

Produced by the Boston Bisexual Women's Network, for women everywhere

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## Epiphany

By Andrea

I knew the day I visited a particular web site. I was 39, and I'd just read a book called *Love Is An Orientation* by Andrew Marin. It's about how conservative Christians can engage in truly constructive dialogue with the LGBT community and make amends for past sins of exclusion and judgmentalism against us.

I said "us" just now; but when I read the book, I did not know I was a member of that community. I thought of both conservatives and LGBT groups as "them."

I found the book at a library and it appealed to me from a professional standpoint. I work as a hospice chaplain, considering myself a liberal Christian who is open to all faiths. I have worked, worshipped, and played with evangelical Christians and LGBT people, I knew the deep divisions between these groups, and a book about building bridges attracted me.

Finding a certain amount of wisdom and insight in the book – as well as a certain amount of immaturity and naiveté – I proceeded to check out its related web site, [themarinfoundation.org](http://themarinfoundation.org). I read through the organization's

goals, methods, and history, which I found intriguing and a little simplistic.

Suddenly, as I read, I had an overwhelming experience. It is hard to describe. This was one of only three moments in my life when I truly feel I experienced an epiphany.

I felt a rush of something – maybe adrenaline or maybe just fear or excitement – wash through my chest and belly and into my privates. I saw a flood of half-forgotten memories, dreams, glimpses of women's bodies, and most of all, the faces of two women with whom I'd had passionate, emotional, non-physical, and painful relationships. These things swirled around like the glass shards in a kaleidoscope and I thought, "Oh. My God. *That's* what happened with Tara and with Kerry. I must have been in love with them. That's why I've felt those things. Am I a lesbian? No. I know I am attracted to men. That is a reality for me." I sat staring into the wall by my desk. I wasn't thinking, exactly, just waiting for the shards to come to rest and form a coherent whole.

The pattern crystallized with this thought: "I guess I must be bisexual."

Andrea, continues on page 10

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## You Think You Know... But You Have No Idea

By Jennifer Miracle

When did I know? Hmm...that is quite the precarious question...at least for me...as I suspect it to be for most women. For the first 19 years of my life, I was a straight girl. That's how I identified anyway. In my family the standard operating procedure was that you graduate from high school, get married and have babies, not necessarily in that order. However, the Universe had much bigger – or at least different, but I like to think of them as bigger – plans for me. The first and only in my family to go to college, I had the opportunity to go on the Walt Disney World College Program during the second semester of my freshman year. It was there that I had the first experience that made me question my heterosexuality.

Despite getting engaged during my program to a guy from home, I fell head over heels in love with a woman that I worked with in the park. Having only dated boys during my youth and knowing my parents would lose their minds if I told them I was in love with a woman, let alone



declared myself a lesbian, I came home from Florida, broke off my engagement (under false pretenses) and attempted to maintain a long distance relationship with my first female

Jennifer, continues on page 11

## HONOR ROLL

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Peg Preble  
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Gail Zacharias  
And many more  
fabulous people!  
You know who  
you are!

*Bi Women* is  
published quarterly.

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## From your editor

Dearest Readers,

The theme of this Winter 2012 issue is "When I Knew." Readers were asked: "*When did you know you were bisexual (or queer, or pansexual, or fluid, or just definitely not straight)? Did you have an 'aha' moment? Was there a pivotal event or conversation after which it all made sense? Or was yours a slow process of discovery? Do you feel that it's all clear in your head now, or are you resting (or grappling) with the question?*"

The varied titles of the pieces, which include (among others), "When I Knew," "When I Didn't Know" and "You Think You Know... But You Have No Idea," point out the challenges to "knowing" itself, insofar as identity is concerned. On theme, we include essays by Jennifer Miracle, Andrea, Rae Fine and Holly Danyliw, and poems by Chiquita Violette and Sierra Baker. In addition, we are delighted to share with you the work of two accomplished, out-and-proud bi-identified writers: a poem by Carole Spearin McCauley and another installation of Jess Wells' "The See-Saw Family." You'll find photos from BBWN brunches and artwork by Dani S-K.

And then there is a new Bi Women Around the World interview with Israeli bi writer and activist Dana Peleg, our Ask Tiggy advice column, our Research Corner, Letters, a report about the Out & Equal Conference and, finally, our Calendar.

Enjoy this newsletter, and please consider adding your voice and/or artwork to the next issue of *Bi Women*. It's a youth issue, so if you are 25 or under, we want to hear from you. Those who are older, send artwork, photos, graphics, letters and consider writing for the Summer 2012 issue, which will be themed "Then and Now," in honor of the fact that BBWN and *Bi Women* are now in their 30th year of existence.

I present to you *Bi Women*, Volume 30, Number 1.

– Robyn

## Next in *Bi Women*

The theme for the Spring '12 issue:

## Voices of Youth

If you are 25 or under, here's a chance to share your story. What is it like to be you? How did you come to identify as bi, pansexual or fluid? Where did you learn about bisexuality? Was there a Gay/Straight Alliance in your high school? Are your friends accepting of your identity? What about your family? Do you have any role models? Are *you* a role model? Where do you get support? Are you an activist? What advice would you give to other young people who think they might be bi, pansexual or fluid?

### Submissions for the next issue must be received by February 1st.

Essays, poems, short stories, photos and other visual art are welcome.

Send your submissions and  
suggestions for future topics to  
[biwomeneditor@gmail.com](mailto:biwomeneditor@gmail.com)

Upcoming themes may include:

Then & Now; Choice; Moms & Mentors;  
and more...

If you do not want your name  
published, or wish to use a  
pseudonym, just let us know.

**Bi Women is online at  
[biwomenboston.org](http://biwomenboston.org).**

BBWN is an all-volunteer organization. Want to host one of our monthly brunches, be the woman who coordinates the brunches, help out with our website (we use WordPress)? Or, if you're a student, consider an internship. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Robyn ([biwomeneditor@gmail.com](mailto:biwomeneditor@gmail.com)).

The Boston Bisexual Women's Network is a feminist, not-for-profit collective organization whose purpose is to bring women together for support and validation. It is meant to be a safe environment in which women of all sexual self-identities, class backgrounds, racial, ethnic and religious groups, ages, abilities and disabilities are welcome. Through the vehicles of discussion, support, education, outreach, political action and social groups related to bisexuality, we are committed to the goals of full acceptance as bisexuals within the gay and lesbian community, and to full acceptance of bisexuality and the liberation of all gay and transgender people within the larger society.

