

# The Rainbow Times

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

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TRANS AWARENESS

PHOTO: TRT ARCHIVES



**MAYOR  
MENINO**  
In Memoriam of an  
LGBT Champion, the  
People's Mayor pp2&15

PHOTO: ETHOS



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CLUBS**  
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PHOTO: IRENE SODERBERG FAN SITE/FACEBOOK



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PHOTO: ROBERT SEBREE



**ANNIE  
LENNOX**

**on LGBT Rights p16**



# Making history: Nation's first openly gay attorney general elected, Menino departs

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

OPINIONS

**Massachusetts Makes History Again**  
Congratulations to all of the newly elected officials of the Commonwealth and New England and kudos to all in a long well-fought battle.

Massachusetts, making history once again, voted in the first openly-gay attorney general, Maura Healey. First endorsed by *The Rainbow Times* in our June 7 edition, our then endorsement was reiterated on September 3, 2014. We are proud to welcome the newly elected attorney general to office

come January 2015.

"Maura's win tonight is a historic victory for LGBTQ people and for LGBTQ equality," said MassEquality's Executive Director, K.C. Coredini. "Maura has spent the last seven years in the attorney general's office making the Commonwealth a national leader on LGBTQ issues with her vision, drive and talent. Now, as the country's first openly gay state attorney general she is poised to make history again, not only with what more she will accomplish in this critical office, but with who she is. For LGBTQ young people everywhere, Maura is an example of how far they can go, and how much they can accomplish. We look forward

to continuing to work with her to ensure a level playing field for all and to raise the bar on equality and justice, both across this state and the nation."

We concur.

As attorney general-elect, Healey holds impressive credentials, which include having served from 2007 to 2013 in the attorney general's office first as the chief of the Civil Rights Division and then as chief of the Public Protection & Advocacy Bureau, which oversees a range of operations including civil rights, healthcare, antitrust, environmental protection, consumer protection, and insurance and financial services.

Certainly this will not be the last we hear of Healey.

of the LGBT community in a variety of ways. From refusing to walk in the traditional St. Patrick's Day Parade since the LGBT community was not allowed open participation to addressing Dan Cathy, President of Chik-Fil-A, via an open letter reinforcing his position that the anti-LGBT equality chain would not be welcomed to establish one of its restaurants on Boston's Freedom Trail.

We will not forget.

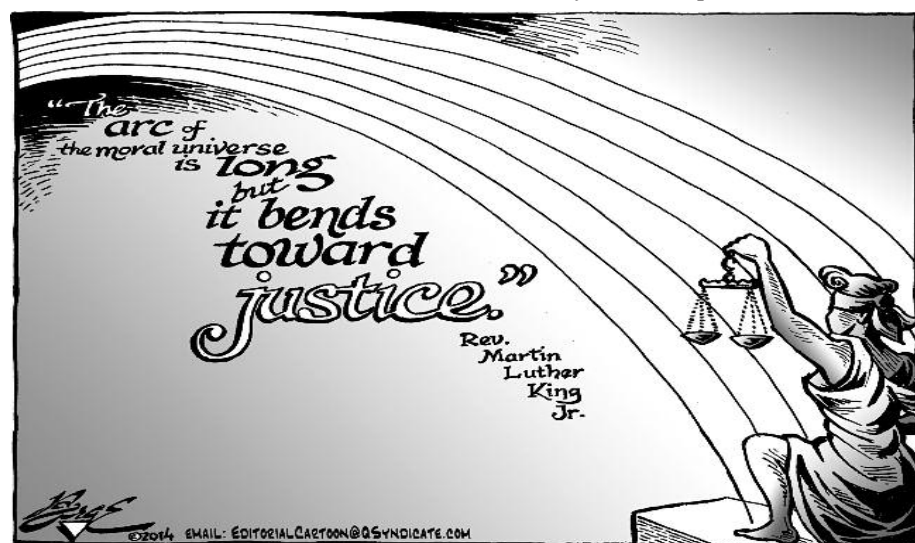
Whatever was peoples' plight, it became his own and we honor him for it. Some of Mayor Menino's shining moments, captured by our lens, can be found on page 15 of this issue and reactions from the community and the nation can be found at: <http://tiny.cc/5t8tox>.

*The Rainbow Times* extends its heartfelt condolences to the Mayor's family, friends and fellow Bostonians.

## Farewell to Mayor Menino

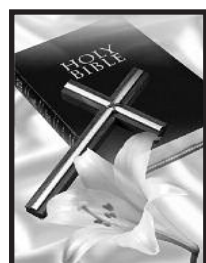
On October 30, 2014, Boston lost a tremendous leader, a man dedicated to the Mayor's office and the residents of Boston. LGBT advocate and icon Mayor Thomas M. Menino succumbed to cancer. Perhaps most known for his overdrive and conviction to truth and fairness in a city that he loved, in a profile on a local news station, the former Boston Mayor said he wanted his legacy to be inclusion—he succeeded.

Beginning as a city councilor, he supported HIV education and prevention and pioneered the first needle exchange program in the commonwealth. He fought on behalf



## Faith, Family and God: Sexualizing homosexuality at the risk of diminishing equality

By: Paul P. Jesep\*/TRT Columnist



Without the act of sex, what does it mean to be LGBTQ?

A person of faith sent me a link to an article featuring a video and photos showing very muscular, attractive Eastern European men almost nude in a Christian, religious

setting. The article portrayed these hunks as priests and sought to make a political statement, an in-your-face bravado to further LGBTQ civil and human rights.

The sender loved it. In fairness to him, he may have viewed it as a matter of art. I looked at it from a standpoint of, "How does this change hearts and minds in a highly homophobic culture?" It doesn't. Not only could it be perceived as mocking the faith of a majority of the population, but it could also reinforce a negative stereotype that LGBTQ civil and human rights is all about legalizing a choice in the kind of intimacy a person wants.

It made me think about how LGBTQ civil and human rights advanced in this country from the election of Harvey Milk to the positive portrayals of gay characters on television. One of my first recollections was Tony Randall in a series called "Love, Sidney" (<http://tiny.cc/yto8nx>) playing a middle-

**Sex is a gift—awesome, spiritual and beautiful. It cannot, by itself, sustain a healthy relationship. It is a component of intimacy, which must include spiritual and emotional elements.**

aged gay artist who takes in a single mother and her child. It was the first time television featured a main gay character. It ran for two seasons starting in 1981.

There was the son of an oil tycoon in "Dynasty" (<http://tiny.cc/1zo8nx>) and a diner owner in "Roseanne" (<http://tiny.cc/s4o8nx>). Later came "Will and Grace." Still others followed.

The decision by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court legalizing same-gender marriage sent shock waves throughout the nation, forcing Americans unfamiliar

**See Sexualizing on page 23**

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

[Re: Op-Ed: With Friends Like Baker & Polito, Who Needs Enemies?] Ms. Coredini is right on with all of what she says. I'll say even more, Baker and Polito represent a clear threat advancing equality in the state. I fear for other rights for trans people and when it comes to employment discrimination and ENDA. These two are not trustworthy in my opinion, they are not trustworthy with my life. Will you trust them with yours?

—John Leahy, Boston, Online

Dear Editor

[Re: Bisexual Men Fight For Visibility] Dr. Herukhuti's comments about how male bisexuality doesn't titillate heterosexual men's sexual fantasies and thus is a lot less likely to be accepted in media or given attention is only partially true. The average viewer of TV shows, esp. prime-time dramas, is not just female but overwhelmingly female. Yet, bi and gay female characters are a lot more likely to be represented therein than gay or bi male ones. The producers know the demographic as do the networks. (It's urban females aged 18-35.) You need only watch the ads to see who the viewers are. Ads for bras, skin cream, feminine hygiene products, "soccer mom" vans, etc., pretty much give it away. So it isn't straight men's viewership driving the character dev't or personalities thereof, it's female viewership, straight or otherwise. Best explanation I can think of is that the minority sexual orientation of one or more drama/suspense by opening plot line ...

**See More Letters on Page 23**

**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO GOVERNOR-ELECT  
CHARLIE BAKER!**

**The Rainbow Times**

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

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# Promise Place School for LGBTQ homeless youth to host first annual gala in Cape Cod

By: Lauren Walliser/TRT Assistant Editor

IN THE LIMELIGHT

BOSTON, Mass.—The Promise Place School—a residential school aiming to provide a permanent, safe and loving home environment in Cape Cod for homeless LGBTQ youth in Massachusetts ages 12-24—is set to open in September 2015. Founded by Erica Kay-Webster and The Foundation for International Justice, Promise Place School will host its First Annual Gala Fundraising Event Saturday, December 6, 2014.

The Foundation recently received its official 501(c)(3) nonprofit status as an educational charity, making it possible for them to apply for state and federal funding, foundation grants, and expand their individual donor base. As they have been incorporated as an independent school, they have broadened their funding sources and now have the ability to issue tax-exempt bonds for future expansion and capital investments, according to Kay-Webster.

“Promise Place School was created from a vision I had to create a permanent solution to ending chronic homelessness for LGBTQ youth,” said Kay-Webster, who experienced homelessness herself as a young transgender woman.

In researching the success of other programs that have dealt with the issue of homeless youth, Kay-Webster said she found the one missing component to ensur-



Cabaret singer & comedienne Irene Soderberg will perform at the First Annual Gala Fundraising Event for Promise Place School in Cape Cod Dec. 6.

ing long-term success was the educational component.

“Research has shown us that shelters, group homes, and the foster care system

have not been enough,” she said. “Although shelters are necessary, they are simply there for emergency measures.”

Promise Place School will provide an

equivalency program and grades 6-12 with a high school diploma upon graduation. Students will then be offered scholarships to college, trade schools and technical schools. Christopher Morgan-Janes, D.A., educational director for The Promise Place School, shared what that educational component will look like.

“We will be an independent school, which allows us to define our mission, hire teachers we believe will be able to meet the student’s unique needs, and determine what we will teach,” Morgan-Janes said. “Our philosophical beliefs about education are guiding the designs of this school. Specifically, we are planning a curriculum that includes typical subjects: Art, History, Language Arts, Math, Music, Philosophy, and Science. However, we plan to use alternative texts, pedagogies, and curriculum that reflect the educational needs of the students. This includes Sugata Mitra’s School in the Clouds, Khan Academy, experiential Science and Math, LGBTQ history and literature, as well as practical skills: gardening, sailing, and cooking classes.”

Along with traditional schooling, the youth at Promise Place School will also receive additional support.

“Homeless LGBTQ teens’ daily survival becomes more pressing than other typical teen activities,” said Morgan-Janes. “Promise Place School will need to first provide them with a safe haven including food, clothing,

**See Promise Place on Page 23**

SIDNEY BORUM JR.  HEALTH CENTER

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# Food brings together elderly LGBT community through supper clubs, meal sites

By: Clara Lefton/TRT Reporter

BOSTON, Mass.—In the last decade, a variety of gatherings centered around food have attracted members of the elderly LGBT community in Massachusetts. These groups' formats range from potlucks, supper clubs, meal sites, brunch groups and more throughout all parts of the Commonwealth. While food is their common ground, these interactions serve as a basis to create a much larger community for those who might be looking for friends as they enter later stages of their lives.

"As a result of joining this club, I have met many interesting and fun loving people," said Carol Xavier, a frequent attendant of the Fairhaven Council on Aging's LGBT Supper Club. "Becoming a member of the dinner club has led to other activities such as socializing, traveling and dining together. By having friends in the LGBTQ community, I don't feel that I'm just living in a so called, 'straight world.'"

Although food gatherings like these have long been common among the general elderly public, no LGBT-specific meetings existed in New England as of 10 years ago. The first gathering was organized by Ethos, the Boston-based elder services organization that has served the elderly and disabled since 1973, as a federally funded congregate meal program. It took place at the Emmanuel Church in Boston in 2004 with no religious affiliation required. The location is easily accessible by a subway that includes handicap



ALL PHOTOS: ETHOS

Attendees at Ethos' Out4Supper monthly dinner for LGBT seniors and their friends chat before enjoying a seafood meal. Out4Supper is held once monthly at the Mount Pleasant Home in Jamaica Plain.

access (the Arlington T Stop on the MBTA Green Line).

