



Qview

northwest
Spokane Edition

Monthly newsmagazine
celebrating diversity
and dances of the
human spirit

January
2009

Dysfunction vs. Community:
Can we reach

Win-Win?

that Other
defeat

Why Arkansas' law matters

Since when did you
become such an...

advocate?

The
Aging GLBT
Community

tales from an
herbivore

differences

lessons of acceptance taught by children

Queer Goggles

Law & Wine

an
interview: *Gail*
MACKIE
loves animals!



CONTENTS

- 4 Dysfunction vs. Community:
Can We Reach Win-Win?
by Catherine D. Willis
- 6 That **Other** Defeat: Why
Arkansas' Law Matters
by Natalie Wendt
- 7 Since When Did You
Become Such An....
ADVOCATE?
by David R. Weiss
- 8 The Aging GLBT Community
- Part 1
by Lorna Doone Brewer
- 10 Law & Wine: Powers of
Attorney and Sparkling
Wines!
by Coke Roth
- 12 Tales From an Herbivore
by Jordy Byrd
- 14 Differences: Lessons Of
Acceptance Taught By
Children
by Travis Griffith
- 16 Gail Mackey Loves Animals!
by Joan Opyr
- 19 Queer Goggles: My Inbred
Home For The Holidays
by Joan Opyr
- 24 Rick Warren At The
Inauguration: **Why?**
by Joan Opyr
- 26 Please, Stop The Sky From
Falling
by Wayne Besen
- 29 Calendar
- 30 Resource Directory

Dysfunction vs. Community: Can we reach **Win-Win?**

by Catherine D. Willis

Systems theory was “in” in the early ‘80s when I was working on my master’s degree, and I find myself returning to that organizing model whenever I contemplate the GLBTQ community and the nonprofit entities that purport to serve it. “Dysfunction” seems to be the operative term, with rotating characters playing the role of The Problem. The Rainbow Regional Community Center, now the LGBT Center, had its turn in that unflattering spotlight in 2006. Now OutSpokane seems to be the subject of disparaging whispers.

The negative attention is not wholly undeserved. The still fledgling nonprofit that shepherds the annual Pride Celebration dug itself into an \$8,000 hole in 2008, and has been slow to publicly address the situation and its ultimately sanguine remedy. Confusion breeds conjecture, which often renders a perception of the truth that isn’t true at all.

OutSpokane’s participation numbers for 2008 were the largest ever, estimated at 2,500. The red ink flowed from an ambitious post-festival comedy show that fell far short of fund-



raising goals. In addition, event organizers had contracted to pay travel expenses for the four performers, unaware that each would be coming from a different city, one from outside of the country.

“Our intent was to move Spokane to another level by offering good professional entertainment for our community,” explained Wayne Shull, OutSpokane’s 2008-2009 secretary. Turnout did not live up to expectations, he and others rued, including board member

Dan Brown, committeeman for the 3rd Legislative District, who called extremely low attendance by his fellow Democrats, in town at the time for their annual statewide convention, “a real disappointment.”

OutSpokane’s board assessed its shortfall and turned full attention to fund-raising in July; optimistic plans, however, did not immediately translate into profitable actions. Unpaid bills created some embarrassing moments for the nonprofit’s directors.

There were more than a few raised eyebrows within the wider GLBTQ community when OutSpokane was named a recipient of a \$5,000 grant from Pride Foundation Inland Northwest. Apparently some wondered if OutSpokane might borrow from that award to pay off outstanding debt.

The skeptics need not have fretted. Less than a month after this grant was announced, Nancy Avery, a leader of the Pride Team at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane, notified OutSpokane co-chair Christopher Lawrence of a pending \$4,000 gift.

What do these GLBTQ groups owe us? Our allies? The broader Spokane community? Honest accounting would be a good start. I’m not referring to mere fiduciary integrity but to some assurance of organizational transparency.

“It is absolutely 100% OK to use that money toward your debt,” Avery assured the OutSpokane board by telephone December 16. She stated at the same time that she had taken great care to make an early and substantial request from the church’s Make It Happen Fund, having failed the previous year to secure the level of financial support she had hoped to direct toward Pride Celebration activities. In return, UUCS will be designated a major sponsor.

OutSpokane’s 2008 oops has thus been handled. (Other donations and small events proceeds covered the balance of the loss.)

Will the backbiting stop? Probably not. Economic stress tends to exacerbate pre-existing conflicts, perpetuating counterproductive behavior at all levels, individual, family, organizational, community and – given the global nature of our present financial crisis – state, national and international. I would not suggest that folks master the whole shebang. Is it too much, however, to resolve to build and maintain some semblance of equanimity in our own back yards?

Fund-raising in the nonprofit world is always a challenge. That said, I think our small community will continue to sustain and grow programs that enhance the GLBTQ experience and expand the ranks of our loudly out allies. Of course, this confidence comes with a “but.”

But first we have to decide whether we really want to embrace our GLBTQ identities. We can’t establish strong groups that form and uplift a viable community if we aren’t willing to proclaim our membership.

Once we’ve done that, if we’ve opted to belong, then we need to commit to supporting one or more of the many organizations that advance the GLBTQ presence in the Inland Northwest. We can give our time, our money or both. The shared giving binds us.

What conversely do these GLBTQ groups owe us? Our allies? The broader Spokane community? Honest accounting would be a good start. I’m not referring to mere fiduciary integrity but to some assurance of organizational transparency. What is each group’s mission? Who oversees and implements

it? How are plans made and actions evaluated? All local entities reveal themselves to some degree through web site postings and community newsletters. Perhaps information could be updated more frequently and in greater detail.

It seems we’ve come full circle. Wouldn’t we accomplish more at a lower cost and in less time if we and the noble groups we hold dear would just talk to each other rather than about each other?

Toward this end, the LGBT Center intends to coordinate a gathering of group leaders in late February to share program goals and calendar items and to explore opportunities for collaborative endeavors. Check the web site, www.thelgbtcenter.org, in a few weeks for more specifics.

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Catherine D. Willis is a writer, editor and community activist who has served on nearly two dozen neighborhood, corporate and community boards and committees over a period of 30 years.

that Other defeat

Why Arkansas' law matters

by Natalie Wendt

Bans on same-sex marriage weren't the only threats to family diversity that passed into law from the recent elections. Arkansas also banned all unmarried cohabitating couples from adopting or being foster parents. A similar law was already in place in Utah, and Florida had a ban that exclusively targeted gay parents. This hits gay couples hard, along with unmarried heterosexual couples, and it's worse for kids. Arkansas already has 9,000 kids in foster care. Among those, 1,000 children are ready to be adopted today, but many of them have no prospective families to welcome them. Arkansas' rate of foster children "aging out" of foster care has

been on the rise over the last decade, with more than two hundred foster kids turning eighteen each year without ever being placed with permanent families. Many spent their childhoods in large state-run group homes instead of with adoptive parents. Foster children have higher rates of drug use, school drop outs, teen pregnancy, and suicide than other kids.

Proponents of "married couples only" adoption claim their position is "in the children's best interest." Family Council Action Committee, the group behind the Arkansas law, explain on

Arkansas continued on Page 18



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Since when did you become such an... Advocate?

by David R. Weiss

My faith left my head, where I'd been infatuated with all manner of Lutheran doctrine, and it moved out into my limbs. My faith became invested in "doing," rather than believing. In living compassion, rather than just knowing theology.

"Since when did you become such an ... advocate?"

The question stung coming from my former college roommate. I knew twenty-eight years ago that Mark and I were in pretty different places politically and spiritually. We became fast friends, but as sometimes happens, we learned to sidestep the places where our differences might prove perilous to our friendship.

Now I'd been invited back to our alma mater for an author book-signing over homecoming weekend. And, seated at a table behind a display of my books, I'd hoped for something more supportive, more congratulatory. We're both on the verge of turning fifty—are we not ready for an authentic conversation about this yet?

"Mark, I've been an increasingly vocal ally for about a dozen years now, and this book collects the best of my writing during that time." A pretty lame response, if you ask me. Sad thing is, he did ask me, and he deserved something better.

So if I'm honest as I look back on that October exchange, I'm stung more by my response than by Mark's question. Granted, the book-signing table in the crowded hallway outside the college bookstore on homecoming weekend was probably not the ideal arena to really answer his question. But I want a chance to do better. Not to persuade or convert Mark, but to tell the story of my journey. So that even if he doesn't agree with me, he'll have heard me. Heard the why and the how, not just the when.

Advocate continued on page 20



The Aging GLBT Community

by Lorna Doone Brewer

As the Baby Boomer generation marches toward retirement, it takes with it an amazing generation of gays and lesbians. Sometimes termed the “Stonewall Generation,” these are the people who truly witnessed the birth of the gay rights movement in the United States.