# Bi Women Around the World: Dana Peleg, Tel Aviv, Israel

By Robyn Ochs

*Dana Peleg was born in 1969 and raised in Kiryat-Haim, a suburb of Haifa, Israel. She lives with her partner, Mimi Peleg and their seven-year-old son, Boaz Wilde Peleg in Tel Aviv, Israel. From 2004 until 2009 they lived in Santa Cruz, California, where their son was born in 2004, and they were legally married in 2008.*

*Dana is a writer: as a journalist she wrote the first Lesbian column in the Israel press, and she has written articles, reviews and columns in mainstream as well as GLBT magazines. In 2000, she published Te'anim, Ahuvati [Figs, My Love], a book of short stories in Hebrew. Dana has written two screenplays in English and is currently writing a novel in Hebrew. She is also a literary, theatrical and academic translator (mainly English to Hebrew, sometimes Hebrew to English). Dana sees translation as another form of writing.*

*We conducted this interview via email.*

*Robyn Ochs:* Dana, how did you come to identify as bi?

*Dana Peleg:* I grew up in a place that was very suburban and conformist. I was always the strange girl with the strange ideas. When I finally came out in my mid-twenties, I tracked back in my life and remembered how in junior high I once collected pictures of semi-naked women and of women in swim suits from women's magazines, and how I admired – or was perhaps in love with? – my (female) lit teacher. At the same time, I fell in love with boys: my youth movement guide and boys from school. I had boyfriends since the age of 16 and was always attracted to and in love with them. (I recently learned my first boyfriend came out as gay soon after we broke up).

When I was 16 I joined a political youth movement and suddenly became popular for the first time. Outside Kiryat Haim, there were people like me! A year later, I fell in love with a girl at a youth movement conference and the world suddenly opened. I felt that I had the rare talent of loving both sexes (back in 1986, no one in my environment talked about gender fluidity). We didn't live in the same town and lost touch after a while, especially after joining the army (I served in the army despite being a pacifist, because I believed I had to do it if I wanted to be part of Israeli society). During my freshman year I had a relationship with a guy, and wanted to marry him. A year later, when he broke up with me, I tried to come out. I went to a couple of meetings in the then tiny and closeted lesbian community of Jerusalem, where the message was clear: this is a place for lesbians;

there is no room for you if you're different. So I thought, if I must choose, I should choose men: I've been with them, I like them. Of course, it never worked. Moreover, two things happened: I was date-raped; and I fell deeply in love with my best friend, a woman. The first experience made me sick of dating and trying to have a relationship with a man. The second I denied for a long time, but eventually decided to explore what I called "my lesbian side." I went to a meeting of the Gay-Lesbian student group at the Hebrew University. After this meeting I told a friend I met there, "I feel like a motherless child here, I'm bi." At that point I was still very shy about it. A week later, at that same group's party on December 22, 1994, it hit me: ***It's OK to be me! It's OK to be bi! There is such a thing and I don't have to choose and no one and nothing has been able to stop me since.*** I started attending a bi-lesbian women's group and became an LGBT activist.

*RO:* What is your religious background, if any, and what impact did this have on your coming out?

*DP:* For most people I know religion was a hurdle, a conflict, because they come from patriarchal religions. I grew up Jewish secular, celebrating Jewish holidays and family holiday dinners. I never liked the Bible and God and everything I was taught at school (in Israel the Old Testament is part of the daily curriculum) about Judaism (which is Orthodox Judaism), so I thought I was an atheist. I always had a feeling I wasn't alone in this world, but I never knew there were non-patriarchal religions. New Age started seeping into Israel in the mid-nineties. On May 22, 1995, I went to a talk at the Jerusalem Women's Center about witches. I thought I was going to an historical lecture. Lo and behold, the presenter, Amy Ginzburg, talked about the Goddess. Suddenly I felt connected to the Earth. Suddenly I had a Mother, in the most spiritual way. That was me she was talking about, that was how I felt about life. Soon afterward, Starhawk came to Israel and I attended her workshops. Later on, she visited Israel on a political mission and we became friends. I interviewed her for the women's magazine where I wrote my column, and one of my first questions was: "Is it true you're bi?" My spirituality and sexuality are one, really.

*RO:* You live in Tel Aviv but also spent several years in Santa Cruz, California and have an American-born partner. What differences do you see between these two places, in terms

*Dana, continues on next page*

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of their approaches toward sexuality and specifically toward bisexuality?

*DP:* My column for Gogay.co.il about my life in Santa Cruz was called “A Postcard from Paradise,” and this is how I feel about Santa Cruz. Truth is, I wasn’t very active there as a bisexual. I wasn’t closeted either; my friends knew I was bi, but before the “No on 8” campaign, I wasn’t active in the GLBT community. The general feeling in Santa Cruz, was always: “Anything Goes. Be whoever you want to be; the sky’s the limit.” The small Gay Pride Parade of SC includes so many identities and organizations, all respecting one another. Everyone seemed to be there, except for the Catholic and the Evangelical churches. There may even have been a Catholic contingent.

To me, Tel Aviv has the same spirit of anything goes, but in a different way. First, unlike SC’s quaintness and peacefulness, Tel Aviv is a bustling hub. Things, ideas and organizations emerge and disappear all the time. It’s probably the only place in Israel where queer and radical ideas can flourish and spread. Jerusalem is religious and conservative; Haifa is beautiful but sleepy. Culture, radical and secular or new age, happens here in Tel Aviv. The tent protest started here. Most writers and authors, and even most publishers, are here.

Another big difference is that Tel Aviv is part of Israel, and thus has that pressured, sometimes violent atmosphere to it, the feeling you have to fight constantly: for your place in the grocery store line, or in the GLBT community. I can’t really compare Santa Cruz to Tel Aviv because, like I said, I wasn’t a bi activist there. I can say, however, that here we have to struggle to be heard and seen all the time. On a personal level, everybody’s for you. On a political level, within the GLBT community, there’s a long way we still need to go. Last Gay Pride there were two parades: the mainstream one, which was basically a big street party. (Unlike parades in the US, in Israel it’s not an organized march where one



group marches behind another and viewers watch from the sidewalk. Here everyone marches.) Then there was a smaller radical parade, pointing out unrecognized, unachieved rights within the GLBT community and in the rest of Tel Aviv and Israel. Tel Aviv is the only place in Israel where such a radical march could take place. In Santa Cruz, organizations fighting for labor, immigrant rights or animal rights would probably march with the other organizations in the big Gay Pride Parade, or with the Dyke March – without the need to protest against them. I guess this is the one main difference between these two communities.

*RO:* What words are used to describe lesbian, gay, bi or non-heterosexual people in Israel? Are these words equivalent to their English counterparts, or do they have different meaning?

