



The Queer Foundation Scholar

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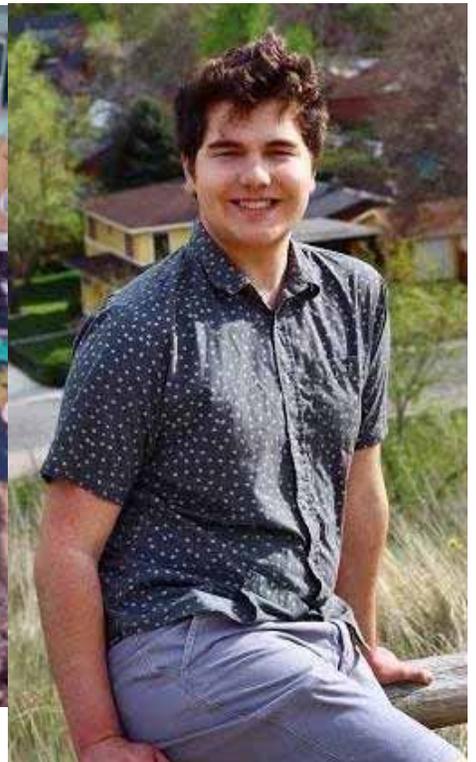
2015 Queer Foundation Scholars



Lily Zacharias
Deerfield, Illinois



Rachel Szpara
Baltimore, Maryland



John Fritz
Boise, Idaho

Read their award-winning essays at www.queerfoundation.org. See page 2 for brief bios, as well as an introduction to some of the Special Mention scholars.

Lily Zacharias graduated from Deerfield High School in Deerfield, Il, where she was active as the president of Spectrum (the school's GSA) her senior year. She was also a Board member of Transgender Student Educational Resources, and a participant in the Model U.N. Program for three years.

Although all three of her references praised her writing and her research skills, all three stated that Ms. Zacharias is most praiseworthy because she "understands and helps her fellow students understand race issues better than many teachers in the school."

Ms. Zacharias, who refers to herself as "queer," will attend Bard College, majoring in English and International Studies, and minoring in Women & Gender Studies. She hopes to go into politics or work for the U.S. State Department or an NGO.

Rachel Szpara graduated from George Washington Carver Center for Arts & Technology in Baltimore, MD. In high school, she participated in the United Club (the school's GSA) and the Culture Club, and she was also active in the fine & performing arts.

An aspiring writer, Ms. Szpara published her first novel, *Melissa Bingly, Wizard in Training: Cursed* (2011), when she was thirteen. *Piercing Midnight*, the first volume of *The Etinifni Trilogy* (also referred to as *The Infinity Chronicles*) appeared this past May.

Ms. Szpara intends to pursue her writing career at this time. However, her backup plan is to enroll at a University of Maryland campus to earn a degree in East Asian Languages & Literatures. She also loves to play the piano, singing, ballet, and photography.

John Fritz graduated from Boise High School in Boise, ID. At the high school he was a weekly op-ed contributor to *Boise Highlights*, the student newspaper, for two years. His topics ranged from international politics to the new Trader Joe's in Boise to "Top Ten Worst Things to Ask a Gay Man," which can be found here.

<http://www.boisehighlights.com/author/john-fritz/page/2/>

An activist, Mr. Fritz volunteered for the Idaho State School Coalition and the Idaho ACLU promoting the goals of the Safe Schools Project. He

and a colleague also testified before a committee of the Idaho legislature, encouraging that body to adopt anti-bullying legislation.

Mr. Fritz will attend the University of Oregon, majoring in history and international politics. His goal is to teach either international law or history at the university level.

2015 Special Mention

Allyzah Allene D. Cabugao



Ms. Cabugao, who defines herself as "a demigirl, asexual panromantic," will attend Lone Star College, North Harris Branch, in Houston, where she intends to pursue a B.A. in Art and an M.A. in Art Education. Her career goal is to teach art at the secondary school level and to create a queerphobic-free space for her students.

She writes that although she has a queerphobic family, she found her greatest support in high school by participating all four years in the National Forensics League. It was with the encouragement of her debate coach and the support

of her debate and speech peers that she learned to speak up for herself and the queer community.

