



# One of Us

## (a Northern AZ LGBAT Newsletter)

May 2010

Volume 7, Issue 12

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Pride in the Pines is 7 weeks away! This annual event is scheduled for Saturday, June 12th!!

#### HIV Counseling & Testing

We are in need of HIV counselors and testers. If you have been a tester or are a certified tester and you are interested please contact me. We will be doing testing from 11am-5pm, with set up as early as 8 am and tear down after 5pm.

There will be an orientation session to get everyone up to speed with their counseling skills (if you haven't done testing in awhile) and to introduce everyone to rapid HIV test kit we will be using.

#### Booth Volunteers

We are in need of front desk staff (assist with scheduling HIV testing and handling paperwork – consent forms) and promoters (roaming through the crowds with condoms and directing people to the testing booth.) We will be doing testing from 11am-5pm, with set up as early as 8 am and tear down after 5pm.

There will be an orientation session to get everyone familiar with the front desk procedures and paperwork.

I look forward to seeing you all!

Thanks,  
Cher

#### Come OUT!!!

- Closets are for hangers
- Be honest with yourself and loved ones
- There is nothing to fear, You are not alone.
- Support is available (friends, family, community members and online– [www.hrc.org/issues/coming\\_out.asp](http://www.hrc.org/issues/coming_out.asp))

#### AIDS IS NOT DEAD, Play safe Always

- Know your partner
- Use condoms and/or gloves
- Don't mix excessive amounts of drugs and/or alcohol with sex, keep a clear upper head
- STDs (and babies) are other risks of unsafe sex
- Get tested often–stay healthy

#### Get Involved!! Health Sites:

Parkinson's:

<http://www.parkinson.org/>

HIV and AIDS:

<http://www.hiv.com/>

Male Depression:

<http://www.maledepression.com/>

Diabetes:

<http://www.diabetes.org/>

#### Feedback. / Comments / Submissions / Suggestions

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## May 2010 Events

- **Every Tuesday at PJ's in VOC 6:30-** Contact Greg at luckyredrocks@gmail.com
- **Every Wednesday at Red's in Sedona 6:30-** Contact Sedona Pride at info@sedonapride.org
- **Every third Saturday at the Mile High Grill in Jerome 7:00-** Contact Dennis at dizzybear73@gmail.com
- **Wednesday, May 5th, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm** - Regular DFA Meeting. This event repeats every month on the first Wednesday at Bigfoot BBQ in the Old Town Shops (Leroux and Birch), 120 N Leroux St # 123, Flagstaff, AZ, (928) 226-1677. For more info about our hosts: <http://www.bigfootbbq.com>

  
 Mr. Christopher Street West Leather and Pistons Bar Present  
**The Black & Grey Birthday Bash**  
**Friday, May 7, 9pm**  
 In Celebration of Tom of Finland's Birthday  
 Hosted By Mr. CSW Leather 2010, Louie Pacheco



- \$5 donation at the door for Mr. CSW travel fund
- Tom of Finland Silent Auction
- Live Titleholder Auction
- Raffle Prizes
- Fetish / BDSM Demos
- Silent auction proceeds benefit the Tom of Finland Foundation



**2020 E. Arterio Blvd. Long Beach, CA**

- **Friday, May 7th, 9PM** -BLACK & GREY BIRTHDAY BASH Celebrating Tom of Finland's Birthday. \$5, Silent Auction + Titleholder Auction, Fetish/BDSM Demos + Raffle Prizes @ Pistons Bar, Long Beach [www.PistonsBar.com](http://www.PistonsBar.com)
- **Saturday, May 8th-** ADEQ Announces Free Electronics Waste Recycling Event at Cottonwood Public Works Yard. Arizona Department of Environmental Quality officials announced that a free regional electronics waste recycling event for the Upper Verde Valley will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Cottonwood at the public works yard, 1490 W. Mingus Ave. ADEQ and its partners—City of Cottonwood, Town of Clarkdale, UniSource Energy Services, Stewards of Public Lands and E-Waste Harvesters—anticipate collecting tons of unwanted televisions, computer equipment, monitors, batteries, chargers, cell phones, VCRs, CD and DVD players, printers, small appliances, fax machines, stereos, cables and cords during the event. Companies and individuals donating e-waste will receive a certificate of disposal for their records from E-Waste Harvesters if they want the document. E-Waste Harvesters will erase all hard drives with state of the art software and recycles all materials in accordance with state and federal regulations. ADEQ has sponsored e-recycling events in Show Low, Williams, Payson, Globe/Miami, Superior, Nogales, Tucson, Sun City West, Lake Havasu City, Casa Grande and the Phoenix metropolitan area and collected more than 130 tons of recyclable material.