"LGBT elders are generally now acknowledged as being at greater risk for premature aging, being institutionalized, etcetera," said Dale Mitchell, executive director of Ethos. "So we embarked on this experiment and we had no idea what to expect, if anybody would turn out, and if this was a need we were addressing or just some windmill we

were tilting out."

Initially, Cafe Emmanuel had a low attendance, but once Ethos did some outreach into the community it brought in more attendees. Specifically, Ethos sought help via the LGBT Aging Project, a nonprofit dedicated to increasing the quality of life of LGBT seniors, which has since merged with The Fenway Institute at Fenway Health.

"It sent the signal that this straight organization called Ethos is cool and can be trusted," explained Mitchell.

Currently, the cafe meets every Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

and suggests a donation of a \$1.75 from

seniors. These gatherings often include music recitals with performances from local students at both the Boston Conservatory and the New England Conservatory of Music. Although Cafe Emmanuel continues to be an overall success today, the site has always been heavily popular among men.

"It was frustrating that it was all men, but we had an opportunity to do a needs assessment with older lesbian, bi, and trans women [in the area]," explained Fenway Health's Assistant Director of the LGBT Aging Project, Bob Linscott. "The reality was these women were still working, [while] the men are all happily retired, so they didn't have the luxury to come play at a cafe in the middle of the daytime."

Ethos then started another group called Out2Brunch to combat this inequality and reach out to a female demographic. The very first meeting took place in December 2007

in the Roslindale House, located at 120 Poplar Street in Roslindale, Mass. This particular spot in a community room of an elderly housing complex has brought in the community of women to which Ethos was hoping to appeal.

Today Ethos runs more than 20 elderly-focused cafes in various locations around Boston, with three dedicated specifically to the LGBT Community. Ethos is one of 27 Aging Services Access Points (ASAPs) that provide services like this to the Massachusetts public. Each caters to specific geographical needs of areas in the state, and others include the Cambridge Elder Services. LGBT congregate meal sites run by these different ASAPs are similar to Ethos, although not all meet as frequently as once per week. Many are held monthly or every other week.

"We were looking for ways to reach out to older LGBT adults, especially ones [who were] 60 and older—in this case [those] who were isolated or who were nutritionally challenged," said Ben Labonte, an LGBT peer worker at Elder Services of Worcester Area Inc. "So it's the same as the lunches who are served at the senior centers, but our population isn't fond of the senior centers. They don't feel welcomed there and if they do go, they don't announce that they're a member of the LGBT community. So, this

way they can get together, be comfortable, and not have to come out, because everyone else is [a part of the LGBT community] too!"

The Worcester LGBT Elder Network also holds education programs and activities to help build the community. Their every-other-week congregate meals serve as a great

way to introduce seniors to other services that are available to them outside of community building, like health related issues.

"It has been a wonderful experience," said Gail Donahue, an attendee of the Fairhaven Council on Aging's LGBT Supper Club. "It feels like family and everyone is friendly. Several of us have formed a subgroup from the group and get together monthly at each other's houses for a potluck supper and lots of laughs. It is so nice to have a group to rely on and who care about each other."

Despite being LGBT-specific, all congregate meals are also open to those under 60 as well as allies to the community. For more information on Ethos, visit [www.ethocare.org](http://www.ethocare.org).

To see a full listing of the LGBT meal groups in the New England area, visit *The Rainbow Times* Calendar of Events online at <http://tiny.cc/trtcalendar>.



Camille Bourque and Howard Bornstein, regular attendees at Ethos' LGBT events, at Out4Supper.

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**7:00 PM:** Dinner

**7:45 PM:** Silent & Live Auctions

**8:30 PM:** Award Ceremony

**9:15 PM:** Cabaret Show - Headlining Irene Soderberg

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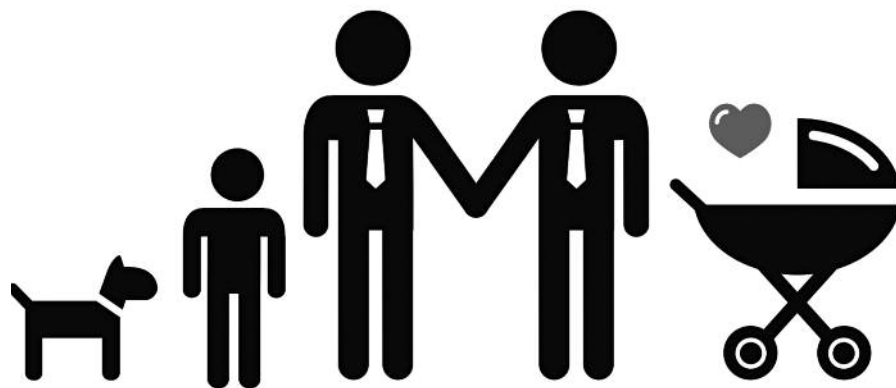
# LGBTQ Plight highlighted during National Adoption Month

By: The Seattle Lesbian/Contributing Paper

Family Equality Council has announced its 2014 "Allies for Adoption" Campaign to coincide with National Adoption Month in November. The initiative will draw attention to the obstacles LGBTQ people confront when trying to secure legal ties for their families. In the majority of states across the country, LGBTQ people encounter barriers when trying to adopt a partner's child, jointly adopt through a private agency or when attempting to serve as foster or adoptive parents to youth in care.

"LGBTQ parents have raised more than six million children across this country, yet we still face hurdles when trying to create and protect our families, including a lack of access to second-parent adoption for many parents. The patchwork of state adoption laws and policies leave our families vulnerable and fail to take into consideration the best interests of our children," said Gabriel Blau, Family Equality Council Executive Director.

"In addition to protecting our children, we also have a crisis in this country—one that we can fix. We are currently failing the 400,000 kids in the U.S. foster care system. More than 23,000 of these kids age out each year because there is a critical shortage of qualified parents. With a pool of two million



potential parents, the LGBTQ community is a deep untapped resource for foster youth. Right now there are five-times as many prospective LGBTQ parents than there are youth in foster care awaiting homes. Until we remove barriers to adoption by LGBTQ people in every state, millions of children won't get the chance to dine a forever family."

Throughout National Adoption Month Family Equality Council will highlight the stories of LGBTQ families formed through adoption, showcasing the variety of ways in

which adoption touches the lives of LGBTQ parents and their children, while emphasizing the shared important role adoption played in ensuring legal protections and recognition for their families.

Constituents will share adoption stories on Family Equality Council's Family Room Blog, post photos and graphics through social media channels using the hashtag: #Allies4Adoption, and join FEC's Thunderclap "online flash mob" to collectively send messages of support for adoption and foster care equality throughout the country. Today, in a

world where 32 states and the District of Columbia allow same-sex couples to marry, LGBTQ people still face barriers – including blatant discrimination – in creating and protecting their families through adoption.

"By eliminating existing roadblocks, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer parents and prospective parents in all 50 states will be better equipped to create and protect their families and the more than 400,000 youth in foster care, 100,000 of whom are available for adoption, will have a much better chance of finding their forever families." Blau said. "We urge everyone to join with Family Equality Council in educating our communities not only about how we can work together to find forever homes for all of our nation's foster youth, but also about how access to adoption is critical to the LGBTQ family community.

Visit <http://tiny.cc/xSeuox> to learn more about "Allies for Adoption."

**Check out our Facebook Pics:**

<http://tiny.cc/26duox>



## InterPride in Pittsburgh

By: Suzan Seymour/TRT Correspondent, Pittsburgh, PA—

The 32nd Annual General meeting of Interpride, International Pride Organizers, took place at the Wyndham Grand Hotel in downtown Pittsburgh, October 22-26, 2014.

Over 200 representatives from Pride organizations across the globe gathered to the theme of "Reflections of Pride-Stonewall 45," commemorating 45 years since the Stonewall uprising in New York.

Many workshops, group caucuses and formal elections took place at the conference, along with speakers from OUT Media and The Task Force, and a scholarship reception welcoming individuals that received financial assistance to attend by being awarded an Interpride Scholarship grant.

One of the Scholarship grant recipients, Lewis Kunze, from GALZ (Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe), spoke regarding the plight of LGBT individuals from Africa, and the secret lives they have to live. "There are no parades in Zimbabwe," Kunze said. "We have a series of events, like films or cocktail parties for supporters, where we give awards to parents who understand that their children are gay--and are there to share their experiences. It's like a talk show--but there is no video. Confidentiality is necessary to protect us."

Interpride's website states: that currently injustice and inequality exists around the world for LGBTI people in 7 countries where homosexuality is punishable by death and in 73 other countries where severe penalties exist.

Kunze spoke in depth about the many challenges for LGBT people in Africa, and how getting money to legitimate organizations is critical. "We need to have the support of our North American and global friends," Kunze stated, "without endangering ourselves or our communities. We organize through word of mouth otherwise we would be at risk."

Donations can be made to Interpride's Scholarship and Solidarity Fund at [www.interpride.org](http://www.interpride.org).

The next Interpride Annual World Conference will be held in Las Vegas in 2015, while Montpellier, France was awarded Annual World Conference for 2016, with World Pride Madrid following in 2017.

For more information about Interpride, its work and upcoming event, visit: [www.interpride.org/](http://www.interpride.org/).







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Verna Turbulence

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*A Venetian Masquerade*



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Imperial Crown Prince and Princess  
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# The Frivolist: 9 Reasons why coming out on a Holiday isn't a good idea

By: Mikey Rox\*/Special to TRT

**H**oliday time may seem like an ideal opportunity to come out to your family – everybody's in one place at one time and there's less chance for an individual meltdown in a large group setting—but there are many other variables that should be considered. Coming out isn't just about you, after all. Your friends and family—because they care about you—are emotionally invested in this matter too, and it's important to keep that in mind when deciding when to come out. For that reason—and nine others—unloading your burden around the holiday table isn't the best idea you'll ever have.

## 1. The Focus Should Be on Togetherness, Not Divisiveness

Even if you think your parents will take the revelation that you're LGBT in stride and process it responsibly, you can never really be sure how someone else will react. And it's not just your parents to whom you're coming out on a holiday; you've got a whole house full of people – siblings, aunts and uncles, and grandparents – who will be part of this event. How will they handle it? How will their reaction affect others'? You can't be sure, which is why, at least for the day that you're spending in celebration together, you should keep the secret under wraps. The varied reaction to your news could pit family member against family member, and that's



no way to end an otherwise pleasant gathering.

## 2. It Can Be Very Awkward for Extended Family and Other Guests

While many people present at holiday time will have an emotional involvement in your coming out, not everyone around will be family. Some guests may be friends or neighbors or just acquaintances who have

been invited to share in the joint holiday experience. For these folks, your coming out could turn what was supposed to be a benign and jovial occasion into an awkward situation that they can't escape from fast enough. Keep in mind, too, that if these aren't your guests, they're somebody else's, and you run the risk of embarrassing that person due to your ill-timed and disrespectful disclosure.

## 3. You May Not Have Anywhere Else to Go If It Doesn't Turn Out Well

It's every LGBT person's worst fear that those who are supposed to love you unconditionally simply do not. Thus, as a result of coming out on a holiday, you could be asked to leave the house—which could put you in a bind if the house in which you're staying is your only accommodations for this period of time. College students, in particular, should be mindful of this consequence to avoid being shut out in the cold weather typically associated with the Thanksgiving to New Year span.