*DP:* The right question to the right person! I even wrote and gave a lecture about this. Lesbian is basically the same word: Lessbit (“it” being the feminine suffix in many Hebrew words). There are no derogatory terms that I know of.

*Gay:* there are a few derogatory names (*Mitromem* – literally “rising up” – is equivalent to “Faggot”). Community members decided to use “Homo” as the proper translation of “Gay.” In many places the word *Homo* is still like “Homo” in the US: a swear word. But more and more people, even in the media, use it as the formal politically correct word. People often use the word *gay*, as in English, as they are more comfortable with a foreign language word, I assume, than with the charged Hebrew word. Many use “homosexual” in Hebrew (the same word).

*Bi:* there is a bad Hebrew translation, *Doomini*, which really means “someone who has two sexes” and refers not to humans (Intersex, same word here) but to, well, slugs (who are beautiful creatures, but not what the original terms referred to). So most bi people prefer the Latin word and say *besexual*, which is the Hebrew pronunciation of bisexual. Or just *bi* (“be” in Hebrew pronunciation, which also means “in me”).

Referring to non-heterosexuals, of any gender, many people would say *gays*, or *Ge-im/ge-ot*, (“ot” for the feminine endings) which is also a widespread variation of gays, and means “proud people” in masculine and feminine. I like this one, because of the proximity to “proud” and “pride.” Yes, damn it, I’m proud!

*RO:* What rights are accorded to LGBT people in Israel?

*DP:* An anti-discrimination law, and free sex re-assignment therapy are two major rights. The law against sodomy was abolished in 1988, after years during which it was not en-

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forced. LGBT people can serve openly in the army since the late Prime Minister Rabin insisted on it in 1995.

Lesbians can adopt the kids their partner birthed, and their adoption of their kids from another country is also recognized. Any woman can use the public, government-sponsored sperm bank, no questions asked. And same-sex marriages performed outside Israel are recognized here, and we are recognized as a married couple just like any het couple who married abroad. Since the religious parties are very powerful here, there is a slight chance that a future law restricting civil marriage – including those of same-sex couples – could be passed. Many het couples who can't marry officially in the State of Israel, marry in another country, and these marriages are recognized by the State of Israel.

*RO:* Are bi folks well-integrated into Tel Aviv's sexual minority community? What resources are available specifically for bisexuals in Israel?

*DP:* We hardly have resources. My organization, Panorama, meets in The Rogatka vegan bar which is a community center for many other radical groups. Tel Aviv has a nice city-funded three-story LGBT center, where one bi group meets bi-weekly. That's about it. One of Panorama's goals is to achieve a quarter-time bisexual events coordinator at the LGBT Center.

*RO:* Dana, do you have contact with bi activists in other countries? Do you see a value in transnational activism?

*DP:* Personally I don't have such a connection. Shiri Eisner, my co-activist in Panorama, does. [*Editor's note: See Bi Women, Summer 2010.*] It could be very interesting to have such connections. I would love to hear what's going on in other countries, as it can be very inspiring! Here's an idea. My friends at Panorama and I are in very initial stages of organizing a bisexual conference in Israel. If anyone is interested in giving a talk here about bi people in their country, please contact me at danagepeg@gmail.com

*RO:* Any last words?

*DP:* "B' yourself, no matter what others say." I believe bisexuality has a deep revolutionary message to society, which may be the reason we intimidate so many: the notion that attraction doesn't have to be based on gender, that gender is quite useless and mostly oppressive. Basically I think that gender and heterosexism serve one another: If one looks like a woman or a man, then a member of the opposite (or the same) sex knows they are allowed (or not) to be attracted. If one doesn't have to be attracted to just one gender, maybe people wouldn't have to abide by gender rules, or vice versa: if there are more than two distinct genders, maybe heterosexuality, or monosexuality, are not so important either.

*Robyn is the editor of Bi Women and of the 42-country anthology, Getting Bi: Voices of Bisexuals Around the World.*

## When Holly met Cindy...and James

*By Holly Lynn Danyliw*

When did I know I was bisexual? Good question, but for me, knowing I was bisexual and accepting it are two very different stories...

I think from a very early age, I 'knew' I was attracted to girls. I had crushes on them as far back as fourth grade. Often, I would have a crush on a girl and she would have a crush on a boy and I would look the boy up and down and say to myself, "what does he have that I don't have?" Of course, NOW I know 'what,' but at that time I couldn't see the difference... I was competing for the love of the very same girl. Her name was Cindy and his was James.

The big leap toward acceptance came in 1989 when I attended my first Bi Conference at Harvard University. I was so thrilled to be amongst people who were attracted

to both genders. (yes...yes...you mean you like both... wonderful. Vanilla *and* Chocolate)

This experience snowballed into many more experiences that led me to become a bisexual activist in Hartford, CT and with BiNet USA.

Those were very exciting years for me as a bisexual woman. But mostly, it was just so exciting to accept who I really am. A woman who loves and has loved both genders of beautiful and dynamic people most of her life.

The Cindys and Jameses of the world...

*Holly is a bisexual woman happily living in her home state of Connecticut. She is a retired bisexual activist veteran.*

## When I Knew

By Rae Fine

In middle school I wasn't really attracted to anyone – it was middle school, everyone was awkward and gross. But everyone around me was discovering their status as sexual beings, however mild those sexual feelings or encounters might have been. Once an acquaintance of mine asked if I liked any boys.

“No,” I answered, “not really.”

“Ewww, does that mean that you're, like, a *lesbian*?”

“Oh, no, no. I was totally kidding. Um, Jim's pretty cute, huh?”

That interchange stayed with me for a long time. I didn't feel like I had a sexual orientation at all, but it was so much easier to go default straight. Non-straight requires declaration, and I didn't have anything to declare.

Once I got to high school and actually made friends of people of both sexes, I started to understand my attractions, to a certain extent. I understood how I felt about certain guys. I understood what desire felt like for them. I thought that some girls I knew were beautiful, but I wasn't sure whether what I felt was appreciation of beauty or attraction. You can acknowledge someone is attractive without being attracted to them, which I knew well enough. I couldn't theorize my way out, so I decided to wait until someone was willing to give what was floating around in my head some physical meaning.

My two best friends ended up being my guides from the world of thinking about sexual feelings to acting on them. One day they both came over after school. We were hanging out on my bed, talking about whatever, when out of the blue Clarisse\* says “Alex\*, Rae, I'm going to teach you how to kiss. It's a vital life skill.” It was a sort of makeout threesome, awkward at first, but ultimately exactly what I was hoping for. When it came to a natural stopping point, Alex turned to me and asked who I had enjoyed kissing more.

