March 28, - April 3, 2019
50 cents at newsstands Vol. 37, No 17
baywindows.com
twitter.com/BayWindowsNE
facebook.com/baywindows

HRC kicks off ‘Equality Act’ campaign
With Sally Field and her son Sam Greisman
Submitted by HRC

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) announced the launch of a star-studded Americans for the Equality Act public awareness and advertising campaign filmed by award-winning directors Dustin Lance Black and Paris Barclay. The series, which launches today with a debut video featuring Academy Award-winning actress Sally Field and her son Sam Greisman, will feature prominent figures in entertainment, sports and beyond speaking about the need for the Equality Act — a crucial civil rights bill that would extend clear, comprehensive non-discrimination protections to millions of LGBTQ people nationwide.

Currently, 50 percent of LGBTQ Americans live in one of the 30 states without statewide legal non-discrimination protections for LGBTQ people — leaving millions at risk of being fired, denied housing, or refused service because of who they are or whom they love. The Equality Act would guarantee existing civil rights laws apply to LGBTQ people by providing clear, comprehensive protections.

Buttigieg gains with crowds, TV spots and campaign cash
By SARA BURNETT
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Democratic presidential hopeful Pete Buttigieg is riding in the back of a rented minivan to his last event of the day in South Carolina, munching on cold french fries and critiquing his stage performance so far.

The enthusiastic crowds of hundreds who’ve packed his first two stops have been much larger than the 37-year-old mayor of South Bend, Indiana, and his team expected. It’s “wonderful,” he says, but the cheering and prolonged applause were more than he expected.

Random Acts
by Judah Leblang | www.JudahLeblang.com
contributing writer

I pulled up to the toll both on the Skyway Bridge from St Petersburg to Bradenton, Florida on my way to visit my friend Guy in Sarasota. “That’s $1.50, but the last driver paid your toll.” Hmm. I’d noticed the driver in the car in front of me handing over two $1 bills.

"It didn’t kill them' @BarbraStreisand did you really say that?!
— Dan Reed, director of "Leaving Neverland", responding to Streisand’s comments on the documentary.
Judah

Continued from page 1

singles and change to the toll taker and wondered what he was up to. Now a new question formed in my mind—why was this mysterious stranger paying my way? I decided to take it as a good omen, a promising start to my trip.

Two hours later I was walking through the park with Guy, a man I've known for 25 years, since we were both interim residents at a yoga center in the Berkshires—the Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health. Back then I was in my mid-thirties, Guy a decade younger, and we formed a big brother/ little brother relationship based on our common (Jewish, upper-middle-class) backgrounds and the fact we were thrown together in the busy ashram kitchen, where we toiled in the Kitchen Sup-

port department, which meant we washed dishes.

The community was rocked by a scandal (the guru slept with some of his disciples, and that long-buried secret was finally revealed) and the resident community dissolved.

Years went by, and we drifted apart. Guy moved South to combat his seasonal-affective disorder—he typically went into a sort of hibernation and depression with the onset of winter. He met his future wife in North Carolina and moved down to Florida, where he still experiences mood swings, though the cycles were gentler, and I went back to Boston.

Now that I make annual trips to Tampa Bay to beat my own winter blues, Guy and I have recon-

nected, and we seem to pick up where we've left off, even when we see each other for just a few hours each year. Over the past 15 years, Guy has

been teaching yoga part time while staying home, taking care of his three daughters while his wife holds down a full-time job running a music fest-

tival.

Guy is patient, kind, and loving with his daughters, one of whom has Down's Syndrome, the perfect "house-dad." Recently Guy has been

teaching meditation, a simple technique that requires a commitment of sitting for just 15 min-

utes each morning, which has led to something beyond a sense of feeling calmer and more centered, benefits of meditation he promotes in his workshops. After almost two years of daily prac-
tice, he told me that he has a sense that his life isn't just a series of random events, and that as he notices signs that form a loose road map, that seem to tap into a wisdom beyond his own mind. "That's what I call God," he said. "It's both me and not me."

I knew what he meant. I've had a few moments when I dipped into something deeper than my conscious knowledge, for example, 20 years ago, when I changed my name from Bruce to Judah. Around that time, I had come out of a deep de-

pression and was looking to start over; to reset my life in my 40s. The backstory: about a year after I took my new name, I met a man in a writers' workshop who told me the literal meaning of my name; in Hebrew it means gratitude. Over the course of several years I'd been reminded by my therapist that I needed to work on being grateful for what I had, rather than focusing on what I didn't, and now the name I'd chosen just happened to be one of life's key lessons.

At the time, that discovery felt like validation. When I "trusted my gut" I seemed to move forward in a direction that seemed right for me. And yet I didn't, and still don't believe in the God in the sky, the divine puppet-master who pulls our strings.