Patrick Healy



In his own words, Mr. Healy is “an incredibly loving and optimistic bisexual who lives their life trying to make people smile,” and who lives “a double life as a flamboyant party boy but also a philanthropic and academically rigorous student.”

At East High School in Bradenton, FL, he was active in swimming, track, Math Club, Science Club, Orchestra, and the National Honor Society. He was also a hospital volunteer and the organizer of “Life Without Limits 5K” race to benefit the United Cerebral Palsy of Tampa.

Mr. Healy will attend the University of Central Florida in Orlando where he will major in Nursing and Pre-Medicine. He eventually plans to join the U.S. Army to become a field trauma surgeon before becoming a trauma surgeon in a major hospital.

Servando (Jason) Martínez



Mr. Martínez, who hails from Apple Valley, California, will be attending Pace University in NYC, where he will pursue a double major in Criminal Justice and Business Administration and Management. He is also interested in the theatre arts and psychology.

In high school he was very active in sports, including varsity football, basketball, swimming, soccer, and cheer. He was active in many clubs, including the Fashion Club, French Club, UNICEF, GSA, Eco Club, and the National Honor Society.

He eventually plans to attend law school and to join a law firm that specializes in pro bono work and in criminal justice.

Caroline Mulligan



Ms. Mulligan graduated from Methuen (MA) High School where she wrote for the school newspaper as well as a local literary magazine. Both at school and in the community, she also participated in various aspects of theatre. During her junior and senior years, she was president of the high school's GSA and also a member of the Massachusetts GSA Leadership Council.

Ms. Mulligan will attend Brown University, majoring in English and/or The Literary Arts. She is also interested in LGBTQ-related studies, history, psychology, and theatre-arts. She eventually plans to earn an M.A. in either creative writing or, for a more practical career path, in library science. She also intends to continue her LGBTQ activism.

Editor's note: Information about other Special Mention students will be included in future issues. Several of the students are apparently away for the summer and not answering their email.

Notes from alumni

- **Daniel Carriveau**, who graduated from Lakeland College last year, has been promoted to the position of manager of the Radisson Hotel in Appleton, WI. He says he very much enjoys his job and that he's made a number of queer friends in Appleton. In response to questions asked of him by the editor, Carriveau says Lakeland College doesn't really stress conservative family values, despite what its website may say, and despite what he wrote in "Gays in Fraternities," after he turned 21 he very much enjoyed working as a bartender in a gay bar in Sheboygan. Several of our readers had expressed concern about Mr. Carriveau after reading his "Gays in Fraternities" in these pages two years ago.

- **Brandon Lambert** was back in one of the two lead roles in the road production of "Murder for Two" in Philadelphia and in Albany, NY.

- **Skailer Rae Qvistgaard**, who graduated from Boston University with a degree in English this past June, has been accepted to Suffolk University's School of Law on scholarship. Skailer and his fiancé Zachary Kerr are spending the summer volunteering their time giving workshops to benefit LGBTQ youth and especially trans youth.

If you are a QF mentor, please toot your mentee's horn. I'd like to report alumni news from more than the QF scholars I keep in contact with. Send information to rverzasconi@msn.com.

The Contemporary Queer Writers Series: 2



JAMES EARL HARDY is the author of the best-selling novel *B-Boy Blues*. Praised as the first gay hip hop love story, it is celebrating its twentieth anniversary this year. There are seven other novels/novellas in the *B-Boy Blues* series: *2nd Time Around*, *If Only For One Nite*, *The Day Eazy-E Died*, *Love The One You're With*, *A House is Not a Home*, "Is It Still Jood to Ya?" (from *Visible Lives: Three Stories in Tribute to E. Lynn Harris*), and the upcoming young adult title, *Men of the House*. Mr. Hardy's award-winning stage adaptation of *B-Boy Blues* will have its Off-Broadway debut in August, while his critically acclaimed one-man show about adult film actor Tiger Tyson, *Confessions of a Homo Thug Porn Star*, is on a national tour. His most recent short story collection, *Can You Feel What I'm Saying?*, was a 2013 Rainbow Book Finalist. He lives in New York City.

"Pride," reprinted by permission of the author, appeared in Keith Boykin, ed., *For Colored Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Not Enough: Coming of Age, Coming Out, and Coming Home* (New York: Magnus Books, 2012), pp. 53-57.