Their experiences in a culture just coming to terms with the concept of being “out” have created a unique situation as they deal with the challenges that accompany the aging process. From housing to self-identity, the “gray gays” are taking retirement by storm.

When it comes to aging, reports for gays and lesbians paint one of two very different images. Either you should expect to lose your home, your income, and your dignity; or you will be bolstered by self-esteem while being surrounded by like-minded individuals—probably somewhere sunny. The former scenario is one in which a surviving partner is forced

from his home by homophobic relatives, has no access to the deceased’s social security, and ends up in a nursing home where poorly-educated aides treat their gay patients while wearing surgical gloves. The latter situation is one where an individual or couple finds a gay-centered retirement community in Palm Springs or Santa Fe and lives out their golden years golfing and watching old movies in the community center.

While both of these situations are playing themselves out across the United States every day, the truth for most aging gay people is somewhere in between. There are a number of factors that influence the retirement experience.

How Old is Old?

Age, for example, makes a significant difference in an individual’s post-retirement life. Sandy Davidson, General Manager for Spokane’s Brighton Court assisted living facility, points out that the oldest members of the population may not even self-identify as gay. For them and their more self-aware counterparts, the likelihood of children is extremely small, which certainly affects the retirement lifestyle. For other retirees, the kids may either care for an older parent or will be involved in choosing a retirement community. “Gay society typically doesn’t have that,” Davidson explains.

Aging continued on page 23

Law & Wine

by **Albert Coke Roth, III, Esq.**

Attorney and international wine judge Coke Roth blends personality with GLBT legal insight & wine recommendations



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Law

The Law of Agency is another medieval import from our British pals; appointing another to do stuff for you. If it sounds like employment, it should, because that's what it is. It started out being called "Master-Servant" (still works that way interchangeably in households . . . ahem), however, the characters are contemporarily referred to as "Principal" and an "Agent" or "Attorney-in-Fact" (AIF). The Law of Agency controls the documents where a Principal appoints an AIF. "Powers of Attorney," and the powers the Principal conveys to the AIF are established by statute and by the Principal's choice. Of course, where there is work, there are duties. The Principal owes employer duties to an AIF, like compensation, reimbursement, defense for negligent and contractual acts done within the scope of the work, etc. Conversely, the AIF has duties of reasonable care, loyalty, obedience, etc. I strongly encourage you to see a lawyer as the vast majority of the Power of Attorney on the internet or through e-services are junk if used without explanation, so you need legal advice and the proper form to accomplish the task right.

Powers of Attorney must be executed under free will (no duress, coercion, etc.), the Principal must have legal capacity (minimum 18 years old), and must have mental capacity, of which

there are several definitions. I prefer to analogize the principals used in Will capacity evaluations from a 1942 Washington case, Estate of Bottger, where the Principal must comprehend the nature and extent of the property over which the AIF will have control, understand that an appointment empowers another to work for the Principal, and the Principal must have a firm recollection of their immediate family.

General Powers of Attorney are created out of convenience; allowing a person to assist the Principal while the Principal has mental capacity. Special Powers of Attorney are used for special jobs; typically appointing an AIF to sign documents for financing or real property conveyances when a Principal with mental capacity is not available.

The estate planning Powers of Attorney are called Durable Powers of Attorney. These instruments allow the AIF to perform acts for the Principal when the Principal has, err, lost their marbles; these Powers of Attorney are not affected by the mental incapacity of the Principal. This varies the common law requirement of Principal capacity, and the payment for this variance is that the Power of Attorney statute requires the Principal to specifically list the powers the Principal intends to grant to the AIF.

I prefer splitting the Durable Power of Attorney into "Health Care" and "Everything Else EXCEPT Health Care" for

Powers of Attorney. Don't leave consciousness without them. And drink sparkling wine before it's too late!

numerous reasons. First, families rarely have a one-size-fits-all person to manage every duty, at least not one that is willing to take on all the work. Moreover, the talents of one friend or relative may be better in health care over their abilities in financial affairs. And, if you have the perfect person, the 13th Amendment of the US Constitution, that pesky no-slavery one, allows AIF's to "just say NO" or the AIF can die or become disabled, so the appointment of successors is encouraged.

The non-health related powers that are conveyed to the AIF can be very broad; changing your Will is a no-no, but, most everything else is fair game, like gifting, conveying, changing insurance and bank beneficiaries, etc. The health care format of the Durable Power of Attorney is equally as flexible. Beyond the statutory powers, and subject to the statutory restrictions, you can grant the AIF many powers, and your lawyer is the one to discuss this with. Yes, you need a Will or a Will/Trust combination to distribute your assets after crossing the finish line. But arguably more important, are the documents that provide for your care while you still have a heartbeat. Don't lose consciousness without Durable Powers of Attorney.

Wine

There are several stories that one can find about the first time someone made sparkling wine on

purpose, all amounting to rural legend, no one knows, so any story that is told has the same zero chance of being 100% accurate. So I have been telling this version for 35 years or so because it is the coolest version I could piece together.

The harvest was later than usual in Epernay, France one year in the early 1700's. Dom Pierre Perignon, the Benedictine Monk who was ramroding the winemaking operations at the Abbey at Hautvilliers Monastery, was aging and blind by some accounts. The fermentation season was cooler than usual; generally not a problem with loose stoppers because wines bottled with some residual sweetness would easily release any carbon dioxide if they warmed up in the spring and fermentation resumed. But rather than use oil-soaked hemp or wood, Dom Perignon used tight fitting, cutting edge stoppers; the bark of *Quercus suber*, the cork oak, so the carbon dioxide (CO₂) was imprisoned in the bottle. The result was explosive, literally, as bottles started erupting.

Summoned to the cellar, his alarmed subordinates opened a bottle of this effervescent liquid (on purpose), and upon tasting its tingle on the tongue, the blind Grand Potentate of the Monastery proclaimed: "... come quickly my brothers, for I am drinking stars ...". Don'tcha just love that version, true or not?

From there, by most accounts, Madame Veuve Clicquot Posardin took the cork and bottle by the horns and developed the process

and science that created Methode Champenoise, the way sparkling wine, Champagne, Cremant, Sekt, Cava, etc. are made to this day. The Readers Digest version of this ten step process is that wine is refermented in a bottle, aged, the sediment is removed, it is filled to the brim and corked, and there are French names for most every step. "Bubble" as I call it, has varying sweetness levels from bone dry (natural/brut), to off dry (extra dry) to pretty sweet (sec, demi sec, doux).

While petulant wines are stereotypically pigeon-holed into milestone events like weddings, graduations, New Years, etc., I suggest that you pop that Bubble and drink these wines daily. The Roth household annually ratifies our New Year's Resolution to increase sparkling wine consumption over the prior year . . . I like resolutions that make me feel good and that I have a chance to actually achieve.

First and foremost, sparkling wines transcend the white/red wine-heavy/light food match thing better than any other wine, they go with almost everything . . . try a Blanc de Noir with a Ribeye, counter-intuitively romantic bedfellows. The refreshing acidity and relatively low alcohol of sparkling wines enliven your olfactory senses and clean-sweep the mouth to provide the proper forum for every conceivable food and wine marriage.

Law & Wine
continued on page 21



tales from an Herbivore

by **Jordy Byrd**
photo by **Steve Rodenbough**

In some ways, I'm happy to be done with the holidays. Don't get me wrong; I enjoy friends, family and traditions just as much as the next person. What I'm happy to escape, is the communal holiday trough.

That's right, I said trough; as in the holidays are a great excuse to saunter up to your favorite slop bin, drop snout and eat like a pig.

This holiday over-indulgence is fine if a: you actually are a pig (hooves and all), b: you have an overactive metabolism or c: you welcome a slow death of heart disease and high cholesterol. Unfortunately, I find myself in none of these categories. So as cliché as it sounds, each New Year I vow to become a healthier person.

I know what you might be thinking. You're a vegetarian right? Doesn't that automatically qualify you as a healthier person? This friends is a stereotype. The public and media like to caricaturize vegetarians as health nuts who in essence are meat, fat and food hating monsters.

I may be a monster, but if anything, I am the food monster. I love it. So, according to popular opinion (which I never like to follow anyway) I am the ultimate oxymoron: the unhealthy vegetarian.

I understand the title "vegetarian" suggests a healthy diet of fruits and vegetables; and for the most part it does. What's unrecognized is that food like cookies, potatoes chips, and cheese pizza are also on the vegetarian menu. The dark side of the vegetarian diet if you will.

Thankfully, I've completed the first and most difficult step. Acknowledgement. I tend to be an unhealthy vegetarian. I said it. But most importantly, I'm sure that if I don't watch myself, I'll end up on a slippery slope of late night binges, where the only

vegetables I eat are covered in either ranch dressing or cheese.

