

# The Rainbow Times

Your LGBTQ News Source in Western MA, Southern VT, and Northern CT

Year 1, Vol. 15 • Sept. 6 - Oct. 3, 2007

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

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performs at Smith College

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Photo: Cherish the  
Ladies, UMass FAC  
December Concert.



## Opinions

# A shout out to my peeps in NoHo, Thank you!

By: Jane Hamel

TRT Columnist

That's about as close to "Hollywood-speak" as I care to get, but the sentiment is very heart-felt. There's nothing more validating or uplifting for a transgendered person like myself than to be accepted for who you are. And on August 28th that meant being accepted as one of the many musicians who participated in Northampton's seventeenth annual "Transperformance."

"No, dahling," it wasn't a drag revue! It's a music festival where local bands of the Pioneer Valley "transform" themselves into other famous bands based on a different theme each year. This year's theme was "Color by the Numbers" and the lineup included *Al Green*, *Pink Floyd*, *Jackson Browne*, *The Moody Blues* and many, many more.

Yours truly was privileged to guest perform with Amity Front as Bill Monroe and the Bluegrass Boys. Oh, for all of



JANE HAMEL

you members of the LGBT community, Bluegrass music is .. well, not disco.

So, there I was, and to my knowledge I was the only real "trans"-performer there, about to step out in front of "Mainstream America"—Moms, Dads, lots of kids—and after all the years of suffering through transition, this felt as

scary as my first time "out."

I did wear my best country style dress, but even that and the fact that there were five good-looking young men standing next to me couldn't stop me from thinking: "They're all staring at me and asking 'Is she really a ... or .. what IS that holding that banjo?'"

Yes, butter my buns and call me a biscuit, I play the banjo. If I have to explain to you what that is, you probably won't like it. It's very not disco.

Back to the concert, butterflies or not, the fiddle kicked off and I let it rip! The crowd loved us! The tunes were high-energy, the harmonies were heavenly and our short set flew by without a hitch.

Afterwards, we hung out in the musicians' area and we got a whole lot of "hey, great playing!" and to my relief and surprise there were no awkward stares or under-the-breath comments directed at my obvious transsexualness.

Walking out into the crowd, I did get some stares and a snicker from a young man (who was probably questioning his own identity or orientation), but also more genuine smiles and a few "Hey, great playing!" comments. To top it off, I had a later conversation with a very

enlightened couple who told me that they thought I was courageous for being "myself"—something that I've heard many times and I am still appreciative when I hear it. Of course it's not so much about courage as it is about survival.

Transitioning, for me, was "rather than suicide." I suppose that requires a bit of courage in itself, and to a non-trans person changing one's gender is quite unfathomable as well.

But wait! There's more! The very next day there we were on the front page of *The Daily Hampshire Gazette*! Holy Cow! (Yes, I could stand to lose some weight). There I was, one of the band being hailed as musicians and nothing else. To most people that's a "yeah, so?" However, to me it was a whole town saying "We Accept You!"

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

### Editor's Note:

To Jane,

We wish that we lived in a society where everyone could see you for the musician, the woman, the amazing human being and the friend that you are to many of us. Thank YOU, Jane, for enlightening our lives with your stories, and for being a part of *The Rainbow Times*!

*Nicole Lashomb*

Editor

## Love, Rights...and the Rest of It

By: JM Sorrell\*

TRT Columnist

The legal recognition of same-sex relationships throughout the world are mirrors that reflect the places where social norms include an acceptance of lesbians and gay men as part of the stream of such societies. This varies by degrees, and it may or may not include a grower understanding and acceptance of unconventional gender identities.

Today, same-sex marriage is legal in Belgium, Canada, the Netherlands, South Africa, Spain, and Massachusetts. Civil unions and domestic partnerships are recognized in Connecticut, Vermont, New Jersey and California. Entire countries such as Andorra, the Czech Republic, Tasmania, and Slovenia allow for same-sex civil unions. Most readers know that Denmark, France, Iceland, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom are amongst those countries that recognize same-sex partnerships through civil union protections.

South Africa, in particular, did not wait for everyone to be on board prior to creating the law for same-sex marriage. The familiarity of extreme forms of oppression and discrimination propelled the government to do what is fair for all of its citizens. Let the mainstream catch up with it.

Proposals for same-sex marriage legislation are in the works in places such as Estonia, Lithuania, Taiwan, and

China—where the bravery of civil rights activists cannot be underestimated.

Li Yinhe is a professor at the Institute of Sociology at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing. She is a tireless advocate for same-sex marriage in China, and she thinks the country is undergoing a de facto sexual revolution: "It is a legislative trend across the world. China will definitely catch up with this trend in spite of obstacles we are confronted with now."

Professor Yinhe also speaks publicly about other issues of social justice, including the growing urban-rural divide. She spoke out after two (heterosexual) students were expelled from kissing at their university. "Every intimate action should be allowed except making love in public."

And the beat goes on. Readers, stay tuned. A surprise awaits you in the October issue of TRT.

\* J. Mary (JM) Sorrell is a Justice of the Peace. She believes the global struggles for social and economic justice are connected and imperative to heal the very large wounds that we all bear.



J.M. the JP

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

How come you're not publishing *Street Sense* anymore? I really liked that section and now it's gone.

—Janet Rodriguez, Springfield

Editor's Response:

Janet,

We are currently looking for people interested in covering *The Street Sense* Section for us. Please call TRT or e-mail us if you are interested in being a part of that section or any other one.

Dear Editor,

I did not like the Jack/ie Kennedy column. Is he or she gone? If not, why do you let him or her write such negative comments for the *Rainbow Times*?

Editor's Response:

Jack/ie Kennedy is still working for us. It's vacation time, but soon you'll hear more from him or her. We are sorry to disappoint you in that sense. We believe that he/she makes good choices of topics, however, we do not endorse any of our columnists' opinions, for they are solely theirs.

Please write your Letters to the Editor to: editor@therainbowtimesmass.com

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## Domestic Violence: A means to an end

By: Nicole Lashomb, TRT Editor-in-Chief

**Fact:** One in four adults is a victim of domestic violence. **Fact:** The proportion of domestic violence between same-sex and/or gender queer couples is comparable to that of opposite-sex couples. **Fact:** Abuse is not always visible. It can be physical, emotional, sexual and/or financial.

"The prevalence rate of Domestic Violence is the same as Heterosexual ratios, roughly 25%," said Iain Gill, Education Director, Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project, Cambridge Mass. "This shows that Domestic Violence goes beyond gender and sexuality. It is about power and control as the central components, regardless of whether [you are] heterosexual or gay."

The basis of sexual orientation often leads to confusion about what abuse is and how it manifests itself. According to the GMDVP website, a common myth the LGBT community faces is that partner abuse does not occur when someone abuses his/her same-gender partner. It is often seen as a lover's quarrel, mutual combat or a fair fight between equals.

Becky Lockwood, Associate Director, Rape Crisis and Violence Prevention Programs, Every Woman's Center, UMASS affirms this myth.

"I think there is a great deal of denial from the LGBT community pertaining to the issue of domestic violence," said Lockwood. "It is important that members of the LGBT family do not think that they are crazy or alone if they feel abused."

With names such as the Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project and UMASS' Every Woman's Center, it may be straightforward to assume that these organizations only cater to a specific gender or gender identity. However, that is not the case.

According to Gill, GMDVP acts as a liaison for all members of the LGBT community.

"We serve all clients. Although we are primarily service providers for Gay, Bi, and Trans men, we refuse to deny someone services based on their gender or sexuality," he said.

Lockwood echoes Gill's sentiments.

"There is much more visibility with gay men and domestic violence now than there was in the past," said Lockwood. "We have served many bi and lesbian women in relation to domestic violence and now we are serving more and more men. Also, in the past, I don't think that we have always been known as being trans friendly. But, now, we are really

working a lot with trans folk as volunteers and in trans programs too."

The cycle of abuse can be broken down into four distinguishable steps, according to the GMDVP website.

1. Grooming: The relationship begins with the abuser being attentive and charming.
2. Tension-building: As the relationship progresses the abuser usually begins by being mildly abusive with tension building for the partner and the abuser.
3. Abuse Attack: An acute incident of abuse occurs. For example, the abuser physically, sexually, [or verbally] assaults the partner.
4. Seduction: The abuser is contrite, apologetic, attentive and charming.

The cycle continues and repeats itself over and over again, usually cycling faster through the steps with the abuse tending to become more frequent and severe over time.

Under Massachusetts law, The Massachusetts Abuse Prevention Act, 209A, all relationships are protected from domestic violence regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity and marital status.

The GMDVP and EWC strive to bring an end to domestic violence in the LGBT community.

"You do not deserve to be abused," said Lockwood. "We want you to come to your own decision about what is best for you. Reaching out for help will always remain confidential."

**FACT:** Abuse is a choice. Do you choose to abuse?

If you are experiencing domestic violence, call the GMDVP hotline at 800-832-1901 or the EWC Rape Crisis hotline at 1-888-337-0800.

For more information, to volunteer, or to inquire about an educational seminar, call the Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project at 617-354-6056. Or, visit them online at [www.gmdvp.org](http://www.gmdvp.org).

For more information about UMASS' Every Woman's Center, call 413.545.0883 or visit online: [www.umass.edu/ewc/](http://www.umass.edu/ewc/).

*GMDVP was founded in 1993 by a male victim of domestic violence who was fleeing an attempted murder and was denied access to multiple mainstream domestic violence shelters because he was/is a gay man.*

*Since 1994, GMDVP has served more than 2,000 clients, distributed over 70,000 individual pieces of GMDVP literature, and conducted trainings and presentations for thousands. Offices can be found in Western Massachusetts, the Cape, and two locations in the Boston area.*

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## Local News

# Holyoke Health Center: Services for trans community

By: Lindsay Wilson  
TRT Reporter

HOLYOKE—Dr. Stephanie Billings of Holyoke Health Center was in medical school when she first saw “Southern Comfort,” a documentary about a female to male transsexual with ovarian cancer.

This film was a “driving force” for Billings, who strives to work with people who are marginalized in the health care field and currently, she and RN Norm Deschaine are helping the community through the Holyoke Health Center’s Transgender initiative program.

According to Billings, the program was started by the health center in order to make a formal policy that included training, primary care, management of illness, and hormone therapy in a trans-affirming environment.

The program began in October of 2006 and was originally started by Rebekah Perks, a nurse practitioner with a background working in the trans community.

“She really was the driving force to get this going initially, and shortly after, Dr. Billings came on board,” said Deschaine.

The health center offers many services including: hormone therapy, primary care, pharmacy services, HIV counseling and testing services, STD services, mental health referrals and a needle exchange program.

“Nationally and historically there is a history of discrimination against trans people in the healthcare field and we need to have programs like this to educate and counteract,” said Billings. “As a community health center we recognized that transgendered individuals had historically gotten substandard care for a variety of reasons including not having access to care, a lack of clinical guidance, and a scarcity of resources that are trans affirming.”

Though the average wait for an appointment is around eight weeks,



DR. STEPHANIE BILLINGS AND NORM DESCHAIINE, RN FROM HHC

Deschaine said they try to be as flexible as possible.

“We’re slowly expanding,” he said. “The availability of the provider’s time in getting new patient appointments is a little tough.”

Deschaine said he recently received a phone call from a prospective patient that drives to another state to receive hormone therapy. “I get calls like that at least two or three times a week,” he said.

“I think that there is a very large underserved trans population,” said Deschaine. “If you look at Northampton, there may be more providers that may adapt to take of a transgendered client, but if you look in the Springfield and Holyoke area there are a number of people, which we’ve gotten a number of referrals for, who were lost to care, out of care, just using hormones on the street.”

“We’re really trying to get people not to use street hormones and to get into care. It’s still a major issue,” he said.

Billings said many people self pre-

scribe hormones because of a lack of clinical guidance in the medical field. “Providers don’t know how to prescribe the medications, they’re not comfortable prescribing them, there is an absence of formal education in medical school and

we’re trying to be part of the wave that changes that.”

Because of this, Billings said, people often feel forced to get their medications online, out of the country, or take on the street medications (where they don’t know what’s in it). “Although there are risks, like any medication, with hormone therapy often withholding the medications can be riskier whether because you are getting medications off the street that are not FDA regulated and you’re not having routine labs drawn, and for just the mental anguish of not getting the medication,” she said.

The cost of hormone therapy is the same as a regular office visit, as it is considered a “general health maintenance routine physical screening” for chronic conditions, said Billings, who added that patients must pay out of pocket for medications because insurance does not cover them.

However, you cannot just walk in and get hormones prescribed. “It is a process with formal protocols with labs and screenings,” said Billings.

[See Trans on p. 23](#)

## WFWM \$150,000 grant funding

Easthampton, MA—The Women’s Fund of Western Massachusetts (WFWM) is continuing its initiative to seek common ground between women of faith and secular communities to focus on women’s holistic economic security. Funding is available for collaborative programming between these groups to identify their shared values and help women and their families move out of poverty and achieve long-term economic self-sufficiency. Women’s economic security is a goal long championed by WFWM and the \$150,000 grant initiative will advance this goal throughout the four counties of western Massachusetts over the next two years. Anyone interested in learning more about this exciting opportunity is invited to attend the conference.

The WFWM’s conference, “At the Crossroads: Capacity Building for the Future,” will be held on September 20, 2007 from 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Springfield, Springfield, Massachusetts. Open to all non-profit organizations in the region, the conference is designed to help build and sustain strong organizations that impact the well-being of our local communities. Professional development workshops target fundraising and board development, grants and programs, and marketing and

communications. The conference will include prominent local and national leadership, and will feature the western Massachusetts premiere of the film “The Honest Truth: Lessons Learned from Stories of People of Color in Philanthropy.”

According to Carla Oleska, the Women’s Fund’s Executive Director, “This conference will be a wonderful opportunity to engage in dialogue and collaborative creativity as we strengthen the work done by local organizations on behalf of all women and girls in western Massachusetts and their impact on the social fabric of our communities.”

Conference brochure and registration available at [www.womensfund.net](http://www.womensfund.net) Register by September 13, 2007.

