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Serving New England's LGBTQ+ Communities

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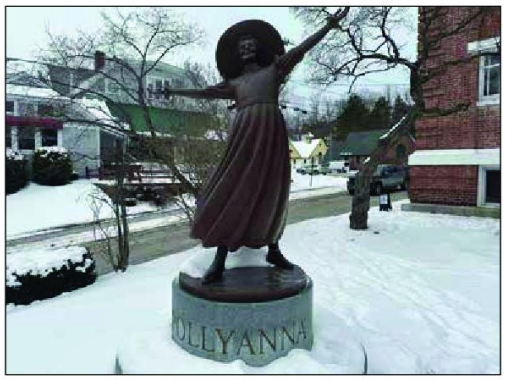
Town manager quits over anti-gay pressure in quaint New Hampshire town

By Nick Perry and Kathy McCormack
Associated Press

LITTLETON, N.H. (AP) — The quaint town of Littleton, New Hampshire, is seeing more tourists, drawn to a main street of shops and restaurants where rainbow colors and gay pride symbols can be seen alongside American flags. Its population of 6,000 is growing younger and more diverse, supporting LGBTQ-themed art and a local theater's gay-themed musical.

The changes haven't been comfortable for town selectboard member Carrie Gendreau, who also serves as a Republican state senator. Last year, she said that "homosexuality is an abomination" and spoke of regulating art on public property. That

see **NEW HAMPSHIRE,** *page 2*



A bronze statue of Pollyanna sits outside the Littleton public library to honor the 1913 book by local author Eleanor H. Porter, whose main character came to define relentless optimism, Jan 22, 2024, in Littleton, N.H. Littleton town manager Jim Gleason, whose late son was gay, resigned effective Friday, Feb. 2, 2024, to take a stand against the anti-LGBTQ sentiments being expressed by some people in Littleton. (AP Photo/Nick Perry)

CampOUT LGBTQ-Centered Summer Camp Returns to Central Massachusetts

By Dana Rudolph
Contributing Writer

CampOUT at the Farm School, a week-long summer camp for LGBTQ youth and youth from LGBTQ families, is back in Central Massachusetts after a break of 10 years. This week-long summer camp was founded in 2000 and went on hiatus after 2014—but this summer, it will again offer young people a place to have fun and be themselves in a welcoming and inclusive community. Registration is now open and "camperships" are available to help with financial need.

see **CAMPOUT,** *page 4*

Photo courtesy of The Farm School.

GLAD Welcomes New Members to Board of Directors

Submitted by GLAD

GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) announces three new members joining its Board of Directors: DEI consultant and leader Jamie Bergeron, criminal defense and employment attorney Inga Bernstein, and non-discrimination advocate and real estate attorney Rachel Goldberg.

"We're thrilled to have Jamie, Inga, and Rachel bring their substantial expertise to GLAD as we embark on an exciting year of hiring our next permanent executive director, expanding our legal team and deepening our regional and national impact for the LGBTQ+ community and people with HIV," said Board President Shane Dunn. "As we face down

see **GLAD,** *page 4*

New donor-conceived, lesbian-headed families research

by Dana Rudolph | drudolph@mombian.com
contributing writer

Two recent papers from the longest-running study of lesbian families shed light on the now-grown children's relationships with their donor siblings, their own parenting practices, and what their lesbian parents think about becoming grandparents—and offer insights on talking about donor conception with children.

Dr. Nanette Gartrell, now a Visiting Distinguished Scholar at UCLA's Williams Institute, began the National Longitudinal Lesbian Family Study (NLLFS) in 1986, with a group of parents who were inseminating or pregnant. She and her team of collaborators have since interviewed the same families in seven waves, and questioned the children starting at 10 years old.

Both recent NLLFS studies included

see **MOMBIAN,** *page 7*

America's reality check

Trump is a bad joke; also a threat

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

The same former president whose response to the Covid pandemic included suggesting we drink bleach has encouraged the Russian dictator to invade NATO countries. Within days, Vladimir Putin murdered political rival Alexei Navalny.

Many Americans blame our woes on both political parties. Excuse me. Republicans, under the thumb of a sociopath, have become a wholly owned subsidiary of Putin. There is no threat across the aisle remotely comparable. Not the Squad. Not Joe Biden's age nor his trademark gaffes. Not even his failure to rein in Israel.

Donald Trump is ready to start World War III out of spite against

see **ROSENDALL,** *page 5*

"I prefer women."

—Billy Dee Williams' response after being hit on by Marlon Brando. He adds, "I've been getting hit on all my life. Gay, straight, whatever, somebody's always hitting on me." I can relate.

more in Billy Masters on page 6!

Photo by Super Festivals from Ft. Lauderdale, via Wikimedia Commons.

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New Hampshire

Continued from page 1

prompted a backlash, drawing crowds to normally sleepy board meetings, and led to the resignation of Town Manager Jim Gleason, whose late son was gay.

"My son is not an abomination," Gleason told the selectboard in January, to a standing ovation, when he announced his last day was Friday. He accused Gendreau of creating a toxic work environment by repeatedly making derogatory comments about gay people. Friday also was Gendreau's deadline to file for reelection to the board, but she didn't, so her three-year term ends in March.

A former mill town in the White Mountains, Littleton reversed a long decline in part through art. Tourists come now for antiques, galleries, boutiques and "the world's longest candy counter." They also look at the bronze statue of Pollyanna, erected outside the public library to honor the 1913 book by local author Eleanor

H. Porter, whose main character came to define relentless optimism.

Pollyanna's motto "Be Glad!" — which hangs from banners up and down Main Street — has been tested as townspeople found themselves debating over inclusion, tolerance and equality.

