

PRIDE

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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF
InterPride
2013



WE ♥ EDITH.

What is STRIBILD?

STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before. It combines 4 medicines into 1 pill to be taken once a day with food. STRIBILD is a complete single-tablet regimen and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.

STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS. To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses you must keep taking STRIBILD. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about STRIBILD?

STRIBILD can cause serious side effects:

- **Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include feeling very weak or tired, unusual (not normal) muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold especially in your arms and legs, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Serious liver problems.** The liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and fatty (steatosis). Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice), dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored bowel movements (stools), loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach pain.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking STRIBILD for a long time. In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you also have HBV and stop taking STRIBILD, your hepatitis may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking STRIBILD without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health. STRIBILD is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

Who should not take STRIBILD?

Do not take STRIBILD if you:

- **Take a medicine that contains:** alfuzosin, dihydroergotamine, ergotamine, methylergonovine, cisapride, lovastatin, simvastatin, pimozone, sildenafil when used for lung problems (Revatio®), triazolam, oral midazolam, rifampin or the herb St. John’s wort.
- **For a list of brand names for these medicines,** please see the Brief Summary on the following pages.
- **Take any other medicines to treat HIV-1 infection,** or the medicine adefovir (Hepsera®).

What are the other possible side effects of STRIBILD?

Serious side effects of STRIBILD may also include:

- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do regular blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with STRIBILD. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking STRIBILD.
- **Bone problems,** including bone pain or bones getting soft or thin, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV-1 medicines.
- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking STRIBILD.

The most common side effects of STRIBILD include nausea and diarrhea. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or don’t go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking STRIBILD?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. STRIBILD may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how STRIBILD works. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Do not start any new medicines while taking STRIBILD without first talking with your healthcare provider.
- **If you take hormone-based birth control** (pills, patches, rings, shots, etc).
- **If you take antacids.** Take antacids at least 2 hours before or after you take STRIBILD.
- **If you are pregnant** or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if STRIBILD can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking STRIBILD.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk. Also, some medicines in STRIBILD can pass into breast milk, and it is not known if this can harm the baby.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Brief Summary of full Prescribing Information with **important warnings** on the following pages.





STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used as a complete single-tablet regimen to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before. STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.

I started my personal revolution

Talk to your healthcare provider about starting treatment.

STRIBILD is a complete HIV-1 treatment in **1 pill**, once a day.

Ask if it's right for you.

STRIBILD™ 

elvitegravir 150mg/ cobicistat 150mg/ emtricitabine 200mg/ tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300mg tablets

Patient Information

STRIBILD™ (STRY-bild)

(elvitegravir 150 mg/cobicistat 150 mg/emtricitabine 200 mg/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg) tablets

Brief summary of full Prescribing Information. For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information, including Patient Information.

What is STRIBILD?

- **STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before.** STRIBILD is a complete regimen and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.
- **STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** You must stay on continuous HIV-1 therapy to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.
- **Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.** Do not share or reuse needles, injection equipment, or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them. Do not have sex without protection. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

What is the most important information I should know about STRIBILD?

STRIBILD can cause serious side effects, including:

1. **Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take STRIBILD or similar (nucleoside analogs) medicines. Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**

- feel very weak or tired
- have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
- have trouble breathing
- have stomach pain with nausea or vomiting
- feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
- feel dizzy or lightheaded
- have a fast or irregular heartbeat

2. **Severe liver problems.** Severe liver problems can happen in people who take STRIBILD. In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis). **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms of liver problems:**

- your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
- dark “tea-colored” urine
- light-colored bowel movements (stools)
- loss of appetite for several days or longer
- nausea
- stomach pain

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking STRIBILD for a long time.

3. **Worsening of Hepatitis B infection.** If you have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and take STRIBILD, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking STRIBILD. A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before.

- Do not run out of STRIBILD. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your STRIBILD is all gone

- Do not stop taking STRIBILD without first talking to your healthcare provider
- If you stop taking STRIBILD, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly for several months to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking STRIBILD

Who should not take STRIBILD?

Do not take STRIBILD if you also take a medicine that contains:

- adefovir (Hepsera®)
- alfuzosin hydrochloride (Uroxatral®)
- cisapride (Propulsid®, Propulsid Quicksolv®)
- ergot-containing medicines, including: dihydroergotamine mesylate (D.H.E. 45®, Migranal®), ergotamine tartrate (Cafergot®, Migergot®, Ergostat®, Medihaler Ergotamine®, Wigraine®, Wigrettes®), and methylergonovine maleate (Ergotrate®, Methergine®)
- lovastatin (Advicor®, Altoprev®, Mevacor®)
- oral midazolam
- pimozone (Orap®)
- rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifamate®, Rifater®, Rimactane®)
- sildenafil (Revatio®), when used for treating lung problems
- simvastatin (Simcor®, Vytorin®, Zocor®)
- triazolam (Halcion®)
- the herb St. John’s wort

Do not take STRIBILD if you also take any other HIV-1 medicines, including:

- Other medicines that contain tenofovir (Atripla®, Complera®, Viread®, Truvada®)
- Other medicines that contain emtricitabine, lamivudine, or ritonavir (Combivir®, Emtriva®, Epivir® or Epivir-HBV®, Epzicom®, Kaletra®, Norvir®, Trizivir®)

STRIBILD is not for use in people who are less than 18 years old.

What are the possible side effects of STRIBILD?

STRIBILD may cause the following serious side effects:

- **See “What is the most important information I should know about STRIBILD?”**
- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before you start and while you are taking STRIBILD. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking STRIBILD if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take STRIBILD. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people who take HIV-1 medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the middle of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The exact cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system** (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome) can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having any new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.

The most common side effects of STRIBILD include:

- Nausea
- Diarrhea

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

- These are not all the possible side effects of STRIBILD. For more information, ask your healthcare provider.
- Call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking STRIBILD?

Tell your healthcare provider about all your medical conditions, including:

- If you have or had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis B infection
- If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if STRIBILD can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking STRIBILD.
 - There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk with your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.
- If you are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you take STRIBILD.
 - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
 - Two of the medicines in STRIBILD can pass to your baby in your breast milk. It is not known if the other medicines in STRIBILD can pass into your breast milk.
 - Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements:

- STRIBILD may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how STRIBILD works.
- Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you take any of the following medicines:
 - Hormone-based birth control (pills, patches, rings, shots, etc)
 - Antacid medicines that contains aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate. Take antacids at least 2 hours before or after you take STRIBILD
 - Medicines to treat depression, organ transplant rejection, or high blood pressure
 - amiodarone (Cordarone®, Pacerone®)
 - atorvastatin (Lipitor®, Caduet®)
 - bepridil hydrochloric (Vasacor®, Bepadin®)
 - bosentan (Tracleer®)
 - buspirone
 - carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Epitol®, Equetro®, Tegreto®)
 - clarithromycin (Biaxin®, Prevpac®)
 - clonazepam (Klonopin®)
 - clorazepate (Gen-xene®, Tranxene®)
 - colchicine (Colcris®)
 - medicines that contain dexamethasone
 - diazepam (Valium®)

- digoxin (Lanoxin®)
- disopyramide (Norpace®)
- estazolam
- ethosuximide (Zarontin®)
- flecainide (Tambocor®)
- flurazepam
- fluticasone (Flovent®, Flonase®, Flovent® Diskus, Flovent® HFA, Veramyst®)
- itraconazole (Sporanox®)
- ketoconazole (Nizoral®)
- lidocaine (Xylocaine®)
- mexiletine
- oxcarbazepine (Trileptal®)
- perphenazine
- phenobarbital (Luminal®)
- phenytoin (Dilantin®, Phenytek®)
- propafenone (Rythmol®)
- quinidine (Neudexta®)
- rifabutin (Mycobutin®)
- rifapentine (Priftin®)
- risperidone (Risperdal®, Risperdal Consta®)
- salmeterol (Serevent®) or salmeterol when taken in combination with fluticasone (Advair Diskus®, Advair HFA®)
- sildenafil (Viagra®), tadalafil (Cialis®) or vardenafil (Levitra®, Staxyn®), for the treatment of erectile dysfunction (ED). If you get dizzy or faint (low blood pressure), have vision changes or have an erection that last longer than 4 hours, call your healthcare provider or get medical help right away.
- tadalafil (Adcirca®), for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension
- telithromycin (Ketek®)
- thioridazine
- voriconazole (Vfend®)
- warfarin (Coumadin®, Jantoven®)
- zolpidem (Ambien®, Edlular®, Intermezzo®, Zolpimist®)

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine. Do not start any new medicines while you are taking STRIBILD without first talking with your healthcare provider.

Keep STRIBILD and all medicines out of reach of children.

This Brief Summary summarizes the most important information about STRIBILD. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can also ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about STRIBILD that is written for health professionals, or call 1-800-445-3235 or go to www.STRIBILD.com.

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*“Back then, who knew
it could get better?”*

It can be hard to be young, but thanks to great organizations like GLSEN, the It Gets Better Project, Point Foundation, Teach For America, and The Trevor Project, we're all working together to bring help and hope to all young people. Let's keep making it better.

Learn more about Wells Fargo's commitment to the LGBT community at wellsfargo.com/lgbt.

HAPPY PRIDE FROM WELLS FARGO AND OUR COMMUNITY ALLIANCES



COMPLACENCY IS THE ENEMY OF SUCCESS



WHEN THINGS SEEM to be going your way, it's easy to become complacent. It's easy to think that the hard work is done and that it's OK to lessen your efforts. But in the battle for equality, there's no greater foe than complacency.

Yes, 2013 has been a remarkable year in many ways. Rhode Island, Delaware, and Minnesota all passed marriage equality bills. Uruguay, New Zealand, and France legalized same-sex marriage nationwide. Jason Collins, Robbie Rogers, and Brittany Griner made huge strides for gays and lesbians in sports. Public opinion polls show Americans are more accepting and more supportive of LGBT causes than ever before.

But that's only one side of the story. In fact, the battle is far from over. In New York, hate crime attacks are on the rise at an alarming rate. Paris has been mired in anti-equality riots. In Russia, gay rights are at potentially the worst point they've ever been, with gay men being beaten to death by friends when they come out, and Russian president Vladimir Putin doing everything he can to abolish hopes of equality within his country. Across the U.S. and in almost every country on the globe, the LGBT still live a life marginalized in some way from our straight counterparts.

Fortunately, things are changing. They *are* getting better. And if we all continue our efforts to promote equality in whatever way we can, big or small, we can all aid in the fight. And that's what this year's issue of *Pride* is all about: ways that we as members of the LGBT community can continue to make a difference, in our own local

communities and in far-flung places around the globe.

The issue begins on page 23 with a profile of Edith Windsor, our Advocate of the Year. By agreeing to take on the federal government after the passing of her late wife, Thea, and fight for what she knew was right, Edith shows that anybody can become an advocate for change and make incredible advancements for our cause.

Edith's story is followed by an examination of Jason Collins (page 26), and the change his coming out has had on the world of professional sports. Again, it's the simple story of embracing your identity and the strength that self-acceptance provides.

Within this year's issue, we also detail how you can work to become a force for change in your own community (page 18), offer tips on how you can help advocates living in dire conditions abroad (page 20), and detail the story of brave men and women working to turn their HIV positive status into a form of Poz Pride (page 91).

My wish for you this summer: Learn from these advocates' stories, create your own tales of success, and above all, embrace your Pride—and everything that comes with it. Yes, we have work to do. But we're all in this battle for the long run, and we're all in it together. All we can do is live, laugh, love, and continue the fight in whatever way possible, knowing that in the end, we will come out the victor.

Happy Pride!

PRIDE 13

EDITOR
BRIAN GOOD
bgood@pridemagazine.org

ART DIRECTION & DESIGN
WARREN MASON & VIKKI NESTICO
warren@themeasuredesign.com

COPY EDITOR
CAT PERRY

ADVERTISING
JOE JERVIS
jjervis@pridemagazine.org
646-512-1687

ROBBYNE KAAMIL
robbayne@pridemagazine.org

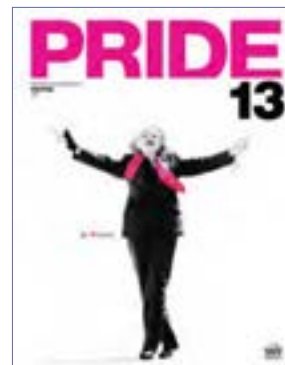
PUBLISHER
MARCUS DIGGLE
marcusdiggle@gmail.com

SPECIAL THANKS:
TONY ADAMS, ADAM BIBLE,
BRIAN MAHONEY, TONY NOLAN

EDITORIAL OFFICE
401 COOPER LANDING ROAD C-18
CHERRY HILL, NJ 08002

ADVERTISING OFFICE
318 E. 70TH ST., NY, NY 10021

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EDITH WINDSOR:
GETTY IMAGES



Keep the conversation alive. E-mail us at pridemagazine2012@gmail.com or tweet what Pride means to you at [#pridemeans](https://twitter.com/pridemeans).

The models in this ad are not real patients



living



At ViiV Healthcare we believe in living the best life possible.
Living with HIV, but without fear. Living with hope, and without despair.
Living for life, because life is worth living.

ViiV Healthcare: Trusted partner to the community working to assure access to all.

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BILL DIODATO, GETTY IMAGES.

A man with a beard and blue eyes is lying on his side on a large, white bed. He is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. His right arm is raised behind his head, and his left arm is resting on his knee. The background is a blurred view of a hotel room with a window and some furniture.

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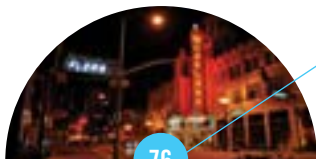


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A group of diverse people, including a woman in a black dress and bow tie in the center, standing in front of a background with the text "HIV ENDS WITH US." repeated. The group includes a young boy in a striped shirt, a woman in a purple hat, a man in a blue shirt, and a man in a suit. The woman in the center has long brown hair and is wearing a black dress with a white collar and a black bow tie. The background is white with the text "HIV ENDS WITH US." repeated in a light gray font.

UN11869 06/12





Bringing a New Focus to the Global Fight against HIV/AIDS

How one company's commitment is helping to address the current – and future – challenges associated with this disease



There's no debating the fact that the HIV epidemic is one of the most significant public health crises facing the modern world. In 2006, UNAIDS reported that since the first cases of AIDS were documented in 1981, the disease had gone on to kill more than 25 million people. While the number of new infections has gone down, the overall infection level remains disturbingly high: 2.7 million people worldwide were newly infected in 2010. According to UNAIDS research findings, that same year saw an estimated 1.8 million AIDS-related deaths and found nearly 34 million adults and children living with HIV. In today's increasingly volatile and constantly changing world, addressing this situation requires a new and highly specialized approach.

This is where ViiV Healthcare comes in.

Established in 2009 as an independent company, ViiV Healthcare is the only pharmaceutical company wholly committed to HIV. With that dedication, the company brings a unique and innovative approach to researching effective HIV medicines, to improving access and care, and to supporting individuals affected by HIV.

"ViiV Healthcare is unique in the pharmaceutical industry, because it's a pharmaceutical company 100-percent dedicated to HIV and AIDS," says ViiV Healthcare CEO, Dr. Dominique Limet. "We have this single-minded approach because we believe passionately that the new challenges posed by HIV—challenges we have never faced before—require new ways of delivering new solutions."

ViiV Healthcare is rising to meet these challenges by drawing on the cutting-edge research and development departments of its parent companies, GSK and Pfizer, and its partners throughout the drug industry. To this end, ViiV Healthcare is significantly investing in R&D aimed at introducing new HIV medicines, which will be critical for the effective management of HIV infection and is part of the company's long-term strategy to ensure better outcomes for people affected by HIV/AIDS.

ViiV Healthcare is also dedicated to having an impact on HIV education, prevention, care and treatment-related activity such as treatment literacy and community/clinical engagement. The company's Positive Action program supports community projects that reach those most affected by HIV,



particularly in marginalized or vulnerable populations.

To help meet the pressing need for a global effort to address the barriers to scaling up and treating those in need, ViiV Healthcare has launched groundbreaking initiatives designed specifically to support access and care for people living with HIV. The approach covers all Middle Income and Low Income countries, all Least Developed Countries, and sub-Saharan Africa—a total of 135 countries presently.

“Because HIV touches so many people’s lives, we actively support a wide variety of HIV-related programs around the world, to make a real difference at the grass-roots level,” Dr. Limet

explains. “We also have an industry-leading approach with our royalty-free voluntary medicine license program and our not-for-profit drug pricing approach in regions of need, which enable access for the people in the countries that are the hardest hit by the epidemic.”

Additionally, ViiV Healthcare collaborates with businesses, individuals, academic institutions, and nonprofit healthcare community organizations to broaden and enhance its work in the field of HIV treatment. Firmly focused on conducting its business with integrity, the company’s dedication is a core value built into every level of its operation.

“At ViiV Healthcare, we never forget why we are here,” Dr. Limet says. “We put people living with HIV at the center of all we do and at the core of all our decisions. We invite everyone to visit www.viivhealthcare.com, and www.viivhealthcareeffect.com to find out what makes our company a fresh force in HIV.”





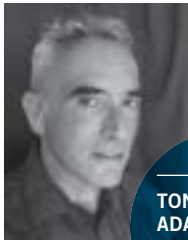
ANNE-CHRISTINE D'ADESKY

ANNE-CHRISTINE D'ADESKY is a longtime journalist, author, and global health and rights activist. A recent transplant to Oakland, she is co-founder of PotoFanm+Fi, a gender justice initiative addressing sexual violence in Haiti. She recently co-authored (with PotoFanm+Fi) *Beyond Shock: Charting the Landscape of Sexual Violence in Post-Quake Haiti*, due out this summer (see potofanm.org for more info).



BRIAN K. MAHONEY

BRIAN K. MAHONEY is the editorial director of Luminary Publishing, a media company in New York's Hudson Valley, whose flagship publication, *Chronogram*, was nominated for an Independent Press Award. His writing has appeared in *Alternative Press Review*, *Utne Reader*, and *T* magazine. Brian's new motto was inspired by his conversation with Stuart Milk for this issue of *Pride*: "Your liberation is bound up with mine."



TONY ADAMS

TONY ADAMS is a journalist, editor, playwright and ex-priest. He is senior features correspondent with *South Florida Gay News* and a regular contributor at *Pride* magazine and *The Mirror*. His marriage equality play *A Letter from the Bishop* had its first reading in New York City in 2012. In 2008, Tony married Christopher, his partner of 30 years. They live in Fort Lauderdale and Manhattan.



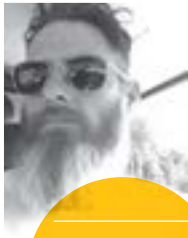
SHIRA LEVINE

SHIRA LEVINE is a writer based in New York and Los Angeles. She recently consulted on a United Nations project that addresses global challenges of LGBT, aging, and youth populations. Strategizing retirement and maintaining a good quality of life keep Shira up at night, as she comes from a family of super-agers. Her grandmother, Estelle, is approaching 101 and never hesitates to share ideas about what the elderly need, and what youth can do to help.



CAT PERRY

CAT PERRY is an adventure and fitness editor based in New York City. She realizes the fastest way to any point is a straight line, but the rules seem sometimes different as part of the LGBTQI community. The road is often unmarked, unpredictable, as is highlighted by her travel story in *Pride*, chronicling the watering holes, theaters, and homes of brazen organizers that laid the groundwork for us today.



ADAM BIBLE

A former writer and copy editor at *Poz*, **ADAM BIBLE**'s work has also appeared in *Men's Fitness*, *Muscle & Fitness*, *Every Day with Rachael Ray*, *Natural Health*, *Bicycling*, and *Organic Style*. He is a New Yorker who moved south to grow plants, raise chickens, and enjoy summer nights on the porch. He lives with his fiancée, Siena; a Westie named Oliver; and a feisty Russian Blue called Flynn in a restored bungalow in Raleigh, NC.



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MAKE TODAY COUNT

5 WAYS TO CREATE A BENEFICIAL CHANGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

BY ADAM BIBLE

After a lifetime of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in America, the nation is finally, slowly, beginning to make real gains in LGBT acceptance. President Obama and more than half of the U.S. Senate have publically voiced their support for marriage equality. A remarkable 131 prominent Republicans signed an amicus brief and passed it to the Supreme Court in March of this year when they began their consideration of Prop 8 and the Defense of Marriage Act. From music to television to movies, LGBT actors and characters are more visible than ever. We finally even have our first out-and-proud pro athlete. But that doesn't mean the battle is won—far from it. From employment to housing to business, LGBT individuals are still discriminated against on an almost daily basis.

While there are 16 states, including the District of Columbia, that have enacted laws to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression, along with five other states that ban sexual orientation discrimination, in more than half the U.S., discrimination against gays and lesbians isn't just common—it's legal. (In 1981, there were no nondiscrimination laws in the U.S., and it wasn't until 1992 that transgender people were included into the mix.)

Unfortunately, getting a statewide, or even citywide, nondiscrimination law enacted is not a simple process. "Something like a nondiscrimination law takes a certain amount of preparation, legal expertise, community building, and campaigning. That's not something that can necessarily be taken on by every person in every community," says Cathryn Oakley, legislative counsel for state and local advocacy at the Human Rights Campaign, the largest civil rights organization working for LGBT rights in America.

But don't despair. Even though we've gained a foothold of acceptance with Beltway politicians, small-town America is where change happens the fastest—and that's also where efforts to make a difference can be most effective. Reluctance to act in the statehouse by LGBT-sympathetic legislators is usually driven by their fear of not being re-elected, Oakley says. We can help show them that we are not happy with the status quo, and that they will have our support in fighting for LGBT rights by making our own changes that can move communities' support toward broader acceptance of equality and civil rights for all.

Want to help make a difference? The first step to getting started is checking out the Municipal Equality Index at hrc.org for a snapshot of where your community stands. Looking at the chart will show you the areas where your community needs more work and help you focus your efforts.

Next: Plan your attack. Start small, and try to get an anti-bullying program implemented at the local school, or press your city council to declare the community in favor of equality. "One of the amazing things about local government," Oakley says, "is that when you speak up, your voice is often heard. So, it's not something you need a lot of formality to get through. You can shoot off an e-mail to your city councilor, or call their office, or meet them at a local ribbon-cutting ceremony and talk to them about how important this is. The louder our voices are, the more likely we are to help advance the cause."

Ready to give it a go? Here are the five best ways you can help to enact change.

1



GO BACK TO SCHOOL

Going to your local school-board meetings and asking the administrators to adopt comprehensive, inclusive anti-bullying policies is a great place to start. "You will likely know some of the people on the board and there's a lot of real change that happens at the very local level," says Oakley. Press them to evaluate their current practices and coordinate existing plans into a well-communicated anti-bullying program that includes references to forbid harassment or bullying due to "sexual orientation" and "gender identity."

2



CALL THE POLICE

"A really important and powerful thing to do in your community is to make sure that law enforcement is really understanding of the needs of the LGBT community so they can be responsive to them," Oakley says. Having a trusting relationship between the police and LGBT community is incredibly valuable and something that needs work in many communities. Check the Index, and if your city scores low on the law enforcement category, contact your local mayor and police chief's office and ask to set up a series of meetings to address the need for a bridge between the police and your community.

3



FIND A SPOKESPERSON

Along with the importance of having a liaison in the police department, it's equally important to move your city forward by encouraging local government to appoint a LGBT liaison. "These can be either for the mayor's office or the city manager's office, but you need to have somebody in the mayor's office whose responsibility it is to be accountable to the LGBT community," Oakley says. "That person can be a resource for the community and also for the mayor and the city manager."

4



MAKE RELATIONSHIPS COUNT

Domestic partner registries can be very powerful and important even if you are in a state that has a lot of restrictions on marriage, Oakley says. Not only do they confer essential benefits to your partner—they also carry societal importance and value and signal the significance of your relationship to the people you know and work with. According to most proponents in the fight for equality, making sure that domestic partner registries are in place is probably the most significant way to help your community normalize its relationships with LGBT people while trying to minimize the often religious aspects of the gay marriage debate. "One of the things that we are seeing when we are talking about LGBT relationships is that even if people have a hang-up about the word *marriage* in particular or if they have an opposition to the idea of same-sex marriage, people are still able to recognize the importance and the validity of these relationships," Oakley says. "There are some things that are fundamental to being in relationships that are separate enough from the idea of marriage that most of those objections don't translate."

> The Nuts and Bolts of Social Change

HOW TO...

...Start a Petition

Focus on the official or organization you'd like to take action on the issue. Call your town or city hall and ask for guidelines and regulations for petitions. Then write a clear and direct paragraph that identifies your grievance at the top of your signature columns. Now it's all about legwork and getting names—assemble a team to help you canvass local shopping malls or public gathering places and take plenty of pens and copies of the petition.

For online petitions, check out *change.org*, a non-partisan organization that helps start and win campaigns for social change. On the site, you'll find an easy online petition form, and tips and guides to make the most of your efforts. *Petition Online*, *Petition Spot*, and *Go Petition* are three more great online petitions options.

...Present at a City Council Meeting

Your local government welcomes citizen input on issues facing the community, but there are rules and processes to follow when entering and addressing the council. Look up your cities' rules of procedure on the government website or head down to city hall and ask for information.

Before presenting, carefully gather your facts and write down notes or a full speech that focuses on one key point or claim, using several supporting points for clarification. Include evidence like expert testimony, statistics, or audio/visual aids for impact. Practice your presentation a few times to make sure you sound fluid and confident. If you are required to fill out a speaker's card, do so when you arrive at the meeting. Approach the podium when you are called, then thank the person who called you. State your comments and then thank the council when you are finished. Follow a similar procedure to present to your school board.

...Contact the Mayor/City Council/Police Chief

If you aren't the public-speaking type, feel free to contact the mayor or city manager, council members, and the police chief, as they encourage communication from the public. Get their e-mail addresses off the city website, or write them a letter addressing your concerns.

5



FIND A SPOKESPERSON

People in communities that aren't very LGBT-friendly are still often very supportive of equal rights. Getting your local government to publicly state that it is in favor of equality and in favor of inclusion is something that will reverberate throughout the community and help people really think about what equal rights really mean. "There is a message that's being sent about what a city stands for and what its principles are," Oakley says. "Do citizens stand for fairness, equality, and inclusion?" Once you've made that case for equality, it's remarkable how quickly other things may fall into place for an individual as well. Somebody who had never known a gay or lesbian before, or thought about their plight, can quickly become a staunch supporter of LGBT rights. And that's the kind of change that, one person at a time, will ultimately bring about an end to discrimination forever.