I couldn't decide.

So that's when I knew.

I came out to my mom about six months later. “That means you love twice as much of the world.” she said, “And more love is always a good thing.”

And that's when I felt right.

\*names changed

*Rae, originally from the Boston area, is a freshperson at a woman's college. She has been active in the LGBTQ movement since she was 14.*

## When I Didn't Know

By Debbie Block-Schwenk

I was always a late bloomer....

The villains in the cartoons I watched as a child always tied up the women,

So I imagined tying them up, too.

All I knew of the word, “queer” was that it meant “different” when I shouted

“I'm queer!” in the mall. (Was I 8? 9? 10?)

My parents hushed me.

(What if we lived in a world that celebrated difference, instead of hushing it up?)

My first crush was Chekov from Star Trek.

I thought my seventh-grade English teacher was so beautiful. I wanted her to like me.

I had a huge crush on a male classmate in Junior High. His sister was also gorgeous.

During high school, I read science fiction. In the books I visited worlds with people in all combinations of relationships. It made sense to me.

Heading to college, my best friend gave me the first three *Dykes to Watch Out For* collections. I identified with alienated, politically savvy Mo the most.

I dated a Filipino-American guy from my biology classes. Briefly.

I dated a male suitemate. (Very briefly.) A friend of ours was an out and proud bi woman with wild hair and a “Silence = Death” t-shirt.

I went to a meeting of the campus LGBT group (how many letters did it have back then?) – purely out of curiosity. (Or so I told myself.)

I wrote a science fiction story featuring a young woman (who lived in a house a lot like mine) meeting a female, tentacled alien. They bonded. They had sex. It was published in the campus science fiction magazine.

Starting senior year, I had crushes on one woman and two men. I ended up dating one of the men....and we're still together. (If I'd ended up dating the woman?)

[I ran into her years later at the OutWrite conference. She still had beautiful green eyes. But she'd cut her hair.]

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We went to the 1993 March on Washington with Kevin's old college friend the year after we graduated. We sat three together in the back of the bus. People wondered what our relationship was. I wondered.

I wondered.

I told Kevin later that year, "I think I might be bisexual." He wasn't surprised.

With a bad map, we walked the long way around to the one gay and lesbian bookstore in Providence. I bought the **one** book on bisexuality they had. (BBWN was mentioned in it!)

I watched "Claire of the Moon," full of clichés but... the half-understood longing, the slowly coalescing identity like stringing together the words of the perfect sentence. I identified with that completely.

I understood. Finally. I was 25.

(Well, I had always been a late bloomer)

*Debbie now owns many more books on bisexuality. She still reads (and sometimes writes) science fiction.*

## For All Who Are Between Lovers

*By Carole Spearin McCauley*

I dreamed the Perfect She:  
tall, willowy,  
peach-skinned with softest hair at neck's nape  
where my fingers linger.  
Earning a living, she is of course politically correct.  
A tigress in bed but  
a lady at the office,  
where male execs defer to her.  
If she's in my dreams,  
why not my life?  
*Luv, give us a kiss.*  
*We'll never meet like this.*

I've done it again--put her in boxes--crosswords with  
too many D's and she wouldn't be seen with a Dyke.  
I found the Perfect She:  
married to somebody else.  
My fingers lingered, my lips touched,  
but she went home to walk the dog, or was it diaper the baby?  
*Luv, give us a kiss.*  
*Why did we ever meet like this?*

*Carole has written 12 books—medical nonfiction, literary and lesbian mysteries. Her short work has appeared in about 200 periodicals and anthologies, including New York Times, USA Today, Redbook, Self, North American Review, Women:Omen, North Atlantic Review, Lesbian Short Fiction and Girl Jock.*

# The See-Saw Family

By Jess Wells

Here are parts five and six of Jess Wells's nine-part story, "The See-Saw Family." Look for more from Jess in future issues of Bi Women.

## Coy on a Barstool

Lesbianism is the land of the outward women. The self-made women. If there's one cultural trait that you can attribute to lesbians it's that they say what they mean and mean what they say. They don't do coy. They don't do phony demure. You don't sit coy on a barstool waiting to be selected and laid. It's a self-selection process among lesbians, you make your world right down to the sheets. So when I 'decided' to have sex with women it was a darn difficult process, since I thought I could just switch bars, perch myself among women and they'd pick me up. Maybe it was because they were Dutch (coldest people on the planet, statistically proven) and I didn't speak the language. Or maybe it was because I was already known in the bar as a straight girl. It just seemed to take forever.

## A Different Kind of Straight Girl

All that lesbianism has made me a very different sort of woman and I'm not sure Simon appreciates it (but that's ok). There are a number of things that drive me crazy about straight women (and always have). For example, I'm appalled that they use sex as a manipulative behave-or-you-don't-get-any tool. No lesbian would tolerate that. Sex tapers off and falls away, but no lesbian would use it to get the lawn mowed.

And who the hell taught straight women that they could have a house where there wasn't any sign of a man living there? I went to a (straight) colleague's house and every inch was

covered with chintz and Laura Ashley prints. No sign of the husband's hobbies, past, pictures, shoes. Nothing. She toured me through the whole thing, out into the back yard.



"Here's John's special place," she said, opening the back end of the garage. No Rosanne set with beer fridge and old Laz-Y-Boy, this room was perfectly fin-

ished with white carpet and pale taupe walls, a minimalist modern sofa. He was in there. The room was so small that the three of us couldn't be in it at the same time. And there was no dust or socks or personal objects, even here. Turning, though, she saw a flat screen TV.

"What's this?" she said incredulously.

"I ...bought a TV."

"When were you going to tell me?" my friend said.

"Ahh... today," he said quickly.

Busted, I thought.

There are times, however, when I do ask 'what would a straight woman do?' to double-check the extent of my rights in this new world I live in. Looking at the filth and the disheveled mess men seem perfectly happy to live in, I think maybe it's reasonable that straight women exercise control of the interior decorating. Can I do that without becoming my colleague the Chintz Diva? Can't I say no you can't put that dirty old milk crate full of albums in the living room?

While I was single, really single as in not dating at all, I started a list called Butch Things I Can Do Myself Now, which included things like getting up onto the roof (treacherous activity), changing fuses. A few things like that. I was very proud. And Simon, being devoted to equality, wants to know every time I can't open a jar or ask him to investigate a plumbing problem, what I would have done prior to his arrival. The truth is I would have paid someone, or waited for a friend to come to open the jars. My son and I used to line them up on the counter until my butch friends would come over. Why don't I do it, he wants to know. Because he's more capable than I at things like that, right? Hell, he's an electrician but so was one of my exes and she opened the jars and spackled the walls. On the other hand, the truth is that while we were hiking in Desolation Wilderness and had to make our way from cairn to cairn over steep rocks, I wouldn't have had the confidence to forge on if I had been alone with my son. I just wouldn't. Despite my lesbianism and my confidence, I wouldn't have done it alone.

