GEORGE BAKAN
A giant who used the SGN to make Queer history

by Renee Raketty
SGN Contributing Writer

Recently, I had the unenviable task of describing George Bakan, the former publisher of the SGN, to a group of diverse and talented writers here at the newspaper. Despite having a year to consolidate him into a single sound bite, I failed miserably. How do you describe someone who was a force of nature?

see GEORGE BAKAN page 10
PRIDE IS STILL PROTEST.

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A conversation with Jaelynn Scott (Lavender Rights Project), Stacy Bass-Walden (Alki Beach Pride), and ACLU-WA staff attorney Lisa Nowlin. Moderated by Michele Storms, executive director. aclu-wa.org/events
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Dear readers,

We don’t celebrate Pride because soulless corporations slap a rainbow on their logo and say it’s that time of year again.

We celebrate because in Greenwich village in 1969, a group of LGBTQ+ activists and allies led by Trans women of color decided enough was enough. The message from the Stonewall Riots was clear. In the face of adversity, together we rise.

We should be proud of who we are and how far we’ve come.

Seattle is a diverse, everchanging city. Our community here is just as nebulous. It’s no secret that things have been tense lately. To call for unity, understanding, and a safe space for education is often the response from privileged white folks like me during times of unrest and disagreement. That’s not what I’m here to do.

People can take the time to educate themselves. The resources are out there. It takes little effort to google any fact or book you need.

The SGN staff and I intend to lead by example. Words have power. I wouldn’t be in this profession if I thought otherwise. But empty platitudes don’t accomplish anything. If you want something done, you do it.

The SGN will continue to be a newspaper for everyone. We are here for you, Seattle’s LGBTQ+ citizens, to bring you the news that matters to all of us.

This Pride, take a moment to reflect on the history that we celebrate. It’s only through understanding the past that we can work toward a better future.

Also, get absolutely blasted if that’s your thing. It’s a party, after all.

Yours amidst the chaos,
A.V. Eichenbaum
SGN Associate Editor
Re-elect Teresa Mosqueda to Seattle City Council Position 8

HAPPY PRIDE, SEATTLE! This month we honor the political struggle for ongoing visibility, protection, and celebration of our LGBTQ+ friends, family, neighbors, and community members.

As a progressive labor democrat, organizing has been a throughline in my career. For almost a decade, at the Washington State Labor Council, I fought for political inclusion and leadership of LGBTQ individuals. On Seattle City Council, I continue to stand in solidarity with LGBTQ community members and workers in the fight for housing, dignified workplaces, economic stability, and culturally competent health care for all. Then I ran for Seattle City Council to bring these values to legislation in Seattle’s City Hall.

Together, on the City Council, we’ve built diverse coalitions to pass progressive and impactful policy change. This is what creates healthy, thriving communities—and it is what drives me to run again. With your support, we can bring these policies to City Hall once again to build a stronger, more inclusive Seattle.

“From signing the first same-sex marriage licenses in our state, to our work today taking on youth homelessness, ensuring every neighbor has access to healthcare, and building a welcoming community for all, I’m grateful to serve as an ally with King County’s LGBTQ+ community. Together, let’s continue making progress so everyone in King County can thrive.”


“All Americans must be given equal rights and opportunities, regardless of who they love or how they identify.

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June 25, 2021
Note from the Editor:

Last week, we printed a collection of images and bios introducing our staff to you, our readership, in a segment called "We Are SGN." In all the chaos of the last few weeks, we made a mistake: We forgot someone.

Worse, we forgot someone who never misses a deadline.

To correct this unthinkable oversight, we’re shining the spotlight on her now.

-A.W. Fischehman, SGN Associate Editor

Kylin Brown
Contributing Writer

Kylin Brown grew up composing whimsical short stories based upon real-life wonder, influenced by her boundless imagination and love for FC games. She made her debut as a journalist at the SGN just last fall after a stint writing for her college newspaper, the Whitman Wire.

She was a first-generation college graduate during the early pandemic, earning a BA in sociology and environmental studies from Whitman College. Shortly thereafter, she relocated to the Pike-Pine neighborhood on Capitol Hill and embarked in a year of AmeriCorps service with the educational nonprofit College Success Foundation. More recently she also joined the Episcopal School作为for a paralegal during the 2020-21 school year.

