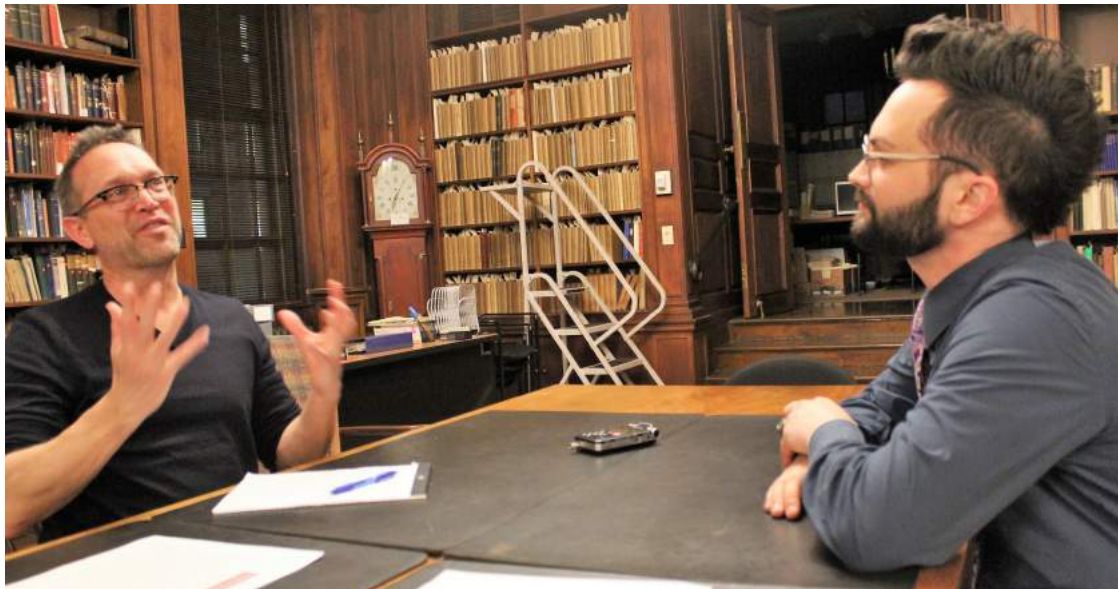


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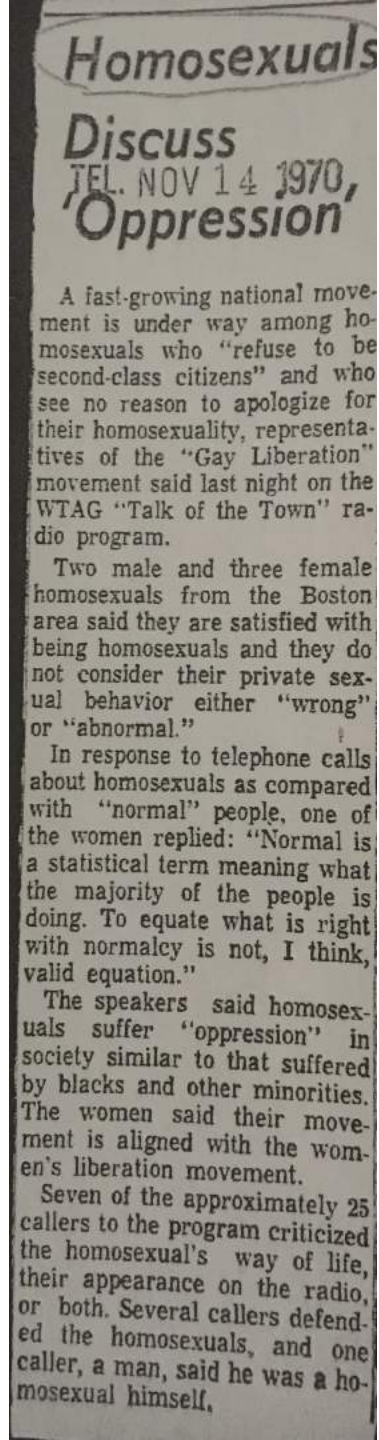


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N.A., "Homosexuals Discuss
'Oppression,'" *Worcester
Telegram*, November 14, 1970.



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Most 'Gays' Are Unashamed, but Lead Complex Dual Lives

By FRANK E. MAGIERA

Of the dozens of
Last of a two-part series.

If you ask Tom directly, he'll tell you, "I'm more than willing to admit I'm gay. That doesn't bother me," he says. "But I won't volunteer the information because society tends to ostracize gay people and won't allow them to lead a human existence."