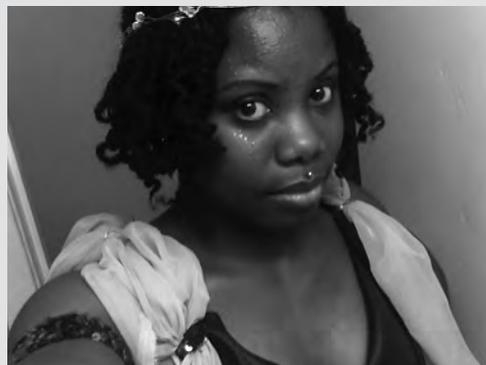
*Jess is the author/editor of a dozen volumes of work, including the novels The Mandrake Broom (historical fiction), The Price of Passion (lesbian erotica), and AfterShocks (modern drama). She is the recipient of a San Francisco Arts Commission Grant for Literature and a four-time finalist for the Lambda Literary Award. Her work and workshops can be found at [www.jesswells.com](http://www.jesswells.com).*

# My Bi and Sexual Epiphany

By Chiquita Violette

Looked once.  
Blinked twice.  
Questioned thrice.  
Thought about it to myself one more time.  
Got it fully that last time.

“She’s just got lovely eyes.” So what?  
“She just has a magnetic personality.” That’s cool.  
“She just possesses an intriguing intellect.” Smart is always awesome.  
“Whoa! Look at those curves...” Stop staring. Go take a shower to “reflect” and to reflect. Then find a book on people like me.  
“So women too, this opens more doors; that is a good thing.”



*Chiquita is a 26-year-old human rights activist 364 days a year but for Halloween 2011, a Human Rights Goddess. Smoking hot while smiting haters!*

## News Briefs

By Katrina Chaves



On November 17, Massachusetts passed the Transgender Equal Rights Bill, making this the 16<sup>th</sup> US state to protect transgender and gender-nonconforming individuals from discrimination by adding protections to the state’s civil rights laws against employment, education, housing and credit discrimination, and adding gender identity and expression to the state’s hate crimes law. Several members of BBWN were among those working for passage of this bill, and we are delighted!

The LGBT advocacy group, Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, is filing a lawsuit in Federal District Court in Boston challenging the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act. SDLN continues to work to ensure that all military families are treated the same, regardless of a service member’s sexual orientation.

315 people attended the 8th Transcending Boundaries Conference November 11-13 in Springfield, MA. Author, performance artist and gender theorist Kate Bornstein, author of *101 Alternatives to Suicide for Teens, Freaks and Other Outlaws* was the keynote speaker. The conference closed with a lively “Panel of Awesome: The Future of Our Movement.” Kate Bornstein, Raven Kaldera and Robyn Ochs were on the panel which was moderated by Lorelei Eresis.

Bisexual feminist writer and activist Jennifer Baumgardner, well-known for co-founding the Feminist Speakers Bureau, recently published *F’em: Go Goo, Gaga, and Some Thoughts on Balls*.

Dr. Margaret Robinson shared some information about the *Bi Mental Health* project in a recent interview, discussing how bisexual individuals faced layers of biphobia, homophobia, heterosexism and monosexism. Many bi folks are reluctant to seek counseling based on prior negative experiences in therapy, and therefore don’t access much-needed resources.

Chicago’s Center on Halsted has named Michael Oboza its bi liaison, to coordinate bi events and increase visibility.

Founder of the Bi Social Network, Adrienne Williams, also a Chicago resident, recently announced bisexual actor Alan Cumming will be appearing in the “I Am Visible” campaign.

Last month, True Blood actress Evan Rachel Wood revealed she was “terrified” of her bisexuality in her youth, for nobody explained it to her, and was quoted as saying, “I didn’t even know bisexuality was a thing until I heard actress Fairuza Balk talk about it when I was a kid. I was like: ‘Oh my God, you can like both – and that’s OK.’ It was revelation.”

*Katrina lives in Rhode Island. She is Bi Women’s News Editor.*

*Andrea, continued from page 1*

And just like that, “they” became “we.” I would never see life or myself the same. And I do believe that perception creates reality.

Dictionary.com gives, among others, these two definitions for the word epiphany: “an appearance or manifestation, especially of a deity” and “a sudden, intuitive perception of or insight into the ... essential meaning of something, usually initiated by some simple, homely, or commonplace occurrence or experience.” These feel applicable to my experience. I was cruising the web as I so often do (I was unemployed at the time) and suddenly an intellectual jaunt to satisfy random curiosity became a trip into my past and into my self. I certainly felt God’s presence at that moment, as I very often do when truths – pleasant or unpleasant – come knocking. The “thing” in this instance into which I saw “the essential meaning” was my sexuality and my abilities to love and be loved.

I do not know why God or my subconscious or the truth itself chose that moment to manifest. Even more puzzling, I don’t know why I hadn’t seen this before. I did not come from a family or church group that demonized or condemned same-sex attractions. We just didn’t talk about them. On the other hand, my older siblings had gay friends that my mother welcomed. The best answer I’ve been able to form about the mystery of “why didn’t I know before?” is that straightness was just assumed in my family, school, and church situation. Other orientations weren’t disparaged; they just weren’t on the radar screen.

As the pattern formed, I moved from my desk to my rocker, contemplating and absorbing. I remembered an explicit dream I had about a college English professor. And the time I looked down a fellow volunteer’s shirt and

became aroused. At the time I put these experiences down to “everyone’s sexuality is in flux in college.”

I’d been fired from a job a few months before this realization. Part of that dreadful and humbling story involved conflict with a co-worker, a woman I perceived as “a good friend.” When our manager took her part, I felt more than hurt and angry – I felt betrayed. By a close friend? Or a prospective lover? I realized the correct answer: both, only at the moment of my epiphany.

Since that moment, I have only felt stronger and happier about my bisexuality. I have come out to family, friends and church members. All have been welcoming. I have not come out to my employer, because of the conservatism where I live and work. I wish I could put my full name on this, but now that prospective employers Google applicants, and since I am searching for full-time work in an often-conservative field, I guess I had better not.

