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Healey makes history

By SteveLeBlanc
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Maura Healey, the first woman and first open member of the LGBTQ community to be elected governor of Massachusetts, was sworn into office at the Statehouse Thursday, pledging to lead "with empathy and with equity."

The ceremony also marks the first time that an all-women ticket will occupy the office. Kim Driscoll, who served as mayor of Salem, was elected lieutenant governor with Healey and was also sworn in on Thursday..

Healey, who served eight years as Massachusetts attorney general, ran

see **HEALEY,** *page 5*

Maura Healey, center right, is sworn in as Massachusetts governor by state Senate President Karen Spilka, left, as Kim Driscoll, right, looks on during inauguration ceremonies, Thursday, Jan. 5, 2023, at the Statehouse, in Boston. (AP Photo/Steven Senne).

OBITUARY

Don Gorton

Submitted by Russ Aims

Photo via Don Gorton/Facebook.

Donald "Don" Eldridge Gorton, III, age 62, of Boston, passed away unexpectedly on December 24, 2022 at his family home in Belzoni, Mississippi.

Gorton was born on May 4th, 1960, and was the son of Anne Campbell Carlton Gorton and the late Donald Eldridge Gorton Jr. In addition to his mother, he is survived by a brother, James Carlton Gorton, a sister, Lindsay Gorton Warren and seven nieces and nephews. He graduated from Boston University in 1982 and Harvard Law School in 1985.

He was a highly respected advocate for LGBTQ equality in Massachusetts for 35 years, focussing on strategy to build a movement of activists, develop political clout, analyze and document issues, and organizing to secure critical legislation.

Gorton's work was groundbreaking.

see **DON GORTON,** *page 5*

HRC's Kelley Robinson Talks Family, Fighting Back, and the Future

by Dana Rudolph | drudolph@mombian.com
contributing writer

HRC President Kelley Robinson with her wife, Becky George, and son, Izaiah. Photo by Eric Kayne/AP Images for Human Rights Campaign.

Kelley Robinson, the new president of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), is the first Black, queer woman to lead the organization. She's also the mother of a toddler. Being a mom and wife is "the center of everything I do," she told me in an interview about her family, her work, and her vision for the future.

Before starting at HRC last November, Robinson was executive director of the Planned Parenthood Action Fund. She said her work at HRC is "deeply informed" by the reproductive rights world and a deep concern about racial and social justice.

On a personal note, she shared,

see **MOMBIAN,** *page 4*

Pope Benedict XVI's era of LGBTQ+ bashing

by Rev. Irene Monroe
contributing writer

Pope Benedict XVI, a.k.a. Joseph Ratzinger, died over the Christmas holidays. Many Catholics will recall the legacy of his papacy with mixed feelings.

First and foremost remembered of Benedict's papacy will be his mishandling of the Catholic Church sex scandal cover-up. As the archbishop in Munich, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (1977-2005) sent out a letter on May 18, 2001, ordering all his bishops, under the threat of ecclesiastical punishment, to observe "papal secrecy" to keep sex abuse allegations concealed from both the public and the police. Benedict moved pedophilic priests from parish to parish like pieces on a chess board. The Vatican defended Benedict's actions, stating critics are looking for "easy scapegoats and summary judgments."

The archbishop of Boston, Sean O'Malley, released a statement depicting Benedict as a man who "was very concerned with relativism and the truth being compromised." As a church Traditionalist, Benedict's truth ruled with an iron fist who used his authoritarian and "Rottweiler" persona to maintain the ecclesiastical structures of the ancient Catholic church

Sadly Benedict's anti-modernity views on AIDS and women's role within the Catholic Church hierarchy were both retro, wreckless, and spiritually abusive. For example, he stuck by his no

see **MONROE,** *page 5*

"Upon arriving home I'd been horrified to discover that my nether regions were frost nipped...While the ears and cheeks were already healing, the todger wasn't. It was becoming more of an issue by the day."

—As a result of his 2011 trip to the North Pole, Prince Harry reveals he had a frostbitten penis at William and Kate's wedding.

more in Billy Masters on page 6!