RESOURCES FOR THE FIGHT

Go to these important sites for more information, strategies, and tools for the ongoing struggle for equal rights.

American Civil Liberties Union
aclu.org

GLAAD
glaad.org

Human Rights Campaign
hrc.org

Human Rights Watch
hrw.org

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
thetaskforce.org

Southern Poverty Law Center
splcenter.org

THE GLOBAL CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

DESPITE GAINS IN EUROPE AND SOUTH AMERICA—AS WELL AS THE U.S.—THE GLOBAL FIGHT FOR EQUALITY RAGES ON

BY BRIAN MAHONEY

Looking at the equal rights landscape in America can feel a bit like looking at a patchwork quilt with most of the squares missing: There's a state with anti-discrimination laws here and a state supporting marriage equality there, but nothing is unified. In many ways, LGBT individuals are still second-class citizens, at least in terms of federal rights and recognition. Obviously, there is still plenty of work for everyone to do for the cause of nationwide equality. But for some advocates, the signs of slow but steady societal change in the U.S. also means that it is time to start shifting efforts to promote equality outside our borders to countries where LGBT policies are still

virtually nonexistent. It's a controversial decision, says LGBT activist Stuart Milk, head of the Harvey Milk Foundation. Milk poses a rhetorical question that he hears from many detractors: "When there is work to do in my community, why should I care about La Paz, Bolivia?" The answer is simple.

THE SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT

Despite the challenges faced by the LGBT community in the U.S. and parts of Europe, there are still places in the world where gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender people face ostracism and imprisonment. Eighty-five countries criminalize LGBT behavior, and seven countries have a death penalty for same-sex sexual activity. Fewer than 50 countries punish anti-gay discrimination. Globally, societal nonacceptance

is the norm rather than the exception. "More than 75 percent of the world's population live in countries where there is neither legal nor societal acceptance of LGBT rights, as well as other minority groups as well," says Milk.

Stuart Milk is the nephew of slain San Francisco City Council member Harvey Milk. In 2009, Milk and Anne Kronenberg launched the Harvey Milk Foundation, an all-volunteer organization that works with emerging LGBT communities across the globe, often under the radar. Recent trips included a meeting with the members of MOVHIL Chile, the country's largest LGBT group; and Jaime Prada, Chile's first openly gay elected official.

THE COST OF INEQUALITY

In December 2011, President Obama issued a Memorandum on International Initiatives to Advance the Human Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Persons, which directed "all agencies engaged abroad to ensure that U.S. diplomacy and foreign assistance promote and protect the human rights of LGBT persons." Following Obama's lead, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced in April a first-of-its-kind public-private partnership between USAID and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, the Gay & Lesbian Victory Institute, the Williams Institute, and the Olivia companies. The \$11 million program, the largest global LGBT equality program to date, includes funding from jeans maker Levi Strauss, the Gill Foundation, and Pacific Gas & Electric Company, as well as other donors.

The partnership has already begun working in Ecuador and is working to forge alliances with local groups in six other countries—Honduras, Ecuador, Peru, Kenya, South Africa, and India—where it will work to strengthen the capacity of LGBT civil society organizations, train LGBT individuals to participate more fully in democratic

processes, and undertake research on the economic impact of discrimination against LGBT individuals.

The partnership acknowledges a sea change in international development, according to Claire Lucas, a senior advisor at USAID. When USAID was established in the 1960s, direct U.S. funding represented 73% of resources flowing into developing economies. Today, private investments (in addition to philanthropy and remittances) make up 91% of investments in the developing world. The business world is aggressively targeting foreign markets, and recognizing the benefits of inclusive societies. “They realize that if countries have inclusive and democratic societies, their economies grow better,” she says.

A shrewd diplomat, Lucas notes that, when working with foreign governments that don’t support civil rights in their own countries, it is sometimes as effective to use the carrot as the stick to help advance LGBT rights. “If you’re advocating for equality,” Lucas says, “part of trying to move governments in the right direction is helping them understand how discrimination and inequality is costing them money.”

A GLOBAL MOVEMENT

Like his uncle before him, Stuart Milk sees the struggle for LGBT rights in the greater context of the fight for human rights, and believes that until all minority groups are protected by law and accepted by society at large, the work isn’t finished. “These communities’ successes are pivotal to our success,” Milk says. He goes on to quote aboriginal rights activist Lilla Watson speaking at a U.N. Human Rights Conference in 1985: “If you have come here to help me, you’re wasting your time. If you come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.”

“In the end, we need to remember this is not just a gay movement,” Milk says. “This is a global civil rights movement.”

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The organizations below all work to promote civil rights for LGBT persons as well as other disenfranchised minorities. Some are well known and work globally, while some directly serve a community of only a few hundred people. But whatever their reach, all provide crucial support to emerging LGBT communities overseas.

ASTRAEA LESBIAN FOUNDATION FOR JUSTICE

For more than 30 years, Astraea has cultivated several hundred LGBT activist human rights and social change agent organizations, artists, and arts organizations across the U.S. and around the globe; and is one of the top 10 LGBT grantmakers in the U.S. The group’s goal is to help reinforce the political leadership of lesbians, women, transgender people, and people of color.

astraeafoundation.org

BLUE DIAMOND SOCIETY

Established in 2001, Blue Diamond Society is on the forefront of the fight for LGBT rights in Nepal and Asia. Headed by Sunil Pant, Nepal’s first openly gay member of Parliament, BDS promotes human rights and sexual health, documents human rights violations, offers professional counseling and litigation services, and advocates for legal and constitutional changes for all minority persons.

bds.org.np

GENDER EQUALITY AND HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Founded in 2008 by Andrew Waiswa, GEHO exists to restore the human dignity of LGBT communities and persons in Uganda. Through this objective, GEHO provides key health and legal services to the LGBT community, works toward improvement of sexual and reproductive health resources, and creates sustainable partnerships and networks with similar-minded organizations.

gehouganda.blogspot.com

INTERNATIONAL LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANS & INTERSEX ASSOCIATION

ILGA is the foremost international organization advocating for LGBT rights. It brings together more than 750 LGBT rights groups from around the world to campaign for human rights, and regularly petitions the United Nations, influential international NGOs, and individual governments. ILGA is represented in more than 110 countries and is accredited by the United Nations.

ilga.org

INTERPRIDE SOLIDARITY FUND

InterPride, the international association of Pride organizers, recently launched a Solidarity Fund to assist local, on-the-ground activism that raises the visibility of LGBT people in regions of the globe where LGBT persons are most vulnerable. The Solidarity Fund recently supported LGBT United Macedonia in the production of several events, including street actions, film screenings, and debates.

interpride.org/support/solidarity-fund

ON TOP OF THE WORLD

in late December 2007, Nepal's Supreme Court issued a decision in the case of *Pant v. Nepal* that has been described as “the single most comprehensive judgment affirming protections for gender identity anywhere in the world.” The court found in favor of the petitioners, a coalition of LGBT groups, and mandated that all laws that discriminated based on sexual orientation or gender identity be vacated. In addition, the court established a third gender category for people who neither identify as male or female. This was an astounding victory for LGBT rights in Nepal, a conservative Hindu country. But the groundwork for the ruling had been laid starting in 2001, when Sunil Pant, the LGBT activist named in the suit, founded the Blue Diamond Society.

Like so many rights organizations, Blue Diamond Society grew out of Pant's emerging consciousness as an LGBT individual. While studying computer engineering on scholarship in Belarus, Pant first heard the word “homosexual” and identified as a gay man. Belarus was also where he was first exposed to the entrenched homophobia sadly typical of many Eastern European countries, which inspired him to fight for equality in Nepal.

BDS was launched to improve the sexual health, human rights, and well being of sexual and gender minorities in Nepal. Currently comprising 20 organizations and 120,000 members representing the interests of the country's LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities, the organization has 41 offices across the country.

In 2007, the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission awarded Pant the Philippa de Souza Award, the commission's highest honor for human rights defenders worldwide. While visiting New York to receive the award, Pant visited the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center on West 13th Street. Inspired by a safe place that could serve as the heart of a community and also foster connections in that community, Pant returned to Nepal determined to create a similar space. This vision will be realized in the Pink Himalayan Community Center, which is scheduled to open this summer. “It will be an LGBT resource, knowledge, power, and protection hub for all the South Asian LGBT,” says Pant. Elected to the Nepal's Parliament in 2008, Pant was the legislature's only openly gay member. (The parliament was dissolved in 2012.) While in office, Pant fought against the de fact segregation that still exists in Nepal, despite the groundbreaking 2007 law. And while he is proud to have served as an MP, Pant believes that a leading priority for the LGBT community in Nepal is greater representation in the legislature. “We need to prepare for the next election so that more LGBT individuals get elected,” he says.

Much has been accomplished in Nepal, but Pant is tireless in his activism. “There is still long way to go both in Nepal and internationally to have our rights.” This fall Nepal will be hosting the first Gay Olympics in Asia. In March, Pant launched a lobbying campaign to create a third-gender category on user profiles on Facebook. “With our progress is the awareness that so many more need to be served,” says Pant.

At the opening ceremony of UN Regional Seminar on Human Rights, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Kathmandu in late March, Pant made a solid case that the wider world is as ready for enshrining legal rights as his own country. “If Nepal is ready to make these adjustments, then many countries are also long ready. It is just few

1

TO BE FREE

When the parents of Ugandan LGBT rights activist Andrew Waiswa found out he was gay, they disowned him, ejecting him from the family home at 19. Waiswa has not seen his family in the ensuing 15 years. His situation is typical for LGBT persons in Uganda, who face both officially sanctioned discrimination and societal oppression. In 2010, gay rights activist David Kato was murdered following the publication of a list of 100 names of suspected homosexuals in a local newspaper with the tagline “Hang Them.” In February, the odious “Kill the Gays” bill—which includes a provision to impose the death penalty for those engaging in “aggravated homosexuality,” which means gay sex when one partner is disabled, a minor, a “serial offender,” or HIV-positive—was re-introduced to thunderous applause.

This toxic environment did not stop Waiswa from forming the first LGBT group at Makerere University while a student there, and later founding Gender Equality and Health Organization (GEHO) in 2008. Operating in eastern Uganda, GEHO was Waiswa's answer to the constant persecution of the LGBT community.

GEHO's safe houses are the starting point for people living in fear to forge a new life. In the past year, GEHO has successfully aided 14 Ugandans navigate the long legal asylum process, helping them relocate in Europe and Canada. “He or she is going to be in a country where they feel free,” says Waiswa. “A country where they can live their dream.”

Waiswa sought asylum himself in 2010 after his organizing had made him a target. Held in jail for 11 days and tortured, he then went into hiding and eventually slipped over the Kenyan border when he was released. He was granted asylum in Canada. Waiswa lived in Toronto for two years, but knew he needed to return to his rights work in Uganda. “My people were suffering,” says Waiswa. “I could no longer live in comfort.”

Since his return last summer, GEHO's offices have been ransacked three times, twice by police, and once, in late April, by thugs hired by a local pastor. Waiswa's arm was nearly broken, but not his desire to fight for LGBT rights. GEHO continues to provide safe houses, aid asylum seekers, create an informal network of doctors willing to treat LGBT persons, and provide legal and economic aid. Progress in the courts and in the society at large is slow, but Waiswa is optimistic. “If I can help just one person, then I have done good work,” he says.



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ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR EDITH WINDSOR



For more than a decade, *Pride* has been honoring the brave men and women leading the LGBT fight for equality with a place on our cover—folks like Dan Savage, Dan Choi, Rachel Maddow, President Barack Obama—individuals who have shown unwavering dedication and support to make sure that one day all people are considered equal, regardless of who they love.

This year, when it came time to pick our advocate, the choice was easy. It had to be Edith Windsor. Like Rosa Parks and Norma McCorvey (“Jane Roe” in *Roe v. Wade*) before her, Windsor didn’t set out to become a spokesperson for equality. She was simply living her life, trying to do the best she could for herself and her wife, Thea Spyer, just like any other American.

All of that changed in 2007 when, after 40 years together, “Edie” and Thea got married in Toronto. Sadly, just two years later, Thea passed away. And even though the couple were living in New York, which by then legally recognized same-sex marriages performed in other jurisdictions, Windsor was still required to pay more than \$363,000 in estate taxes. (If Thea were a man, Edie would have paid nothing.)

The rest, as they say, is history. Windsor got a lawyer, partnered with the American Civil Liberties Union, and took on the federal government, challenging the Defense of Marriage Act in a case that, after two district wins, has gone all the way to the Supreme Court.

As of press time for our magazine, nobody knows just how things will turn out. But whatever verdict the court releases, Windsor’s role in the battle of LGBT equality is undeniable. Since her case began, states ranging from New Hampshire to New York to Washington and Maryland have passed marriage equality bills. Public opinion polls on marriage equality have reached the tipping point, with the majority of Americans now supporting our right to be treated equally. And Windsor’s role in starting this conversation—this tidal wave of change—is undeniable.

“I know that Thea’s spirit was with us... at the oral argument,” Windsor told CNN back in March after her case was first heard by the Supreme Court. “But our journey is not yet over. If, through my case, our story can help to ensure that the federal government treats all marriages equally, that will be the best possible final chapter in our love story.”

Spoken like a true advocate.



EVERY NIGHT
HAS POTENTIAL

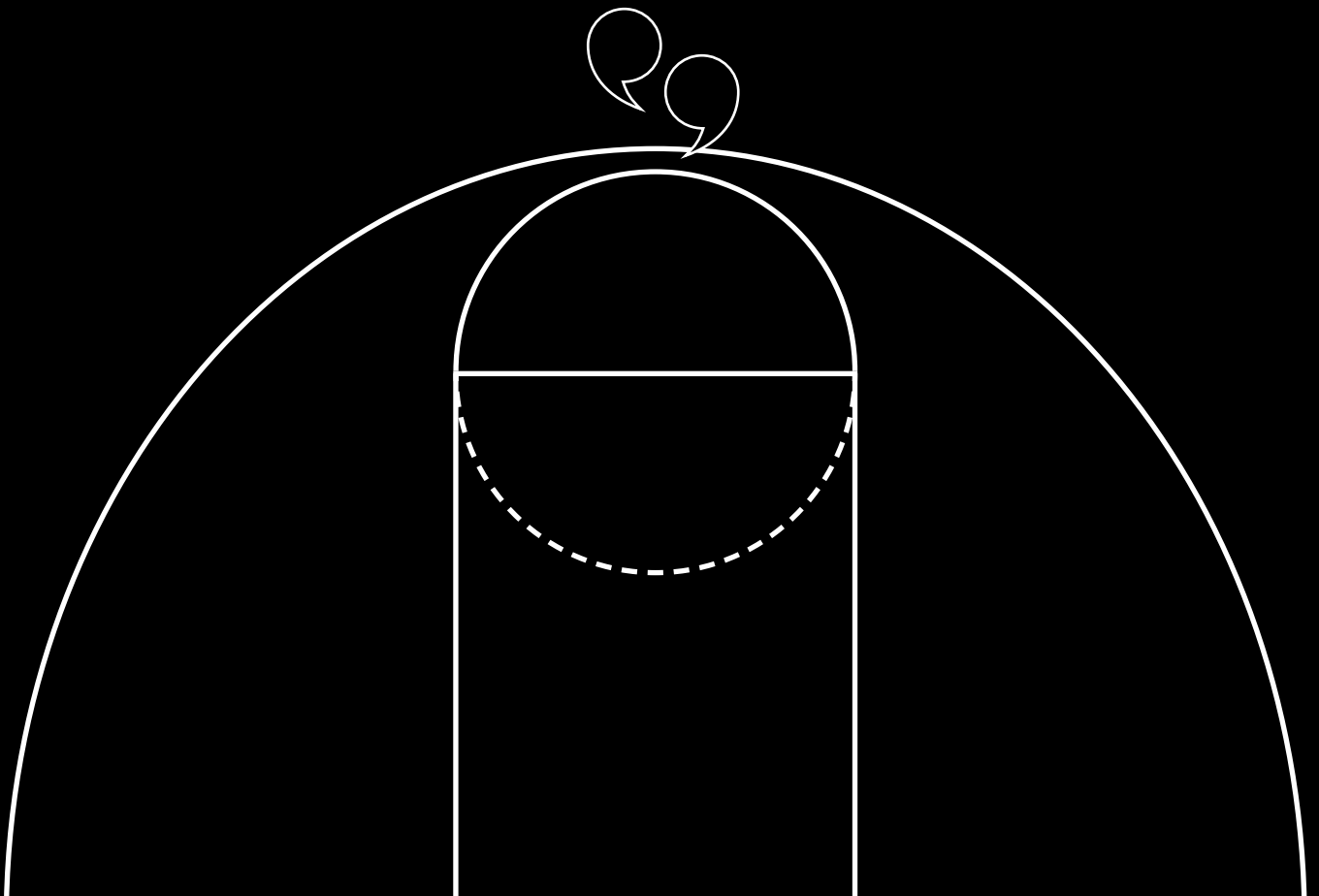
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LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD



HOW BASKETBALL PLAYER JASON COLLINS STARTED THE CONVERSATION

BY MATT CAPUTO

"FINALLY."

That was the first word that entered every right-minded person's conscience on April 29, 2013, just one minute after 11 a.m. EST. It was that exact moment when it was revealed through a poignant *Sports Illustrated* cover story (posted early online) that veteran NBA center Jason Collins had decided to reveal to the world he is gay.

His coming out looped on *SportsCenter* like any successful full-court lob, overtime goal, or powerful knockout punch would have. It resonated with sports fans and athletes who have lived with a secret and with fear of being found out. Collins—an average player, at best, during his 12 seasons in the NBA—became a hero, not just for the LGBT community, but also to scores of people who saw his honesty as a brave step toward accepting who he is.

"I didn't set out to be the first openly gay athlete playing in a major American team sport. But since I am, I'm happy to start the conversation," Collins wrote for *Sports Illustrated*. "I wish I wasn't the kid in the classroom raising his hand and saying, 'I'm different.' If I had my way, someone else would have already done this. Nobody has, which is why I'm raising my hand."

The 34-year-old Northridge, CA,

native had always known he was gay, but it wasn't until the NBA labor lockout prior to the start of the shortened 2011–2012 season that he'd even given any thought to the idea of opening up about his sexual orientation while still active in the league. Prior to that, basketball had always been something that could distract Collins from his sexuality; but with the season on hold, he had a lot of time to think about his life and how the world would perceive him—a veteran of two NBA Finals—if they found out he was a gay man.

He thought long and hard about how explaining his life could help others be more comfortable with theirs and how he could offer people perspective on the lives of others. He thought about it and then decided to do it.

"I've earned the right to be heard," Collins said in his *S.I.* story. "I'll lead by example and show that gay players are no different from straight ones. I'm not the loudest person in the room, but I'll speak up when something isn't right. And try to make everyone laugh."

TEAM SPIRIT

In the days following Collins' announcement, the world seemed to have found a new favorite athlete. President Barack Obama called to praise his courage, Collins gained more than 80,000 Twitter followers, actor Charlie Sheen said he was awesome, and RuPaul tweeted at Collins to remind him that he was "still gayer" than [him]. The world took pause at the sentiment of his announcement, and it forced both athletes and sports fans to start talking about something that had become potentially the biggest taboo in professional sports. Collins got people to think about equality on the court and on the field and changed the ignorant presumption of many Americans that somehow gays couldn't run fast, catch a pass, or dunk a basketball.

"I don't think those people were proud of Jason for being gay, I think they were [proud] because they knew the type of scrutiny he was inviting into his life

because of his athletic career," said former MLB player, Billy Bean, who came out in 1999, four years after his playing days ended. "Hopefully we can get to a point where all that matters is the type of player that you are."

During his career, Collins has been the kind of athlete who can prove how valuable he can be to a good team. He and his twin brother, Jarron, played together at Stanford and were both drafted into the NBA, Jason in the first round, and Jarron in the second in 2001. As a rookie in 2002, Jason helped the then-New Jersey Nets to reach the NBA Finals and helped them go back in 2003 while appearing in the starting lineup for 20 playoff games.

Appropriately, Collins' *S.I.* piece arrived as *42*, a film about the life of Jackie Robinson, the first black major leaguer, was playing in movie theaters. And, like Robinson's fight before, Collins' announcement started a wave of firsts. Days after his coming out, Brittney Griner, the top pick in the Women's National Basketball Association draft, told the media she was gay—although she's also never made an effort to hide it. And almost a month to the day later, 26-year-old Robbie Rogers made history again by becoming the first openly gay player in Major League Soccer. Rogers had announced he was gay earlier in the year when retiring from Leeds United in the U.K. But in May, he was signed by the L.A. Galaxy and made his debut with the team just a few days later.

"I was excited about [Collins' coming out] because it was something we'd been waiting for and hoping for. When I started *OutSports* in 1999 it seemed like this was a million miles away," says Cyd Zeigler, founder of the popular LGBT sports website. "But as the excitement wears off, I hope we won't find that nothing much has changed."

THE AFTERMATH

In the hours after Collins' deeply personal and courageous announcement, ESPN basketball reporter Chris Broussard immediately challenged his religion. ↔



IN MANY WAYS, ACCEPTANCE OF OPENLY GAY AND LESBIAN ATHLETES SEEMS TO BE A BATTLE OF TWO STEPS FORWARD AND ONE STEP BACK.

A random act of gay bashing occurred directly after a New York Knicks playoff game, allegedly at the hands of disgruntled fans. Veteran UFC fighter Nate Diaz spewed a homophobic rant against an opponent on Twitter. And a steady stream of current and former players in various leagues have been voicing their opinion on everything from gay rights to gay marriage, often saying they don't fully support it. Yes, Collins shook up the locker room and beyond, but his words were most powerful in starting a conversation people had ignored for years. He stood up to start the fight, not to end it.

Now, the goal for the LGBT sports community is to spread a message of tolerance to younger athletes. "The NFL and all pro sports leagues are predominantly young men's leagues of 23-, 24-, 25-year-old guys," says Oakland Raider's punter Chris Kluwe, a proud and outspoken ally to the LGBT community. "As society changes and people's views change and children are educated, it's reflected in the workplace; and I don't think we'll be having a conversation about this 10 or 15 years down the line."

The best thing that Collins' brave statement can do, Kluwe says, is to begin the process of making it possible for there to be more gay role models in the six major

sports leagues (NFL, MLB, NBA, NHL, MLS, WNBA). Creating those all-star role models takes time and practice, but above all, you've got to start young, he says.

"There are about 6,000 athletes that compete over the course of the year in the Big Six sports and there are 7.5 million high school athletes, and to reach them is an incredible undertaking," says Zeigler. "I think you're going to see the LGBT community focus more on them because that's where it's really needed."

So far, it seems to be working. Since Collins' announcement, Leo Washington, a high school football star from Hollywood, FL, and highly decorated central Virginia college football player Kevin Grayson, among others, have also come out, helping to further shine a light on young, successful athletes who also happen to be gay.

Collins' coming out has also shed a light on the treatment of LGBT athletes in general, both on the court and off. While some athletic directors started noticing a shift to more openly gay college athletes during the mid-late 1990s, there still seems to be an issue with equality. Controversy erupted early in the year when reports leaked that prospective NFL draft picks were being asked to reveal

their sexuality. Despite her success in the WNBA draft, Griner felt there was an unwritten law about coming out while still in college, and she was encouraged, she says, by her coaches to keep her sexuality a secret.

In many ways, acceptance of openly gay and lesbian athletes seems to be a battle of two steps forward and one step back. But as Collins, Rogers, and Griner show, we are making headway—and that's what matters most.

"All we're talking about in the sports world is for people to be able to do their job playing the sport that they love, that's all we're talking about there," Zeigler says. "It's hard to find an American who could disagree that someone should be able to play the sport they love."

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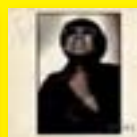


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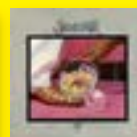
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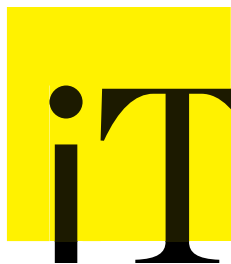
VIVE LA FRANCE

A large crowd of people is gathered at night, creating a scene of protest or celebration. In the foreground, a man in a light-colored jacket holds a French flag. Behind him, another person holds a red flag with the text "PEUR DE JESUS" and a cross. To the right, a person is throwing a blue smoke bomb, which is exploding in the air. The background is filled with more people and smoke, suggesting a large-scale event.

As France and Uruguay become the newest countries to back gay marriage, some feel the global momentum has passed a tipping point. But the battle has also given old enemies fresh ammunition, and LGBT activists warn, the battle is far from over.

BY ANNE-CHRISTINE D'ADESKY





It was a moment and a scene few in Europe expected. On a cloudy day in mid January, more than a million French citizens, many bussed from provinces and churches across the country, flooded the Invalides in Paris for a major protest march against gay marriage called the *Manif pour Tous* (“Demonstration for All”). The rally was billed as a peaceful, “non-homophobic” event and an organized rebuttal against the government’s planned passage of a bill legalizing gay marriage—*Mariage pour Tous* (“Marriage for All”), as the French call it. For hours, European television viewers were glued to the spectacle of huge numbers of young people, as well as old timers and couples with toddlers, holding aloft white, blue, and pink balloons—the latter symbols of male and female—and banners that read “Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité,” the national slogan. Hours and even weeks later, as angry young men with handkerchiefs hiding their faces attacked riot police, and others raised their arms in a fascist salute, a stunned country got a close-up view of the ugly, deep veins of homophobia that course through la belle France.

“It was truly shocking for all of us, like something we can’t forget,” says Martine Aumaitre, a French school principal, lesbian, and mother of two girls. “I wasn’t expecting such a movement against gay marriage because I thought my fellow Frenchmen were more evolved. It wasn’t just the people of the extreme right; these were middle-class French people who are Catholic and for whom religion is important.” Watching the January protests, and a later April rally that drew some

400,000 anti-gay protesters, Aumaitre added, “You could see and feel the waves of homophobia in the demonstrations.”

“It’s absolutely true that we were shocked,” agrees Christophe Martet, a longtime AIDS activist and an editor at *Yagg*, a leading online magazine for the French lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans community. “We had seen public opinion polls showing that over 60% of French people support gay marriage. We’d also had the PACS for nine years,” he adds, referring to the legalizing of “civil solidarity partnerships”—France’s version of domestic partnerships for gays and straights. The anti-gay protests, he said, “really woke us all up, especially heterosexuals who support gay marriage but were being pretty passive about it. They were really freaked out seeing all the homophobia, and saying, ‘Wait, this is not my France. These people are not speaking for me.’ A lot of them started coming to our rallies after that. All this is definitely something new.”

