



# the seedling

announcements, opportunities, ideas & conversation from  
the samara foundation of vermont

Volume 2, Number 2

March 2008

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# THE NEW ENGLAND TRANSGENDER PRIDE MARCH AND RALLY

is planned around the theme:

# REMEMBER STONEWALL? THAT WAS US!

Bet Power, a member of the march's steering committee, said "Our theme celebrates the central role transgender and gender non-conforming persons played in the Stonewall Rebellion and in the LGBT Movement that it sparked." The march will step off at noon on June 7 at the Bridge Street School in Northampton, MA. The rally will begin at 12:30 p.m. in Veterans Field in Northampton, and will be headlined by **Leslie Feinberg**, a pioneering transgender writer whose books include **Stone Butch Blues**, **Transgender Warriors**, and **Drag King Dreams**; and **Miss Major**, a veteran of Stonewall who directs the Transgender, Gender Variant, and Intersex Justice Project, which advocates for the human rights of transgender prisoners. Featured performers will include the Boston-based drag troupe **All The Kings Men**. Other speakers include: Imani Henry, Gunner Scott, Jerimarie Liesegang, Vickie Boisseau, Ethan St. Pierre, Moonhawk River Stone, Alex Pangborn, and Enoch Page. Other entertainers include FTM folksinger Lee Elder, novelist Ellen Wittlinger, and Miss Trans Northampton. More speakers and performers will be announced in the coming weeks. ([www.transpridemarch.org](http://www.transpridemarch.org))





# SafeSpace

for LGBTQQ survivors of violence

**SafeSpace** is looking for Volunteer Advocates to work with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (lgbtqq) survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, bias crimes, and discrimination. Please call **863-0003** or email [thecenter@ru12.org](mailto:thecenter@ru12.org) to sign up! The training will begin on **March 4th** at **6pm** at the **RU12? Community Center**. All volunteers will receive more than 20 hours of free training and ongoing training and support!

# KENJI YOSHINO

## IS COMING TO VERMONT

**7 pm March 27th, 2008**

Public Lecture: **Covering: The Hidden Assault on Our Civil Rights**  
in the Livak Ballroom of UVM's Davis Center, Burlington

**3 pm March 28, 2008**

Reception and Book Signing  
In the Yates Common Room, Debevoise Hall, Vermont Law School, South Royalton

**Kenji Yoshino** is the author of **Covering** and Guido Calabresi Professor of law and former Deputy Dean at Yale Law School. He was educated at Harvard, Oxford, and Yale Law School. A specialist in constitutional law, antidiscrimination law, and law and literature, he has published work in a wide variety of academic journals, including the Columbia Law Review, Michigan Law Review, Stanford Law Review, and Yale Law Journal. His popular writing has been featured in The Advocate, The Boston Globe, The Nation, The New York Times, Slate, The Village Voice, and The Washington Post. He lives in New Haven, CT, and New York City. In **Covering**, Yoshino fuses legal manifesto and poetic memoir to call for a redefinition of civil rights in our law and culture.



**Everyone covers.** To cover is to downplay a disfavored trait so as to blend into the mainstream. Because all of us possess stigmatized attributes, we all encounter pressure to cover in our daily lives. Given its pervasiveness, we may experience this pressure to be a simple fact of social life. Against that conventional understanding, Kenji Yoshino argues that the demand to cover can pose a hidden threat to our civil rights. Though we have come to some consensus against penalizing people for differences based on race, sex, sexual orientation, religion, and disability, we still routinely deny equal treatment to people who refuse to downplay differences along these lines. Racial minorities are pressed to "act white" by changing their names, languages, or cultural practices. Women are told to "play like men" at work. Gays are asked not to engage in public displays of same-sex affection. The devout are instructed to minimize expressions of faith, and individuals with disabilities are urged to conceal the paraphernalia that permit them to function. In a wide-ranging analysis, Yoshino demonstrates that American civil rights law has generally ignored the threat posed by these covering demands. With passion and rigor, he shows that the work of civil rights will not be complete until it attends to the harms of coerced conformity.

At the same time, **Yoshino is responsive to the American exasperation with identity politics**, which often seems like an endless parade of groups asking for state and social solicitude. He observes that the ubiquity of the covering demand provides an opportunity to lift civil rights into a higher, more universal register. Since we all experience the covering demand, we can all make common cause around a new civil rights paradigm based on our desire for authenticity—a desire that brings us together rather than driving us apart.

Yoshino's argument draws deeply on his personal experiences as a gay Asian American. He follows the Romantics in his belief that if a human life is described with enough particularity, the universal will speak through it. The result is a work that combines one of the most moving memoirs written in years with a landmark manifesto on the civil rights of the future. **Covering** received the Randy Shilts Award for Gay Non-Fiction from the Publishing Triangle (2007), a Stonewall Honor Book Award from the American Library Association (2007), and a Myers Outstanding Book Award from the Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Bigotry and Human Rights (2006). The first serial of the book, published in the New York Times Sunday Magazine, received the GLAAD Media Award for "Outstanding Article" in 2007.

