Yes on 3 Launches ‘Not in Our Name’ Campaign

Dispels Myths about Transgender Nondiscrimination Law

Submitted by Freedom for All Massachusetts

Prominent women’s organizations and sexual assault prevention advocates, including Democratic Congressional Nominee and Boston City Councilor Ayanna Pressley, joined together today to launch ‘Not in Our Name’, an effort in the final weeks of the Yes on 3 campaign focused on women speaking up, rejecting the incorrect notion that the state’s transgender nondiscrimination law makes communities less safe for women and children.

The law, enacted in 2016 by Governor Charlie Baker, protects transgender people from discrimination and harassment in public places such as restaurants, retail shops, and medical offices.

As part of the event, held at YW Boston, the Yes on 3 campaign announced support from 50 of the state’s leading sexual assault prevention agencies (full list below) and released a new ad which features survivors sexual assault and advocates of sexual assault prevention supporting Yes on 3.

See YESON3, page 3

New England briefs

NH 1st district hopefuls meet for public radio debate

By HOLLY RAMER
Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)—Pushing back against both debate moderators and his opponent, Republican congressional hopeful Eddie Edwards said Wednesday that questions about race, reproductive rights and President Donald Trump’s behavior serve only to further divide Americans.

Edwards and Democrat Chris Pappas faced each other at New Hampshire Public Radio for their first of several debates ahead of the Nov. 6 election. They are competing to replace Democratic Rep. Carol Shea-Porter in the 1st congressional district, which has repeatedly swung back and forth between the two parties over the last decade.

Edwards was asked to contrast his emphasis on good character with Trump’s recent mocking of the woman who accused new U.S. Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh of sexual assault. While Edwards said he doesn’t condone such behavior, he said it’s wrong to “vilify” the president when others act similarly.

“We look for ways to divide our country, so we point to the president’s language sometimes,” said Edwards, a former police chief and former chief enforcement officer for the state Liquor Commission. “To constantly go back and forth and try to demonize the president is wrong. I think it’s misguided because we see similar behavior across the board. … The question is designed to draw conflict.”

Pappas, who serves on the governor’s Executive Council, called Trump’s mocking of Christine Blasey Ford shameful and said those coming forward with similar stories should be respected. He was asked by moderators how he would represent a district that voted for Trump in 2016, a point Edwards also pressed him on later, telling Pappas, “Your approach, being part of the resistance movement, is misguided.”

Pappas said his campaign is not a modern day of the resistance movement, is misguided.”

See NE BRIEFS, page 2

LGBTQ History Month

Children’s and Young Adult Books on LGBTQ History

by Dana Rudolph | drudolph@mombian.com
contributing writer

LGBTQ History Month offers us a wonderful opportunity each October to look at the growing number of books for children and youth on LGBTQ history—including several that are new this year.

See MOMBIAN, page 4

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Photo courtesy ‘Yes on 3’

Photo courtesy FLAG Flag Football

Flag Football Turns 20

Submitted by FLAG (Friends, Lesbians and Gays)

Once upon a time a guy put an ad in a LGBT-oriented newspaper published in Boston, to get people together to play flag football with other gays. That soon became an established league, FLAG (Friends, Lesbians and Gays) Flag Football with a mission of creating unity among the LGBTQ and ally community, and has now grown into a network over a thousand players, past and present.

That league celebrated its 20th Anniversary this past Columbus Day weekend and hosted 4 straight days of homecoming events with over 1,500 past and present players invited. Kicking off on Thursday with a karaoke night, then playing a series of pick-up flag football games on Friday on the fields the league, much smaller then, first played on off M Street in South Boston.

Saturday saw the league’s regular schedule of fall games played with the addition of alumni captains joining some teams as well as whole host of player’s families and friends joining the games.

See FLAG, page 8

Vote!

State Election
Tuesday, November 6

Information at www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/
new england briefs new england briefs new england briefs

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negative reaction to Trump but about "bringing people together around solutions." He said he would not hesitate to stand up to the president, however.

"It's important at this time in our history that we do have checks and balances, that we restore decency and integrity to Washington and that we have people who are going to look out for the best interest of their districts and not give the president a blank check."

When Pappas asked him to explain his position opposing abortion even in the case of rape, Edwards called the question itself divisive because the matter wouldn't come before Congress. And he said highlighting the fact that he would be the state's first black member of Congress or the first openly gay member does a disservice to all Americans.

"I'm not special because I'm black, Chris isn't special because he's gay, you're not special because you're a woman," he told the female moderator. "We're special because of what we give back to our communities, our nation and our families. ... We constantly try to divide us up into categories and believe we have to protects one group of Americans over another while demonizing one group over another, or promoting one group over another. I think it's time we get back to respecting all Americans."

Pappas said he sees value in telling his story as a nontraditional candidate to ensure that communities that feel marginalized are brought into mainstream society.