So, like any undetermined number of homosexuals here, Tom leads a complex dual

life: a steady, socially respectable job; a convenient title of "straight" or heterosexual acquaintance, just in case someone he, too, is straight; a move intimate circle of gay friends, a lover perhaps, who sees the focal point of his personal life; and a growing concern for being "accepted" — not because he is ashamed of being gay, but because he fears misunderstanding and consequences to his friends and family.

Homosexuals here say their community includes many

prominent people, married as well as single, male and female.

"Gay people are just like straight people," said one homosexual, a tall but unimposing looking man, as he sat at the bar of the Porta O'Call, which is known as a gay bar. "There's no one typical description."

"The stereotype of the black shuffling his feet and saying 'Yassuh' is just as much a lie as the stereotype of the homosexual," said Glen, interviewed at a get-together with other gay friends.

"You can find just as many homosexuals in the top executive offices as you can running around the street corners late at night. They're harder to find, but they're there."

"I'm not ashamed," said Bill, who agreed to be interviewed, provided his identity was disguised. "But pressure can be brought to bear...there can be more private and indirect recrimination."

Bill's fears seem justifiable because he has a lot to lose — a well-paying job, social prominence, a family that could be deeply hurt by the knowledge of his homosexuality.

"A homosexual who doesn't incorporate a little discretion in his life is a loser," said one Worcester businessman, out for an evening at the Ricci, who also known as a gay bar. "It will never be totally accepted, although we all hope it will be."

"Gay people have a hell of a rough road because of inbred prejudices" said another man who claims he has had a teaching job and an advertising job because of his homosexuality. "The old fear of thinking gay people is a day."

"It's not that I'm afraid to lose my job because I'm a lesbian," said a middle-aged, white-uniformed woman.

right mind will go around and say to the world, 'They everybody look at me'."

Like some homosexuals Dave married a woman because of social pressure. They were divorced several years later. He feels she suspected he was gay although he is not sure she actually knew.

"It's just couldn't work," he said. "The relationship became unbearable."

"Most people realize they're gay before they're married," said Bill. "But they do it anyway because the family expects it or within the community that's the sort of thing you supposed to do. If you're 30 years old and not married everybody looks at you funny."

"I suppose if I could find a female who could be completely open, it would work," said Tom, who was engaged once and came close to marriage. Many homosexuals say they know of such relationships that are maintained successfully.

Some Have Families

"I know of businessmen who are married, have a family, their kids are grown and go to college," said Tom. "Throughout the years, they've just been very discreet."

"Yet they don't cease to function properly as pillars of society. Their homes are much more open and much more honest." Their family relationships tend to be much more open.

Tom and Bill, both of whom have read widely on the subject of homosexuality, believe many homosexuals make a

with homosexuality arise from society's failure to accept homosexuals.

"Society won't allow them to live a dual life," said Tom. "You're either straight or you're gay!"

"Society says you're in love with one person, you're married to one person, you live with one person," Bill noted. "But within every single one of us there is a capacity of loving more than one person."

More Malice

Five of those interviewed said they had no direct experience with discrimination, mainly because most of them avoided confrontations.

"In small communities you find more jokes, more kidding about homosexuals. There's much more malice," said Tom.

"In my own case there has not been much overt discrimination because I've just avoided putting myself in those kinds of situations. When my coworkers are getting together with their wives for a weekend, I avoid asking anything like, 'well, can I bring my lover along?' At the same time I avoid playing a role and finding some girl to go along just for the sake of it. It's a way of coping."

"They'll say, 'Why don't you bring a date if you want?' I'll say 'I'll just as soon not if you don't mind.'"

Landlords 'Discriminate'

"I won't go to the point of saying 'I can't, or I'm busy that night or that just happens to be the one weekend I'm out of town'."

"You can only come up with excuses for so long." Harold, who recently tried to find an apartment with his lover, said some landlords are reluctant to rent to two males.

When Tom worked in Boston, a vindictive acquaintance once called his employer and told him Tom was a homosexual.

"My employer didn't come right out and say I would get fired. But he intimated that there had been some phone calls that suggested my personal life did not meet the state's standards. I'm sure that if someone had called up and said I was having an affair with somebody's wife, my employer wouldn't have been interested."