THE CHECKOUT

Corazón Cabo Resort & Spa

Cabo San Lucas, Mexico

By Ed Salvato
Courtesy of the National LGBT Media Association

www.corazoncabo.com

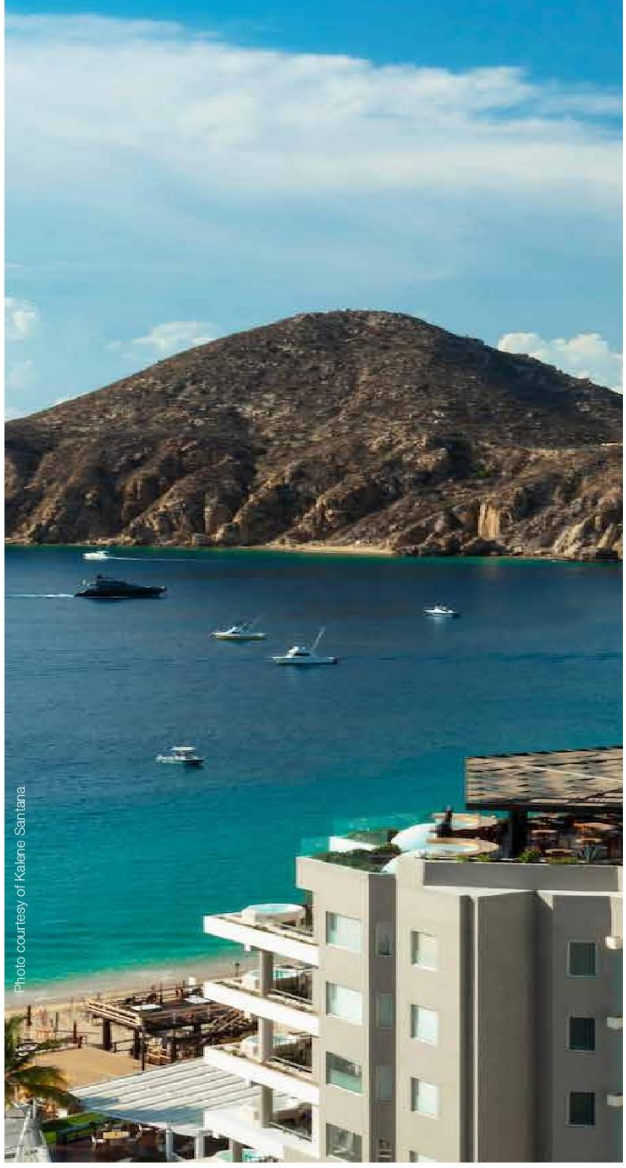

Photo courtesy of Kalene Santana.

TOP/BOTTOM LINE

The recently remodeled Corazón tower at the Corazón Cabo Resort & Spa brings affordable luxury and upscale Mexican fiesta vibes to the very center of Cabo San Lucas, located at the tip of Baja California, a direct, non-stop flight from NYC, Dallas, Los Angeles, and other major U.S. destinations. Neither Cabo nor Corazón is an LGBTQ hot spot, but they're both incredibly comfortable for and welcoming to LGBTQ folx, and particularly popular with gay couples.

AMENITIES

The resort offers sufficient amenities to keep you entertained and pampered during a long weekend stay. Almost embarrassed to say that during this trip we only left the resort once to visit a remote beach (see below.) After months of hard work, it was exactly what we needed.

If you can tear yourself from your private balcony hot tub, you'll want to head to the resort's Beach Club to enjoy Playa El Medano. Book a plush cabana or side-by-side chaise lounges, order from the lunch and bar menu and enjoy the constant stream of city-sanctioned hawkers of massage and mariachi services, surprisingly well-crafted souvenirs, cheesy hats, and bizarrely worded sashes ("Eat my booty") destined for boozy bachelorette parties.

We ordered room service a shameful number of times — it's incredibly prompt — but we also enjoyed the tasty treats at the resort's numerous à la carte restaurant options, including Aleta, Rooftop 360, and Baja Brewery. Seafood is a specialty as is Mexican cuisine, naturally, but worry not: You can always order a hamburger and other familiar dishes. Rooftop 360 is the highest open-air dining/cocktail spot in town and offers breathtaking views all around. It's sublime at sunset. The brewery is breezy, laidback, and fun, with live music and streaming sports stations. Book a treatment at Sparitual, the onsite spa. It's pricey, but the amenities (sauna, steam room, hot tub,) and therapist quality are top-notch. An 80-minute massage ($180) left me pleasantly sore and ready for bed. Rquest Edgar or Brandon.

These amenities are important, but the best one is the staff which is well trained and constantly working to keep the resort clean and you happy. When you visit, ask for Michel (pronounced "mitch-el"), Experience Manager. He takes care of everyone incredibly well and keeps a special eye out for LGBTQ guests.

ROOM/RATES

Book direct on the hotel website for the best deals. Our room in the remodeled tower, a 400-square-feet Infinity King Ocean View with Hot Tub, starts around $550 per night in the busy winter season sleeps two and includes a Nespresso machine, a safe, and daily service. (Cabo is expensive — it's surrounded by ocean, desert, and mountains, so nearly everything must be shipped in — so that price is on par with similar resorts.) Marina and City View rooms are also lovely, but we prefer ocean view accommodations, where you can enjoy the breathtaking views of the busy bay and mountains while sipping your Caffe Lungo, or order a bottle of wine and ease into the steamy Hot Tub with your honey and watch the moon rise over the bay.

