

# The Rainbow Times

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

PHOTO: JESUS CORDERO



**JUSTIN  
TIMBERLAKE'S  
GOT THE BEAT**  
p14

PHOTO: SCREEN GEMS



**TRT HERO!  
COREY  
YARBROUGH  
LEADING THE  
HBGC** p4

PHOTO: MEGHAN REESE

**FENWAY HEALTH HONORS  
SHERIFF ANDREA CABRAL** p5



PHOTO: MARILYN HUMPHRIES

**The Queen of Latin Pop:  
GLORIA  
Reaches Out to the Gays** p9

**RI: SlutWalk and why it is needed** p19  
**CT: Divas In A Man's World® at Mohegan Sun benefits organization** p16  
**CT Pride, Rainbow RiverFest, Out in the Park & Latin@ Pride pics** p6, 12, 13 & 21

# Obama addresses HRC National Dinner

## My choice is clear, is yours?

OPINION

By: Nicole Lashomb/TRT Editor-in-Chief

On October 1, President Barack Obama took center stage at the 15th Annual HRC National Dinner as a guest speaker. It took me back to his early campaign years where the masses were moved, energized and inspired by his optimistic words. That night was no different.

Once the address was over, it invigorated even my own personal efforts in fighting for equality, which is a fight that will likely take decades or longer to achieve. If only I was born today, perhaps I would know what it meant to live in a bias-free America. Or, perhaps that is too optimistic. Regardless, I'm in the fight for at least this life-time.

Recently, one of the Republican Presidential debates was broadcasted on practically every major news station around the country. I was deeply disturbed, particularly when a gay soldier posed a question to the candidates about the repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' and sickeningly, audience members booed him, as if living his "lifestyle," according to them, was somehow in violation of their rights or righteousness. That night, I was perplexed and disappointed in the Republican audience and the mentality of certain citizens of our country. Not only does the Republican party typically oppose anything that is not majority driven (Caucasian, straight, and male), but then the audience thought it was acceptable to boo a patriot who was keeping their "beloved country," as many of them claim, safe from harm's way. To make it worse, the candidates themselves, one of which could become the leader of this country, never condemned such an action. The vow of silence speaks loudly. The President shared his thoughts about the un-patriotic forum as well in his speech.

"We don't believe in a small America," said President Obama. "We don't believe in the kind of smallness that says it's ok for a stage full of political leaders, where one of them could become president of the United States, being silent when an American soldier is being booed. We don't believe in that. We don't believe in standing silent when that happens, we don't believe in them being silent since. You want to be Commander-in-Chief; you can start by standing up for the men and women who wear the uniform of the United States, even when it's not politically convenient," he said to a standing ovation.

He continued to fire-up the audience by reminding them of what exactly he has accomplished in the LGBT quest for equality. Some of those accomplishments include the enacting of the Matthew Sheppard Act, the implementation of LGBT hospital visitation and critical health-care decision making rights, a lift on the HIV travel ban, establishing the first comprehensive national strategy to fight HIV/AIDS, and the repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.' Additionally, he echoed his commitment to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act.

"There's a bill to repeal this discriminatory law in Congress and I want to see that passed but until we reach that day, my administration is no longer defending DOMA in the courts," said the President as the crowd cheered. "I believe the law once countered the Constitution and it's time for it to end once and for all. It should join 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' in the history books."

To me, the choice for 2012 is clear. No matter who took office in 2008 or who takes it in 2012, the United States, under the reign of George W. Bush plummeted into a financial crisis when trillions worth of debt was incurred. It was only a matter of time before it caught up with us. So, if the American people are looking for a quick fix to the U.S. economy, it isn't going to happen. After all, it took us 8 years to get into this mess in the first place. However, what I do know for certain is that I want an advocate for me, my family, and my friends that isn't afraid to stand-up against adversaries, bullies, and politician mishaps. I want someone in office who believes in the good of ALL people and not just the privileged some and someone who will continue to fight diligently for the inalienable rights that we all deserve.

"Every American gay, straight, lesbian, bisexual transgender, every single American deserves to be treated equal in the eyes of the law and the eyes of society," the President said. "It's a pretty simple proposition."

*Nicole Lashomb*

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

# Free LGBT Expo in Middletown, Conn.

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

Join us on October 18th for our 4th annual LGBT business expo! This event is FREE for anyone who RSVP's on the CABO website - www.thecabo.org.

Each October CABO members come together to show off their products, services and their commitment to the LGBT community. Are you looking for a place to get insurance? Need a lawyer? How about a realtor? Need someone to design that website you've been putting off for months? This is the time where you can meet everyone in one spot.

This year in addition to the business expo we are presenting awards to the three stellar individuals. We have awards honoring a Corporate Leader, Business Pioneer and Community Champion. These awards recognize 3 leaders working towards LGBT equality in their own respective ways. Join us on October 18th as we celebrate their accomplishments and present them with the recognition they deserve.

The expo will go from 6p-9p at the Inn at Middletown located at 70 Main Street, Middletown, CT. The presentation part of the event will start around 7:30p. Appetizers will be provided and a cash bar is available.

Our 2012 printed member directory will also be available to pick up as well. We consider our directory to be the Connecticut LGBT buying guide. Re-



Jenn Tracz Grace

gardless of what you need to buy or who you are looking to do business with, consult our directory first. We have several other states represented as well, not just CT for those of you outside of CT reading this. CABO is able to provide services to its member in large part due to our corporate partnerships, which include; Aetna, Foxwoods, Murtha Cullina LLP, Comcast Business Class, Bearingstar Insurance, Nutmeg State Federal Credit Union, Clear Channel Radio and The Rainbow Times. Each of these businesses has something great to offer and their commitment and support to the LGBT community is what separates them from the rest. We highly encourage you to do business with one or all of them.

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

# Expressing myself in ink this National Coming Out Day

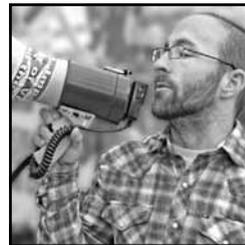
By: Jason Lydon/TRT Columnist

This summer, I spent a good amount of time on the road, traveling around in an adorable red Toyota. I drove to North Carolina for work, Chicago to visit friends, and my last stop was in the northern part of Michigan to visit my sweet friend Ron, a 47-year-old gay man who had just gotten out of prison after 17 years. As there was not much to do in the back woods of Michigan, and Ron was still restricted to 50 yards distance to the house he was staying at, we decided that Ron should give me my newest tattoo.

Oct. 11 is considered one of our queer holidays, "National Coming Out Day." This day functions as a reminder that we are entitled, should we choose, to proclaim our queer/trans identities to the world. Tattoos on our bodies can be an incredibly powerful way to make a similar kind of proclamation. My first tattoo was done on National Coming Out Day in 2005. In celebration of being out for half my life (I came out when I was 12), I wanted a permanent declaration. I got the word queer tattooed within an anarchist star on the inside of my right bicep. This was my moment to claim my body for myself and to choose a term that I

knew described me as I identified at that moment.

Coming out is not something we do only once; it is a constant part of our life. Not only are we forced to come out to new people and in new spaces, due to the realities of heterosexism and gender normative assumptions, but many of us watch our genders and sexualities transform as we learn more about ourselves. When I was 12 years old I came out, as awkwardly as one could, as gay.



Jason Lydon

**When I come out as a faggot to other queer people, especially men, I am trying to challenge gay men's misogyny. Too often I hear gay men say, or read in their online profiles, "no femmes" or that they want "real" men. Part of choosing my F-word is my F-you to that culture of femme hatred.**

I knew that I liked other guys and was excited about loving and smooching them. However, as I grew up and learned more about the world I got excited about the idea of queer. While I liked men I came to understand that gender is far more fluid than the strict binary of man and woman. If I wanted to authentically allow myself to love and lust after all the people I

See Expressing myself on page 5

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

What a nice idea to have a Latino Pride supplement! Gracias! As a Latino, I've never seen such comprehensive information on GLBT Latinos and I'm glad you care. Gracias! Thanks to all of you at the Times who made it happen. It was a pleasure to read the Spanish GLBT information and although I am fully bilingual, I love reading in Spanish and so does my non-English speaker and Latino hubby! Latino hasta el fin!

-- Roberto Contreras, Somerville, MA

Dear Editor,

I am so intrigued by this TRT Heroes section. It really brings tears to my eyes each time I read it. These people make me proud to stand and say "I am gay too!" In western Massachusetts we don't have many role models for Heroes.

-- Joe LeBeau, Springfield, MA

Dear Editor,

What a blast! I heard the TRT Talk Radio show and it was really neat. Of course, I'm not a professional, but just a podcast junkie and I'm so glad Rainbow Times is doing this. You guys are growing. I really like the Rainbow Times. Thanks for giving it to us.

-- LeAnne Johansen, Boston, MA

Dear Editor,

I went to Five Flags New England and enjoyed it big time. I didn't like the offensive language used by the male comedian, Khris Francis. He really made fun of kids and it wasn't right. I am not going next year if it is going to be that way.

-- Bob Ryan, Hartford, CT

Dear Editor,

I didn't like the cartoon of Bert. Seeing my childhood cartoon with a guy, although I've always thought he was gay, wasn't my idea of a fun cartoon. I thought you'd like to know.

-- John Martin, Providence, RI

See Letters on page 6

## The Rainbow Times

The Freshest LGBT Newspaper in New England

www.therainbowtimesnews.com

editor@therainbowtimesnews.com

sales@therainbowtimesnews.com

Phone: 413.282.8881, 617.444.9618

or Fax: 888-442-2421

Publisher	Columnists
<b>Gricel M. Ocasio</b>	<b>Lorelei Erisis</b>
Editor-In-Chief	<b>Deja N. Greenlaw</b>
<b>Nicole Lashomb</b>	<b>Paul P. Jesepe</b>
Assistant Editor	<b>Jason Lydon</b>
<b>Brianna Snyder</b>	<b>Tynan Power</b>
Sales Associates	<b>Jenn Tracz</b>
<b>Chris Gilmore</b>	<b>John Verlinden</b>
<b>Liz Johnson</b>	Reporters
Lead Photographer	<b>Chuck Colbert</b>
<b>Glenn Koetzner</b>	<b>Clara Lefton</b>
Webmaster	<b>Christine Nicco</b>
<b>Jarred Johnson</b>	<b>Tynan Power</b>
Lead Designer	<b>Casey Rocheteau</b>
<b>Colleen Lennon</b>	

The Rainbow Times is published monthly by The Rainbow Times, LLC. TRT is affiliated with the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, CABO - The Connecticut Alliance for Business Opportunity, and QSyndicate. The articles written by the writers, columnists, and correspondents express their opinion, and do not represent the endorsement or opinion of The Rainbow Times, LLC or its owners. To write letters to the editor, please send your letters, with your name, address and phone number to: The Rainbow Times (address shown above), or e-mail any comment/s to the editor at: editor@therainbowtimesnews.com. All submissions will be edited according to space constraints. The Rainbow Times, LLC reserves the right not to print any or all content, or advertisements for any reason at all. TRT is not responsible for advertising content. To receive The Rainbow Times at your home via regular mail, or through electronic delivery, please visit our website. The whole content and graphics (photos, etc.) are the sole property of The Rainbow Times, LLC and they cannot be reproduced at all without TRT's consent.

# Boston, nation, celebrate the end of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,' big win for LGBT rights

IN THE LIMELIGHT

By: **Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter**

Just past the stroke of midnight on Tuesday, Sept. 20, "don't ask don't tell," the nearly 18-year-old ban on openly gay military service, became history.

The repeal of "don't ask, don't tell" means that currently serving gay, lesbian, and bisexual service members, both active duty and reserve, are at liberty to come out without fear of being discharged solely for being gay.

Come out they did.

From Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany, a 21-year-old airmen, Randy Phillips, called his father in Alabama to tell him he is gay— with the whole world watching. Phillips recorded the telephone conversation on his Web camera and posted it on YouTube.

"Dad, I'm gay."

"Yikes," replied his father, adding later, "I still love you, and I will always love you, and I will always be proud of you."

In Duxbury, Vt., Navy Lt. Gary Ross married his partner Dan Swezy, shortly after repeal took effect.

Closer to home, Tony Mercado, currently serving in the Coast Guard in South Boston, came out to his supervisor, Navy Comdr. Catherine Masar.

"I want to let you know my experience of 18 years, how 'don't ask, don't tell' affected me," he said, recalling her response. "She made me feel so comfortable with who I am serving in the military," said Mercado.

Across the country dozens and dozens of celebrations marked the historic milestone in LGBT rights, with parties and military ceremonies.

They were held everywhere from one at the legendary Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in New York

City, to another in Philadelphia where former U.S. Rep. Patrick Murphy, a Pennsylvania Democrat, a leading proponent of lifting the ban while in Congress, was the headliner.

Indeed gay America celebrated on Tuesday, Sept. 20, in cities and localities from Chicago to Atlanta to San Diego to West Hollywood to Honolulu to Washington, D. C., to Germany, among many others.

Here in Boston, the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), a leading advocacy organization for repeal, sponsored an evening event at Club Café. The celebration drew nearly 100 people, including two Cambridge City councilors, E. Denise Simmons and Lelund Cheung.

"Truly this is a victory," Simmons said. "But we have to remember that we are still on the road [to equality] and not yet there." Openly gay, Simmons is a former mayor.

Margot Thistle, a local attorney and event organizer, called for a moment of silence for "service members who lost their lives in service to country" and for "transgender service members who continue to fight for equality" even in the new era post "don't ask, don't tell."

Military policy and medical regulations still prohibit transgender persons from serving in the armed forces.

Boston attorney John Affuso, a longtime advocate for repeal, told the gathering, "I never doubted the military's ability to handle repeal." An Army veteran who served in the New Jersey National Guard, Affuso lobbied Massachusetts' U.S. Sen. Scott Brown, who in the end voted for repeal.

"We veterans made a promise to all actively serving, and in the reserves and guard, we would not abandon you, we would not rest, we would not be silenced, and we would not quit until this

shameful policy is no more," said Affuso.

"We kept our promise."

Also on hand was Neil MacInnes-Baker, a former staff sergeant, who served in Air Force from 1989 to 1994 — both before and during "don't ask, don't tell."

MacInnes-Baker re-enlisted in 1993, he said, "because I was so hopeful and confident that the ban would be removed," adding, "I was so eager to serve my country."

But the decorated airmen, who excelled at his job, fell victim to a witch-hunt investigation, was harassed but ultimately not fired for being gay.

MacInnes-Baker fought the so-called "charges" that he was gay by lying about his sexuality and hiring a military lawyer. After six months of humiliating inquiry and fighting, the charges were dropped. Still, the Air Force continued to monitor his behavior — tearing open, reading, and resealing all of his in-coming and out-going mail. Nonetheless, MacInnes-Baker continued to serve for an additional year and a half and received an honorable discharge.

In brief remarks, MacInnes-Baker recalled the betrayal he felt from "the officers who awarded me with decorations amid hand-



L-R: Neil MacInnes-Baker, John Affuso, Tony Mercado, and Travis Hengen celebrate the end of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

PHOTO: CHUCK COLBERT

shakes and flashbulbs, were the same officers now attempting to throw me out — saying I was a disgrace to the United States Air Force."

A former chief warrant officer two, Travis Hengen was also discharged under "don't ask, don't tell," ending a 12-year career in the Army as a counter intelligence officer.

After experiencing frustration and distraction on the job, having to hide his sexual orientation, Hengen, with legal assistance from SLDN, drafted and delivered a coming-out letter to his commander.

To read the rest of this story online, visit: <http://bit.ly/nnVxW6>

## Stand up for LOVE

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

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

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

You cannot get HIV from this investigational HIV vaccine.



**BOSTON GET YOUR HEART ON**

VOLUNTEER FOR AN HIV VACCINE STUDY

617.927.6450

GUYS EXPERIENCING LUBE  
**projectgel**

### ARE YOU:

- ◆ 18–30 years old?
- ◆ A man who has sex with men?
- ◆ Willing to be tested for HIV?

### IF YOU ENROLL, YOU WILL:

- ◆ Be tested for HIV.
- ◆ Complete a physical exam, including an anal exam.
- ◆ Be asked questions about your medical and sexual history.

You will receive compensation for your participation in this study.