The controversy began in August, after three small murals funded by a diversity, equity and inclusion grant appeared on the side of a building that houses a restaurant and clothing store. Covering boarded-up windows, the murals show a white iris against a color wheel, two birch trees bending under a night sky, and a dandelion reaching skyward from an open book.

"What went up was not good," said Gendreau, urging the selectboard's audience to research what such symbols really mean. "I don't want that to be in our town. I don't want it to be here."

The board then sought an attorney's advice on what they could do to regulate artistic expression on town property and Gendreau gave several interviews, telling The Boston Globe that the iris painting carried "demonic hidden messages."

The artist, Meg Reinhold, said her "We Are Joy" painting was inspired by Iris, the Greek goddess of rainbows. She told The Associated Press in an email that she hoped to "evoke feelings of joy and empowerment," add beauty to Littleton, and celebrate people living with pride in the LGBTQ+ community.

"If a viewer looks at these works and sees demons and darkness, what does that tell us about how they view the world?" Reinhold said.

Gleason, who answered to the board as town manager, said he tried to resolve matters. When a woman approached him demanding to stop the November production of "La Cage aux Folles" — depicted on screen as "The Birdcage" — he said she was free to protest outside the theater or not buy a ticket.

She responded by invoking his son, saying "He's in hell with the devil where he belongs," recalled Gleason, and he said Gendreau tried to justify the comments. The woman later admitted sending Gleason a photo of him clipped from a newspaper with derogatory language written across his face. A judge granted Gleason a restraining order against her.

As fears of a public art ban spread, selectboard meetings drew large crowds.

Ronnie Sandler, 75, an out lesbian all her adult life, said she spoke up at a selectboard meeting last fall because some of her friends told her they were scared.

"I have never felt any hatred or anything targeted at me in all of those years," she told the AP. "Back in the late '70s, my girlfriend and I used to walk around in Littleton holding hands."

A group of local business owners led by auto dealership manager Duane Coute submitted a letter signed by more than 1,000 people from Littleton and across the country urging the board to abandon "a path so detrimental to business."

"Our community is so much stronger because of this situation," Coute said.

New Hampshire's Democratic-led congressional delegation stressed "how integral public art and cultural expression are to the economic wellbeing and competitiveness of towns like Littleton and similar communities throughout New Hampshire." Surrounding towns adopted inclusivity-equality resolutions.

Some people backed Gendreau.

"She speaks for those stakeholders who are afraid to speak out due to personal retribution. She speaks out for those who are afraid for their own personal safety," Nick De Mayo of nearby Sugar Hill, in Gendreau's Senate district, wrote in a letter to the editor.

Others called the whole experience disappointing and disgraceful.

"It's coming from a very small group of people. Unfortunately, that small group of people hold elected office and have some degree of power within the town," said Kevin Silva, a physician who has lived in Littleton for about 20 years.

The board ultimately announced that they never sought an art ban. Selectboard member Linda MacNeil drew a standing ovation when she said "Whether we agree with the content or not, art is part of the fabric of history and should not be censored." Roger Emerson, chairperson of the three-member board, did not take a position on the subject.

Gleason, 65, expressed amazement during his resignation speech at an outpouring of support for his defense of the arts, and urged his fellow townspeople to keep working "for civil rights and equality for all."

"Keep up the fight," he told the audience in a quavering voice. 'You've got a beautiful town."

Gleason, who was hired in 2021 following a similar job in Florida, told the AP he's been thinking of his son Patrick, who died of pancreatic cancer in 2016.

"I believe he'd be proud of his dad for standing up, not just for him, but for everybody in the LGBTQIA-plus community, and anyone who has been marginalized or discriminated against in terms of that process," Gleason said. "This is one of those moments. We don't always get them in life."

Gendreau didn't answer directly when asked for comment on the controversy, but she suggested she wasn't done trying to change her community. "There's a lot of undertones that need to get corrected," she said.

McCormack reported from Concord, New Hampshire.

A provocative *Villain*

Left to right: Brianna Martinez, Jules Talbot, Victoria Omoregie, Haley Wong in John Proctor is the Villain; directed by Margot Bordelon. Photo by T. Charles Erickson.

John Proctor Is the Villain, Huntington Theatre, Wimberly Theatre, Calderwood Pavilion, Boston Center for the Arts, through March 10. 617-933-8600 or huntimgtomtheatre.org

By Jules Becker
Contributing Writer

Re-reading a classic drama can change a playwright's perception of the male protagonist and the work itself. So it goes for North Georgia-bred Kimberly Belflower and the 1953 Arthur Miller work "The Crucible." As the Huntington Theatre playbill for the area premiere of her 2018 play "John Proctor Is the Villain" notes, Belflower was taught in high school that "John Proctor is the beacon of goodness and the girls are hysterical."

With her re-reading, she arrived at the title of her play. Under the driving direction of Margot Bordelon, a strong Huntington cast empowers that provocative conclusion with #MeToo era immediacy.

Inspired by her own experience, Belflower has fittingly set her "John Proctor Is the Villain" in a current day Appalachian Georgia high school classroom. English teacher Carter Smith—explaining that 200 were charged and 20 executed in the 1692 Salem witch trials in a time of mass hysteria—describes the drama unit choice "The Crucible" as an "allegory for McCarthyism."

Smith submits that Proctor is "one of the best characters ever" and considers him a "great hero. Conflicted student Shelby Holcomb counters that married Proctor is a villain and never apologized to Abigail Williams, with whom he had an affair. Tellingly, female classmates, whose feminism club has been rejected by the school, find themselves defending Abigail and young girls accused of dancing naked and consorting with the devil.