Brown hails from a small town north of Spokane, named Newport. She also attended Garfield High School in Seattle’s Central District. She credits her writing abilities to this period of time in the city, where she was first able to pursue AP courses.

Observing rural-urban divides in educational opportunities such as this fueled her desire to pursue work in education equity, while contemporary politics and her rural background inspired her to become a contributing writer at the SGN. As the school year comes to a close, she hopes to commit more time to the craft.

She has dreams of writing a family memoir in coming years, and currently enjoys engaging with the greater Seattle community through journalism.

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HIV alone didn’t cause the clogged artery in my neck. Smoking with HIV did.

Brian, age 45, California
GEORGE BAKAN
continued from cover

George could literally change the climate of a room with his mere presence and move, figuratively speaking, mountains with a single phrase. The remarkable thing is that he could achieve all this through his sheer force of will and an enduring wit and warmth.

It's hard to believe that it's been a year since George's passing on June 7, 2020. He was doing what he does best. He had been making calls to rally support for an LGBTQ+ statement condemning police brutality in the wake of the death of George Floyd, a 46-year-old African American man who was murdered at the hands of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin.

I came back to the SGN a day later to help his paper in the only way I knew how: by reporting the news. I waited more than a week before sitting at his desk, but it was the only work space available in the cluttered SGN newsroom.

I thought back to all the times George would end our conversations with one simple question: "When are you coming back to visit us?" I had left journalism to return to social service because I thought that was my true calling. However, George knew better, and he finally got his wish.

A year later, I am a contributing writer and photojournalist to five news outlets, including the Capitol Hill Seattle Blog, Unite Seattle magazine, and the Tacoma Weekly.

He "changed my path forever"

George cared deeply for his staff, although a paycheck wasn't always guaranteed to be on time or in full. The newspaper business is a tricky beast, and he was at the whim of its advertisers and their account receivables department. George was also an avid antique collector and thrift store hunter, which was a major outlet for his personal spending.

"He gave me my first job as a paid writer and, although the pay was minimal, the opportunity it provided was immense," said Albert Rodriguez via Facebook. "That job opened so many doors for me, and I'm forever grateful."

Beau Barriola, a former SGN columnist, added that "George saw and nurtured in me qualities I didn't know I had" and "helped me find my voice."

"He wasn't just an editor, an activist, or a newsman. He was a visionary, a leader, and one of those rare people in my life who changed my path forever."

This week I spoke with his daughter, Angela Cragin, who inherited her father's legacy. I can remember the look of worry on her face as she first surveyed the office. The gravity of it all was overwhelming; she was there for her father and to hold the fortunes of its staff in her hands. The COVID-19 pandemic and the economic hardship facing local publications at the time must have made the idea of saving the nation's third-oldest LGBTQ+ newspaper an intransigent task.

"It was utterly terrifying," recalled Cragin. "When I talk to my friends about the last two years, I tell them: 'I've never drank so much, cursed so much, cried so much.' Picture yourself being plucked from your life and dropped off into unknown surroundings, where nobody knows you nor do you have knowledge of anything, but are expected to step up to as a massive undertaking. It was daunting, to say the least."

"I did not feel like the right person for the job, whatsoever, and, honestly, this thought still lingers at times. Nevertheless, once I decided to give it a try, I have literally poured myself into it... although nobody can ever truly fill all those George shoes."

"The smartest person in the room"

George knew who controlled the levers of power and he wasn't afraid to challenge them to advance issues of importance to him, the SPO police chief, I took it with a grain of salt," she said. "The joke was on me, because he actually really did know these people. We even received a letter of condolence from [Sen.] Maria Cantwell. His contributions and accomplishments truly were impactful and have illuminated through his death."

As his daughter soon discovered, George was always active and engaged in a wide variety of issues that he believed in. King County Councilmember Jeanne Kohl-Welles said he had talked to "Shorty" before COVID struck and that he "wanted to talk about homelessness in the LGBTQ community."

It felt surprising, yet satisfying, to hear about all of George's accomplishments and contributions," said Cragin. "There is a piece of me that has always worried about my father: his health, his well-being, his financial security, and his place in the Seattle community. After he passed, the ocean of commentaries, calls, and news stories abundantly embodied me. I always knew he was important, which is not what I was afraid to share with anyone."