- **Saturday, May 8th, 9PM** -The Bullet Bar Anniversary Party Night. Come celebrate with us! Avatar wishes Michael Lara & Bullet Staff CONGRATULATIONS on your anniversary! [www.BulletBarLA.com](http://www.BulletBarLA.com)
- **Sunday, May 9th** - **Mothers Day!** Thank your mama and take her out.
- **Monday to Wednesday, May 10th-12th** - EE Global and Forum Exposition in Washington, D.C. , for more information, go to <http://eeglobalforum.org/?src=eeg&date=042810>

- **Monday, May 10th, 6 pm** – PFLAG Discussion & Peer Support Meeting  
 Discussion Topic: "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"  
 Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 7763 E. Long Look Drive, Prescott Valley. PFLAG of Prescott Valley

will be hosting a discussion group and peer support meeting for local families who are interested in gay and lesbian issues. The discussion topic for May is the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy and its impact on the gay and lesbian community. Betty, a former member of the U.S. Marines, will be sharing her story with the group. For more information, contact the Prescott Pride Center at (928) 445-8800 or [info@prescottpridecenter.com](mailto:info@prescottpridecenter.com).

- **Friday, May 14th**—SO. CAL. BONDAGE NIGHT. Every 2nd Friday each month - 9PM - 1AM, Details: [www.SoCABondage.com](http://www.SoCABondage.com)
- **Saturday, May 15th**– X-Chain-G of Flagstaff bdsm monthly play party, every 3rd Saturday of the month. For more details, contact Craig at [railman3@hotmail.com](mailto:railman3@hotmail.com)



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## May 2010 Events

- **Saturday, May 22nd**– Harvey Milk Day, What better way to honor Harvey Milk’s legacy than by talking with people who are not yet supportive of marriage equality and LGBT rights? We’ll be going door to door to build support for LGBT rights by sharing our stories. Help us make May 22 the largest LGBT day of action in state history. View All Harvey Milk Day Events. Organizations and elected officials: to become a local or statewide co-sponsor, email Amy Mello, EQCA’s field director at amy@eqca.org. Day of action in CA cities are;



**Fresno Action- Saturday, May 22, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**- Einstein Park, 3566 E. Dakota Ave. Community picnic to follow. Local Co-Sponsors: Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club Trans-e-motion Gay Central Valley Gay Fresno Marriage Equality USA Fresno Chapter Courage Campaign Indulgence Fresno XO Productions Get EQUAL United Student Pride Central California Alliance

**Los Angeles Action-Saturday, May 22, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**- East Los Angeles Service Center, 133 N. Suñol Dr. Local co-sponsors: API Equality Los Angeles, East LA Community Corporation, Equal Roots Coalition, Honor PAC, HRC - Los Angeles, Jordan/Rustin Coalition, Latino Equality Alliance, OutWest, Stonewall Democrats-Los Angeles, Trojans for Equality

**Los Angeles Celebration with the Osbournes- Saturday, May 22**

3 p.m. to 4 p.m.: Private reception with the Osbournes for premiere ticket holders

4 p.m. to 6 p.m.: Harvey Milk Day Celebration

Address provided upon ticket purchase

Sharon and Kelly Osbourne welcome EQCA supporters to the Osbourne family estate in Hidden Hills for our inaugural Harvey Milk Day celebration and to raise funds to elect LGBT candidates and allies to office.

