individuals, the government needs to stay out of it period end of story. I really don't care who the people are, or why they have the agreement or relationship. They have a set of legal rights through their own money and property," he said. "I think that is sufficient for any transaction or arrangement."

But Kennedy, recently endorsed by the *Boston Globe* and early in October by *The Rainbow Times*, said he not only favors repeal of DOMA, but also a whole lot more.

"This country is losing a strong advocate for the rights of gays and lesbians in Congressman Barney Frank," Kennedy said. "This comes back to me to be a fundamental issue of fairness. I don't think the government should tell you who you can and cannot love, who you can or cannot marry. I would support the repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act."

"I am a big supporter of ENDA [the Employment Non-Discrimination Act] to make sure everyone has the freedom not to be discriminated against in their place of work," Kennedy added.

"I am a big supporter of LGBTQ rights across the board whether it is in the form of bullying [protections] at school, high school and college, or to making sure that people who come out later in the course of their lives, given the incredible advances we have made, feel comfortable going into retirement homes that they don't have to re-closet themselves," he explained.

"So I come back to a basic issue of fairness and one that I feel very strongly about," Kennedy said.

During a recent telephone interview, Kennedy said that his strong support for LGBTQ rights stems partly from "having gay friends and family members."

Kennedy, who marched in the Boston Pride parade earlier this summer with a large and spir-

**"This comes back to me to be a fundamental issue of fairness. I don't think the government should tell you who you can and cannot love, who you can or cannot marry. I would support the repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act."**

ited contingent that was enthusiastically applauded, said he was impressed by the applause and cheers from onlookers for Barney Frank and his husband James Ready, both of whom trekked the entire parade route side-by-side with Kennedy.

"No one will be able to replace him," said Kennedy, referring to Frank's "commitment to expanding rights and championing equality."

"Perhaps no one has done more in Washington and here at home to advance these issues," Kennedy said.

Frank in fact has been a vocal and visible supporter of his candidacy.

This is the first race for elective office for Kennedy, 32, a former Middlesex assistant dis-

trict attorney. But his surname is readily recognizable across the 4th district, which stretches from Brookline and Newton to Wrentham to Plainville to Attleboro and all the way south to Fall River.

He is the grandson of the late U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and grandnephew of the late Massachusetts U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy and the late President John F. Kennedy.

Joe's father is former U.S. Representative Joseph Kennedy II.

Already, the younger Kennedy has demonstrated formidable fundraising skills. He brought in \$1.1 million in campaign contributions for this past quarter, which ended on Sept. 30. That figures takes his overall intake north of \$3.8 million — more than twice the total of any of the incumbent Massachusetts Democrats seeking re-election this year, according to the Associated Press.

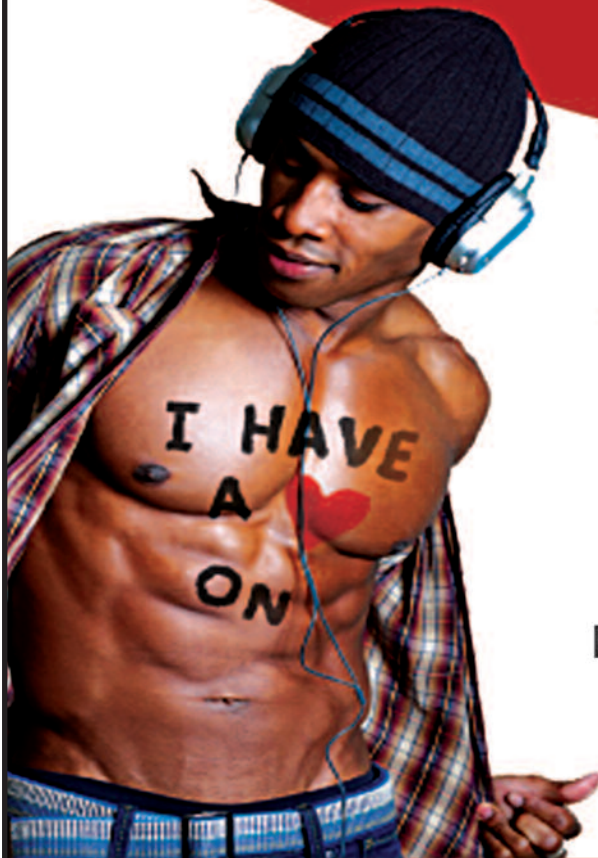
In addition to fundraising prowess, there is little doubt among LGBTQ backers of Kennedy that he would be an ardent advocate for gay rights on Capitol Hill. One supporter in the district offered her endorsement. "Joe Kennedy's support for full equality is hard-wired into his DNA — and it shows," said Elyse Cherry of Brookline. "Our LGBTQ community can rely on his dependable and authentic support for the issues that are important to our lives and the lives of our families."