"A community builder"

"He said yes. Every time." George seemed to have his fingers in every LGBTQ+ project, initiative, and organization. That included anything happening in his beloved Capitol Hill neighborhood.

"Every time I asked George for help with a Gay City event, he said yes. Every time," said Bruce Mueller, a former program manager at Gay City.

Before the EQUALUX: Taste of GBGA event, George called the mayor's office and asked that the day he be declared "EQUALUX Day in Seattle." He was successful.

George also gave away many ads to local nonprofits and was a frequent guest at their events. "Because of his coverage over the years, the King County Superior Court of Seattle and other nonprofits and their purposes," said Gaiyah Starr, a contributing writer for the SGN, celebrity drag queen, and former Empress of Seattle. "I am in debt to him and the SGN, as they were my media sponsor for my campaign for Empress of Seattle in 1999, running my ads and content during the campaign for four weeks and through my reign."

"We would randomly chat, and he would say, 'You know, Gaiyah, this organization could use your help.' He was the one who directed me toward working with GLEN and PFLAG."

PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) parent Jeanne Hill said George would publish "many of the stories I told about my journey with PFLAG," and SouthSence, such as when she would get arrested at church conferences across the United States. "I held the paper with the title facing outward as I walked, and I will continue to work to preserve and expand Gay rights," she said.

George was honored in 2013 with a night at Neighbors, which was held in his honor for his "lifetime and continued achievements of leadership and community service."

"An activist in the true sense"

Local journalist Gaiyah Parrish wrote that George "deserves to be considered in the pantheon of great local civil rights leaders like Rob Santos and Roberto Maestas..." Starr agreed, stating that he "gave the pages of his paper to help light causes, such as HIV/AIDs awareness, equal rights for our community, marriage equality, helping elect out members of our community into office, championing small businesses on Capitol Hill, and condemning police brutality."

He was one of the editors-in-chief of the creative Washington, George had an impact. Jeffrey Aaron Robinson said George's passing was "devastating on a personal level," especially because of his "unique role in helping to start the Tri-Cities LGBTQ+ movement in the mid-1970s through an activist group he founded, named Oasis."

"I met George in 1981. He was one of the pillars of the LGBTQ+ community in the Tri-Cities," said Doree Flatt. "I had the pleasure of working with him until he moved to Seattle. He has been one of the great hearts in our community."

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10 SGN
June 25, 2021
Celebrating 47 Years!
George could literally change the climate of a room with his mere presence and move, figuratively speaking, mountains with a single phone call. The remarkable thing is that he could achieve all this through his sheer force of will and an endearing wit and warmth.

A Priddy promoter since 1982

George founded his first organizing meeting for Pride in 1982, according to McNamara. Later, he co-chaired the 1984 Freedom Day Committee — now known as Seattle Out and Proud (SOAP), the nonprofit that produces Seattle Pride each year.

"The SOAP was completely behind the Parade, organizing the Parade Parade," said Rick McKinnon, a personal friend and longtime SOAP staff. "When George got involved, he used the paper to promote the Parade Parade... We called it a Parade/March. George described it as the historic compromise... That decision proved to be a very important decision, because it helped bring the community together to participate in the event."

Eric Bennett, who led Seattle Pride, concluded that although they didn't agree at times, "he cherished the challenge to my own ideas, and changed many." He said it was George's suggestion for Pride to hire Seattle photographer Nate Gowdy, who has since gone on to contribute to publications such as Time magazine, Rolling Stone, and Mother Jones. "Firing him was one of my best decisions," he said.

In 1991, George received a lifetime filling from SOAP when he was named the grand marshal of the Seattle Pride Parade.

"A force" in HIV/AIDS activism

George was a founder of the Seattle AIDS Action Committee in 1983, which later became Mobilization Against AIDS. The Seattle AIDS Action Committee organized an annual candlelight vigil at E. Pine and Broadway on Capitol Hill.

