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STONEWALL News Northwest

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Serving the GLBTQA Community of the Pacific Northwest since 1992

Decadence & dance

Inaugural Odyssey Masquerade Ball raises funds and visibility for needed GLBTQA youth center



Photo by Northern Exposures Photography



Photo by Pat Devine

Photo Above Left: Michael Wernz and Michael Nestor pose at the Ball. Nestor later won the award for Best Hand Made Costume (Nestor made both costumes). Photo Above: Masquerade Ball partiers celebrate to the sound of Milonga Band at CenterStage.

SPOKANE, WA - The GLBTQA 21 and over crowd regaled each other with laughter and celebration Oct. 28 as they enjoyed great food and rocked to the jazzy Latin dance music of Nicolas Vigil's Milonga Band at CenterStage.

Milonga means "party & dance" as translated from Spanish... and dance we

did! Costumed figures galore tore up the floor to the lively first-rate entertainment that helped make a great success of the inaugural Odyssey Masquerade Ball.

Merrymakers engaged in friendly competition for costume prizes, The Best Costume that Money Can Buy going to the contestant who gave the judges the

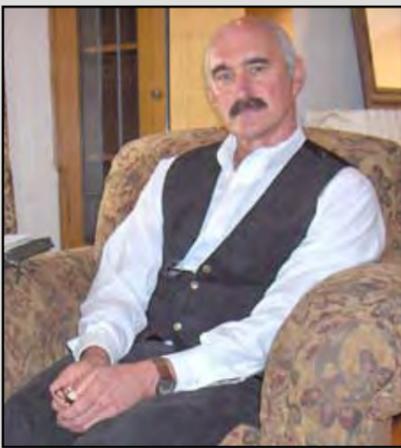
biggest bribe. Costume awards ranged from the Most Humorous to the Best Group Costume to the Best Costume Part. (Use your imagination for this one.)

The goals for this event were to raise

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Fly your Flags on Fridays!

N.J. grants equality

New Jersey Supreme Court Rules Same-Sex Couples Deserve Equal Rights as Married Heterosexuals

By Troy Espera , GayWired.com

The New Jersey Supreme Court ruled last Wednesday that same-sex couples are entitled to the same rights as married heterosexuals and left it to the legislature to decide on the name to be given to such unions.

"The court does not consider whether committed same-sex couples should be allowed to marry, but only whether those couples are entitled to the same rights and benefits afforded to married heterosexual couples," the justices wrote in their decision, reports Reuters.

Massachusetts is the only state in the U.S. that recognizes marriages between people of the same sex. Fifteen states have passed constitutional amendments

banning such unions. New Jersey is one of only five states with no such statutory or constitutional ban.

"The issue is not about the transformation of the traditional definition of marriage, but about the unequal dispensation of benefits and privileges to one of two similarly situated classes of people," the court said in its 4-3 ruling, reports the Associated Press.

According to Reuters, the state high court in Trenton was ruling on claims by seven same-sex couples seeking to wed. The suit, filed in 2002, reached the court last year after a lower appeals court ruled 2-1 that gay marriage isn't recognized under the New Jersey constitution.

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled in 2003 that a ban on same-sex

marriage violated the state constitution. The following year, the same court ruled that only full marriage rights for gay couples would satisfy constitutional requirements. The state doesn't extend marriage rights to same-sex couples living outside the state.

Chief Justice Deborah Poritz, who is retiring from the New Jersey court today, dissented from the majority, saying that gay couples have the "fundamental right to participate in a state-sanctioned civil marriage," reports Reuters.

State lawmakers in New Jersey passed a domestic partnership law in 2004 that grants gay couples some of the same rights available to married couples, including pension and health coverage for partners of state employees. Until the Massachusetts court's ruling, only Vermont extended similar benefits to same-sex couples.

Spokane Odyssey Masquerade

Can you identify these Masquerade participants? Continued from Front Page - Continues on Page 12



Photo by Northern Exposures Photography



Photo by Pat Devine



Photo by Pat Devine



Photo by Pat Devine



Photo by Pat Devine



Photo by Pat Devine



Photo by Pat Devine



Photo by Steven Sanford

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 2006 | *Love & Support Award* | Mr. Gay Spokane XXVI
 1999 | *Rainbow Award* | Inland Northwest Pride
 1997 | *Vice Versa Award* | Q Syndicate
 1996 | *Rainbow Award* | Inland Northwest Pride

Voices

Letters to the Editor

Mager bright and capable

There is a sea change occurring in our world. The issues for my family, and the children and homeless served in my volunteer efforts are serious, multiple and very deep.

Women and children and the homeless do not feel safe and well served because of policy decisions by our current County Commission.

In multiple conversations I've had with Bonnie Mager, I have found a deep conviction and honest intent to serve the underserved and marginalized on our streets and in our homes.

I know now in my heart that here in our County one person will make a profound difference for the long term for all of us.

A preponderance of the county's budget allocations are in the areas of family services, domestic violence, health care, police advocacy and safety.

The family values espoused by the Republican Party will best be effected by a bright capable and caring woman.

Make a positive decision for peace and safety and family services in our homes and the cities of this county. It is time for a woman's voice again in this arena.

Vote for Bonnie when your ballot arrives in your home this week.

John A. Olsen O.D.
 Spokane, WA

Jim West spoils our party

By The Vision Committee

Has the recent Mark Foley media frenzy encouraged PBS's "Frontline" to care more about their ratings than about presenting their usual no-punches-pulled investigative reporting? OutSpokane's Vision Committee is wondering about this upon learning Oct. 26 that the eagerly anticipated segment highlighting the progress of Spokane's GLBTQA community organizations has been refocused.

The program set to air at 9 p.m. Nov. 14 will instead address the narrower story of the late Jim West and his unplanned outing. Arc Media, producers of the Spokane-centered feature, spent 18 months and thousands of dollars planning, filming and editing a more comprehensive look at the "clash of cultures" between conservative religious coalitions and our thriving GLBTQA community but could not, after two months of intense negotiations, convince "Frontline" executives to run it.

The news of the program's content prompted the Vision Committee to cancel the previously announced GLBTQA community celebration of the show's airing at Spokane Falls Community College.



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Giving Together. Building Community.

Congratulations to the grant recipients of the Inland NW Regional Granting Community. \$16,500 was awarded to five organizations working to strengthen our LGBT community.

CenterStage

Gay, Lesbian, & Straight Education Network (GLSEN)

Inland Northwest Equality

Spokane AIDS Network

Odyssey Youth Center



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

EMCC forges ahead

Succeeding Len Mace, Wayne Shull steps up as Interim Pastor at Spokane's embattled Emmanuel MCC

A follow up to the 2-part article covering the crises at EMCC including the devastating embezzlement and the departure of Pastor Len Mace. Part 1 can be found in the September 15, 2006 issue. Part 2 can be found in the October 1, 2006 issue. Back issues can be found at www.stonewallnews.net.

By Mike Schultz

A congregation tries to rebuild

On the evening of Sunday, October 22, 2006, 29 congregational members of the embattled Emmanuel Metropolitan Community Church (EMCC) listened to its Board of Directors recommend the congregation stay intact. In a vote of 26 for, and three against, the decision was made to not close the doors of Spokane's first gay & lesbian Christian congregation established 24 years earlier under the national Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) fellowship.

In the same meeting, Wayne Shull accepted appointment by the board as Interim Lay Pastoral Leader effective immediately. Shull replaces Len Mace who resigned for reasons unrelated to the congregation's current financial crisis.

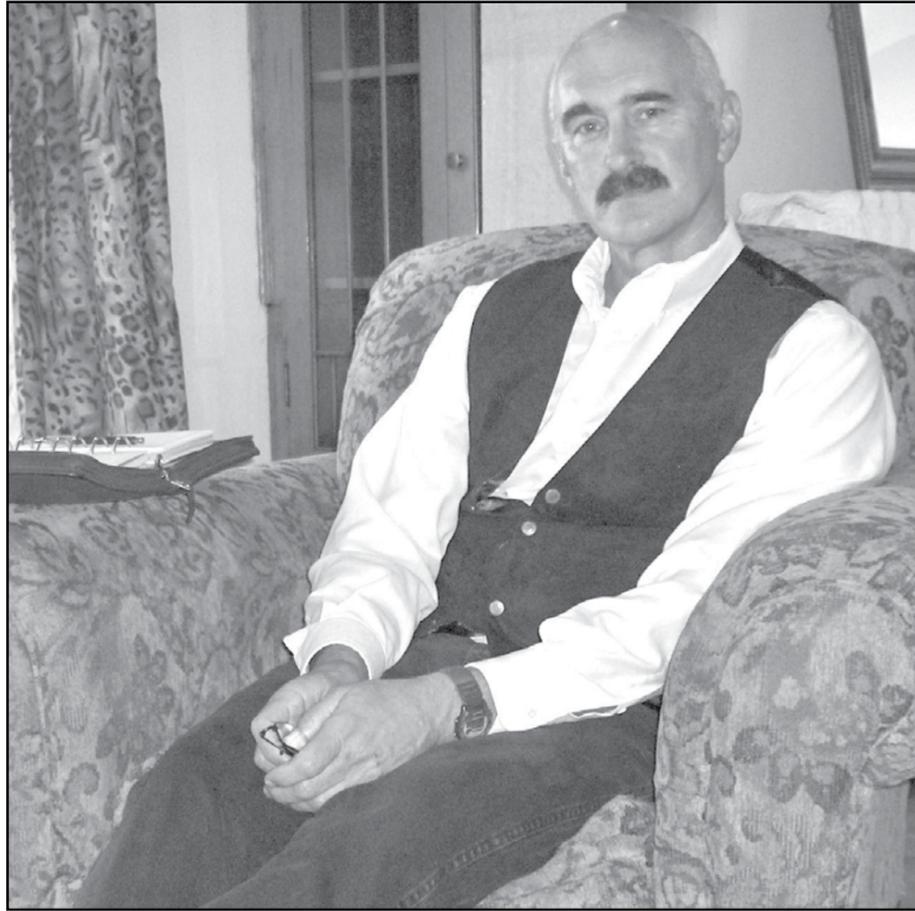
The vote comes on the heels of a massive case of embezzlement allegedly perpetrated by two church board members. As the church coffers were pillaged, unpaid bills mounted and pastor's salary went unpaid, the on-going fraud wasn't discovered until a July, 2006, trip by Shull, Mace and another Lay Delegate to a national MCC conference in Phoenix, AZ. It was when Mace was informed that EMCC's enrollment fees hadn't been paid to attend the conference that Mace made some calls back to Spokane.

"The night we arrived in Phoenix," Shull recalls, "I have some unfortunate news to share with you" and that's when we discovered the beginnings of this. Since then there's been lots of research and digging and then it exploded"

What they found was a massive case of embezzlement through forgery and many, if not all, financial records were altered or destroyed. Other files disappeared. Recreating the records has been daunting.

The status of the investigation by the authorities is vague. "It's in the Spokane Police Dept's hands; we don't really know anything more than that," Shull states.

But what the congregation does know is that its membership is dropping and is unable to generate the \$500 per week in tithing and donations to meet its minimum



Newly appointed Interim Lay Pastor, Wayne Shull (above), talks with Stonewall Publisher, Mike Schultz, on October 24, 2006.

operating budget. And of the offerings received by EMCC, 30% represents the giving of just one member. Five members account for a disproportionate 70% of the tithing of all 29 members.

With dwindling membership and unable to meet its current minimum operating budget moving forward, why try to continue the congregation?

"We have identified several major reasons why EMCC has a place and a ministry in Spokane," Shull states, most notably to nurture empathy in a historically marginalized and battered community. Another reason Shull offers, "it's family" for many

members over the course of 24 years "For many people it's their only social outlet"

When MCC was founded 28 years ago, "Gay people were excluded and excommunicated from many different denominations and not wanted any more, but there was still the spiritual need to connect with God and other Christians." Shull states, asserting the need still exists

today.

Shull states he felt called to accept the current appointment at EMCC. And Shull himself is no stranger to struggles.

Shull's own journey

Shull earned his first degree from Oregon State University in animal science. He returned 20 years later to acquire a Masters in post-secondary education.

Shull's life journey includes a year in Costa Rica teaching agriculture and returning to become a 4H extension agent. He married his wife and moved to the family 565-acre dairy farm that included horses and 200 cows. In the 13 years on his farm, Shull and his wife raised two boys and two girls.

