

*Supporting, Educating,
Advocating ...*

*for full inclusion of LGBT
persons in the Reformed
Church in America*

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The RfA Newsletter



THE RIPPLE EFFECT...

**WE'VE ALL SEEN IT
HAPPEN...** raindrops in
a pond create ever-
expanding concentric
circles. Economists,
sociologists, even
computer scientists use
the image to describe a
spreading series of
consequences caused by a
catalyzing event.

In Room for All's early
days, we chose a water-
drop and its ripples as our

logo. It seemed an
appropriate icon that
would symbolize our
catalyst event in the 2005
General Synod, our
expanding mission for
LGBT inclusion, and the
baptismal implications of
our signature verse (Acts
10:47, above). Our next
logo design began with
that image, depicting the
splash of a green drop of
water into rainbow-colored
ripples.

Although we're currently
searching for a new logo
(see p. 2), the ripple
analogy remains
appropriate for what's

happening in Room for
All these days. New
"raindrops" are creating
an exciting series of
events and relationships
which we could not have
planned or predicted, but
report with joy in the
pages of this issue of our
newsletter.

Like the church of Christ
in its early days, when we
are privileged to glimpse
signs of Christ's loving
and all-inclusive Spirit we
can only marvel with
amazement and
gratitude: "Who are we,
that we can hinder
God?" (Acts 11: 17)

MAKING ROOM FOR ALL: 2011 National Conference
DON'T MISS ROOM FOR ALL'S SECOND NATIONAL GATHERING,
TO BE HELD THURSDAY—SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27-29 AT
CENTRAL REFORMED CHURCH IN GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN.

Those who attended the 2009 conference left that event asking,
"*What's next?*" NEXT is... more workshops, more inclusive worship,
more community-building, more opportunities for advocacy!
Registration info coming in June—is this on YOUR calendar?

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RfA LOGO TRANSITION

Room for All is
seeking a new logo,
and the Board is in
conversation with
several graphic artists
at this time.

FOR SUBMISSION
GUIDELINES please
contact Eric Johnson

at [ericj76
@hotmail.com](mailto:ericj76@hotmail.com)

Changed to Bring Change by Jes Kast-Keat



How does one change?

This question dances in my mind frequently. As a novice runner I am always curious about how I might change my running patterns to become better at it. As a follower of Christ I am constantly wondering how my habits and attitudes are changing so that I may follow the way of Christ more faithfully. As a Room for All board member I often wonder how personal—as well as institutional—change happens in one's postures toward sexuality.

Change is an essential activity in the Christian faith. The Greek word is *metanoia*, meaning “change of mind” or “repentance.” Closely connected to the process of *metanoia* is “transformation.” The Christian Scriptures call us to be transformed by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:2). Singer-songwriter Aaron Niequist, worship leader at Willow Creek, sings, “*In Jesus’ name... we have been changed to bring change, to bring change.*”

Jesus people have been changed to bring change. Jesus people don't give up on the hope that change is possible.

I attended an LGBT advocacy group in West Michigan in the winter of 2010. Among

the wide range of topics we discussed and wondered about was how people become more inclusive. One gentleman at my table said rather emphatically, “People who are against those of us who are LGBT will probably never change their mind! No biblical argument can convince them otherwise.”

Immediately the creative tone of the conversation was strangled. If it was true that people would never change their opinions on the full inclusion of all people, then what were we doing?

Jesus people have been changed to bring change. Jesus people don't give up on the hope that change is possible.

I knew what he was saying wasn't true; people do change their minds! So after his comments hushed our table, I began to testify to the reality of change in my own life. I know people change because I have been on a long process of *metanoia*.

I was raised in a home where hetero-normativity was viewed as the way God intended sexuality to be lived out; yet I do not believe that today. It took

years of conversation, listening, theological study, friends coming out, and the Holy Spirit to change my mind. The more I changed in my perspective about God creating an array of sexualities, the more I felt a need to advocate for change in the wider Body of Christ.