NEARBY EXPERIENCES

Long a tourist hub, Cabo San Lucas doesn't offer significant historic or cultural assets. So, no demerits for simply staying at the hotel though there are fun options outside Corazón, which is located in the center of Cabo's hotel zone. You can easily walk to the charming marina where you can find the only Starbucks downtown or for a popular, delicious local taco spot, check out **Wachinango's Los Cabos** https://www.wachinangos.com/. There's a fun gay bar a 5-minute Uber ride away called **Chandelier**, https://www.facebook.com/ChandeliersNightClub/ best Thursday through Sunday nights starting around midnight. If you want to see what Cabo looked like 100 years ago hop in an Uber and head to la Curva del Soldado beach, an untouched stretch of rocky coast, sandy beach, and rough Pacific Ocean waves about an hour from the resort.

CABO TIPS

The best time to visit is December through April — with simply perfect hot, dry, and sunny conditions — with March being the ideal time for whale watching, which you can enjoy without leaving the hotel! It's easy to think of this part of the world as an extension of the U.S. We didn't even end up exchanging any money. You can use your credit cards for almost everything, but you'll want to bring lots of small U.S. bills to distribute as tips. Arrange airport transfer with **Baja Travel Transportation**, https://bajatraveltransportation.com reliable and reasonably priced.

Photo courtesy of Ed Salvato

NYC-based Ed Salvato is a freelance travel writer, instructor at NYU and the University of Texas at Austin's NYC Center, and an LGBTQ tourism marketing specialist. For more information on the National LGBT media Association, visit: https://nationallgbtmediaassociation.com/

5 STAR TRAVEL SERVICES

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guestopinion

Domestic violence programs respond to the death of José Aponte

Submitted by Casa Myrna, The Network/La Red, Jane Doe Inc.

The alleged domestic violence homicide of José Aponte, 43, in his Roxbury home on December 11, 2022, underscores the need for broader education and awareness about intimate partner abuse in lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) communities. Aponte, who was found dead during a wellness check that day, was dating Michael Perry, 37, who has been arraigned in Boston Municipal Court on a charge of first-degree murder. Perry was previously arraigned on a charge of assault with a dangerous weapon. Early news reports focused on the sensational escape attempt by Perry and omitted that the men were in a relationship, thus obscuring that this was domestic violence-related.

"We are deeply saddened by the news of Jose Aponte's murder and send our condolences to his loved ones," said Casa Myrna CEO Stephanie Brown. "This preventable tragedy highlights the prevalence of domestic violence in all communities and demonstrates the importance of education and awareness. Partnering with The Network/La Red and Jane Doe Inc., we strive to break the stigma around domestic violence and help survivors feel more empowered to ask for support."

This is the second suspected LGBTQ+ partner abuse-related homicide in Massachusetts in the past three months. Generally, 25-33% of LGBTQ+ people experience abuse by a partner, much the same rates as in cisgender heterosexual relationships. However, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's 2022 "COVID-19 Community Impact Study" noted that experiences of intimate partner violence were reported two to four times more frequently since the start of the pandemic by LGBTQ+ respondents. This is similar to the Human Rights Campaign 2020 report, "LGBTQ Intimate Partner Violence and COVID-19," that indicated "LGBTQ people have been twice as likely to have experienced an incident of intimate partner violence since the onset of COVID-19. While 68% of the general population sample who have experienced intimate partner violence since the onset of COVID-19 said the pandemic has increased the duration and frequency of such violence, this was greater (77%) among LGBTQ respondents."

While these reports may focus on physical violence, in reality, what many call "domestic violence" is a much broader constellation of behaviors. "It's about one person using a pattern of behaviors to maintain power and control over a partner's thoughts, beliefs, actions, and/or spirit," said Beth Leventhal, Executive Director of The Network/La Red. "The tactics used to control include emotional and psychological abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, financial abuse, and/or cultural/identity abuse." Abuse can occur in intimate relationships between people of any age, ethnic group, profession, religious affiliation, socioeconomic status, or sexual orientation or gender identity/expression, regardless of whether they are married or living together.

Individuals experiencing abuse are not alone, and there are resources across Massachusetts available to help. Two organizations specialize in working with LGBTQ+ individuals. The Network/La Red works statewide with LGBTQ+ survivors of partner abuse, offering free services including a 24-hour hotline, safety planning, support groups, safe home, transitional housing, and individual advocacy and support for LGBTQ+ survivors of partner abuse. Fenway Health's Violence Recovery Program (VRP) provides free counseling, support groups, advocacy, and referrals to survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, hate violence, and police misconduct.

"Domestic and sexual violence thrive in silence and often result in isolation and increased vulnerability," said Toni K. Troop, Director of Communications and Development at Jane Doe Inc. "We urge anyone who is concerned for themselves or someone they know to turn to a trusted advocate at a rape crisis center or domestic violence program to talk about what you need, available resources, and options."