\* WFWM advances social change philanthropy to create economic and social equality for women and girls in Western Massachusetts through strategic advocacy, grantmaking, and community collaborations. Founded in 1997, WFWM has raised \$5 million to establish an endowment and has awarded a total of \$1 million to organizations in Hampshire, Hampden, Franklin and Berkshire counties. WFWM is a member of the Women’s Funding Network, which includes more than 100 U.S.-based and international women’s funds that share a common vision: by investing in women and girls, entire communities benefit and are uplifted.

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 8PM, CONCERT HALL  
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AS PART OF A PUBLIC SYMPOSIUM, NOVEMBER 16-18, UMASS AMHERST  
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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 8PM, CONCERT HALL



### **DARK STAR ORCHESTRA**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 8PM, CONCERT HALL  
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### **SHAOLIN WARRIORS**

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PRESENTED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ASIAN ARTS & CULTURE PROGRAM  
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### **BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 8PM, CONCERT HALL  
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106.3FM AND THE VALLEY ADVOCATE



### **CHERISH THE LADIES – A CELTIC CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 7:30 PM, CONCERT HALL  
SPONSORED BY COCA COLA, COOLEY DICKINSON HOSPITAL/EASTHAMPTON  
SAVINGS BANK, THE RAINBOW TIMES AND 93.9 THE RIVER.



### **TURTLE ISLAND QUARTET WITH STEFON HARRIS, DIVINE DUKE**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 7:30 PM, BOWKER AUDITORIUM  
SPONSORED BY FLORENCE SAVINGS BANK AND WFCR 88.5FM

### **ACADEMY OF ANCIENT MUSIC**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 8PM, CONCERT HALL  
SUPPORTED BY THE VIDDA FOUNDATION



### **ADAM RUDOLPH'S MOVING PICTURES**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 7:30 PM, BOWKER AUDITORIUM  
PRESENTED IN COLLABORATION WITH ASIAN ARTS & CULTURE AND MAGIC TRIANGLE  
SERIES



### **DAN ZANES AND FRIENDS, PAJAMA PARTY**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 7:30 PM, CONCERT HALL  
SPONSORED BY FAMILYFUN MAGAZINE, EASTHAMPTON SAVINGS BANK AND WRNX  
100.9FM



### **MONTEREY JAZZ FESTIVAL 50TH ANNIVERSARY JAZZ ALL-STARS**

TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 7:30 PM, CONCERT HALL  
SPONSORED BY FATHERS & SONS, THE DAVIS GROUP, THE DAILY HAMPSHIRE  
GAZETTE AND WFCR 88.5FM

### **LEAHY**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 7:30 PM, CONCERT HALL  
SPONSORED BY COCA COLA AND THE HAMPSHIRE HOSPITALITY GROUP



### **CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE BAND**

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 8PM, CONCERT HALL  
SPONSORED BY WEIB 106.3FM, UNITED WEALTH MANAGEMENT GROUP

### **RONALD K. BROWN/EVIDENCE**

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 8PM, CONCERT HALL  
SPONSORED BY YALE GENTON AND THE VALLEY ADVOCATE



### **IMANI WINDS**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 7:30 PM, BOWKER AUDITORIUM  
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## QueerJustice

# School refuses to implement IEP appropriately

By: Jennifer Dexter\*  
TRT Law Columnist

Dear QueerJustice:

My child attends a public school in a district I will not disclose. He has an IEP, but I am having issues getting the school to implement it appropriately. What can I do?

—Frank

Dear Frank:

For those who are unfamiliar with the terms, an IEP is an Independent Educational Plan. This is, as the name implies, a separate education plan for children who suffer from learning disabilities. An IEP is used to outline the limitations, guidelines and yearly goals for children and much more.



Atty. Jennifer Dexter

If you are having problems getting the school to implement the IEP appropriately, my advice would be to contact an Educational Law Lawyer or a Educational Advocate.

Working with school districts can be frustrating, confusing and non-communicative; but not something you can not do on your own if you chose. The question is, how well can you advocate for your child.

Any time a parent of Educational Advocate requests an emergency TEAM meeting, the school is obligated to oblige

within ten days. (At a minimum, a TEAM meeting should be held yearly to discuss progress, changes or areas in need of improvement). Should you contact the school ETL (educational team leader) without any results, don't hesitate to contact the director of special education in your school district. You can find this information on the internet or by calling the superintendent or by calling the school.

Before you go to the meeting read the IEP carefully and compare it to the IEP from last year. All of the goals in the IEP should be "measurable". Meaning the wording should set out what the goal is and exactly how the TEAM and the can tell if the goal is being obtained. Most importantly make sure the goals change from year to year and that your child is

obtaining the goals.

After scheduling the TEAM meeting, stay on top of the school and the Special Education teachers. The best thing you can do for your child is be a good, zealous advocate.

\*Attorney Jennifer L. Dexter earned her JD at The Western New England College of Law in Springfield, Mass. She is a member of the Massachusetts Bar and has a Solo General Practice in the Pioneer Valley Area.

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

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

## HRC: National Coming Out Day & talking about it!

WASHINGTON—The Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender civil rights organization, announced today that the theme for National Coming Out Day 2007 will be "Talk About It," continuing the slogan and branding that the national program has been building since 2005.

This year will also mark an important hallmark, as National Coming Out Day, Oct. 11, 2007, falls on the 20th anniversary of the 1987 Gay and Lesbian March on Washington, and the unfurling of the AIDS Quilt on the National Mall. National Coming Out Day was celebrated a year to the day later as a way of continuing the spirit of openness, honesty and visibility that the march and the AIDS Quilt presentation inspired.



"Twenty years ago, as the AIDS crisis was raging, coming out was literally a matter of life and death," said Mark Shields, director of HRC's Coming Out Project. "In many ways, we have come a very long way in a relatively short time, and yet that lesson still resonates deeply

today. Coming out and living openly is the most important thing that gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and straight-supportive Americans can do to build lasting understanding and equality."

Currently, nearly three-quarters (72 percent) of Americans say they personally know or work with someone who identifies as gay or lesbian, according to Peter D. Hart Research Associates Inc. In 1987, only 11 percent claimed that they

associated with a "male homosexual" on a regular basis, according to ABC News and The Washington Post.

For more information on coming out as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender, please visit [www.hrc.org/comingout](http://www.hrc.org/comingout). Additional plans for a national project celebrating National Coming Out Day this year will be announced in mid-September.

Individuals and organizations interested in ordering free Coming Out Kits, which include resource guides, balloons, posters and other materials, can do so at [www.hrc.org/comingoutkits](http://www.hrc.org/comingoutkits).

The Human Rights Campaign is America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender equality. By inspiring and engaging all Americans, HRC strives to end discrimination against GLBT citizens and realize a nation that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all.

## Queer Cinema Not to Miss!

**The Bubble** (Hebrew title: **Buah, Ha-**)

Genre: Drama; Rating: Not yet rated

Distribution: Limited Release

Content: Gay; Director: Eytan Fox

Starring: Ohad Knoller, Alon Friedman, Daniela

Virtzer, Yousef 'Joe' Sweid

Release Date: 09/07/07

Synopsis: Two men, an Israeli and a Palestinian, fall in love in Tel Aviv.

**For the Bible Tells Me So**

Genre: Documentary; Rating: Not yet rated

Distribution: Limited Release

Content: LG

Director: Daniel G. Karslake

Distributor: First Run Features

Release Date: 10/05/07

Synopsis: Documentary film examining how the religious right has used bible interpretations to discriminate against and stigmatize the LGBT community. Nominated for the Grand Jury Prize at Sundance.

**Be Real**

Genre: Documentary; Rating: Not yet rated

Distribution: Limited Release

Content: LGBT

Director: Bobbie Birleffi and Beverly Kopf

Release Date: TBA

Notes: Premiered at 2006 Miami Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

Synopsis: The two directors went in search of six extraordinary LGBT individuals across the country. This film tells their stories.

**Nina's Heavenly Delights**

Genre: Comedy, Drama, Romance

Rating: Not yet rated; Distribution: Limited

Release; Content: Lesbian

Director: Pratibha Parmar

Distributor: Regent Releasing

Starring: Shelley Conn, Laura Fraser

Release Date: 10/01/07

Synopsis: Nina Shah (Conn) is a young Indian-Scottish woman who falls for Lisa Mackinlay (Fraser) while teaching her how to cook Indian delicacies. Though Lisa is dating Nina's brother, when Nina comes out to her close friend, the two enter into an intense romance.

## Living longer, getting married

Did you know that studies show that people who are married tend to live longer and lead healthier lives?

- For adults, a stable, happy marriage is the best protector against illness and premature death. Decades of research have clearly established these links. (Burman & Margolin, 1992; Dawson, 1991; Verbrugge, 1979).

- Studies on marriages have found that married people live longer, have higher incomes and wealth, engage less in risky behaviors, eat more healthily, and have fewer psychological problems than unmarried people. (Waite, Linda J. "Why Marriage Matters." Strengthening Marriage Roundtable. Washington, DC,

June 1997)

- Research shows that unmarried couples have lower levels of happiness and well-being than married couples. (Popenoe, David and Dafoe Whitehead, Barbara, USA Today, July, 2000)

A recent study shows that denying same-sex couples the right to marry has a negative impact on their mental health.

- I Do, But I can't: The impact of marriage denial on the mental health of sexual citizenship of Lesbians and Gay Men in the United States (Herd, G. & Kertzner, R. 2006).

\*Courtesy of Marriage Equality USA  
More information at: [www.marriageequality.org/meusa/facts.shtml](http://www.marriageequality.org/meusa/facts.shtml)

# Transitioning: Female to Male Special Health Concerns

By: Dr. Renee Lang, ND  
TRT Health Columnist

The term transgender applies to a diverse group of individuals including those who strongly identify with the other gender, those who cross-dress, and those who change their bodies to look and feel like the other gender. This month's article focuses primarily on the health concerns of hormone transitioning individuals, and FTM (female-to-male) specifically. Male-to-female concerns will be addressed next month.

I've noticed that as with any group of people, a hierarchy exists in the transgender community. I've seen men compete to be manlier (I can drive faster than you), and heard discussions about the topic of true lesbianism (have you ever slept with a man?) Some Naturopaths also compete (do you eat junk food?) I suppose it's human nature or even animal nature to seek an alpha and a beta. In the broader transgender community the question becomes: Do you take hormones? Are you a true transsexual?

As an outsider to any one of these situations, one might think "Who cares?" However, the desire and need for peer support becomes more and more critical as one's peer group shrinks in size. Acceptance by others of like ilk often creates a sense of normalcy or belonging for those outside of the big "norm."

This sense of belonging applies to this article on transgender health because depression and suicide incidence increases as people feel and experience loneliness. Gender is the first step in identification of anyone who comes into our sphere. From day one, those around us reflect back to us the social, emotional, and practical expectations put on us because of our physical gender.

To feel alien in this most basic grouping often causes intense internal discord. In addition, behavior outside of the accepted gender role often causes discomfort in others and a resultant backlash. Health concern number one is the mental, emotional, and safety aspect of being transgendered. One of the best ways that I know of to combat external judgment and hostility is to know who you are and to be comfortable in your own skin. For most people, therapy and group work often help in this quest. For transgendered people, this often involves transitioning physically, a process that may draw even more hostility initially.

*Female-to-Male (FTM) health concerns.*



DR. RENEE LANG

The process of transitioning FTM may utilize superficial, surgical, or hormonal changes. Superficial changes include using clothes, prosthetics, chest binding and behaviors to affect the male gender. These changes do not permanently alter the physical or chemical make-up of the body. Surgical sexual reassignment definitely alters the physical appearance of the individual without affecting the biochemical make-up of the body.

Finally, hormone therapy changes the biochemical make-up of the body and affects the physical appearance and personality of the individual. FTMs take testosterone hormone to increase male/masculine characteristics. Some of these changes remain permanently and some go away when the testosterone is discontinued.

## Permanent affects of testosterone include:

- Lowering of the voice.
- Increased body hair on thighs, abdomen, back, arms, and chest.
- Appearance of facial hair depending on body type and ancestry.
- Hair loss.
- Thickening of Adam's apple and facial bones.
- Enlargement of the clitoris.
- Coarsening of the skin.

## Temporary affects of testosterone include:

- Redistribution of fat from breasts, buttocks, thighs to the abdomen.
- Increased red blood cells in body.
- Increased muscle mass with exercise.
- Increased libido.
- Weight gain.
- Cessation of your periods.

Though testosterone will decrease the size of breast tissue, it alone will not cause them to disappear. Testosterone will not cause a penis to grow in biologically female individuals. Instead, it will cause an enlarging of the clitoris. The introduction of testosterone will also likely cause a change in temperament and behavior.

Many FTMs experience an increase in anger, rage, or irritability in addition to an increased sex drive. Some exhibit behaviors reminiscent of teenage male puberty, another time of rapidly increasing testosterone. If these emotional side

effects or any of the effects become overwhelming, discuss decreasing your dosage with your provider.

The use of testosterone may cause an allergic reaction or acne and has known negative effects on the liver. These should be addressed and monitored by your healthcare practitioner. A common blood test called a chemistry panel or metabolic panel will check your liver function and health and should be ordered periodically while on testosterone. A variety of herbal products exist to support liver health including milk thistle, chelidonium, burdock root, and dandelion root. Check with a qualified practitioner, as some herbs may interfere with hormone levels.

Heart disease and stroke risk increase in FTMs using testosterone. Proper diet, exercise, and stress management decrease this risk, though this should be monitored with cholesterol and blood pressure testing.

Finally, testosterone use increases risks for breast and uterine cancer. The body will convert excess testosterone to estrogen, likely explaining the seemingly contradictory risk. Those with top surgery are still at risk for breast cancer because

breast cells often remain in the tissue and can develop into cancer cells.

In addition to these specific concerns FTMs must continue regular preventative health practices similar to biological females. These include self and clinical breast or chest examination and regular pap smears. As stated above, some breast tissue remains after chest reconstruction and so this area must be monitored for any changes. Self-exam of the area provides a crucial first step in preventing cancer. Pap smears provide a critical step in the prevention of uterine and cervical cancer.

These health maintenance activities involving biologically female organs often cause distress for FTMs. Dissociation from these organs usually exists and the exams require the individual to be in touch with them. To make these important health check-ups more tolerable, consider asking the provider to refer to your upper torso as your chest and to use your preferred pronouns throughout the exam. In addition, think about what would make the exam experience safer and more tolerable to you, and bring along a friend to help advocate for your needs.