I don't have a traditional concept of God, and I'm not sure if Guy's belief that synchronicity and guidance are always available if one pays attention is really true. But after a random act of kindness like the one I experienced in Florida, and after those few hours with a lifelong friend, I'm left to hope and wonder.

Judah LeBlang is a writer, teacher and storyteller in Boston. Find out more at judahleblang.com

Bay Windows, PO Box E14, Boston, MA 02127

Subscriptions: First Class USPS: $110.00 per year, 52 issues

We are proud to be the first assisted living community in Massachusetts to receive SAGECare Accreditation for LGBT Cultural Competency.

This falls within our commitment to fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment for all seniors who choose to call Goddard House “home.”

165 Chestnut Street, Brookline, MA  |  617.731.8500  |  Goddardhouse.org

To pay by check and over the phone, please call Jeff Corkley at 617-464-7280.
Buttigieg
Continued from page 1

applause are messing with his delivery. Sometimes he neglects to pause, and his next words are drowned out. Other times people start clapping when he doesn’t expect it.

“I need to relearn the timing of my stump speech,” Buttigieg says. “I’ve been used to a format where I go in, there’s 50 people, I do my little spiel and then we have some Q&A and hopefully they walk away impressed. Now every one of these things we put on the calendar as a meet and greet is turning out to be a rally.”

Buttigieg, a veteran and Rhodes scholar, was the longest of long shots when he announced a presidential exploratory committee in January. No mayor has ever been elected president, much less one from a community of roughly 100,000 people in the middle of America, and Buttigieg is barely old enough to be eligible for the job.

But his underdog bid is gaining momentum, and the clean-cut guy known to most people as “Mayor Pete” can feel it. Now he has to figure out how to turn one of the first surprises of the nascent race for the Democratic nomination into a full-fledged presidential campaign—and one that isn’t remembered as a mere quirk.

“The buzz helps,” Buttigieg says. “But you want to make sure that you have enough substance and enough organization that any kind of flavor-of-the-month period is something you can outlaw.”

Besides the crowds and the cheering, Buttigieg has seen increasing national media attention, from Fox News to MSNBC and his second appearance on ABC’s “The View.” After a breakout performance in a CNN town hall earlier this month, Buttigieg’s team says he raised roughly $600,000 from 22,000 donors in just over 24 hours. He has now received enough individual contributions to qualify for a spot on the Democratic debate stage this summer.

But there’s still plenty of work to do, starting with raising money and hiring staff. Buttigieg said his goal early on was to raise $1 million by the end of the first quarter on March 31, adding, “We’re definitely there.” He’s fairly confident they’ll have the funds needed for a healthy operation, at least in the early stages. But he also wants to “show well” when all candidates’ first-quarter totals become public—the first time this cycle that campaigns are required to file campaign finance reports.

“I think we benefit from the fact that it’s graded on a curve,” Buttigieg said. “No one is expecting us to raise as much as I were a senator from Florida or from a big city. But we’ve got to show that we can compete at this level.”

Buttigieg also plans to double the size of his roughly 20-person team in the new few weeks, in preparation for an official campaign launch. He doesn’t have an advance team – those campaign staffs who coordinate events on-site before the candidate arrives, hang campaign signs and ensure someone is capturing emails and phone numbers for every person who walks in the door.

Volunteers and local Democratic officials handled most of those duties during Buttigieg’s swing Saturday through South Carolina, site of the South’s first primary. Instead of professionally printed banners, someone hung poster boards with messages handwritten in black marker urging attendees to tweet photos and video using several different hashtags and Twitter handles. When Buttigieg took questions from the crowd in Rock Hill, there were no microphones for people in the audience, forcing him to ask a woman at the back of the gymnasium to shout her question—twice—so he could hear.

“I think they underestimate him,” Paquin said.

“None of that seemed to bother voters. After his event in Columbia, Christina Goodwin, 32, called Buttigieg “exciting” and said he’d moved into her top three list, along with Sens. Kamala Harris and Kirsten Gillibrand, despite her misgivings about supporting another white man for president in 2020.

Goodwin, like other voters, said she’s been picking up bits of intriguing information about Buttigieg through social media that have piqued her interest. That he learned to speak Norwegian, for instance, so he could read more books by a Norwegian author, Erlend Loe. Buttigieg, who speaks seven languages, demonstrated some of his language skills when a Norwegian media crew showed up to ask questions after the Columbia event. (He also speaks French, Italian, Spanish, Arabic, Dari and Maltese, the language of his father’s home country.)