So in order to combat my unhealthy tendencies I plan to do two things. First, don't eat fewer sweets; instead replace my sweets with healthier substitutes. Secondly, I need to eat more variety. Every book and dietician will tell you to eat the color wheel of fruits and vegetables. A diet filled with red, brown, green, yellow, purple, est. vegetables and fruits is the healthiest of all.

So now that I know what to fix, the trouble will be overcoming two of my most stubborn body parts. A picky stomach and an oversized sweet tooth.

Jordy Byrd received her B.A. in Journalism from Washington State University, and is now in Spokane enjoying long seasons, good friends and family.

Vegetarian Recipes

These vegetarian burgers are just the thing for a summery picnic, on buns or on their own with sliced tomatoes and relish. Or try them with roasted potatoes and roasted broccoli. Use a wide spatula to flip the delicate patties.

Lentil and Almond Burgers

Ingredients

6 cups water
1 cup brown or French green lentils (see Note)
2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided
3/4 cup finely chopped carrot
1/3 cup finely chopped shallots (about 2 medium)
1/3 cup finely chopped celery (about 1 stalk)
1/4 cup sliced almonds
1 teaspoon chopped fresh thyme
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
1 large egg yolk, lightly beaten
1 tablespoon lemon juice

1. Bring water to a boil in a large saucepan. Stir in lentils, reduce heat to medium-low and simmer until very tender and beginning to break down, about 25 minutes for brown lentils or 30 minutes for green lentils. Drain in a fine-mesh sieve.

2. Meanwhile, heat 1 tablespoon oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add carrot, shallots and celery and cook, stirring, until softened, about 3 minutes. Add almonds, thyme, salt and pepper; continue cooking until the almonds are lightly browned, about 2 minutes. Transfer the mixture to a food processor; add 1 cup of the cooked lentils. Pulse several times, scraping down the sides once or twice, until the mixture is coarsely ground. Transfer to a large bowl; stir in the remaining lentils. Let cool for 10 minutes.

Mix in egg yolk and lemon juice. Cover and refrigerate for 1 hour.

3. Form the lentil mixture into 5 patties. Heat the remaining 1 tablespoon oil in a large nonstick skillet, preferably cast-iron, over medium-high heat. Add the patties and cook for 3 to 4 minutes. Turn gently and continue to cook until lightly browned and heated through, 3 to 4 minutes more. Makes 5 servings.

Smokey Corn and Black Bean Pizza

Ingredients

1 plum tomato, diced
1 cup canned black beans, rinsed
1 cup fresh corn kernels (about 2 ears)
2 tablespoons cornmeal
1 pound prepared whole-wheat pizza dough
1/3 cup barbecue sauce
1 cup shredded mozzarella, preferably smoked mozzarella

1. Preheat grill to medium.

2. Combine tomato, beans and corn in a medium bowl. Sprinkle cornmeal onto a large baking sheet. Stretch the dough into about a 12-inch circle and lay it on top of the cornmeal, coating the entire underside of the dough.

3. Transfer the crust from the baking sheet to the grill. Close the lid and cook until the crust is puffed and lightly browned on the bottom, 4 to 5 minutes.

4. Using a large spatula, flip the crust. Spread barbecue sauce on it and quickly sprinkle with the tomato mixture and cheese. Close the lid; grill until the cheese is melted and the bottom of the crust is browned, 4 to 5 minutes. Makes 6 servings.

differences

lessons of acceptance taught by children

by Travis Griffith
photo provided



My son is beginning to notice the differences in people... sometimes with humorous results and sometimes with eye-opening profoundness.

We were at Home Depot when my little guy, who at 6-years-old is still learning about public appropriateness, loudly pointed out a woman in the checkout line who "needed to exercise." Luckily we were a fair distance from her so there were no hurt feelings, but my wife and I were torn between being appalled and wanting to burst out laughing; not at the woman but because we laugh when we're taken so off guard. On the positive side, we were able to turn the situation into a valuable lesson of accepting people for who they are.

Our next lesson in children's unique perceptions came during the presidential campaign season, which my son took quite an interest in. He asked questions about both party's nominated candidates, declaring quite early in the race that the "brown guy" was going to win and be our next president. This is about the same time he began a passionate following of the Seattle Seahawks, pointing out that many of the players are

"brown like Obama."

I told him that most people with dark skin prefer to be called black rather than brown, and wanted to make it clear to him that skin color is no reason to treat people any differently. He just looked at me with a very confused look and said, "Why would I treat them different?"

That was one of those profound moments for me. Treating anybody differently based on skin color hadn't even occurred to him! At 6-years-old he hasn't developed any reasons for prejudice towards people who are different than him.

As parents, it's our responsibility to raise kids who aren't filled with racism, bigotry or hatred. Those are

traits that I firmly believe are passed from generation to generation, and we have the opportunity to put an end to it by doing whatever we can to preserve our children's beautiful perceptions of humanity.

Looking at the innocence of children has created more hope in me that our days of hate and violence are being replaced by a future of love and acceptance. Our kids are going to grow up in an America that isn't led by a white man. They're going to have neighbors who are families of two men or two women. They're going to go to school with kids of all backgrounds and colors, all of whom have the same opportunities to make their lives whatever they choose.

I look at my own children, and at the children of the world, and realize none of the differences that have held us back for so many years need to matter anymore. Kids today see only people; not colors of people. They see only true love; not the perceived gender-requirements of love.

Children see humanity in its purest, simplest and truest form. Wouldn't it be cool if we learned from them rather than molded them into mirrors of ourselves?

Spokane resident Travis Griffith recently left behind the corporate marketing world choosing family and writing instead. His children's book, *Your Father Forever*, was published in 2005 by Illumination Arts Publishing Company, Inc. and captures only a fraction of his passion for fatherhood. It is available at amazon.com and bookstores nationwide.

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Gail MACKIE loves animals!

by Joan Opyr
photos by Nicole Hensley

Gail Mackie has a mission. She is, like the organization she leads, SpokAnimal C.A.R.E., “dedicated to the placement, protection and health of animals through legislation, education and programs.” Under Mackie’s leadership, SpokAnimal has grown from a small, fledgling organization to one that is nationally recognized for its dynamic programs and bright and effective staff.

Mackie is a native of the Inland Northwest, born and raised in Malott, Washington. The grandchild of Scottish homesteaders, Mackie’s roots in this region run deep. She graduated from Eastern Washington University, left the region for a time, but returned to the area in 1984, the year SpokAnimal C.A.R.E. was incorporated.

Love of animals has been a constant in Mackie’s life. She was only a third-grader when she brought home her first stray, a cat who gave her an unfortunate case of ringworm on top of her head. This set-back didn’t deter her one bit, however.

Mackie’s passion is not simply for individual animals but for reforming a system and a culture in which animals are neglected, abused, and allowed (or even encouraged) to breed unchecked. Mackie writes, “My biggest disappointment has been regardless

of the education we do, the sterilizations we perform, the licenses we sell, there continues to be an overpopulation of pets.” This tragic situation has led Mackie and SpokAnimal to a very difficult decision.

As of the 1st of January 2010, SpokAnimal has decided not to renew its animal control contract with the City of Spokane. This is a contract SpokAnimal has had since its opening in 1985. Instead, the organization has chosen to focus on accepting pets surrendered by owners, transferring pets from animal control, generating guaranteed placement for the pets in their care, and increasing the number of sterilizations performed in SpokAnimal’s clinic. The organization will also increase its outreach, concentrating its efforts on placing animals for adoption.

Mackie continued on page 22



their website, "Cohabiting homes, both homosexual and heterosexual, lack the stability of a married mother and father. Foster children need stable homes in order to recover from past abuse or neglect." They also claim that the ban will raise awareness about adoption and foster care and increase the number of married couples who adopt. But the same website misrepresents the number of children who need homes, giving a number less than half of what other sources find. Family Council Action Committee describes itself as "pro-family" and says that the law will help children get the best possible care. Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) Director of Communications Steve Ralls has responded to the law by saying, "There is nothing pro-family about denying children the opportunity to be part of a loving family." Sadly, too, many heterosexual married couples are only willing to adopt healthy white infants. Same-sex couples are more likely to adopt "hard to place" kids who are overrepresented in foster care. These include children with disabilities and special needs, older children, groups of siblings, and children of color. Children with disabilities are especially in need of families because they rarely are adequately serviced in group homes. Eliminating same-sex couples hits this pool of children hard. Regardless of ideology, unmarried and same-sex families are a reality. According to the Williams Institute's study, nearly a third of same-sex couples are currently raising children and

many more couples want to. The same study finds that more than half of gay men want to have children and that lesbian and bisexual women are almost twice as likely as heterosexual women to have taken steps toward adopting. An estimated two million GLB people in the U.S. are interested in adopting, which would more than provide for the almost half a million American foster kids.

