January 2, - January 15, 2020
50 cents at newsstands Vol. 37, No 38
baywindows.com
twitter.com/BayWindowsNE
facebook.com/baywindows

Serving New England’s LGBTQ Communities

Single Copies Free. Multiple copies may be available, with prior approval, for 50 cents each by contacting the BayWindows business office.

Year in Review

Pop culture in 2010s marked gains in diversity, inclusion

By JOCELYN NOVECK
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP)—When the family-friendly Hallmark Channel recently pulled, under pressure from a conservative group, a set of ads featuring a kiss between two happy brides at the altar, backlash was swift—to say the least.

“Give me the old lady, the black lady, or the gay guy... Elizabeth Warren, Kamala Harris, or Pete Buttigieg. We’ve had the old white men over and over again. I’m tired of them. I’m gonna tell you, if Biden gets a boyfriend, he has my vote!”

— Wanda Sykes’ take on the Democratic presidential candidates while promoting her Netflix special, "Not Normal".

find Billy Masters on page 8!

Best of 2019

Theater

By Jules Becker

Diversity dominated local and area theater this year. Both large and small stages embraced plays and musicals that focused on African-American, Hispanic, Jewish, LGBTQ and physically challenged characters and their goals and priorities. At the same time, 2019 saw the regrettable demise of two rightly acclaimed Boston companies, namely Zeitgeist Stage Company and Israeli Stage. Attention should be paid to their very talented respective artistic directors David J. Miller and Guy Ben-Aharon. At the same time, the beloved Emerson Colonial Theatre continues to expand its lineup. The following is this critic’s best of 2019 list of area theater—as always divided into large, small-midsize and visiting picks—

Large Stages

Birdy (Commonwealth Shakespeare Company) Friendship, caring and deep love flew very high in CSC’s wonderfully intense staging. Will Taylor was extraordinary as the adult Birdy.

Cabaret (Ogunquit Playhouse) This fresh revival brought welcome riffs to Kander and Ebb’s landmark look at anti-Semitism and hate in pre-Holocaust Germany. John Rubinstein proved especially heart-wrenching as Jewish fruit seller Herr Schultz.

Cymbeline (Commonwealth Shakespeare Company) CSC regular Fred Sullivan, Jr. directed this rarely staged but intriguing play with great flair.

Indecent (Huntington Theatre Company and Center Theatre Group) Rebecca Taichman reprised her Tony-winning direction of Paula Vogel’s play-within-a-play probing of intrepid Yiddish writer Sholem Asch’s daring—especially about lesbian love—in his drama “God of Vengeance.”

Moby Dick (American Repertory Theater) Dave Molloy has made his world premiere musical reckoning as ambitious, wide-ranging and evocative in its own way as Melville’s truly great American novel. (running through January 12 at the Loeb Drama Center, Cambridge)

Ellen LaPointe named CEO of Fenway Health

Submitted by Fenway Health

The Board of Directors of Fenway Health announced today that it has selected Ellen LaPointe to be its next Chief Executive Officer. LaPointe was selected through a national search process to lead one of the nation’s foremost health centers for care and research...
Within hours, stars like Ellen DeGeneres and William Shatner were tweeting in protest to their many followers, and LGBT advocates were mobilizing a boycott via social media. This was on Saturday; by Sunday evening, Hallmark had reversed its decision, and apologized for what it acknowledged as a mistake.

Whatever it says about corporate missteps, the episode also says something about how our popular culture has changed in a decade, with diversity and inclusion concerns taking center stage, says Sarah Kate Ellis, president of GLAAD, which advocates for LGBT people in Hollywood and played a key role in Hallmark’s reversal.

“This decade has been about diversity and inclusion—at least the starting of the conversa-
tion,” says Ellis. “Communities who have been left out of the seats at the table for decades and decades are finally starting to find their voice, and their footing.” And a major element, obviously, is the power of social media. “It enables us to connect with each other, find each other and orga-
nize,” Ellis says.

Speaking of viral protests, this was also the de-
cade of #OscarsSoWhite, the hashtag launched in 2015 when none of the 20 nominees in Oscar acting categories were actors of color. Incredibly, the same thing happened in 2016, forcing the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences to launch a major membership overhaul aimed at diversifying its overwhelmingly white, male, older ranks.

The following year, “Moonlight,” about the coming-of-age of a young, gay black man, won best picture (after “La La Land” was... oh, never mind) and the winner list was more diverse. But true racial diversity in entertainment remains an elusive goal.

“Things have certainly improved,” says Gil Robertson, president of the African American Film Critics Association. “Ten years ago, you didn’t have an Ava DuVernay; a Jordan Peele, a Shonda Rhimes, a Kerry Washington,” he says. “And my God, you couldn’t have even imagined ‘Pose,’” he says, referring to the Ryan Murphy TV series set in the ’80s ballroom culture with the biggest LGBTQ cast ever assembled for a scripted show.

“The door has opened,” he says, adding that inroads have also been made for Asian American actors and stories, but less so for Latinos. “Has the industry reached the place that we want it to be? No, but things have gotten better.”

In her speech at the 2018 Oscars, soon after the Harvey Weinstein scandal launched the (hash) MeToo era, Frances McDormand urged women to demand an “inclusion rider” in contracts to help achieve gender parity. Almost two years later, evidence of progress for women in front of and behind the camera is slow but steady. The entry of streaming giants like Netflix has accelerated the pace of change, says Stacy L. Smith, director of the USC Annenberg Inclusion Initiative at the University of Southern California.

An example: last year, 39 of the top 100 Hol-
lywood films were led or co-led by a female char-
acter, Smith says; in 2007 the number was 20, so it has essentially doubled in a decade. And there is progress behind the camera, too. “We’re really seeing changes, slow but real significant move-
ment in some of these institutions.”

And yet there are areas sorely lacking: represen-
tation of female characters over 40 in films, for example, and women of color. And trans women characters are rarely seen in major films.