About two months after my epiphany I started a dialogue with Andrew Marin about the invisibility of bi people on his web site. He invited me to blog about my bi experiences, but he never followed up when I emailed him for more specifics. Still, confronting him was a big step in my journey toward staking a claim to my bisexuality, my first step toward loving it.

Whatever the reason for my blindness before, I take joy now in my discovery.

*Andrea is a hospice chaplain in central Pennsylvania, a member of the Religious Society of Friends, a writer, a happy member of a great family and the owner of a silly cat named Salem.*

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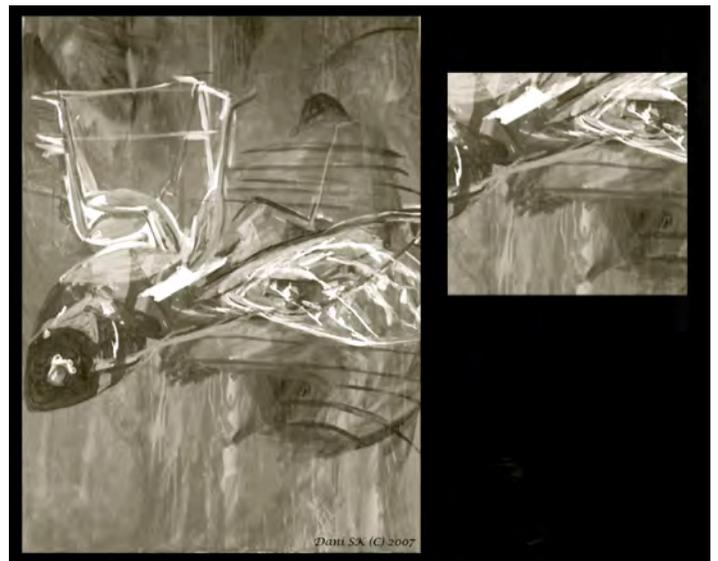
## The light



By Sierra K Baker

I knew when I saw through  
They put me in pink but I liked the turquoise blue  
When high school came, to the guys I could relate  
Because just like them, it was the girls I prefer to date  
Twenty-five years later and I feel the same  
Bisexual life was never a game  
It is my life, married or not...  
I Sierra remain the same and bisexuality is not some-  
thing to be forgot.

*Sierra is a college student at Middle Tennessee State University, where she is studying Sociology and Women and Gender Studies.*



*Dani SK, FrogBirdBugFish, Mixed Media on Canvas, 2007*

**Jennifer**, *continued from page 1*

lover. Eventually, my dad got wise to the situation and my otherwise doting father condemned me to Hell for my immoral behavior. Both he and my mom suggested I simply stop talking to her and “it would go away.” Although I could not confidently declare my lesbian identity at the time, I knew that loving a woman was clearly an option for me and believed it probably always would be.

I refused to end the relationship and my parents refused to condone it, so essentially we agreed to disagree. Six months later, my father was diagnosed with cancer. It was at that point that, for whatever reason in my mind, my love for my girlfriend and my love for my father could no longer co-exist. I broke off the relationship with my girlfriend and tried to convince myself that perhaps it really was just a phase, or only that particular woman. It seemed the best way to convince myself of this was to date a guy. So I did. However, I found myself sometimes thinking “I hope this doesn’t make them think that I’ll never be with a woman again,” and “Maybe I’m bisexual... if I tell them that, they won’t be so upset because there’s still the possibility of me ending up with a man.” Clearly, I wasn’t fooling myself. Sadly, my dad died just five months after being diagnosed. Somehow, I felt relieved that he passed knowing that I was dating a guy and no longer in a relationship with a woman.

I continued dating the same guy for another year, until I returned to college that Fall and fell in love with the girl next door. At the start of this relationship, I still couldn’t confidently call myself a lesbian. But after a four and a half year relationship I felt safe publicly joining the world of Ellen and Rosie.

As I began my professional career, I made the conscious decision that I would never hide my identity as a lesbian. I proudly and confidently claimed my lesbian identity from day one...and then almost immediately found myself feverishly attracted to one of the guys working in our department. I could not understand it. Past relationships with guys had felt more like an obligation, or what I was expected to do. This was the first time that I could ever remember a guy

mesmerizing me; however, all it took was getting remotely emotionally involved with him to pretty much seal the deal on that lesbian label I had so confidently embraced just months earlier.

For the next 10 years, I solely dated women, many of them on the more butch end of the spectrum. (I often described my “types” as sporty femme and rock-n-roll/bad ass chick), but they were all women nonetheless.) I prided myself on being the ultra femme lesbian and thoroughly enjoyed challenging people’s stereotypes about “what a lesbian looks like.” So much so that I made it a career.

After three years of doing queer education and advocacy work in student affairs, and as many playing the field, I recently reconnected with an old friend from my college days. Although our paths had crossed a number of times over the last 14 years and there was always a strong connection between the two of us, we became more regularly in touch through Facebook. Shortly after reconnecting there, my friend, who I’d always known as a woman who dated women, posted his new Facebook page introducing himself to the world as Ethan. Having known him for so long, this announcement to me was no shocker. Rather, the shocker for me was my falling completely in love with him. The shocker for my friends and family is my being engaged...to a *man!*

Needless to say, my relationship with Ethan has certainly messed with my sense of identity a bit. Truth be told, I don’t know that there is a label that I feel comfortable using at this point. However, what I’ve learned is that labels are for other people – not for ourselves. What I know is that I am in love with Ethan, and Ethan has *always* been Ethan, even in a female body.

When did I know, you ask? I think the short answer to that question is I don’t know, and I don’t care.

*Jennifer is the director of the LGBT Resource Center at The University of Georgia. Although she has a passion for the work she does and believes it to be her life’s work, she’s always dreamed of becoming a writer.*

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# RESEARCH CORNER: Bi women's mental health

By Jennifer Taub

Do non-heterosexual women have fewer or more mental health problems than heterosexual women? Do lesbians and bisexual women have different mental health issues? This "Research Corner" takes a look at what the small body of research differentiating bisexual women and lesbians has to say about mental health.

It is safe to say that, in general, individuals with a sexual minority status have been subjected to greater stress in their lives than heterosexuals. Such stresses include being closeted, being harassed or attacked, being subjected to threats or hate crimes, the challenges of coping with internalized homophobia, or being rejected by friends and family. In fact, research has shown that lesbian and bisexual women reported higher frequencies of discrimination than heterosexual women, which in turn, is associated with psychiatric morbidity.<sup>1</sup>

Most research, however, has lumped bisexual and lesbian women into one group, which obscures differences between the groups. In addition, most research in this area has used samples of convenience (e.g. from GLBT events, clinical samples) rather than random samples, limiting conclusions that can be made.

