

The Rainbow Times

Your LGBT News in Western MA, the Capital District of NY, Northern CT, & Southern VT

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Opinions

Economics & same-sex marriage

By: Nicole Lashomb/TRT Editor-in-Chief

In this edition of TRT, we have a special section titled *Same-sex Wedding Resources*. If you are planning to get married in Massachusetts, we have the resources for you to help make your wedding day fabulous!

As many of you are already aware, on July 29, 2008, the *Massachusetts House* voted to repeal a 1913 state law that prohibited almost all out-of-state same-sex couples from legally marrying in the state. In lieu of the repeal, neighboring gay coupled New Yorkers, amongst others, have begun flocking to the liberated state to unify their relationships across the border, as opposed to flying across the country to California.

In May 2008, NY Governor Patterson instructed New York State agencies to recognize same-sex marriages performed in other jurisdictions. This opens up a wealth of legal rights to lesbian and gay couples, including state health insurance, state tax breaks, hospitalization/visitation rights, pension survivor benefits, amongst others.

The business of same sex-marriage is also proving beneficial for local economies, according to many studies.

A report published in *The New York Times*,

August 2nd edition stated that, "The New York City comptroller's office estimated in a June 2007 report that allowing gay marriage could bring \$142 million to the local economy in the first three years. The state would collect an additional \$8 million in taxes and the city would collect an additional \$7 million, and companies in New York would benefit from a wider pool of possible employees attracted by the change in marriage laws, the report projected."

In addition, a June analysis by the Williams Institute at the *U.C.L.A. School of Law*, estimated that Massachusetts could add \$111 million to the economy over three years by taking the step it did this week to allow out-of-state couples to marry there. The report also suggested that the move could result in 330 new jobs and increase state and local revenues by \$5.1 million.

According to the *Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, GLAD*, Gov. Patterson's decision places NY on par with Rhode Island and New Mexico for honoring same-sex marriages performed in Massachusetts.

Is it possible that even those who oppose same-sex marriage will be avid supporters, not because of altruistic reasons, but rather because of individual economic vitality in a time when we are living in a fiscally futile nation?

The Controversial Couch

Lie back and listen. Then get up and do something

By: Suzan Ambrose/TRT Columnist



We are living in a cartoon moment. I'm talking about this nation's political landscape, of course.

Does anyone else see the parallels between George Bush's recent speech on the financial bail out and any South Park episode? It was all there—except for the laughter. There was King George, a major defender of free markets and removing governmental oversight, asking the public to pay almost a trillion dollars so that the fat cats could continue their lifestyle choices (now there's a lifestyle one could change that is ethically questionable!)

The stock market is crashing. Jobs are disappearing. The dollar is plummeting. About the only thing still up is the price of gold nuggets and all the gay men at the White Party.

And who does the Republican Party present to America to help save us from our financial woes, our economic slide into despair? Why, Cat Woman and The Joker. You may know them better by their daytime alter egos: Sarah Palin and John McCain.

During these turbulent times, we look toward our presidential hopefuls for leadership (not that we've had much of it in either political party for the last 8 years.) But instead of ideas or plans, what we have been subjected to hear from these candidates is drivel.

"Government isn't doing enough for the average American." Or "When we're in charge, we'll bring that maverick style to Washington." Ok, great ... except we've heard it all before. All we want to know is: "Are you a friend or foe of Gotham City?" And I don't feel the superhero love from the Palin/McCain ticket.

"Government isn't doing enough for the average American." Or "When we're in charge,

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C'mon Out – Just Ask! Advice column

By: Tetty Gorfine

My college age daughter's friend admitted that he was confused about his sexual orientation. He explained to me and my daughter that although he has never acted on his desires, he felt perhaps he was gay. However, since meeting my daughter and becoming involved with her, he now feels perhaps he is bisexual and not really gay.

He says this is really starting to make him uncomfortable because he feels he should either be gay or straight. He does not like the idea of being bisexual. He seems to think this makes him weird. He also is in the closet regarding his sexual orientation. He does not mind telling some friends, but really worries about his family finding out about his sexuality issues.

As a parent, I worry about this young man. I suggested he seek counseling a few months ago. He says he will, but has yet to do so. So far my daughter and I have spent a lot of time reassuring him, offering support and just being a good friend to him. I'm starting to become annoyed with him because I feel he likes all the attention and support we show him with and he has no real intention of moving forward to help himself.

We have been talking to him about this issue since he revealed it four months ago.

How do we help him? How do I get my daughter to understand she may need to move on?

—Highly Frustrated



TETTY GORFINE

hurt. But here's the scoop.

While I don't know this young man and can't say for sure what is true for him, I will say that sometimes it takes years for people to come to terms with their sexual orientation. Depending upon the support available or lack thereof, depending upon peer pressure, one's religious upbringing, and many other factors too numerous to mention here, depends upon how easily a person can search their soul and come to terms with their sexual orientation. Additionally, there are bisexual people and this too can make things unclear, especially if the person is young.

I think your support of him is giving him time and space to just be himself. He may not be coming out because he just doesn't know. Your support is the best way to help him and this is quite a gift.

It may very well be possible he is not trying to avoid the question of his sexual orientation. He is young and this question is a huge one for anyone at any age. If his care for your daughter is genuine, trust that for now, if you can. I completely understand your protectiveness of your daughter. But if possible, give this young man some time. If your daughter is getting good things from this relationship, that can also give you some reassurance that it is a good thing, at least for now.

I hope this helps.

Tetty

See C'mon Out on Page 29

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

My name is Tinker Donnelly and I am a New Thought (Religious Science/Science of Mind) minister. My partner and I have recently relocated to Massachusetts from the west coast and *The Rainbow Times* has been a wonderful resource to us as we settle into our new community.

In the September issue, I read with particular interest an article written by Paul P. Jesup titled, "Faith, Family, and God: Perspective." I felt Mr. Jesup clearly and accurately articulated the matter of religion vs- spirituality and how that specifically relates to the GLBT community. He speaks to the idea of emancipating ourselves from paradigms and dictates that have no real relationship with our felt-sense of Truth. As a young lesbian, I rejected the church whose teachings rejected me for my natural orientation. I rejected the hypocrisy I experienced where the concept of Love was espoused but only conditionally practiced. Understanding the distinction between traditional dogma and an inner resonance with "Truth Principle" has opened a door to exploring my own spirituality and developing a personal cosmology that is authentic to my heart and mind.

I look forward to future installments of Mr. Jesup's column, "In the Name of God." I believe his message reflects the current posture of the queer community as poised and ready for deepened empowerment and enhanced self-understanding.

I appreciate *The Rainbow Times* for recognizing the multi-dimensional interests and needs of their readership and up-leveling the conversation between us! Cudos for consciousness!

Peace and Blessings,
Rev. Tinker, Northampton, MA

Dear Editor,

I wanted to express my sincere appreciation of Rev. Monroe's new column in *The Times*. It is wonderful to have a well informed and educated writer who keeps it all real while discussing issues that impact us all, especially us

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The Rainbow Times

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To A Loving Father:

I can see that you love your daughter very much and just want the best for her. Her "boyfriend's" lack of clarity is troubling to you. Of course you don't want your daughter to be

Read TRT's Trans Column on P. 6 & Lesbian Voices on P. 24

McCain, Obama wary of fueling gay-marriage debate

By: David Crary/AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Proposed bans on same-sex marriage are on the ballot in three important states this fall, rousing passions on both sides, yet neither John McCain nor Barack Obama seems eager to push the issue high on their campaign agendas.

In California, the stakes are particularly high—it's the first time a ban-gay-marriage amendment goes before voters in a state where same-sex couples already have the right to wed. Similar amendments are on the ballots in Florida, a battleground in the presidential race, and Arizona, McCain's home state.

McCain supports the amendments, Obama opposes them—yet the two nominees rarely mention them proactively as they compete for middle-of-the-road voters who rank the marriage debate low on their list of concerns.

"It doesn't benefit either one to promote it for their own campaign," said Matthew Corrigan, a political science professor at the University of North Florida. "You have the economy, the war. It makes it more difficult for social issues to get people's attention."

Both presidential candidates say they oppose same-sex marriage, although Obama adds that his personal beliefs do not translate into support for banning it. And unlike McCain, Obama has declared his support for civil unions that grant marriage-like rights to gay and lesbian couples.

McCain, while asserting it's an issue for states to decide, has endorsed the proposed bans on this year's ballots and has not advocated for federal recognition of the various same-sex partnerships now legal in 10 states.

In the past, McCain has voted against a federal ban on same-sex marriages, but in this campaign he's signaled he would back such a ban if federal judges sought to impose them on states that didn't want them.

For partisans on both sides, there's a degree of frustration that marriage isn't more prominent in the campaign, coupled with an understanding that economic issues are taking precedence.

"We wish it were a top issue—it seems not to be," said Tom Minnery, a senior vice president with the conservative Christian group Focus on the Family.

In Florida, where presidential campaigning will be intense, gay-rights activists hope Obama will not be too cautious in discussing



the state's ban-gay-marriage measure.

"We would like Sen. Obama to be much more emphatic in his opposition to Amendment 2. We'd like his campaign to acknowledge that in a stronger way," said Stephen Gaskill, a spokesman for the Florida Democratic Party's gay and lesbian caucus.

The spotlight on same-sex marriage will be brightest in California, where Proposition 8 would amend the state constitution to limit marriage to a man and a woman. If approved, it would overturn a California Supreme Court ruling that made the state only the second, after Massachusetts, to legalize same-sex marriage.

Statewide polls indicate the amendment will be defeated, but both sides are raising millions of dollars for a campaign they depict in epic terms. Opponents of same-sex marriage say California represents a last chance to block its spread; gay-rights activists say affirmation of it by voters in the largest state would be a watershed victory.

The president of the largest national gay-rights group, Joe Solmonese of the Human Rights Campaign, expressed hope that young voters—who are relatively supportive of same-sex marriage—will help defeat Amendment 8 while turning out in large numbers to back Obama.

Some conservatives see the possibility of a contrasting demographic trend in Florida, with churchgoing African-Americans turning out in huge numbers for Obama while casting votes for the ban-gay-marriage measure.

"We're expecting black support," said John Stemberger, who heads the campaign for the Florida amendment.

Florida is unusual among the states — requiring 60 percent support from voters for proposed constitutional amendments to be

enacted.

"If the threshold were 50 percent, it would likely pass, but 60 percent is a very difficult scenario," said David Johnson, former executive director of Florida's Republican Party.

The Arizona campaign is noteworthy because in 2006 it became the only state to defeat a proposed ban on same-sex marriage. Similar measures have passed in 27 other states.

The Arizona measure failed two years ago in part because opponents contended it would jeopardize domestic partnerships and other arrangements benefiting unmarried couples. This year's version has been streamlined to simply define marriage as between a man and woman; its prospects are considered strong.

Yet gay-rights activists insist that same-sex marriage and other "culture war" issues will be less effective for Republican candidates than in November 2004, when marriage amendments won approval in 11 states.

"No matter where you fall on the issue of marriage, people are seeing these divisive tactics for what they are," Solmonese said.

Solmonese said there is broad support for Obama among gays despite his hesitancy on same-sex marriage. In contrast to McCain, Obama supports other gay-rights priorities—

extending job discrimination and hate-crimes laws to cover sexual orientation, and scrapping the "don't ask, don't tell" policy that bars gays from serving openly in the military.

John Marble of Stonewall Democrats, which represents the party's gays and lesbians, said activists were encouraged that Obama was wrestling with how to extend federal recognition to same-sex couples.

"We're not in total agreement with him, but at least he's engaging in that conversation," Marble said.

Marble and Solmonese said McCain was sending two sets of signals regarding same-sex couples — telling conservatives he firmly opposed gay marriage while suggesting to moderates that same-sex relationships were entitled to some sort of legal recognition. They said his choice of Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin as running mate reinforced his message to the religious right, which views her as a staunch opponent of same-sex marriage even though she hasn't publicly raised the issue since her nomination.

"McCain has been quite skilled at wrapping up discriminatory views in a nice package," Solmonese said. "I couldn't tell you where his heart genuinely is."

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In 'The Name of God'

Faith, Family, and God: "Colors"

By: Paul P. Jesep*

Autumn's majesty is a patch-work of brilliant, symphonic colors. It is one of many subtle messages from the Creator shared with every individual. In nature, the Maker of All Good shows us not only a universal beauty, but how diversity is complementary and part of the greater, unrevealed mystery of life.

Not many people would paint a room using bright green and satin yellow. Few would paint a ceiling red and the walls sun orange. Nor would a person with proper vision be inclined to use brown in any one of these combinations. An initial reaction is not likely to be favorable. Yet variations of these colors are being seen throughout the northeast. They, like the season, are spectacular and awe-inspiring.

No two autumns are the same. No two leaves are ever alike. Both humans and

objects of nature share a unique diversity. Each one is a work of perfection. Yet humankind still has insecurities about the diversity found within it.

As a result, a variety of ways are used to justify and rationalize bad behavior toward individuals who contribute the greater whole. Distorting the bible is a classic example of justifying harm. Faith takes a hit and drives people away who need not fear it. Those driven from faith will even engage in self-destructive conduct since it's been decided that they are bound for hell. Why not burn the candle at both ends before the fires of eternal damnation torture you?

By the way, there is no hell. It's more like a state of mind that we inflict on ourselves or when we allow the verbal and emotional abuse of others to become our reality. I'll save sin, Satan, and hell for a future column. Many persons exposed to and driven from

religion are aware of the Sodom and Gomorrah story. A group of angry men intend to rape a group of male angels. It doesn't occur, but God was in a particularly ornery and cantankerous mood that day and destroys the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah where the would-be assailants lived.

The story has long been used to suggest that the Almighty rejects homosexuals. It doesn't, however, have anything to do with homosexuality, unless one makes the sexual act the focus. If someone is obsessed about the act of sex used to inflict violence then it raises some interesting Freudian questions.

Sodom and Gomorrah does not deal with the loving relationship of two adults of the same sex that come together in a relationship or to make a family. It's about attempted rape—a crime of violence. It was not uncommon for an invading army to rape men, especially defeated soldiers, to demoralize them into

submission.

The Sodom and Gomorrah story also is about a disregard for ancient hospitality laws. Jesus, who never mentioned homosexuality, referenced inhospitality in the context of Sodom and Gomorrah (Matthew 11:20-24).

Not unlike an odd combination of colors that on first blush seem to clash, one of the lessons from the misunderstood biblical story also speaks to first impressions, especially those offered by the uninformed. Yet autumn is a quiet, wondrous reminder that you belong. After all, the universe is not complete without you.

* Paul is a practicing attorney in Albany, priest and prelate in the Eastern Orthodox Church, and author of "Crucifying Jesus and Secularizing America—the Republic of Faith without Wisdom." He may be reached at VladykaPaulPeter@aol.com.

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we'll bring that maverick style to Washington." Ok, great ... except we've heard it all before. All we want to know is: "Are you a friend or foe of Gotham City?" And I don't feel the superhero love from the Palin/McCain ticket.

Oh sure, they try to talk the good talk. "Country First" was the motto at the RNC. But what does that mean in terms of you and me? In reality, the actions of the *Republican Party* show me differently. This is the party that enacted deregulation of the banking industry, as well as loosen up the rules on the environment, the food and drug industry, and the minimum requirements on people wanting to join our military. There are actual reasons we hold such safeguards in place and it's because *real people get hurt*.

John McCain was a champion of less government, and as a result of his leadership in these areas, we are less safe because of it. I can hear whispers of The Joker's cackling laugh...

And look at Sarah Palin. I mean, look at her! Isn't that why she was chosen ... because she's a looker? And she does remind me of *Cat Woman*, from the *Batman and Robin*

Censoring books in a local library is one thing Palin is in the hot seat about too. Laura Chase, former campaign manager during Palin's first run for mayor of Wasilla, Alaska,

What sort of individual uses a weapon for sport to shoot defenseless animals? And she'd like to lift the present day restrictions on aerial hunting so one could shoot bears in the same way. Hell, if she makes it into the White House, we'd better be careful. She's the kind of chick who'd probably think it'd fun to 'hunt down them gays!'

series: kind of sexy, sultry and a little fresh. Some parts of America are intoxicated with her. But don't be fooled by her pussy puss meow. Because behind the mask is not the superhero of democracy we are in need of at all.

spoke about Sarah's book banning ideas. As reported in *The New York Times*, Chase recalled Palin telling colleagues that she saw "Daddy's Roommate" on the shelves and that it didn't belong there. (Imagine mentioning that about Bible, a book filled with extreme violence, to conservative thinkers, and watch what kind of reaction one might get.)

Gaybookblog.net called "Daddy's

Roommate" one of the first children's books to portray homosexuality in a positive light; the two men do the same things normal couples do: take care of the house, argue, and spend time with the boy. Consequently, the book has become one of the most challenged books in recent years with the American Library Association listing it at number 2 in their list of the 100 most challenged books.

Ms. Chase, as the report continues, said she read the book, found it inoffensive, and suggested Palin read it herself. "Sarah said she didn't need to read that stuff," Ms. Chase said. "It was disturbing that someone would be willing to remove a book from the library, and she didn't even read it."

I wonder if she's bothered to read the Constitution yet.


With more unbelievable information coming out daily about the candidates, all the ingredients appear ripe for the makings of a good comic book story. Someone put on a good Patsy Cline recording—and quick! I'm feeling a little "Crazy!"