"If there's a member of the LGBT community out there who's questioning their place in our state, maybe this sends a really strong, positive message to them," he said. "I'm excited to be a part of a younger generation stepping forward to run for Congress this year. ... I think it's important that everyone has a seat at the table. At the end of the day, we're going to see better policy that's rooted in the communities of New Hampshire as a result."

Young activist to make TV debut as transgender superhero

BANGOR, Maine (AP)—An activist in Maine who won a lawsuit over using the girls' bathroom at her school is making her TV debut as a transgender superhero.

The Bangor Daily News reports 21-year-old Nicole Maines will play Nia Nal, also known as Dreamer. Producers say the character is believed to be the first transgender character on U.S. television.

Maines gained attention for her lawsuit against her school district after her elementary school
Counselor Pressley was emphatic that any suggestion the transgender nondiscrimination law put women and children at risk of assault is not based in fact.

“As a survivor of sexual assault, I can say with clear conviction that this is simply hate-filled rhetoric - that this law will make it so women and children are less safe,” Presley said. “Since this law originally passed in 2016, there has been no increase of public safety incidents in restrooms in our state. That is why you see many organizations here today, standing in solidarity, many organizations who work together for the rights of women and girls, victims of domestic and sexual violence, standing shoulder to shoulder with activists, business leaders, elected officials and faith leaders to uphold these protections. We will not be a political trope or pawn in your hate-mongering and division.”

Gov. Baker, a Republican, signed the law into effect in 2016 after it was passed by the Massachusetts legislature with bipartisan, supermajority support. Shortly after the law went into effect in October 2016, a small group of opponents gathered the minimum number of signatures required to place the law on the ballot for repeal in November 2018.

Massachusetts is the first state in the nation where transgender protections will be up for a vote on a statewide ballot measure. Currently, Massachusetts is among 19 states and more than 250 municipalities with nondiscrimination protections for transgender people in public places. The Massachusetts law also protects transgender people from discrimination in public restrooms and locker rooms.

In addition to the 50 sexual assault and domestic violence prevention organizations and experts, more than 1,500 organizations, including law enforcement officials, business leaders, members of the faith community, labor unions, and more have joined the coalition in support of upholding the law at the ballot on November 6.


Freedom for All Massachusetts is the coalition working to uphold the state’s current nondiscrimination protections for transgender people in public places like restaurants, retail shops and hospitals, ensuring that Massachusetts continues to be a national leader on equality and fairness for all. A November 2018 ballot referendum will ask voters whether they want to retain the law, which has been
Celebrating Kip Tiernan's Legacy

By Sue O'Connell

with information from Rosie's Place

More than 300 people attended the dedication of the Kip Tiernan Memorial on Saturday, October 6. To celebrate, a street fair was held by the site of the memorial, on Dartmouth Street, between Boylston and Newbury Streets. The block was closed to traffic to make way for a street fair, which included food trucks, WERS, music from the Aardvark Jazztet, and face painters, bubble makers, balloon twisting and other activities for kids.

Mayor Walsh was present with a proclamation declaring October 6, 2018 Kip Tiernan Day in the City of Boston.

On Saturday, October 6 a memorial was unveiled by Rosie's Place on Dartmouth Street in the Back Bay to honor Kip Tiernan (1926-2011). Kip Tiernan (1926-2011) founded Rosie's Place, the first women's shelter in the United States, in 1974. She left an indelible mark on Boston, her adopted city, through her fearless vision and unyielding commitment to social justice. The memorial recognizes her contributions toward creating better lives for Boston's poor and forgotten.

The sculpture is comprised of three stainless steel arches that people can pass under as they walk on Dartmouth Street between Boylston and Newbury Streets. Passages from Kip's writings are engraved on the columns holding up the arches, making her voice still heard to all who pass by.

The memorial in Boston Back Bay recognizes her contributions toward creating better lives for Boston's poor and forgotten.

Rosie's Place not only provides meals and shelter but also creates answers for 12,000 women a year through wide-ranging support, housing and education services. Rosie's Place relies solely on the generous support of individuals, foundations and corporations and does not accept any city, state or federal funding. Thanks to these donations, 85 cents of every dollar raised goes directly to services for poor and homeless women. Learn more at http://www/rosiesplace.org

GLSEN Deadline Extended

For Let Youth Lead! Conference

Submitted by GLSEN

The deadline to submit a workshop proposal for the GLSEN Let Youth Lead conference has been extended to Friday, October 19th at 11:59pm.

The conference will be held on Saturday November 3rd, at Amherst-Pelham Regional High School, 21 Mattoon Street, Amherst, MA. GLSEN MA is partnering with Amherst-Pelham Regional High School to present the 2018 Fall conference, Let Youth Lead! Let Youth Lead! invites conference attendees to learn with and from each other as we center the voices, experience, skills, knowledge and expertise of young people in our LGBTQA+ movements.

