



**GAY GRASSROOTS**  
Northwest Florida  
*Our Mission...*  
To bring together non-partisan activists to advocate for the full **UNDERSTANDING, RESPECT, EQUALITY, and INCLUSION** of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender persons living in Northwest Florida.

**FREE**



**RAINBOW BLADES**  
the GAY GRASSROOTS newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 5 May 2011

**April was great!, May can bring us money, and lots of reasons to be made as hell!**

First the good news, April was full of well attended and very informative events that if you were not there you really missed out. Check out pages 8 & 9 for a review of our very successful events last month, and try and think of a way that you can avoid missing out in the future.

This month offers some fantastic opportunities for Gay Grassroots to do some major fundraising thanks to collaborations with the "Men of Pensacola" calendar and the "UNLEADED" parties. All you have to do to help is show up and have a great time. Details on these events are on pages 2 & 3.

Being an LGBT person gives us many reasons to get involved with community causes. Sure we should focus on these issues, but we need not have tunnel vision so that we are unmoved by other needs. The devastating tornados have left so many in need. Learn how you can help members of our local LGBT community offer some relief supplies on page 6.

And finally, there were so many reasons to get mad as hell this month I replaced this month's "good news" page with a 2nd "all out assault" page. I hope you will forgive me, and know that there are always pieces of good news that lifts our spirits and gives us hope, but this month my anger got the better of me... a national conservative conference basically says that gays are going to destroy the world with our "unnatural vices"; the state of Tennessee seeks to make it illegal for teachers to even mention homosexuality, even if asked by a troubled student; Malaysia opens up camps to prevent effeminate boys from becoming gay or transgender; and U.S. House Speaker Boehner is so fearful of marriage equality he is seeking to divert Department of Justice money to fund his defense of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). Read all about these disturbing stories on pages 14 & 15.

Oh, I forgot that in my "As I see it" column, once again our United State Congress Jeff Miller says in an e-mail reply to my asking his support of an inclusive Employment Non-

Discrimination Act (ENDA) that basically he never has and never will support the idea of fair treatment of LGBT persons in the workplace.

Lastly, I want to really express how important it is that we get more "paid" members of Gay Grassroots and increase the amount of monthly pledges of support we receive for the operation of the Equality House. The moneys provided by grants will soon run out and if we are unable to sustain the center own our own we will have to close. I can't put it more clearly than that. We also need more participation at our meetings, if you expect Gay Grassroots, The Equality House, and PensacolaPRIDE to reflect your interests and desires you have to make them know. Take a the time to really read this issue and I know you will come to the understanding that we are worthy of your support.

In Pride,  
Doug Landreth,  
Editor  
Gay Grassroots President

**Have you check out our new and improved website?**



Yes we are back better than ever on the web. On our website (www.GGnwfl.com) you can find out how Gay Grassroots got started, our early accomplishments, our organizational structure, our events for this month, our advocacy goals for the year, what type of social activities we host, read current and archived issues of our *Rainbow Blades* newsletter, keep up to date with plans for PensacolaPRIDE (vendor, advertiser, entertainment, and donations forms are on line as well), learn about how the Equality House was created and what is going on there, find information on LGBT health, and ways to get in contact with us. PLEASE take a look to day and offer us your suggestions as to how we can make our website a tool that will better serve our community. THANKS TO MELANIE PARADISE FOR THE DONATION OF HER TIME TO GET OUR WEBSITE UP AND RUNNING!

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Gay Grassroots of Northwest Florida is proud to demonstrate our commitment to our community by:  
 partnering in the lgbt community center      producing of our annual pride festival      publishing our monthly newsletter



To receive a full color version of this newsletter e-mailed to you each month please sent us an e-mail asking to be placed on our confidential e-mail list to [GayGrassrootsNWFL@gmail.com](mailto:GayGrassrootsNWFL@gmail.com).

## Fantastic opportunities to help raise money for Gay Grassroots during May

Gay Grassroots is very pleased to announce that we have been offered proceeds from some major events this month. Christopher Peterson and the guys putting together the “Men of Pensacola” calendar, which goes on sale May 1st, are donating 15% of the proceeds from it’s sales to Gay Grassroots, along with 100% of proceeds from **3 Deluxe Gift Basket Raffles**, valued at \$1,000 each, and 100% of the proceeds from a **Boxer Shorts & Gift “Package” Raffle**. And Kristy Lee and the girls behind the “Unleashed” parties during Memorial Day Week have invited us to set up a table to accept donations at each of their **“Unleashed”** events, plus Kristy Lee is considering performing at PensacolaPRIDE on Saturday October 15th by donating her time. For us to make the most of these generous offers we need to YOU to do two things, 1st– attend each event, and 2nd– volunteer to help at one or more events. The importance of this can not be underestimated, these are major collaborations that we must get behind or we risk not having similar opportunities in the future. PLEASE e-mail GayGrassrootsNWFL@gmail.com ASAP and let us know what event you can volunteer at. Invite all of your friends TODAY to attend these events with you.



### “Men of Pensacola” calendar raffles– each of 3 gift basket includes

- I Men of Pensacola calendar (\$15)
  - I bottle of Absolut Vodka (\$40)
  - I VIP PASS Memorial Day Week to Thur-Mon events at Emerald City (\$75)
  - \$25 bar tab at Emerald City (\$25)
  - 2 Drink and Drowns at Emerald Cit7 (\$25)
  - I night stay at Sole’ Inn and Suites (\$90)
  - 4 Pensacola Ballet or 6 Pensacola Little Theater tickets (\$160)
  - Men’s haircut & products from Studio 7 Salon (\$125)
- or
- Gift basket from Christopher Kelly Salon (\$60)
  - Gift certificate from the Leisure Club (\$25)
  - 60 minute professional massage from Zack Holcombe LMT (\$60)
  - Britney Spears “Femme Fatal” CD (\$14)
  - Sitting session with Jesus Nieves Photography (\$100)
  - Consultation session from Dreamscape Designs Landscaping (\$50)
  - 8 gift cards and 2 weeks tanning/spray tan for 2 from Club Sun (\$170)
  - 3 thirty minute personal training sessions from Next Level Training (\$45)

**Tickets are: 1 for \$2, 5 for \$10, 15 for \$20 and 40 for \$50**

**Drawings will be held:**

**Friday May 6th (Saturday May 7th) @ 1am, Emerald City**

**Sunday May 8 During Southern Renegades Cookout @ 2pm, The Roundup**

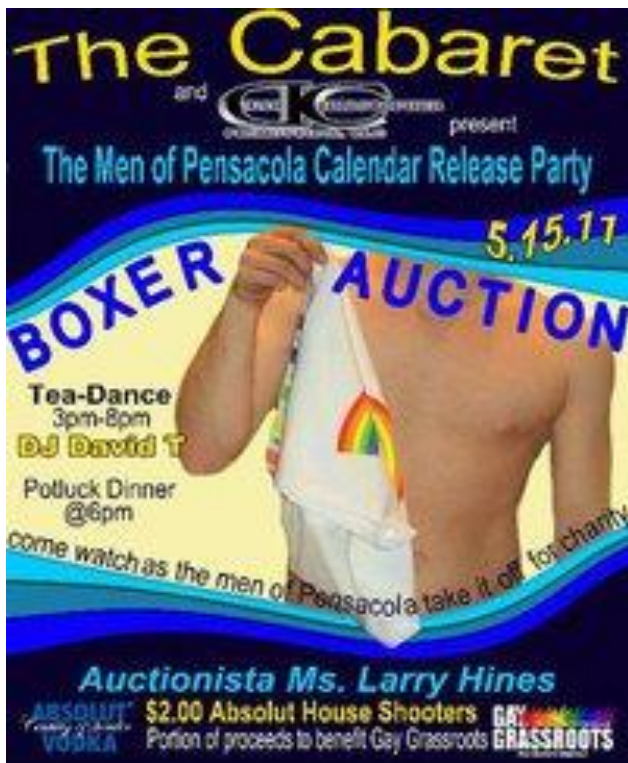
**Friday May 13th during Drag Bingo @ 8pm, Emerald City**



**(continued on page 3)**

(continued from page 2)

## Fantastic opportunities to help raise money for Gay Grassroots during May



“Men of Pensacola” calendar Boxer Short Auction- Drue Christopher Promotions' The Men of Pensacola: An 18-Month Calendar continues the great string of launch parties and fundraising events for Gay Grassroots of NWFL! This time, The Cabaret will host a special Sunday afternoon Tea Dance with DJ David T and a Pot Luck meal! The one and only Miss Larry Hines will be on the mic around 6 pm to introduce some of the guys of the calendar, shaking their stuff for a boxer brief auction paired with \$1,000 worth of prizes. Come out after your day at the beach...eat for free, check out the guys, and shake your stuff to DJ David T to help support a great fundraiser in the area!

**Auction will be held:  
Sunday May 15th, 3pm-5pm, The Cabaret**



### Gay Grassroots to party with the “UNLEASHED” crowd!

It's that time of year to load up once again with your crazy crew of friends and get to Pensacola beach for MEMORIAL WEEKEND "UNLEASHED" 2010. Kristy Lee and Missy LOVE to see your faces each year as we join together and become one BIG sexy family!! Thousands of boy's and girls flock to Crabs and Flounders on Pensacola beach to be a part of a "FOUR NIGHT STAND" packed full of adult entertainment. This is year number 8 for Kristy Lee and her "UNLEASHED" events to take over Pensacola Beach for Memorial Weekend!! Thanks to your support the "UNLEASHED" parties have grown to

be one of the LARGEST parties in the South East! Gay Grassroots looks forward to you joining the party this year. We have been invited to set up an information/donation table at each party, and we have decided that these are the events that we will be attending! Please stop by our table on your way into the parties and say hello, and if you can make a small donation for our PensacolaPRIDE 2011 entertainment fund! The more money we raise the better entertainment we will be able to offer to our local community for FREE this October 10th-16th.

General Admission weekend passes allow you to check in once you arrive and get your wristband for the entire weekend with a separate, no wait entrance to all parties. VIP weekend passes include separate, no wait entry to each party, private bar with drink special, free appetizers, crawfish boils at midnight each night, and free beer bust on Sunday, all enjoyed in the comfort of your own VIP area. To purchase advance tickets and for more info visit the official website at: [www.pensacolaunleashed.com](http://www.pensacolaunleashed.com).

# AS I SEE IT

Doug Landreth

Once again our elected officials refuse to see LGBT persons as equal and insist that treating us fairly would create “special protections”

As I tend to do, I once again wrote Congressman Jeff Miller urging him to support a Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) that would be inclusive of sexual orientation and gender expression/identity. Once again I got a “never have, never will” reply. (see a copy of the e-mail reply inset to the right) I find it very disturbing that all too often those who have been elected to serve all the people hide behind a convenient issue that is not directly related to the right or wrong of an issue.

This time Congressman Miller chose to hide behind his belief that the federal government places too many regulations on private businesses. If this is the real reason, why is he not working to remove anyone of the countless regulations that cover far more people than those who are LGBT? Why is he not working to cut programs that cost business owners far more money than it would cost to simply add LGBT persons into non-discrimination policies that already cover the estimated 90% of the population who are not LGBT? If he truly wants to reduce costs and burdens for business owners why is he not working to remove women or non-whites from discrimination protections? They each make up over 50% of the United States population, and they were born non-male or non-white just as we were born sexual orientation- or gender- non-conformant. If protections can be denied based on who someone is (how they are born), and not their decisions or choices, why not make the cuts where it would affect the most people. All things being equal his “business friendly, not homophobic” tactics would have greater impact if he were to apply this same philosophy to those born female or non-white. But we know that is not going to happen, because all things (meaning LGBT people) are not equal.

Maybe if more of our community stood up for what is right, and forced Mr. Miller and all the other cowardly officials to at least admit that they are letting their homophobia direct who they are willing to protect and those they decide not to protect we could begin to bring more LGBT allies into the political process and once and for all get an inclusive ENDA passed. I would think that giving our current economic climate every LGBT person would understand how vital fair employment practices are to our community.

If every member of our LGBT community can not stand up for something as straight forward as ENDA, how can we ever get ourselves together enough to tackle the issues that are so often entangled with religion and parenting skills? Of all the discriminatory issues that the LGBT community faces surely no other is less threatening than the right to make a living. As straight forward as it sounds, our communities' silence is what will prevent us from being treated fairly in the workplace, and beyond.