“Every group should be able to see themselves onscreen,” Smith says.

A LONG WAY SINCE ‘ELLEN’

It’s hard to imagine that back in 1997 when DeGeneres came out on her TV show, the words “I’m gay” were so groundbreaking. “We were all but non-existent in popular culture a few decades ago, and now we’re very much grounded in pop-
ular culture,” says Ellis, of GLAAD.

BEYOND #OSCARSOWHITE

America is increasingly diverse. Movie audi-
cences are increasingly diverse. And diverse mov-
ies make money, because people like to see stories and characters that reflect their own lives.

Despite all this, says Darnell Hunt, an author of the annual Hollywood Diversity Report, prog-
ress toward racial diversity in the film industry has been frustratingly slow, lagging well behind TV.

Looking at the decade as a whole, Hunt notes despite some “notable progress” in the TV indus-
tory, there hasn’t been much progress in terms of people of color in executive suites, which are still dominated by white men. And in film, the situa-
tion is worse.

“As the country becomes more diverse, the un-
der-representation becomes more severe,” he says.

While his research has found there has been progress over the decade for female direc-
tors in the top 200 films, Hunt says there’s been “zero progress” in numbers of directors of color over the same period. And so, he says, a film like “The Hurt Locker,” with a star-packed black cast and a black director (Ryan Coogler), is more of an outlier than an example of real change.

THE NEXT BIGelow?

For women in Hollywood, one statistic re-
 mains particularly shocking: In the entire history of the Oscars, only one woman has won the best-
director Oscar. It happened at the dawn of this decade with Kathryn Bigelow’s 2010 trophy for “The Hurt Locker.”

There is, though, reason for some measured optimism, on that score and for women as a whole, says USC’s Smith. She says that 2019 has emerged as the strongest year for female directors of top 100 films, with 12.14 percent of them fea-
turing a woman behind the camera. That com-
pares to 4 percent pretty much every year from 2007-2018, she says.

The change reflects better hiring practices on the part of studios. “The hiring is what is so im-
portant,” Smith says. Particularly cheering, she adds, is the slate of superhero movies planned for 2020. The year “is going to be huge,” Smith says. “Five superhero movies will be directed by women. Not one, but five.”

While no milestone this past decade matches the import of that “Ellen” moment, the decade began with the launch—actually in 2009—of both “Glee,” which put a spotlight on LGBT youth, and “Modern Family,” which introduced the couple of Mitchell and Cam, two dads who adopt a Vietnamese daughter. “These were really big moments,” Ellis says. Another was last year’s best-actor Emmy for Billy Porter for “Pose,” the first openly gay black man to win the award.

Inroads also were made in children’s program-
mimg, “Doc McStuffins,” the Disney Junior chil-
dren’s cartoon, featured a family led by an inter-
racial, lesbian couple, and the Disney Channel kids’ show “Andi Mack” introduced a key gay character.

Caitlyn Jenner’s revelation in 2015 that she was transgender helped shine a light on that com-
munity, and popular shows like “Orange is the New Black” and “Transparent” featured transgender characters.

Where will you live until you can call this ‘Home’ again? Your association policy won’t cover your ad-
ditional living expenses. Condo owners NEED Per-
sonal Condominium Insurance for that. Aside from replacing your personal property, it will help you with rent, while you’re still paying your mortgage. Contact us.

617-437-9400 • www.jjbodner.com • 8 Clarendon St. Boston

Bay Windows

For All Seasons

• Trustworthy cleaning services to meet your needs
• Houses, apartments and commercial
• Schedule that works best for you, weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly
• All routine housework, plus special clean-up jobs
• Owner supervised cleaning crew and ensures quality
• Excellent references and competitive rates

Cleaning by Judy
617-501-9645

JJBodner
Insurance Agency of Boston

Advertising in the Bay Windows Service Guide Gets Results.

Sign up for our weekly newsletter at...

BayWindows.com
It just hit me, literally in the past few days, that "the teens," the decade that followed the "aughts," (though I never knew what to call it) is ending. Somehow, while I wasn't looking, one-fifth of the 21st Century passed me by, along with most of my middle age.

Part of the problem, I think, is the reality show hype around the oncoming Y2K disaster, which never came to pass. Today, December 1999 and the dawn of the new millennium seem almost quaint; there were no smart phones, no Twitter, no Facebook or Snapchat. Bill Clinton, who had suffered the embarrassment of impeachment for lying under oath (“I did not have sex with that woman,”) rebounded in popularity and the country was caught up in New Year’s Eve celebrations and the hype around the oncoming Y2K disaster, which never came to pass.

At the time, I wasn’t too worried about the glitches that might appear — planes didn’t fall out of the sky, computers didn’t fail, life went on as before. I think back to that night, a special dinner with 10 friends in JP, and how we ate, drank, laughed, and talked about the new millennium. I didn’t get back home until 3 am, a rarity even then, when I was a youth of 42.

The future seemed promising; I was just starting to write and about to change my first name and start a new job, a time of beginnings. At the dawn of middle age, many things seemed possible; I was still figuring out what I wanted to be and was in the process of reinventing myself. Things were looking up in the country, too: Democrats were popular, we weren’t fighting any wars now that the fighting in Bosnia was over, and the Cold War had ended.

Now it seems I was naïve, as George W Bush went on to win the stolen election of 2000, and after the paranoia of 9/11, initiated wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and appointed his conservative judges, and his awful advisors (Cheney, Rumsfeld, etc.). And now, after the relative fresh air of the Obama years, we are living in the dystopian era of Trump.

Similarly, I've been stumbling in the darkness since fall 2016, frustrated by Hillary Clinton’s inept campaign, Comey’s lies, and the underlying racism and white resentment that elevated him. Things were looking up in the country, too: Democrats were popular, we weren’t fighting any wars now that the fighting in Bosnia was over, and the Cold War had ended.