The 2018 GLSEN MA Fall Conference presents an opportunity to engage in workshops that explore methods of activism, intersections of identities, and the power of youth to make real and lasting change with over 200 students and educators from across the Commonwealth. We offer Let Youth Lead! as a point of consideration for presenters and participants, instigating the quest for deeper understandings of our own identities, the values we hold as LGBTQA+ people and the goals we have for ourselves, our schools and our world. We will come together as students, educators, artists and social justice seekers to build community and share resources for creating and maintaining safer and more affirming schools for all students.

Have a workshop idea? Work with an organization or school! Want to volunteer? Click below for more info, to sign up and to register as a conference attendee.

GLSEN Massachusetts seeks to develop school climates where difference is valued for the positive contribution it makes in creating more vibrant and diverse communities.

Mombian

Continued from page 1

no (Random House: 2018), is an inspiring biography of Milk that stresses his friendship with Gilbert Baker, who designed the rainbow flag as a symbol of hope and inspiration. It does mention Milk’s assassination, although as gently as possible, but parents should still be prepared to address kids’ concerns there.

Sewing the Rainbow: A Story About Gilbert Baker (Magination Press: 2018), written by Gayle Pitman and illustrated by Holly Clifton-Brown, flips the perspective of Milk’s partner and other friends, and includes a timeline of Milk’s life. It can be a good way to introduce kids to Milk’s life and legacy, but it’s important to note that it focuses more on Milk’s personal life than on his activism.

The Harvey Milk Story, written by Kari Krakow and illustrated by David Gardner (T wo Lives Publishing: 2001), conveys Milk’s significance with warmth and appreciation. It is a wonder and more detailed that Sanders’ book, and probably better for older elementary students. Unfortunately out of print and only available in very expensive used versions; I include it here in case people wish to seek it in a library.

When You Look Out the Window: How Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin Built a Community, by Gayle Pitman (Magination Press: 2017), tells of the transformation that LGBTIQ+ rights pioneers Lyon and Martin helped bring to San Francisco and its LGBTIQ+ community. The book begins with them falling in love, buying a house, and observing the lack of rights for women and gay people in their neighborhood. “So we worked to change that,” they say. We then see the many welcoming buildings now in the neighborhood, often bedecked with rainbow flags, and the sense of community in the streets. There’s little in the main text about what Lyon and Martin actually did to effect these changes, but adults can review the Reading Guide at the end and explain to kids that the pair brought people together to fight for LGBTQ+ rights and created safe spaces for women who, like themselves, loved other women.

Middle Grade

Pride: Celebrating Diversity and Community, by Robin Stevenson (Orca: 2016), blends a history of the event with a broader look at the struggle for LGBTQ+ equality, along with a look at what it means to come out, what to expect at Pride events around the world, a glossary, and an explanation of gender identity.

Gay & Lesbian History for Kids: The Century-Long Struggle for LGBT Rights, by Jerome Pohlen (2015), is a series of activities from distant history, but then focuses mostly on U.S. social and political history. A series of activities throughout the book add fun and engagement. Despite the main title, Pohlen is inclusive of the LGBT spectrum.

One True Way, by Shannon Hitchcock (Scholastic: 2018), is a rare fictional look at historical LGBTIQ+ identities for this age range. In 1777, protagonist Allie Drake wants to join the newspaper staff at her new middle school in North Carolina, where she and her mother moved following her older brother’s death and her parents’ separation. On her first day at school, she meets Samantha “Sam” Johnson, a “handsome” basketball star who moves effortlessly among the school’s social cliques. The girl falls for each other, but must deal with the prejudice of Sam’s conservative Christian parents, Allie’s overprotective but ultimately more understanding mother, the bigotry promulgated nationwide by actor Anita Bryant, and the ramifications for two of their teachers who are also a same-sex couple. All this transpires as Allie seeks to find her place at the new school and to understand her parents’ pending divorce. There’s little in it that couldn’t still happen today (unfortunately, in some cases), but the spectre of Anita Bryant, even shakier employment protections, and in-passing mentions of pop culture figures of the time help convey the important lesson that girls falling in love with girls is nothing new.

Young Adult

Gay America: Struggle for Equality, by Linux Alsenas (Amulet: 2008), is explicitly gay to men and lesbians, and a little dated now, but worthwhile within those limits, covering politics, culture, relations between the lesbian and gay rights movement and other civil rights movements, entertainment, the evolution of gay and lesbian identities, and more.

Queer There and Everywhere: 23 People Who Changed the World, by Sarah Prager (HarperCollins: 2017), aims for the teen audience, but adults will also learn much from her engaging profiles. Prager offers a thoughtful exploration of historical terms for what we now call “queer” identities, an overview of queerness in every populated region of the world, and profiles that are both informative and entertaining. The figures run the gamut from the famous Abraham Lincoln to the relatively unknown Union soldier Albert Cashier. Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin are there, as is Harvey Milk, but so are lesser-known figures like the Roman Emperor Elagabalus, erstwhile Queen of Sweden Kristina Vasa, Mexican nun and poet Juana Inés de la Cruz, and more. One might quibble with some of the choices (did Cashier really change the world?) and wish for others, but no book this length can encompass all the queer people in history.