Buttigieg also plays piano and has been known to join local performers on stage in South Bend—video of which sometimes pops up on social media. When he was applying to his alma mater, Harvard, he won the Profiles in Courage essay contest with a piece about an independent then-congressman from Vermont whom he admired: Bernie Sanders. They would speak years later, when the senator called in 2017 to encourage him to drop out of the race for Democratic National Committee chairman, which Buttigieg later did.

Buttigieg believes he’s gaining support because people are looking for something different and a more hopeful message to combat President Donald Trump.

The openly gay former lieutenant in the Navy Reserve uses his stump speech to talk about how political decisions have shaped his life, and how much is at stake in 2020. He recalls writing a letter to his family before he deployed to Afghanistan in 2014 so they could read it if he didn’t return. He also talks about his marriage to his husband, which “exists by the grace of a single vote on the U.S. Supreme Court” – a line that generated some of his biggest applause during his trip through South Carolina.

Friends Catherine Paquin, 36, and Jonah Burrell, 37, attended Buttigieg’s stop in Greenville wearing “Mayor Pete 2020” T-shirts they bought off Amazon.com.

Burrell, who is gay, said it’s “really cool” to have an openly gay man in the race, but it’s not the main reason he’s supporting Buttigieg.

“That calm demeanor, the way he speaks is smart,” Burrell said. “You can tell he thinks about all his answers. He’s done his re-search.”

And those doubters who say Buttigieg doesn’t stand a chance?

“I think they underestimate him,” Paquin said.

Wrapping up his remarks in Greenville, Buttigieg noted that’s happening less these days than it did a few months ago, when hardly anyone knew his name.

“I don’t know whether we can pull this off, but I’m feeling pretty good about it,” he said.

Follow Sara Burnett on Twitter: https://twitter.com/sara_burnett

Consistent non-discrimination protections based on sexual orientation or gender identity across key areas of life, including employment, housing, credit, education, public spaces and services, federally-funded programs and jury service.

Reintroduced in Congress on March 13, the measure has unprec-edented support from nearly 70 percent of Americans, more than 280 members of Congress, 170 major businesses and more than 300 social justice, religious, medical and child welfare organizations. Recent polling finds that a growing majority of Americans support federal non-discrimination protections and LGBTQ equality. A recent survey by PRRI found that nearly seven in 10 Americans support laws like the Equality Act, including majorities in every single state and majorities of Republicans, Independents and Democrats alike.

Over the coming days and weeks, HRC will roll out videos from a powerhouse lineup of supportive film and television actors, influencers, musicians and professional athletes, including Adam Rippon, Shea Diamond, Alexandra Billings, Blossom Brown, Charlie and Max Carver, Dustin Lance Black, Paris and Christopher Barclay, Gloria Calderon Kellett, Jamie Lee Curtis, Jane Lynch, Jesse Tyler Ferguson and Justin Mikita, Justina Machado, Karamo Brown, Maria Gay Harden, and Nyle DiMarco. The new series is modeled after HRC’s successful Americans for Marriage Equality campaign. The campaign will continue as the legislation is considered in Congress, with additional videos being produced.

“This is an exceptionally important effort, and I’m so proud to have had the opportunity to both direct this series and participate with my family,” said Emmy Award-winning director Paris Barclay.

“So much of the progress of the LGBTQ movement has hinged on our ability to tell our stories and move people — and that’s the same spirit with which we’ve approached this compelling project. I was moved by the stories from the talented people participated in this campaign. We join them in working to make history again by passing the Equality Act.”

“For every American deserves a fair shot at a job to support them-
Dance, dine, and do good

Fenway Health Women’s Dinner Party
Submitted by Fenway Health

On Saturday, April 6, 2019, over 1,200 lesbian and bisexual women, transgender people, and their allies, dressed to impress, will gather in the elegant Boston Marriott Copley Place ballroom for a celebration of philanthropy, advancements in women’s health, and our vibrant LGBT community.

The Fenway Health Dinner Party is one of New England’s largest LGBT-focused charitable events. Attendees will enjoy a gourmet dinner, bid on unique auction items, and dance the night away.

The Dinner Party will be held at the Boston Marriott Copley Place from 6 PM to 1 AM.

For information visit https://dinnerparty.org/

Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley is the 2019 Dr. Susan M. Love Award recipient. Pressley is a strong supporter of universal health care and Medicare-For-All. As a survivor of sexual violence herself, Pressley states that she would make ending sexual violence a major priority of her work in Congress. Pressley has dedicated her career to eradicating poverty and fighting for underserved communities.

“I will sit at the table, and compromise and work with anyone in the name of progress,” Pressley said. “But there are things that I’m unwilling to compromise and to negotiate on, and that is the rights of women, of immigrants, of workers, and the LGBTQQA community.”