As we in the RCA continue our dialogue on sexual orientation and gender identity, let us not suffocate creativity and hope with the fear that people cannot or will not change. The message of Jesus is constantly calling us to *metanoia*; to be changed and to bring change, to hope that change is possible.

The Holy Spirit is alive and active in the church. The Spirit works in me and transforms my thinking, and I believe that the Spirit is working in and transforming the church. With prayer, with courage, with kindness, with power may we never forget:

Jesus people have been changed to bring change. Jesus people don't give up on the hope that change is possible.

Jes Kast-Keat

WELCOMING & AFFIRMING CHURCHES in the RCA

Congratulations to St. Paul's Reformed Church in North Babylon, NY! After a careful process of Bible study, discussion and a final congregational meeting, the Consistory voted recently to publicly declare St. Paul's a Welcoming and Affirming church. Rev. Conrad Strauch is pastor of St. Paul's, and promises to share information about their decision on our website in the coming weeks.

St. Paul's joins a growing list of RCA congregations who have decided to make their ministry of LGBT inclusion known. Some have followed a formal process that has included several months of study and conversation. Some have made financial commitments to the ministry of Room for All. Others have adopted a Welcoming & Affirming statement which appears in their bulletins and publicity. And many RCA churches are less public about their welcome and affirmation of LGBT persons, yet confirm without

hesitation that their congregational culture is quietly but unconditionally welcoming of persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities. (One person describes it as DADTBWAK: "*Don't ask, don't tell, but we all know.*")

That said, many pastors and parishioners are beginning to recognize the importance of an intentional public commitment and are asking, "What do we need to do to make it known that we're Welcoming & Affirming? Is there something we need to sign off on? Is there a list somewhere?"

Recognizing that the spectrum of LGBT-inclusive congregations includes a variety of hues, yet also affirming the value of identifying clear characteristics of Welcoming and Affirming congregations, the Room for All board has been hard at work drafting such a characteristics document. What is it that "Room for All churches" affirm? How do such affirmations translate into the day-to-day life and ministry of those churches? How can we make it possible for LGBT seekers

to locate inclusive churches in their area without the anxiety of an uncertain welcome? How can we signal to our sisters and brothers in Christ in the Reformed Church in America that we are intentionally Welcoming and Affirming as an expression of our faith in Jesus Christ?

Because the Board recognizes the theological and pastoral implications of such a document, we have circulated the draft to several RCA pastors and theologians for their review. It has also been shared with colleagues in the ecumenical Welcoming Church movement, many of whom have already produced such a document in their own faith communities.

To those who are asking, we assure you that we're almost there! We anticipate that the opportunity for your church to adopt the "Affirmations of Room for All Churches" list will be available in the next few months. If you have questions, please contact our Coordinator at (201) 364-4538.

New to our Newsletter?

This is the 3rd issue of the quarterly RfA Newsletter. We circulate it by email to our supporters and also to all the classis clerks throughout the RCA, inviting them to pass it on to the congregations on their email lists. Of course, we know that network will have some holes. If you do not receive the newsletter via those routes, you can always go to our website www.roomforall.com to view previous issues. Many of the articles are still timely! If you're not on our direct email list, please let us know!

MEET THE RfA BOARD: *Miriam Baar Bush*

Rev. Miriam Baar Bush has a life-long relationship with the Reformed Church, having grown up in three parsonages from Denver to New York to the Chicago area. She graduated from Hope College and Western Theological Seminary, with a year in between as an RCA Intern in Mission in Taiwan and then as Youth Director at First Reformed Church in South Holland, Illinois.

Miriam's husband, Mark Bush, is also a WTS graduate. In 1984, the couple began ministry as co-pastors at Covenant Community Church in Muskegon Heights, Michigan. The title "Pastor Emerita" was granted to Miriam in 2009, concluding her 25-year called-pastor relationship with the congregation. (Mark continues as solo pastor at Covenant).