**BOSTON is READY.ORG** 

THE FENWAY  
  
INSTITUTE

# TRT Heroes: Corey Yarbrough, the passionate & humble man behind the HBGC

By: Christine Nicco/TRT Reporter

Many know Corey because of his talents and how he has moved forward the Hispanic Black Gay Coalition, HBGC. As the organization's Executive Director & Co-Founder, he wears many hats. The 26-year-old leader and co-founder of the HBGC is someone who deeply cares about

tion in the DC area, and then moved on to Boston to work with urban high school youth in college prep," Roberts added. "Corey is a very humble and giving person who loves his family."

He works to inspire and inspires with his actions. His qualities are lauded all over his work at the HBGC nowadays in Boston, Mass.

TRT sat down with Yarbrough to talk about his views on the same issues that affect our community.

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

**Corey Yarbrough:** We need a multi-faceted approach for raising awareness to the importance of funding for HIV/AIDS. I would recommend, that such an approach include the following things: putting faces to the epidemic by empowering individuals living with or impacted by HIV/AIDS to tell their stories, including how HIV/AIDS services (or lack thereof) have impacted them, being more proactive in tackling transphobia and homophobia, particularly in communities of color, admitting that the lack of HIV/AIDS funding is tied to racist ideology and other oppressive tactics, and educating people on

the influence they have in advocating for more HIV/AIDS funding and communicating clearly on how to make a difference.

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

**CY:** My partner and fellow co-founder of HBGC, Quincey J. Roberts. He is truly my partner in all aspects of the word and challenges me to believe in myself and keep moving forward no matter what. Bayard Rustin for his impact on the civil rights movement as an gay-identified Black male. Local role models that inspire me and provide ongoing support: Rev. Irene Monroe, Gary Daffin, Gunner Scott, and David Wilson, among many others.

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

**CY:** The average member of the LGBT or Ally community can make a difference by vocalizing their experiences and using their story to unite others and move a community towards action. Regardless if the action is viewed as big or small, you can make a difference and create the foundation for someone else to do the same.

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

**CY:** Be yourself and don't set out to make everyone happy. Trust your experiences, be willing to listen to the experiences of others, and let that guide you.

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

**CY:** Co-founding HBGC with the support of the community and working towards our mission

of inspiring and empowering Hispanic/Latino and Black LGBTQ individuals to improve their livelihood through activism, education, outreach and counseling. I especially feel a sense of pride when people refer to the organization as their family.

**TRT:** What motivates your work within this community?

**CY:** Many things. I pull motivation from reflecting on my own journey, seeing and experiencing the many injustices that still plague our society, and hearing stories from people still struggling to find acceptance within themselves, their families, and their faith community.

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

**CY:** I wish there was a simple answer to that question. In the long term, it requires a major cultural shift from heterosexism, which includes how we teach youth to deal with difference, conflict, and fear. In the short term, we can start by having more teachers and parents undergo sensitivity trainings, continuing sharing the destructive implications of homophobia/transphobia, and empower LGBTQ students to share their stories in hopes of influencing a new generation towards tolerance.

**TRT:** What are the top three issues that affect our community the most? What can you do to make a difference?

**CY:** HIV/AIDS, Trans Inclusion & Equality, and combating homophobia/transphobia in communities of color. I plan to continue to working with HBGC and other organizations to raise aware to and tackle these serious issues.

**See TRT Heroes on page 7**



PHOTOS: MEGHAN REESE



others, whose vision of the world is one to enhance it, even if a small grain of sand at a time. He is attentive, compassionate, a selfless giver at heart, and a sound leader. Quincey Roberts, his soul mate, describes Corey as an "ambitious LGBT activist, who has committed his life to serving LGBT people of color."

"He started his work in homeless preven-

FENWAY HEALTH

## One Mind. One Body. *One You.*



Fenway Health is your one-stop provider for your health care needs. Our staff is sensitive to each patient's needs and we have a long history of caring for our neighborhood, the LGBT community and people living with HIV/AIDS.

### PROVIDING THE SERVICES YOU NEED

- Medical care
- HIV-related services
- Pharmacy
- Behavioral health care
- Transgender health
- Dental care for adults & children
- Women's health
- Complementary therapies, including massage, nutrition and chiropractic
- Eye care for adults & children
- Family & parenting services, including alternative insemination

### SERVING YOU AT TWO LOCATIONS:

ANSIN BUILDING  
1340 Boylston Street  
Boston MA 02215  
TEL 617.267.0900

FENWAY : SOUTH END  
142 Berkeley Street  
Boston MA 02116  
TEL 617.247.7555

WEB fenwayhealth.org

# Metrowest Wagly organization provides safe haven for GLBTQ youth

## Six-Month-Old WAGLY Serves Youth from 23 MetroWest Towns

WELLESLEY, MA—West Suburban Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth, WAGLY, was founded in March 2011 to provide a safe haven for high school Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer/Questioning (GLBTQ) youth. Thanks to WAGLY these youth have a place to meet, share common experiences, and support each other. The group meets weekly on non-holiday Mondays at 7 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Wellesley Hills (UUSWH) located at 309 Washington Street in Wellesley Hills, MA.

“Students who identify themselves as gay, lesbian or bisexual...are over four times more likely to have attempted suicide” than their heterosexual peers according to the Massachusetts 2009 Youth Risk Survey. Statistics show that unresolved issues of gender identity and sexual orientation for teens can result in emotional and psychological challenges including poor school performance, depression, and difficulty developing strong interpersonal relationships.

“WAGLY addresses a critical need for support among GLBTQ youth,” said Rev. Jack Lewis of UUSWH who serves as WAGLY’s Coordinator. “The fact that over 35 youth from 23 towns attend meetings weekly un-

derscores the value WAGLY provides to MetroWest Boston youth.”

“At WAGLY I can hang out with other GLBTQ kids and know they will understand me,” said one high school junior. “I always feel safe being myself at WAGLY meetings,” said another.

As a program that includes GLBTQ high school youth and their straight allies from all MetroWest communities, WAGLY provides a more diverse base to supplement local high school Gay/Straight Alliances. WAGLY offers social and educational programs that support the emotional and physical well-being of young GLBTQ community members. Peer Youth Leaders conduct most meetings and provide a comfortable conduit through which youth participants can access adult support and guidance. Adult volunteers are available as facilitators and mentors for participating youth.

For more information about WAGLY see **HYPERLINK** “<http://www.WAGLY.org>” **www.WAGLY.org** or **HYPERLINK** “<http://www.facebook.com/WAGLY>” **www.facebook.com/WAGLY** or contact Rev. Jack Lewis at **HYPERLINK** “<mailto:info@wagly.org>” **info@wagly.org** or 781-235-7423 x112.

### Suffolk County Sheriff Andrea Cabral receives Michael A. Tye Leadership Award at 2011 Donor Appreciation Night



PHOTO CREDIT: MARILYN HUMPHRIES

Suffolk County Sheriff Andrea Cabral was the recipient of the eighth annual Michael A. Tye Leadership Award at Fenway’s 2011 Donor Appreciation Night on September 22. The event, held at Fenway’s Ansin Building location, honored Fenway’s leadership donors and included a short program during which the award was presented. Sheriff Cabral has been an actively engaged public supporter, donor and advocate of Fenway Health for more than two decades. She is a member of Fenway’s Board of Visitors, served as a 2011 Women’s Dinner Party chair, and has worked with Fenway’s Violence Recovery Program since 1988, when she was an assistant district attorney in Middlesex County prosecuting hate crimes.

The Michael A. Tye Leadership Award is given in memory of Michael Tye, a dedicated Board member and staunch supporter of Fenway Health, as well as a respected business man, member of our community, and philanthropist.

### Expressing myself from page 2

found myself attracted to, then the standard definition of gay simply could not work anymore. I started coming out as queer when and where I felt I could.

My newest tattoo is another coming-out moment. In the basement of the house where Ron was staying, I slipped off my jeans and rolled up the right leg of my boxer-briefs to expose my upper thigh. The tattooing gun hummed as the needles repetitively entered my skin. Ron carefully guided his hand and spelled out the letters, F-A-G-G-O-T, down my thigh. For too long this word has been hurled at me with intention of causing harm. Too often this word has taken power away from me. This word, now, is mine. I am proud to be a faggot. I’m proud to come out, in places where I feel like I can, as a faggot.

This word, this F-word, is not only a statement to straight people. When I come out as a faggot I am taking pride in the parts of myself

that are not assimilating, not trying to be legitimate. When I come out as a faggot to other queer people, especially men, I am trying to challenge gay men’s misogyny. Too often I hear gay men say, or read in their online profiles, “no femmes” or that they want “real” men. Part of choosing my F-word is my F-you to that culture of femme hatred.

My friend Ron, very sadly, violated his parole and is now back in prison. My tattoo is no longer only a reminder of my identity, but a reminder that there are those behind prison walls who, when they come out, are putting their lives at risk. My tattoo doesn’t get to be seen by many people, but when I take a shower at the gym or sit in the sauna and other guys see it I think about how there are so many people for whom coming out puts their lives in danger. I commit to continuously coming out as gay, queer, faggot as often as I can and honor all of those who live their LGBTQ identity differently than I do; I hope this National Coming Out Day you can join me.



# TalkRADIO

## We heard you!

## Now, hear us!

### NEW! Weekly Podcast

The Rainbow Times has officially launched its new WEEKLY podcast radio show, TRT Talk Radio. Explore the latest in the New England Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender community through celebrity interviews, event coverage, controversial issues and special interest topics within our community.

[www.TRTalkRadio.com](http://www.TRTalkRadio.com)

CHECK OUT OUR SITE & LISTEN

COMING SOON to iTunes!

# Be GAY and FABULOUS!

Listen. Advertise. Subscribe.

[www.TRTalkRadio.com](http://www.TRTalkRadio.com)

# AIDS Walk raises money and awareness in Western Mass.

By: Tynan Power/TRT Reporter

On Saturday, Sept. 10, over 400 people gathered in Springfield's Forest Park to raise money and awareness for the AIDS Foundation of Western Massachusetts, Inc. (AFWM). The AIDS Walk/5K Run and Festival began with registration at 10 a.m. and continued through the afternoon.

A clear blue sky and easing of summer heat made it a good day for a run or walk, with many groups and families pushing strollers following a bit behind the runners on the same path. Craig Balderston led the race, finishing in 21:51. Melissa Madison, a first-time participant accompanied by her mother and her two children, was the first woman across the finish line, in 23:37.

While the overall number of registrants was the same as last year, AIDS Foundation Executive Director Jessica Crevier noticed a shift.

"We had a much larger number of runners this year, which is exciting," she said.

The AIDS Foundation is a nonprofit dedicated to assisting people living with HIV and AIDS in Hampden and Hampshire counties. Founded in 1993, the organization is striving to help an increased number of people dealing with financial challenges.

"In previous years, AFWM has tended to receive substantially fewer grant [applications] over the summer months. However, this summer has seen more applications than are expected in even our busiest seasons. Further, we are receiving a large number of requests from new applicants. People who have never needed assistance before are reaching out for help to make ends meet," Crevier explained.

According to the Foundation, 100 percent of the money raised by the AIDS Walk is given back to the community. That mainly takes place in two ways: individual grants and educational programming. Individual grants provide financial assistance of up to \$500 at a time to individuals in need. Since 1993, the AIDS Foundation has provided grants totaling over \$750,000.

"AFWM grants can help them catch up with their rent or secure new housing," said Crevier. "We assist with purchasing appliances, keeping utilities turned on, paying medical expenses, and other necessities for maintaining a good quality of life. As people continue to struggle financially and community services are cut, more and more people require the leg-up that the foundation can provide."

Another way the AIDS Foundation gives back

to the community is through educational programs. One such program is the AIDS kNOw More Project (AKMP), for students in middle school through college who are committed to educating themselves about HIV/AIDS -- then sharing that knowledge with peers. Participants and their advisers receive peer education training from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The group meets twice a month from 6 to 8 p.m. at the AIDS Foundation office in Springfield and members participate each year in the AIDS Walk. Another project of the AIDS Foundation is the "Living Positive" group for men living with HIV/AIDS. The group meets on the second Wednesday of every month, 6 to 7:30 p.m., at The Research Institute in Springfield.

After the AIDS Walk, participants were treated to hot dogs and burgers, while listening to live music by the John Brandoli Band. Two vendors offered massages, while others, such as Walgreens, offered free reusable bags and other promotional items. A number of LGBTQ support and advocacy organizations were represented, including the LGBT Coalition of Western Massachusetts and Out Now.

"This was the first year that we actively sought out community vendors," Crevier said. "It is important that people can come together and network with local organizations and businesses, and perhaps learn about some services that they might not otherwise have access to. We hope to expand upon our vendors row in coming years, and reach out to additional businesses and organizations, as well as local artisans and practitioners."

With the annual AIDS Walk/5K Run and Festival behind them, the AIDS Foundation will soon gear up for their biggest fundraiser, a 15-year-old gala recently renamed "Viva!" -- a celebration of life. Doors will open for "Viva!" at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 27, 2012, at the Log Cabin Banquet and Meeting House in Holyoke. Featuring live entertainment, live and silent auctions, and delicious food, the event brings out the community -- to have a good time and help the AIDS Foundation in its critically important work.

"Our area has the second fastest growing rate of infection in the state," Crevier said, "and it is our responsibility as community members to respond to this epidemic."

To find out more about the AIDS Foundation of Western Massachusetts, visit [aidsfoundationwm.org](http://aidsfoundationwm.org).

Thanks for letting us know about it.  
-- Darrel Heagnie, West Hartford, CT

Dear Editor,  
We want TRT more in P-Town!! I see it at a few venues, but can't get it after a week or so of being out. Can you send us more??  
-- Julian Richardson, Provincetown, MA

## Letters from page 2

Dear Editor,  
I tried the Ballo Italian Restaurant at Mohegan Sun!! WOW! It's great and the Italian Restaurant. To say it was excellent it's an understatement. Damn, I can't wait to go again! As an Italian American, I was really taken by how fabulous the food was, along with the décor, etc. The open pantry was outstanding too!



## Finding you the RIGHT one, not just anyone...

**We Understand** that it's hard to meet the right person • You are busy and want matches chosen just for you • You might not want to meet someone in a bar or at work • You don't want your personal info. online

**Our Services** are personal, discreet, respectful and affordable. People are who they say they are.

**ALL Gay or Straight singles welcome!**

[www.massmatch.com](http://www.massmatch.com)  
massmatch@comcast.net • 413-665-3218

ADVOCATE  
★ BEST ★  
OF  
THE VALLEY  
READERS' POLL  
2010

As affordable as Internet Dating with the personal touch of a Matchmaker

# CONNECTICUT PRIDE SEPTEMBER 17 BUSHNELL PARK • HARTFORD, CT

PHOTOS: GLENN KOETZNER/TRT



# 'Bullied' film draws strong responses from former student victims

By: Tynan Power/TRT Reporter

Inspiring. Devastating. Powerful. Memorable. Inspiring. Moving.

These were some of the reactions heard after a free public screening of "Bullied: A Student, a School and a Case that Made History," on Sunday, Sept. 25.

The 2010 documentary by the Southern Poverty Law Center recounts the story of Jamie Nabozny, a Wisconsin student who suffered relentless harassment and physical abuse at school. Nabozny fought back in court, holding the school that should have protected him responsible. Nabozny was awarded nearly a million dollars in restitution when he won the legal battle in 1996. The landmark case is believed to have helped change the degree of responsibility placed on schools in cases of bullying.

Is legal recourse the best recourse, though? Does it make any difference in preventing bullying?

"Sometimes legal action is the only way to send a message," said Rich West, a Northampton parent of three teens, one of whom was the target of middle-school bullies. "But preventive education can do a lot, too."

"The Nabozny case made no appreciable difference at my high school, in [1995, 1996] or beyond," said Sid Arens, 30, who went to high school in Florida. "I do think the deaths of Phoebe Prince and Carl Joseph Walker-Hoover had an impact. There seems to be a much greater awareness of the harm done by bullying and the need to keep students safe."

"I think the Phoebe Prince case, because of its extensive coverage, galvanized the education profession in a way none of the other

incidents seemed to do," agreed West. "It's a shame that it's taken so long, but I think real steps are being taken, especially in public education, to try to curb bullying in our schools."

Arens was quick to point out that he doesn't know about that impact first-hand, since he's no longer in high school. His sense of the impact comes from hearing school administrators in the media. Yet he's not sure how reliable school officials are in reporting on school safety.

"The movie made it very clear that some school administrators will say one thing and do another [or nothing at all]. I do believe there is an overall improvement in awareness, but I'm not sure if that has translated into any actual protection for bullied students."

Still, despite his misgivings, Arens said he left the film feeling "hopeful for current and future students." West also said the film "gave him hope."