"I first met George before I moved to Seattle. I was living in Washington, DC, in 1987 and was the paid staff of the Gay/ Lesbian March on Washington that year," said Patti Durfee, who worked with the Dorrain Group. "He was doing coordinating housing for all the people who came in from out of town. The march drew 750,000 people, and it stretched for miles. George was one of the regional co-chairs of the Pacific Northwest contingent. "He and I were also two of the only voices advocating for the inclusion of Bisexuals and Trans people — very much a minority opinion then. By 1995, the fight for national march, he'd helped succeed in getting Bisexuals officially included."

"A fearless advocate for Trans people before it was cool"

I remember talking to George over the phone several years ago. When I told him that I was transitioning from male to female, he spoke to me very warmly: "That's great. What do you want me to call you?" After his death, others came forward to share similar stories.

"The last time I saw him, I showed him my facial hair," said Grey Wolfe. "He smiled and said, 'Good. You look better now. Less stress.' Just those short interactions over the years made me feel as if I was in the presence of a strong soul and champion of the people." Charles Susat once wrote that George "was a friend and a fearless advocate for Trans people and a wise mentor." Likewise, Breanna Anderson concurred, writing that the former SOAP publisher was a "great activist and a good friend and supporter of the Trans community in Seattle."

A changing SGN

According to McKinnon, George acquired ownership of the paper in two stages. In 1993, he bought his share from Jim Tully, who was ill with AIDS. James Arnold continued to keep his share of the paper, and the two ran the business as partners. A few years before Arnold died, his share of the paper went to George.

Over the years, the paper relocated four times before coming to rest at near the intersection of 23rd and Madison in Seattle. This is where George is indeed fondly remembered. He had battled diabetes and chronic heart issues before McKinnon found him at his desk.

Cragin has since made her own mark on the Seattle institution, relocating the newspaper to the heart of Capitol Hill at Broad- way E. and E. Republican Street. She hired a young editor, A.V. Eichenbaum, and a fresh crew of writing talent.

"I hope to keep his legacy alive by keeping the SGN breathing. Not only do I want to breathe new life into it, I want the blood to start pumping and the adrenaline to come through its veins," she said. "There are so many opportunities for this paper, which George envisioned throughout all these years. I view his 'true' legacy as the people that he left behind who have been touched by these stories, events and his persona over the years."
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Seattle's own funk-hop band has made a name for themselves in the community by promoting inclusivity and love. They use their music to facilitate dialogue, having performed at various Seattle-area venues, outdoor concerts, and last summer's protests in the area. Singer and songwriter Hugh and freestyler rapper I Am Ch'Amel discussed what the Marshall Law Band is, what they stand for, and the music they create together.

## Funk-hop with an inspiring message of dialogue, inclusivity, and unity

By Carter Hemion
SGV Contributing Writer

Seattle's own funk-hop band has made a name for themselves in the community by promoting inclusivity and love. They use their music to facilitate dialogue, having performed at various Seattle-area venues, outdoor concerts, and last summer's protests in the area. Singer and songwriter Hugh and freestyler rapper I Am Ch'Amel discussed what the Marshall Law Band is, what they stand for, and the music they create together.

### Band beginnings

Hugh started making music at Carnegie Mellon University, where he was initially an athlete studying history and public policy. While there, he started rapping at college parties, and then made the commitment to pursue it. When he left school to be a rapper, his parents told him he had to move out, which Hugh says was "a rite of passage, but one that I'm so glad in that I made the decision to move out with my best friend."

He started working as a soccer coach, and met a lot of new people, including Murry Throndson, now the band's saxophonist. About a year after meeting, Throndson texted Hugh and invited him to jam with his band. The Marshall Law Band began with Hugh and Throndson, Evan Robertson, Josh Richman, Zack Olson, and their first drummer (later replaced with current drummer Matt). After about four months, they began playing Mo's Mondays in Fremont, where Hugh met I Am Ch'Amel for the first time.

"I heard somebody rapping on the microphone for the first time and I said, "Whoa, that person might be better than me!"" said Hugh. "And I looked over... and I saw [her]. She's been showing up at any Marshall Law Band gig she can, including..."

The band works with other vocalists too, including Nobi and Dan Gregory.

"If you're an MC, if you're a person, especially a person of color or person in a marginalized community, you have space on this stage with the Marshall Law Band to say whatever message you got."