Adversity for Shull hit hard when stray electricity killed 80 cows. The catastrophe shut down the farm. Shull continued his work at 4H until he was outed in 1990 by a co-worker with whom Shull had confided. The co-worker then called Shull to inform him he had a therapist who could help him "not

be gay". "I have tried everything in the book to not be gay for many years" Shull responded, "and I'm not going to see your therapist". The co-worker's response was to call the directors of Oregon State University who Shull pulled from his job. Shull notes an assumption was made by his superiors that, because he was gay, he was a threat to kids and young adults.

Clouds of struggle continued as Shull came out to himself and his family. "I hated living a life of hypocrisy for so many years." Shull notes.

Married for 22 years and very involved in a conservative church, Shull was told "all my life it (homosexuality) is an abomination. I was very fearful she [my wife] would find out", Shull recalls, "but I didn't know much about the gay life. I finally told her one night I was gay" In his process of coming out, Shull states he finally got something he needed, "I gained respect for myself"

Shull states he has a good relationship now with his ex-wife and a mixed relationship with his adult kids.

Shull met his current partner, Charlie, in 1999 at the MCC church in Portland, OR.

A point of forgiveness

With the church vote taken and Shull leading the congregation, EMCC's future still appears uncertain.

Regardless, Shull insists it's time to forgive and move forward.

One of the alleged embezzlement perpetrators continues to attend Sunday

services who Shull states, "again made a public apology to our church (last Sunday) and said that she was ready to make restitution" Shull insists her continued presence in the congregation doesn't present tension with the rest of the membership.

"What we've all come to recognize and be grateful for is the attitude of forgiveness." Shull states, "The majority if not all have forgiven these two. We went through this period of anger, betrayal of trust, which is normal. It was a loss. But then we reached a point where we can't sit here and wallow in this muck if we want to survive and thrive. So we've been able to move beyond that into a point of forgiveness."

Shull can be reached at EMCC, 301 S. Freya, Spokane, WA 99202 (509) 838-0085

"The night we arrived in Phoenix, Len says "I have some unfortunate news to share with you" and that's when we discovered the beginnings of this. Since then there's been lots of research and digging and then it exploded"

--Wayne Shull

"We can't sit here and wallow in this muck if we want to survive and thrive. So we've been able to move beyond that into a point of forgiveness."

--Wayne Shull

"Gay people were excluded and excommunicated from many different denominations and not wanted any more, but there was still the spiritual need to connect with God and other Christians."

--Wayne Shull

Gay Men's Bowling Group A Big Success



Above: John prepares to unleash his punishing blow to the pins.

Below: North Bowl Manager, Phyllis, helps workout a small problem while the guys look on.



By Mark Garret

The second season of the Spokane's Gay Men's Bowling Group is off to a great start. The group arrived at North Bowl on Sunday October 1st to find the alley had been completely remodeled with bright colors, state of the art game scoring equipment including big wide screen flat panel screens to flash the scores, fun graphics and display the Sunday Seahawks or Bulldog games for those hardcore butch sports nuts.

It's hard for anyone to appear too butch at this alley if your using the stylish quick entry tri tone (pink, yellow and white) bowling shoes the alley provides - not to mention the bright orange or green bowling balls.

With six lanes available for the group and 3 to 4 guys bowling per lane, the group would like to grow from the current 16 regular players to as many as 24. However, as long as 2 guys show up they will play.

Scores range from 70 to the low 200's and the group is working on establishing game handicaps to help equal the playing field. Some in the group are working to develop part of the group into the Spokane Gay

Bowling League by next September and start weekly league play. A few of the regulars recently traveled to Seattle to watch a National Gay Bowling League tournament. For others in the group, this will continue to be just a fun couple of hours to meet new friends with other gay guys and learn more about the National Gay Sport of Bowling. Yes, it is even an event in the Gay Olympics.

The group meets the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month through May from 12:30 to 3 pm at North Bowl located at 125 W Sinto Avenue located between Washington and Division. The schedule may deviate so check the latest edition of Stonewall News events calendar for schedule details or call Mark at 509 879-8747 to get more information and reserve your spot at the next game. Cost is \$10.00 per person for 3 games including shoes and ball rental. A restaurant and bar is available and North Bowl manager, Phyllis, takes good care to make sure everyone has a great time. The group is facilitated by Mark and Dave and sponsored by the Lilac City Men's Project. Visit www.lilaccitymensproject.org for other activities offered.

Politickers

Hold your nose if you must

by Catherine D. Willis

The '06 election is upon us. Many have already voted. Some are holding out for heaven-knows-what. And some will fritter away their precious right, choosing not to vote for any of a dozen common reasons. Just remember what I've previously written in this space: You lose your whining rights if you don't cast a ballot. Your vote is your voice - and it can be a loud, life-changing one. Or not.

I can almost excuse those who opt out of the democratic process because they can't tell the difference between the shrill-toned, part-truths put forth by one side and the over-the-top rebuttals presented by their opposition. Here we are, roughly a week away from Election Day, and what started as a fairly civil political season has spiraled downward so rapidly in some races that it has become hard to distinguish one mud-covered campaign playbook from the next. When will we take to heart what mothers have been preaching since time began: *If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all?*

Negative advertising works, they say. And this may be so, but what does it cost us? Forget for the moment the actual dollars folks are spending to get elected. (Oh, the hungry we could feed, the homeless we could shelter, the sick we could medicate, the ignorant we could educate...) I'm talking about moral consequences. (Yes, Ms. Lancaster and those of your ilk, members of the GLBTQA community do have core values!) The truth-twisting, mine-is-bigger-than-yours mentality that has come to dominate political marketing will eventually undermine the integrity of our social fabric.

At some level, we all know that no candidate for public office is wholly right or wrong, good or bad. When we assert otherwise, we cheapen our revered system and ourselves. We deserve better... but we won't get it as long as we tolerate - even encourage - the information-weak, quick-hit, sound bite-centered, name-calling style of communicating that passes for intelligent political discourse in our time. Yes, we can do better.

For now, however, we have what we have. And 2006 offers some interesting choices.

Maria Cantwell, Washington's junior senator, lacks the warmth of her colleague, the "mom in tennis shoes," but she is a bright, hardworking legislator who handles complex topics with skill. I know many peace activists who wish she would speak against the war in Iraq with greater (any?) fervor, but she has stood for mainstream bread-and-butter issues (jobs, health care, education and the like). Republican Mike McGavick seemed more avuncular when the campaign began than he appears now. Most damning to him in my mind is his status as a former corporate c.e.o., a beneficiary of the capitalism run amok that is killing middle-class America.

I'm not letting Cantwell off the hook here (she too was an overpaid corporate executive). If our economy is ever to regain long-term strength, we need to divorce ourselves from the notion that corporate leaders represent the driving force behind economic growth; they're a factor, yes, but small business owners will tell you it is the creativity and commitment of their often modestly paid staffs that make or break a company. Living wages and access to



affordable health care are real-world issues federal and state legislators must address - and soon.

Chris Marr, candidate for the senate in the 6th Legislative District, has taken proactive positions on real-world issues, as has Don Barlow, candidate for house seat, position 1, also in the 6th. We really need to get behind them! Take some time to talk to family and friends who haven't voted and urge them to vote for change.

The McMorris-Goldmark race should be a nail-biter. Unfortunately it's one of the stinkers I referred to above. The Republican incumbent's so-so voting record should have been adequate to sink her re-election bid, but challenger Peter Goldmark did not make hay when he could have, and then his handlers and the national Democrats took the dirt to the airwaves. So much for a new approach to politics in the U.S. 5th congressional district... I voted for him anyway, but I'm disappointed in the campaign.

Bonnie Mager's lackluster performance at the Inland Northwest Business Alliance lunch in August turned off some of our community's less active members. Many were rendered speechless when the woman we knew as an ally, the enormously articulate and studied Barb Chamberlain, did not emerge victorious from the primary contest. Some have told me subsequently that they will not vote that race now. While I prefer to vote *for* something or someone, I know there are times when the best we can do is to vote *against* a candidate we do not favor. Phil Harris may have positive attributes but he is not a friend of the GLBT community.

I've noticed that Mager's presentation skills have improved over the course of the campaign. She holds her own well in the face of Harris' endearing "gee whiz, I'm just one of you little people" style. I have examined Mager's position on bread-and-butter issues. I know and respect many of her backers. She offers the people of Spokane County a better vision of the future than the same-old, same-old we'll get if we retain Harris. So hold your nose if need be, but vote your interests. For the seat on the county commission, that means a vote for Mager.

Two weeks ago, I submitted **Catherine's Court Choices: John Cooney, Mary Logan, Jeff Leslie and Mike Nelson** for district court seats. In the interim, Community Impact Spokane, Penny Lancaster's group, has published their picks list for the general election, and Nelson is the only one from my list who appears there. I'm not rescinding my earlier choice; I am tempering it with an invitation for you, the reader, to do your own research.

This is the last word you'll hear from me before the tallies are in: **Vote!**

Catherine Willis, a freelance writer/editor and community advocate, has been a political junkie for 30 years.

Joe's Eve of Civilization

Queer and....

by Joe Reilly

How can you be queer and ...

Republican? Evangelical? Catholic? Mormon? Conservative? Muslim? Fundamentalist? Carnivore? Unfashionable? On time?

With the Mark Foley scandal going on, his outing and the old but new outing of "the LIST" of gay republican aides in Congress, the queer community and the religious right are both revisiting this question. How do we reconcile the co-existence of queerness and qualities which appear to be anti-queer in the same person?

What is this cycle of self-loathing that we saw in former Washington State Senator/Spokane Mayor Jim West and U.S. Congressman Mark Foley? Is every Gay Republican's career doomed to end like a SpongeBob pinata at a ten-year-old's birthday party?

The concern about irreconcilable beliefs and characteristics is mainly moot. The truth is that most people hold conflicting beliefs, or are somehow a part of a group, a philosophy, a religion, a political persuasion with which they aren't always in complete agreement. I am skeptical of anyone who lives without doubt. The trouble comes when they attempt to hide their conflicts. It's not the conflicts that cause the scandal. It's the secrecy--It is the closet. The need for secrecy shuts off options for mainstream avenues of communication and socializing. When Jim West and Mark Foley couldn't seek out healthy adult relationships because of their fear of exposure, they sought to engage vulnerable people they could control--young people actively trying to engage the world, trying to figure out how it works. Once that starts, the only way to come close to



redeeming themselves is to make a conscious decision to be honest (not that political kind of honesty) and take their lumps. Anything short of that spells doom for careers, families, and sometimes entire programs (like the Congressional Page program).

Fortunately, there is hope for politicians and lay people, clergy and Army Captains. The answer is to face their fears and to come out. Nobody is going to tell them that nothing bad will happen when they come out: They may be fired, kicked out of their homes, have their children taken away, lose elections, be refused credit or insurance, have membership denied at the local health club, or be served second shelf booze. Or, as hundreds of thousands of lesbians, gay men, bisexual and transgendered people have found, nothing bad may happen. Plus, that burning ache in the pit of their stomachs will probably dissipate--it's an ulcer.

Instead of having to work so hard to maintain the appearance of righteousness, people coming out of the closet win the tremendously rewarding prizes of integrity and respect.

Joe Reilly is an active stakeholder in the community. He previously has worked with Spokane Neighborhood Action Programs (SNAP), Stonewall Democrats, Seattle's Bunny Brigade, voter registration drives, and the Hands Off Washington Youth Coalition. Joe is a business manager and serves on the Board of the Rainbow Regional Community Center. He can be reached at JoeReilly@SpokaneRainbowCenter.org.

Publisher's Note: Stonewall News Northwest (SNN) exists to engage, enlighten, and affirm the GLBTQA Community in a posture of dignity and inclusiveness. SNN welcomes content covering all spiritual facets and opinions relevant and affirming to our community, recognizing that all voices deserve to be heard.

Practical Spirituality for Daily Life

Are we the chosen ones?

by Bob Schout

We've heard through the ages that the children of Israel are the chosen ones. Growing up, as a Catholic, I had heard that Catholics are the chosen ones and that Catholicism is the one, true church and religion. Now, having moved to Dallas, I hear that only if one is born again can one be considered a chosen one. Where I live, it is commonly assumed that, "you need to be born again, and live in Texas, then you move to the front of the line." It's funny because I have come to believe that gays and lesbians really might be the chosen ones.