As Belflower's clever play develops, the class, especially female students, relate the claims about various characters in Miller's frequently staged and very admired play to accusations and suspicions about the people in their own lives. Classmates wonder about the reason why Shelby was away for six months. Standout student Beth Powell feels that Smith is the best teacher, but troubling questions arise about his own actions outside of class.

Ivy Watkins struggles to cope with accusations brought against her father by his former secretary. At the same time, Raelynn Nix resists efforts by inappropriate ex-boyfriend Lee Turner to persuade her that he has changed.

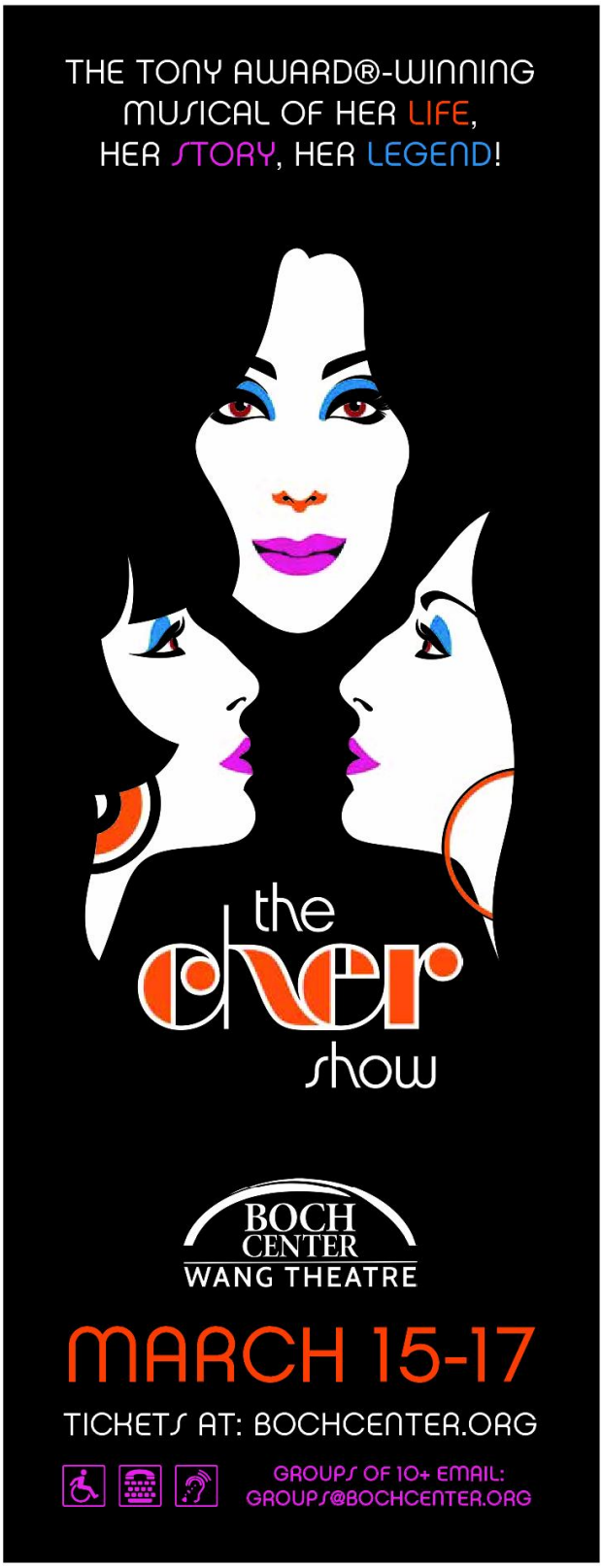
While a serious play with striking extrapolations to modern day issues, as was true of Miller's own play, "John Proctor Is the Villain" does balance dramatic situations with humorous and lighter moments and embrace the growing independence of its young characters, particularly the female ones. Early on female students speak of Smith as "hot" and comment suggestively about him. Mason Adams, seemingly sincere, calls Nell Shaw 'cool', who states "I'm super not cool" and asks her to hang out. There is an amusing confusion of 'sabbatical' and (Jewish) 'Sabbath.' When four of the female classmates scream and jump, entering Lee and Mason facetiously ask if there is "actual witchcraft in here?"

Belflower's play, neither strident nor didactic, does compel attention for the troubling questions it poses. In designer Kristen Robinson's well-detailed classroom, Huntington's stellar cast deliver vivid answers in both dialogue and movement, the latter most notably in a kind of closing dance of empowerment.

Jules Talbot captures Beth's early reticence and eventual openness. Isabel Van Natta is riveting as outspoken yet vulnerable Shelby. Brianna Martinez has all of Ivy's earnestness and insecurity. Haley Wong catches Raelynn's self-validation and inner strength. Victoria Omoregie smartly balances Nell's engaging personality and insightfulness. Benjamin Izaak finds Lee's clueless moments, while Maanav Aryan Goyal captures Mason's growing understanding of fellow female classmates. Olivia Hebert has school counselor Bailey Gallagher's real attempts at guidance. Japhet Balaban has all of Smith's complexity as an admired teacher and an enigmatic personality.

Belflower, in a playbill conversation, speaks of "examining cycles of power, cycles of abuse, how cycles of teaching "The Crucible" the same way over and over again leads to one rigid interpretation." In his own way Miller was examining cycles in the 1950's, and the play's warning about naming names and guilt by association do relate to Nixon's 1970's enemies list and Trump's ongoing threats to those who oppose his election denial and dictatorship dreams.

