A Force of Fun

An arresting Universe

By Jules Becker

In her acclaimed 2006 graphic memoir “Fun Home,” Alison Bechdel struggled to understand her closeted father Bruce, his ongoing emotional conflict and his eventual suicide. The Beech Creek, Pennsylvania lesbian writer grappled with reliving painful experiences from her childhood, college years at Oberlin and full adulthood and reaching insight about them.

The Broadway musical adaptation of the same name (Off-Broadway 2013) poignantly hit a nerve with theatergoers from all sexualities, won the 2015 best musical Tony and took home Tonys for lesbian book author-lyricist Lisa Kron and composer Jeanine Tesori among its well-deserved five prizes. Now SpeakEasy Stage Company, in residence at the Calderwood Pavilion, is forcefully presenting “Fun Home”s strong messages about maturing and understanding in the area’s premiere local professional production of the

BayWindows
Serving New England’s LGBTQ Communities

Fun Home, SpeakEasy Stage Company, Roberts Theatre, Calderwood Pavilion, Boston Center for the Arts, through November 24.617-933-8600 or bostontheatrescene.com

Universe Rushing Apart:Blue Kettle & Here We Go, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, Sorenson Center, Black Box Theatre, Wellesley, through November 18. Commshakes.org

21 Election Wins for LGBTQ Parents and Our Kids

by Dana Rudolph | drudolph@mombian.com

The November 6 election saw several firsts for LGBTQ parents and our children, along with many other wins that may not have made national headlines. Here’s a broad look at the winners from the more than three dozen queer parents—and one of our kids—who ran.

Jared Polis, who in 2011 became the first openly LGBTQ parent in Colorado, was elected governor of Colorado, making him the first openly gay—and gay parent—governor. He and his partner, Marlon Reis, have two young children.

By MICHAEL BALSAMO

New FBI report on hate crimes

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP)—Hate crimes across the United States spiked 17 percent in 2017—marking a rise for the third straight year—with a 37 percent increase in anti-Semitic hate crimes, according to an FBI report released Tuesday.

There were 7,177 reported hate crimes last year, up from 6,121 in 2016. The FBI’s annual hate crimes report defines hate crimes as those motivated by bias based on a person’s race, religion or sexual orientation, among other categories.

There was a nearly 23 percent increase in religion-based hate crimes, with more than 900 reports of crimes targeting Jews and Jewish institutions. The FBI said there were 2,013 hate crimes against African-Americans, a 16 percent increase.

Some of the increases may be the result of better reporting by police departments, but law enforcement officials and advocacy groups don’t doubt that hate crimes are on the rise.

The report’s release comes about a week after a 20-year-old gunman killed 11 people at a Pittsburgh synagogue.

BPD investigate phone threats to 2 gay bars

BOSTON (AP)—Police are investigating threatening phone calls made to two bars in Boston that cater to a largely gay clientele.

The calls came in at about the same time on consecutive nights. A police spokesman said the first call was answered by an employee at dbar at about 7:30 p.m. Friday. Another call targeted the Alley Bar at about the same time Saturday night.

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"I'm not gonna say that if you vote then I'll have sex with you but if you don't then I can promise you that I won't."

— Gus Kenworthy does his part to get out the vote. If you didn't vote, have no fear—he’ll never find out.
Spacious studio high rise units conveniently located in the Longwood Medical area on the corner of Huntington and Longwood Avenues. Easy access to Green line MBTA and bus routes. Off street parking available. The following Minimum And Maximum Income Qualifications apply:

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Democrats ride in on a moral wave
Resistance strengthens as Trump's wrecking spree continues

by Richard J. Rosendall | rrosendall@starpower.net
contributing writer

How could voters pass it up? Our president lied about healthcare, attacked women, ignored climate change and crumbling infrastructure, demonized the press and FBI, alienated our allies while cozying up to despots, and direly predicted an Invasion of the Brown People. His nonstop fear-mongering and denunciations may have excited his base and inspired mass shooters, but he appears to have alienated everyone else.

The turnout of 115 million set a midterm record, with 49 percent of eligible voters voting. This brought more than a morale boost for the resistance: Democrats regained the House majority. Republicans held a slim Senate majority as they sought to distract from their vote suppression with baseless charges of Democratic fraud. Trump's abusive post-election press conference showed he was rattled. Underscoring how the walls are closing in, the Wall Street Journal implicated him in hush money payments.

Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker, a Trump loyalist, was widely criticized as extreme and his appointment's legality was questioned. He opposes Marbury v. Madison, the 1803 case that established judicial review. He said only Christians should be judges. He favored indicting Hillary Clinton, the most investigated American without a criminal record, over her email server despite no evidence it was hacked, unlike Trump's unsecured cellphone. Whitaker is accused of the bias-motivated prosecution of a gay Democrat when U.S. Attorney for Iowa's Southern District. He was on the board of a company shut down for scamming disabled veterans.

Some pundits, dismissing the blue wave despite Democrats having flipped the House plus several governorships and state legislatures, gaslighted progressives with lectures on what they did wrong. Democrats actually won the popular vote, and Republicans fell short of expected gains in the Senate despite its structural tilt toward less populous red states.