Here's the kicker: for a political party that's big on touting values, there are a few things


See Couch on Page 5




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Rigali and Walder: Revolutionizing Orthodontic treatment

By: Nicole Lashomb
TRT Editor-in-Chief

Take Pride in your Smile is not merely a slogan but a philosophical practice at Rigali and Walder Orthodontics, a local Western Massachusetts Orthodontic group that specializes in modern age adult and child orthodontic care and has been in operation since 1986, according to the practices' co-owner.

"We provide state-of-the-art treatment for a wide variety of orthodontic problems including crowded, spaced, protruded and retruded jaws, missing and impacted teeth, cross bites, narrow dental arches, midline discrepancies, open bites, deep overbites, facial growth problems, jaw discrepancies, TMJ dysfunction, and alignment of teeth for dental implants and/or crown and bridge work," said Dr. Linda Rigali, DMD, Rigali and Walder Orthodontics, co-owner, Northampton, Mass. "Early treatment is occasionally recommended to prevent the unnecessary removal of permanent teeth, to correct jaw disproportions (overbites, underbites and asymmetries), to prevent injury to protruded front teeth, and to eliminate damaging habits. We have a variety of types of braces available including, metal, gold, ceramic, self-ligating and Invisalign."

According to Dr. Rigali, each patient's orthodontic needs vary and involve the studying and analysis of individual orthodontic records; x-rays, molds, facial pictures, to develop a customized treatment plan.

"We then tailor the type of orthodontic appliance to what is best for each individual patient" said Dr. Rigali.

Although presenting with different challenges, Dr. Rigali is confident that both children and adults in her practice will achieve an excellent result.

"Today's orthodontics involves dental facial orthopedics which gives us the ability to alter the growth of the jaws in a growing child," said Dr. Rigali. Technically, some adult treat-



Rigali and Walder Orthodontics group shot at a local event. (Dr. Linda Rigali, bottom left and Dr. Joan Walder, second row, left).

Photo courtesy of Rigali and Walder

ment can be more challenging but adults who decide to have orthodontic treatment are usually highly motivated to achieve a great result.

Invisalign, a series of clear, removable teeth aligners used as an alternative to traditional metal is a popular option for adults who would otherwise not consider orthodontic treatment.

"Overall, Invisalign has increased the number of adults who have orthodontic treatment," said Dr. Rigali. "Interest in Invisalign brings a lot of people into the office who would never consider 'braces.' We offer a complimentary initial consultation for anyone interested in orthodontic treatment. This is the best way to learn how we can help you and to determine if you are a candidate for Invisalign. Occasionally, people who are not candidates for Invisalign decide to get clear braces because they learn more about orthodontics and understand that adults can benefit from treatment too."

Dr. Rigali also said that now, children are excited to get their braces on and have the ability to choose which style of braces they

like the best and have the ability to changed their colored ligature ties at each visit.

In 1986, Dr. Linda Rigali, DMD, started the practice after graduating from the graduate orthodontic program at Boston University. Ten years later, Dr. Joan Walder, DDS joined the practice in 1996 after receiving her postgraduate orthodontic degree from Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

"My practice was growing and I had three young children and was very receptive to a partner," said Dr. Rigali. "We got to know each other and realized that we had similar philosophies about the quality of orthodontic care we wanted to provide to our patients. We also had similar life values when it came to having a career and raising a family."

Current technological advances are being made in the field of orthodontics and Rigali and Walder Orthodontics are on board with these advances, making the treatment gentler and less aggressive for their patients.

"Unlike the old days of heavy wires, today's arch wires are low force, memory wires that very gently move the teeth," said Dr. Rigali. "Many of these wires are heat activated and respond to body temperature. One of the most exciting advances is the use of a temporary anchorage device (T.A.Ds). This is a mini implant that we can use as an anchor to move teeth against. This allows us to move more teeth at a time and can shorten the length of treatment. The mini-implant is removed when we are finished."

Rigali and Walder Orthodontics work with their patients to help them better afford orthodontic services.

See Rigali and Walder on p. 22

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that don't add up. Take for example, the recent splash about Bristol Palin, the 17 year old pregnant daughter of the vice presidential nominee. I guess she was just minding her own business, "practicing" abstinence when the pregnancy occurred. Holy Mary, Mother of God! It wouldn't be that big of a deal EXCEPT for the fact that the Republicans and their media mouthpieces (Limbaugh, Hannity and the rest) hold this young girl up as a divine example of moral behavior *because she's keeping the baby*.

Hmmmm. Imagine the scenario if it had been Bill Clinton's daughter, or Jimmy Carter's.

They'd still be talking about the immorality of it now during bible study!

And then, there's my favorite image of Sarah shooting wolves from an airplane. I'm sure that's great entertainment in Alaska, but it lacks the ethics of the hunting code. What

sort of individual uses a weapon for sport to shoot defenseless animals? And she'd like to lift the present day restrictions on aerial hunting so one could shoot bears in the same way. Hell, if she makes it into the White House, we'd better be careful. She's the kind of chick who'd probably think it'd fun to 'hunt down them gays!'

She's on a mission from God, after all. That's something even *Cat Woman* wouldn't get involved in, as criminally-minded as she was.

Be sure to vote on Election Day. It appears there has never been a more important time in history than now to cast your ballot.

* Suzan Ambrose, when not camping in Vermont., playing with her cats or listening to talk radio can be heard on her call-in radio program, *The Naked Truth*, Monday evenings at 8 p.m., on 103.3FM, Northampton, MA. Also catch the show streaming on the web at www.valleyfreeradio.org.

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Trans Opinions & News

Transitioning at work and a Landmark Court Ruling!

By: *Deja Nicole Greenlaw/TRT Writer*

Last month there was a landmark decision about a Transgender woman and the Library of Congress. The decision was made in favor of the Transwoman and this may very well set a precedent for future cases in the U.S. courts.

What prompted the case was the fact that Ms. Diane Schroer was denied a job in the Library of Congress, LOC, because she was transitioning from male-to-female. She applied for the job and was the best candidate and they offered her the job. At first, she turned it down because the money wasn't what she wanted so the LOC came back with a better package to entice her. She agreed to the second offer. Then, she dropped the bomb.

You see, she had applied for the job as a male and went through all the interviews as male, but now she told them that she would transition on the job and that she would like to start the job right away as Diane. The LOC then withdrew the offer and Diane went to court.

The courts ruled that discrimination on the basis of gender transition is sex discrimination. Gender identity is a component of sex and sex discrimination is illegal so the courts



DEJA NICOLE GREENLAW

ruled against the LOC. This is a huge decision for all those Transgender Americans who have lost their jobs because of reasons, which are now established by the courts as sex discrimination. This is an incredible "Win" in our Transgender win/lost column. We need to thank Ms. Schroer for pursuing this battle. And, thank you to the courts for recognizing the discrimination in this case.

I know a lot of Transgender people who have lost their jobs because of the simple fact that their employers simply refused to allow them to work for the company, ministries, business, etc., because of their plans to transition at work. Once the employers hear "transition to the other gender" that is the end of the Transgender person's employment at that establishment. But, now times have finally begun to change.

Not all of us have been discriminated against in our jobs as we transitioned at work. There are good percentages of trans people who have remained on their jobs, and although there are bumps here and there, pret-

ty much all is ok through the transition. Before the Schroer decision, you had to either have a very open minded employer, or an employer who is a corporate giant. The corporate giants cannot afford any possible lawsuits, not so much for the money, but for the possible discrimination rap especially in these very politically correct times. My employer, for instance, was very supportive of me with my transition last November and I've known others who have transitioned while working at UTC companies. We were the lucky ones.

But lucky or not, although there is no legal employment discrimination against me, there is still personal discrimination. A small percentage of my coworkers simply choose not to deal with me and some try to limit their time with me. I've basically fallen out of the "boy's club" at work and some people who see me for the first time just look at me curiously. These are not legal discriminations, but I feel that they are still discriminations albeit of a much lesser sort. These are the discriminations that those of us, who have transitioned at work, just have to deal with.

I want to clarify that most of my coworkers are fine with me transitioning, they are incredible allies, I love them, and I am very thankful for them. It could've been a living nightmare if they weren't so supportive, so I tip my hats to them. I think my friends who have transitioned in the major corporations would agree with me, but I'm certain that although there were no major problems with their transitioning at work, they have had smaller, personal problems too. It's never a completely smooth ride.

Hopefully, it should be a much smoother ride for the rest of the Transgender people who do not work for the big corporations and who have lost their jobs in smaller companies. I don't know about re-opening cases, but I do know that bringing this landmark court case up when needed just might change some minds fairly quickly. The rest will just have to have their minds legally changed in court. Thanks again to Ms. Diane Schroer and the U.S. Court System!

20% Theatre Hits the Valley for Standards of Care

By: *Tynan Power/TRT Writer*


On October 2nd, Claire Avitabile will return to western Massachusetts with her 20% Theatre Company to produce the east coast premier of *Standards of Care*, by award-winning local playwright, Tobias K. Davis. After graduating from Smith, Avitabile moved to Minneapolis and co-founded the 20% Theatre Company with her partner, Blythe Davis. In 2007, the company was ranked number one regional lesbian theater company by *Curve Magazine*. The mission of the company is broader than "lesbian" implies—it aims to produce progressive new works by female, transgender and genderqueer playwrights and to support those gender minorities behind the scenes, as well.

It makes sense, then, that the company would take this opportunity to showcase Davis's new play. *Standards of Care* is the story of Nancy, a female gender therapist, who falls in love with a transgender FTM client named David. Unbeknownst to Nancy, David is mentoring Nancy's teenager through his own transgender coming out process—a

process with which Nancy is not too happy. It's a touching and, at times, hilarious story that will engage the attention and the hearts of even those audience members who have little or no experience with transgender issues. Avitabile and 20% Theatre presented the world premier of the play in June, in Minneapolis. It drew a packed house each night.

Fans of Davis's work may have heard of Avitabile before. In 2003, while still at Smith, Avitabile was the assistant director for Davis's acclaimed *The Naked I: Monologues* from *Beyond the Binary*, which was quickly dubbed "The Trans Vagina Monologues" and went on to be selected for production at the 2003 National Transgender Theater Festival in New York City. 20% Theater will bring *The Naked I* to the stage in the Minneapolis area in 2009.

You can see the playwright on Oct. 2 and 3 at Mendenhall Center, Smith College and on Oct. 4 at the Student Union Ballroom, UMass Amherst. The cost is \$5 general; free for students.




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Gay Travel

Out of Town: Great Wedding and Honeymooning Spots in CA



By: Andrew Collins*

When the California State Supreme Court legalized gay marriage in May 2008, the Golden State quickly became one of the nation's leading destinations for same-sex weddings and honeymoons. In fact, even before the ruling, plenty of inns, resorts, and hotels around the state encouraged same-sex commitment ceremonies and romantic get-aways. But now with the ruling, gay couples are flocking to California. Of course, the state's stunning scenery and wealth of sophisticated, luxurious hideaways has long made it an excellent choice if you're planning a romantic vacation.

California has an abundance of inviting accommodation options, from 400-room hotels offering gay-wedding packages and assistance with planning to intimate B&Bs that ooze charm and are ideal for smaller, low-keyed nuptials and celebrations. Here's a look at a dozen noteworthy wedding and honeymoon spots around the Golden State—from affordable, secluded inns to over-the-top, posh resorts.

Black Bear Inn, Lake Tahoe

California's premier four-season destination, the Lake Tahoe region exudes romance whether it's covered with fresh snow in January or abloom with flowers in July. Among the area's many ultra-romantic accommodations, consider the gay-owned Black Bear Inn. The airy, contemporary main lodge (which has five guest rooms) and three private cabins contain river-rock fireplaces, beamed cathedral ceilings, and stylish rustic-chic furnishings and fabrics. Although the Black Bear is an intimate property, the owners enthusiastically welcome small weddings for the extremely reasonable rate of \$300.

Groveland Hotel, Groveland

Anchoring the small mountain town of Groveland, not far from Yosemite National Park, the rambling Groveland Hotel opened in 1849 during the region's gold-mining heyday. Friendly owners Peggy and Grover Mosley bought and completely renovated the property several years back. The mood at this



charming, pet-friendly property is easygoing and informal, but two things make it notable as a romantic retreat: the inn's restaurant serves astoundingly delicious contemporary American fare (with an emphasis on local, seasonal ingredients and well-chosen regional wines), and there are few more naturally stunning settings in California than Yosemite and the surrounding mountains and forests. Weddings at the Groveland can take place in the restaurant or, during the warmer months, outside in a picturesque garden courtyard.

Hotel Palomar, San Francisco

Same-sex couples planning a wedding or honeymoon in the Bay Area can't go wrong with any of the nine stylish boutique hotels operated by Kimpton Hotel Group, which ranks among the most gay-friendly lodging brands in the world. But the artfully cosmopolitan Hotel Palomar, located in the trendy SoMa neighborhood just a short walk from Union Square's famous shops and eateries, might be the most romantic of the bunch. Dashing color schemes and furnishings - from alligator-print carpets to handsome persimmon-wood headboards with geometric patterns - lend a whimsical look to the guest rooms, and hotel amenities include the Fifth Floor restaurant (with its memorable

California-meets-South-of-France cuisine) and a terrific range of in-room spa services. The hotel enthusiastically welcomes same-sex weddings and receptions of up to about 40 guests, and Kimpton's solicitous, highly personal service can't be beat.

Le Rivage Hotel, Sacramento

The only hotel in California's capital that sits directly on the picturesque Sacramento River (and its lovely bike-and-strolling trail and 25-slip marina), Le Rivage opened early in 2008 and has quickly become a hit with discerning travelers. The three-story property contains 100 tastefully decorated rooms with Tuscan-inspired furnishings and earthy color schemes—each has a marble bath with a deep soaking tub and separate rain shower. Amenities such as the serene Spa La Le and upscale Scott's Seafood add to the romantic vibe, and gay-friendly Le Rivage boasts one of the city's most appealing wedding spaces: a neatly manicured lawn overlooking the river.

Sunset Marquis, West Hollywood

Looking to combine romance with the bustle and glamour of Los Angeles? West Hollywood's gay-popular Sunset Marquis is situated steps from the glitzy nightlife, dining, and retail of both Santa Monica Boulevard and the Sunset Strip. Accommodations at this boutique hotel with discreet service and first-rate amenities run the gamut from rangy suites with marble baths and sleek, contemporary furnishings to super-plush villas with fireplaces, expansive terraces, and even baby grand pianos in some cases. The Sunset Marquis features a gay-popular Romance Package complete with chilled champagne, fresh flowers, a four-course dinner, and a slew

of complimentary amenities and services, from valet parking to soft robes.

Surf & Sand Resort, Laguna Beach

In the artsy, gay-popular beach town of Laguna Beach—which sits midway between San Diego and Los Angeles, the luxe Surf & Sand Resort lies just steps from the Pacific Ocean and is notable for its state-of-the-art spa, top-notch Splashes Restaurant, and smartly furnished rooms and suites, all with ocean views and some with Jacuzzi tubs, beam ceilings, and wood-burning fireplaces. Most of the weddings held at this mainstream but gay-friendly resort take place on an open-air patio with unobstructed, panoramic ocean views. But the hotel is also happy to help you plan a ceremony right on the beach, with the crashing surf as your backdrop.

U.S. Grant Hotel, San Diego

For a truly dazzling, over-the-top sumptuous urban vacation, it's hard to beat downtown San Diego's gloriously restored U.S. Grant Hotel, a 1910 stunner that completed a \$56 million top-to-bottom restoration in 2006. Rooms are magnificent throughout, but for a special occasion, book one of the Signature Suites with their 8-by-8-foot showers outfitted with six(!) shower heads. Weddings accommodating up to 270 guests can be held in one of the lavish event spaces, with their spectacular chandeliers and ornate architectural details. The U.S. Grant is steps from the historic Gaslamp Quarter and its wealth of charming restaurants, and a short drive from leafy Balboa Park and the hip-and-happening Hillcrest neighborhood.

Wyndham Hotel Orange County, Costa Mesa

The openly gay general manager of this upscale chain property in Costa Mesa has long marketed to those seeking same-sex commitment ceremonies. Although this is a primarily business-oriented hotel during the week, on weekends the upscale mid-rise hotel offers a wide range of affordable deals that have made it popular with the leisure market. It's in the heart of the city's Theater and Arts District and makes a great base for exploring Orange County's fab shopping malls and stunning beaches. The hotel has a lovely, romantic lakeside plaza that's perfect for exchanging vows before a group of up to 250 onlookers. Guests at the Wyndham have access to the chichi Spa at South Coast Plaza, just a few steps away.

* Andrew Collins is the author of Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA and eight additional travel guides. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutofTown@qsyndicate.com.

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Queertations: Say what?!

By: Rex Wockner

"Don't get me started. She's the anti-Wonder Woman. She's judgmental and dictatorial, telling people how they've got to live their lives. And a superior religious self-righteousness ... that's just not what Wonder Woman is about. Hillary Clinton is a lot more like Wonder Woman than Mrs. Palin. She did it all, didn't she? No one has the right to dictate, particularly in this country, to force your own personal views upon the populace—religious views. I think that is suppressive, oppressive, and anti-American. [T]his woman—it's anathema to me what she stands for. I think America should be very afraid. Very afraid."

—Actress **Lynda Carter** (Wonder Woman) on Sarah Palin to *Philadelphia Magazine*, Sept. 11.

"If elected, I would call on Congress to enact legislation that would repeal DOMA (the Defense of Marriage Act) and ensure that the over 1,100 federal legal rights and benefits currently provided on the basis of marital status are extended to same-sex couples in civil unions and other legally recognized unions."