"Pride"

DIFFERENT
is what his Mama called him
"He's special
He's sensitive
He's sweet
He's my Baby
No child of mine can be that way
It's a phase
He'll grow out of it"
But even she knew that wasn't true

FAGGOT
is what his father called him
A fruit
A fairy
"Boy, take your hands off your hips!"
"Boy, don't you roll them eyes at me!"
"Boy, don't be suckin' your teeth!"
"Boy, don't..."
Soon his father stopped saying don't
His father stopped saying boy

He just stopped
SISSY
is what his older brother called him
Cause he threw and ran like a girl
Played with Barbie
Jumped rope
But they must've been the right things to do
Cause he became an A student
and his brother wound up in jail

FUNNY
is what his Nana called him
Too neat, too nice
Too much sugar, too much spice
In his bowl
"Get him in church, he need Jesus!
Jesus gonna save him!" she testified
And Jesus did
At least that's what the minister said
Every Wednesday night after choir practice

When he had him fall on his knees
But not to pray

PUNK

is what the block boy called him
He always had a 40 in one hand
a blunt in the other
Gyratin that pelvis like Elvis
Kissin the air as he walked by
Announcin to the 'hood
"Ain't no nigga s'pose to switch!"
"Ain't no nigga's ass s'pose to twitch!"
But he always knew that was the cue
to meet on that roof top
that night at midnight
and once again be his bitch

QUEEN

is what his good girlfriend called him
He taught her how to wear that wardrobe
beat that face
walk that runway
and give the Chil'ren grace!
Ah, and don't forget the hair!
Wash and wear weaves
Pass the hot comb, would you please!
But she was jealous
You would be, too
If your best friend
looked better in your drag
than you

STRAIGHT

is what City Hall called him
Marriage and a baby carriage
One child, a boy
No home in the 'burbs
Just three small rooms in a tenement
A car that needs a new battery
Too many bills to pay
And no money in the bank
But it was still the American dream
And he knew it would please everyone
except himself

BI

is what she called him...out on
When she came home from work early that night
and found them naked on the living room floor
The next door neighbor's teenage son
on top of and inside of her husband
as their son lay asleep in their bedroom
What could he say?

There was no fighting, no high drama
Her harshest words: "You're a freak!"
And she took off like Tina
but she had the car keys
and she didn't leave the baby behind
and he hasn't seen them since

QUEER

is what the white folks called him
Act-Up Come Out of the closet
Do Ask and Do Tell
Silence Doesn't Have To Equal Death
Wear a Pink Triangle
Wave a Rainbow Flag
But he soon sensed that this fight
was to protect the divine right of white
And the European he called his lover
just couldn't
or wouldn't
understand

GAY

is what the world called him
It's a short-cut, shorthand
A convenience
A fantasy
A lie
He doesn't feel...gay?
Could someone explain how he's supposed to?
But nobody can cause nobody knows
And the anxiety, the angst, the anger grows

But today he knows something else
he knows someone new
It ain't about a name
that's all a game
What somebody else thinks
What somebody else wants
What somebody else is
He always looked in the eyes of others
to define who he is
But now he looks in a mirror
and the beauty of his own dark brown eyes
he loves in another's
He's no longer a figment of his own imagination
or someone else's nightmare
He's not on the outside looking in
He looked inside—himself—and found it

And PRIDE

is what he called it

Queer Foundation

From the Executive Director's Desk

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Kevin Jennings
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Carolyn Laub
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*Like Son &
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Random Tea Parties*

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Getting Bi

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Psychology Alliance

Chandan Reddy
Associate Professor of
English, University of
Washington

Charles Rice-González
Chulito

Ritch Savin-Williams
New Gay Teenager

Judy Shepard
Matthew Shepard
Foundation

Queer Foundation originated eleven years ago, inspired by two observations:

1. Queer studies can improve our understanding of the place of queerness in our world.
2. Young queer writers abound in high schools everywhere.