The midterms brought lots of fresh talent to Washington, though the media obsessed over Nancy Pelosi, whose caucus-leading skill is real, in contrast to Trump's fantasy of Democrats turning America into Venezuela. There is a large influx of women into Congress, including its first Muslim women ( Rashida Tlaib in Michigan's 13th and Ilhan Omar in Minnesota's 5th), Native American women ( Sharice Davids in Kansas's 3rd and Deb Haaland in New Mexico's 1st), and Texas Latinas ( Veronica Escobar in the 16th and Sylvia Garcia in the 29th).

Democrats won with candidates who fit their districts, like Lucy McBath in Georgia's 6th, who...
show at the Boston Center for the Arts’ Roberts Theatre.

As in the Broadway production at Circle in the Square Theatre, company artistic director Paul Daigneault is staging the SpeakEasy with an audience-involving configuration—here a thrust stage with theatergoers on virtually all sides at the Rob-

ers for an intimate effect. That intimacy provides a perfect fit for Alison’s memory narrative. What remarkably sets that narrative and “Fun Home” apart is the musical’s trio of Alisons—namely eight-year-old Small Alison, 18-19-year-old col-

lege student Medium Alison and the 43-year-old much wiser adult simply identified as Alison.

Throughout Alison’s memory odyssey, she moves around the sprawling set design—vividly
detailed by Cristina Todesco— that represents the Betchel’s Pennsylvania home as well as Bruce’s funereal home—referred to by the Betchel chil-
dren as Fun Home—and Medium Alison’s Oceanfront dorm room.

Frequently an observer as well as a family mem-
ber, Alison analyzes her respective experiences as Small Alison and Medium Alison to gain insight about her formative years and full realization of her sexual orientation. The adult daughter—in

Kron’s smart book and Bechdel’s memoir—un-

flinchingly deals with her mother’s angst and awareness of her husband’s sexual orientation as well as her father’s disturbing attraction to young men among his high school students.

Kron’s inspired book has humor sometimes making its way into even serious passages. Per-
haps the most amusing stretch is Small Alison and her brothers’ lively collaboration on an inven-
tive ‘commercial’ in a standout number entitled “Come to the Fun Home.”

Director Daigneault-first-rate cast captures the musical’s singular blend of caring and candor. Amy Jo Jackson has all of Alison’s gradual awak-
enment of herself and about her father and their respective sexualities.

Todd Yand sings vibrantly as Bruce—particu-
larly on the striking solo “Edges of the World”—
and does well demonstrating his early affection for Small Alison though he could do with more of the vulnerability Michael Cerveris evoked in his riveting Tony Award performance. Laura Ma-

drie Duncan finds mother Helen’s pain and heart-

ache—especially on the impassioned solo “Days and Nights.”

Marissa Simeqi finds Small Alison’s spirit and wonder as Small Alison—especially on her telling solo “Ring of Keys.” Ellie van Amerongen catches Medium Alison’s naivety as a college newcomer and feeling for fellow student Joan—played with

costume, not wanting him to be raised by a same-

sex couple. A court battle ensued, which Craig and Langston ultimately won. Now, she wants to use that same fighting spirit to make things better for all Minnesotans.

Kevin Lembo, elected Connecticut state compt-
troller, also had a personal legal struggle to create his family. A New York judge stopped him and his partner from adopting two children because of the men’s marital status and sexual orientation. They successfully appealed up to the New York State Supreme Court, and later adopted a third child.

In Michigan, Dana Nessel was elected attorney general. Nessel, who is raising twins with her wife, has long fought for queer families. She brought the 2010 case in which a Michigan court first held that a non-biological parent in a same-sex couple could gain custody rights to their children. She petitioned for the first second-parent adop-
tions in two counties. Most notably, in 2012, she led the case challenging the state’s bans on adoption and marriage for same-sex couples, a case later consolidated into Obergefell v. Hodges, which won federal marriage equality at the U.S. Supreme Court.

In state legislatures, Laurie Jenkins and Chris-
tine Kilkuff will join the Washington State House, while Jamie Pedersen and Claire Wilson will be in that state’s senate. Other state winners were Lisa Bunkert (New Hampshire), the only transgender

parent to win this year; Jack Lewis (Massachu-

setts); Sean Patrick Maloney (New York); Rebecca Kiddak (Rhode Island); Julie Johnson (Texas), and Todd Novak (Wisconsin) in their state’s lower chambers, along with Nickie Antonio in the Ohio State Senate. Novak was the only Republi-
can LGBTQA parent running this year.

And Zach Wahls became the first state or fed-

eral elected official with openly LGBTQA parents, winning a seat in the Iowa Senate. Wahls, a for-
mer Eagle Scout and state debate champion, rose to national recognition with his 2011 speech to the Iowa legislature about marriage equality and his two moms—the video of which went viral twice.