Contrary to the belief held by most people in the world, that gays and lesbians don't have a snowballs chance in hell to be loved or accepted by Spirit, I believe that we are some of the most highly favored ones. Our orientation is no choice, no accident, and no cosmic joke that the universe is playing on us. I believe that our orientation is purposeful, and is a gift to this world. We were created specifically by Spirit as children of love, bearers of the light, with our hearts large enough and strong enough to stand up for ourselves, for love itself in every form, and for all others. It is our heart energy and the experience defending our personhood and our love that allows us to accept everyone else for whom they show up to be. These are the hallmarks of chosen ones.

Few people in this world are invited, from birth, to claim their personhood, defend their rights to be, demand respect, and assure others that it is love that guides us. The promises, guaranteed to us for engaging in this work on behalf of love itself, are dignity, righteousness (right thinking



about life and love) and wisdom. We learn what it is to live in, and know the Truth. Spiritually we are all chosen to show up as loving beings designed and created for love. Theologically, the "chosen ones" are those that hold a special place of grace in God's eyes; those who have a

special role to play in the unfolding and enlightenment of humanity, and those who are destined to receive a special place in heaven. We'll, we're those people.

We should be proud of who and what we are. We are not destined to bear the burdens of life... that is old testament thinking, and does not proclaim that our destiny is freedom, prosperity, and unity. We are not supposed to settle into roles of pain and suffering, mistakenly believing that this pain is our cross to bear in this life. That is not righteous thinking (right thinking). We are to be champions of truth and freedom for all, defenders of each person's dignity and right to love, and affirm every person's goodness. These are some of the responsibilities of the chosen ones. Here are a

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Anything but Straight

The Caliphate Cab and the Biblical Bus

by Wayne Besen

When a devout Muslim taxi driver refuses to take you where you want to go because you have luggage containing alcohol, the only appropriate response is, "shut up and drive."



Such a situation recently occurred at the Minneapolis International airport, with the driver transforming his cab into a mini-caliphate. Following this incident, in the same city, a Christian bus driver demanded that she only drive busses without ads for the GLBT magazine Lavender that read: "Unleash Your Inner Gay." Initially, the Metro Transit acquiesced to the absurd request, but soon reversed course and said that they were "not persuaded that advertising, per se, infringes on religious practices."

We have also seen busybody pharmacists who think they can interfere with the private doctor/patient relationship by refusing to fill contraceptive prescriptions. These puffed-up pill dispensers call this a "conscience clause." Yet, no one forced these nosey nabobs to ingest the pills, thus not violating their personal beliefs.

The taxi driver, pharmacists and bus driver are essentially arguing that when in their presence, the public must submit to their beliefs. They also assert that their personal religious liberty is impinged upon if they cannot impose their will on others. This line of thinking is oppressive, incoherent and dangerous to the cohesion and unity of this nation.

Our duty as American citizens is to support the right for people to believe whatever they want. If they want to pray to aliens that is their right, just as it is the right of a person to have no belief at all. What these spiritual supremacists want to do, however, is go a step further and compel others to respect or give deference to their faith.

Sorry, but it doesn't work that way in America. Why am I obligated to become a temporary Muslim for the ten minutes it takes to drive me home? The ideas of "minding ones own business" and "live and let live" have served our country well. The further we get away from these enduring principles, the more strife and discontent we will confront.

Here's the deal: if a cabbie doesn't like booze, don't drink. If a Christian fundamentalist doesn't want to drive a bus with gay ads, quit and drive a church bus. If a pharmacist has a problem with dispensing contraception or Plan B, don't use the products. If an Orthodox Jew doesn't like bacon, instead of seeking

to close down the deli, order lox from the Kosher restaurant next door. If you are against gay marriage, don't have one.

If your beliefs are so austere and uncompromising that normal interaction with the public is considered a contaminant, then get a job with a religious institution. There are plenty of churches or mosques that need health providers or bus drivers. But don't expect the public to do flash conversions each time they need your services.

The long-term key to societal harmony is embracing the concept of "private faith," which allows an individual to pursue personal virtue, without forcing compulsory beliefs on others. Many of the world's most intractable problems stem directly from "communal faith," in which individual liberty is trampled in the name of cultural values that can only exist if propped up by a fist. This version of faith is coercive as it is corrosive, wickedly dangerous and always volatile to a nation's stability.

Communal faith breaks the social contract that binds us together and pits one group against another. It is anti-American and should not be confused with legitimate claims of religious liberty. If a person can pray where he wants and to whom he wants, than such theological freedom has been achieved. To move beyond this basic definition invites friction and even the calamitous wars that infect other parts of the world.

While those who subscribe to communal religion fancy themselves pious, they often strike me as having the least faith among us. Their belief systems appear so fragile that unless they create a monolithic universe of like-minded clones, their ideas crumble.

Common courtesy and respect for the beliefs of others does not require disrespecting our own beliefs and principles to make fanatics comfortable. If we shrink from our duty as Americans and appease zealots in busses and cabs, they may take us to our destination, but it will, in the end, put this nation way off course.

Wayne Besen is a columnist, author and the founder of Truth Wins Out, www.TruthWinsOut.org

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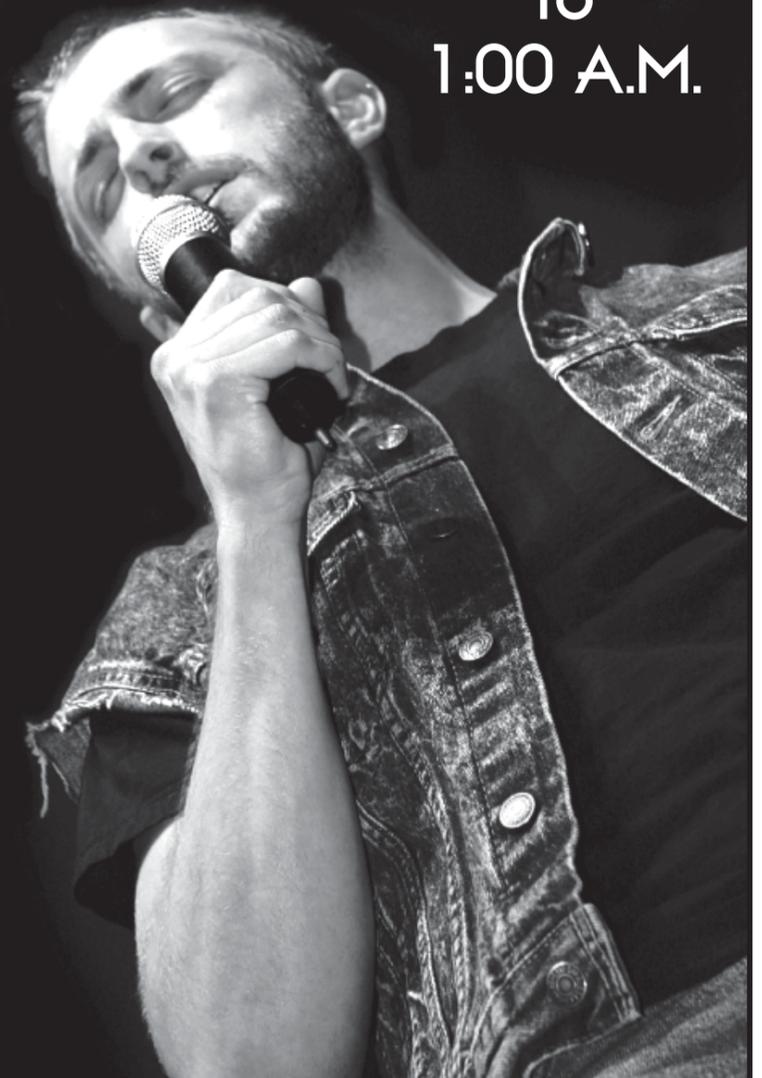
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Leaders in Gay history

In honor of Gay History Month, Jim Jones profiles leaders in gay history...

By Jim Jones, special to Stonewall News Northwest. Posted as a weekly blog each Friday during October on the Stonewall News Northwest website, www.stonewallnews.net

In honor of Gay History Month I will be posting [on the Stonewall website] on leaders in gay history, I will include an interesting tidbit, essay portion, or biography of a historical LGBT figure. Tune in each Friday for the remainder of the month to take a brief glimpse into gay history and the gay and lesbian pioneers who have lead the fight for LGBTQ rights and equality.

week three - Magnus Hirschfeld & Lili Elbe

This week we are honoring two distinct pioneers in LGBT history whose paths crossed at a critical junction in early Nazi Germany, Magnus Hirschfeld and Lili Elbe, the Dr. who performed the first documented sex reassignment surgery and the recipient of that surgery.

Magnus Hirschfeld (1868-1935) was a German homosexual, sex researcher, and pioneer for normalizing homosexuality. In the 1890's Germany was just entering into Europe as a country. This late identity as a nation



Phelan, 1997, 135 – 137).

The entire text of Hirschfeld's "Petition to the Reichstag" can be found in "We are Everywhere: A Historical Sourcebook of Gay and Lesbian Politics" edited by Mark Blasius and Shane Phelan. In addition, further reading on the treatment of gay men in Nazi Germany can be found in "The Racial State: Germany 1933-1945" by Michael Burleigh and Wolfgang Iyer.

Hirschfeld is also credited with creation of the theory of a third, intermediate sex between what is considered fully male and fully female. Hirschfeld was an author and playwright as well, with such works as "Sappho and Socrates" and the 1919 film "Different From the Others".

It was Hirschfeld who consulted and participated in the first documented male to female sex reassignment surgery. It is theorized that Lili Elbe, born Einer Wegener (1886 – 1931) was born an intersexual. In the 20s and 30s Wegener began living life as a female and legally changed his name to Lili Elbe.

In 1930 Lili underwent the first of several surgical procedures to complete the male to female transformation. The first surgery, removal of the male genitalia was performed by Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld in Berlin, subsequently followed by several surgeries performed by Dr. Warnekros. It remains a mystery what ultimately came of Lili after this series of surgeries, the last being to remove surgically implanted ovaries that resulted in medical complications.

Lili legally changed her sex in Denmark in the mid 1930's after having the King of Denmark invalidate her marriage to wife Gerda. Lili was a true pioneer and ground breaker in the understanding of gender identity and this week takes her place in our tribute to historical gay pioneers.

Hirschfeld's research, writings, and scientific study combined with his ground breaking sex reassignment surgeries set the precedent for the future of the homosexual and transgender community. As the Third Reich and Adolf Hitler rose to power the prosecution of homosexual men became a priority as the cleansing of impurities in the German race began.

resulted in an overwhelming desire of Germans to be viewed as modern. As a result, the study of sexuality as an aspect of progressive sociology gave slow rise to the acceptance of homosexuality as just another aspect of the human condition. Much progress had been made in the decriminalization of homosexuality, however, it was not to last.

Legislation prohibiting homosexual sex was enacted by the Reichstag in 1871 as paragraph 175 of the Reich Criminal Code, the punishment was imprisonment. As a result of paragraph 175, Hirschfeld founded the "Scientific Humanitarian Committee" in 1897. The committee had mostly homosexual members and its mission was to establish recognition of homosexuals and transgender men and women. In 1897 Hirschfeld wrote "Petition to the Reichstag" on behalf of The Scientific Humanitarian Committee. In the petition under paragraphs 3 and 4, Hirschfeld wrote:

3. Another important reason for the abolition [of paragraph 175] is the following: scientific research undertaken during the last twenty years in Germany, England and France, which studied in depth the question of homosexuality, has confirmed what the first scientist who considered this subject asserted without exception, that this way of love is constitutional. One of the reasons given was that homosexuality has occurred at all times, all over the world.

4. The experts pointed out that it is practically proved that the real cause of homosexuality, which at first glance looks like an enigma of nature, is due to development of the bisexual nature of man. The human foetus, during its first three months, is a bisexual organism. Therefore no moral guilt can possibly be attributed to homosexual sentiments (Blasius &

week four - Our Soldiers

This week, as the last week in our tribute to Gay History month, is dedicated to all of the anonymous lives of gay, lesbian, and transgender soldiers throughout history who have lived and continue to live in fear and repression yet give life and limb in service to their country

From anonymous gay soldier's diaries circa 1909:

"It is my greatest wish to get into the field as soon as possible and to meet an honorable death for otherwise I will be compelled later on to make an end of my rotten life due to my homosexual tendencies for which I am not at all responsible. It is better that my mother should be able to say, "My Fritz died a heroic death for his fatherland," than that people should say, "So! A suicide, eh?"

"I am certain that if everyone would do his share in the interests of the whole class of homosexuals and help us dispel the legendary lies concerning us, great progress would be made."

"I will not permit myself to be robbed of the idea that this love is at least as holy and pure, good and noble as any heterosexual inclination."