The QF originated in a transitional period in the U.S. history of LGBTQA rights. In 2003 the United States Supreme Court's decision in *Lawrence v. Texas* had put an end to the government's prohibition of homosexual conduct. In the context of the existing laws governing marriage, this created what some described as an absurd post-Prohibition situation. Throughout the United States, homosexual conduct was a protected right that no married couples could practice. Massachusetts quickly rectified this, in May 2004, by legalizing marriage for same-sex couples. Other jurisdictions were slower to respond. More than eleven years passed before the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, ended the confusing system of conflicting laws that, in many jurisdictions, had denied the protections of marriage to same-sex couples.

Obergefell v. Hodges created a society that presents millions of queer youth with life choices that previously were out of the question. The bodies of knowledge and institutions inherited from earlier times are limited in their ability to guide queer youth as they face these choices. To correct this, much work will be necessary--*in the legal and criminal-justice systems, in the interpretation of religious freedom, in medicine and healthcare policy, in science, in education, and in the creative and performing arts.*

Queer Foundation recognizes the need to support advances in all fields of inquiry and encourages young queer writers to pursue studies in the arts and sciences that will contribute to the development of systems of knowledge and policies that help queer youth understand their place in and navigate their way about our world.

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From the Editor's Desk

On Marriage.

The outpouring of preposterous prognostications after the SCOTUS decision on marriage was no surprise. Talk-radio and TV commentators, preachers, leaders of homophobic organizations, and several Republican presidential candidates all tried to out-do each other: the end of America, the end of Western Civilization, the end of the human race. Who and where would their god of war strike first? I think Becky Wegner Rommell wins the prize for proving that the SCOTUS decision really did unhinge some people. If you did not see the video she posted on Facebook, you can watch it here:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ed-coffin/woman-posts-epic-antigay-video-7707838.html?utm_hp_ref=gay-voices

More disturbing were comments by people like Matt Staver, lawyer, former 7th-Day Adventist minister, and founding member of the Liberty Council.

"We should not pretend that it is the rule of law, we should not act like it's the rule of law," he counsels. "We do need to protect religious freedom – but in the process we cannot accept this ruling as a legitimate ruling as the rule of law. It is not; it is not based on the Constitution – and if it's not based on the Constitution, it's just their opinion." As reported in *Holy Bullies & Headless Monsters*, Friday, July 10, 2015.

<http://holybulliesandheadlessmonsters.blogspot.com/2015/07/anti-gay-rights-attack-on-scotus-are.html#.VaBIEXnbI5s>

All decisions of the Supreme Court are the opinion of the majority, but they're not "just" their opinions. Their decisions determine whether laws are Constitutional or not. Staver is not alone in arguing that no one need obey any law if it conflicts with their "deeply held religious beliefs" or their interpretation of the Constitution.

The Christianists know they can't get an amendment defining marriage as being solely between one man and one woman through enough state legislatures to change the Constitution so, instead, they will resort to delay tactics. As I write this, there are still thirty county clerks who refuse to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples or in some states to anyone. A county clerk in Kentucky who refused to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples because of her "deeply held religious beliefs" turns out to have been married four times. The new "traditional" Christianist marriage! Last week, a judge in Kentucky ordered her to start obeying the law or to resign.

Perhaps the most frightening commentary I have read was a copy of a letter that had appeared in the *Skagit Valley Herald* early in July, and sent to me by a friend and an LGBTQ ally. She asked me if I thought the letter was for real. All too real, I replied, in a rural America where a higher percentage of adults are armed to the teeth and in an area in the State of Washington where the Southern Poverty Law Center has identified several hate groups. It was indeed a "call to arms" for a civil war that would once and for all rid the nation of liberals, communists, and homosexuals, among all the other undesirables in the author's world. I was puzzled why the editor would publish such an inflammatory letter unless she agreed with it.

Given what we know so far about Dylann Roof, the "race war" he wanted to start (meaning he thought his actions would lead other whites to pick up arms and slaughter blacks) wasn't limited to blacks. The website where he picked up much of his misguided ideology is filled with hatred aimed at just about everyone who doesn't buy into the creed of White Supremacy.

With so many Americans armed to the teeth and with gun laws so lax in most states, it won't take much to encourage yet another misguided white youth to think he's going to save America from anyone who doesn't think like he does.

My favorite cartoon and commentary about all these Christianists speaking in seditious terms came from David Horsey of the *L.A. Times*. Horsey denounced all the talk-radio/TV hosts, politicians, and ministers predicting the end of the U.S. or of Western Civilization, as really being more interested in attention, votes or money. None, he suggested, not even those speaking about the need for another civil war, was picking up the gauntlet they themselves had thrown down.