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## PuddleJump Travel Stories

# A Gateway to Good Times: Atlanta Leisure

By J. Stevenson  
TRT Travel Special

**T**he Gateway to the South has a new name – Hotlanta.

The historic city has reinvented itself in the last decade, becoming one of America's most modern, accommodating cities.

Improvements spurred by the 1996 Olympic Games have given birth to a shiny new gem in Georgia, featuring clean streets, innovative architecture, and an easily navigable, recently upgraded subway system called MARTA.

The rich history of Atlanta, including its ornate southern estates, remains as well, and that diversity is seen in both its buildings and its residents.

MARTA makes stops at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, so traveling in and out of the city is convenient, as is exploring its many attractions, new and old. The city has incorporated some new touring options for visitors, including segway rentals, and many travel hot spots are clustered together in specific neighborhoods.

Olympic Park, for instance, is adjacent to CNN Center and the Georgia Dome, creating a lively hub with several pubs and restaurants. Tours of CNN's media studios are a particular highlight, as are concerts and games at adjoining Phillips Arena.

For a more artistic view of Atlanta, however, a quick trip by subway leads to the Woodruff Arts Center, which boasts contemporary art galleries as well as its



Atlanta's Botanical Garden.

Photo by: J. Stevenson

own tapas bar, Table 1280. Within walking distance of the w is the Atlanta

Botanical Garden, one of the most renowned in North America. Indoor and outdoor gardens blossom year-round, and the stunning natural flora is accompanied by modern art exhibits, such as the massive colored glass sculptures of artist Dale Chihuly.

Those visual treats are further highlighted by seasonal events at the gardens; Scarecrows in the Garden and evening beer and wine strolls are typical in the

autumn months, while summer concerts are staged in the warmer – or, shall we say, warmest – times in the city.

The botanical gardens and the arts center are also near Peachtree and Piedmont streets, home to the city's most eclectic and increasingly celebrity-studded eateries. Shout, with its rooftop bar and sought-after, signature martinis, is a particular hot spot.

For Hard Rock-hoppers, Atlanta's entry into the worldwide chain is recognized by the crumpled body of a car that serves as its awning and its bartenders' own contributions to Hotlanta's popular drink list – a series of sweet shooters each made with Peachtree Schnapps, and bowls of brain-freezing margarita popsicles, served on beds of cinnamon pita chips.

Regardless of the craving, however, Atlanta offers everything from wine bars to waffles (at Gladys Knight and Ron Winan's Chicken and Waffles!). For up-to-date reviews of Atlanta's newest restaurants, check out food critic Steakhead's reviews at Atlanta Eats ([atlantaeats.blogspot.com](http://atlantaeats.blogspot.com)).

Whether al fresco dining is on the menu or shopping and exploring is more likely, though, Atlanta's typical weather is also warm and mild, making it an excellent venue for comfortable day trips as well as sparkling night life.

Its many attractions have only grown more popular since the city took on its new, and still emerging, younger identity. Indeed, Hotlanta still serves as a gateway to the south, but in recent years it has become a destination unto itself.

*\* J. Stevenson is a travel, culture, and business writer based in Massachusetts. Her brain is still frozen from the Atlanta Hard Rock's margarita popsicles; [www.writerjax.com](http://www.writerjax.com)*

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## HRC: MASSACHUSETTS BIRTH CERTIFICATE LAW, GENDER IDENTITY

### Issues a new or amended birth certificate? Yes.

Massachusetts law provides that a transsexual individual may amend his or her birth certificate upon receipt of physician's notarized statement that the person named on the birth certificate has completed sex-reassignment surgery, along with a copy of a name change order.

Citation: MASS. GEN. LAWS ANN. ch. 46, § 13(e).

\* The legal information provided on this page is provided as a courtesy to the public. It is not designed to serve as legal advice. HRC does not warrant that this information is current or comprehensive.



# New WORLD Theater & Smith collaborate in Ex-patriate

This fall, New WORLD Theater will host a presentation of *Ex-Patriate* by Lenelle Moise in collaboration with the Theatre Department at Smith College.

Moise performs alongside New York-based actor Ronica V. Reddick and the two embody sexy, spunky artists and longtime sister-friends Claudie and Alphine. We learn of their disillusionment, their dreams, and their desires through a unique blend of monologues, dialogue, jazz, burlesque and dance as they explore ideas about black womanhood, friendship, sexuality and freedom. The story of their lives recalls the spirits of Nina Simone, Josephine Baker and the Venus Hottentot.

Moise is a Haitian-American playwright and performance artist and alum of the Smith College Playwriting Graduate Program. She is also a recipient of the 2006 Astraea Loving Lesbians Award in Poetry and a 2005 Drammy Award for Best Ensemble Acting. Her writing is featured in *We Don't Need Another Wave: Dispatches from the Next Generation of Feminists*, *REDLIGHT: Superheroes, Saints & Sluts* and the forthcoming *Word Warriors: 30 Leaders*



of the Women's Spoken Word Movement. Her plays include: *Maternorphosis*, an adaptation of Kafka's *Metamorphosis* commissioned by Serious Play Theatre Ensemble; *Little Griot*, a youth play about masculinity commissioned by the Drama Studio; *The Many Faces of Nia*, a two-act comedy about stereotypes and Black-Jewish relations; *Spilling Venus*, Pandora's "coming out" story; *Comered in the Dark*, a choreopoem about the psychological aftermath

of sexual assault; and *Purple*, a youth play about dating violence commissioned by the Kitchen Theatre Company. She was also commissioned to contribute 25 poems & monologues to *We Got Issues*, a "performance-based dialogue" on young women and voting, produced by Eve Ensler, Jane Fonda and the Next Wave of Women in Power.

Ronica V. Reddick is a recent graduate of Ithaca College. In New York, she has appeared onstage in *In Public* at the Manhattan Theatre Source, *Les Petites Mortes* in the New York Fringe Festival, and *Junta High* at PS122.

New WORLD Theater's 29th season opens with our third annual Community Spirit Showcase. Throughout its history New WORLD Theater has maintained a long-term commitment to giving voice to members of the Pioneer Valley community. It is our connection with the community that has helped sustain the work of artists, scholars and colleagues from across the country. We are pleased to join efforts with the Theatre Department at Smith College in hosting one of their illustrious alums.

*Ex-Patriate* will be performed on Wednesday, September 19, 2007 and

Thursday, September 20, 2007 at 8:00 pm in the Hallie Flanagan Theater at the Theatre Department on the Smith College campus. Tickets for the general audience are \$15; \$8 for seniors and low income patrons; \$5 for students with valid I.D. and can be purchased through the Fine Arts Center Box Office. 1.800.999.UMASS or 413.545.2511. For more information, please call New WORLD Theater at 413.545.1972 or visit us at [www.newworldtheater.org](http://www.newworldtheater.org)

*\* New WORLD Theater is a regional leader in multicultural arts, based at the Fine Arts Center of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Over 25 years, the theater has earned a national reputation as a visionary cultural institution dedicated to fostering cross-disciplinary works by artists of color. In addition to its annual mainstage presentations, New WORLD Theater conducts an innovative year-round youth program, Project 2050; operates a play-development laboratory, New Works for a New WORLD; and hosts Intersection, a biennial interdisciplinary conference and festival on multicultural theater practice.*

## HCC offers non-credit courses for students of life

**HOLYOKE**—From mortgages to microbrews, Holyoke Community College's fall 2007 semester of non-credit courses offers a variety of inexpensive ways to enrich your life or retool your career.

Many non-credit courses cost less than \$100 and are held in the evenings or on weekends to accommodate your busy schedule. Subjects include art, business, finances, food and drink, health and fitness, history, home and garden, languages, legal, leisure, personal growth, test preparation, and more.

Registration forms and a full list of non-credit courses can be found in the Fall Course Bulletin, available at most town libraries or online at <http://hcc.edu/about/documents/Fall07BULLETIN.pdf>. You may also call HCC's Community Services office at (413) 552-2320.

Among the courses offered this fall are:

**Preparation for the Massachusetts Real Estate Brokers License Exam.** Thursday-Saturday, Oct. 25-27, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. This course will cover rights, laws, property conditions/disclosures, brokerage, appraisal process, fiduciary responsibilities, and other important topics that real estate salespeople must

know before taking the brokerage exam. \$299.

**Food Fusion** - Mondays, Oct. 15-Nov. 5, 6:15-9:15 p.m. This four-session cooking class will give participants a chance to master dishes ranging from blue cheese tartlets to San Francisco cioppino and steamed jasmine rice. No experience necessary. Join Chef Robin Skirboll in HCC's state-of-the-art kitchen facility to create (and eat!) four gustatory masterpieces that you can recreate in your own kitchen. \$259.

**Human Resource Administrator Series Program.** Nov. 2 & 9, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Perfect for office managers or other staff who have assumed HR functions. Will cover: recruitment and selection; record-keeping; legal foundations; payroll and benefits administration; employment references; documentation and termination processes. \$625.

**Weave a Beautiful Basket** - Sept. 20 & 27, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.,

This two-session course will teach participants the ancient craft of basket weaving. Learn to lay out the base, twining, tucking, adding a rim, lashing, folding. Learn a skill that you can use to make beautiful gifts for the holidays. \$49.

**The World of Craft Beers &**

**Microbrews.** Tuesdays, Oct. 16-Nov. 6, 6:15-7:45 p.m. Open to those 21 and over. Become a beer aficionado without becoming a beer snob. Meet some of the locally renowned brewers and sample brews from the Northampton Brewery, Opa-Opa, Paper City Brewing Co., and others while learning about the history of beer and brewing. \$79.

**Mortgage Loan Originator Training Program.** Thursdays, Oct. 4-25, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. This intensive three-and-a-half day program is for aspiring mortgage professionals. If you like to work with data, research information, and are a very detail-oriented person, this class could set the course for a very lucrative career. \$399.

**Elementary Engineering I using Legos Educational Materials** (for ages 8-12). Saturdays, 9 a.m.-noon, Sept. 22 - Oct. 20. This class will engage your child in mind-expanding play that inte-

grates science, mathematics, and robotics. Engineering concepts include gears, levers, wheels, axles, structures, forces and machines. \$149

Holyoke Community College is the Commonwealth's oldest community college, serving almost 9,000 students annually in more than 120 associate degree and certificate options and more than 5,500 in noncredit and workforce development courses. The college has the highest transfer rate of any community college statewide, holding articulation agreements with more than 27 colleges and universities. Recognized for its Honors Program, distance learning curriculum, learning communities, and service to students, HCC now offers a wide variety of business development opportunities through the Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development.

### This could be your same-sex marriage announcement

Jeffers Healy-Christopher Cook

Jeffers Healy and Christopher Cook were joined in a holy union ceremony at St. Simon Parish in Beverly Hills, Calif. The Rev. James Harris, former pastor of the parish, officiated. (Left) Jeffers Healy and (right) Christopher Cook. Cook is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William F. Cook of Greenville and Santa Barbara, Calif. He graduated from UCLA and is the director of annual giving for the film in-

For a small fee, you also can have your same-sex wedding photo, marriage or anniversary announcement/s published at The Rainbow Times. **YOU HAVE THE OCCASION, WE HAVE THE TIME!** 413-204-8959

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## Education

# UMass Fine Arts Center Opens Season with Free Dance Party

The UMass Fine Arts Center covers the globe in its upcoming 07-08 season and what better way to kick it off than with a free dance party featuring the incendiary sounds of Grammy-nominated Tiempo Libre. Acclaimed as "the top timba group in the United States today" this Miami-based Cuban powerhouse performs Thursday, September 6 at 8 p.m. at the Campus Center Auditorium. Free salsa lessons are being offered at 7 p.m. by "Boricuas Unidos." Presented as part of UMass Amherst First Week offerings in collaboration with the Office of Programs and Services for ALANA Student.

Center Series Director Kathryn Maguet, who joined the FAC staff last December, unveils her inaugural season calling it a move to a new era for the Fine Arts Center with a focus on bringing in performers of the highest artistry from around the globe, representing a wide array of ethnicity and nationality, as well as projects that foster artistic innovation and collaboration coupled with campus and community engagement. This season reflects the Fine Arts Center's increasingly active curatorial role in encouraging and seeking out diverse artists who are bringing their deeply personal work to the Pioneer Valley community, performers who are dynamic collaborators and who transform creative ideas from within a defined context through fresh perspectives.

The season continues in late September with the Dutch Theater company Kassys performing its profoundly sad yet hilarious work Kommer, combining film and live performance in equal measure. It's followed on October 3rd with Noche Flamenco & Soledad Barrio creating dynamic interplay between the instrumentation, singing and powerful footwork. Hailed as "one of the world's great dance companies," Jose Limón Dance Company performs a mixed repertoire on October 12th. Quickly



CHERISH THE LADIES

becoming a central figure in the new Latin jazz movement, alto-sax player Miguel Zenon effortlessly blends bebop with the complex rhythms of Latin jazz. He brings his quartet to Bowker October 18th. On October 20th, Rosanne Cash presents her multimedia presentation Black Cadillac: The Concert where she invites the audience on a stirring trip through the images, sounds, words and music of her personal and musical legacy.

November begins with Teatro Lirico D'Europa, performing Puccini's tale of selfless love, Tosca. Then for something completely different, on November 16th-18th, the university will host Unbroken Chain: The Grateful Dead in Music, Culture, and Memory, a symposium and conference combining academic inquiry, performance, and artistic appreciation. As for the musical contributions, there will be two seminal performances that celebrate the Grateful Dead: the American Beauty Project on Friday, November 16th and Dark Star Orchestra, Saturday, November 17th. Unbroken Chain is presented by the UMass Amherst Graduate School, Department of History, Fine Arts Center and University Outreach and University Research. On November 27, the Shaolin Warriors from China make their premier visit to the Fine Arts Center where they will showcase their versatile kicks, stun-

ning flying swords, compact moves, and powerful martial arts prowess. On November 30th, the four-time Grammy winning Blind Boys of Alabama will share their spirit and energy of pure soul gospel music in a concert that incorporates contemporary songs and innovative arrangements. The fall season closes with Cherish the Ladies on December 12th. With their spectacular blend of instrumental talents, beautiful vocals, captivating arrangements and stunning step dancing, this powerhouse group combines all facets of Celtic culture in an immensely warm, humorous and entertaining event.