## 4. Your Usually Supportive Social Circle Is Otherwise Engaged

You'll want to talk about what happened when you came out to your family to those who know you best—your friends—but they'll be celebrating the holidays with their own families and may not be available. This isn't the end of the world if your coming out went smoothly, but if it didn't go over so well and you need a shoulder to cry on or a supportive ear that will listen, you could be out of luck. This is a potentially dangerous situation, especially if you start feeling like nobody loves you and you have nowhere else to turn. This is not the truth, of course – although it may feel like it at the time—but it can lead to harmful behaviors that can be

**See Coming Out on Page 21**

## We should all have the right to make our own end-of-life decisions.



**To get involved on this important issue, connect with us:**

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# The Femme Show challenges assumptions, features subversive femininity

By: Lauren Wallester/TRT Assistant Editor

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.—Billed as “queer art for queer people,” The Femme Show—a variety show featuring personal explorations of queer and subversive femininity through dance, drag, poetry, performance art, and burlesque—took the stage for its eighth year in mid-October at the Cambridge YMCA.

Artistic Director Maggie Cee, a 2011 recipient of the History Project’s Lavender Rhino Award for being an emerging LGBT history maker, founded The Femme Show in 2007.

“My background is in dance, and I was looking for an outlet for my work that would connect it to my queer community,” said Cee. “Boston has a great femme community and I knew that it was a topic people were passionate about and interested in discussing, and I was at a point in my life where I was coming to own my femme gender.”

The show explores fem/femme identity and subversive femininity, which means different things to different people.

“I never felt included amongst my peers,” Poison Ivory, a performer with The Femme Show, said. “It was hard for me to come to terms with the fact that I was not like everyone else. I knew I was queer, but there was a time when I was uncomfortable with the label. Femme eventually became the term I used to identify myself because it made me feel powerful and sexy.”

For Cee, “femme is a gender that is conscious on some level when, in a fundamentally misogynist society, choosing femininity



Performers in *The Femme Show*. Back row, left to right: Stella Swingline, Rachel Kahn, Frenchie St. Pierre. Bottom row, left to right: Maggie Cee, Havalah Bachus, Alicia Oshun. PHOTO: THE FEMME SHOW

is a radical act.”

Performer Rachel Kahn shared her own take.

“For me, femme identity and subversive

femininity are about autonomy and about self-definition,” said Kahn. “I’m not femme identified in comparison to anyone else or any other identity. I’m femme because it’s

who I am and it’s an individual identity that makes me feel more whole and more fully myself. I’m as femme onstage as I am sitting

**See *The Femme Show* on page 22**

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Jeremy Denk has established himself as one of America's most thought-provoking, multi-faceted, and compelling artists. He is the recipient of a 2013 MacArthur "genius" Award and named Musical America's 2014 Instrumentalist of the Year. For his FAC appearance, he performs a program of Haydn, Janáček, Schubert, Mozart and Schumann. *A conversation with Jeremy Denk at*

5 p.m. in the Amherst Room, UMass Campus Center, Free

**SEASON SPONSORS:** Baystate Health and Health New England/Event Sponsors: Applewood, 88.5 NEPR, Hotel UMass



### MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE COMPANY

**Tues., Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m., FAC  
Concert Hall**

Described by The Washington Post as "one of the seven wonders of the artistic universe," Martha Graham Dance Company is one of the oldest and most celebrated contemporary dance companies on the planet. The evening's program includes Graham classics plus a new work by choreographer Andonis Foniadakis.

Pre-performance at 6:30 p.m. at the University Club.

**SEASON SPONSORS:** Baystate Health and Health New England/Event Sponsors: Applewood, Preview Magazine, NEFA



### JACK DEJOHNETTE TRIO

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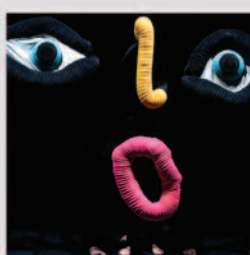
**Fri., Nov. 21, 8 p.m., Bowker  
Auditorium**

NEA Jazz Master and Grammy winner Jack DeJohnette brings saxophonist Ravi Coltrane and bassist Matthew Garrison together for an evening of open improvisation, as well as their own compositions.

**SEASON SPONSORS:** Baystate Health and Health New England/Event Sponsors: 88.5 NEPR, Hotel UMass

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## Intimate Partner Violence in the LGBTQ community, alarming disproportionate occurrences

Recently, the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) released its report Intimate Partner Violence in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ), and HIV-Affected Communities in 17 states across the country in 2013.

According to the report, LGBTQ and HIV-affected intimate partner violence (IPV), also known as partner abuse or domestic violence, increased in 2013, with incidences leading to 21 homicides, the highest recorded. Of the report's homicide victims, 76% were gay men, up from 48% the year prior.

"We are deeply concerned about the continued record high number of intimate partner violence homicides that occurred this year, which is part of a three-year trend in high homicide rates affecting our communities," said Justin Shaw, Executive director of Kansas City Anti-Violence Project. "The truly alarming number of gay men killed due to intimate partner violence indicates a need to expand the national discourse around intimate partner violence, to ensure that it includes gay men, bisexual people,

transgender, and gender non-conforming people. This is a crisis that affects everyone."

However, as a whole, the most impacted communities included gay men, LGBTQ and HIV-affected communities of color, LGBTQ and HIV-affected youth and young adults, bisexual survivors, and transgender individuals.

"As we see the full implementation of an LGBTQ-inclusive Violence Against Women Act, and as awareness about LGBTQ intimate partner violence increases, we believe that we will begin to see a rise in incidents of IPV being reported to NCAVP and its member organizations," said Osman Ahmed from the New York City Anti-Violence Project. "This report calls on policymakers to ensure that the federal government collects information on sexual orientation and gender identity, whenever demographic data is requested in studies, surveys, and research, including intimate partner violence, so we are prepared and able to support all survivors."


**See Partner Violence on page 21**

# Raise Your Voice

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# Local organizations collaborate on events for Trans Awareness month & TDoR

## TRANS AWARENESS MONTH

BOSTON, Mass.—November is Transgender Awareness Month. This is a time for individuals and communities to celebrate the diversity of the transgender community, acknowledge the meaningful contributions of transgender people, and raise awareness to the challenges transgender individuals still face for feeling safe and protected in their communities.

This year, Body Image 4 Justice, the Hispanic Black Gay Coalition (HBGC), the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition (MTPC), and others have teamed up to host a series of events to celebrate Transgender Awareness Month in the Boston area.

The month will kick off with a launch party, "Light up the Night" on November 8th at 6:30pm, hosted MTPC. "This is an event to celebrate our community, our achievements, and our talents," said Mason Dunn, Executive Director of MTPC.

On November 8, 2014, Body Image 4 Justice will host Transmasculine Show and Tell. The event is an accountable, confidential, non-competitive and non-judgmental space for people on the transmasculine spectrum to share their body challenges and receive support and solutions. The event will take place on the 9th

Floor at Fenway Health from 10 a.m.-12

p.m.

Then, on November 15, 2014 HBGC will host its 5th Annual Gala honoring Tiq Milan and Bamby Salcedo, two national trans leaders of color. Tiq Milan will receive HBGC's Audre Lorde Founders Award. GLAAD's national news senior media strategist, Milan has also raised awareness to the experiences of trans individuals of color through various documentaries, media campaigns, and news interviews. Bamby Salcedo will be the recipient of HBGC's James Earl Hardy Legends Award. Salcedo is founder and President of The Trans-Latin@ Coalition. She is also recognized nationwide for her advocacy work related to trans and health care issues. The event will be held at the Marriott Courtyard located at 275 Tremont Street in Boston from 7 p.m.-10 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at [hbgc-boston.org](http://hbgc-boston.org).

From November 14-16, 2014, Boston will welcome filmmaker and writer Kortney Ryan Ziegler to host Trans\*H4CK at Harvard University. Trans\*H4CK is A hackathon and speaker series that radically shifts the ways trans\* people live by creating technology that economically empowers, improves access to social services, promotes gender safety and community sustainability, while bringing visibility to trans\* people in technology. The event will be held at the Harvard Innovation Lab at Harvard Business School. More information can be found at [www.transhack.org](http://www.transhack.org).

Other events will take place during the



month. To find out more information about them, visit The Rainbow Times. In addition, The Rainbow Times will run a supplement highlighting Transgender leaders throughout New England, the events taking place, transgender stories by trans writers, etc. Lastly, TRT will donate ticket entrances to transgender events taking place during the month, as part of its unwavering and continuous support of the transgender community and its allies.

The month will close out with Trans\* Day of Remembrance hosted by MTPC on November 23. Featuring guest speakers, performers and a candle light vigil, the annual gathering is a time to raise awareness to violence against transgender individuals and memorialize the lives who have been lost due to transphobia. The event will take place

on November 23, from 4-7 p.m. at the University Lutheran Church, located at 66 Winthrop Street in Cambridge.

For more information on these events, and other events hosted for Transgender Awareness Month, please visit this site: [www.masstpc.org/community-events/tdor/](http://www.masstpc.org/community-events/tdor/).

Founded in 2001, the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition (MTPC) is dedicated to ending discrimination on the basis of gender identity and gender expression.

Formed in 2013, BodyImage4Justice (BI4J) aims to bring the LGBTQ community together through the common cause and interest of body image, health and wellness.

Founded in 2009, The Hispanic Black Gay Coalition (HBGC) works to inspire and empower Latin@, Hispanic and Black LGBTQ individuals to improve their livelihood through activism, education, community outreach, and counseling.

Boston-based, The Rainbow Times is a minority owned publication—half Hispanic, 100% gay. As a New England LGBT newspaper founded in 2006, The Rainbow Times is a liaison that increases awareness of LGBT issues and serves as a vehicle to unify and strengthen the communities throughout the New England region while providing quality news to its diverse readers. TRT has always had a transgender community member as a part of our team since it published its first print issue in February, 2007.

## Fantasia Fair hosts 40th annual conference

By: Clara Lefton/TRT Reporter

PROVINCETOWN, Mass.—The week of October 19-26, 2014 marked the 40th anniversary of Fantasia Fair, a conference focusing on transgender issues in Provincetown, Mass. and the world's longest running annual transgender event. Approximately 151 participants between the ages of 21-89 attended this year's fair from across the United States and other countries such as Australia, Brazil and Germany.

"This was one of our best years ever," said Barbara Curry, director of Fantasia Fair's evening events and the business manager. "[151 attendees] is about the most we can fit in Provincetown, and we don't try to be the biggest of anything. We try to be the most intimate and connected of conferences. It is possible to meet everyone within the week. It's amazing the connections people make. If they come back next year, they will literally pick up a conversation."

The conference is not strictly limited to members of the transgender community, as spouses and partners of trans participants are welcome and even given a discount entry fee. Additionally, the conference offers workshops for people whose spouses are struggling with their partner's transition. Meanwhile, those who might struggle so-

cioeconomically are encouraged to apply for a scholarship to assist with the financial burden of attending. These scholarships provide financial assistance for conference meals and lodging in exchange for working at the event.

Unlike many conferences that revolve around one hotel or conference center with hundreds of people, the Fantasia Fair provides an immersive setting. Workshops, activities, keynote speakers and other events happen throughout the town and participants are encouraged to explore Provincetown. Robert Anderson is a local resident who runs P-Town Tours year round, but says his favorite group is working with the Fantasia Fair.

"They're just so enthusiastic and so interesting to talk to," explained Anderson. "I just feel so at home with them when talking with and being with them. I look forward to this every year and every year it increases in numbers."

According to organizers, the smaller, 5,000-person town setting allows for a safe outdoor and inclusive environment. In this way, organizers sought to include a variety of local collaborations, including working

Read the rest of this story at:  
<http://wp.me/p22M41-3dG>

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## International Transgender Day of Remembrance

<http://tdor.info/>



# Stepping into the Light: An essential Guide to Trans leaders & advocates I

TRANS AWARENESS MONTH



**K.C. Coredini** is an attorney with over a decade of leadership in the LGBTQ movement. Since taking the helm of MassEquality

in 2010, Coredini has raised over \$4 million to support LGBTQ legislative and electoral priorities in Massachusetts, resulting in a number of historic victories. Among them are winning former Senator Scott Brown's game-changing vote in favor of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" repeal, securing creation of the nation's first statewide commissions to address LGBTQ youth homelessness and LGBTQ aging, winning statewide transgender nondiscrimination protections and LGBTQ anti-bullying protections, and securing action by Governor Patrick to end anti-transgender discrimination in health insurance coverage. Coredini also has managed successful efforts to help elect over 100 pro-LGBTQ lawmakers to state and federal office, including the historic breakout campaigns of Elizabeth Warren, Deval Patrick and Eileen Duff, who became the Commonwealth's first openly gay Governor's Councilor in 2012. Under

Coredini's direction, MassEquality was named a Nonprofit Excellence Award Finalist by the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network in 2012 and ranked 4th of 103 high-impact local LGBTQ nonprofits nationally by Philanthropedia in 2013.