One of the most dangerous areas of "married only" adoption laws isn't even about foster and adoptive kids; it's about children living with a birth parent and the parent's partner. Under Arkansas' and Utah's laws, same-sex and different-sex unmarried parents cannot second parent adopt one partner's biological child. If the bio-parent dies, the children can be taken away from their other parent, even if that parent has been raising the kids since birth. If a little one has a medical emergency and the biological parent can't be reached, the non-biological parent can't make any decisions about the child's care. The same Williams Institute study finds that approximately one in four lesbian and bisexual women report having parented a non-biological child. Now in Arkansas, none would have a claim to those children.

There is a ray of light in all this, though. A few weeks after the election, a Florida Court struck down a ban on gay adoption that had been in place since the 1970s. The Florida ban excluded homosexuals only. Frank Martin Gill, a gay man who wanted to adopt his two foster children, headed the family that fought the ban. Before entering foster care, these children were horrifically abused by their biological

parents. Today, they have a permanent loving home with Gill.



Natalie Wendt grew up in Idaho and graduated from College of Santa Fe in 2005. She is a substitute teacher and lives in Spokane.



Truth Wins OUT (TWO) is a non-profit think tank and educational organization that counters right-wing disinformation campaigns, debunks the ex-gay myth, and provides accurate information about the lives of GLBT people.

TWO's mission:

- **Provide opposition research on the ex-gay industry**
- **Discredit right wing propaganda**
- **Educate America about the GLBT community**

www.TruthWinsOut.org

Queer Goggles

by Joan Opyr

My Inbred Home for the Holidays

It won't surprise my regular readers to know that I have a smart-ass family. We can never just say anything plainly or directly. The other day, after my son did his usual pole vault onto the sofa, his other mother said, "That is a sofa, not a jungle gym. It is designed to cradle your backside in striking comfort while you watch television with your mouth hanging open." And that's a mild example. The kids follow suit.

Holiday shopping this year has led to some useful new terms. At Wal-Mart, we were being pressed tightly by the crowds when my son motioned for me to bend down so he could whisper in my ear, "This place is a tool." I thought he was being rude, so I started to reprimand him, but he explained that he meant TOOL as an acronym standing for Tsunami of Old Ladies.

I'm glad my family is smart. I'm glad they're quick off the mark. It helps to alleviate a major concern that has arisen this past week as I've been back in my home state of North Carolina, visiting folks and doing a bit of genealogy research.

I began by laughing at the family names – at the two 19th century brothers, Black and Blue. At a distant ancestor named Littleberry. This was good fun. Things didn't get hairy until I noticed a certain lack of variation in the surnames on the wedding certificates. My grandmother and great aunts assured me that we were only talking about very distant cousins – mostly – but it was still unnerving, and to see it going back across three centuries made me wonder what I'd have been if my mother hadn't broken ranks and married a wayward

Ukrainian immigrant. Would I have had the Hapsburg jaw? Three eyes? Two heads?

It doesn't bear thinking about, but the worst is yet to come. When we reached the end of our research, I discovered my great aunts had saved the best for last. My maternal grandparents are, in fact, distant cousins. I'd scarcely finished reeling from that one when one of my great aunts told me that if you go back a few centuries, you'll find that the two lines of descent were founded by two brothers.

That was enough for me. I'm done for now with genealogy. Unless I feel a sudden need to marry a European monarch – the royal families of Europe are as inbred as the Pharaohs – I'm sticking to my other hobbies, complaining about the weather and putting money in the cuss jar. I can't seem to stop saying f*#k, especially not this week.

Those of you flying home for the holidays, please rate the following potential biohazards on a scale of None to Toxic:

1. My hair gel.
2. My shoes.
3. My asthma inhaler.
4. The armpits of the teenaged boy in front of me.

TSA, we have a problem. It's been seven years since someone tried to ignite a shoe bomb. Just between you and me, I don't feel any safer having to kick off my loafers so they can be scanned. I'm also wondering just what the difference is between five ounces of hair product and three. Is it that extra two ounces of extra stiff texture wax that give chemical attackers the edge? Maybe I've

been watching too much NCIS, but my favorite agent, Ziva David, can kill you with a dull pencil. What would make me feel safer is a safer world and a whole lot more air marshals.

But about those armpits – Mamas, don't let your babies grow up to be stinky. I flew from Minneapolis to Raleigh sitting behind the BO King while he ate a raw onion sandwich. That would be a thick slice of raw onion sandwiched between two raw onions and slathered with a rich raw onion sauce. I chewed an entire pack of gum, trying to blow the spearmint smell up into my nostrils. It didn't help. When the stewardess took our drink orders, I got a ginger ale and used the cup as a fizzy gas mask.

So please, this holiday season, be kind. The plane is small. The seats are tight. Use deodorant, brush your teeth, don't eat anything that might cause you intestinal distress before boarding your flight. People will love you for it; they really will.



Joan Opyr is a gigantic crank. Her life is frequently weird, and she enjoys writing and talking about that. She's a transplanted Southerner who dreams of golden beaches, sweet iced tea, and sunny skies. She believes that Eva Cassidy should be beatified. Oh, and she's also an award-winning novelist.

Advocate continued from page 7

So, without imagining that this is more than just a beginning, let's say I invited Mark to meet me for pizza and beer after the game, at one of our old haunts, "The Other Place," at the edge of the Wartburg campus in bustling "downtown" Waverly.

When did I become such an ... advocate? Well, actually, the word is Ally, Mark. And thanks for asking.

I suppose it began with the empathy that comes from being labeled the "egghead" back in junior high and high school. That experience made me hesitant to jump on anybody else's bandwagon when it came to excluding others. From the kids I just thought "might" be gay back in high school, to the ones that I "heard" were gay in college, I always thought, "So what? Leave 'em alone. They're not hurting you." I was hardly an Ally back then, but looking back, I was pretty much an Ally-just-waiting-to-happen.

I started to "happen" in seminary. It was there that my faith became political. No, I didn't decide that Jesus was a democrat (although it just might be noteworthy that he rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, not an elephant!). What I mean is that my faith left my head, where I'd been infatuated with all manner of Lutheran doctrine, and it moved out into my limbs. My faith became invested in "doing," rather than believing. In living compassion, rather than just knowing theology.

In the midst of this paradigm shift I met both gay and lesbian students at seminary whose lives were a living dilemma. They were there because they felt called by God to be pastors. But they knew the only way they could do that was by being less than truthful about who they were to their professors and eventually to their parishes.

Yet these were the people whose faith seemed most alive to me. They had every reason not to be there. Back then, Lutheran seminaries pretty much put out the "Not Welcome" mat to gays and lesbians (and they couldn't even imagine bisexual or transgender persons coming their way). But something stronger than that lack of welcome pulled them to seminary.

So here's what happened. I still loved theology, but no longer for its logical doctrinal beauty (which seemed more like a tower of cards) but for its potential to be a passionate voice for justice and its capacity to engender compassion not as a token response in a given moment but as a whole way of being in the world. And while this shift was going on inside me, I had this new circle of friends around me.

Okay, I'm still hardly an Ally at this point in my journey. Or if I am, I'm a closeted one. I mean, I was very affirming of my friends in private. And I was busily processing my evolving faith—both intellectually and existentially. But in public I was still pretty cautious about what I said.

That was 1983, and it was another decade before I began even tentatively to open my mouth, before I "came out" as an Ally. And even that happened in stages. Ten years is a long time to have something percolating inside you. I'm not proud it took me that long. Maybe I eventually began to speak and write with such urgency to make up for lost time. Anyway, I turned a crucial corner in seminary, and I've never looked back.

Mark, my being an "advocate" has everything to do with my being a person of faith. Now, you pick up the next pitcher of beer, and I'll tell you the next chapter ...



David R. Weiss is a theologian, writer, poet and hymnist committed to doing "public theology" around issues of sexuality, justice, diversity, and peace. His first book is *To the Tune of a Welcoming God: Lyrical reflections on sexuality, spirituality and the wideness of God's welcome* (2008 / www.davidrweiss.com). A lifelong Lutheran, David is a graduate of Wartburg College, Wartburg Seminary, and the University of Notre Dame. He has taught religion and theology at the University of Notre Dame, Luther College, Augsburg College, and Hamline University. Beyond his professional work, David has been active in local peace work and both locally and nationally as an ally for GLBT persons in faith communities. He lives with his wife and children in St. Paul, MN.

Law & Wine continued from page 11

But the biggest reason to integrate a bottle or 2 (or 3) of sparkling wine per week into your diet is attitude adjustment...necessary realignment of the stars. Look, you work, then your AIF drinks all your good wine when you get goofy, then you die. Celebrating every day like you just won a NASCAR race will be an omission that you will regret when you are in that rockin' chair looking over your shoulder and the mistakes you made while on the roller coaster of life. And, while you can break the bank when drinking Bubble, you don't have to because there are some delicious products from here and around the world that are just flat delightful and affordable. So, open some Bubble and celebrate the victory of being on the north side of the turf, that you made it through the day, and that the Dung Beetle walked past you without taking a bite ... ahem. No reason is the best

reason to have sparkling wine; a fine segue' into a quote in a recent Food and Wine Magazine: "Champagne is a wine of emotion rather than reason (unlike, say, Bordeaux); it's love, not intellect."