—**Barack Obama** to the *Washington Blade*, Sept. 10.

"I cried when I saw her, because we didn't want to see our outfits beforehand. Actually, I could cry right now thinking about it. I never thought I would have that experience of getting married. I didn't think I was missing anything. I just didn't think about it. But to see her for the first time and to cut a wedding cake, that was surreal for me and I got to experience that with our families around us. I didn't realize how special it was until I did it."

—**Ellen DeGeneres** on her and Portia de Rossi's recent wedding, to *Newsweek*, Sept. 6.

"I am optimistic (about Barack Obama). I don't think there's much of a question. I have a lot of faith in the American people not to be idiots."

—Out screenwriter/director/producer **Alan Ball** (*American Beauty*, *Six Feet Under*, *True Blood*) to the *New York Post*, Sept. 7.

"How can a politician her age have never have gone to Europe? ... You don't need to be a pointy-headed elitist to travel abroad. You need curiosity and a hunger to see the world. What kind of a person (who has the money) arrives at the age of 44 and has only been out of the country once, on an official tour to Iraq? Sarah Palin's travel record is that of a provincial, not someone who is equipped to deal with global issues. But some people like that. She's never traveled to Europe, Asia, Africa, South America or Down Under? That makes her like them. ... I trust the American people will see through Palin, and save the Republic in November."

—*Chicago Sun-Times* film critic **Roger Ebert** in a Sept. 11 column.

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Queer Justice: Effect of MA law on gay movement

By: Attorney Jennifer L. Dexter*

Der Queer Justice,
I lost my mom recently. She remarried a few years ago and now she has suddenly passed away. However, we found out through an autopsy that she had Alzheimer's and knew about it. She didn't let us know about it, her sister said to us, to spare us the suffering until the time came when she didn't recognize us any longer.

My aunt said that she was already having problems with her mind. We inquired about her will because her husband made it pretty uncomfortable for us at the funeral. He wanted everything done in his controlling way. So, we started wondering about things, especially her will.

The only thing that my brother was told by her husband was that "everything had been taken care of," but we don't know what "everything means." We would also like to see if we can get a copy of her will. She owned most of the things (her house, her car, etc.) by the time she met this man. She was in her 60s and apparently healthy. Her death was unexpected. I want to know, are my brother and I entitled to a copy of her will? What if the will has changed or was changed recently, does that mean that there could be foul play?

—*Motherless and Fearful* in *Easthampton, MA*

Dear Fearful:

Based on the complexities of the issues, I would recommend you seek the representation of an attorney who practices in wills and will contests.

The short answer to your question is you are entitled to see a copy of the will. I will try to take this question in pieces so I can be sure to answer all your questions.

If your mother signed a new will after being



Atty. Jennifer Dexter

diagnosed with Alzheimer's you can contest the will based on her competence to execute a new will. When someone decides to make a will they must be competent and free from any undue influence or coercion. If you have a suspicion of either, you are entitled to contest the will.

As to the will itself, if your mother's husband won't let you see it you can go to the Probate court for the County in which you live and request to see it. You will need identification and possibly proof of kinship.

You are right to question these circumstances. Again you should consult an attorney, but don't give up fearful.

*Attorney Jennifer L. Dexter earned a B.A. in Psychology from The University of Central Florida. She moved to Massachusetts to attend law school at The Western New England College of Law in Springfield, Mass. She is a member of the Massachusetts Bar and has a Solo General Practice in the Pioneer Valley Area.

The information contained herein is intended for educational purposes only and does not represent legal advice. Should you need legal advice, please contact an attorney.

If you have legal questions that are unanswered, or if you would like to know more about a specific topic, then send your questions to: queerjustice@comcast.net

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Mass. Local News

Grants available for Northampton artists: Apply by Oct. 15

The Northampton Arts Council has applications for grants under the Massachusetts Cultural Council's Arts Lottery and PASS (Performing Arts Student Series) program. The Council will be distributing up to \$13,400 of the state-allocated grant money in the following categories: dance, film/video, literature, mixed media, music, PASS, schools, the-

ater, and visual arts. Projects may start no earlier than January 1, 2009, and must be completed by December 30, 2009.

Applications and guidelines are available through the Northampton Arts Council's web site at www.northamptonartscouncil.org. Applicants can get acquainted with the guidelines and fill out the application online, or obtain a hardcopy at the following Northampton locations: Northampton Arts Council, 2nd floor, Memorial Hall, 240 Main Street; Center for the Arts Northampton, 17 New South Street, 3rd Floor; Guild Art Centre, 102 Main Street; Forbes Library, 20 West Street; A.P.E. at Window, 126 Main Street.

The Northampton-based artists can apply if they meet certain criteria: if the artist resides

in another city, his/her project must be held in Northampton; the work must demonstrate the highest artistic/cultural merit; projects that include a public component that clearly benefit the residents of Northampton such as an exhibition, literary reading or performance held in Northampton; non-profit cultural and educational institutions that offer programs and events which bring arts and culture to a Northampton audience; projects that are feasible; and schools, not artists, should apply for projects that take place in schools.

Completed applications with copies and supporting material for the Fall 2008 grant cycle must be received by 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 15, 2008, in the office of the Northampton Arts Council on the second

floor of Memorial Hall, Room 5, 240 Main Street in Northampton. No late or incomplete applications will be accepted.

Grant recipients are chosen on the basis of the quality of proposals and work presented; potential benefit to the community of funded work; and creative accomplishment and dedication. Funds are available on a reimbursement basis only.

The Northampton Arts Council supports and nurtures arts activities in the community, allocates arts lottery funds, stimulates public awareness and support for the arts, and works to maintain the diverse cultural heritage of Northampton.

For more information visit the Council's website: www.northamptonartscouncil.org.

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AIDS CARE/Hampshire County announces date of annual chocolate fundraiser: Nov. 16th

NORTHAMPTON, Mass.—Organizers are gearing up for the 15th annual *Chocolate Dessert Buffet & Silent Auction* that will be held on Sunday, November 16 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center.

At the annual event that draws chocolate lovers and silent auction aficionados from across the region, guest sample chocolate desserts and bid on a variety of items, all to benefit a good cause. Pioneer Valley bakeries and restaurants donate more than 70 chocolate desserts, cookies and cakes that will be available for sampling at the event. Hundreds of auction items will be auctioned off to benefit AIDS CARE/Hampshire County, a Northampton-based agency that provides comprehensive support services for people living with HIV/AIDS throughout Hampshire County.

Tickets are \$15 donation per person and can be purchased in advance or at the door.

The major sponsors of the 15th annual event are Northampton Cooperative Bank, The Clarion Hotel and Conference Center, and Florence Savings Bank.

To make arrangements to donate an auction item or a chocolate dessert, call (413) 586-8288 ext. 5.

For ticket information or more information about AIDS CARE/Hampshire County, call (413) 586-8288 ext. 5. The AIDS

CARE/Hampshire County is a program of Cooley Dickinson Hospital.

Authors on Authors: Terri Breneman's *Compulsion* mystery novel

By: *Therese Szymanski**/Author Reviewer

One thing that's sparkling clear in each and every one of Terri Breneman's books is Breneman's own background. She has a Bachelor's degree in psychology and sociology, a master's degree in counseling and, in case all that doesn't make some of us feel underachieving enough, a law degree as well. What's most important—and exciting and fascinating—however, is that all of her education and experience informs Breneman's writing from beginning to end.

For instance, one part of Breneman's bio says she was "a psychotherapist specializing in borderline personality disorders." *Borderline*—as in borderline personality disorders—was the second book in the series. The first book was *Anticipation* (as in anticipating the sequel). While *Anticipation* set the stage for the series, *Borderline* cemented the series' styles of focusing on different psychological disorders while *Compulsion* sets it as a series worth reading onto the forthcoming *Delusional*.

In *Compulsion*, the series' protagonist assistant district attorney, Toni Barston, is the subject of the obsessive-compulsive antagonist. She must amidst the joy, intensity, excitement, overwhelmingness and frus-

trations of searching for a place to live with her girlfriend, moving in with said girlfriend, working to prosecute criminals and being stalked by the antagonistic criminal mastermind, try to track down a murderer and big-time psycho. Of course, at the beginning, she's entirely unaware that she will soon be pursuing a criminal of much repute, let alone a murderer. In fact, at the start, when her life is interrupted by someone burning up her car, she doesn't even realize she's been targeted, or that it will escalate.

But, there are consequences for everything we do. For instance, Toni apparently must now pay for helping to put some bad guys behind bars in the past.

And, I'll enjoy reading about it because I love it when writers know their topic and can bring more than writing talent to the table—when they add in real-life experience and the details that all their current friends can add to the mix. It's a delight worth digging into. No wonder this latest novel was short-listed for a Goldy.

*Therese Szymanski is a Lammy, Goldie and Spectrum shortlisted author/editor of mysteries, erotica and sci-fi/fantasy/horror.

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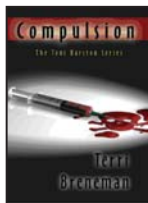
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Q&A: A few questions for Richard Morel

The DJ/remixer/producer talks rock and rocking the upcoming Nov. vote

By: Mikey Rox*

Mikey Rox: "Nova," one of the 11 tracks off your new album Death of the Paper Boy, is especially poignant. You paint a very pitiful yet familiar picture with your lyrics: "We pulled to the side of the road/To do another line in the Nova/On a photograph of your old man/And your mom/And you tell me its all ok/She had to die anyway." Can you fill in the blanks of that story? Judging by the rest of the lyrics, it's sounds like you had it bad for this guy.

Richard Morel: The theme of the song is love, unspoken and unrealized. The events are from when I was around 16 or 17 on a trip to the Cape (Cod) with my best friend. He had run away from home a couple times and the back of his car was filled with things that were important to him. One was a photo of his mom. She had died when he was 12. At that point in my life, my emotions and hormones were so tied up and messed up it was impossible to know what was really happening. There's an urgency to love when you're a kid that is unparalleled. At the time I would have done anything to be able to turn it off. Now I

find comfort that I can still feel on such an intense level.

MR: Along with your band Morel, you also produce remixes under the name Pink Noise—the latest of which, "Yoko Ono's 'Give Peace a Chance,'" reached #1 on the Billboard Dance Club Play chart. Given your success with your legal name, why the divergence? Don't you get confused about who you are from day to day?

RM: The first remix I did was



Photo by: Nick Lopata

RICHARD MOREL

for the Pet Shop Boys' song "Se A Vida E." I called it the "Pink Noise Mix." It stuck, so I've done remixes under that name since. I like the alter ego because it frees me to go to a different place musically. That said, I am confused about who I am pretty much everyday.

MR: Those who follow your work know that you frequently collaborate with former Hüsker Dü and Sugar front-man Bob Mould. You've guested on each other's albums, and together you host the pop-

ular Blowoff parties in D.C., NYC, and now San Fran. What is it about Bob that clicks with you more than anybody else?

RM: When we first became friends we realized a common ground in the music we liked and expanded on that. We're the same age so the overlap made it easy for us to communicate artistically. We both bring different strengths to the equation, and we have fun doing it.

MR: And, finally, it's almost time—time to head to the polls. I know you've got an opinion on the upcoming election, the candidates and the issues—I've seen you in action myself. Who's got your vote?

RM: Obama.

* Who is Mikey Rox? Who gives a &#@%! But you can find him at www.mikeyrox.com.

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Q-lebrities

Clay is gay: Aiken comes out of the closet

By: Nekesa Mumbi Moody/AP

NEW YORK (AP)—The revelation that Clay Aiken is gay hasn't fazed Simon Cowell.

The "American Idol" judge reacted in typically sarcastic form, telling the entertainment news show "Extra": "Wow. That's a shock. It's like being told Santa Claus isn't real. Unbelievable."

Getting serious, Cowell said: "Good for him. If he said it, it's the right thing for him. ... I don't think anyone cares. Let's face it. It's 2008. You know. Who cares?"

The 29-year-old former "Idol" runner-up, multiplatinum recording artist and Broadway star acknowledges his sexuality in an interview with People magazine. He appears on the cover of the latest issue holding his infant son, Parker Foster Aiken, conceived by invitro fertilization with friend and producer Jaymes Foster. The headline: "Yes, I'm Gay."

Cowell representative Anne Finn said he was unreachable for further comment Wednesday. His fellow "Idol" judges were not able to be reached: Paula Abdul's spokesman, Jeff Ballard, said she was unavailable, and Randy Jackson's representative, Brit Reece, didn't immediately return phone and e-mail messages.

Cowell might not bat an eyelash, but Aiken's hardcore fans—known as

Claymates—are taking the news very seriously. As of recently, there were reportedly more than 2,000 entries on the message board for Aiken's official Web site.

"We'll 'talk' more later, but, suffice it to say, for the first time in recent memory, I am speechless," Aiken writes on his Web site's fan page ClayOnline, according to People.

"It was the first decision I made as a father," Aiken told the magazine. "I cannot raise a child to lie or to hide things. I wasn't raised that way, and I'm not going to raise a child to do that."

"I'm so proud to know and love all of you."

To read Aiken's newest blog and post a message, the site requires you to join his fan club. Membership fees range from \$14.99 plus tax to \$29.99, plus shipping and handling for a Clay Aiken tote bag, lip balm and set of Clay Aiken buttons.

Meanwhile, the Aiken fan site ClayManiacs was open for viewing. Response in a thread on the site's "ShoutBox" was generally supportive, though at least one fan was shaken by Aiken's public confession.

"This is really shocking news as I had no

idea he was gay," read a comment posted by "Sheridansq." "And now I have to deal with this. I am not sure what to say to people who know I was a fan. ... I didn't go to work today and am not answering the telephone."

In his People interview, Aiken credits baby Parker with making him realize that he could no longer hide his homosexuality from the

ents' night?"

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation also applauded Aiken's public admission.

"We congratulate Clay for making this decision and for setting an example for others and his family," said Neil Giuliano, GLAAD's president. "As we're seeing, more and more gay people, including celebrities, are living openly and honestly, and this has tremendous impact in terms of creating awareness, understanding and acceptance."

Aiken, who rose to fame on "Idol" in 2003, has long been the subject of rumors and tabloid fodder that he was gay, but usually refused to acknowledge them. In an interview with The Associated Press two years ago, he said of the talk, "I don't really feel like I have anybody to answer to but myself and God and the people I love."

Aiken said he only told his family that he was gay four years ago. He recalled a tearful discussion with his mother in a car after dropping off his brother, who was being sent to Iraq, at a military base.

"It was dark. I was sitting there, thinking to myself. I don't know why I started thinking about it ... I just started bawling. She made me pull over the car and it just came out," he said. "She started crying. She was obviously somewhat stunned. But she was very supportive and very comforting."

Aiken, who considers himself a born-again Christian, said he knows he may turn off some fans with his admission and his decision to have a child outside traditional marriage.

being God's children.

—Miranda H., Albany, NY

Dear Editor,

I think that your cover page pick of Barack Obama was great, but didn't like the words: "Is he Ready?" Is TRT supporting the Republican Party? I remember you endorsed Hillary Clinton, but never came out to endorse Obama. Or, is it that you are not endorsing either candidate?

—Adam R., Troy, NY

Dear Editor,

I'm sorry for your loss. It was very sad to read about the passing of your father. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your wife.

—Nataly and Maritza, Northampton, MA

Thank you for your words! —The Editor

world. The magazine cover features Aiken holding his son, who was born in August.

"It was the first decision I made as a father," Aiken told the magazine. "I cannot raise a child to lie or to hide things. I wasn't raised that way, and I'm not going to raise a child to do that."

Kevin Jennings, executive director of the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network, said he hopes Aiken's announcement will help promote tolerance for families headed by gay parents.

"If you're gay, once you have a kid, it's everybody's business, whether you want it to be or not," Jennings said. "All of our members who are gay parents say that what they didn't anticipate was as soon as they had a kid, staying in the closet was impossible. Because what do you say when you go to par-

Letters to the Editor from Page 2

women. I would imagine that it is not easy to write about such controversial issues, but she does so with an apparent ease. Thanks for publishing pieces like hers and calling your readers to engage in such important matters.

—Elizabeth M., Florence, MA

Dear Editor,

Suzan Ambrose's column about Mr. Phelps was like a heavenly taste of spring water in the middle of the desert. What she said in it was so true. It brought tears to my eyes to see that other people are paying attention to the real "hate mongers" out there who are not Christian at all because Christ's teachings were never about hatred. I think that we the Times should continue to be critical of those who criticize us just for

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5. Butch Jamie
6. Finns Girl
7. The Gymnast
8. She Likes Girls 2
9. Four Minutes
10. Treading Water

* By wolfevideo.com

Gay Best Sellers*

1. Shelter
2. S is for Sexy
3. Adored
4. 3-Day Weekend
5. For the Love of Dolly
6. You Belong to Me
7. Arizona Sky
8. Dantes Cove Season 3
9. Prom Queen

* By wolfevideo.com

Deep Inside Hollywood: The *L Word*'s cast member who got it!



By: Romeo San Vicente*

J. Lo Loves Don Roos

Don Roos, the gay filmmaker behind *The Opposite of Sex* and *Happy Endings*, must have something going on that's very much to Jennifer Lopez's liking, since he's attached to two of her upcoming projects. Roos will direct the singer-actress in *Love and Other Impossible Pursuits*, based on Ayelet Waldman's best-selling novel about a woman who must adapt to step-motherhood after the tragic loss of her own child. Roos is writing the scripts for both *Pursuits* and *The Governess*, a comedy starring Lopez as a con artist who infiltrates a rich widower's home by signing on as nanny to his children; complications naturally ensue when she falls for the widower. Expect to see lots of smoochy interviews with the happy couple when both films open in 2009.