A graduate of the University of California, Berkeley and the Boston College Law School, Coredini was named to the inaugural class of the "Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40" by the National LGBT Bar Association in 2010 and to the 2011 class of the nation's "40 Under 40" progressive political entrepreneurs by the New Leaders Council. At 29, Coredini was the youngest President of the Board of Directors of the National LGBT Bar Association, and Coredini also is a former officer of the Board of Directors of the Equality Federation, the national alliance of statewide LGBT equality organizations. Coredini currently serves on the Board of Corporators of Eastern Bank.



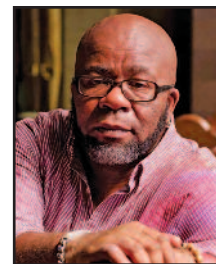
Healer, Orator and Academic, **Lourdes Ashley Hunter** has led grassroots initiatives that impact the socio-economic growth and development of trans and gender non-conforming people of color (tgnpcoc) for

over 20 years. Her research, policy, and legislative work centers on the lived expe-

riences, leadership and movement building of tgnpcoc communities in national social justice movements. As Co-Founder and National Director of Trans Women of Color Collective (TWOCC) and Creator of #BlackTransRevolution, Lourdes is leading a transformative movement that empowers tgnpcoc to activate their power as change agents and creators or sustainable initiatives.

## Rev. Louis Mitchell

comes from a long line of people who believe that community building and community service are important spiritual values. Using a broad range of resources, theories and studies, he brings a fresh, "on the ground", openhearted, holistic strategy to the work of individual and community healing, and a commitment to inclusion, intersectionality and mutuality to each setting that he's invited to be a part of. Louis currently serves as the Minister of Family and Congregational Life at South Congregational Church in Springfield, MA and is the Community Engagement Coordinator for TransFaith. An active member of several organizations and the recipient of numerous honors and awards, Louis was featured in the award winning documentary, *Still Black: A Portrait of Black Transmen*. He is blessed to be surrounded by



wonderful family, both traditional and chosen. He and his wife, Krysia L. Villon welcomed their wonderful daughter, Kahlo Serafina Villon Mitchell in 2012.

## Erica Kay-Webster

is one of the earliest Transgenders in the United States to undergo gender reassignment surgery at age 17 in 1968. Homeless in New York City, she attempted suicide twice prior to her surgery. Erica is a veteran of *The Stonewall Rebellion* in 1969. Her two years of homelessness, hopelessness & hunger continually motivate her to assist the more than 600,000 homeless LGBT youth in America today. Erica is CEO of *Promise Place School* for homeless LGBT youth, a year round residential school scheduled to open on Cape Cod in 2015. Erica is one of the most prominent and respected transgender woman in America due to her visibility and activism in politics, diplomatic affairs & speaking engagements. "Human Rights Advocacy Through Compassionate Action" is the motto of her *Foundation For International Justice, Inc.*, with the goal of equal rights for everyone, including members of the Transgender Community. Erica Kay-Webster lives on Cape Cod with her husband David Webster.



PHOTO: DAVID WEBSTER



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# Stepping into the Light: An essential Guide to Trans leaders & advocates II

## TRANS AWARENESS MONTH



**Tammy Twotone** is a stand-up comic, an actor, writer and producer. She is also the host of her own show on Broadway,

called Tammy's TWIST. (At The Broadway Comedy Club) she proudly produces the only comedy showcase that is trans-hosted, as well as trans-produced. Tammy explains that this show has "given me a wonderful opportunity to showcase the amazing talent in the trans community, as well as a safe and supportive environment to work at their craft."

Having worked with such people as Leonard Nimoy (Secret Selves), Tammy's viewpoint comes from her experiences growing and surviving up in a world of intolerance and ignorance. To that end, she says: "What I strive to do is share my jokes and stories to bridge that chasm. It's been an amazing trip, so far."

**Tiq Milan (Presenter)** is the Senior Media Strategist of National News at GLAAD. Before joining GLAAD, Tiq was a mentor and teacher at the Hetrick-Martin Institute, an LGBT youth service organization. He was featured in a national media campaign for Live Out Loud's Homecoming Project, is a contributing author to the anthology Trans Bodies, Trans Selves, and is the Co-Chair for the LGBT Task Force of the National Association of Black Journalists. He has done on-air interviews for numerous news, business and entertainment channels and has penned articles for prominent publications on issues facing the LGBT movement. He has been featured as a Black LGBT leader on Ebony.com and BET.com. Tiq is the former editor-in-chief of IKONS magazine, an LGBT pop culture magazine, and has been a freelance music journalist for several years, interviewing people from like Lil Wayne to Cicely Tyson. He documented his transition in the films "U People" and "Realness".



PHOTO: KIM MILAN



**Mason J. Dunn** is the executive director for the Mass. Transgender Political Coalition. An educator and activist, Mason is also an adjunct faculty member in the communications de-

partment at the University of New Hampshire at Manchester, where he specializes in LGBTQ images and perspectives. Mason came to MTPC in 2013; prior to his move to Massachusetts, he worked for trans rights in New Hampshire with Transgender New Hampshire and the ACLU of New Hampshire. In 2010 Mason organized the first-ever TransForm New Hampshire conference, a three-day event that brought medical, social service, and legal professionals together with members of the transgender community from across the country.

Mason graduated from the University of New Hampshire School of Law as a member of the *Daniel Webster Honors* Scholar program in 2012 and holds a BA in Criminal Justice from Western Oregon University. He is a member of the New Hampshire Bar Association. When Mason is not working for social justice, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Lauren.

**Grace Sterling Stowell** has been a pioneering activist and leader in the social justice and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth communities for over 40 years.



Since 1980, Grace has been an adult leader, and currently the first executive director, of the Boston Alliance of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Youth (BAGLY), one of the oldest and largest LGBT youth organizations in the nation. Grace is a founding member of several local and national LGBT youth advocacy organizations, and she currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Massachusetts Commission on LGBT Youth.

Grace is also a long-time advocate and leader in the transgender community, and she is a nationally known speaker, consultant and trainer on the needs and issues facing transgender youth and young adults. Grace currently serves on the Steering Committee of the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition (MTPC).

Grace received a B.A. in English from Curry College in Milton, MA, and a M.A. in Counseling Psychology from Lesley University in Cambridge, MA, and she resides in Cambridge, just outside of Boston, Massachusetts. While Grace has served many roles in her community work over the past three decades, she is particularly honored to be known as "Mother" (and now "Grandmother!") by three generations of greater Boston's LGBT youth.



**Kylar W. Broadus (Presenter)** is senior policy counsel and runs the Transgender Civil Rights Project at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in

Washington, D.C., and formerly served as the State Legislative Manager and Counsel for the Human Rights Campaign. He was a full professor of business law at Lincoln University of Missouri, a historically black college, where he previously served as chair of the Business department. From 1997 to 2013, Broadus also maintained a law practice in Columbia, Missouri, including groundbreaking representation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender clients in family law, criminal law, and other areas. He recently co-authored the legal chapter in *Trans Bodies, Trans Selves* with the legal director from the National Center for Lesbian Rights, Shannon Price Minter, and contributed a chapter in *Transgender Family Law: A Guide to Effective Advocacy*, published by Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD). In 2012, Broadus was the first transgender American to testify before the U.S. Senate on behalf of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) and was one of thirteen openly transgender delegates to the 2012 Democratic National Convention. In 2011, Broadus was awarded the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's *Sue J. Hyde Award* for Longevity in the Movement and the Pioneer Award at the Transfaith of Color Conference presented by the Freedom Center of Social Justice. He has been featured in *BlackEnterprise.com*, *Diversity, Inc.*, the *Advocate*, and other national media.



**Kim Katrin Milan (Presenter)** is a daughter of the diaspora, Arawak, West African, Indian and Dutch, hailing from Trinidad and living currently in Toronto. She is an award-winning multidisciplinary artist,

activist, speaker and educator. A popular presenter and performer, she has received prominent awards. Her work has taken her across North America speaking on equity, liberation and care. She is co-founder and executive director of The People Project, a movement of queer and trans folks of color and allies, committed to individual and community empowerment through alternative education, art activism and collaboration. She has completed a residency both under D'bi Young and Buddies In Bad Times Theatre, and has curated exhibitions, cabarets events and performed at stages across Canada. She is currently producing and co-curating the Buddies In Bad Times Cabaret Insatiable Sisters with Gein Wong. She also engages in community-based healing initiatives including teaching Queer and Brown Girls Yoga, and hosting yearly healing retreats for femme-identified Folks of Colour and Indigenous Folks.

**Mark Williams** is the Operations Manager at MassEquality, the state's leading grassroots LGBTQ advocacy organization. He has also worked with and volunteered for

several transgender and LGBTQ organizations in the Boston area, including BodyImage4Justice, the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition's Policy Committee, Greater Boston PFLAG and GLAD, and has been



both a volunteer and presenter at First Event. Mark is also the coordinator of the ProfDev (professional development) series for Socializing for Justice.



**Justice Williams (Presenter)** is a published poet, a personal trainer, long-time community activist and organizer. He has a background in youth advocacy and organizing, as well as many years

PHOTO: CHRIS MILLER

of Trans\* and LGBTQ activism, particularly in communities of color. Justice has been consulting for 15 years, facilitating workshops for public and private schools, nonprofit organizations and for-profit corporations on diversity and social justice issues. He is currently Executive Director of BodyImage4Justice, a Boston area LGBTQ organization engaged in issues affecting the Trans community's common concerns around body image, health, and wellness. Justice currently works as a fitness coach for Mike's Fitness in Jamaica Plain, MA and presents fitness and strength training classes for the LGBTQ community.

**Lorelei Erisis** was a founding board member of the first fully 501(c3) certified iteration of Noho Pride; one of the few trans women to serve at such a level in the history of this Pride organization. She holds the first and



PHOTO: JOHN RIEDELL - JAWNIFER PHOTOGRAPHY

original title of the Miss Trans New England Pageant. Currently she serves as Vice-President of the Board of *Transcending Boundaries Inc.* and is the 2015 Conference Co-Chair. She also co-hosts "Twist," the only trans produced, hosted and headlined ongoing show at a mainstream comedy club anywhere in the country. Lorelei is known not only for her regular column "As a Trans Woman" in *The Rainbow Times*, but also for her dedication to working for trans rights, acceptance and visibility; as well as her devotion to more general LGBTQIA&GQ causes. She has been perceived as a man, but has always been a woman. She is proudly trans, bi, poly, kinky and queer.



# Emerging Trans Faces: A Guide to young transgender activists on the rise

## TRANS AWARENESS MONTH



**Armani Bowen (Presenter)** is a 25 year old trans-gender man of Jamaican descent, born and raised in Philadelphia. PHOTO: C. LOVEHALL PHOTOGRAPHY

brotherly love," Pennsylvania. He is the founder of ArmaniDae Photography, which he started when he first realized he had a strong feel for "picking up a camera." This affinity soon developed into his life's passion: to be a Photographer. He constantly seeks opportunities to incorporate other Transgender people into his photography to help capture and share with the world what transgender folks from all shapes, sizes and different walks of life. His photography show, *Trans Bodies*, was recently exhibited at ULA Cafe in Jamaica Plain, MA.