"I think one of the things I was most struck by in the film was not the terrible act of the bullying itself or even the neglect from the school system, but more the circumstances that lead children to be forced to stay in a bad situation due to income or support," said Adriana Piantedosi, an 18-year-old from Northampton. "And while it's inspiring to see one young man rise above it and set a precedent, saying, 'This is not in any way acceptable,' you realize how many children out there don't have a voice. It really makes your heart ache for what he had to go through and what so many kids have to go through on a daily basis."

Denny Fuller, an older gay man from Char-

lemont, saw a connection between the economic challenges working against Nabozny and the legal process of combating bullying.

"I ask myself whether most people have, indeed, 'equal protection under law' when it becomes so expensive for an individual to seek justice that most cannot consider this alternative. Equal protection under law seems to be a right of the rich, or, as happened in 'Bullied,' the result of the good fortune for an exceptional child," Fuller said. "Have we as a country relegated the judicial branch of government, as we have the legislative and executive branches, to the forces of the marketplace?"

"I was bullied, though not to the violent

extent [Nabozny] was," said Tim Thrower, a gay man from Westhampton. "It was still demoralizing, and contributed to my poor self-esteem that I still carry today. I wish we had this film shown when I was in school. I would like to see this film shown at every school in the country, every year."

*"Bullied: A Student, a School and a Case that Made History" was the first in a series of LGBTQ-themed films planned as part of the Big Ol' Gay (BOG) Film Series; information is available at [uunorthampton.org/bogblog](http://uunorthampton.org/bogblog). More information about "Bullied" can be found on the Southern Poverty Law Center website, [splcenter.org](http://splcenter.org).*

## Miss Trans New England 2011's Platform: The Matthew Shepard Story

One of Miss Trans New England 2011's Platform issues during her years reign is the Matthew Shepard Foundation. On October 22nd, 2011 the Miss Trans New England Pageant will be holding a benefit to raise monies to bring Judy Shepard to the area in the spring of 2012. The benefit on October 22nd, 2011 will be a movie "The Matthew Shepard Story" (Based on the true story of openly gay college student Matthew Shepard, killed in an act of senseless violence and cruelty that attracted national attention).

The movie will be played at 3:00 p.m. at the Media Education Foundation located at 60 Masonic Street Northampton, MA 01060.

"With so many kids LGBTQI kids being bul-

lied in the community I want to be a spokesperson to help put an end to this kind of senseless HATE," said Krista Ramos Miss Trans New England 2011. "In Pageants there is an inside joke about if you don't know how to answer the final question just say you want world peace ... Well I do and I am going to do my part to make it happen."

There is no charge to attend this benefit but goodwill donations will be appreciated. This event is being sponsored in part by The Rainbow Times.

**For more information on this benefit contact Christa Hilfers at [misstransnewengland@gmail.com](mailto:misstransnewengland@gmail.com)**

### TRT Heroes from page 4

**TRT:** Do you consider yourself a hero for the LGBT community?

**CY:** Yes. I would consider a hero anyone strong enough to live their own truth and support others in living theirs. We should all strive to be a "hero."

**TRT:** Will full LGBT equality be achieved in this country during the next 10 years? 20 years?

**CY:** Similar to how we have not yet achieved full racial equality, I am uncertain about the ability of our country to achieve full equality in the next 10 or 20 years given where we are right now. That is a difficult question to answer, because I don't feel the LGBTQ community is even on the same page about what "full LGBTQ equality" means or have a clear approach for getting there. Not achieving full equality doesn't mean we can't continue taking significant steps towards making our country safer and more welcoming of those in the LGBTQ community.

**TRT:** Do you think that there are special needs in the Hispanic LGBT community that do not exist in the mainstream LGBT community?

**CY:** Yes, I think there are specific needs in the Hispanic/Latino LGBTQ community that we all can play a role in bringing attention to and addressing. These things include: immigration reform, language, lack of Hispanic/Latino LGBTQ visibility, religion/spirituality (especially as it relates to Hispanic/Latino families embracing LGBTQ individuals), and division within the respective sub-identities that make up the Hispanic/Latino community.

In addition to serving as Executive Director of the Hispanic Black Gay Coalition and working with the organization to implement programming in the areas of coming out support, HIV/AIDS prevention and testing, spiritual growth, community service, and community building, Yarbrough also serves on the Executive Board for the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Youth Commission and on the Leadership Advisory Council for the National Black Justice Coalition. He recently worked with UNID@S, the national Latino/a LGBT human rights organization, at ASAMBLEA 2011, UNID@S first National Leadership Convening.

**Looking for a doctor?**

Whether you are looking for a new primary care doctor, pediatrician, obstetrician/gynecologist, certified nurse-midwife, or other health care provider, we will be happy to connect you with one who suits your needs and schedule.

**For a complete list of health care providers accepting new patients, call 800-377-HEALTH (4325).**

**Baystate Medical Practices**

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

# Living with a Trans-parent: Not easy but what's the big deal?

By: Aidan Harris/Special for TRT

Today all you hear around school and town is discrimination, "You're gay!" or "Queer!" When I was five or six my dad vanished from my life, well, not really ... My dad transitioned. Bruce Harris became Brianna Harris. At first I was terrified, not because of her choice, but from losing my dad. Shortly after I was told my parents divorced, my mom moved out and left Bri at home. I was scared that I'd have to choose one or the other. But, we worked out a thing where I go to Bri's on Monday's and to moms the rest of the week alternating weekends.

Anyway, it took me a while to get used to calling "Dad" Mom, but I fell in step quick. One night at Bri's I broke down in bed and bawled my eyes out. I was sad about not having my dad anymore. Bri was there and told me no matter how much she changes she'd always be my dad deep down inside.

The next years got better and better, I met lots of different Trans people, went all over the place and had fun. I'd adjusted well to it. We could still do all the stuff we used to do. The next year when I was nine, I went to Northampton Trans Pride, a celebration for recognition for trans men and women. The Pride colors are a rainbow, so I covered my bike wheels with rainbow ribbon. I got a lot of comments on it and had a great time.

Today when I hear "You're gay" or other stuff like that I get steamed. So what if two men are in love with each other. Why is it used as an insult? Half the kids that say it don't know what it means! What I don't get is you never hear, "You're lesbian!" only gay. Here's a tip, guys; actually THINK before you act. Every year hundreds of Gay, Trans, Bisexual, and Lesbian people are killed. Many of the trans people mur-

dered were killed just because they were Trans. The "Don't Ask Don't Tell" act for the military prevented gay, trans, and lesbian people from joining the army. Recently that policy was repealed.

Next, I'd like to address all the suicides in schools. Most of the suicides were because the kids were bullied for being or thought to be gay or trans. I, for one, am tired of reading the news and seeing "16 year-old commits suicide from relentless bullying." We need to do something about it! Discrimination is terrible;

**We need to do something about it! Discrimination is terrible; kids do it all the time and I'm tired of it!**

kids do it all the time and I'm tired of it! Tell me, what's wrong with being Gay or trans? Just because they're different means they should be shunned? Trust me; if everyone on the planet were the same, you'd get really bored. Difference is what makes us who we are! So yeah, you can pick on me, because I have a trans parent, or you can pick on a gay kid, but you can't

stop it! I have a saying, "Closed minds should come with closed mouths" meaning if you're self-centered you don't need to express it!

I'm lucky that Bri transitioned when she did. I know a kid, whose dad is now Angel; he's nine. He doesn't accept Angel as Angel. His mom hates Angel and gave her kid a cell phone to call if Angel did something bad. He calls her when Angel doesn't give him what he wants, if she doesn't cook the right food for him, etc., etc. He's spoiled; he hates Angel and at least I think his mom has something to do with why he hates her.

I hope you learned something by reading this. You can acknowledge this or you can toss it out the window but just keep in mind, Trans people are human too.

**blog  
personals  
calendar  
chat  
resources  
breaking news  
advertise  
& more ...**  
[therainbowtimesnews.com](http://therainbowtimesnews.com)

**The Rainbow Times**  
The Premier Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Magazine in New England



**TRT**  
**tumblr.**  
**ON**  
**twitter**  
**THE**  
**facebook**  
**GO!**  
**You Tube**

SIDNEY BORUM JR  HEALTH CENTER

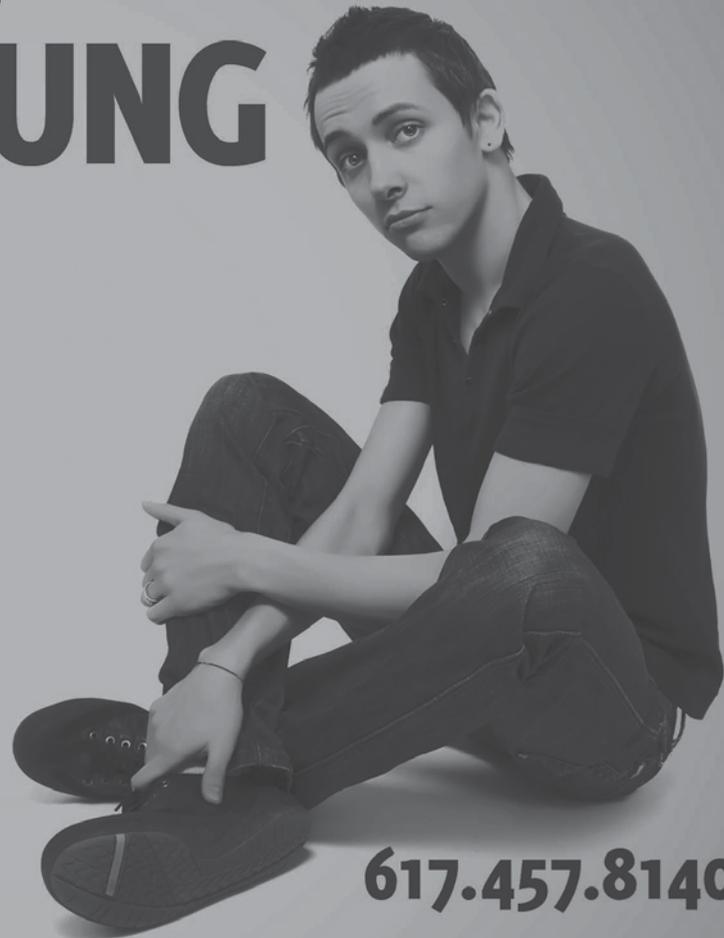
# ARE YOU A YOUNG PERSON WHO

**MIGHT BE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL OR TRANSGENDER? IS LIVING ON THE STREETS? WANTS AN HIV TEST OR IS LIVING WITH HIV? IS WORRIED ABOUT STDs? NEEDS HEALTH INSURANCE? WANTS TO SEE A DOCTOR OR MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDER THAT UNDERSTANDS YOU AND YOUR SITUATION?**

The Sidney Borum, Jr. Health Center is here for you.

We provide safe, non-judgmental care and support for young people ages 12-29 who may not feel comfortable going anywhere else. Just call us at 617.457.8140 and make an appointment or stop in Monday-Friday after 1 p.m. and we'll see you at the next opening in our schedule. We can help you get health insurance and provide you with the care you need.

130 Boylston Street Boston, MA 02116 [www.sidneyborum.org](http://www.sidneyborum.org)  
Monday+Friday 8:45 a.m.—5 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday 8:45 a.m.—7 p.m.



**617.457.8140**

# The Queen of Latin Pop: Gloria Reaches Out to the Gays

In this exclusive chat Estefan talks conservative upbringing, gay marriage and controversial Target deal

By: Chris Azzopardi/TRT Special

Gloria Estefan isn't called the Queen of Latin Pop for nothing. Over three decades – and counting – she's earned it.

Since needing a "Dr. Beat" to control her feet in the '80s, then as part of Miami Sound Machine, Estefan has amassed seven Grammy awards and released 25 albums (selling over 90 million copies of them worldwide), spawning hits like "Conga," "Reach" and "Rhythm is Gonna Get You" – which it did, many times over. And it will yet again with *Miss Little Havana*, her first English-language release since 2003 that returns to her Latin-dance roots with producer Pharrell Williams' urban flair.

The album, though, isn't just getting buzz for being her long-awaited comeback – but the way it's being released. Estefan partnered with Target, known for its recent support of anti-gay politics, for the release of *Miss Little Havana* (it's also available through iTunes). In this exclusive chat, the 54-year-old performer opened up about the deal, why she hopes you'll give the corporation another chance and just how deep her everlasting love for the gay community goes.

**Chris Azzopardi:** Have you done an interview with gay press before?

**Gloria Estefan:** Oh yes, many times. (Laughs) That's my core audience. These are the people that broke me in a lot of clubs. My gay following has always been cutting edge in music and discovered my stuff before it ever became big on radio. The very first remix we did of "Dr. Beat" was done by a guy named Pablos Flores who became

huge in the dance market after that, but he used to spin at a gay club in Puerto Rico and we found out he was a big fan. So they've always been a big part of my career.

**Q:** Ever got down and done the conga in a gay club?

**A:** Not the "Conga," because in that gay club we were unknown at that time, but I did a lot of dancing there in Puerto Rico. Unfortunately, for me, I haven't been able to go to any clubs, period – gay or straight – because I've been working since I was 17 in a band, so usually I was the one performing when everyone else was having a good time. But I would love that – they're the most fun clubs, I'm sure.

**Q:** Who does a better conga – gay or straight men?

**A:** (Laughs) Are you kidding me? You're actually asking that question? I mean, who dances better, period?!

**Q:** When you look back at your career – the hair, the fashion, all of that – why do you think you make such a great drag queen?

**A:** I don't know, but I got to tell you: I love it! Every time I see them, I say, "They do me much better than I do," because I'm the reluctant diva. I didn't like being the center of attention, but I had different looks that they were able to reenact – the one in the chaps and the "Mi Tierra" dress – and "Everlasting Love" celebrated all those different looks. I just feel fortunate that somebody would want to do me. (Laughs)

**Q:** You said your 2004 world tour would be your last. Have you changed your mind? Are you going to pull a Cher on us?

**A:** I don't have a tour planned. What I've been doing is just going to places worldwide, little by little. And I'll always do something. I never ever said that I was retiring. I said I was just going to stop doing those world tours and that was going to be the last one, and it did end up being that. You never say never, but I really don't foresee doing that

kind of thing again. I will do different, interesting and unique stuff, but it's like boot camp for me. It's hard on me.

**Q:** Your song "Always Tomorrow" was a lifeline for so many people, especially your gay fans – including myself. How does it feel knowing that?

See Gloria Estefan on page 17



PHOTO: JESUS CORDERO

WOW!  
WOW!  
WOW!

DO WE HAVE A SEASON FOR YOU

@ THE FAC!

WOW!  
WOW!  
WOW!

The UMASS Fine Arts Center  
BRINGING WORLD ARTISTS TO THE VALLEY FOR 37 YEARS!



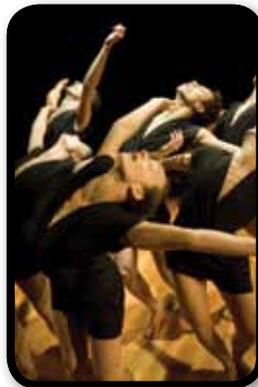
## CREOLE CHOIR OF CUBA

Wednesday, October 12, 7:30pm, Concert Hall

Be prepared to hear something completely different and "new" from Cuba. With vibrant dancing and irresistible melodies driven by richly textured harmonies, shifting Caribbean rhythms with a very original roots bass sound, this is impassioned singing by a unique group.

Fireside Chat: Pre-performance talk by Professor Grete Viddal, Department of African and African-American Studies, Harvard University, at the University Club, 6:30pm. Park in Lot 62 for easy access to Club and Concert Hall. Lobby Festival beginning at 6:30pm.

Sponsored by: El Sol Latino, UnityFirst.com and Domingos de Parranda WACM 1490



## GALLIM DANCE

Wednesday, October 19, 7:30pm, Concert Hall

Since its debut in 2006, Gallim Dance has caused a stir in the world of dance and choreography. For its Amherst appearance the company performs *Blush*. *Blush* is an exploration of human instinct and sexuality, while exposing what

is at risk in the pursuit of knowledge. Music by manyfingers, Pimmon, Eyvind Kang, Joy Division, M.I.A, Radio Head and Wolf Parade. One hour program followed by a discussion with the company. Performance may include partial nudity.

Sponsored by: The River WRSI and The Valley Advocate. Funded in part by the National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts.