Now it seems I was naive, as George W Bush went on to win the stolen election of 2000, and after the paranoia of 9/11, initiated wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and appointed his conservative judges, and his awful advisors (Cheney, Rumsfeld, etc.). And now, after the relative fresh air of the Obama years, we are living in the dystopian era of Trump.

Similarly, I've been stumbling in the darkness since fall 2016, frustrated by Hillary Clinton’s inept campaign, Comey’s lies, and the underlying racism and white resentment that elevated him. Things were looking up in the country, too: Democrats were popular, we weren’t fighting any wars now that the fighting in Bosnia was over, and the Cold War had ended.
I have tried several ways of starting this piece. Here's one: At least we're not in London during the Blitz like George Orwell, who wrote in early 1941, "As I write, highly civilized human beings are flying overhead, trying to kill me."

But as Barney Frank once observed, it's not a winning message to say that things could be even worse.

I am sorning through stories from hopeful to horrible: Fr. James Martin rebuked a Republican congressman who compared Trump to Jesus. Pope Francis lifted the excommunication of Bishop Tamayo due to his own must be held to account.

In other matters, Mayor Pete Buttigieg’s poise, toughness, and deft sparring were impressive in the Dec. 19 Democratic presidential debate. His candidacy, fundraising, and polling are an historic advance that knocks the "not queer enough" complaints out of the water. He also displayed presidential instincts and temperament a few weeks earlier when, after a fierce piece by Michael Harriot of The Root, he phoned Harriot to chat. Trust cannot be earned on the quick, and he faces continued skepticism from black voters. Yet his prodigious political gifts, military background, and heartland credentials make him an attractive alternative to the three B’s four decades his senior: Bernie, Biden, and Bloomberg. I doubt any billionaires were in Pete's wine cave. I thought he responded well to Sen. Warren’s jab. Andrew Yang was right that people without disposable income cannot give to a candidate. Pete raises a lot of money from small donors. I do not begrudge him the big-ticket events, even though I cannot afford to attend one, any more than I begrudge Warren the money she made.

Another formidable talent, Sen. Kamala Harris, dropped out but is still frequently mentioned as a running mate. Joe Biden shows signs of resilience. The field has narrowed, though no votes have yet been cast. The campaign and the impeachment are on a holiday break.

I have friends who exclaim a positive energy I find hard to emulate, who light up spaces just by entering them. They are a balm for the sadness that can arise during holiday season, such as in charity efforts, from realizing that there are always more in need than one has means to help. It is blessing enough to accept the joy and appreciation of those one is able to help.

We pace ourselves according to our needs and tastes. Musical choices are a case in point. Sometimes I think a sad Christmas song like Judy Garland’s “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas” provides greater comfort by not imposing obligatory cheer. Silence can also be a relief. I resist over-scheduling. A few gatherings and notes to distant friends help me to stay on an even keel.

As for the election, who knows? Several friends appear absolutely certain about which candidate has no chance. Why don’t we just give up? But I do not give up. I take this madness a day at a time. I try to remember to thank people who are kind to me, and to say something kind in return. It is a small thing, like finding the grace to admit that I don’t know everything. Who believed twelve weeks ago that a black guy with a Muslim-sounding name could be elected president?

Admit it, you don’t really know. Isn’t that a weight off your shoulders? Here’s to making new connections and learning new things, whatever comes. Happy New Year.

Richard J. Rosendall is a writer and activist at rrosende dall@on.com. Copyright © 2019 by Richard J. Rosendall. All rights reserved.

---

Transgender health care: why access is a problem down south

By MARIA CLARK, USA Today

DECATUR, Ga. (AP)—When Dr. Izzy Lowell moved from Boston to start her new job at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta in 2013, she quickly realized something was missing.

The family medicine clinic she worked with didn’t seem to be serving transgender patients, which seemed unusual to Lowell.

Working with the LGBTQ community had always been something she had been interested in doing, even though her medical school training did not really cover how to treat people on hormone replacement therapy (HRT).

She realized that to serve this population she would have to educate herself and learn everything she could about hormone replacement therapy. Soon she put in place a one-day gender clinic at Emory reserved for those patients.

"Pretty soon patients started driving in from out of state," she said.

Even in one of the largest cities in the South, Lowell discovered, that medical care focused on this population and on transgender people in particular, was severely limited.

She watched patients crossing state lines every week to visit the clinic.

"I thought, there has to be a better way to treat underserved transgender people from out of state," she said recently.

Fast forward five years and Lowell found a solution.

Her health organization QuestMed, which she founded in 2017, is an evolution of the one-day clinic she ran at Emory. In part, it operates as a pop-up clinic providing hormone replacement therapy for transgender and non-binary people. Lowell and her team of two nurse practitioners will go to towns in states across the South where she is licensed to do consults and start patients on HRT.

Follow-up visits are mainly done via teleconferencing.

The clinic recently added some PrEP care, which is the use anti-HIV medication to keep people who are HIV negative from getting infected.

Word of mouth has kept the doctor and her team busy with pop-up clinics scheduled once or twice a month in cities like Chattanooga, Tenn., and Montgomery, Ala., where gender affirming care can be difficult if not impossible.

Even in Georgia, a state with the fourth highest population of people who identify as transgender, gender affirming health providers aren’t the norm.

"It’s a huge issue. I had a patient last week call 10 other offices in Atlanta to start hormone therapy. They all said, ‘I’m not going to do that,’” said Lowell. "If someone has to call 11 different offices in Atlanta for care, imagine what it’s like in small towns?"

‘Seeking gender-affirming health care’

While access to gender affirming health providers is a problem across the U.S., it’s a significant problem in the South, which is home to the largest population of people identifying as transgender in the U.S. New data released in early November by the Movement Advancement Project, showed that the southern states are home to about 567,000 transgender residents. That’s about 41 percent of all U.S. adults who identify as transgender.