Ugly Betty's Mays Sings Out with *Glee*

Jayma Mays, better known as Henry's grumpy pregnant fiancée Charlie on *Ugly Betty*, is returning to the tube in a new project from Ryan Murphy, the prolific gay writer-producer behind *Nip/Tuck*, *Running with Scissors*, and any number of other pending TV and movie projects. Set to launch next year as a companion piece for *American Idol*, Murphy's new sitcom, *Glee*, centers around 30-ish teacher Will (dishy Matthew Morrison, from Broadway's *Hairspray*), who gets stuck being the advisor to the high school glee club, a haven for misfits and outcasts. May will play the school's guidance counselor, who has



JENNIFER LOPEZ

a crush on Will. Hmm...gay creator, glee club, outcasts, misfits - the mind reels. See just how homo-inclusive *Glee* is when it premieres on Fox next March.

Hailey to Star in *L Word* Spinoff

If you started an office pool for "Which *L Word* Character Will Be Featured in the Spinoff?" then give the money to whomever picked Alice Pieszecki. The occasionally flaky and allegedly bisexual (it's been a while since a dude turned her head) NPR commentator played by Leisha Hailey will survive the

demise of the popular Showtime soap after its final season in early 2009 and live on in a spinoff series. The pilot episode will be written and produced by *L Word* creator Ilene

Chaiken, but there's no news regarding what the show's going to be about or which, if any, *L Word* staffers will join Alice on her continuing journey. Oh, Leisha - you've come a long way from those Yoplait ads. Filming on the new show begins in December.

David Beckham: The Musical?

He's a high-fashion underwear model, an aggressively pro-tolerance figure in the world of international sports, and he's married to a Spice Girl: Is it any wonder that gay men everywhere adore David Beckham? And if those Armani tighty-whitey billboards weren't enough to put you on Team Becks, this might: His life is about to become the subject of a musical in London's West End. Writer and producer Mark Archer is working on *David Beckham: The Theatre of Dreams*, which would chart Beckham's rags-to-riches conquest of the soccer world and his romance with Victoria, the artist formerly known as Posh Spice. No word yet regarding casting or production dates, so that may give London's hot young musical theater stars time to work on honing up their football skills.

* Romeo San Vicente is currently negotiating a deal with *Posh* for a Becks timeshare situation. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

Birth Announcement: Julian Trace Orvieto



Dar and Gina Orvieto joyously announce the birth of their son, Julian Trace Orvieto. Julian was born on September the 7th 2008, at 3:03am. Jules was 19 inches long and weighed in at a whopping 6 pounds, 9 ounces. Julian joins his 4 Chihuahua's and his parrot and lives happily in his Easthampton home with his two mommies.

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Queer Movie Review

Gay Cinema according to Chuck: Unimpressive

By: Michael A. Knipp*

Chuck Griffith has two words for LGBT filmmakers: Try harder.

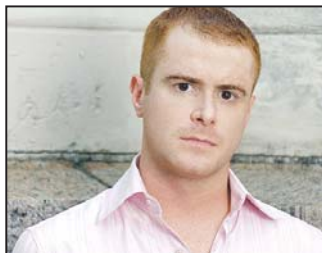
Not only is the award-winning director of 2001's *Thank You Good Night* unimpressed by what gay directors are content calling cinema, he thinks they're completely ruining the queer celluloid image.

And that's putting it mildly.

"I've seen a lot, and what I've seen is horrific without any excuse for it," explains Griffith, 33, whose TV credits include work on "Six Feet Under" and Judd Apatow's ill-fated college comedy "Undeclared." "Shelter" was the milquetoast gay film of 2008, and while it had great production value and pretty solid acting, how many coming out stories do we need to see?"

Griffith, of course, is referring to director Jonah Markowitz's boy-meets-man, boy-fall-in-love-with-man, boy-comes-out-to-family surf story that made the requisite festival rounds upon its release last year, racking up several awards including *Best New Director* at the *Seattle Lesbian & Gay Film Festival* and the Vancouver Queer Film Festival's People's Choice Award for Best Feature.

"Where's the edge?" he asks somewhat rhetorically. "Where are the stories for the other 99% of the gay community that's already out and doing something, [stories that



CHUCK GRIFFITH

are] worth telling in a compelling way?"

Hard-pressed to find an answer to that question, Griffith decided to take matters into his own hands. But years after founding *Roaring Leo Productions*, a company that Griffith says is committed to "making films for people who love film," the redheaded renegade still isn't satisfied with how queer-themed movies have evolved.

"I feel like gay cinema is stuck in the ghettoized community of 1995, where the gay community was going through a celebration of being gay—an adolescence, if you will—in response to the AIDS crisis that brought on so much fear.

"I think that was fine back then, but with

online social networking, the gay experience extends beyond Greenwich, Chelsea and Castro Street. Yet we're making films for us to relieve our early 20s rather than making films that help define the community we want to be in the future."

That sentiment, in a nutshell, lays the foundation for *Roaring Leo*. According to Griffith, there was "a need in the film world for someone to help guide filmmakers through the process, to help them avoid the marketing pitfalls that I went through in making [Thank You Good Night]."

The company's first project, a DVD titled *Best of Breed: Volume 1*, which was released earlier this year, features four shorts from four directors—Ethan Feldbau, Lou Peterson, Leah Meyerhoff and David Kagan—that push the limits of what audiences expect from traditional gay fare.

"The common theme explored in each film is the sensory experience," Griffith says. "In [Feldbau's] 'Plastic,' the young boy can't deal with his own identity and must experience life through other people. 'Encounter, [by Peterson], is about the sensuality that one can feel without touch. 'Wonderful Sandwiches,' [from Meyerhoff], is about using a barrier in order to achieve intimacy; and [Kagan's] 'The Process' is about the need and desire for touch."

Because each of these films are examples of extreme illusion presented artistically, Griffith admits that *Best of Breed* isn't for everyone; their primary purpose is to get people talking about art in gay cinema. For people who want to talk about it. "These films are there to make you think, because I believe the gay community can think if they want to."

Gay directors on the other hand, well, Griffith has all but given up hope. He hasn't, however, given up on the gay consumer. His suggestion? Invest in filmmakers trying to do something different.

"It doesn't take much," he says. "Just go and find something that does more. And if one can't invest himself, write letters to Here! [TV] and TLA [Realeasing]. They're worried that no wants to see anything better than A Four Letter Word and Eating Out 2, so that's what you're gonna get.

"It's up to the consumer to do something about that."

* Michael A. Knipp is a New York City-based freelance writer and the founder of Line/Byline Communications. Reach him at michael.knipp@gmail.com.



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The Promise beyond the variable of language

"For one human being to love another; that is perhaps the most difficult of all our tasks, the ultimate, the last test and proof, the work for which all other work is but preparation."

- Rainer Maria Rilke

By: **Reverend Tinker Donnelly**
TRT Wedding Special

Whether called Weddings, Sacred Unions, or Commitment Ceremonies, there is a common intention and purpose to these rituals beyond the variable of language. That intention is to seal "the promise" between individuals who choose to devote themselves to the purposes of Love. It is not only their vows that speak of the promises they offer to each other, it is also the act of commitment itself that declares there is more "promise" for possibilities born out of their union than existed before it. It is the promise of creative partnership yielded from synergy and collaboration. It is the promise of a common vision and mutual goodwill – the alchemy of combined resources, inspiration, and talents. It is the promise of expanded perspectives as individuals seek to explore and discover the terrain of a shared frame of reference. It is the promise of hearts willing to fall open to one another



in order to reveal what is truest, deepest, and most precious within them. It is the promise of inner integrity that champions and companions those who stand together for congruent values. It is the promise of authentic intimacy; whispered in tenderness, sung in ecstasy, and echoed in reverence.

However named, a ceremony that formalizes such a promise is a rite of passage for each who enters the circle of its intent. It is a declaration, a spell, a prayer. It is a conscious, deliberate decision to join hands, hearts and hopes with the aim of self-cultivation – to grow one's self in the garden of compassionate union so there may be more to contribute to the relationship, and to the world. This ritual is an occasion to celebrate the promise of Love and its bounty. It is also an opportunity

to offer a sacred charge to friends and family – to invite those dear to us, not only to witness our love, but to enter into the spirit of support, encouragement, and honoring that evolving relationships require. The promise of Love weaves the threads of our lives together into a singular fabric of blended colors and textures, from which we fashion the garment of our lives. The promise is a fit appropriate to who we are becoming moment by moment.

The promise is simply as Rilke wrote, "For one human being to love another", and although simple, it is not a promise that is always easy to fulfill. It is one that necessitates dedication through challenge and change. It is a promise that will test your humility and your humor. It may push every emotional button and stick a finger in every psychological wound, provoking the best of you to come forward. It is a "work" for which we may often feel only inadequately "prepared" but something inside each of us knows one thing for sure – Love's the only game in town – and playing it begins and ends ... with a promise.

**The Reverend Tinker Donnelly is the*

Founder and Spiritual Director of HeartWorks: a "New Thought" community outreach organization that celebrates diversity and honors all faith traditions. For more information about Reverend Tinker Donnelly, visit her website at www.HeartWorks.org, email her at revtinker@heartworks.org or call 413-325-8555/562-900-9222 (cell).

Repeal of 1913 Law: Get married in MA

The Massachusetts legislature repealed the 1913 law that prevented same-sex couples from most other states from marrying there. Governor Deval Patrick signed the bill into law on July 31, 2008.

The repeal of the antiquated law, challenged then-Governor Romney's use of the law to prevent them from marrying in Massachusetts. The result of this decision has meant that couples from every state have been getting married and will continue to be able to come to Massachusetts to marry. If you are contemplating getting married in Massachusetts, you can visit GLAD (Gay and Lesbians Advocates and Defenders) online at www.glad.org, or call its InfoLine, at 1-800-455-4523.

Did you know that when it comes to same-sex marriage ...

- "NBC's Today Show 'Throws a Hometown Wedding'" allows eligible same-sex couples to enter what used to be an exclusive heterosexual contest.
- Marriage is the bridge to more than 700 rights in NY state, according to the Marriage Equality, NY website: marriageequalityny.org/.
- Same-sex couples are denied 1,138 federal rights that heterosexual couples are instantly given.

- Three states will be voting on whether to approve or reject Constitutional Amendments to make same-sex marriage illegal. In November, citizens of Arizona, California and Florida will decide if same-sex couples will share the same rights heterosexual couples do under their state law.

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Photo courtesy of The Hotel Northampton

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Tips for the successful execution of an at home-wedding

Tips for Happy Home-Wedding Hosts and Hostesses

Carefully consider the number of guest you're inviting. Look at the space with a critical eye, and try to imagine how many people could stand there with elbow room. (Think of all of them lifting glasses to their mouths to drink; now you know why they call it elbow room.) Depending on what sort of vittles you'll be serving, think about where all the folks will perch in order to eat. Unless you live in a large home or have spacious grounds, you may have to limit your guest list.

Take over all of the pace that you have. Leave no stone unturned in your quest to maximize your usable space. The dead space at the end of the hall is perfect for a small card table that you can turn into a self-service bar. The dining-room table can be pushed against the wall to open up the room for mingling. The utility room can house tubs of ice that hold chilled soda and champagne. Can the basement be cleaned up a bit and its lights turned down low for dancing?

Let the character of your home establish the character of the celebration. If

you have a balcony or a room with a view, use it as a natural backdrop for the ceremony. Invite your guests an hour before nightfall and exchange vows as the sun begins to set. If you have wide-open spaces and you love dancing, hire a DJ and get down, get funky.

Design your day in a way that suits you. Whether you're hiring a caterer to do the food and florist to do the decor or doing it all yourselves, remember that this is your celebration, in your home and that it should reflect your tastes, not the tastes of the people you're paying. (Unless you don't have any taste yourself and that is what you are paying for.)

Consider an open house reception. An open house is perfect for smaller homes where you want to invite fifty people for the reception but are afraid they won't all fit at the same time.

As you search for the perfect place to say "I do," keep the following suggestions in mind.

Setting the Scene for the Ceremony

Look for a background with some drama. This is not as hard as you think. Favorite spots include in front of a fireplace, on a balcony, at the foot of a staircase (you can make and



entrance!), under a tree, and on a back lawn. Spaces that informally frame the ceremony—between a living room and a dining room creates both an architectural framework and a large space in which guest can gather. You can even rent a wood or brass arch for under \$50.

Don't feel obligated to create a formal audience seating area. Guest don't have to sit on chairs separated in a formal way from the "stage." Think of them as being a part of the action, like Sensurround.

All of your chairs don't have to match. You can rent or borrow folding chairs if you wish, but don't rule out a mixture of sofas, ottomans, and rocking chairs, with pillowed floor space for the kids and the agile.

Guests can stand. But in all fairness, don't expect them to be comfortable on their feet for more than about fifteen minutes.

Don't rule out minor cosmetic surgery. Although you shouldn't have to redo your house for the wedding, you can certainly minimize its flaws by covering them up with something beautiful. Oh honey, they do it in Hollywood all the time! Drape fabric over a black wall, surround your ceremony area with potted flowers, or if it's an evening affair, use candlelight. Splurge on an entire bank of flowering plants to line the hall.

Take a long look at your front porch. If you have a modicum of privacy there, or if you don't give a damn what the neighbors think, have the ceremony on your front porch. This is really wonderful because immediately after you've said your vows you can lead your guests over the threshold and through the front door to the first party you have in your home as a married couple.

**This information is comprised from "The Essential Guide to Lesbian and Gay Weddings," Tess Ayers and Paul Brown, Alyson Books, 1999.*

Ways to secure your relationship

Once you're feeling secure about your decision to get married, there are a variety of things you can do to formalize your relationship. You may have taken some of these steps already, while you may not be ready, willing, or able to consider others. That's okay; just make sure the two of you discuss the formalities so there will be no misunderstandings.

- Draw up and have notarized a relationship agreement. This doesn't have to do with property; it has to do with personality-- sort of a contract of what each of you expects from the other person emotionally.
- Open a joint savings account, checking account, or charge account.
- Have both names on all club memberships

and subscriptions. Don't forget the automobile club, health clubs, and frequent-flier clubs.

- Choose a doctor for both of you, who in effect becomes your family physician.
- List your partner's name on medical records as your husband or as your wife. Do the same with credit companies.
- Have address labels or a rubber stamp made up with both your names on it.
- Make donations in both your names.
- Include each other in your wills.

**This information is comprised from "The Essential Guide to Lesbian and Gay Weddings," Tess Ayers and Paul Brown, Alyson Books, 1999.*



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“Why You Should Give a Damn About Gay Marriage:” An important book to consider during the 2008 election season & beyond

By: Jody J. Johnston

In Jan. 2004 my partner of three years and I began the process of splitting up. Simultaneously, Gavin Newsom, Mayor of San Francisco granted same gender marriage. While my heart was breaking my passion for Queer civil rights was growing.

Davina's book; *Why You Should Give A Damn About Gay Marriage*; helped me focus. After reading the book, hearing stories of friends getting married and seeing non-supportive reactions; I committed to talking to one person a day until Marriage for all is legal.

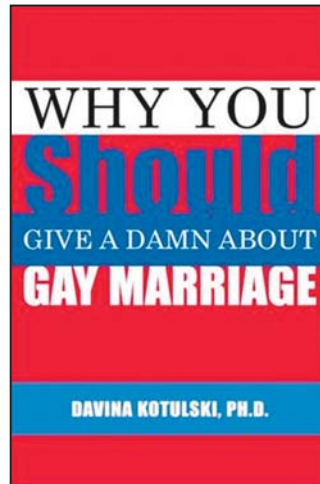
I began to talk to anyone and everyone. The women in the grocery line, the Dr.'s office, the clerk at the pharmacy and then I knew I needed to talk to my family. Gulp, not them, we don't talk. I grew up in the republican mid-west where we talked about nothing. The T.V. consumed our living room and the news was only about everyone else.

Years earlier I 'came out' when my father asked me; “So are you ... well Gay?” In a not so kind and somewhat defensive way I responded, “Yes.” In my process of under-

standing what it means to be lesbian and to live fully, it was now time to tell my parents more.

I made that call. My mother answered, I blurted out all the reasons she should understand same gender marriage. She was shocked. One I cried, (I am not sure she had heard me do in well over 20 years), second she and I had never really talked about me being gay and third she said she had no idea. That every day I walk out of the house knowing that people hate us, we could be fired, that some people prefer me dead than to raise a family and enjoy life. This was so shocking to her; she was speechless. My father was more thoughtful and able to talk. They could not fathom same gender marriage at point. It was too threatening and beyond their worldview.

I sent them Davina's book. At my prodding over the next months, my father and I had many in depth conversations. He gradually became more and more comfortable with the idea of civil unions but NOT marriage. My mom died several months later of emphysema but she died knowing something of me I had never shared before.



I continue to talk about same gender marriage and the importance for everyone's civil rights, what it is like for me to be a lesbian, why being polite and quite about it is no longer an option. My dad always accepted me and was not openly discriminatory toward me

in any way. Now a year and a half he has shifted to say that he sees “no harm” in same gender marriage and he thinks he could support it.

I sent my dad an autographed copy of Davina's book with the hope that he will read it again. Maybe he will talk with his friends about why he should give a damn about gay marriage. Why, because his daughter at 45 can live her life more fully because I had the courage tell my parents that being a lesbian is important and my rights are as important as everyone else's, no matter the consequences.