Below are some dandies and my suggested applications:

Domaine Ste. Michelle Luxe. Dr. Effervescence Rick Casquero is a genius ... sophisticated, pineapple-upside-down-cakey nose with creamy flavors; less than \$20

Sumac Ridge Stellar's Jay. If you haven't been to the British Columbia Okanagan, GO! Pack your bags, head to Summerland and drink this wine! Delicious acidity with racy wild strawberry notes; \$28 CDN

Veuve Clicquot Posardin (the orangish yellow label) My favorite Champagne from Champagne.

Apple pie and rich nutty lemon-cream flavors;\$50

Martini & Rossi Asti Spumante or Domaine Ste. Michelle Spumante Frizzante. Heading for the hot tub? Forget your clothes but don't forget one of these.... sweet apple, peach and lychee make your hottubee very happye!; \$10

Freixenet Cordon Negro. Just flat delicious, with a lemon cake and a little nut; \$10

Cheap Stuff...\$5 or so, mix sparkler to taste with Orange Juice...a Mimosa...best drunk in bed or vertical wearing pajamas, however, can be used at brunch.

The following trusted producers make great sparkling wines: Domaine Ste. Michelle (WA), Domain Chandon (CA), Piper Sonoma (CA), Mumm Napa (CA), Argyle (OR) and the Cava from Spain is great and cheap.

Don't Worry, Dempsey's Has Your Week Planned.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Make your own Bloody Mary 3 PM to 6 PM \$3.00 Well or \$1.00 upgrade to ABSOLUT	Karaoke 9 PM till 1 AM	\$1.00 PBR Pints  FREE POOL	Karaoke 9 PM till 1 AM	All Day \$3.50 Well Drinks \$2.00 Domestic Drafts

Friday and Saturday
Drag Shows at 10 PM and Midnight
Dancing till 4 AM

Where Something's Always Going On ...



Dempsey's Brass Rail
909 W. First Avenue

Mackie continued from page 18

According to Mackie, "Giving up the contract, we will be losing 60% of our funding and many staff members. It will be a real challenge to increase revenues to match the programs. Our spay/neuter clinic catering to low-income clients and their pets has been open since 1985. We offer a voucher program for those living in the City of Spokane – owners of licensed pets may claim a voucher to pay \$27.50 towards a male cat, \$45 towards a female cat or male dog, and \$50 towards the sterilization of a female dog. Vouchers may be used at ALL area veterinary clinics. We have an additional program, Trapped Cat Tuesday, where feral cats can be brought in and sterilized if they can go back to the colony where they were trapped. The charge for that surgery is \$10. Additionally, we will be doing a Sex and the

Kitty program in the spring to sterilize female cats prior to breeding season."

This is important work, it's difficult work—at times heartbreaking work, and Gail Mackie has been doing it for more than two decades. How does she relax? With partner Christel Carlson and daughter, Cyra. The family have lived together at the Spokane Sport Horse Farm since 1998. Mackie is also an avid reader and gardener, but it should come as no surprise that her other hobbies involve horses and raising free-range chickens.

Animals are at the center of Mackie's life, professionally and personally, and that's a love that she seems to have passed on from parent to child. When I asked where she saw herself in five years' time, Mackie replied,

"Retired, managing horse shows, running three other businesses, and doing lots of traveling." Then she added, "And attending the Junior Olympics track and field and cross country meets where Cyra competes and attending championship horse shows."

So what are the accomplishments that make Gail Mackie most proud? She has grown SpokAnimal from the small, fledgling operation that first opened its doors in 1985 into a nationally recognized organization, honored for both its programs and its staff. She's put her childhood love of animals to work both for the animals and for the community. That's quite an accomplishment, but even more significant, Gail Mackie is a great parent. That, she says, is at the top of her list.



Felines fill the arms of Gail Mackie and the staff at Spokanimal C.A.R.E.

Aging continued from page 9

Both that and possible severed family ties leave many of the oldest gays and lesbians with no caretakers as they reach advanced age.

Many of the members of this older group may not have come out until later in life. These individuals sometimes find that they don't truly feel connected to either the gay or straight communities. Because so many of the resources available are geared toward youth, many older people did not (and do not) benefit from the same kind of support. For them, neither a traditional nor a specialized retirement community may seem like a good fit.

Discrimination is Discrimination

It turns out that gays and lesbians may have a bit of an advantage over their heterosexual friends when it comes to aging. Having faced a significant amount of discrimination throughout the course of one's life, a gay individual is likely to have done some serious self evaluation and come to accept and embrace his or her own identity. Many heterosexuals are not confronted with a comparable type of discrimination until they first experience ageism. The result is disillusionment and the need to bolster one's sense of self. Having gone through this experience decades before, the transition to retirement age can be somewhat easier for gays and lesbians. The types of support systems in place can also positively impact the aging process. Members of the older generations especially rely on a network of friends, rather than extended family. This can also be impacted by the need to remain secretive about one's sexual identity at work. Rather than creating ties through one's career, an individual is more likely to keep friends and work as separate aspects of life. This means that relationships are more

likely to continue past the point of retirement, allowing for continued friendship and support.

It's Not All Good News

There are some very specific factors that can negatively impact the retirement of gays and lesbians, however. Legal issues abound when it comes to inheritance and property rights. Studies show that gays are only half as likely to have health insurance as heterosexuals, and they are twice as likely to live alone. The sheer loss experienced by many of the Baby Boomer generation during the AIDS crisis brings with it psychological trauma that affects these men and women.

The circumstances of any given retirement or nursing home can also severely impact the residents who live there. It is not uncommon to hear stories of gay residents who are moved from quarters to quarters because of roommates who refuse to live with them. Many of those who struggled so hard to be able to come out are being shoved right back into the closet out of fear of discrimination in both their medical care and their daily living situations. There have even been reported cases where couples who live in the same retirement home agree not to visit one another for their own safety.

Better Retirement Options

In order to put some of the luster back into the golden years of many gays and lesbians, there has been a movement toward gay-centered retirement communities. Places like Rainbow Vision in New Mexico offer residents the opportunity to enjoy their retirement experience among other gay couples and individuals. These communities will often host dances and other social events that allow residents to mix and mingle. Nurses are on duty and all of the other amenities expected of a retirement facility are included.

There are not a lot of these types of retirement communities already in operation, but it is most definitely a growing market, especially in Florida, California, and New Mexico. Davidson is optimistic about the situation in facilities that aren't gay-centered, too. "I think that more companies that managed nursing homes realized that there is power in the gay dollar, and we're seeing the discrimination as being pretty minimal." Here in the Northwest, many folks find camaraderie through gay senior citizens groups. Even these are not very common, however, so support can be hard for the aging individual to find.

Short of winning the lottery and retiring to Palm Springs, what can local gays and lesbians do to ensure the best experience in a retirement home or assisted living facility? Davidson says that the key is to ask up front. When searching for the right community or facility, ask the administration directly if they have a nondiscrimination policy, and if employees are trained in how to follow it. When planning for the rest of your life, it is reasonable to expect these things. If their policy isn't strong enough, or you've gotten negative feedback from others, choose a different community.

Part 2 CONTINUED in the February 2009 issue of QView Northwest



Lorna Doone Brewer is a freelance writer living in Spokane, Washington. After earning a B.A. in Theatre Arts at Gonzaga University, she took her love for the arts and social justice one step further by pursuing an M.A. in Organizational Leadership with an emphasis in Nonprofit Organizations. She is a co-owner of the Berry-Brewer Freelance Agency, producing a variety of materials for businesses, with a special focus on nonprofits.



Rick Warren at the Inauguration: Why?

By Joan Opyr

President-Elect Obama and Rick Warren

*The Jews are a nervous people.
Nineteen centuries of Christian love
have taken a toll.*

-- Benjamin Disraeli

Here are the facts: Barack Obama has chosen Rick Warren, the pastor of Saddleback Church, an evangelical megachurch in Lake Forest, California, to deliver the invocation at his inauguration. Rick Warren is rich, influential, a bestselling author and a popular television personality. He's also very, very anti-gay. Warren has compared legalizing gay marriage to allowing incest and pedophilia.

He played a prominent role in the passage of Proposition 8, the voter initiative overturning same-sex marriage in California and writing that discrimination into the state's constitution.

Rick Warren is one of the many prominent religious figures responsible for putting my own California marriage in jeopardy. That it should be Barack Obama, the man so many LGBT people supported so enthusiastically for President, who has chosen Warren to set the spiritual tone for the incoming administration feels

like a slap in the face. Or worse. It feels like the beginning of betrayal. But here it is, folks: he's a politician after all. And weren't we stupid to think otherwise?