We can only hope there’s a sequel.

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a GLAAD Media Award-winning blog and resource directory for LGBTIQ+ parents.
Melania Trump recently declared, “I’m the most bullied person in the world”— a statement which has some credence. To put it into context, the day she made this statement happened to be the 20th anniversary of the murder of Matthew Shepard—a young gay boy who was beaten and left to die in Laramie, Wyoming. In a twist which further connects these two stories, it was announced on this sad anniversary that his ashes will be interred at Washington’s National Cathedral. Yes, that Washington— within sight of the place Melania occasionally hangs her pith helmet.

Actress Yvette Nicole Brown was filling in for Joy Behar on “The View” last week. On Friday, reporter Tom Llamas was promoting his sit-down with Melania. One of the topics was the accusations of infidelity against President Donald Trump. Yvette said, “Is it possible that she’s not concerned with his mistresses because she was one of them?” The response from the White House was swift. A spokesperson for the First Lady said, “Check your facts before you accuse someone of being a mistress. She’s your @FLOTUS— she deserves your respect & certainly not your lies. Disgusting.”

Sarah Huckabee Sanders Tweeted, “Sad @TheView continues their disgusting attacks on @FLOTUS. The left’s war on women” they disagee with is a disgrace. @FLOTUS is strong, accomplished, and has a lot more class than the women who bully her.” Yvette said, “I stand by every word I said. My mom taught me that respect is earned. And thankfully we live in a nation— at least for now— where I don’t have to bow down to dear leader or his third wife.” She added, “My views are my own. And I own every one.”

Last week was the Point Honors Los Angeles 2018 Gala. As you know, the Point Foundation is America’s largest scholarship-granting organization for LGBTQ students of merit. Oodles of gays were on hand, including Greg Louganis, Adam Shankman, and Thomas Dekker (who gets sexier as he gets older). The evening featured a mini-concert by Leona Lewis, which was spectacular. But the highlight was the award presentations. First honoree was Steven Canals, creator of “Pose”, who acknowledged all those whose shoulders we stand on. The next honoree was Eric McCormack, who was introduced by Cheyenne Jackson. When Eric took to the stage, the two kissed on the lips— not the first time (obviously). Video of the speech and the kiss can be found on BillyMasters.com.

The reboot of “Murphy Brown” may not be perfect (God knows), but it is making a difference. One of the people new to the show is Nik Dodani, who plays the show’s social media guru. During an appearance on “The Late Show”, he talked about how being Indian and being gay are similar— and he should know, since he’s both. “You have bright colors and rainbows everywhere. People worshipping goddesses everywhere. Condom use nowhere.”

Another story that went viral this week is that Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson is making a film based on the legendary John Henry, the man who helped build the transcontinental railroad. The wrinkle in this plan is John Henry was black, while Dwayne is a melange of savory flavors from far across lands. Could he play black? Sure. Is he black? Only a genetics lab would know for sure. But people are in an uproar, saying that he is stealing this part away from a “truly gifted black actor” — frankly, the term there I take issue with in regard to The Rock is “gifted”. Be that as it may, it should be noted that people are not lining up to make a John Henry biopic. It’s Johnson’s passion project, so if he wants to spend the money on it, everyone else should simply zip it.

Apropos of that story, I was reminded of something Russell Tovey recently said. “If you’re an actor, you’re an actor. The whole thing with Jack playing a gay character...I’m like, just let him act. It’s like me saying I could never play a straight character because I am not going to know a straight person’s thoughts.” The Jack he is referring to is Jack Whitehall, who is playing Disney’s first openly gay character in the upcoming live-action “Jungle Cruise” which also stars... The Rock!

Rupert Everett tackled the problems people have with gay people playing straight roles in a recent interview. “They can’t imagine that a gay man would know how to fuck a woman.” If that’s the case, would a straight man know how to fuck a gay man? Or is fucking simply fucking? Does someone playing a serial killer not know how to kill? I mean, the list is endless. As Sir Laurence Olivier said, “Why don’t you just try acting?” End scene.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio made some history when he signed a bill adding a third gender option to birth certificates. They will now have Male, Female and X— which stands for people who are gender non-conforming. Another change is happening— previously, changing one’s official gender required a letter from a doctor or an affidavit from a licensed health care provider. Now, a person can

“Shit, I’m attracted to everything.”

— Jake Choi expresses his sexual orientation. If only I could place him. If only I could place him, although the nudes on BillyMasters.com sure look familiar.
Views are mixed on hate crime law named for Matthew Shepard

By DAVID CRAZY
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Twenty years after Matthew Shepard’s death, the federal hate crimes law bearing his name is viewed with mixed feelings by LGBT and anti-violence organizations that lobbied over nearly a decade for its passage.