Looking back at the spring of protest, Martet said, “Gay marriage will become legal and we’ll have the right to adopt. But we have to address what we’ve just been witnessing. We’ve won a battle, and it’s an important one, but the war isn’t over. The question is, ‘What should we do now? What should happen next?’”

For Martet, there are many steps, and one is personal. Once the bill is law, he’s planning a fall wedding to his longtime partner. “Am I excited?” he asks, laughing. “Of course!” So is his family. “We’ve all been waiting for this.”

TO LGBT ACTIVISTS, the events of the recent past in France and in other countries, including Uruguay (see sidebar) have relevance for the U.S. and other countries where gay marriage is still an uphill fight. Both are countries where historic alliances have existed between extreme right and conservatives, including the Catholic clergy. But there are important differences, too. For starters, both countries are currently led by left-center Socialist governments who pushed forward the gay marriage issue within a progressive mantle of

PUBLIC OPINION POLLS SHOWED THAT OVER 60% OF

FRENCH PEOPLE SUPPORT GAY MARRIAGE.

reform. In France, President François Hollande, a mild-mannered politician who calls himself “Mr. Normal” took over the reins from the flashy, but later unpopular Nicolas Sarkozy and his center-right Union for a Popular Movement (UPM). Hollande made a campaign promise to legalize gay marriage, and polls showed he had a popular mandate to do so.

The political divisions in France are reflected in the gay marriage battle. While activists like Martet expected far right groups such as the xenophobic National Front, now headed by Marine Le Pen, to oppose “Marriage for All,” it was the UPM’s opposition that hurt. “This was the same right that allowed abortion in France years ago,” states Martet, referring to Sarkozy’s party. “This was not Le Pen.”

As he explained, today’s young, modern conservatives remain very Catholic, and while not especially political, they remain socially focused on *la famille*—the French cultural tradition of family, one in which a good son or daughter dutifully visits with his parents for a long lunch on Sunday, and marries in order to have children and create a family of their own.

Looking back at the spring of 2013, French gay activists point to the rights’ emphasis on children, adoption, and “assisted procreation”—artificial insemination—as a successful tactic that not only distorted and blurred the actual bill being proposed, but struck a deeper chord among mainstream Catholics. “The organizers said, ‘It’s not that we’re against marriage or that we’re homophobic,’” Martet explains. “But what is this new thing about homosexuals desiring a child? There is not a right to a child. You don’t have a right to a child.” It hardly mattered that artificial insemination was not being proposed in the bill made law. “They found an issue that moved people,” Martet says. “So they exploit it.”

MANY CREDIT THE Catholic Archbishop of Paris for the anti-gay momentum that’s been created in the wake of the gay marriage battle. Last August, when President Hollande signaled his

intent to make good on this campaign promise, he led Catholic leaders in a national call to action, starting with a prayer. They organized in schools and churches, sending anti-gay leaflets home to parents of children attending private and public schools, and paid for chartered buses to take the faithful to protest in Paris.

But the real coup was the recruitment of Frigide Bardot, a telegenic, youthful comedienne who boasted of having gay friends and eschewed attempts to paint her as a homophobe. “She looked like she could be one of us,” Martet explains. “It was such a clever move. Now, all of a sudden, people are being invited to march, and told they’re not homophobes. It worked.”

WELL, NOT COMPLETELY. Seeing the anti-gay tide grow, LGBT activists also realized the value “of the positive,” as Veronica Nosedá, an LGBT activist with the new group *Oui, Oui, Oui*, puts it. “We needed to start saying yes, too,” she explains of the gay marriage camp. In early December, a pro-marriage rally spearheaded by the group drew an estimated 60,000 to 100,000 people. Humor also works, as anti-gay leader Bardot has discovered. On the eve of the law’s adoption in April, *Oui, Oui, Oui* members staged a public mock wedding to get the ball rolling. The wedding was followed by flash mobs at wedding sections of major department stores and other public sites, with participants chanting “*Oui, Oui, Oui!*” with increasing mock-orgasmic intensity, to the bemusement of bystanders.

In attendance was Bertrand Delanoë, Paris’ openly gay mayor—one of only a few politicians



PROTESTS FOR EQUAL
RIGHTS IN FRANCE
HIT A FEVER PITCH

**A
PRO-
MARRIAGE
RALLY
SPEARHEADED
BY
THE GROUP**

who are out of the closet. “We have a lot of gay politicians behind us,” Nosedá says, “but it’s true, not enough have been willing to be open. We were hoping this movement would encourage them, but it hasn’t—not yet.” Nor have many French celebrities taken up the cause of gay marriage—another difference from the U.S., where many celebrities have lent star wattage to the fight for gay rights.

Elisabeth Ronzier is president of SOS Homophobie, a group that formed 19 years ago as an offshoot to SOS Racisme, an anti-racist group. Both groups are aggressive watchdog groups who respond to violence directed at sexual and racial minorities and closely monitor hate speech on the Internet. Before the gay marriage debate, Ronzier explained, French society had made many advances to fight homophobia. “There was more knowledge and understanding, and more people were speaking out about attacks against gays and lesbians,” she states. “There was also more condemnation of homophobic actions. So we felt there was a positive evolution.” Post debate, the incidents are increasing, including savage attacks on LGBT individuals in Paris and recently, Lille.

RONZIER FEELS THE ANTI-GAY rallies not only woke up a dormant French populace, but made visible what was long denied by many: the existence of homophobia in French life. “Everybody saw the violence,” says Ronzier, referring to protests. “It showed everybody that this violence against gay people exists.” That new visibility has drawn more support, volunteers, and money to SOS Homophobie. Looking ahead, her organization, with 1,200 volunteers nationwide, plans to expand an ongoing effort to educate French youth in particular about homophobia and “deconstruct the prejudices.” Her group also targets schools, and works to train teachers as well as professionals in other institutions, such as the police.

But hopefully, that work will become less and less needed, since—on May 18—France became the 14th country to legalize same-sex marriage, join-

ing other European countries (the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Norway, Sweden, Portugal, Iceland, and Denmark). In the Southern Hemisphere, newcomer Uruguay had already snagged position No. 12 a few months earlier, with New Zealand joining the club as No. 13 in mid April. (Brazil may be next, thanks to a remarkable court ruling in May that seemed to clear the way for same-sex marriages to become legal.)

“It’s a day of great pride for the Socialists,” declares Harlem Désir, leader of Hollande’s ruling Socialist party. “It’s a victory for the French republic and for equality.”

AND URUGUAY MAKES 12...



In April, Uruguay became the second Latin American country to legalize same-sex marriage, following on the heels of Argentina in 2010. That makes Uruguay the 12th country to give LGBT couples the right to marry, a move passed by a large majority of Uruguay’s Congress. The Marriage Equality Law was signed into law on May 3 by Socialist president José Mujica and takes effect August 1. The law’s language substitutes the words “husband and wife” for the gender-neutral word “spouse” in wedding contracts, gives all couples the right to undergo in-vitro fertilization procedure, and to decide which parent’s surname comes first when the couple has children. The measure also adds a few feminist provisions, updating Uruguay’s 1912 divorce laws to allow either spouse to unilaterally request and obtain a divorce. It also ups the legal age of marriage to 16 for all genders, from 12 for girls and 14 for boys—also a long-sought reform.

Uruguay’s new law also builds on earlier victories, including legal same-sex civil unions, adoption by LGBT couples, and the right of LGBT members to openly serve in its armed forces. Behind Uruguay, the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca and 13 of 26 Brazilian states have passed laws to legalize same-sex marriage and gay adoption. Viva!

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MIGHTY JOE

Joe My God is a daily addiction for countless men and women.
But for Joe Jervis—the man behind the blog—the site is the
story of a life lived one post at a time.

BY TONY ADAMS

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BILL DIODATO



I'M IN A New York City taxi cab that's racing downtown. Next to me, activist and blogger Joe Jervis is in the middle of a lively story about what the little old lady in line in front of him at his Upper East Side neighborhood drugstore wore on her head and what she hauled out of her purse when asked about it.

Ten minutes later, we're at our destination: The Eagle, NYC's popular gay leather bar. Walking inside the bar, Joe doesn't even attempt to remove his signature straw pork pie hat, despite the fact that its "code night" and hats are definitely not code. He will, however, repeat the bit about the woman in the drugstore to his friend at the door, making a few minor adjustments and drawing a huge series of laughs in the

process. Inside, the bartender pouring his drink will receive a slightly different version of the story, as will each of the dozens of friends and loyal readers of his wildly popular blog, *JoeMyGod.com*, who soon crowd around.

THE DETAILS OF the story become kaleidoscopic. I listen to Joe instinctively gauge the responses with each new telling of the story, choosing with surgical precision the parts to be cut, added, colorized, or punched up in subsequent deliveries. On the way home, I try to estimate how many times I heard that Jervis zinger—20 at least. A great story, I think, likely lost, as many great stories are, amongst the late-night hoisting of a few too many beers.

And so, the next morning when I sit down to sip my coffee and visit Joe's blog, I'm amazed to see a perfectly crafted and well-vetted distillation of the "lady in the drugstore" bit, alive and breathing on the site.

Start talking with Joe about what he does for a living, and he'll be the first to tell you he never set out to become the CNN or *Good Morning America* of gay news—a site that men and women alike can't imagine starting their morning without. Whether it's his coverage of breaking news; the struggle for LGBT equality; despicable religious bigotry; droll details of life in New York City; or the occasional photo of Shelley, his feline HIV-positive rescue cat, *Joe My God* is a must-read for millions every month. It's a feat that's all the more impressive when you hear just how the site was born:

FLASHBACK TO 2004. Mark Zuckerberg and his Harvard clique are just starting to share their statuses on Facebook. Twitter and Instagram are years away from development. But on a tiny corner of the hook-up site *ManHunt.net*, a man with a hysterical profile chronicling the trials and tribulation of his cruising life is starting to attract a serious following. Soon, even the owners of the site have noticed just how popular Joe Jervis' profile has become—and they don't approve. Joe is told to move on...his posts are "inappropriate." And *Joe My God* came into being.

Last year, I found myself in another car with Joe, this time making the four-hour drive from Fort Lauderdale to Key West. Throughout the ride, Joe talks nonstop about the three decades of dance music he had brought with him, each song triggering another memory. That night, after we've checked into our usual destination, the fabled Island House, I hear Joe start to deliver those memories again. He's chatting with an adoring stranger from Texas who has floated up to him in the pool, thrilled to share that he's been a faithful reader



**JOE MY GOD
KEEPS
TRANSFORMING
IN
MANY OF
THE SAME
WAYS AS
THE MAN
CREATING
ITS
CONTENT.**

of the site for years. Several daiquiris later, his porkpie hat still in place, Joe is still at it. And his audience in the pool has grown considerably. I leave for dinner, and three hours later as I pass back by the patio area, Joe is still ringed by a herd of enraptured listeners, who quickly signal the bartender whenever their orator's glass is empty.

THE LONGER A PERSON knows Joe, the more often these scenarios seem to pop up. It's the sign of a man who was born to tell stories—a raconteur who cannot avoid his innate need to entertain and inform. This pattern—conversation sidetracked by something urgently entertaining that has just popped into Joe's head and must be delivered immediately—might be annoying if it weren't for the fact that Joe himself seems almost powerless to stop it. The story is always the most important thing. And the next one. And the next...

It should come as no surprise that Joe did not have a business plan in mind when he started *Joe My God*. He rarely has a plan for anything beyond the next song or story. Circuit boys, most of who just survive their youth while surrounded by friends and lovers who succumb to the ravages of excess, rarely do. Still, he finds a way to make it work.

Those of us who met Joe nine years ago in that golden era when personal gay blogs were novel and fascinating could never have predicted the evolution of *Joe My God*. Stories of gay life on the dance floor led to heart-breaking recollections of friends lost to AIDS. And within it all, have come hilarious glimpses of a childhood filled with DDT-spewing mosquito control trucks—see his very first blog post of April 29, 2004—and lisping priests teaching a small boy the catechism.

As time has ticked by over the years, *Joe My God* keeps recalibrating again and again, transforming in many of the same ways as the man creating its content. Talk of hookups has given

way to talk of equality and activism, pop-culture slowly bleeding into a liberal skewering of the hypocrisy in politics and religion. Through it all, Joe has a growing national prominence as an LGBT equality-fighter, with many honors and awards bestowed upon him in the process. (He has even moved into the world of business, with a position on the publishing side of this very magazine.)

While the power of the *Joe My God* juggernaut continues to expand, the lovable curmudgeon who lives to talk about his life doesn't appear to be going away any time soon. After a recent publishing deal, Joe is very close to releasing his first collection of short stories, *Nobody's Supposed to Be Here*—a compendium of classic *Joe My God* tales plus many more new, unpublished works.

IT'S A SATURDAY afternoon a week or two after our trip to the Eagle, and Joe is surrounded by friends who responded to his spontaneous demand that we gather for a "Bear Hill" picnic. Bear Hill is Joe's name for a grassy slope in Central Park between the Bethesda Fountain and the roller skaters' circle where the music is just right. Joe is talking about the blog-fatigue he sometimes feels, producing *Joe My God* single-handedly for nine years without missing a single day of posting. Friends in attendance are quick to offer suggestions: "You should hire interns." "You should sell it and work for the new owners." "You should automate the site." You should sell 'Joe My God' T-shirts."

As we natter away at him, the sound of a disco classic from the '80s reaches his ears. Instantly, he's deaf to our suggestions, jumping up and shouting, "Who can name 10 number-one songs with the word 'boogie' in the title?"

Joe could, and he did; and if any of us left sitting around him on Bear Hill thought about resuming our criticisms, suggestions, and advice for a man whose mind was now far away, we let it go. —

JOE MAMA!

One-on-one with the woman who birthed a blogger



> **Dot Jervis** lives in Florida, where she raised Joe and his sister. Although she's the mother of one of America's most popular LGBT bloggers, Dot says that she actually doesn't read his blog regularly. "I sometimes wish he took a more tasteful approach to presenting his opinions," she says. Still, she agrees wholeheartedly with his politics.

"Growing up, I always gave Joe the opportunity to make up his own mind about things. I offered him religious education but never harped on it. When he was very young, he came to me with a question, 'Which story is right? Creation the way they are teaching me at Sunday school or the theory of evolution?' I knew a lot was riding on my answer. It was a pivotal moment. I was careful not to press my beliefs on him. I told him that people believe all kinds of things and that he had to make up his own mind."

Asked if she's surprised at Joe's success, Dot's quick to answer no. "I always knew he'd become a writer," she says proudly. "He constructed his own language as soon as he started speaking, and he'd read the entire *Golden Book Encyclopedia* before entering first grade."

With Joe's first collection of short stories coming out soon, Dot still cherishes her own exclusive precursor to that book—a tome written more than four decades earlier. "He gave it to me when he was in the third grade," she says with a smile. "It's called *Applesauce the Wonder Cat*."

KEEPING THE FIRES BURNING

ONE GAY MAN'S
SEARCH FOR SPIRITUAL
ENLIGHTENMENT

BY TONY ADAMS

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BILL DIODATO



BEING GAY, LESBIAN, or transgender rarely goes hand in hand with being religious. Churches that nurtured us as children often shun us when we return as out and proud adults. Leaders that once provided strength turn against us to say our love is wrong. While this isn't always the case, more often than not, those of us who are spiritual are forced to make a choice: Will I repress my true identity so that I can live a life of faith? Or will I forsake that comfort so I can look for love in the arms of the person I was born to be with?

It's a decision I and a growing number of LGBT men and women are refusing to make. As a man who grew up with religion—and spent time studying in the Vatican—but who also has a partner (now husband) that I've been with for more than 30 years, there was no way I could pick one over the other. Given the option of love versus faith, I choose both.

It's a spiritual journey I've been on for years, and my trips and explorations have helped me find creative ways to embrace the mystery of a higher power. It's also a process that's helped me to discover six tenants of healthy gay faith: ideas that don't require stained glass, tithing, minarets, or nay-saying popes in order to reaffirm the validity of who I am—or where I fit into the universe.

THE BOND OF COMMUNITY

Traveling to my first "Gay Spirit Camp" at Easton Mountain Gay Retreat Center, I joined a group of 75 men from around the

U.S., Canada, and the U.K. for a weeklong spiritual revival. Located on a converted 175-acre ski resort near Albany, NY, the site is a thriving complex of cabins, camp sites, yurts, guesthouses, and lodges. Originally opened more than a decade ago by Harry Faddis and John Stasio, the camp was originally intended to be a gay monastery, but has since grown into a place that heals and integrates mind, body, and soul through lectures, group activities like yoga and body painting, workshops, meditations, and all sorts of ritual celebrations. Faddis describes the gay spirituality of Easton Mountain in terms of what it is not. He says, "It is not dogmatic, judgmental, sex-negative, discriminatory, or dependent on a list of beliefs. We have pagans, Catholics, Jews, Christians, Buddhists, yogis as well as atheists, all with a spiritual curiosity and hunger to find their way. And, in that commitment, we find what draws us together."

THE POWER OF NATURE

In woods a thousand miles south of Easton, I met park ranger and environmental activist Mark Foley, who lives in the tangled jungle of Fort Lauderdale's Hugh Taylor Birch Park. As we got to know each other, Foley led me to his private prayer circle in a secluded wild section of the park, behind his cabin where he burns spirit-sweeping white sage and incense in a cauldron. Following a well-evolved pantheistic/animistic theology that draws upon a variety of traditions and gods that celebrate the natural world, Foley was adamant about not being a subscriber to any one of them. Instead, he participates in drum circles that mark the solstices, and works tirelessly to help protect the sea turtles that annually lay their eggs in the sand of Fort Lauderdale beaches. "I tend to be a solitary explorer," he told me. "I still use the terms *Goddess*, *God*, *Universe*, and *Great Spirit*. I know they carry human and gender baggage, but I am okay with this because I know that whatever the Source is—the Mystery—it transcends all aspects of what we know

and what we have yet to learn. I believe that there is meaning to be taken from what others consider to be happenstance, like a sea turtle coming out of the ocean and laying her eggs not four feet away from where I am sitting on the sand at midnight. She is unrelated to me, but she has gifted me with something meaningful and ancient."

THE FORCE OF ENERGY

For Gianantonio Corna, spirituality grows in the urban jungle of Manhattan, where he is in high demand as a Reiki master. I first met him at Easton where he led a circle of men into deep meditation and then taught us how to harness our Reiki (believed to be an internal form of energy we all possess). Although I'd heard of Reiki, I had been skeptical—until I tried it. Split into pairs, we moved through a variety of poses...until my partner feels an electrifying surge when I lightly rest one hand on his chest and the other on his forehead. It's a life-changing moment. "Reiki is an ancient Buddhist treatment allowing anyone to find the answers needed to dissolve toxic cycles, patterns, and obstacles," Corna says. "The effects are immediate. Imagine that you are an electronic device. Fresh from the factory, everything works. But now, you've got a past—replete with bugs and glitches. Reiki acts like a reboot button. Whatever you might be struggling with, Reiki hits the 'Reset.' As the energy vibrates, your mind stills. Your breath becomes clearer. Your muscles allow gravity to take over. Reiki can open your heart, and give your love life a needed boost."

THE STRENGTH OF INDIVIDUALITY

MxCnormous Desdemona is a member of the Radical Faeries, a loosely structured worldwide movement started 34 years ago by Harry Hay in Arizona. MxC (pronounced Mixie) may live in Queens, New York, but he most often communes with the Faeries in the meadows of rural Vermont. Raised by strict Christians, MxC yearned to find a gay family that

would celebrate both his masculine and feminine sides. The Faeries were a perfect fit. As a group, members believe that being queer is central—not peripheral—to their identity, and in their rituals, freaky is fabulous. “Generally speaking, we are anarchists, or at least people who question and doubt the utility of hierarchical authority and dogma of all kinds,” MxC says. “I know faeries who are Christians, Wiccans, neo-pagans, agnostics, atheists, Buddhists, Native American shamans, secular humanists, astrologers, and psychics. Elders are revered, but you can rebel and be creative by adding Chaos into the mix. Chaos keeps things fresh.”

THE VIRTUE OF DISCIPLINE

Making order out of chaos is the spiritual goal of the men and women I met as a guest at a gay Alcoholics Anonymous meeting in London. Sitting quietly as people around me shared, I took in frightening stories of abuse, addiction, despair, and recovery. When I asked the group about the predominance of traditional “God language” in AA’s 12-step program, they told me that they never let the words get in the way of the message. In gay AA, a “higher power” is substituted for “god,” and it can be anything you want it to be. Recitation of the Lord’s Prayer becomes a mantra that disciplines a person and unlocks strength and self-worth. The Serenity Prayer that seemed trite to each of them before they embarked on recovery gains more and more power as they began to do the work behind the words.

THE COMPLEXITY OF SOLITUDE

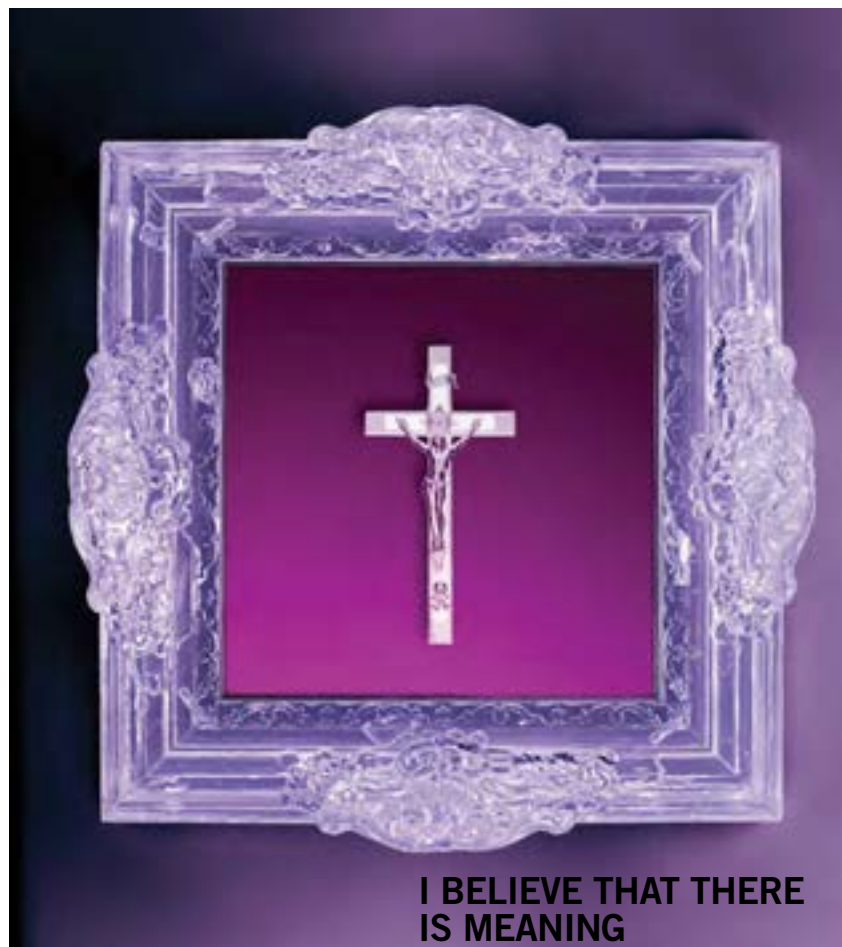
The most extraordinary spiritual journey I’ve made was a trip to the tiny peninsula of Mount Athos in southern Greece. Comprised of 20 monasteries and inhabited by 1,800 monks who have been its only citizens for one thousand years, that 130 square miles may be one of the most beautiful places on earth. It is accessible only by boat, and even then, a lengthy screening and visa process that bars all tourism and allows only a small number of male pilgrims each year ensures it’s a place

few will ever get to visit.

The ancient stone monasteries of Mt. Athos, some of them set on high promontories overlooking the ocean, offer food and lodging to pilgrims, but never for more than a single night. Traveling by van from one to the next during the day, we marvel at the hushed splendor of steep forests and olive groves. Our shared rooms were simple. We ate in silence with the monks (mostly bread, olives, vegetables, fruit, and rustic wine produced by the monks.) When the bells rang at 3 a.m., we went to chapel with the monks and filled our heads with the sound of chanting and clouds of incense churning through candlelight. None of the men in the group I visited with had been raised in the Greek Orthodox tradition nor did any of us speak the language. None of us were overtly religious. Instead, we each held our spiritual expe-

rience of the week in the privacy of our hearts. But by the end of our sojourn, we agreed that it was difficult to step out of the mist and mystery of Mt. Athos. Had they let us stay, I think most of us would have easily surrendered passports and all worldly possessions for an hour or two more of that bliss.

Looking back at that, and my journey before it, I feel calm. I feel whole. I feel relief. I feel part of something bigger than me. And to me, that’s what religion is all about. •



**TO BE
TAKEN
FROM
WHAT
OTHERS
CONSIDER
TO BE
HAPPENSTANCE**



MARISA + MELISSA

DESCRIBE YOUR FIRST DATE:
WE HAD INSTANT CHEMISTRY.

STRONGER / TOGETHER

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARIUS BUGGE



NOA + ROSS

WHAT KEEPS YOU TOGETHER?
LOVE, LAUGHTER, AND LIBATIONS.



ANTHONY + RICH

WHAT KEEPS YOU TOGETHER?

WE BOTH HAVE THE SAME SENSE OF HUMOR AND LOVE TO MAKE EACH OTHER LAUGH.



NICK + RUDY

WHAT KEEPS YOU TOGETHER?

LOVE, HAVING THE SAME POSITIVE OUTLOOK ON LIFE, AND LESBIAN COMEDIANS.



JOHN-PAUL + GREG (& RUBY)

HOW DID YOU MEET?

WE MET ONLINE AND CHATTED EVERY NIGHT FOR A MONTH BEFORE MEETING IN PERSON.



MICHAEL + PHILLIP

WHAT KEEPS YOU TOGETHER?
IT'S A TOSS-UP BETWEEN HIS EYES AND HIS SMILE.



ADAM + MICHAEL

HOW DID YOU MEET?

WE CAUGHT EACH
OTHER'S EYES
WALKING DOWN
8TH AVENUE
IN CHELSEA
ON A SUNDAY.



MELISSA + THERESA

WHAT KEEPS YOU TOGETHER?

THE FEELING OF
SEEING EACH OTHER
FOR THE FIRST TIME,
EVERY TIME.