Or is this something else? Obama has said many times that we should be able to agree without being disagreeable. That would be fine, but once a minister has said that gay marriage is akin to pedophilia, he's been something worse than disagreeable. He's been hate-mongering. Is that something a President wants to reward with an invitation to pray

Warren continued on page 28

ALL Are Welcome Here

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Please, stop the sky from falling

By Wayne Besen

Instead of bailing on GLBT organizations in their time of need, donors should dig deep and offer the equivalent of an economic bailout. There are those who can no longer give - and it is understandable that they cut back or refrain from contributing. But, if you are able, there are organizations that need your help.

This holiday season, when you throw a direct mail appeal from a gay organization in the trash, you might just be trashing that group's future. The sky really is falling and many groups may not survive the economic chaos. To those who say these dire warnings make me Chicken Little, you are really playing a dangerous game of chicken that may leave our movement vulnerable to attack by anti-gay culture warriors.

By design, the recipe for fundraising is a pound of hype and hyperbole, mixed with a pinch of hyperactivity and a tablespoon of hyperventilation. This is what is necessary to grab the attention of super-busy, multi-tasking donors. Unfortunately, in a time of genuine crisis, donors are seeing GLBT organizations yelling S.O.S and all they are hearing is - Same Old Stuff.

This time, however, the warnings are very real. Cassandra is in crisis and the crying wolf is weeping, with good reason.

In the Washington Blade was a chilling article on the financial meltdown headlined, "Gay orgs cut staff to cope with recession." GLAAD President Neil G. Giuliano told the Blade that he had laid off staff and the reduction "touched all departments." Kevin Cathcart, Lambda Legal's executive director, was forced to cut 10 percent of the organization's staff. The National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association's staff has been reduced from seven to two. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is leaving open unfilled positions.

Last week, my organization, Truth Wins Out (TWO), took out a hard-hitting ad in the Salt Lake Tribune, with the provocative headline, "Lies in the Name of the Lord." The ad was in response

to a dishonest ad placed in the New York Times by an antigay organization that tried to reduce peaceful Proposition 8 protests to "mob violence." As a result of our powerful rebuttal, donors were responsive - but the size of the contributions was down significantly.

I have spoken to many other leaders in the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender movement and not one has been immune from the effects of the recession. Donors are scaling back, grants are drying up and holiday cheer is turning into holiday fear. Instead of reaping the benefits of holiday giving, executive directors are looking over their shoulders for the Grim Reaper.

This is a particularly dangerous time to allow gay organizations to go under or downsize to the point of ineffectiveness. These groups are not expendable unless you consider your basic rights and protection for your family luxury items.

In the very near future, Congress will likely be debating legislation that would protect gay people from job discrimination. The Democrats may also introduce bills to protect our families, end Don't Ask/Don't Tell or crack down on hate crimes. When these bills are dropped in the hopper, anti-gay organizations will try to drop kick our community. Afraid of losing the culture war, they will become more extreme and vicious than ever. It will be a street brawl of epic proportions. The question is, will our fighters be out on the street working on your behalf, or pounding the pavement looking for work?

With Democrats in control and Obama in the White House, only a tidal wave of manufactured backlash can derail our progress. If you are foolish enough to believe that social conservatives

are not capable of fomenting such fear and loathing with their backs against the wall, you have a very short memory. That is exactly what happened with Proposition 8, where anti-gay activists lied and finagled their way to victory. If they could pull it off in a liberal state like California, don't be naïve and think they could not intimidate a governmental body, such as Congress, with members from states like Mississippi and Oklahoma.

Instead of bailing on GLBT organizations in their time of need, donors should dig deep and offer the equivalent of an economic bailout. There are those who can no longer give - and it is understandable that they cut back or refrain from contributing. But, if you are able, there are organizations that need your help.

If we give our organizations a lump of coal for Christmas, we will surely take painful lumps from our pugilistic opponents. In the aftermath, we will quickly realize how important these organizations actually were, and reinvent them from scratch at a much greater cost. This is hardly a sound business model, no less a wise strategy for winning equality.

If you are getting walloped - please don't open your wallet. But, if you are able, think about your role in keeping our trusted and valued organizations stable. A generous gift to your favorite group, might just give you the gift of liberty in return - which would make this a perfect holiday season.

Wayne Besen is the Founding Executive Director of Truth Wins Out and author of "Anything But Straight: Unmasking the Scandals and Lies Behind the Ex-Gay Myth" (Haworth, 2003). He can be reached at www.truthwinsout.org.

Warren continued from page 24

at the inauguration for the entire nation?

Joe Solmonese, President of the Human Rights Campaign, has written an open letter to President-elect Obama that reads, in part:

Let me get right to the point. Your invitation to Reverend Rick Warren to deliver the invocation at your inauguration is a genuine blow to LGBT Americans. Our loss in California over the passage of Proposition 8 which stripped loving, committed same-sex couples of their given legal right to marry is the greatest loss our community has faced in 40 years. And by inviting Rick Warren to your inauguration, you have tarnished the view that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans have a place at your table.

Rick Warren has not sat on the sidelines in the fight for basic equality and fairness. In fact, Rev. Warren spoke out vocally in support of Prop 8 in California saying, “there is no need to change the universal, historical definition of marriage to appease 2 percent of our population . . . This is not a political issue – it is a moral issue that God has spoken clearly about.” Furthermore, he continues to misrepresent marriage equality as silencing his religious views. This was a lie during the battle over Proposition 8, and it’s a lie today . . .

But in this case, we feel a deep level of disrespect when one of the architects and promoters of an anti-gay agenda is given the prominence and the pulpit of your historic nomination. Only when Rev. Warren and others support basic legislative protections for LGBT Americans can we believe their claim that they are not four-square against our rights and dignity. In that light, we urge you to reconsider this announcement.

When Solmonese speaks of LGBT Americans hoping for a place at President Obama’s table, the echoes of Rick Warren’s hollow

claims to love gay and lesbian people, to have many gay friends, to have visited our homes and eaten at our tables, are loud and clear. This hospitality flows one way, and it only flows on Rick Warren’s sufferance. Looking for proof that the pastor is compassionate toward his LGBT sisters and brothers? After the passage of Proposition 8, Warren says that he supplied some of those who protested his church with doughnuts. Marriage. Doughnut. Marriage. Doughnut. Yeah, I know which one I’d pick. Wait, though. Were they Dunkin or Krispy Kremes?

Joshua Friedes of Equal Rights Washington writes that “the decision to have anti-gay clergy person Rev. Rick Warren give the invocation at the Presidential Inauguration sends the wrong message to the American People,” and he invites readers to sign an online ERW petition opposing the Warren selection “so that the Obama Administration and Congress know that we want real change.”

Friedes continues, “It’s time to stop giving persons who oppose basic civil rights for LGBT Americans this nation’s highest honors such as the privilege of doing the invocation. Let’s make sure that the President-elect knows that we intend to hold him accountable and that we expect him to lead America on its path toward full equality for America’s LGBT citizens.”

While Equal Rights Washington seems to view the Warren selection as largely a political issue, PFLAG, by contrast, takes a religious approach:

Dear President-Elect Obama:

As people of faith, and as friends and family members of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender loved ones, we are disheartened and discouraged

by your selection of Rev. Rick Warren to deliver the invocation at your inaugural ceremonies on January 20 in Washington. This historic moment in our nation’s history, and for our nation’s families, deserves the blessing of inclusive faith leaders who believe in, and practice, the universal call to “love thy neighbor as thyself.”

Simply put, there are many welcoming, affirming people of faith who would set a proper tone for this momentous event in our nation’s history, and Americans who cherish our national ideal of “liberty and justice for all” would have benefited from a wiser choice for this honor than Rev. Warren.

As a proponent for rolling back rights for our families in California, Rev. Warren has sent an unmistakable signal that he believes some Americans are more worthy of civil liberties and legal protections than others. And as an outspoken critic of full marriage equality, Rev. Warren stands on the wrong side of history and, even more importantly, the wrong side of family values. Outdated prejudice, and antiquated philosophies, are out of step with the change in tone we, and our loved ones, want to believe in.

The LGBT community has a right to be nervous. Broken deals, forgotten promises, dashed hopes, and always that dangerous religious love with a smile on its lips and a sting in its tail. On the whole, I’d rather not risk the devout affections of Pastor Rick Warren. What I want and what I expect is a President who understands that I exist, that I am a core constituent, and that the messages he sends either directly or through proxies like Rick Warren have a direct and immediate effect on all of our lives. We’ve been down this road before, and it always seems to end in that same box of doughnuts. It’s just not enough this time.