Fans of the Miller play will have to decide how the Belflower play responds to "The Crucible." The dazzling staging of "John Proctor Is the Villain" should have all theatergoers studying both plays for their respective timely insights.



GUEST OPINION

Equality Florida Condemns New DeSantis Administration Policy

Denying Legal Recognition, Accurate Driver Licenses/Identification for Transgender Floridians

Submitted by Equality Florida

In a move intended to criminalize transgender Floridians, the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicle published a memo that rescinds a policy allowing transgender Floridians to update the gender marker on their driver's licenses or IDs.

Nadine Smith, Executive Director of Equality Florida, issued the following statement:

"The DeSantis administration's obsession with scapegoating transgender Floridians has escalated into an outrageous attack that further erodes freedom and liberty in our state. This cruel policy threatens transgender Floridians with civil and criminal penalties and blocks them from obtaining the critical government-issued identification necessary to continue their daily lives.

Transgender people have always existed in every culture on every continent and always will. In Florida, tens of thousands of people have legally updated their gender marker on their driver's license or ID. They carefully followed the rules to ensure their identification accurately reflects who they are, and they trusted this process. Now, an abrupt policy reversal has thrown their lives into chaos. The cruelty of this kind of government overreach and intrusion should alarm every Floridian. These reckless and hateful policies are intended to make the transgender community feel unsafe and unwelcome in Florida and to bully them

We know this is a devastating development, and we are working with our coalition partners, our grassroots volunteers, and our legal groups to figure out what options are available to fight back."

These attacks on the transgender community are part of a political operation. It's manufactured panic from right-wing think tanks who asked what culture war issue would rile people up now that the vast majority embrace marriage equality.

GLAD

Continued from page 1

unprecedented attacks on the rights of LGBTQ+ Americans to live with dignity, equality, and authenticity, these three strategic thinkers and driven leaders are invaluable additions to GLAD's board."

"Our new board members bring varied and valuable professional expertise and a proven track record of advancing equity, inclusion, and LGBTQ+ equality," said Interim Executive Director Richard Burns. "Jamie, Inga, and Rachel further deepen the board's skillset, and provide crucial experience we will leverage at this pivotal moment for our community and our country."

Jamie Bergeron (she/her) is an experienced diversity, equity, and inclusion leader, practitioner, and consultant. She serves in the Americas Diversity, Equity, and Inclusiveness Center of Excellence at Ernst & Young, LLP, a global professional services firm. She holds a Master of Education (M.Ed.) from the University at Buffalo with a specialization in Inclusive Leadership Practice, and a B.A. from State University of New York at Brockport in Spanish Literature, where she became the first in her family to earn a college degree. She is the daughter of two lesbian mothers, originally from Cortland, NY, and has called Boston home for over 10 years. A lifelong advocate, Jamie is very involved in her local community, serving on the board of Pride in Our Workplace and Trans Can Work, as board advisor for COLAGE, and working closely with numerous organizations seeking to align their mission and vision with the principles of equity and justice for LGBTQ+ people and their families.

Inga S. Bernstein (she/her) is a partner at the Boston litigation boutique firm Zalkind Duncan & Bernstein LLP. She is an experienced trial lawyer who focuses her practice on criminal defense and employment law. Following law school, Inga started her law career as a clerk to the Honorable Douglas P. Woodlock of the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts. She has been recognized as being among the top 50 Women Lawyers and among the Top 100 Lawyers in Massachusetts from 2019-present. Inga and her partner married in May 2004, receiving their marriage license on the first day same-sex couples in Massachusetts were allowed to do so, celebrating the victory that GLAD fought so hard to achieve. They are parents to two fabulous young adults. She became a lawyer to fight for justice and fairness and is glad to lend her energies to help support GLAD's important work for justice and fairness.

Rachel Goldberg (she/her) maintains a private law practice that is focused on real estate development and consulting on matters of gender identity employment discrimination. Until her retirement in February of 2017, Rachel had served for 35 years as General Counsel for the City of Stamford's Urban Redevelopment Commission, managing some of the Commission's most successful real estate and development activities. She is currently President Elect of the National LGBTQ+ Bar Foundation and a James W. Cooper Life Fellow of the Connecticut Bar Foundation. Rachel has served on the Connecticut Law Tribune's Editorial Board and the Lambda Legal National Board of Directors. Rachel has worked for decades to ensure and enforce nondiscrimination protections based on gender identity and expression, advocated for modernizing Connecticut's standard for allowing transgender and intersex people to correct the gender designation on their birth certificates, and was part of the coalition to pass a Hate Crimes bill that included targeting based on disability and gender identity or expression.

Meet the rest of GLAD's Board Members on our website, www.glad.org

CampOUT

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Emmy Howe, a long-time educator, social justice leader, and queer mother, created CampOUT after her own kids had been to a different camp for children from LGBTQ families and sought something similar closer to home. Queer parents often chose CampOUT for their kids' first overnight camp, "because they knew the staff was prepared to be inclusive," she said in an interview. Many campers came for several years in a row. While the early years were focused on families with LGBTQ parents, the camp now also welcomes LGBTQ and gender-expansive youth from all types of families.

Howe was eager to bring CampOUT back, she said, because "Now it feels like there's a lot more need. There's so much vitriol in the world and in the zeitgeist of schools." CampOUT, in contrast, offers young people a place to come "and not worry about being judged for their family or themselves."

This summer, Howe is collaborating on CampOUT programming with alums of the program, including her now-grown trans son Puja, who also leads afterschool and summer programming for trans and nonbinary youth in Cambridge, Mass.