Wahls, speaking to Family Equality Council on election night, said he was honored to be sup-
ported by voters from all kinds of families, and added “At this fragile moment, it’s critical for families with one or more LGBTQA parents to have strong advocates for our families in elected office. I’m proud to be one of those advocates, and I always will be.”

On the local level, Jennifer Campbell was elect-
ed to the San Diego City Council; Adam Rogers to California’s La Habra City School Board; Liz Barrett to Maryland’s Frederick County Board of Education; and Shannon Baldwin, as a judge for Texas’ Harris County Criminal Court. And in an important but lesser-known role, Debra Shores was reelected as a commissioner of the Metro-
politan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago.

There was disappointment for many of us LG-

BTQ parents, too, with close losses for LGBTQ and LGBTQA-friendly candidates in several key states. And while Democrats gained a major-

ity in the U.S. House, Republicans retained the Senate—and of course, the White House. It’s still going to be a contentious few years of political battles not only for legislation, but for what seems like the heart and soul of our nation.

This election saw new ground broken in many ways, though, for LGBTQ candidates who are and aren’t parents, for Native American women, Muslim women, and many others, particularly women of color. And Massachusetts voters re-

soundingly defeated a referendum measure that sought to roll back protections for transgender people. By focusing here on parents, though, I hope to offer useful examples of combining fam-
ily and service, and how sometimes our personal struggles lead to public dedication. These parents in office may also help more people to see LG-

BTQ parents and our children as part of the fab-
ric of our nation. May they serve their families, communities, and country with equal integrity and compassion.

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BTQ parents.
Sinema’s win achieves a longtime Democratic goal of making Arizona, with its growing Latino population, a competitive state. And she did it by pointedly not running against the president, or even critiquing his hard-line immigration stance.

“Shedidn’t put the progressive bit in her mouth and run with it,” said Chuck Coughlin, a GOP strategist in Phoenix. “Shestopped it out and did something else.”

Sinema targeted moderate Republican and independent women by painting herself as a nonpartisan problem-solver who voted to support Trump’s agenda 60 percent of the time. Her nearly single-issue campaign talked about the importance of health care and protections for people with pre-existing conditions.

She knew McSally was vulnerable there because she backed the Republicans’ failed attempt to repeal President Barack Obama’s health care law.

Sinema tailored her campaign for conservative-leaning Arizona rather than the national environment, but it may be a guide for Democrats who hope to expand the electoral map in 2020. While some liberals won important races in California, Colorado and Kansas, the left’s highest-profile champions disappointed on Election Day.

Rep. Beto O’Rourke fell short in his challenge to Sen. Ted Cruz in Texas. Stacey Abrams trails her Republican opponent in the still undecided bitter Georgia gubernatorial race, and Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum, who once led in the polls in the race for Florida governor, is now awaiting the results of a recount.

Sinema prevailed while the Democratic candidate for governor, David Garcia, ran as an avowed progressive and got trounced by Republican incumbent Doug Ducey.

Associated Press investigation in 2016 found that more than 2,700 city police and county sheriff’s departments across the country had not submitted a single hate crime report for the FBI’s annual crime tally during the previous six years.

The Anti-Defamation League said some of police departments in major U.S. cities didn’t report hate crimes as part of the annual report, including the Honolulu Police Department, Indianapolis Police Department and police in Kansas City, Kansas. Other departments, like the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and police in Miami, Florida and Newark, New Jersey, reported zero hate crimes.

Last month, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein said the Justice Department’s new hate crime initiative was “taking on the challenging task of addressing the gap in hate crime statistics” and officials were reviewing the “accuracy of those reports.”

Rosenstein cautioned that just because hate crimes aren’t being reported doesn’t mean they aren’t happening. The Justice Department is endeavoring to learn about obstacles law enforcement agencies have with reporting hate crimes to the FBI, he said.
I love an election. Or do I love an erection? Either way, I’m up for it. Someone who hoped to get people all hot and bothered was Larry Sinclair. The name may not ring a bell, nor will the fact that he was running for mayor of Cocoa, Florida. But you may recall him as the guy whose self-published memoir vividly described a two-day sex romp with former President Barack Obama. Oh, he also said they were high on crack at the time. And President Donald Trump thought he cornered the market on “fake news!” What is real in Sinclair’s police record. He’s served jail time in Florida, Colorado, and Arizona, and he’s been convicted of forgery, fraud, and larceny. Forget running for mayor, he should be appointed a Supreme Court Justice! I. S. He lost by a landslide.

Speaking of Supreme Court Justices, our thoughts go out to the recuperating Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who broke three ribs outside her office. If I’ve said it once, I’ve said it a million times—those motorized scooters are a death trap!

Meanwhile here in my adopted California, the wildfires are claiming more and more property and lives. With Thanksgiving right around the corner, I think we can be thankful for two things: 1) Cher is in Las Vegas and B) Caitlyn Jenner made it out safely. OK, make that one thing.