## NEW CENTURY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

NADJA SALERNO-SONNENBERG, MUSIC DIRECTOR

Thursday, November 10, 7:30pm, Concert Hall

The Grammy-nominated New Century Chamber Orchestra relies on the virtuosic skill of each individual—instead of a

conductor—to achieve its improvisatory sound, with power, color and precision. Performing standing, their rhythmic unanimity and velvety smooth string tone will knock your socks off and remind you of all that's delicious in the world. Program includes Rossini's String Sonata No. 1 in G Major, Barber's Adagio for Strings, Bolcom's Violin Concerto Romanza, and Mendelssohn's Octet for Strings in E-flat major, Op. 20. Post-Show Q&A with the performers.

Fireside Chat: Pre-performance talk by Elizabeth Chang, violinist and violin faculty, UMass Department of Music and Dance at the University Club, 6:30pm.

Sponsored by: Applewood, a Member of the Loomis Communities and Baystate Health

• TICKETS? CALL 413-545-2511 OR VISIT FINEARTSCENTER.COM •

# What do non-trans people really think about transpeople?

**TRANS NEWS**

By: **Deja Nicole Greenlaw**\*/TRT Columnist

When the news that Chaz was going to compete on "Dancing with the Stars," almost immediately there was backlash. Religious leaders and such denounced the whole idea of transgenderism as if it were going to ruin American youth by setting a bad example of "You can change your sex if you want to on a whim!" There was even a psychiatrist who claimed that Chaz was misguided and that he could help change Chaz back to Chastity. Hundreds promised to boycott DWTS because of what Chaz represents.

What does Chaz represent? In my opinion, he represents truth and the shattering of accepted gender roles. It's just too much for some people and they resort to whatever to justify their position even if it means denouncing another human being.

Not everyone was on the naysayer bandwagon. As a matter of fact, many people supported Chaz and many cheered him on that night as he cha-cha-ed his way into our lives and left America with the idea that there is nothing wrong with transitioning to your true gender. I saw the clip of his dance with his partner and at the end of the performance I believe that I saw everyone in the house giving him a standing ovation! Chaz's dance debut catapulted transgenderism right in front of America's eyes and gave a wholesome genuineness to transitioning. Three cheers to Chaz for what he did and to all of his supporters for backing him!

So "transgender" is now acknowledged in America whether people like it or not. I don't know exactly what the thinking was before Chaz but now I'm beginning to feel a warm acceptance by many people.

Even with all of this wonderful news for us transpeeps. I realize that we still have a ways to go in order to get total acceptance or at least acknowledgement from everyone. A few weeks ago I was talking to a few members of the LGBT community and I asked them what they thought about transpeople. There was overwhelming acceptance but there were also some reservations, three to be exact.

The first one was that some gays and lesbi-



**Deja Nicole Greenlaw**

ans might think that changing genders is the latest craze, eerily paralleling what some Chaz detractors were saying. The fact that many of us transpeeps lived many years as one gender and then seemingly suddenly switched to the other gender suggests a picture of "I'm doing the latest thing!" but let me assure you that this is not a sudden change. This is the result of many years of introspection and agony and fear and denial and acceptance. It is not easy to change genders. There is much baggage and many things to work out on your way to transitioning. Sure, a man can do drag (dressing as a girl) and a woman can do drab (dressing as a boy) for shows and parties and such for a night but to change your gender not for one night but for forever and never look back is another thing. It's a huge commitment, so please put to rest that idea that changing genders is the latest thing to do and something to do on a whim.

The second reservation came primarily from a small faction of the older lesbian community. Some of them have trouble with transwomen because they believe that anyone with a penis or anyone who had a penis is not welcome in female spaces. This small crowd has issues with men or anyone who they perceive to be men. When I first ventured out into the LGBT bar scene in the early '00s I was warned by several transwomen that "lesbians aren't especially fond of us" and that we should strive to fit into the lesbian culture unnoticed or fear rejection. I disregarded the warnings and to the surprise of others, had no problem with the lesbians. Unknowingly I think that I may have found an answer to the mistrust: just be who you are and be happy.

The third reservation comes again from another small faction of the lesbian community. It's in dealing with when one of "their own" decides to transition to male. Disbelief and disapproval from friends may follow. I've talked with a few transmen and they told me that slowly and eventually many of them were excluded from functions from which they were previously welcomed. It's a sad reality in our lives but when you transition you will lose some people.

There is more work to be done in these three areas of doubt and I hope that this column will spark some dialogue to start to get us all through it. We need to talk things out. After all, we are family!

*\*Deja Nicole Greenlaw is a local transwoman who has three grown children and works at a local Fortune 500 company. She can be contacted at dejavudeja@sbcglobal.net.*

# The realities of trans bodies: Fully functional, or not

By: **Lorelei Erisis**\*/TRT Columnist

A quick note to my readers: The language and descriptions in this month's column are of a pretty adult nature. There was no way to honestly answer this question otherwise, but I thought it was an important one.

I don't want to fetishize anyone, but I am thoroughly intrigued and turned on by transgender porn! Now I know this is porn so it is not representative of real life. But I was under the impression from some people I know personally that transwomen think the idea of using their penis is completely repulsive. So what's the deal?

I would never consider seeing a cisgendered guy again because every single one of them has f&\$\*#@d me over in one way or another. So no go there. I always thought a chick with a di@\$ would be a great thing. BUT... then I came out as a lesbian and the militant lesbians I hung out with were pretty adamant about hating factory-installed penises, no matter who they were attached to. So ... the thoughts were put on the farthest burner back that I could find.

I haven't considered dating transwomen because of what I've been told, and because penises that don't come in sparkly colors are "evil."

So how many transwomen actually like using their di\$#s? I have always liked di\$#s, I just hated the jerks attached to them. I have to assume that transwomen are different because they have a whole different brain/gender configuration. With very few exceptions I have liked every transwoman that I have met. I'm confused. What's the norm, if there is one?

I don't know if I should be opening myself up to the possibility of dating transwomen or if I should just put the ideas on the back burner again.

HELP!!! I don't know what to think or feel and what is real and fantasy.

Thanks,  
*Sally Mae*

Hi Sally!

So you want to know about "chicks with di\$#s"! Cool. Basically speaking, it's a shades-of-gray question.

While it is true that a great number of transwomen want nothing to do with their di\$#s, it being a reminder of their gender difficulties, it is also quite true that there are some transwomen who, to varying degrees, are perfectly willing to acknowledge their di\$#s. Even use them! Sort of.

As someone who has spent time in and around the fetish scene, I don't think there's anything particularly wrong with fetishes and particular preferences. Just so long as you're able to remember that there are USUALLY flesh-and-blood people involved.

I like redheads and geekgirls, for instance! I think it's similar really to having a preference for transpeople. The thing that makes the "transny chasers" creepy and separates them from the "enthusiasts" is that they forget we are people and we have feelings beyond our transness.

However, I do know some transwomen who do use their di\$#s. I have a very good friend

who works as a adult film star. She is very much a woman and is married to another cisgender woman who also works in the adult film industry. They're mad about each other and identify as lesbians, though they both have sex with men for adult productions. The ciswoman in the relationship absolutely raves about my friend's di\$K and it's clear they make great use out of it!



**Lorelei Erisis**

As for myself, though, I may opt for full SRS eventually. I'm lucky enough to not have too many body issues outside of my basic gender "dysphoria." I do have to point out that my di\$K works quite differently now. As a result of the HRT, I do not necessarily attain an erection. At rest, my di\$K is rather small and fits in my underwear somewhat more comfortably. When erect it returns to its full former size. Overall, I consider the changes to be an improvement. My whole body is a lot more sensitive. I have amazing orgasms that just go on and on! They spread throughout my body, rather than being focused in my di\$K. It's fantastic!

When I was still flooded with testosterone, a small breeze could sometimes be enough to inspire an erection. Now, well, I have to be having a really spectacular time! It's been ages since I've used my di\$K to have intercourse. Getting and erection and keeping it long enough to get a condom on is an issue. That may also have something to do with my very queer current definitions of "sex," though. Using my di\$K is much lower on my list of sexual priorities nowadays.

Nonetheless, oral sex usually gives me a rock hard erection still and I often find myself growing when I'm having a really hot time!

I know that some transwomen will use things like Viagra to help counter the effect of HRT. Or adjust their hormone levels. This is especially prevalent with those who work in the adult industry. I don't judge this trick in the least, except to note that the side effects are not without risks. But then again, the same could and has been said about HRT itself.

I can't really give you what the "norm" is. We are a sadly understudied sector of the population. But I can say from my experience that transwomen who like to use their di\$Ks are most certainly not unknown! As for finding transwomen to date? Well, it's the same old game as with anyone else: be ready to slog through the dating pool! Be as clear, honest and up-front as possible about what you're looking for. And remember always, being trans is just a part of who we are. We are people first!

Slainte!

*\*Lorelei Erisis, former Miss Trans New England, can be contacted at: loreleierisis@therainbowtimesmass.com.*

**reach out**  
to a dedicated readership and informed community...  
**advertise today at**  
therainbowtimesnews.com

*The Highlands Inn*  
  
A Lesbian Paradise  
"One of the most romantic lesbian destinations on the planet."  
-Planet Out  
www.highlandsinn-nh.com  
1-877-LES-B-INN  
Bethlehem, New Hampshire

**"more, more, more... how do you like it, how do you like it"**  
more interactive, more updated news, more up-to-the-minute election coverage  
**the NEW**  
**therainbowtimesnews.com!**

# Rainbow RiverFest succeeds despite grim weather forecast

By: Christine Nicco/TRT Reporter

HOLYOKE, MA--Last month, approximately 1,000 people passed through the Holyoke Canoe Club in support of the LGBT Coalition of Western Massachusetts' annual fundraiser, Rainbow RiverFest, according to festival officials. Although attendance was lower than expected due to a grim weather forecast leading up several days to the event, organization spokespersons still believe that their overall objectives were met.

"This year was extremely successful because our goals included very specific things that did occur," said Suzanne Seymour, Executive Director, LGBT Coalition of Western Massachusetts. "We had a large attendance of young people, with our Youth Tent being very active and full for the entire day, and attendance at all workshops was high. Many high school and college GSAs were present, so we were able to connect with an age group we had hoped to attract."

Seymour spoke of the importance of providing LGBT people a physical space where they can come together and connect, which is an objective often not accomplished through the internet and social media alone.

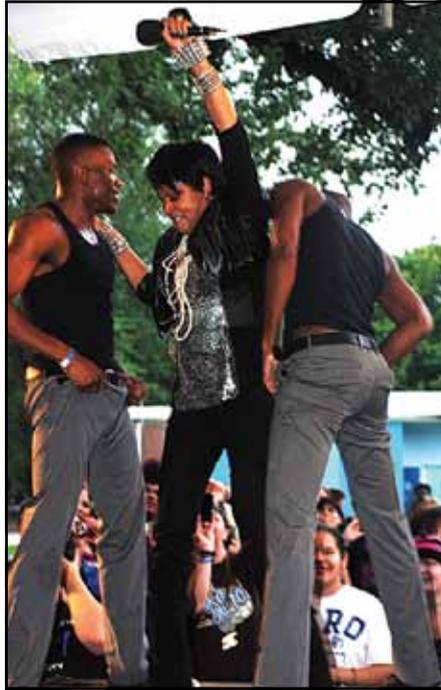
"Even though we feel the forecast scared folks from coming out, I saw and heard stories about the great connections that were made, and everyone I spoke to had an overwhelmingly great time," she said. "That is the measure of success we were looking for."

Since the inception of the Coalition two years ago, it has provided scholarships, referral services, education forums and events to communities in Western Massachusetts and beyond. Seymour stresses the importance for people and organizations to get involved.

"We recognize that LGBT struggles continue not only throughout the world where it can be extremely dangerous, but also right here in our own backyard," Seymour explained. "It was only last week that 14-year-old Jamey Rodemeyer in Buffalo, NY committed suicide because of being tormented and bullied about being gay. And then, two months ago, a young gay man was beaten by a bunch of teenagers in Springfield as he walked home. I personally know of a 17-year-old young man in Northampton who is afraid to come out to his parents because he fears his father's (possibly violent) reaction."

The bottom line? People are always falling through the cracks she said.

"We are looking for those cracks and will do whatever we can to make sure far less people are falling through," said Seymour. "We can never for-



Crystal Waters headlined this year's event at the Holyoke Canoe Club, Holyoke, Mass.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE LGBT COALITION OF WESTERN MA

get where we have been or the struggles we have overcome to get where we are today. This is something that people sometimes [living] in our area forget or seem to be ignorant of. We have come so far, but we still have so far to go. It's important to be up to date on what the rest of the world and our local communities are going through regarding LGBT struggles."

The LGBT Coalition of Western Massachusetts is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization established to improve and preserve the well-being of LGBT and Queer-identified people of all races and ethnicities through education, advocacy and outreach programs, according to the organization's website. Upcoming outreach events include their Halloween fundraiser on Friday, October 28. To check their comprehensive calendar of fundraising events throughout the year, or to learn more about the Coalition and to get involved in its efforts, please visit [www.lgbtcoalitionwma.org](http://www.lgbtcoalitionwma.org).

## Thinking Out Loud: The biggest threat for our youth Forget politics – the real challenge is our families

By: Abby Dees\*/Special for TRT

In my travels lately as a professional gay I've been speaking at a lot of PFLAG meetings. No matter where I go, the following people are always there: hard core straight allies with "Ask me about my lesbian daughter!" pins permanently affixed to their chests, pink goth LGBT teens, and well-meaning deer-in-the-headlights parents whose kids just came out to them. They're all cool for different reasons: first, the straight allies, because they put to shame the rest of us blasé queers who have protested nary a school-board homophobe in years; second, the kids, because they're brave and fabulous and it sucks being in high school; and third, those newbie PFLAG parents, because

they're diving in with both feet, albeit totally freaked out.

But I've noticed another pattern at these meetings too. While there are often a few LGBT kids who grew up, like their parents, steeped in a Sesame Street ideal of tolerance, there are always several more who grew up in deeply conservative or religious homes. At some point, nearly every one of these young people talks about attempting or thinking about suicide.

Of course I know the statistic that LGBT youth are four times more likely than straight kids to commit suicide, but it's quite another thing to meet the survivors, week after week – out in the sticks or smack in the middle of presumably hip L.A. These suicidal thoughts are as predictable as the weather.

Whether folks were sent to reparative therapy, shunned, shamed, or simply forced into an identity that was a big fat lie, the gist is that growing

See *Thinking Out Loud* on page 14



Abby Dees

**LGBT COALITION** of Western Massachusetts presents:

An LGBT Costume Dance Party

# Howlin' Halloween Spooktacular

**FRIDAY OCTOBER 28**  
**8 PM – MIDNIGHT**  
**SMITH COLLEGE CONFERENCE CENTER**  
**NORTHAMPTON, MA**  
**Costume Optional**

Music by  
DJ Rockin' Reenie

Tickets:  
\$12/advance \$15/door  
\$10/students w/ ID  
(18+)

For tickets or more info:  
[www.lgbtcoalitionwma.org](http://www.lgbtcoalitionwma.org)  
413-588-1018

A Fundraiser for the LGBT Coalition

# Creep of the Week: State Rep. Dave Agema's only way

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

There's one thing you can say about the state of Michigan: it's too friendly to gays.

I mean, yes, it's still legal in Michigan to be fired for being gay. And second-parent adoptions aren't available, meaning that kids with gay parents are only allowed one legally recognized parent despite the fact that they have two, never mind the complete lack of protections for the non-biological mom or dad. Oh, and then there was that 2004 anti-gay marriage amendment added to the state's constitution.

But hey, I'm just being picky. It's not like Michigan's gays are being rounded up and sent to prisons or anything. So who can really complain?

Well, public employees, for one. I mean, it's no secret that Republicans consider public employees a bunch of freeloaders looking for handouts from taxpayers. I mean, to think that teachers or police officers, for example, want things like livable wages and health insurance. Greedy, greedy, greedy.

Mind you, if public employees are awful then gay public employees are, obviously, the worst.

So it should come as no surprise that Michigan Republicans are, yet again, attacking domestic partner benefits for gay and lesbian state employees.

A little background is necessary here. The 2004 marriage amendment included the language "the union of one man and one woman in marriage shall be the only agreement recognized as a marriage or similar union for any purpose."

Supporters of the amendment swore up and down that they were not after domestic partner benefits; they just wanted to make clear that only a penis and a vagina were allowed to say, "I do" to each other.

But that whole "or similar union for any pur-

pose" thing led many people to fear otherwise. And wouldn't you know it, those people were right.