This book is a tool to break the ground toward talking again. It is easy to read and explains things in ways that make the issues tangible and reasonable. Why Marriage and why now? Davina's book helped me have specific information to use when talking with others. Being gay, queer, lesbian, what ever; we need to stand up and be heard and live fully. To do that I needed to talk with my family, even though we had virtually no relationship to speak of. There was something very powerful and important in the process of making that stand at home. Empowering myself to live fully includes telling my family who I am and why I deserve the world to know me as I

am, a lesbian, a citizen, a women and one who will no longer be quite about my rights in this country.

Thanks Davina for helping me have the tools to speak my truth. For mor einformation, please visit: www.whygaymarriage.com/



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TRT Calendar

ONGOING EVENTS/SUPPORT GROUPS

(MA) **LGBT Afternoon Tea Dances**; Every 3rd Sunday of the month; 3-7 p.m. Dance, Drink, Dialogue! The Union Station, 125A Pleasant Street. \$6 admission, \$5 w/student ID. FMI: www.nohopridepromos.com

(MA) **UNITY** is a Transgender support group which meets at 7 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday at Baystate Hospital 3300 Main Street in Springfield, MA. FMI: Deja 860-604-6343 or Keni 413-364-1749.

(MA) **MATURE LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP**; Group for women 55+ meets monthly at the Northampton Council on Aging at 240 Main St., at 6 p.m.; second Monday of each month.

(MA) **DISCUSSION GROUP FOR LESBIANS 40+** meets every Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Stonewall Center at UMass. This is a warm and welcoming group of intelligent women. Information email to: JBGreenize@aol.com

(MA) **OLDER LESBIAN DISCUSSION GROUPS**; Amherst/NoHo Area. New members accepted on space-available basis. If enough interest, new groups may form. FMI: 413-247-3257 or 413-253-3049.

(VT) **MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP**; Any male 18 or older; Support group not a therapy group. Free. Every Tuesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Brattleboro, VT. FMI: 802-258-3914.

(NY) **Bisexual Brunch**; First and third Sundays of the month, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Rainbow Cafe, 332 Hudson Ave., Albany. FMI: Viktoria 518-438-6315.

(NY) **Bagel Bunch**; Tuesdays; 10:30 a.m.; Older gay men's social and discussion group. Bruegger's, Hannaford Plaza, Central Ave., Albany.

(NY) **Capital Pride Singers**; Mondays @ 7 p.m.; LGBT/LGBTaffirming; mixed chorus; St. Andrew's, Episcopal Church, 10 No. Main St., Albany, 12203; FMI: 435-4636.

(NY) **Capital District Prime Timers**; Provides social, cultural, and recreational opportunities for mature gay and bisexual men. 21+. FMI: jallison2@nycap.rr.com or CDDT 595 New Loudon Rd #202 Laham NY 12110

(NY) **Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Men Support Group**; Mondays; 7 p.m.; Support group for GBT men; CDGLCC @ 332 Hudson Avenue in Albany. FMI: Q Diamond at (518) 462-6138 or qdiamond@cdglcc.org.

(NY) **Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Support Group**; every other Tuesday; 7 p.m.; Meet at CDGLCC at 332 Hudson Avenue in Albany. FMI: Q Diamond at (518) 462-6138.

(NY) **Youth Group**; Friday nights; 7 p.m.; 332 Hudson Ave. in Albany; Group offers peer support to LGBT & questioning individuals ages 13-19. A supportive environment for LGBTQ youth and their straight allies. FMI: Q Diamond (518) 462-6138.

(NY) **Confidential HIV Testing**; first Wednesday of each month; 6-8:30 p.m.; Provided by Project H.O.P.E., a program of the AIDS Council of Northeastern New York. Testing offered at the CDGLCC, 332 Hudson Ave., Albany. FMI: 518-462-6138.

(NY) **OUT DANCING** (for the LGBTQ community); every Wednesday evening; 7 to 8 p.m.; Saratoga SAVOY, 7 Wells St., Saratoga Springs, NY. For more information: 518-587-5132, <http://saratogasavoy.hometown.com/files/outdancing.html>

(CT) Every Sunday; **ALL LGBT YOUTH to the Rainbow Room**; at the Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective; from 3-6 p.m.; 1841 Broad Street, Hartford, CT; for LGBT youth and allies. 21 & younger.

(MA) **TransForming Families**-Transgender Support Group; Parents, partners, children and their transgender loved ones. Wednesdays, 7:30 - 9 p.m. in Hadley. FMI: www.transformingfamilies.org or 413-522-0522.

(MA) **EAST COAST FEMALE-TO-MALE GROUP (ECFTMG)**; 2nd Sunday of every month from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. FMI: 413.584.7616 or email: betpower@yahoo.com.

(VT) **TRANS SUPPORT**; 3rd Sunday of every month; in Brattleboro. Open to anyone whose identity or expression doesn't fit neatly into the gender binary, including transpeople of all genders and sexual orientations. FMI: Benjamin Robin: robin@benjamin-robin.net

(NY) **CAPITAL PRIDE SINGERS** LGBT and affirming mixed chorus. Rehearsals on Monday's, 7pm, Emmanuel Baptist Church, 275 State St., Albany. FMI: 518-435-4636.

(CT) **LIVING SOULFULLY: A MONTHLY MEN'S GATHERING**; Meets on 4th Wednesday of every month from 7:30-9:00pm at the Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective. FMI: HGLHC at 860-2787-4163.

(NY) First and third Sundays of the month, 11 - 1 p.m. at the Rainbow Cafe, 332 Hudson Ave., Albany. FMI: Viktoria 518-438-6315.

(CT) **LGBT TEEN SUPPORT** - RainbowRoom is open every Sunday from 3:00pm-6:00pm and is located at 1841 Broad St., Hartford. RainbowRoom is an affirming and safe place for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and questioning teens and young adults 13 to 21. RainbowRoom is a drop-in center located in an intimate, informal space with room for a variety of activities.

W. MASSACHUSETTS

Oct. 2 & Oct. 3; 8pm; "Standards of Care," A Play by Tobias Davis; 8pm; Mendenhall Center for the Performing Arts Smith College. Local Premiere! Standards of Care is an honest exploration of some of the realities that transsexual individuals often encounter, from struggles over the diagnosis of gender dysphoria, to the trials of therapy, family support, and gender confirmation surgery. Free for students with ID. \$5 for the general public (at the door).

Oct. 4; "Standards of Care," A Play by Tobias Davis; 8pm; UMass Student Union Ballroom. Local Premiere! Standards of Care is an honest exploration of some of the realities that transsexual individuals often encounter, from struggles over the diagnosis of gender dysphoria, to the trials of therapy, family support, and gender confirmation surgery. Free for students with ID. \$5 for the general public (at the door).

Oct. 4; Metropolitan Community Church of Hartford Anniversary Celebration at 6 pm in the Ballroom of the Colt Memorial Parish House located at 155 Wyllys Street, Hartford. Dinner and program is \$25. FMI: Rev George Chico, 860-724-4605.

Oct. 4; Weekend Hike; 2:00pm; meet at Price Chopper parking lot in Lee (off Main Street, just past the Morgan House heading south) to carpool to Mason Pond near Lee. All welcome. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable hiking shoes. FMI: Infoline: 413-822-7268.

Oct. 4-5; Rocky Horror Picture Show; 8:00pm & 12:00am (two shows); Academy of Music, 274 Main Street, Northampton, MA; Performing two full shows with two different casts! The show will feature a live cast along with the movie, pre shows and other fun surprises! Join us for this night of mayhem, madness, corsets, fishnets and of course, sweet transvestites from Transsexual Transylvania! \$12/\$10 for students. FMI: 413.584.9032

Oct. 8; "Trans 101" Panel/Infosocial; 7:00 pm; Susan B. Anthony Lounge, Berkshire Community College. Several local BSCC members and experts in transgendered issues share their experiences and insights. This is a community event; FMI: Infoline: 413-822-7268.

Oct. 9; Lura; 7:30pm; Bowker Auditorium; UMass Fine Arts Center; Amherst. FMI: 413-545-2511

Oct. 10-13; Paradise City Arts Festival; Saturday & Sunday 10am-6pm; Columbus Day 10am-4pm. Three County Fairgrounds, Old Ferry Road and Route 9, Northampton, MA 01060; \$12 adult; \$8 seniors/students; under 12 free; FMI: 800 511-9725 or info@paradisecityarts.com

Oct. 11; "Come Out, Come Out, Whoever You Are" Dance; 8:30pm-12:30am. Must be 18 & have ID. NOTE: Tentatively scheduled for The Elks Club, 27 Union Street, Pittsfield. Check the website or call the

Infoline 413-822-7268.

Oct. 12-14th; 4th National Conference on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Aging "It's About Time: LGBT Aging in a Changing World;" At the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge, 333 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201. FMI: www.sageusa.org.

Oct. 12; "Transcend" Meeting; 7:00-8:30pm; South Congregational Church, Pittsfield, MA. Monthly support/social group meeting for the Trans community. Sponsored by BSCC. FMI call the Infoline: 413-822-7268.

Oct. 15; Film Night at Berkshire COMMUNITY COLLEGE. 6:30 pm, K111. "Running With Scissors" shown as part of BCC's recognition of GLBT History Month, sponsored by the BCC Diversity Committee. Free and open to the public.

Oct. 19-26; Fantasia Fair, a week-long transgender event held every October in the GLBT resort town of Provincetown, Massachusetts.

Oct. 23; Live Performance; 12:15pm; K111 at Berkshire Community College. Katie Curtis (the New Yorker calls her a "folk-pop goddess") performs live. Her songs have been featured on the tv shows Dawson's Creek, Chicago Hope, and Felicity; her ninth studio album, "Sweet Life", will be released this fall. Free and open to the public.

Oct. 31; LGBT Halloween Costume Party; 8 pm-1am; at the Union Station, 125A Pleasant St., Northampton, MA. Put on your best scary, funny, sexy or political face and join us for the Halloween Party Everyone is talking about! Fabulous Prizes for Best Costumes! Hot Music! Don't Miss this Spook-tacular event! Tickets \$15 /\$12 in advance. FMI: www.NoHoPridePromos.com or 413-478-4165.

Nov. 15; A Gathering of LGBT Grandparents; 9:30 am - 3:30 pm; Stonewall Communities Lifelong Learning Institute at Wheelock College, Wheelock College Brookline Campus, 43 Hawes Street, Brookline, MA \$20 (free for those 75 and over) includes lunch. FMI: www.stonewallcommunities.com Or (617)369-9090. This gathering features Dr. Nancy Orel, author of studies on LGBT grandparents, Denise Simmons, mayor of Cambridge, and breakout sessions to share experiences, to connect, discuss, learn and celebrate, plus resources!

Nov. 16; 15th annual Chocolate Dessert Buffet & Silent Auction; 2 to 5 p.m. at the Clarian Hotel and Conference Center. FMI: 413-586-8288 ext. 5.

New Year's Eve Extravaganza; The Clarian Hotel; Ring in the New Year's with dinner, drink, dancing, comedy, etc. Suzanne Westenhofer, comedian. FMI: nohopridepromos.com

CAPITAL DISTRICT OF NY

Oct. 4-5; CDGLCC's LGBTQ History Month Book Sale; All proceeds will benefit the CDGLCC library. We are accepting book donations until Wednesday, October 1st. Please contact us to arrange drop off time. Email qdiamond@cdglcc.org or call (518) 462-6138.

Oct. 12-14th; 4th National Conference on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Aging "It's About Time: LGBT Aging in a Changing World;" At the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge, 333 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201. FMI: www.sageusa.org.

Oct. 15; CDGLCC's Annual Awards Dinner; Contact Q at qdiamond@cdglcc.org or (518) 462-6138 to purchase tickets or advertise in the dinner journal!

Oct. 28; Joe Norton's 90th birthday; 6pm; First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany (FUUSA) 405 Washington Ave. Albany. Joe is one of the founding members of the Capital District Gay and Lesbian Community Council as well as a teacher, an activist, and so much more! Please RSVP to qdiamond@cdglcc.org or (518) 462-6138 by October 24

Nov. 15; Art for AIDS Sake; 7 pm - 10 pm New York State Museum, 4th Fl, Empire State Plaza Madison Ave, Albany, NY To Benefit The Albany Damien Center.

N. CONNECTICUT

Oct. 12-14th; 4th National Conference on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Aging "It's About Time: LGBT Aging in a Changing World;" At the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge, 333 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201. FMI: www.sageusa.org.

Oct. 28; KD Lang @ Fairfield Theatre Company's Klein Auditorium; 910 Fairfield Ave. Bridgeport, CT 06605. 8pm; \$43-\$83; FMI: 203-319-1404

Nov. 8; One Big Event: A benefit for the Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective 6:00 p.m. to Midnight; Hilton Hartford Hotel; Hartford, CT. Featuring: Emcee Michael Wilson, Entertainer Varla Jean Merman, and Honorary Host Mayor Eddie Perez. Musical entertainment provided by the Shaded Soul Band. Cocktails, Silent Auction, Dinner, Entertainment, and Dancing. Formal Attire Encouraged.

Nov. 8 & Nov 15; Breaking the Song Barrier: Connecticut Women's Chorus celebrates women composers; On Nov. 8 at the Unity Church of Greater Hartford, 919 Ellington Road (Rt. 30), South Windsor CT. On Nov. 15; 8:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Society of New Haven, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden.

Nov. 8; **One Big Event: A benefit for the Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective**; 6:00 p.m. to Midnight; Hilton Hartford Hotel; Hartford, CT. Featuring: Emcee Michael Wilson, Entertainer Varla Jean Merman, and Honorary Host Mayor Eddie Perez. Musical entertainment provided by the Shaded Soul Band. Cocktails, Silent Auction, Dinner, Entertainment, and Dancing. Formal Attire Encouraged.

S. VERMONT

Oct. 31; The Monster Ball Halloween Night; 9pm-1am; at the RED ROOF INN (aka the Quality Inn) Putney Road, Brattleboro VT 05301. Cash bar, great raffle prizes, free refreshments. Costumes welcome and encouraged but NOT required!

Nov. 19; Teresa Stores will read from her new novel, Backslide, at Northshire Books in Manchester, VT, at 7 p.m. The Advocate says Backslide "illustrates in living color what it was like to grow up as a Southern Baptist in the 60s, navigating the bumpy road from loneliness and sexual denial to self-assurance."



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All I Am: A journey with Jennifer Taylor

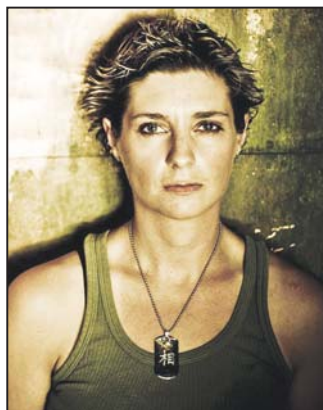
By: Nicole Lashomb/TRT Editor-in-Chief

As an experienced original songwriter, musician and performer of 10 years, Jennifer Taylor is no amateur to the Northeast music scene and this exclusive TRT interview brings to you the intimate details of this musician's journey. Having performed at approximately 200 venues each year, Taylor is currently preparing to release her third CD, *All I Am* on October 23rd in New Haven, Conn.

"*All I Am* definitely has more of mix of things than my previous CDs," said Jennifer Taylor, recording artist, New Haven, Conn. "For the most part I feel it is Rock/Pop but I do have a few tunes that cross over into the country genre. To be honest, I'm not sure exactly how to describe my music, all I can say is that I play because I love it and what comes out is heartfelt and real."

Taylor's first album, *Jennifer Taylor*, was released in 2000 and her second album, *A Different View* was produced shortly after in 2003.

"*All I Am* represents my Journey from 2003, the date of my last CD, to now," said Taylor. "I have grown as a musician and a person throughout this time and that growth is reflected in all of the songs on this CD. My



JENNIFER TAYLOR

music is always very personal but this CD by far is the most personal. I have really opened myself up and let people in with these songs."

According to Taylor, her music career officially began when she was 20 years old.

However, she has been playing instruments since third grade.

"I got my first steady gig at a bar in Watertown CT," said Taylor. "Soon after that, I quit my waitresses and bank teller job that I had at the time and that's when the actual music career started."

Taylor primarily performs in the tri-state area.

"I perform all over the state of Connecticut, eastern New York and western Massachusetts," she said. "I play at anything from private parties, neighborhood bars, and colleges to music and pride festivals."

For the time being, Taylor represents herself independently.

"Blood, sweat and tears have gone into making this CD and though that may sound bad, it was definitely all worth it," she said. "It wasn't easy but nothing that is worth it is

easy. Dream big and always follow your heart!"

Taylor's *All I Am* CD release party will be held at Toad's Place, New Haven, Conn. Doors open at 7 p.m. with the show commencing at 8 p.m. Tickets may be purchased in advance for \$8.00, pre-show, or \$10.00 at the door. Tickets are available online at www.toadsplace.com and www.etix.com. Advanced purchases of Taylor's new CD, *All I Am*, can be made at any of her upcoming shows or by emailing your request to info@jennifertaylormusic.com. CD's purchased in advance can be picked up on Oct. 23rd at the CD release party. CD's are \$12.00 or 2 for \$20.00.

For more information about Jennifer Taylor, her CD Release party, or upcoming show schedules: www.jennifertaylormusic.com.

FaithAction: Religious advocacy for marriage equality & LGBT rights in CT

A new program of Love Makes a Family, LMF, FaithAction equips and coordinates people of faith to advocate for marriage equality and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) rights. People of faith are a critical voice to speak out for LGBT justice and marriage equality right now in Connecticut.