### Activism and mission

The Marshall Law Band has played at protests, including at what would then develop into CHOP, where they wanted to share a "message of love, unity, and overcoming the chains we have been shackled with over generations and generations, which brought the healing and the reconnection out of that CHOP."

The band is committed to joining the Marshall Law Band there. She says people "could find peace and solace in the music," because it was a different form of leadership and a break from some stress. I Am Ch'Amel adds that together they could "bring people together through music and send messages of love and positivity and equality and [...]. We can use words to heal, to unite to express, to change, to express our love in a way that's positive and meaningful, and then I know how much more of an impact can be made, because music is everywhere."

"The whole mission has been unity and bringing community together," Hugh said.

The band hopes that the Marshall Law Band's music inspires listeners to be their best selves, allowing "your soul to heal and your well to fill in hopes that that spurs out into your own community."

I Am Ch'Amel says that she uses her platform and lived experiences to inspire people. She uses her voice to remind people that life will get better and bring light to experiences with oppression. Music is her way of connecting with others, and she works to ensure that listeners remember that they are not alone by sharing songs that resonate with them.

As a whole, Hugh's goal is "breaking open the Pacific Northwest portal, " and he is proud to be a part of Seattle's music and activism scene.

### Recent projects

Earlier this year, the Marshall Law Band released "23rd & Pine," an album, documentary, and graphic novel. The album came out of the band's heavy emotions following the protests at CHOP. Hugh said, "Protest music has been a part of our spirit."

More recently, the band has been working hard on their newest album, "It's Gonna Get Better," on which they collaborated with other artists. It is scheduled for release in the fall. Their new music, including the song "Get Better," focuses on finding common ground and facilitating spaces for dialogue.

"The band worked on the songs on a suburban to Hawaii, where they experienced more positive energy. The album," said Hugh, "will encapsulate the spirit of what we're going through but also have that Hawaiian sun and feel to it."

The band recently took played music on a float on the streets of downtown, where they interacted with people who had Confederate flags and symbols toward the Black Lives Matter movement. Hugh said, "You are a person of different colors, sexual orientations, and beliefs are here to let you know that we love you, and we're going to unite you, and it's going to get better."

He said that he is proud to bring music about love and unity, and to say Black lives matter, even in uncomfortable places.

I Am Ch'Amel added that sometimes the crowd has "blacks out" to that dialogue and not coming together to even speak up for what we feel and how we feel." She added that receptiveness to having dialogue is important, so that everyone can learn from each other's experiences.

### Upcoming performances

On June 20 at 6 p.m., the Marshall Law Band will play at Capitol Hill Pride with I Am Ch'Amel and other featured musicians. Hugh hopes that "anytime we're in those spaces, that anyone who looks like us, who may identify like us, or who doesn't and feel like they don't have a group or a safe group of their own [will] come to the front of the stage, especially if you're a performer. Come grab the mic, come ask for a chance to speak, come do something that can allow other Black and Brown people to feel loved and appreciated in that space, and let's change what Pride means from this Pride forward, and let's find some commonalities.

"This is going to be a defining moment in Seattle history, and let's make sure that however it shakes out, there's growth and there's unity and there's healing on the other end, because that's our intention and that will always be our intention."

Hugh is also "really, really excited" to announce a headline Northwest performance on July 17. After that, the Marshall Law Band will play at the Neptune Theatre on July 24 with Kassa Overall and Breaks and Swells. Then, on July 25, the band will appear at Woodland Park Zoo's Zoo Tuesdays with the Devin Lamm Organ Trio.

More regularly, the band plays at every event at Foremost Fridays behind the LBD Bar and Grill.

The Marshall Law Band's music can be found on any major streaming service, as well as on marshalllawband.com. Follow the band on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter @marshalllawband.
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St. Patrick’s LGBTQ+ Engagement and Accompaniment Circle of parishioners is a welcoming Christ-centered group committed to keeping alive the vision and hope of St. Patrick’s Church. The Sunday service at 10:30 a.m. is brimming with the creative arts, strengthens us for the work of peace and justice in the world and challenges us to live in communion with one another and all of creation.

What follows is a statement on same-sex couples that our LGBTQ+ Engagement and Accompaniment Circle of parishioners considers a breath of fresh air!

