

Briefs

Coming Out On Stage

As part of an independent study, URI student Mike Miele is constructing an original theatre piece about coming out entitled *The Closet Door*, which will tell the stories of Rhode Island GLBTQQI people, and their families, before, during and after the coming out process. It will be performed at the URI Providence campus during Pride 2008. If you would be interested in sharing a story please email him at michael.miele@mail.uri.edu.

Understanding How to Help Families of Transgender Folks

Marissa Gold, pursuing a doctorate in clinical psychology at the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology, is investigating the process of family adjustment to learning of their child's transgender identity. Little research has focused on how those in the mental health field can best support families adjusting to transgender emergence. She hopes to understand what makes some families better able to remain connected through the adjustment process. Gold is interested in connecting with some parents (biological, adoptive, or stepparents) of transgender individuals from the age of 18-30. The transgender child must have begun hormonal interventions and/ or had surgical interventions. The study includes an anonymous online interview questionnaire that would require approximately 45 minutes to an hour to complete. Gold can be reached by e-mail at goldmarissa@gmail.com or by telephone at (781) 363-1812. You are also welcome to contact the chair of her dissertation, Dr. Jill Bloom at jbloom@mspp.edu or by telephone at (617)-327-6777 Ext. 234.

Symposium Update

The 14th annual URI GLBT Symposium, "Looking Back, Moving Forward," will preview a special traveling exhibit, "Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals 1933-1945", from the United States Holocaust Memorial. The exhibit will be shown in the Main Gallery at the URI Fine Arts Center, Kingston from February 14 – March 29. On February 14 Edward Phillips, Ph.D., Deputy Director of the Holocaust Museum, will talk on "Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals: Curating Invisible History." Then a second program on March 2 will include a panel discussion of the Holocaust by historians, as well as a musical performance. On Wednesday evening, March 26, the symposium will open with a talk by Jason Knight, former Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class, a military linguist who was discharged because of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT) policy. He is now a communications associate at the Service members Legal Defense Network in Washington, D.C. Knight will relate his personal experience with DADT in the larger context of what this form of official prejudice means for the country, the military and the gay community. The symposium will continue March 27 and 28 with a full calendar of individual presentations on a wide variety of topics. Detailed information is available at www.uri.edu/glb. Information on the Holocaust exhibit can be found at www.uri.edu/artgalleries. The Main Gallery is open to the public without charge, Tues.-Fri. 12 noon-4 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 1-4 p.m. Class and group visits are encouraged and can be arranged at 874-9628 or facgalls@etal.uri.edu.