**Julián Cancino** was born and raised in Chapas, Mexico. A first generation college student, he received his BA from UC Berkeley. For over 10 years, Julián has been a community organizer, policy advocate, and legal professional. He is passionate about social justice and is dedicated to advancing the rights of LGBT people and undocumented immigrants from Asia and Latin America. In 2013, Julián co-founded and currently serves on the Steering Committee of FAMILIA: Trans Queer Liberation Movement, the only national LGBT Latino organization in the United States. He has been recognized by numerous social justice organizations for his academic excellence and entrepreneurial leadership. Julián is fluent in Spanish and Portuguese. He stands in solidarity with all individuals and organizations working to advance the rights of low-income and minority populations.



PHOTO: FREDDY SAÚL PECH BLANCO



**Damian Lima** has been working with the LGBTQ community since 2004. He co-founded a GSA and participated in the Mpow-erment program at AIDS Project Los Angeles while in High School. Later, he graduated from Wellesley College with a Bachelor's degree in Women's and Gender Studies while working as a Sexual Health Educator for the college. His passion for LGBTQ and sexual health issues has led him to become part of Boston Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Adolescent Social Services (Boston GLASS). There, he is a sexual health educator and HIV/STI counselor and tester. He provides services in the center as well as at community events, parties, etc. In addition to HIV/STI prevention, he facilitates a support group around gender identity issues for young people ages 13-25. Damian plans to return to school for a Masters of Public Health so he can more effectively address health disparities affecting those living at the fringes of society. During his spare time, Damian likes to read, draw, and play video games. He identifies as a proud nerd, geek, Latino immigrant, and pansexual trans-man. During the past two summers he has played with the Trailblazers softball team, an all-gender team that focuses on providing a safe space for gender non-conforming people.

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**Karter Blake** is a 24 year old black man of trans experience. He has been an LGBTQ and social justice advocate for 3 years, working with BAGLY, The Theater Offensive, HBGC, GLAD, Boston GLASS, and the Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth. Karter's passion for social justice is fueled by the famous Audre Lorde quote "When I dare to be powerful, to use my strength in service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid."



PHOTO: MAYVIN MORILLO

work and physical fitness. He is an active member of BodyImage4Justice, and

**Marc Joao**, also known as **M.J.**, is a Pre-op FTM, a Licensed Massage Therapist and is an AAI-ISMA certified Personal Trainer. M.J. lived in Rhode Island before moving to the Boston area to follow his passion for body-

seeks to share the benefits of massage and fitness training with his trans brothers and sisters.

**Eli Vivas** is a proud Boston Native working in the video production and communications field. A filmmaker for nearly 10 years, he has explored many subjects, events and people, and is most proud of work that serves to inform, educate or share stories between individuals. As a Queer Person Of Color (QPOC), Eli has spent the past year developing stronger connections in the LGBTQ community of color by volunteering at Hispanic Black Gay Coalition (HBGC) as the Community Circle Facilitator. He is committed to creating stronger ties between all groups dedicated to social justice work.



PHOTO: KING TEXAS AND BKLYN BOIHOOD

such as the Boston Hispanic Black Gay Coalition and the Brown Boi Project.

**Dr. Van Bailey** is a student affairs and social justice educator, and currently serves as Director of Harvard College BGLTQ Student Life. They were featured in the 2014 Trans 100, and continue to be involved in organizations

**Kyle Diaz** is 17 years old and about to graduate high school. He identifies as a Trans\* man. He expresses himself through his fashion, which is feminine and fierce. He loves dresses, glitter, acrylic nails and heels! He stays connected to his community by working at True Colors Out Youth Theater, and going to BAGLY. He is also in charge of community outreach at his school's Rainbow Alliance. He is a part of the Massachusetts GSA State Council and the Hispanic Black Gay Coalition's New Leaders Institute. This year, he came out to all my teachers and friends. Although he feels it is hard being himself when not many people understand gender identity and/or gender expression, he loves being him!



**Serge Rosiles** is a writer, community organizer, and gender nonconforming person. How I identify is integral to the politics, religion, and identity I as-

cribe to. Growing up in a multi-ethnic minority environment with a bisexual mother, her gender non-conforming friends-partners, and all women put my variant gender identity and orientation into question from a young age. Asking questions about what it means to identify and test the boundaries of gender was and remains to be a major part of me. In many ways my identity is not always straight forward because my gender, sexual, and ethnic identities are fluid, meaning I have the opportunity to explore living as a member among communities of gender variant, gay, ally, and various ethnic communities.

**Nia Desiré Clark**, a Boston native, has an extensive background in the child welfare system, first as a trans\* youth of color growing up in foster care and now as an adult working with children. She currently works as an Activities/Volunteer Coordinator at the Children's Community Support Collaborative, a residential program funded by The Home for Little Wanderers, which organizes and manages a treatment continuum for youth with significant emotional and mental health needs and their families. Nia is also a trainer for the Human Rights Campaign's All Children - All Families Project, an initiative that provides a framework for child welfare agencies to achieve safety, permanency and well-being by improving their practice with LGBTQ youth. She is also an associate at The Downs Group, a consulting company based out of Seattle, WA, that develops comprehensive training for agencies working with youth aging out of foster care. Nia serves on a number of non-profit boards, including the Hispanic Black Gay Coalition and the Foster Care Alumni of America. As a trans\* and child welfare activist, she is sought after for various speaking engagements, panels, and local & national conferences.



PHOTO: CATHY GUILD



**Tucker James (Presenter)** works as a landscaper in Western Mass. In his free time he goes hiking with his best friend, Henrietta the dog, and volunteers teaching creative

writing at his local community centers. He has performed spoken word at universities, cafés, and in his own shower. His pieces range from nature, to romance, to the nuances of his everyday life as a transman.

\* The list of transgender emerging & stepping into the light transgender activists and leaders was provided to The Rainbow Times by Body Image 4 Justice, the Hispanic Black Gay Coalition, and MassEquality. Others (Erisis, Twotone and Kay-Webster, Dunn) were provided by TRT.

**For a Comprehensive List of Events happening during this Transgender Month of Awareness & TDoR's, check TRT's Calendar of Events: <http://tiny.cc/transevents14>**



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Photos: The Rainbow Times' Archives



# The sweet dreams of Annie Lennox: Icon on her legacy, youth & more

By: Chris Azzopardi\*/Special for TRT

They don't make hearts bigger than the one beating inside of Annie Lennox.

Despite the icon's legendary recording career, dating back to the late '70s, music has taken a backseat to another passion: people. While still dedicated to philanthropic work focused on causes like HIV/AIDS and global peace, the singer-songwriter returns with her first disc in four years, a covers album called *Nostalgia*.

On the heels of its release, Lennox called from London for a frank conversation about loathing her "gender bender" label, the re-framing of feminism (Beyoncé is "feminist lite," she says) and being uneasy with the superficiality of the music business.

**Chris Azzopardi:** During a recent Q&A in London, you mentioned that you stopped writing because, and I quote you, "I'm too happy."

Annie Lennox: I said a lot of things that night! To be honest, looking back on being creative and what that was about and where the impulse lies to express yourself – there was a lot of darkness in my life. For everyone, we have our own darkness and our light, and I even wrote about that.

You know, I've been through a lot. It's coming up on my sixth decade now, and I have less of the impulse to express myself in that way. I feel as if I express myself very well in other ways. I branched out, you know? Since I started campaigning a decade ago, I've got this need to voice myself and place myself into a certain kind of activism. I find

PHOTO: ROBERT SEBREE



Annie Lennox

that so inspiring and such a great thing to do, but for the last year I've also decided, "OK, I wanna make some music and that is *Nostalgia*." So, I haven't been able to be as proactive (philanthropically) this year as I normally am. I'm one of those people who,

when I do something, I have to do it all the way.

**Q. You mention "the darkness," something you seem to have been attracted to for a good part of your musical career, and also one of the reasons people are drawn to you.**

A. I don't know if I'm attracted to darkness. I couldn't say "attracted." I pick up on that because it is interesting, isn't it? Maybe we are drawn to it. Maybe it's already a prerequisite within ourselves. I mean, humans have this capacity to be so joyful and so full of love, and sweet and light and all of those innocent things – like when you see children, you see how we are before we become adolescents, and we're different.

I see children every day because they pass my house as they go to play in the park – 6 year olds who are skipping, and they're dancing and they're singing and they're playing together. If you saw adults doing that, you'd think they were mad – you'd think they were completely bonkers! That joy should be our inheritance, but a lot of that gets hammered out of us, I think, because the world is a f\$@king dark place – excuse my French – but it truly, truly is. But there's also beauty in it.

**Q. Because you've always embraced your LGBT audience, your music has been a safe place for many people who identify as such. What do you attribute to the loyalty of your fan base?**

A. You see, that's a question you have to ask the people that you're describing. I can't answer for the gay community. I truly can't. I just make music, and I have no idea who is going to listen to it. I'm just the person that I am.

When I was given this label of "gender bender," I really felt it was diminishing in a way. It was very simplistic. I wasn't bending gender;

I was making a statement in a kind of subtle way. I thought it was subtle, but to some people it might have seemed overt. I was saying, "Look, as a woman I can be equal to a man," and in this partnership with the Eurythmics, where I was in a partnership with a man (Dave Stewart), the two of us felt so connected that my gender didn't matter. In a funny sort of way, ultimately I was coming out to say, "Look, I'm not going to be what you think I am. I'm intelligent. I'm not a..."

**Read the rest of this story at:**

<http://wp.me/p22M41-3dE>

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8. Who's Afraid of Vagina Wolf?
9. Lady Valor: The Kristin Beck Story
10. Blue is the Warmest Color

Courtesy: WolfeVideo.com

### GAY TOP 10

1. Sordid Lives: Blu-ray/DVD
2. Lady Valor: The Kristin Beck Story
3. Looking: The Complete 1st Project
4. Getting Go: The Go Doc
5. Southern Baptist Sissies
6. Eastsiders: The Movie
7. Five Dances
8. Test
9. Free Fall
10. I Am Divine



# When death claims a trans person: Remembering those who have fallen

By: Deja Nicole Greenlaw\*/TRT Columnist

TRANS NEWS



Recently, I received a phone call from a friend to inform me that John, one of our trans brothers, had passed away and to ask me if I knew if he had any relatives. I remember talking with John many times, but I didn't remember him ever mentioning his family, not once. I wasn't sure if he had any family, or if he did, maybe he was not on speaking terms with them. We asked another trans man who has been John's friend for years. The friend said he never heard John speak of any family.

My friend received the call about John because her number was found in John's apartment by one of his neighbors. The neighbor didn't know of any family members either. Evidently, John didn't talk about his family at all. Come to think of it, some trans folk do not talk about their family that much, if at all. This is a problem because when the trans person dies, there are no family members to notify and no one to make the funeral and burial arrangements and to bring forth any possible insurance policies or a will.

It isn't unusual for trans brothers and sisters to not be on speaking terms with members of their family. Just as with any family, there are various reasons why family members don't speak, but in the trans person's family it could very well be because the

executor named who will carry out the wishes of the deceased. The will could list possessions and state what person or what group would be the recipient(s) of the possessions. It could also include any insurance policies, bank accounts, or any other source

## Everyone should have a will and name an executor, even if they are young. You never know when your time will be up.

trans person has decided to move forward and live in their true gender. The family members may refuse to even acknowledge the trans person's existence. This breaks down the communication. The only way it can be reconnected is either for the family members to accept the trans person or for the trans person to detransition and go back to living in their birth gender. Usually, this situation becomes a stalemate, neither side willing to give in. A line is drawn and it may never be erased. The family ties are broken. Then, when the trans person dies, a situation such as John's might occur.

One thing that could help avoid a situation like John's is to have a will made out and an

of money. The will could have the burial wishes of where and how to be buried or where they'd like their ashes to be scattered. Everyone should have a will and name an executor, even if they are young. You never know when your time will be up.