"Discrimination is a little more insidious," said Bill. "In certain jobs, for instance, you wouldn't be dismissed but you'd find that certain kinds of jobs or promotions are no longer open to you — particularly those that would involve men supervising other men or women supervising other women, which is kind of silly because they don't think anything is wrong with having a heterosexual man supervising women. That doesn't mean he's going to assault them."

Families Affected

A major reason many homosexuals here say they fear being "uncovered" is because of the effect it could have on their families and friends.

"Unless you can be completely honest and open you have to live two existences," said Tom. "That's not always that easy."

"There's a possibility that if people find out about me, then I would reveal my lover."

He also cited examples where straight friends have been harmed simply through implication of their association with him. People who know Tom is gay assume incorrectly that all his friends are too.

While some gays are candid with their families, others are reluctant to discuss the matter openly with them.

"It's traumatic at first," said Tom, whose parents know he is gay. "I suppose it's like a situation where a child marries someone the parents dislike. But I think most people would feel better if their families knew and accepted."

Most of the gay persons interviewed suspected their families knew of their homosexuality but few were absolutely sure.

"My parents might be hurt if I told them," said Bill. They could feel they had shed somewhere along the line in bringing me up. At this stage, there is nothing to be gained by telling them."

One homosexual told of an arrangement where the parents of two gay lovers accepted them and treated each other like in-laws.

"I don't approve of it," said one mother who knows her son is gay. "It's frowned upon. People don't understand and they can't really you. I suppose it's all right to admit it, but don't advertise it."

Bill said both she and her husband understood their son's choice and accepted it.

"You know, there's only one perfect child," she said, "and every mother has one. He is my son and I love him dearly. I hope he is not judged by what he is doing but by what he is."

The homosexuals agreed that "anguish" is one strong word to express accurately their own attitudes toward their situation.

"It's annoying that our relationships cannot be considered just as legitimate as others," said Bill. "You want to tell people but you can't. Gays want to be accepted as the people they are."

"We just want the freedom to live our lives as we are. We want the freedom to be what we are."

Frank E. Magiera, "Most 'Gays' Are Unashamed, but Lead Complex Dual Lives," *Evening Gazette*, July 11, 1973

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Gay Advocates Allege Papers' Editorial Bias

TEL JUN 17 1987

Portrayals of gay men and lesbians in the editorials in the Worcester Telegram and The Evening Gazette are inaccurate and tend to single out homosexuals in a harmful way that could increase public fears, advocates of gay and lesbian rights told the newspapers' editorial board Monday.

The advocates say that editorials describing homosexuals use inflammatory and sarcastic language and include statements that are neither true nor substantiated.

"There are a number of people in Worcester County that we've talked to ourselves that found the newspaper articles generally disturbing," Mary-Elle Boyle, communications chairman of the Worcester chapter of the National Organization for Women, said.

She and Jeffrey M. Knudsen, the group's co-coordinator, presented the board with copies of several recent editorials, a column and news stories in which they said unfair and erroneous statements regarding homosexuals were made.

Of particular concern was a May 20 editorial opposing the passage of a bill that would ban discrimination in the state based on sexual preference. The bill passed the House and is before the Senate.

Since homosexuals enjoy the same civil rights protection as other Americans, creating a special set of rights for them "amounts to condoning a lifestyle most Americans and all religions consider to be an aberration at best," the editorial said.

It also said most of the state's residents do not want avowed homosexuals as teachers and that the spread of acquired immune deficiency syndrome among homosexual and bisexual men has increased public fears.

"It's very dangerous and it's also very untrue" to make such blanket statements, Knudsen said.

Requesting the papers' editorial support of the bill was among four recommendations made to the board by the Worcester chapter of NOW, which Ms. Boyle said has about 275 members.

The legislation would provide gay men and lesbians with legal protection should they be discriminated against in the workplace or while seeking housing and services, they said.

Gays claim image portrayed is false

Group chides news media

By Dianne Williamson
Staff Reporter

On Jan. 2, a father of two was charged with murder after telling police that he shot a 19-year-old man, whom he described as his lover.

On Aug. 17, an East Brookfield bar owner burst into an Auburn apartment and fatally shot one of his bartenders before turning the gun on himself. Police indicated that the victim had rejected his lover's advances.

their views about media coverage of the gay community and the frustrations of living in a city they say lags far behind other areas in its acceptance of homosexuality.

The group included lawyers, health care workers, a college administrator, a member of the clergy, a graduate student, an artist and an author. Many are involved in monogamous relationships and have "come out" to their friends, families and co-workers.