Health care discrimination is unlawful under existing federal law and the Affordable Care Act, which took effect in January 2020, to help patients and providers start new lives by providing affordable health care. But the reality is that many patients who identify as transgender are still facing barriers to care. One of the biggest challenges is access to hormone therapy. In some states, transgender patients are still not able to access hormone therapy due to legal and medical barriers.

Lowell’s clinic is one of the few in the South that provides hormone therapy for transgender patients. She and her team have helped hundreds of patients access care they didn’t have before.

"I feel very lucky to be working in a place that is so accepting and supportive," Lowell said.

Lowell’s story is just one example of the many transgender patients who are facing challenges when it comes to accessing care. The lack of access to hormone therapy is a significant problem in the South, and it’s a problem that we need to work to address.

I hope this piece has given you some insight into the challenges that transgender patients are facing when it comes to accessing care in the South. If you would like to learn more about this issue, I encourage you to reach out to trans health care providers in your area. Together, we can work to address this problem and make sure that all transgender patients have access to the care they need and deserve.

I want to end this piece by thanking all of the transgender patients who have shared their stories with me. Your courage and determination are inspiring, and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to learn from you.

I hope you have enjoyed this piece, and I look forward to continuing to learn and share stories about transgender issues in the future.

Happy New Year, and may we continue to work towards a more just and equitable world for all people, regardless of gender identity.
Continued from page 1

Rozenzweig and Gaudenstern Are Dead (Huntington Theatre Company)—Company artistic director Peter DuBois smartly developed the relationship of the two title characters—deep friendship and even love—in this savvy revival.

Sunset Boulevard (North Shore Music Theatre)—NSMT made an artistic coup landing Alice Ripley (a well-deserved Tony for “Next to Normal”) as Norma Desmond. At the same time, the big standout here were Nicholas Rodriguez as ill-fated Joe Gillis and William Michals as Max von Mayerling.

The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley (Merrimack Repertory Theatre) Merrimack Rep strongly followed up its previous “Pride and Prejudice” adaptation “Miss Bennet.”

Waverly Gallery (Shakespeare & Company)—Annette Miller was hauntingly strong as an aging matriarch struggling with dementia.

We Live in Cairo (American Repertory Theatre)-Brothers Daniel and Patrick Lazour’s world premiere musical combines solid feeling and rich visuals—particularly David Bengali’s projection and video design—in its exploration of post-Tahrir Square Egypt.

(Honorable mention: La Cage Aux Folles-Reagle Music Theatre, Cry It Out/Merrimack Repertory; Quiqute Nuevo-Huntington)

Small and Midsize Stages

Becoming Dr. Ruth (New Repertory Theatre)-Anne O’Sullivan sharply portrayed the now-90 Jewish Renaissance woman—strong-willed matriarch, sex maven, lover of Israel and wartime spy against the Nazis—in Mark St. Germain’s vivid one-person play. Jeffrey Petersen’s Westheimer Manhattan set was a kind of character itself.

Caroline, or Change (SpeakEasy Stage Company)-Company artistic director Paul Daigneault brought new clarity to this thoughtful Tony Kushner-Jeannine Tesori musical about an undaunted African-American heroine and her both warm and complicated relationship with the Jewish family for whom she works.

Parade (Moonbox Theatre) In an age of spiking anti-Semitism, the Jason Robert Brown musical resonated more than ever in this powerfully disturbing revival—arguably the best Hub show of the year—with Phil Taylor viscerally touching as scapegoated Jewish factory manager Leo Frank.

Photo 51 (Nora Theatre)-Scientific exploration and biophysicist Rosalind Franklin’s struggle against male exploitation of her achievements clicked beautifully in this soaring revival.

The Little Foxes (Lyric Stage Company of Boston)—Returning guest director Scott Edmiston tautly captured the volatile family dynamics of this Lillian Hellman classic.

Regime (Wheelock Family Theatre)—Library and liberty harmonized in a cleverly designed edition of this E.L. Doctorow masterpiece-based musical

The Return (Israeli Stage)-In the last and certainly not the least effort in a near decade of provocative stagings, founding artistic director and adaptor extraordinaire Guy Ben Aharon once again embraced controversy in a strikingly designed Israeli-Palestinian encounter.

School Girls On The African Mean Girls Play & Choir Boy (SpeakEasy Stage)-SpeakEasy Stage trenchantly caught the very different insights—by turns humorous, rousing and painful—in the respective plays of Jocelyn Bioh and Tarell Alvin McCraney.

The Smuggler (Boston Playwrights Theatre)- A new Ronan Noone play is always a special occasion—particularly (as here) with a tour de force one-person performance by gifted Billy Meleady.

The Stone, The Seagull (Arlekin Players Theatre)- Arlekin Players has established itself as not only a showplace for Russian stage gems but also a singular venue for envelope-pushing fare. The company demonstrated these strengths in these stellar productions.

(Honorable mention: All’s Well That Ends Well, Actors’ Shakespeare Project; Ben Butler, Gloucester Stage Company; I Hate Hamlet, Titanic Theatre Company; My Fascination with Creepy Ladies, Anthem Theatre Company; Tragf, New Repertory Theatre)

Visiting Theatre

Come From Away (Broadway in Boston)

Dear Evan Hansen (Broadway in Boston)

Hello, Dolly! (Broadway in Boston)

Plautus (Les Sept Doigts de la Main, Arts Emerson)

The Lion King (Broadway in Boston)

(Top) Spencer Hamp (top) as Birdy and Maxim Chumov as Al in Commonwealth Shakespeare Company “Birdy”. Photo by Evgenia Eli-seeva (Center) Photo courtesy Sharman Altshuler. (Bottom) Actors Becky Webber and Nick Sullivan in the 2012 staging of “Photograph 51.” Courtesy A.R. Sinclair Photography
Author JK Rowling draws criticism for transgender comments

NEW YORK (AP) — J.K. Rowling is facing widespread criticism from the transgender community and other activists after tweeting support for a researcher who lost her job for stating that people cannot change their biological sex.