As we were working on this column, we heard that “The Bachelor” mansion was in danger of being engulfed in the flames. On Saturday, it was reported that the lower house and patio were on fire and the man house was in jeopardy. Producer Mike Fleiss (cousin to you-know-who) posted “Pray for Malibu” and “The Bachelor Mansion.” People chastised him for being more concerned about property than people. He responded, “What part of ‘pray for Malibu’ confuses you idiots? I live in Malibu! My heart is broken. Go fuck yourself!” Turns out, the mansion survived unscathed. I suspect Colton Underwood, the (alleged) Virgin won’t be as lucky.

I do hate to sound crabbly, but if I can’t be crabby, who can? I’m really disappointed in most of these reboots. “Murphy Brown” might as well be filmed in slow motion at an old age home, “Roseanne” was fine until Roseanne died, and “Charmed” has no magic. Perhaps it’s these disappointments that explain my fondness for “Dynasty”—as long as I don’t compare it to the original. Last week, Nicollette Sheridan had a great moment when her Alexis popped a potato chip in her mouth after saying, “If you haven’t noticed, Cristals come and go around here.” We’re barely into season two, and we’re already on our second Cristal. But wait, there’s more—Steven is out. The current actor, James Mackay, revealed, “While Steven had a choice to leave, unfortunately I didn’t.” Executive producer Sallie Patrick was not pleased. She blames the firing on “notes from the network,” mentioning that “the series just lost its sole queer couple. Let’s hope Steven’s leave of absence is temporary.” My sources tell me that the network has an intriguing idea—recast the role. Why? Because that’s what they did in the original series.

Another show poised for a reboot is “Ugly Betty.” Michael Urie (who just opened in the Broadway revival of Harvey Fierstein’s “Torch Song”), said, “We would absolutely do a revival and if you’re listening, ABC, please make it happen. You can make one of the characters a Trump supporter if you have to.”

Remember the proposed Broadway production of “Magic Mike—the Musical”? It is still in the works. Last week there was a development workshop which included a flurry of familiar faces—including Cheyenne Jackson. I can smell people lining up now.

If you happen to be in the UK, Todrick Hall will be making his West End debut in “Chicago.” The YouTube sensation previously did the show on Broadway, and will begin a seven-week run in London on November 19th.

Watch how effortlessly I combine the topics of Broadway musicals and reboots. You all know that the musical version of “The Color Purple” is based on the hit film. Well, we hear that Oprah Winfrey is teaming up with Steven Spielberg to produce a film version of the musical, which was based on the film he directed. Which, of course, was based on the book by Alice Walker...but let’s not even go there.

I told you that Armie Hammer and Timothée Chalamet would be re-teaming for a sequel to “Call Me By Your Name”. Recently, Chalamet did an interview with Harry Styles for “i-D” (don’t ask...I don’t know). Harry asked, “Can you still eat peaches? Oh, that little scamp. Chalamet said, “Umm I can, but not without thinking about it.” He also said, “That’s the most awkward scene to see with your parents in the whole world. My poor father.” Inexplicably, Styles followed that up with the following quip—“I’m sure he’s done it too.” Oy!

Most weeks, I’d only have one questionable masturbation story. But this week, I’ve got two. John Stamos told Busy Philipps about going to the sperm bank when he and his wife were doing IVF. He was led to a little room and his first thought was, “Did someone give him enough tokens?” Then I realized the little room he was in probably didn’t require tokens...nor did it have a hole in the wall (who are you to judge me?). John says that he turned on the TV (you know, for stimulation) and what was on? “Fuller House”? “If I’m gonna masturbate to myself, it’s my old self and not the new self.” He swore the story was true, and actually said, “Hand to God... I just hope he washed it first!”

There is not a member of the Grande Family who interests me. But, I know my readers like little Frankie, so here goes. On Halloween, he announced that he is a part of a throuple. For those of you not sexually adventurous, that means he’s in a relationship with two people. What I have learned in my time around the block is that most throuuples consist of the actual couple and a third who either doesn’t last long, or takes one member of the couple with him when he leaves. I suspect this throu-
“Kyrsten was the perfect candidate for this race,” said Democratic strategist Chad Campbell, who previously served with Sinema in Arizona’s state legislature. “We saw that with Garcia.”

Sinema first came to prominence as an openly bisexual Green Party activist in Phoenix, and McSally raked the Democrat over her protests against the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Sinema was elected as a Democrat to the state legislature in 2004 and carved out a reputation as a liberal who could work with her conservative colleagues.

By the time she was elected to Congress representing a suburban Phoenix swing district in 2012, Sinema had completely remade herself into a centrist. She voted against Nancy Pelosi as the Democratic leader, supported relaxed regulations and banks and a law to increase penalties on people not to run.

Despite its image as a staunch Republican bastion, Arizona is attracting younger, educated voters from elsewhere in the United States. In this election, Democrats expanded their share in the state legislature, though they’re still the minority. They took a 5-4 majority in the state’s congressional seats and remain competitive in two down-ballot and uncalled statewide races.