From an officer of the corps, 1945:

"On the battlefield homosexuals could be contagious and infect men of normal constitution. I fear that urnings [sic] could transmit their perverse inclination by having relations with heterosexual men."

"One night when this soldier had finished his watch at the telephone, one of his comrades came over to him and requested that he have sexual intercourse with him. This soldier, a perfectly heterosexual man, had no suspicion that the other was a homosexual. He would have made the same request to any other comrade who was known or friendly to him. Such homosexual acts of heterosexual men were carried out simply faute de mieux."

Homosexuality did not fit into the Reich's definition of what it meant to be a German and in 1933 the Nazis looted and burned the facilities of Hirschfeld's Scientific Humanitarian Committee. As the Hitler and the Nazis gained power, in 1936 Heinrich Himmler created the "Reich Central Office for the Combating of Homosexuality and Abortion". Thus began the systematic elimination and execution of all men perceived to be homosexual in Germany. Some news films of Nazi book and library burnings are of the library of Magnus Hirschfeld. The burning of the facility occurred when Hirschfeld was on a world speaking tour, he never returned to Germany and died in exile in Nice on the French Riviera.

From the Toronto Globe, February 4, 1915:

"Among the wounded who had returned to Moscow from the front, there was a nineteen-year-old girl by the name of Olga Krasilnikoff. After she had participated in nineteen battles in Poland she sustained a leg wound. This girl had enlisted under a masculine name and the deception had escaped notice until this time. She was awarded the St. George Cross of the fourth class."

In one hundred years we have seen women's suffrage, the first automobile, legalized marriage, the first manned spaceflight, the first computer, the Internet, microscopic robots that fit on the head of a pin; and yet, we still have progressed no further on the rights of gays and lesbians to serve their country openly and honestly.

These same soldiers who face down death and horrors beyond our civilian imagination are required to hide in fear of discharge from the armed forces that they volunteered to serve. These same soldiers are taking bullets, interpreting foreign correspondence, fighting and dying for the basic dignity of humanity so that others may experience freedom.

Why has so much progress been made in the world in all areas while our military policies remain immutably mired in antiquity?

For those soldiers who are gay, lesbian or transgender we stand and salute you. You sacrifice for each of us in ways which we cannot comprehend and for that all gay, lesbian, and transgender soldiers living and dead, are our heroes and pioneers this week.

Magnus Hirschfeld stood up for what he believed, authored many books on sexual identity and homosexuality. He never referred to homosexuality as anything other than a normal dimension of the human condition. Some of his books such as "Sexual History of the World War" were considered to be acts of treason against Germany and were subsequently burned. Magnus Hirschfeld took on the Nazis, performed the first sex reassignment surgery, and pioneered a socially progressive community in Germany just as Washington was becoming the 42nd state in the union. For his innovation, perseverance, and courage, Magnus Hirschfeld is our gay pioneer this week.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Christopher Lawrence, A & E Editor

It was a Dark and Stormy Night at interPLAYERS



Woman in Black actors Damon Abdallah and Damon Mentzer

Thoroughly creepy and full of ominous sounds and horror in the night, **Woman in Black** is a moody piece set in the late 19th century England. The adaptation of Susan Hill's novel by Stephen Mallatratt retained much of the highly descriptive writing. This is both good and bad.

Damon Abdallah plays Arthur Kripps, a solicitor (lawyer) who was assigned to take care of a deceased and elderly client's estate. The plot is essentially his story and the curse he believes he suffers from the supernatural incidents that occurred during his task at the haunted mansion in the remote moors. He feels compelled to tell his story to his family and friends so as to be rid of the curse and be done with the torturous memories.

He rents a theater in London and hires an actor to help him make the details of the story clear to his intended audience. They spend several days together in his training so that they might portray the story Kripps has written.

They both rehearse the roles of all the people he encountered during his experience and as the plot and the horrific nightmare unfold, the actor who is assisting in the reliving is drawn inexorably into the vortex that is summoned by discussion of events. The townspeople try to warn them, but as we all know there would be nothing to report if common sense and good old-fashioned superstition are ignored.

There is such an abundance of description that I was reminded of radio theater that has nearly fallen by the way were it not for National Public Radio.

Damon and Damon demonstrated remarkable skill portraying all of the participants in this dark yarn.

Abdallah, in particular was able to use his gifted range of vocal expression and give distinctly separate characterizations. Mentzer slips in and out of accents the way most of us slip in and out of a jacket

The exemplary quality of the production was unflinching from direction and special effects to Dan Heggems lighting design. The soundtrack enhanced much of the story and was clearly a point of discussion in rendering this tale which had to be told. Such innovation was surely astounding to citizens of the time.

Perhaps if we had been able to use more of our imagination instead of the nearly constant narrative which often accompanied the action (and kept the actors far too busy) it would have been easier to suspend disbelief.

Both actors deserve kudos for such a fine performance.

Even with the laborious amount of narration, this Halloween fare was well received by the nearly full house on a Wednesday night.

I left uplifted, having enjoyed an excellent night at the theater.

If you missed this production, you would do yourself a favor to get tickets to the next play, **Moon Over Buffalo**. It opens on Nov. 9.

For those of you who do not remember, this is the comedy that Carol Burnett brought back to Broadway!

Firth Shows Little Romance



Top L to R— Dave Rideout as Paul, Juli Wellman as Harriet.

Bottom L to R— J.P. O'Shaughnessy as Simon, Rebecca McNeill as Janie, Evelyn Renshaw as Tasha.

When Wendy Wasserman left this earth she also left her legacy of the written and spoken word and we are better for it. Her dialogue is interesting and has a natural rhythm that was unevenly played on opening night of **Isn't It Romantic?** The show needed a bit more seasoning and might have benefited from a rehearsal preview with an audience prior to opening.

The actors did not seem entirely ready or comfortable with their parts and I suspect that director Todd Jasmin will tighten and smooth out the show before any of you have a chance to see it.

One struggle any actor can have is to learn lines well enough that they can tumble nimbly off the tongue and still allow for transitions in the thought process. In other words, the audience needs to see the shift from one thought to the next as they come into the mind of the character who is speaking or the most emotional soliloquy can be lost.

The chemistry between the mothers of the two daughters seemed the most

natural in this examination of feminism as it was evolving in the early '80s.

Each of the actors had plenty of strength and were more than competent, but many scenes lacked the chemistry implied in Wasserman's play. Truthfully, the recorded messages on the answering machine evoked the most hilarity and laughter of the evening.

Not everything was meant to be comedy. Serious issues about life choices are scrutinized here. The play is solid.

I suspect this cast is strong enough to pull their production to a higher level. As an acquaintance quietly commented during intermission, "It WILL get better!"

Hurricane La Cage Hits Spokane!

Northern Quest Casino imported an exciting extravaganza from Las Vegas last week and shared it with Spokane's GLBTQA community in a big way.

Typical of NQ's commitment to the communities in which they do business, they hosted two fund raising benefits by donating part of the profits to Pride 2007 with co-host OutSpokane on Thursday and to Spokane AIDS Network with their Saturday night crowd.

Jimmy Emerson is titled as the headliner and had a different outfit for every introduction. He squeezed him/herself into as many fabulous outfits as Cher does in her show. And that was just for the introductions.

The roll-on sets were glitzy and fun.

The lighting was a dazzling production in itself and the illusionists were beautiful and heavily made up to look like their stars. It was like being in Las Vegas.

Every aspect was professional even if slightly over-produced. The only disappointment was that so few of the illusionists used their own voices.

The one exception was Tina who sings the role live. The difference in energy was tangible. The clarity was astounding compared to the voice as merely part of the heavily produced recording which often is lost in the overall sound.

Several of them performed with BlowMe Bubbles at Dempsey's for the cast party and nearly brought down the house with excitement. A great night!

Nov. 3, 4 & 5

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REVIEWS & PREVIEWS

BOOKS - VIDEOS - MUSIC

Christopher Lawrence & Graham Ames

Tush

Jaffe Cohen

Avalon Publishing, 360 pages

Author Jaffe Cohen is best known as one of the first openly gay stand-up comedians on national television. He was a founding member of **Funny Gay Males** troupe and has written several other books including a comedy memoir **The King of Kings and I**.

Living in New York has given his work an edge that may or may not be ready for prime time, but **Tush** is being received with great support across the country.

The story takes place in the small but very gay community of Provincetown in Cape Cod.

Joel, the lead character, is a man with an obsession for the ample and attractive derriere that eventually brings him to his knees. Not in adoration, mind you, but rather in total humiliation for a long series of extremely poor choices and actions that ultimately cost him his position as a minor star in the East Coast gay community as an astrologer on TV, radio and as a columnist. His quest for the ultimate tush strands him in the 'never-land' of societal embarrassment and ostracism.

His comeuppance painfully arrives before the end so that some lessons are learned before we part company from this popular tale.

A slightly more thoughtful examination of the text underlying the horror of an ego gone wrong reveals many of the less impressive facets of gay self awareness.

Most of the colorful and eccentric characters are so self-involved and un-evolved that much of the plot involves unpleasant aspects of our society as a whole and left me feeling like I needed a shower.

Of course there would be no plot if the characters were not allowed to grow and change. It is safe to say there was nowhere but up for most of them to go.

The writing and plot are interesting but it would have been nice to have characters with a few more saving graces than we were allowed to experience.

It may be worth a read to some of you and when you are finished, you may need a shower as much as I did.

GLBT Book Group

Spokane's GLBT Book Group meets the first Wednesday monthly in the second floor conference room of Auntie's Bookstore. Facilitator Julie Smith says review sessions begin at 7 P.M. Upcoming review sessions include: **Never Ending** by Marianne K. Martin on Nov. 1.

The Absolutely Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green

George Bamber, director

here! Films, 88 minutes

Meredith Baxter is the mother who lives with her son's ex-lover and hawks same-sex commitment ceremonies for a living. Seeing Joel Brooks ("Six Feet Under") and Richard Riehle ("Office Space") do a turn as the 'Hat Sisters' who supply a fashion sense out of a home furnishings catalog and a hilariously dry commentary on life gave me the impetus to chance this highly acclaimed film. It was the right choice because there are moments that stand out.

Some scenes contradict character development with no explanation. I was left wondering how many cooks had contributed to this stew. Perhaps director Bamber felt that farce need not explain itself as has historically been the case in light opera.

Farce and satire are similar genres and the lines seem more blurred here because the visual cues that alert the audience are often missing.

The Ethan Green character and his many, many suitors and ex-lovers are inconsistent in their actions and decisions. That fact creates further confusion in following the plot line.

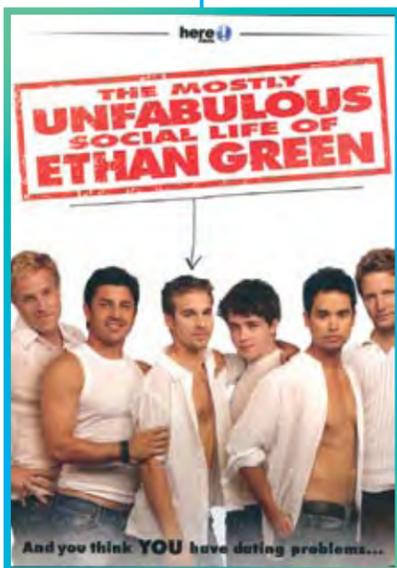
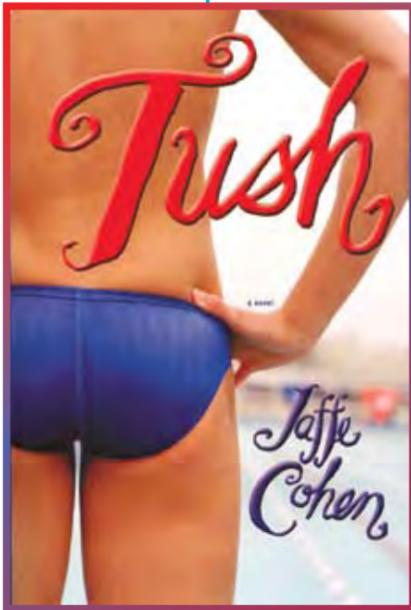
Daniel Letterle, a veteran of Todd Graff's overblown comedy **Camp** (2003), stars as the title character, a Los Angeles playboy with a long track record of short-term boyfriends. Ethan's greatest crime is his failure to commit. Admittedly, not all the actors are as adorable or well trained as Letterle, but typical of **here!** Films, all of them are Hollywood cute.