The Dr. Susan M. Love Award is given at the Dinner Party to honor and celebrate a woman and/or organization that has made a significant contribution to the field of women’s health. The Love Award is given in honor of its founding recipient, Dr. Susan M. Love, a pioneer in the fields of women’s health and breast cancer. Love helped founded the Revlon/UCLA Breast Center in 1992 and currently heads up the Dr. Susan Love Research Foundation, which is dedicated to eradicating breast cancer.

The host for the evening will be comedian Dana Goldberg, as seen on TBS, ABC, LOGO, and Last Comic Standing. DJ Susan Estherra will DJ this year’s Dinner Party.

National briefs

Home for LGBTQ youth to open in Indianapolis this summer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—A member of the LGBTQ community who has experience working with transitional housing and homelessness has been named the founding executive director of what’s billed as Indiana’s first home for LGBTQ youth who have nowhere safe to live.

Trinity Haven is scheduled to open this summer in the Mapleton-Fall Creek neighborhood of Indianapolis. It will serve LGBTQ youth ages 16-21. When it opens, Trinity Haven will be able to house up to 10 youth at a time, with the potential to eventually house at least 15. The new director, Jenni White, has worked since 2010 at an agency offering supportive services and housing options to survivors of domestic violence.

Trinity Haven has received funding from the Lilly Endowment, the Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention and Episcopal churches, among others.

Michigan deal bars LGBT discrimination in state adoptions

By DAVID EGGLETT
Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. (AP)—Faith-based adoption agencies that are paid by the state of Michigan will no longer be able to turn away LGBT couples or individuals because of religious objections under a legal settlement announced Friday.

The agreement was reached between Democratic Attorney General Dana Nessel’s office and lawyers for the American Civil Liberties Union, which sued the state in 2017 on behalf of two lesbian couples and a woman who was in foster care in her teens.

“Discrimination in the provision of foster care case management and adoption services is illegal, no matter the rationale,” Nessel, who pursued settlement talks after intervening in the case on behalf of St. Vincent Catholic Charities and St. Vincent Catholic Charities, said in a court filing.

The ACLU, which called the settlement a “violation” for nearly 12,000 children in foster care, had said the suit was filed after the office of former GOP Attorney General Bill Schuette declined to speak to it about possible discrimination provisions in its contracts in cases where people interested in fostering or adopting any children would refusal to provide orientation or training, per

seven of those agencies were willing to work with unmarried or same-sex couples. The agency said it would be unable to keep its adoption and foster programs going without the state contract.

The settlement drew both praise and criticism.

The liberal advocacy group Progress Michigan called it a “great step toward a more welcoming and inclusive Michigan.” But a top Republican, Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey, of Clarklake, said he was “deeply saddened and outraged,” and accused Nessel of furthering her “personal political agenda.”

“Nessel’s apparent disregard for the laws of our state, the Constitution and the well-being of thousands of children is an affront to all citizens,” he said.

Nessel spokeswoman Kelly Rossmann-McKinney countered that the attorney general “strongly supports” giving every child who is a ward of the state a “forever home.” That is the compassionate agenda of a mom.”

Omar rallies support for bill banning gay conversion therapy

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—Rep. Ilhan Omar has rallied LGBTQ youth in support of a Minnesota bill to ban gay conversion therapy for minors or vulnerable adults.

Omar spoke Thursday on the state Capitol steps to a crowd that marched from OurFront Minnesota’s seventh annual Youth Summit at Saint Paul College.

The Minnesota Democrat called gay conversion therapy “torture” and said it should no longer be a legal practice in Minnesota or in any other state.

Omar was a co-sponsor of a similar bill when she was in the Minnesota House. She was elected to Congress in November.

Minneapolis Democrat Scott Dibble, the openly gay Minnesota senator, urged the crowd to meet with their legislators, fight for change and run for office.

The American Psychological Association opposes therapy seeking to change sexual orientation.

Tennessee House passes contentious anti-discrimination bill

By KIMBERLEE KRUESI
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Tennessee’s GOP-dominated House on Thursday approved an anti-discrimination
continued from page 4

It’s embarrassing they’re trying to pass that law,” Stewart told reporters after the vote.

Cop whose slurs were recorded quits Hammond

HAMMOND, Ind. (AP)—A white police sergeant who spent 26 years with the Hammond department has resigned while under investigation for homophobic and racist comments while off duty at a bar.

Lt. Steven Kellogg says the officer submitted a retirement letter Thursday, two hours before an interview. The Times reports that he was facing possible termination after his comments at a bar were recorded in December and February.

Hammond Mayor Thomas McDermott Jr. says “it’s impossible to be a police officer” after making the remarks.

Kellogg says the department became aware of the recorded remarks on March 7 and placed the sergeant on leave. He was paid $74,000 a year.