Then Attorney General Mike Cox, a Republican, jumped on the chance to declare DP benefits unconstitutional and the Michigan Supreme Court ruled as such in 2008. Public institutions like colleges and universities scrambled to continue offering DP benefits while not blatantly disregarding the ruling by calling them something else and revising the eligibility requirements.

But this just will not do for Michigan Republicans who are apparently still losing sleep over the fact that some gay and lesbian public employees are receiving benefits of any kind for their "roommates," as state Rep. Dave Agema, R-Grandville, put it.

According to the Chicago Tribune, "Republicans say some public employers have gotten around the implications of (the 2004) constitutional amendment by extending the health care benefits to domestic partners of the opposite sex, along with same-sex partners."

Agema is the sponsor of bills that seek to eliminate these benefits once and for all. The bills passed in the Republican-controlled state House and are headed to the Republican-controlled Senate.

"It is not the responsibility of taxpayers to support the roommates and unmarried partners of public employees," said Agema. "Providing benefits in this way is not the role of the state, especially when tax dollars are in short supply and there are critical programs being affected by the decrease in revenue."

It apparently is the role of the state, however, to further exacerbate the inequality its gay and lesbian citizens are subject to under the law and to publicly dismiss their families as frauds.

# OUT IN THE PARK

## SIX FLAGS NEW ENGLAND

### SEPT. 18, 2011 • AGAWAM, MA

PHOTOS: LIANNA PEVAR/TRT INTERN



## GAY BINGO!

**The THIRD Thursday of every month!**  
Doors open at 6pm  
Bingo starts at 7pm SHARP!  
The Riviera Bingo Palace  
1612 Elmwood Ave., Cranston, RI



AIDS PROJECT  
RHODE ISLAND  
A Division of Family Service of RI

Your hostess with the mostess, Miss Kitty Litter!

September 15: Golden Girl Gay Bingo!  
October 20: Rocky Horror Gay Bingo!  
November 17: Brokeback Mountain Gay Bingo!  
December 15: Martha Stewart Bingo!  
January 19: It's a Barbie Gay Bingo!  
February 16: Cupid is Stupid Gay Bingo!  
March 15: Easter Bonnet Gay Bingo!  
April 19: Toga Gay Bingo!  
May 17: Trailer Park Trash Gay Bingo!  
\*A Special Gay Pride Bingo will be held on June 21st for RI Pride!  
Wear your Pride colors!

**OVER \$2,000 IN CASH AND PRIZES AWARDED EACH MONTH!**

A FUNdraiser for AIDS Care Ocean State and AIDS Project Rhode Island!  
Sponsors are ALWAYS needed. Contact Stephen Hartley at  
401-521-3603 or e-mail at [stephenh@aidscareos.org](mailto:stephenh@aidscareos.org).

For more information, please visit [www.aidscareos.org](http://www.aidscareos.org)

# RAINBOW RIVERFEST

A FUNDRAISER FOR THE LGBT COALITION OF WESTERN MA  
**SEPT. 24, 2011 • HOLYOKE, MA**

PHOTOS: LIANNA PEVAR/TRT INTERN



## UMass Stonewall Center kicks off the season with a festive grand reopening

By: **Tynan Power/TRT Reporter**

On Thursday, Sept. 8, the Stonewall Center at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst opened its doors to more than 175 people at its grand reopening.

According to Genny Beemyn, director of the Stonewall Center, recent renovations have brought much-needed improvements to the center.

"We had complete kitchen and bathroom redos, new carpeting, new ceiling and lighting, new shelving, and some new furniture," Beemyn said. "Plus, of course, the new wheelchair ramp to make us accessible."

The large central space had a more open feel and students were already taking advantage of it, lounging on couches with slices of pizza and sodas. In another area, attendees spilled out of open glass doors onto a patio and the grass beyond. A festive spirit pervaded the gathering and Beemyn was kept busy handing out slices of cake.

"We had 143 students alone fill out surveys," Beemyn said later. The information gathered will help the Stonewall Center provide needed services to students, faculty and staff, as well as the larger community.

Ongoing programs include board-game nights, movie nights and a lending library of books and films. The Stonewall Center also is home to the Speakers Bureau, which provides LGBTQ and allied speaker panels for a variety of settings. The center's "Queer-E" weekly e-mail newsletter lists local events and other items of interest to the LGBTQ community, such as housing opportunities and studies seeking participants.

In addition to its regular programming, the Stonewall Center works with other colleges and

community organizations to produce special events and bring in speakers of interest to the LGBTQ community. Upcoming events include a screening of "Against a Trans Narrative," a film by Jules Rosskam, a visiting professor at Hampshire College. The screening will take place at the Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence on Nov. 17. The Stonewall Center also is involved with planning this year's Northampton Transgender Day of Remembrance, slated for Nov. 20 at 5:30 p.m.

"This year, the Stonewall Center is really focused on looking beyond the scope of LGBT issues and engaging in a broader anti-oppression agenda," said Maru Gonzalez, a doctoral student in social-justice education and the new graduate assistant at the Stonewall Center.

"One of the collaborative projects I am most excited about working on this year is our series, 'Building Community in a Divide and Conquer Culture,' in which we explore the possibilities for coalition building. Our next panel is tentatively scheduled for Nov. 8 and will focus on coalition building at the crossroads of religion/spirituality, sex, race and sexual orientation."

At the center's reopening, though, students were enjoying more mundane benefits of the center: free pizza and cake, transgender-friendly bathrooms and a safe, welcoming place to hang out on this sunny day at the end of summer. For LGBTQ students, moments like these may be precious and infrequent, but at the Stonewall Center, creating these reprieves is just business as usual.

For more information about the Stonewall Center, visit [www.umass.edu/stonewall](http://www.umass.edu/stonewall) or e-mail [stonewall@stuaf.umass.edu](mailto:stonewall@stuaf.umass.edu).

### Fall Healthy Aging Program: Memory Fitness for LGBT Older Adults

The 2011/12 Healthy Aging in the LGBT Community program funded by Tufts Health Plan Foundation kicks off with a very special 4 week course in memory fitness. This is a perfect workshop if you:

- Want to strengthen your memory
- Want to learn strategies to help with remembering things like names, where you parked your car or where you left your glasses or keys
- Want to learn successful memorization tools that you can apply in many different situations

### Fall 2011 LGBT Bereavement Support Groups: Expanded Program

#### LGBT Bereavement Support Groups: Fall 2011

For Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people of all ages coping with the loss of a loved one.

#### LGBT Bereavement: General Loss Support Group

Location: Jamaica Plain  
 Facilitator: Beth Prullage, LICSW  
 Registration: (617) 477-6610  
 Dates/Time: Thursday evenings 6:30 to 8:00pm  
 Sept. 29 to Nov. 17th  
 Cosponsored by Ethos

October 24th to December 12  
 Sponsored by Hospice of the North Shore & Greater Boston and Cosponsored by North Shore Elder Services

#### Coping With Loss Through The Holidays

Location: Charlestown  
 Facilitator: Diane Christopher, LICSW  
 Registration: (857) 294-0052  
 Dates/Time: Wednesday evenings 6:30 to 8:00 pm, November 2nd to January 11th  
 Sponsored by Beacon Hospice

#### LGBT Bereavement: Partner/Spouse Loss Support Group

Location: Brookline  
 Facilitator: Beth Damsky, LICSW  
 Registration: (617) 477-6610  
 Dates/Time: Wednesday evenings 6:30 to 8:00pm  
 Sept 21 to Nov 16th  
 Cosponsored by Goddard House

#### About the Massachusetts LGBT Bereavement Support Group Program

The LGBT Bereavement Groups are funded by the Mass Department of Public Health and facilitated by Ethos and The LGBT Aging Project. Partner Organizations providing additional LGBT Bereavement Groups this fall include: Hospice of the North Shore & Greater Boston, Beacon Hospice and Cape Cod VNA Hospice Bereavement Support Program. All groups are free and run for 8 weeks. All groups require pre-registration.

#### LGBT Bereavement: General Loss Support Group

Location: Danvers  
 Facilitator: Geri Davis, LMHC  
 Registration: Bertolon Center for Grief and Healing, (978) 774-5100  
 Dates/Time: Monday Evenings 6:30 to 8:00pm

Written by Roald Dahl  
Dramatized by Richard R. George

**LIVE!**

**JAMES and the GIANT PEACH**

**When:**  
**November 4-6 & 11-12**

**Matinee & Evening Performances**

Produced by Greene Room Productions Theatre Prod & Ed Outreach Inc.

**Where:**  
**Academy of Music**  
274 Main Street, Northampton MA 01060

**FOR TICKETS: (413)584-9032, x105**  
**www.academyofmusictheatre.com**

## Timberlake, DeGeneres, Cattrall, Nixon and more Glee!

By: Romeo San Vicente\*/Special for TRT

DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD



### Justin Timberlake's got the beat

If you're old enough to remember disco's heyday, then you know Casablanca Records. It was the dance music record label of the 1970s, home to Donna Summer, The Village People, Cher and even Kiss (who scored their one disco hit thanks to the label). And it was masterminded by marketing genius Neil Bogart, who was as extravagant and party-minded as the times themselves. Well now *Spinning Gold*, a biopic about the late music mogul, is in the works with Justin Timberlake acting as both producer and star. There's no other cast or details just yet (for example, who'll play Summer and Cher? Where will they find enough rollerskates?), but when it all falls into place you can expect a trip into hedonism, hit songs, happy-making chemicals and "Hot Stuff."

### Cynthia Nixon and Kim Cattrall head for Broadway



Kim Cattrall

From man-eating Samantha on *Sex and the City* to a revival of *Private Lives*, that's what Kim Cattrall will be doing over Thanksgiving when she hits Broadway in that Noel Coward comedy (infamous for its line: "Certain women should be struck regularly like gongs"). It's set to begin previews on Nov. 6 for a Nov. 17 opening at the Music Box Theater.

And she's not the only *SatC* alum working for it in front of a live audience. Cynthia Nixon (who's always doing a play, it seems) will star in the Broadway revival of the humorous-yet-harrowing 1998 cancer drama *Wit*. That one opens in previews Jan. 5, 2012 for a Jan. 26 open at the Samuel J. Friedman. A couple of questions, though: Will the U.K.-born Cattrall do another British accent like in Roman Polanski's film *The Ghost Writer*? And more exciting to think about, will Nixon shave her head for her own role like

### Thinking Out Loud from page 11

up in intolerant homes does nothing less than destroy lives. There is a body count.

So, a few weeks ago at yet another meeting, the familiar cross-section of folks introduced themselves, as is PFLAG tradition: the pierced bi girl who's starting a gay-straight alliance, the activist mom running a speaker's bureau at the library, the scared parents whose 14-year-old son has declared his desire to come out to everyone, and at least two young men who compared suicide attempts with bittersweet campy humor.

Then the newbie parents asked the group, "How we can keep our son safe? You hear all this horrible stuff about gay-bashing and things on the news. It's frightening to think of him out there alone."

I've heard a version of this question a hundred times, but I'd never put two and two together until I looked around the room that night. I said, "The biggest threat our kids face isn't 'out there' somewhere; it's right at home."

Yes, the world is dangerous, and there are hate



PHOTO: SCREEN GEMS

Justin Timberlake

Kathleen Chalfant did in its original run? You know it would be cool if she did.

### Ellen DeGeneres and Jane Lynch will make it a *Laughing Stock*

Comedy junkies, get ready, because *Laughing Stock* is coming. A project from veteran comic/director David Steinberg and producer Steve Carell, the forthcoming Showtime series promises interviews and profiles of the most prolific comic talents of the past fifty years. The short list alone is impressive: Carell, Ellen DeGeneres, Tina Fey, Jane Lynch, Sarah Silverman, Judd Apatow, Mel Brooks, Chris Rock, Larry David, Jerry Seinfeld, Carl Reiner, Don Rickles and more. In other words, over the course of the 10-episode series, you'll get to hear way too many first-hand accounts of what drives funny people to do what they and witness the mechanics of comedy dissected by people who are usually always "on." The punchline? You have to wait until 2012.

### The Glee Project refuses to stop believing

*Glee*? A record-breaking pop culture phenomenon. But *The Glee Project*? Less so. How much less so? Well, remember that 3D *Glee* concert movie that nobody went to see? The low-rated *Glee Project* was sort of like that, only free and on television. In other words, they couldn't give it away. But sometimes shows just need time to develop and build their audience. And the powers that be must have gotten at least something of what they wanted from the reality competition, because a second season casting call is already in the works. Will tenacity pay off for the struggling Oxygen show? Will an audience rise up to meet it during season two? And does it matter? Because either way, it's probably a cost-effective way to restock the show as aging "high schoolers" move on, no matter how many people tune in for the process.

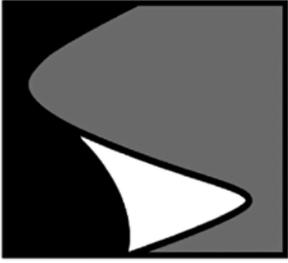
*\*Romeo San Vicente never stopped believing, but then again he never really started in the first place. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.*

crimes and bullying every day. And that's just here — you really don't want to visit Uganda or Iraq in a rainbow T-shirt anytime soon. But none of that matters much if you can't survive your own family.

As I spoke, I wondered if, among these people earnestly trying to be good parents, I was in effect saying, "It's you! You are going to screw up your kid!" I felt like the guest who just sneezed all over the buffet. Still, it was suddenly so obvious that if all you do is stand by your LGBT child, their odds for survival go up by at least 400 percent.

There were nods of agreement, so I didn't need to duck out in shame. But I'm left acutely aware of the irony that while we're fighting publicly to have our chosen families legally recognized, LGBT young people are quietly in the fight of their lives, every day, in their own family homes. We can't prevail if they can't.

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



# DINSMORE STARK

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

***Our Community.  
Our Families.  
Our Lawyers.***



**Bernadette Stark, Esq. and Raymond E. Dinsmore, Esq.**

The Law Office of Dinsmore Stark is committed to the compassionate, yet aggressive handling of our clients' cases.

We understand that retaining the right attorney for you can be a challenging decision. Our office prioritizes communication with our clients, keeping you regularly informed on the status of your case and offering you the personal attention that you and your case deserve.

We have a family-oriented approach to our business and our practice, making a special effort to get to know our clients. Some of our clients come to us at the most difficult times in their lives and this personal attention and understanding is essential to providing quality representation.

The office of Dinsmore Stark offers reasonable rates, affordable retainers and flexible billing arrangements. Contact us to schedule a free initial consultation.

Our main office is conveniently located in downtown Northampton, MA. Evening and weekend hours are available by appointment.

**Areas of Practice**

**Attorney Stark**

- Divorce/Family Law
- Marital/Family Based Agreements
- Same-Sex Families
- Immigration
- Wills/Estate Planning

**Areas of Practice**

**Attorney Dinsmore**

- Bankruptcy
- Employment Law
- Landlord - Tenant
- Personal Injury
- Consumer Protection Law

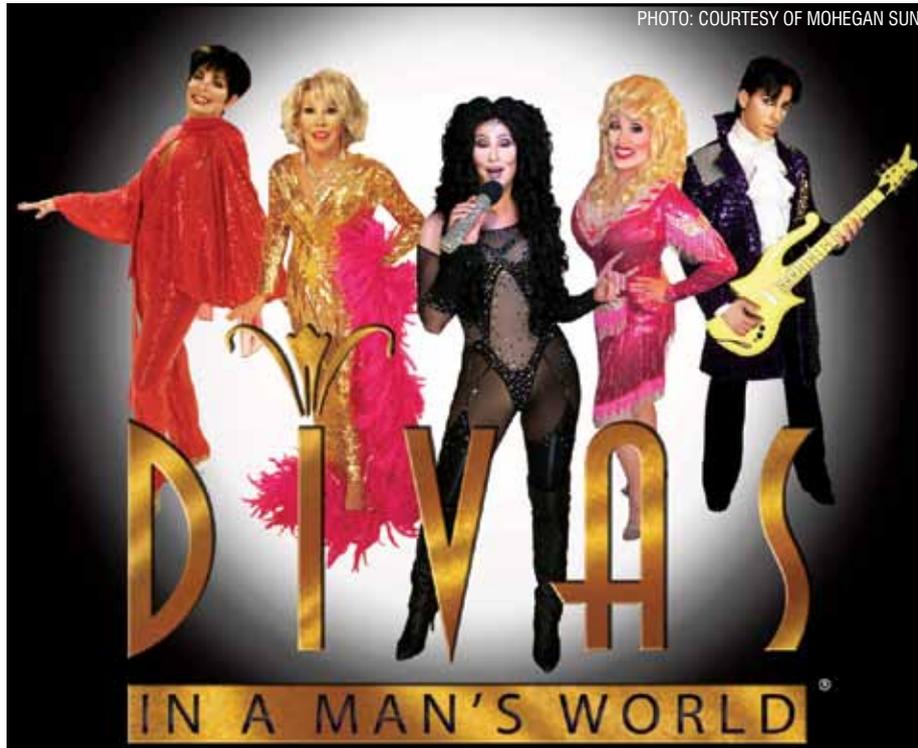


PHOTO: COURTESY OF MOHEGAN SUN

LEZ HAVE FUN PROMOTIONS  
PRESENTS.  **HOSTED BY "DEEP"**

<http://www.facebook.com/deepdominance>  
**SPRINGFIELD'S #1 ALTERNATIVE NIGHT**

**NO LABELS**  
EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT




## Divas in a Man's World® hosted by Mohegan Sun

By: **Christine Nicco**/TRT Reporter

It's no surprise that Mohegan Sun is the host of many community events. With its lavish accommodations, breathless architecture, boundless entertainment and theaters to house any kind of performance, it makes the perfect venue for just about any occasion.