When I heard of John's passing, the first thing that came to mind was that he may have taken his own life. Of course, I have no knowledge of how he died but suicide is a possibility. I do know that too many trans people do take their lives due to various reasons. Sometimes it may be because they have no family members who will acknowledge them, let alone accept and love them. Sometimes the family members might say

things to a trans person that are quite harsh. I've heard of comments from family members who have warned a trans woman to not ever show up in their home wearing a dress, that there is no such thing as transgender, and that no one will ever love the trans person and that the trans person will die all alone. Yes, these comments are from family members. These are very tough words that can hurt and can permanently exclude the trans person from the family. It's no wonder that some trans folk never want to talk about their family. It's sad because sometimes, when the world seems to be against you, all you have is your family, but in some trans people's cases, sometimes you don't even have that.

This is November, the month of the Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR). This is the month where we remember our fallen trans brothers and sisters who have died violently at the hands of others. We also remember those trans folk who have taken their own lives because it was too much for them to keep on living. Any trans person who dies for any reason should be remembered. We will remember John at our TDoR.

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

# Trans Day of Remembrance: A vigil for our dead; a reminder for our community

By: Lorelei Erisis\*/TRT Columnist

ASK A TRANSWOMAN



I have been avoiding writing this. It's been in my head for a while now, but every time I sit down to write, I find something, anything else to distract me. It's not the sort of column I like to write. I prefer to focus on the positive things about being trans. There are more than enough horror stories and cautionary tales of the trials and tribulations of being trans. We all know them. For a long time, they were the only stories we were likely to hear.

And gods know, I've lived my share of these stories. I've even written about a few of them, but for the most part, I've been very, very lucky. For all the hardships, I love being trans! Not everyone gets the chance to not only figure out what has been wrong with their lives, but to actually take steps to fix it, to be the person they were meant to be, the person they honestly are. So, when and where possible, I like to focus on the good things about being trans. I want to encourage and uplift.

But this is not one of those times. This is not one of those columns. This is November and it is the month in which we observe the Trans Day of Remembrance (TDoR), and I have some very strong feelings about this.

I have, over the last several years, watched TDoR drift. I have seen it moved away from its roots, observed attempts by perfectly well-meaning people to transform it into something else. I have heard people, friends

from the community whom I love, talk about a desire to no longer attend TDoR events or continue to acknowledge the day. They say it is too depressing, too sad. They are tired of the horror of it and they are ready to move on, focus on the good and happy things about their lives as people who have reached somewhat more comfortable places in their transitions.

Don't get me wrong, I understand. It's a reasonable impulse. I get the desire to live our lives just as people, not as *trans*, with all

know just how close I have been and continue to be to not being so lucky.

The trans community, for all our growing visibility and larger-than-expected numbers, is still a small one. I guarantee that each one of us is only a step or two removed from a name on that list of the dead. I will never forget the moment that I realized, some years back at a TDoR observance in Amherst, Mass. that one of the names of the dead was a person I had seen often in my old East Hollywood neighborhood. A woman I

## If you look at the people running your TDoR and notice they are mostly men and mainly white, ask why there are not more trans women of color involved and how can you help fix that.

the sometimes heavy baggage that goes with that label. I support that, if that's what you need to do to be happy and whole. At least, I do for 364 days of the year.

But for this one day in November, I strongly believe it's important for us to come together as people who share an experience of being trans. It's important for us to read the names, to think about their stories—the stories of trans lives that have been ended horrifically, cut all-too-tragically short. Maybe it's because I was raised Irish Catholic with a hefty seasoning of Russian Jew. Maybe it's because I've lost so many people myself, cut down before they could grow and blossom. Maybe it's because I

never spoke to, but who in passing would smile back at me in acknowledgement of my newly transitioning self. Those little connections mattered so much to me.

Now that smile was dead, brutally murdered and read out in a list by people on the other side of the country who could barely pronounce her name, which leads me to a point I want to stress. It could have been my name on that list, but it wasn't. I say I am lucky, and that's certainly true, but if I'm "lucky" it's at least partly because I'm white. Though I may be as a trans woman pretty far down the privilege ladder, I've still got that, and in this deeply divided world, that's still a lot.

I think we need to remember that. Though TDoR may be a vigil for our sisters and brothers, zisters and others, the vast majority of the names on that list are, have been and will very likely continue to be primarily trans women of color.

I want you to remember.

When somebody suggests TDoR should be livelier, remember the dead. When they suggest a celebration or an "awareness event," a fundraiser or a show, remember it's a vigil. When someone you know, or even you, decides they'd rather not hear the names or think about the horror anymore, remind them how lucky they are that they have that option. If you look at the people running your TDoR and notice they are mostly men and mainly white, ask why there are not more trans women of color involved and how can you help fix that.

For the rest of the year, let us remember to stand together and raise each other up, tell each other the stories that uplift and encourage, use our privilege, whatever we may still have, to fight for us all. But on this one day, read the names, think about the lives, remember the danger, mourn our dead, and let our trans sisters of color take the lead.



That is the heart of it. That is what you must do—face the things we'd like to avoid.

For information on Boston's local observance of TDoR, visit the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition (MassTPC) website at <http://tiny.cc/vfaeox>. For other information about TDoR, visit the TDoR website at [www.tdor.info](http://www.tdor.info), or GLAAD's page about this year's events at [www.glaad.org/tdor](http://www.glaad.org/tdor).

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



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# Derechos humanos de la comunidad LGBT y la religión de fundamento extremo

Por: Francisco "El Jimagua" Cartagena Méndez\*/Especial para The Rainbow Times—

LATIN VISION



**E**l artículo 1 de la Declaración Universal de los Derechos Humanos establece que todos los seres humanos nacen libres e iguales en dignidad y derechos y, dotados como están de razón y conciencia, deben comportarse fraternalmente los unos con los otros.

También reconoce que el desconocimiento y el menosprecio de los derechos humanos han originado actos de barbarie ultrajantes para la conciencia de la humanidad.

El menosprecio a los derechos de las personas homosexuales, desde la perspectiva eclesiástica, ha perpetuado un sinnúmero de agresiones, persecución y atentados en contra de las personas LGBT.

Al hablar de derechos humanos y democracia, es importante reconocer la necesidad de equidad tan latente que posee la Comunidad LGBT. El discrimen contra las personas homosexuales es una realidad mundial. Es real en la vida de aquellos/as que son burlados/as, asesinados/as o castigados/as por leyes homofóbicas como sucede en países como Rusia, Jamaica y Uganda, por mencionar algunos.

La lucha por equiparar los derechos de las personas pertenecientes a la comunidad Lésbica, Gay, Bisexual, Transexual y Trans-

género, con los de la comunidad heterosexual necesita una mayor apertura. Este comienzo requiere aplicar la declaración de los derechos humanos en el debate público sobre el discrimen por orientación sexual.

Además, se hace imprescindible que la homofobia se reconozca como un delito, ya que atenta contra la dignidad humana, los derechos y la libertad de los seres humanos. Las leyes en contra de lo que erróneamente algunos países llaman 'propaganda gay' atentan además contra la libertad de palabra.

La homofobia, el discrimen y la exclusión, además de representar un atentado contra la dignidad de las personas, posee factores pre-dispuestos al suicidio en las personas gay. La mayor prevalencia de suicidio en la comunidad LGBT, muy lamentablemente, ocurre en jóvenes y adolescentes.

Desde esta perspectiva, la homofobia es un mal que afecta a todas las esferas de la sociedad. No permite el pleno desarrollo psicosocial y afectivo de millones de personas en el mundo. Esto afecta las relaciones familiares, sociales y laborales en aquellos lugares donde el discrimen y la homofobia son permitidos o perpetuados.

Otro asunto importante sobre este tema recae en el momento en que un ser humano se siente obligado/a a esconder su verdadera orientación sexual o identidad de género, (viviendo una doble vida, o reprimiéndose). El discrimen va prevaleciendo, no sólo en su propia vida, sino también en el país que le vio nacer, o al país que tuvo que emigrar por experimentar dicho discrimen en su contra.

Aún con el advenimiento de mayores derechos para las personas gay en muchos países, el discrimen y la homofobia siguen

## No hay razón para que se siga permitiendo que la religión de fundamento extremo promueva la violencia contra las personas gays.

socavando cualquier pronunciamiento de derechos humanos en los países democráticos.

Se debe y se puede hacer más para erradicar el discrimen por orientación sexual. Se hace necesario aumentar el debate público; esto se puede lograr mediante la creación de nuevas campañas, pero que escalen más allá de lo mediático. Se debe llevar a cabo una educación masiva sobre lo que realmente es la homosexualidad.

Finalmente, otro asunto que puede resultar de gran ayuda, lo es la promoción de cómo ha mejorado la calidad de vida de las personas en aquellos países que han hecho de sus leyes, unas equitativas con la Comunidad LGBT. Muy en especial aquellos

países que enseñan sobre diversidad sexual en las escuelas desde temprana edad.

La mejor evidencia del bien que supone para los países erradicar el discrimen por orientación sexual, descansa en naciones que ya dieron dicho paso. Por lo que dichos países deben esforzarse por ejecutar medidas progresivas mediante la enseñanza, y la educación sobre la equidad.

No hay razón alguna que justifique que un jovencito/a adolescente se quite la vida por sentirse rechazado, discriminado y burlado. No hay razón para que se siga permitiendo que la religión de fundamento extremo promueva la violencia contra las personas homosexuales.

Pero si hay mucha razón para hacer más por los derechos universales de la comunidad LGBT, la cual está compuesta por seres humanos a los que se nos impuso una etiqueta, mediante la cual, se ha perpetuado el discrimen en nuestra contra. Podemos hacer más. Durante este mes donde comúnmente se da gracias por lo que hemos logrado, obtenido y las diferentes bendiciones, recordemos de lo/as mucho/as que tienen dificultad en hacerlo por la represión, homofobia, y dificultades que confrontan. Ayudemos a traer este cambio y hacer mas por nuestra comunidad LGBT.

*\*Escrito por Francisco "El Jimagua" Cartagena Méndez, escritor y activista en Puerto Rico, y editado por Wilfred W. Labiosa y Grisel Martínez Ocasio. Puede enviar comentarios al autor y editor por Facebook o a través de esta publicación. Twitter: @eljimgua.*

## Ruling appealed in Puerto Rico's discriminatory marriage ban, more couples join in

SAN JUAN, PR—Recently, Lambda Legal filed a notice of appeal to the First Circuit Court of Appeals in *Conde-Vidal v. Garcia-Padilla*, after the U. S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico dismissed the lawsuit seeking to end the Commonwealth's discriminatory ban on marriage for LGBT couples. The appeal comes just seven days after the court issued its dismissal.

"Puerto Rico has many loving, committed couples who need the dignity and respect of marriage as soon as possible, and we won't stop fighting on their behalf. The district court's ruling is not only out of step with the rest of the country, it leaves Puerto Rico as the only jurisdiction within the First Circuit to ban marriage for same-sex couples," said Omar Gonzalez-Pagan, Staff Attorney for Lambda Legal. "During the past year reasoned rulings by district courts throughout the nation and the Courts of Appeals for the 4th, 7th, 9th and 10th Circuits, as well as the U.S. Supreme Court's actions to let stand some of those rulings, clearly demonstrate that marriage bans, such as Puerto Rico's, are unconstitutional. The government should not be in the business of discriminating against its people. It is disappointing that Puerto Rico continues to perpetuate the harms it causes to loving, committed Puerto Rican same-sex couples."

On March 25th, 2014, Ada Mercedes Conde Vidal and Ivonne Álvarez Vélez filed

a lawsuit to compel Puerto Rico to recognize their marriage, which they entered into in Massachusetts. In June, Lambda Legal joined and amended that lawsuit to include four more plaintiff couples, two seeking recognition of marriages entered into in other jurisdictions and two who seek to marry in Puerto Rico, as well as an organizational plaintiff, *Puerto Rico Para Tod@s*, which represents lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and transgender people and their families. The District Court issued its ruling dismissing the case on October 21, 2014.