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1 Mays, V.M. and Cochran, S.D. (2001). Mental Health Correlates of Perceived Discrimination Among Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Adults in the United States. *American Journal of Public Health*, 91(11), 1869-1876.

Lesbians who make their sexual orientation known to family, friends and/or coworkers (i.e., those who are "out of the closet") have better mental health than lesbians who are closeted. Disclosure of lesbian identity has been associated with less anxiety, more positive affectivity and higher self-esteem.<sup>2</sup> Further, lesbians who are out are more likely to align with peer groups and receive social support, which can diminish the likelihood of mental disorders.<sup>3-4</sup> Thus, being out can be associated with positive mental health. There is very limited data on bisexual women and outness. A recent study<sup>5</sup> found bisexual women are more likely than heterosexuals or lesbians to have used an illicit drug in the past 12 months and to have a history of an eating disorder. They were more likely than heterosexual women (but not more than lesbians) to have felt stress as a teenager, been treated for depres-

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2 Jordan K.M., Deluty R.H. (1988). Coming out for Lesbian Women: Its Relation to Anxiety, Positive Affectivity, Self-Esteem and Social Support. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 35, 41-63.

3 Morris, J.F., Waldo, C.R., and Rothblum, E.D. (2001). A model of predictors and outcomes of outness among lesbian and bisexual women. *Am J of Orthopsychiatry*, 71, 61-71.

4 Oetjen, H., Rothblum, E.D. (2000). When Lesbians aren't Gay: Factors Affecting Depression Among Lesbians. *J of Homosexuality*, 39, 49-73.

5 Koh, A.S. & Ross, L.K. (2008). Mental Health Issues: A Comparison of Lesbian, Bisexual and Heterosexual Women. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 51(1), 33-57.

sion (ever) or had a suicide attempt (ever). Lesbians who were not out had a 90% higher rate of suicide attempt than heterosexual women, while bisexual women who were not out had a 300% higher rate than heterosexual women. Lesbians who were not out and bisexual women who were out were 2-2.5 times more likely to experience suicidal ideation in the past 12 months. This study found that protective factors include being in a relationship, and being out to more people in one's life.

In a study titled "Lesbians and Their Sisters as a Control Group: Demographic and Mental Health Factors,"<sup>6</sup> researchers Esther Rothblum and Rhonda Factor created matched controls by recruiting sexual minority women with heterosexual sisters. In this way, they had groups of women with similar demographics and backgrounds. They had 184 pairs of lesbian-heterosexual sisters, 44 pairs of bisexual-heterosexual sisters, and 29 pairs of bisexual-lesbian sisters who completed standardized questionnaires of mental health symptoms. They conducted analyses controlling for age, education level, and income. Surprisingly, they did not find any differences in mental health symptoms between the lesbians and the heterosexuals in the study. However, they did find that bisexual women reported more men-

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6 Rothblum, E. D. and Factor, R. (2001) "Lesbians and Their Sisters as a Control Group: Demographic and Mental Health Factors. *Psychological Science*, 12(1), 63-69.

**Research Corner**, continued on next page

## Ask Tiggy

Dear Tiggy,

My husband of 14 years left me in February. I'm recovering, although I'm still not sure if I miss what we had or I'm just scared of being alone. I have five wonderful kids and am only 33 years old.



I started dating again and have slept with four guys – one of whom I dated for a while – but it was not enjoyable for me. The flirting was fun and the attention was great, but when it comes down to it, I really don't enjoy the sex.

I have been attracted to women lately. As a teenager, I was badly tormented about not finding a lot of men attractive and preferring my close female friends. I recently told a lesbian friend how only two of the men I have ever been with satisfied me. She thinks I'm like her but I told her that I was too old to start dating women. Every lesbian I know is, like, 20 years old.

I'm scared of dating. I already broke one man's heart, although we were not together long. I thought that dating was to get to know someone, not to fall instantly in love, but now I'm afraid I'll hurt someone's feelings. I might want a serious relationship if I found the right person but how do I do that without getting to know people? I don't want anyone to get hurt.

I think I'm bi since I am attracted to some men, though not many. Is my confusion due to my breakup? Is this part of figuring myself out? Is it OK to explore?

– Dazed & Confused

Dear Dazed & Confused,

Sounds like you're sowing some wild oats after being married since age 18, and there's definitely nothing wrong with that. I give you kudos not only for getting through a tough time but also for being sensitive to the feelings of the folks you're dating and/or sleeping with. You've got the right idea: dating is for getting to know people, and you can't decide if you're interested in someone as a more permanent partner without it. You owe your dates respect for their feelings and open communication – that is, honesty without unkindness. But at the end of the day, if you haven't made a commitment to them, you have nothing to feel guilty about if you decide that you're not a match. Being a little vulnerable to hurt feelings is the price of admission for dating. (Sucks, but there it is.)

You're also embarking on an exploration of your sexuality – fun! Same dating rules apply: respect and communication. And, Lord, woman, do have any idea how many bisexual and gay women there are in your dating-age range?! Many of them are still figuring out what they enjoy in love and sex, like you are. I think you should try to find a local “coming out” group to help with your self-exploration. You'll see there are many women well past 20 just like you. It is not even *close* to too late for you to get with the ladies, spring chicken! Shrug off the fear and the guilt, and go find those very special women out there waiting for you to light up their lives.

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*Are you a bi lady in need of some good advice? Write to Tiggy Upland at [tiggyupland@gmail.com](mailto:tiggyupland@gmail.com). This advice column is for entertainment purposes only. The columnist reserves the right to edit the letters for any reason. Find more Ask Tiggy on [www.biresource.net](http://www.biresource.net).*

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### Research Corner, *continued from previous page*

tal health symptoms than either the lesbians or the heterosexual women. In particular, depression, anxiety and overall mental health symptoms were greater for bisexual women. This was not a finding the researchers anticipated. Possibilities posited for this finding by the researchers included bisexual women being discriminated against by both heterosexual and lesbian communities, perhaps resulting in greater stress and being less out (outness has shown a positive relationship to mental health). These were just suggestions, however, and have not been tested empirically.