Some questioned whether such denial by families underscores the pressure imposed by the Worcester community to conform to mainstream society.

James Voltz recently moved from Boston to Worcester to head AIDS Project Worcester. He recalled having cocktails with a Worcester woman and supporter of the project, who gave him what she considered good advice.

"She said, 'You must never tell anyone you're gay — it's only polite not to throw it in people's faces,'" Voltz recalled. "I was stunned. The mentality was like that of the racial issue back in the '60s, when people were saying, 'Some of my best friends are black, but ...'"

BEHIND OTHER CITIES

All agreed that Worcester lags behind communities such as Boston, Amherst, Northampton and Providence in its acceptance of the

Gays see Worcester as tolerant but dull

15 Sept 2006

By Mark Melady
TELEGRAM & GAZETTE STAFF

Survey respondents seek more services, clout

WORCESTER — While area gays and lesbians believe they have gained more acceptance by the general population over the last decade, they remain largely invisible; lacking leadership, political clout, security, health care and youth services.

Those were the findings in a survey of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) community in

Central Massachusetts by the Greater Worcester Community Foundation and released yesterday at a gathering at the Worcester Public Library.

Job discrimination and workplace harassment is also prevalent, said David Price of Gardner, who attended the survey release meeting. Mr. Price said he lost a job coun-

selling youth substance abusers 10 years ago because he is gay.

"They believed I had to be a sexual predator," he said. "Discrimination is still very prevalent."

Ann T. Lisi, foundation executive director, also announced yesterday that the foundation has taken in \$25,000 toward a \$200,000 fundraising goal for its GLBT Partner-

ship Fund.

The George F. and Sybil H. Fuller Foundation made a \$15,000 donation and the foundation board and fund advisory committee have donated \$10,000. The Foundation has until June 2007 to meet the goal to qualify for a \$100,000 matching grant from

Turn to Respondents/Page A8

"Gay Advocates Allege Papers' Editorial Bias, Worcester Telegram, June 11, 1987.

Dianne Williamson, "Gays Claim Image Portrayed is False: Group Chides News Media," Sunday Telegram, January 12, 1992.

Mark Melady, "Gays See Worcester as Tolerant but Dull," Telegram & Gazette, September 15, 2006.

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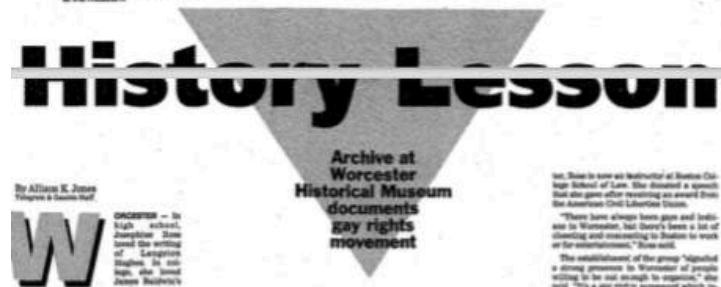
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Board of Directors of GLCCCM (Top Row from left to right) Steve Gemelli, Jim Voltz, Charlie Cook, Jesse Brown Atkins (Second Row) Judy Wolfson, Marc Needleman, Mimi Royston, Leo Negrón Crus (Third Row) Jonathan Tracy and Co-Chair Albert M. Toney III. (Up front) Co-chair Josephine Ross. Board members absent Kate Cahley, Mary Monica Minor, Marie St. George, and Karen Rweder.



Albert M. Toney III, left, Jesse Brown Atkins and Worcester Historical Museum director William C. Wallace sort through material for an archive at the museum.

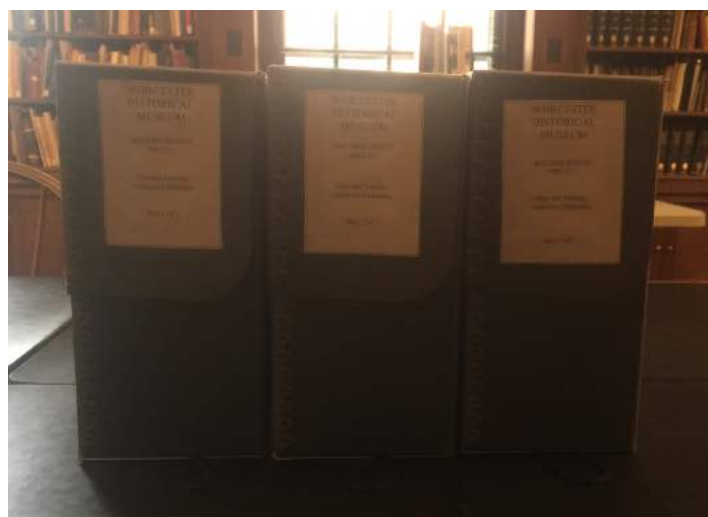


Allison K. Jones, "History Lesson: Archive at Worcester Historical Museum Documents Gay Rights Movement," *Telegram & Gazette*, December 10, 1993.