The researcher, Maya Forstater, had been a visiting fellow at the Centre for Global Development, which in March declined to renew her contract. A London judge this week upheld her dismissal, saying she had violated the company’s policy of not supporting or promoting “transphobic” views.

The Centre for Global Development, which in March declined to renew her contract, reversed its decision and said it would not support or promote “transphobic” views.

Rowling, who is known for her liberal political views and many on Twitter labeled her a TERF (Trans Exclusive Radical Feminist), among those criticizing her was the Human Rights Campaign, which tweeted: “Trans women are women. Trans men are men. Non-binary people are non-binary. CC: JK Rowling.”

A spokeswoman for Rowling said that the author would not have any further comment.

NYTimes

Health

Continued from page 4

fect in 2014, also prohibits discrimination. Still, the transgender population is historically underserved and face significant barriers in the healthcare system including access to providers and medical staff who are culturally competent. Other transgender people face financial barriers and prejudice. These issues are often worse for transgender people of color, in particular black transgender women who face higher incidents of violence.

It’s estimated that about 23 percent of transgender people avoid seeking medical care for fear of being discriminated against and about 33 percent say they can’t afford healthcare, according to the 2016 U.S. Trans Survey from the National Center for Transgender Equality.

The LGBTQ advocacy group, Campaign for Southern Equality, led a focus group recently to better understand the healthcare needs of transgender and non-binary people in the South. They spoke with 48 participants from North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Tennessee who reported barriers to finding and accessing affordable care. For instance, finding providers who are available and willing to offer care.

This includes the staff in the waiting room, says Ivy Hill, the community health director for the Campaign for Southern Equality.

“I can’t emphasize the importance of a knowledgeable front office staff,” Hill said. “Sitting in the waiting room and having the person out you as trans, in a rural small town where everyone knows you? Suddenly you are ostracized to everyone in that community. It cannot be overly emphasized how dangerous that can be.”

Barriers to health

Kayla Gore, a resident of south Memphis, transitioned from male to female when she was 23. Without insurance at the time, she started the process on her own without medical help buying hormones off the street. This resulted in her developing serious blood clots in her legs, a potentially fatal complication that can result from taking hormones without medical supervision.

When she landed a job that offered health benefits she was able to start HRT under the guidance of a doctor.

The process was challenging, Gore said, requiring a lot of extra testing because of her history with blood clots. She was also required to speak with a mental health counselor once a month to be assessed for gender dysphoria - the medical term used to describe a person whose gender identity does not match up with the biological sex they were assigned at birth.

“Now one explained to me why I was seeing this person,” Gore said describing the doctor’s tone and demeanor as condescending. She eventually switched to a younger doctor who had a better understanding of how to work with transgender patients, Gore explained.

“We have thought about these decisions for weeks, months, a lifetime,” Gore said. “I had always had gender dysphoria. It’s hard to go to the doctor and feel questioned about something you have always known about yourself.”

Gore, who is now 34 and working for the Transgender Law Center and as an organizer for the advocacy group Southerners on New Ground, says that finding a job with health benefits was a turning point in her story.

Without insurance she estimates that HRT in the Memphis area averages between $150 to $175 per treatment, not including the cost of lab tests and additional fees.

“For some people, that’s nothing. For many, it’s impossible,” she said.

Even if the cost isn’t prohibitive, Gore estimates there are only about five doctors in the Memphis-area that offer hormone treatment. “The wait to see them is enormous,” Gore said. “This forces a lot of people to use the black market or go online to start it on their own.”

Louisiana resident, Jules Morales, 26, said he had tremendous support from his friends and family which made it easier for him when he started the gender transition process from female to male three years ago.

A friend directed him to Dr. Brandy Panunti, an endocrinologist, who over the last three years, has led efforts at the Ochsner Health System in New Orleans to offer HRT and health services aimed at transgender people.

Morales was on HRT for a year before he decided to undergo gender assignment surgery. Unable to find a doctor who could perform the surgery in Louisiana, Morales flew to California after a nearly 8-month waiting period. He remained there in recovery for nearly a month after the surgery.

“I’m lucky. I had tremendous support from my friends and family and it made all of this a lot easier,” Morales said.

The team at Louisiana Trans Advocates receives about two to three emails a day from transgender people looking for help identifying food assistance or other resources in Louisiana.

“About 90 percent are looking for a doctor,” said Dylan Waguespack, the president of the board of directors for the organization.

Most are looking for providers able to offer hormone replacement therapy so that they can get a documentation change. As a result, the group keeps a close track on what providers offer these services in Louisiana.

While cultural competency can be a barrier, with providers not necessarily knowing how to work and address transgender people, the bigger issue is access.

“There aren’t enough providers offering transition related care,” Waguespack said.

“Gender clinics start opening”

There are a handful of health providers in Louisiana that have made strides to improve care for transgender people. CrescentCare in New Orleans opened a gender clinic providing primary care and hormone replacement therapy in 2017. The Planned Parenthood clinic started offering these services in June.

Ochsner Health System, the largest hospital network in Louisiana, has made cultural changes to educate staff and health providers. This includes training employees on how to address the health needs of transgender people.

One of the most significant changes they made was to create an alert in their electronic medical record system that notifies providers when the person identifies with a gender they weren’t assigned with at birth. Using preferred names was an easy practice for staff to incorporate, Panunti said.

They also updated their medical coding to make sure there weren’t any errors and a patient could receive coverage for gender specific exams.

Since making these changes, Panunti said that several primary care physicians in the Ochsner system have reached out to start offering HRT. Transgender patients have traditionally gone to endocrinologists for HRT, but in recent years more internal medicine and family physicians have started providing this care in their practices.