I beg you to visit [http://unitedenda.org/take\\_action](http://unitedenda.org/take_action) where you can take a survey on job place discrimination that will be used in lobby efforts, send an e-mail to your elected officials, and get tips for talking about an inclusive ENDA.

I'm mad, and I hope you are mad too, but more so I hope that you will speak up and demand that we be treated fairly.

Thanks how I see it,  
Doug Landreth, Gay Grassroots President



Dear Mr. Landreth,

Thank you for contacting my office regarding H.R. 1397 and S. 811, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). I appreciate hearing your thoughts on the issues that affect Northwest Florida and our Nation.

Rep. Barney Frank introduced H.R. 1397 on April 6, 2011, while Sen. Jeff Merkley introduced S. 811 on April 13, 2011. If enacted, these bills would make it illegal for employers to discriminate against an individual based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. Both bills were referred to committees or subcommittees, where they are currently awaiting further action.

Although I do not condone discrimination of any kind, it is my opinion that the federal government continues to place too many regulations on private businesses. My concern is that these restrictions might result in creating special protections for some citizens.

Because of this philosophy, I voted against similar legislation when H.R. 3685, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act of 2007, was introduced in the 110th Congress. Should H.R. 1397 come before the House for a vote, I plan to oppose this legislation.

Again, thank you for contacting me about this important issue. If you would like to receive further information on issues of importance to you, please log on to my website at <http://www.house.gov/jeffmiller>. As always, please feel free to contact my office if you have any further concerns.

Sincerely,

Jeff Miller  
Member of Congress

# MOVING FORWARD

LGBT History Project gets some expert assistance, asks for your help



This summer, we are honored to have Jay Watkins visit with us. He holds a Master's in History from Georgia State and is currently working on his PhD in history at King's College in London. He has generously offered to help catalogue items and to take personal interviews while he is in the Panhandle this summer working on research for his dissertation. Mr. Watkins will be a major asset to the project, both as a researcher and as a trainer for volunteers. Mr. Watkins is familiar with much of the early local LGBT history as he did his graduate thesis on the early Panama City LGBT community. Joshua Jones, who is heading up the Pensacola LGBT History Project, asks that EVERYONE look in their closets, attics, and storage sheds for any items or information that can added to this project. No piece of information or memorabilia is too small or unimportant. It is with great sadness that the Gaygrassroots learned of Ray and Henry Hillyer's passing. The Hillyers were pioneers in bringing visibility to the gay community at a time when coming out of the closet risked livelihood and freedom. We have reach out to their estate seeking cooperation in this project and hope that they will donate or make a long term loan of their personal affects that are so closely associated with the early LGBT community in Pensacola. You may drop off any items for this project at the Equality House. For more information or questions please e-mail Joshua at joshuaa-jones@gmail.com.

## Volunteers needed for "UNLEASHED" parties Memorial Day Week



While many people mistakenly think of Memorial Day Week as our local pride it is not. However we have been presented an opportunity to capi-

talize on the huge Memorial Day Week parties in a way that will help us throw a better Pensacola-PRIDE this October. We have been invited to set up an information/donation table at each of the "UNLEASHED" parties that take place at Flounders and Crabs on Pensacola Beach. All the money we raise will go to bring in top rate entertainment that we can provide for FREE during PensacolaPRIDE 2011. This is a great opportunity, but we need many volunteers to help us staff the table. PLEASE e-mail us ASAP if you can help out even for a few hours Thur-Sun May 26-29th!

## Bylaws completed!



While may have seemed as if it would never end, our bylaws committee has completed drafting our bylaws. The long process can be attributed to the desire to get it done right the first time and to make sure we included all that was needed while leaving enough flexibility for future growth and adaptation. The next step is to complete the application process for our non-profit status.

## PensacolaPRIDE art contest deadline extended to June 1st



PensacolaPRIDE 2011 will join pride festivals around the world in adopting the global theme "Pride Around the World" for use as the local theme for PensacolaPRIDE 2011, to be held Monday October 10th through Sunday October 16th, with our signature Festival in the Park to be held on Saturday October 15th in historic Seville Square. Everyone is invited to enter our art contest to select the image that will be used on the cover of the PensacolaPRIDE program (and all other publicity materials), as well as being reproduced on all 2011 PensacolaPRIDE merchandise. The winner of this contest will receive \$100 cash, and be acknowledged in our Rainbow Blades newsletter and the PensacolaPRIDE program. Artwork must be e-mailed to GayGrassrootsNWFL@gmail.com by 12 noon, Wednesday June 1st. Artwork must include the wording, "Pride Around the World", no other text should

be included. Winning artwork becomes the property of GayGrassroots and may be altered for reproduction purposes, the artist will have the 1st option of making any need changes. For more information please e-mail your questions to GayGrassrootsNWFL@gmail.com.

## Open Meeting THUR MAY 12TH @ 7PM



Everyone is invited to join us as we continue our growth and organizing. We will setting up committees and discussing the responsibilities for each committee. This will be a very important meeting that we need as many people as possible to attend. Refreshments will be provided.

## Open Planning Roundtable THUR APR 28TH @ 7PM



Everyone is invited to join us as we continue our planning for a bigger and better PensacolaPRIDE 2011. Before the meeting everyone is asked to think of entertainment they would like to see perform during Saturday's Festival in the Park, events they think would be well attended during the week, possible advertisers, and ideas to start raising money now. Refreshments will be provided.



# HELPING HANDS

## Gay Grassroots leader heads up tornado relief effort, sees need for 2nd trip

Gay Grassroots Treasurer, Donna Stough, and Deborah York leaped into action after the devastating tornados in Tuscaloosa. Three of Donna's cousins were killed in the tornado and several other family members have yet to be located. There inspiration resulted in a tremendous outreach to the people most hurt by the record storms. They called out to members of their church, Holy Cross MCC, and the local LGBT community for relief supplies. The church and community answered the call and as a result the truck in the picture below was almost filled with donations from not only members and friends of Holy Cross MCC but from the entire Pensacola and surrounding communities. People, businesses and agencies came from all over to make donations which were delivered last Sunday to Tuscaloosa.



A message from Donna Stough: "We will be going back to Tuscaloosa on Saturday, May 14, 2011 with more supplies. The supplies that we take are delivered to a group of volunteers who go directly into the affected areas and hand out much-needed donations to the people. They are not delivered to a drop-off point where the survivors are required to come and get what they need. All too many have no way to travel. I realize that there have been events in the world that have taken the devastation in Tuscaloosa out of the headlines. Please do not let the people of Alabama be lost in the media. The destruction that we saw last week is incomparable. I was here for hurricanes Ivan, Erin, and Opal, and the vastness of the loss does not compare to what I saw in Tuscaloosa. The death toll is nearing 200 with dozens still missing. Many children have been orphaned and livelihoods are simply gone. The monetary loss is expected to surpass hurricane Katrina. As before, items can be dropped off at Holy Cross MCC, located at 3130 W. Fairfield in Pensacola between 10am and 3pm, Monday through Saturday. For information, call Donna at 850 221-2700.

Requested items are: underwear (all sizes), children's clothes, socks, blankets, ready to eat and non-perishable food items, water, bug spray, sun screen, toiletries, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, deodorant, tennis shoes, tarps for covering roofs, diapers, formula, diaper cream, baby powder, baby wipes, clothes hangers, soap, towels and wash cloths, hand sanitizer, flash lights, batteries, detergent, and money (used for gas for the u-haul and to buy more supplies)



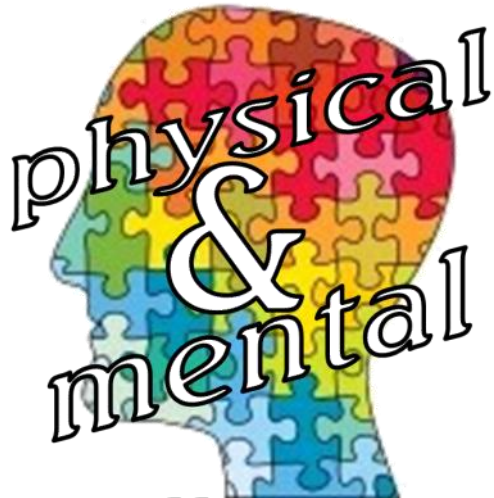
# Equality House

Home to Pensacola's LGBT Community

2nd Monday series continues with presentation on "External Prejudice and Internalized Homophobia"

MON MAY 9TH @ 7PM

## LGBT Health



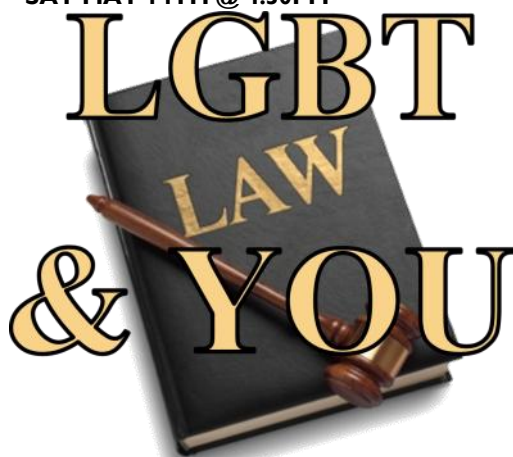
## Well Being

Dr. Susan Walsh will discuss her research finding on the impact of external prejudice and internalized homophobia on one's physical and mental health, as well as previewing the research project her students will be doing this Memorial Day Week. This will be the 2nd of our monthly presentations that focus on topics of particular interest to the LGBT community as it relates to physical and mental health and wellbeing

1st "LGBT- the Law & You" workshop:

General LGBT Law Overview

SAT MAY 14TH @ 4:30PM



Attorney Joshua Jones will be offering a 5 part series on legal issues of particular importance to the LGBT community. These free workshops will be held the 2nd Saturday of each month at the Equality House from 4:30pm til 6:30pm. Persons wishing to attend are asked to RSVP for each workshop by e-mailing GayGrassrootsNWFL@gmail.com. The tentative schedule

is: May 14th-general overview; June 11th-real estate; July 9th-adoption; August 13th-same gender divorce; September 10th-estate planning.

Expanded HIV prevention efforts made possible by additional OASIS staff members working out of the Equality House



OASIS welcomes two new additions to the OASIS staff working out of Equality House. While OASIS is proud to introduce both of these individuals to the community, it really isn't necessary as both have long been involved in the LGBT community. OASIS welcomes back to our staff Jeremy Ward, formally our coordinator for the MPowerment Program operated at the GEARS Center, Jeremy will be conducting HIV outreach and prevention services to the MSM (Men Who Have Sex with Men) community. After losing CDC funding for the area, few resources for targeted MSM prevention have been available. This particular demographic is our largest risk group as documented in our recent prevention plan. Jeremy's outreach program is funded through a grant to OASIS from the Red Ribbon Charitable Foundation to bring awareness of HIV in the community especially the LGBT community. We are fortunate to have Jeremy return part time. Joining Jeremy is our new HIV Prevention Coordinator for MSM outreach, Karen Lynch. Karen is no stranger to Pensacola, having lived in the area for many years and just graduating from UWF with a Masters in Social Work. Karen also has a Master's degree in Communication Arts and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership, ABD (All but Dissertation). Her work experience includes serving as the Assistant Director of UWF's Instructional Media Center, working as a Mental Health Counselor specializing in Chemical Dependency, and working for the Department of Health as the HIV/AIDS Program Coordinator (HAPC) and Contract Manager in Florida's Area One. Karen has a special commitment to improving our local MSM (Men Having Sex with Men) HIV prevention efforts, as two of her brothers have died of AIDS. Karen's position is funded through a grant to OASIS from the Elton John Foundation. Karen will have over site over all prevention services and will be instrumental in developing suitable educational and prevention services to the area targeting gay and bisexual men. OASIS Executive director Butch McKay says OASIS feels fortunate to have these incredible individuals work with us. Welcome aboard Karen and Jeremy.

Events continue to grow in attendance at Equality House



(pictured above are some of those enjoying a recent outdoor cookout)

It seems that word has really begun to spread about the events and activities going on at the Equality House. Each month we have seen an increase in the number of people that are coming to our themed parties, potluck dinners, and other social activities that take place at the Equality House. While the events surrounding the "Men of Pensacola" calendar and the "UNLEASHED" parties during Memorial Day Week (see pages 2 and 3 for details) have made it necessary for a greater than normal amount of events take place away from our home, you will see more activities and events taking place at the Equality House in June and the rest of the summer. Please remember that we encourage your suggestion for social opportunities that we can host at the Equality House.