Recently, the Cabaret Theater transformed into a benefit hall, hosting perhaps the best known Hollywood icons in support of the LGBT community; Cher, Joan Rivers, Dolly Parton, Liza Minnelli and Prince through the art of female impersonation. The show, *Divas in a Man's World*® was held to support the *Alliance for Living*, a Connecticut-based non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for people affected by HIV/AIDS.

The show, hosted by Joan Rivers (Gary Dee) had the audience engaged and laughing uncontrollably throughout. As a matter of fact, as only Joan can do, her satire and crass ways had attendees practically begging for more. Cher (Steven Andrade), Liza Minnelli (Phyl Craig), Dolly Parton (Jason CoZmo), and Prince (Frank Moore), had such a level of realism that if audience members did not know better, they could have been easily fooled by their performances. It was apparent that the impersonators had it down to a T. Every movement, costume, posture, and energy reeked of unequivocal preciseness. The show did not disappoint. Visit TRT's YouTube Channel to view select performances at <http://bit.ly/n3UlcH>.

For more information about *Divas in a*



PHOTO: COURTESY OF MOHEGAN SUN

*Man's World*®, please visit: [www.divasina-mansworld.com](http://www.divasina-mansworld.com). To learn more about the *Alliance for Living* or to get involved with their organization go to [www.allianceforliving.org](http://www.allianceforliving.org).

The Mohegan Sun was created in 1996 by the Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut and is one of the world's most amazing destinations with some of New England's finest dining, hotel accommodations, retail shopping, live entertainment and sporting events. Boasting three world-class casinos, Mohegan Sun is also host to the Kids Quest/Cyber Quest family entertainment facility, a luxurious day spa, convention center and meeting facility, a state-of-the-art Poker Room as well as three major entertainment venues with seating from 300 to 10,000, according to its website. For more information about Mohegan, to plan your upcoming visit, or to collaborate with them to host an event of your own, visit: [www.mohegansun.com](http://www.mohegansun.com).

Come Experience The Standard In Alternative Nightlife

DJ Kelz spinning HipHop/R&B/Reggeaton

3 Luxurious Bars; Vip Sections Available

For More Information Contact: 413-342-7577

21 Plus; Proper I.D.A Must

**SINNERS**  
280 BRIDGE ST. DOWNTOWN SPFLD  
**SAINTS**

**blog • personals • calendar  
chat • breaking news  
resources • advertise  
& more ...**

**find it all @ [therainbowtimesnews.com](http://therainbowtimesnews.com)**

# North Shore LGBTQ youth support group holds 4th Annual Fundraiser

By: **Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter**

"One of our goals, a vision for the organization, is to secure a permanent place and not just to hold a once-a-week meeting," said Kirsten Freni, president of the board of directors for a local LGBTQ youth support group.

"So many of our youth need a place where they can have access to computers, a library, a location where we can do training and have things happen on a regular basis," Freni said.

"If we have youth at risk, part of that permanent place is to have emergency housing rather than to have these kids out on the street," she added.

Freni was referring to the North Shore Alliance of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Youth, or NAGLY, which holds weekly meetings every Tuesday, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the First Universalist Church at 211 Bridge St., in Salem, Mass.

Freni's remarks came during a fundraising event held on Thursday evening, Sept. 29, in the Grand Ballroom of Salem's Hawthorne Hotel. The event drew nearly 200 people and was expected to raise \$20,000 to \$25,000, according to Steve Harrington, board vice president.

For nearly 20 years, NAGLY has provided a safe haven for queer and questioning youth, ages 14 to 23. Accordingly, NAGLY provides peer-run, adult-supervised discussions and presentations covering a range of issues, explained Coco Alinsug, the organization's executive director. Topics include healthy and safe relationships, family and peer reaction to coming out, violence prevention, safe sex and HIV/AIDS awareness, and a full range of historic, cultural and artistic celebrations and expressions of LGBTQ pride.

One local businessman in attendance was Darek

Barcikowski, also an openly gay candidate for Salem City Council.

"I think it's great that this group of teenagers who self-identify with the LGBTQ community are able to meet their peers," Barcikowski said. "Decades ago these groups didn't exist, and kids were on their own."

"There is still a lot of work to be done as the sad stories we hear about teen suicides and bullying give more exposure and bring those teens together who are getting bullied or suffer from depression or have identity issues," said Barcikowski. "I definitely want to be here to support this initiative."

Recent statistics indeed point to some of the work that needs to be done. For example, more than a third of students report having experienced harassment at school on the basis of sexual orientation, with more than a quarter reporting similar treatment on the basis of gender expression. Nearly one-fifth of students said they have been physically assaulted because of sexual orientation, with more than a tenth reporting assault on the basis of gender expression, according to the 2005 Gay, Lesbian, Straight Educators Network National School Climate Survey.

For all of those reasons, LGBTQ youth need a safe, open and affirming atmosphere.

How has NAGLY affected the lives of queer youth?

Six years ago, "when I first came to NAGLY I was a very scared 15-year-old girl," said Alex Hayward, reading to the gathering from an award-winning essay he wrote.

"I had just moved to Salem, just started high school after six years of home schooling, and just come out to my family, who was not very receptive," he said.

"My life changed from the very first meeting I attended," Hayward explained. "NAGLY is my sec-

ond home. It has done so much for me both coming out as a lesbian, as well as a transgender man." Jessica Tower also spoke about the importance of NAGLY in her life. "Walking into my first meeting, I knew practically nothing about myself and even less about the LGBTQ community," she said, also reading to the crowd from her award-winning essay.

Recalling her fears then, she said, "What will they think of me? What will I think of them? What if I have to speak? What if my mom finds out? I wonder if they will all know that I am bisexual? I hope there are cute girls."

And yet, fear gave way to peace. "I became calmer," Tower said. "People were nice here, so accepting of each other. That was a change."

"I had never seen so many gay people in one room before that night," Tower continued. "It was the first night I had ever seen transgender people. I had an immense urge to learn about this new community. I was part of a friendly, accepting and overall awesome community. How cool was that? ... That was the night I began to change."

She came out to her mother who was "fine with who I am," Tower said.

"Each time I attended a meeting I began to realize my potential. I began to feel extremely happy for the first time in my life."

A nonprofit organization, NAGLY is one of more than a dozen groups statewide that seeks to provide safe havens for LGBTQ youth. Boston-based BAGLY is the largest, with NAGLY second. An all-volunteer organization, NAGLY receives \$20,000 from the state Department of Public Health, with that funding covering only the cost of running weekly meetings.

To view more photos about the nAGLY Fundraiser, please visit: <http://on.fb.me/rrZ5mB>



**Coco Alinsug, nAGLY's Executive Director & Kirsten Freni, nAGLY's Board President.**



**Alex Hayward**

## Gloria Estefan from page 9

**A:** I love that. That's one of my favorite songs I've ever written, so that makes me happy. You know, that was the idea. When I wrote that tune it was like a message of hope. I wanted to celebrate the hero in each of us and the fact that we can survive and be stronger. ... That's what music was for me. I had a really tough time growing up and other people's music got me through those moments, so it means a lot to me that that was good for you, as well.

**Q:** It's a song that so many gay kids who were bullied into suicide should've heard before they took their own life.

**A:** I know. I did a video message for the *It Gets Better* campaign and I talked about that - that when I was 15 I felt so overwhelmed and everything was so heavy on me that, believe me, I thought about it. Kids think that problems are going to last forever and they need to realize that life changes in a second. I can understand where they get overwhelmed, but we have a short enough time as it is on this earth without having to end it early.

**Q:** Considering how Target has supported anti-gay candidates and indirectly anti-gay causes, there's been much controversy in the gay community surrounding your partnership with them for the release of *Miss Little Havana*. What do you have to say to gay fans who might question your support for them?

**A:** To my gay fans, I would say this: Always go with your heart and do what you need to do, because I think that every human being needs to stand on principle. But I've got to tell you: I would never work with someone who is anti-gay.

I know that they donated to a third party who then donated to this candidate and - I did my homework - since then they donated \$150,000 to that candidate. They apologized profusely for having done so, and they have established an actual committee that oversees all political donations to make sure that



PHOTO: JESUS CORDERO

this doesn't happen again. They've also donated a half-million dollars to LGBTQ organizations. They're part of the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. They give domestic partner benefits. They have 300,000 employees that are from all walks of life, and it's very important for them to be supportive. They've extended family medical leave benefits and adoption benefits to their gay employees. They've really supported very much their gay peeps.

Believe me, in my own life I've gone through a lot of these things. When I had Obama at my house, I got nailed by the Cuban community - even though I'm not affiliated politically. Sometimes the information you want to get out there doesn't, because the first thing that blows up is what people hear.

So I will always respect what (my gay fans) want to do, but I have a long history with Target. I've put out my children's book, we've done programs for the troops - they really have been very supportive, so I would say: Do some more research, check out what Target has done to make up for its gaffe - and they know it was a gaffe. It was lack of information, not knowing everything about everybody that your money goes to. I was actually very surprised when that whole Target thing happened, but I know how these things

See Gloria Estefan on page 18

search  
rainbow times  
to join us!

## Mathew Brockelman LMT

Leominster, MA  
At Home Availability

*Help yourself reduce stress and pain today!*

**Massage by Mathew Brockelman, LMT**

**Call 978-660-5289**

## theNetwork|aRed

**25-33% of LGBTQ people experience abuse by a partner.**

**Call to talk....**

617.742.4911 (v)

617.227.4911 (tty)

- bilingual hotline
- línea de crisis bilingüe
- emergency shelter
- refugio de emergencia
- support group
- grupo de apoyo

**Llama para hablar...**

**25-33% de personas LGBTQ experimentan abuso por su pareja.**

[www.tnlr.org](http://www.tnlr.org)

# Ask a TransMan: What Chaz Bono does for a transman's public image

By: Tynan Power\*/TRT Columnist

TRANS MAN



PHOTO: GLENN WOETZNER

**W**hen I started transitioning, my mother's boyfriend, Bob, was trying to get his head around the idea and asked a tough question.

"Is there any famous person I'd know of who has

Bono isn't perceived simply as "another guy dancing," though -- and maybe that's not all bad.

"Every time Chaz moves his trans body with pride and joy across America's stage, we increase our trans visibility," says Bet Power, executive director of the Sexual Minorities Archives. "The mainstream gets to know us as likable, and queer youth get to see that they are cool rather than marginal."

For some, having Chaz in the public eye is a mixed bag.

"It's helpful for people to have someone they can have in mind and say 'Oh, yeah, transman, of course, like Chaz Bono,'" says Michel Fitos. "On the other hand, he doesn't do a lot to expand people's awareness of different narratives [of trans identity]."

Tobias Davis also sees a downside.

"I see the same thing in him that I see in a lot of newly-out/newly-on-hormones transmen, which is the same thing I see in a lot of young [cisgender] men hitting puberty," said Davis. "Basically all of these men are figuring out what it means to be a man in our society today, and what to do with all these new hormones in their systems."

"There are thousands of authentic, compassionate, feminist ways to be a man, and thousands of macho, arrogant, misogynist ways to be a man," Davis says. "I just wish that Chaz would lean more towards the former."

Justin Cascio feels Bono shouldn't have to represent other FTMs.

"It's hard enough, I'm sure, just to be Chaz Bono," said Cascio, "without Justin Cascio and every other transman in the world laying our needs on him, too -- to 'represent' us well in public so people will receive us better when we meet, or to 'keep it quiet' so we can avoid scrutiny."

Still, like Davis, Cascio wants transmen like Bono

to recognize and harness their privilege for the good of others.

"We have so much power, and the need to talk about how to justly wield male privilege," Cascio says. "That is a conversation worth having among transmen."

Part of me is thrilled to see Chaz on TV, dancing with stars once again. Another part is skeptical of having a celebrity represent FTMs to a wide TV audience.

"A glorified game show probably isn't the best place for publicity of social issues," says Tobias Bennett.

What's more, celebrity makes caricatures out of real people.

As one anonymous FTM put it: "Presenting Chaz Bono as a representative of transgender people, experiences, and realities is like presenting Snoopy as an average beagle."

If I could go back to that conversation with Bob today, I'd point out Chaz Bono as a famous FTM. Then, I'd introduce Bob to Cascio, Davis, Fitos, DiMartino, Bennett and Power, real transmen whose ethics inspire me. I'd invite Bob to sit down with us and talk about handling male privilege gracefully. I think we'd all learn a lot from each other.

To read more comments from the contributors to this column, continue reading online at [therainbowtimesnews.com](http://therainbowtimesnews.com)

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

Gloria Estefan from page 17

happen. I've been on other side of that. So give them another shot and if not, I respect very much whatever they may want to do or need to do to stand up for whatever principles they're upholding.

I just want them to know that I'm so supportive of the LGBT community. They've been a big part of my success and they've always been there for me. I would not want to do anything that hurts them.

**Q:** Your birthplace of Cuba has evolved a lot in the way it treats gay people. In the '70s, many LGBT people were imprisoned simply for being gay. What do you remember it being like for gay people?

**A:** Well, I was a baby. I came over here when I was 18 months old, so I really have no real memories of Cuba. But I always stay on top of the news from Cuba and I know that Raúl Castro's daughter is gay and she's trying to do a lot for that community, but Cuba in general -- just that macho mentality -- was tough even though it was one of the wildest places in the world. They've come a long way, but they did horrendous things when the AIDS epidemic came out. And since nobody has rights in Cuba, imagine the gays in Cuba -- just regular schmoes have no rights and can be jailed at a moment's notice, so they were very, very rough.

**Q:** Do you think it's harder for a Latino artist, Ricky Martin for instance, to be gay and out?

**A:** I think it's harder for anyone, to be honest. Even though fortunately we are definitely moving forward -- you see all these states where it's becoming legal to marry your same-sex partner, as it should be everywhere -- and we're heading in the right direction. But you have to realize that even the Equal Rights Amendment only happened in 1972 (Editor's note: It was never ratified), so we're still trying to grow rights for everyone. I think it's still tough because there are still judgmental people, there's still racism, there's still homophobia. It's a human condition. So as we become more and more educated and people become more open, it's going to go in a positive direction.

**Q:** So you're a gay marriage supporter?

**A:** Of course I am. I think everyone should be able to marry who they love, and it just should be.

**Q:** Do you think you would've had that mentality years ago, considering you grew up in a very Catholic-conservative home?

**A:** I did, and I don't know if my mom -- I think nowadays she would, because my mom has grown a lot, but my mom was also raised in a very restrictive atmosphere in Cuba. She has a lot of hardcore ideas. I've never talked to her about this, but she's very supportive of all her gay friends, and sometimes I go into her house and I tell her it's like *La Cage Aux Folles* -- all her best friends are gay guys! (Laughs) They're over there always taking care of her and being really sweet with her.

**Q:** We're very nurturing.

**A:** Hey, listen, the best son a mom could have is a gay son. They're not going to leave you high and dry, and they always watch their mothers and take care of them very much.

**Q:** Does that mean you're going to have more kids until you get a gay one?

**A:** Me?! I can't! Are you kidding me? I would love a grandkid. Listen, the president of my corporation is gay and I see how he is with his mom, and I have a lot of friends who are just fantastic sons.