“When you talk about caring for the gender patient it’s not complex,” Panunti said. “But really being an advocate for this population and helping them not feel alone from the walk-in through the parking lot, to the waiting room and minimizing their vulnerability. (That) needs to be at the forefront.”

Call The Sophia Medspa
504-820-0088
thesophiamedspa.com
620 Worcester Road
Framingham MA

SIGN UP FOR OUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER AT...

BayWindows.com
Man convicted of hate crime for punching transgender woman

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—An Oregon man convicted of punching a transgender woman has been sentenced to probation.

Dominick Gonzales, 38, changed his plea Friday and was convicted of first-degree bias crime for punching the woman in Northwest Portland in September, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill said in a news release.

The victim, who is white and was wearing a dress, was standing in line for free coffee and food for homeless people on September 29 when Gonzales started yelling at her, using racial and homophobic hate speech, the release said.

Gonzales punched her in the face, splitting her lower lip open. Gonzales fled on a bicycle before police caught him.

He received three years of probation and credit for time served. He served 75 days in jail was expected to be released to his probation officer.

``These bias crimes are extremely hurtful for the victims and our community,” said Multnomah County District Attorney BJ Park, who prosecuted the case. “Everyone deserves to feel safe. When someone commits a crime, especially one rooted in hate, we must act to ensure accountability.”

While on probation, he will not be allowed to contact the victim. He must also complete evaluations for mental health and substance abuse disorder.

“I wasn’t raised like that, and I do apologize and regret my actions,” he said in court after pleading no contest to the hate crime, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported.

“What was going on that day?” asked Multnomah County Circuit Judge Angel Lopez.

“It was a mistake,” Gonzales said. Sergeant told to tone down ‘gayness’ to lead diversity unit

CLAYTON, Mo. (AP)—A gay St. Louis County police sergeant who was awarded nearly $20 million in a discrimination lawsuit has been promoted to lieutenant and picked as the leader of a newly created diversity and inclusion unit.

Police Chief Jon Belmar said in a news release Thursday night announcing the unit that the department “must demonstrate to our officers and to our community that we prioritize diversity and inclusion.”

The announcement comes after a jury ruled in October in favor of Keith Wildhaber, who says he was passed over for promotion 23 times and was told to “tone down” his “gayness.”

Attorneys for both sides have agreed to mediate in hopes of reaching a settlement that would avoid a lengthy appeals process. But Wildhaber’s attorney, Russ Riggan, and County Executive Sam Page’s spokesman, Doug Moore, agreed that the promotion was not part of potential settlement.

Riggen described it as “hopefully a crucial first step for the county in making necessary changes to its culture in order to better serve the citizens.” He said he hoped mediation would “achieve a fair resolution that allows the parties to put an end to this difficult and long-running litigation battle.”

Wildhaber will report to Belmar, leading a unit tasked with strengthening current diversity programs and implementing new measures that “will provide confidence to the community we serve, and those within our department who provide such service and protection,” the department said.

Since the verdict, Page has remade the county’s Board of Police Commissioners, naming replacements to four of the five posts. He said in a tweet that the board transformation started the change and that creating the new unit is the next step.

“Appointment of a well-qualified leader whose perspective is informed by life experiences demonstrates the county’s commitment to progress,” Page said.

Man accused of ditching boy because he thought he was gay

HAINES CITY, Fla. (AP)—A Florida man is accused of child neglect after leaving a child alone at night outside a police station because he thought the boy might be gay, police said.

Haines City police didn’t say in an arrest report whether the boy was the son of Evenaud Julmeus, 30. The child’s name, age or relationship to Julmeus wasn’t included in the report.

Investigators said Julmeus and the boy got into an argument about the boy’s sexuality. Julmeus told the boy to pack a bag and get into the car.

Julmeus dropped him off at the Haines City Police Department, saying, “the police will find you a new home,” the Tampa Bay Times reported.

The building was closed since the incident happened after 9 p.m. The child was left with some clothing and without food, water, a phone or money, the report said.

A bystander saw the boy and called police. The report said the boy was “very upset and crying.” Julmeus was released on bond from the Polk County Jail. A lawyer for him wasn’t listed on jail records.

“To leave a child all alone in a strange place in the middle of the night is an unconscionable thing to do,” Haines City police Chief Jim Elensky said.

Duluth to consider banning conversion therapy

DULUTH, Minn. (AP)—Duluth is the latest city to consider banning conversion therapy aimed at changing a person’s sexual orientation.

A proposal to ban the practice was introduced at the City Council meeting Monday night. Council member Gary Anderson said he introduced the measure because of a lack of action by the state legislature. A proposed statewide conversion therapy ban failed in the Legislature earlier this year.

Minneapolis recently became the first Minnesota city to ban conversion therapy, and Superior joined a number of Wisconsin cities prohibiting the practice in August. Opponents to similar bans argue such ordinances violate freedom of religion or speech.

Duluth’s ban would apply to minors and be enforced through fines.

Jamie Conniff, a family medicine physician in Duluth who is gay, says he often works with young LGBT patients, many of whom he says “struggle against the message something’s wrong with them.”

“My patients don’t deserve that,” Conniff said at the council meeting. “They deserve to be loved and they deserve to live in a community that takes proactive steps to ensure that no licensed professional can defraud families and harm young people with a process designed to cure them of who they are.”

The Duluth council could vote on the ban next week.
When I was looking back on the year in gossip, I had a thought—rather than laugh at the misfortune of others (one of my favorite things), why not learn from their mistakes? So, here are 10 lessons to take away from 2019.