Casa Myrna, The Network/La Red, and Jane Doe Inc. remain committed to supporting survivors of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

If you are concerned about your relationship or the relationship of a friend or family member, call:

The Network/La Red's statewide hotline at 1-800-832-1901 or visit www.tnlr.org.

SafeLink, Casa Myrna's statewide domestic violence hotline, at 1-877-785-2020 or visit www.casamyrna.org.

You can learn more and find help in a community near you at www.janedoe.org/find-help.

All calls are free, anonymous, and confidential. You don't have to leave or even want to leave your partner to get support

Check us out online @ BAYWINDOWS.COM

It's going to be a bumpy Congress

Kevin McCarthy's weakness empowered the insurrectionist right

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

"The Honorable Donald J. Trump of the State of Florida has received one [vote]," said Clerk of the House Cheryl Johnson as she announced the results of the 11th ballot for Speaker for the 118th Congress. This despite Trump having endorsed Kevin McCarthy.

Setting aside the former president's total lack of honor, that was one of my favorite moments from the GOP's intra-party fight in Congress last week. Another was a photo of Rep. Katie Porter (D-CA) reading "The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F*ck."

C-SPAN camera operators, unconstrained in the absence of anyone in charge, captured images of activity on the House floor that we wouldn't normally see. After the 14th ballot, Rep. Mike Rogers (R-AL) nearly started a brawl with obstructionist Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL) and was pulled back. Rep. Matt Rosendale (R-MT) waved away a call from Trump ("DT") that Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA) tried to hand him. Like other demagogues before him, Trump has unleashed a beast he cannot control.

Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) was the antidote to Republican chaos. He consistently received unanimous support from Democrats. The nominating speeches for him before each ballot told of all the things Democrats accomplished for the American people in the previous Congress. Republicans, for their part, painted a post-apocalyptic hellscape that evoked Mr. Trump's dystopian 2017 inaugural address.

Rep. Cori Bush (D-MO) tweeted that Rep. Byron Donalds (R-FL), an alternate Speaker nominee with a Tea Party and election-denying background, "is a prop." Republicans were indignant. But what else caused Donalds, one of the few black GOP House members, to be pushed forward after being ignored previously? Across the aisle, Jeffries has been a leading House Democrat. If Republicans see their black colleagues as more than props, why did they oppose the John Lewis Voting Rights Act?

All week, Democrats illustrated what Sen. Mitch McConnell calls "candidate quality." Jeffries was pitch-perfect in his gay-inclusive remarks before presenting the gavel to McCarthy in the wee hours of Saturday morning. While Republicans lie to their base and use the inflamed reaction to justify their mischief, Democrats continue to demonstrate their seriousness about governing for all Americans. They should be sure to communicate as clearly with voters about it as Jeffries.

McCarthy, in his first address as Speaker, included in his culture-war priorities a pledge to stop "woke indoctrination in our schools." The GOP equates any teaching of tolerance with predation. This is ironic considering that Gaetz sought a pardon while being investigated for sex-trafficking a minor. Projection doesn't just happen in movie theaters.

Rigid and intolerant attitudes toward learning are nothing new. McCarthy became speaker on the 413th anniversary of Galileo's letter about his discovery of moons orbiting Jupiter, which confirmed the earlier work of Copernicus and contradicted Catholic Church doctrine that the Earth was fixed at the center of the universe. This got Galileo into a great deal of trouble.

Republicans are eager to grill Dr. Anthony Fauci over the origins of Covid-19 as part of their conspiracy mongering over China. I'm not sure why they want to take him on after how deftly he has parried Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY).

Like the 17th century Vatican, MAGA leaders regard their dogmatic certitude as far superior to the cautious, incremental discoveries of science. Thus Fauci, who recently retired as director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, is derided and attacked because our knowledge of Covid has grown over time. By contrast, self-described "stable genius" Trump once recommended ingesting bleach as a cure.

Given House Republicans' predilection for revenge over governance, they may refuse later this year to raise the debt ceiling, which is about paying for debts already incurred, not new spending. Defaulting on our debt would be catastrophic; but ruination appears to be the main goal of the insurrectionist GOP.

Too often we talk as if we all have shared values, despite considerable evidence to the contrary. Why should the most radical 10% of House Republicans care about the views of the other 90% when they didn't care about the votes of the majority of Americans in the 2020 election?

Nevertheless, congrats to McCarthy on his elevation—though that seems an odd term considering how much he debased himself to get it.

No good can come from a legislature being held hostage by aggressively ignorant saboteurs who treat government as an enemy. They are the burn-it-down caucus. To paraphrase Bette Davis, fasten your seatbelts. It's going to be a bumpy Congress.

Richard J. Rosendall is a writer and activist at rrosendall@me.com.

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Mombian

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"Strides in reproductive health and reproductive rights have been fundamentally important in building the family of my dreams." She and her wife began their family via reciprocal in vitro fertilization, with her carrying her wife's egg. She noted her privilege here, though. Not only are reproductive rights being rolled back, she explained, but many people still face barriers to accessing health care and health insurance for reproductive health, gender-affirming care, and more.