Alabama Senate approves bill to change marriage licenses

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)—The Alabama Senate has approved a bill to abolish judge-signed marriage licenses as some conservative probate judges continue to object to giving marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

Senators approved the bill Thursday on a 26-0 vote. It now moves to the Alabama House of Representatives.

Under the bill, couples would still get a form at the local courthouse to get married, but it would not be called a license.

A few Alabama probate judges for years have refused to issue marriage licenses to anyone so they do not have to give them to gay couples.

Republican Sen. Greg Albritton of Range, who has worked on the bill for several years, said he is trying to reach a compromise so marriage licenses can be issued in all counties.

Event to highlight LGBTQ history in American South

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP)—An event this week will highlight the history of LGBTQ people in the American South.

What organizers are calling the inaugural Queer History South Conference opens Thursday in Birmingham, Alabama. More than 115 people are expected to attend from the South and elsewhere.

The two-day conference will focus on collecting, researching, preserving and sharing items to document the stories of gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender people and queer people in the South.

It’s being staged by the nonprofit Invisible Histories Project, which began in 2016 in Birmingham.

Organizers from five states are involved, and the program includes presentations from speakers including universities and the Smithsonian National Museum of American History.

Sponsors of the event include the city of Birmingham and the University of Alabama’s college of arts and sciences.
specialty cocktails by Diageo, and cold brew from Fazenda Coffee Roasters offered delicious pairings.

A robust silent auction and wine toss game with travel packages, rare vintages, and fabulous experiences rounded out the fundraising efforts of this sparkling evening.

The philanthropically-minded mingled, nibbled, and learned from the city's culinary stars, from Top Chef contestant Adrienne Wright of Boston Chops to Tim Maslow, Jason Cheek, and Colin Lynch. Kevin O’Donnell and Michael Lombardi led a lesson in pasta making a la SRV.

Guests also learned from demonstrations by Iron Chef competitor Douglass Williams and Brownstone’s Kelly Snuggles.

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

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

JJBodner Insurance Agency of Boston

We are the future of the LGBT community.

“The world still has its challenges but things are getting better. From the way we first met on line to marriage equality to our daughter’s upcoming Quinceañera our life together is more fulfilling every day. We keep up with events and entertainment on EDGE, because that’s where we see our future at its brightest.”

EDGEMEDIANETWORK
the future of lgbt media
edgemedianetwork.com

facebook.com/baywindows

facebook.com/baywindows

THE TAKE
with Sue O’Connell

SHE HAS A LOT TO SAY...
SO DO HER GUESTS

WEEKDAYS
@ 7PM,
repeated @ 10PM

www.necn.com
I look high and low for a quote to kick off each column. This week, it came courtesy of Miss Barbra Streisand. However, it also requires a bit more discussion. In an interview with "The Times of London", she talked about the documentary "Leaving Neverland". Babs says she believes James Safechuck and Wade Robson. When asked her feelings about Michael Jackson, she said, "It’s a combination of feelings. I feel bad for the children. I feel bad for him. I blame, I guess, the parents, who would allow their children to sleep with him. Why would Michael need these little children dressed like him and in the shows and the dancing and the hats? I think what they were wearing is less germane to the scenario than what they weren’t, but I see where she’s going. Alas, then she got herself into trouble. “His sexual needs were his sexual needs, coming from whatever childhood he has or whatever DNA he has. You can say ‘molested’, but those children, as you heard say, they were thrilled to be there. They both married and they both have children, so it didn’t kill them.” There’s that sympathetic Babs we know and love.

Needless to say, this led to quite a bit of outrage. Streisand attempted to clarify with a statement: "To be crystal clear, there is no situation or circumstance where it is OK for the innocence of children to be taken advantage of by anyone. The stories these two young men shared were painful to hear, and I feel nothing but sympathy for them. The single most important role of being a parent is to protect their children. It’s clear that the parents of these two young men were also victimized and seduced by fame and fantasy.”

Then Miss Ross got involved. She Tweeted, “This is what’s on my heart this morning. I believe and trust that Michael Jackson was and is a magnificent incredible force to me and to many others. STOP IN THE NAME OF LOVE.” There’s that sympathetic Diane we know and love. But, riddle me this—would she have let Michael babysit her two sons? Well, if the sons were nine years old, white and blond?