President Barack Obama signed the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act into law on Oct. 28, 2009, just over 11 years after Shepard — a gay 21-year-old college student — died from injuries suffered in a brutal beating by two Wyoming men.

The act expanded the 1969 federal hate crime law to include crimes based on a victim’s sexual orientation, gender identity or disability. It strengthened other aspects of the old law and provided funding and technical assistance to state and local jurisdictions to bolster their investigations and prosecution of hate crimes.

The U.S. Justice Department says that as of this summer, it had used the Shepard/Byrd law to indict 88 defendants in 42 hate crimes cases, with 64 convictions to date. It provided a breakdown on the nature of recent hate crimes cases, saying seven of the 32 convictions since January 2017 involved crimes targeting gay and transgender people. A 2017 report compiled for the Matthew Shepard Foundation documented 25 cases prosecuted under the Shepard/Byrd law through mid-2017; nine of them involved LGBT victims.

Some activists have been disappointed by the relatively low number of anti-LGBT cases prosecuted under the law.

But David Stacy, government affairs director of the Human Rights Campaign, considers it a success because of its role in motivating state and local prosecutors to take anti-LGBT violence more seriously.

“Even when these prosecutors don’t bring a hate crimes charge, they’re pushing to solve these crimes,” he said.

Judy Shepard, Matthew’s mother and co-founder of the foundation bearing his name, said the federal law has been helpful, but she hopes for further steps — requiring law enforcement agencies to report hate crimes to federal authorities and providing better training for officers handling the cases.

“We are seeking to create environments where victims of hate violence do not fear re-victimization by the police,” she said by email.

“The New York City Anti-Violence Project is among the groups that initially supported the Shepard/Byrd law but now have misgivings.

“There has been a real transformation about how we think about ending violence and what justice looks like,” said the group’s director of organizing, Audacia Ray. “We wanted the system to fix things through punishment. We now believe punishment doesn’t end violence — it perpetuates it.”

Ray said anti-LGBT violence could be reduced through “economic justice” and better housing options for marginalized LGBT people.

According to the Human Rights Campaign, 30 states now have laws covering crimes based on sexual orientation, including 18 that also cover anti-transgender crimes.

Five states, including Wyoming, have no hate crimes laws of their own; 15 states have such laws — but don’t cover anti-LGBT-crimes.

Jenny Pizer, law and policy director for the LGBT-rights group Lambda Legal, said the state and federal laws have proven to be important in both practical and symbolic ways but are also a disappointment to many “because they only do so much.”

She questioned their deterrent effect on perpetrators consumed by “irrational hatred” but suggested they had a positive effect on state and local law enforcement.

She also said the laws may have helped LGBT people feel less marginalized by social stigma.

“They don’t transform attitudes overnight, or even over decades for some people,” Pizer said. “But they do help, and that matters.”

God’s trans-affirming vote on Question 3

by Rev. Irene Monroe
Contributing Writer

Across the country, there are epic battles in many states to either pass or not pass transgender bathroom bills. Here in Massachusetts, the bluest of blue states, we’re asking voters to vote “YES” on Question 3, Gender Identity Anti-Discrimination (GID) Referendum, to prohibit discrimination based on gender identity in public places — such as hotels, restaurants, and stores.

Voters are split on the issue although there is no link between anti-discrimination rules and bathroom-related crimes in Massachusetts.

However, people of faith — who can be moved to vote “Yes” on Question 3 — want to know where they can find in the Bible visibility as well as acceptance of transgender people.

The good news is that there are several trans-affirming stories in the Bible. My favorite story is about Philip the Evangelist and the Ethiopian eunuch conversion to Christianity in Acts 8:26-39.

We can derive from this pericope that the teachings of Christ circulated widely across the world and Christ’s teachings spread, at least one way, throughout the continent of Africa through the Ethiopian Eunuch. Traveling south from Jerusalem to Gaza, Phillip meets the Ethiopian Eunuch, a court official of the Queen of Ethiopia, in his chariot reading was a part of the scroll of Isaiah that theologians commonly refer to as “the Third Suffering Servant Song.” The Ethiopian eunuch had traveled to Jerusalem to worship and was headed home. God tells Philip to follow the Ethiopian to baptize him so that he can spread the good news of Jesus.

While traveling down the road together, Phillip explained the Isaiah text and the Ethiopian asked to be baptized. When they came upon some water, Phillip baptized him.

Deceased John J. McNell, a gay Jesuit priest, and theologian affirmed the story of the Ethiopian eunuch as “the first baptized gay Christian. This scripture reveals to many progressive Biblical scholars that God welcomes and affirms gender-variant individuals. Eunuchs were castrated, homosexual, and intersex men. Today the terms could easily translate to mean sexual minorities, referring to LGBTQ individuals. The term means
Episcopal Church confronts past role in sexual exploitation

By DAVID CRARY
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — With striking displays of candor, the Episcopal Church is acknowledging the potency of the (hash)MeToo movement by officially lamenting its past role in sexual exploitation and pledging steps to combat it.