Starting the spring portion of the season on February 5th will be the beautiful sacred music of jazz great Duke Ellington performed by the Grammy award winning Turtle Island Quartet and one of today's most formidable jazz vibraphonists Stefon Harris. From across the pond comes the Academy of Ancient Music on February 23rd performing a program of Bach, Telemann and Handel. Adam Rudolph brings his Moving Pictures ensemble to Bowker on the 28th presented in cooperation with the Magic Triangles Jazz series. This group re-invents world music for sophisticated listeners fusing many languages, instrumentation and cosmologies into a very artful and keenly constructed performance. Then on February 29th, the Fine Arts Center throws a big pajama party for all those young and young at heart with Dan Zanes and Friends. 2007 Grammy winner Zanes occupies a unique place in

American music where sea shanties, Broadway standards, North American and West Indian folk music, fiddle tunes, and the spirit of rock-and-roll collide.

On March 4th the longest continually-running jazz festival in the world, the Monterey Jazz Festival celebrates its 50th anniversary and stops in Amherst while on a national tour. Maintaining Monterey's tradition of presenting the titans alongside rising stars, this performance features Terence Blanchard, James Moody, Benny Green, Nnenna Freelon, Derrick Hodge and Kendrick Scott. And on March 12th, just in time for some wearin' o' the green, Canadian super group Leahy deliver a triple threat of fiddle-driven music, step dancing and vocals. Closing the month on the 29th will be Christian McBride and his band. McBride has arguably become the most acclaimed acoustic and electric bassist to emerge from the jazz world.

April closes the season in style with three performances including Ron Brown and his dance company Evidence on April 12th. His latest work, One Shot: Dance Sessions, is inspired by the beauty and legacy captured in the photographs of noted African-American documentary photographer Charles "Teenie" Harris. On April 25th Lila Downs brings her extraordinary voice to the Fine Arts Center. Motivated by the songs and stories of the Oaxacan people, Downs infuses jazz, gospel, and hip-hop influences into traditional cumbias for a powerful musical, cultural and political statement. The season's finale on April 30th features Imani Winds, a young ensemble of African/Latin American heritage that has established a distinct presence in the classical music world.

Subscription and single tickets (\$15 - \$35 general public) are on sale now. There are also prix fixe Global Gourmet dinners being offered at the University Club prior to and after select performances. A brochure with a complete description of programs is available by calling the box office at 413.545.2511 or 1.800.999.UMAS.

For more information about the artists, visitor information, other Fine Arts Center events, or to get on the Fine Arts Center's mailing list, go to [fineartscenter.com](http://fineartscenter.com).

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# Grand Slam Champion to perform at Smith College

By: Nicole Lashomb, TRT Editor-in-Chief

I am sure that many of you have heard of the ever-so-talented Lenelle Moise. For those of you who have not, Lenelle Moise is a self-identified "culturally hyphenated pomosexual poet" who creates interactive, intimate & politicized texts about the intersection of race, class, gender & resistance. She recites from scrolls, from memory and with movement. Hailed "a masterful performer" by getunderground.com, the Drammy Award winning actress is currently touring her acclaimed one-woman spoken word show WOMB-WORDS, THIRSTING.

Lenelle was Ithaca, New York's 2000 Poetry Grand Slam champion. She competed in both the 2000 and 2001 National Poetry Slams. She was also New WORLD Theater's 2003 Poetry Slam champion and a recipient of the Astraea Loving Lesbians Award for Poetry. In 2006, she received the prestigious Sea Change Residency from the Gaea Foundation.

In an exclusive TRT interview with Lenelle Moise, find out the scoop behind her one woman show and find out where and when you can get more of Lenelle.

**Nicole Lashomb:** What is Womb Words Thirsting about?



LENELLE MOISE

Photo by: Vanessa Vargas

**Lenelle Moise:** WOMB-WORDS, THIRSTING is my 90-minute one-woman show about coming of age as a working-class immigrant, queer feminist and performance poet. It's intimate, it's playful and it's not your average night at the theatre! One evening combines spoken word, storytelling, movement and song.

**Q:** How many times have you performed in the U.S.?

**A:** Lots of times! This piece has been presented in Manhattan, Seattle,

Oberlin—even Northfield, Minnesota! I'm a frequent flyer—regularly performing and leading workshops at colleges, conferences and theatres across the country. Although I've shared sections of WOMB-WORDS, THIRSTING in the Pioneer Valley before, this is first time the show will be presented here in its entirety.

**Q:** Where did the idea of being a pomosexual come from and what does it mean?

**A:** "PoMo" is an abbreviation of the word "postmodern." For me, being pomosexual simply means that my sexuality is complex, luscious and mine to name, shape and flaunt. That said, I always tell folks that the first thing I identify as is "trying to be free." Lenelle Moise = trying to be free.

**Q:** What do you mean when you say you are reclaiming f-words?

**A:** Well, one of the f-words I'm proud to carry is feminist. The media has distorted that word to mean "man-hater" but it's really about loving women enough to work for equality. You'll have to come see the show to find out about the other f-words!

**Q:** You talk about masculinities in your show, but will you also talk about femininities?

**A:** Yes! You can't talk about grays without talking about black and white. I'm interested in female masculinity and male femininity. WOMB-WORDS, THIRSTING explores examples of both.

**Q:** What would a male audience take away from your performance?

**A:** I tell a lot of stories about being an "outsider." I think most people—regardless of their gender—can relate to that. We've all had moments when we feel left out or picked on for being, looking or thinking different. After the performance, I hope the men in my audience will walk away having encountered an unconventional reflection of themselves in my stories...Plus, my show is just as action-packed as the Bourne Ultimatum—just maybe not as violent :)

**Q:** What is the purpose behind your event?

**A:** I want the staging of my work to create a safe forum for audiences—diverse in age, race, class and political affiliation—to breathe, cry, learn and laugh together in one packed room. I hope my work will appeal to theatre scholars, undocumented workers, gay anarchists and my illiterate grandmother alike! I want my audiences to feel our connectedness in the live moment.

See Champion Page 13

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**OCTOBER 12, 2007**

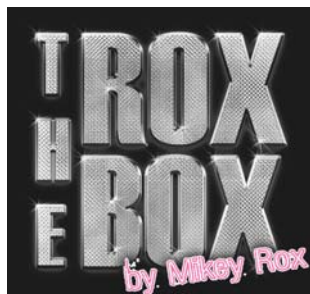
TUESDAYS	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS	FRIDAYS	SATURDAYS
18+	18+	18+	18+	21+
HAVEN	DRAGWARS	FUSION	SEXYBACK	ESCAPE
INDUSTRIAL	KARAOKE	80's	Hip Hop	80's
GOth	Hip Hop	To Hip Hop	RADIO	To TODAY

AVAILABLE FOR WEDDINGS-BIRTHDAYS-PRIVATE PARTIES



## Queer Reviews

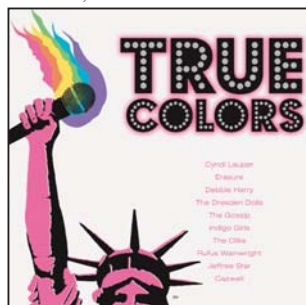
# Reviewing the Stars: McEntire, Houston



If you were lucky enough to score tickets to this summer's *True Colors Tour* then its eponymous soundtrack, *True Colors*, might help you remember what happened before and after your alcohol-induced blackout. Like the groundbreaking event itself, *True Colors* features songs from some of today's hottest gay and gay-friendly artists, including *The Dresden Dolls*, *Indigo Girls*, *Rufus Wainwright*, *Debbie Harry*, *The Gossip*, and *Cazwell*, to name a few. *The Cliks*, the Toronto-based four-some led by transgender vocalist/guitarist *Lucas Silveira*, also appear on the album with its single "Oh Yeah," an

aggressive pop-rock track about the perils of stabbing friends in the back. Twenty-one-year-old Jeffree Star—whose growing popularity is owed almost entirely to MySpace—also contributes to the disc with his nod to narcissism, "Plastic Surgery Slumber Party," a robotic romp through a land where bodily reconstruction and daily regurgitation is required. Rounding out the album is the Erasure exclusive "Early Bird (DJ Manolo's True Colors Mix)," and Cyndi Lauper's own 1980s hit, "True Colors (Morel's Pink Noise Mix)," the festival's unofficial theme song.

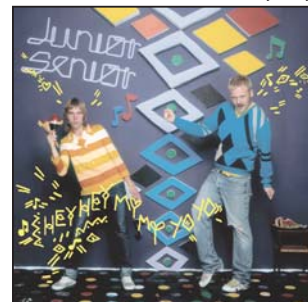
In 1976, disco diva *Thelma Houston*



pleaded her case with "Don't Leave Me This Way." Three decades later you don't have to. Her first album in 17 years, *Houston delivers A Woman's Touch*, a cover album brimming with songs made popular by some of the biggest male singers in R&B and pop. From the blues-influenced makeover of Sting's "Brand New Day" to gay icon Sylvester's "Disco Heat/Mighty Real"—a poignant gospel song this time around—Houston not only injects an air of femininity into these familiar tracks, but completely reinvents them as new hits. Suddenly, Jimmy Webb's "By the Time I Get to Phoenix" is fresh again with an old-school flair, while the late Luther Vandross' "Never Too Much" returns as a triumphant dance floor anthem. Other tracks include "Please Send Me Someone to Love," originally by Percy Mayfield; Marvin Gaye's "Distant Lover"; and "Love and Happiness," first made famous by Al Green. "A Woman's Touch is my tribute to the men who, in my humble opinion, are among the best artists of our time," Houston says. "My aim was not to change the meaning of the songs, I was

singer himself—but, come on, you've gotta admit that it's quite fantastic. But, does Allnighter live up to this liberal use of adjectives? In a word, yes-if-you-like-the-glitter-to-grit-of-grounded-electro-soul. A former contestant on the French TV talent show "Popstars," *Naommon* brings his Parisian experience to Harlem, N.Y., where he's combining his musical influences — David Bowie, Prince and Deee-Lite, among others — to create his own sound, which easily can be dubbed 'innovative reminiscence.' Allnighter's title track is a clear indication of the young artist's 1980s upbringing — synthesizers and all — while tracks like "Hurry Up" hustle back a decade with its undeniable disco flair. Flipping on the soul switch to clubland's often apathetic aura, *Naommon* gives you new reason to sweat till the sun rises.

You don't have to get your hands on *Junior Senior's* latest album, *Hey Hey*



*My My Yo Yo*, to hear what the Danish duo has to offer this time around. That's because before the disc ever hit shelves, a bevy of their bouncy beats were infiltrating mainstream America. For instance, "Hip Hop A Lula," an '80s-inspired rap track popped up at multi-plexes across the country on trailers for "Rush Hour 3"; "Can I Get Get Get," was featured on an episode of ABC's hit comedy "Ugly Betty"; and "Take My Time" was picked up for the PSP game "Lumines 2." So much for staying underground, boys. But what's even better about *Hey Hey My My Yo Yo*, besides its contents' ubiquity, is that Jesper Mortensen (Junior) and Jeppe Laursen (Senior) haven't compromised their musical prudence for the ever-decreasing dollar. The result is another inimitable album that promises nothing more than to put a smile on your face.

For the past 30 years, Reba McEntire has ...



just hoping to infuse a new personality to the old classics."

If there's one word to describe newcomer *Naommon's* debut album, *Allnighter*, it's "electro-purple-fluoroplastic-sulky-acid-soul-clashy-disco-sequin-pop." OK, so that's several words stuck together—and a description by the

## PARROTFISH PROM

All Ages  
GLBTQ  
Party



Saturday, September 29th  
7:30-10:00 PM

To Celebrate  
New YA Novel  
**PARROTFISH**  
by Ellen  
Wittlinger

The Davis Ballroom  
Smith College  
Northampton, MA  
Info, pritchwitt@aol.com

Sponsored  
by The  
**Rainbow Times**  
Salon Herdis  
Pride & Joy

DJ Cashman, Cupcake Bar,  
Prom Pics, Prom Hair, Books  
**FREE**, Donations to Benefit  
**GENERATION Q**

# Prom to be held to celebrate new teen trans novel

NORTHAMPTON—On September 29th, Transgender, Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual, and Straight teens and adults are invited to attend the Parrotfish Prom at Smith College's Davis Ballroom to celebrate the book release of the teen novel, *PARROTFISH*, by local author Ellen Wittlinger, published by Simon & Schuster.

Prom attendees of all-ages, at this alcohol-free event, will be treated to a full cupcake bar, prom hair and makeup by Katie Clifford of Salon Herdis, door prizes provided by Pride and Joy bookstore, prom pictures, music by DJ Cashman and dramatic readings taken from *PARROTFISH* between 7:30-10:00 PM. The event is free, but donations will be accepted for Northampton's GLBTQ teen drop-in center, Generation Q.

In the novel *PARROTFISH*, Angela,

## Champion from Page 11

**Q:** What is the mission behind your performance?

**A:** To engage, to affirm, to inspire, and to ultimately empower.

**Q:** When is your next performance going to be (besides this one that we are talking about)?

**A:** In October, I'm bringing *WOMBWORDS*, *THIRSTING* to the Ohio State

## PARROTFISH PROM

All Ages  
GLBTQ  
Party



Congratulations  
to local author  
Ellen Wittlinger!

who has never felt comfortable as agirl, returns to her junior year in high school asking to be called Grady and to be treated as a boy. Grady immediately loses friends and faces hurt and misunderstanding. His trial, though, is lightened by the surprising arrival of new friends and respect from unexpected corners.

The story climaxes at the Winter Formal, the pinnacle of the high school heterosexual dating scene. By this time,

University in Columbus and to SUNY Geneseo in upstate New York. I'm also writing a new play with music called *EXPATRIATE* which will premiere in April, 2008.

**Q:** What do you want people to know about you/your performance?

**A:** Well, I'm thrilled that my debut spoken word CD, *Madvineez*, is now available. It was produced by June Millington at the Institute for the Musical Arts out in

Grady has found a base of support and comes to the event as the boy he feels he is.

To celebrate the book's publication, Lambda Literary Award-winning Author, Ellen Wittlinger, wanted to create an event that celebrated our many different identities and relationships while mildly poking fun at the conventions of formal dances and proms. Whether in party clothes, or jeans and t-shirts, the commu-

Goshen. You can find out how to order it online by visiting my website: [www.lenellemoise.com](http://www.lenellemoise.com). Or, buy it locally at Northampton's Pride & Joy.