During the last two years, Miriam has developed The Center for Spirituality, Action, and

Transformation (C-SAT), nurturing relationships with a broad scope of people within Christian traditions as well as with those longing for a spirituality apart from institutional or religious organizations. C-SAT engagement includes small groups, retreats, individual spiritual companionship and trips for transformation.

Miriam joined the RfA board in January, 2011. When asked about her commitment to work for LGBT inclusiveness in the RCA, she credits mentors at Hope and Western. "My first personal occasion for considering the church and sexual orientation was in a seminary ethics class," she recalls. "Dr. Elton Eenigenburg led us in conversation about the controversial biblical passages, i.e. Genesis and Sodom and Gomorrah. The sin of Sodom was inhospitality as they refused to make safe space for those who were vulnerable; there was no room for all, none of that Micah 6:8 stuff."

Miriam continues, "In conjunction with this class was my seminary internship as student chaplain at Hope College with Chaplain Jerry VanHeest. I remember meeting with a few students who were struggling with their sexual identity in relationship to the church and scripture. At that time, early 80s, the Hope College chaplain's office was a 'safe space' for these students. There was room for all of their questions and for them, at least within the spiritual leadership on campus. It was a good place to be for me."

Another good place for Miriam to be is near the natural resources abundant near her home in West Michigan, where she enjoys kayaking, birding, snowshoeing, XC skiing and riding the Big Lake's waves.

Miriam and Mark have three children, all of whom are graduates or current students at RCA colleges.



"I remember meeting with a few students who were struggling with their sexual identity in relationship to the church and scripture.... The chaplain's office was a 'safe space' for these students. There was room for all of their questions and for them, at least within the spiritual leadership on campus. It was a good place to be for me."

COLLEGIATE CHURCHES of NY SUPPORT MOTHER'S DAY CAMPAIGN

Rev. Michael Bos, senior pastor at Manhattan's West End Collegiate Church, has been instrumental in helping to launch a new campaign by *Believe Out Loud* called "Million Strong." Determined to show the world that it is possible to be Christian AND believe in LGBT inclusion, *Believe Out Loud* urges progressive Christians to break the silence and join the burgeoning chorus for full LGBT equality in the church. "Silent Thoughts," a video released on Mother's Day, opened the campaign.



<http://www.youtube.com/user/believeoutloud1>

Believe Out Loud is a project of Intersections International, a ministry of the Collegiate Churches of New York. This video was made possible through their support.

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



"BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE CHURCH" EVENTS DRAW GRATEFUL RESPONSE

Room for All hosted two regional training events this spring, thanks to a grant from the David & Carol Myers Foundation. A total of 58 participants from more than 25 congregations gained skills in building inclusive churches through the process of "graceful engagement," learning to represent one's commitment to the mission of LGBT inclusion in a way that is respectful, genuine, inviting and succinct. At its heart, graceful engagement begins with the acknowledgement that sisters and brothers in Christ bring divergent experiences and perspectives to this important issue even as they share many mutual affirmations and values.



"Building an Inclusive Church" trainer Rev. Vicki Wunsch



Equally valuable were the supportive relationships formed, especially for those of us in the RCA who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered. In worship, fellowship, study and story-telling, each person experienced affirmation as a child of God, named, claimed and called.

Bob Mutch from Wyckoff, NJ reflected that the Albany event "certainly confirmed God's call to me to this ministry...The connections we all made were invaluable. The task ahead is daunting, but with the passion that I saw in Albany there can be no doubt about the outcome. It may take a while, but as Martin Luther King said in his last speech, "I see the promised land!"

Liam Battjes offered his gifts of worship leadership at the Holland training, but believes that he received much more in return:

"*Room for All* gave me hope for my friends in the Reformed Church in America. Not only are they fostering a more inclusive church but they are pursuing this vision with methods of grace. If we can continue to create safe places to talk together and if we can tell the stories of how God is at work in our lives, then we could see the story of the church shaped by love of God rather than the arguments of its members.