1) Nothing good happens after 2AM...on the streets of Chicago...in the winter. I don’t care how much you have a hankering for a Subway salad (and, really, who has ever had a hankering for a Subway salad). Learn from Jussie Smollett and stay home. What a roller coaster the "Empire" star brought us on. First he was a victim. Then he was a colluder. Then he was a mastermind. And then, he somehow presented himself as a victim all over again! The idea that in subfreezing weather, two guys were wandering around Chicago with bleach and a noose never seemed plausible. And how likely is it that after such a horrific attack, you’d still be holding onto your Subway salad? Once the men were ID’d as Nigerian bodybuilding brothers who actually knew Jussie, it was all over. They even corroborated their story with handwritten plans, notes, and cancelled checks! Not only wasn’t Jussie a victim, he wasn’t very bright. Miraculously, the City of Chicago didn’t press charges—they only wanted reimbursement for the investigation. Jussie refusing to pay simply reinforces how dim he is. Look for this to continue into 2020.

2) Keep your hands to yourself. You’d think I wouldn’t have to tell you not to put your hands down the pants of an underage busboy, but you’re not Kevin Spacey. This story had everything—a closeted actor, an underage twink, liquor, text messages, a selfie, and a girlfriend. It even had a mother who had once been a semi-respected newswoman in Boston, deleting items off her spawn’s cell phone that might paint him in a less than positive light. Once the term “tampering with evidence” was explained to her, the phone mysteriously couldn’t be found. And I believe solely because of this, Spacey got off of trying to get a busboy off.

3) Gossip doesn’t die. Michael Jackson has been dead for over a decade. Yet he’s still putting out music and has a Broadway show looming, to say nothing of a second unauthorized musical being told from the perspective of his sequined glove (I couldn’t make this shit up). But the documentary “Leaving Neverland” was one of the top stories of the year. Who could have imagined we’d ever hear Oprah asking someone what it was like having Michael Jackson stick his finger up their then-single-digit ass? Somewhere Kevin Spacey is touching himself.

4) Don’t waste your money on ungrateful children. Like everyone else, the gays were riveted to Operation Varsity Blues, which investigated parents paying big bucks to get their spoiled kids into college. Having Felicity Huffman and Lori Loughlin in the mix helped this story gain traction. I was horrified by footage of the feds bursting into Huffman and William H. Macy’s bedroom wearing bulletproof vests in the wee hours of the morning to take her in—as if she were Mrs. El Chapo! Loughlin, whose crime was about 30 times worse, simply got an escort from the airport, and posed for selfies while exiting a party bus on her way to court. Huffman was contrite, apologized, and did her time. Loughlin is fighting the charges.

5) As it turns out, sometimes you can judge a book by its cover. I kinda assumed I’d never talk about the disgraced Illinois Congressman Aaron Schock again. But that was before he started showing up at gay circuit parties with his hands down his dance partner’s shorts (at least he was of age). That was just the beginning. He was next seen cavorting with the buff boys at Coachella. Then people started coming forward recounting numerous online hookups with statements like, “While he said he was primarily a top, he would bottom.” Kinda like a vegetarian who occasionally likes a big hunk of meat—literally.

6) Never count Faye Dunaway out. I thought that her turning up at two consecutive Academy
Residential & Commercial
Free Estimates
24 Hour Service

Dedicated to Customer Service since 1971
617.542.2000
www.ds-electric.com

Mass License #14580A

Get home delivery of Bay Windows.

Subscribe now First Class USPS: $110.00 per year, 52 issues
Visit www.baywindows.com/subscribe for more information.

Or mail a check to:
Bay Windows, PO Box E14, Boston, MA 02127
To pay by credit card over the phone please call Jeff Gonsalez at 617-464-7280
Fenway

Continued from page 1

focused on LGBTQIA+ health and HIV/AIDS. She will assume the role on March 9, 2020.

LaPointe has held numerous leadership roles in the nonprofit and public health sectors, working in social justice, research, LGBTQIA+/HIV activism and advocacy, health policy, law, and equity over the last three decades. She currently serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of Northern California Grantmakers in San Francisco, a nonprofit that brings together Bay Area philanthropic community that gives over $3.5 billion annually. LaPointe is also member-based philanthropic community that evolution and relevance in the community over her tenure over the past five years, the organization has strengthened its leading role within a community to strengthen our collective power and leverage our rich diversity of our community to promote positive health behavior, and she was Executive Director of Project Inform. She began her career as Coordinator of the Brown University AIDS Program, where she was involved in some of the earliest efforts to ensure access to promising experimental AIDS treatments and life-saving care. LaPointe moved to San Francisco to become Director of Clinical Research at Saint Francis Memorial Hospital and later practiced law at a large firm, where she represented pro bono clients in cases involving marriage equality, wrongful eviction, end-of-life liberty, and other matters.

She said, “While LGBTQIA+ people are enjoying unprecedented gains and have access to opportunities many never dreamed we might see in our lifetimes, there remain substantial unmet needs in our communities and continued threats to our hard-won gains. We urgently need to ensure that LGBTQIA+ people have access to high-quality health care and health promotion programs designed specifically for us. We need to advance research that is focused squarely on the health and well-being of LGBTQIA+ people. We need to engage and leverage the rich diversity of our community to strengthen our collective well-being and resilience. And we need to speak loudly and with one voice when policies impacting our lives, families, and communities are being advanced.”

A native of Maine, LaPointe earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Brown University and her Juris Doctor degree from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law. She currently serves on several nonprofit boards, including the Lambda Literary Foundation, One Justice, and the United Philanthropy Forum.

Dr. Matsui commended the CEO Search Committee and its co-chairs, Diane M. Tacker and Scott Walker, for leading a national search process in partnership with the executive search firm Spencer Stuart. The search yielded widespread interest in the position and a diverse pool of qualified applicants from across the country. Dr. Matsui, on behalf of the Board and staff, also extended his thanks to M. Jane Powers for her service as Acting CEO.

“Jane Powers has provided Fenway Health with immeasurable leadership and stability, and we are immensely grateful to her,” said Dr. Matsui.