**Q:** How do you attract all members of the LGBT community to your show?

**A:** Through word of mouth and through fine publications like this one! Thank you!

Lenelle Moise will be performing at the Hallie Flanagan Studio Theater at Smith College on Wednesday, September 19th and Thursday September 20th at 8 p.m. For more information about Lenelle's performance or to buy tickets, visit [www.new-worldtheater.org](http://www.new-worldtheater.org).

nity is invited to celebrate with her the publication of the novel that reviewers have called "captivating" and "ground-breaking."

For more information about the event, or for review copies of the book, interview requests, images, and other items please contact Ellen Wittlinger at 413-268-3668 or [pritchitt@aol.com](mailto:pritchitt@aol.com).

## The Night Owl

### Central & Western, MA

**Blu**  
105 Water Street  
Worcester,  
Massachusetts

**Club Car**  
64 Water Street  
Worcester, MA

**DIVA'S**  
492 Pleasant St.  
Northampton, MA

**Hob Knob**  
234 Chestnut Street  
Springfield, MA

**The Pub**  
382 Dwight Street  
Springfield, MA

**MB**  
40 Grafton Street  
Worcester, MA

**Sin City**  
350 Worthington Street  
Springfield, MA

### Connecticut

**Triangles**  
66 Sugar Hollow Road  
Danbury, Connecticut

**Chez Est**  
458 Wethersfield Ave.  
Hartford, CT

**Polo Club**  
678 Maple Avenue  
Hartford, CT

**168 York Street Cafe**  
168 York Street  
New Haven, CT

**Bar**  
254 Crown Street  
New Haven, CT

**Gotham Citi Cafe**  
Church & Crown Streets  
New Haven, CT

**Partners Cafe**  
365 Crown Street  
New Haven, CT

## Mixed Metaphors: Assemblage from David Adix and Company

David Adix and seven noted assemblage sculptors from the region and beyond will show at Gallery in the Woods, Brattleboro during September and October. Joining Adix in the show are Reina Mia Brill, Mark Brown, Patricia Bursleson, Sloane Dawson, Shawn Farley, Terri Jenoure, and Tiffany Ownbey. Reception for the artists is on Friday, September 7, 5:30-9pm. Moondog Trio will entertain.

The term "assemblage" is originally an archeological term meaning a group of artifacts found in the same place and time, representing a culture. The artistic sense of the word could be conceived as a visual archeological dig. The art form was launched by Picasso and Duchamp (among others), who were working with everyday found objects at the time that Dubuffet coined the term. Assemblage art in the states was supported by a pivotal show at the New York Museum of Modern Art in 1961, when curator William Seitz defined assemblage content as entirely or in part natural or manmade materials, objects, and fragments not

intended as art materials.

Join the English assemblage and multimedia artist Dave McKean in his lyrics to *Mixed Metaphors*, derived from the collection of poems in *Dust Covers*.

For more information about this event, contact Suzanne Corsano at the *Gallery in the Woods* in Brattleboro, VT at 802-257-4777.

### Gay Best Sellers\*

1. Bam Bam & Celeste
2. Whole New Thing
3. Tan Lines
4. Rick & Steve: Season 1
5. The Masseur
6. Coffee Date
7. Eternal Summer
8. A Very Serious Person
9. Queer As Folk: Season 5
10. Outing Riley

\* By wolfevideo.com

**We are looking for:**  
Dancers • Drag Kings • MC

**Saturday, September 15th**  
**3 - 6 pm at the Media Education Foundation Board Room**

for more info email us at [kingstboiz@gmail.com](mailto:kingstboiz@gmail.com) [www.myspace.com/kingstboiz](http://www.myspace.com/kingstboiz)



## LGBT Announcements

# TRT PRIDE Calendar

**UNITY** is a Transgender support group which meets at 7pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of every month at the Blue Moon Coffee Roaster located at 715 Sumner Avenue, Springfield, MA. For more info call Deja 860-604-6343 or Keri 413-364-1749.

**SENIOR CITIZEN'S BOWLING LEAGUE;** Mondays at 12:30 p.m. - Canal Lanes, Route 5, Southampton.

**SOCIAL GROUP FOR LESBIANS;** We always meet on the first and third Friday's of the month. For information call 413-687-2065

**EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION (EC)** is NOW available without a prescription at all Tapestry Health Services sites. (413) 586-2539.

**CAFE & CONVERSATION;** Every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.; Northampton Council on Aging, NCOA; 240 Main St., Suite 1; 587-1228

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

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

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

**MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP;** Any male 18 or older; an opportunity for men to share their experiences, thoughts, and feelings about life's journey. Support group not a therapy group. Free. Every Tuesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Brattleboro, VT. FMI: 802-258-3914.

**LADY TATIANA'S LATIN NIGHT THE HOTTEST LATIN NIGHT;** Every 3rd Saturday of each month at The Chez, 458 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford, CT; 860-525-3243.

**JOIN EMAIL GROUP FOR LGBT PARENTS** in the Pioneer Valley area at [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lgbt\\_parents\\_pioneer\\_valley/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lgbt_parents_pioneer_valley/) for exchanging information, chatting about our families, and organizing get-togethers and play-dates.

**DISCRIMINATION BECAUSE U R QUEER?** Call The Rainbow Times, 413-204-8959.

**ACTORS! SINGERS! DANCERS! ADULTS!** Children (4-12th grade)! *Greene Room Productions* is holding the 2007-2008 Season Audition August 20-24, 27-30, & September 1-4 24-30. Audition for "Monster Gala Half-time Show", "A Christmas Cabaret," "The Last Five Years," and "Holes." Auditions are by appointment only! Call (413) 668-7284 for scheduling! FMI: [www.greeneroomproductions.com](http://www.greeneroomproductions.com)

**ROCK STAR THURSDAYS;** Sep 06, 2007; Thursday nights are transforming into a "ROCKSTAR," fly guyz entertainment is bringing you something new every Thursday. Main stage will be guest DJ's or Band's and Liquid will be DJ D Manz with 80's. This night prom-

ises to be the party night of 2007-2008. 18+ \$10 cover; Diva's Night Club; 492 Pleasant Street; (413) 586-8161.

**FAMILY FUN-RAISING EVENT FOR LGBT FAMILIES & ALLIES;** September 7th; 6 - 8 p.m. at the Carousel at Bushnell Park in Hartford; Unlimited Carousel Rides, Playground, Pizza & Popcorn, Face Painting; Reserve Your Tickets TODAY! Minimum Suggested Donation: \$40 per Family OR be a Family Pride Sponsor at \$100! All Proceeds Benefit the Campaign for Marriage Equality in Connecticut. Bring your children, niece, nephews, & grandchildren--All are welcome! Rain or Shine! FMI: [carol@lmfct.org](mailto:carol@lmfct.org) or 860-525-7777, x304 for more information.

**GAYME NIGHT;** September 7; 7 p.m.; Howie's in Chesterfield. Gayme night returns! Bring your favorite board game, or come prepared to vote for the one you want to play. FMI: Howie - 603-256-6995

**QUEER COMMUNITY PROJECT PICNIC;** September 8; 4-10 p.m.; Living Memorial Park, Brattleboro; The Queer Community Project is hosting a communitywide picnic on Saturday. DIRECTIONS: From I-91 north or south, take Exit 2. Take a right off the exit onto Western Avenue. Continue on Western Ave. until you see the Creamery Bridge (historical covered bridge) on the left. Take a left through the bridge, and Memorial Park is immediately on the right. Drive through the parking lot, and continue up the hill, bearing left when the road splits. Park along the road, or in the lower parking lot and walk up to the Kiwanis Shelter at the top of the hill. Signs will be out.

**14TH ANNUAL HARKNESS FAMILY DAY;** September 9, 2007; 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.; Harkness Memorial State Park, Great Neck Road, Waterford; Admission FREE

**AUDITIONS FOR THE BOSTON GAY MEN'S CHORUS;** Sept. 9; 2:00 p.m.; Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St, Boston MA; FMI & appointment scheduling, please call 617-542-SING. All interested singers are encouraged to audition; previous choral singing experience is helpful and elementary music reading skills are a plus.

Process includes singing a familiar song, sight-singing, vocalizing, and an evaluation of basic musicianship skills. A weekly Wednesday night rehearsal commitment plus occasional additional rehearsals are required. The BGMC also welcomes male and female non-singing members as part of its volunteer program.

The BGMC's 2007-08 season includes holiday concerts at Jordan Hall, a spring concert at Symphony Hall, and pride shows at the Cutler Majestic theater as well as participation in outreach concerts around the New England area and a trip to Miami, FL for the quadrennial international gay and lesbian chorus festival. FMI: (617) 542-SING or [www.bgmc.org](http://www.bgmc.org)

**BEAR NIGHT;** 9/12; Doors open at 5 p.m. at the Ceilidh House in Westmoreland, NH. The Pub is not normally open on Wednesdays, so this is a private Bear event. Doors open at 5 p.m., DJ music begins at 7:30 p.m., and the pub will be open until midnight. Not a Men's Program event.

**SO-VER-MO ;** Thur - Sat, September 13-15; Various events over three nights at gay-owned inns! A portion of ticket sales benefit the AIDS Project of So VT. Thursday 9/13 - a cabaret at the Inn at Saxton's River. Friday 9/14 - the "Whirl and Twirl" dance in the antique barn at the Cavendish Inn. Disco and line dancing! Saturday 9/15 - a "Tea Dance", with a BBQ, music, dancing and a bonfire at The Fox Chair Mountain Farm. We recommend buying your tickets EARLY if you plan to attend any of these events! [www.sovermo.com](http://www.sovermo.com) Not a Men's Program event.

**BUSTED!** A transadvocacy fundraiser co-sponsored by the CT TransAdvocacy Coalition and Love Makes a Family; Friday, Sept 14th at 8 p.m.; @ Tommy's Restaurant; 825 Old Saybrook Road, Middletown; \$10 at the door (Pay what you can, no one turned away for lack of funds); 21+; Free Food, Cash Bar, Strut Your Stuff. For further information, contact [zli@transadvocacy.com](mailto:zli@transadvocacy.com)

**MEMORY WALK BENEFIT;** Sep 15, 2007; A portion of the door will go to the Memory walk fund. Music , Munchies, Door prizes. DJ Otis and fun times. \$8 admission.21+. Diva's Night Club; 492 Pleasant Street; (413) 586-8161.

**TRANSGENER SUPPORT;** September 16; 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.; Meeting in Brattleboro the third Sunday of every month. Open to anyone whose identity or expression doesn't fit neatly into the gender binary, including transpeople of all sexual orientations/identities. Confidentiality guaranteed. Not a Men's Program event. FMI contact Benjamin Robin: [robin@benjaminrobin.net](mailto:robin@benjaminrobin.net)

**CONNECT THE DOTS:** Sept. 18; 6:30-9:30 p.m. @ the Menspace. Want to connect with other guys? Come share an evening with other guys who want to do the same. As we've done in previous "Connecting" groups, we'll try to connect the dots from what we want in our relationships with other men to how we go about meeting them and developing that connection - in ways that are both satisfying and healthy. Call Howie at 802-254-4444 or e-mail him at [men@sover.net](mailto:men@sover.net)

**WILD WILD WEST PARTY;** Sep 22, 2007 - Wear a Cowboy Hat - Get 2 FREE ADMISSION PASSES; 21+ Free passes and \$2 off coupons are accepted. Diva's Night Club; 492 Pleasant Street; (413) 586-8161.

**SISTER FUNK PERFORMING LIVE;** Sep 28, 2007; Diva's Night Club presents the all women's rock band Sister Funk. Stay tuned for details. DJ Lori B spins 80's to Hip Hop. 18+ \$8. \$2 Off coupons and Free Passes not allowed. Stay tuned for more details.

**CRUISE ON HARRIMAN WITH QCP AND BENNINGTON PRIDE;** October 7 - 4-7 p.m. boat ride. More information in TRT's October issue.

**GLBTQ HALLOWEEN DANCE PARTY!;** October 27 -Quality Inn, Brattleboro. DJ Chris Holman. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. More information in TRT's October issue.

**DISCRIMINATION?** Someone treats you differently because of your sexual orientation? Let us report and do the investigating! Call TRT today; 413-204-8959

## Automotive Q & A

By: Stephen M. Lewis  
TRT Auto Columnist



Stephen M. Lewis  
President, Steve Lewis  
Subaru

**Q: Why can my rear doors only open from the outside? They will not open from the inside.**

A: This is because your car is equipped with rear door child-protectors. This feature allows you to lock a rear door so it can be opened from the outside only. This feature is recommended whenever small children are in the vehicle.

**Q: Why is there a puddle under the front passenger side of my vehicle in the summer months with my a/c on?**

A: This is because the condensation that builds up in you're a/c system needs a place to drain. The drain hose is located under the passenger front dash and runs through the floor, allowing the condensation to drain.

**Q: Why does my a/c not cool the inside of my car after being parked in the hot sun?**

A: To cool your car after it has been parked in the hot sun, drive with the windows open for a few minutes. This vents the hot air, allowing the air conditioning to cool the interior more quickly. It is also recommended that your air conditioning controls be set to re-circulate for maximum efficiency.

To have your automotive question answered, email Steve Lewis at [stevelewis@subarumail.com](mailto:stevelewis@subarumail.com) or call 413-584-3292.

\* This column is intended for information purposes only. If you are having an automotive problem, it is best to visit your mechanic.

## Pine Point resident Gloria A. DeFillippo announces candidacy

Springfield—Pine Point resident Gloria A. DeFillippo today announced her candidacy for the Springfield City Council.

A resident of Pine Point for 15 years, DeFillippo currently serves as the secretary for the Pine Point Community Council, where she has been actively involved for the last 12 years. She is also a past president of that group. Formerly the Assistant Dean of Continuing Education at Springfield Technical Community College, DeFillippo has served for the last seven years as the Dean of Distance Education at Holyoke Community College.

"Setting the Standard" is the theme for the DeFillippo campaign.