DAVE + RYAN

WHAT KEEPS YOU TOGETHER?
THE IMPORTANCE OF
LOYALTY AND LOVE
TOWARD FAMILY AND FRIENDS.



PAUL + JOEY

WHAT KEEPS YOU TOGETHER?

JOEY GIVES ME A PERSPECTIVE ON THINGS
THAT I MAY NOT ALWAYS SEE OR WANT TO SEE.
AND WE'RE BOTH ON THE LEASE.



LAURA + FAYE

WHAT KEEPS YOU TOGETHER?

WE'RE BOTH HUGE NERDS, BUT IN DIFFERENT WAYS,
SO WE'RE ALWAYS LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER.



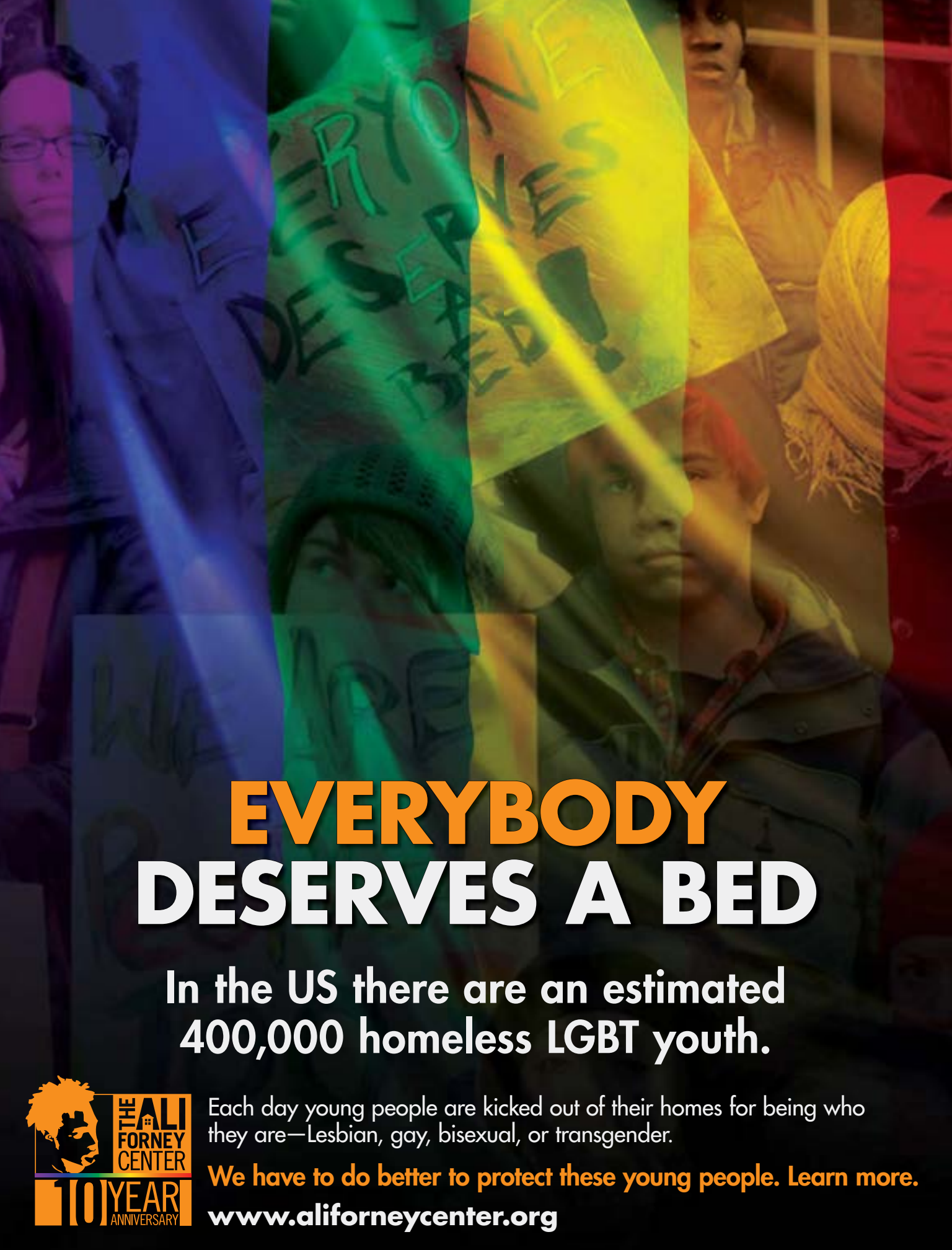
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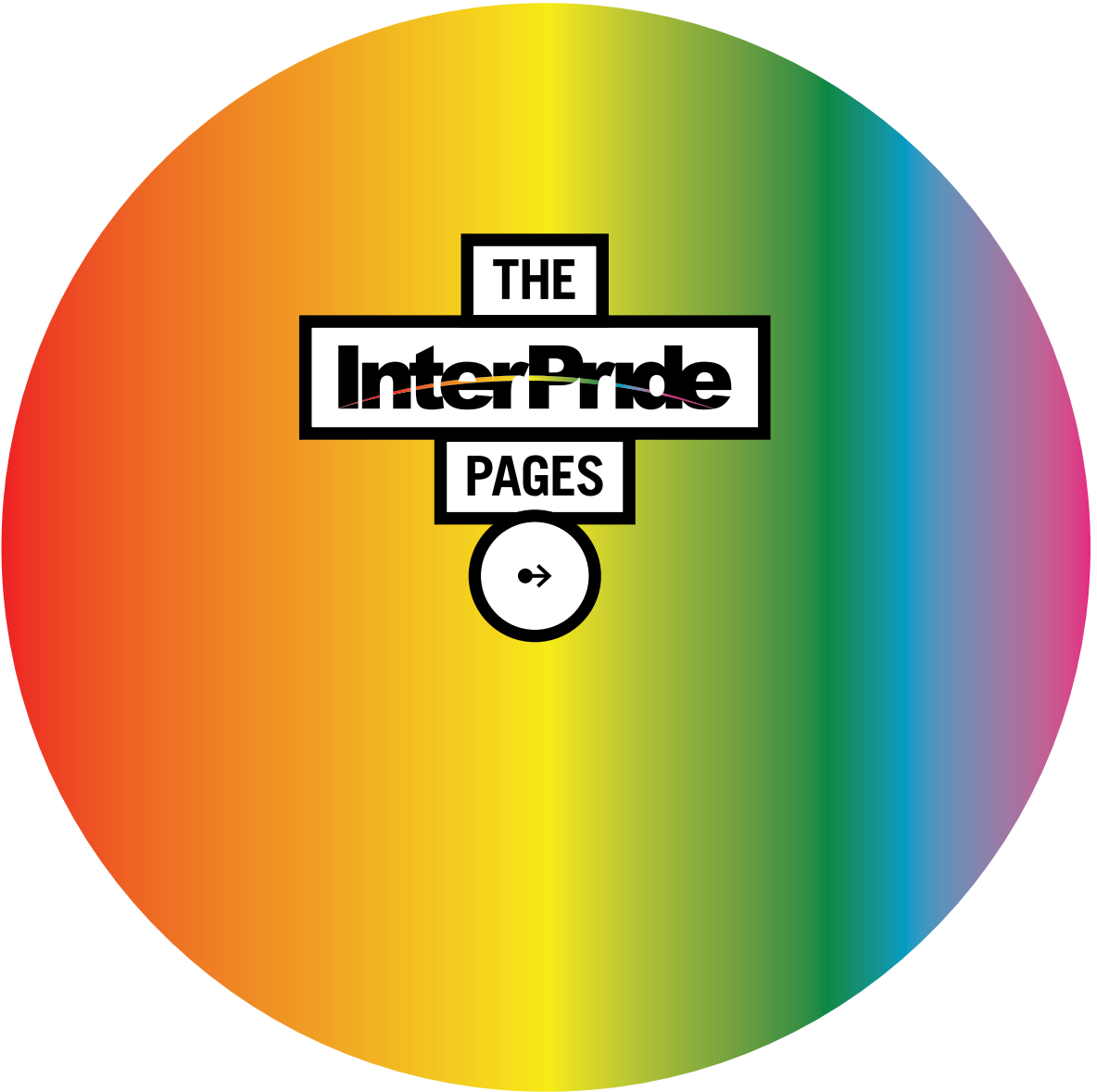
**In the US there are an estimated
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Each day young people are kicked out of their homes for being who they are—Lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender.

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**LIVE YOUR
PRIDE
365 DAYS
A YEAR**

INTERPRIDE'S VISION is a world where there is full cultural, social, and legal equality for all, 365 days a year. Our 180 member organizations touch millions of people with their Pride events and we see our membership growing annually. The Pride movement is at the forefront of global change, with participants at events visibly demonstrating support for equality. We're excited for the future, and yet the work we're doing needs to continue to change hearts and minds and spread the message of equality for the LGBTI community.

We live in strange times: We watch proudly as legislation is overturned to support same-sex marriage in some states in the U.S., and yet on the other side of the world, we see death penalties imposed for LGBT people in Uganda and Moscow, where even new laws have been instituted to impede rights. We find ourselves all over the spectrum of acceptance throughout the world and as activists; we live our Pride 365 days. We need to be diligent and know that with persistence and commitment, change will come. We ask you to join us as we stand strong and united and fight for one of the remaining human rights challenges of our time.

Pride organizers are mostly community volunteers who spend countless hours rallying people, meeting with sponsors and vendors, scheduling events, raising money, working with local government, making calls, answering e-mails, and producing events. We do this 365 days a year to ensure that on that one special Pride day, we are visible, vocal, and leading change. Demonstrate your Pride 365 by offering your volunteer efforts to your local community. Lend your support and your time to build stronger communities

Each Pride event is an opportunity to make a difference. When we host a Pride, we are visible and represent those in the countries where there are no legal protections for LGBT people and in the countries where the death penalty exists. We let them know that we are here, we are their voice, and they are not forgotten. In the end, it's about equality for all of us. We honour those who paved the way to get us here, and we march for those who cannot march, speak for those who cannot speak, and continue to forge ahead and fight.

In the words of Harvey Milk, 'We want to recruit you' to be on the right side of history, to vote, sign petitions, donate, volunteer in your community, and make your voice heard for equal rights. The route to victory begins with you.

Wishing you a year of peace, prosperity, and Pride.

Caryl Dolinko & Gary Van Horn

CO-PRESIDENTS
INTERPRIDE INC.

INSPIRE HOPE CHANGE

The mission of the It Gets Better Project is to communicate to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth around the world that *it gets better*, and to create and inspire the changes needed to make it better for them.

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BETTER
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WWW.ITGETSBETTER.ORG

Pride Blooms Big in Hong Kong

By Wylie Yeo



LGBT Pride is alive and well in Hong Kong! The 2012 Dare to Love parade was held in November of last year, and was a major success. While previous parades had attracted around 2,500 participants, last year's parade was nearly double that size with more than 4,000 men and women showing their colors.

The theme of this year's parade was "Workplace Equality." To show their pride, participants were asked to wear uniforms from all sorts of different occupations. We had plenty of lawyers, sailors, chefs—and quite a few sexy nurses!

The parade began at the fountain inside Hong Kong Victoria Park and ended with a variety of performances at the Charter Gardens. In addition to numerous Hong Kong natives, we were joined by people from all parts of China, including Beijing, Shanghai, Guangdong, and many other major provinces.

We were honored to have Raymond Chan, the first legislator who came out in

Hong Kong as the Rainbow Ambassador for the parade. He was joined by LGBT-friendly legislators, including Cyd Ho Sau-lan and Gary Fan Kwok-wai and famous artists such as Anthony Wong Yiu-ming, Denise Ho Wan-sze, and Wyman Wong Wai-man were at the kick-off ceremony and carried a large rainbow flag along the entire parade route.

Numerous LGBT-friendly companies, such as Barclays, Credit Suisse, Deutsche Bank, Goldman Sachs, HSBC, J.P. Morgan, Nomura, UBS, Wells Fargo also showed their support for our community, forming groups and joining in the march.

One of the biggest surprises for many was an appearance by famous pop star, Denise Ho Wan-sze. As the first Asian Chinese pop star to come out, her act has aroused a fair amount of controversy—but it's also been a major source of inspiration for many in Chinese society.

But despite the star power from all of

our brothers and sisters in attendance, for many the real highlight of the parade was the numerous LGBT allies who joined in the walk. Siblings. Colleagues. Parents. Even grandparents! Many of us were touched by the love and acceptance shown by participants who came to the march to support their loved ones.

The parade wasn't without drama. Religious bigots threatened to join or interfere in the days leading up to the march, but those threats proved to be meaningless. And while our workplace theme allowed for plenty of fun, it also did a lot of good within the city itself. In Hong Kong, we soon hope to achieve LGBT workplace equality for all. And we will continue to work tirelessly to promote equality for everyone.



Celebrating the Diversity of Youth

By Taysha Davis

An interesting thing happened the other day. During one of the weekly meetings for what is a burgeoning youth program being developed by the Kelowna, British Columbia's Okanagan Pride Society, a lively debate erupted. The issue was over an acronym our group had been using, LGBTQQA, and how it was really grinding the gears of the young people in attendance. The teens were blunt. They aren't thrilled with the idea of labels. They have no use—and quite frankly—no tolerance for such classifications. They are who they are, they said—just people. Being that we are still in the planning phase of this new venture, we made the decision to include them in the conversation so that they might offer up their input and insight. Have the program be “for youth, by youth,” we thought. After all, kids know best what they as a group need. Plus we offered up the incentive of free pizza for their compliance. (The promise of food will bring even the most reluctant teens to the table, and we needed to hear from everyone.)

Hearing what the teens in attendance had to say made us pause. As a community, we rely on those letters to identify ourselves to our supporters. Those letters also connect us to our sponsors, who we depend on so heavily for the funds we need to continue all of our programs. How could they ever go away?

Which leads to the question: “Is the fortitude of our youth's conviction based on an amazing grasp of personal self-awareness and -acceptance? Or do they simply not yet possess the tools by which to define themselves?” Perhaps we'll never know for sure. But as the debate continued, they were quite adamant about their feelings and that they wanted their space to be a “label-free” zone. They wanted a spot where each person could arrive “as they

are,” and no one would strive to make assumptions about their sexual or gender identity, or even their perceived biological sex.

But how do we strike a balance? I think most LGBTQQA individuals would tend to agree with them—we as a community are so much more than a collection of labels atop colorful little boxes. We have a history as vivid and relevant in today's society as any who have shared the insanity and joy of human existence with us.

But how do we marry our responsibility to nurture and support the fierce, independent strength and confidence in equality that's emerging from this new generation with our responsibility to continue bringing awareness to the inequalities that still exist globally? Quite honestly, your guess is as good as mine. What I do know is that our youth—our little group participating in “Etcetera Kelowna”—the future leaders of our community, they just want to be themselves. They want to celebrate their diversity in all its forms without the labels and the judgment, and the little boxes with tight-fitting lids that force them to choose a letter. And personally, I find that quite refreshing.



Mural on the Okanagan Pride Society's Pride Centre in downtown Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada.

PRIDE 365

By Dallas Barnes

What does it mean to live and demonstrate pride, 365 days a year? As regional director of InterPride, past president of Pride Calgary, current co-lead of the Toronto Dyke March, and a lesbian, it is crucial to demonstrate my pride all the time.

But... I am also a daughter, an employee, a taxpayer, a fiancée, an Aunt, and countless other things. And I must go about my day-to-day life just like every other human being, minus my rainbow super-suit and the “Gay is Good” protest sign attached to my fist off fury. So, how do I live this “Pride” in every waking moment? Is it even possible? Yes, I say! An absolute, rainbow-flavored, undeniable yes!

For me, pride is an idea. A feeling. A deep-down soulful place that is home. I have never been more proud of myself than I am today, as a person who knows who she is; who is out-of-the-closet, not ashamed, and can proudly walk down the street holding the hand of my beautiful partner, Rachel. She is my other half—the ying to my yang, the butter to my bread. She makes me proud. She makes me whole. She allows me to live a life in pride.

Pride, at times, can be silent. It can be invisible. To me, being part of the current human condition is in itself a form of pride. These shakers of morality and all things “right” are my people; they are a group of individuals that I am so proud to be a product of.

So, while I am standing in line at the bank (which happens to whole-heartedly embrace and fund the queer community), I am proud—even if it's just to give my hard-earned cash to a company that charges way too much to light my home.

You see, in the end, pride is who I am, and it allows me to create community from the strangers I see around me—a community made up of people who are also living in pride. I see it among my brothers and sisters living in the same community as I am; and I see it in the individuals living all around the world—those who've achieved the start of equality, and those forced to summon the strength to stand against the firing squad of hatred in order to protect who they are. I stand in solidarity with these warriors. My pride allows me to do that.

Of course, for me, my pride is lived most overtly every summer, as I march along the streets of my city in my rainbow garb, walkie talkie at my side. While productively “disagreeing” with the police escort on how fast or slow my parade will be, or whether that Dyke on a Bike is in fact allowed to be topless in public, I am in the exact position I was born to be in. I am leading my Pride parade—my community's Pride Parade—into the streets of allies and protesters, supporters and haters. I am being me. All of me. And this is how I live Pride, 365.



From Darkness to Light

By Sridhar Rangayan

Kashish Mumbai International Queer Film Festival, which is now considered one of the biggest Pride events in South Asia, was the result of a simple dream—a dream to mainstream queer visibility.

But the antiquated anti-sodomy law Sec 377 of the Indian penal code (which criminalized homosexuality) was a major barrier to its success for years. The law not only prevented organizing of large public LGBT events in public spaces, but also scared the LGBT community itself—many people were simply afraid to come out and participate openly in events that did occur. This also meant that non-queer individuals rarely got a chance to attend LGBT events and form a better understanding of queer people and queer culture.

All of this changed on July 2, 2009, when the Delhi High Court—in a landmark judgement—struck down the anti-sodomy law, thereby decriminalizing consenting same-sex relationships between adults. It was a momentous step forward for an Indian LGBT movement that had been battling for more than two decades to gain visibility and equal rights on legal, political, and social fronts. The verdict not only encouraged gay, lesbian, and transgender people to come out of the closet, but also for society at large to be more open in discussing issues around homosexuality.

Suddenly, it was the right time for a queer film festival on an international scale to be launched. Still, many multiplex chains were apprehensive. After all,



it was just a few years earlier, in 1998, when Deepa Mehta's lesbian-themed film *Fire* had spurred riots that led to more than one theater being burned to the ground. Yet, after much convincing, a progressive multiplex chain agreed to come on board and offer up their venue for the festival.

And that's how the Kashish Mumbai International Queer Film Festival was born in April 2010. The first occurrence, a four-day festival held at two venues, saw an astounding audience turnout of 3,200 men and women. The festival was even attended by several Bollywood celebrities, and throughout the entertainment community, actors, filmmakers, and critics were all extremely supportive. Kashish created a huge stir in the media for being the first-ever queer film festival in India. It was all the more impressive since it was also held in a mainstream theater with clearance from the government. Across the globe, more than 120 different print, TV, and online news agencies covered the festival.

Over the next two years, Kashish grew bigger, bolder, and queerer. The 2011 festival screened 124 films from 23 countries; the 2012 event screened

120 films from 30 countries. And the audiences continued to grow, with the festival attracting 6,225 in 2011 and 7,200 the following year. Most surprising of all were the audience demographics, with the festival catering to an increasing non-LGBT audience—27% in 2010, 32% in 2011, and 34% in 2012.

But everything is not rosy yet. The dream is still incomplete. While we have seen some corporations coming forward to support our festival over the past two years, fundraising for the festival is still a serious challenge. Companies and brands are still wary and not convinced by the market potential of the “pink rupee.” The stigma associated with LGBT events still deters many people and companies from associating with us.

It only proves that there is a long road—and many challenges ahead—in mainstreaming queer visibility. Social taboos and stigma are deeply rooted and will take a great amount of advocacy across various platforms to overcome the barriers. But we surge ahead with determination! The dream unspools as a community marches ahead—from darkness to light.



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NORTHERN PRIDE

By Chris Ellis

Prides from across the country gathered in Ottawa this past March when Capital Pride hosted the Fierté Canada Pride and InterPride Region 7 conference and annual general meeting (the ninth since FCP was founded in 2004).

The largest FCP event ever, the event attracted more than 80 delegates from more than 18 organizations—many from new member Prides, including Simcoe and Durham in Ontario, Quebec City, and Saskatchewan's Prince Albert Q-Network.

Workshops offered at FCP conferences often include strategies on how to gain and maintain sponsors, and run an efficient organization; and the mechanics of putting on a festival.

A significant youth contingent was in attendance, most notably from Brockville, Ontario, whose entire board is under 20 years old. Set in the scenic Thousand Islands, that festival's third annual parade is planned for July 20.

And even with all the work that was being done, delegates didn't spend the entire weekend in meeting rooms, either. Many took advantage of their time in the National Capital Region to visit world-class museums and tour Canada's Parliament. Ottawa City Hall was the scene for a hot music and fine food-filled gala party presented by TD bank and produced by Sebastien Provost (of House of SAS). It was organized for conference-goers and members of the local community alike.

FCP President Sandi Stetson is pleased at the interest in Pride she's seeing from across the country. "Going into the InterPride conference in Montreal this October and next year's FCP conference in Winnipeg, we are set to continue growing our membership. The future is very bright for the national association of Pride organizations."

There's No Place Like Pride By Jeanne Gainsburg

My first Pride ever was in 2004, and I was definitely not family. I was a newbie to the LGBT community, a relatively clueless straight person just beginning to understand what I could contribute to the fight for LGBT equality. I pulled my 7-year-old daughter in a wagon in the Rochester Pride Parade, surprised that the only thing I found offensive was the protesters, who targeted me as the parent of a young child and screamed ungodly things through their bullhorns. When the parade was over, I watched the festival from outside the gate, not sure if my daughter and I would even be welcome.

Fast-forward to 2007. I am now employed as the outreach coordinator at the Gay Alliance, Rochester, New York's center for LGBT education, outreach, and services. One day, I am out at a work lunch with a transman and two lesbians. At the restaurant we spot a Gay Alliance board member and we invite him to join us, but he excuses himself, stating that he is having lunch with his wife. "His wife?" one of the lesbians says. "I thought he was family." I remember being shocked and angered by the

comment. A dedicated Gay Alliance board member and ally was not considered family? What this meant, of course, was that despite my three years of work fighting for LGBT equality, I was not family, either.

This year, the Gay Alliance and the Rochester Pride Picnic is 40 years old! It's our Ruby Anniversary, and the Rochester Pride theme is "There's No Place Like Pride," inspired by the fabulous film *The Wizard of Oz*.

For many years now, I have been the Pride volunteer coordinator, so I will be there, no doubt dressed up like the wicked witch or a flying monkey, running around and feeling very much a part of this amazing community. I look back at my decade-long journey from outsider looking in to becoming an integral part of the adventure, and I realize that Pride has never been about exclusion or individual identities. It's about our commonality, our strength, our unity, and our vision for the future. Somehow, without even realizing when it happened, I know in my heart that I have become family. Like Dorothy, I had the power within me all along.

PRIDE IS A...

PROTEST

By Ray Lam

As we march through the streets of Vancouver with our rainbow flags, short shorts, costumes, and feather boas, we remember that during the other 364 days of the year, walking down these same streets with the people we love can take a great amount of courage.

Equality written into law is far from equality ingrained in society. However, LGBT equality has come so far, so fast, that it's easy to forget how new and fragile our rights really are.

In just a few short decades, the queer community has made several lifetimes worth of accomplishments. The equality we enjoy every day is a gift from the hundreds of thousands of volunteers that stood up when it counted. But our community cannot forget these struggles, and we absolutely cannot become complacent. Pride is, by every definition, a protest.

When almost 700,000 people take to streets in the largest parade and festival in the city, we send a clear message that the contributions of queer people are integral. When politicians of all stripes—and hundreds of thousands of allies—join Vancouver's queer community for more than three decades of celebrations without a single incident, we show the world exactly what we stand for: peace, love, and equality.

As we celebrate 35 years of Pride in Vancouver, we will reflect on those accidental activists that built our queer communities with their unabashed pride. The Vancouver Pride Society will attempt to put a face and a person behind the heroic stories of change that built our community. Pride 365 means celebrating what really matters: people. The everyday heroes, who give their time to improve our

communities, refuse to be silent or complacent, and stand up for equality. Whether you're the only gay in the village or a small Pride group in a transphobic and/or homophobic environment, knowing that you are not alone is a powerful thing.

A mother marching with her son carrying a sign that read "Parents of Gays: Unite in Support of Our Children" founded PFLAG. By some accounts, a drag queen who said enough is enough and threw her heels at an officer started the modern-day LGBT movement at Stonewall. And a bookstore that refused to accept discrimination changed the course of Canadian law. Being queer makes us fellow travelers—but it's the moments we share that make us a community. In a movement, it is often the stance you didn't know you took that creates real, lasting change.



By Chris Ellis

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comment. A dedicated Gay Alliance board member and ally was not considered family? What this meant, of course, was that despite my three years of work fighting for LGBT equality, I was not family, either.

This year, the Gay Alliance and the Rochester Pride Picnic is 40 years old! It's our Ruby Anniversary, and the Rochester Pride theme is "There's No Place Like Pride," inspired by the fabulous film *The Wizard of Oz*.

For many years now, I have been the Pride volunteer coordinator, so I will be there, no doubt dressed up like the wicked witch or a flying monkey, running around and feeling very much a part of this amazing community. I look back at my decade-long journey from outsider looking in to becoming an integral part of the adventure, and I realize that Pride has never been about exclusion or individual identities. It's about our commonality, our strength, our unity, and our vision for the future. Somehow, without even realizing when it happened, I know in my heart that I have become family. Like Dorothy, I had the power within me all along.

PRIDE IS A...

PROTEST

By Ray Lam

As we march through the streets of Vancouver with our rainbow flags, short shorts, costumes, and feather boas, we remember that during the other 364 days of the year, walking down these same streets with the people we love can take a great amount of courage.

Equality written into law is far from equality ingrained in society. However, LGBT equality has come so far, so fast, that it's easy to forget how new and fragile our rights really are.

In just a few short decades, the queer community has made several lifetimes worth of accomplishments. The equality we enjoy every day is a gift from the hundreds of thousands of volunteers that stood up when it counted. But our community cannot forget these struggles, and we absolutely cannot become complacent. Pride is, by every definition, a protest.

When almost 700,000 people take to streets in the largest parade and festival in the city, we send a clear message that the contributions of queer people are integral. When politicians of all stripes—and hundreds of thousands of allies—join Vancouver's queer community for more than three decades of celebrations without a single incident, we show the world exactly what we stand for: peace, love, and equality.