Please take a look around and see if you have any items that we would like to have donated to the Equality House.



# LOCAL JUICE

**LGBT historian's visit to Pensacola is huge success**



*(pictured above are LGBT historian and film maker Glene McElhinney and Jousha Jones)*

On Sunday April 10th, nationally recognized LGBT historian and film maker, Glene McElhinney brought her documentary **"On These Shoulders We Stand"**, which tells the early lgbt civil rights movement in Los Angeles through eye witness accounts of 11 notable LGBT leaders, to Pensacola. Over 45 members of our local community attended this program and enjoyed it's wine and cheese reception, both co-sponsored by Gay Grassroots and the panhandle chapter of the ACLU. The occasion not only offered a fascinating look back into the time leading up to the Stonewall Riots, it provided a most appropriate time to present the 1st Annual Gay Grassroot's LGBT Cultivator Award, and kick off of our effort to document the local LGBT history. More detailed information about the award presentation can be found on the following page, and details about the local LGBT history project can be found in "moving forward" on page 9. Glene commented repeatedly about how well organized the days events was and how excited everyone seemed to be. By all accounts she left Pensacola impressed and eager to return, perhaps during PensacolaPRIDE.

**ACLU says adoption events in Pensacola best in the state**



*(pictured above are Jeff Vessels, Development Director ACLU of Florida; Nikki Fisher Advocacy Coordinator ACLU of Florida; Susan Watson, Executive Director Panhandle Chapter ACLU; Vanessa and Melanie*

*Alenier, adoptive parents; and Doug Landreth, Gay Grassroots President) Nikki Fisher, Advocacy Coordinator for the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida, was in Pensacola to help coordinate events surrounding the importance of our communities' continued efforts to insure that the blanket adoption, which kept thousands of Florida children out of loving, safe, and forever homes, is not in anyway reinstated. At the conclusion of the week's events Nikki stated the events that took place in Pensacola were the most well received and successful in the state of Florida since the campaign began over a year ago. The week's events included 2 screenings of "In Anita's Wake"; a town hall meeting featuring Vanessa and Melanie Alenier, who only because of their sexual orientation, had to fight in order to adopt a minor child despite him being a blood relative and them having the blessing of the biological parent; and a workshop on effective methods to advocate against all efforts that may try to once again deny children of being adopted by parents who can provide safe, loving and forever homes.*



*(pictured above are Daryl Hannah, GLAAD Senior Media Field Strategist; Nikki Fisher Advocacy Coordinator ACLU of Florida; and Susan Watson, Executive Director Panhandle Chapter ACLU)*

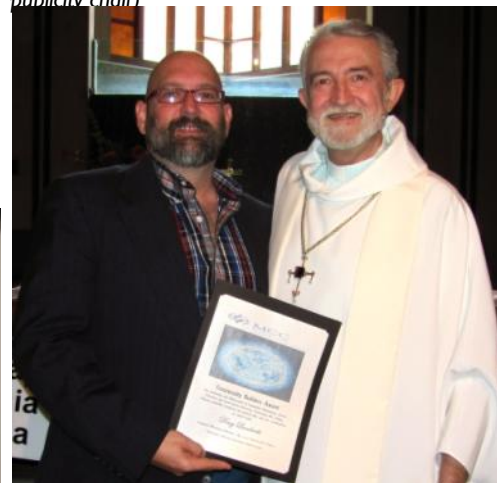
The training workshop which was conducted by the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Deformation (GLAAD) was extremely informative and provided tactics that can easily be applied to any advocacy work. The week also included cocktail party fundraiser that raised money to be used by the ACLU of Florida's continued efforts to insure that the blanket adoption ban does not return.

**PensacolaPRIDE committee members attend Mobile Pride**

Among those traveling from Pensacola to enjoy the Mobile Pride parade and festival were four members of the PensacolaPRIDE committee. While the Saturday April 30th and Sunday May 1st events were pleasant and provide a opportunity to see many of our Alabama friends the event offered the opportunity to invite vendors and entertainers to participate in our festival to take place October 15, 2011 in historic Seville Square. An unexpected treat a presentation of a "Community Builders Award" to Gay Grassroots President Doug Landreth during Cornerstone MCC's Community Affirmation Celebration.



*entertainment chair, Brian Heike, PensacolaPRIDE events chair; Robin Galbraith, Mobile Alabama Pride Committee; and Doug Landreth, PensacolaPRIDE publicity chair)*



*(pictured above are Doug Landreth, Gay Grassroots President and Rev. Lee Carlton of Cornerstone MCC)*

**Ex-ex gay group starts in Fort Lauderdale**

Fort Lauderdale Rev. Jerry Stephenson, a Truth Wins Out board member, has announced his formation of an Ex-Ex-Gay Group called GOD'S WORTHY CREATION with Atlantic Institute Spiritual Counseling Center to help gays and lesbians know that they are wonderfully made as they are in God's wonderful creation. This new program will seek to bring healing to those coming out of the Ex-Gay Movement. If you want to take part in this group, please call Rev. Stephenson at 954-632-1529 or email him at JeryLSt@aol.com Jerry is an author of several books including, "Out of the Closet and into the Light" and "Overcoming Obstacles in Life and Coming Out On Top". He also appeared the Truth Wins Out survivor video.

# LOCAL JUICE

## Rev. Lee Carlton presented 1st Annual Gay Grassroot's LGBT Cultivator Award.



(pictured above is Rev. Lee Carlton and Gay Grassroots's President Doug Landreth) On Sunday April 10th, between the screening of the "One These Shoulders We Stand" documentary and the kick off of the Pensacola LGBT History Project, Rev. Lee Carlton was presented the 1st Annual Gay Grassroot's LGBT Cultivator Award. An emotional Doug Landreth had difficulty reading the long list of actions that Lee has been at the forefront of on behalf of the LGBT civil rights movement during his life. Here is an excerpt:

Cultivate: To bestow attention, care, and labor upon, with a view toward valuable return. Through dedicated efforts, to make ready or suitable or equip in advance for a particular purpose. Today Gay Grassroots of Northwest Florida bestows our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual LGBT Cultivation Award. This award honors someone who has spent their life cultivating better UNDERSTANDING, RESPECT, EQUALITY, and INCLUSION of LGBT people. Like many civil rights activists, today's honoree has kept the fight for social justice at the center of their personal and professional life. A person's compassion, perseverance, and hope, does not guarantee them a simple or easy life, but it certainly increases the odds of their effectiveness in their fight for themselves and others. The LGBT civil rights movement has been full of false starts, push backs, and course corrections. To successfully navigate this journey you must have a full arsenal of weapons: a silken tongue, an ridged backbone, a sweet disposition, a strong fist, an air of confidence, an ability to self examine, quick reflexes, calming influence, ability to motivate, and above all the understanding that in every situation it is up to them to look for a way to cultivate the changes that will one day lead to full civil rights for LGBT and all persons. Anyone who knows today's honoree has seen these traits time and time again in him.

It is my distinct honor to announce that Gay Grassroots of Northwest Florida has chosen as our 1<sup>st</sup> recipient of our annual LGBT Cultivator Award..... Reverend Lee Carlton.

Lee was a pioneer of the Metropolitan Community Church movement since 1970 when

he joined Christ's Church MCC in Miami. He was the youngest minister ever ordained in MCC and today holds the second longest tenure of MCC service as an Ordained clergy. Lee was founding pastor of MCC's 11<sup>th</sup> congregation, First MCC of Tampa Bay and followed Rev Troy Perry as Senior Pastor of MCC/LA, where the congregation grew to over 1000 regular Sunday worshippers. He became MCC's 1st first Executive Secretary of the Board of Evangelism and World Mission. During his tenure, some 27 congregations of MCC's were established in the US and abroad. Lee has traveled to and confirmed new MCC works in Australia, Nigeria, England, Scotland, France and Denmark, welcoming pastors, confirming new church groups and meeting with interested groups of persons.

Rev Lee Carlton lead one of the first Gay activists efforts recorded in Florida. When a Denny's Restaurant in Tampa openly refused service to the gay community, Rev. Carlton called on church members to meet him at the restaurant, where they occupied each available vacant seat until the restaurant was filled, forcing the management to either serve them or close. Some 10 hours later, the General Offices of Denny's in CA called Rev Carlton to the phone, offered him and the members of the gay community an apology and then fired the local management on the spot.

In Los Angeles, following the third successful Pride Parade; local businesses on Hollywood Blvd sided with police in a petition drive to close all gay businesses and bars on Hollywood Blvd. Lee solicited called for a community wide boycott of all shopping by the LGBT community. Within two days the Blvd was deserted and the Chamber of Commerce was calling asking him to resend the boycott. Again in Los Angeles Rev Carlton led an all night vigil at the Los Angeles Times because of their unfair and biased reporting on LGBT individuals and failure to equally cover positive events in the gay community. The vigil led to meetings with the owners and Publisher's of the Times and it became one of the first major national papers to endorse LGBT rights and equality.

Lee lead a similar event at the Sydney Morning Herald in Australia, because they refused to accept an add which used the word gay. While in Sydney Lee coordinated the first pride events in the city, leading to the formation of the Sydney Gay Lesbian Marde Gras; the largest LGBT social/political gathering in the southern hemisphere.

In Jacksonville, Fl. Rev. Carlton lead demonstrations against and opened communications with the Jacksonville Police Department and working with the Community Relations Commission assisted in writing portions of that city's Equal Employment Opportunities ordinances. In Ft. Myers, he lead the first AIDs actions for hands on care, working with the County public health department began a program of public education and the creation of the Southwest Florida Human Rights Coalition.

Coming to Pensacola in 1985, Rev. Carlton responded to a small conflicted group of

gay people seeking leadership over the role of MCC in being a Christian Church or a social service agency or a voice for social justice. Lee suggested that they could be the catalyst for all three. He welcomed the installation of the first AIDS crisis phone service in the church; and working with Escambia County Health Depart became the first chair person of the newly created Escambia Aids Services and Education. The church established a food distribution service and Lee went on to lead the church in sponsorship of the first Gay Pride Dance and lead the creation of the Northwest Florida Pride Committee, organizing annual events at what was then known as 'Pensacola Gay Beach' on the Gulf Island's National Seashore.

The first two years saw an uneasy relationship with the park rangers, as crowds grew each year, so did homophobia. While passing out literature on Aids Education and free condoms provided by the health department, Pastor Carlton and three church members were viciously arrested and charged with 16 counts of Federal violations. The large crowd of beach goers responded asking questions of the officers and fearing a riot some thirty back up Escambia sheriffs vehicles arrived. Defense attorney and activist, Robert Pope obtained a video of the arrests and when this was shown to the court, all defendants were immediately found not guilty in Federal Court. As news of the arrests were reported in the Advocate National Newspaper huge crowds which grew to exceed 60,000 + visitors became an annual event over Memorial Day Weekend. Lee invited the Los Angeles leadership of Christopher Street West Pride Committee to the Emerald Coast and sponsored meetings with the business community and social justice activists. The result was the creation of the first Gay Community Business Guild, a huge Pride Party and Community Awards event and the subsequent local creation of Christopher Street South as the official Pride agency for Northwest Florida.

In April 1993, saying "I'll be there if I have to walk to get there" "these are my people, this is my country, I'm sick and tired of unconstitutional public forums on the civil rights of minorities," Lee was instrumental in getting 400 Pensacola LGBT community members to a march on Washington demanding a national civil rights law protecting homosexuals, an end to the military's ban on gays, and increased spending on AIDS research. In August of the same year, The American Family Assoc proposed a state constitutional amendment that would ban laws which prohibited discrimination against homosexuals. Lee was one of 5 people that showed up to demonstrate against the city of Pensacola whom allowed the radical groups show it's propaganda film "The Gay Agenda" in the city hall.

Lee now pastors at Cornerstone MCC in MobileMobile and is naturally in the thick of all things were social injustices must be challenged.

Over the years we have harvested much from the cultivating work of our friend Lee. Our world is better for him having been who he is, and we can all be better by being more like who he is.