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# The OutField: Gay father activist creates Winning Marriage Equality in Minnesota

By: Dan Woog\*/Special for TRT

Q SPORTS



The “gay soccer” stories come fast and furious.

• Major League Soccer sponsors Spirit Day, encouraging players and fans to wear something purple, drawing attention to bullying and LGBT youth.

• FC Edmonton goalkeeper — and staunch straight ally Lance Parker — is a finalist for Cosmopolitan Magazine’s 2012 “Bachelor of the Year” award.

• Openly gay player David Testo throws out the first ball at a Toronto Blue Jays game. Not coincidentally, it’s the first home appearance for Yunel Escobar after being suspended for writing “Tu ere maricon” — an anti-gay epithet — on his eye black. Escobar was also fined \$82,000 — which went straight to GLAAD and the You Can Play Project.

• A lesbian couple from Colorado flies to England, and has a civil partnership ceremony at Liverpool’s famed Anfield Stadium. The couple — longtime Liverpool fans — are feted by the team, which recently hired a “social inclusion officer.”

• Former Arsenal and MLS star Freddie Ljungberg talks about being taunted as “gay” after appearing in a Calvin Klein underwear ad.

• Out U.S. national women’s team coach Pia Sundhage retires — and is honored at her final match with a video, songs and a victory lap.

All those stories — and many more — are featured on the home page of Gay4Soccer.com. The brainchild of Chris Billig, it (and its companion Twitter feed) are proud examples of the enormous impact social media now has on gay sports.

Billig is a rabid soccer fan. He loves the international game, and the American pro leagues. But — like many gay men — he did not grow up playing sports, or hanging out with jocks.

In fact, he says, while growing up in Pennsylvania he was not even a spectator. He went

to discussion boards, Billig could not find much to relate to “from my perspective as a gay man,” he says. The soccer coverage on gay sites was limited to “pretty pictures.” He was frustrated that the accompanying information did not even get important facts right.

When Billig and his gay friends watch soccer, he says, “we balance the two parts of our lives. We admire the players, but we also admire the game.”

Billig started Gay4Soccer.com as a news site. He recruited writers, who posted from a broad range of angles. There were news stories,

a deliberate effort to reach out to GLBT people. We will work with all these groups to ensure they have a voice, and to challenge unacceptable behavior, including working to eliminate homophobic language from the game.”

The hundreds of signers include current and former players, front office executives, the media, even entire teams and their fan clubs.

The reaction, Billig says, has been “really, really positive. I’m flabbergasted. I’ve gotten virtually nothing negative at all.”

Gay4Soccer added a popular Twitter feed. Followers of the website and tweets include players and fans at all levels. Billig says he’s heard from some Development Academy (top-tier) youth players.

On a personal level, he’s used his own site to connect with a gay soccer team in the Austin area.

“Social media is a great connector of people,” he notes. Soccer, he says, is particularly suited to social media. “Soccer players are very accessible. They’re grounded. You’re able to chat with them on a personal level.”