I will most likely include a review of **Another Gay Movie** in the near future.

Here is a case where farce and satire are allowed to mix. This time, however, the talent of the actors and the director are equal to the writing. Everything makes sense. The result is professional and funny. If two or three scenes were to be cut due to the raunchy bathroom humor and inappropriate NAMBLA references, that film would stand head and shoulders over **Ethan Green**.

I read one review that stated "it can count itself among the best gay-themed romantic comedy since Rose Troche's **Bedrooms & Hallways** (1999)." I disagree with that uber generous statement. Unself-conscious attitude aside, quality writing, directing and acting win out every time. Even with its quirky cute moments, I found this film to be ho-hum.

Rent it if you like, but it will never deserve a place in your personal library.



The Captain & The Kid

Elton John

Interscope Records

If you were one of Sir Elton's fans back in the mid-'70s, you doubtlessly had a copy of **Captain Fantastic & The Brown Dirt Cowboy**. Made back in the days when a record album was a full experience, it was an autobiographical review of the victories and tribulations of Elton John and Bernie Taupin, his lyricist for most of his decades-spanning career, during the '60s when they were first getting started. Starving artist tales of frustration, desperation, sex, drugs, and rock-n-roll were capped by the brilliant "Someone Saved My Life Tonight." It was one of those albums which you listened to through headphones while crawling through the accompanying artwork which firmly established the time and place of the subject matter.

Thirty years later, John and Taupin have created a second volume to their musical memoir. **The Captain & The Kid** picks up the story early in the 1970s, when the songwriting duo migrated to America ("Postcards From Richard Nixon") and John fell in love with New York City ("Wouldn't Have You Any Other Way [NYC].") Elton and Bernie reflect on their tumultuous relationship (the superb "Tinderbox") and on Elton's long-acknowledged drug abuse and bulimia problems ("...And The House Fell Down").

While the first half of the album speaks directly to moments in their lives, John and Taupin use the second "side" to reflect on the journey they have traveled. "Blues Never Fade Away" speaks to longevity in a world full of senseless early deaths, mentioning John Lennon, a friend and one-time neighbor of Elton (who played on the original **Captain Fantastic** album) and Ryan White, the young AIDS victim who moved Elton to create his own charity foundation to help fight the disease. "I Must Have Lost It On The Wind" is an earnest reflection on the many loves a man like John has had in his lifetime, and how each has marked him over the years. Finally, the album closes with the title track, a perfect bookend to the opening track of the 1975 offering, complete with musical references which echo the earlier song.

John and his band (nearly identical to his band from the '70s) spent quite a bit of time getting familiar with the original album before heading into the studio to write and record this new album, and it shows. This is not the comfortable AOR Elton John of recent years. The material glows with his old styles of songwriting and playing, and while his voice has deepened due to throat surgery several

years ago, this is true vintage Elton. **The Captain & The Kid** is an amazing gift from a venerable rock artist: a "sequel" album which truly lives up to the original, and which causes the intervening years to disappear.

Love, Loss, Hope, Repeat

Carbon Leaf

Vanguard Records

"Now I have nothing, so God give me strength," sung quietly and a cappella, is how Audra McDonald opens this, her fourth solo studio album. The song slowly builds, adding piano, percussion, and finally a full swelling string section, as Audra's amazing voice builds to a cry which comes from the very bottom of

her soul. When Elvis Costello and Burt Bacharach wrote this amazing song, surely they imagined it would someday be given such an elegant, jazzy, emotionally huge treatment as this. Many other contemporary songwriters must be equally thrilled to be included in this marvelous col-

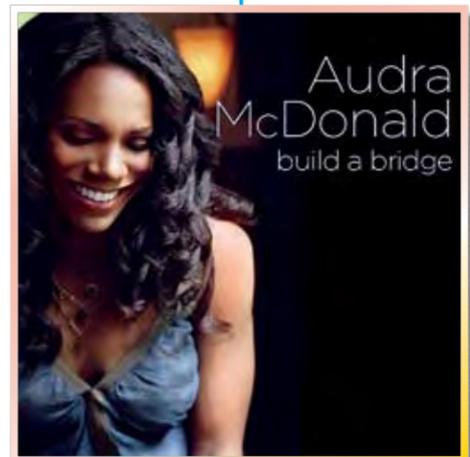
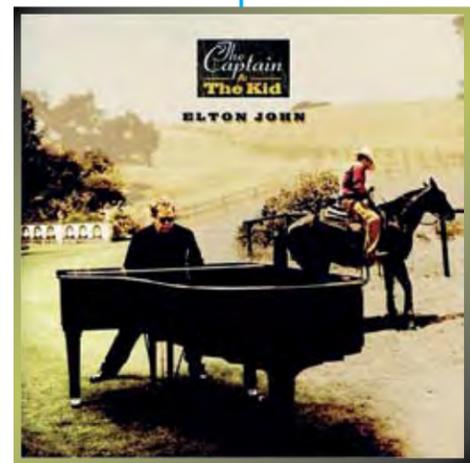
lection.

McDonald is such a huge talent, it is difficult to believe it is all contained in one person. She has won many awards for both dramatic and musical roles on Broadway, has garnered huge critical praise for her film and television roles, and continues to explore and expand her musical presence through recordings and touring. While her earlier albums were mostly made up of show tunes, this newest offering breathes amazing new life into 13 songs from writers such as Rufus Wainwright, John Mayer, Randy Newman, and even Neil Young.

Dissolving the barrier between classical, Broadway, and pop tunes, Audra has chosen songs that she can "mine for their emotional gold." This she does with complete commitment, communicating each moment as if she is feeling it for the first time. Even Nellie McKay's possibly sardonic "I

Wanna Get Married" is performed in earnest, transforming it into a '50s schoolgirl fantasy about grown-up relationships.

In fact, all of these songs are about relationships and the potential disconnect between our outer lives and innermost thoughts. While certainly not a concept album or song cycle, Audra seems to be inviting us, indeed, to **Build A Bridge**. Only through honesty within our own minds and thus to the outside world, will we be capable of truly expressing ourselves in the world around us. Audra voices those internal thoughts, showing us that it is okay to be so open, even if only through a song. In her capable hands, "only a song" is meaningless, and the songs themselves become everything.



Odyssey Masquerade

Can you identify these Masquerade participants? Continued from Front Page & Page 2



Photo by Pat Devine



Photo by Pat Devine



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National & International

Studds' widower denied Congressional death benefits

By EVANLEHMANN, Sun Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON -- Gerry Studds, the nation's first openly gay congressman, pushed the country to another landmark development when he died Saturday: the federal government for the first time will deny death benefits to a congressman's gay spouse.

The federal government does not recognize the 2004 Massachusetts' marriage between Studds and Dean Hara, and won't provide a portion of Studds' \$114,337 annual pension to his surviving spouse.

The federal law, defined by the Defense of Marriage Act, not only trumps the Bay State's gay marriage law but reveals its limitations.

"A gay spouse will not receive any sort of pension or annuity or anything like that," said Chad Cowan, a spokesman for the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, which administers the congressional pension program under federal law.

"It's not anything that anybody in our office has seen before," he added.

Wives and husbands of deceased lawmakers have for years found financial comfort in their ability to collect more than half of the generous congressional pension earned by their late spouse. Long-serving members of Congress can retire with up to 80 percent of their highest salary.

When Studds, 69, died from a vascular illness Saturday, he was receiving an estimated annual pension of \$114,337, according to the National Taxpayers Union, which studies federal pensions. Studds was first elected to Congress in 1972 and served until 1997. His district represented Cape Cod and the Islands, New Bedford and the South Shore.

If Hara were a woman and married to Studds -- rather than a same-sex spouse -- he would receive \$62,000 a year from Studds' pension program under the congressional retirement system, according to NTU guidelines.

Although similar state benefits are provided to same-sex spouses within Massachusetts, the state's gay marriage law is left toothless outside the commonwealth by a federal law passed in 1996 known as the Defense of Marriage Act.

It supercedes any state initiative legalizing gay marriage, and declares that federal benefits normally passed along to surviving spouses is limited to "a person of the opposite sex who is a husband or wife."

The federal law was passed a decade ago in response to a never-realized movement in Hawaii to legalize gay

marriage. It then sat idle for years until Massachusetts became the first state in the nation allowing gay people to marry.

Once activated, the federal law prevented gay spouses from receiving Social Security benefits, school scholarships, health care, veterans' benefits and other financial privileges offered through marriage. It affects only a portion of the 12,000 same-sex newlyweds in Massachusetts.

The Studds case, however, could provide Congress with a vivid example of how the law affects "one of their own," said Gary Buseck, legal director of Gay

& Lesbian Advocates & Defenders.

"We'd been hoping at some point Congress would address the inequities" in the law, Buseck said. "There are plenty of people being impacted. But this is the first time right in the congressional family a distinguished member is being treated differently than other members."

Melissa Wagoner, a spokesman for Massachusetts Sen. Edward Kennedy, the senior Democrat on the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, said, "It's wrong for our laws to deny any American the basic right to be part of a family and to be free from the stain of bigotry and discrimination."

When Studds died, Hara said his husband fought to advance the "last great civil rights chapter in modern American history," adding that he didn't see the "final sentences written."

Hara declined to comment when reached at his home today.

Arline Isaacson, co-chair of the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, said Hara "shouldn't have to wonder" about receiving his husband's pension benefits.

"He should be able to focus on grieving, not on the discrimination perpetrated against him," she said. The pension benefits "should be automatic," Isaacson said.

The pension benefits are automatic for lawmakers caught misbehaving -- a contrast noted by the National Taxpayers Union, which has sought unsuccessfully to strip lawmakers of financial benefits when they are convicted of a felony.

U.S. Rep. Bob Ney, the Ohio Republican who pled guilty Friday to conspiracy charges and faces up to 10 years in prison for taking bribes from lobbyist Jack Abramoff, will receive about \$29,000 a year from his pension for the rest of his life.

"He will receive a pension while in prison," said NTU spokesman Sam Batkins.

School tough for gay students

Most recall the pain of their high school experience, the taunts and threat of violence.

By Ron Ryder, The Guardian

When Christopher Gillis went to junior high there was no danger he'd forget he was gay.

Every time he walked the hall, someone was likely to remind him.

For the Charlottetown man, school was a period where he not only dealt with his own homosexuality, but with daily taunts.

"It became a primary concern of mine, did I stop in the hall to be somewhat social with other students or did I run to the safety of the next class," Gillis told an audience of P.E.I. teachers Thursday in Charlottetown.

Gillis was part of a panel of presenters talking to members of the P.E.I. Teachers' Federation and advising them on ways to make their classrooms safe and accepting places for students of different sexualities.

He said the school experience was hard enough that he missed many classes, failed to work on his studies and ended up leaving school for year-and-a-half.

"Learning wasn't a priority to me. Survival was . . . I was just sitting waiting for the next verbal slap to come. That's very consuming," he said.

"I would look at the hockey jock or the popular kid and if I could have changed my existence for theirs I would in a minute.

That's different now."

Gillis was one of four panelists talking to teachers about their own experiences with homosexuality and the school system.

Tanya Davis didn't come out as a lesbian until she had completed high school and moved away from Summerside.

She said the attitude around the school made her unwilling to even consider her sexuality and she became an academic success and an emotional failure.

She said a place to start improving schools would be to accommodate diversity in all its forms and to keep a lid on language that is intentionally or unintentionally hurtful.

"Those little jokes that slip by. They really hurt some people," she said.

"That just shouldn't happen anymore."

Bill Kendrick, a member of PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) Canada, acted as moderator for the presentation.

He said schools should recognize that homosexual students have rights, as do people with an honest belief homosexuality is wrong. But schools should be a place where that divergence is not allowed to become abusive or intimidating.

"Terms of right and wrong should not be used," he said. "We're all different."

Boy Scouts suffer a setback in Supreme Court over discrimination

By MARK SHERMAN, AP

Six years after the Supreme Court ruled the Boy Scouts could ban gay leaders, the group is fighting and losing legal battles with state and local governments over its discriminatory policies.

The latest setback came Monday when the high court without comment refused to take a case out of Berkeley, Calif., in which a Scout sailing group lost free use of a public marina because the Boy Scouts bar atheists and gays.

The action let stand a unanimous California Supreme Court ruling that the city of Berkeley may treat the Berkeley Sea Scouts differently from other nonprofit organizations because of the Scouts' membership policies.

Two years ago, the court similarly rejected a Boy Scouts appeal of a case from Connecticut, where officials dropped the group from a list of charities that receive donations from state employees through a payroll deduction plan.