I am completely perplexed by this whole Wendy Williams mess. And, yes, it is a mess. Last week, she revealed that she is not living with her husband. Well, everyone was positively giddy thinking she finally left him because he may have a girlfriend who may be pregnant. But, no—Wendy said, “I have been living in a sober house”. What? Without giving too many details, she mentioned her previous cocaine addiction and how she never got treatment for it. So now, all of a sudden, she is living in a house with, as she calls them, “a bunch of smelly boys.” Obviously, I wish her well and applaud her bravery—but something doesn’t smell quite kosher...but that might just be the boys. How long has she been in this house? Is this connected with her long absence from the show? And, since she says lights are out at 10PM, how does she watch all the shows she talks about each day? Are the smelly boys also watching “Love and Hip Hop” and “The Real Housewives of Fill-In-The-Blank”?

Remember Nick Gruber? He was the former “model” (he said euphemistically) who was once the paramour of Calvin Klein. Then he tried to get a reality show with some other “winner” (ditto). Last week, he found himself in court—for—get ready for it—beating up someone with a frying pan. On September 3, 2018, Nick allegedly hit an unnamed man with a frying pan and refused to allow him to leave an apartment on East 76th Street in NYC which belonged to co-defendant, Brandon Steele. According to court documents, “The victim was treated at Lenox Hill Hospital for several broken bones to the back, as well as a nearly severed ear and injuries to the orbital bone that could, potentially, affect vision.” Nick has been charged with second-degree assault and unlawful imprisonment—which you may recall is what Boy George was charged with after he handcuffed that hooker to a bed.

Why is an incident that happened over six months ago in the news? Because on March 5, 2019, Gruber allegedly broke into an apartment in the same building and stole a bag of methamphetamine! However, Nick says he was subletting the apartment—except the super didn’t know him (but, may I say in his defense, been there, done that). Gruber is out on $5K bail and due back in court on April 4th. By the way, a photographer from the “New York Post” wanted to take his picture in court. Nick’s only concern was, “How does my hair look?” Priorities.

Last week, Jennifer Lawrence and Adele went clubbing at Pieces—a NYC gay bar. As it happened, that was “musical shots” night, hosted by drag queen Brita Filter. Miss Filter posted all about it on Instagram—as drag queens so often do, “That time that I walked into my bar for my show and Jennifer Lawrence was sitting down, and she’s like ‘We came to see your show.’ And then Adele walks in and says, ‘We heard you were the best.’” Apparently, the gals didn’t do well during the game. One photo shows Lawrence tackling the strapping singer. Don’t take my word for it—see the photos (and video) on BillyMasters.com.

Last week, United Airlines became the first airline in the United States to allow passengers to fly as non-gender specific individuals. From now on, you may make a reservation with the title of Mr., Ms., or Mx. Correspondingly, you can identify as (m) male, (f) female, (u) undisclosed, or (x) unspecified. While this sounds like a landmark, it is actually the result of a landmark. Back in February, the industry trade group known as Airlines for America
School official appeals job removal after trans
boy harassed

CLARKSBURG, W.Va. (AP)—A West Virginia assistant principal accused of harassing a transgender student is appealing a decision to remove him from his job after this school year.

WBOY-TV reports an attorney for Lee Livengood asked the Harrison County Board of Education to reconsider last week’s vote not to renew Livengood’s contract at the end of a three-year probationary period.

In November, Livengood allegedly followed transgender teenager Michael Critchfield into the boys bathroom at Liberty High School and said, “You freak me out,” Critchfield said Livengood also ordered him to use his gender by using a urinal.

Livengood’s attorney, Alex Shook, says his client wasn’t aware of Critchfield’s gender identity and was not told of an arrangement Critchfield had with the principal to use the boys restrooms.

The American Civil Liberties Union is seeking diversity training in good standing.

NLGJA will be awarding five $10,000 scholarships as part of our five-year partnership with the Facebook Journalism Project. To be eligible to receive the scholarship, applicants must be enrolled juniors, seniors or graduate students at an accredited university in the United States. The Steve Mason Sports Media Scholarship will provide $2,500 in tuition support for an LGBTQ student who has demonstrated an interest in sports journalism and a dedication to fair and accurate LGBTQ coverage.

Continued from page 5

For Student Opportunities

Submitted by NLGJA

NLGJA is excited to announce that applications are now being accepted for several scholarships and student opportunities. The deadline to apply for the Kay Longcope Scholarship, Leroy F. Aarons Scholarship, Facebook Journalism Project Scholarships and Steve Mason Sports Media Scholarship, as well as the CONNECT: Student Journalism Training Project, is May 21.

The Kay Longcope Scholarship Award and the Leroy F. Aarons Scholarship Award are presented to aspiring student journalists who are members of the LGBTQ Community. The scholarship awards provide up to $3,000 and $5,000 respectively in tuition to students enrolled in a graduate or undergraduate institution with a demonstrated interest in journalism or mass communication. Each year, the Longcope Award goes to an LGBTQ student of color pursuing a career in journalism. Applicants must be NLGJA members.