That cartoon and commentary came a day or two after Horsey portrayed a young Southerner who went hunting, fell asleep under a tree for ten days, and returned to town to find that the Pride flag had replaced the Confederate flag. I'm sure the cartoon alone, let alone Horsey's commentary, unhinged a few Christianists in southern California. You can see Horsey's cartoons with his corresponding op-eds here:

<http://www.latimes.com/la-bio-david-horsey-staff.html>

Will more rational minds prevail? In time, one hopes, especially given that over 60% of Americans now support same-sex marriage, a percentage that continues to grow as my generation dies off and the far-more supportive millennial generation matures. We know that the cornered beast grows more vicious. With their numbers decreasing and with younger evangelicals becoming increasingly more tolerant of minorities or turned-off by the extremists, it means there are fewer people to frighten into donating money.

How different was the reaction of 90-year-old former President Jimmy Carter. See, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NfkShTmDyAA> Carter, an ordained Baptist minister who still teaches Sunday school in Plains, GA, has also evolved on the issue. Like President Obama, he had originally argued that the issue should be left up to the individual states. Now he states that he has no problem with the SCOTUS decision because Jesus would accept marriage equality. Ah, yes, Carter has never used his religious credentials to enrich himself.

On another more positive note, the results of this poll haven't been widely reported:

"In a poll conducted by the Democratic research firm GQR, 55 percent of likely 2016 voters, including

a majority of political independents, said they'd be less inclined to cast a vote for a presidential candidate who opposed same-sex marriage. Just 28 percent said they'd be more likely to do so. The survey was done for the Human Rights Campaign and shared with The Huffington Post.

"Those who backed gay marriage also tended to feel more strongly about the issue than those who opposed it. Forty percent of voters said they'd be *much* less likely to support a gay marriage opponent, while just 16 percent said they'd be *much* more likely to do so."

As reported in the *Huffington Post* (June 26, 2015).

Yet, anyone who doubts that the fortunes and future of LGBTQ people are tied up to those of all people of color need only listen to this screed by South Carolina State Senator Lee Bright (an avowed friend of Ted Cruz) during a debate on the Confederate flag:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Je0AELN5X9c>

His screed ties in to those who claimed that Dylann Roof was driven mentally insane (there is no evidence that he suffers from a mental illness) or convinced to use drugs because the "gay agenda" has uprooted America's morality. Well, they have to blame someone! Let's not blame Fox News or the numerous websites filled with hateful messages against people of color, homosexuals, liberals, ad infinitum.

Yes, saner minds prevailed in the South Carolina legislature, but we can't forget that Dylann Roof acted alone, motivated by the voices of hate that anyone can access on the internet. Our mass killers have been almost all young white men who felt disenfranchised, who felt they no longer had any control over their lives and turned violent against whoever they blamed: parents, teachers, fellow students, people of color, queers.

While we're having a discussion about institutionalized racism (I hope we're going to have such a discussion), we also need to have a discussion about why so many young white men feel they have no control over their lives and, as a result, let hate mongers exploit them. No one is born a hater or a racist. "You have to be taught/you have to be carefully taught...." Rodgers & Hammerstein, *South Pacific* (1948).

I've argued since the 1970s that the Democratic Party abandoned a white underclass. Economic, political, and social justice for people of

color did not mean ignoring a white underclass that still has no real power. By the time anyone noticed, it was too late. Just as Hitler and the National Socialists started doing in 1928 in Germany, the hate mongers in the U.S. alone responded to the fact that many poor, young whites were also unemployed, lacking quality education and had few or no skills.

Other Perspectives on Marriage

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/26/opinion/26coontz.html?pagewanted=all&_r=1&/

<https://www.lewrockwell.com/lrc-blog/the-racist-origins-of-government-marriage-in-america>

- Marriage in Australia before sodomy was outlawed.

<http://www.queerty.com/australia-secret-gay-weddings-20130605> I understand that the male to female ratio in Brisbane in the early 1930s was roughly 90 to 1, not quite as much as the 200 to 1 ratio in San Francisco in 1850.