"Immediately after the *Room for All* event, I had an opportunity to explain to a couple of my gay friends where I was for the last couple of days. Both of them had religious backgrounds, but ever since their coming out, had not felt comfortable in church. When I described the conversations that were taking place within the Reformed Church about being more welcoming, both of them responded, 'Well, maybe there is hope for the church yet. Tell me more . . .' And so the conversation cuts both ways - will the church be open to my spiritually sensitive gay friends, and will my gay friends be open to the church?"

Training Events, cont...

The impact of the training events is already clear. The experience in Albany has spawned information gatherings and two new regional groups (see below). Others have taken insights gained at the Albany event back to their local congregation, resulting in study groups, visits by the Coordinator, or new commitments of support.

The Holland, Michigan event has just concluded, but based on the palpable enthusiasm among the participants, watch for the ripples!

If you missed these opportunities, stay tuned—it is our hope to offer additional training events in other locations. And don't forget the 2011 National Gathering in Grand Rapids!



RfA Treasurer Rob Williams and worship leader Liam Battjes teamed with Vicki Wunsch in leadership at the Holland training event.

Church to Church:

Welcoming Congregation Sends a Colorful Message

The Diversity Team at the First Church in Albany, NY was looking for a symbolic way to communicate the congregation's recent decision to become a Welcoming & Affirming congregation. Elder Kathleen Harrison-Otto offered to create rainbow prayer flags for the sanctuary. She explains,

"First Church's new Diversity Statement includes these words: *We welcome into the full life of the church all those whom God sends us.*



"Prayer flags are said to promote peace, compassion, strength and wisdom. The flags were hung at the entrance to the sanctuary, on the right and left of the Reformed Church crest which reads, *In unity there is strength.*

A rainbow with a prayer."



RIPPLES EXTEND DOWN THE HUDSON & BEYOND

Rob Sweeney (Old Dutch Church, Kingston NY) and Adriana Havnaer (Reformed Church of New Paltz NY) attended the March "Building an Inclusive Church" training event and wasted no time spreading the word. Adriana, who has served as a deacon at her church, and her pastor, Howard Major, hosted a Room for All information sharing event for area RCA churches. Rob, an elder at Old Dutch, launched a new RfA regional group in the mid-Hudson area, supported by his pastor (and RfA board member) Ken Walsh.

In addition to initiatives for adult study sessions in their respective congregations, Bob Mutch (Wyckoff Reformed, NJ) and Cindy Bullis (Ponds Reformed, Oakland, NJ), both members of their Greater Consistory, took the next step by reaching out to pastors and churches to gauge interest in forming a new Room for All regional

group in the Northern NJ area. They phoned, emailed and set up personal appointments, resulting in an April 17th meeting which Bob describes as "a gathering of twenty-two passionate people all drawn to this mission by different stories." The group brainstormed about future directions, all of which appear to point outward! The next meeting is set for Sunday, June 5 at 2 pm at Wyckoff Reformed Church.



Cindy Bullis and Bob Mutch (front row, center and right) are excited about the turnout for the first meeting of the Northern New Jersey regional group.

REGIONAL SYNOD PRESIDENT RECOMMENDS ROOM FOR ALL

In his report at the spring meeting of the Regional Synod of Albany, outgoing Synod president Bruce Cornwell lifted up the need for LGBT inclusion in the Reformed Church in America and highlighted the mission and ministry of Room for All. He made the following recommendation for approval by the Synod delegates:

My recommendation in regards to Room for All is, for those congregations that feel ready and willing, to enter into conversations about this issue [of LGBT inclusion]. I encourage you to attend Room for All meetings and events. If your region does not have a chapter there are people and resources to help you start one.

After discussion, the President's report, including this and other recommendations, passed by a majority vote.

Member to Member:

Schenectady Couple are Advocates & Friends

Joe and Gay Doolittle have served the First Reformed Church of Schenectady, NY (FRCS) as Deacon and Elder, respectively. They speak with high regard and deep passion about their church. They also speak with conviction about their commitment to LGBT inclusion in their congregation and in the Reformed Church in America. Both are members of the FRCS Social Justice Council, where LGBT advocacy is one of a cluster of topics.