As we celebrate 35 years of Pride in Vancouver, we will reflect on those accidental activists that built our queer communities with their unabashed pride. The Vancouver Pride Society will attempt to put a face and a person behind the heroic stories of change that built our community. Pride 365 means celebrating what really matters: people. The everyday heroes, who give their time to improve our

communities, refuse to be silent or complacent, and stand up for equality. Whether you're the only gay in the village or a small Pride group in a transphobic and/or homophobic environment, knowing that you are not alone is a powerful thing.

A mother marching with her son carrying a sign that read "Parents of Gays: Unite in Support of Our Children" founded PFLAG. By some accounts, a drag queen who said enough is enough and threw her heels at an officer started the modern-day LGBT movement at Stonewall. And a bookstore that refused to accept discrimination changed the course of Canadian law. Being queer makes us fellow travelers—but it's the moments we share that make us a community. In a movement, it is often the stance you didn't know you took that creates real, lasting change.

The State of the Global Pride Movement

By Cain Williamson

Pride events—whether they take the form of celebrations, protests, or marches—are intended to raise the visibility LGBTI people as an oppressed minority. And each event, wherever it is held, is a profound political statement because visibility is the first step toward empowerment. Pride events broadcast to the world that We're here, we're queer, and we will no longer continue to be invisible or accept second-class citizenship. And it's not just in the U.S. The determination of the global LGBTI population to not simply go away or be legislated out of existence is growing around the globe.

With great fortitude, the LGBTI equality movement has made substantial progress in North America, Western Europe, Australia, and South America. There is even growing interest in the movement in Eastern Europe following the fall of totalitarian regimes toward the end of the last century. However, there are still large parts of the world where being LGBTI can be dangerous and even deadly.

Throughout most of the Caribbean, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia, LGBTI people are discriminated against and even openly persecuted. Nationalists, fascists, neo-nazis, religious fundamentalists and other right-wing groups, all of whom have strong homophobic tendencies, are on the rise around the world. This is particularly scary for LGBTI people because these groups are often united in their determination to prevent Pride activity of any kind from occurring. This makes Pride organizing, and LGBTI human rights activism, difficult, dangerous, and all too often...fatal.

In an attempt to better understand the state of the global Pride movement, InterPride has created a Pride Hostility Scale and ranked each country in the world on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being least hostile and 5 being most hostile to LGBTI people and Pride event organizing. The scores assigned to each country were based on data gathered from the State-Sponsored Homophobia Report produced by ILGA World. In this report, data on the following factors are maintained on a country by country basis.

FACTORS CONSIDERED IN THE PRIDE HOSTILITY INDEX

1. The Legality of Homosexual Acts
2. Disparities in the Age of Consent for LGBTI and Non-LGBTI people
3. Recognition of Same-Sex Partnerships
4. Existence of the Death Penalty for Homosexual Acts
5. Existence of Employment Anti-Discrimination Laws
6. Existence of Gay Adoption Rights
7. Existence of Hate Crimes Provisions
8. Existence of Anti-Discrimination Laws Based on Gender Identity
9. Gender Recognition After Sex Reassignment Surgery

Additionally, InterPride has compiled data on local populations as well as Pride events produced in each country. As you can see from the table below, less than 25% of the world's population lives in a country where it would be considered absolutely or relatively easy and safe to produce a Pride event, while at the same time approximately 95% of the world's known Pride events take place in those same countries. Sadly, this means that huge percentages of the world's population live in places where being an out LGBTI person is either difficult or impossible—making advocating for LGBTI human rights nearly impossible. As a result, a vicious cycle of oppression is created. This is a cycle that InterPride and its member Pride organizations can help to break.

At InterPride, we and our members will continue to fight for the end of human rights abuses and for full cultural, social, and legal equality for LGBTI and other oppressed people. But we can't do it alone. We depend on the support of every individual who has ever attended and been positively impacted by a Pride event. It is our collective responsibility to change the world. So please, speak out when you see injustice, continue to attend and volunteer at your local Pride, and donate to InterPride or your local Pride chapter. This way, we can as a society continue to make the world a better place for all LGBTI people, no matter who they are or where in the world they live.

GLOBAL STATISTICS BASED ON PRIDE HOSTILITY SCALE

HOSTILITY SCORE	COUNTRIES #	%	POPULATION #	%	PRIDE EVENTS #	%
1	9	3.95%	289,053,000	4.21%	91	19.74%
2	20	8.77%	357,945,000	5.21%	82	17.79%
3	33	14.47%	886,653,838	12.91%	268	58.13%
4	92	40.35%	2,703,401,777	39.35%	18	3.90%
5	74	32.46%	2,632,763,651	38.32%	2	0.43%

CALENDAR

UNITED STATES

Alabama

MOBILE

PRIDE 365 EVERY DAY, ALL DAY
May 4
mobilealabamapride.com

Alaska

ANCHORAGE

ALASKA PRIDE
June 6–18
identityinc.org

Arizona

PHOENIX

PHOENIX PRIDE FESTIVAL 2013-
EQUALITY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL
April 6–7
phoenixpride.org

SEDONA

SEDONA/ VERDE VALLEY PRIDE
FESTIVAL, WE ARE ONE!
SEPTEMBER 27–29
sedonagaypride.org

TUCSON

TUCSON PRIDE
October 12
tucsonpride.org

Arkansas

CONWAY

10TH ANNUAL CONWAY PRIDE
PARADE AND FESTIVAL
June 2
conwaypride.com

California

EUREKA

2013 HUMBOLDT PRIDE
PARADE & FESTIVAL
September 14
humboldtpride.org

LONG BEACH

30 YEARS PROUD
May 18–19
longbeachpride.com

SAN DIEGO

FREEDOM TO LOVE & MARRY
July 12–14
sdpride.org

SAN FRANCISCO

FOLSOM STREET FAIR
September 29
folsomstreetevents.org
SAN FRANCISCO PRIDE
CELEBRATION AND PARADE
June 29 and 30
sfpride.org

SAN JOSE

STRENGTH IN DIVERSITY
August 17–18
sanjosepride.com

Florida

FORT LAUDERDALE

JOURNEY TO EQUALITY
June 22–23
stonewallsummerpride.com

FORT LAUDERDALE
THE FUTURE IS OURS

March 9–10
pridesouthflorida.org

GAINESVILLE
GAINESVILLE PRIDE PARADE
AND FESTIVAL

October 26
gainesvillepride.org

JACKSONVILLE
RIVER CITY PRIDE CELEBRATION

October 12–20
rivercitypride.com

NEW SMYRNA BEACH
VOLUSIA PRIDE 2013

October 26
volusiapride.org

OCALA
OCALA PRIDE FEST 2013

October 5
ocalapride.org

ORLANDO
COME OUT WITH PRIDE
ORLANDO 2013

October 1–6
comeoutwithpride.com
2013 ORLANDO BLACK
PRIDE WEEK
May 28–June 2
orlandoblackpride.com

SARASOTA
PRIDE FEST 2013...

EQUALITY FOR ALL
October 19
sarasotapride.org

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
(CHARLOTTE, LEE & COLLIER
COUNTIES)**

PRIDE365–PRIDE-SWFL
CELEBRATES 5 YEARS!
October 12
pride-swfl.org

TALLAHASSEE
TALLAHASSEE PRIDEFEST 2013

April 14–20
tallahasseepride.com

TAMPA BAY
PRIDE CARNIVALE

June 26–30
stpetepride.com

Georgia

ATHENS
ATHENS PRIDE WEEKEND

September 12–15
athenspride.com

ATLANTA
ATLANTA PRIDE FESTIVAL

October 12–13
atlantapride.org

AUGUSTA
AUGUSTA PRIDE FESTIVAL

June 20–23
prideaugusta.org

VALDOSTA
SOUTH GEORGIA PRIDE
FESTIVAL

September 21
southgapride.com

Hawaii

HONOLULU
GAY PRIDE FESTIVAL 2013

May 30–June 1
honolulupff

HONOLULU
HONOLULU PRIDE: STAND UP,
STAND OUT, STAND PROUD

June 1
honolulupride.org

Idaho

BOISE

BOISE PRIDE
Mid-June
facebook.com/boisepride

MOSCO
PALOUSE PRIDE

August 9–10
inlandoasis.org

POCATELLO
POCATELLO PRIDE

June–July
facebook.com/pocatellopride

Illinois

CHICAGO
CHICAGO 44TH ANNUAL
PRIDE PARADE

June 30
chicagopridecalendar.org

Indiana

EVANSVILLE
PRIDE PICNIC

June 9
tsagl.org

FORT WAYNE
FORT WAYNE PRIDE

July 26–27
fwpride.org

INDIANAPOLIS
CIRCLE CITY IN PRIDE

June 1–9
indyprideinc.org

SPENCER
2013 SPENCER PRIDE FESTIVAL

June 1
spencerpride.org

Iowa

DAVENPORT
LIVING OUT LOUD

June 1–2
qcpride.org

Kansas

WICHITA
OUR COMMUNITY A TO Z

September 19–29
wichitapride.org

Kentucky

LOUISVILLE
KENTUCKIANA PRIDE FESTIVAL

June 14–15
kypride.com

LOUISVILLE
UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY

June 6–9
derbycityblackpride.org

Louisiana

BATON ROUGE
BATON ROUGE PRIDE FEST 2013

June 15
brpridefest.com

NEW ORLEANS
NEW ORLEANS PRIDE 2013

June 21–24
PrideNewOrleans.org

**PRIDE NEW ORLEANS
CELEBRATION**

June 17–24
neworleanspride.org

Maryland

ANNAPOLIS
CHESAPEAKE PRIDE FESTIVAL

August 3
chesapeakepridefestival.org

BALTIMORE
EVOLUTION 2013

October 6–13
blackpridebaltimore.org

Massachusetts

BOSTON
BOSTON PRIDE WEEK

May 31–June 9
bostonpride.org

NORTHAMPTON
OUT AT THE POOLSIDE

August 4
lgbtcoalitionwma.org

NORTHAMPTON
NOHO PRIDE PARADE AND RALLY

May 4
nohopride.org

WORCESTER
WORCESTER PRIDE PARADE
AND CELEBRATION

September 1–8
worcesterpride.org

Michigan

DETROIT
FESTIVAL AND PARADE

June 8–9
Motorcitypride.org

DETROIT
MOTOR CITY PRIDE 2013

June 8–9
motorcitypride.org

Minnesota

MANKATO
MANKATO PRIDEFEST

September 6–7
scmnpride.org

MINNEAPOLIS/ST PAUL
TWIN CITIES PRIDE CELEBRA-
TION—I HAVE PRIDE

June 23–30
tcpride.org

Missouri

COLUMBIA
MID-MISSOURI PRIDEFEST

August 18
midmopride.com

ST. LOUIS
ST. LOUIS LGBT PRIDEFEST

2013
June 29–30
pridestl.org

Montana

BOZEMAN
MONTANA STATE PRIDE—HOSTED
BY BUTTE

June 14–16
montanapride.org

New Jersey

COLLINGSWOOD
ROCK THE RAINBOW
PRIDE PICNIC

September 12–15
snigaypride.org

MAPLEWOOD
NORTH JERSEY PRIDE FESTIVAL

June 9
northjerseypride.org

New Mexico

**LOS RANCHOS
DE ALBUQUERQUE**

LOS RANCHOS PRIDE
June 2
sinatradevine.org

SANTA FE
SANTA FE PRIDE KEEPING PRIDE
ALIVE 365

June 14–23
santafehra.org

New York

NEW YORK CITY
NYC PRIDE

June 28–30
nycpride.org

SYRACUSE
PRIDE 365

June 15
cnypride.org

North Carolina

ASHEVILLE
BLUE RIDGE PRIDE

October 4–5
blueridgepride.com

CHARLOTTE
G.R.O.W. U.P. GAY RIGHTS
OPENLY WORKING TOWARD
UNITY AND PEACE

July 15–21
charlotteblackgaypride.com

CHARLOTTE
CHARLOTTE PRIDE FESTIVAL
& PARADE

August 24–25
charlottepride.org

NAGS HEAD, OUTER BANKS
OBX PRIDEFEST 2013
September 13–15
obxpridefest.com

RALEIGH
EXPRESS YOURSELF 2013
July 25–28
shadesofpride.org

Ohio

CINCINNATI
CINCINNATI PRIDE PARADE
AND FESTIVAL
June 29
cincinnati.priderg.org

CLEVELAND
CLEVELAND PRIDE 2013 25TH
SILVER ANNIVERSARY PARADE,
RALLY & FESTIVAL
June 29
clevelandpride.org

COLUMBUS
STONEWALL COLUMBUS PRIDE
FESTIVAL AND PARADE
June 21–23
columbuspride.org

Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA CITY
OKC PRIDE 2013
May 17–19
okcpride.org

Oregon

BEND
BEND PRIDE
June
humandignitycoalition.org

CORVALLIS
PRIDE CORVALLIS
June
pridecorvallis.com

EUGENE
EUGENE/SPRINGFIELD
PRIDE FESTIVAL
August 10
eugenepride.org

HERMITSON
HERMITSON PRIDE
June/July
umalt.com

PORTLAND
ANNUAL PORTLAND PRIDE
WATERFRONT FESTIVAL AND
PARADE
June 15–16
pridenw.org
PORTLAND PRIDE FESTIVAL
AND PARADE
June 15–26
pridenw.org
PDX LATINO GAY PRIDE
July 20–21
latinogaypridepdx.com

SALEM
CAPITOL PRIDE
August
capitolpride.org

Pennsylvania

ALLENTOWN
PRIDE IN THE PARK 2013
August 18
prideglv.org

LANCASTER
LANCASTER PA PRIDE 2013
June 15
lancasterpapride.com

NEW HOPE
NEW HOPE CELEBRATES PRIDE
May 12–19
newhopecelebrates.com

PHILADELPHIA
PRIDE DAY
June 9
PhillyPride.org

PITTSBURGH
PITTSBURGH PRIDE—I WANNA
MARRY YOU
June 7–16
pittsburghpride.org

Rhode Island

PROVIDENCE
RI PRIDEFEST & ILLUMINATED
NIGHTTIME PARADE: LOVE
FORWARD
June 15
prideri.com

South Carolina

CHARLESTON
2013 CHARLESTON
PRIDE FESTIVAL
July 29–August 4
charlestonpridefestival.org

COLUMBIA
24TH ANNUAL SC PRIDE
FESTIVAL WEEK
Sept. 22–29
scpride.org

SPARTANBURG
UPSTATE PRIDE MARCH
AND FESTIVAL
September 14
upstatepridesc.org/pride2010/upstate_pride_sc.html

Tennessee

COOKEVILLE
LOVE IS NEVER WRONG
May 4
facebook.com/ucpride

KNOXVILLE
KNOXVILLE PRIDEFEST 2013
PARADE & FESTIVAL
June 22
knoxvillepridefest.com

MEMPHIS
10TH ANNUAL MID-SOUTH
PRIDE FESTIVAL AND PARADE
October 12
midsouthpride.org

NASHVILLE
NASHVILLE PRIDE FEST
June 15
nashvillepride.org

Texas

DALLAS
30TH ANNIVERSARY ALAN ROSS
TEXAS FREEDOM PARADE
September 15
dallasprideparade.com

HOUSTON
HOUSTON PRIDE WEEK
June 21–30
pridehouston.org

HOUSTON
WONDERLAND HOUSTON
June 28
wonderlandhouston.com

EL PASO
6TH ANNUAL EL PASO SUN CITY
PRIDE CELEBRATION
June 5–9
epscp.org

Virginia

NORFOLK
OUT IN THE PARK 25/
PRIDEFEST 2013
August 10
hamptonroadspride.org

RICHMOND
PRIDEFEST 2013
September 28
vapride.org

ROANOKE
PRIDE IN THE PARK 2013
September 21
roanokepride.org

Washington

BELLINGHAM
BELLINGHAM-WHATCOM PRIDE
July 11–15
bhampride.org

BREMERTON
KITSAP PRIDE
July 21
kitsappride.org

CENTRALIA
CENTRALIA/CHEHALIS PRIDE
May
centralia.edu

ELLENSBURG
CWU-ELLENSBURG PRIDE
May–June
facebook.com/cwuequal

KENT
KENT PRIDE
September
facebook.com/kentpride

OLYMPIA
CAPITAL CITY PRIDE
June 22–23
capitalcitypride.net

SEATTLE
CAPITOL HILL PRIDE
FESTIVAL 2013
June 29
capitolhillpridefestival.info
PRIDE ASIA SEATTLE 2013
June 23
prideasiaseattle.com

CAPITOL HILL PRIDE FEST
June 29
capitolhillpridefestival.info

SEATTLE PRIDE PARADE
June 30
seattlepride.org

NUBIAN PRIDE
Throughout 2013
nubianprideproductions.webs.com

SOUTH PARK PRIDE
June
thesouthparknews.com

EMERALD CITY BLACK PRIDE
August
facebook.com/ecblackpride.com

SEATTLE PRIDE FEST
June 30
seattlepridefest.com

SPOKANE
22ND SPOKANE LGBTQA PRIDE
PARADE AND RAINBOW FESTIVAL
June 8
outspokane.org

SPOKANE RAINBOW FESTIVAL
June 8
outspokane.com

TACOMA
OUT IN THE PARK
July 13
tacomapridefestival

TRI CITIES AREA
MID-COLUMBIA PRIDE
July
midcolumbiapride.org

VANCOUVER
SATURDAY IN THE PARK
July
gayvancouverwa.org

YAKIMA
YAKIMA VALLEY PRIDE
June–July
gayakima.com

West Virginia

CHARLESTON
WEST VIRGINIA PRIDE
WEEK 2013
May 31–June 9
facebook.com/rainbowpridewv

Wisconsin

MILWAUKEE
PRIDEFEST 2013
June 7–9
pridefest.com

Wyoming

CHEYENNE
RENDEVOUS-A 5 DAY
LGBT CAMP OUT
August 7–11
wyomingequality.org

AUSTRALIA

Victoria

MELBOURNE

PRIDE MARCH VICTORIA
February 2, 2014
pridemarch.com.au

AUSTRIA

Vienna

VIENNA

UNITED IN PRIDE
June 6–15
regenbogenparade.at

Tirol

INNSBRUCK

CSD-INNSBRUCK
June 6–9
csd-innsbruck.at

BELGIUM

Brussels

BRUSSELS

RAINBOW FAMILIES
May 18
thepride.be

CANADA

Alberta

CALGARY

PRIDE PARADE & FESTIVAL
September 1
pridecalgary.ca

Alberta

EDMONTON

EDMONTON PRIDE FESTIVAL
2013–STAND PROUD!
June 7–16
edmontonpride.ca

British Columbia

KELOWNA

2013 OKANAGAN PRIDE
FESTIVAL
August 11–17
okanaganpride.com

British Columbia

WHISTLER

GAYWHISTLER'S WINTERPRIDE–
LGBT SKI/SNOWBOARD WEEK
January 26–February 2, 2014
gaywhistler.com

Manitoba

WINNIPEG

PRIDE WINNIPEG FESTIVAL
May 24–June 2
pridewinnipeg.com

New Brunswick

MONCTON

PRIDE WEEK
August 18–24
fiertemonctonpride.ca

Ontario

BARRIE

SIMCOE PRIDE 2013
August 3–11
simcoepride.com

Ontario

BROCKVILLE

BROCKVILLE PRIDE WEEK
July 14–21
sites.google.com/site/brockvillepride

KITCHENER

TRI-PRIDE LIVE MUSIC FESTIVAL:
ONE HEART, ONE COMMUNITY
May 22–June 2
tri-pride.ca

OSHAWA

50 SHADES OF PRIDE
May 31–June 9
pridedurham.com

ST. CATHARINES

PRIDE IN THE PARK
June 8
prideniagara.com

SUDBURY

SUDBURY PRIDE FESTIVAL
July 14–21
sudburypride.com

Quebec

QUEBEC

QUEBEC CITY PRIDE FESTIVAL
August 29–September 1
glbtquebec.org

Saskatchewan

PRINCE ALBERT

PRINCE ALBERT PRIDE WEEK–
LOVE BUILDS
June 3–9
facebook.com/groups/317282078290887/?fref=ts

REGINA

QUEEN CITY PRIDE:
WHAT'S YOUR COLOUR?
June 17–23
queencitypride.ca

CHINA

Hong Kong

HONG KONG

LGBT EQUALITY
November
hkpride.net

GERMANY

Baden-Württemberg

KONSTANZ

LAKE OF LOVE–LOVE ON ALL
SHORES
July 6–13
csd-konstanz.de

ULM

3. CSD ULM.NEU-ULM
August 9–11
csd-ulm.de

Bavaria

MUNICH

PRIDEWEEK, PRIDEPARADE,
STREET-PARTY, RATHAUSCLUB-
BING (OFFICIAL PARTY EVENT IN
THE MUNICH TOWNHALL)
July 6–14
csd-munich.de

Berlin

BERLIN

ENOUGH RHETORIC! MARCH!
VOTE! CHANGE!
June 22
csd-berlin.de
CSD BERLIN PARADE & FINALE
June 22
csd-berlin.de

BERLIN

CSD AUF DER SPREE 2013/CSD
ON THE SPREE
June 20
prideweek-berlin.de

North Rhine-Westphalia

COLOGNE

COLOGNEPRIDE 2013
June 22–July 07
colognepride.de

LUEBECK

LUEBECK PRIDE
August 17–18
luebeck-pride.de

Saxony

LEIPZIG

L(I)EBEN UND L(I)EBEN LASSEN
July 12–20
csd-leipzig.de

HUNGARY

Budapest

BUDAPEST

BUDAPEST PRIDE FESTIVAL
June 30–July 7
budapestpride.hu

INDIA

Maharashtra

MUMBAI

KASHISH MUMBAI INTERNA-
TIONAL QUEER FILM FESTIVAL
May 22–26
mumbaiqueerfest.com

MEXICO

BAJA CALIFORNIA

TIJUANA

22 JUNIO 2013 TIJUANA
June 22
tijuana pride.com

NEDERLAND

Noord Holland

AMSTERDAM

AMSTERDAM GAY PRIDE
JULY 27–AUGUST 4
weareproud.nl

NORWAY

Oslo

OSLO

OSLO PRIDE 2013
June 21–30
oslopride.no

PHILIPPINES

NCR

QUEZON CITY

QUEZON CITY PRIDE MARCH
December 7
lgbtschrianchurch.wordpress.com

PORTUGAL

Lisboa

LISBOA

ARRAIAL PRIDE 2013
July 6
ilga-portugal.pt/arraialpride/2013

RUSSIA

St.Petersburg

SAINT-PETERSBURG

FOURTH ST.PETERSBURG
LGBT PRIDE
June 29
spb-pride.ru

SERBIA

Serbia

BELGRADE

LOVE. NORMALLY.
September 20–29
parada.rs

SPAIN

CATALUNYA

BARCELONA

PRIDE BARCELONA
June 28–30
pridebarcelona.org

SWITZERLAND

Zurich

ZURICH

Zurich Pride Festival
June 1–9
zurichpridefestival.ch

UNITED KINGDOM

Greater Manchester

MANCHESTER

MANCHESTER PRIDE
BIG WEEKEND
August 23–26
manchesterpride.com

Berkshire

READING

READING LGTB PRIDE PARADE
2013
August 31
readingpride.co.uk

DIVERSITY. IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK. AT MACY'S, IT'S PART OF EVERYTHING WE DO.

Macy's Celebrates **PRIDE+JOY**

**CELEBRATE
FAMILY + FRIENDS
LOVE + LIFE
EQUALITY + RESPECT**

MACY'S IS PROUD TO JOIN THE PARADE
ACROSS AMERICA IN HONOR OF
NATIONAL LGBTQ PRIDE MONTH.
WE THINK IT'S REALLY
SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE.

FOR DETAILS, GO TO
MACYS.COM/CELEBRATE



FOLLOW THE RAINBOW

A ROADMAP OF LGBT HISTORY ACROSS THE U.S.A

BY CAT PERRY



The courage of one can change the future of many. That fact has defined gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender resistance decade after decade. But history has a way of erasing itself from the crumbling facades of bustling cities and languid small towns and landscapes. Still, the queer-story remains. This travelogue illuminates the places right in your backyard—and across the country—where GLBT men and women have stood for the right to love, live, laugh, and love...as gays, and as Americans. Whether you're planning a weekend roadtrip, or a cross-country adventure, use it as a guide to trace the rainbow of our shared gay pride.

MIDWEST

INDIANA

RYAN WHITE GRAVE SITE

(E. 234th Street, Cicero Cemetary, Cicero, IN)

Ryan White was in middle school when he was infected with the HIV virus from a contaminated blood treatment. At the time, the virus was thought of as a "gay man's virus," and because of the insipid stigma, White was expelled. A highly public legal battle ensued and he became the face of the HIV awareness movement. He lived five years longer than doctors predicted, but died in 1990, one month before graduation. Four months later, Congress enacted the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act in his honor. The act is the United States' largest federally funded program for people living with HIV/AIDS.

KINSEY INSTITUTE

(Morrison 313, 1165 E. Third Street, Bloomington, IN)

Alfred C. Kinsey (1894–1956), a biology professor at Indiana University, initiated a massive survey in 1938 that resulted in the famous Kinsey Reports (in 1948 and 1953), which established a numerical scale from 1 to 6 to classify sexual behavior, with "1" indicating exclusive heterosexuality and "6" exclusive homosexuality. Studies here have advanced the understanding of sexuality and sexual health around the globe. kinseyinstitute.org

MINNESOTA

19 BAR

(Loring Park, 19 W. 15th Street, Minneapolis, MN)

The oldest gay bar in the Twin Cities, established in 1956.

19bar.itgo.com

GAY 90S COMPLEX

(408 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, MN)

First patroned by gays and lesbians in 1957; and it's still alive and kicking!

MICHIGAN

DUNES RESORT

(333 Blue Star Highway, Douglas, MI)

Celebrating more than 30 years as the Midwest's largest LGBT resort. Saugatuck-Douglas thrives year-round, but it really heats up between Memorial Day and Labor Day, in town and at Oval Beach in Saugatuck. dunesresort.com and gaysaugatuckdouglas.com

ILLINOIS

CHICAGO GAY AND LESBIAN HALL OF FAME

(3712 North Broadway, Suite 637, Chicago, IL)

Recognizes the achievements of LGBT people and organizations in the Chicago area. glhalloffame.org

GERBER/HART LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

(6500 North Clark Street, Chicago, IL)

The nation's oldest and the Midwest's largest LGBT circulating library, with more than 14,000 volumes, 800 periodical titles, and 100 archival collections, founded in 1981. gerberhart.org

LEATHER ARCHIVES & MUSEUM

(6418 North Greenview Avenue, Chicago, IL)

Houses the largest collection of literature, art, and films about leather, fetishism, sadomasochism, and alternative sexual practices (leatherarchives.org). After getting your kink history on, go show your true colors at the salacious International Mr. Leather, held every year in Chi-town on Memorial Day Weekend (imrl.com).