In addition to Ms. Conde Vidal (53) and Ms. Álvarez Vélez (67) of San Juan, who have been together for 14 years, were married in Massachusetts in 2004 and have one daughter, the other plaintiffs in the lawsuit include Iris Delia Rivera Rivera (56)—a former member of the National Guard deployed in the first Gulf War—and Maritza López Avilés (58) of Toa Alta, together for 38 years and parents of one daughter; José A. Torruellas Iglesias (57) and Thomas J. Robinson (56) of San Juan, together for 13 years and married in Toronto in 2007; Zulma Oliveras Vega (43) and Yolanda Arroyo Pizarro (43) of Carolina, together for six years and parents of one daughter; and Johanne Vélez García (49) and Faviola Meléndez Rodríguez (37) of Guaynabo, together for six years and married in New York in 2012. The organizational plaintiff, Puerto

Rico Para Tod@s, is a leading advocate for LGBT people and their families in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, with members throughout the Commonwealth.

Lambda Legal attorneys Omar Gonzalez-Pagan, Hayley Gorenberg, Karen Loewy and Jael Humphrey are handling the case, joined by co-counsel Debevoise & Plimpton LLP, local counsel Celina Romany-Siaca and Ada Conde Vidal representing herself and her wife.

Read the notice of appeal here:

<http://tiny.cc/vk8rox>. Read about the case here: <http://tiny.cc/5p8rox>. And, read more about our plaintiff couples and their children here: <http://tiny.cc/ir8rox>.

**¡Busca información sobre Gay Latin@s en The Rainbow Times!**

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Tasting at prestigious Stag's Leap Wine Cellars, one of the wineries that helped launch Napa into viticultural stardom in the 1970s  
PHOTO: ANDREW COLLINS

## Out of Town: Napa Valley — Wine Country

By: Andrew Collins/Special to TRT

Northern California's Napa Valley ([www.visitnapavalley.com](http://www.visitnapavalley.com)) is by no means solely about wine-touring. You'll find soothing hot springs spas and smartly furnished B&Bs, scenic opportunities for hiking and biking, and some of the country's most celebrated restaurants. This sunny, temperate valley bracketed by rugged ridgelines is first and foremost simply a gorgeous place to spend a relaxing weekend. Of course, having an appreciation for Napa's world-class Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Chardon-

nay doesn't hurt.

Just a 50-mile drive north of San Francisco, the region's largest community, Napa (population 80,000) also lies just 15 miles east of the town of Sonoma. The Napa and Sonoma valleys both compete with and complement one another. Collectively, they've become favorite destinations among LGBT travelers for everything from spa- and epicurean-themed getaways to destination weddings.

Read the rest of this story at:  
<http://wp.me/p22M41-3dC>

### Partner Violence from page 10

LGBTQ and HIV-affected people of color made up the highest percentage of IPV survivors at 50.2 percent. The report also stated that these groups of individuals were "more likely to report experiencing physical violence, discrimination, threats or intimidation, and harassment as a result of IPV. LGBTQ and HIV-affected people of color were also more likely to experience IPV incidents in public spaces."

"People of color make up the majority of LGBTQ survivors and are disproportionately impacted by domestic violence within relationships. This is a national wakeup call," said Mary Case from the Los Angeles LGBT Center. "There is an obvious need to support programs and services that are focused on this group of intimate partner violence survivors—people of color who identify as LGBTQ and/or are affected by HIV."

The transgender community experienced disproportionate numbers of IPV in a variety of categories such as physical violence, discrimination due to IPV and IPV in public spaces.

Fenway Health's Violence Recovery Program Manager, Cara Presley-Kimball explains.

"Transgender people across the country are disproportionately impacted by violence in intimate relationships compared non-transgender counterparts, a finding that is consistent in terms of the clients seen by the

**"Undocumented survivors are at a particular risk for IPV because abusive partners can threaten and place their immigration status at risk, and survivors may be reluctant to seek support for fear of revealing their immigration status to law enforcement and immigration authorities."**

Violence Recovery Program (VRP) at Fenway Health," stated Presley-Kimball. "Be-

### Coming Out from page 8

avoided at a time when you know someone will be there for you.

#### 5. It May Be Offensive to Others Celebrating a Holy Day

You may not be religious, but others are—and for those people, a religious holiday is a very important and sacred time in their lives. Notwithstanding what most religions already say about homosexuality (you already have a good idea where this discussion is headed before you even start it), it's just not good form to actively pursue a controversial conversation when the people you love are recognizing a holy day. Be considerate and wait until the day of observation has passed.

#### 6. There's Not Enough Time to Have a Serious Discussion

When you come out—no matter the outcome—the people in whom you've just confided will generally want to discuss the matter further. Just like it's not appropriate for them to monopolize the conversation when you have it, it's also not appropriate for you to come out at a time that you know is not conducive to discussion just so you can avoid it.

#### 7. It's Selfish to Turn Family Time Into the 'Me Show'

Your family members didn't travel far and wide to celebrate the holidays dealing with the aftermath of your coming out. Your decision is personal and serious and special even, and it should be handled as such. If you'd like them to respect you as an LGBT person, you should respect them as people who just want to stuff their faces with turkey

and watch a few football games without a live episode of *Dr. Phil* taking place in the living room.

#### 8. It's Not Fair to Drop a Bomb and Leave Soon After

Just like you shouldn't bring up the subject when you know there isn't ample time to discuss your sexuality, you shouldn't come out and leave shortly after. This is a cowardly way of dealing with this issue that will not go away and could become worse if you treat other people poorly during the process. You should be present and available and open when you come out, and if you're in a hurry—like many of us are on holidays—it isn't the right moment.

#### 9. It's an Already High-Stress Time of Year

The holidays wear us all a little thin, which increases our stress level and heightens our agitation. Do you really want to come out to someone who's already annoyed that the guests were late, the ham is dry and nobody offered to wash the dishes after the meal? Not unless you have a death wish, you don't. Do yourself a favor and wait for a time when those to whom you're about to come out are relaxed and in a good place to have a reasonable and rational conversation and give you their undivided attention. Otherwise, you're asking for trouble that you can potentially avoid, and there's no reason you shouldn't.

*\*Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and blogger whose work has been published in more than 100 outlets across the world. He lives in Manhattan with his husband and their cuddle-buddy furbaby. Connect with Mikey on Twitter @mikeyrox.*

tween 2012 and 2013, we saw an 11% increase in reports of intimate partner violence experienced by transgender clients. The growth in the number of transgender IPV reports is startling."

M.E. Quinn, Director of Organizing and Education at Boston's The Network/La Red furthers.

"Transgender people face increased risk of violence because of discrimination based on their gender identity and transphobia within intimate partnerships," Quinn said. "To really address the needs of transgender survivors, we need to address transphobic laws, policies, and institutions while also providing supportive programs that address transgender people explicitly and that engage

transgender survivors in preventing this violence."

Of those reporting abuse to the NCAVP, nearly 37 percent of survivors were between the ages of 19 and 29 and were at an increased risk of physical and sexual violence within IPV relationships and more likely to need medical attention as a result of physical injury.

"These alarming statistics show that it is imperative that policymakers and funders support early intervention and prevention programs for youth to prevent and reduce

Read the rest of this story at:  
<http://wp.me/p22M41-3dA>

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# HBGC to honor national LGBTQ advocates, local organizations at 5th Annual Gala

BOSTON, Mass.—The Hispanic Black Gay Coalition (HBGC) will host its annual gala and soiree on Saturday, November 15, from 7:30 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. at the Courtyard Marriott located at 275 Tremont Street in Boston, MA. The community-oriented celebration will mark five years for the organization, which started as a grassroots response to the lack of visibility, resources, and services for Black, Hispanic, and Latin@ LGBTQ individuals in the Greater Boston area.

Highlights for the evening will include a pre-reception with special guests, an award ceremony honoring individuals working to empower LGBTQ communities of color, a silent auction, testimonials from HBGC program participants, and a dance party with DJ Lady Spindrifft.

In 2014, HBGC deepened its programs to continue addressing the diverse and intersecting needs of Black and Latin@ LGBTQ individuals. Recently, the organization hosted its 4th Annual Youth Empowerment Conference, the largest gathering of LGBTQ youth of color and their allies in New England. The organization also remained committed to youth and young adult development through expanding its work with Gay-Straight Alliances (GSAs) and completing another wave of its New Leaders Institute, a program where youth attend a series of leadership development and social justice trainings that culminate in the implementation of community-wide projects and campaigns. As a testament to the effectiveness of its work, HBGC was awarded a grant from the Queer Youth Fund, a competitive

national initiative of the Liberty Hill Foundation.

HBGC also used the year to strengthen partnerships with local agencies to respond to social disparities that adversely impact Black and Latin@ LGBTQ people. These efforts included the launch of My Brother's Keeper, a monthly discussion group co-hosted with AIDS Action Committee. The group seeks to build a healthier gay, bi, MSM, trans\*, and questioning men-of-color community by bringing visibility to the unique experiences of GBTQ men of color and supporting individuals in accessing community resources, social support, and health services. HBGC also collaborated this year with the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts to host a community forum on gentrification and launched a bilingual program for LGBTQ survivors of trauma with TOD@S, an inter-agency collaboration working to support Black and Latin@ survivors of partner abuse.

This year's gala and soiree will not only be used to reflect on the impact and importance of an organization like HBGC, but the event will honor others who have made an impact in LGBTQ communities of color. Receiving the James Earl Hardy Legends Award will be Bamby Salcedo. The award recognizes a trendsetting activist who has impacted LGBTQ communities of color for more than 10 years. The founder and President of the Trans-Latin@ Coalition, Salcedo is recognized nationwide for her advocacy work. Her life story and work as a relentless activist for HIV and LGBTQ issues was fea-

## 5th Annual Gala We Are Because You Are

Saturday, November 15, 2014

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Gala: 7:30 - 9:00 PM  
Soiree: 9:00 PM - 1:00 AM



Honoring:  
Bamby Salcedo & Tiq Milan  
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tured in the 2013 documentary "transVISIBLE: The Bamby Salcedo Story."

HBGC's Audre Lorde Founder's Award, dedicated to an up-and-coming activist who has taken initiative to create change in LGBTQ communities of color, will be presented to Tiq Milan. Milan is the Senior Media Strategist of National News at GLAAD and has been featured in many national outlets advocating on behalf of LGBTQ communities of color. He was featured in the national media campaign for Live Out Loud's Homecoming Project and

is the Co-Chair for the LGBT task force of the National Association of Black Journalists.

The final award, the Sylvia Rivera Community Award, will honor a local organization, program, or business that has worked to empower LGBTQ communities of color within or beyond Black and Latin@ communities. The winner, selected by public vote, will be announced at the event. This year's Nominees are: Body Image For Justice, 'Feel it, Speak it' Open Mic, The Network/La Red, The Queer Undocumented Immigrant Project, and Youth on Fire. Individuals can cast their vote at [hbgboston.org](http://hbgboston.org) up until November 5, 2014.

HBGC hopes the event will be an opportunity to further build community and raise the critical funds needed to sustain and expand the organization's programming for another year. General advance tickets are \$30, and student tickets are available for \$15. Tickets can be purchased at the sustainer level of \$60 to attend an open bar reception with guest honorees and HBGC's Board of Directors. For more information and to purchase tickets visit HBGC: [www.hbgcgala2014.eventbrite.com](http://www.hbgcgala2014.eventbrite.com).

*Hispanic Black Gay Coalition (HBGC) is one of few non-profit organizations in Boston dedicated to the unique and complex needs of the Black, Hispanic and Latin@ LGBTQ community. Founded in 2009, we work to inspire and empower Latin@, Hispanic and Black LGBTQ identified individuals to improve their livelihood through activism, education, community outreach, and counseling.*

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## The Femme Show from page 9

in my living room in sweatpants."

Cee said The Femme Show is important because society still considers femininity to be "weak and frivolous," both in society at large and in queer communities. The show tackles misogyny, cultural expectations of beauty, mental health, intersections of femininity with racism, cissexism, and class issues, as well as queer and femme histories.

"We strive to be thought provoking and make people question their assumptions about gender and sexual orientation," said Cee. "Not all of us identify as femme, or as women, but we all deal with gender and femininity in our art and therefore we are challenging not just mainstream society, but also mainstream LGBT/queer culture. For me, one of the most important things we do is put a spotlight on femme-related ideas and issues, which hopefully spurs thought and discussion beyond just one night."