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1. Look to Models in the DH Communities
2. If you built it, they will not come – advertise and advertise some more
3. Digital community submission is great tech feature but it does not work
4. Always remind yourself that this is a community history – you are a steward not a gatekeeper
5. People are messy, so are their permissions
6. Develop protocols to respect privacy
7. Respect your subjects identities for they are fluid

THE History PROJECT

Documenting GLBT Boston

Documented | Digital Collections of The History Project



The History Project is the only organization focused exclusively on documenting and preserving the history of LGBTQ communities in Boston and Massachusetts, and sharing that information with LGBTQ individuals, organizations, allies, and the public. DOCUMENTED is The History Project's digital repository for images, publications, videos, interviews, and more. Explore the descriptions of our nearly 200 collections [here](#).



Robert John Quinn's Memorial Books

This collection was originally titled the Robert John Quinn AIDS Memorial Books, by the compiler Robert John Quinn. As The History Project began...

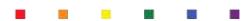


Robert John Quinn's Memorial Books, Volume G



A man dancing on the beach

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LGBTQ in the WOO Digital Archive

A Project of the Worcester Historical Museum and Digital Worcester

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Your Story... Our History... Start Sharing

2019 will witness the fiftieth anniversary of the New York's Stonewall Uprising and the advent of the modern gay liberation movement.

To commemorate this anniversary, Worcester Historical Museum (WHM) is undertaking a major effort to preserve, digitize, and share Worcester County's LGBTQ past. (delete space) This initiative will culminate in a 2019 Exhibition at 30 Elm Street as well as a lasting digital archive. Since no earlier organization has actively sought to preserve in a systematic way Central Massachusetts's LGBTQ past, there is much to uncover.

To bring together the fragmentary and scattered documentation of Worcester County's LGBTQ experience, the WHM along with Digital Worcester are sponsoring community outreach for the digital sharing, collection, preservation of this important history - a history that matters to all of us.

Since much of Worcester's LGBTQ history remains in the hands of the very people who struggled for recognition, fought for their rights, and forged strong bonds of fellowship in the process, building this exhibit and archive will be a challenging grassroots effort. We need your help identifying artifacts and stories of local LGBTQ history. Do have old photographs? A t-shirt or party flyer? Magazine? Memoir? Film or audio?

This web site will serve first as a portal for sharing images, stories, audio, and artifacts through community contributions, and second as a permanent digital repository of Worcester's LGBTQ history that can continue to grow and engage researchers, students, educators, the general public, and the LGBTQ community itself.

Be a part of history! Want to learn more before registering and contributing, then please [contact us](#).

We THANK YOU in advance for your assistance.

Curators:

Robert Tobin, Henry J. Leir Chair in Languages, Literature and Culture, Clark University

Stephanie Yuhl, Professor of History and Director of the Monserrat Program, College of the Holy Cross

William D. Wallace, Executive Director, Worcester History Museum

Digital Curator:

Joseph Cullon, Director, Digital Worcester and Associate Teaching Professor, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

WORCESTER

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LGBTQ in the WOO Digital Archive

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REGISTER

To share your story you will first need to register. You can remain anonymous to the public, but registration will allow exhibit curators and system administrators help you upload, describe and share your items.

Username Username must be 30 characters or fewer.
Whitespace is not allowed.

Display Name Name as it should be displayed on the site

Email

Password

Password again for match

LGBTQintheWoo.org is a project of the Worcester Historical Museum and Digital Worcester

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ORAL HISTORY OF GLORIA AUDET

Gloria Audet, Narrator

Stephanie E. Yule, Worcester Historical Museum Interviewer

DATE:

July 2, 2018

LOCATION:

Gloria Audet Residence, Shrewsbury, Massachusetts

Note: Edited by Gloria Audet, Reviewed July 26, 2018

Edits appear in brackets



GA: But it only dealt with the government employees. It didn't -- it wasn't what it is today. And I met somebody who worked there, and she was a lesbian, I found out, and she lived with her cousin. That was the key word back then, if you live with your cousin. So, she's the one who told me about that particular bar, and then she took us to another bar in

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1975 Photograph Courtesy of the Telegram and Gazette

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"THAT THE TWO MIGHT BE AS ONE"

Certificate of Holy Union



BE IT KNOWN TO ALL PERSONS THAT
Bonnie O'Hara
 AND
Dorothy Woodcock
 WERE UNITED TOGETHER IN HOLY UNION AT
 METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS
 ON THE 2nd DAY OF May, 1978
 BY THE ORDINANCE AND BLESSING OF ALMIGHTY GOD.