"We, as a city, have been through several

See DeFillippo Page 19

Submit your non-profit calendar event\* to [calendar@therainbowtimesmass.com](mailto:calendar@therainbowtimesmass.com)

\*Certain restrictions apply. Small for-profit events/groups, 35 words or less, are considered for a small fee. Large/for-profit events are not considered. All submissions appear online.



# Massachusetts' Gay rights supporters take on a big task

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Gay rights supporters from Massachusetts say they plan a Web site to post the home addresses and phone numbers of people who sign petitions to block two gay rights laws passed by the 2007 Oregon Legislature.

"We all know there's a lot of homophobia out there," said Aaron Toleos, "but this puts a face on it."

Toleos is co-director of the effort, called KnowThyNeighbor.org, that marks the latest turn in the fight over the laws that ban discrimination against gays and give same-sex couples most state benefits of marriage through legal domestic partnerships.

Conservatives and church groups are collecting signatures in hopes of blocking both laws from taking effect Jan. 1, instead putting them to a statewide vote in November 2008.

Opponents of the laws have until Sept. 26 to turn in about 55,000 valid petition signatures.

Marylin Shannon, a former Republican state lawmaker who's involved with the petition drive, said she thinks the plan to post petition signers' addresses and phone numbers on the Internet is an

attempt to intimidate people from signing. Such a move threatens freedom of speech, Shannon said.

"I think it's a mistake on their part," Shannon said. "You don't threaten, you reason with people, to get voters on your side. People feel powerless when they're threatened."

Toleos said social conservatives who sign the petitions should have the courage of their convictions and be willing to have their identities made public.

Toleos, a Democrat who is heterosexual and married, co-founded KnowThyNeighbor.org with Tom Lang, a gay Republican who is also married, to list the names and addresses of anti-gay rights petition signers in Florida and Massachusetts—two states where the battle over gay rights has been especially intense.

Toleos notes that the petitions are public documents.

"We don't want people yelling at each other," Toleos said. "It's more constructive to have a conversation. It may be uncomfortable but it's very much needed."

Gay rights supporters such as Toleos

and Brandon Berg, the Oregon spokesman for KnowThyNeighbor, say the opponents' petition drive threatens the rights gays and lesbians have been seeking for decades, such as the law to ban discrimination against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people in employment, housing and public accommodations.

"People couldn't believe there was not a law on the books saying it's not OK to fire somebody on the basis of sexual orientation," Berg said.

Oregon House Majority Leader David Hunt, who supports the new gay rights laws, said that during the legislative session opponents circulated home and cell phone numbers for lawmakers, resulting in hundreds of nuisance calls and thousands of junk e-mails, many from out of state.

"That was over the top," Hunt said. "And I think it did have a little backlash."

The state's largest gay rights group, Basic Rights Oregon, is avoiding the KnowThyNeighbor Web site effort.

"We are not involved in this," said John Hummel, executive director. "We are concentrating our efforts on gathering support for equality, and getting people

to support the laws that have been passed."

Petitioners hoping to block the gay rights laws reportedly are struggling to gather signatures.

It is getting no help from the Oregon Family Council, which led the successful effort in 2004 to persuade Oregon voters to enact a state constitutional ban on gay marriage.

The Oregon Republican Party endorsed the petition in a resolution backing a number of conservative initiatives issued in June, but has offered little more support.

But David Crowe, executive director of Restore America, a conservative Christian group, said he has found support in churches across the state and hopes petitioners can get enough signatures by the deadline.

Gay rights supporters say they will wait to see whether enough valid signatures are collected by the deadline before launching the Web site because they must rely on volunteers to manually enter names, addresses and phone numbers—unlike Massachusetts and Florida, where those records are stored electronically.



## US presidential candidates focus on gay marriage after Iowa ruling

By: Amy Lorentzen/AP\*

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—A judge's decision to knock down a same-sex marriage ban in the state of Iowa stirred up the U.S. presidential race as Republicans jostled to stake out a position with the state's conservative voters in mind.

Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney was the first to seize on the ruling, promptly aligning himself with Iowa political leaders in denouncing the decision.

The former Massachusetts governor's swift criticism served to bolster the conservative image his campaign has been working hard to promote to Iowa's Republican voters. Romney stressed his support for a federal amendment that would ban same-sex marriage, a stand that distinguishes him from his top rivals, who have said they prefer to leave such decisions to the states.

Last week, Polk County Judge Robert Hanson, who ruled then that the state's decade-old ban on same-sex marriage was unconstitutional, issued a stay on his own ruling. The stay closed the window for any gay couples seeking to marry in Polk County, which includes the state capital Des Moines.

But the decision inflamed an issue that is important to the state's conservative Republican voters.

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton was the first Democrat to offer a reaction. Taping an appearance on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" Friday, Clinton said she favors civil unions "with full equality of benefits." But she said the question of same-sex marriage should be left up to the states.

"The states have always determined age of marriage, other conditions and over time we've gotten rid of a lot of discrimination that used to exist in marriage laws," she said. "That's now happening. People are making decisions. Civil unions, marriage. They're

unions, they have declined to back gay marriage, a stance that has created some tension with their gay supporters.

For Republicans, the task was not to offend conservatives.

Republican White House hopeful John McCain called the ruling "a loss for the traditional family."

"I have always supported the traditional definition of marriage as between one man and one woman," he said. "The ruling of the court only reinforces my belief that we must have a president who is committed to appointing strict constructionists to the bench."

**While most Democratic candidates have voiced support for same-sex civil unions, they have declined to back gay marriage, a stance that has created some tension with their gay supporters.**

deciding in the states and I think that's the appropriate place for that to be."

A spokesman for Democrat Barack Obama said the senator "believes these matters should be left to the states, which is why he opposes the Defense of Marriage Act."

While most Democratic candidates have voiced support for same-sex civil

Kansas Senator Sam Brownback, who has worked hard to gain the backing of social conservatives in Iowa, offered a sharp rejection of the judge's ruling.

"The people of Iowa reject the redefinition of marriage, and I pledge today to defend the bond of marriage, as I have consistently done in the past," he said in a statement.

Jarrod Agen, a spokesman for Rudy Giuliani, said the former New York mayor "believes marriage is between a man and a woman." Giuliani has supported limited legal recognition for same-sex couples.

Former Senator Fred Thompson, who will officially enter the presidential race next week, has offered support for a federal amendment that would prevent states without gay marriage laws from having to recognize same-sex marriages from other states.

Last week, Romney discussed the matter in a private conference call with Iowa House Republican Leader Christopher Rants, who has endorsed Romney, and Kris Mineau, president of the Massachusetts Family Institute, which led the campaign against legalizing gay marriages in Massachusetts.

Romney was governor of Massachusetts in 2003 when the state's supreme court legalized same-sex marriages, making it the only U.S. state to allow gay marriages. Romney criticized the court decision, but was unsuccessful in efforts to push through a state constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriages.

\* Associated Press writers Jim Kuhnnehn in Washington and Jim Davenport in South Carolina contributed to this report.

## LGBT Politics

# After 27 years, Craig's troubles put unceremonious end to it all

BOISE, Idaho (AP)—Larry Craig was already considering retirement from a long career of serving Idaho in Congress, repeatedly telling loyal Republicans he'd share his plans later this month on whether he would seek another Senate term.

The 62-year-old conservative never got that chance.

Craig's career came to an abrupt and in many ways disgraceful end five days after reports of his arrest in June by a plainclothes officer investigating lewd behavior in an airport men's room.

After days of embarrassing media coverage, condemnation from colleagues and a glaring lack of support from the White House, Craig's abrupt and unceremonious exit last week was sealed as much by his own mistakes as by a Republican Party with little stomach for another dose of scandal.

"He has to take some of the responsibility," said Jim Weatherby, a professor emeritus at Boise State University who has known Craig since they were students in the 1960s at the University of Idaho in Moscow. "But I don't think he deserved the harsh treatment from national Republicans who pushed him off

the stage for their own political purposes."

Craig apologized for a tabloid-style story that put Idaho in the unfamiliar glow of the national spotlight. Flanked by his wife, family and Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter, Craig said he no longer wanted to be a distraction to the state and nation and would resign at the end of the month. It was a far different tone from his

where his political career began in the state Senate at age 29.

"I hope you do not regret the confidence you have placed in me over all of these years," he said.

Public forgiveness and Craig's future in life after politics remains to be seen.

Despite the resume and reputation as an honest and earnest lawmaker, Craig was never able to avoid the nagging questions

**... Craig was never able to avoid the nagging questions and rumors about his sexuality. And his outspoken opposition to gay-rights and same-sex-marriage amendments simply fanned the flames that ignited earlier when reports surfaced of his arrest and subsequent guilty plea from a Minneapolis airport men's room sex sting operation.**

only other public appearance, when he defiantly resisted calls to step aside and explained that he overreacted in pleading guilty to the misdemeanor.

"Few people have had the privilege and the pleasure to represent Idaho for as many years as I have," Craig said against the distant backdrop of the statehouse,

and rumors about his sexuality. And his outspoken opposition to gay-rights and same-sex-marriage amendments simply fanned the flames that ignited earlier when reports surfaced of his arrest and subsequent guilty plea from a Minneapolis airport men's room sex sting operation.

To the national audience before resigning later, Craig declared three times he was not gay, assertions some say fueled even more unwelcome scrutiny of his private life.

"I think (the guilty plea) is what really paralyzed him in terms of making an effective response to all of this," Weatherby said. "This arrest and his pleading guilty seemed to give credence to all of the rumors."

The swift and harsh response from former colleagues on Capitol Hill didn't help, either.

Nor did the timing, coming in the wake of Republican scandals involving Florida Rep. Mark Foley and a congressional page, reports that Louisiana Senator David Vitter's telephone number was listed in the records of an escort service, and the federal raid on Sen. Ted Stevens' home in Alaska looking for evidence in a corruption case.

Yet in the end, Craig denied himself the chance to leave on his own terms, forced from the political stage with a mix of gratitude and regret.

## GLAAD calls on MSNBC, to apologize for condoning violence

Recently, an edition of "MSNBC Live with Dan Abrams" MSNBC host Tucker Carlson referenced an incident from his past when he was the recipient of an unwanted advance from another man. Carlson told program host (and MSNBC General Manager) Dan Abrams and fellow MSNBC host Joe Scarborough that after being "bothered" by a man in a restroom in a Washington, D.C., mall, Carlson returned "with someone [he] knew and grabbed the guy... and hit him against the stall with his head, actually. And then the cops came and arrested him." Abrams and Scarborough are seen chuckling throughout Carlson's telling of the story.

Earlier today, GLAAD called Abrams' office to discuss NBC News and MSNBC's response to Carlson's behavior. Abrams' office responded with an e-

mailed statement attributed to Carlson, which read:

*"Let me be clear about an incident I referred to on MSNBC last night: In the mid-1980s, while I was a high school stu-*

*dent, a man physically grabbed me in a men's room in Washington, DC. I yelled, pulled away from him and ran out of the room. Twenty-five minutes later, a friend of mine and I returned to the men's room. The man was still there, presumably waiting to do to someone else what he had done to me. My friend and I seized*

*the man and held him until a security guard arrived.*

*Several bloggers have characterized this as a sort of gay bashing. That's absurd, and an insult to anybody who has*

**I wasn't angry with the man because he was gay. I was angry because he assaulted me.**

**—Tucker Carlson**

*dent, a man physically grabbed me in a men's room in Washington, DC. I yelled, pulled away from him and ran out of the room. Twenty-five minutes later, a friend of mine and I returned to the men's room. The man was still there, presumably waiting to do to someone else what he had done to me. My friend and I seized*

*fought back against an unsolicited sexual attack. I wasn't angry with the man because he was gay. I was angry because he assaulted me."*

The statement is not only a failed attempt to justify Carlson's advocacy of violence, but also changes key details of the previous night's on-air story. First, Carlson does not repeat his assertion that he "hit him against the stall with his head," instead changing his story to say that he "seized the man and held him down until a security guard arrived." The security guard element is also newly invented. In his on-air statement, Carlson said that "the cops came and arrested him."

"Carlson's story was difficult to watch on two levels," said GLAAD Senior Director of Media Programs Rashad Robinson. "To see someone brag on national television of returning, with an accomplice, to the scene of an unwanted advance to violently attack the person who made it is incredibly disturbing. But it was also hard to watch because of the sheer absurdity of most of what Carlson was saying."

"Whether Abrams and Scarborough were laughing with Carlson or laughing at him, the fact remains that MSNBC and NBC News have some explaining to do about their standards and practices," Robinson said. "They need to explain whether bragging about physically assaulting a man in response to an unwanted advance is appropriate on-air behavior for one of their employees, and whether laughter by two others is an appropriate on-air response."

To contact NBC news call Allison Gollust, Senior Vice President of Communications, at 212.664.3220 or e-mail her at [allison.gollust@nbcuni.com](mailto:allison.gollust@nbcuni.com).

To contact MSNBC, contact Jeremy Gaines, VP of Communications, at 201.583.5000, or e-mail him at [jeremy.gaines@msnbc.com](mailto:jeremy.gaines@msnbc.com).

### NO A LA DIFAMACIÓN

Para denunciar una difamación o representaciones negativas de la gente de color lesbiana, gay, bisexual y transgénero (lgbt), por favor visite:

<http://www.glaad.org/espanol/informe.php>

# Love Makes a Family: Working for Equal Marriage Rights in CT

## Love Makes a Family's Vision

Love Makes a Family (LMF) is a statewide non-profit advocacy organization working for equal marriage rights for same-sex couples in Connecticut. They carry out our mission through community education, grassroots organizing and legislative advocacy and lobbying.

## LMF History

Love Makes a Family was created in November 1999 by five statewide organizations (ACLU of Connecticut; Connecticut Coalition for LGBT Civil Rights; Connecticut Conference, United

Church of Christ; Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund; Permanent Commission on the Status of Women) to develop a grassroots movement and a lobbying strategy in order to pass a co-parent adoption law in Connecticut. In 2000, they did not only pass that law with an overwhelming margin of legislative support, but LMF also defeated a DOMA ("Defense of Marriage" Act). Their success with co-parent adoption made Connecticut one of only two states at that time to have achieved such rights legislatively. In addition, LMF was then one of only 15 states that had not passed a state

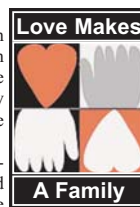
DOMA.