Kahn shared how The Femme Show differs from other LGBTQ or queer performances.

"Femme identity and experience is central—it's not an object or a prop," said Kahn. "While I'm all for consensual objectification, I also think it's great for an audience to see femme performers engaged in work that has a more broad focus than that."

Cee also noted how The Femme Show sets itself apart.

"I think our content is consistently topical and thought provoking," said Cee. "We also are cross genre in a way that is uncommon—there are queer cabarets with drag and burlesque, and queer open mics for

music and/or poetry, but we put all those things on stage at once, plus comedy, classical and concert dance, and some more out-there performance art type pieces."

According to Cee, those involved with The Femme Show also march in Boston Pride with MadFemmePride, a social group for femme-identified people, their friends and community. They also perform and do workshops at LGBTQ youth conferences, and performers of all identities who are interested in making work about femininity or femme identity are welcome.

"I care more about the work than a person's identity. Performances in The Femme Show need to be fully developed, considered and rehearsed," said Cee.

The group is always looking for volunteers and is actively seeking performers for their performance art salon, Genrequeer, which will take place November 23 at A Far Cry Orchestra space in Jamaica Plain.

"This might sound super obvious, but I hope people walk away from the show with a feeling for the multiplicity of femme experiences and identities," said Kahn. "Since there's no universal experience of femme or of femininity, I hope that audience members have the opportunity to connect to many different perspectives on femme experiences, stories, and lives."

Sponsors for the show included The Network/La Red, Maureen Cotton Photography, Fenway Health, Re/Dress, Osome Beamer, The Theater Offensive, Out To Dance, Bili-cious Productions, Here Booky Booky and Go Deeper Press, and Life Alive.

For more information, visit [www.thefemmeshow.com](http://www.thefemmeshow.com).



### Promise Place from page 3

and shelter. Additionally, they experience a greater degree and occurrence of depression, loneliness and social problems than their heterosexual counterparts. Given this and their sense of rejection, we will provide them with counseling in conjunction with schooling.”

Kay-Webster shared that she found the concept of house parents to be most the important element for youth success, which will be part of the structure at Promise Place

### Sexualizing from page 2

with LGBTQ rights to think in terms of fairness—inheritance, tax benefits and hospital visitation rights, among other things. The video and photos referenced above may have done something else. They may under-emphasize the importance of a spiritual and emotional foundation in healthy LGBTQ relationships, especially to a young LGBTQ population still learning and growing in a backward part of the world.

No healthy, long-term relationship—gay or straight—is based on sex. Physical intimacy is, of course, important. However, it cannot be the primary element in a relationship. If you have kids, you’re often too tired for intimacy. As time passes, it could become a chore, not something wonderful. If the career is demanding, there’s less time for intimacy because you’re stressed and overworked.

Imagine this. You marry in a state that accepts marriage equality. A tragedy occurs. An accident makes you a paraplegic from the neck down. Physical intimacy becomes impossible. In addition, your face is badly scarred. You are deformed.

### Letters to the Editor from page 2

opportunities that an all-heterosexual character lineup wouldn’t provide. In addition, it’s a way to increase the appeal to a broader subsection of the target demographic (gay/bi 18-35 YO urban females) and so long as it doesn’t occupy too much of the plot line, fine. But why only have gay/bi women?

Ah-ha. That is because gay/bi men don’t hold any erotic titillation value for the typical woman, whether she is straight, gay, bi, or something else. Most women of any persuasion find the idea of men engaged in sexual or erotic behavior at least unappealing and at most revolting. Only a very small number of women as a percentage of the adult female pop’n find the idea of men having sex with men appealing erotically. And, men as characters on a TV series who are unavailable as sexual or romantic interests to the female characters doesn’t appeal to female viewers, either.

The goal of TV shows is to sell airtime to advertisers. To do this, you need viewership. You get that by finding a way to get ppl to watch faithfully the TV series in question. The best way to do this is to create characters with which they identify, projecting their own identities onto the characters. In short, you find a way to mass-hypnotize millions of viewers into thinking if even for a brief time that what they’re seeing is 1) real and 2) relevant to their lives. Insidious, but highly effective. Now, do millions of 18-35 YO urban females want to watch TV shows about groups of men and women wherein, for

School.

“Our homeless youth were rejected upon coming out to their families,” she said. “The very first lesson they learned was that love was conditional. That alone is traumatizing, and then adding the sudden shock of being on the streets with no support group, facing hunger, and just trying to survive, our youth have been so traumatized that all hope is gone. From there they turn to drugs and alcohol, shoplifting, the sex trade, and anything they can do just to survive.”

Should your spouse leave you? If sex is the primary motivator in the relationship, why shouldn’t your partner leave you if you’re no longer attractive on the outside and can’t have sex?

Sex is a gift—awesome, spiritual and beautiful. It cannot, by itself, sustain a healthy relationship. It is a component of intimacy, which must include spiritual and emotional elements. Hopefully, this isn’t breaking news to most people.

At some point the body declines and external beauty fades. It’s inevitable. Hopefully, what you’re left with is a powerful emotional and spiritual bond till death. And, because of an empowering bond, an exchange of spiritual and emotional energy feeding one another, you will always be beautiful to each other.

*\*Paul is an attorney, seminary-trained priest and founder of CorporateChaplaincy.biz, a firm committed to the spiritual wellness of professionals. He is also author of “Lost Sense of Self & the Ethics Crisis: Learn to Live and Work Ethically” (<http://tiny.cc/5dp8nx>).*

example, of 10 regular characters, 5 are men and 5 are women, but one man is gay and so inaccessible to any of the women relationship-drama-wise, and another is bi so that now a female character involved with him has to worry not just abt another woman nabbing him from her, but also possibly a man? Yeah, young urban women’ll just LOVE that show! Try re-arranging the gender dist’n and in both cases, you’ve lost the demographic, too. Too many women take the “fun” out of it for the ladies, since they will have a much harder time keeping the attention of the fewer men. But even worse, the eye candy factor for the female viewers is undercut. Now, increase the men relative to the women and the demographic is unhappy about how in the undoubtedly professional env. the drama is set in, the show is depicting a “male-dominated” workplace. Only way to remove that complaint is for the female characters to p-whip/humiliate the male ones, and then the female viewership will again lose interest as gee, how can you respect a man who’s been p-whipped/humiliated by women like that?

See the no-win situation here? Lacking a substantial, money-making motive to add gay/bi men to the cast of characters in any of these prime time drama shows whose principle audience/target demographic is 18-35 YO urban females, you just won’t see them.

Now if chicks got turned on by guys making out and so on, it’d be a whole different story. ;)

—Matt Campbell, Rochester, NY, Online



**Eastern Bank is a platinum sponsors for the First Annual Gala Fundraising Event for Promise Place School in Cape Cod Dec. 6.**

According the Kay-Webster, the school will take step “outside the box” of traditional ways of dealing with homelessness to meet the youth where they are, and to provide “a place of healing and growth.”

“The time has come for us to raise our voices and let the world know that our children matter—all of our children—and to raise our voices so loudly that our homeless youth cannot continue to be ignored,” she said. “We owe this to our youth and it is our obligation to bring an end to youth homelessness. For me, this is a personal mission based in great part to the shame and guilt that I carried for years because of my struggle for survival as a homeless teen. I was one of the few fortunate teens when I was rescued after my second suicide attempt at age 17. It is because of the family that took me in and gave me love and stability that I am alive today. It is to them that I owe my success and now have the passion and ability to pass this on to our youth today.”

Kay-Webster said that the youth who will live at Promise Place will come from the Commonwealth through referrals, and that discussions have already begin with the City of Boston to open a second school. Her vision is to expand the school throughout the U.S.

The First Annual Gala Fundraising Event for Promise Place School will include a VIP meet and greet, dinner, a silent and live auction, award ceremony, and live show featuring cabaret singer and comedienne Irene Soderberg and other entertainers.

“Irene has dedicated much of her life to raising millions of dollars for HIV/AIDS foundations,” said Kay-Webster. “She is a strong ally and friend to the LGBT community and the best of all; she has a voice as big as her heart.”

Those who will be presented with awards include *Senator Elizabeth Warren* (Woman of the Year); *Governor Deval Patrick* (Compassion in Government); *State Senator Dan Wolf* (Humanitarian Award); *Suzanne Beaton* (Massachusetts Lifetime Champion for the Homeless); *Laura Farnsworth* (Worcester LGBT Youth Champion Award); *Steve and Barbara Grossman* (Massachusetts Straight For Equality Award); *Deb Goldberg* (Philanthropy in Politics Award); *The Rainbow Times* (LGBT Champion In Media Award); and *Paul and Carolyn Hebert*/Founders of Champ House on Cape Cod (Cape Cod Champions Lifetime Achievement Award). The five components used to select honorees were compassion, philanthropy, lifetime accomplishments, advocacy and champions for quality for the LGBT citizens of the Commonwealth, and advocacy and dedication for homeless LGBT youth and homeless youth.

“There are so many deserving Champions in Massachusetts who are not on this list and their work has not gone unnoticed,” said Kay-Webster. “We are already beginning to plan our first major kickoff event next spring in Boston and will select many others to be honored at that event.”

Special guests, politicians, and other notable figures who have been invited include Congressman Bill Keating, Congressman

Joe Kennedy, Senator Ed Markey, State Representatives Sarah Peake, Brian Mannal and Cleon Turner, Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, Boston City Councilors Michelle Wu and Tito Jackson, Barnstable County Commissioners, Barnstable County Human Rights Commission, Bette Midler, Cyndi Lauper, Elton John, Ellen Degeneres, Lav-erne Cox, and others. Though Kay-Webster said they do not expect all of them to personally attend, they have requested items from the celebrities for the auction.

Invitations have also gone to members of the Massachusetts LGBT Youth Commission, Massachusetts Commission for the Homeless, Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance, Youth on Fire, Bridge Over Troubled Waters, MassEquality, Gay & Lesbians Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), Human Rights Campaign (HRC), The National LGBTQ Task Force, PFLAG of Cape Cod, and other allies.

Platinum sponsors for the event include *Eastern Bank*, *PrizmPR* and *The Rainbow Times*.

“Social justice is central to our core at Eastern Bank,” said Nancy Huntington Stager, executive vice president, Human Resources & Charitable Giving, Eastern Bank Corporation. “It’s part of our mission today, as it was nearly 200 years ago when we were founded. Now, as the oldest and largest mutual bank in the country, we work with a broad and diverse group of customers, and we recognize the importance of building community, both geographically and demographically. We know that a huge percentage of homeless youth are LGBTQIA; abandoned by their families because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. How could we not support the school that will provide a home and school environment that is reliable, dependable and safe, where the students will find the encouragement—through strong education, leadership, and support programs—to excel in school and life. The world needs the contributions these kids will make. No one should throw them away. We want to be a part of the solution, to help set them on a solid path for their futures.”

Hy-Line Cruises is a community sponsors, and additional sponsors are still in the works.

“One of my favorite quotes, ‘We are all given gifts and therein lies our destinies,’ speaks so clearly of my hopes for youth,” said Morgan-Janes. “It can be difficult to know our gifts. Sometimes they are born from great pain, but with support, we can find them. Our plans will support the homeless teens in both practical and philosophic ways. We hope to build a sense of community within the school so that when the teens leave they will understand that there is a larger community they are part of and can build for themselves. My biggest hope is that these homeless LGBT teenagers will be able to understand their gifts.”

Tickets for the gala—which will be held Dec. 6 at the Hyannis Hilton Doubletree Inn in Hyannis, Mass. from 6 to 10 p.m.—are \$60. Tickets will be available for purchase until November 28, which is also the cutoff date to RSVP. For those who can’t attend, a donation ticket will also be available on the website, through EventBrite, and via RSVP cards. To purchase tickets and for more information on Promise Place School visit [www.promiseplaceschool.org](http://www.promiseplaceschool.org).



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