LGBTQ triumphs: 2 governorships, 1 Senate seat, at least 9 seats in Congress

By DAVID CRARY
AP National Writer

On the East Coast, West Coast and in heartland states between them, LGBTQ candidates scored a raft of notable midterm election victories—winning two governorships, at least nine seats in Congress, and their first-ever legislative seats in Indiana, Kansas and Nebraska.

The head of the LGBTQ Victory Fund, which recruits and assists LGBTQ candidates, said many of the winners in Tuesday’s elections were motivated by concerns over the Trump administration’s rollback of protections for transgender people.

“We’ve worked hard to achieve the rights we have today,” said the fund’s CEO, former Houston Mayor Annise Parker. “But we realize we’re still in a vulnerable position in many places.”

From Parker’s perspective, the highlights were many. In Colorado, U.S. Rep. Jared Polis became the first openly gay man elected as a governor of any state. In Wisconsin, Tammy Baldwin—who in 2012 became the first openly gay person to win a U.S. Senate seat—easily won re-election being targeted by outside conservative groups that spent millions attacking her.

In the race for the U.S. Senate, a record eight LGBTQ candidates won seats for the Democrats. Four incumbents—Mark Takano of California, Sean Patrick Maloney of New York, David Cicilline of Rhode Island and Mark Pocan of Wisconsin—will be joined in January by newcomers Katie Hill of California, Stacie David of Kansas, Angie Craig of Minnesota and Chris Pappas of New Hampshire.

Rep. Kyrsten Sinema won the Arizona Senate seat being vacated by Republican Jeff Flake to become the first woman to win a U.S. Senate seat in the state.

For one other LGBTQ candidates, a race too close to call—Gina Ortiz Jones’ race for a U.S. House seat in Texas.

Hill, Davids and Craig were among a batch of Democratic winners who flipped control of GOP-held House seats, overcoming initial skepticism that LGBTQ candidates were not best-suited for that challenge.

“We saw LGBTQ candidates talk openly about their lives to a degree unseen in past elections—and it resonated with voters,” Parker said. In Minnesota, Craig featured her wife and their sons in TV ads en route to winning a rematch against GOP Rep. Jason Lewis in the Twin Cities’ suburban 2nd District.

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Openly gay judge makes history with North Carolina victory

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—An appeals court seat winner this week set a milestone as the first openly gay person elected to a statewide office in North Carolina.

Unofficial results Tuesday show Court of Appeals Judge John Arrowood defeated challenger Andrew Heath by 49,000 votes from over 3.6 million cast.

Arrowood is a Charlotte Democrat who has served two stints on the intermediate-level Court of Appeals. Then-Gov. Mike Easley appointed him in 2007, but he lost a bid for a full term the next year. Current Gov. Roy Cooper appointed Arrowood to the court last year to fill another vacancy.

Arrowood previously served on the board of gay-rights group Equality North Carolina, which also identified him as first openly LGBTQ person elected to a statewide office in the South.

Key West elects Florida’s first lesbian mayor

KEY WEST, Fla. (AP)—The citizens of Key West have elected Florida’s first openly-lesbian mayor.

Teri Johnston was elected mayor of this historically-gay-friendly city in the Florida Keys on Tuesday.

The Miami Herald reports that Johnston was nonchalant on Wednesday when told she had made history.

Johnston says Key West is such an inclusive community that it wasn’t a big deal.

Key West had an openly gay mayor in Richard Heyman as far back as the 1980s and it currently has a gay police chief.

Johnston previously was a two-term city commissioner.


South Florida city elects all-LGBT commission

WILTON MANORS, Fla. (AP)—A city in the shadows of Fort Lauderdale has become the first in Florida to have an all-LGBT city commission.

The SunSentinel reports that Scott Newton, the last straight member of the commission, lost his re-election bid on Tuesday, finishing third in a four-candidate race to fill two spots on the commission.

On Tuesday, Commissioner Justin Flippen was elected mayor and the outgoing mayor, Gary Resnick, won a commission seat. Newcomer Paul Rolli won the second commission seat. Two other commissioners—Julie Carson and Tom Green—are in the middle of their terms.

The outcome was hailed by Parker, who was a co-counsel in the historic lawsuit that led to same-sex marriage in Michigan.

She said the outgoing GOP attorney general, Bill Schuette, “made a mockery of state government” by bringing social scientists to court to denigrate the parenting skills of same-sex couples.

“They are LGBTQ people clamoring for representation and tired of the office of attorney general using them as a punching bag,” Nessel said during the campaign.

She added, “They realized it was completely inane fear,” she said.

Associated Press writer James Anderson in Denver contributed to this report.

Clerk jailed over marriage licenses loses re-election bid

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—The Kentucky clerk who went to jail in 2015 for refusing to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples lost her bid for a second term Tuesday night.

Kim Davis, the Republican incumbent, was defeated by Democrat Elwood Caudill Jr. in the election for clerk of Rowan County in northeastern Kentucky. Caudill won with 4,210 votes, or 54 percent, to 3,566, or 46 percent, for Davis.

Davis became a national figure when she stopped issuing marriage licenses days after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the U.S. Constitution guarantees same-sex couples the right to marry.

The ruling overturned same-sex marriage bans nationwide.