The program seeks dedicated congregational members to be FaithAction Advocates who will promote education and advocacy in each faith community. Advocates can be lay or clergy, of any age and of all sexual orientations.

This is a perfect opportunity to promote LGBT equality in anyone's faith context. It's time-limited in nature, designed to achieve concrete actions within a number of months. Plus, it's a chance to get the inside scoop as the date gets close to marriage equality in Connecticut!

- As an advocate, people can:
- Attend a 3-hour training to build skills in congregational organizing and petitioning policy-makers for change
 - Apply these skills through at least three events over six months within the congregation
 - Participate in monthly conference calls for planning and "behind-the-scenes" access to Connecticut's marriage equality work
 - Join a limited-time effort that will conclude by June 2009

There is a possibility that the Connecticut Supreme Court will legalize marriage for

same-sex couples any day. Even if that happens, *FaithAction Advocates* will still have a role to play between now and June 2009. We must protect that win in the 2009 legislative session and we must work to pass a gender identity/expression bill to protect transgender individuals from discrimination.

Approximately five hours a month from now through June 2009 of involvement are needed, though it will vary some from month to month. Conference calls will be up to an hour each month, and the rest of the time will be spent with individual and community activities for marriage equality.

Love Makes a Family promises to fully support individuals interested in the program through one-on-one attention, accessible congregational resources, and public recognition of your efforts. LMF respect your time and energy, and want to make congregational advocacy an enjoyable experience!

The trainings will be held at various locations:

West Hartford: Wednesday, October 22nd, 6-9pm (Temple Shalom); Norwich: Tuesday, October 28th, 6-9pm (Unitarian-Universalist Church of Norwich); New Haven: Monday, November 17th, 6-9pm (United Church on the Green); Fairfield: Thursday, November 6, 6:30-9pm, First Congregational Church
For more information, contact Oby Ballinger, LMF Religious Organizer, or to sign up for a training! E-mail obadiah@lmfct.org or call 203-464-3455.

Marriage equality is about fairness

*Statement from Love Makes a Family's Executive Director:
In response to Anti-Gay Rally at State Capitol last week*

Marriage is about commitment. It's about responsibility. And it's about being able to take care of the one you love. There are thousands of same-sex couples in Connecticut who have made a lifelong commitment to each other and simply want the state to allow them the dignity and respect—as well as the legal protections—that marriage provides.

A majority of Connecticut voters support marriage for gay and lesbian couples because they believe we should do every-

thing we can to help these couples take care of each other. The Family Institute of Connecticut is simply out of touch with what the average Connecticut citizen believes. Fortunately, the intolerant message of today's rally represents a minority view that is continually shrinking.

Love Makes a Family is a statewide, grassroots organization working for marriage equality for same-sex couples in Connecticut.



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LGBT News Briefs from Around the Country

Study: Series on US TV showing more gays, lesbians

NEW YORK (AP)—Series on American television will have 16 gay and bisexual regular characters in this fall during prime-time hours, more than double the seven of a year ago, a new study has found.

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation said it was a positive sign of networks making their shows more representative, although more work needed to be done. These characters accounted for 2.6 percent of all the regular characters in TV series, up from 1.1 percent last year and 1.3 percent in 2006, according to the study, released Monday.

A total of 19 recurring characters, those who appear only time to time, fit the category, GLAAD said. That's up from 13 a year ago. Between regular and recurring characters, that's the most GLAAD has counted during its 13 years of monitoring networks for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender representation.

The number of regular characters fitting the definition fell from 40 to 32 on mainstream cable networks, a count that doesn't include the gay-oriented networks Logo and here!

There were no lesbians among the regular characters, according to GLAAD. But there are five bisexual women, including the characters of Callie Torres and Erica Hahn on ABC's "Grey's Anatomy."

"As the networks gradually add characters from all backgrounds and all walks of life to prime-time programming, more and more Americans are seeing their LGBT friends and neighbors reflected on the small screen," GLAAD President Neil Giuliano said.

Historic U.S. Senate Hearing on Need for Federal Employee Partner Benefits

WASHINGTON—The Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender civil rights organization, last month participated in the first-ever U.S. Senate hearing exclusively on the issue of federal employee partner benefits. The hearing, held by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, was titled "Domestic Partner Benefits for Federal Employees: Fair Policy and Good Business." Coordinated by Committee Chairman Sen. Joseph Lieberman (I-CT) and Ranking Member Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME), the hearing is an important and necessary step toward enactment of equal employment benefits for LGBT federal civilian employees.

"This legislation, which is long overdue, would bring the federal government up to the standards of America's leading employers, who provide these benefits in order to recruit and retain the most talented workforce possible," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese, as written in submitted testimony. "Equal pay for equal work is a value fundamental to American opportunity. The federal government should be the standard

bearer for fair workplace practices. As long it denies gay and lesbian employees the comprehensive family benefits that their heterosexual colleagues receive, the federal government will fall short of that standard, and continue to lag behind the nation's top employers."

The benefits for federal employees would include family health insurance, pension and survivor benefits and relocation expenses for families who are transferred. And for State Department employees abroad it would include access to anti-terrorism and language training, medical facilities, and evacuation services.

The Human Rights Campaign worked closely with the Senate staff in crafting the legislation and was a lead coalition partner in lobbying for the hearing. Advocating for the legislation was a top priority for HRC activists during the Spring Lobby Day. HRC also worked with employers in the private sector to endorse the legislation and reached out to all Congressional offices with up-to-date resources such as the Corporate Equality Index, demonstrating support and need for DP Benefits. To view the Corporate Equality Index, visit: www.hrc.org/cei.

The need for federal domestic partner benefits was also incorporated in HRC's 7-Days to a Better Financial You, with stories from former Ambassador Michael Guest and other federal civilian employees explaining how the lack of benefits hurts LGBT families. To learn more about the 7 Days campaign, visit www.hrc.org/7days.

GLAAD Urges accurate media coverage: Murder of Nakhia Williams

On August 20, Nakhia Williams, an African American transgender woman, was found by police outside her Louisville, Kentucky apartment beside a dumpster. She had suffered multiple gunshot wounds. Williams was transported to The University of Louisville Hospital where she died 10 days later. Subsequent media coverage of her murder by WLKY-CBS 32 and WDRB-Fox 41 used inaccurate terminology, including male pronouns, and failed to use Williams' correct name. There have been no follow-up stories offered by Louisville media outlets covering the investigation of this crime.

GLAAD staff members contacted news directors and reporters at both WLKY-CBS 32 and WDRB-Fox 41 through e-mail and phone messages. WDRB-Fox 41 refused to correct the pronoun errors, citing the coroner's report. WLKY-CBS 32 News Director Mike Neely refused to respond to multiple voice mails and e-mails.

GLAAD urges you to call on Louisville media outlets to provide thorough coverage of this tragic case while avoiding sensationalism and using accurate terminology. (For more information, see GLAAD media reference: www.glaad.org/media/guide/index.php) Media sources should be urged to question police and ask them to investigate whether or not Nakhia's murder was a hate crime.

Paradise City returns to NoHo

Columbus Day Weekend marks the 14th anniversary of the *Paradise City Arts Festival*, the most exciting and comprehensive show of museum quality craft, art and sculpture in New England. Founded by Northampton artists Linda and Geoffrey Post, this event is a unique opportunity to experience an entire festival designed from an artist's perspective.

Selected from among nearly 1000 applicants from 40 states, the 275 exhibiting artists and master craftsmen include those with national reputations at the peak of their skills, as well as exciting emerging talent. Paradise City welcomes 60 new artists this October, including Kentucky clockmaker Douglas Durkee. Regular attendees declare this show to be "always fresh and vibrant, with the best selection anywhere." It's no wonder AmericanStyle Magazine readers voted Paradise City their #1 choice this year among all art fairs in America!

Come for the art ...

Whether you're a serious collector, an imaginative shopper or simply a lover of beautiful things, you'll discover a world of extraordinary art and design—collectible, decorative

What: A museum quality show and sale featuring 275 juried artists from every corner of America. Thousands of works in ceramics, painting, art glass, fine furniture, sculpture, jewelry, leather, metal, mixed media, photography, fiber, wearable art and wood. **Where:** Indoors and under tents Three County Fairgrounds Rte 9 & Old Ferry Rd Northampton, MA. **When:** Columbus Day Weekend, October 11, 12 & 13 Saturday & Sunday: 10am-6pm Monday: 10am-4pm. **Special Features:** "The Many Faces of Paradise", a show of portraits. Vote for the People's Choice Award in the 200-foot long, professionally landscaped Sculpture Garden. Live jazz and food by the region's best restaurants under the Festival Dining Tent! **Admission:** Adults: \$12. Seniors & Students: \$8. **Weekend Pass:** \$15. Under 12: free. Free Parking! Advance group sales discounts.

and functional—in every price range. Don't miss the Silent Art Auction, held all three days, to benefit the *Breast Form Fund*.

... and stay for the live music and fabulous food!

The Festival Dining Tent looks out over foliage-draped hills, and offers up mouth-watering foods prepared by some of the region's most celebrated chefs. Sample delicacies from *Spoleto*,

Side Street Café, *India House*, *Mama Iguana*, *Great Wall* and more! You'll find crisp salads, spicy curries, grilled kabobs and heavenly desserts. While you're delighting your taste buds, relax to the artful sounds of *Charles Neville* on Saturday, *Primate Fiasco* on Sunday and *Quetzal* on Monday.

This fall *Paradise City* features a special "show-within-a-show" of remarkable portraits: "The Many Faces of Paradise." As you would expect from *Paradise City's* ever-creative artists, this special exhibition displays a broad interpretation of everything the term "portraits" connotes and boasts an imaginative breadth of ideas cutting across all media.

For more information, Founding Director Linda H. Post at lpost@paradisecityarts.com or at 800.511.9725 x102.

Rigali and Walder from p. 5

"We accept a variety of insurance plans," said Dr. Rigali. "We also offer in-office, no-interest financing. Care credit is also available, which is an outside financing plan that allows patients to spread payments out over a longer period of time."

Dr. Rigali said that their practice is and welcoming to all types of families and is dedicated to making their patients and their families comfortable. In addition, for the convenience of patients, Rigali and Walder Orthodontics

operate out of and travel between three offices located in Northampton, Amherst and Easthampton.

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For more information about Rigali and Walder Orthodontics, visit www.rigali-walderorthodontics.com or call 413.586.8455.

CT Neighborhood Organizations

AIDS Testing: www.guardinhealth.org
Gay Father's Group: (203) 938-2881/Hartford Community Center: (860) 724-5542/CT Freedom to **Marry Coalition:** (203) 791-9553/Love Makes a **Family:** www.lmf-ct.org (860) 525-7777/Married **Lesbian Support Group:** trucolor@aol.com (203) 430-9227
Married Men's Bisexual Support Group of Hartford: (860) 264-5605/Metropolitan Community **Church of New Haven:** (203) 397-2312/New Haven **Gay & Lesbian Center:** www.nhglcc.org (203) 387-2252
PFLAG Danbury: www.pflag.org (203) 797-4743/Connecticut's Kids: (203) 256-8414
Senior Lesbians Happily at Play (SLAPHAPS): Kathy (203) 929-8113
True Colors CT: www.ourtruecolors.org (888) 565-5551/National
Runaway Switchboard: (773) 880-9860/Connecticut **Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF):** 135

Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105 • 860.247.6090 **Info. and Referral program:** (800) 479-2949 or Greater Hartford 254-0601 • Statewide women's rights organization working to end discrimination and hate crimes; provides free legal information and referral to the LGBT community.

XX Club (Twenty Club): Rev. Cannon Jones • 45 Church Street Hartford, CT 06141-0387 • (860) 646-8651 • Provides knowledgeable info., and ongoing peer support to transsexuals. 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month, 2-5 p.m.

connecticut V (CTView): A Transgender social and support club, for the TV, TG, TS, CD, both male and female. Monthly meeting in New Haven as well as e-membership, and more. A no dues club, with all the frills: www.transgender.org/ctv/

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Lesbian Voices

Lesbian Voices: Is Palin the G.O.P. drag queen?



By: Rev. Irene Monroe*

Since McCain picked the Governor of Alaska, Sarah Palin, as his V.P. pick, there has been bantering and bickering from the distaff side of our

American electorate.

The cat fight from female electorates of both political parties' is whether Palin is good for women, and whether her abilities honorably represent the feminist activism of the Women's Suffrage Movement—a movement winning women full voting rights when the 19th Amendment was ratified on August 26, 1920.

In her Dayton speech accepting McCain's V.P. offer Palin gave honor to the women who came before her.

"It's fitting that this trust has been given to me 88 years almost to the day after the women of America first gained the right to vote. I think as well today of two other women who came before me in national elections. I can't begin this great effort without honoring the achievements of Geraldine Ferraro in 1984 ... and of course Senator Hillary Clinton, who showed such determination and grace in her presidential campaign. It

was rightly noted in Denver this week that Hillary left 18 million cracks in the highest, hardest glass ceiling in America ... but it turns out the women of America aren't finished yet and we can shatter that glass ceiling once and for all."

But Palin's brand of feminism—pro-NRA, pro-drilling, anti-choice hockey mom of five—has many women debating the issue. The debate is primarily viewed as a generational one between second and third-wave feminists.

For example, Second-wave feminists of the

feminist icon of the era wrote in a recent New York Times op-ed that "Sarah Palin shares nothing but a chromosome with Hillary Clinton. She is Phyllis Schlafly, only younger."

However, many Third-wave feminists, across the political spectrum, see Palin as "feminist hero," trying to break through the 18 million cracks in the highest, hardest glass ceiling in American politics.

Rebecca Walker, once bisexual, but now a married heterosexual, is the daughter of the renowned womanist (black feminist) author

"Palin is not known for attacking the women's movement; she credits it with breaking down gender barriers and creating the opportunities she has enjoyed. While antiabortion, she belongs to a group called Feminists for Life ... I also believe that her candidacy is a great moment for American women ... more representation for feminism across the spectrum of political beliefs is a good thing. Women, like men, should be able to disagree on gun ownership, environmental policies, taxes, even abortion while agreeing on gender equity."

Young is right that we need a more varied representation of feminism across the political spectrum. And the group missing, that no one has bothered to poll opinions from, is lesbian, bisexual and transwomen.

But for many of us LBT women Palin lip-synchs Republican rhetoric. It's insult enough that Palin bills sexual-assault victims for the cost of rape kits and forensic exams; she adds insult to injury when it's a sexual assault due to a hate crime act against LBT women. When asked why she would not expand hate crimes laws to include our community, Palin stated, "I believe all heinous crimes are based on hate."

There is no public statement from Palin regarding non-discrimination in employment, housing, credit based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.

While it is true that Palin boasts that some of her best friends are gay, she doesn't support gay marriage and spousal benefits for state employees of same-sex couples.

"I am pro-life," Palin told the Anchorage Daily News. "I believe that marriage should only be between a man and a woman ... I believe spousal benefits are reserved for married citizens on our constitution."

Sarah Palin looks like a feminist due to the Republican spin of her, but she lip-synchs for the misogynist men who dress her. Her actions, if in office, would erode the gains of the women's movement.

Feminism is indeed about empowering women, but Palin's feminism is a charade.

To contact this writer, or leave her a message, email *The Rainbow Times's* editor: editor@therainbowtimesnews.com (no hyphen)


It's insult enough that Palin bills sexual-assault victims for the cost of rape kits and forensic exams; she adds insult to injury when it's a sexual assault due to a hate crime act against LBT women. When asked why she would not expand hate crimes laws to include our community, Palin stated, "I believe all heinous crimes are based on hate."

60's and 70's like Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Jane Smiley depicts Palin as "a woman who reinforces patriarchal power rather than challenges it." And Gloria Steinem, America's

Alice Walker and goddaughter of Gloria Steinem. She voiced her opinions about Palin in the Huffington Post.

"Sarah Palin became mayor of her town, governor of her state, and has now secured the Vice Presidential nomination for the Republican Party of her country. She accomplished this using the basic doctrine of feminism: female empowerment. Many feminists are now trying to distance themselves from the result of their own work by launching scathing critiques of Sarah Palin, conservative women, and anyone else with the audacity to point out the connection between Palin's rise and the last forty years of feminist ideology ... To date, feminist think-tanks, powerful feminist icons, and the leadership of major, national women's organizations have done the dirty business of policing feminism ... Sarah Palin is being presented as the new and improved, moose hunting Gloria Steinem."

Cathy Young, a contributing editor for the libertarian monthly magazine "Reason" felt the attacks on Palin by women are unfair and vitriolic.



October 5, 2008
Raindate October 12

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Stand Up & Out: An Evening of Gay & Lesbian Comedy

NORTHAMPTON, MA—*The Academy of Music Theatre* will make its hilarious first foray into standup comedy with the Nov. 8 Stand Up & Out: An Evening of Gay & Lesbian Comedy.

Presented by *Scamps Comedy Productions*, the show features four top professional comedians from Boston and New York: Bob Gautreau, Jackie Monahan, Amy Tee and Greg Rodrigues. The performance is being sponsored by The Rainbow Times.