The Doolittles are also active members of the Albany regional RfA group—Joe serves on the steering committee, and organized the group's recent traveling "Shower of Stoles" display. Gay was one of the Room for All walkers in last year's Albany Pride Parade, and plans to walk again this year.

Although the Doolittles have been RfA supporters since its beginning, after attending the "Building an Inclusive Church" training event in March, they took their commitment to the next level. Joe reflected on the positive impact of that training: "I thought I knew it, but not well enough to teach it."

And now they do! As part of a Lenten 2011 series on social justice issues, Gay planned a session on welcoming LGBT persons. She introduced

herself with a characteristic touch of humor and more than a touch of calling:

As you all know, my name is Gay. How could I not be for gay rights? In fact, I think it is the social justice issue of our day. I was too young to do anything when Jewish people were being persecuted. I grew up in Albany which was pretty far removed from the race riots of the 60's. But now I am old enough (but not too old) and in a place where I can take a stand for an issue that I feel called to. My last name is Doolittle. Obviously, I need to do something! And I know where to start . . . and that is here, in my own church.

This spring, the Doolittles will *do more!* They have planned a book study on *Jesus, the Bible and Homosexuality* by Jack Rogers, which Gay will facilitate with a gay man from the congregation.

Joe considers his visibility as an "out" ally of LGBT persons to be an important part of his identity. "During the civil rights movement," he recalls, "I was a liberal who had to go looking to get to know black people, and I did. But the movement for gay equality is different. I don't have to go looking—LGBT folks are part of my daily life at work and in the pew, and they know I'm a friend."



LGBT CONCERNS FIND EXPRESSION AT RCA COLLEGES



RfA Board member Jane Dickie is Professor of

Psychology and Women's Studies at Hope College, and has been one of several Hope faculty members advocating for policy change that fully recognizes LGBT members of the Hope Community. She offers this perspective:

How has Hope College worked to be truly welcoming and inclusive of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered (LGBT) folks and allies? Although much of it happens out of the public eye, the year has seen a lot of activity among the various components that create who we are.

The College is not reduced to any one person or one group—not individual members of the Board of Trustees, nor individual members of the faculty, administration, students, alumni, contributors, or community members—it takes us *all together* to create Hope College. I think it's important to realize how many people within each of these constituencies are working to make the College truly inclusive of LGBT people and their allies.

Among the many things that have occurred:

- Faculty members have written documents of inclusion and brought us all together to really begin listening, one might say *gracefully engaging one another* and hearing one another's stories.

- LGBT students and their allies have organized well attended panels to present their stories.
- Students have initiated a sticker program in which faculty and staff members who believe in the full inclusion of LGBT faculty, staff and students *just as they are* put a student designed rainbow colored sticker labeled "safe zone" on their doors. The students are planning workshops for all faculty and staff who have already posted the stickers and who want to move forward to become better allies.

- There have been articles in the student newspaper written by alumni, faculty and students telling stories and expressing the need to be an inclusive institution.
- Campus organizations, including fraternities and sororities, have begun to adopt full-inclusion statements.

There have also been challenges from some in our midst who do not yet

share the perspective that God's love is translated into full acceptance. There is still much to be done.

My colleague Tim Pennings, Professor of Mathematics, recently wrote a statement which I think captures a great deal of the importance of bringing about a transformation at Hope. In it, he comments on the many things that make Hope College distinct, and then concludes with these remarks [excerpts printed with permission]:

"It is very important that a college not do anything that rubs against whatever image/niche it has for itself. Kenyon is careful not to have any majors that are not strictly liberal arts. Wheaton has no Roman Catholic faculty. On this score, Hope is now shooting itself in the foot.

"Unlike [some other Christian colleges] Hope is expansive in its Christian view. I proudly explain to prospective students that if they want to be shielded from people who believe differently, they should go elsewhere. Hope is a college Christian in nature, but Christian in an expansive sense, not a restrictive sense. Both themes are found in the Bible—both are legitimately Christian—but one can run far in very different directions.