**Q:** Very nice to speak with you, Gloria.

**A:** Thank you so much. A pleasure as well. Tell all my gay fans I love them.

**FREE**  
Instant Access to Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont and the Nation's Top Gay & Lesbian Realtors.

**SOLD**

www.GayRealEstate.com

Find Your Perfect Agent Online: [www.GayRealEstate.com](http://www.GayRealEstate.com) Or Call Toll Free: 1.888.420.MOVE (6683)

**HARDLINE**  
HOT LOCAL GAY CHAT

ALL ACCESS FREE TRIAL!  
**617.861.2727**

hartford 860.761.1313  
new haven 203.724.0077  
other cities 1.877.510.3344

MANline  
now powered by HARDLINE

FREE iPhone App

hardlinechat.com

The Rainbow Times

TRT

tumblr.

ON

THE

facebook

GO!

YouTube

# Gay Bingo nights in Cranston, RI, raise revenue for HIV awareness

By: Casey Rocheteau/TRT Reporter

Every third Thursday, between September and June, drag queens, leather bears, married ladies, grandmothers and even a few lesbians pack into the Riviera Bingo Palace in Cranston, R.I., for Gay Bingo. Hosted by the inimitable Ms. Kitty Litter, Gay Bingo is something of a monthly theme party to benefit AIDS Care Ocean State. Stephen Hartley, director of development for the organization, raves that “this is not your grandmother’s bingo at all.” Bringing both hilarity and vulgarity, Kitty and Haley (the official ball-puller for Gay Bingo) draw in a full crowd anticipating their antics every month, adding a wonderful flourish to a usually dull game of numbers.

The first Gay Bingo was started in December of 1997 with Chris Butler, who was executive director at AIDS

Project R.I. Hartley was one of the MCs at the first Gay Bingo, and is now the star of the show as Ms. Litter, Hartley’s drag persona. Almost 14 years later, people are so invested that they will come and decorate their tables according to the theme. The theme for Oct. 20 will be “Rocky Horror,” just in time for Halloween. If you’ve been waiting to try out your best Magenta or Riff-Raff costume, you might even just win a prize.



PHOTO: JACK HARTWEIN-SANCHEZ

Miss Kitty Litter

As if the prospect of monthly \$2,000 giveaways in cash and prizes isn’t enough, Gay Bingo is also a much needed fundraiser. All of proceeds go to a variety of places including direct client services at AIDS Care OS, those living with HIV/AIDS in Rhode Island, AIDS Project R.I., as well as prevention and outreach to stop the spread of HIV. AIDS Care OS provides safe-sex kits and is currently running a Know Your Status campaign, which encourages regular testing.

While today’s younger generation did not have to go through the epidemic, seeing many of their friends die painfully, HIV/AIDS continues to be a major health risk, which is why Gay Bingo is so vital. Although there are new medications on the market allowing people with HIV/AIDS to live longer, it is still important to spread in-

formation about prevention and take care of those living with the virus or syndrome. Helping those in need, promoting safe sex to the masses, and providing a fun opportunity to mingle with the community, Gay Bingo is a fabulous way to spend a Thursday evening. As Mr. Hartley says, “You will never see this mix of people again in any place, but everyone is there for one reason: to have fun and raise lots of money for people in need.”

# Providence Slutwalk attempts to reclaim a derogatory word

By: Casey Rocheteau/TRT Reporter

Chanting “however we dress, wherever we go, yes means yes, no means no!,” Slutwalk Providence took to the streets of downtown Providence.

There have been several Slutwalks across the country, though the first took place in Toronto. The provocative name for the event comes as a reaction to a Toronto police officer telling a group of students that if women didn’t dress like sluts, then they would be less likely to be sexually assaulted. The events have been organized on a grassroots level, and Providence’s was no different. A crowd of around 175 people gathered downtown in Kennedy Plaza to hear poets and activists speak about a range of things from women getting cat-called on the streets to an unfortunate culture of victim blaming around rape and assault.

Sarah Quenon, one of the organizers of the Providence Slutwalk described the event as “a group of people coming together to stand up against something that they see as an injustice.” When asked about the name of the event, she went on to say that the shock value certainly draws people’s attention, although it might mislead others. In some ways, trying to reclaim the word slut so that it is empowering to those it has been used to hurt is similar to the reclamation of the word ‘queer.’ Derogatory terms, are, of course, easy to come by and reclaiming one will only see the use of another pejorative as long as bigotry persists. The somewhat contentious name aside, the Slutwalks have largely been seen as a resurgence of a women’s rights movement.

Following the march through downtown, there was an open meeting for brainstorming future ideas for events and projects that the group could work on, culminating in the formation of the Rhode Island Anti-Sexism League. The diverse group of people in the



PHOTO: JOSEPH MENENDEZ

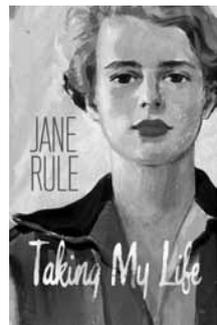
room were energetic and excited about fighting for the cause.

When speaking to Quenon and Josh Kilby, a LGBT activist who had spoken at the rally, it was clear that this was not just a women’s issue, but a serious problem that affects a broad swath of people. Quenon made the point that a gay man or a transgender person might be taken less seriously by the police when trying to report an assault, particularly transgender people of color. Kilby made the connection that in the wake of the recent gay teen suicides, anti-LGBT pundits had made comments like, “If gay students weren’t flaunting their sexuality, then maybe they wouldn’t be bullied,” which shows the same kind of victim blaming that initiated the first Slutwalk. Kilby went on to say that “this is the logic of rape culture which permeates and creates natural links between events like Slutwalk and the LGBT movement.” Indeed, the LGBT community of Rhode Island was represented by individuals who participated because they saw the links as well.

For more information on the Rhode Island Anti-Sexism League, check out: [speakoutsayno.tumblr.com](http://speakoutsayno.tumblr.com) or follow them on Twitter @RIAntiSexism.

## BookMarks: Taking My Life; The Fog... & Happy Accidents

By: Richard Labonte\*/Special for TRT



*Taking My Life*, by Jane Rule. Talonbooks, 284 pages, \$19.95 paper.

It’s good to go through all the boxes. That’s how scholar Linda M. Morra came across an astonishing, never-catalogued find: a posthumous autobiography, handwritten on yellow foolscap paper, recounting Rule’s first 21 years from the thoughtful, ironic and sometimes painfully honest perspective of old age. On the first page, she “remember(s) remembering when I was born.” On the last page, she is settling into “my first real home,” learning “how to live with a lover” and writing “my first, unpublishable novel.” The years between included a peripatetic childhood, as her family bounced from home to home; a tomboyish youth – she was a gangly lass; a sometimes fractious relationship with her handsome but troubled older brother; and, as she passed from adolescence to young womanhood, a realization that she was born to love women. Though best known for the classic *Desert of the Heart*, Rule wrote 10 other novels and three other books; anyone who has read even one – though every queer reader with taste

ought to read them all – will relish revisiting her fluid prose.



*The Fog: A Novel of Desire and Reprisal*, by Jeff Mann. Bear Bones Books, 224 pages, \$15 paper.

Sex is violence and passion is pain in Mann’s relentlessly brutal – yet irrepressibly romantic – short novel. At its core are two long-term lovers, self-defined bears. Jay – the Daddy of the relationship – believes he was deeply wronged by a cop who sent him to jail. Consumed by a desire for revenge, he enlists his blinded-by-love partner, Al, in a plan to kidnap and torture Rob, the hauntingly hunky son of his nemesis. From first page to last, except for a redemptive epilogue, this pitch-perfect erotic novel epitomizes a thriller genre known as torture porn – the 22-year-old captive is blindfolded and bound and gagged for days on end, chained to his bed, denied heat in the midst of frigid Appalachian winter, lashed with whips, slashed by knives and cruelly raped by Jay. And yet, the poetry of Mann’s prose imbues even the most gruesome scenes with tender moments, particularly as a kind of Stockholm syndrome slowly bonds young Rob and his gen-

tle captive, Al. Both shocking and sensual, this is an instant classic.

*Happy Accidents*, by Jane Lynch. Hyperion Voice, 256 pages, \$24.99 paper.

By age 12, Lynch was mostly mooning about girls, though she confesses in this charismatic memoir to a hormonal crush on 1970s-era Ron Howard. The crankily comedic star of *Glee* acknowledged her lesbianism as a theater major, but it took a couple of decades, an ocean of alcohol and a pharmacy of over-the-counter pills before Lynch was able to accept the kindness of strangers – and the affection of friends. She was a solitary drinker for years – “Had I known that in AA one of the things you do is tell your drinking story over and over, I would have made mine much more interesting” – before accepting the challenge of recovery and exploring a stabilizing spirituality. All the while she was auditioning steadily, hawking cubic zirconia on a 1987 home shopping show and shilling for sugary cereal before breaking through with a scene-stealing cameo in *Best in Show*. Always candid, never coy, Lynch’s account of the happy casting accidents that led her to stardom – and, more recently, to love – is the work of a most talented woman.

\*Richard Labonte has been reading, editing, selling, and writing about queer literature since the mid-’70s. He can be reached in care of this publication or at [BookMarks@qsyndicate.com](mailto:BookMarks@qsyndicate.com).

**ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A WAY TO GIVE BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY?**

**The American Cancer Society is seeking a volunteer coordinator for the Road to Recovery program in Hampshire County. Road coordinators match volunteer drivers with cancer patients in need of rides to treatment.**

**This is a volunteer position and may be done from home in less than one hour per day. Call Crystal Brown at 413-493-2123 or email [crystal.brown@cancer.org](mailto:crystal.brown@cancer.org) for more information.**

## The New LGBT Documentary about LGBT elders and their coming out choices

Franklin County Home Care (FCHCC), Greenfield Community College (GCC) and Boston's LGBT Aging Project are proud to sponsor the Pioneer Valley screening of:

Gen Silent is the new LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) documentary that asks six LGBT elders if they will hide their lives to survive. Gen Silent will be shown on Tuesday, October 18, 2011 at Greenfield Community College's (GCC) main campus Dining Commons.

Registration and refreshments start at 5:00-5:45 p.m. The film will be shown from 6-7 p.m.

A discussion will follow from 7-7:45 p.m.

Did you know that ...

- 50% of LGBT elders live alone compared to 33% of the general population?

- It is estimated that there are almost 38 million LGBT elders over the age of 65 and this figure will nearly double by 2030?

Gen Silent puts a face on what experts call an epidemic—LGBT elders being so afraid of discrimination or worse in long term care/health care that they may go back into the closet. Their surprising decisions are captured in Gen Silent.

Unlike any other LGBT aging film, Gen Silent uncovers how oppression in the years before Stonewall now leaves many elders not just afraid but dangerously isolated. Many of our greatest generation people are struggling because they don't ask for help and have too few people in their lives to help.

The film shows a wide range of paid caregivers—from those specially trained to make LGBT elders feel safe to those on the other end of the spectrum where LGBT elders face discrimination, abuse or neglect. Gen Silent was directed by Stu Maddox, award winning director and documentary film maker.

Gen Silent journeys through these challenges and also shows hope. This screening is FREE and open to the public. Greenfield Community College is fully accessible.

Registration is required by October 12 by emailing [info@fchcc.org](mailto:info@fchcc.org) or calling 413-773-5555, Ext. 2296 or 978-544-2259, ext. 2296.

Voluntary donations will be accepted to offset the rental cost of the film. More information at [gensilent.com](http://gensilent.com) and <http://bit.ly/quXrJE>

## RI's Mister Sister wins second consecutive Customer Satisfaction Award

PROVIDENCE – Earning a 4-star rating for the second year in a row, Mister Sister has received the prestigious CMUS Talk of the Town Customer Satisfaction Award for providing excellent customer service.

The award, presented by Talk of the Town News, Customer Care News magazine and Celebration Media, honors companies and professionals that provide excellent customer service as reported by their customers through no-cost, user-review websites, blogs, social networks, business rating services, and other honors and accolades. This data is analyzed by a team of researchers and converted into a star rating; only those that receive a 4-star to 5-star rating receive the Talk of the Town Customer Satisfaction Award.

According to a reviewer from yelp.com, a review site for local businesses, critics of the boutique chimed in.

"[It is] a wonderful positive queer-friendly adult store, not at all the sort of place where you feel embarrassed to be caught coming out of," wrote customer Sonya A., Providence, RI.

After owning two other stores in Providentown, Mass., Devioune Mayim-Daviau opened the doors to Mister Sister on November 9, 2008. Nestled in the heart of Fox Point, R.I., Mister Sister offers a tasteful and diverse selection of adult toys and erotica catering to the eclectic neighborhood in which it's located.

"We greet each customer with a smile and a willingness to cater to their needs. We believe in conversations, not sales pitches, and we honor and respect the diversity of our

clientele," says Mayim-Daviau adding, "Our staff strives to provide a safe and supportive environment for all. We believe in ourselves and in our products."

Rebecca F., in one of many other reviews available at yelp.com stated how a personal touch can get you excited in more than one way.

"... You get that little brown bag with orange tissue paper that is so unique to Mister Sister that if you're opening a present and see it, you can't help but get excited.

Mayim-Daviau personally chooses every item in her shop. Every aspect of the product is considered, including providing a diverse assortment of environmentally friendly rechargeable toys that reduce the buyer's carbon imprint. Mister Sister also carries a variety of organic and vegan products.

"[The] staff is friendly and knowledgeable," said Sonya A. "I went in with a very specific concern and the owner was able to make a recommendation that was absolutely perfect."

Mister Sister is actively involved in numerous charitable causes including sponsorship of the Aids Care Ocean State's Gay Bingo Games and the Bradley-Angle House for domestic violence. It also provides the Imperial Court of Rhode Island and many other nonprofit organizations with cash and gift baskets to auction for their respective causes.

Mayim-Daviau and the entire Mister Sister staff have worked hard and are proud to have received a 4-star rating and the Talk of the Town Customer Satisfaction Award for the second year in a row and thank their customers who made that possible.

Mister Sister is located at 268 Wickenden St. For more information, contact 401-421-6969.

*About the Award and Sponsors:*

This is the third year CMUS, Talk of the Town News and Customer Care News have honored companies for achieving high levels of customer satisfaction. Among the diverse types of organizations and professionals eligible to receive the award are hospitals, dentists, accountants, physical therapists, veterinarians, optometrists, insurance, chiropractors, lawyers, financial planners, restaurants, bakeries, event centers, home improvement companies, florists, spas, salons and mortgage companies.

For more information about the award or its sponsors, please contact CMUS and Talk of the Town News at 877-498-6405 or online at [www.talkofthetownnews.com](http://www.talkofthetownnews.com).

 **follow us ...**  
[twitter.com/therainbowtimes](http://twitter.com/therainbowtimes)

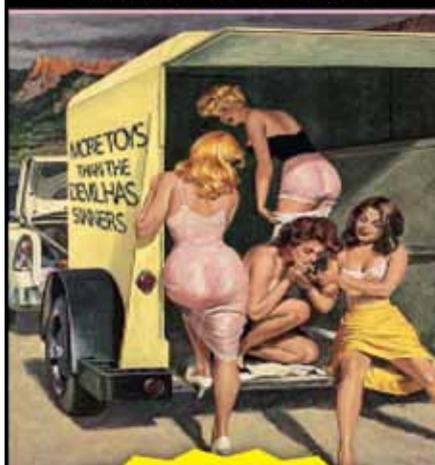
**Know your status.**



Call AIDS Care Ocean State's Prevention Office at 401-781-0665 to schedule an appointment for FREE anonymous and confidential HIV and HEP C testing.

**Get tested.**

**MISTER SISTER**  
Quality Erotica  
Without the Attitude



**NOW OPEN**  
**Mondays 12-8PM**

titan • fun factory • colt  
vixen • butch bear • tantus  
fetish wear • treasure island

**HOURS: Mon 12-8 • Tues-Thurs 11-9**  
**Friday-Saturday 11-10 • Sunday 11-5**

268 Wickenden Street, Providence  
401.421.6969

**TRT**  
**HEROES!**

**Know someone who works for the LGBT community and who gives endlessly and selflessly to everyone?**

**Nominate them to be our next TRT HERO!**

**Please send your nominations to:**  
[editor@therainbowtimesnews.com](mailto:editor@therainbowtimesnews.com)

# ¿En dónde te sientas políticamente? ¡Escoge tu asiento con precaución!

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

LATIN VISION



**A**cabamos de celebrar otra celebración de Orgullo Latino. ¡Gracias a todo/as aquello/as que pudieron asistir de las charlas, películas, fiestas, y demás! Gracias a los auspiciadores y aquello/as que pudieron hacer

de esta celebración un gran evento. Pero ¿en dónde estamos sentados? ¿Dónde estamos situados en la política local? ¿En qué medios de comunicación nos aceptan y nos incluyen?