"I want to create a world where the next generation has more rights than we enjoy today and not less," she asserted. That goal is "more urgent than ever" in the face of current political and policy attacks, which are "more cruel and harmful than anything I've ever seen. The way they are attacking our kids, particularly our trans kids and folks of color, is vicious."

Every parent she's spoken with, she said, LGBTQ and not, is "concerned about building a world that's safe for our kids, about ensuring that they can grow up to be kind humans who are treated with dignity and respect in every area of their lives. It's that fundamental principle that is under attack right now." She pointed out Texas Governor Greg Abbott's attempt to define parents as abusive if they support their kids with gender-affirming care; anti-LGBTQ bills in state legislatures across the country; and Florida's "Don't Say Gay or Trans" law, whose passage was "coupled with a social media campaign led by very specific political actors" that resulted in a 400 percent increase in slurs like "groomer" and "pedophile" being used online to refer to LGBTQ people, per a 2022 HRC report.

"This is literally killing our kids and our families," she stated, noting the deadly shooting at Club Q in Colorado last November, as well as the recent death by suicide of Henry Berg-Brousseau, a young transgender member of HRC's own staff. The situation "demands critical interventions," she said. "We have to be clear that we're fighting political attacks against our kids. We're fighting against hateful rhetoric and we're also fighting against real individuals whose goal is to divide our communities."

While HRC is the country's largest LGBTQ organization, Robinson said that working with other organizations is a key strategy, because "It's going to take all of us to fight this fight. The resources that our opposition has are terrifying." The people attacking LGBTQ families are the same ones pushing anti-trans legislation, trying to ban books in schools, and attacking voting rights, she said. She therefore wants to build "a broad progressive coalition that can fight back on all fronts," starting in state legislative sessions and continuing by "holding these bad actors accountable for what they're doing."

Additionally, she said, "HRC is uniquely able to work in a lot of different sectors of public life." She noted the organization's Corporate Equality Index, Municipal Equality Index, and Healthcare Equality Index, which set standards "for what it means to be supportive of LGBTQ families and people," and the HRC Foundation's Welcoming Schools program, which offers "concrete resources" for "creating schools where every child can get the dignity and respect that they deserve." She explained, "So much of what shapes the lives of our people does happen in the political realm, but it's also happening every day, in our schools, our workplaces, in every place that we're out in public."

Each of us can help, she stressed, citing the adage that making change requires "your time, your talent, and your treasures." She encouraged people to volunteer their time with local organizations, including local HRC steering committees. "We're about to enter a really challenging state legislative season," she said. "Help us to fight back." As for talents, "If you've got a skill, use it. If you like to chitchat on the phone, we've got phone banks. If you're an expert community builder, we have digital organizing. If you work in a particular industry that could promote change, we've got tools and toolkits." Finally, she said, "This work takes resourcing, so to the extent that folks are able, donate and give."

Despite the challenges, she remains optimistic. "There are fundamentally more of us than our opposition," she said. Although some people "feel like the system is so out of whack that our voices can't really make a difference," she noted that Democrats have retained control of the U.S. Senate "because people organized and we showed up and made our voices heard," and that "even in a post-*Roe* world, people are fundamentally redefining healthcare to get people to care and care to people." And Biden administration officials like Assistant Secretary for Health Rachel Levine, Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, and White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre are "people in positions of power who represent the LGBTQ community in ways that we have never seen."

She reflected, "For me to be able to sit next to my wife, a first-generation woman of Indian descent; to look at our son—our life was unimaginable a generation before." Change happened "because people kept showing up. I feel like there's a real opportunity for us to do that and create new possibilities for the next generation."

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a GLAAD Media Award-winning blog and resource directory, with a searchable database of 1000+ LGBTQ family books and more.

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Don Gorton

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From civil rights for sexual orientation and gender identity, to hate crimes laws, reporting and enforcement, funding for victims' legal fees, anti-bullying in schools, anti-transgender violence, and protecting youth from psychological abuse, Gorton was a relentless advocate.

He was the Co-Chair of the Massachusetts Governor's Task Force on Hate Crimes from 1991 to 2003, led the drafting of regulations to implement the Hate Crimes Reporting Act of 1990, and spearheaded civil rights activities for the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security. He was also heavily involved in the lobbying efforts which succeeded in the passage in the Boston City Council of the Domestic Partnership Ordinance in 1993.

Gorton was Chair of the Greater Boston Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance from 1988 to 1994. He played a leading role in passage of the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Law of 1989 and the Hate Crimes Penalties Act amendments of 1996.