Image by Qvist, the free LGBTQ history app. Courtesy of Qvist. www.qvistapp.com

Films and Videos

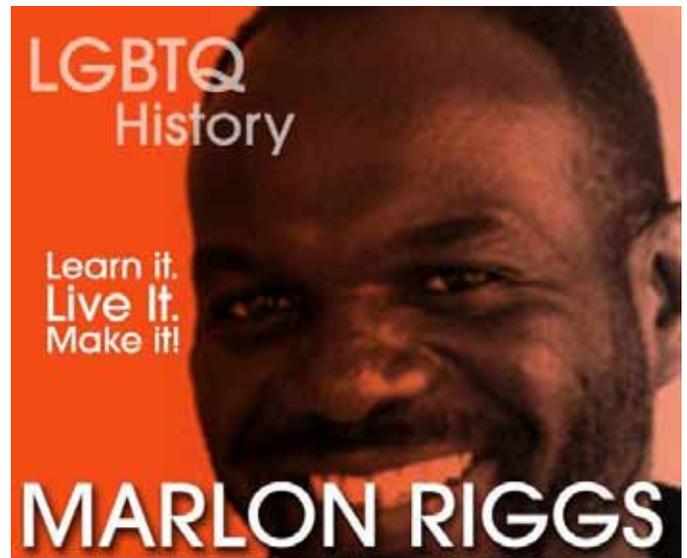


Image by Qvist, the free LGBTQ history app. Courtesy of Qvist. www.qvistapp.com

- Alternative Guide to Queer Cinema. Synopses of some 25 often controversial queer films.

<http://issuu.com/fandorfilms/docs/alternativeguidetolgbtqcinema?e=15058385%2F13192418>

- Proud to Love. A few well-known and a few not-so-well known queers in a new “Love Wins Out” video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WSiehK2asbl>

- 2015 Pride Month. Shout for those who couldn't. A beautiful, very short video of two young women set in 19th c. America.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AVKVKbtvB2Q&feature=player_embedded

- Faces: United Nations Free & Equal. This video should unhinge the Christianists. The U.N. isn't sending Black Hawk helicopters to take us over. They're sending queers!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JosMsjRNznM&feature=player_embedded

Music

- Katie Elder: First Time He Kissed a Boy.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=et8R5fZOARo&feature=player_embedded
- L.A. Gay Men's Chorus in Britney Spears' "Work Bitch."
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?t=59&v=oeZRZsB8Kzo>
- Willie Nelson. If Ted Nugent is a has-been guitarist who loves to spout both racist and homophobic garbage, Willie Nelson still shines, here with an assist from Burt Reynolds.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1u4CXIIYjyE#t=145>
- Nakita Turner. One Voice. I commend this young woman from New Zealand and her friends in a great song she wrote to combat bullying.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fQrCti-hqu0>

Transgender Issues

- Books for Transgender Children & Teens.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/07/business/media/transgender-childrens-books-fill-a-void-and-break-a-taboo.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&module=second-column-region®ion=top-news&WT.nav=top-news&r=1>
- Trans Sports.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/06/19/chris-mosier-transgender_n_7622178.html?utm_hp_ref=gay-voices&ir=Gay%20Voices

Button Poetry & TED Talks

- Kevin Kantor, "People You May Know." A young man's powerful retelling of an event more men need to talk about: being raped.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LoyfunmYIpU>
- Thomas Lloyd at Georgetown University, "Why Am I So Gay?" Quite a brave young Catholic at a Catholic University who projects the discrimination he's faced with that faced by other powerless minorities, and decides to fight back for everyone.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1foLW8h54>

Kudos

- To the U.S. Women's Soccer Team and to the 20+ members and coaches who are out and proud.

2015 Publication Awards

Six students submitted pieces (essays, short fiction, poetry) for the 2015 Publication Awards. In its 5th year, the Publication Awards have never before received submissions from more than four students. The six jurors are now evaluating the submissions. Publication Awards, including scholarships, will be announced in our October issue, and the awarded submissions will be published in the October 2015 and January and April 2016 issues.

Mentors

I am still looking for mentors for most of the students listed on pages 1-3 of this issue, and I'll need more mentors as I hear back from more Special Mention students. If you might be interested, please contact me at

rverzasconi@msn.com