Rosalyn J. Vance
Blaise J. Audet
 WITNESSES MINISTER
Religious Coordinator

NEW ENGLAND FERTILITY & GYNECOLOGY ASSOCIATES

MELVIN L. TAYMOR, M.D., P.C.
 MERLE J. BERGER, M.D.
 IRWIN E. THOMPSON, M.D.

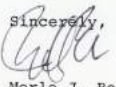
September 25, 1980

Ms. Dorothy Woodcock
 87 Birch St.
 Worcester, Mass. 01610

Dear Dot:

Congratulations on the birth of your son. I know that you both must be very happy.

Please let me know if I can be of any further help to you in your gynecologic care or otherwise.

Sincerely,

 Merle J. Berger, M.D.

MJB:rr

1330 BOYLSTON STREET (ROUTE 9), CHESTNUT HILL, MASSACHUSETTS 02167 • (617) 731-8000

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PRIMER PINPON INVITACIONAL

gallo 93.

DOMINGOS: 4, 11, 18 DE ABRIL *
ELIMINATORIAS

DOMINGO, 2 DE MAYO
SEMIFINALES

SÁBADO, 8 DE MAYO
CAMPEONATO

Auspiciado por Jesús, Chip y Bob
19 Dixfield Street, Worcester
852-3014
4:00pm

* Registrations are closed



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Lauren Beckham, "Gay – and not alone: Worcester Support Group is Focus of Ch. 2 Report," *Boston Herald*, June 12, 1995.

Come join SWAGLY as we forge history at the:

Lesbian and Gay Student Rights Bill Rally

in support of Bill H.3353

We will leave United Congregational Church,
6 Institute Road, Worcester at:

2pm
Wednesday, October 13

to arrive back at United Congregational Church by 9pm.

Call ahead for a ride, or meet us at 2pm at United Congregational Church.
Call Lisa (413) 436-5461 or SWAGLY (508) 755-0005
if you can drive your own car and take passengers.

Call the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights (617) 828-3039
for information on the Rally.

36 THE BOSTON HERALD, MONDAY, JUNE 12, 1995

THE GROUP: Worcester support group includes, from left, Amy Rohacik, Chris, Rubin Bonilla, Sammy Lopez, Matt and Sarah.

Gay – and not alone

TEEN RAMP Worcester support group is focus of Ch. 2 report

me out."
Lopez, now 19, was placed with foster parents for three months before moving out on his own.
In fact, 26 percent of gay

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I came out first as a gay man, then Queer many years ago. Then 8 months ago I came out as Agender. I had always felt that I wasn't really male but I didn't feel female either. When I came out as gay and later queer there was no real understanding about non-binary gender

Transgender Lives: Your Stories

As part of a [series of editorials](#) about transgender experiences, we are featuring personal stories that reflect the strength, diversity and challenges of the community. Welcome to this evolving collection.

[f](#) [t](#) [→ MORE](#)

TRANSGENDER RESOURCES »

A list of some organizations offering support and information.

On Tue, Mar 26, 2019, 10:58 PM Robert Tobin <RTobin@clarku.edu> wrote:
When I asked for his thoughts on how to handle old press references to Jerry Cheney, Jeri writes, "I use their/them pronouns. I'd say just say something like Jeri Cheney who then referred to themselves as Jerry Cheney and identified as a gay man."

Jeri goes on to add, "FYI, I now identify as a polyromantic non-binary individual," which we could perhaps weave in when we first mention them.

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5. People are messy, so are their permissions
6. Develop protocols to respect privacy
7. Respect your subjects identities for they are fluid
8. Talk back to the Omeka people – we need items can can be in more than one collection
9. You will not get it right the first time, but may be on the seventh
10. It is never done, recognize the moment you think you are done the flood will come and prepare accordingly
11. Construct the navigation for constructive user experience – mountains with handrails