TALBOTT STREET THEATRE

(2145 N. Talbott Street, Chicago, IL)

It opened as a movie house in 1920 but began morphing into an alternative entertainment venue, welcoming the gay community, since the early 1980s. The current nightclub, which has a Studio 54-style dance floor, replaced the other gay clubs at the same site. Within a 15-block radius you'll find a dozen other gay establishments to get your buzz, grub, and dance on. talbottstreet.com

EAST

MASSACHUSETTS

THE ATLANTIC HOUSE

(6 Masonic Place, Provincetown, MA)

Built in 1798, and a former tavern and always a haven for alternate lifestyles since the early 1900s, the A-House (ahouse.com) is considered by some the oldest gay bar in the country, though it truly only became gay-friendly back in the early '50s. A nude photo of Tennessee Williams strolling on Provincetown beaches hangs in the bar. The 1920s and '30s marked the flourishing of the present-day gay presence in summer-sun-filled Provincetown. Go for Carnival Week. ptown.org/carnival.asp

COLE PORTER'S HOME

(1425 Main Street, Williamstown, MA)

The composer's former home is now a luxury inn with tennis courts, "the largest private swimming pool in the Berkshires," and nature trails.



> Fire Island, NY: The parties, the brunches, the clubs, the laidback beaches! FI is the perfect gay getaway.

NEW YORK

GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS

(446 West 33rd Street, New York City)

The first community-based AIDS service provider in the U.S., it began when six gay men gathered in writer Larry Kramer's living room to discuss the "gay cancer" and raise funds for research. An answering machine at the home of volunteer Rodger McFarlane was the first AIDS hotline, taking 100-plus calls the first night. One year later, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention established the National AIDS Hotline. gmhc.org

JULIUS' BAR

(159 West 10th Street/188 Waverly Place, Greenwich Village, NYC)

As New York City's oldest gay bar, and the Village's oldest bar, drinks were first slung in this nondescript locale starting in 1864. In 1966, Julius' was also the sight of a civil disobedience action, then called a "sip in," fighting the NY State's prohibition on serving alcoholic drinks to gay people. Mattachine Society members staged the sip-in by walking in, identifying themselves as gay, and asking to be served a drink.

OSCAR WILDE BOOKSHOP

(15 Christopher Street, Greenwich Village, NYC)

The first officially recognized bookstore devoted to gay and lesbian authors, it was formerly at 291 Mercer Street and moved to its current location in 1973.

STONEWALL INN

(53 Christopher Street, Greenwich Village, NYC)

The Stonewall Inn truly is "Where Pride began." On June 28, 1969, yet another city-sanctioned raid by the cops at the Stonewall Inn escalated into a full-scale riot when lesbian, gay, transsexual, and drag queen patrons resisted. The rebellion lasted several days and began the LGBT movement as we know it today. One year later, the first Gay Pride Parade, a.k.a. Christopher St. Liberation Day, commemorated the struggle for the rights of queers across the world to live and love as they please. thestonewallinnnyc.com

HOME OF LANGSTON HUGHES

(20 East 127th Street, Harlem, NYC)

Hughes resided here during his adulthood, and the Boston Ivy planted at the poet's request still covers the house. Harlem also was the birthplace of novelist James Baldwin, and the site of "buffet flats," which were commonly patroned by gays and lesbians, and their names referred to the array of options for drinking, smoking, and sexual indulgence that occurred at these private parties.

FIRE ISLAND:

CHERRY GROVE AND THE PINES (South Fork of Long Island)

You won't want to leave this one-of-a-kind LGBT Pleasure Island that's just a short trip from New York City. This car-free haven has two predominantly gay villages where you can saunter from your beach bungalow rental to poolside drag shows and Rococo dance clubs, or just relax on the pristine beaches, where your eyes can take in the candy all day long.

WILLIAM FLANAGAN MEMORIAL CREATIVE PERSONS CENTER

(91 Fairview Avenue, Montauk, NY)

Playright Edward Albee (*Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*) is president of the Edward F. Albee Foundation, Inc., which maintains the William Flanagan Memorial Creative Persons Center, a writers and artists' colony in Montauk, New York. albeefoundation.org



> Stonewall Inn: The history-making bar is located in one NYC's many gayborhoods, in Greenwich Village.

PENNSYLVANIA

ANNUAL REMINDER MARKER

(6th and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia, PA)

Pennsylvania was the first state in the country to erect a historical marker, in 2005, to recognize and celebrate LGBT history. It commemorates the "Annual Reminder," the first public demonstration for LGBT rights, which began in July 1965 (led by activist Barbara Gittings), four years before the Stonewall Riots. Queers of all kinds can expect a great time in this 300-year-old City of Brotherly Love. Just a short walk south of the marker, you can dine, drink, dance, and repeat in Philly's premier gayborhood.

TAVERN ON CAMAC (TOC)

(243 S Camac Street, Philadelphia, PA)

With a startling 90-year history, this is the speakeasy with endless lives. Originally called Maxine's, and a haven for gay men, sailors, and GIs on leave from the 1920s, it was bought by a gay couple and renamed Raffles ('82-'99), and now enjoy its well-earned respect as the TOC ('99-present). This gay Philly cornerstone includes a dance lounge, restaurant, and piano bar. tavernoncamac.com

THE RAVEN

(385 West Bridge Street, New Hope, PA)

A boutique, alternative lifestyle resort for gays and lesbians, this one-of-a-kind all-day party has been running solid since 1979. theravennewhope.com



> Tavern on Camac is one of the oldest gay historic sites in the U.S., located in the heart of Center City, Philadelphia.

WEST/SOUTHWEST

CALIFORNIA

GLBT HISTORY MUSEUM

(4127 18th Street, San Francisco, CA)

The first stand-alone, full-scale museum of its kind in the U.S., this Castro District center is dedicated to collecting and curating the artifacts and icons of San Francisco's 100-year LGBT history. glbthistory.org/museum

SITE OF THE COMPTON'S CAFETERIA RIOT

(101 Taylor Street, at the corner of Turk & Taylor Streets, SF)

Three years before New York City's Stonewall Riots occurred, the Compton Cafeteria in the Tenderloin District was the site of a police raid and subsequent protest that marked a turning point in trans liberation.

CASTRO CAMERA

(600 Castro Street, SF)

One of the most influential sites of the LGBT movement, Castro Camera was owned by Harvey Milk (the first openly gay elected official in California history). His election changed the trajectory of San Francisco and, thus, national politics. Milk was assassinated in November 1978, but his indelible legacy, including the urging of his friend Gilbert Baker to create the rainbow flag—a worldwide LGBT symbol that celebrates its 35th anniversary this year—will forever be the spark of the LGBT movement. Castro Camera is now the home of the Human Rights Campaign Action Center & Store.



> Harvey Milk's Castro Camera, then (as retrofitted for the film *Milk*) and now.

MONA'S 440 CLUB

(440 Broadway Street, SF)

Opened by Mona Sargent Hood as a place for her bohemian friends to hang out, Mona's 440 Club is generally credited as the first lesbian bar in the U.S. Known as a place where "girls could be boys," it gave cross-dressing divas like African American blues songstress Gladys Bentley a stage to charm patrons. The tavern was in operation from 1936 until the late '50s, when police crackdowns forced it to go under. It is now home to an upscale bar and lounge.

HARRY HAY'S HOME

(2328 Cove Avenue, Los Angeles, CA)

Site of the first Mattachine Society (one of the earliest gay rights groups). The society was formed by leading gay activist Harry Hay, along with seven of his friends.

JEWEL'S CATCH ONE

(4067 West Pico Boulevard, L.A.)

It's been home to everything from a Madonna CD release party to Julia Roberts' dancing in *Pretty Woman*, but the real reason this thumping dance club shines is its history as one of the first-ever gay and lesbian bars catering exclusively to African Americans. Opened in 1972, a portion of the proceeds earned today still goes to the gay-friendly nonprofit Village Health Foundation next door.

ONE NATIONAL GAY & LESBIAN ARCHIVES

(909 West Adams Boulevard, L.A.)

The largest repository of LGBTQ materials in the world, with more than two million periodicals, books, film, video/audio recordings, and photographs. onearchives.org

CIRO'S

(8433 Sunset Boulevard, L.A.)

In the late '60s Ciro's started Sunday gay nights—possibly the very first gay tea dances in existence, allowing gay men to dance together, despite the activity being illegal at the time. It became the Comedy Store in 1972.

GLBT VETERANS MEMORIAL

(Desert Memorial Park, Cathedral City, CA)

One of the nation's few landmarks specifically dedicated to fallen LGBT Veterans, dedicated in 2001.

COLORADO

"AMERICA, THE BEAUTIFUL" PLAQUE

(Summit of Pikes Peak, Colorado Springs, CO)

In 1893, Katharine Lee Bates, a lesbian college professor of English, summited Pikes Peak and was inspired to write "America the Beautiful." Published in 1895, it was an instant hit and eventually set to music. With the royalties, she built a house in Wellesley for herself and her partner. The plaque at Pikes Peak summit memorializes Bates' poem.

BOULDER COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

(1750 33rd Street, Boulder, CO)

In 1975, Richard Adams made history when he and his partner became one of the first gay couples in the nation to be granted a marriage license (so Adams could save his partner from being deported). A liberal county clerk issued the couple a marriage license. Colorado's attorney general later declared the marriage invalid, and the couple received a letter from the Immigration and Naturalization Service: "You have failed to establish that a bona fide marital relationship can exist between two faggots." A series of further court battles continued, and the couple moved to Britain in 1985. Eventually they moved back to the U.S., to L.A. The day before Adams' partner died, he told Adams that the most important victory was that they were able to remain a couple.



NEVADA

WASHOE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

(1350 N. Wells Avenue, Reno, NV)

The first gay rodeo was held as a charity fundraising event at the Washoe County Fairgrounds on October 2, 1976. The organizer, Phil Ragsdale, a member of the Imperial Court System, was the Court Emperor of Reno. In time, he came to be regarded as the "Father of Gay Rodeo." The event is now called the Big Horn Rodeo and hosted by the NGRA (Nevada Gay Rodeo Association)—but for those who've ever been, it can still be your first (gay) rodeo! ngra.com

WASHINGTON

KING COUNTY

(Seattle, WA)

The center of LGBT life in the Pacific Northwest, King County was originally named after William Rufus de Vane King, an Alabama politician and slaveowner who became the 13th vice president of the U.S. for a month before dying of pneumonia. King was widely rumored to be lovers with James Buchanan, the 15th U.S. president. Due to his slave ownership, County Councilman Larry Gossett, lobbied the legislature to officially change the county name's honor sake to Martin Luther King Jr. in 2005.

> Pikes Peak



> Founder of the Mattachine Society, Harry Hay (wearing maroon newsie hat).

> San Francisco's GLBT History Museum, located in the Castro District.

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SOUTH

TENNESSEE

PLAY DANCE BAR

(1519 Church Street, Nashville, TN)
The capital of country music goes drag? Touché! Thank Nashville-native Jerry Peek for establishing the city's first drag bar and the Miss Gay America Pageant nearly 38 years ago. Norma Kristie (a.k.a. **Norman Jones**) was the first to be crowned **Miss Gay America**, and, three years later, he bought the franchise from Peek. Today, there are 30 state and regional pageants (and counting) that qualify queens for the national MGA—the competition is fierce! And it all started here.

MISSISSIPPI

HOME OF TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

(523 Main Street, Columbus, MS)
One of the most important American playwrights of the 20th century, (*A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and *The Glass Menagerie*), Williams, born in 1911, spent his early years in this old Victorian mansion. Disillusioned by trying to live as a straight man by his mid-twenties, Williams came out and embraced his homosexuality, having a series of serious relationships that only helped improve the quality and intensity of his work. (Williams' former home now serves as the official Welcome Center for Columbus.)



> TOP: Clothing-optional Island House resort in Key West.

> BOTTOM: New Orleans does Decadence like no other.

FLORIDA

PENSACOLA, FLORIDA SHORE

(Pensacola Beach Boulevard, Pensacola, FL)
The first circuit parties may well have started on the Pensacola coastline, thanks to the men of the "Emma Jones" Society, who used the female name to order porn. The year was 1965. One year later the men went big and hosted a beach party on the Fourth of July; it was an instant hit with local gay men and women. By the end of its run in the early '70s, it had grown into the largest gay gathering in the South at the time.

STONEWALL NATIONAL MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

(1300 East Sunrise Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, FL)
Fort Lauderdale and Miami's South Beach have large gay populations, gay districts, and tons of gay bars, shops, and restaurants. The Stonewall National Museum in Fort Lauderdale houses the largest circulating LGBT book and film program in the U.S. stonewallnationalmuseum.org

PALACE BAR

(1200 Ocean Drive, Miami Beach, FL)
Absolutely fabulous in spirit and location, the Palace Bar also happens to be the longest-running gay bar in South Beach. The nights are salacious and even brunch gets saucy with stellar drag performances. A must-do, honey. palacesouthbeach.com

AIDS MEMORIAL PIER

(White Street Pier, Key West, FL)
For a small town, Key West is big on gay history and culture. Starting with Tennessee Williams in the late '40s, the gay community on this isolated key began to flourish. Places like the clothing-optional, award-winning Island House have given the town a "gay every day" feel. This southernmost town also has an AIDS Memorial Pier, built in 1997. keywestaids.org

GEORGIA

ANSLEY SQUARE

(1492 NE Piedmont Avenue, Atlanta, GA)
In August 1969, just months after the Stonewall riots, police raided a screening of Andy Warhol's *Lonesome Cowboy*, which features five "hot and bothered" men on the open range, at Ansley Mall Mini-Cinema (now Ansley Square). It's still a small hub of LGBT partylife, with "trés gay" bars and clubs.

NORTH CAROLINA

CRAPE MYRTLE FESTIVAL (CMF)

(Various locations, Raleigh, NC)
This nonprofit organization hosts events like monthly CMF events, a Queens Ball, and a Grand Gala (July 26–27) in Chapel Hill to raise funds for gay and lesbian HIV/AIDS service agencies located in the Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill area. crapemyrtlefest.org

LOUISIANA

SOUTHERN DECADENCE FESTIVAL

(French Quarter, Labor Day Weekend, New Orleans, LA)
One hot August afternoon in 1972, an eclectic mix of friends began Southern Decadence as a going away party for a friend named Michael Evers. Revelers were asked to "come as your favorite Southern decadent" character. Now she's all grown up into a world-famous raucous gay celebration, attracting more than 110,000 participants; and it's one of the city's top five tourist events. southerndecadence.net

TEXAS

POLARI FESTIVAL

(1634 E. Cesar Chavez Street, Austin, TX)
Formerly the Austin Gay and Lesbian International Film Festival, and held October 16–20, this is the Southwest's oldest and largest LGBTQI film event, featuring more than 150 films for 26 years. polarifest.com

OILCAN HARRY'S

(211 W. 4th Street, Austin, TX)
Stop by the oldest (and possibly the coolest) gay bar in Austin, located in the alternative Warehouse District. oilcanharrys.com

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

SITE OF THE 1979 LGBT MARCH ON WASHINGTON

(Start, National Mall; end: at the Washington Monument, Washington, D.C.)
Marking the 10th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots and coming in the wake of the lenient jail sentence given to Dan White for the assassination of openly gay San Francisco city supervisor Harvey Milk, the First National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights in October 1979 drew about 75,000 people.

THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

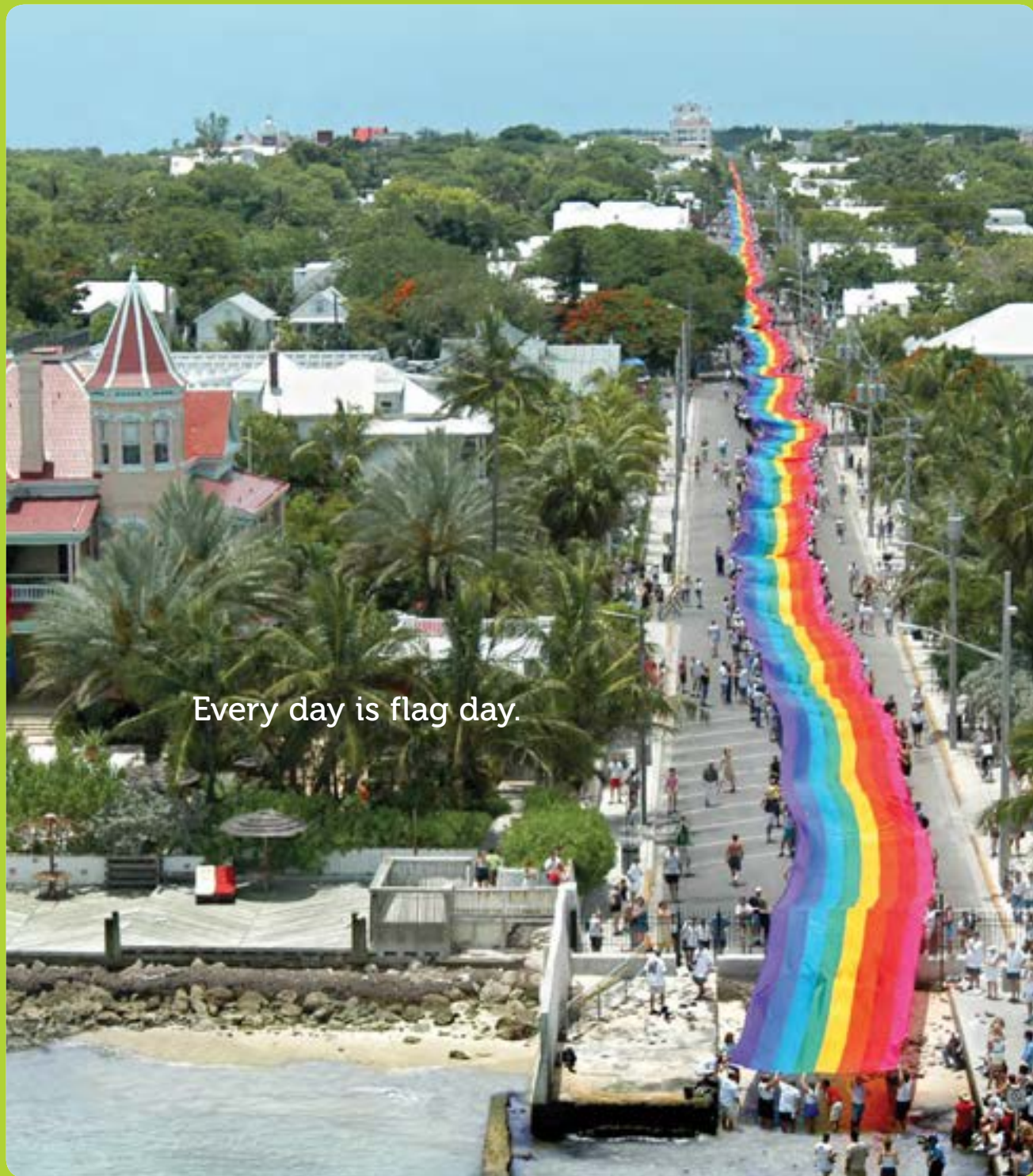
(1640 Rhode Island Ave., N.W.)
Originally home to the largest Jewish human rights organization, the building became HRC's home in 2003, a hub for protecting the rights of LGBT Americans in the heart of the nation's capital.

MATTACHINE SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON (MSW)

(Hay-Adams Hotel, 800 16th St NW, Washington, D.C.)
John Richard "Jack" Nichols (pseudonym Warren Adkins) was an intensely prolific American gay rights activist. Raised in Maryland, Nichols co-founded the MSW in 1961 with Frank Kameny, and they led the first gay rights march on the White House in April 1965. In '67, Nichols became one of the first Americans to talk openly about his homosexuality on national TV on *CBS Reports: The Homosexuals*, a CBS News documentary.



> The first March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights was in 1979.



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HELLA

GAY

OAKLAND

OAKLAND FLORAL DEPOT
FLORA

BY ANNE-CHRISTINE D'ADESKY

**FORGET
THE CASTRO.
“OAKTOWN”
IS THE NEW
WEST COAST
LGBT MECCA.**

IT'S AN UNUSUALLY warm, almost balmy Wednesday night in the East Bay, and already by 9 p.m., the crowd at Somar, one of several sleek late-night “micro lounges” that have cropped up in Oakland in recent years, is stepping onto the dance floor. It's a mixed scene: stylish women in their 20s all glammed up in tight dresses and heels; an older couple sporting African-style dashiki caftans; a few men in business suits who've dropped in for a nightcap; a white woman with grey hair who ambles in with a cane, and soon, is tapping it to the music, getting her groove on. Leaning against a wall, taking in the scene, Chaney Turner, 35, a self-identified producer, artist, and lesbian, nods to the beat. “This is what I'm talkin' about,” she says to a newcomer. “We got everyone coming in here tonight. It's hella gay.”

Welcome to Oakland, the new magnet city for LGBT folks. In recent years, “Oaktown,” as residents call San Francisco's sister city, has undergone a major renaissance, fueled by a combination of both good and bad factors. The good includes a steady influx of artists, innovators, and community-minded people who've migrated to Oakland and discovered a city with a rich heritage of African American, Asian, and other cultures, and a funky, artsy soul. The bad stems from an economic and jobs crisis that has caused longtime residents to leave, changing the profile of a majority African American city celebrated for its diversity and tolerance. A few years ago, in a scene played out across America, the city was dotted with foreclosure signs. Many residents worried that Oakland, struggling to overcome a high crime rate and pockets of steep poverty, would be unable to cope.

But by then, city leaders, including one-time presidential aspirant Mayor Jerry Brown, had already put in motion an ambitious plan to revitalize Oakland. Brown, who served as the city's mayor from 1998 to 2007, is widely credited for attracting \$1 billion in investments to restore several of the city's most famous landmarks, and to invest in a downtown

AND

PHOTO: RUSSELL MONDY

➔ housing plan to attract 10,000 new residents—a long surpassed goal. Today, the Fox Theater glitters over a fast-changing downtown area chock-full of galleries, restaurants, cafés, and small businesses that take up the ground level of luxe dwellings where many newer residents have found leases that are affordable—at least compared to San Francisco. Nearby Jack London Square is a tourist magnet, with a pretty waterfront boardwalk area offering good food, jazz, and free nightly public events, while a newly dubbed “historic” district has also undergone a major makeover. A decade ago, downtown Oakland was dead after business hours. Today, it’s hard to find parking.

Less known is the fact that Oakland, long in the shadows of gay Frisco and that other ’60s bastion, Berkeley, now houses more lesbian households per capita than any other U.S. city, according to a 2010 Gay Atlas survey. A lot of newcomers to Oakland are hoping to buy a first home and nest. They’re part of the national gay—some feel assimilationist—wave that has marked the push for gay marriage. Stop in any Home Depot or Ikea in the East Bay and you’ll see “a hell a lotta gays,” as Chaney puts it. “Hella”—it’s a California thing.

PLENTY OF CREDIT for Oaktown’s transformation should also go to LGBT leaders in successive Oakland municipal administrations and to community councils who have pushed for LGBT inclusion and visibility. Today, the long arteries of Broadway and Telegraph that end in a V right by the Fox Theater frame an area some consider Oakland’s Castro, from 20th street down to the Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, the city’s civic center.

A number of gay-owned and -friendly bars and businesses have set up shop in the area. So too have LGBT and AIDS service and cultural organizations. On Wednesdays, lesbians tend to flock to the Den at the Fox Theater for a beat-heavy dance party that’s all ages and then slip over the Somar, or next door to Make

Westing, a more casual, all-day hangout café space. On the weekends, some enjoy funky Van Cleef, while gay men flock to the Bench and Bar for the black-light tinged hip-hop and R&B party called Club Rimshot, with its requisite toned go-go boys and a whiff of rave energy. Others have made Saturday nights at the New Parish, a live concert venue, the breakout party.

But a lot of LGBT men and women are also partying elsewhere as well, and not necessarily in gay bars. In Oakland now, the big scene is food trucks and “pop up” street and art festivals. That’s where you’re likely to find LGBT artists and chefs making their marks on the local scene. Local gay spots welcome straight clients; the reverse is also true. Gay people often opt for bars with mixed crowds, not just LGBT ones. “What makes Oakland great for gay people is that we are pretty much everywhere,” says Chaney, who’s lived in several parts of the city. “We’re not in one neighborhood. Oakland *is* the gay neighborhood.”

The city also retains its signature diversity and activist heart, one that stems from its identity as a historic center for African American life and struggle, the birthplace of the Black Panther Party (BPP) movement and Angela Davis, and a black-majority city where gangsta rapper Tupac Shakur

was gunned down and now serves as a martyr to young black urban kids. Other ethnic groups have a big history in the city, too. Oakland’s Chinatown is close to the civic center and to Oakland Museum of California, which held a major exhibition of LGBT history last year. Today, Oakland is undergoing an arts renaissance, too. Art Murmur, a monthly gallery art walk, has put Oakland on the global arts map.

AT 61, LONGTIME Oakland resident Wendy Bauman loves the changes that are afoot in the city. A lesbian realtor, Bauman has been selling homes to LGBT families for more than 20 years and confirms that an LGBT tide has hit the Bay Area, though it’s been in the making for years. “There are LGBT people on both sides of the renaissance,” she states. “There are people who have lost homes—no question about it. There are those who have upgraded their houses to make money. There are people who have arrived looking for somewhere to rent or live, and now they might not find it as easily as a few years ago.” Right now, she can’t keep up with the housing boom. “There’s just so much going on,” she says.

Bauman and her partner moved to Fruitvale, an area with a large Mexican American community, many years ago.



“There were 12 other [gay] households on our street,” she recalls. “Everybody knew everybody.” Today, Fruitvale remains a lesbian stronghold, but plenty of gay male and trans parents show up at the school PTA meetings, too. “There are pockets all over Oakland like this,” Bauman says. “They’re all LGBT families. Some of these little pockets are fantastic. They haven’t changed, but they have increased.”