The Protestant denomination’s national convention this summer included an emotional session at which first-person accounts of abuse by clergy and other church personnel were read aloud by bishops of the same gender as the victims — six men, six women. Dioceses nationwide are now seeking to gather and share similar stories from victims in their local church communities.

That process of story sharing has been particularly dramatic in the Diocese of New York, where Bishop Andrew Dietsche released a blunt pastoral letter on Sept. 11. It described the most famous of his predecessors, the late Paul Moore Jr., as a “serial predator” who engaged in “long-time patterns” of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Moore, as charismatic bishop of the diocese from 1972 to 1989, became one of the nation’s foremost liberal Christian activists. He supported the ordination of women and gays while assailing racism, corporate avarice and various U.S. military policies.

It has been known for a decade that Moore, who died in 2003, was bisexual and had a long extramarital affair that began when a young man came to him for counseling. Moore’s daughter, Honor Moore, revealed that in a 2008 memoir, Moore was the subject of multiple complaints. But the scope of Moore’s abusive sexual misconduct has become known only this year, notably at a Catskill Mountains retreat in the spring attended by clergy from the New York diocese.

At one session, participants were invited to share stories about difficulties they faced in their ministries. Among those at the event was the Rev. Alison Quin, rector of Christ the King Episcopal Church in Stone Ridge, New York.

As recounted by Quin in a May 6 sermon, one female priest arose to denounce Moore as a serial exploiter who had affairs with many young priests and lay people. Quin said a male priest in his 60s came next, saying, “I was one of Paul Moore’s boys — he seduced me when I was a new priest. It nearly ruined my life.”

Recalled Quin, “Many of us were in tears at the end of the morning — at the suffering we heard, at the terrible mix of good and evil in human beings, at the brokenness in the church.”

Honor Moore, in an interview, said she was dismayed that her father was the only person named in Dietsche’s letter and objected to the label “sexual predator.”

“It doesn’t seem like a fair term,” she said. “He was a sexually active gay man who lived in an era of unfortunate boundaries.”

Neither the retreat session nor Dietsche’s letter have been previously reported. As detailed in the letter, the New York diocese is now seeking to gather first-person stories from abuse victims throughout the community, with plans for a Nov. 9 service that would resemble the national convention session in Austin, Texas, in July.

A (hash)MeToo task force formed by the diocese has set up a Google Docs program through which victims can anonymously submit accounts of their experiences. There’s also a help line through which callers can receive confidential pastoral care, and another phone number for victims who want to make an official report of sexual misconduct.

The diocese is reaching out to abusers, as well as victims, inviting them to anonymously acknowledge misconduct and repent for it.

“The season of listening has come,” Dietsche wrote in his letter. “And may we find in the sharing of stories ... a renewed commitment in ourselves to create and nurture communities where no one must live in silent pain.”

Mary Glasspool, who serves under Dietsche as an assistant bishop, has been fielding some of the calls to the help line and also tracking responses to the invitation to share stories of sexual abuse and exploitation.

“Not everyone wants their story wants their story publicly told — some want it responded to privately,” she said.

At the national level, the Episcopal response to the (hash)MeToo movement took shape last January when the church’s top leader, Presiding
day to cheer on the games.

Sunday's events kicked off with a Drag Brunch fundraiser and concluded with the 20th Anniversary Celebration with hundreds of current and past players, as well as all the previous league's commissioners, coming together to celebrate what has been accomplished – the leagues' ever-increasing number of participants, the scholarship program and ongoing community service initiatives.

Current League Commissioner, Ken Westermann could not be more proud, saying, “The league is really a pretty special thing to be a part of. I just think about all the laughs I've had over the years, the lifelong friends that I have made while playing and even things like the thousands of community service hours that the league as collectively logged just over the past few years – there are so many great things it offers.”

FLAG Flag Football organizes a spring and a fall league, as well as many other community and league sponsored events and pick-up games over the summer and winter. Learn more at FLAGflagfootball.com.
Continued from page 7

Bishop Michael Curry, and one of his colleagues issued an open letter calling for an examination of how the church had “handled or mishandled cases of sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse through the years.”

Ahead of the national convention in Austin, a (hash)MeToo Planning Team organized the “Liturgy of Listening” that featured the first-person accounts of victims. Among those sharing their stories were a church employee subjected to lewd comments from a male rector, a woman raped by a priest from whom she was receiving spiritual guidance, and a choir boy subjected to emotional, physical and sexual abuse.

Hundreds of people attended the 90-minute service. The Episcopal News Service said some were in tears when it ended; others exchanged hugs with those near them.

Before the convention adjourned, bishops adopted a covenant that commits them to seeking a more forceful response to sexual exploitation and harassment. In addition to holding “listening events” in their dioceses, bishops are being urged to eliminate pay and benefit inequities among their staff, create and enforce equitable parental leave policies, and transform their church community “into a more just, safe, caring and prophetic place for all.”