Davis cited her religious beliefs, saying she was acting under “God’s authority.”

She was released from jail when her staff issued licenses in her absence.

Rowan County voters denied Davis another term to a job that pays about $80,000 a year. She was elected to the clerk’s job as a Democrat in 2014, but later switched parties because she said the Democratic Party "abandoned her.”

She didn’t back away from her stand, saying at a fall campaign debate that she didn’t treat anyone unfairly, and that she took an oath to uphold the constitution. She said she treated everyone equally because she quit issuing marriage licenses altogether.

At the same debate, Caudill said if elected he would treat everyone equally because he took an
A queer look at Jonestown at 40
by Rev. Irene Monroe
contributing writer

This November 18th marks the 40th anniversary of the Jonestown massacre. The mass murder-suicide was the largest casualty of American citizens before 9/11.

With forty years since the Jonestown massacre, a more disturbing image of the Reverend Jim Jones’s treatment toward his LGBTQ parishioners emerges.

Jones was the charismatic white founder and cult leader of the Peoples Temple, a San Francisco-based evangelical church. And, he was the founder of the “Peoples Temple Agricultural Project,” a utopian socialist commune in a remote jungle outpost in Guyana, South America. Also, Jones was a megalomaniacal bisexual and sexual molester.

As a sympathizer with the oppressed and social outcasts, it is not surprising Jones developed a large and loyal following of African Americans. He also developed a large following of LGBTQs. Over 900 members of the People’s Temple died in the Jonestown massacre in 1978. Of the 900 plus, approximately, 75 percent of Peoples Temple congregants were African American, 20 percent were white, and 5 percent were Asian, Latino, and Native American. The majority of its black congregants were women, while its core leadership was predominantly white as too is the leadership of Jonestown’s victims were African American women, too.

Jones and the Peoples Temple were a ubiquitous presence in the Bay area. As an influential church body in city politics, the Peoples Temple had a public pro-LGBTQ and civil rights image in San Francisco in the 1970s.

As an “open and affirming” church that welcomed LGBTQs in the era of the Florida sunshine homophobe poster-girl Anita Bryant and her “Save the Children” campaign, the Peoples Temple was a safe and sacred sanctuary. The Peoples Temple marched in Gay Pride and embraced a social gospel of radical inclusion. Jones had a sizeable LGBTQ following that kept growing as did his African American audience. The LGBTQ community followed Jones and expanded in numbers at each church he had from Indiana, Ukiui, San Francisco to Guyana. LGBTQ parishioners were involved in every aspect of church life, governance, and activities. So accepting was the Peoples Temple that the lead soloist had an open relationship with the church organist. In Guyana, the community was actively involved in building Jones’s utopian town. Sadly, many of his LGBTQ parishioners died along with him.

The number of LGBTQ deaths in the Jonestown massacre is not presently known. Their stories about Jim Jones as ex-Temple parishioners and Jonestown survivors, however, are now emerging.

Many would argue that Jones public pro-gay persons was both strategically political and personally self-serving.

Jones and his church were pivotal in the 1975 mayoral election of George Moscone who subsequently appointed Jones as chairman of the San Francisco Housing Authority Commission. Before Jones was chair of the housing commission Jones’s activism intersected with Harvey Milk’s, the first openly gay to be elected to the city’s first district elections for Board of Supervisors in November 1977. Milk was a frequent speaker at rallies at the Peoples Temple and wrote to Jones frequently afterward expressing his thoughts. Exhilarated from one of the rallies he spoke at the Peoples Temple Milk wrote Jones the following: “Rev Jim, It may take me many a day to come back down from the high that I reach today. I found something dear today. I found a sense of being that makes up for all the hours and energy placed in a fight. I found what you wanted me to find. I shall be back. For I can never leave.”

Oddly, Jones’s and Milk’s death were nine days apart in November 1978. Paul VanDeCarr wrote a somber piece about their deaths in “The Advocate” titled “Death of Dreams,” stating San Franciscans spirits nearly broke when two revered icons who preached radical equality in an era of little hope and activism were now gone.

While Jones was quickly becoming America’s beloved civil rights warrior for the downtrodden, he also had a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde persona that skillfully fooled and manipulated the people who trusted him the most.

I ask myself “was Rev. Jim Jones, a closeted gay? Were the many heterosexual dalliances with women and the family man image with dozens of children around him merely his gay coverup?”

“Jones had occasional sex with male followers’” but “never as often as he did with women,” according to Jeff Guinn’s book “The Road to Jonestown.” However, it’s ex-Temple followers and Jonestown survivors who can give first-hand accounts.

“Jim said that all of us were homosexuals,” Joyce Houston, an ex-Temple follower, said in the Jonestown documentary, “Everyone except [him].” He was the only heterosexual on the planet, and that the women were all lesbian; the guys were all gay. And so anyone who showed an interest in sex was just compensating.”