CampOUT will be held at the Farm School in Central Massachusetts. (Don't confuse it with the Michigan-based CampOut Family Camp for LGBTQ families, which began in 2015.) While the Farm School offers several other programs for young people, the CampOUT week will be exclusive to LGBTQ youth and those from LGBTQ families. When registering, campers can indicate their cabin preference: Gender Free, Female Identifying, or Male Identifying.

The Farm School covers 130 acres of open land and woods, and includes both extensive gardens and a variety of farm animals. Campers get to be members of the farm community and share in the fun of summer program activities, including farm work and arts. The staff is diverse in gender and race, and includes several nonbinary staffers.

"Our CampOUT session is at harvest time so almost all the food we eat will be from the farm," Howe noted. "Kids are able to look at the food they eat in a new way and look at themselves in a new way."

Beyond the farm work, she added, "It's about creating a space that's safe and kind and growing these kids inside and outside."

The program runs Monday, August 19 to Friday, August 23, 2024. Drop off will be 10 a.m. on Monday, with pick-up at 4 p.m. on Friday.

Campers must be ages 9 to 14 as of August 19, 2024. Youth ages 15 to 19 years old as of that date may apply to be Counselors in Training.

Tuition is $1,000 for the session, but Howe says they have "huge scholarship capacity." The minimum fee will be $100 per participant. When applying, interested families should state their financial need and note they are seeking a campership.

Visit bit.ly/campout2024 or farmschool.org for more information and to register.

Disclosure: This reporter worked for Howe at a different organization for eight years and is currently consulting with her on a project unrelated to CampOUT.

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Rosendall

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his own country. He treats our crucial NATO alliance like a mafia-run protection racket. He confuses 9/11 with 7-Eleven.

Things are in bad shape when I find myself agreeing with Mitt Romney and John Bolton, who at least understand that we should not encourage Russia to overrun Europe.

Independent candidate Cornel West, by contrast, talks as if America is the greatest threat to the world. Some people's notion of righteousness is to be a spoiler if they can't have everything their way.

Meanwhile, America's economy is booming under Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. The Dow Jones Industrial Average hit a record high last week. Unemployment has been below 4 percent for 24 straight months.

If you are determined to take a sour view of the economy regardless—including by blaming Biden for the price of eggs—I can't stop you. But let's step back and examine our national situation.

Democrats have expanded access to healthcare, supported women's right to control their own pregnancies, and have passed legislation to defend marriage equality, address climate change, and rebuild our nation's infrastructure.

Republicans overturned Roe v. Wade, treat brown-skinned immigrants as a threat to our national purity, deny the reality of climate change, demonize LGBTQ people, pander to white Christian nationalism (which bears no resemblance whatever to the teachings of Christ), insist on arming our country to the teeth but resent defending our allies, deny school lunches to poor children, and offer only book bans and culture wars as far as the eye can see.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, whose craven kowtowing to Trump should make his friend John McCain rise from his grave and slap him, had the nerve to tell Fox News, "Conservatives are tolerant, we are kind of get out of your business, you leave me alone, I'll leave you alone." As DFlindy replied on the X social media platform, "Except for in your: Religion, Body, Bedroom, Marriage ceremony, Library, School, Doctors office, Emergency Room, [and] Pharmacy."

Trump has some odd defenders. MSNBC host Katy Tur declared him synonymous with New York. The only context in which that is true is if she was referring to mobbed-up businesses in Queens.

The massive fraud penalty against Trump in New York has two opposing dimensions: a con artist finally getting his comeuppance, and its easy fit with his narrative of being persecuted.

There is a real danger that Trump's weaponization of his legal woes can succeed if enough voters in key states cling to the aspiring tyrant.

Trump says mass deportations will begin within minutes of his swearing-in if he becomes president again. By contrast, California Democratic senatorial primary candidate Adam Schiff urges us to treat humanely the people crossing our border seeking opportunity.

A migration, incidentally, is not an invasion. Putin's attack on Ukraine was an invasion. If you really cannot tell the difference, God help you.

Citizen Trump, as the DC Circuit Court of Appeals dubbed him, may be deranged but is skilled at appealing to the worst in people. This centers on encouraging white people to adopt a pose of fragility and embrace an endless series of grievances against everyone who does not look and think like themselves. It insists that the worst-ever White House occupant is the only one who can save America.

If Trump is America's Savior, I'd hate to see the devil.

His mob's targets include queer people, racial and religious minorities, and everyone who believes in science, evidence, and the rule of law. His slanders of New York Attorney General Letitia James and Fulton County, Georgia District Attorney Fani Willis as a deflection tactic reek of misogynoir.

We need to join my favorite billionaire Taylor Swift in encouraging people to vote. We need to save our democracy.

We can talk glibly about updating our passports, but most Americans cannot afford to leave.

Here's a thought: we summon our better selves, stand our ground, and fight for our country.

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

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billy masters

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When you mention it's your birthday in a nationally syndicated/internationally read column, you have to expect a bit of attention. I spent my birthday week at the lovely Filth2Go Beach House in Fort Lauderdale. During a walk on the beach, a stranger started waving in my direction. Well, I've made this mistake before—you wave back, only to discover they were waving at someone behind you. So I continued walking, but the guy kept waving and coming toward me. He asked if I was Billy Masters. Well, who would admit to such a thing if it weren't true? "Happy birthday," he said. Apparently, he's a longtime fan—which is always enormously flattering. When he mentioned what Boston suburb he lives in, I said I was from a neighboring city. "I know—you bought your first bicycle in my city!" I've dated people who knew less about me. Still, a fan's a fan!