Pacific Inland Northwest

Calendar

Jan 1 - Feb 15 2009

We’re pleased to share non-profit events on this calendar of interest to the GLBTQA community. **Additional calendar events and updated listings can be found on the online Q View Northwest calendar at www.qviewnorthwest.com.** Think an event should be added? Drop us a line: mail@qviewnorthwest.com

RECURRING EVENTS WEEKLY

Tue

WSU GLBTA - Pullman
7pm – 8pm The Center, Smith Gym, WSU Campus, Pullman, WA. Coordinates much of the social programming for the campus community such as BBQs, camping trips, National Coming Out Day, and Homecoming parade

Wed

Alcoholics Anonymous-LGBT 6:30pm – 8:30pm At Bethany Presbyterian Church, 310 S Freya St, Spokane, WA

Thur

Eagle Pride 3:30pm
(Added Dec 2008)
A group for LGBT men and women and their allies at Eastern Washington University. Women’s and Gender Studies Lounge, 207 Monroe Hall
Call: (509)359-6429

QueerSounds 6pm – 8pm
KYRS FM 92.3 or 89.9 Online at www.live365.com, search for KYRS Inland NW’s only radio show dedicated to playing music by and for LGBTQ people. Music, interviews, community events. Hosted by DJ Irey and “bob”.

Sat

SNO-Saturday Night Out - 5pm – 1am MCC Diversity Pride Center (Gettman Hall), 2626 W Bruneau Pl, Kennewick, WA Alcohol-free environment, GLBTQI & S friendly, Kid friendly, couple & single friendly. \$2 donation at the door requested to help cover expenses. Movies, snacks, dancing, games, and people to meet.

Sun

Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane
(Added Dec 2008)
4340 W Fort Wright Drive, Spokane, WA Call: (509)325-6383
9:15am Early Worship, 11:00am Traditional Worship. The Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane is a designated GLBT Welcoming Congregation by the Unitarian Universalist

Association of Congregations. We accept and affirm GLBT people - not just tolerate. We welcome faith diversity.

Westminster Congregational UCC
8:30am – 9:30am Early Worship
10:30am – 11:30am Traditional Worship
No matter who you are or where you are in your faith journey, all are welcome. Westminster is an Open & Affirming congregation in the United Church of Christ. Welcoming Christian worship service for all. Communion served weekly.

EMCC Worship 5:00pm Worship (weekly) 301 S Freya (509) 838-0085 www.emccspokane.org

MONTHLY

First Sat

Potluck - LGBTQ Family and Friends
6pm – 8pm Westminster Congregational UCC, 411 S Washington, Spokane, WA. Family-friendly non-alcoholic potluck to celebrate being with LGBTQA community. All are welcome. Sponsored by the Inland Northwest LGBT Center and the Westminster Congregational UCC. For more info: Westminster Congregational UCC 624-1366 or Inland Northwest LGBT Center 489-1914 www.thelgbtcenter.org

First Sun

Bowling! LGBT & Friends
10:30am – 12:30pm
North Bowl, 125 W. Sinto Ave. LGBT & Friends Northbowl Lanes Address: 125 W. Sinto Avenue \$10.00 covers 3 games, shoes and ball. No RSVP required but lanes are limited! Contact: www.inwglb.org or Mark at 509 879-8747

ISCS Board Meeting
(Added Dec 2008)
at Dempseys Brass Rail. 5:30pm Board Meeting, 6:30pm General Membership Meeting, 7:30pm By-Law Meeting

Second Tue

Inland NW LGBT Center Board Meeting
(Updated Dec 2008)
6pm – 8pm at Camp Fire USA Inland Northwest Council Office, 524 N Mullan Rd. Meetings of the board of the Inland Northwest LGBT Center are open to the public. www.thelgbtcenter.org

Third Tue

OutSpokane Meeting
(Updated Dec 2008)
7:15pm – 9:00pm Robert H Cooke Building, 503 East 2nd Avenue. Open meeting for planning and coordinating Pride and Fall into Pride events.

Third Mon

Pride Foundation Inland NW Steering Committee Meeting
7:30pm – 8:30pm (monthly) Courtyard Office Center - Conference Room, 827 W 1st Ave, Spokane WA.

First Tue

Gay & Lesbian Book Group
7:30pm Auntie's Bookstore - 402 W Main St, Spokane, WA

Second Wed

INBA Luncheon
11:30am – 1:00pm at Dempseys Brass Rail. Great opportunity to network with other business people in the area. www.inbaspokane.org

Vista Youth Center Board Meeting - Kennewick
5:30pm – 7:30pm Vista Youth Center, 2625 W Bruneau Pl, Ste E, Kennewick, WA`

Last Thur

Tri-Cities PFLAG Meeting
7pm – 9pm (monthly, last Thur of the month) Gettman Hall, 2625 W Bruneau Pl, Kennewick, WA www.tcpflag.org

NON-RECURRING EVENTS

JANUARY

BISEXUAL AWARENESS MONTH

Sat 3

ISCS Fundraiser: White Knight/Debutante "Hair of the Dog" Show
8:00pm at Dempseys Brass Rail.

Wed 14

INBA Luncheon (Unique monthly speakers)
11:30am – 1:00pm at Dempseys Brass Rail. This month’s guest speaker: Connie Watts, from Equal Rights Washington. Great opportunity to network with other business people in the area. www.inbaspokane.org

Sat 17

ISCS Fundraiser: Scotty Black Cancer Show
8:00pm at Dempseys Brass Rail.

Mon 19

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

Sat 31

ISCS Fundraiser: Scotty Black Cancer Show
8:00pm at Dempseys Brass Rail.

FEBRUARY

Sat 7

ISCS Fundraiser: ISCS Fun Show
8:00pm at Dempseys Brass Rail.

Wed 11

INBA Luncheon (Unique monthly speakers)
11:30am – 1:00pm at Dempseys Brass Rail. This month’s guest speaker: Gina Marie Young. Great opportunity to network with other business people in the area. www.inbaspokane.org

Pacific Inland Northwest Resources

SPOKANE AREA

BiNet Spokane

A social support group for bisexual men and women.

Call: (509) 217-1271

Eastern Washington University EAGLE Pride

(Updated Dec 2008)

A group for LGBT men and women and their allies at Eastern Washington University. Weekly meetings: Thursday at 3:30pm at the Women's and Gender Studies Lounge, 207 Monroe Hall

Call: (509) 359-6429

EMCC – Emmanuel Metropolitan Community Church

(Updated Oct 2008)

Christian church with outreach to the GLBT community.

Call: (509) 838-0085

Web site: www.emccspokane.org

Friends of SAN

Fundraising organization for people living with HIV/AIDS to improve the quality of their lives.

Write: 1212 E. Front Ave. Spokane, WA 99202

Gay/Lesbian Info Line

Call: (509) 489-2266

Immediate Crisis: (509) 838-4428

GLBT Book Group

(Updated Oct 2008)

Discusses selected works at Auntie's Bookstore at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday each month.

Call: (509) 838-0206

Web site: www.auntiesbooks.com/

Gonzaga University GLBT Resource Center

For information and to contact resource organizations on the GU campus, September-May.

HERO (Helping Educate Regarding Orientation) gay-straight alliance.

SODA (Sexual Orientation Diversity Alliance) law school support group.

Call: (509) 323-5847

Hospice of Spokane

Physical, emotional and spiritual care for the terminally ill and loved ones; bereavement support and HIV/AIDS counseling services.

Call: (509) 456-0438

ISCS – Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane

(Updated Nov 2008)

The Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane (ISCS) and Eastern Washington is a licensed non-profit and the oldest organization of its kind in the Spokane area to provide support for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning communities of Eastern Washington. A variety of shows, Drag Shows, Fundraisers, Outings, Camping Trips, Raffles and Auctions are used to promote unity as wells as scholarships and other financial assistance.

PO Box 65, Spokane, WA 99210-0065

Web site: www.easternwashingtoncourt.com

INBA – Inland Northwest Business Alliance

A Professional GLBTQ/Allied Business Alliance. Monthly luncheon meetings and annual community resource directory.

PO Box 20163, Spokane, WA 99204

Voice mail: (509) 455-3699

E-mail: info@inbaspokane.org

Web site: www.inbaspokane.org

Inland Northwest LGBT Center

Formerly Rainbow Regional Community Center. Support services for LGBT community and individuals exploring their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.
Web site: www.thelgbtcenter.org

Inland Northwest Men's Experience (IN MX)

Formerly Lilac City Men's Project IN MX is a funded program that uses the MPowerment Project model to build the gay and bi men's community through sponsored social events and activities. Spokane's MPowerment Project has been named the Inland Northwest Men's Experience and has been adapted to include the entire GLBTQ community for the large social events, and for men 18 to 29 for the smaller events and wellness groups.

Web site: www.theinmx.com

Integrity

Gay and lesbian Episcopalians meet monthly for communion and simple meal.