Posted by Richard J. Prendergast, Pastor (Father Rich) St. Gertrude Catholic Church, Chicago

Father Rich’s Thoughts on the Vatican Statement on Same-Sex Couples

RICHARD J. PRENDERGAST
ST. GERTRUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH, CHICAGO

On certain days, following certain statements from the Vatican, I have wondered if there is a secret, hidden office in the basement of St. Pat’s where a group of bishops meets on a regular basis to come up with outrageous statements just to see how we grumpy old “vulgarites” will react on certain hot human issues. Monday, March 10th, was just such a day.

At precisely the same time when some foolish bishops and bishops’ conferences were discussing how the Catholic Church could extend an invitation to the Church in a same-sex relationship the official statement in charge of “protecting” the faith issued a conventional condemnation of unions cannot now or ever be blessed. Statements on heterosexual relationships are inconsistent and gruesome and should be studied. This statement is similar to that Pope Francis “signed off” on this statement.

In my own imagination, I come to know what it must have felt like centuries ago when, a few days before the “Great Schism” the Cardinal of Toulouse, the Saimon Witch Trials were successfully conducted with the burning of some female members of the Church for “debauchery,” for supposed witchcraft.

I feel quite certain that the logic used to forbid bisexuality same-sex marriage is not as sound as forbidding two left-handers, to be handled by one right-handed person, or two people with mixed eye colors.

What I had hoped would come out of the Vatican by now is a simple statement that would say something along the lines of, “Well, I thought we had a full, complete, comprehensive understanding of how human beings operate and how human beings are constituted as sexual creatures.

Boy, were we reaching way beyond our competencies. We got it all wrong. Something new has come up and we realize we’ve barely begun to understand just how complex and complicated humanity is. In it’s just mass movements such as this are grateful that the sex of God made the extraordinary sacrifice to become a human being and lived the way humanity the same as ours to show us how we can live and love and how important it is to do everything in our power to ensure a healthy environment.

But such a statement would require a complete level of humility. And when it comes to speaking on moral issues, church leaders have long given the impression that they have exclusive access to the mind of God on what’s right and what’s wrong.

To be sure, the Catholic Church has an extraordinary history of moral teaching. And part of what is most extraordinary about it has been its ability to continue evolving as new situations arise and as the culture changes.

But, quite frankly, it has also had such an overwhelming commitment to just one level of sexuality that it gives the impression that it has nothing to all of the constructive work that is being done close to the good and bad and less than moral about sexual matters is good! I’m not making this up. This would be the Church’s teaching on sexuality, and it is still called the extraordinary mission of our church today.

I don’t know what first caused the Vatican, “Love is love” but it seems to be working for what Jesus was teaching us.

Perhaps this latest statement is the多了 than the other pronouncements that have come out of various departments over the years because, currently, I received a “love the card” for my wedding – to be female partner. The card promised me to send a note to Cardinal Cupich, who included a paragraph explaining I had received the “love the card” and would write the Church to stop saying things against, like this. That, in fact, for many of our younger parishioners, is why they have abandoned the Church.

It is because the Church first abandoned them. And, contrary to the professed gospel of love, what they actually experience is profound rejection, which provides cover for hateful members of society to verbally and physically abuse certain groups of human beings, sometimes even killing them, because they cannot fit into the accepted norm.

Sometimes my friends ask me why I stay a priest in this Church. I do because I am also actively aware of the good the Catholic Church provides all over the world, the teachings on social justice, the environment/care for the poor, the role of young people, etc. I believe they have provided such positive ground work for systemic change have to continue in this country and in so many places throughout the world.

Unfortunately, the people who are active in organizations like those teachings are themselves often called a second-class citizens. Women religious have also been forced for being the gospel as any random group of priests is a shock. When a well-respected engaged in teaching in the New York Times, writes about the history of the Vatican, the reaches of the globe, going about the history of the Church, the history of its beginnings and its places on the religious front, this is a shock. We are born into a religious people who are thinking of their lives in the Church and are trying to be faithful. This is a shock. We are born into a religious people who are thinking of their lives in the Church and are trying to be faithful. This is a shock.

So, to put it mildly, the Church is not perfect – and neither am I. I am very proud of my Church, and I am very proud of our Church. And it is important for me to be a part of it. I am very proud of our Church.