**UPCOMING FILM EVENTS...**  
**FROM THE VERMONT FILM FESTIVAL**  
and the Margaret Mead Traveling Film Festival:



## THE BIRTHDAY

A film by **Negin Kianfar** and **Daisy Mohr** [2006: Iran/The Netherlands]  
No rating, 65 minutes, in Farsi with subtitles.

**City Hall Arts Center, 39 Main Street, Montpelier ([map](#))**

**Sunday, March 23, 2:00 PM**

**Thursday, March 27, 2:00 PM**

Issues of sexuality remain bound to tradition in modern Iran, and yet within this rigid structure, transsexuals find a government supportive of their desire to be reborn through surgery.

Although transsexuals don't have to fear prosecution and they even can change their birth certificates, the challenge is the traditional, religious Iranian society in which the transsexuality is still considered a disease. The film offers a rare window into a world hidden from the West. At the 2007 **NewFest**, a New York LGBT festival, **The Birthday** won the Showtime Vanguard Award honoring breakthrough or visionary achievement. **Post-film event: Anousha Shahsavari and VPR's Steve Zind will discuss the film after the Sunday show.**

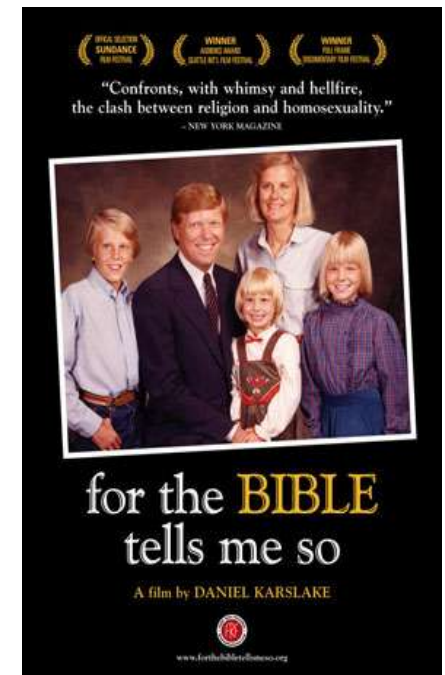
## FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO

**City Hall Arts Center, 39 Main Street, Montpelier ([map](#))**

**Wednesday, March 26, Noon**

**Thursday, March 27, 6:00 PM**

**Dan Karlake's** provocative, entertaining documentary reconciles homosexuality and Biblical scripture, and in the process reveals that Church-sanctioned anti-gay bias is based almost solely upon a significant (and often malicious) misinterpretation of the Bible. Through the experiences of five very "normal," very Christian, very American families -- including those of former House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt and Episcopalian Bishop Gene Robinson—we discover how insightful people of faith handle the realization of having a gay child. Rated **PG-13**, 97 minutes. **Post-film event: There will be a panel discussion after the Thursday, March 27 show.**



The showings of these film is sponsored by the **Vermont Humanities Council**; its community partners are the **RU12?** Community Center and the **Samara Foundation**.

For tickets and information: **802-262-3456** or [www.GreenMountainFilmFestival.org](http://www.GreenMountainFilmFestival.org)

## **JUST IN TIME FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY: GAY IN IRELAND...**



Although homosexuality was not decriminalised in Ireland until 1993, things have changed rapidly since and there is an active and lively gay scene in most cities and some larger towns. Outside of urban centres things are still a little bleak on the social front, though intolerance is rare. **Dublin** is a very gay friendly city, in fact so integrated has the gay community become in the capital that there is little need to seek out fringe events or clubs, though there are plenty of gay bars and nightclubs to chose from. Cork and Galway also have thriving gay scenes though with much less choice than Dublin, while Waterford is catching up. In other towns and cities you may not find exclusively or predominantly gay venues but many are gay friendly.

**Queer!D** is a vast site mainly about the Dublin Gay scene with active forums and an up-to-date event guide. **QueerN!** is a similar site focusing on Northern Ireland. **Gaire** (which means 'laughter') is an active online community where you will meet up with many people who will orientate you in advance of your arrival in Ireland. A good site to check in with before visiting Dublin is **Dining Out** which organises evening dinners for gay men about twice a month and is a very friendly group. If Rugby is your game, the **Emerald Warriors** are a gay rugby club in Dublin who will be happy to welcome visitors. The **Out & About Hiking Group** arranges (free) day-long walks in areas within reasonable distance of Dublin and is a terrific way to see some of Ireland in very good company. Walks take place all year round, require a reasonable level of fitness and there are generally between 20 and 50 walkers. Visitors are made really welcome.

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