Hot on the heels of the actors' and writers' strikes, we have more entertainment union news. The latest group looking to unionize is Disneyland characters. Yes, when you sidle up next to Goofy, you may be canoodling with a card-carrying union member. And if the characters have their way, they will join Actors' Equity—the group that governs performers on Broadway. They have already informally organized as Magic United—which sounds like a group that should be looking out for Melinda: First Lady of Magic. This is actually not an unprecedented move. Disney World characters who perform in shows in that theme park are already members of Actors' Equity. At this rate, those knockoff Spidermen on Hollywood Boulevard will wanna join!

Last year, **Jinkx Monsoon** made history by being the first drag queen to play Matron "Mama" Morton in the Broadway company of "Chicago". In a bit of history repeating, Monsoon will return to the role for a limited run—June 27th through July 12th. Not a bad way to celebrate Gay Pride in New York City.

A wise person once said you take the good, you take the bad, you take them both, and then you have the facts of life. Come to think of it, it wasn't a wise person. It was **Gloria Loring**. Whatever. We've already told you the good, now we have to report the bad. The show "My Son's a Queer (But What Can You Do?)" has been a hit in London, and was slated for a Broadway run. This solo show was scheduled to open February 27th. And yet, at this very late date, the producers announced plans to delay the opening until next year. Something to do with money, I suppose.

Another show has announced intentions of reigning over the Great White Way next year—"The Queen of Versailles". It is based on the documentary of the same name about the life of beauty queen and TV personality **Jacqueline "Jackie" Siege**l. The Boston tryout starts on July 16th for a limited five-week run. This new musical will star **Kristin Chenoweth** and has been written by "Wicked" composer **Stephen Schwartz**, who I'm told wanted Chenoweth. Tickets go on sale to the general public on February 28th at 10AM at EmersonColonialTheatre.com.

I want to applaud the Ogunquit Playhouse for their commitment to presenting new works. True, many of these shows have had no life beyond the rocky Maine shore, but I'm still glad I saw them. This season, they'll be producing the world premiere of a musical version of "My Best Friend's Wedding". Now, doesn't that sound like a hit? As long as they don't screw up the book. Not only is it a perfect vehicle for a stage show, but the songs come from the **Burt Bacharach-Hal David** catalogue—including "I Say a Little Prayer", "Walk on By", and "I'll Never Fall in Love Again". It runs September 26—October 27. More details can be found at OgunquitPlayhouse.org.

Did I tell you about the gay porn star who was involved in the January 6th tourist jaunt? **Steven Miles** is a member of the Proud Boys—which I thought was the name of a gay porn flick! Previously, he "performed" under the name **Sergeant Miles** for **Michael Lucas**. He was identified after posing for a photo with a woman, to whom he bragged about entering the Capitol building by breaking a window. The woman became an FBI informant, and remembered some details about Miles and his "companion". After pleading guilty to all charges, he was sentenced to two years in prison for "assaulting, resisting, or impeding a law enforcement officer." Miles, who is married to a woman, said he was "humbled and humiliated" by his actions. I expect he's in for two more years of humbling and humiliation.

Olympian **Tom Daly** has a new partner. **Noah Williams** is taking over as Tom's synchro diving partner since Matty Lee is out with a back injury. The newsome twosome are getting along famously and have all but qualified for the 2024 Paris Olympics after taking the silver at the World Championships in Qatar. To seal the deal, Tom knitted Noah one of his famous "cock socks". When asked how he knew what size to make, Daly said, "I go by the one-size-fits-most rule." When Noah said, "Are you surprised I've actually worn it a few times?" Tom responded, "No, I'm not. I think you actually posted a photo on your OnlyFans". Oh, yes, Noah's got an OnlyFans account. One reporter had the nerve to ask Tom if Noah is his type—a curious question since Tom is married to occasional auteur **Dustin Lance Black**. I think we know what his type is, although variety is the spice of life. Tom answered, "I like broad shoulders. I like a swimmer's physique. Because that was what drew me to Lance in the first place, the fact that he was so wide at the top and then narrow." So, is that a maybe?

Noah ain't the only Olympian with an OnlyFans page. In fact, he isn't even the only Olympic diver on OnlyFans. In fact, he isn't even the only Olympic diver connected to Tom Daley on OnlyFans. In fact...oh, you get the idea. Daley's former partner **Matty Lee** has a page. So do fellow British divers **Daniel Goodfellow** and **Matthew Dixon**. Aussie diver **Matthew Mitcham** also has one—and he has the distinction of also being gay. Speaking of gay, I think we've previously told you about New Zealand rower **Robbie Manson**. I don't believe any of them have shown what's inside their Speedos—at least not up front.

This beautifully leads into an "Ask Billy" question I've been sitting on for a few weeks—so to speak. Dan in Miami asks, *"Do you know this internet model who goes by the name **Peachyboy**? He's gorgeous—but I don't know anything about him. Has he done porn? Is he gay? And what's his name?"*

Do I know Peachyboy? Have you met me—he's exactly my type. Sure, he'll be bald in a few years, but the haircut definitely helps. Not only is his body perfection, his face is dreamy and he has a British accent. He's exactly like me—except for the body, the face, and the accent! OK, so he doesn't kiss. The good hookers never do. And, sure, he might not have the biggest dick in the world. But I betcha his perfect ass could definitely take it. Tricky camera work stops us from seeing actual insertion. But we do have video of him taking things bigger than most human penises with ease—and he seems to enjoy it. Does that make him gay? Nope—but it sure makes him open.