And in Philadelphia, the city is threatening to evict a Boy Scout council from the group's publicly owned headquarters or make the group pay rent unless it changes its policy on gays.

On a separate matter, federal judges in two other court cases that are being appealed have ruled that government

aid to the group is unconstitutional because the Boy Scouts of America requires membersto swear an oath of duty to God.

Despite the string of legal setbacks, lawyers for the Scouts said they believe the Supreme Court ultimately will decide that governments are improperly denying benefits that they make available to similar organizations.

"The issue of governments seeking to punish organizations for exercising their First Amendment rights is a recurring one. There will be other opportunities for the Supreme Court to affirm First Amendment protections for organizations dealing with government agencies," George Davidson, the longtime attorney for the Scouts, said in a statement.

Duke University law professor Erwin Chemerinsky agreed that the justices probably have not had their last say on the Boy Scouts and may be waiting until lower courts disagree on the issue.

"This is about when governments can impose requirements for getting government benefits," Chemerinsky said.

In 2000, the court ruled that the Scouts have the right to ban openly homosexual scout leaders, a decision

Please see BOY SCOUTS page 17

Q & A about N.J. equal marriage decision

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)

New Jersey's highest court opened the door Wednesday to making the state the second in the nation to allow gay marriage. Here is a look, in question-and-answer form, at the case's legal issues and implications:

Q: What did the state Supreme Court decide?

A: In a 4-3 ruling, the court determined that same-sex couples have the same rights as heterosexuals but said it was up to the Legislature to determine how gay unions should be recognized.

Q: What's next?

A: The Democratic-controlled Legislature has 180 days to rewrite marriage laws to include same-sex couples or create some form of civil union.

Q: What could happen in the Statehouse?

A: Gay rights advocates say three lawmakers will introduce a bill for "marriage equality." Conservatives will seek to amend the state Constitution to ban same-sex marriage.

Q: How can the state Constitution be amended?

A: An amendment must first be approved by three-fifths of both the state Senate and Assembly. Then it must be approved by a majority of voters; November 2007 is the soonest such a measure could reach the state ballot. An amendment also could go to voters if approved by simple majorities in both chambers in consecutive years.

Q: What did Gov. Jon S. Corzine think of Wednesday's ruling?

A: The Democrat commended the court's decision and said he looked forward to the legislative process to implement it.

Q: Does Wednesday's ruling have any national significance?

A: The ruling could rally political forces in the eight states where amendments to bar gay marriage are on the ballot next month.

Q: Do any states allow gay marriage?

A: Gay marriage is legal only in Massachusetts. Other states, including Vermont and California, have civil unions or domestic partnerships that offer virtually all the benefits of gay marriage, except the name. New Jersey and some other states have domestic partnership laws that offer fewer marriage benefits.

Q: Can Wednesday's decision be appealed?

A: Probably not. The arguments in the case have been based on the state Constitution. If the opinion is rooted there, rather than the federal Constitution, the decision cannot be appealed.

Q: Didn't a gay couple already get married in New Jersey?

A: One Asbury Park gay couple obtained a marriage license in that gay-friendly city and held a marriage ceremony in March 2004, but within hours the state deemed the marriage invalid.

Q: How did this case get to the New Jersey Supreme Court?

A: Seven same-sex couples sought to overturn a 2005 state appellate court ruling that the state Legislature, not the courts, should decide whether to legalize gay marriage.

Q: What was the state's position in the court case?

A: Lawyers from the state did not argue there is anything intrinsically wrong with allowing gay marriage, but rather that it's not the court's role to decide whether it should be allowed.

Q: And what did gay rights advocates argue?

A: They said that marriage is a right and denying it to same-sex couples amounts to discrimination. Ending such discrimination, they said, is the job of the courts.

National survey reveals true values

For most Americans, voting on values does not mean voting against gay and lesbian rights.

A national survey conducted in August by the Center for American Values in Public Life at People For the American Way Foundation explored the intersection between religion, values, and political behavior among American voters. The American Values Survey includes responses from a national sample of 2,502 Americans, with additional over-samples of Hispanics and African Americans. This broad survey included a number of questions about issues affecting same-sex couples, including family recognition, marriage equality, and adoption.

Because current public debate around LGBT rights is centered on marriage and the rights of partners, this poll did not address the well-documented support among Americans for protections against anti-gay discrimination on the job or in public accommodations and did not address transgender issues. Our questions focused on the hot-button issues surrounding gay and lesbian couples in the areas of partnership rights, marriage equality, and adoption; we also included questions about the importance of opposition to marriage equality as an issue for the 2006 congressional elections and for "voting values."

Among the findings of the survey and the strategies suggested by those findings:

The power of affirming religious liberty.

Advocates for marriage equality should consider a greater messaging focus on an unequivocal defense of churches' right to choose which couples to bless or not to bless. A strong statement of church-state separation in this arena helps people distinguish between the legal right to marry and the religious blessing that a congregation may give to a marriage. When people are told that the law would guarantee that no church or congregation would be forced to marry same-sex couples, support for allowing those couples to legally marry climbs from 28 to 40 percent overall, and from 44 to 60 percent among people under 30. These are impressive gains; the power of this message may explain why Religious Right advocates are so intensely pushing their claim that gay rights will undermine religious freedom.

The importance of tailored strategies.

Among major religious groups, Hispanic Catholics are by far the most supportive of the rights of same-sex couples. African American Protestants are less supportive on these issues but respond positively to a message grounded in fairness and nondiscrimination; on the question of whether committed gay and lesbian couples should have the same rights as married couples in areas of hospital visitation, health insurance, and pension coverage, a message that "discrimination is always wrong" sharply increases support among African Americans.

The wealth of allies and potential allies among religious Americans.

Equality advocates cannot afford to ignore religious voters, and in fact have many religious allies. With an assurance of congregations' religious liberty to make their own decisions about performing marriages, 43 percent of Mainline Protestants would support allowing gays to legally marry; support among Catholics rises to 45 percent, and among Hispanic

Catholics to 46 percent. Fully half of Americans can be classified as religious centrists; their initial 25 percent support for marriage equality jumps to 39 percent with the liberty assurance. Religious modernists, who make up about 18 percent of the population, initially support marriage equality at 45 percent, but that number rises to 59 percent with the religious liberty assurance. These terms are defined by an analysis of religious belief, behavior, and the importance of religion to people's lives.

The generational divide is huge and hopeful.

Our survey confirmed the significant generation gap that others have previously identified on gay rights issues, and found that the gap is significant even among evangelicals. While only 37 percent of Americans over 60 agree that gay and lesbian people who meet all other qualifications should legally be able to adopt children, 63 percent of Americans under 30 support adoption. Of course, older Americans vote at much higher rates than younger Americans: our survey shows that in the upcoming mid-term elections, 82% of Americans over 60 are likely registered voters compared to just 46% of younger Americans. Equality advocates should strongly consider investing more in strategies to increase young voter participation rates.

The power of personal connection.

Our survey also affirmed the positive influence of a gay or lesbian person being known by friends and family. Three-quarters of people who identified themselves as gay or lesbian or said they have a gay or lesbian family member or close friend supported marriage equality (40 percent) or civil unions (34 percent). Among those who said they had no relationship with a gay or lesbian person, support for marriage equality (24 percent) and civil unions (28 percent) was far lower. While having a gay or lesbian co-worker or acquaintance does not increase support for marriage, it does significantly increase support for civil unions.

For most Americans, voting on values does not mean voting against gay and lesbian rights.

When asked what comes to mind when they think about voting their values, only 9 percent chose "Keeping marriage between a man and a woman." This was far below the honesty and integrity of the candidate (39%), protecting personal freedoms and individual choices (23%), and eliminating poverty and guaranteeing access to health care (21%).

The initial topline findings of the Center for American Values survey, released in late September, made it clear that overwhelming majorities of Americans do not share the Religious Right's insistence that the most important moral values are restricting access to abortion and denying gay and lesbian couples the ability to get married. In fact, vast majorities of Americans, including evangelicals, said issues such as reducing poverty and providing access to affordable health care were more important than restricting abortion and marriage. For more details on the survey, see www.centerforamericanvalues.org.

MASQUERADE

continued from Front Page

the profile and visibility of Odyssey Youth Center (OYC), which will in turn directly impact the organization's fund-raising efforts.

"We had never done anything like this. We are an OUT agency for the first time this year," said Ramon Alvarez, OYC executive director.

"In order to keep the dollars we already had going to youth programs we wanted the event to be completely sponsored. And it was."

Alvarez went on to say, "There were discussions and even some hesitation about the extent that Odyssey's profile would be raised in the larger community. However, the large number of corporate sponsors and silent auction item donors is deeply appreciated and beyond expectation. The level of support by the citizens of Spokane demonstrates [how much the community cares] for all of its citizens."

Top corporate sponsors were R.H. Cooke, Stainless Steel Products Inc., Itron, Stonewall News Northwest, Comcast,

Frame It Today and Digiart.

Additional sponsors were Dempsey's Brass Rail, Inland Northwest Bank, Red Lion Hotel, Avista, AmericanWest Bank, Blue Door Theater, Northern Exposures, Tin Can, Mary Maxfield, Rosmond Langberg and Patrick Devine.

Jennifer Foster-Fausett and Jim Jones came up with the idea for the for the Halloween-timed masquerade at the SAN Oscar Gala in March. They wanted to do something similarly elegant and large that would not compete with the SAN fund-raiser and could be a signature event for OYC.

Jones and Foster-Fausett co-chaired the masquerade and Hannah Whitmore produced the television ads shown in 400 spots on cable during prime hours. Paulina Fausett created masquerade marketing materials and Corinna Verdugo chaired the silent auction. Ryan McAskell and J.R. Long were also key members of the committee.

The number of tickets sold and final tallies of the estimated contributions to Odyssey resulting from this event will be announced in the weeks to come.

Proceeds from the masquerade will go toward:

- Healthy socioeconomic behavior education classes
- Life skills training classes

- Youth led and organized activism training designed for development of critical thinking, organizational, communication and leadership skills for GLBTQ youth.

www.stonewallnews.net

Northwest Business Directory

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<http://www.things4u.mychoices.biz>

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Margie Aylsworth, MSW, LMHP
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Resource Directory

SPOKANE AREA

BiNet Spokane

A social support group for bisexual men and women.

Call: (509) 217-1271

Eastern Washington University SAFE Students' Alliance for Equality

Weekly meetings for students, faculty and staff.

Call: Kat Olson: (509) 359-4253

Web site: <http://iceberg.ewu.edu/safe/safe.htm>

EMCC -

Emmanuel Metropolitan Community Church

Christian church with outreach to the GLBT community.

Call: (509) 838-0085

Web site: www.emmanuelmcc.com

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

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

Call: Julie Smith: (509) 838-0206

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.

Direct line: Bryce: 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

Call: (509) 251-1242.

Web site: www.iscspokane.com

INBA -

Inland Northwest Business Alliance

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

Write: PO Box 20163, Spokane, WA 99204

Voice mail: 509-455-3699

E-mail: info@inbaspokane.org

Web site: www.inbaspokane.org

Inland Northwest Equality

A coalition of local individuals and organizations committed to progressing GLBT equality and justice.

Call: Krista Benson: 838-7870

Web site: www.icehouse.net/pjals/issues/inwe.html

Integrity

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

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

Lutheran Community Services-SafeT Response Center

Call: (509) 747-8224

Crisis line (509) 624-7273

Lilac City Men's Project

For gay and bisexual men; a frank and open forum about sex, self, safety and socializing. For more information about upcoming meetings and events:

Web site: www.lilaccitymensproject.org

Northwest Fair Housing Alliance

Private, nonprofit organization provides education, outreach and enforcement assistance for those who have experienced discrimination and the general public.

Call: (509) 325-2665 or (800)-200-3247

Odyssey Youth Center

Discussion/support group and social drop-in center for GLBT and questioning youth.

Call: Ramon or Bonnie: (509) 325-3637

Outreach Center

Condoms, needle exchange, AIDS information. Open M-F, 3-5 p.m. at 1103 W. First Ave.

Call: (509) 838-6859

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

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

Call: (509) 838-7870

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

Quest Youth Group

To "inspire, encourage and support" gay and bisexual guys, 18-25, in the Inland Northwest through free monthly recreational activities, discussions, service projects and movie nights.

Call: Ryan: (509) 290-3519

Web site: www.QuestYouthGroup.org

Ryan White CARE Consortium

HIV care education and planning group.