“I am excited about this new chapter for Fenway and look forward to working closely with Ellen to ensure a smooth transition in the coming months,” said Powers.

WADE HOROWITZ LAPointe LLC

• GLBT Planning
• Wills
• Trusts
• Medicaid Planning
• Probate

COOLIDGE CORNER • 617-738-1919
WWW.WADEHOROWITZ.COM

Wills, Trusts, Health Care Proxies, Probate, Prenuptuals
Create Protection for you and your loved ones
One of the only Estate Planning firms focused on the unique needs of LGBT couples, individuals and families

Kraft Law Offices
60 State Street, Suite 700
Boston, MA 02109
(617) 573-0010
rick@kraftlawboston.com

RICHARD SILVERMAN, M.D.

25 minutes, 25% less fat! • No Incisions • Minimal Discomfort • No Downtime • No Compressionwear

• PDA-dequeared laser treatment for non-invasive fat removal from abdomen and flanks
• Treated patients saw up to 25% fat reduction with our treatment

Visit http://www.cynosure.com/product/sculpsure/

COSMETIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY OFFICES IN NEWTON AND BOSTON
617-965-9500 • WWW.RICKSILVERMAN.COM
CERTIFIED BY THE
AMERICAN BOARD OF PLASTIC SURGERY

Debra A. Neiman, CFP®
Fee-Only Holistic Financial Planning • Registered Investment Advisor
Financial Consulting • Wealth Management • Tax Preparation and Planning

781.641.5700
www.neimanonline.com

Advertising in the Bay Windows Service Guide Gets Results.

PLACE YOUR AD TODAY:
617.464.7280 x202 • sales@baywindows.com
Awards would be the final sad public appearances of this one-time legendary lady. How wrong I was. It was announced that she would play Katharine Hepburn in Matthew Lombardo’s “Tea at Five”...on BROADWAY. I was skeptical. So when a pre-Broadway run was announced in my native Boston, I braced myself for the worse. Prior to opening night, I said in a television interview, "Faye Dunaway playing a legendary film star—what could go wrong?" My fears were well-founded. After the Boston run, she was fired in a most embarrassing way. Rather than say something like "creative differences", this was the statement: "The producers of ‘Tea at Five’ announced today that they have terminated their relationship with Faye Dunaway." This project was doomed from the start. At the photo session announcing the play, Dunaway allegedly threw her luncheon salad on the floor. When she did occasionally show up for rehearsal, she wouldn’t let anyone look at her—including the director and playwright. She complained if anyone wore white— "because it distracts me". More distracting was the fact that she couldn’t remember her lines and had to be prompted via an earpiece. Best of all, prior to opening night in Boston, Dunaway allegedly had staffers get on their hands and knees and scrub the floor of her dressing room! The more things change...  

7) Someone with daddy issues can sniff out predators. One must give credit where credit is due—our own little Ronan Satchel Allen O’Sullivan Sinatra Farrow had a very large hand (figuratively speaking) in taking down Harvey Weinstein and Matt Lauer. As a result, the fryella became a champion of the #MeToo movement, and a hero to preyed-upon ladies everywhere. And he also had a bestseller with his book, "Catch and Kill". So what if he doesn’t know who his father is. That’s what 23andMe is for. In his case, there’s no good options.  

8) Don’t piss off a daddy. One of my favorite stories of the year is Pram-Gate (trust me, it’s a Gate). It took place at the Diving World Series at the London Aquatic Centre. Dustin Lance Black went to cheer on his child bride, Tom Daley. He brought their son in a pram (which is what the Brits call a baby carriage). The facility felt that the pram would be a disturbance poolside. While the baby was not in the pram, Lance still brought it in and held the young boy on his lap—as one does. Some people complained about the pram being there at all. Lance states, "A woman was thinking of throwing me out for causing a scene. She accused me of swearing. I didn’t. They told Tom as soon as he was off the podium." The British press followed the story with glee. I simply report this stuff.  

9) Dish isn’t limited to primetime. Daytime television always provides endless fodder for this column. Wendy Williams finally left her cheating scumbag of a husband. Sara Gilbert finally left "The Talk". But all of these shows owe their notoriety to the grand dame of all daytime talkers—"The View". While Barbara Walters wastes away with her beloved lced on isolation, her baby is still going strong. And it’s more combative than ever with Meghan McCain’s inability to share the stage with...well, anybody, and Whoopi’s short fuse getting shorter by the moment. Say what you will, it’s still appointment television and will be a key player in the upcoming election year.  

10) Jason Derulo, who got people all hot and bothered with his sheathed spear being clearly visible in a pair of boxer briefs. Instagram took it down, but enough people saw it to give him publicity. He’s still riding it (so to speak) by claiming the powers-that-be at "Cats" digitally removed his dick from the pic—as if anyone would allow shooting to begin without that monster being strapped down within an inch of his life. Still, you can unwrap each of these guy’s packages on BillyMasters.com.  

It’s time to end another year of columns. For those of you keeping track, that’s about 52 columns—more or less. If you want more, check out www.BillyMasters.com—the site that, like its owner, always puts out. And do you know what 2020 will be? Our 25th anniversary. Yes, for a quarter of a century, I have been dishing week in and week out. If you have a question for me to ponder (or any other pounding offers), send them along to Billy@BillyMasters.com, and I promise to get back to you before my official silver jubilee! So, until next year, remember, one man’s filth is another man’s bible.
TRAVEL

Gifford House Inn
9 Carver Street Provincetown Mass 02657

LODGING INFORMATION
800.434.0130

Porchside Bars
OPEN YEAR ROUND DAILY @ 5PM

giffordhouse@earthlink.net
www.giffordhouse.com

WATERSHIP INN

parking-private baths-breakfast
friendly staff-perfect location
complimentary wireless

7 WINTHROP STREET
PROVINCETOWN MA 02657
800.330.9413  508.487.0094
www.watershipinn.com