With a dynamic repertoire of more than 300 celebrity voices, from Robert DeNiro to Martha Stewart, Bob Gautreau has been called a "veritable cyclone of pop culture" and lays claim to the title of New England's top impressionist. The former Provincetown Entertainer of the Year began his career as female impersonator Tony Rose, creating the "Mama Rosa" character that remains a favorite part of his act. He's a leading choice of comedy clubs, cruise ships, colleges and corporate events around the Northeast, as well as in Las Vegas and Atlantic City. Gautreau, who outed himself on A&E's *Evening at the Improv*, has also appeared on HBO, NBC's *Last Comic Standing* and most recently on *The Next Best Thing*. In 2008, he was a featured performer at two events for *The Human Rights Campaign*, in San Antonio, Texas and in Kansas City.

Fresh, disarming, original and hugely funny, Jackie Monahan has become a local favorite at New York City's Gotham and Caroline's on Broadway, while also playing clubs and colleges around the country with the LOL Tour. She's well-known to fans of Sirius Satellite Radio and VH-1 for her appearances on those outlets, and for those who saw her special on LOGO. She also has a hit podcast, "Girls on Girls" on the HERE network. She will shock and make you think, and has been known to make her audiences tinkle.

Identified as a rising star by the Boston Globe, Amy Tee is one of the busiest comedians on the

New England scene. Her surprising observations and illuminating presence have scored points with mainstream and alternative audiences from Los Angeles to Provincetown, whether she's performing in world famous comedy clubs, theaters, or lesser-known holes in the wall. Her takes on life as a "lesbian in the mainstream" are delivered with a quiet style that belies its edgy content, leading the audience to laughter and nods of agreement. Amy is a regular performer at the Boston Comedy Festival, and audio clips of her performances there have been played on XM Satellite Radio. Since 2007, Amy has headlined her own show in Provincetown, and was the co-headliner in "Two Dyke Minimum," a standup tour that has played in clubs and theaters in six northeast states. Currently she is featured in *All Out Films' Laughing Matters...* Next Gen, airing on LOGO. She recently worked with Monahan in "Two Dyke Minimum," and with Gautreau at a *Human Rights Campaign* event.

Whether opening for national acts at Boston's Comedy Connection, doing showcase sets at the respected Comedy Studio in Harvard Square, Cambridge, or performing in mainstream suburban rooms on the Dick Doherty Pro Comedy Tour, Greg Rodrigues has established himself as one funny, original and versatile professional comedian in Boston. Rodrigues is a mainstay in the mainstream comedy clubs and GLBT venues, benefits and showcases. He is a regular at the annual Boston Comedy Festival.

Show time is 8 p.m. and tickets cost \$20, available at www.ScampsComedy.com, Pride & Joy Books in Northampton, Food for Thought Books in Amherst, World Eye Books in Greenfield, Mass. and at the box office the night of the show.

The Academy of Music Theatre is at 274 Main Street, Northampton, MA.

For more information, check www.ScampsComedy.com, or call the Academy at 413-584-9032.

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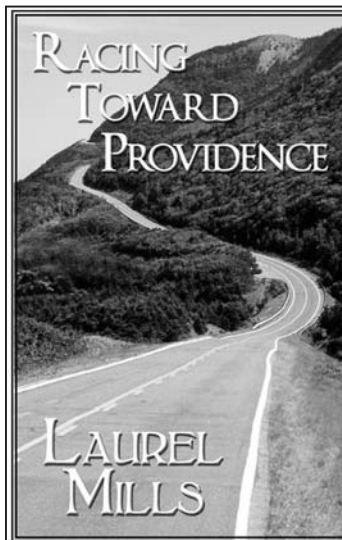
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Friday, Oct. 17, 11:00 a.m.-12:30

Books on the Square, Providence, RI
Tuesday, Oct. 21, 7:00 p.m.

Street Sense

John McCain's choice of Sarah Palin as his VP running mate has created quite a stir. Do you feel this decision will help the Republican Party ticket and bring Hillary supporters over?



Efrain Carrasquillo
Peer Advocate
The Damien House
Albany NY

"This choice of Palin is going to be a disservice to the Rep. Party. Hillary supporters will stay with the Democrats. I'm definitely voting Democrat!"



Chris Holmes
Volunteer Co-Ordinator
The Damien House
Albany, NY

"No, I think it will have the opposite effect. Those who actually looked at her will go strong Democrat now. I had the displeasure of listening to her speak and her views are extreme. She should go back to where she came from and stay there."



Darlene Orvieto
Owner/Chiropractor
Core Chiropractic Clinic
Easthampton, MA

"No, I don't think we are that stupid. I don't think it's going to help them at all. People are going to get disgusted and want change. It's not going to help the McCain ticket—bad move."



Eve Soucie
Student/mother
Florence, MA

"I do not think it's going to influence people or help the Republican Party at all. I don't think Democrats will cross over. [I think it's] just a bad choice."

National Survey on Transgender experiences of discrimination in the U.S.

All members of the transgender community are invited to participate in a research project regarding transgender and gender non-conforming people in the United States. Your responses will be part of an important report on transgender people's experiences of discrimination in housing, employment, health care and education.

Identifying information, such as your name, and information you provide on the survey will remain confidential.

The results of the survey will be part of an important report on discrimination against transgender people by the National Center for Transgender Equality and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force to help create better opportunities for transgender and gender non-



conforming people.

The online survey can be fully completed online. Participant's responses and participation are confidential. Participants must be 18 years of age or older to

participate. The survey results will be submitted directly to a secure server where any computer identification that might identify participants is deleted from the submissions. Comments provided will be analyzed using content analysis and submitted as an appendix to the survey report. Quotes from submitted comments will also be used throughout the report to give "voice" to the quantitative data.

There are no risks in participating in this

research beyond those experienced in everyday life. Some of the questions are personal and might cause discomfort. In the event that any questions asked are disturbing, you may stop responding to the survey at any time. Participants who experience discomfort are encouraged to contact:

The Trevor Project: 866-4-U-TREVOR

The Trevor Helpline is the only national crisis and suicide prevention helpline for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth; the Helpline can also help transgender and gender non-conforming adults. The Helpline is a free and confidential service that offers hope and someone to talk to, 24/7. Trained counselors listen and understand

without judgment.

In the event of any publication or presentation resulting from the research, no personally identifiable information will be shared. Participation in this research is voluntary. If you decide to participate, you do not have to answer any questions on the survey that you do not wish to answer. By completing the survey, your informed consent will be implied. Please note that you can choose to withdraw your responses at any time before you submit your answers. Refusal to take part in this research study will involve no consequences.

To take part in this study, please visit: <https://online.survey.psu.edu/endtransdiscrim/>

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Queer Cinema You Can't Miss!

Almost Myself (T)

Genre: Documentary; Rating: Not yet rated
Distribution: Limited Release
Director: Tom Murray; Release Date: 00/00/00
Notes: Premiered at 2006 Newfest
Synopsis: Director Tom Murray explores the lives of a group of diverse MTFs in this documentary.

Be Like Others (LGBT)

Genre: Documentary; Rating: Not yet rated
Distribution: Limited Release; Release Date: 00/00/00
Notes: Premiered at 2008 Sundance Film Festival
Synopsis: In a country where homosexuality remains an offense punishable by death, this documentary shows that many young gay men and women in Iran are opting to undergo gender reassignment surgery, which is their only legal option under their country's interpretation of Islamic law. This film explores a culture in which shame and fear have led many to take extreme measures in an attempt to find acceptance.

Bi the Way (B)

Genre: Documentary; Rating: Not yet rated
Distribution: Limited Release
Director: Britanny Blockman and Josephine Decker
Release Date: 00/00/00
Notes: Screened at the Miami Gay & Lesbian Film Festival (2008)
Synopsis: A docu about bisexuality on the rise.

Bigger, Stronger, Faster (G)

Genre: Documentary; Rating: Not yet rated
Distribution: Limited Release
Director: Christopher Bell
Release Date: 00/00/00
Notes: Premiered at 2008 Sundance Film Festival
Synopsis: After his two brothers found themselves caught up in the dangerous subculture of performance-enhancing drugs and steroids, director Christopher Bell decided to turn his camera on the social pressures that lead some to take drastic steps in pursuit of physical perfection. Among those interviewed is an HIV-positive man and proponent of

A gathering of LGBT grandparents in Mass.

First meeting of LGBT grandparents ever in New England

The non-profit **Stonewall Communities Lifelong Learning Institute** at Wheelock College is convening the first-ever-in-New-England gathering for LGBT Grandparents on Saturday, November 15, 2008 at the Brookline campus of Wheelock College (just off Beacon St., between Kenmore Square & Coolidge Corner) from 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

The two keynote speakers are Dr. Nancy Orel, Bowling Green State University, who has done research and written on LGBT grandparents; and Denise Simmons, Mayor of

Cambridge, who is also a lesbian grandmother.

The fee for the event is \$20, but it is free to those 75 and over. A limited number of scholarships are available.

This gathering also features opportunities to share resources and experiences, connect, learn and celebrate. The organizer will provide lunch too. To register, contact: info@stonewallcommunities.com or call (617) 369-9090.

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Show Girl: An interview with Kristine W.

By: Mikey Rox*

Dance-music mainstay Kristine W. wears many hats.

Every one brims with vim.

In a recent interview, the veteran performer reflects on her 20-plus-year career—from working the beauty pageant circuit and collecting a check from The Colonel (think Memphis, not Louisville) to raising a family and fighting for her life.

And that's just the half of it.

Kristine—otherwise known as the fab Ms. W to her loyal legion—also discusses her latest album *Power of Music*, and in a world exclusive reveals the results of a MySpace contest for fans to choose the song they'd most like to hear on her soon-to-be-released Christmas CD.

Our vote?

"Come All Ye Faithful."

MIKEY ROX: Before we get into the meat and potatoes of this thing, let's take a minute to admire you! I read somewhere that since your debut album in 1996, you've broken records previously held by Madonna and Janet Jackson for consecutive hits on the Billboard Club Play chart. Is that true?

KRISTINE W.: Yes, that's true! I'm very proud of that, and I owe that success to my fans that continue to inspire me.

MR: In the early 1980s you were a contestant in the Miss America competition. Did you ever have to kick a bitch's ass backstage?

KW: Yes, it was the mid-80s and one of the girls put water in my hairspray bottle. I told them all if I find out who did it they'll be missing some teeth—so don't f@&* with me. [Laughs] That shocked 'em.

MR: Considering you sordid past (wink), it's no wonder you have such an avid gay following! But I've always wondered, how does one get an avid gay following? I mean, it's not like you set out to be the next Betty White. Right?

KW: Being a gay icon just happened organically. One minute I was in London performing for straight people in straight clubs. The next, I'm in NYC with 2,000 half-naked men. Pretty fun!

MR: I've seen the company you keep—Junior Vasquez, RuPaul, etc. So it might be more appropriate to ask that question differently. Do you know any straight people?

KW: Yes, I have straight friends! [Laughs] You would not believe the diversity of my friendship pool. It's hilarious!

MR: There's no easy transition into this next question so I'll just come out with it: While making it in Vegas on your own is admirable,



KRISTINE W.

overcoming leukemia is a modern-day miracle. My brother passed away from the disease in 2002 at age 22, so I know firsthand the devastation cancer can cause the people it affects. What were your thoughts when you were diagnosed, and how did the battle to beat the disease change your life?

KW: I was devastated when I was diagnosed, angry, scared. I cried for about three days straight. Then I called upon my faith and I knew I had to be a soldier rather than a victim. The odds of my survival were pretty slim so I needed to really focus and educate myself on the disease. The two-year battle changed my priorities. I have always been in love with my two children since they were born. I know their love saved me and gave me the fight to hang in there. Children and music, that's my focus—and without a doubt, I have seen the power of love and the power of music through them and my loyal fan base.

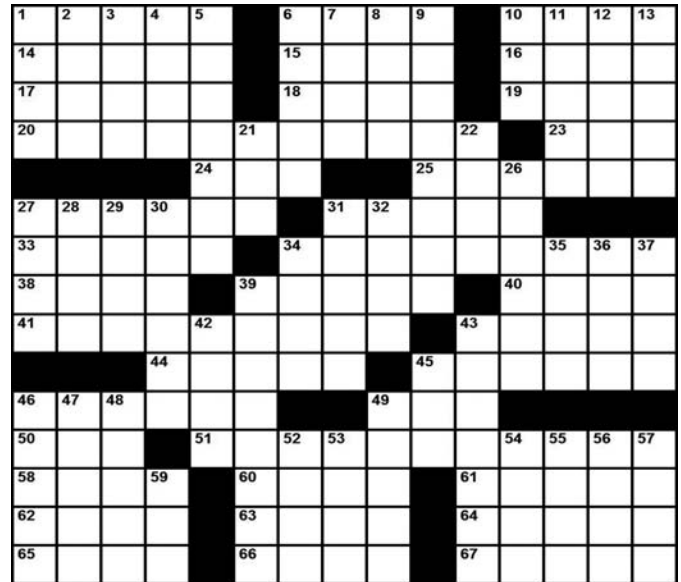
MR: Your October calendar is filling up fast. First up is the "Come Out with Pride Parade" at Disney World, which is way late since the annual Gay Days is in June. So what's the significance? Is this your first time participating?

KW: This is the first time I've performed at Orlando Pride, so I'm really excited about it! We've had some amazing shows at *The Parliament House*, and I know how fun the people in Orlando are. So watch out and fasten your wig on, honey!

See Kristine W. on Page 28

Q Puzzle: Lesbian/Woman

A crossword tribute to the late Del Martin



Across

- 1 Rainbow flag sticker sites, often
- 6 Candace Gingrich's half-brother
- 10 Guy under Hoover
- 14 Dinah of a golf classic
- 15 State where two women could be in a marriage, formerly
- 16 One of the Three Bears
- 17 Like phone sex
- 18 Internally pink
- 19 Problem for a drag queen's hosiery
- 20 Longtime spouse of Del Martin
- 23 Dupont Cir., on the Metro
- 24 Fruit eater
- 25 Go nuts
- 27 Rupert Everett and Simon Callow
- 31 Selected guys to play with
- 33 Band members blow them
- 34 With 41-Across, organization founded by Del Martin
- 38 Prissy hissy
- 39 Role for Barbra
- 40 Stephen McCauley's ____ Enough
- 41 See 34-Across
- 43 "Mary" and "Nelly," e.g.
- 44 Revolutionary of Colette's country
- 45 Sleep with Kahlo?
- 46 Gay novelist Harlan
- 49 Kid of a parent's sib
- 50 *Breakfast on Pluto* actor Stephen
- 51 Mayor who officiated at the marriage of Del Martin and 20-Across
- 58 Nick was his master
- 60 Janet or niece Hunter
- 61 Debussy contemporary Erik
- 62 What either bride may wear
- 63 Foreman, formerly of NGLTF
- 64 Treating as a sexual object
- 65 Katharine's Butch Cassidy role
- 66 Fruit flavor for gin
- 67 Hooded coat at Telluride

Down

- 1 Lickety-split (abbr.)
- 2 Ejaculation of refusal
- 3 Party affiliation of M.P. Alan Duncan
- 4 Type of stimulation
- 5 Wall Street bears
- 6 Career option for Jack McFarland
- 7 And others, for Caesar
- 8 Tight-assed
- 9 Field for Jane Spahr
- 10 Execs in Glenn Burke's sport
- 11 Home for Troy Perry
- 12 Place for a G-string
- 13 Pester, as Albert to Armand
- 21 Dr. George O'Malley has them inserted
- 22 Enjoy some ladyfingers, e.g.
- 26 Sink to the bottom
- 27 Facetious "I see"
- 28 Eastern, to the NY Liberty
- 29 Hulbert Creek to Russian Riv.
- 30 How punctual people come
- 31 "Shut your pie hole!"
- 32 Barbarians that are almost hung?
- 34 What a computer may spit out
- 35 Hunks of history
- 36 Smallest member
- 37 Nintendo rival
- 39 They take a powder and shoot off
- 42 Singer k.d.
- 43 Estimates the stats of
- 45 Jason to Barbra
- 46 "... you shall find me a ____ man" (Shakespeare)
- 47 International Gay Bowling Organization button
- 48 Weird Al Yankovic song about blow jobs?
- 49 100 smackers
- 52 Young meat
- 53 Sondheim's ____ the Woods
- 54 Cary Grant's I ____ Male War Bride
- 55 Direction from Stephen Pyles
- 56 Poking noise?

Solution of Puzzle on Page 28

Got a Short Film to submit?

Are you an LGBT filmmaker looking for a place to showcase your short films? If you'd like to tell us about your work, please send an email to us at: shortfilm@logoonline.com. Please include your name, email address, phone number and a brief synopsis of your short film. It's that easy!

Queer Voices from NY

Passing the torch: Yates is CDGLCC's new director

By: Paul P. Jesepe*

Norah Yates has been Executive Director of the Albany, New York-based Capital District Gay and Lesbian Community Council (CDGLCC) since April 2008. Although it has been only about six months, she has hit the ground running impressing many with her focus, warmth, and determination to take the Council to new heights. Ms. Yates follows the very able Keith Hornbrook, widely praised for his energy, sensitivity, and commitment to the LGBT community.

According to Ms. Yates, "My vision for the Council is for it to become a statewide leader for LGBT people." She wants the organization to provide "comprehensive programs that empower people where they are. We are in the seat of New York State government. Therefore, we should be the heart of the movement for equality."

She reminds people that "Harvey Milk, one of the founders of the national LGBT movement, went to the University at Albany. He worked with many of the founders of the Council to start the 'gay liberation movement.' The Council was central to the LGBT movement then and it is central to it now." The organization is the oldest continuously operating gay and lesbian community center in the country.