Featured Guests: Sharon & Kelly Osbourne, Stuart Milk, Senator Mark Leno, EQCA Executive Director Geoff Kors  
Creative Chair: Johnson Hartig, Libertine. Event coordination & design courtesy of Bradley Picklesimer  
Enjoy summer cocktails by Blue Angel, hors d'oeuvres from Bottega Louie, and the sunset over Hidden Hills with music by Booby Trap! DJs Kim Anh & Anon.

**Harvey Milk Schools Project Premiere- Saturday, May 22, 7 p.m.** -Fairfax High School , 7850 Melrose Avenue

Harvey Milk's story is an inspiration to everyone who believes in equality. Now, GMCLA and EQCAI have added another inspiration-music-to this stirring tale to create a powerful new anti-LGBT bullying high school program: The Harvey Milk Schools Project created in collaboration with Dustin Lance Black.

Tickets at the door only: \$20

**Harvey Milk Day Community Service- Saturday, May 22, 12 Noon.** Do as Harvey Milk did. Join the City of West Hollywood and Equality California for a day of community service. For more information contact the office of City Councilmember Lindsey Horvath at 323.848.6543.

**Orange County Action -Sunday, May 23, 12 Noon to 4 p.m.**- EQCA Office, 1601 S Grand Ave, Suite F, Santa Ana  
Local Co-sponsors: Elections Committee of Orange County (ECCO), Harvey Milk Stonewall Democrats of Orange County, Orange County Equality Coalition, Team Courage Orange County

**Palm Springs/Desert Cities Phone Bank Action- Saturday, May 22, 1 p.m. to 4p.m.**- EQCA Palm Springs Office, 314 N. Palm Canyon Drive. Local co-sponsors: Golden Rainbow Senior Center and Hamburger Mary's Palm Springs. Join us after for happy hour at Hamburger Mary's. A portion of drink proceeds benefit EQCA. Enjoy mimosas and a delicious brunch at Kit Marshall's spectacular Old Las Palmas home and help raise funds to elect LGBT candidates and allies to office. Hosted by Kit Marshall & Gary D. Soto. Address provided upon ticket purchase. This event has been generously underwritten by Kit Marshall and Gary Soto . 100% of your ticket purchase and donation will fund the work of Equality California's PAC. Co-hosts: Cary Davidson & Andrew Ogilvie, Lincoln Davis, Susan McCabe & Antoinette DeVargas, Scott Palermo & Jim Sanak and Robert & Thomas Van Etten.

**Inland Empire / Riverside Action- Saturday, May 22, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

EQCA's IE Office, 1410 3rd Street, Ste. 7. Local Co-sponsors: Equality Inland Empire, Planned Parenthood of San Diego & Riverside Counties, Rainbow Pride Youth Alliance

**Sacramento Action Recruit volunteers at the Rally at the Capitol- Saturday, May 22, 3 pm. to 6 p.m.**

Rally Sponsored by: Badlands, Congregation B’Nai Israel, Equality Action NOW, EQCA, Faces, Outword Magazine, Rainbow Chamber of Commerce Sacramento, Uptown Studios

After the Rally, the Center will host an open house displaying entries to the Harvey Milk Day Student Essay/Art Contest - 6 p.m. to 8p.m. - PLUS - Several parties will be revving up in the 'Lavender Heights' neighborhood bars and establishments till they close.

**San Diego Action- Saturday, May 22- EQCA San Diego Office, 4506 30th St.** Local co-sponsors: The Center Advocacy Project, Marriage Equality San Diego Chapter, Stonewall Young Democrats San Diego Chapter

[More>]

## May 2010 Events

**San Francisco Action- Saturday, May 22, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.-** San Francisco LGBT Community Center , 1800 Market St. Local Co-Sponsors: Alice Toklas LGBT Democratic Club, Assembly member Tom Ammiano, API Equality, Bayard Rustin LGBT Coalition, Senator Mark Leno, Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco, Mayor Gavin Newsom, San Francisco LGBT Community Center, Supervisor Bevan Dufty

**San Francisco Celebration- Friday, May 21, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

Catch Restaurant, 2362 Market Street. Kickoff the first annual Harvey Milk Day by helping to elect LGBT candidates and our allies to office. Featured Guests: Stuart Milk, Cleve Jones, Senator Mark Leno, EQCA Executive Director Geoff Kors.