# OUR AMERICA



## Holder attempts to stop DOMA deportation

Atty. Gen. Eric Holder has asked the Board of Immigration Appeals to reconsider the deportation of a gay man who entered into a civil union with his American partner. Holder's filing was related to application of Paul Wilson Dorman to remain in the United States with his partner, *Metro Weekly* reports. The board ruled that because of the Defense of Marriage Act, which bars the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriages, unions, or partnerships authorized by a state, Dorman would have to return to his country of origin. However, Holder asked the board to vacate their earlier ruling, and allow him to personally review this particular case. Eric Berndt, an attorney for the National Asylum Partnership on Sexual Minorities at the National Immigrant Justice Center, told *Metro Weekly* that Holder's move to vacate the board's decision is "an extraordinary step." He added, "It adds some heft to our requests for prosecutorial discretion in individual cases in which the foreign partner" in a same-sex binational couple is seeking a green card because of his or her citizen partner.

## Gay basher's execution put on hold

The scheduled execution of Richard Laird, who was twice convicted of the 1987 murder of gay artist Anthony Milano, has been put on hold. Laird, along with his drinking buddy Frank Chester, was found guilty in 1988 of the brutal slaying, which occurred in Bucks County, Pa. While Chester's conviction was recently overturned, Gov. Tom Corbett signed a death warrant for Laird March 14, calling for him to be put to death this month. In April a Bucks County judge granted Laird a stay of execution while his attorneys pursued appeals, giving them until June 17 to file an amended petition, according to *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. The following day a U.S. district court judge also granted a stay. The murder of Milano — who reportedly met Laird and Chester in a bar and was later found dead along a road, beaten and with his throat slashed so severely that his spinal cord was severed — was one of the state's first widely publicized gay bashings. After Laird's original conviction was overturned by a judge in 2001, he was retried for the murder six years later, convicted a second time, and again sentenced to death.

## Denver Lesbian wins city council race

Out politician Robin Kniech will become the first openly LGBT member of Denver's city council. In the election, which featured all mail-in ballots and ended Tuesday, May 3, at 7 p.m., Kniech was among five candidates vying for one of two at-large seats. She placed second. "I ran to work for all Denver families," Kniech said Tuesday, "but I know this is a meaningful day for our LGBT community. We were happy to earn so many important endorsements, but I'm especially grate-

ful to the Victory Fund for everything they did for our campaign." Victory Fund president and CEO Chuck Wolfe hailed Kniech's election as an "important milestone for the city. We are very proud of Robin and her campaign team, and we're excited that the LGBT community in Denver will now have an authentic voice with a vote in city government."

## Mass. gets 1st openly gay Supreme Court Judge

Barbara A. Lenk, a veteran Appeals Court judge, has been confirmed to a seat on the Supreme Judicial Court, becoming the first openly gay judge to serve on the state's highest judicial body. The Governor's Council confirmed Lenk on a 5-3 vote. She is Governor Deval Patrick's fourth appointment to the seven-member SJC, which issued the landmark 2003 ruling that made Massachusetts the first state to legalize same-sex marriage. Lenk, who married her partner, Debra Krupp, after the ruling, has 18 years' experience on the bench, a degree from Harvard Law School, and a doctorate in political philosophy from Yale. Patrick nominated her to replace Justice Judith A. Cowin, who is retiring. Lenk's confirmation hearing last week lasted more than seven hours, and was often contentious. Critics raised questions about Lenk's ruling in an incest case, and about whether she had avoided conflicts of interest when Krupp represented clients at the Appeals Court in her capacity as a lawyer for the state public defenders' office. Social conservatives blasted Lenk, saying her appointment to the SJC would encourage the indoctrination of children into homosexuality. But Lenk had the full backing of the state's legal establishment. Bar association leaders, former judges, and Lenk's former clerks wrote letters to the Governor's Council, saying Lenk's critics were inappropriately focused on her sexuality and ignoring her legal credentials. They praised her as a woman of fairness, decency, and uncommon intellect. Patrick had sought to cool the emotional debate, saying the fact that Lenk would be the first openly gay SJC justice was a "nice coincidence," but secondary to her qualifications for the bench. "I thank the members of the Council who concluded, as I did, that Justice Lenk's sharp intellect, vast experience, and deep sense of humanity will make her an outstanding Associate Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court," Patrick said in a statement issued after the Governor's Council vote. "The people of the Commonwealth will be well served by having her extraordinary talents and wisdom join our highest court."

## 5 men almost beat gay teen to death in North Carolina

The York County Sheriff's Office has made five arrests in a case involving a gay teen who was brutally beaten nearly three weeks ago in Rock Hill. Joshua Esskew was assaulted on Saturday, April 9, at the Spot Convenience Store located at 990 South Cherry Road. According to the sheriff's office, there was a verbal altercation between Esskew and Bobby Wilson who was standing in

front of the convenience store. Wilson allegedly struck Esskew in the back of the head with a bottle. The sheriff's office says when Esskew attempted to confront the assailant, four other males ran to the scene and also attacked Esskew. The attack was captured on surveillance video and the sheriff's office released that video to the public. Several people called in with tips which identified the five suspects, all between the ages of 20 and 25. Each of the suspects have been charged with Assault and Battery of a High and Aggravated Nature which is a felony charge. If convicted, each of the suspects could receive a sentenced up to 20 years in prison. In a statement released Friday afternoon, the sheriff's office said, "Based on the original allegations that this may have been a hate crime, the FBI has collected facts to present to the Department of Justice." "The suspects in this crime have been identified and are being brought to justice due to cooperation between law enforcement and the willingness of the public to get involved and not let this violent crime go unpunished," said York County Sheriff Bruce Bryant.

## Transgender woman beaten in Baltimore McDonalds as employees laugh

Prosecutors are considering possible hate crime charges against the two women accused in the brutal beating of 22-year-old transgender woman Chrissy Lee Polis at a Baltimore-area McDonald's. Police have arrested a 14-year-old girl and an 18-year-old girl they say attacked Polis. The 18-year-old has been identified as Teonna Monae Brown. Baltimore County police spokesman Lt. Robert McCullough said that police are working with the state's attorney's office to determine whether other charges should be brought. "Generally when it comes to cases that involve racial, religious, ethnic or sexual orientation from an investigative standpoint, we approach the case from the perspective of the victim," he said. *CNN* reports that if charged with a hate crime, the suspects could face an additional 10 years in prison and an extra \$10,000 fine. According to *CBS station WJZ*, Polis says the incident started as she was trying to use the restroom at the restaurant. "I went to go use the bathroom. Come back out, the girl spit in my face, said, 'Are you trying to talk to my man?' I said, 'No, I didn't even know that was your man at all.' The other girl came up, spit in my face, then they started ripping my hair, throwing me on the floor," Polis told *The Baltimore Sun*. "They just seemed like they wanted to pick a fight that night, they really did. And come to find out that girl was only 14-years-old. I was shocked," she said. "They kicked me in my face; they really hurt me really bad and I'm just afraid to go outside now because of stuff like this." Only one McDonald's employee can be seen trying to intervene in a video of the assault. Several others can be heard laughing. McDonald's says the employee who videotaped the attack has since been fired.



# WORLD VIEW

## South African murder called hate crime

South African LGBT activists are urging increased action against hate crimes after the rape and murder of Noxolo Nogwaza, whose attackers reportedly said they would "take the lesbian out" of her. South African LGBT activists say a woman stabbed to death late last month was also a victim of "corrective rape," in which men sexually assault lesbians on the pretense that the action will turn the women straight. The victim, Noxolo Nogwaza, 24, was attacked by several men after she dropped off her girlfriend in a township near Johannesburg, *CNN* reports. She was raped, stabbed with broken glass, and beaten with rocks. Used condoms, rocks, and a beer bottle were found near her body. Local police, who are continuing to search for the perpetrators, say the killing was not a hate crime, but activists disagree. "Her attack is a case of corrective rape," said Lydia Kunu, who worked at a gay organization with Nogwaza. "Neighbors said they heard her attackers telling her, 'We will take the lesbian out of you.'" Lesbian soccer player Eudy Simelane was raped and murdered in a similar manner three years ago in the same township. Nogwaza's death has led to increased pressure on South Africa's government to take action against bias-related crimes involving LGBT victims. The nation's Justice Ministry this week set up a task force to address the matter. Although South Africa, in its post-apartheid constitution, became the first African nation to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation, antigay violence and other manifestations of homophobia remain rampant in the country, activists said. Siphokazi Mthathi, the South Africa director for Human Rights Watch, told *CNN* that sometimes when lesbians report being raped, police say, "Aren't you glad that you got a real man for a change?" "South Africa is a very misogynist and homophobic society," Mthathi said. "We welcome the task team, but it won't solve social problems. We need to address the culture of accountability in judicial and social institutions, we need to address the attitudes ... disrupt the culture of impunity."

## Brazil Approves Civil Unions

Brazil's supreme court ruled in favor of granting civil unions to gay and lesbian couples Thursday, May 4, after two days of proceedings over the case. Minister Luis Fux, who was the first to submit his vote, said he believes that because homosexuality is not a crime, it should not prevent gay people from forming families. While the court decided not to legalize marriage, some ministers involved said it would be the next step in Brazil. "There is no escaping the evidence that homosexual marriage is an empirical reality," minister Ricardo Lewandowski said, according to *Estado News*. The lawsuit was filed by Rio state governor Sergio Cabral, who wanted to grant partnership rights and benefits to all state employees, according to *AFP*. Additionally, Brazilian attorney general Roberto Gurgel supports

legalizing civil unions, and his office joined Cabral in the suit. In South America, Argentina has legalized marriage equality, while Uruguay, which has civil unions, is also considering legalizing marriage equality.






## U.K. admits that safeguards to avoid deadly deportations of LGBT persons are falling short

Officials have admitted they are failing to collect data on the number of people who claim or are refused asylum on the basis of their sexuality, despite a government promise not to deport lesbians and gay men at risk of persecution. The lack of statistics means the government does not know whether gay and lesbian asylum seekers are still being deported to countries where they may face imprisonment, torture or execution. It is also unable to say whether new rules, brought in after a supreme court ruling that marked an end to Britain refusing asylum to gay men and lesbians on the grounds they could hide their sexuality by living discreetly, are being breached. In that July ruling, welcomed by Theresa May, the home secretary, one judge described how homophobia had "dramatically worsened" in countries such as Uganda, Malawi and Iran, making it necessary to allow those at risk protection in Britain. The UK Border Agency was told by the Home Office last year that the new rules should be applied "with immediate effect" and that relevant cases should be "flagged and recorded". But more than six months on, the government still does not know how many cases they are dealing with, let alone whether the ruling is being followed. Last week, the US secretary of state, Hilary Clinton, launched her department's 35th Human Rights report, which cited a Stonewall report drawing attention to "significant disadvantages" experienced by lesbian and gay asylum seekers in Britain. The UK chapter in the US state department report said: "Stonewall claimed that, by 'fast tracking' these more complex cases and denying them quickly, UKBA staff did not give applicants time to talk openly about their sexual orientation." The campaign group found that, in the period between 2005-2009 almost all gay and lesbian asylum seeker claims were initially refused, compared with a 76% refusal rate among all asylum seekers, and were more likely to be fast tracked, which meant applicants and their lawyers had much less time to prepare an appeal. Following accusations of "institutional homophobia", the UKBA has taken steps to address criticisms, including training case workers in dealing with such claims. Steve Symonds, the legal officer of Immigration Law Practitioners Association, said: "We are aware of cases where the Home Office and the courts have refused people asylum on the basis which we know now to be wrong. "The sensible thing to do would be to review cases of removal. When you get to a point where you have to put someone on a plane for removal, you should get their file out and make sure there's nothing of concern. They should check they have not claimed on the grounds of being gay, because they know that there was an important decision in the court which may be relevant." In at least

one immigration case, last month, involving a woman they believed was a lesbian from Uganda, Home Office lawyers argued that there was no persecution of lesbians in there and that she could be safely returned if she lived discreetly. But a judge ruled that living openly as a lesbian would expose her to persecution and granted her leave to remain. In response to a parliamentary question asking how many lesbian and gay asylum seekers had been granted or refused asylum since July, Damian Green, the immigration minister, said: "The information requested in the questions is not recorded centrally by the UK Border Agency and can only be obtained through examination of individual case records at a disproportionate cost." A UKBA spokesperson said: "The UK Border Agency does not currently record separate statistics on the grounds on which individuals claim asylum. "We are, however, reviewing how data on sexual orientation cases can be recorded more effectively and whether any resulting data can be published."