So, who is he? His name is Sam. He's a fitness model and "influencer", although what he is influencing is unclear. He first popped up on British TV way back in 2016 on a show called "The Lie Detective", where he was confronted by an ex-girlfriend Sophie who was angry he didn't come to visit her in the hospital after a horse accident—and, no, I'm not making that up (we have the video). At the time, he was an AC repairman. While his fitness photos and videos got loads of attention, he's honed his focus on gay men and makes what people would call "bait content". He plays the game, comes off almost completely asexual, and mostly courts the attentions of other very fit men. There have been videos with some gay porn stars which mostly show them working on his ass with their fingers, tongues, and toys. When criticized for being gay-for-pay during a video Q&A, he quipped, "If you think I am 100% straight, you are SO wrong!" He certainly seems charming and sincere—but I'm a sucker for an accent (even if that really isn't my thing). I know what my fans want to know. Yes, like many of the people in this week's column, he's on OnlyFans. He can also be found on BillyMasters.com.

When I'm suddenly in the mood for cobbler, we've definitely come to the end of yet another column. And I ain't talking about an old man working on my boots—although I do have a pair that needs a bit of resoling. While I'm looking into that, you should look into www.BillyMasters.com, the site that's got plenty of soul. If you have a question, dash it off to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before any of these OF boys pays me a commission—and I do accept nature's credit card. So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

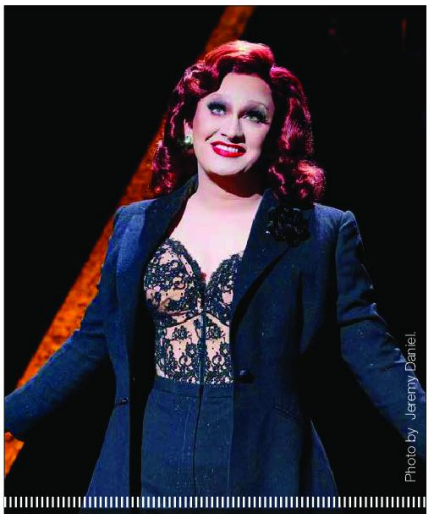

Photo by Jeremy Daniel.

Jinkx Monsoon

Photo by Jim Thurston, via Wikimedia Commons.

Tom Daly

Photo via fitness_peach4, Instagam.

Peachyboy

Mombian

Continued from page 1

75 adult offspring, ages 30 to 33 years old, from the original 84 families, an impressive retention rate. One-third of the offspring have known their donors since childhood, roughly another third have donors who agreed to contact when the child turned 18, and another third have unknown donors.

One study, by NLLFS researchers Audrey S. Koh, et al. (in Human Reproduction, 38:11, 2023), is the first research anywhere to focus on the relationships between "established adult" (as opposed to young adult) donor-conceived offspring from LGBTQ families and their donor siblings.

More than half of the offspring (53%) had found donor siblings, most often via a donor-sibling or sperm bank registry (45%), but sometimes via the donor (29%) or parent (29%). Most of them then made contact, primarily to find out what they are like, consider forming a relationship, and/or to better understand themselves. These motivations were largely fulfilled. Overall, those who had contacted donor siblings said their relationship was good (with a mean of over four on a five-point scale), and 65% had maintained an ongoing relationship via calls, video calls, texts, meetings, or social media.

Half of all the offspring (51%) considered their donor siblings to be "only a genetic connection"; 16% considered them to be "a 'real' sibling." Other descriptions included "a distant member of the family" (24%); "unrelated" (17%); and "a special relationship, like a good friend" (15%). (Multiple responses were allowed.) Even among those who had contacted their donor siblings, almost half called them an "acquaintance" (49%), though some used the terms "brother/sister" (39%) and "relative" (26%).

Overall, the offspring were satisfied with their level of knowledge about their donor siblings and with their level of contact (or lack thereof). This contrasts with donor-conceived offspring of non-LGBTQ parents, who have in other studies reported problems with donor-sibling contact, including "feeling overwhelmed" by the number of siblings and "a loss of agency and individuality." The fact that one-third of the NLLFS offspring had known donors, who were less likely to have multiple offspring across different families, may have played a part here, the researchers say.

The relatively small and nonrepresentative number of participants, however, mostly White and highly educated (factors related to the difficulty of finding participants when the NLLFS began), begs the need for further research on more diverse populations, the authors add. Nevertheless, they conclude that early discussion of donor conception and possible donor siblings with children, as well as (on a policy level) enforcing quotas of offspring per donor so that donor sibling groups are smaller, may contribute to offsprings' satisfaction with their donor-conceived identities and with their donor siblings.

Another recent NLLFS paper, by Esther D. Rothblum, et al. (in LGBTQ+ Family, 20:1, 2023), is the first study to look specifically at the parenting plans of adult donor-conceived offspring and the grandparent aspirations of their sexual minority parents. Of the 75 offspring, eight had children and 42 hoped to. The offsprings' own sexual orientation and relationship status were not significant factors in whether they had or wanted children.

The offspring generally did not feel their "nontraditional" family background would be a challenge in their own parenting. A few noted potential difficulties from negative societal reactions to that background, however, and some thought that not being familiar with the role of a father might also be challenging. Nevertheless, the authors say that other research has shown offspring of lesbian parents "may have developed resiliency in the face of stigmatization due to their parents' sexual orientation," and their parents may have shown them how to navigate obstacles.

Overall, the researchers found that "Offspring were excited to love and accept their future children with open-mindedness to the children's uniqueness, including their gender and sexual identity. They were proud of their own parents as supportive and accepting role models and hoped to follow in their footsteps."