Happy Birthday Harvey Milk! A disco-themed birthday at Lookout to celebrate the first annual Harvey Milk Day. **Saturday, May 22, 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Lookout, 3600 16th St (at Market)**

Come dressed in your finest disco, flower child, boogie nights attire. Fantastic prizes, including wine tasting, restaurant, and spa gift certificates. Proceeds benefit EQCA. Sponsored by Lookout, Social Club and EQCA

**San Jose/Silicon Valley Action- Saturday, May 22, 12 Noon to 4 p.m.**

EQCA San Jose Office, 19 North 2nd St. Community BBQ to follow. Local co-sponsors: API Equality, BAYMEC, Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center, Democratic Caucus San Jose State University, Log Cabin Republicans - Silicon Valley, Marriage Equality Silicon Valley, Marriage Equality USA (Mid SF Peninsula Chapter), Marriage Equality USA (Santa Clara County Chapter), Obama Democratic Club of Silicon Valley, Peninsula Marriage Equality Coalition, Planned Parenthood Mar Monte, Silicon Valley Young Democrats, Somos Mayfair, Stanford Coalition for Marriage Equality

- **Saturday, May 22nd, 12-5 PM** - Novice Handballing/Fisting Workshop. 385A 8th Street (Above Mr. S Leathers), San Francisco, CA. Tuition: Workshop Only: \$25.00, Workshop + Hell Hole Party: \$40.00. Details & RSVP: Handball Academy.org
- **Friday to Monday, May 28th to the 31st** -International Mr. Leather in Chicago. For more details, go to [www.imrl.com](http://www.imrl.com)
- **Monday, May 31st** - Memorial Day!



## Prescott Pride Center



Connecting Our Community

Northern Arizona's  
only GLBT  
Community Center!

(928) 445-8800

P.O. Box 3765, Prescott, AZ 86302

[info@prescottpridecenter.com](mailto:info@prescottpridecenter.com) • [www.prescottpridecenter.com](http://www.prescottpridecenter.com)

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## Watching the Church Deal with Its Sex Problems

Minor Details By Bob Minor

It's been haunting the church for decades. It's an issue the Roman Catholic Church is currently dealing with in the way any international corporation would.

What we're seeing in the current discussions of priestly abuse of their positions sexually and the standard institutional cover-up, is consistent with the long history of those not so strange bedfellows: religion and sex. There's no surprise here, except to those who have preferred denial.

This is more than just the Church's defenders arguing that it's the media in this case, not the Church, on a witch-hunt. But who is surprised that those who have so much stake in the Truth of the Church to which they've tethered themselves are lashing out at their accusers — even at times acting as if it's a valid argument to put down the cries of those abused because it's "old news?"

It's more than watching the Church's defenders invoke their biases by blaming homosexuality again. That's a trope that will find numerous defenders among those who blame LGBT people for everything from the problems with their own marriages to the fall of Rome.

It's more than just the realization that the Church's old argument that this is just an American matter is bogus as its victims surface all over Europe. Appearance of the universality of the phenomena was just a matter of time. Wait till we hear of it in Africa and Asia.

It's more than just priests abusing males. Female victims are abundant as a visit to the website of the Survivors' Network of Those Abused by Priests makes clear.

And it's more than just a dragging out of the usual defenses to protect Church leadership. As if following a manual for damage control of any large corporation's brand, it went from denial, to claiming it's just a few bad apples, to demonization of its critics, to defense of its CEOs, to well-guarded admissions.

All of this is tired because all of this is not new. It's not new for the Roman Catholic Church, and it's not new for the Protestant churches that are just thankful they're not in the news about sexual abuse and harassment.

There's a long history of problems with sexuality in Christian communities, and the evidence is that it's about the same percentage among non-Catholic as among Catholic clergy -- all Protestant fundamentalist, anti-Catholic finger-pointing aside.

A consistent obsession of religious leaders, East and West, is human sexuality. One of the most taboo-laden areas of human life in religions worldwide has been their lists of rules to control people's sex lives.