Don often spoke to friends of growing up in Mississippi, as a young sensitive closeted gay boy, a history of fear and bullying that drove him to activism. In response, he was a fervent anti-bullying advocate leading the field, directing the Anti-Violence Project of Massachusetts from 1994 until his passing. In 2010, he played a leading role in the 50+ organization coalition that secured passage of comprehensive anti-bullying legislation ("An Act Relevant to Bullying in Schools"), and co-authored the Massachusetts Anti-Bullying Guide.

The silent suffering of students in schools moved him in 1998 to establish the Student Civil Rights Project, under the Governor's Task Force, to support students, parents, educators and law enforcement in creating safe school environments. Turning laws into practice, he organized conferences, trainings, Civil Rights Teams, statewide surveys, internships, websites, the first-of-its-kind trans inclusive middle school curriculum, and an online reporting channel for students being harassed.

From 2008 to 2013, Gorton was active in the youth-led LGBTQ equality movement dubbed by the New York Times as "Stonewall 2.0", and served as an officer of Join the Impact MA, embraced by a new generation of activists.

In gratitude for his work, Gorton was honored as Grand Marshal of the Boston LGBT Pride Parade in 2010, its 40th anniversary year, under the banner of "From Riots to Rights: 40 Years of Progress."

In 2019, he co-chaired the Massachusetts Coalition to Ban Conversion Therapy for Minors, which shepherded passage of the law banning the abusive practice in Massachusetts. He also authored Anti-Transgender Hate Crimes: The Challenge for Law Enforcement, which made the case for separate reporting of transgender based hate-crimes, in which he acknowledged the victims and the societal change in motion.

"Transgender survivors of violence, who have maintained dignity and poise through extreme cruelty, are propelling social change that will shatter the divisions and stereotypes holding back the fullest realization of human potential."

Gorton was a prolific writer on LGBTQ topics geared at providing legal, social, and political information and philosophy to underpin critical advocacy moments and strategies. He was a long-time officer of the Gay and Lesbian Review Worldwide where he authored 25 articles.

An ardent grassroots organizer, he welcomed everyone into the movement, keenly recruiting passion and talent. There was no job too tedious for this Harvard lawyer, from phone banking to hosting meetings, where he was a stickler for Robert's Rules, astutely managing the sometimes fractious dynamics of LGBTQ organizing.

He organized countless events, rallies, protests, voter registration, get-out-the-vote, fundraisers, legislative meetings, candidate questionnaires and public forums, where the LGBTQ community cultivated political stature and candidates coveted endorsements.

He also reveled in the celebration and joy of the community coming together and would be at pride parties dancing late into the night with his cadre of dear friends and activists. He chaired the Stonewall 50 Boston Pride Committee, and the song "Proud" was always blasting at his Pride Day parties at his South End home, an annual pilgrimage for activists.

Gorton also supported candidates for city, state and federal office, leading the gay vote to develop legislative political power at a time when politicians were not gay friendly and it was necessary to elect pro-gay candidates one by one. He organized for David Scondras, Boston's first out City Councilor, and Governor Bill Weld, a Republican.

Weld then established the first Governor's Commission on Gay & Lesbian Youth, groundbreaking at that time, to address youth suicide and school safety, and also appointed unprecedented levels of openly-gay people to his administration. Gorton also worked with Governor Cellucci & Governor Swift on hate crimes milestones.

Professionally, Gorton was a Boston attorney, later a state appellate tax judge from 1997 to 2008, and finally an attorney with the Department of Revenue. He was an aficionado of classical music and the British Royal family present and past, of whom he collected artisanal ceramic figures.

Above all, Gorton's legacy is that of a community leader who plotted a path forward through the hardest moments of LGBTQ liberation. Activism was Don Gorton's life and purpose and he was a leader among leaders who forged a vanguard movement in Massachusetts that infused LGBTQ liberation nationwide.

A celebration honoring Don Gorton will be held on Saturday, January 21, 2023, at Club Cafe, 290 Columbus Avenue, Boston from 3:15pm to 5:30pm.

Monroe

Continued from page 1

condoms even in an age of AIDS.

Benedict publicly bashed a group of U.S. "dissident" nuns for "focusing its work too much on poverty and economic injustice, while keeping 'silent' on abortion and same-sex marriage." Benedict accused these sisters of promoting "certain radical feminist themes incompatible with the Catholic faith."

However, his venomous public condemnation of LGBTQs was unrelenting. "It is impossible to overstate the damage Pope Benedict's repeated dehumanizing of LGBTQIA+ people has caused," Marianne Duddy-Burke wrote in an open statement to DignityUSA. "Individuals, families, and whole communities across the globe suffered tragic consequences, many of which are still felt today. Duddy-Burke is the Executive Director of DignityUSA. DignityUSA is the world's oldest organization of Catholics working for justice, equality, and full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ people in the church and society.

For example, Benedict injected his voice in the presidential election of 2004. Benedict instructed American bishops to read his declaration that any "catholic politician" (i.e., John Kerry, Joe Biden, Nancy Pelosi, etc.) who did not denounce gays and abortion could not receive communion.