Somos un grupo diverso de Latinos. Representamos todos los países Latino Americanos y del Caribe. Tenemos todos los colores, religiones, edades y orientaciones sexuales, y expresiones de género, pero en la política no somos representados en su totalidad. No sabemos dónde estamos sentados. Organizaciones políticas como Oíste es una de las pocas organizaciones que nos incluyen en las discusiones y nos ayudan a decidir que asiento/posición debemos tomar – esta organización siempre nos va a proveer un buen asiento. Ello/as en Oíste nos incluyen en todos los diálogos relacionados a la política en Massachusetts. La organización y su líder, Alejandra St. Guillen, nos motivan a sentarnos con ellos/as en este “carro” que se mueve muy rápido y tiene diferentes caminos. Ellos/as nos educan de la política local y nacional. Pero debemos aprender que asiento escoger y sentarnos. Ya que Oíste no es una organización parti-

daria, es nuestro deber aprender si vamos en un camino demócrata, republicano o liberal. Esta posición no tiene que ser fija—puede cambiar—pero sí tiene que ser una que podamos defender y saber por qué la escogimos.

En la política local se sabe que los Latinos no ejercen su derecho al voto como debe ser. Aunque somos la mayoría entre los grupos minoritarios, no somos el grupo de más votos; existe un gran empuje para registrar a votar y votar pero todavía no se palpa el voto Latino. Sabemos que el voto Latino es de los más importantes pero debemos educarnos y votar. ¡Aprendamos de los políticos! Informémonos sobre quien va a apoyar a la comunidad de emigrantes con una reforma justa, quien va apoyar los derechos de la comunidad Latina LGBT y en especial a nuestros/as hermano/as transgéneros, quien va a legislar por nuestra comunidad y quien nos va apoyar justamente. No voy a decir nombres de quienes yo apoyo con mi voto, sólo quiero que si van a darle el voto a unos/as de los/as políticos que sepan porque lo hicieron para que no regalen su voto sólo porque el vecino o su familiar le dijo que votaron por éste/a o aquel.

Lean al respecto y edúquense pero con precaución ya que algunos periódicos no incluyen los tópicos de la comunidad Latina LGBT y escriben sólo con un punto de vista. Algunos medios de comunicación no les preguntan a los líderes políticos sobre temas de importancia de la comunidad Latina LGBT. Tal es así que ningún periódico Latino incluyó en sus calendarios de la Celebración de la Herencia Latina, los eventos de la comunidad Latina LGBT, ¿qué es esto? Lamentablemente, no hay muchos periódicos Latinos que tengan noticias objetivas. No voy a nombrarlos, pero espero que sepan de cuales hablo.



PHOTO: WILFRED LABIOSA

Espero que abran sus mentes y vean la realidad de nuestra comunidad. Somos incluidos cuando le es cómodo y cuando necesitan de nosotros/as, pero no nos dan el asiento que debemos todo el tiempo. Organizaciones como Oíste están enfocadas en toda la diversidad de la comunidad Latina; periódicos como éste—The Rainbow Times— incluyen este espacio a través de todo el año y no sólo durante Orgullo Latino. Si vas a votar por los demócratas o republicanos o algún otro candidato/a, por favor edúcate y mira cómo

ellos/as nos incluyen como comunidad Latina, LGBT y como inmigrantes. Si vamos a tomar asiento, entonces infórmate sobre que asiento debes de tomar para que cuando te hagan la pregunta sepas tu razón dada tu posición y tu asiento, y puedas compartir la respuesta. Así que tomemos asiento y tomemos el asiento que nos represente como comunidad Latina LGBT.

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

## 2011 LATIN@ PRIDE COMMUNITY AWARDS RECEPTION

PHOTOS: TRT/GLENN KOETZNER



To view all of **THE RAINBOW TIMES'** PHOTOS from 2011 (Boston Pride, CT Pride, Noho Pride, Rainbow River-Fest, Out in the Park, nAGLY & Latin@ Pride), please visit: <http://on.fb.me/pSCX9J>

## Paradise City Arts Festival in Northampton on Columbus Day Weekend Meet 275 of the nation's best craftsmen and artists showing their newest work

NORTHAMPTON, MA—The Paradise City Arts Festival in Northampton is a fantastic place to celebrate American Craft Week and New England's Fall Foliage season. Ranked #3 among all art and craft fairs nationwide by AmericanStyle, it's an experience like no other - beautiful, unique, festive and fun. Meet 275 of the nation's very best craftsmen and artists showing their newest work. Dine on sensational cuisine by Northampton's best chefs under the Festival Dining Tent.



**'Rippling Reflections' Bracelet; cuff of 14K gold with iolite, amethyst, and green tsavorite Garnets; by Patricia Daunis-Dunning & William Dunning, Portland, ME.**

Catch the excitement of live performances by nationally and regionally acclaimed musicians. Bid in a silent art auction to benefit WGBY, Public Television for Western New England, and don't miss the exhibits and activities surrounding the theme of this show - art inspired

by music. "Picturing the Music"

Music is everywhere. Visual artists have been painting, forging, glassblowing, glazing and weaving to music throughout history. Artists respond to their music by transforming sounds in the air into a physical form. "Picturing the Music", a special exhibition this fall, presents a curated show-within-a-show of work by Paradise City artists that draws on music as inspiration, focusing on abstract as well as representational imagery, and connections to both specific pieces of music and the rhythms of classical, jazz pop and rock.

Museums10 and the Eric Carle Museum offer workshops for children based on Carle's book "I See a Song." Explore making colors dance, lines sing, and shapes sway. The Museum staff provides the inspiration, you bring your imagination and together you'll create a visual symphony.

WGBY, Public Television for Western New England's very popular a capella competition, "Together in Song: A Celebration of Choral



**'CoffeeTable' Birds eye maple, bubinga, incise-carved and milk-painted basswood, varnish by Mark Del Guidice, Norwood, MA.**

Music in Western New England," among other local programming, receives funding from the Festival's annual silent art auction.

*Fabulous dining, marvelous music ...*

The best place to look for music as artistic inspiration is the Festival Dining Tent. Tap your feet to a different band every day while you take a culinary trip around the world! Roger Salloom, Charles Neville and The O-Tones are the featured performers this October.

For more information, call 800.511.9725 or visit: [www.paradisecityarts.com](http://www.paradisecityarts.com).

## To Cook is To Love: A Foodies Journal Time to Fall Back

By: John Verlinden/TRT Cuisine Columnist

**¡MUCHO GUSTO!**



PHOTO: RACHEL POWER

Wow, can you believe it's already October? Old man winter's just around the corner, and we'll soon be setting our clocks back to daylight savings time. I'm all for saving daylight; our New England winters are short on it. Wish we could bank some daylight in July when it's abundant and then spend it in January when the nights rule.

I hate to admit it, but I'm a "Winter Wuss." I don't look forward to the dark, the cold, the snow. Thank goodness, there's a silver lining - winter dishes that warm you inside and out. Cool days and frosty nights can really get your creative cooking juices flowing - savory soups and stews, roasted meats, cheesy lasagnas and luscious fresh baked desserts.

This year I'm gonna use that glorious extra hour of sleep we get when we set the clocks back to dream about all those delectable cold weather treats we'll savor as we sit wrapped up in our blankets on the couch in front of the TV (an additional silver-lining - winter's best for good television).

Foodies are a resilient bunch. Sure, we'll miss our charcoal grills, barbeque tools and frozen drink blenders, but only so long as it takes us to pre-heat the oven, get the soup kettle out of storage and prepare the mugs to receive ladles of sweet steaming chocolate or hot buttered rum. And, while we never find it easy to say goodbye to all those yummy salads, fresh garden vegetables and cool desserts we've been enjoying these past few months, a big crock of spicy chili followed by a slice of homemade apple pie helps soothe the withdrawal pangs.

And, even though we can't store daylight for future use, we can preserve some summer memories and tastes. Try cooking up a batch of apple jelly, canning fresh tomato sauce or freezing sweet corn. It's easy to do, and a little jar from your personal cache of stored sunshine brightens even the dreariest of days.

Got a story to share? Drop me a line at [john@muchogusto.com](mailto:john@muchogusto.com) or visit the food forum on my website: [www.muchogusto.com](http://www.muchogusto.com).

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



**November 12, 2011**

**4PM-8PM**

**Garden House  
at Look Park**

**330 N Main Street,  
Florence, MA**

**Just \$5 per couple!**

A gathering of gay friendly and/or gay owned local businesses in one space to assist you in the planning of your wedding/union/ceremony.

Tanya Costigan of Bowties and Butterflies Event Planning is proud to announce **the very first gay wedding expo in western Mass!**

Registration required. Register today by logging on at

**[www.pioneervalleypayweddingexpo.com](http://www.pioneervalleypayweddingexpo.com),**

or snap the code below into your smart phone.



Official Media Sponsor

**The Rainbow Times**

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



*What:*

**Paradise City Arts Festival**  
275 competitively juried artists from 30 states exhibiting original works in ceramics, painting, decorative fiber, art glass, furniture, jewelry, metal, mixed media, photography, large-scale sculpture, wearable art and wood.

*Where:*

All indoors and under tents, rain or shine at the 3 County Fairgrounds • Rte. 9 & Old Ferry Rd, Northampton, MA: I-91 at Exit 19 or 20

*When:*

October 8, 9 & 10, Columbus Day Weekend; Saturday and Sunday, 10am-6pm; Monday, 10am-4pm

*Admission:*

Adults: \$12. Seniors: \$10. Students: \$8. Three-Day Pass: \$15. 12 & under: free. Free Parking! Group discounts available. Free full color program with admission. And More!

Live jazz and sensational food under the Festival Dining Tent • WGBY Benefit Art Auction • Children's activities with Museums10 • "Picturing the Music." Art installations in the Sculpture Garden!

*Information:*

Call 800.511.9725 or visit: [www.paradisecityarts.com](http://www.paradisecityarts.com)

**what's  
buzzin' cousin?**



**[twitter.com/  
therainbowtimes](http://twitter.com/therainbowtimes)**

# The OutField: Grappling with Donna Rose

By: Dan Woog\*/Special for TRT

Q SPORTS



David's father was an academic, so the family moved often. Whether in California or Nova Scotia, though, sports provided a great way to make friends. David was "pudgy and klutzy" as a child, but in high school he

discovered football and wrestling. Playing linebacker was fun, but grappling really drew him in.

He worked out, lifted weights and molded his body to a masculine ideal. In 1979, at Halifax's Dalhousie University, he became Canada's Maritime Provinces 158-pound champ.

He married, had a teenage son and embarked on a successful, lucrative career in information technology.

But even those accomplishments did not fully satisfy David. He'd always been masculine – never effeminate or girly – yet he never felt he fit in.

In 1999, he came out to his mother as transgender. She was stunned.

The realization was almost as stunning for David. "My sense of myself as an athlete had been the biggest part of my identity for years," he – now Donna Rose – says. "There had been two seasons in my life: wrestling, and getting ready for wrestling." It was hard to let that go.

"I love the sport for all it taught me about discipline, and pushing boundaries," Donna says. "You stand there alone as an individual, before and after the match. The mat is a very lonely, unforgiving place."

Not unlike growing up feeling conflicted about your own gender.

Donna understands now that wrestling gave David an outlet for the aggression he felt. Football and wrestling are, she notes, "tough, physical, violent sports."

David, she says, "made sure that the part of me that was Donna never expressed itself."

The Internet helped Donna express herself. She met other people like her, learned about transitioning, and realized that being transgender was not "a sentence to unhappiness."

Taking hormones was scary. "I couldn't hide anything anymore," she says. "This was real. It was a hard time. I loved my wife, my son and my life. But that wasn't real."



Donna Rose

When Donna transitioned, her concepts of masculinity and femininity were "very traditional," she notes. Along with all other signs of David, she got rid of her muscle mass. "I trained to be Donna for years. I wanted the slender build and feminine physique I thought was 'ideal.'"

When she started to date women, though, several were attracted to her shoulders. Slowly, Donna recognized that she did not want to "trade one closet for another." Today, she says, she appreciates who she was, and what she did in the past. She looks forward to the future "without apology."

And she's wrestling again.

Donna wanted to wrestle as far back as 2005. But there was no place to do it. She had not been on a mat in 25 years. Her body was much different – as was her gender. And she was "significantly older."

The following year, she attended the Chicago Gay Games. She learned about an upcoming tournament in San Francisco. It was another life-altering experience.

"I was 46, 47 years old," she recalls. "All my strength was gone. It was like starting over. I was bruised, I felt bad, but the enjoyment was still there."

She won a gold medal – though that was not the point. "I wasn't out to prove anything to anyone," she says. "This was just for me."

But she was once again hooked on wrestling. She set her sights on the next Gay Games.

Women's freestyle wrestling has a maximum weight of 72 kilograms (158.75 pounds). Donna got down to her college weight. To find a coach and training partners, she had to drive clear across South Carolina.

And she worried about coming out all over again, to coaches and fellow competitors.

At the U.S. Open women's freestyle championship in Cleveland last year, she planned not to self-disclose. She was not ashamed, but she feared that an announcement would "overshadow everything." She did not want attention – just the chance to compete.

Yet word got out. "My sport handled it very well – it was all low-key," Donna says. She does not know if the reason was respect, or embarrassment.

Donna does not wave a rainbow flag. "I'm not here to make a political statement," she says. "I just want to live my life."

It's a life that includes the U.S. Olympic team trials in Iowa next April. "I'm 50-plus years old," she notes. "There aren't many wrestlers my age. I go onto the mat, hope for a good showing, and look forward to shaking hands at the end, knowing I did my best. I appreciate everything I've got now."

Which includes the chance to train and compete in a sport she loves. The opportunity to try out for the Olympics. And the experience of doing it all as the gender she was meant to be all along.

*\*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.*

We've grown up... meet us now on our fan page!



search "rainbow times" to join us!



# PINK PAGES

Your local Gay Yellow Pages

- Accommodations • Adoption • Auto Body • Bars • Bookstores • Catering • Cleaners • Contractors • Counselors • Dentists • Doctors • Entertainment • Escorts • Financial Furniture • Grocers • Home Improvement • Insurance Jewelry • Legal • Movers • Pets • Real Estate • And more...

The complete Pink Pages is on [www.PinkPagesUSA.com](http://www.PinkPagesUSA.com)

Do You Have Savoir Flair?

Savoir Flair, New England's GLBT magazine. Featuring current events, entertainment, dining, travel, and more. [www.savoirflairmagazine.com](http://www.savoirflairmagazine.com).



visit our website:

[www.linkpink.com](http://www.linkpink.com)

FREE personals, roommate ads, & referrals to community-friendly businesses

To list with us, call (866) 943-PINK (7465)



HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
CAMPAIGN  
FOUNDATION

# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LEADERS IN LGBT HEALTHCARE EQUALITY

The following hospitals and healthcare networks have earned the recognition as "Leaders in LGBT Healthcare Equality" from the Human Rights Campaign Foundation. These leaders are committed to providing a **welcoming environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender patients and families** and are truly leading the way to full equality in healthcare.

## NETWORK LEADERS

### Baystate Health (9 facilities) Springfield, MA

Group Health (31 facilities)  
Seattle, WA

Jackson Health System (16 facilities)  
Miami, FL

Kaiser Foundation Hospitals (36 facilities)  
Oakland, CA

UW Medicine (2 facilities)  
Seattle, WA

## Baystate Health

*A leader in the nation for LGBT  
patients and families.*

Baystate Brightwood Health Center

Baystate Franklin Medical Center

Baystate High Street Health Center  
Adult Medicine

Baystate High Street Health Center  
Pediatric Medicine

Baystate Mary Lane Hospital

Baystate Mason Square  
Neighborhood Health Center

Baystate Medical Center

Baystate Regional Cancer Program

Baystate Visiting Nurse Association  
& Hospice

Chicago, IL

San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center  
San Francisco, CA

St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center  
New York, NY

UCSF Medical Center  
San Francisco, CA

University of California Davis Medical Center  
Sacramento, CA



Learn more at  
[www.hrc.org/hei](http://www.hrc.org/hei)

The Human Rights Campaign is the nation's largest civil rights organization working for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality.