As Christian traditions developed, sex and the erotic were feared, used, controlled, suppressed, condemned, and punished. Historians have fully documented what at times they've labeled *eroto-phobia*.

There's nothing new in all of this history. Liberal Christians have been trying to dig themselves out of this legacy for generations now.

But what this underlines again, is that the Church as an institution is, and many other churches are, suffering from sexual addiction. This is not to excuse anything, as critics of the concept of sexual addiction maintain.

It's not to label sexual freedom or the varieties of sexual orientation as evidence of sexual addiction so as to control sex scientifically.

It's to understand how sexual addiction leads to religious addiction in those people who flee to religion and its feelings of righteousness to cover their unwillingness to deal in a healthy manner with how they use sex to feel better about damaged self-concepts.

Sexual orientation is not the issue except that the sexuality of LGBT people is likely to be further damaged by the oppressive culture around us. Sexual addiction is using sex to alter one's mood so that one does not confront, face, and heal the emotional and psychological issues that drive someone to any addiction, ingestive or process.

Obsession with sex, not just wanting to indulge, but obsession with controlling the sexuality of others, is a mark of the addiction. And, as Patrick Carnes argues, the cause of sexual addiction is often a sexual self-hatred.

The concept of sexual addiction isn't motivated by a puritanical desire to condemn sex, for the addiction is just as likely to manifest itself in just that. Hence the subtitle of one of Carnes' books: *Sexual Anorexia: Overcoming Sexual Self-Hatred* (1997).

"Sexual anorexia is an obsessive state in which the physical, mental, and emotional task of avoiding sex dominates one's life. Like self-starvation with food or compulsive debting or hoarding with money, deprivation with sex can make one feel powerful and defended against all hurts," Carnes writes.

(Watching the Church... continued from the previous page)

"In this case, sex becomes the furtive enemy to be continually kept at bay, even at the price of annihilating a part of oneself."  
Carnes actually places much of the blame on our sex-negative culture reflected in that advice dished out by a number of churches:  
"Sex is dirty, save it for the one you love."

When a religious institution is sexually addicted, it bristles at statements such as M. Scott Peck's in his popular *The Road Less Traveled*: "I distrust any religious conversion which does not also involve an intensification of one's sexuality."

A popular way not to deal with sexual shame, desires, and self-hatred is to transfer the resulting sexual addiction to religion, as I've argued in *When Religion Is an Addiction*. The more one gets caught up in one's religious righteousness and its corresponding energetic, judgmental high, the more one can suppress feelings of self-hatred.

But this is to try to become comfortable with what Carnes identifies as the double-life of the addict, in which the real issues don't get discussed: "On the surface, a sex addict may appear to be living faithfully, but scratch through that veneer and we'll find he's maintaining a secret life."

The problem always surfaces. And addicts' responses are denial, defensiveness, and blaming.

This is what I see as I watch this on-going saga of the Church and what breaks out regularly among other churches. Sadly, the institutions won't deal with this.

They'll continue to major in all of the ways that an addict focuses attention off their addiction and onto others. Even the resignation of a pope won't fix this.

Robert N. Minor, Ph.D., Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Kansas, is author of *When Religion Is an Addiction*; *Scared Straight: Why It's So Hard to Accept Gay People and Why It's So Hard to Be Human and Gay & Healthy in a Sick Society*. Contact him at [www.FairnessProject.org](http://www.FairnessProject.org).

### Quotes of the Month

"There's never been a true war that wasn't fought between two sets of people who were certain they were in the right. The really dangerous people believe they are doing whatever they are doing solely and only because it is without question the right thing to do. And that is what makes them dangerous."

-Neil Gaiman, novelist and short story writer (b. 1960)

"Borrow money from pessimists- they don't expect it back."

-Stephen Wright

"Talk is cheap because supply exceeds demand."

-Unknown

**Golden Girls moment:** Blanche (Rue McClanahan)-"They eat their weight in food every day?"  
Dorothy (Bea Arthur)- "When I'm depressed so do I."