Gay4Soccer has carved out a nice niche. It too is accessible. It connects gay and straight players and fans, tying them together from youth to the pros.

Plus, it’s got a killer tag line: “Because soccer isn’t gay, but once in a while it kinda is.”

\*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 personally at: [OutField@qsyndicate.com](mailto:OutField@qsyndicate.com).

## Gay4Soccer has carved out a nice niche. It too is accessible. It connects gay and straight players and fans, tying them together from youth to the pros.

to college intending to be a teacher, but got involved in political work. His current job is in information technology.

As a teenager, Billig was “a soccer-phobe.” But during college, while student teaching in England, his students taught him a bit about the game. “These little 8-year-olds had me supporting West Ham,” he says, referring to the London club.

Two years ago, living in Austin, Texas, a friend took him to a local theater. World Cup matches were shown on a large screen. “The spectacle, the hype, the anthems, the stories of the players” — all, Billig says, drew him in.

Yet as he scoured soccer websites and rea-

analysis, light pieces and — yes — photos of hot-looking athletes.

When former Montreal Impact midfielder David Testo came out, Billig wondered about other players. “What if someone else is thinking of coming out, but doesn’t know what the atmosphere would be like?” he thought. “How would they know who on their team would be supportive?”

Billig created an ally list. It grew rapidly. He then added a “pledge.” Signers promised to “make soccer a welcome, inviting and inclusive place for everyone — for those participating in the sport, those attending matches and for those working or volunteering in it — while making

beth Warren is that champion.

Elizabeth Warren will fight to protect all LGBTQ workers from discrimination, everywhere in our country.

Elizabeth Warren will fight for appropriate funding for HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and research.

Elizabeth Warren will fight to repeal the law that keeps our marriages from counting in other states and in the eyes of the Federal government.

Elizabeth Warren will be a champion of safe schools for all youth, including those who are LGBTQ or come from LGBTQ-headed families.

This race isn’t just about the kind of leader we need. This is about the kind of leader we deserve. We deserve a senator who appreci-

she is.

Sen. Scott Brown is the only member of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation who hasn’t sponsored the repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act. He is the only member of the Congressional Delegation who hasn’t sponsored LGBT employment protections. He is the only member of the Congressional Delegation who hasn’t sponsored anti-bullying protections for LGBT youth. And before he voted to repeal Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell — a vote I and an overwhelming majority of Massachusetts voters support — he voted three times to prevent that bill from ever coming up for a vote.

We need someone on Capitol Hill who will champion our humanity and advance our equality not just when it’s convenient, but all the time, because it’s the right thing to do. Eliza-

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preventing of HIV/AIDS and a special statewide commission to address the alarming rate of homelessness among LGBTQ youth. But there is important work on equality that can’t be done on Beacon Hill alone. For starters, only Capitol Hill lawmakers, and the federal judges they confirm, can end federal marriage discrimination.

Sen. Scott Brown says that marriage equality is “settled law” and has dismissed our community’s efforts to end employment discrimination as a “pet project.” Try telling that to married Massachusetts couples who can’t access federal benefits like social security and Medicare thanks to the Defense of Marriage Act or to the transgender job applicant who is rejected over and over simply because of who