Benedict's infamous Christmas sermon denounced same-sex marriage, advocating it would destroy the "essence of the human creature." In previous sermonic anti-LGBTQ diatribes during his tenure, Benedict stated that marriage equality is a "manipulation of nature" and a threat to world peace.

"Although the particular inclination of the homosexual person is not a sin, it is more or less a strong tendency ordered toward an intrinsic moral evil," Benedict stated in a 1986 "Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons."

On the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith website, directed by then Benedict, he wrote: "Those who would move from tolerance to the legitimization of specific rights for cohabiting homosexual persons need to be reminded that the approval or legalization of evil is something far different from the toleration of evil."

The problem with Benedict's calling us evil not only diminishes the human life of LGBTQ+ people but also denies the suffering it causes.

Benedict suppressed the growth of Liberation Theologies in Third World countries, the emerging face of the Catholic Church, for their supposedly Marxist leanings that exposed classism. However, Liberation Theologies combines Christian theology with political activism on human rights and social justice issues. Liberation Theologies emphasize the biblical themes that God's actions on behalf of the enslaved, the poor, the outcasts like women, people of color, and LGBTQ people, to name a few, are a central paradigm for a faith that embraces the world — as it is today — from an engaged and committed stance that does justice.

"The passing of former Pope Benedict XVI "marks what is, hopefully, the end of a long, painful era for LGBTQIA+ Catholics, our families, and the entire church, "Duddy-Burke stated. Benedict has asked for forgiveness and apologized for his complicity in the church sex scandal. Benedict dedicated his final years to prayer. Perhaps that was his act of penance.

Healey

Continued from page 1

virtually unopposed in the Democratic primary last year and easily defeated Republican candidate Geoff Diehl in the general election. She's only the second Democrat in the past three decades to be elected governor in Massachusetts.

During her speech, Healey also said she's committed to removing barriers people of color, people with disabilities, women and LGBT residents have faced for generations.

Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey, left, acknowledges applause after being sworn into office as Kim Driscoll, center, and Mass. Secretary of the Commonwealth William Galvin, right, stand nearby on the rostrum in the House Chamber at the Statehouse during inauguration ceremonies, Thursday, Jan. 5, 2023, in Boston. (AP Photo/Steven Senne)

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Continued from page 1

Time for the hottest game in NYC, "Where's Barbara?" The Barbara in question is **Barbara Walters**. Obviously we all know she's dead. But none of her friends know exactly where she is. According to insiders, friends have been calling funeral parlors all over the Tri-State area in order to figure out what the arrangements are. Not only friends, but former colleagues—including people at ABC and, in particular, "The View". When the famed Frank E. Campbell facility was contacted, they said (rather bluntly, if you ask me), "We don't have her!" Walters' moody daughter Jackie has remained mum. The supposition is that since she had to share her mother with the world while she was alive, she's keeping the arrangements private. Maybe Barbara's been cryogenically preserved—only to be revived in time to say, "Welcome to 3030!"

If Barbara were still with us, I'm sure she'd be reporting on the execution of **Amber McLaughlin**. I never heard of her either, but turns out she made history. She is the first transgender person (of either sex) to be executed in this country. She was also the first person put to death this year, but that's less historic. She was convicted of murdering a former girlfriend. That typically wouldn't lead to an execution. But while the jury came back with a guilty verdict, they could not decide on a punishment. That was left to the discretion of the judge, who made the unprecedented decision of the death penalty (apparently only two states allow this to happen).

FOX's "Call Me Kat" said farewell to **Leslie Jordan** in a most imaginative way. In last week's episode, his character Phil was sent on vacation with beau Jalen (play by **John Griffin**). While in Tahiti, the duo decides to open a bakery and relocate. In the final moments of the show, Griffin brought out Leslie's director's chair and the cast gathered around it. Then **Mayim Bialik** broke the fourth wall and said, "What we've done here is given Phil a happy ending. What we're really doing is mourning the loss of our friend Leslie Jordan. He is irreplaceable. We all miss him very much. Love. Light. Leslie." While everyone looks sad, **Cheyenne Jackson** is particularly inconsolable. Then **Dolly Parton** comes on and sings part of the song "Where the Soul Never Dies", which she and Leslie recorded. She eulogizes him, ending with "I will always love you", as clips of a joyous Jordan play. Classy.