Ms. Yates adds, "CDGLCC has such a rich history. The new programs on the horizon are very exciting as we gear up for our 40th Anniversary." Community members 55 and older are benefiting from the *Vintage Pride* program. The *New York State Department of Health* recently provided a grant to assist older community members with health issues who may be living alone. Another new program is the *TransPride Art Show* at the Council's Romaine Brooks Art Gallery. One of its goals is to bring together "transgender, genderqueer people, and trans allies" who express their voice in art. And Council headquarters is now a meeting place for *Weight Watchers* to help further healthy habits in the LGBT community.

The warmth and responsiveness toward friend and stranger alike Ms. Yates shows may stem from her father who passed away in 2005.

"Without a doubt," she said, "my father" had the biggest impact" on my life. "I realized all the gifts that he gave me, like patience, compassion, and respect for everyone."

She combines these qualities with resolve, kindness, and passion with a gentle, determined strength. In addition to Dad, her heroes include "those people that get up everyday and



Norah Yates (right), and her wife Erika at the Capital Pride kick-off BBQ.

Photo by: Times Union

have a vision to change the world. They could be community organizers, politicians, or even high school students that are coming out and changing their school."

Ms. Yates comes to the table with an impressive academic and professional pedigree. In 1999, she graduated cum laude from the *State University of New York at Albany* (SUNY) with a degree in Women's Studies and French Studies. A year later she earned a Master's degree in Women's Studies. Currently, she is pursuing a Master's in Public Administration.

Prior to leading the Council, she served as Field Director for the Albany-based *Empire State Pride Agenda*. Ms. Yates coordinated the *Marriage Ambassador* program and trained and organized volunteers throughout the state. Prior to this work she was a Project Manager for *Kaleel Jamison Consulting Group* conducting corporate diversity training. In addition, she has been an Adjunct Faculty member of Women's Studies at *SUNY* and the *College of St. Rose*, both in Albany.

One of her proudest professional accomplishments includes "the work that I have done around the state mobilizing and empowering people to advocate for marriage equality. It was great to see that all people, with the right tools could become amazing spokespersons and savvy political advocates and make change in their communities. I'm excited to bring those same skills and experiences to the Capital Region in my new position."

Some of this work may have been one of the factors that influenced Gov. David A. Paterson to make the state recognize all marriage and civil unions legally performed in another jurisdiction. Although a marriage bill passed the *New York State Assembly*, it stalled in the Senate.

Gov. Paterson, a supporter of same-sex marriage, validated them in a deft, masterful way. He kept to a simple legal argument. New York

has always recognized the laws of other states. As chief executive, according to the Governor, he has a constitutional duty to enforce the law.

Not surprisingly, the proudest personal accomplishment for Ms. Yates is "taking the plunge and marrying my wife [Erika]." She added that "it was a hard decision, since as a lesbian, marriage wasn't really something I had considered. But she wanted to get married and I love her ... so we had a great wedding and call ourselves 'wife.'"

The family of Ms. Yates also includes "three fur-babies. Piper, a German Sheppard mix that showed up on our doorstep one night. Decade is a beagle that my wife has had since he was a puppy." The third child in the family is "a very fat cat named GusGus who thinks he's a dog."

Ms. Yates, her wife, and two of the dogs (not the reincarnated dog in a cat's body) enjoy hiking. According to her, "[We] try to get to nature any chance [we] get."

Despite the significant impact she's already made in the lives of many New Yorkers, Ms. Yates doesn't take herself too seriously. There is a genuine lightheartedness to her personality. Although she's a published poet, Ms. Yates impishly says that "I think every 5 years I can write a good poem." In her poetry, she hopes that the "reader can take away some sense of my experience and relate it to his or her own."

One could surmise that this cultured, French-speaking poet, activist and change-agent would rank foreign films as her all time favorites. "Well, to be honest," she says, "I love zombie movies. Ask any of my friends. I talk about zombies and the pending zombie outbreak, like it's going to happen tomorrow. Zombie movies are by far my favorite."

Ironically, this may make sense. The pale, Hollywood-stumbling-moaners can be a metaphor for the harm that greater society inflicts on the LGBT community. Whatever the reason for Ms. Yates to appreciate a good zombie flick, she carries herself with an upbeat, sunny disposition.

"I'm so happy to have such an engaged group of volunteers and community members," she says, "all working to make the Council even better. The Council changes people's lives by connecting them to a broader community. It gives them the resources they need to live their fullest life. It empowers them as LGBT people to make change and be proud of who they are." And now the LGBT community can be proud of Ms. Yates for the example she sets in living with dignity and loving one's personhood.

* Paul is a practicing attorney in Albany, priest and prelate in the Eastern Orthodox Church, and author of "Crucifying Jesus and

Secularizing America—the Republic of Faith without Wisdom. He lives in Schenectady and may be reached at VladykaPaulPeter@aol.com.

Kristine W. from Page 27

MR: BTW, I must say, you don't look your age at all. I won't tell the world the actual number—I'll leave that to your discretion—but how do you keep yourself looking so ... sexy? You Mouserercise, don't you?

KW: I eat healthy, dark chocolate, sex, champagne, exercise, and loving my cool gay friends that make me laugh. It seems to be working.

MR: Your newest single, "The Boss," from the upcoming *Power of Music*, recently earned you your 11th #1 Billboard track. Can we expect more of the same when the record drops later this year? Any collabos we should look out for?

KW: My next single from *Power of Music* is called "Never," and I'm also releasing a seven-song Christmas EP called "Hey, Mr. Christmas." It's a very uplifting project because the holidays can be a bummer for a lot of people. It's definitely good medicine. We asked my MySpace peeps which Christmas song they would most like to see me redo and we put the winner on the album. I will tell the world for the first time in this interview which one it was—it was a dance mix of "Hard Candy Christmas" How's that for new scoop! I'm also working with [pianist] Jim Brickman at the moment—so stay tuned.

Kristine W. will be in Boston on Oct. 18 for a charity event called *Pink Party* hosted by *Save the Tatas*.

* Who is Mikey Rox? Who gives a #@%#! But you can find him at www.mikeyrox.com.

Q Puzzle Solution from P. 27

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What if the Star Quarterback of the High School Team was Gay?

[Award-Winning AP and ESPN.com Sports Writer's Debut Novel "Out of the Pocket" Tells the Inspiring Story of a Gay High School Star Quarterback]

New York, NY—Recently Dutton Publishing released *Out of the Pocket* by Bill Konigsberg, an award-winning national sports writer. Konigsberg's debut novel tells the fictional coming out story of Bobby Framingham, a 17-year-old star quarterback living in Orange County, California. In a time when there are over 3,500 Gay-Straight Alliances supporting gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) high school students, there remains a remarkable absence of openly gay student athletes, particularly in team sports such as football.

"I wanted to write a book that realistically delved into where we are now in terms of gays in sports," said Konigsberg. "Clearly the world has changed in the last decade or two, and the novel is a lot lighter than it would have been years ago. But there's still a long way for us to go. I wanted to show that a Bobby Framingham can exist and thrive, but that there are major barriers to overcome for openly gay student athletes."

The School Library Journal praises the book, calling it "a thought-provoking, funny, and ultimately uplifting story of self-actualization that masterfully defies stereotypes about both coming out and team sports." Additionally, *Out of the Pocket* has received



BILL KONIGSBERG

the accolade of inclusion in the Fall 2008 "Indie Next List" by the American Booksellers Association.

Written for a young adult audience, *Out of the Pocket* is about 17-year-old quarterback Bobby Framingham. He knows he's different from his teammates. While they are like brothers on the field, they don't know one essential thing: Bobby is gay. Can he still be one of the guys and be honest about who he is? When he's outed against his will by a student

reporter, Bobby must find a way to earn back his teammates' trust and accept that his path to success might be more public, and more difficult, than he'd hoped.

PRAISE FOR OUT OF THE POCKET

"*Out of the Pocket* tells the truth. Bill Konigsberg has created a funny, compelling, haunting story about growing up different, and in the spotlight. This book is for anyone who cares about understanding bigotry." —Chris Crutcher, author of *Whale Talk* and *King of the Mild Frontier*

"Bill Konigsberg scores a touchdown with *Out of the Pocket*, a heartfelt story that captures the intimacy of sports and the complexity of teens." —Alex Sanchez, author of *Rainbow Boys* and *The God Box*

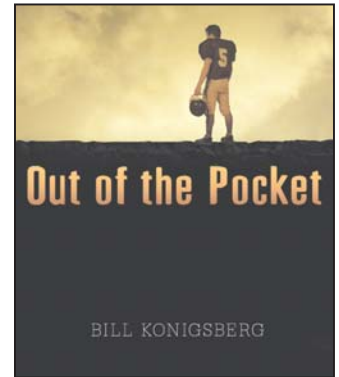
"It's tough enough completing your pass as the linebackers blitz, but when your private life is also crashing in, the game is about survival. A hard-hitting first novel about quarterbacking your life." —Robert Lipsyte, author of *Raiders Night*

"How I rooted for Bobby, and all his imperfect, complicated, oh-so-human friends."

—Catherine Gilbert Murdock, author of *Dairy Queen* and *The Off Season*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bill Konigsberg is an award-winning sports journalist who currently writes for *The Associated Press*. He has covered the *New York Yankees* and *Mets*, and his weekly fanta-



sy baseball column has appeared in newspapers across the country. In May of 2001, while working as an assistant editor at ESPN.com, he came out on the front page of the website in an article entitled "Sports World Still a Struggle for Gays." That article won him a GLAAD Media Award. Since then, he has spoken at venues across the country about what it is like to be one of the few openly gay people in sports media. Dutton will release his second novel, *Not Exactly Peyton Manning*, in 2010. Bill received his MFA in Creative Writing from Arizona State in 2005. For more information: www.billkonigsberg.com.

C'mon Out from Page 2

Hi:

I just started college here and I am anxious all the time. I'm having a hard time concentrating on my work, feeling comfortable with people I am meeting and I'm not sleeping well. Can you give me some advice?

—A Nervous Wreck

Dear One:

Anxiety has become commonplace in our

Hundreds to participate in SAGE's 4th National Conference on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Aging this month

NEW YORK, NY—Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Elders (SAGE) is holding their Fourth National Conference on LGBT Aging. "It's About Time: LGBT Aging in a Changing World." This year's conference is sponsored by the AARP, the nearly 40 million member strong nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization serving people over 50 years old.

Over 75 sessions in the areas of service delivery, program development, health & wellness, spirituality and faith issues, policy shifts, cultural competency training, advocacy, current research trends, sexuality, access challenges, long term care, housing, and more.

Over the next quarter century, the number of seniors in America is projected to grow from 12% to 20% of the total population. By 2030, the population of LGBT seniors age 65 and above is expected jump from 2.5 million to as many as 4.7 million as a result. The

society. Millions of Americans suffer from it. And its causes are numerous. Without knowing you and coming to understand your specific situation I can not, I'm afraid, address your anxiety with much accuracy. I would advise you to seek someone professionally that you can talk to. This way, with help, you can begin to understand the specific things that are creating your anxiety and what to do about them.

I will however give you some general tips that are great for anyone experiencing stress.

needs and challenges facing the current generation of LGBT seniors differ from their heterosexual counterparts in profound ways. LGBT seniors are twice as likely to live alone; half as likely to have life partners or significant others; half as likely to have no close relatives to call for help; and four times less likely to have children to help them.

For professionals, researchers, providers, all Seniors and others interested in LGBT aging issues, SAGE's Fourth National Conference is a wonderful opportunity to get the information and tools needed to improve life for older LGBT people. The 4th National Conference on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Aging "It's About Time: LGBT Aging in a Changing World" will be held on October 12-14, at the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge, 333 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201.

For more information and to register for the conference, please visit: www.sageusa.org.

Hopefully they can help some.

Make sure you do some things every day that bring enjoyment and relaxation. For some exercise does this, a hot bath, reading something unrelated to school, just to name a few. Eat well. Avoid caffeine and sugar since they are known culprits in making people jittery. Before bed, develop a routine that is relaxing. A little light stretching or listening to relaxing music are examples of this. Give yourself at least 30 minutes for these activities. Avoid things that will likely keep you up thinking and worrying. And get outside each of these beautiful days and let the sunshine warm you.

All things do change especially our moods. So get some help and take good care of yourself.

Best, **Tetty**

C'mon Out! Submit your questions to Tetty Gorfine, Director of LifeCourse Counseling Center. Simply go to www.lifeecourse.net and click on "Ask Us A Question." All questions will be answered on the bulletin board. One or two will be printed next month here in The Rainbow Times.

* Tetty has been a psychotherapist since 1980. She has worked extensively with LGBTQ individuals, couples and groups and has supervised both clinicians and therapists in training. Her vision and leadership spirited nearly all of LifeCourse Counseling Center's programs. Tetty has also been on numerous radio talk shows and television programs. She has presented at professional conferences on topics pertinent to gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender individuals.



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The Outfield: Running for Many Reasons



By: Dan Woog*

In high school, Joe Simenic always ran. His goal was tangible—the finish line of a cross-country or long-distance race—but looking back, he realizes he sought something else.

"Running can be an outlet," he explains. "It's a way to relieve stress, to take the focus off other parts of your life you're not completely happy with."

For Simenic, that meant his sexuality. He realized he was gay in his early teens, but for years did not fully accept it. He was much happier with his identity as a runner at a Cleveland-area high school, where he competed strongly at the regional level.

Still conflicted about his sexuality, Simenic was accepted at the United States Military Academy, and entered in the summer of 2001. It was a good fit: He continued running, and in many ways avoided dealing with being gay.

"West Point was great," he says. "You're so busy, you're never thrown into a lot of social situations where you have to interact with women." That was not the reason he applied—he truly wanted to be an Army officer, learning how lead while overcoming the academy's storied physical and academic challenges—but it was an added benefit.

As a plebe, Simenic was one of two walk-ons for the cross-country team. Competing for a Division I program made him a much better runner. But balancing the demands of a varsity sport with life as a cadet proved difficult, so he spent his last three years on the less intense marathon team. "Less intense" is relative, of course: Simenic ran in a number of grueling races, including three Boston Marathons.

West Point was "a very heterosexual institution," Simenic says. The only time he heard gay issues discussed seriously was in a professional military ethics class his senior year.

Otherwise, gay topics were treated either as a joke, or something hush-hush.

However, he says, "I really enjoyed the people. And West Point changed me quite a bit. I'm definitely more disciplined. A lot of times it sucked there, but I knew going in it would."

Discipline is a common theme in much of Simenic's life. Recently, he's taken his commitment to a new level: competing in the triathlon. Inspired by West Point swimming instructor Lou Tharp's book, *Overachiever's Diary*, Simenic decided to give the spectacularly demanding swim/bike/run event a shot. With the help of Tharp and coach Stefan Bill, Simenic spent much of the year improving his weakness—swimming—in preparation for a series of competitions this past summer.

Like long-distance running and West Point, the triathlon demands intense focus, along with physical pain. Is there a correlation between that concentration and drive, and examining (or not) one's sexuality?

"There are a number of gay athletes in endurance sports," Simenic notes. "It's a great way to beat up your body and punish yourself. It may be a way to get away from our thoughts and escape."

Yet Simenic notes another side to such punishment. Competing in endurance sports may also give an athlete time and space to ponder important things—like sexuality.

Another reason gays gravitate to endurance sports, Simenic says, is the chance to prove oneself to others. "You think, 'Not only can I do this, but I can do it better than you.' As gay people, we're always trying to gain acceptance in some part of our lives, to compensate for another part where we may not be as accepted."

Endurance sports might also lend themselves more to acceptance of gays than team sports. "It's hard to quantify," says Simenic. "But people can detach themselves better. There's not as much touching, not as much of the relying-on-team aspect." He agrees, too,



JOE SIMENIC

with the theory espoused by Triple Ironman competitor Christopher Bergland: Because endurance athletes are so focused on their own training and competitive regimens, they don't have time to worry about anyone else's life.

When he was younger, Simenic says, his embrace of endurance sports as a way to deal with sexuality was subconscious. While still not completely comfortable with his sexuality, he is now aware of his issues. And, he says, "I've come a long way since the military."

Most people in the triathlon world know he is gay. In part, that's because he makes training videos with gay.com. So far, there has been no backlash. In fact, few people care. That allows him to concentrate on other aspects of life—this year, he completes his graduate degree at Columbia University's School of Public Affairs - and prepare for a career in government or consulting.

Simenic believes he may not have pushed himself as hard had he not been gay. "That's probably been a driving force in my life," he says. "But it's less so now than when I was in the Army. I'm still young, but now I push myself for my own sake. Being gay is less of a factor. I realize I don't have to prove anything to anyone."

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

Q Classifieds

PERSONALS

Trans

"SWEET TRANSVESTITE" MTF, 51, smiling, slim, healthy, balanced, love to shop, garden, cook, kayak, kiss. Looking for a GG as sweet as me to ride off into the sunset with. Contact "Jennifer" at: j.nytop@yahoo.com.

Men 4 Men

Hey, 18 yo looking for a man in Western MA, for romantic relationship... under 20 ONLY. Thanks. Contact: Josh at PrynceShybo@gmail.com

I am open-minded, nice, intelligent, good looking in an old fashioned way, youthful and historical. Contact Douglas at Doross51@yahoo.com

BiCurious

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Springfield/Noho area. Very new to scene and testing the waters. Great sense of humor and kind heart. College educated and intelligent. Contact Ashley at honour_huston@hotmail.com or call 413.883.0396.

Women 4 women

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Looking for other women for outdoor activities: biking, hiking, and cross country skiing. I like to cook, especially coming up with healthy tasty recipes. Walks in the woods, sitting by a cozy fire,

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