Once the adoption laws had been changed, Love Makes a Family turned its focus to the issue of Marriage.

As they have educated, organized and lobbied on marriage equality over the past five years, Love Makes a Family has quickly grown in terms of supporters and influence. Because of their efforts, the Connecticut General Assembly has held four significant public hearings on marriage since 2001. The 2002 legislative session saw a bill granting same-sex couples a short list of rights related to serious illness and death became law. And in April of 2005, the General Assembly passed—and the Governor signed—a civil union law.

## Moving Forward with Civil Unions

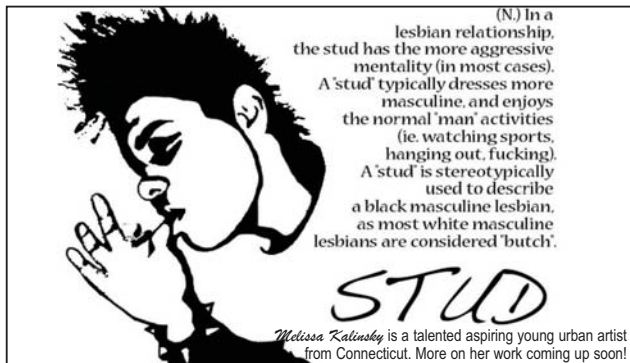
Civil unions will provide needed rights



and protections for couples and families in our state. But although this law is a step in the right direction, it must not remain the end product. The struggle for marriage equality has always been about more than rights and protections; it is also about dignity and respect and equal treatment under the law. Civil unions create a separate status for one class of people and as long as there remain two lines at the Town Hall—one for same-sex couples and one for everyone else—Love Makes a Family will continue to be there, working towards a day when the final discriminatory barriers to marriage are finally struck down.

To contact Love Makes a Family, write to: Love Makes a Family, 576 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105, call 860-525-7777, or e-mail them at [info@lmfct.org](mailto:info@lmfct.org). You can also visit its website at: <http://www.lmfct.org>

To feature your organization from Connecticut, call TRT



## Why gay health in gay hands is important

Did You Know That Syphilis Rates Among gay men in Connecticut Have Double Since 2005?

Did you know that gay men continue to contact HIV in Connecticut, particularly among young gay men?

Gay Health is literally in gay hands. You have the knowledge and resources to stop the spread of sexually transmitted diseases.

The Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective has been a long time leader in

STD education, testing and treatment.

If you would like more information, contact Donna Shubrooks, RN at (860)278-4163 x13 or [donnas@hglhc.org](mailto:donnas@hglhc.org).

\* The Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective empowers individuals of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions to lead healthy lives through the provision of health and support services, education and advocacy.

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## CT Neighborhood Organizations

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**Gay Father's Group:** (203) 938-2881Hartford  
**Community Center:** (860) 724-5542CT Freedom to Marry  
**Coalition:** (203) 791-9553Love Makes a Family: [www.lmfct.org](http://www.lmfct.org) (860) 525-7777Married **Lesbian Support Group:** [tricolor@aol.com](mailto:tricolor@aol.com) (203) 430-9227  
**Married Men's Bisexual Support Group of Hartford:** (860)264-5605Metropolitan Community **Church of New Haven:** (203) 397-2312New Haven **Gay & Lesbian Center:** [www.nhglcc.org](http://www.nhglcc.org) (203) 387-2252  
**PFLAG Danbury:** [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org); (203) 797-4743Connecticut's Kids: (203) 256-8414  
**Senior Lesbians Happily at Play (SLAPHAPS):** Kathy (203) 923-8113  
**True Colors CT:** [www.ourtruecolors.org](http://www.ourtruecolors.org); (888) 565-5551National

**Runaway Switchboard:** (773) 880-9860Connecticut **Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF):** 135 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105 - 860.247.6090 **Info. and Referral program:** (800) 479-2949 or Greater Hartford 524-0601 - Statewide women's rights organization working to end discrimination and hate crimes; provides free legal information and referral to the LGBT community.  
**XX Club (Twenty Club):** Rev. Cannon Jones - 45 Church Street Hartford, CT 06141-0387 - (860)646-8651 - Provides knowledgeable info., and ongoing peer support to transsexuals. 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month. 2-5 p.m.  
**connecticut View (cTVIEW):** A Transgender social and support club, for the TV, TG, TS, CD, both male and female. Monthly meeting in New Haven as well as e-membership, and more. A no dues club, with all the frills; [www.transgender.org/ctv/](http://www.transgender.org/ctv/)



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## PrideEnvironment

# Would economic equality in the world benefit the environment?



Dear EarthTalk:  
Aside from the obvious benefits to humankind of reducing poverty, how would promoting more economic equality around the world benefit the environment?

—Steele Shapiro, Seattle, WA

Research has shown that in countries with a wide disparity between rich and poor, environmental protection tends to be a lower priority. The inverse is also true: Countries with greater economic equality assign higher priority to safeguarding their environment.

The main determining factor seems to be that lower income people tend to vote against spending tax dollars on what are deemed costly or discretionary environmental projects. In countries with less disparity between rich and poor, such as throughout Scandinavia, environmental protection is assigned a higher priority and governments have enacted more stringent regulations and policies accordingly.

University of Rochester researchers Laura Marsiliani and Thomas Renstrom reviewed hundreds of academic studies of linkages between economic equality and environmental protection and found plenty of evidence to suggest that “poorer individuals tend to prefer less stringent environmental policy.” Previous research also supports their hypothesis that greater income inequality causes lower environmental taxes, regulation and spending around the world.

On a related front, a team of McGill University researchers uncovered a connection between growing economic inequality and an increase in the number of plant and animal species threatened with extinction. Dr. Greg Mikkelsen of McGill’s School of Environment led the study, which looked at income inequality and biodiversity loss on two different scales: among 45 countries worldwide; and among 45 U.S. states. The researchers found that the same general



Studies show that promoting economic equality around the world also promotes greater environmental stewardship.

Photo by: Getty Images

trend is evident in both cases: Societies with more unequal distribution of income experience greater losses of biodiversity.

While there is often a trade-off between economic growth and environmental quality, says Mikkelsen, his study suggests that there is also synergy between removing or reducing poverty and greater conservation of biological diversity. If the U.S. were to achieve levels of income parity comparable, say, to Sweden, some 44 percent fewer plant and animal species in the U.S. would be in danger of extinction. “Our study,”

adds Mikkelsen, “suggests that if we can learn to share economic resources more fairly with fellow members of our own species, it may help us to share ecological resources more fairly with other species.”

One group working to help the environment by bridging the economic equality gap is the Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management (PREM) program at the Institute for Environmental Studies at Holland’s Vrije Universiteit. Formulated by Dr. Pieter van Beukering and Kim van der Leeuw, the program has lined up researchers in 16 developing nations to develop case studies showing how sustainability-oriented natural resource

management can lead to economic development for poorer people. The researchers hope that their work in the field will help show policymakers the way toward enlightened regulatory practices that encourage both economic equality and environmental protection.

**Got an environmental question?** Send it to: **EarthTalk**, c/o **E/The Environmental Magazine**, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; submit it at: [www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/thisweek](http://www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/thisweek) / or e-mail: [earthtalk@emagazine.com](mailto:earthtalk@emagazine.com). Read past columns at: [www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/archives.php](http://www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/archives.php).



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# Paradise City Arts Festival: Northampton, Mass.

## Fairs of Fine and Functional Art: It will be closer to you this Columbus Day Weekend

Columbus Day Weekend marks the 13th anniversary of the *Paradise City Arts Festival*, the most exciting and comprehensive show of museum quality craft, art and sculpture in New England. Founded by Northampton artists Linda and Geoffrey Post, this event is a unique opportunity to experience an entire festival designed from an artist's perspective.

Selected by an expert jury from among nearly 1,000 applicants from 40 states, the 275 exhibiting artists and master craftsmen include those with national reputations at the peak of their skills, as well as exciting new talent from all over the country.

Regular attendees declare this show to be "always fresh and vibrant, with the best selection anywhere". No wonder *AmericanStyle Magazine* has ranked Paradise City as among the "Top Five Art Fairs in America" for the past three years!

### Come for the art ...

Whether you're a serious collector, an imaginative shopper or simply a lover of beautiful things, you'll discover a world of amazing art, both decorative and func-

## Paradise City Arts Festival: Clip Out Kit!

### What:

A museum quality show and sale featuring 275 juried artists from 30 states. Thousands of works in ceramics, painting, fiber, art, glass, fine furniture, jewelry, leather, metal, mixed media, photography, sculpture, wearable art and wood.

### Where:

Indoors and under tents, rain or shine Three County Fairgrounds • Rte 9 & Old Ferry Rd., Northampton, MA

### When:

Columbus Day Weekend, October 6, 7 & 8, 2007

Saturday and Sunday: 10a.m. - 6p.m.

Monday: 10 a.m.-4p.m.

### Special Features:

Vote for the People's Choice Award in the 200-foot long, professionally landscaped Sculpture Garden. A Silent Art Auction to

tional.

Don't miss this extraordinary chance for eye-opening conversations about life, art, technique and creative inspiration.

benefit Hospice takes place all three days. Live jazz and food by the region's best restaurants under the Festival Dining Tent!

### Admission:

Adults: \$12. Seniors & Students: \$8. Weekend Pass: \$15. Under 12: free. Free Parking! Color-program free with admission ticket. Call 800.511.9725 for complete travel and show information or visit: [www.paradisecityarts.com](http://www.paradisecityarts.com)

### Quick directions from all points:

From the South & Mass Pike Exit 4: Take I-91 north to Exit 19. Turn left onto Route 9. 3-County Fairgrounds are on the left.

### From the North and Route 2:

Take I-91 south to exit 20. At the light, turn left onto Damon Road. At the next light, turn right onto Route 9. 3-County Fairgrounds are on the left.

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

The Festival Dining Tent looks out over spectacular fall foliage, and offers up mouth watering foods prepared by some

of the region's most celebrated chefs. Enjoy a glass of wine while sampling delicacies from *Spoletto*, *Smokin Lil's BBQ*, *India House*, *Mama Iguana*, the *River Shark Cafe* and more. You'll find crisp salads, spicy curries, smoky ribs and heavenly desserts! While you're delighting your taste buds, relax to the artful sounds of a different live band each day—from hot solo sax and Latin tango to classics from the Big Band era.

### In Addition ...

The lush outdoor Sculpture Garden furnishes gardeners with creative inspiration, and the *Silent Art Auction* encourages shoppers to compete as their bids benefit the Fisher Home of Amherst, the Valley's only residential Hospice facility. Paradise City has raised nearly \$150,000 for Hospice over the years.

Come and enjoy all that *Paradise City* has to offer!

For more information, contact Linda H. Post, Founding Director at [lpst@paradisecityarts.com](mailto:lpst@paradisecityarts.com) and/or call 800.511.9725 x102. Or, you can visit Paradise City's website at [www.paradisecityarts.com](http://www.paradisecityarts.com).

### DeFillipo from Page 14

difficult years," said DeFillipo. "Our fiscal issues and the subsequent publicity have had a negative impact on our community. Now, it's up to the citizens of Springfield to change that perception. In a few short years, the Control Board will be ending its term and we need to be certain that those in leadership are prepared to move the city forward. We need strong leaders. That means we need individuals who will listen to the issues and make decisions based on what is best for the residents, businesses, and neighborhoods. I have a proven track record as a community leader for Pine Point. I am committed to moving the city forward."

DeFillipo says that over the next few

months, she plans to speak with voters via neighborhood house parties, through door-knocking, and through her website [www.gloriadefillipo.com](http://www.gloriadefillipo.com). DeFillipo has

n a m e d James Aubin as her campaign chairman and H e l l e n S c h o e d e r will serve as the campaign treasurer.

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\*By wolfevideo.com

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## Pro LGBT Organization News

# Kansas Governor Signs Anti-Discrimination Executive Order

WASHINGTON—Recently, Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius signed an executive order that will prohibit discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender state employees. The order is effective immediately.

"Today is a good day for all Kansans who reject discrimination. This is an important and meaningful statement in favor of equal rights," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "We applaud Governor Sebelius's commitment to equality, and we congratulate HRC Board of Governors member Cyd Slayton, HRC Political co-chair Kirk Isenhour, Thomas Witt of the Kansas Equality Coalition and Jason Dilts of the Kansas Democratic LGBT Caucus for their work in helping advance equality in Kansas."

"Ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to serve their community is an important part of moving Kansas forward," said Governor Sebelius. "This action brings Kansas in line with approximately 90% of Fortune 500 companies that have implemented similar policies to eliminate discrimination."



Solmonese continued: "We hope that

the Kansas legislature will follow the Governor's lead by ultimately ensuring that private sector employees in Kansas don't have to face discrimination simply because of who they are. The momentum keeps building in favor of equality, as more and more states are doing the right thing and rejecting discrimination. However, the fact that Kansas remains one of 31 states without a law protecting private sector employees from discrimination based on sexual orientation and one of 39 states without a law protecting private sector employees from discrimination based on gender identity highlights the critical need for federal anti-discrimination legislation in these areas."

Federal legislation with bipartisan sponsorship, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, or ENDA, was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives on April 24, 2007. This pending legislation would address dis-

crimination in the workplace by making it illegal to fire, refuse to hire or refuse to promote an employee based on the person's sexual orientation or gender identity. ENDA is supported by a diverse group of American corporations.

Kansas becomes the second state this year, and the fourth in all, with an executive order prohibiting discrimination against state employees based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Ohio Governor Ted Strickland signed a similar order earlier this year. Seven other states prohibit discrimination against state employees based on sexual orientation only.

\* The Human Rights Campaign is America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender equality. By inspiring and engaging all Americans, HRC strives to end discrimination against GLBT citizens and realize a nation that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all.

## Recommendations for media covering revelations about Sen. Craig

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) is providing recommendations to help media outlets cover U.S. Senator Larry Craig's recent arrest and guilty plea responsibly and accurately.

Coverage of Sen. Larry Craig's guilty

plea to disorderly conduct in a Minneapolis airport has resulted in a number of feature stories on sex in public spaces. These stories often lend themselves to the kind of sensationalist headlines and promotion that can devalue the quality of otherwise responsible jour-

nalism.