(continued on p. 8)



NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE LGBT STUDENT GROUP IS "UNOFFICIAL"

The LGBT support group at Northwestern College is not an approved or college funded organization and does not have faculty/staff advisors. Recently the College president issued this statement:

Any group promoting the homosexual lifestyle is not in keeping with the policies of Northwestern College, our student handbook or the Reformed Church in America. As an academic institution, the college welcomes dialogue about controversial social issues.

The College's policy on homosexuality was affirmed by our Board of Trustees at its last meeting: "Consistent with the position of the Reformed Church in America the college lifts up the Christian ideal of marriage between a man and a woman and contends that all sexual intimacy shall be within the bounds of such marriage."

Jane Dickie comments continued

"My point: Although this expansiveness has been part of the RCA and Hope College, on one issue and one issue alone we are not consistent with ourselves. This issue then becomes for Hope College essentially a new distinctive because it is out of sync with who we are otherwise. Thus this issue [the current official Board policy on sexuality which discriminates against LGBT persons] clouds and rips and detracts from who we are.

"Blown by the same wind,

sailing ships have the ability to head in many different directions. Similarly, colleges have the ability to define themselves and succeed in many ways by being attractive to a certain niche of students. But it is vitally important for the sails on a given ship to all pull in the same direction - to have internal consistency and integrity.

"Hope College is not now in that situation. We have one sail that is not in tune with the others. It is flapping in the wind and diverting wind from the main sails. Other boats—other institutions—will pass us

by very quickly if we do not mend this lack of institutional integrity.

"Two options: either line up this one sail with all the others, or else change all of the others to line up with the one. A house divided cannot stand, and Hope College—at its core—is now divided."

Jane Dickie concludes, "This is where we stand now, but we will continue to work to make 'Room for All.'"



PANEL DISCUSSIONS and INCLUSIVE WORSHIP SERVICE ARE HELD AT CENTRAL COLLEGE

Central College's C.I.R.C.L.E. group (Conversations in Religion Concerning Love for Everyone) has had a busy year. Staff Liaison Kristin Tremper '03, President Lindsay Korn '13, Vice-President Lisa Bergman '13, and Secretary Andy Pearson '13 report that CIRCLE has received official student group status and is already planning for next year. They send RfA friends this update:

"This semester has been a positive time of building awareness and enjoying each other's company. Some of our best activities of the semester include an "Inclusion in Context" panel discussion led by Eric Johnson [Room for All's vice-president and a chaplain at Blank Children's Hospital in Des Moines], Sophie Mathonnet-VanderWell [co-pastor at Second Reformed Church in Pella], and Norm Kolenbrander [RCA minister and adjunct professor of religion at Central] in the student center; a fully inclusive Palm Sunday worship in the chapel led by Rev. Steve Mathonnet-VanderWell, complete with rainbow

communion bread baked by Lisa Bergman; and a showing of the film "Save Me" in VanEmerick theatre.

Each event has been heart changing and pivotal and we realize just how deep the need is to continue this great work. We are happily blessed to know people young and old who already support this bridge building effort and are continually surprised to find people on "either side" who say, "Wow, I didn't know that I could be both" (meaning Christian and affirming), who are joining us in our efforts. In the fall we plan to join the efforts of Second Reformed Church by showing the "Shower of Stoles" in the Mills Gallery, host an LGBT & Christian "Poetry/Talent Night", and use portions of the study "Bulletproof Faith: A Spiritual Survival Guide for Gay and Lesbian Christians" by Candace Chellew-Hodge. We want to thank RfA for all of their fine



THERE'S STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR THE ROOM FOR ALL CAMP FOR LGBT TEENS.

Room for All Christian Camp seeks to create a safe space for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth to develop community and to contemplate together their questions about life, spirituality and God.



This overnight 4 day/3 night camp will utilize facilities in Central New Jersey. Room for All Christian Camp is a project of the Reformed Church of Highland Park.