## Japan elects 1st openly gay man to office

Taiga Ishikawa, the first openly gay politician in Japan to win an election hailed the result as a victory for the rights of sexual minorities. "I hope my election victory will help our fellows nationwide to have hope for tomorrow, as many of them cannot accept themselves, feel lonely and isolated and even commit suicide," he told *AFP*. Ishikawa, 36, won a seat in a Tokyo ward assembly in local elections on Sunday. Prior to his victory, no openly homosexual politician had won office in Japan. He said he hoped his victory would help lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. "Many LGBTs, or sexual minorities, realise the fact when they are at elementary and junior high schools, many of which are operated by the municipality," Ishikawa said. "As a ward assembly member, I would like to reinforce support to LGBT children at schools." Ishikawa disclosed that he is gay in his autobiographical "Boku No Kareshi Wa Doko Ni Iru" (Where Is My Boyfriend?), published in 2002. "Many readers of my book told me that they are isolated and the situation I wrote about in the book is so similar to theirs. So I started to host events that offer opportunities to have links with friends," Ishikawa said. He founded the non-profit organization "Peer Friends", which hosts events in Japanese cities to provide young gay men with opportunities to meet other gays. Since February 2010, he has served as a private secretary to Mizuho Fukushima, the leader of the Social Democratic Party, a small opposition group.

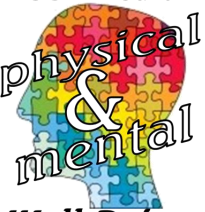
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1</p>  <p><b>Kaleidoscope AA</b> 6PM OPEN MEETING info Louis 850 291-6859 louiscooper@cox.net</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>  <p><b>50plus coffee chat</b> 6PM-8PM Equality House will be reserved for persons 50 and above in order to provide them a relaxing atmosphere, all ages welcome 10am til 6pm.</p>	<p>5</p>  <p><b>Family Dinner</b> 6:30PM Come catch up with old friends or make new friends at this affordable buffet dinner @ Panda China on E Gregory St.</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>  <p><b>LGBT TEENS</b> 10AM-8PM Equality House will be reserved for teens ages 13 to 18 years today, (adult supervision will be provided) in order to provide a day of social fun for them.</p> <p><b>MEN OF PENSACOLA CALENDAR SIGNING AND \$1,000 RAFFLE!</b> </p>
<p><b>THE CALENDAR IS HERE! COME GET YOUR COPY SAT MAY 7TH AT EMERALD CITY... (see page 2 for details) AND GET THE CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR FAVORITE GUYS SIGN IT! SPECIAL RAFFLE FOR A BASKET VALUED AT \$1,000! ALL PROCEEDS FROM RAFFLE DONATED TO GAY GRASSROOTS! 15% OF CALENDAR PROCEEDS DONATED TO GAY GRASSROOTS!</b></p>						

8




**Kaleidoscope AA**  
6PM  
OPEN MEETING  
info Louis  
850 291-6859  
louiscooper@cox.net

9



**LGBT Health physical & mental Well Being**  
7PM  
Dr. Susan Walsh will discuss her research finding on the impact of external prejudice and internalized homophobia on one's physical and mental health, as well as previewing the research project her students will be doing this Memorial Day Week.

10



**PFLAG**  
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays  
6PM  
OPEN SUPPORT GROUP  
info Marge  
850 932-0397  
www.PFLAG.org

11




**GAY GRASSROOTS**  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
**OPEN MEETING**  
everyone invited join in our progress  
6PM  
we will appoint standing committees; membership; nominating; fundraising; advocacy; social; and publicity  
**REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED**

13

**MEN OF PENSACOLA CALENDAR \$1,000 RAFFLE! DURING DRAG BINGO**

<b>B</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>O</b>
7	25	44	57	62
15	22	40	50	70
11	30	FREE SPACE	46	74
2	28	37	55	68
10	27	39	59	75

14



**PARENT & CHILD ICE CREAM DAY**  
11AM-3PM  
Equality House will be reserved for parents and their young children in order to provide an afternoon of fun for them.

**LGBT LAW & YOU**  
4:30-6:00PM  
Attorney Joshua Jones will give an overview of how Marriage, Real Estate, Estate planning, and Adoption have unique LGBT issues. (each area will be focused on in a future talk)

**MEN OF PENSACOLA CALENDAR COOK-OUT AND \$1,000 RAFFLE!**



**THE CALENDAR IS HERE! COME GET YOUR COPY FRI MAY 13TH AT EMERALD CITY... (see page 2 for details) AND GET THE CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR FAVORITE GUYS SIGN IT! SPECIAL RAFFLE FOR A BASKET VALUED AT \$1,000! ALL PROCEEDS FROM RAFFLE DONATED TO GAY GRASSROOTS! 15% OF CALENDAR PROCEEDS DONATED TO GAY GRASSROOTS!**

**THE CALENDAR IS HERE! COME GET YOUR COPY SUN MAY 8TH AT THE ROUNDUP... (see page 2 for details) COOKOUT PROVIDED BY SOUTHERN RENEGADES SPECIAL RAFFLE FOR A BASKET VALUED AT \$1,000! ALL PROCEEDS FROM RAFFLE DONATED TO GAY GRASSROOTS! 15% OF CALENDAR PROCEEDS DONATED TO GAY GRASSROOTS!**



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**the Roundup**  


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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>15</p>  <p>6PM OPEN MEETING info Louis 850 291-6859 louiscooper@cox.net</p> <p><b>MEN OF PENSACOLA CALENDAR \$1,000 BOXER SHORTS AUCTION</b></p>  <p>the Cabaret</p>	16	17	<p>18</p> <p><b>VOLUNTEER TRAINING</b></p>  <p>6PM come learn all there is to know about Gay Grassroots, The Equality House, and PensacolaPRIDE so you can become an ambassador to our community <b>REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED</b></p>	<p>19</p> <p><b>PRIDE Pensacola PLANNING ROUNDTABLE</b> <i>everyone invited to help with this festival</i></p> <p>6PM we will discuss entertainment for the festival in the park; all the week's events; and ways to ensure good media coverage <b>REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED</b></p>	<p>20</p> 	<p>21</p>  <p>The Equality House will be closed so that staff can attend a training.</p>
<p><b>THE CALENDAR IS HERE! COME GET YOUR COPY SUN MAY 15TH AT THE CABARET... (see page 3 for details)</b>  <b>BOXER SHORTS &amp; GIFT "PACKAGES" AUCTION</b>  <b>PACKAGES VALUED AT VALUED AT \$1,000!</b>  <b>ALL PROCEEDS FROM AUCTION DONATED TO GAY GRASSROOTS!</b>  <b>15% OF CALENDAR PROCEEDS DONATED TO GAY GRASSROOTS!</b></p>						
<p>22</p>  <p>4PM OPEN MEETING info Jennifer 850 346-6004 nwflnow@gmail.com</p>  <p>6PM OPEN MEETING info Louis 850 291-6859 louiscooper@cox.net</p>	23	24	<p>25</p> <p><b>potluck dinner</b></p>  <p>7PM come bring a side dish or dessert to share with old and new friends <b>LASAGNA PROVIDED</b></p>	<p>26</p> 	<p>27</p> 	<p>28</p>
<p><b>GAY GRASSROOTS WILL HAVE AN INFORMATION/DONATION TABLE AT EACH OF THE "UNLEASHED" PARTIES!</b>          (see page 3 for details)  <b>ALL DONATIONS WILL GO INTO THE PENSACOLA PRIDE ENTERTAINMENT FUND SO THAT WE CAN BRING GREAT ENTERTAINMENT TO YOU COMMUNITY IN OCTOBER!</b></p>						



## National conservative conference talks a lot of dangers the LGBT community brings to the country

The first step for Christian conservatives to win the war against the gay movement is to rebrand the terms, said a few panelists at last month's The Awakening conference at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va. "Gay" is a left-wing socio-political construct designed to create grounds for fundamental rights [based on] whimsical capricious desires," said Ryan Sorba, chairman of the Young Conservatives of California. "Gay identity does not exist." Sorba proposed alternatives to the word "gay," which received approval by a unanimous show of hands by the 40-some audience members:

- "Same-sex attraction"
- "Same-sex intercourse"
- "Sodomy"
- "Unnatural vice"

Later in the discussion, it was suggested that gays should also be referred to as "anti-Christian."

The one self-described ex-gay on the panel, Greg Quinlan — who founded the Pro Family Network in 1996 and is now the president of Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays & Gays (PFOX) but spent his gay years lobbying for the LGBT-rights group Human Rights Campaign — explained that his foray into homosexuality was caused by abuse from his father and looking at Playboy magazine as a young boy. "Feelings change, and they don't define you," Quinlan said, noting that through counseling he was able to re-orient his sexual attraction, which led to a heterosexual marriage (he's now divorced). "If you had all the facts, you wouldn't choose to be gay," Quinlan, 52, said. "When you live a lie, you tell a lie. Truth is not a philosophy. Truth is a person, and his name is Jesus Christ. Tell the truth in love, but it isn't love until you tell the truth."

As a board member of PFOX, he proposed a resolution to PepsiCo Inc. shareholders (PDF) in 2010, asking the corporation to rescind their funding to the Parents and Families, Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), because he claimed they promote intolerance to the ex-gay community and protest against religious conferences featuring ex-gay speakers. He has also spoken before the Disney Board of Directors, pushing a resolution to include ex-gays in the company's mandatory sexual orientation diversity training for employees.

Quinlan works with the New Jersey Family Policy Council to protect "natural marriage," defined as the "union of one man and one woman" and has defended this idea of marriage in 20 states, according to his biography (PDF). Most recently, he

spoke before the Maryland House of Delegates at a public hearing on gay marriage, leading up to the defeat of a same-sex marriage bill in the state that, despite passage in the Senate and expected passage in the House, was suddenly returned to the judiciary committee on March 11.

Sorba blamed the Republicans for losing what he calls a "war" promulgated by the homosexual lobby. "Our movement decided to abandon the real issue of homosexual behavior ... with our major focus around protecting the word marriage," Sorba said.

For the panelists, the biggest "gay threat" is not just over Christian ideology but over national security. Matt Barber, the panel's moderator and a dean at Liberty University, said he served in the military for 12 years. Barber made a case that promoting gays in the military presents a national threat because most gay military men will be more focused on their attraction to other men than on their military duties, saying it comes down to the soldier who "has your back or the one who wants to rub it."

He also brought up the argument that the high rate of HIV and AIDS in the gay community presents a health risk when it comes to battlefield transfusions.

"Homosexuality is the greatest threat to the criminalization of Christianity," said Robert Knight, executive director for the American Civil Rights Union and a former editor of the Los Angeles Times. Knight said the idea of sexual orientation gives "baggage" to the issue by promoting the notion that people are born a certain way. "Everyone saying otherwise is therefore defined as a bigot," he said but noted that sexual identity is not akin to race or ethnicity. In a recent Washington Times column, Knight presented a hypothetical scenario of a child witnessing two male Marines kissing in a shopping mall:

Boy: "Look, mom, those Marines are, uh, making out right there in the food court! I'm not sure I want to be a Marine after all."

Liberal mom: "Well, that's a relief. I didn't want you to be in the military anyway. All those guns give me the creeps. But why do you find this odd? Are you some kind of religious bigot? Honestly, we're going to have to call your school and ask them to step up the tolerance training. You won't even wear that nice polka-dot dress and the pumps I bought you."

Despite efforts from Knight's Center for Military Readiness and other groups to fight the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" that bans openly gay Americans from serving in the military — the repeal will go into effect 60 days after President Obama, the secretary of defense and the chair-

man of the Joint Chiefs of Staff certify that the gay-ban reversal will not be harmful to military operations — top officers told Congress Thursday that training for the repeal "has been less painful than expected." And then there are the state and federal anti-bullying initiatives. Calling it a "massive wedge issue," Quinlan said he testified against the anti-bullying initiative in New Jersey. "The homosexual lobby is shamelessly hijacking this bullying issue," he said. "[They're inserting] a sexual anarchist agenda into public schools under the guise of bullying. ... Here's what bully is, folks: negative malicious behavior, repeated over a period of time, in which there is an imbalance of power between the bully and the victim. What are the other distinguishing characteristics? ... I was bullied, not because I was gay or a sissy, but because I was super-skinny."