Let’s make sure that the people that have come out of various departments over the years have been given guidelines. It is claimed that the power of the Church, as a whole, and the Church in the United States, is the sole power to make people believe what the government is not. It is claimed that the power of the Church, as a whole, and the Church in the United States, is the sole power to make people believe what the government is not. It is claimed that the power of the Church, as a whole, and the Church in the United States, is the sole power to make people believe what the government is not. It is claimed that the power of the Church, as a whole, and the Church in the United States, is the sole power to make people believe what the government is not.

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When the Church is this powerful, it is not only important to listen to people, but to listen to people. The Church makes any kind of official statement against same-sex unions, relationships, etc. It again goes on to live the life of every same-sex couple throughout the world, providing refuge for the heterosexuals and homosexuals who are proselytizing, waiting to proceed. This teaching is clearly Roman-Catholic about homosexuality being “intersexually disordered” is only a biblical commandment of all gay human beings that it is hard to believe it comes from a religious person.

The bottom line either we believe the gospel of Jesus Christ that the first and greatest commandment is that love we, or we don’t believe it. I don’t call it in my core, our understanding, and then to exempt any category of human beings from that love is wrong. It is false and it is the groundwork of evil.

We are better than this. And if the bishops in these offices don’t know that yet, they should probably rethink their positions. And if certain people were definitely in heaven. For far, it has never been a made a proclamation that anyone is in heaven. This shows some sign of wisdom and humility.

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All are welcome at St. Patrick Church

by Jan Thomas
St. Patrick Catholic Church
LGBTQ Accompaniment Circle

I am a straight woman. Having grown up in a Catholic environment in the ’50s and ’60s, all relationships and all marriages I knew about were straight. I never knew there was any other kind.

It was only in adulthood that I came across anti-homosexual literature from Catholic and other Christian sources. This literature expressed that men and women were made by God to be attracted to the opposite sex, and not to the same sex. So, it must be sinful for a person to choose a relationship like that.

My change of heart occurred one day in the mid-’80s. I was waiting alone in a building near the Catholic cathedral in Spokane. But someone unexpected came in. He was the director of youth ministries for the Spokane archdiocese — at least, he had been. He had recently resigned, because he had come out as Gay.

And he talked to me. Simply and kindly, he told me that he did not choose to be Gay, that he had been Gay from birth. I believed him. From that point on I understood that same-sex attraction was inborn and natural. Since then, forming friendships with many Gay people has cemented my acceptance and support for them.

At St. Patrick Church, we openly welcome Gay and Trans people. Many of us witnessed the wedding of two female parishioners. Not long ago we also took part in learning sessions based on Fr. James Martin’s book, Building a Bridge. Gay people shared their testimonies, and straight people shared their own experiences.

It is important for me to worship where all are accepted. I am grateful to the people of St. Pat’s, both straight and Gay, for building a community where all are free to be who God created them to be.

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As a community-based hospital with over 50 primary, urgent and specialty care clinics across South King County, Valley is committed to empowering gender and sexual minorities, including individuals identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning (LGBTQ+) to live the healthiest lives possible. Our caregiver teams provide responsive, compassionate care in a welcoming environment that respects the visitation and healthcare decision-making rights of LGBTQ+ patients and their partners, children and others they define as family.

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This partnership is with Best Starts for Kids, Transfamilies and The Arc of King County.

SWEDISH PROUDLY SUPPORTS THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY.

Swedish invites the LGBTQIA+ community to share with us your experiences to help us learn by completing the 2021 Community Health Needs Assessment Survey. You can scan the QR code to the right with your phone. The first 50 participants will receive a $20 Amazon gift card as a thank-you for their time and participation. The survey will be open until July 31st.

LOOKING FOR ANOTHER CHANCE TO BE INVOLVED?

Swedish is currently seeking current and former patients interested in joining the LGBTQIA+ patient advisory/listening sessions. For more information and to sign up, please contact Peter.Mann-king@swedish.org.
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Special heartfelt thanks to George Bakan, our champion

We're grateful to The City of Seattle, the Seattle Office of Arts and Culture, 4Culture, and the State of Washington

We couldn't have done it without all of you

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