Counting on her thumb, Bauman lists the ‘hoods where gay life is exploding: “There’s Telegraph, from the 50s to the 40s. There are gay flags in so many windows,” she says. “You’ve got Laurel and the Dimond District. Then there’s the area around McArthur with Café Diem and World Grounds. There’s evidence of (LGBT) community in both those shops.” The gay migration has spread to areas outside Oakland, as well, including next-door Alameda, a more suburban area with a beach that faces San Francisco. Others have moved to Hayward, San Leandro, and Castro Valley—the burbs, to Oaksterdamers, as locals call themselves—a play on Amsterdam, and a sly inside nod to the fact that pot is popular in Oakland.

Karen Hester, 54, is one of the forces behind Oakland’s renaissance, a community organizer who is active on many fronts: affordable housing, LGBT, arts, and food, to name a few. Years back, she began a cohousing project on an acre of land across from Oakland Tech, the city’s big public high school. There, 20 adults and 12 kids live in an updated version of a ’60s commune, minus the bad boundaries, drugs, and bad drama that can accompany such social experiments. Hester, a native Texan, lived in a women’s spiritual community in San Jose, called the Grail, that provided a model for “something outside the nuclear family,” as she puts it. “It’s my attempt at utopia in an urban environment.”

HER COHOUSING UTOPIA is a model she hopes others will consider. Each family has a separate house, but regularly

shares common meals and outdoor spaces, including a Ping-Pong table and garden. In addition to the requisite chicken coop, there’s also a fenced area with rabbits and a pet guinea pig. Many Oakland hipsters—LGBT included—are now raising poultry as ardently as children. Others are beekeepers and wannabe goat farmers. A popular T-shirt has captured the trend: “Chickens Are the New Black.”

Hester agrees with Bauman about Oakland’s below-the-radar LGBT vibe: “I’ve always felt like it’s easy to be out in Oakland, but it’s not always the first thing you say about yourself,” she explains. “Quite a few people who work for the city of Oakland are gay and lesbian,” she adds. “But you may not know it. There are some, like [Councilwoman] Rebecca Kaplan, who are publicly identified in that way.” As a white lesbian, Hester has always felt at home, even in West Oakland, where she first lived. The area is heavily African American and has historically had a higher crime rate than other areas. “I rode my bike everywhere,” she recalls. “There weren’t the places you have now, like the foodie scene. But we had a lesbian bar and it was a neighborhood bar where you could see every walk of life. I loved it.”

For Hester, Oakland is synonymous with community, and that remains her mantra. A natural organizer, she enjoys bringing people together for common

cause. Her business, Here Comes the Pride, caters to the gay marriage trend. Her newest project involves food trucks, which have sprung up as people found the cost of renting kitchens too high and discovered a public enamored with tricked-out mobile trucks and Iron Chefs hopefuls. She’s looking to add live music and performance to the menu and create family-friendly LGBT events. “People do identify as much by being a professional, a parent, or other issues as being a gay or lesbian person,” she says of Oakland. “So it’s sort of a post-integration thing.”

Down in San Leandro—the burbs by Oakland standards—Miz Chris is also involved in community building. A self-described “tech goddess” and LGBT events producer, Miz Chris, née Christine de la Rosa, 43, uses the Web and her blog to promote Oakland and its LGBT life. A Mexican American, she was raised by her mom, who was friends with founder of La Raza, Jose Jose Angel Gutierrez, and, she says, “a huge activist,” one who inspired Miz Chris to follow in her footsteps. In 2008 she organized one of her first big events, a four-day Butch-Femme Bash for some 400 lesbians. She began more organizing LGBT-themed events in major cities. “I moved here because this is where all the lesbians of color are living,” she says. “I’d heard stories about crime—that there were a lot of gangs. ➡➡



But that was true in Dallas too, so that didn't scare me. I loved the way it felt," she says of Oakland. "I saw a lot of people who looked like me."

She began her Oaktown career by throwing herself a party—and 150 people came. That led to work at Velvet, a long-running club run by lesbians of color, many who are behind the newer venues such as the Den. Now she has a newsletter that reaches 6,000 people. "I want Oakland to be seen for the beauty that it is," she states. "There is so much arts and culture and so many amazing artists. Everyone is doing something. It's really a land of opportunity, and you're in the midst of a cultural epicenter." Here, she added, laughing, "We party for a cause."

She's especially excited by the carloads of Filipino gay people turning up for her Oakland events. "They're from places like Richmond and Vallejo. I mean, we're talking 30–50 gay Filipinos. It's amazing." Looking ahead, she sees a need for new spaces for the next generation of LGBT youth and her friends in places like Hayward, where she's moved. "I see a lot happening all over the Bay Area," she sums up. "It's just taking off all over the place."

Mona Webb agrees. A lesbian, poet, and "Slam Master," Webb, 33, has become well known as a performance poet who has graced the stage at Oakland's Pride

festivals, playing multiple roles: host, performer, stage manager, etc. Her mission is to communicate life stories in a way that is accessible—"in 3 minutes and 10 seconds," she laughs (the limit for slam poets). "It not only has to stand on the page, but stand on the stage," she explains about the genre.

BORN IN INDIANA, Webb moved to Lexington, KY—"a very racist, very segregated place," she says—and began organizing there, using language as her weapon. She discovered slam poetry, where, she found "every poem was an experience." In 1999 she worked for the Baton Rouge Poetry Alliance and found her calling. From there, Webb headed west. During the day, she worked as a full-time Slam Master in San Francisco, teaching the art to others. At night, she hung out at Butter and Burning Bush, women's parties by and for women of color. "I had never seen events so big, so many women, and so many openly gay," she recalls. "It was very exciting—hip, moving forward, and politically active."

Fast forward to 2013. Webb remains super-active. She's hosted or performed at Hot Box, San Francisco Pride, the Oakland Pride women's stage, and Nectarina stage and worked as a funded artist with the National Queer Arts Festival. To her, the queer renaissance is visible, but what's still less so is the voice of LGBT artists of color, an observation made by Turner, Hester, and Miss Chris. "We're becoming more visible, but a lot of things are for white gay men. That has to change," she says. She hopes to help through the Eden Foundation, where she holds a new position as executive director, with a mission of educating gay youth and helping them with mental health services (see sidebar).

"I feel like Oakland can serve as a model for other cities," says Webb, touching on a theme others raise. "It's a model for queer family development... on the ways of living that reflect every way we live and work in the world. Oakland has a better handle on that than a lot of places." —

YOUTHPRIDE IN HAYWARD



OVER THE PAST year, a group of 15 young LGBT activists, most freshly minted as community organizers, have been meeting twice a week in Hayward in a local LGBT center. They are members of Queers Outstanding Organizing Leaders (QOOL) and meet for a program called Our Space, a drop-in center for LGBT youth that is morphing into a hub for activism in a city not known for gay visibility. For months, they've been planning the East Bay's first YouthPride (scheduled for August 3), one they hope will inspire not only other youth, gay and straight, to address the needs of local LGBT youth.

Ray Klauber is a transgender drop-in coordinator for Our Space, which is helping 150 youth cope with coming out, life with their families, and the challenges of being trans or questioning. Some kids have been in gay-student alliances. A few are out to their families or friends, but many are still exploring public visibility. "Everybody in this room is so passionate, inspiring, and ready to go with a lot of ideas and creativity," explains Klauber. "The sky is the limit with these kids. I'm really honored to be part of this group that is going through a big step." YouthPride, he feels, is poised to transform the lives of the teens, their families, and communities.

When asked how they feel about going public in such a way, the young activists of Our Space are by turns shy, bold, funny, and ambitious. "I wanna make history," says Bebe, 20, who came out at age 13. "There's never been a Pride here. I wanna show queer love in Hayward. All the people here are like my family," Bebe says of the close-knit circle at Our Space. That's also how Hailey, 16, feels about the support group. "I get to be part of making a march about this, made by youth. I want it to be more family-oriented than most Prides. I plan to invite my family and the people in my church—All Saints Episcopal." "I feel like the room really represents the community," says Rachel, 19. "I want to do outreach, to be able to help other kids out there in our community to find resources really easily. I know that's what they need." lgbtqyouthpride.com



KAREN HESTER



JOURNALISM. INTEGRITY. HOPE. **PRIDE.**



FOR NEARLY 25 YEARS, **POSITIVELY AWARE** has been the leading national HIV treatment magazine published by a non-profit AIDS service organization—TPAN, in Chicago. Written for people with HIV, health care providers, and advocates, PA is a tool for educating and empowering everyone concerned about HIV/AIDS.



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"We are mavericks in the gay community," says Matthias Hollwich, a New York architect at Hollwich Kushner. "We all have had to invent and reinvent our lives to get to live and be who we are now."

Although Hollwich is only 41, he thinks a lot about aging and being able to openly enjoy who he is. Professionally, aging is his hot topic. He is involved in the now stalled development of the \$250 million dollar LGBT senior retirement community project aptly named BOOM in Palm Springs, CA. Hollwich is also the author of *New Aging*, a book that imparts lessons learned after three years researching aging and design, and details how to live a richer and happier life long into one's golden years.

GROWING OLDER DOESN'T mean life is over. It happens to all of us. Yet aging alone is a reality for many LGBT seniors who live without the traditional heterosexual support system of a spouse and children. That's a lot of love and care needed when considering there are reportedly up to 4 million LGBT Americans who are over sixty, according to the Administration on Aging.

"We as a [gay] community can get so caught up in maintaining our youth," says architect Charles Renfro of Diller Scofidio + Renfro in New York, one of the firm's behind BOOM as well as the renovation of the Pines Pavilion on Fire Island, another gaychitecture project. "We are so distracted by trying to stay relevant to young people that we turn our backs on our older community. There is less of a chance of having family to take care of us as we get older, [so] we need to

create and maintain our surrogate families."

Of course there's irony in marginalizing a community that everyone will eventually, potentially, be a part of, says Mark Segal, an activist and the publisher of the *Philadelphia Gay News*. "Are we a real community or not? Do we take care of our own? You find solid senior programming in the Jewish, black, Latino, and Catholic communities, but not ours."

It's about having real clout as a com-

"We want people to feel safe and accepted, where they can share their sexual orientation and just be themselves," says Kathleen Sullivan, director of the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center. The facility recently partnered with Kaiser Permanente for a panel where LGBT speakers shared their personal stories to humanize their plight before participating doctors. "You can have a great staff in an assisted living facility, but the other residents can make it hard—saying homophobic things and excluding people."

Creating a low-income affordable residential space exclusively for LGBT seniors has its challenges, and in some ways it's counter-intuitive to the bigger picture of universal acceptance and equality. Therefore, there's focus on education and coexistence for LGBT and heterosexual seniors.

"Why should we cloister ourselves?" Renfro says. "We talked about this kind of ghetto-ization with BOOM and loosened the definition of these ground up communities by thinking of them as communities of like-minded people."

LOS ANGELES' TRIANGLE Square in Hollywood, is currently the only affordable senior LGBT housing in the

country. Others cities across the nation are developing facilities, but they are in various phases of fundraising and build, according to The Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Elders (SAGE), an advocacy group that is the reigning resource for LGBT aging issues.

Following L.A., Philly takes the lead beyond talks and planning with the John C. Anderson apartments in Center City breaking ground last year. Linda DiSario, 66, and her partner Kathleen

RETIRING THE CLOSET

WHERE WILL YOU GROW OLD OPENLY?
PALM SPRINGS?
FIRE ISLAND?
WILL YOUR CITY DEVELOP
APPEALING COMMUNITY
AND RESIDENTIAL SERVICES
FOR YOU?

BY SHIRA LEVINE

munity, Segal believes. Not having such infrastructure is demonstrative of the LGBT community lacking a sense of community to care beyond what's immediate. Without a family network of support, oftentimes when LGBT seniors enter retirement and nursing facilities they are afraid to openly be who they are. Homophobic peers and care workers can isolate and alienate LGBT residents, thus, forcing them to quash all their struggle and triumph and revert back into the closet.

Harihan, 62, of 15 years want in when all is completed, and if they're approved. The couple left the city for the Pennsylvania suburbs four years ago to care for DiSario's parents before they passed away. Now, they are anxious to return to the city's center where they feel comfortable living openly together.

"We'll feel more like we can be ourselves," DiSario says. "If she wants to put her arm around me and hold my hand she can. I can't do that up here. It's not homophobic, but it's very family-oriented and traditional. We won't walk down the street here holding hands. We'd get looks or snickers. Downtown is geared toward LGBT where we can be ourselves, be confident, and have camaraderie."

THE CENTER CITY development also has activities they can grow old enjoying, from theater and art to bowling and more diverse and adventurous dining options.

"It will be nice not to have to drive from out of town and spend money on a hotel room again," DiSario says. "We'll have access to public transportation and elevators. If we get in, I hope to live there the rest of my life."

Meanwhile, the private sector has gotten involved in the business of LGBT living and aging, although not without its own share of hiccups.

"Rainbow Vision was the real game changer, but it is in financial trouble," says Hollwich about the pioneering, progressive senior living project developed in Santa Fe, NM. Like BOOM, its sister project, Rainbow Vision had to halt construction. (The desert oasis was hit particularly hard economically and still is recovering.) A similar project in Vancouver is moving forward, albeit slowly. Unfortunately, dozens of other projects have suffered a similar fall.

Still, there is promise on the horizon: Rainbow Vista, in Gresham, OR, for example, offers affordable living on a month-to-month basis with a one-year price guarantee. A studio apartment starts at \$595 a month and goes up to a one-bedroom/two bathroom for \$1,050/month.

"Look, the entire country is experiencing a lot of challenges in terms of people getting older," says Seth Kilbourn of Openhouse. They are co-fundraising San Francisco's 55 Laguna with Mercy Hous-

seniors, as are their discussion groups.

Despite the economy and housing crisis, Palm Springs and Fire Island remain LGBT safe havens for vacation and retirement.

"It's where we go to grow old and die," says Darryl Dean, 58. He and his partner David Woodward, 62, have been together for 25 years and plan to eventually relocate—just not quite yet. "With Palm Springs, you don't want to go too early because it can get boring. There's not that much to do out there. When we're a little older and slower, we'll make the move."

For now, Dean, who was laid off from his banking job, keeps busy with activities like leading LGBT seniors ages 55 to 85 on hikes in Los Angeles' Griffith Park.

"I'm working on reinventing myself at 58 years old," Dean says. "I volunteer. We cycle. We travel. David works."

The couple is in talks with two friends about buying a fourplex apartment and agreeing to take care of one other.

"THERE ISN'T ANYTHING we can rely on right now," Dean says. "We know we're going to have to do it ourselves."

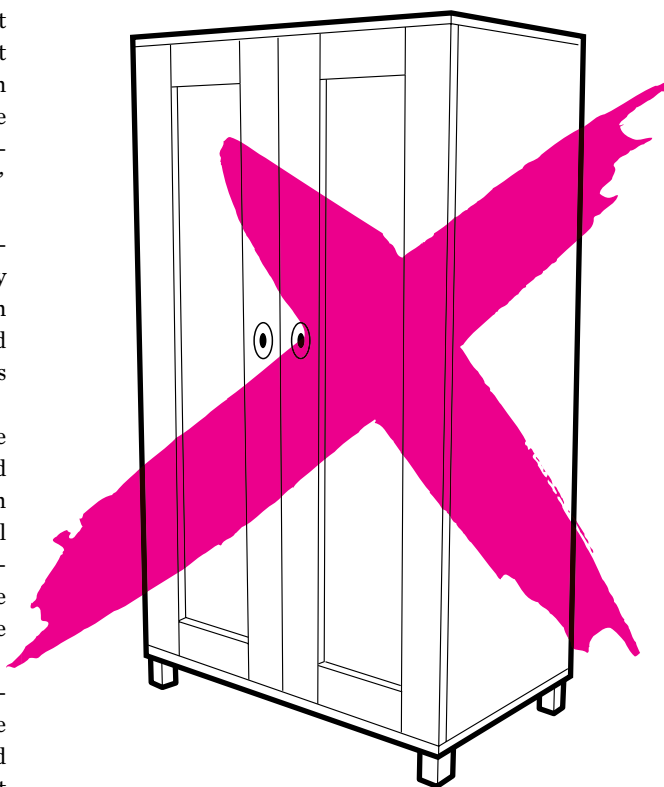
The L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center hopes in the next five years to develop its own housing, with up to 80 units, for those

who don't plan to leave town.

"We have to figure out how to do this altogether," Sullivan says. "Our older community members are discovering themselves and people that they wouldn't encounter otherwise."

Recently, an 86-year-old former bishop came to the L.A. Center and joined the facility's choir.

"He was singing Pink and Destiny's Child songs!" laughed Sullivan. "He would never have gotten to do that. People feel safe trying things they would →



ing California. "We've been slowed by the same economic forces that have slowed everyone down."

If all goes well with funding, 55 Laguna plans to break ground in late 2014 with construction unfolding over the next three years.

"WE'VE BEEN AROUND since 1998 so we're doing what we've always done, which is educating and reducing isolation" says Killbourn. Openhouse's yoga classes are massively popular with LGBT

never have tried elsewhere. These people are survivors and excited about life.”

Such programming and engagement are new frontiers. Centers across the country are training staff members to be allies to LGBT seniors and develop cultural competency and safety in existing facilities. Nationally, 55% of LGBT seniors live alone. In L.A., it’s 65%, the highest in the nation, Sullivan says.

Ideally, the government would step in and provide support to the millions of baby boomers pending care. That way, those who would prefer facilities that cater to like-minded residents might have that option. It makes sense that Hollwich and Renfro (and others) set out to develop something modern, forward thinking, and amenity-rich for this first generation openly enjoying life, and living longer. They just didn’t anticipate the damage a floundering economy and impending housing crisis could do to their vision.

“Existing properties weren’t selling, so our clients couldn’t commit to going into the development [of BOOM and Rancho Mirage],” says Hollwich. “It’s all beautiful, but for now it has to be just a vision we learned a lot from.”

Meanwhile, the reality of life has hit home for Renfro quite personally. In recent years he’s had to take on the responsibility of caring for his parents.

“All of this has really made me realize that, ‘Golly, I’m almost 50. I better start planning while I have my wits about me, since they didn’t. Until BOOM, it didn’t occur to me that there was something missing in our community and even larger in our society.’”

AS FRUSTRATING AS this is for LGBT seniors who’d had high hopes of moving into enticing community-strong developments, the struggle highlights the

community’s resilience and ability to inspire inner mavericks to do some DIY community building.

“I HAVE AN ongoing conversation between four of my best friends to create what I call our own micro retirement community,” Hollwich says.

His vision is to find or build four individual studios united by a common space in Manhattan. “Our micro community would be an open house filled with my closest friends, where we look out for each

**“HOMOPHOBIC PEERS
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REVERT BACK
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other and depend on each other so we can live the best life we can together—until we can’t. It would be self-organized and self-initiated based on the same principles of shared services, strong friendship, and shared burden, where we have an agreement of commitment.”

Renfro has a similar curated idea with his friends: “It stems from our Fire Island summer share at the Pines we’ve been doing for the last seven years. It’s a situation that is causal, friendly, and informal, but very engaged like a

family situation.”

Hollwich and his friends currently live all around the world, but like Manhattan as their base because of all the cultural activities the Big Apple would readily provide them. “A city is a great place to retire,” Hollwich says. “There is so much culture, entertainment, and opportunity. Our situations would later allow our social radius to further extend to more and different friends who we would share and access all around the world.”

Sullivan is also thinking about what’s next for her and her partner. They own their house and love their neighbors, but are weighing their options as they wait for local opportunities to finish development. “We have a gay and lesbian enclave nearby we’ve created, where we all take care of one another. Eventually, I could see moving into a place that was LGBT, but not 100 percent [LGBT].”

REALISTICALLY, NOT everyone can afford such plans and not everyone has the committed friendships Hollwich and Renfro enjoy. Thirteen percent of LGBT elderly are in need of housing, Segal says. “The rich gay and lesbian couple is a myth! These seniors are our pioneers who fought for our equality in the ’60s!”

The people to look to for financing such endeavors, however, are those LGBT individuals who do have bank, Dean says. “There are plenty of our Baby Boomer gay brothers and sisters without kids and without money who need services.”

“We do need to take this seriously whether LGBT or heterosexual, wealthy or not,” Renfro says. “It can come from a developer in a top-down situation like BOOM, or, it can be self-made, but we’ve got to look out for each other together as one.”

“All who desire a family deserve the opportunity to have one.”

- David B. Smotrich, M.D. Founder & Medical Director.

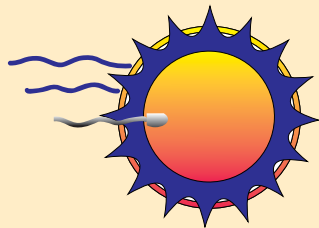
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* Photos are of actual patients of Dr. Smotrich.



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*



*



The one for me

Patient model. Pill shown is not actual size.

What is COMPLERA?

COMPLERA® is a prescription HIV medicine that is used as a complete regimen to treat HIV-1 in adults who have **never** taken HIV medicines before **and** who have an amount of HIV in their blood (this is called “viral load”) that is no more than 100,000 copies/mL. COMPLERA contains 3 medicines – rilpivirine, emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate. It is not known if COMPLERA is safe and effective in children under the age of 18 years.

COMPLERA® does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS. To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses you must keep taking COMPLERA. Avoid doing things that can spread HIV-1 to others: always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids; never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them; do not share personal items that may contain bodily fluids. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information you should know about COMPLERA?

COMPLERA® can cause serious side effects:

- **Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis)**, which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include feeling very weak or tired, unusual (not normal) muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold, especially in your arms and legs, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Serious liver problems.** The liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and fatty (steatosis). Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice), dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored bowel movements (stools), loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach pain.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking COMPLERA for a long time. *In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death.* Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you also have HBV and stop taking COMPLERA, your hepatitis may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking COMPLERA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health. COMPLERA is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

Who should not take COMPLERA?

Do not take COMPLERA if you have ever taken other anti-HIV medicines.

COMPLERA may change the effect of other medicines and may cause serious side effects. Your healthcare provider may change your other medicines or change their doses.

Do not take COMPLERA if you also take these medicines:

- **anti-seizure medicines:** carbamazepine (Carbatrol, Equetro, Tegretol, Tegretol-XR, Teril, Eptol); oxcarbazepine (Trileptal), phenobarbital (Luminal), phenytoin (Dilantin, Dilantin-125, Phenytek)
- **anti-tuberculosis medicines:** rifabutin (Mycobutin), rifampin (Rifater, Rifamate, Rimactane, Rifadin) and rifapentine (Priftin)
- **proton pump inhibitors for stomach or intestinal problems:** esomeprazole (Nexium, Vimovo), lansoprazole (Prevacid), dexlansoprazole (Dexilant), omeprazole (Prilosec), pantoprazole sodium (Protonix), rabeprazole (Aciphex)
- **more than 1 dose of the steroid medicine dexamethasone or dexamethasone sodium phosphate**
- **St. John’s wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)**

If you are taking COMPLERA you should not take other HIV medicines or other medicines containing tenofovir (Viread, Truvada, Stribild or Atripla); other medicines containing emtricitabine or lamivudine (Emtriva, Combivir, Epivir, Epivir-HBV, Epzicom, Trizivir, Atripla, Stribild or Truvada); rilpivirine (Edurant) or adefovir (Hepsera).

In addition, tell your healthcare provider if you are taking the following medications because they may interfere with how COMPLERA works and may cause side effects:

- certain antacid medicines containing aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate (examples: Rolaids, TUMS). **These medicines must be taken at least 2 hours before or 4 hours after COMPLERA.**
- medicines to block stomach acid including cimetidine (Tagamet), famotidine (Pepcid), nizatidine (Axid), or ranitidine HCL (Zantac). **These medicines must be taken at least 12 hours before or 4 hours after COMPLERA.**
- any of these medicines: clarithromycin (Biaxin); erythromycin (E-Mycin, Eryc, Ery-Tab, PCE, Pediazole, Ilosone), fluconazole (Diflucan), itraconazole (Sporanox), ketoconazole (Nizoral) methadone (Dolophine); posaconazole (Noxafil), telithromycin (Ketek) or voriconazole (Vfend).
- medicines that are eliminated by the kidneys like acyclovir (Zovirax), cidofovir (Vistide), ganciclovir (Cytovene IV, Vitrasert), valacyclovir (Valtrex) and valganciclovir (Valcyte).

COMPLERA. A complete HIV treatment in only 1 pill a day.

COMPLERA is for adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before and have no more than 100,000 copies/mL of virus in their blood.

Ask your healthcare provider if it's the one for you.

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take COMPLERA. Tell your healthcare provider about all prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, or herbal supplements you are taking or plan to take.

Before taking COMPLERA, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have **liver problems**, including hepatitis B or C virus infection, or have abnormal liver tests
- Have **kidney problems**
- Have ever had a **mental health problem**
- Have **bone problems**
- Are **pregnant or planning to become pregnant**. It is not known if COMPLERA can harm your unborn child
- Are **breastfeeding**. Women with HIV should not breastfeed because they can pass HIV through their milk to the baby. Also, COMPLERA may pass through breast milk and could cause harm to the baby

COMPLERA can cause additional serious side effects:

- **New or worsening kidney problems, including kidney failure.** If you have had kidney problems, or take other medicines that may cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider may need to do regular blood tests.
- **Depression or mood changes.** Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms: feeling sad or hopeless, feeling anxious or restless, have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself.
- **Changes in liver enzymes:** People who have had hepatitis B or C, or who have had changes in their liver function tests in the past may have an increased risk for liver problems while taking COMPLERA. Some people without prior liver disease may also be at risk. Your healthcare provider may need to check your liver enzymes before and during treatment with COMPLERA.
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do additional tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV medicine.
- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider if you start having new symptoms after starting COMPLERA.

The most common side effects reported with COMPLERA are trouble sleeping (insomnia), abnormal dreams, headache, dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, rash, tiredness, and depression. Some side effects also reported include vomiting, stomach pain or discomfort, skin discoloration (small spots or freckles) and pain.

This is not a complete list of side effects. Tell your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you notice any side effects while taking COMPLERA, and call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit <http://www.fda.gov/medwatch> or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Additional Information about taking COMPLERA:

- **Always take COMPLERA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it.**
- **Take COMPLERA with a meal.** Taking COMPLERA with a meal is important to help get the right amount of medicine in your body. (A protein drink does not replace a meal).

Stay under the care of your healthcare provider during treatment with COMPLERA and see your healthcare provider regularly.

Please see Brief Summary of full Prescribing Information with **important warnings** on the following pages.