“It’s a living, flowing kind of movement that’s really about love and reconciliation and healing,” said Bishop Tod Ousley, who heads the national church’s Office of Pastoral Development. “We don’t know where it’s going to end.”

In some respects, the Episcopalians’ initiatives mirror efforts undertaken this year by the Southern Baptist Convention, the largest Protestant denomination in the U.S., to combat sexual exploitation undertaken this year by the Southern Baptist Convention, the largest Protestant denomination in the U.S., to combat sexual exploitation.

While the organization has ramped up its sexual exploitation investigations and has set up a reporting hotline, a letter calling for an examination of how the church had “handled or mishandled cases of sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse through the years” was a church employee subjected to lewd comments from a male rector, a woman raped by a priest from whom she was receiving spiritual guidance, and a choir boy subjected to emotional, physical and sexual abuse.

DALLAS (AP) — It’s an obscure bit of Dallas history: Club Reno — or the Reno Lounge, as it was referred to in 1952’s “U.S.A. Confidential,” a tabloid-scented paperback that sneered at Dallas’ “queers” and “queens,” “fairies” and “middle-class deviates.”

The story of the former Club Reno — “the first gay bar in all of Texas,” according to Karen Wisely’s University of North Texas master’s thesis — is just part of a story unknown to many Dallasites that is now the bronze-nosed historical marker placed on Wednesday in front of another iconic gay bar: JR’s Bar & Grill on Cedar Springs Road in the Oak Lawn neighborhood of Dallas. The unveiling, years in the making, is, well, a landmark moment. It will make Dallas the first city in the state with an official Texas Historical Commission subject marker acknowledging a longstanding gay and lesbian community.

“Dallas gets criticized — fairly, perhaps — for not appreciating or recognizing its history. All of it,” Mark Dory, Dallas Gay Hall’s chief historical preservation officer, told The Dallas Morning News. “But this is an example where Dallas is actually on the forefront of something, for once.”

Some 400 state-sanctioned historical markers scattered across the area, according to Dallas County. Most have been placed in front of old buildings where something important Happened a few years ago or in cemeteries where Someone Sort of Important Dared.

The Free-Lance Star reports Stafford Public Schools superintendent Scott Kizner also reiterated that apology at a school board meeting earlier this week after the incident sparked a national outcry. A large group of supporters of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community attended the meeting with concerns about the school system’s policies on transgender students.

The girl was forced to sit alone during the drill while other students in her physical education class took shelter in locker rooms. Kizner tells the newspaper the system will review its procedures and make unspecified policy changes if necessary.


Dallas ‘gayborhood’ Texas’ first to get historical marker

By ROBERT WILONSKY

The Dallas Morning News

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ing the Way, Way Back was buried. At least 10 of those markers contain the words "log cabin." For a relatively new city, Dallas has a lot of ancient history commemorated in bronze.

But in 2016 Dwayne Jones, a former Preservation Dallas executive director now in Galveston, thought it time to tell the "untold story" of Dallas' LGBT community. He reached out to Doty and Robert Emery and Sam Childers of the Dallas Way, keepers of this city's LGBT history, who penned the necessary narrative, submitted the paperwork and raised the money for the marker.

For most Dallasites, the city's LGBT history begins and ends in Oak Lawn, along Cedar Springs Road, where people march in parades and in protests. We know it as the "gayborhood," or what's left of it—the Resource Center, JR's, Sue Ellen's, Station 4 and the Round-Up Saloon. For decades it has been a place where men and women gather to celebrate when the news is good and come for help when things get bad.

Cedar Springs at Throckmorton Street, where JR's sits, has always been especially important. The intersection had been known as "The Crossroads" since the late 1960s, but its legacy was forever cemented in 1980 with the opening of the namesake market there that became the community's bookstore and meeting place.

By putting the marker there, Emery said, "we hope it can instill some pride in young people—in all people, gay and non-gay, to know the city in which they live has bravely been forward thinking rents.

The Bronx—pushed out by rising rents.

Appearances, among them the Crossroads Market, Union Jack and the Bronx—pushed out by rising rents.

It is happening all over. "Neighborhoods associated with the LGBT community are now disappearing," said Jones. "They have lost their connections, which isn't a bad thing, just an indication of the times—of urban development that has changed the fabric, the businesses, the people who live there.

And what had been Club Reno is now a parking lot. For Doty, this one was personal: He grew up in Abilene and moved to Dallas from South Carolina in 2003, when Crossroads Market was still open. And there, he told me this week, he found a welcoming community where he could be himself—"without worrying what other people thought," he said.

But now that community is disappearing. "And all we have left are our stories," Doty said. "This marker is one way to commemorate that in a physical way."

And a permanent one, too, out in the open. Information from: The Dallas Morning News, http://www.dallasmorning.com

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**MASS LICENCE #14580 A**
submit their own affidavit and request a change of gender identity. Sigh, if only all of life were that simple. Congratulations go out to actor BD Wong, who married Richert Schnorr in Brooklyn. Fun fact—the two met in 2010 at a singles mixer which was sponsored by an online dating app.