Same-sex orientation: 'hedonism repackaged' All the panelists' arguments over why there's a war with gays and why Christians must win it goes back to sin. "A civil right that conflicts with natural right is no right at all," Sorba said. "The [homosexual] behavior is immoral. It divides you from truth and what's the meaning of life. If you don't have truth, you have nothing but fake." Barber called same-sex orientation "hedonism repackaged."

Referring to the "T" in LGBT, which stands for "transgender," Barber quipped: "It's the emperor wears no clothes meets George Orwell. ... Why stop at transgender identity? Why not species identity — someone wants to get in touch with their inner horse."

"What are going to be the rights of we homophobes?" asked an audience member, explaining her use of the word "homophobe" was sarcastic. The response from the panel was that they just have to wait for the homosexuals to "self-destruct."

Cynthia Dunbar, assistant law professor at Liberty University, said conservative Christians need to embrace homosexuals. "We have to reach out to those trapped in lifestyle that ultimately leads to death," she said, ignoring the fact that all lifestyles ultimately lead to death. "Liberty is not the ability to do whatever hedonistic ideas you have. Whoever's defining the terms is going to win the argument." But Christians also need to fight the homosexual agenda, she said. "There are a lot of gay staffers in Congress," Knight\* said. "They work all hours and they tend not to have family lives, but they have veto power."



### Tennessee seeks to make it illegal for teachers to discuss homosexuality

A bill that would prohibit teachers from discussing homosexuality in the classroom before the ninth grade has advanced in Tennessee's Senate. Sponsored by state Sen. Stacey Campfield (R), who unsuccessfully pushed the same measure for six years while serving in the House, the so-called "Don't Say Gay" bill would make it illegal for educators to discuss any sexual behavior apart from heterosexuality with students in kindergarten up through the eighth grade. Members of the Tennessee Equality Project, a local gay rights organization which actively opposes the legislation, worry its passage would alienate certain children. "It means [teachers] can't talk about gay issues or sexuality even with students who may be gay or have [a] gay family," said Ben Byers, a spokesman for the group. Supporters, on the other hand, tout the importance of an "age appropriate" curriculum. The measure underwent some complicated maneuvers before its passage in the state Senate. Jim Tracy (R), a member of the Senate Education Committee, argued the law was already in practice, as it's a misdemeanor to discuss any issues at school outside Tennessee's established "family life" program. Tracy thus proposed an amendment to Campfield's bill requiring the Board of Education to examine whether homosexuality is indeed being taught in the state's classrooms. The Senate passed Tracy's amendment, and soon after, fellow Sen. Brian Kelsey (R) proposed a further revision to Campfield's bill, one that would explicitly exclude homosexuality from the state's family life curriculum. Kelsey's amendment cleared the Education Committee in a 6-3 vote Wednesday, with only Democrats opposing. The measure will now be sent to the Senate floor. The House Education Committee -- the committee responsible for vetting the bill -- has closed for the year. Unfortunately, the bill has already passed its first hurdle in the Senate, clearing a Senate committee hearing last week. There is a floor vote scheduled for Thursday. "That's all right with me," Stacey Campfield, author of the Senate bill, said about Dunn's statement. "He always said, 'You pass it first, then I'll pass it.' So, I'll pass it this year and he can pass it next year." Campfield did a radio interview recently, stating that being gay is a choice. This comes after his declaration to CNN that his bill is "neutral." "Well, so far I haven't seen anything that's proven there's a gay gene. That has not been proven to me. I have not seen anything -- you know, actually, I'm not saying it is or not, I just haven't seen anything that proves it's anything but a learned behavior," he said. "I think heterosexuality is the norm and a lot of times people learn to do different things. People do different things." Recognizing this man's ignorance and the general homophobic nature of this legislation, 75 people held a

protest last Thursday in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Rallyers held signs saying, "It's Okay to Say Gay" and "Stand on the Side of Love." The protest lasted 30 minutes and was held across from a high school. "I am sick and tired of the violence of body and spirit directed against people just because of who they love," Rev. Chris Buice, minister of the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, said at the rally.

### Malaysia opens camp to "prevent effeminate boys from becoming gay"

Sixty-six schoolboys identified by teachers as effeminate began counselling this week to discourage them from being gay. They are undergoing four days of religious and physical education. An education official said the camp was meant to guide the boys back "to a proper path in life". But the women's minister, Shahrizat Abdul Jalil, said singling out these children based on perceived feminine mannerisms was traumatizing and harmful to their mental health. The camp violates the Child Act, which protects children without prejudice, she said. Gay rights groups have also criticized the measure, saying it promotes homophobia in the Muslim-majority country where gay sex is still illegal. The schoolboys allegedly displayed "feminine mannerisms" - though educators in the conservative state of Terengganu did not detail what they were, the BBC's Jennifer Pak reports from Kuala Lumpur. State officials say that, if left unchecked, the students - aged between 13 and 17 - could end up gay or transsexual. They blame parents for encouraging boys to develop feminine traits, by dressing them up in girls' clothing at a young age. Terengganu state's education director, Razali Daud, said the students were invited to join the camp and were not compelled to do so. "As educators, we have to do something about it before the young ones misunderstand people and reach the point of no return," he was quoted as saying by the New Straits Times. Mr Razali says although homosexuals and transvestites exist in Malaysia, the authorities want to limit their number. Gay sex is illegal in Malaysia and homosexuals say they face discrimination from government policies such as a law that makes sodomy punishable by 20 years in prison. Activists say it is appalling that educators are persecuting children for expressing their personalities and identities. The Joint Action Group for Gender Equality said "corrective boot camps" violate the rights of people who are perceived as different. "It should be strongly opposed and challenged as it promotes homophobia and prejudice," the group said in a statement. "We should send a clear message to institutions that they have no business meddling with an individual's identity and personal preference." A campaigner for sexual rights, Pang Khee Teik, described the camp as outrageous and an example of homophobia. "All the students will learn from these camps is that they are expected to behave a certain way," said Mr Pang, co-founder of Seksualiti Merdeka. "And in order to avoid further ridicule, perhaps they will learn to pretend better. In the end, we are only teaching them how to be a hypocrite."

### House Speaker Boehner seeks to divert justice money to defend DOMA

House Speaker John Boehner said he intends to divert funding from the Justice Department to the U.S. House so Congress can defend the federal law that bars recognition of same-sex marriage. The Ohio Republican disclosed this in a letter to House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., who is strongly opposed to Congress going to court to defend the 1996 law. An estimate on court costs was not given. Pelosi shot back, saying Boehner has not answered her central question about the costs to mounting a defense to the law. "The House of Representatives need not enter into this lengthy and costly litigation," she responded. Earlier this year, Attorney General Eric Holder announced that Obama administration would no longer defend the constitutionality of the federal Defense of Marriage Act, a Clinton-era law that defines marriage as between a man and a woman. The law also says that states cannot be forced to recognize same-sex marriages from other states. While President Obama does not support same-sex marriage, he views the Defense of Marriage Act as "unfair," according to spokesman Jay Carney. Boehner asked the Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group -- consisting of the top House leaders -- to defend the law in court. The GOP members of the group sided with Boehner. Pelosi and Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, D-Md., were opposed. "By the president's action through the attorney general we have no choice," Boehner's letter says. "The House now faces that additional burden and cost." Boehner said he has directed the House's counsel and the House Administration Committee to ensure that there are "sufficient resources" and expertise to defend the law. Paul Clement, a former solicitor general for President George W. Bush, has been retained by Boehner and the Republicans to defend the Defense of Marriage Act, according to news reports. Clement's hiring has been criticized by the Human Rights Campaign, the largest gay and lesbian civil rights group. "Not only are House Republican leaders defending the indefensible, they've brought in a high-priced attorney to deny federal recognition to loving, married couples," said Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign. Solmonese said Boehner is "grasping at straws" in his call to divert funds from the Justice Department for the law's defense. Matt Miller, a spokesman for the Justice Department, declined to comment.

# LGBT HEALTH

Northwest Florida residents travel to Tallahassee to oppose HIV funding cuts



(pictured above are Doug Landreth, Gay Grassroots President; Zak Asiago; and Rev. Patrick Rodgers, Holy Cross MCC Minister of Community Outreach)

Over 60 supporters of the HIV/AIDS community traveled by bus from Pensacola, making stops in Okaloosa and Walton counties to pick up others, to Tallahassee to demonstrate against the proposed funding cuts that would result in many



people losing access to life saving HIV medications through the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP). All together over 275 persons from across the state of Florida attended this 1st hearing on the proposed budget cuts. Many of those attending the hearing were able to make a brief comment which was entered into the records and included in the recommendations from the Florida Department of Health to the state legislator. Florida—with nation’s third largest HIV/AIDS caseload—has placed 3,807 HIV/AIDS patients on a waiting list to access its AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), a federal/state program that helps provide lifesaving AIDS drugs to low-income Americans. This accounts for more than half of the nationwide total of people on ADAP waiting lists (As of April 15 there were 7,885 people in need of HIV/AIDS medications on ADAP waiting lists in eleven states).

“Unfortunately, many vulnerable HIV/AIDS patients throughout Florida may become perma-

nently ineligible for continuation of lifesaving services if state officials succeed in changing the current income eligibility requirement for programs like ADAP,” said Michael Kahane, Southern Bureau Chief for AIDS Healthcare Foundation, the agency that organized this demonstration. “On paper and given the financial crisis affecting Florida, an eligibility reduction from 400% of Federal Poverty Level down to 300% seems like it might not that drastic; however, when you drill down and see that a single Floridian living with AIDS earning anything more than \$32,670 per year would no longer qualify for any assistance. Some of these patients’ drugs and drug regimens can cost \$18,000 to \$20,000 per year—these newly ineligible patients might face drug costs that are half of their income. AHF strongly advocates that the eligibility threshold remains at 400% of FPL.”





## ON CAMPUS

### New Mexico schools so fearful of GSA's they end all clubs

A school board in Clovis, New Mexico, voted to ban all extra-curricular clubs from meeting during school hours after a gay-straight alliance applied to become a club. School officials call it coincidental that the alliance applied while school policies were being reviewed, but representatives of the American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico say they are concerned about the timing of the decision. "This sort of tactic has been used in the past by school districts to discourage gay-straight clubs from forming," Micah McCoy, communications specialist for ACLU of New Mexico, said on Wednesday. "A lot of alarm bells went off when we saw this." In a vote Tuesday, April 26, night, the Clovis school board decided to prohibit any extra-curricular club from meeting during school hours or using school resources to meet and gather. Meetings for the gay-straight alliance were going to be held after school all along, said James Walker, a senior at the school. But without resources or the ability to hang flyers or make announcements, it will be difficult to publicize meetings, he said. "Now it's almost an underground operation," he said. The gay-straight alliance is meant to create a safe place where students can get together and work toward greater tolerance and make schools safer places

for gay, lesbian transgender and questioning students, McCoy said. Clovis is in eastern New Mexico, on the border with Texas. There are 15 extra-curricular clubs currently at the school. Clovis High School principal Wayne Marshall and district superintendent Terry Myers have refused comments. But Myers, who is in his first year at Clovis, told the Albuquerque Journal this week that the gay-straight alliance's application did not trigger the policy review. "Being a new superintendent in Clovis, the board asked me to review each policy as it came up and make recommendations or at least bring those to their attention if there's some question as to what the board truly wants with a particular policy," Myers said, according to the newspaper. "This was not prompted by a particular request." This isn't the first time the high school has gotten attention for an issue involving gay and lesbian students. In 2008, the school changed its yearbook policy after a public outcry when lesbian couples were featured on a couples page of the yearbook. Now, the principal reviews any content that may be controversial.

### New Jersey now allows students access to LGBT websites

A New Jersey school board has stopped blocking gay and lesbian websites on high school and middle school computers. Two Vineland High School students complained to the American Civil Liberties Union that sites belonging to the Human Rights Campaign and the Gay, Lesbian

and Straight Education Network were being blocked by filtering software. Student Justin Rodriguez told The Press of Atlantic City that gay-bashing sites were not being blocked. The school added access to those sites individually before dropping the filter. The ACLU and Yale Law School have been pushing schools to drop similar filters. Vineland was the first district in New Jersey that the campaign targeted. The district's filtering software still blocks pornography.