Wills, Trusts, Health Care Proxies, Probate, Prenuptials
Create protection for you and your loved ones

One of the only Estate Planning firms focused on the unique needs of LGBT couples, individuals and families.

KRAFT LAW OFFICES
60 State Street, Suite 700
Boston, MA 02109
(617) 573-0010
rnick@kraftlawboston.com

Bay Windows | March 28, 2019 | Page 9
Japan urged to stop requiring surgery for ID gender change

By MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press

TOKYO (AP)—Human Rights Watch urged Japan on Wednesday to drop its requirement that transgender people be sterilized before their gender is changed on official documents. A 2004 law states that people wishing to register a gender change must have their original reproductive organs removed and have a body that "appears to have parts that resemble the genital organs" of the gender they want to register. The Supreme Court in January rejected an appeal by a transgender man who wanted legal recognition without undergoing surgery, though the court acknowledged that the practice restricts freedom and could become out of step with changing social values.

Human Rights Watch said the compulsory sterilization requirement is abusive and outdated. In a report, the international rights group said requiring invasive and irreversible procedures violates the rights of transgender people who want their gender identity legally recognized.

"Japan's government needs urgently to address and fundamentally revise the legal recognition process that remains anchored to a diagnostic framework that fails to meet international standards," the report said. It said the law, which still defines gender incongruence as a "disorder," is out of step with international medical standards.

"This is not about tolerance. This is about the affirmation of same-sex unions, about their marriage, and their right to adopt children," Kaczyński said emphatically. "We want to say it clearly. We are saying, 'No!,' especially when it concerns children. Stay away from our children!"

Polish law does not allow same-sex marriages. The Law and Justice government promotes family values and aims to boost the country's birth rate with generous bonuses. The party has also supported the Roman Catholic Church for years.

Kaczyński’s words drew irony from the opposition. The gay leader of the Spring party, Robert Biedron, said on Twitter that Kaczyński "should be referring his 'Stay away from our children!' words to the pedophilia in the Catholic Church."

On Thursday, Catholic church leaders revealed that, according to their records, some 382 clerics in Poland had abused over 620 minors since 1990.

Tomasz Siemoniak of the pro-EU Civic Platform party said Kaczyński’s slogan should be directed at the ruling party’s education minister, who has introduced much-criticized changes to the nation’s curriculum.

Although his party leads in opinion polls, Kaczyński is pressing his message hard to rally even more conservative supporters. In Poland, voters in larger cities tend to increasingly back the pro-EU opposition. Opinion polls suggest that opposition parties, if they united forces, could win a slight edge over Law and Justice in the elections.

“Japan urged to stop requiring surgery for ID gender change

By MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press

A 2004 law states that people wishing to register a gender change must have their original reproductive organs removed and have a body that “appears to have parts that resemble the genital organs” of the gender they want to register. The Supreme Court in January rejected an appeal by a transgender man who wanted legal recognition without undergoing surgery, though the court acknowledged that the practice restricts freedom and could become out of step with changing social values.

Human Rights Watch said the compulsory sterilization requirement is abusive and outdated. In a report, the international rights group said requiring invasive and irreversible procedures violates the rights of transgender people who want their gender identity legally recognized.

“Japan’s government needs urgently to address and fundamentally revise the legal recognition process that remains anchored to a diagnostic framework that fails to meet international standards,” the report said. It said the law, which still defines gender incongruence as a “disorder,” is out of step with international medical standards.

Poland’s ruling chief speaks strongly against LGBT rights

By MONIKA SCISLOWSKA
Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—The leader of Poland’s right-wing ruling party used hostile language Saturday while speaking against rights for LGBT persons, a subject that has risen to prominence in his political campaign ahead of crucial elections in Poland this year.

Jarosław Kaczyński spoke to Law and Justice party activists and government members at a convention in Katowice, ahead of both the European Parliament election, slated in Poland for May 26, and of Poland’s general election in the fall. The elections will decide whether Law and Justice, which is critical of European Union ways and values, will preserve the control of Poland’s parliament it has since 2015.

It was the second time in eight days that Kaczyński used the issue of LGBT rights to rally conservative voters in the predominantly Catholic nation. Commentators said he was also aiming to deflect attention from questions over his involvement in a construction business and from corruption allegations against some ruling party members.

The 69-year-old bachelor, Kaczyński, who is Poland’s most powerful politician and a lawmaker, argued that a recent LGBT rights declaration by the opposition Warsaw mayor backs same-sex marriages and adoption rights.

“This is not about tolerance. This is about the affirmation of same-sex unions, about their marriage, and their right to adopt children,” Kaczyński said emphatically. “We want to say it clearly. We are saying, ‘No!,’ especially when it concerns children. Stay away from our children!”