COMPLERA®
emtricitabine 200mg/rilpivirine 25mg/
tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300mg tablets

Learn more at www.COMPLERA.com

Brief Summary of full Prescribing Information

COMPLERA® (kom-PLEH-rah)

(emtricitabine, rilpivirine, tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) tablets

Brief summary of full Prescribing Information. For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information including Patient Information.

What is COMPLERA?

- **COMPLERA** is a prescription HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) medicine that is used to treat HIV-1 in adults
 - who have **never** taken HIV medicines before, **and**
 - who have an amount of HIV in their blood (this is called ‘viral load’) that is no more than 100,000 copies/mL. Your healthcare provider will measure your viral load.
- (HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome)).
- COMPLERA contains 3 medicines – rilpivirine, emtricitabine, tenofovir disoproxil fumarate – combined in one tablet. It is a complete regimen to treat HIV-1 infection and should not be used with other HIV medicines.
- It is not known if COMPLERA is safe and effective in children under the age of 18 years old.
- **COMPLERA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS.** You must stay on continuous therapy to control HIV infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.
- **Ask your healthcare provider if you have any questions about how to prevent passing HIV to other people.** Do not share or re-use needles or other injection equipment, and do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes and razor blades. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal fluids or blood.

What is the most important information I should know about COMPLERA?

COMPLERA can cause serious side effects, including:

- **Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take COMPLERA or similar (nucleoside analogs) medicines. Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**
 - feel very weak or tired
 - have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
 - have trouble breathing
 - have stomach pain with nausea (feeling sick to your stomach) or vomiting
 - feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
 - feel dizzy or lightheaded
 - have a fast or irregular heartbeat
- **Severe liver problems.** Severe liver problems can happen in people who take COMPLERA. In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis). **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms of liver problems:**
 - your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
 - dark “tea-colored” urine
 - light-colored bowel movements (stools)
 - loss of appetite for several days or longer
 - nausea
 - stomach pain
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking COMPLERA for a long time.**

- **Worsening of Hepatitis B infection.** If you have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and take COMPLERA, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking COMPLERA. A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before. COMPLERA is not approved for the treatment of HBV, so you must discuss your HBV with your healthcare provider.

- Do not let your COMPLERA run out. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your COMPLERA is all gone.
- Do not stop taking COMPLERA without first talking to your healthcare provider.
- If you stop taking COMPLERA, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking COMPLERA.

Who should not take COMPLERA?

Do not take COMPLERA if:

- your HIV infection has been previously treated with HIV medicines.
- you are taking any of the following medicines:
 - **anti-seizure medicines:** carbamazepine (Carbatrol, Equetro, Tegretol, Tegretol-XR, Teril, Epitol); oxcarbazepine (Trileptal); phenobarbital (Luminal); phenytoin (Dilantin, Dilantin-125, Phenytek)
 - **anti-tuberculosis (anti-TB) medicines:** rifabutin (Mycobutin); rifampin (Rifater, Rifamate, Rimactane, Rifadin); rifapentine (Priftin)
 - **proton pump inhibitor (PPI) medicine** for certain stomach or intestinal problems: esomeprazole (Nexium, Vimovo); lansoprazole (Prevacid); dexlansoprazole (Dexilant); omeprazole (Prilosec, Zegerid); pantoprazole sodium (Protonix); rabeprazole (Aciphex)
 - more than 1 dose of the steroid medicine dexamethasone or dexamethasone sodium phosphate
 - St. John’s wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)
- **If you take COMPLERA, you should not take:**
 - Other medicines that contain tenofovir (Atripla, Stribild, Truvada, Viread)
 - Other medicines that contain emtricitabine or lamivudine (Combivir, Emtriva, Epivir or Epivir-HBV, Epzicom, Trizivir, Atripla, Truvada, Stribild)
 - rilpivirine (Edurant)
 - adefovir (Hepsera)

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking COMPLERA?

Before you take COMPLERA, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have or had liver problems, including hepatitis B or C virus infection, kidney problems, mental health problem or bone problems
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if COMPLERA can harm your unborn child.
- **Pregnancy Registry.** There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk to your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.
- are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed. **You should not breastfeed if you have HIV because of the risk of passing HIV to your baby.** Do not breastfeed if you are taking COMPLERA. At least two of the medicines contained in COMPLERA can be passed to your baby in your breast milk. We do not know whether this could harm your baby. Talk to your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

- **COMPLERA may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how COMPLERA works, and may cause serious side effects.** If you take certain medicines with COMPLERA, the amount of COMPLERA in your body may be too low and it may not work to help control your HIV infection. The HIV virus in your body may become resistant to COMPLERA or other HIV medicines that are like it.

Brief Summary of full Prescribing Information

COMPLERA® (kom-PLEH-rah)

(emtricitabine, rilpivirine, tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) tablets

Brief summary of full Prescribing Information. For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information including Patient Information.

What is COMPLERA?

- **COMPLERA** is a prescription HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) medicine that is used to treat HIV-1 in adults
 - who have **never** taken HIV medicines before, **and**
 - who have an amount of HIV in their blood (this is called ‘viral load’) that is no more than 100,000 copies/mL. Your healthcare provider will measure your viral load.
- (HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome)).
- COMPLERA contains 3 medicines – rilpivirine, emtricitabine, tenofovir disoproxil fumarate – combined in one tablet. It is a complete regimen to treat HIV-1 infection and should not be used with other HIV medicines.
- It is not known if COMPLERA is safe and effective in children under the age of 18 years old.
- **COMPLERA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS.** You must stay on continuous therapy to control HIV infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.
- **Ask your healthcare provider if you have any questions about how to prevent passing HIV to other people.** Do not share or re-use needles or other injection equipment, and do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes and razor blades. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal fluids or blood.

What is the most important information I should know about COMPLERA?

COMPLERA can cause serious side effects, including:

- **Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take COMPLERA or similar (nucleoside analogs) medicines. Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**
 - feel very weak or tired
 - have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
 - have trouble breathing
 - have stomach pain with nausea (feeling sick to your stomach) or vomiting
 - feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
 - feel dizzy or lightheaded
 - have a fast or irregular heartbeat
- **Severe liver problems.** Severe liver problems can happen in people who take COMPLERA. In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis). **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms of liver problems:**
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Dear Reader,

We at ViiV Healthcare support the fight against stigma and discrimination of all people living with or affected by HIV.

It's a battle we've been waging for years, started on behalf of all those who are living with HIV/AIDS and dealing with the social stigma that often accompanies it.

Since its recognition in the early 1980s, the HIV epidemic has grown to be one of the major public health challenges facing the world today. More than 33 million people worldwide are living with HIV and 25 million people have died from AIDS-related illnesses. Worldwide efforts have advanced care for the millions living with HIV today. Scientific progress, improvements in public health programs and commitments to universal access have shown that it is possible to effect change.

At ViiV Healthcare, our goal is to contribute to improving outcomes for people living with and affected by HIV. We're committed to understanding the current needs and concerns of people living with HIV and to recognizing and responding to their rapidly changing healthcare and social challenges. We do this through our company, our people, our partnerships, our research and our total commitment to delivering improvements and innovations for people living with HIV today and in the future.

At ViiV Healthcare we never forget why we are here. We put people living with HIV at the center of all of what we do and at the core of all of our decisions.

Dr. Dominique Limet,
ViiV Healthcare CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Bill Collier,
ViiV Healthcare SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER, NORTH AMERICA

POZ

PRIDE

THE STIGMA OF HIV
AND AIDS IS ALIVE
AND WELL, BUT THESE
3 FIGHTERS REFUSE TO SUBMIT

BY ADAM BIBLE



OUT OF ALL of the advances made in the fight against HIV/AIDS since the virus first snuck into our communities in the '80s—national education campaigns, increased awareness, stronger meds, more testing options—one of the most stubborn and lasting obstacles people with the disease have had to overcome is the stigma of being positive. It's a persistent shadow that damages families, social lives, and work opportunities, while also hindering access to prevention, care, and treatment services. And despite its well-known and toxic effects, there is still no real consensus among policy-makers and program coordinators about how to go about lessening, much less eradicating, the wreckage that the stigma of having HIV continues to enact across society.

While most government and federal institutions may have failed to properly address the stigma of HIV, there are a few courageous men and women across the planet who are fighting back with a combination of activism, education, and acceptance. We spoke to three of the sharpest voices in this battle:

"The way that we have developed gay pride in this country—and the enormous approval of us as gay people—is because we came out," says Mark S. King, an Atlanta-based AIDS activist who runs the blog *My Fabulous Disease*.

"We came out and said 'I'm gay' and people learned who was gay among them, and their attitudes changed. The same is true for HIV." Aaron Laxton, a blogger and caseworker for homeless veterans in St. Louis, echoes the cry: "It's kind of that Harvey Milk—moment where he suggested that everybody needs to come out as gay or lesbian because we are people's friends, brothers, relatives, co-workers," he says. "I would say the same thing with HIV. Until people understand that someone they love is infected or affected, we won't really see the magnitude of support." And Maria Mejia, an HIV/AIDS activist from Miami, who gets more than 500 messages a day from scared poz people, adds, "One of the biggest killers is self-stigma. People are living in shame and they are hiding. They are living in the HIV closet."

These warriors are some of the many that are rejecting the self-defeating negativity of stigma. They are done with the shame, done with the crippling fear that living with HIV can confer. King, a prolific author and blogger writes candidly and controversially on his blog. To King, Poz Pride means that he takes pride in himself. He respects his body by taking pride in his health care and treatment regimen, by adhering to it. And he takes pride in protecting his partners by disclosing his status. "They say you develop self-esteem by doing estimable things," says King. "If that's the case, then it occurs to me that when I'm taking pride in myself, then I must be proud of who I am." →

MARK S. KING

All three of these out-and-proud HIV-positive activists did not just decide to be totally open about their status immediately after developing the disease. For some it was easier than others. King, who most likely became infected in 1982, before there was even a test, found out he was positive in 1985. At the time, he says, as “a 21-year-old on the loose in West Hollywood,” you weren’t even supposed to get tested because you would be fired from your job and there were no treatment options, no life-saving drugs. “In the ’80s there was a lot of discrimination and stigma against those of us who had AIDS,” King says, “and it wasn’t just the straight people; it was gay men—kicking out their roommates... You couldn’t even get a manicure people were so scared. We, gay men, participated in that stigma.”

For King, though, he had nothing to lose by being out of the HIV closet. He was never really in it: “I figured I was dead. I knew I was dead. All the evidence around me was that I was going to die, and it was going to happen at any time. I went to work for an AIDS organization; I spoke up about living with HIV.” As the crisis wore on into the late ’80s, the rising death toll held the specter of stigma for gay men back a bit. Those living with HIV became people to feel sorry for, says King. “We were kind of these wizened martyrs and so we were beyond reproach. Nobody really stigmatized us much, they just pitied us as we died.” Then, in the ’90s, protease inhibitors hit the market and things changed dramatically. “We reentered the social scene as healthy human beings,” King says. “We said we want to dance, we want to date, we want to have sex...with you. And that’s when all hell broke loose because that’s when suddenly you couldn’t tell anymore who was positive and who wasn’t.”

MARIA MEJIA

Maria Mejia has been living with HIV for 24 years. Her first brushes with stigma came from her family. As an ultraconservative Roman Catholic from Columbia, Mejia’s mother pleaded with her not to tell anyone else about her HIV status. “I was diagnosed in 1991, and one of the first things my mom told me, and I know she was doing it to protect me, was ‘We’re going to deal with this, and we are going to put it in God’s hands—but you must not tell family or friends,’” she says. “If you ever get ill we are going to look something up and say you have lupus or leukemia.” Mejia also experienced the small indignities that stigma breeds: a nurse who puts on two pairs of surgical gloves before taking her blood; the doctor who quietly leaves the examination room after learning her status, replaced by a different doctor giving hollow excuses.

Thirteen years ago she began to open the HIV closet just a crack by going to schools to talk to the kids about HIV and volunteering at hospitals to help administer HIV tests. “I was comfortable being out in smaller settings,” she says. “I said, OK, I know that I impact people when I disclose that I’m positive so let me start like this.” Though the moment she realized that hiding wasn’t helping her own soul was when her partner’s sister was diagnosed with cancer. Mejia went through the wrenching loss with her partner: “I thought to myself when I was in hospice with her sister, Why can people say they have cancer openly and not be ashamed? Why am I hiding? I am tired of this shit. I am not a delinquent, I am not a fugitive, I am just a human being living with a condition.”

AARON LAXTON

June 6, 2011, is when Aaron Laxton found out he was HIV positive. “I had been engaged in really promiscuous sexual behavior, and I had swollen lymph nodes in my neck,” he says. “Initially I said I’m not going to get tested, because I wasn’t ready for it. A few weeks later, after I had that initial fear, I went and got tested.” Laxton worked as a computer engineer for seven years and right around the time he was diagnosed, he had a serious relapse into crystal meth and prescription drug abuse. He lost his job. “For a brief time, my world came tumbling down. I kind of like to say, although I’ve never cried a tear over being HIV positive that doesn’t mean you are not going to deal with normal mental coping of coming to terms with a new diagnosis.” Laxton has been clean since January 5, 2012.

Right after Laxton was diagnosed, a good friend abandoned him. He learned Laxton’s status and then decided he didn’t want to be his friend. “We had been best friends for years and years. It was his decision, and I think it showed more on him as a person than it did on me as an HIV-positive person.” He also experienced the inevitable blow up from a guy who came home with him one night from the bar: “Before anything ever happened, I said, ‘Hey, by the way, I am positive.’ This guy totally, totally freaked out. And that taught me that I was going to start disclosing whenever I met someone because I didn’t want to bring that kind of ignorance and fear into my home.” After those incidents, Laxton—like King and Mejia—decided it was better to be out and proud. “Everyone one I know knows I’m HIV positive,” he says. “I work for a fairly conservative company, but they all know my status. When you walk into my office I have a big AIDS ribbon hanging on the wall.”

THE PROBLEMS WE FACE

"I've been around a long time, watching how gay men treat one another," King says. "The fact is, we are all trying to do the best that we can, but our own fears get in the way." The gay community has become amazingly more accepted in the last few years—this spring, for example, two Republican senators came out as supporters of same-sex marriage. But there is still a big stigma-schism between poz and negative gays, particularly when it comes to dating. "We need to dial down our language toward one another," King says. "We need to just deal with each other a little bit more compassionately and understand that we are all in this together, we are all doing the best that we can, but we could do a little better... in terms of our language and how we speak to one another. Words matter—'clean,' 'disease-free'—they matter. We discount the experience of other people when we label them. We are not labels. I am not just gay. I am not just HIV positive." Education is the key, says King. People who are negative need a little sensitivity training (How do I make choices that are comfortable for me without insulting people, or without devaluing them?) on how you negotiate dating and relationships in a population that includes HIV. "There's nothing wrong with having preferences as long as we communicate that in a way that is loving, respectful to those other people," he says.

Communication is also key to Mejia's transformation into an out-and-proud poz activist. "I started this because I believed that I could change many views," she says, "and I could prevent many people from getting infected, especially young people, because I got infected as a teenager." Through Mejia's international support groups, she has access to millions of people—she gets e-mails and tweets from all around the world and her screen name is "Maria HIV Mejia." The provocative name attracts people to her blogs and social media pages, but it also is a potent reminder of the stigma just those three letters can bring. "A person in my social media circle said because of my name, she would have to delete me," she says. "Her friends were very uncomfortable—they were all positive—and they thought they were going to be outed." Worst of all, Mejia says, are the suicidal kids who write to her saying that they feel ashamed and dirty for having HIV, or are even in mortal danger. "One girl wrote me from Columbia. She was HIV positive, she had not told anyone. In her town there was another positive person, and they wanted to lynch them because they thought they could contract HIV by just breathing the same air."

STOP HIDING, START LIVING

In a way, King, Laxton, and Mejia are lucky. They have the luxury of being strong individuals who have a good support system built around them. Many, many other HIV-positive people don't have that. Populations within lower socio-economic groups find it especially hard to break out of the severe stigma they are under. In America, we are still fed anti-HIV propaganda through popular media. A recent example is Tyler Perry's recent movie, *Temptation*, which—besides employing Perry's common theme of homophobia—also takes self-loathing to a whole new level by suggesting that the reason the protagonist became infected with HIV was through a punishment from God. Despite the ridiculous concept, the movie made millions.

Criminalization of people with HIV is still with us as well; 36 states have some form of criminal statutes on the books. In March of 2013—yes, 2013—Kansas was considering a bill that would allow for the possible quarantine of HIV positive people; and, in Missouri, which has some of the most draconian HIV exposure laws, there were 23 prosecutions of their statute that says it's a felony to expose another person to HIV through any sort of sexual contact, regardless of safe sex or disclosure. Of those 23 cases, 19 resulted in convictions, with sentences ranging up to 30 years.

This disease is not going away quietly, and the stigma attached to it seems to have grown even stronger as we continue to find ways to medically beat the virus into submission. It's going to take compassion, education, and courage to address HIV/AIDS stigma—there is not much hope for a coordinated effort on the part of our government to make it happen. It's a complex issue that stems from human nature, socio-economic boundaries, intercommunity cliques, and straight-up fears. It's up to us to talk about it, get it out in the open, and confront the anxiety. "HIV is an invisible portion of people's lives that they're not dealing with," King says. "The more we avoid talking about it, the more invisible we are as people with HIV, and the more license we are giving others to stigmatize us."



HOW YOU CAN BE POZ PROUD

Go to these helpful sites to learn how you can be a strong and proud poz person, or to join the fight against HIV/AIDS stigma.

Mark S. King
marksking.com

Maria Mejia
facebook.com/mariahivmejia

Aaron Laxton
thebody.com

Act Against AIDS
cdc.gov/actagainstaids

AIDS.gov
aids.gov

AIDSInfo
aidsinfo.nih.gov

The Body
thebody.com

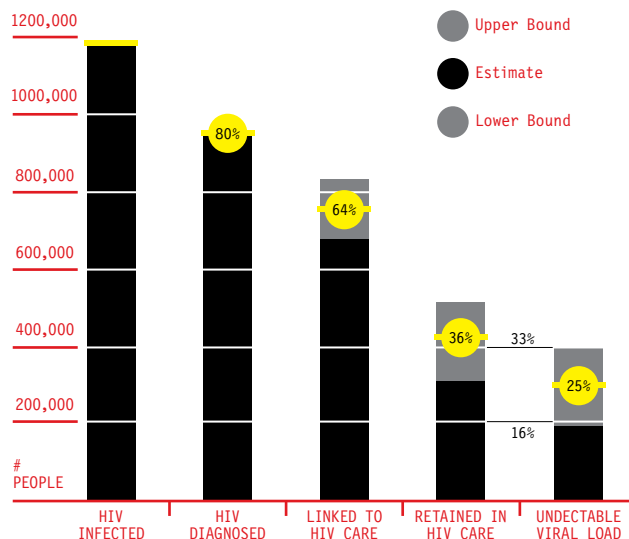
HIV/AIDStribe
hivaidstribes.com

HIV InSite
hivinsite.ucsf.edu

Poz magazine
poz.com

UNAIDS
unaids.org

THE IMPORTANCE OF TREATMENT



Just knowing your HIV status isn't enough. For those infected with the disease, proper medical care is essential to a long and healthy life. Sadly, studies show that up to three out of every four individuals living with HIV in the U.S. are failing to get adequate treatment for their condition. It's a paradigm researchers have dubbed the "Gardner Cascade." First identified by Edward Gardner, M.D., and a colleague at Denver Public Health, the Gardner Cascade shows in startling detail just how dramatically treatment and management of the disease falls off, in layers, especially within members of the minority community.

The bottom line: With more than 56,000 new HIV infections happening each year, it's essential not only for all sexually active men and women to get tested for the disease regularly—it's also imperative for those who test positive to become serious about their health and follow the most rigorous treatment plan possible, Gardner says. "If an individual doesn't know they are infected, they cannot even enter the cascade and thus have no chance of making it through to the last bar," he says. "The last bar—having an undetectable viral load—is critical in that it gives the individual with HIV the best chance at living a healthy and productive life. In addition, individuals in the last bar are much less likely to spread HIV to others, thus giving a population-level benefit of preventing new infections. It's a win-win to be in the last bar. But there is also a lot that needs to be done to 'improve' the last bar. The first step to improvement is to spread the message of the cascade to individuals with HIV, individuals at risk for HIV, and the population in general."

HIV IS NOT A CRIME!

OR IS IT?

BY SEAN STRUB

HIV criminalization is the inappropriate use of one's HIV status in criminal prosecutions. It happens in every state, but about two-thirds of U.S. states have HIV-specific laws or sentencing enhancements that apply only to people with HIV. Lawmakers in these regions have created a viral underclass—making different laws for different parts of society based on an immutable characteristic.

Think it can't happen to you? Think again.

Nick Rhoades used a condom with a guy he met online. His viral load was undetectable, but the partner pressed charges, claiming Nick hadn't disclosed his HIV status. An Iowa Court sentenced Nick to 25 years in prison, but fortunately, a judge released him after a year. Still, he remains subject to lifetime sex offender registration.

When Monique Moree from South Carolina, began dating someone, she told him, "You've got to use a condom." The Army prosecuted her for non-disclosure of her HIV status, even though her partner didn't want to press charges. She faced 10 to 12 years, but the charges were dropped on a technicality.

Robert Suttle's partner threatened to prosecute him for not having initially disclosed his HIV status—and when they broke up, he did just that. Robert served six months in a Louisiana prison. Under the photograph on his driver's license, it says in big red capital letters "SEX OFFENDER".

Kerry Thomas and his accuser agreed that he always used a condom and had an undetectable viral load, but he's serving a 30-year sentence in Idaho. Willy Campbell is serving 35 years for spitting at a cop in Texas. David Plunkett just got out of a New York prison after serving more than six years because a court had ruled his spit a deadly weapon. In none of the cases cited was the person with HIV accused of transmitting the virus.

HIV criminalization is a profound injustice. But it's also a horrific public health policy that drives new HIV transmissions because of the way it discourages people from getting tested (you can't get prosecuted if you don't know you're positive). It creates distrust of the public health system and makes it more difficult to disclose and access treatment. And the scenario is made all the worse when you realize most new HIV infections don't come from people living with the disease, but from people who don't know they have it and are spreading it simply because they haven't gotten tested.

FIGHT BACK!

You can help to take down HIV criminalization by:

- Alerting your member of Congress to H.R. 1843, the Repeal HIV Discrimination Act introduced by US Representatives Barbara Lee (D-CA) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)
- Connecting with others in your state to combat HIV-related stigma, discrimination and criminalization by signing up on the e-list at the SeroProject.com
- Educating your friends and community about HIV criminalization (some surveys show nearly 80% of young gay men support HIV criminalization) with the resources and short video, "HIV is Not a Crime," at SeroProject.com

A photograph of three women at a social event. The woman on the left has long dark hair and is wearing a silver sequined top. The woman in the middle is wearing a red dress with a green floral pattern. The woman on the right is wearing a dark jacket. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. A bright yellow light source is visible in the foreground, partially obscuring the women.

20 Years of Tackling Stigma and Discrimination

When Positive Action was created in 1992 it was the first pharmaceutical company program of its kind to support communities affected by HIV and AIDS.

Our programs are focused on vulnerable and marginalized populations to help them:

- Build capacity within their community
- Tackle stigma and discrimination
- Remove the barriers to accessing healthcare in order to achieve universal access for all populations

Today we have programs focused on vulnerable and marginalized populations, Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission, HIV education at work, and community projects supported by our local companies.

A circular logo with the words "POSITIVE ACTION" in red and black text. A red ribbon is tied around the word "ACTION".

POSITIVE
ACTION



Pride in the Multiplex

*Award-winning director Yen Tan—the man behind 2008's *Ciao* and the amazing new *Pit Stop*—offers up his picks for the 10 best LGBT films of all time. Call over some friends and throw one in your Blu-Ray tonight.*



1. HAPPY TOGETHER (1997), Wong Kar Wai: The film that made me want to make films. A masterpiece in every sense of the word with a poignancy that moves you to the core. Tony Leung's tape recorder moment in a Buenos Aires bar is très iconic.

2. BEGINNERS (2010), Mike Mills: Christopher Plummer's late-blooming Hal Fields is particularly affecting, but when his lover (played by Goran Visnjic) asks Hal's son (Ewan McGregor) if his being gay is the reason why they haven't been in touch, it felt like a punch in the gut. It reminded me of every instance in my life when I felt inferior.

3. BLUE GATE CROSSING (2002), Yee Chih Yen: A seemingly ordinary coming-of-age drama that blooms into something truly charming and unforgettable. Also, any film that makes me hunt down my Frente! cassette from high school is probably a good sign.

4. WEEKEND (2011), Andrew Haigh: The breakout Brit drama lives up to the hype, and is particularly insightful about what makes us tick. Personal highlight: The pretend coming-out conversation between Russell and Glen is what most of us dream of hearing from our parents.

5. GOODBYE, DRAGON INN (2003), Tsai Ming Liang: Have you ever fallen in love with an old movie theater? I have, and this film reminds me why. Liang has a uniquely queer sensibility, but also knows how to make things meaningful when it matters most.

6. CODEPENDENT LESBIAN SPACE ALIEN SEEKS SAME (2011), Madeline Olnek: This is the film that *Earth Girls Are Easy* could've been. Olnek is one of the funniest filmmakers you haven't heard of yet, and her previous short film, *Countertransference*, is comedy gold. Track it down.

7. A TIME TO LEAVE (2005), Francois Ozon: When the finale arrives for the terminally ill protagonist played by Melvin Poupaud, you will sob and marvel at its graceful execution. And Jeanne Moreau plays his grandmother. If that's not enough of a reason for you to see this film, I don't know what else to say.

8. PRODIGAL SONS (2008), Kimberly Reed: A remarkable documentary—about a former quarterback returning to her hometown as a woman—that out-dramas and out-twists most narrative films out there. Brave and emotionally charged.

9. GAYBY (2012), Jonathan Lisecki: An example of how camp, one-liners, and stereotypes can still be delivered in a smart, refreshing, and ultimately adorable way. Lisecki is the script doctor that a lot of Hollywood comedies should consult with right now. He will make your shit funnier.

10. THE BOYS IN THE BAND (1970), William Friedkin: One of those films that I still can't wrap my mind around how it got made at the time it did, and directed by the most unlikely candidate who went on to make bigger films (including another mind-boggler: *Cruising*). It is also encapsulates what things were like then, and how some things, like shame and self-loathing, are still as relevant now.



Yen Tan's *Pit Stop*—the emotional tale of two gay men living in small-town America—is playing at film festivals throughout the summer. For more info, go to pitstopthemovie.com.

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