## ON THE JOB

### Dallas County adds protections for transgender employees

Dallas County commissioners voted last week to include transgender employees in the county's nondiscrimination policy. The 3-2 vote was split along party lines. The court's two Republicans, Maurine Dickey and Mike Cantrell, voted against the proposal. Voting in favor were the three Democrats: County Judge Clay Jenkins and Commissioners John Wiley Price and Elba Garcia. Tuesday's action reflects significant changes to the Commissioners Court, which consists of a Democratic majority after last year's election for the first time since the 1980s. Jenkins and Garcia, the court's newest members, had pushed for such changes. Due in part to their efforts, the court on March 22 added sexual orientation to the policy. Jenkins had said he thought that change covered transgender employees. Since then, numerous speakers — many of whom included transgender people — have urged commissioners to give transgender employees the same protection. The order passed on Tuesday adds "transgender, gender identity and gender expression" to the county's nondiscrimination policy. It prohibits harassment and discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex (including pregnancy), age, disability and

political affiliation. Price, who has been noncommittal about the matter for weeks, said he placed the item on Tuesday's agenda for a vote after having a change of heart. "At the end of the day, it's about doing the right thing," Price said prior to the vote. Garcia called the decision a "historic moment" for the county. She also said she took part in the vote to add such protections to city of Dallas employees almost a decade ago. "For me, it's about equality and justice for everybody," Garcia said. "We're just catching up." Dickey said she voted against the change because she believed the previous sexual orientation language covered transgender employees and because she was "reluctant to add separate protective classes" to the policy. Cantrell said he voted no to save the taxpayers from potential legal liability.

# DIVERSE FAMILIES



## Catholic Charities threatens to block gay adoptions

One of the largest adoption and foster care services in Illinois warns it may drop those services if it is forced to accommodate gay couples.

New legal protections for gay couples go into effect June 1, the day couples can apply for civil unions. Catholic Charities directors say they want to maintain the right to turn away unmarried couples when they apply to be foster or adoptive parents. "The Catholic Church is not going to be OK with Catholic Charities processing applications from anyone in a civil union," said Trish Fox, who runs Catholic Charities of Peoria. "And all we're asking is that we can continue what we've always done, which is refer cohabitating couples, heterosexual or homosexual, to another agency." Civil union supporters say the agencies are discriminating against gay couples. A state Senate panel recently voted down a bill to allow religious agencies to ignore the law.

## TO SAY "I DO"

### Most Americans support same gender marriage

As House Speaker John Boehner and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi engage in a tug of war over federal funding to protect the Defense of Marriage Act, a new poll suggests that a narrow majority of Americans believes gay marriage ought to be recognized by the federal government, while a growing minority support the legalization of marijuana. Of those surveyed for a CNN/Opinion Research Corporation poll released Tuesday, 51 percent said they think marriages between lesbian and gay couples should be recognized as legal and come with the same rights as heterosexual unions, while 47 percent said the marriages should not be recognized. The last time CNN asked the question, in April 2009, approval for gay marriage was at 44 percent and disapproval was at 54 percent. Two polls released in mid-March also found support for gay marriage in the low 50s. Boehner has asked the Justice Department to pay for the legal defense of the Defense of Marriage Act and on Monday urged Pelosi to do the same, because the legal burden of protecting the law has fallen to the House. President Barack Obama ordered that the executive branch would no longer defend the part of the 1996 law that bans federal recognition of gay marriage. Pelosi responded, saying that she wanted to know how much the defense would

cost. Support for gay marriage is stronger among Democrats than among Republicans or independents. Sixty-four percent of Democrats said gay marriage should be legalized, while 35 percent said it should not be. Among Republicans, 27 percent said they support the legalization of gay marriage while 71 percent oppose it. And, among independents, 55 percent said they support gay marriage's legalization, while 43 percent oppose it. CNN also asked Americans for their views on the legalization of marijuana, ahead of April 20, the unofficial marijuana holiday. Forty-one percent of those surveyed said they support the legalization of the drug and 56 percent said they oppose it. In 2002, a CNN/Time magazine poll found 34 percent in favor of legalization and 59 percent opposed. In 1986, 18 percent supported it and 78 percent opposed it. The poll was conducted April 9-10 and surveyed 824 adults. The margin of error is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

# RESEARCH

## Research study estimates United States LGBT population at 9 million

Increasing numbers of population-based surveys in the United States and across the world include questions designed to measure sexual orientation and gender identity. Understanding the size of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) population is a critical first step to informing a host of public policy and research topics. Examples include assessing health and economic disparities in the LGBT community, understanding the prevalence of anti-LGBT discrimination, and considering the economic impact of marriage equality or the provision of domestic partnership benefits to same-sex couples. The brief concludes with estimates of the size of the LGBT population in the United States. This research brief compiles data from eleven recent US and international surveys that ask sexual orientation or gender identity questions. Key findings from the research brief are as follows:

\*An estimated 3.5% of adults in the United States identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual and an estimated 0.3% of adults are transgender.

\*This implies that there are approximately 9 mil-

lion LGBT Americans, a figure roughly equivalent to the population of New Jersey.

\*Among adults who identify as LGB, bisexuals comprise a slight majority (1.8% compared to 1.7% who identify as lesbian or gay).

\*Women are substantially more likely than men to identify as bisexual. Bisexuals comprise more than half of the lesbian and bisexual population among women in eight of the nine surveys considered in the brief. Conversely, gay men comprise substantially more than half of gay and bisexual men in seven of the nine surveys.

\*Estimates of those who report any lifetime same-sex sexual behavior and any same-sex attraction are substantially higher than estimates of those who identify as LGB. An estimated 19 million Americans (8.2%) report that they have engaged in same-sex behavior and nearly 25.6 million Americans (11%) acknowledge at least some same-sex sexual attraction.

\*Understanding the size of the LGBT population is a critical first step to informing a host of public policy and research topics. The surveys highlighted in this report demonstrate the viability of sexual orientation and gender identity questions on large national population-based surveys. Adding these questions to more national, state, and local data sources is critical to developing research that enables a better understanding of the

understudied LGBT community.



## Weir protests appointment of anti-gay Olympic head

Olympic figure skater Johnny Weir says it is "disgraceful" that the new chief of mission for the 2012 U.S. Olympic has expressed antigay beliefs and is openly against marriage equality. "It's wrong," Weir told the *Chicago Tribune*. "I certainly wouldn't want to be represented by someone who is anti gay marriage. It isn't just about marriage, it is being allowed equal rights as Americans. The fact this man who is very publicly against something that may be represented on the American team is disgraceful." Weir competed in men's figure skating at the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, Canada, and has been known for his flashy routines and fashion choices throughout his career. Peter Vidmar, the winner of two Olympic gold medals in gymnastics during the 1984 games, was named to the post last week. He also donated \$2,000 in support of Proposition 8 which ended the right to marry for gay and lesbian couples in California. He was also an active participant in the campaign, he said to the *Orange County Register* in 2008, because his religious belief as a Mormon dictated his opposition to marriage equality. Vidmar told the *Tribune* this week, however, that he respects "the rights of everyone to have the relationships they

want to have. I respect the rights of all our athletes, regardless of their race, their religion, or their sexual orientation. I will cheer and do all I can, passionately, for every athlete on the U.S. Olympic team." Members of the United States Olympic Committee said they were unaware of his involvement in Proposition 8, but reaffirmed their choice of Vidmar in a statement shortly after the news broke last week.

## Suit against homophobic soccer executive dropped

One of two pending lawsuits against the president of Croatia's soccer federation was dropped Thursday. A spokesman for the Zagreb, Croatia, county court said Thursday that the judge rejected one of the cases against Vlatko Markovic, according to the Associated Press. Last year he said that gay players could not participate in Croatian soccer and that "only healthy people play football." His statement sparked lawsuits from two different gay rights groups. Despite European soccer's ruling body opening an additional case against him, Markovic was reelected to a fourth term as federation president in December.

## Trans golfer settles suit

Lana Lawless, a transgender woman and expert golfer, settled her lawsuits against the Ladies Professional Golf Association and the Long Drivers of America association after those organizations ruled that only women "female at birth"

were eligible to compete in their events.

Lawless won the Long Drivers of America long-drive title in 2008 but was later ruled ineligible because she's transgender; the LPGA soon adopted a similar "female at birth" rule that made her unable to participate in its tournaments. Lawless, now 57, sued both organizations, and they eventually reversed their policies. The settlement terms of Lawless's lawsuit were not revealed.

# STAR STUFF

**"Becoming Chaz" premieres Tuesday May 10th on OWN at 8pm**



The world television premiere of the highly anticipated Chaz Bono documentary "Becoming Chaz," the story of Chaz Bono's transformation from a woman to a man, will launch the OWN Documentary Film Club on Tuesday, May 10 (9-10:30 p.m. ET/PT) on OWN: Oprah Winfrey Network. Immediately following the film, OWN Documentary Film Club collaborator Rosie O'Donnell will host a one-hour primetime special event from 10:30-11:30 p.m. ET/PT. In the special, O'Donnell will talk with Chaz, his girlfriend Jennifer Elia, the filmmakers and other transgender people and their families about this life changing experience. "Becoming Chaz" is the story of Chaz Bono's emotional and physical gender transition, a journey of identity and self-discovery. Born Chastity, the only child of the legendary musical team Sonny and Cher, Chaz grew up feeling uncomfortable in the spotlight, struggling to live inside a body that he knew wasn't truly his. Deciding there was no choice but to undergo sex reassignment surgery, Chaz and his girlfriend Jennifer decided to document his deeply personal transformation so that others can learn from his experience. Directed and produced by veteran Sundance filmmakers Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato, who along with their production company World of Wonder, have been the creative forces behind a long history of powerful, groundbreaking and innovative documentaries and features. "Becoming Chaz" premiered to rave reviews at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival with the Los Angeles Times calling the film "wildly engaging." The Hollywood Reporter said, "Becoming Chaz is a real-life look inside the home and hearts of two brave and glorious individuals. Told with finesse, compassion and wit...will hit nerves and touch hearts." AOL Moviefone called it "an engaging and educational look at one person's journey to make his outside match his inside," and CNN called it "incredibly moving." The one hour special with Rosie O'Donnell following the film will be executive produced by Hud:sun Media for OWN. Michael Rourke is the executive producer and Mioshi Hill is the co-executive producer of the special.

**Blake Shelton sorry for homophobic tweet**  
Country music star and *Voice* judge Blake Shelton apologized for a tweet he sent Wednesday, May 4, in which he advocated homophobic violence while parodying a Shania Twain song. *La Figa* reports on Shelton, who said he was "Re-writing my fav Shania Twain song" when he tweeted, "Any man that tries Touching my behind He's gonna be a beaten, bleedin', heaving kind of guy ... " After news reports and backlash from fans, Shelton stressed that he is not antigay, and that he apologized "for the misunderstanding with the whole re-write on the Shania song last night." He added, "It honestly wasn't even meant that way ... I now know that their [sic] are people out there waiting to jump at everything I say on here or everywhere. ... But when it comes to gay/lesbian rights or just feelings ... I love everybody. So go look for a real villain and leave me out of it." The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation Thursday morning called on the singer to apologize, and GLAAD officials said they had contacted producers at *The Voice*, known for being a gay-friendly show. After GLAAD contacted NBC and the show's producers, Shelton offered his apologetic tweet. Over the weekend, Shelton, a popular judge on the NBC singing program, cracked an antigay joke when he hosted the Academy of Country Music Awards with Reba McEntire. He suggested that Jake Gyllenhaal had left Taylor Swift because the actor "was in *Brokeback Mountain*," which prompted laughter from the audience in Las Vegas. The homophobic tweet prompted an outcry, leading Shelton to initially call his critics "dumb asses" on Twitter, where he also suggested their concerns represent "antigay hate tweets."

### Nathan Lane to star in new TV series

Out performer Nathan Lane returns to television in a new pilot just announced by the USA Network. USA copresidents Jeff Wachtel and Chris McCumber announced the network's new projects Monday, saying their goal was "not only to do great new shows with original voices, but also to push the envelope of audience expectations." Among the eight dramas and five comedies slated for development is *On We Go*, a single-camera half hour featuring Lane as a down-on-his-luck actor whose career is cursed by his resemblance to Nathan Lane. The show's executive producers will be Lane and Douglas McGrath.