When director **Franco Zeffirelli** released "Romeo and Juliet" in 1968, there was quite a hubbub about the nudity of both **Olivia Hussey** and **Leonard Whiting**. On one hand, the stars were applauded for their performances—particularly being roughly the same age as the characters (Hussey was 15, Whiting was 16). On the other hand, the film not only showed the teens in sexual situations, but also in various degrees of undress. This led to the stars recently filing a suit against Paramount Pictures for $500 million! You might be wondering why they are coming forward half a century later. Apparently there's some statute of limitations that was about to run out. In the complaint, they claim that Zeffirelli told them that no nudity would be in the final cut. Of course, he died in 2019—so we can't ask him. But as recently as 2018, Hussey defended the nudity saying, "It was needed for the film." She added, "It wasn't that big of a deal." The suit claims that the nudity impacted their careers. "Plaintiffs have also suffered a lifetime of loss of earnings and other employment benefits and job opportunities, and will continue to suffer such losses."

Remember **Erick Adame**? He was the New York weatherman who was fired after appearing nude on a live webcam feed. During his broadcast, he showed off his privates, gave out his address and phone number, and encouraged men to come by and have their way with him. He added, "I think it'd be hot if my boss saw me. I would love my boss to fuck me on camera." Alas, the only surprise Adame received was to be fired. He defended his actions by saying, "I don't apologize for being sex-positive". Now he says, "I don't want any kind of this attention that I've been receiving". He adds, "I assumed that once I closed my laptop that anything that happened on camera would only exist in memory." Since I just saw a rerun of "The Odd Couple", let me point out that you should never "assume"—because you make an ass of u and me. Of course, I don't remember if Erick showed his ass. I'll have to review the footage.

Color me surprised to see someone who was fired back on the air. Last week, **Sharon Osbourne** was on air saying, "Hello everybody. A happy, happy New Year and welcome to 'The Talk'." But she wasn't sitting next to **Sheryl Underwood**. She was on "The Talk UK"! I'm not sure if she'll be a regular on the show or if this will be an occasional spot. But I'm always glad to see Shazza.

Elsewhere in the UK, **The Spice Girls** are not at all happy about a new release of an old track. It all started when they released the 25th anniversary edition of "Spiceworld"—which included some live tracks, alternate versions of some songs, and some unreleased demos. One of the demos considered was a song called "C. U. Next Tuesday"! Surely I don't have to explain why it wasn't released back in 1996. But **Mel C.** says it's not because of the title. "[It] was never used because it's a pile of shit. I think it would be a big rip-off if Virgin put it on a greatest hits album now." And Virgin didn't release it. But someone found the track and leaked it online.

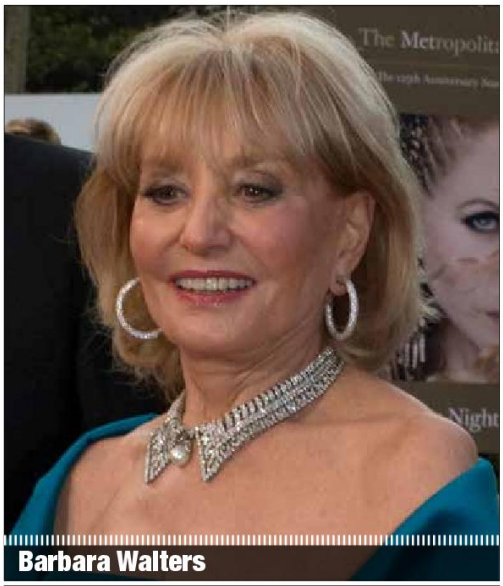
In some cheeky music news, **Sam Smith** recently bared all. They (which is Sam's pronoun of choice) spent the holidays in Thailand and took some racy photos showing off their assets on a boat and in a rocky glade—which sounds painful. Should you be so inclined, float on over to BillyMasters.com to check out the goods.

Openly gay football player **Carl Nassib** rang in the new year with a hunky new boyfriend. He posted a photo of them on social media, saying "Kicking off 2023 with my man and a trip to the playoffs." His beau is **Søren Dahl**, a Danish swimmer who sports that ripped swimmer's build so many claim to have and rarely deliver. Trust me when I say Dahl delivers—which you can also see on our website.

That's a perfect segue into our "Ask Billy" question. Henry from Dallas asks, *"What do you know about **Britney Spears'** husband? I saw some photos of him, and he's got an amazing body. Kinda like a porn star. Any nudes?"*

I never gave **Sam Asghari** much thought—until I got Henry's e-mail. When I did some research, my first thought was, "Yowza!" He certainly does look like he could be a model, an actor, or a gay porn star. While I can only confirm two of those professions, I can happily add that he's hung. In some photos Sam swiftly deleted from social media, he clearly shows off his penis in some tight-fitting shorts. They may have disappeared from public view, but can still be seen on BillyMasters.com.

When we're objectifying Britney's beau, we've definitely come to the end of yet another column. There's a whole lot of objectifying going around. That disgraced weatherman even complained about it. "I don't enjoy being humiliated and treated like a sexual object." Rest assured, I do not mind either—as you'll see on www.BillyMasters.com—the site that never complains and never explains. If you have a question, send it to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before we discover that Barbara is buried under the Pirates of the Caribbean ride! So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.



Barbara Walters

The Spice Girls

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