Polish law does not allow same-sex marriages. The Law and Justice government promotes family values and aims to boost the country’s birth rate with generous bonuses. The party has also supported the Roman Catholic Church for years.

Kaczyński’s words drew irony from the opposition. The gay leader of the Spring party, Robert Biedron, said on Twitter that Kaczyński “should be referring his ‘Stay away from our children!’ words to the pedophilia in the Catholic Church.”

On Thursday, Catholic church leaders revealed that, according to their records, some 382 clerics in Poland had abused over 620 minors since 1990.

Tomasz Siemoniak of the pro-EU Civic Platform party said Kaczyński’s slogan should be directed at the ruling party’s education minister, who has introduced much-criticized changes to the nation’s curriculum.

Although his party leads in opinion polls, Kaczyński is pressing his message hard to rally even more conservative supporters. In Poland, voters in larger cities tend to increasingly back the pro-EU opposition. Opinion polls suggest that opposition parties, if they united forces, could win a slight edge over Law and Justice in the elections.
(or A4A) ruled that these gender designations would become the industry standard as of June 1st. Members of A4A not only include United Airlines, but also American Airlines, Alaska Airlines, Hawaiian Airlines, JetBlue, and Southwest Airlines. In other words, every airline except Delta and Continental. Meanwhile, who knew A4A could also stand for something to do with flying.

I just returned from Palm Springs where I attended "Remembering Carol: A Tribute to Carol Channing". This was a bittersweet event—but happily far more sweet than bitter. The bitter, of course, is that our beloved Carol is no longer with us. But, my God, the room was filled with such love and warmth that it was truly as if she never left. It was certainly not lost on me that it took a dozen luminaries to create a feeling Channing could do simply by walking into a room. Those gathered shared songs and stories about someone who was truly unique. People like Carole Cook, Lily Tomlin, Tyne Daly, Ruta Lee, Davis Gaines, and Kristin Chenoweth. Despite the star power in that theatre, there was only one way to end the celebration—with a video of Carol herself singing the eleven o’clock number from "Hello, Dolly!". To our beloved Carol—so long dearie.

Does the name Bella Abzug mean anything to you? Well, if you recognized the names in the previous paragraph, the answer is a resounding yes. For those of you who don’t know, Bella was a pioneer when it came to women in politics. A staunch feminist, she was a lawyer who became a member of Congress in 1971. Her catchy slogan was, "This woman’s place is in the house—the House of Representatives". Of course, you may also remember her for her trademark hats. Although Bella died in 1998, she is about to make a return—courtesy of Harvey Fierstein, who is a Bella Abzug look-a-like. Harvey has written a solo show called "Bella Bella" which he is premiering at the Manhattan Theatre Club next year.

Fans of the reboot of "Dynasty" will be sad to know that Nicollette Sheridan has left the building. Last week, Alexis was attacked by the latest person claiming to be long-lost son Adam. How was she attacked? He pushed her head into a fire and held her there. OUCH! As it turns out, Alexis isn’t dead. But since Sheridan wanted out, the producers had to be creative. This immolation will leave her so disfigured, the character will be easier to re-cast.

Our “Ask Billy” question is a response to last week’s column. Kevin in Baltimore writes, "Thanks for the JO video of Tyler Posey. But I think his [‘Now Apocalypse’] co-star is even hotter. Didn’t you once have a video of him?"

You’re right—I completely forgot about that! Last July, I told you about Beau Mirchoff—best known from "Desperate Housewives" and "Awkward". Apparently, he indulged in several online masturbation scenes, which some unknown paramour leaked. But, don’t look a gift horse in the mouth—especially since Beau resembles another part of the horse. See for yourself on BillyMasters.com.

When we’re wrapping things up with a Beau, it’s time to end yet another column. Here’s one little tidbit that I got out of Barbra’s interview which I never knew before—Streisand turned down Michael Jackson’s request to record a duet! Those are the little things you’ll discover when you check out www.BillyMasters.com—the site that also delivers such big things. For your burning questions, write to me at Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Babs records her own version of "Bad". Until next time, remember, one man’s filth is another man’s bible.
Dreams reflected.

On X1, it’s pride all year, only with Xfinity." There’s power in seeing yourself on screen, and that’s why Xfinity created a first-of-its-kind community endorsed LGBTQ Film & TV Collection. With Xfinity On Demand, you have access to thousands of TV shows and movies at home and on-the-go. Simply say, “LGBTQ” into the X1 Voice Remote to easily immerse yourself in an awesome, diverse collection of content that reflects all of you. Simple. Easy. Awesome.

Find yourself at xfinity.com/LGBTQ

Restrictions apply. Not available in all areas. No celebrity endorsement implied. ©2018 Comcast. All rights reserved.