Call: Tarena Coleman: (509) 444-8200

E-mail: colemant@chas.org

Rainbow Regional Community Center

Support services for GLBTQ community and individuals exploring their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

Call: (509) 489-1914

Web site: www.spokanerainbowcenter.org

SAN -

Spokane AIDS Network

Call: (509) 455-8993 or 1-888-353-2130

Web site: www.spokaneAIDSnetwork.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

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

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

Web site: www.spokanecounty.org/health

Stonewall News Northwest

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

Call: (509) 570-3750

Fax: (509) 267-6309

Web site: www.stonewallnews.net

Spokane Gender Center

Resources and support for transgender people.

Web site: www.gendercenter.com

Unitarian Universalist Church

Gay, lesbian resource committee.

Call: (509) 325-6383

Web site: www.uuchurchofspokane.org

Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery

Call: 535-3155

Web site: www.vanessabehan.org

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 -

North Idaho AIDS Coalition

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

Call: (208) 665-1448

Web site: www.nicon.org/niac

North Idaho College Gay-Straight Alliance

E-mail: BCHARDISON@icehouse.net

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@yahoo.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

Web site: www2.stateid.us/phd1

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

Planned Parenthood of The Inland Northwest

HIV antibody testing and counseling.

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

Administration: (509) 326-6292

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

Call: Heidi Stanton (509)335-8841

E-mail: hstanton@wsu.edu

Web site: www.thecenter.wsu.edu

Washington State University GLBA Student Group

Fun, fellowship and socializing.

Call: (509) 335-6428

Web site: <http://cubwsu.edu/GLBAP>

Out There

Safer-sex information and supportive programs for young men who have sex with men.

Call Melinda: (509) 335-6428

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

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

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

Call: (509) 542-8860

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

Web site: www.wwpflag.0catch.com/

Seventh-day Adventist Kinship

Call: (509) 525-0202

WENATCHEE

SHINE

An organization that strives to eliminate all forms of prejudice and discrimination by promoting awareness, education, and self-empowerment through the use of the arts.

Call: (509) 860-7354

E-mail: shine_org@yahoo.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

Northwest Montana information and referral services.

Call: (406) 758-6707

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30 - JOB MARKET

- 31 - Help Wanted
- 32 - Employment Wanted
- 33 - Earning Opportunity
- 34 - Business Opportunity

40 - FOR SALE

- 41 - Garage & Yard Sales
- 42 - Real Estate
- 43 - Automobiles
- 44 - Travel/Tickets
- 45 - Mail Order
- 46 - Miscellaneous For Sale

50 - HOME IMPROVEMENT

60 - BODY & SPIRIT

- 61 - Health & Fitness
- 62 - Well Being
- 63 - Licensed Massage

70 - PERSONALS

- 71 - General
- 72 - Transgendered
- 73 - Bisexuals
- 74 - Lesbians
- 75 - Escorts
- 76 - Body Work
- 77 - Gay Men
- 78 - Pen Pals

12 - Announcements & Notices

Items Wanted. Odyssey Youth Center has an ongoing need for bus token donations. There is also a need for a soda dispensary machine, gift cards/certificates to use as youth rewards and incentives, and an X-Box 360 video game console. To donate these or other items please call Odyssey Youth Center, 509/325-2627.

13 - Volunteers

Spokane AIDS Network Needs Volunteers
Contact Cherie at 509/455-8993

OUTSPOKANE IS LOOKING for community-minded people to help with the 2007 Pride

Call Christopher at 509/624-9639 for details on meeting the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month.

44 - Travel



Cowboy Up Montana Roadhouse
Dinner & Bed

Your special GAY Hideaway in the beautiful mountains of western Montana!

Soft beds and gourmet meals! Only 2 hours from Spokane via I-90.

www.cowboyupmontana.com

46 - Miscellaneous For Sale

FOUR BIONAIRE 9 & 6 GAL. HUMIDIFIERS FOR SALE!
Need to be cleaned and demineralized. Work perfectly and need a good dry home to love. \$30 each. 509/570-3751

CARDIO-GLIDE EXERCISE MACHINE-\$75

Good working condition but no instrumentation. Excellent upper **and** lower body workout. Call 509/570-3751

13 - Personal-General Services

SENSUOUS MASSAGE

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Rates: Classified Ads are \$10 for up to 25 words. Each additional word is 25 cents. For a bold face headline, add \$1.50.

Payment Method: You may pay for your Classified Ad by check or money order via the US Postal Service or by credit card, debit card, or PayPal by mailing, E-mailing, or telephoning your information.

E-mail Ads: You may submit your Classified Ad at Stonewall's Web site at www.stonewallnews.net. Click on the Classifieds link to enter your information on the E-mail. Your payment will need to be received by Stonewall at least one week before publication.

Mail-In Ads: Type or legibly print your ad on an 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of paper along with your name, address, and phone number; include your signature. Mail your completed ad along with your payment to: SNN, PO Box 2704, Spokane, WA 99220.

Personals: If your Personal ad uses an address, Stonewall will only use a PO Box or a Stonewall Personal Blind Box (PBB). For a PBB, add \$5 to the cost of the ad. Stonewall will assign a code for your PBB and will forward replies weekly for up to two months after your ad runs.

Policy: Stonewall reserves the right to reject or edit any ad which may be considered demeaning or offensive to our readers. Any errors will be compensated with advertising credit.

Deadline: Classified ads must be received by Stonewall by the 8th or the 20th of each month for following 15th or 1st of the month publication.

Mailing Address: SNN, PO Box 2704, Spokane, WA 99220

Website: www.stonewallnews.net **E-mail:** mail@stonewallnews.net

CHOSEN ONES

continued from Page 7

few others. Choose one or two to or be, this week.

The responsibilities of the chosen ones...

- We must demonstrate our acceptance for all other people, everywhere.
- We must claim our rights and abundance, unabashedly.
- We forgive others, all others, and let go of resentment and regret.
- We must see others as chosen, too.
- We must shine our light.
- We are called...not to judge or hate, or reject the beliefs of others.
- We must stand in the face of ignorance and walk through our fears.
- We must constantly see and be open to receiving love in all its forms.
- We must be models of light and love.

Being chosen, does not mean that there will be no mountains to climb, no deserts to cross, no battles to fight. It means that we are guaranteed success in all that we do, and all that we dream of doing. But we must know it, then show it; believe it, then we'll see it.

The chosen ones are often ridiculed, when others feel threatened. But instead of reacting in anger with an eye-for-an-eye, the chosen ones are asked to live according to the laws of love. It doesn't seem easy at first, but it becomes easier and easier as love itself makes everything seem like small stuff, and makes every battle appear win-able. It gives us patience, fortitude, and a unified persistence to overcome ignorance, bigotry and isolation. The funny thing is, I really believe that everyone on this planet is a "chosen one"; gay, straight, young, old, Christian, Buddhist, whatever - each of us is equal, and equally chosen to show up and live as love itself.

Chosen ones realize their uniqueness and their unity with all. They understand their closeness and oneness with Spirit, and they act from the strength

and confidence of that perspective each day. They realize that they are constantly, perpetually protected by, in the mind of, and wielding the power of, Spirit. It is not arrogance, but a Truth and they humbly embrace it, and use it to enlighten the world. They honor themselves by claiming their dignity and right place in the world, and they champion the right

for all others to do the same. Isn't it a wonderful mission that each of us has? Chosen, to be champions of love.

Bob Schout is based in Dallas Texas. He is a life coach, pastoral counselor, and motivational speaker for business, government, non-profit and faith-based organizations. He can be reached by e-mail at psdevelopment@sbcglobal.net.

BOY SCOUTS

continued from Page 13

that rested on First Amendment rights.

'The Boy Scouts asserts that homosexual conduct is inconsistent with the values it seeks to instill,' then-Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist wrote for the court in a 5-4 decision.

Even so, the California Supreme Court said in March that local governments are under no obligation to extend benefits to organizations that discriminate.

Berkeley, home of free speech protests since the 1960s, adopted a nondiscrimination policy on the use of its marina in 1997 and revoked the Sea Scouts' subsidy a year later.

The Sea Scouts are a branch of the Boy Scouts that teaches sailing and seamanship. City officials had told the group that it could retain its berthing subsidy if it broke ties with the Boy Scouts or disavowed the policy against gays and atheists, but the Sea Scouts refused.

Eugene Evans, who leads the Sea Scouts, has been paying \$500 a month to berth one boat at the Berkeley Marina. The group removed two other boats because it could not afford the rent. The group has about 40 members, down from as many as 100 before the subsidy was removed.

Berkeley had allowed the Scouts free use of the marina since the 1930s, according to Evans.

The Sea Scouts said they were singled out because Berkeley's elected officials disapprove of the Boy Scouts' membership policies.

The case is Evans v. City of Berkeley, 06-40

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A Professional GLBTQ/Allied Business Organization

www.inbaspokane.org
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Voice mail: 509-455-3699

NOVEMBER 1 - NOVEMBER 30, 2006 CALENDAR

Covering Spokane, Tri-Cities, Pullman, Moscow, Walla Walla, and Yakima

Spokane, WA

- Wednesday, November 1st**
On Hold **LCMP Core Group** (at SAN)
"Core Group" meetings are on hold temporarily. Future meetings TBA.
- Thursday, November 2nd**
7:15 pm - 9:00 pm **OutSpokane Meeting** (at Kress Gallery)
Meetings are the Kress Gallery on the 3rd floor of RiverPark Square. Located next to and behind the food gallery near the theater ticket outlets.
- Friday, November 3rd**
7:00 pm **Spokane GLBT Film Fest** (at Riverpoint EWU Auditorium)
Following Film Fest **Friday Night OUT!** (at CenterStage)
FNO is a social hour for LGBTQ and allied individuals to get together for fun and friendship. There will be no politics, no fund raising. So come and meet some people and have some fun!
- Saturday, November 4th**
3:00 pm **Spokane GLBT Film Fest** (at Riverpoint EWU Auditorium)
7:00 pm **Spokane GLBT Film Fest** (at Riverpoint EWU Auditorium)
- Sunday, November 5th**
1:00 - 3:00 pm **Gay/Bi Men's Bowling Group** (at North Bowl) Come hang out with the guys and bowl. Ten bucks gets you two hours of bowling and shoes. Space is limited, so reserve your spot early by calling 267-9444 and leave a message for Mark or just mention Bowling Group.
3:00 pm **Spokane GLBT Film Fest** (at Riverpoint EWU Auditorium)
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm **EMCC Evening Service** (at Bethany Presbyterian)
- Monday, November 6th**
5:30 pm **INWE (Inland Northwest Equality) Fall Potluck** (at Community Building) Bring a friend, bring a dish!
- Tuesday, October 10th** **Be Sure to Vote!**
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm **INWE Meeting** (at Community Building)
- Wednesday, November 8th**
11:30 am - 1:00 pm **INBA Luncheon** (at Europa)
Guest Speaker: Jennifer Ferrero, Spokane Web Communications
- Friday, November 10th**
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm **HIV/AIDS Support Group** (at Maple Street CHAS Clinic)
Community Health Association of Spokane (CHAS), in conjunction with Ryan White Title 3 Community Advisory Board, is offering monthly educational/support groups for people living with HIV/AIDS and their friends and families. Topics will vary by month and time will be provided for discussion and support. Snacks provided.
This month: Grief & Survivor's Guilt
- Saturday, November 11th**
9:30 - 10:30 am **PFLAG Mom's Group** (at Conley's Restaurant)
The MOM'S Group, an informal support group welcomes and supports mothers (and occasionally grandmothers!) of gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered children. It meets monthly, on the second Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. for breakfast at Conley's Restaurant on east Sprague. Call the PFLAG help line 509.624.6671 for more information.
- Sunday, November 12th**
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm **EMCC Evening Service** (at Bethany Presbyterian)
- Tuesday, November 14th**
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm **RRCC Board Meeting** (at SAN until further notice) Board meetings are open to the public, but please contact at least one week in advance with requests to be on the agenda.
- Thursday, November 16th**
7:15 pm - 9:00 pm **OutSpokane Meeting** (at Kress Gallery)
Meetings are the Kress Gallery on the 3rd floor of RiverPark Square. Located next to and behind the food gallery near the theater ticket outlets.
- Sunday, November 19th**
1:00 - 3:00 pm **Gay/Bi Men's Bowling Group** (at North Bowl) Come hang out with the guys and bowl. Ten bucks gets you two hours of bowling and shoes. Space is limited, so reserve your spot early by calling 267-9444 and leave a message for Mark or just mention Bowling Group.
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm **EMCC Evening Service** (at Bethany Presbyterian)
- Tuesday, November 21st**
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm **PFLAG Monthly Meeting** (at Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane)
Our mission is to provide support, education and advocacy for GLBTQ family and friends.
- Wednesday, November 22nd**
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm **EMCC Thanksgiving Eve Service** (at Bethany Presbyterian)
- Thursday, November 23rd** **THANKSGIVING DAY**
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm **EMCC Thanksgiving Potluck** (at Bethany Presbyterian) This is a potluck celebration, giving thanks to all that we have. All are welcome. If you would like to be part of this celebration please let us know.
- Sunday, November 26th**
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm **EMCC Evening Service** (at Bethany Presbyterian)
6:30 pm **ISCS Court Meeting** (at Dempsey's)
- Thursday, November 30th**
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm **Ryan White CARE Consortium Meeting** (at Spokane Regional Health District, Room 310/311) Regular bi-monthly meeting of the Spokane County Ryan White CARE Consortium (SCRWCC) meeting. The SCRWCC is the local HIV Care planning group. HIV service providers, consumers, and interested community are encouraged to attend.