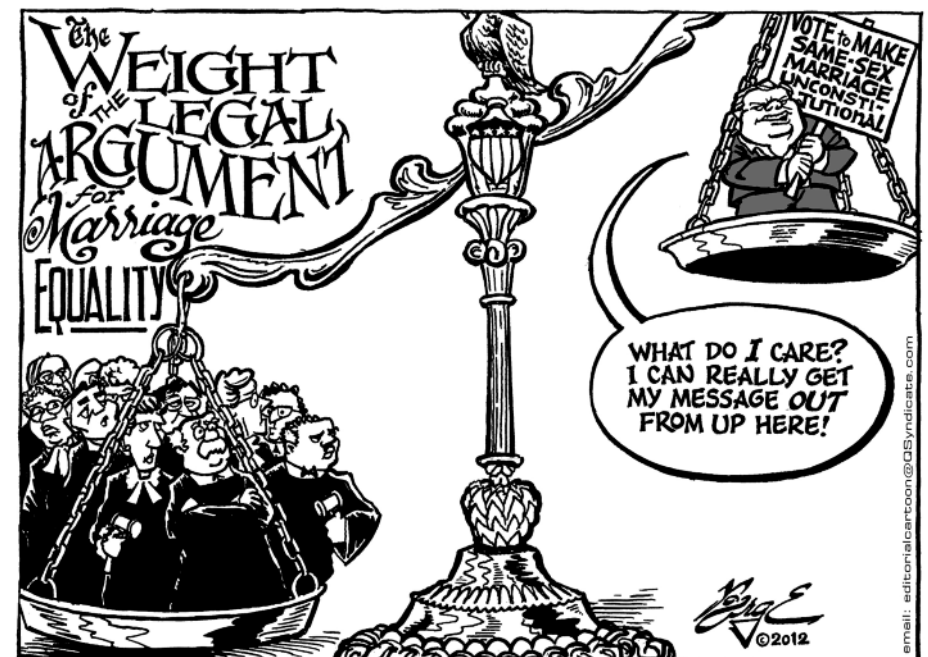
## Indigenous from page 2

thanksgiving for subduing the Pequots.” The subduing was the murder of 700 people of all ages and genders. The gathering on Cole’s Hill in Plymouth each year, since 1970, is an opportunity to tell the truth and to challenge the ongoing genocide of Indigenous people today. People hold signs calling for the release of political prisoner and American Indian Movement leader Leonard Peltier. There are other signs reminding us that prisons are not native to the land and neither is homophobia. It’s a celebration of solidarity and a time for those of us who are white to listen and for the voices of Indigenous people to speak loudly for themselves.

I will say that after the rally on Cole’s Hill my family gets together for a feast of food, storytelling, laughing, silliness and joy in being together. The opportunity to hold hands and bless the food we are sharing is a cherished one, but the food tastes better and the family time feels better when we take time to be honest about where the holiday comes from and how it impacts people today. The rates of incarceration of

Indigenous young people is unconscionable, the impacts of drug and alcohol use and the continued theft of land are all part of the ongoing oppression of Indigenous people. Yet people survive, dance, worship, celebrate and keep culture alive. There is so much good to be thankful for and many blessings to be counted. Our shared responsibility is to give thanks with open eyes and with awareness to what is going on around us. If you are with your family of origin, your family of choice, on your own, or working on November 22nd, take a moment to tell some truth about the theft of this country’s land. Get some pumpkin pie, mashed potatoes, collards, or whatever other harvest foods you like best and remember that there is work to be done.

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



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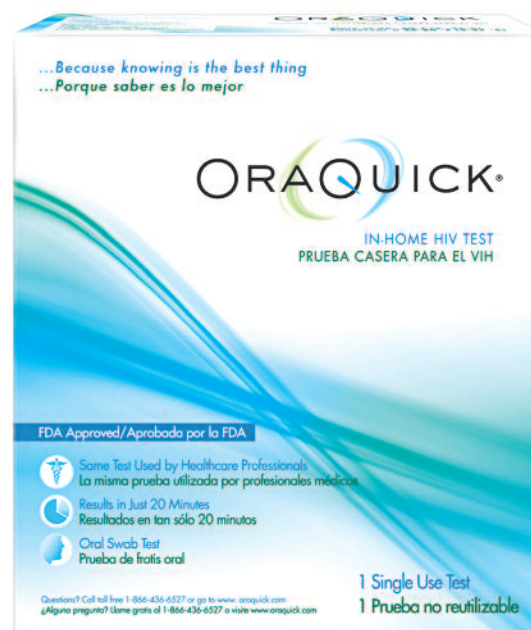


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