Call: Chuck: (509) 326-7707 or Ann: (509) 624-6671

Lilac City Men's Project

Please see Inland Northwest Men's Project

Lutheran Communtiy Services- SafeT Response Center

Call: (509) 747-8224

Crisis line (509) 624-7273

Odyssey Youth Center

Our mission is to work with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth and their allies to provide a safe place, education and advocacy to promote positive growth and self empowerment.

1121 S Perry, Spokane WA 99202

Call: (509) 325-3637

Web site: www.odysseyyouth.org

OutSpokane

Committee organizes annual Pride march and celebration and other community events.

Web site: www.OutSpokane.com

Papillon

Social support group for the transgender community.

Call: (509) 292-8852

PFLAG - Spokane – Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays

Support group for parents, family, friends and members of the GLBT community.

Call: (509): 624-6671

Web site: www.pflagspokane.org

PJALS – Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane

(Updated Oct 2008)

Independent, membership organization building foundations for a just and nonviolent world.

Call: (509) 838-7870

Web site: www.pjals.net

Planned Parenthood of The Inland Northwest

HIV antibody testing and counseling.

Call: Clinic for Appt.: (800) 788-9128

Administration: (509) 326-6292

Pride Foundation/Inland Northwest

The Pride Foundation connects, inspires and strengthens the Pacific Northwest GLBTQ community in pursuit of equality by awarding grants and scholarships and cultivating leaders.

Call: Spokane office (509) 327-8377 or (888) 575-7717

E-mail: outreach@pridefoundation.org

Website: www.pridefoundation.org

Ryan White CARE Consortium

HIV care education and planning group.

Call: (509) 444-8200

SAN – Spokane AIDS Network

(Updated Oct 2008)

905 S Monroe St, Spokane, WA

Call: (509) 455-8993

Web site: www.san-nw.org

Spokane County Domestic Violence Consortium

A private, nonprofit organization with members from a variety of professions who have come together to end intimate partner violence.

Call: (509) 487-6783

Spokane Falls Community College - The Alliance

GLBT and allies group to provide a safe space; to educate our community.

Call: (509) 533-4507

Spokane Human Rights Commission

Call: Equity Office: (509) 625-6263

Spokane Regional Health District

(Updated Oct 2008)

Providing health services and referrals for the public. HIV testing.

Call: (509) 324-1542 or 1-800-456-3236

Web site: www.srhd.org/

Stonewall News Northwest

Flagship publication for the gay and lesbian community and the Inland Northwest.

Web site: www.stonewallnews.net

Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane

(Updated Dec 2008)

A GLBT Welcoming Congregation

Sunday Worship Services at 9:15 and 11:00 a.m.

4340 W Ft Wright Dr

Spokane WA 99224

Call: (509) 325-6383

Web site: www.uuspokane.org

Westminster Congregational UCC

(Updated Oct 2008)

An Open and Affirming Congregation of faith in downtown Spokane. Informal worship at 8:30am, traditional worship at 10:30am.

411 S Washington St, Spokane, WA

Call: (509) 624-1366

Web site: <http://wcunited.qwestoffice.net/>

Women and Friends

Women-only activities and events in the Spokane area.

Call: (509) 458-4709

IDAHO

Idaho for Basic Rights

Citizen action group to work for civil and legal equality on basis of sexual orientation.

Call: (208) 343-7402

NIAC – (Updated Oct 2008)

North Idaho AIDS Coalition

HIV/AIDS prevention, education and assistance for people infected with, affected by HIV.

410 Sherman Avenue Suite 215, Coeur d'Alene, ID

Call: (208) 665-1448 or (866) 609-1774

Web site: www.northidahoaidscoalition.org

NIGMA - North Idaho Gay Men's Association

Creating community by providing real time social activities for gay men in the Moscow/Pullman area, visitors, and allies.

E-mail: NIGMA@yahoogroups.com

Panhandle Health District

STD/HIV testing, condoms, and other methods of birth control, physical exams, shots, cancer screening, resource nurse voucher program, referrals to area resources and education. All services are confidential.

• Kootenai County Call: (208) 667-3481

• Boundary County Call: (208) 267-5558

• Shoshone County Call: (208) 786-7474

• Bonner County Call: (208) 263-5159

• Benewah County Call: (208) 245-4556

PFLAG - Sandpoint

Support, education and advocacy group for Sandpoint gay people, parents, family and friends.

Call: (208) 263-6699

Planned Parenthood of The Inland Northwest

HIV antibody testing and counseling.

Call: Clinic for Appt.: (800) 788-9128

Administration: (509) 326-6292

LEWISTON/CLARKSTON

PFLAG - Lewis-Clark

Support, education and advocacy group for Lewis-Clark gay people, parents, family and friends. Meets in Lewiston.

Call: (509) 758-6437

MOSES LAKE

AACW – Alternative Alliance of Central Washington

A social and support group to help bring together people in the GLBT community.

Write: P.O. Box 1282, Moses Lake, WA 98837

PULLMAN/MOSCOW

Associated Students of Washington State University GLBTA

(Updated Oct 2008)

Socializing and educational outreach for WSU students.

Call: (509) 335-4311

E-mail: glbta.aswsu@wsu.edu

Web site: <http://glbta.wsu.edu>

Inland Oasis

(Updated Dec 2008)

Inland Oasis organizes many social events on the Palouse including such as Palouse Pride and Community Thanksgiving. Inland Oasis provides free HIV testing on a regular basis, and is working to form a community center in Moscow's 1912 Center.

1912 Center: Friendship Hall, 412 East 3rd Street

Moscow, ID 83843

E-mail: Info@InlandOasis.org

Web site: www.inlandoasis.org

Out There

(Updated Oct 2008)

Sponsored by Whitman County Health and WSU, Out There is a social and educational program for college-aged men who have sex with men.

Call: (509) 335-6428

Planned Parenthood of The Inland Northwest

HIV antibody testing and counseling.

Call: Clinic for Appt.: (800) 788-9128

Administration: (509) 326-6292

University of Idaho Gay-Straight Alliance

Promoting a fabulous, positive and inclusive environment for all people on campus and encouraging individual growth and understanding by developing outreach programs, improving visibility and recognition of queer issues and history.

Call: (208) 885-2691

Washington State University Gender Identity/Expression and Sexual Orientation Resource Center

(Updated Oct 2008)

Provides education, advocacy, and support for the WSU community.

Call: (509)335-6388

E-mail: giesorc@wsu.edu

Web site: www.thecenter.wsu.edu

TRI-CITIES

Benton-Franklin District Health Department

Confidential and anonymous HIV testing, case management, educational and referral services.

Call: (Pasco) (509) 547-9737, ext. 234

Confidential voice mail also.

River of Life Metropolitan Community Church

(Updated Oct 2008)

Christian church celebrating diversity and affirming GLBTQ people. Sunday services at 10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

2625 W Bruneau Pl, Kennewick, WA

Call: (509) 628-4047

E-mail: info@riveroflifemcc.org

Web site: www.riveroflifemcc.org

Tri-Cities Chaplaincy/ Tri-Cities CARES

Columbia AIDS relief, education and support. Survivor support group and HIV/PWA support group.

Call: (509) 783-7416

WALLA WALLA

Blue Mountain Heart to Heart

AIDS prevention education, support and services.

Call: (509) 529-4744

Toll Free: (888) 875-2233 (pin #4744)

Spanish: (509) 529-2174

PFLAG – Walla Walla

Support, education and advocacy group for parents, family, friends and members of the GLBTQ community. Promoting the health and well-being of GLBTQ individuals, their families and friends.

Call: (509) 529-5320

Write: 527 E. Oak

Walla Walla, WA 99362-1248

E-mail: pflag_walla2wash@hotmail.com

YAKIMA

PFLAG - Yakima/Yakima Valley

Promotes the health and well-being of GLBT individuals, their families and friends.

Call: (509) 576-9625

Rainbow Cathedral Metropolitan Community Church

An MCC Seattle parish extension.

Call: (509) 457-6454

MONTANA

Flathead Valley Alliance

(Updated Oct 2008)

Northwest Montana information and referral services.

PO Box 2815, Kalispell MT

Call: (406) 758-6707

Web site: www.flatheadvalleyalliance.org

Lesbian Avengers

A direct action group focused on issues vital to lesbian survival and visibility.

Call: (406) 523-6608

Pacific NW Gay Rodeo Association

(Updated Oct 2008)

For people who enjoy the country & western lifestyle.

1012 Four Mile Road • St. Regis, MT

Call: (206) 428-7104

E-mail: info@PNWGRA.org

Web site: www.pacificnwgra.org

PFLAG Billings

Meets monthly Sept. - May.

Call: (406) 255-7609

PRIDE Celebration

Group in charge of annual Montana June PRIDE celebrations.

Call: (406) 442-9322

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