Tri-Cities, Pullman/Moscow, Walla Walla, Yakima, WA

- Wednesday, November 1st**
7:30-9:00 pm **NIGMA Coffee Social** (Pullman/Moscow)
NIGMA's Coffee Social is a weekly event and is held on alternating weeks in Moscow or Pullman. When in Moscow the Coffee group meets at the One World Cafe on the corner of Main and 6th streets. When in Pullman we meet at the Daily Cup near the corner of Main St. and Grande Ave. For information on location please visit us online at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NIGMA>
- Friday, November 3rd**
7:00-9:00 pm **First Fridays** (Yakima, 1st Street Conference Center)
Yakima's gay social group welcomes you and your friends to our monthly gathering!
7:00-9:00 pm **NIGMA First Friday** (Moscow, University Inn Quiet Bar)
Visit us on the web at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NIGMA> for more information.
- Sunday, November 5th**
10:30-11:30 am **River of Life MCC Sunday Service** (Tri-Cities, 1105 N Conway, Kennewick)
6:30 pm **Rainbow Cathedral MCC Sunday Service** (Yakima, 225 N 2nd St)
- Monday, November 6th**
7:30-8:30 pm **Rainbow Sobriety AA Meeting** (Tri-Cities, All Saints Episcopal Church)
- Wednesday, November 8th**
7:30-9:00 pm **NIGMA Coffee Social** (Pullman/Moscow)
NIGMA's Coffee Social is a weekly event and is held on alternating weeks in Moscow or Pullman. When in Moscow the Coffee group meets at the One World Cafe on the corner of Main and 6th streets. When in Pullman we meet at the Daily Cup near the corner of Main St. and Grande Ave. For information on location please visit us online at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NIGMA>
- Friday, November 10th**
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm **Rev Elder Troy Perry Press Conference** (Tri-Cities, ROLMCC, 1105 N Conway, Kennewick)
- Saturday, November 11th** **VETERAN'S DAY**
7:00 pm - 7:30 pm **Gettman Hall Dedication** (Tri-Cities, ROLMCC, 1105 N Conway, Kennewick)
7:30 pm - 9:30 pm **Carolyn Marshal - Pat Grant Concert** (Tri-Cities, ROLMCC, 1105 N Conway, Kennewick)
- Sunday, November 12th**
10:30am-11:30am **River of Life MCC Sunday Service** (Tri-Cities, Center for Positive Living)
11:00 am-1:00 pm **NIGMA Second Sunday Brunch** held in Moscow or Pullman at the homes of NIGMA members. The Brunch location is changed monthly for information on the brunch please visit us online at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NIGMA>
Rainbow Cathedral MCC Sunday Service (Yakima, 225 N 2nd St)
6:30 pm
- Monday, November 13th**
10:30am-12:00pm **Rev Elder Troy Perry CBC Presentation** (Tri-Cities, Columbia Basin College, Pasco)
7:00 pm **PFLAG Monthly Meeting** (Walla Walla, First Congregational Church)
7:30-8:30 pm **Rainbow Sobriety AA Meeting** (Tri-Cities, All Saints Episcopal Church)
- Wednesday, November 15th**
7:30-9:00 pm **NIGMA Coffee Social** (Pullman/Moscow)
NIGMA's Coffee Social is a weekly event and is held on alternating weeks in Moscow or Pullman. When in Moscow the Coffee group meets at the One World Cafe on the corner of Main and 6th streets. When in Pullman we meet at the Daily Cup near the corner of Main St. and Grande Ave. For information on location please visit us online at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NIGMA>
- Sunday, November 19th**
10:30am-11:30am **River of Life MCC Sunday Service** (Tri-Cities, Center for Positive Living)
6:30 pm **Rainbow Cathedral MCC Sunday Service** (Yakima, 225 N 2nd St)
7:00 pm **PFLAG Monthly Meeting** (Yakima, at First Street Conference Center)
- Monday, November 20th**
7:30-8:30 pm **Rainbow Sobriety AA Meeting** (Tri-Cities, All Saints Episcopal Church)
- Wednesday, November 22nd**
7:30-9:00 pm **NIGMA Coffee Social** (Pullman/Moscow)
NIGMA's Coffee Social is a weekly event and is held on alternating weeks in Moscow or Pullman. When in Moscow the Coffee group meets at the One World Cafe on the corner of Main and 6th streets. When in Pullman we meet at the Daily Cup near the corner of Main St. and Grande Ave. For information on location please visit us online at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NIGMA>
- Thursday, November 23rd** **THANKSGIVING**
7:00-9:00 pm **PFLAG Monthly Meeting** (Tri-Cities, Check website for meeting location) <http://www.TCPFLAG.org>
- Friday, November 24th**
7:00-9:00 pm **NIGMA Fourth Friday Wine Tasting** (Pullman/Moscow)
NIGMA's Wine tasting is held at private residences and is only open to those who are 21 and over. Please visit us online at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NIGMA>
- Sunday, November 26th**
10:30am-11:30am **River of Life MCC Sunday Service** (Tri-Cities, Center for Positive Living)
6:30 pm **Rainbow Cathedral MCC Sunday Service** (Yakima, 225 N 2nd St)
- Monday, November 27th**
7:30-8:30 pm **Rainbow Sobriety AA Meeting** (Tri-Cities, All Saints Episcopal Church)
- Wednesday, November 29th**
7:30-9:00 pm **NIGMA Coffee Social** (Pullman/Moscow)
NIGMA's Coffee Social is a weekly event and is held on alternating weeks in Moscow or Pullman. When in Moscow the Coffee group meets at the One World Cafe on the corner of Main and 6th streets. When in Pullman we meet at the Daily Cup near the corner of Main St. and Grande Ave. For information on location please visit us online at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NIGMA>

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N 100 Hayford Rd, Airway Heights (509) 242-7000 www.northernquest.com

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15 InterPlayers
174 S Howard St (509) 455-PLAY
www.interplayers.com

16 Spokane Civic Theatre
1020 N Noward St (509) 325-2507
www.spokanecivictheatre.com

BARS & CLUBS

1 Dempsey's Brass Rail
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2 Merq Cafe & Liquid Lounge
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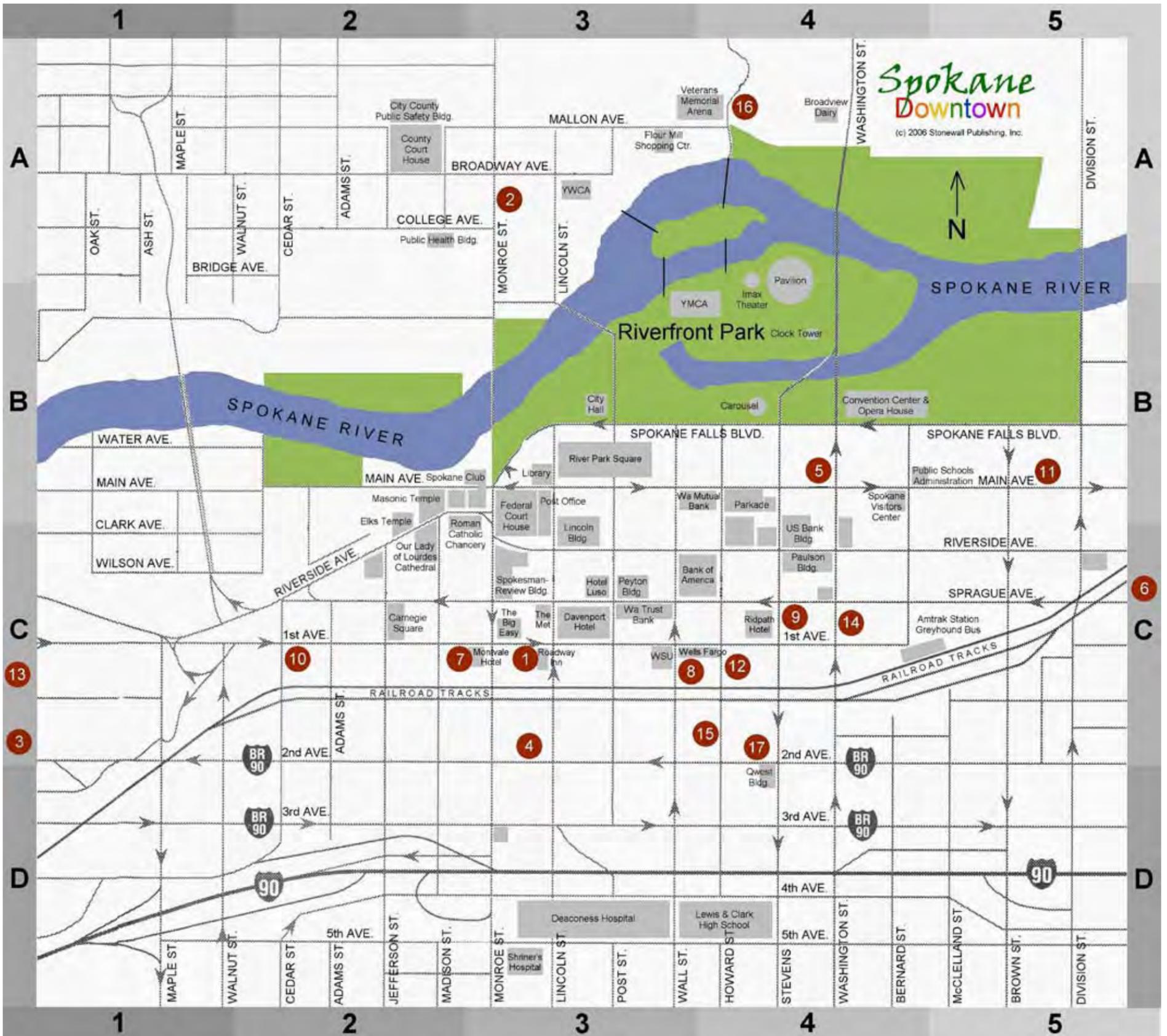
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November 7

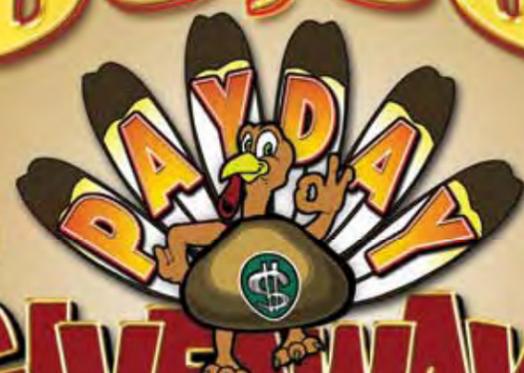


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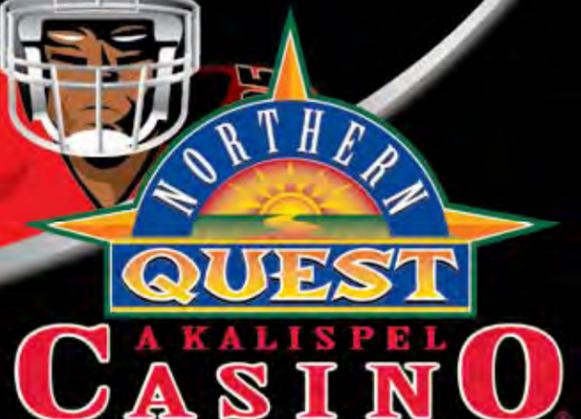
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