### Tony Awards nominations show lots of love for LGBT community

Gay Mormons, transgender performers, a classic Oscar Wilde comedy, and a landmark drama by Larry Kramer made significant showings as nominations for the 65th annual Tony Awards were announced this morning. The gay-inclusive *The Book of Mormon* from *South Park* creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone made the strongest impression on voters, earning 14 nominations, including best musical, best original score, and one for out actor Rory O'Malley as a closeted missionary for best performance by an actor in a

featured role in a musical. Larry Kramer's *The Normal Heart*, which chronicles the early years of the AIDS epidemic in New York, copped five nominations for its Broadway debut, following an acclaimed run off-Broadway in the mid 1980s. The play is nominated for best revival and also has acting nominations for Ellen Barkin and out actors John Benjamin Hickey and Joe Mantello. *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, the musical adaptation of the cult film, scored two nominations, one for best costume design and another for out actor Tony Sheldon as the transgender Bernadette. A revival of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* will vie for three awards, including one for out actor Brian Bedford, who plays dowager Lady Bracknell. *The Scottsboro Boys* earned 12 nominations, including best musical and best original score music by John Kander and lyrics by the late Fred Ebb, and best performance by an actor in a featured role for Colman Domingo. *Sister Act*, the stage musical adaptation of the 1992 Whoopi Goldberg comedy, received five nominations, including best book of a musical for out playwright Douglas Carter Beane (nominated with Cheri Steinkellner and Bill Steinkellner). Among the most egregious omissions is a nomination for straight ally Daniel Radcliffe for his largely acclaimed musical debut in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, which received numerous other nominations. Also snubbed was frequent Tony favorite Cherry Jones for her well-received turn in *Mrs. Warren's Profession*. A trio of actresses long regarded as iconic figures by the LGBT community garnered acting nominations. *Lombardi*'s Judith Light will compete against *La Bête*'s Joanna Lumley for best performance by an actress in a featured role in a play, while Patti LuPone was nominated for *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* for best performance by an actress in a featured role in a musical.

### Cary Grant's daughter denies rumors that father was gay or bisexual

Cary Grant's daughter, Jennifer, writes in a new memoir that her father was not gay, but he didn't necessarily mind the male attention. Jennifer Grant, the daughter of legendary Hollywood actor Cary Grant, addresses rumors about his sexuality in a new memoir, saying that he was not gay, but he enjoyed the speculation because it made women want him more. Grant, 45, shares her memories in *Good Stuff: A Reminiscence of My Father*, which is being published by Alfred A. Knopf May 3. The actor died in 1986 at age 82. His daughter dedicated the book to her mother, actress Dyan Cannon. According to *People*, "As for Cary Grant's sexuality, 'Can't blame men for wanting him, and wouldn't be surprised if Dad even mildly flirted back,' his daughter writes. 'When the question arises, it generally speaks more about the person asking.'" She continues, "Dad somewhat enjoyed being called gay. He said it made women want to prove the assertion wrong."



## LGBT camping group invites our reader to their May 21-21 outing



A friend to our west is leading a camping trip for an Atlanta based, gay, outdoor adventure group on May 21-22 to Conecuh National Forest which is located between Brewton and Andalusia, AL. Varieties of wildlife, from white-tailed deer, red-cockaded woodpeckers, wild turkeys, squirrels, bobcats, foxes, river otters, alligators, hawks, owls, quail, doves, Alabama black bear and a variety of wetland species roam the hilly coastal plains in this southern forest. We will hike part of the Conecuh Trail, looking for these animals, as well as enjoying the spring blooms and pitcher plant bogs. The trail winds 20 miles through Alabama's forested coastal plain. The trail passes Blue Springs, a large natural spring of clear, icy blue water, as well as a fresh water swimming lake. Bring a bicycle to explore even more. We'll camp at Open Pond Recreation Area, at the undeveloped sites on the banks of the pond. The pond covers 30 acres and serves as a hub for recreational activity. Boats with electric motors and boats with paddles are welcome. Drinking water is located throughout the campground. Two sanitary facilities provide showers, hot water a short walk away from our sites. Each campsite is equipped with a barbecue grill, lantern post, fire ring, garbage receptacle, table, benches and designated spaces for a tent and for parked vehicles. \$10/night. Arrive at your leisure on Saturday, May 21. Depart on your own schedule on Sunday. If there is enough interest, we can begin the trip on Friday, but be advised that the campground is in a remote area, and could be difficult to find after dark. There is a convenience store (with limited hours) within a few miles of the campground. All restaurants and full service stores are more than 25 miles away. If you would like to go on this outdoor adventure, or need more information please contact Kevin at wildforest@hotmail.com.

## Jim McGreevey, ex-NJ Gov, denied priesthood by Episcopal Church

Former New Jersey Governor Jim McGreevey—who famously resigned the office in 2004 after coming out as a "gay American" and admitting to extramarital affairs—was denied in his bid to be a priest in the Episcopal Church, according to The New York Post. Reports vary as to why McGreevey was rejected. The Post cites one source from the Episcopal Diocese of Newark claiming "It was not being gay but for being a jackass -- [McGreevey] didn't come out of the whole divorce looking good." McGreevey had a messy public divorce with Dina Matos, with whom he has a daughter and pays child support. More anonymous sources within the church told the Post McGreevey's sudden dedication to the Episcopalian church seemed like an obvious attempt to rehabilitate his public image. Others claim that it is perfectly normal for aspiring priests to be told that they need more experience and education before joining the priesthood. McGreevey received his Masters In Divinity from the General Theological Seminary in Chelsea after quitting the Governor's office. The Episcopal church lifted its ban on gay and lesbian priests in 2009. McGreevey lives with in Plainfield, New Jersey where he shares a mansion with his partner and Australian real-estate executive, Mark O'Donnell, according to NBC News.

## Two men kissing: too risqué for Facebook?



The social network recently removed a picture of a gay kiss for allegedly violating its terms of use, which state, "You will not post content that: is hateful, threatening, or pornographic; incites violence; or contains nudity or graphic or gratuitous violence." The photo in question (see it here) accompanied a Facebook page calling for a "kiss-in" protest for an incident at a pub, where a gay couple was ousted for kissing (the landlady deemed the act "obscene"). Facebook has since re-instated the page, and apologized for the error in a statement. "The photo in question does not violate our Statement of Rights and Responsibilities and was removed in error," the statement read. The removed picture, a promo pic from the soap opera *Eastenders*, contained no nudity or graphic sexuality, but the event has sparked outrage from users wondering why a photo of two fully clothed men engaging in a kiss would be flagged. Already, Facebook pages have been set up where users have flooded the feed with more pictures of same-sex kisses. A gay kiss-in to protest the act has also been organized. Especially curious is the fact that Facebook does not remove every picture flagged as inappropriate. According to them, a "Facebook administra-

tor looks into each report thoroughly in order to decide the appropriate course of action.

## Not so fast with that gay or transgender caveman talk

Reports that surfaced last month about the remains of a "gay caveman" found in the Czech Republic have prompted scientists to take on an unlikely foe -- an overhyped news media that may be overblowing the archaeological find. "Dudes! I could be wrong, but I think that to have a 'gay caveman,' you need a skeleton that is both gay and a caveman. And this ain't either!" John Hawks, an associate professor of anthropology at University of Wisconsin-Madison, wrote on his blog in bold type. Hawks joined a chorus of fellow paleoanthropologists, archaeologists and other bone experts who carefully dissected media reports about the dig, which began to increase after first appearing in British and Czech newspapers. The reports stem from a press conference in Prague where Czech archaeologists came forward to reveal their findings -- the unusual burial site of a man dating from 2800-2500 B.C. "We believe this is one of the earliest cases of what could be described as a 'transsexual' or 'third gender grave' in the Czech Republic," the Czech Position newspaper quoted archaeologist Katerina Semradova as saying at the press conference. What followed were dozens of headlines from international news organizations declaring that a "gay caveman" had been found. The man's skeleton was found placed on its left side with the head facing west -- traditionally the position in which females in the culture were buried. Around the remains were items also typically associated with female burials instead of weapons normally found in male graves from that time period. Two other conventional male and female graves were found at the same site. But Hawks and others say the news media misinterpreted the findings. First, cavemen lived about 30,000 to 20,000 years ago. The remains found last week were from the Neolithic Age, about 5,000 years ago, Hawks told CNN. And while acknowledging the "unusual" circumstances of the burial, Hawks said there is no way you can tell someone is homosexual by examining a skeleton. Instead, the possibility of a third-gender grave -- as outlined by the archaeologists -- is more plausible, he said, noting that some cultures have a third category where, in some cases, men may have feminine characteristics or roles. "In anthropology, you can't equate third gender with homosexuality," he said. Kristina Killgrove, an adjunct assistant professor at the University of North Carolina, raised similar concerns, saying that using the term "gay" to describe the man is "the application of a modern word to an ancient population." More research could possibly determine the gender role of the man, but not his sexual orientation, said Killgrove, who specializes in bioarchaeology. And whatever the man's sexual orientation, Hawks said the fact that he was buried with others is "a sign of cultural acceptance," suggesting that other graves could shed some light statistically on how people were buried in that time.

**SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY:**

Opening an lgbt community center in Pensacola was historic, and provide new resources and opportunities never available before. You can ensure that the doors stay open and more and more programs, activities, and events are offered by making a monthly pledge of support.

I will support my LGBT community center each month in the amount of:

- \$10     \$15     \$25
- \$50     \$75     \$100
- \$\_\_\_\_\_

(please include 1st installment, each month you will be sent a invoice)

I will support the advocacy mission of Gay Grassroots by my paid membership. I desire a membership for:

- \$15 individual     \$25 couple
- \$40 family (same household)

(please include full payment, and names for membership cards)

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:  
The Equality House  
317 N. Spring Street  
Pensacola, FL 32501

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

## Ambassador training

### Wednesday May 18th @ 6pm

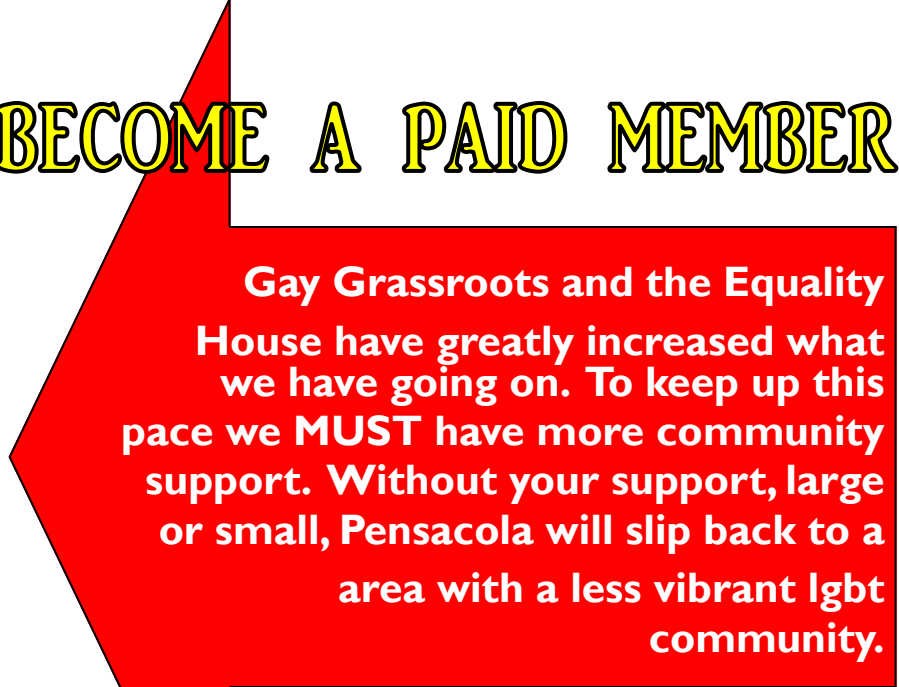


Come learn all there is to know about Gay Grassroots, The Equality House, and PensacolaPRIDE so you can become an ambassador to our community.

**REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED**

*if possible please RSVP*

## BECOME A PAID MEMBER



## AND/OR MAKE A MONTHLY PLEDGE