The majority of offspring planned to mention their own donor-conceived status to their children (the original participants' grandchildren) early on, "in a casual, honest, and straightforward way." Those who had already done so said the children saw it as normal. The authors advise those considering donor conception to "take heart" from this study, where the offspring "mostly see few challenges and many benefits in telling their own children about nontraditional conception and diverse families."

Finally, the researchers interviewed the eight NLLFS lesbian mothers who were grandparents, finding that most saw that role "as very important and essential." One participant observed, "I believe that being a lesbian parent has given me the courage to trust my children, my grandchildren and the job I did as a parent. Coming from being nontraditional I have the flexibility to support my children and grandchildren in their choices."

The researchers speculate that the joy the grandparents felt in being grandparents "dissipated potential concerns they might have had when conceiving their own children in a heteronormative and stigmatizing context in the 1980s."

In other words, the kids—and their kids—are all right.

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a two-time GLAAD Media Award-winning blog and resource directory, plus a searchable database of 1,400+ LGBTQ family books.

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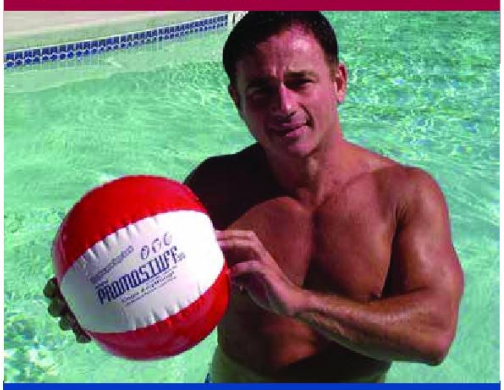

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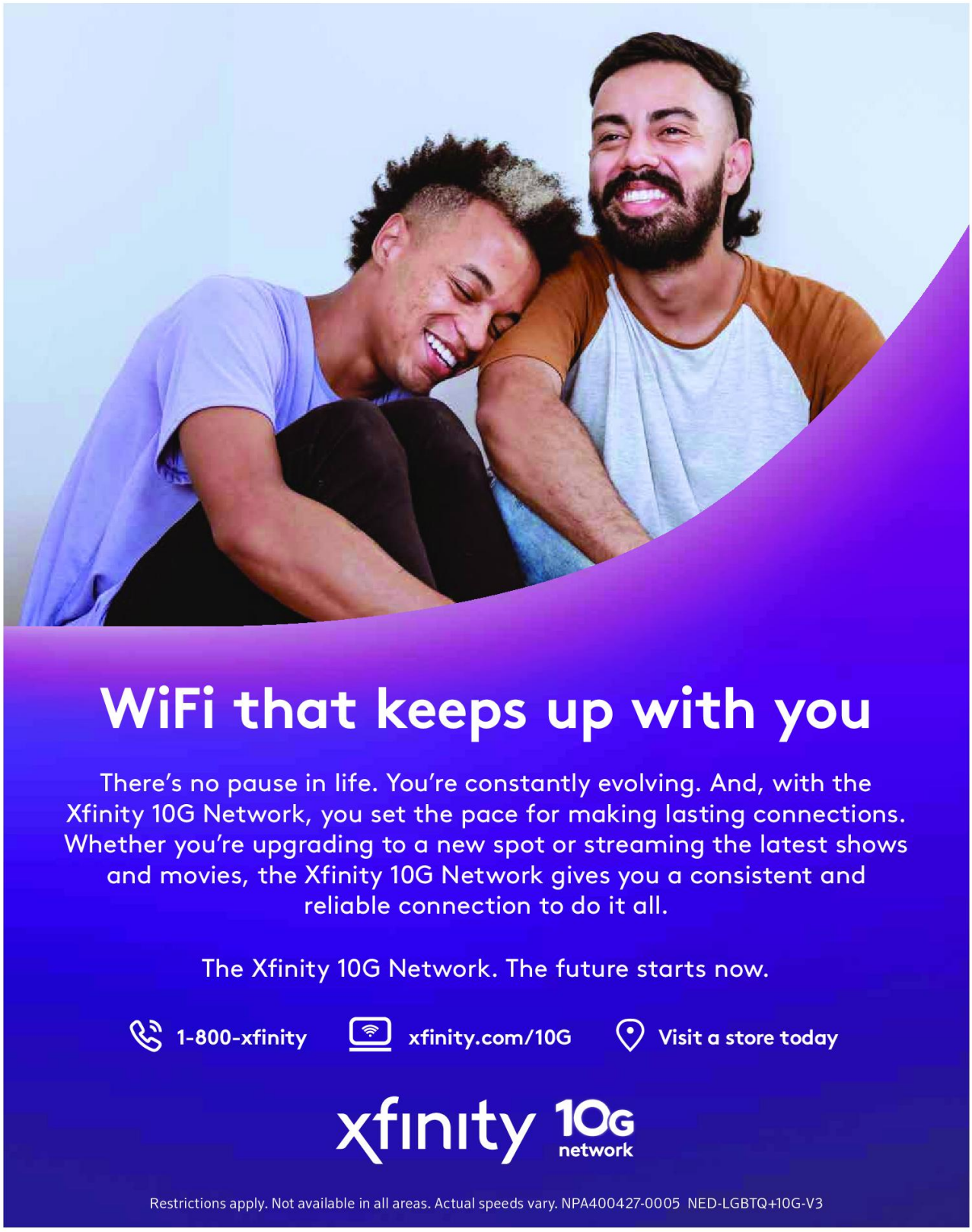
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