His sexual ambiguity and animus toward homophobia were impulses he could neither control nor control. Instead, he used sexual assault on men as one of his weapons. For example, Jones openly and in public sexually molested a male congregant in front of followers to “prove the man’s own homosexual tendencies.” Other times when Jones engaged in gay sex, he purportedly was doing it as a symbolic act to have men connect with him.

Jim Jones was a man of many contradictions, especially if trying to assess his relationship with the LGBTQ community. Michael Bellefontaine’s book, “A Lavender Look At The Temple,” attempts this tackle the issue.

Very little is publicly disclosed about ex-Temple LGBTQ parishioners and Jonestown survivors. It’s time their stories come out.

THE TAKE
SHE HAS A LOT TO SAY... SO DO HER GUESTS
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Transgender gubernatorial nominee reflects on campaign

By LISA RATHKE

Associated Press

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP)—The country’s first major-party transgender candidate for governor said Thursday she doesn’t know what she will do next now that she’s lost the election in Vermont—but Christine Hallquist is keeping all of her options open.

Hallquist, a former utility executive who was a relative unknown at the start her Democratic campaign, won 40 percent of the votes in Tuesday’s election against Republican Gov. Phil Scott, who took 55 percent.

“I wouldn’t change anything, and everything about the campaign was exciting and rewarding, except for the losing part,” said Hallquist, who was taking a break after the election. “Hallquist’s inspiring and pioneering campaign has sent a loud, clear message about the person, not necessarily me, and I think it’s more a reflection on their insecurity because I don’t even know how I could be perceived as a threat,” she said.

After returning from her visit with family, she said she will have to find a job but didn’t know yet what that would be.

“I’m keeping the options open,” she said.

The Human Rights Campaign, a national LGBTQ civil rights organization, said The Human Rights Campaign, a national LGBTQ civil rights organization. "She ran on a platform of furthering civil rights, expanding health care and holding government accountable—committing to making Vermont an even stronger, more vibrant and inclusive state," President Chad Griffin said in a written statement after the election. "Hallquist’s inspiring and pioneering campaign has sent a loud, clear message that transgender people deserve a seat at the table in every level of government.

In his victory speech, Scott thanked Hallquist for running a spirited and civil campaign.

What has not been civil is the vitriol Hallquist has faced and still does on social media, which she said for the most part doesn’t bother her.

“I pretty much ignore it because it’s really reflective on the person, not necessarily me, and I’m sorry that people have their bias, and I think it’s more a reflection on their insecurity because I don’t even know how I could be perceived as a threat,” she said.

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In Mexico caravan, LGBTQ migrants stick together for safety

By SONIA PEREZ D.
Associated Press

MATIAS ROMERO, Mexico (AP)—Dozens of transgender women and gay men in the caravan moving through Mexico with hopes of seeking asylum in the United States have banded together for protection—not from the uncertainty of a journey fraught with danger from the gangs who prey on migrants but from their fellow travelers.

Fleeing violence and discrimination back home because of their gender identity or sexual orientation, these LGBTQ migrants have found the journey north to be just as threatening amid catcalls and even physical abuse.

“How much do you charge?” “These all-too-familiar jeers are spewed at them as they make their way with the caravan of several thousand.

Loly Mendez, a 28-year-old who began transitioning to a woman in her native El Salvador, knows all too well the dangers her fellow transgender migrants faced back home: Her best friend, also a transgender woman, was murdered for doing the same.

Then Loly herself began getting threats—“that if my breasts were going to grow, they would cut them off,” she said. They were always anonymously delivered, which only made her more fearful and finally drove her to flee.

“In my country there is violence, a lack of work and opportunities,” said Loly, who like many of the transgender women in the group preferred using only her first name. “In the caravan there is also violence—against the LGBTQ community.”

Loly linked up with the caravan in Tapachula, in southern Mexico, and hopes to work in the United States and save up to start a beauty products company—perhaps in Los Angeles or New York. It’s something she has planned for a long time, all the way down to the business’ logo, but she’s never had the money.

“I am going to a country where I know I will achieve my dreams,” Loly said, hopefully.

Reports are common in much of Central America of LGBTQ people being murdered, assaulted and discriminated against, due to their gender identity or sexual orientation.

But getting U.S. asylum is difficult even with proof someone has been the victim of persecution for being transgender, said Lynly Egyes, director of litigation at the Transgender Law Center in Oakland, California.

It often takes days or weeks for transgender immigrants to get a hearing before an asylum officer. If they are allowed to move forward in the process, many are traumatized and struggle to tell their story, Egyes said. They are also much less likely to be granted asylum without a lawyer.

“It is a horrifying process, and not everybody makes it through,” she said.

Many of the migrants have said they joined the caravan because it offered safety in numbers. The 50 or so LGBTQ migrants traveling together, most of them in their 20s but some as young as 17 or as old as 60, say they, too, banded together for safety—a sort of caravan within the caravan.

Sticking out in their bright-colored clothing and makeup, the group has suffered verbal harassment, especially from men, and has been the victim of robbery and other aggressions. One recent
Masters

Continued from page 1

ple is no different since Frankie revealed his boyfriends are a legally married couple. I'll say this for Frankie—he's rubbed a hot couple. And they bring something to the table—one's a doctor, and one's a lawyer. When asked what his favorite part of the relationship is, Grande said, "Dick." Times two. With Frankie, I'm sure nobody is waiting for a turn.