"Nobody in the game of football should be called a genius. A genius is somebody like Norman Einstein."  
- Joe Theisman, former quarterback

### Humor for the Masses

PRICELESS!

A little boy got on the bus, sat next to a man reading a book, and noticed he had his collar on backwards. The little boy asked why he wore his collar backwards. The man, who was a priest, said, 'I am a Father.' The little boy replied, 'My Daddy doesn't wear his collar like that.' The priest looked up from his book and answered, "I am the Father of many."

The boy said, "My Dad has 4 boys, 4 girls and two grandchildren and he doesn't wear his collar that way!" The priest, getting impatient, said, 'I am the Father of hundreds', and went back to reading his book. The little boy sat quietly thinking for a while, then leaned over and said, "Maybe you should wear a condom, and put your pants on backwards instead of your collar."

Last night I was talking to a young, good looking woman. She asked me if I liked breasts or legs. I told her what I really liked was a shaved snatch.

Apparently I'm not welcome back at KFC.

## **The Closet-The Myth, the LIE, and the Betrayal**

by Dave A.

We've all been there. It is comfortable and welcoming and warm. In the closet we fit among our friends and relatives and co-workers BUT IT IS A LIE. This lie is built on a foundation of hate, inequality and self loathing.

When I went to college I came out. I went to the meetings, I held the meetings and I made comments for the school paper and I was proud and refused to be treated as a second class citizen. I told my parents and spent years out of touch with my family having rejected their disappointment and disapproval. I worked in gay bars and my neighbors knew I was gay. It was not obvious as I am not effeminate. I was comfortable with who I am and I still am.

One day about 31 years ago I finally settled down with my partner who should be my husband but that's another story. My partner wasn't OUT. He was wallpapering the closet making it as comfortable as could be with plush carpeting and piped in music but he was in the closet HARD.

Unwritten rule: If your partner is in the closet than you are in the closet and are now publically a roommate. We moved to Flagstaff and the perceived small town atmosphere just added to the fears that others would find out. After about 20 years of roommate status his family finally outed him. By that time I was a relative to all, had been there for the raising of many children and it was just apparent that there was a lot more to this. Thank God for them. The self loathing however continues as he cannot discuss the topic with them. Self loathing is habit forming.

The thing about this lie is that success at your relationship tells the unspoken truth. People don't share apartments or houses for 20 years. Eventually your employers get the message as well. This whole closet based on Fear is a myth to which many desperately cling. The myth is that if others know you are gay they will no longer respect or like you as they now do. The lie is that you belong to the group of heterosexuals that is the only acceptable way to be. The truth is if your friends or loved ones reject you for your sexuality then they were never friends or loved ones to begin with. The betrayal is the fact that you thought so little of your loved ones and friends that you built relationships with them based on lies. Don't be too surprised if some of your friends become angry with you for that betrayal because you deserve it.

Why hang onto relationships that are built on lies. You will never know who loves you , who likes you and who respects you if you don't let them know who you are. Don't feel a need to flaunt your sexuality, just have the courage to defend it. When stupid men say stupid things about some gay guy stand up and say I find that comment offensive. If they want to know why then tell them.

The other lie here is that the people of this town are stuck in the 60s and will not accept you for who you are. Flagstaff is a college town and many of our residents are highly educated and intelligent. Flagstaff is not a good ol boy town. Really it isn't.

The sad truth is the closet fuels the fire, allowing the hatred to flourish. Every day you sit in the closet you drop a coal on the furnace that allows another school boy to be beaten another girl to be ridiculed. The biggest unspoken truth is just how many of us there are.

There is an image permanently burned into my mind of a time I witnessed a young man (16) when I was 16 being beaten by a little punk we went to school with. The boy being beaten was caught by a teacher being intimate with another boy. The teacher allowed the information to leak. The young man was about 6 ft 1 and strong and kind. He couldn't defend himself out of the fear that others would enter the attack. The image is burned in my mind because I did nothing to stop it and I could have. I live with this shame. I will never relive it.

I know that the day will come when gay men and women will be treated as equals. We are closer than you know. The closet will be a thing of the past a stopping point on the road to equality.