One of the people at BD’s wedding was Rosie O’Donnell. The night before, she returned to stand-up comedy and made a bit of news. She announced that Lady Gaga would headline a Broadway revival of “Funny Girl” and that she, Rosie O’Donnell, would play her mother. No one else has said a word about this project, but I suppose anything is possible. It should be noted that while not a prerequisite, Fanny Brice is somewhere in her late teens when the show begins. Barbara was all of 21 years old when she made the part her own. Gaga is 32, and this production will surely take a few years to happen. By then, she may be more likely to be cast as Mrs. Strakosh!

It’s been announced that Leah Remini will be Cheryl Burke’s maid of honor when the dancer marries little Matthew Lawrence. Remini also made a comment which grabbed my attention. In answering questions about her role exposing the Church of Scientology, she said, “I keep wondering— why haven’t Katie Holmes or Nicole Kidman spoken out? I assume they were forced to sign prohibitive documents. Trust me, Katie’s not allowed to have a meal with me and we used to be close friends. She could lose custody of Suri. It’s quite sick, really.” I think she signed documents forcing her to keep LOADS of secrets!

Tilda Swinton got some tongues wagging due to her appearance in the remake of “Suspiria” (directed by Luca Guadagnino, who previously helmed “Call Me By Your Name”). In it, she plays Madame Blanc, the head of a dance studio in Berlin. She also plays Dr. Jozef Klemperer, an elderly Jewish psychiatrist. Being an actress’ actress, Tilda decided that while inhabiting the person of Dr. Klemperer, she would wear what she calls “a weighty set of genitalia.” She had the false phallicus custom-made for her, “so that she could feel it dangling between her legs.”

I do hate when friends of mine are embroiled in a scandal. But I will put on my impartial journalist cap and tell you about Chris Marchant, the hunky violinist in Well-Strung (who also strutted his stuff on “The Amazing Race”). The group is typically in summer residency at Provincetown’s Art House. Marchant, who is no stranger to showing skin in snaps, posted a photo taken in a Provincetown cemetery which features his shirtless torso leaning against an obelisk with the caption, “Can’t wait to get back to Prowen for Halloween and to help with the launch weekend of @ptownbrewingco”. Well, people were outraged—not about the post, but about the photo. One person said, “Someone wasn’t buried there for you to take an abs pic”— although I suppose it depends on the person. Frankly, I wouldn’t mind Marchant’s sexy skin leaning against my erect obelisk—but that’s another story. Initially, Chris was defensive—as one is wont to do. Then, after the story went viral, he deleted the post saying, “While it was never my intention to offend, I understand that it was disrespectful to take such a picture against a memorial to the life of someone I never knew. I deleted it, because the point of the post was to help a friend, and I would never want for my personal actions or words to harm the efforts of anyone else. I apologize for any offense I caused.” That wasn’t hard...or was it? You can decide for yourself when you see the pic on BillyMasters.com.

When we’re featuring a couple of stiffs in a cemetery, it’s definitely time to end yet another column. It’s apropos with all this cemetery nonsense that Halloween is just around the corner. And although I’ll be headed to New Orleans (after working on my tan at the Fifth2Go Beach House in Fort Lauderdale), I can quickly remind you to check out www.BillyMasters.com—the site that can even raise the dead! Should you have a question, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Melania goes anywhere near Donald’s obelisk! Until next time, remember, one man’s filth is another man’s bible.

Monroe

Continued from page 6

“the keepers of the bed. “Those gender-variant men served and guarded the women in royal palaces and wealthy households.

Also, the story of the Ethiopian eunuch highlights that the early beginnings of Christianity welcomed not only sexual minorities but also different races, and ethnicities. The Ethiopian eunuch is an example of a queer foreign black man as the first non-Jewish convert to Christianity.

During the “Trans Catholic Voices” breakout season at the DignityUSA conference in 2017, an African American transwoman pointed out that Francis statements about transpeople deny them of basic human dignity and perpetuates violence against them. The life expectancy for black trans is 32 years old.

In her closing remarks, the African American transwoman in “Trans Catholic Voices” asked for help from advocates and allies in the room that nearly brought me to tears. “Trans lives are real lives. Trans deaths are real deaths. God works through other people. Maybe you can be those other people.”

In Jim Crow America restrooms were a hot-button issue, as today, and a battleground for equal treatment. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 outlawed discrimination based on national origin, race, hue, gender, and religion. The law mandated desegregation of all public accommodations, including bathrooms. The Obama administration expanded the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to protect LGBTQ Americans. However, in February Trump's administration revoked federal guidelines permitting transgenders to use ‘gender-appropriate facilities’ which aligned with their gender identity.

How churches feel about transgender people will vary. How Trump’s administration treat transgender citizens must stop. “YES” on Question 3 is doing God’s work which is the work of justice.
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