Call the church at (732) 249-7349, or go to <http://www.rchighlandpark.org/Room-For-All.html>

CENTRAL COLLEGE EVENTS, cont.

efforts nationwide and for their support right here in Central Iowa.”

In addition to the efforts of C.I.R.C.L.E., a second panel discussion was held at Central this spring, sponsored by Central’s branch of *One Iowa*, the state’s largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) advocacy organization, along with *Organize the Hope*, an organization that works to bring about awareness of domestic and global issues on college campuses. The panel was facilitated by Cheri Doane, Director of Community Based Learning at Central College, who has been a fierce advocate for

the LGBTQ community at Central.

The panel consisted of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students and faculty, along with a parent of a gay son and Cyndi Boertje, RfA co-president and tutoring coordinator at Central’s Tutoring & Writing Center. Presentations and questions covered a broad range of LGBT-related topics from law to religion. The panel recently won Central’s award for the best student-organized event of the 2010-2011 school year!

THE ROOM FOR ALL BULLETIN BOARD—SPRING 2011

ROOM FOR ALL WILL BE AT THE RCA GENERAL SYNOD MEETING THIS JUNE. SYNOD DELEGATES & VISITORS WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT US!

RfA Coordinator Marilyn Paarlberg was a recent guest on WRPI, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's radio station, to talk about Room for All on a weekly broadcast about LGBT life on the RPI campus and surrounding community in the NY Capital District.

ROOM FOR ALL ADDED OUR NAME TO A LETTER SENT TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE URGING THEM NOT TO AMEND OR "REPEAL THE REPEAL" OF "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL." THE LETTER WAS SENT BY THE SERVICEMEMBERS LEGAL DEFENSE NETWORK AND SIGNED BY A BROAD COALITION OF FAITH-BASED WELCOMING ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING OUR COLLEAGUES IN THE ECUMENICAL WELCOMING CHURCH PROGRAM.

The “Shower of Stoles” has been mentioned in our newsletter several times, and we want to be sure to spread the word about this amazing collection of over 1,000 liturgical stoles representing the lives of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people of faith. Each stole contains the story of an LGBT person who is active in the life and leadership of her/his faith community in some way. The stoles celebrate the gifts of LGBT persons who serve God in countless ways, while also lifting up those who have been excluded from service because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Churches may arrange to exhibit any number of the stoles, as several RCA congregations have done. The stoles are visually beautiful, and they “speak” for inclusion with a powerful voice. The info you need is at www.welcomingresources.org. Click on “Shower of Stoles.”

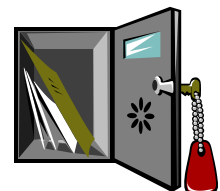
THANK YOU

to our faithful supporters who regularly send financial donations to further our ministry! You may continue to donate via Pay Pal at our website:

www.roomforall.com

If you prefer to mail checks, please note our address:

Room for All
P.O. Box 11495
Albany, NY 12211



SPRING 2011

ROOM FOR ALL CHECK-LIST:



Please consider joining this ministry as you are able:

- ☐ Help us share the newsletter electronically & in print.
- ☐ Consider a financial donation and invite others to do so.
- ☐ Skilled in logo design? Submit an idea for a new RfA logo.
- ☐ Mark your calendar for the Oct. 27-29 “Making Room for All” national conference in Grand Rapids, MI
- ☐ Share stories about what you, your church, or your RfA regional group are doing to help build this movement for LGBT inclusion.
- ☐ Spend an inspiring hour reading the RfA website, www.roomforall.com
- ☐ Foster dialogue about sexuality in your church.
- ☐ Share a resource that may be helpful in the work of inclusion.
- ☐ Invite a Room for All board member to speak at your church, your classis, your regional synod.
- ☐ Pray for the LGBT youth and adults in RCA churches and campuses.
- ☐ Pray for the work of Room for All.

THANK YOU!



ROOM FOR ALL

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