Since the story broke, GLAAD has been working behind the scenes with print and broadcast journalists in national, regional and local markets on their coverage of the circumstances of Sen. Craig's arrest, but many outlets have still resorted to sensationalist or inaccurate reporting. Following from our many conversations, we are distributing recommendations based upon the pattern of problematic trends in coverage emerging as the story continues to develop.

GLAAD urges media developing such stories – whether separately or as part of their coverage of Sen. Craig – to place them in context by consulting credible experts who can discuss whether such behavior is reflective of any healthy orientation, gay or straight. Gershen

Kaufman, a professor emeritus of psychology at Michigan State University, yesterday told ABC News, "[C]ruising is practiced mainly by deeply closeted men...There is a lot of self-hatred and shame, and they can't allow themselves to come to terms with their sexuality."

Additionally noteworthy is the fact that such behavior is being condemned by gay and straight people alike. Intimations that gay Americans broadly object to the enforcement of laws against this kind of activity simply are not supported by the facts and should be avoided.

Finally, GLAAD stresses the importance for reporters to note that these kinds of furtive activities stand in stark contrast to the loving commitments that gay couples everywhere are making to care for each other and for their families. Media have an opportunity and a responsibility to discuss the fact that a U.S. Senator who has publicly tried to hurt gay couples by shutting them out of marriage was discovered engaging in the kind of behavior that is the polar opposite of that kind of commitment.

\* The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) is dedicated to promoting and ensuring fair, accurate and inclusive representation of people and events in the media as a means of eliminating homophobia and discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation. For more information, visit [www.glaad.org](http://www.glaad.org).



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#### FALL 2007 SEASON

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by Lenelle Moise  
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Hallie Flanagan Studio Theatre, Smith College

Mixing a brew full of womanist Vodou jazz, queer theory, hip-hop, and movement, *Womb-Words, Thirsting* is an interactive evening of poetic storytelling delivered from the gut, slam-style! Join Haitian-American solo artist Lenelle Moise as she re-conceives memory and boldly speaks out about childhood, masculinities, sexualities, AIDS, cultural hybridity, and reclaiming f-words.

#### Waiaalo! Somali Community Festival

Saturday, Oct. 27, 2007, 4-8 pm  
Panache Banquet Hall, 827 State Street, Springfield, MA.

Enjoy Somali music, dancing, and a sneak-preview of performances to come!!  
Learn about the Somali Women's Project, meet participants, enjoy great food, and buy hand-made crafts to support the community!

#### Mestiza Power

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8pm, Bowker Auditorium

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# SNEFL summer season draws to an end

By: Michael Marcinkewich  
TRT Sports Special

The summer of 2007 capped off another great softball season for the Southern New England Friendship League.

Four teams competed for the coveted crown of champion! New Haven, CT's "York St.", New London, CT's "O'Brien's Hangovers", Hartford, CT's "Chez Est Cafe" and Springfield, MA's "Hobnob" spent the season jockeying for first place.

While *York St.* slipped mid-season and could never recover from their losses, they did enjoy playing the spoiler for the second half of the season beating teams that needed wins to obtain first place. All season the seesaw for first place was between *O'Brien's Hangovers* and the *Chez* right up to the very last weekend.

With two games left in the season and first place still up for grabs *Hobnob* played *York St.* and the *Hangovers* challenged the *Chez*. A statisticians wet dream was in play as any combination of win/lose from any team would render one of the top three teams league champs. A desirable prize, league champs are given the number one seed for the playoffs and a home team advantage throughout the



From the back, L-R: Teddy Borzowski, Ryan Malone, Shawn Sweeney, Dan Shover, Mark Ertel, Ed Hamilton and Peter Cabaniol. Front, L-R: Mike Marcinkewich, Tom Malone, Eddie Visconti, Jim Morris

Photo courtesy of Thomas Kreek

playoff series on August 18th & 19th at Hubbard Park and the *Hobnob* kept the visiting players entertained off the field as the host bar.

With a double elimination tournament underway every team gave it all they got from the very start. Traditional seeding brackets were used as #1, *Hobnob*, played #4, *York St.*, and #2, the *Chez*, played #3, *O'Brien's Hangovers*. Saturday saw three games with the higher seeds advancing from the first two games making the *Chez* and *Hobnob* undefeated going into the final match of the day. An early 10 run inning left *Hobnob's* spirits on the bench and they were never able to muster more than 1 run, and into the loser's bracket they went.

Sunday started with *O'Brien's Hangovers* handing *York St.* their final loss of the season and moving on to play *Hobnob*. This turned out to be the thriller game of the playoffs with runs scored in every inning.

Going into the 7th inning *Hobnob* was up 1 run. The *Hangover's* scored six runs, giving them a five run lead. *Hobnob* had the bottom of the order coming up and just like the previous six innings, the bats of *Hobnob* stayed hot and hit and hit and hit.

With the tying run on third, the winning run on second, and two outs, a ball was

hit to right field allowing the tying run to score. The runner on second was waved on as the ball bobbled half way home. The runner noticed the catcher catching the ball. He turned and headed back to third, but the ball was thrown back to the third baseman. Seeing this, the runner turned back around and headed for home—the suicide squeeze was on. The throw by the third baseman was high as he tried to avoid hitting the runner. As a result, the catcher had to step away from the plate and in an attempt to catch and tag the runner, the catcher dropped the ball allowing the winning run to score! The *Hobnob* wins 18-17. This sets up a rematch with the *Chez*.

After a slugfest with the *Hangovers* everyone wondered if the *Hobnob* had what it takes to beat the *Chez*. *Hobnob* was put to the test real quick as the lead off batter for the *Chez* hit a home run blast to left field. Fortunately for *Hobnob*, that was all they did for that inning and the entire game. *Hobnob* wins game one 12-1, pushing the *Chez* to the "if" game.

The final game of the Southern New England Friendship League was an awesome game to watch and play. Another game where runs were scored every inning, from quality hits, and runs were saved by fantastic defensive plays. Several innings saw the game tied and

heading into the 6th inning it was tied 18-18. The *Chez* led off the inning with four runs. The *Hobnob* closed the inning with seven making the score 22-25 going into the seventh inning.

Springfield was able to hold Hartford to zero runs and win the playoffs. Their reward for being the Playoff Champions is the right to attend the national tournament in Phoenix, AZ during October 1-7, 2007.

SNEFL is a wonderful welcoming sports environment for beginners to fanatics, men to women and everything in between. The league has it all.

Labor Day weekend the league sent two teams to New York City for the "Playing for Life" tournament. All games are played in Central Park.

All tournaments are sanctioned by a national chapter called the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Association (NAGAA). The NAGAA can be found online at [www.nagaa softball.org](http://www.nagaa softball.org).

In addition, SNEFL will be sending two teams to the World Series of Gay Softball as a C team and D team respectively.

For more information about SNEFL or how you can become involved, visit [www.snefl-softball.org](http://www.snefl-softball.org). To learn more about the "Playing for Life" tournament, visit [www.playingforlife.org](http://www.playingforlife.org).



Jim Morris, Springfield's catcher, gets ready for the pitch.  
Photo courtesy of Thomas Kreek

series.

When the dust was settled from the final two games the *Hobnob* team emerged victorious! Even though they never once held the first place spot all season, they kept themselves close enough to snatch the prize at the very last second with two wins over *York St.*

Springfield, MA hosted this year's

## TRANS News & More

# UVM adds gender-neutral bathrooms, not only one

BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP)—The University of Vermont's big new student center doesn't just have women's bathrooms and men's bathrooms.

It also has gender-neutral bathrooms, a feature added to accommodate transgendered people, as well as those with some disabilities. The four single bathrooms in the new Dudley H. Davis Center — each with a toilet, sink, shower and lockable door—cost about \$2,500 a piece to build. Their wall signs identify each as “gender neutral restroom.”

“It's about inclusivity and accessibility and the importance of meeting all people's needs, not just a few,” said Annie Stevens, assistant vice president for student and campus life.

UVM isn't the only school trying to make its accommodations more accommodating.

At least 17 colleges and universities have included gender-neutral bathrooms in their new construction or in retrofitting residence halls, said Stephanie Gordon, director of educational programs at the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators.

“A multi-use bathroom doesn't necessarily feel safe to transgendered students, because they have concerns about how



their gender would be read by others,” said Dot Brauer, director of the school's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning and Ally Services.

A woman who identifies as a man, for example, may not feel welcome in a women's rest room. Transgendered people have been the target of verbal and physical abuse in rest rooms and been arrested, or suspected of lewd conduct, according to Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality.

“There are students whose safety and comfort is compromised,” Brauer said.

Kelly, a 19-year-old transgendered UVM student who did want her last name published, said she's been made to feel “very uncomfortable” in rest rooms.

“I think that they're a really important thing to have,” she said of the new facilities. “Just because there can be tense situations in gendered bathrooms, especially for trans-identified people, you need a space to use the rest room and feel safe and comfortable.”

In 2003, UVM started retrofitting male and female restrooms into unisex bathrooms in classroom and administrative buildings by changing the signs, at \$100 each.

Not everyone sees the need.

“I always have concerns when institutions or the government legitimizes behaviors or practices that could be discovered in the future to be harmful to those individuals,” said Stephen Cable, founder of Vermont Renewal, a Rutland group dedicated to promoting traditional moral values.

The group also opposes a new law protecting transgendered people in Vermont from discrimination.

UVM has taken other steps to accommodate transgendered students. It allows students to change their first names on



their campus identification cards and offers several gender-neutral residential suites.

But Brauer said the school can do more. She wants to see more gender-neutral bathrooms in the library, and private showers in the gym.

“If we can do something, however small, that takes a leap that is going to make life better for members of our community who otherwise would be vulnerable. UVM really shows a willingness to that,” said Brauer.

## Did you know: As the World Turns' Gay Male Kiss is Daytime First

Television history was made last month on August 17, 2007. The CBS daytime drama *As the World Turns*—a soap opera staple for 51 years—featured daytime television's first same-sex male kiss between the characters of Luke (Van Hansis) and Noah (Jake Silbermann).

“CBS and *As the World Turns* are to be commended for showing an authentic expression of this couple's affection for each other just as they would with any other characters,” says GLAAD Entertainment Media Director Damon Romine. “We encourage other daytime dramas to follow this show's example and develop characters and storylines which their lesbian, gay, bisexual and

transgender viewers can identify with.”

Luke came out last year and, as a core member of the show's Snyder family, he's played a pivotal role in the series but without a love interest. Hansis was nominated for a Daytime Emmy for “Outstanding Younger Actor” earlier this year for his portrayal. Noah moved to Oakdale this summer and there was instant chemistry between the two teens, but when Noah began dating Maddie the stage was set for a traditional soap love triangle with a twist.



All My Children featured the first daytime same-sex female kiss in 2003 between Bianca and Lena, but kissing between same-sex partners on broadcast television remains a rare and recent occurrence, especially between men. A scheduled male kiss

on *Melrose Place* was edited out in 1994 before it aired, and it wasn't until 2000 that men were seen kissing romantically on the WB's *Dawson's Creek*. In recent seasons, romantic kisses between men

occurred on *Desperate Housewives*, *Brothers & Sisters* and an episode of CBS' *Cold Case*.

In the 1990 film *Longtime Companion*, one of the characters (played by Patrick Cassidy) is a soap opera actor who creates a stir after an on-screen kiss with a male co-star. It took 17 years for daytime television to actually catch up to that fictional scenario.

### WATCH THE KISS

If you missed this first of firsts, then it is time that you check it out online. Watch the kiss that may have started it all for network television viewers. Visit: <http://youtube.com/watch?v=qLAG8gWt-A>

## Prostate cancer screening clinic offered

NORTHAMPTON—A free prostate cancer screening will be held on Saturday, September 15 from 8 a.m. to noon in the Kittredge Surgery Center at Cooley Dickinson Hospital.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer among men. Men ages 50 to 75 are encouraged to sign up for a rectal exam and PSA blood test. African American men and men with a family history of prostate cancer should be screened starting at age 40.

“Prostate cancer is to men what breast cancer is to women,” said Dr. George Bowers, medical oncologist and medical

director of Cooley Dickinson Hospital's Cancer Care program, said. “Early detection of this common cancer and life-time care are essential.”

Exams will be provided by the physicians from the Urology Group of Western New England. Cooley Dickinson Hospital's lab will provide the blood tests.

Pre-registration is required and a limited number of appointments will be offered. To schedule an appointment, call the Cancer Care Program office at (413) 582-2028.

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**Trans from p. 4**

Recently, the health center facilitated an 8 person, client-driven focus group to assess the needs of the trans community.

"The group gave a lot of great information on the needs of the community, as well as the community of Holyoke," said Billings, "We're working on our charts and forms to be appropriate and leave more open ended areas where people are able to write in how they identify themselves rather than how the health system identifies them."

Deschaine agrees with Billings in her sentiments.

"It's still a work in progress," he said. "I think that the health center as a whole, because of the drive of this initiative, is making the necessary changes and is continuing with the sensitivity training for the front line staff. We always have new employees who may not be exposed to a transgender individual to try and keep them abreast. We don't ever want anyone to feel offended or ashamed sitting in the waiting room because of a staff member or another patient."

For more information on the trans initiative program or to make an appointment, call Norm Deschaine at (413) 420-2200.

**The Rox Box from Page 12**

commanded a spot atop the country-music charts. This year will be no different. McEntire – who has sold more than 60 million records worldwide—will soon release her 29th album, *Reba Duets*, featuring guests artists such as LeAnn Rimes, Rascal Flatts, Faith Hill, Kelly Clarkson and Kenny Chesney. From the moment you hear McEntire's powerful, precise voice—with its distinctive southern drawl—you know that something positively amazing is about to take place. Combine that with the music industry's brightest stars and, well, you might need to change you knickers. There are tons of surprises on this disc, too. From Kelly Clarkson's re-imagined "Because of You," on which the "American Idol" winner provides backing vocals, to a duet with none other than Justin Timberlake on "The Only Promise That Remains," *Duets* isn't so much a CD comprised of big-name collaborators as it is a culmination of three decades' worth of blood, sweat and—in true country fashion—tears. "I'm thrilled to death with the folks that came and did the project with me," says McEntire. "It's a great, eclectic group, and it was great to work with them and spend time with them."

Who is Mikey Rox? Who gives a f\$#@! But you can find him at [www.myspace.com/roxmikey](http://www.myspace.com/roxmikey).



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