Keeping itself marginally relevant, "Grey's Anatomy" just added its first gay doctor to the team. We previously told you about that doctor, played by the very sexy Alex Landi. Last week, he got to kiss Levi Schmitt—who claimed it was his first same-sex kiss. So it's only appropriate that the actor playing Levi, Jake Borelli, made a statement of his own. "As a gay guy myself, tonight's episode was so special to me. This is exactly the kind of story I craved as a young gay kid growing up. In lieu of a formal "Ask Billy" question, I'll address the elephant in the room—yes, we've seen Chris Pine's penis in "Outlaw King" (although, if you ask me, the flip side is even better). And speaking of elephants, you can see it on BillyMasters.com.

When we're comparing penises to pachyderms, it's definitely time to end this season on 'Grey's Anatomy.' Did a hot gay guy just use the word "grapple" correctly in a sentence? I think I just came.

We interrupt this gossipy with some breaking news. Stormy Daniels has just been sainted. Yes, our beloved Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence have named Stormy Daniels a saint. The Sisters surprised Stormy at her show at the Penthouse Club in North Beach, and we hear she couldn't have been more delighted. And I bet it was a treat for the audience—how many times do you get to motorboat a saint? No, Mother Teresa doesn't count.

Last week, a contestant on "The Voice" claimed his porn past contributed to his elimination. What most outlets skipped was that the porn he did was gay porn. Tyshawn Colquitt says, "I did it when I was going through a rough time. I got a presidential scholarship, but I didn't have any money to pay for any type of living expenses, so I couldn't go to college. I was trying to do so many different things and it was just not enough." So often, amateur gay porn isn't enough. In this case, it happened to be amateur gay porn group scenes. If you're interested in viewing more of Tyshawn's body of work, check out BillyMasters.com.

A similar caravan earlier this year fizzled to just 200 who reached the U.S. frontier. Much of the trek has been on foot, but hitchhiking in pickup trucks, minibuses and tractor-trailers has been crucial lately, especially on days when they travel 100 miles or more. For the LGBTQ group, it's been tougher to find those rides.

"A taxi driver kicked us out of his car," said Lady Perez, a 23-year-old from Honduras, adding that sometimes truck drivers who often transport migrants for a small fee have doubled or tripled the price for her group.

Lady began identifying as transgender at age 5, and her father ultimately disowned her. She was subjected to insults and beatings, her boyfriend was killed and she was warned to leave Honduras or else.

"In our country the rights of the LGBTQ community are not respected, and anti-social groups take advantage of that," Lady said.

BPD

Continued from page 1

He says everybody should be able to enjoy a night out peacefully.

Police Commissioner William Gross told the Boston Herald that his department doesn't "take any threats lightly."

Borrowing a slightly modified lyric from WICKED, "Because we knew him, we have been changed for good."

A GoFundMe page http://bit.ly/MarkPMGrath has been established to help his family cover his final expenses.

Police did not say whether the incidents were linked and didn't release any further information about the nature of the threat.


Mexico

Continued from page 10

day as they walked in a row on the highway to Isla, in the Mexican Gulf coast state of Veracruz, a group of fellow migrants passed by on a flatbed truck and showered them with water, oranges, rinds and other refuse.

Fearful of being attacked more violently or sexually-assaulted, they stick by each other's sides. And they face a dilemma: Where to dress and relieve themselves?

"We have problems when it comes time to go to the bathroom," said Nakai Flote, a transgender woman and activist. "We bathe in the men's, sometimes in the women's, but it's difficult. There isn't one for us." Flote was accompanying the migrants to provide support and information about making asylum claims.

The U.S. "should take into account their condition of vulnerability and violence," she said.

However, a decision by then Attorney General Jeff Sessions this year to deny asylum to victims of domestic and gang violence could also have a negative impact on transgender women and men because many are victims of gang violence who are targeted for being transgender.

"I know it will be difficult to win asylum," said Alexs Amaya, a 24-year-old from Honduras, "but we have to make the attempts." The caravan has traveled more than 1,000 miles (more than 2,000 kilometers) in the month since its initial participants set out from San Pedro Sula, Honduras, and as it traverses Mexico's central highlands it's still about the same distance from its goal of Tijuana, across the border from San Diego. It's unclear how many will make it.

A similar caravan earlier this year fizzled to just about 200 who reached the U.S. frontier.

In the face of the near-constant harassment, march organizers and human rights workers have sought to provide the group some security in the form of two men in green vests who travel with them and try to ward off any attacks.

If the verbal harassment doesn't cross the line, "we feel protected," Lady said. "If someone crosses the line, human rights is with us to protect us."

"They have denigrated us. Supposedly you're emigrating from your country because of the violence, the discrimination, the homophobia, and it turns out that in the very caravan you face this kind of violence," she said.

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Dreams reflected.

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