Very little research has been done in these areas, but what we do know so far shows some disturbing

trends for bisexual women. Why do you think research has shown bisexual women to have higher rates of mental health problems, eating disorders, and a history of suicidal ideation and suicide attempts than heterosexual women or lesbians? Why is outness less of a protective factor for bisexual women than lesbians? I welcome your comments via email at [dr.jennifer.taub@gmail.com](mailto:dr.jennifer.taub@gmail.com)



*Jennifer Taub, PhD, is a licensed clinical psychologist who lives in Boston. She has conducted research about bi women and is a proud member of BBWN.*

## Letters

Dear *Bi Women*,

I first want to thank you for printing my article, "Yes I am!" I hope that it helped some readers in thinking about career choices and seeing that there are safe places to work all over the US. I secondly wanted to let you know that I have had an amazing opportunity fall into my lap because of being 'out at work': I have been chosen to be one of ten Academic Advisors from around the world in the National Academic Advising Association's (NACADA) Emerging Leaders Class of 2011-2013. The NACADA Emerging Leaders Program "encourages members from diverse groups to get involved in leadership opportunities in the organization" to "increase the numbers of leaders from diverse groups" in the organization. Since I am the only known 'out' bisexual in the organization by the NACADA LGBTQA Concerns Commission, I was chosen and cannot wait to bring the "B to LGBT"! I want to encourage other bi women to seek out opportunities like this at their workplace or in professional organizations in which they are involved. Others need to know we are here!

Take care,  
Mandy Metzger

I love the fall newsletter!!!  
just wanted to let you know...  
take care,  
jo

Dear *Bi Women*,

I have been meaning to contact y'all to let you know that I've moved and to ask you to convert my subscription to an electronic one. Thanks for keeping me in the loop! *Bi Women* reminds me that I'm not alone out here. Best, Dakota from Manhattan, NY

## Bi Visibility Growing at Out & Equal

By *Ellyn Ruthstrom*

This year's Out & Equal Workplace Summit held October 25-28 in Dallas, Texas had the most bi-specific programming of any year yet – plus, it had Margaret Cho's outrageousness at the gala dinner. Despite a rather tactless biphobic remark made by one speaker at the opening day's plenary, there were definitely many positive opportunities for people to learn about bi lives at the conference.

By chairing the current Bisexual Advisory Committee (Bi-AC) and through her persistent advocacy and leadership, Heidi Bruins Green coordinated with Kevin Jones, Out & Equal's Deputy Director to bring bi visibility at Out & Equal to a whole new level. In 2010, there were two bi-themed workshops. This year there was at least one bi-themed workshop in each of the six workshop sessions, and a couple of times there were even competing workshops!

Representatives from the Bisexual Resource Center, the American Institute of Bisexuality, Pride at Work Canada, and several independent consultants working in diversity areas were involved with the planning and facilitation of the workshops. Topics ranged from how to be allies to bi folks in a workplace setting, bi identity, research on bisexuality, and a panel of bi experts discussing community issues from a variety of perspectives. Always



*Dallas bi community members & allies shared a delicious Mexican meal with visiting bi activists in town for the Out & Equal Workplace Summit.*

an eye-opener, Robyn Ochs employed an exercise using the Klein scale to get the participants to see sexuality as much more fluid – even for straight- and gay/lesbian- identified folks – than many want to admit.

*Ellyn is, among many things, the President of the Bisexual Resource Center and Bi Women's Calendar Editor.*

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If you're not yet on our mailing list and would like to sign up, you can do so easily by going to [biwomenboston.org](http://biwomenboston.org), or by sending an email to [editor@biwomenboston.org](mailto:editor@biwomenboston.org). All we need is your name, email address and the city and state in which you reside. You'll also find our calendar there, as well as back issues of *Bi Women*. Oh... and you can make a donation to BBWN, PO Box 301727, Jamaica Plain MA 02130 or by PayPal to [biwomenboston@gmail.com](mailto:biwomenboston@gmail.com). Any amount is appreciated.

## JANUARY

**Wednesday, Jan. 4, 7-8:45pm. Bisexual Social & Support Group (BLiSS).** Bisexual Resource Center, 29 Stanhope Street, Boston. (See December 7<sup>th</sup>)

**Monday, Jan. 9, 7pm. Straight Marriage, Still Questioning.** (See Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>)

**Tuesday, Jan. 10, 7-9pm. BRC Board Meeting.** (See December 13<sup>th</sup>)

**Saturday, Jan. 16, 11:30am. Saturday Bi Brunch.** (See December 17<sup>th</sup>)

**Thursday, Jan. 19, 7pm. Bisexual Social & Support Group (BLiSS).** The 3rd Thursday meeting for BLiSS meets in the community room of Eastern Bank at 250 Elm Street in Davis Square in Somerville. It starts with a one-hour check-in and discussion followed by an outing to a local eatery. Info: bliss@biresource.net.

**Sunday, Jan. 22, noon, BBWN Potluck Brunch at Melissa's in Waltham.** We'll have a "Winter Warmer" brunch so please bring along soups, warm bread, or any "comfort food." RSVP/address: Melissa at cptnkulig@gmail.com. A great place to meet other bi women in a friendly, supportive atmosphere.

**Wednesday, Jan. 25 - Sunday, Jan. 29, Creating Change Conference,** Baltimore, Maryland. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force produces the nation's pre-eminent political, leadership and skills-building conference for the LGBT social justice movement. Visit [www.creatingchange.org](http://www.creatingchange.org) to find out how you can join hundreds of other queer activists to help change the world.



Book Swap Brunch at Elynn's

## FEBRUARY

**Wednesday, Feb. 1, 7pm. Bisexual Social & Support Group (BLiSS).** (See Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>)

**Monday, Feb. 8, 7pm. Straight Marriage, Still Questioning.** (See Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>)

**Tuesday, Feb. 9, 7-9pm. BRC Board Meeting.** (See Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>)

**Thursday, February 16, 7pm. Bisexual Social and Support Group (BLiSS).** (See Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>)

**Saturday, Feb. 18, 11:30am. Saturday Bi Brunch.** (See Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>)

**Sunday, Feb. 19, noon, BBWN Potluck Brunch at Jennifer's in Cambridge for President's Day.** Please bring a potluck dish and/or drinks to share. A great opportunity to meet other bi and bi-friendly women in the Boston area. Contact Jennifer at jbonardi@hotmail.com.

## Looking Ahead...

**Wednesday, Feb. 29: MassEquality GALA.** Check [massequality.org](http://massequality.org) closer to the date.

**Saturday, March 31: Fenway Women's Event.** Tickets: \$200, Boston Marriott Copley Place. [Information@fenway-health.org](mailto:Information@fenway-health.org). An elegant night out to support women's health programs.

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## The "Bi Office"

is the Bisexual Resource Center, located at 29 Stanhope Street in Boston, behind Club Cafe. For info call 617-424-9595.

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## Ongoing Events

**Come to our monthly bi brunch! All women are welcome! See calendar for dates.**

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### 2nd Tuesdays:

**Bisexual Resource Center Board Meeting.** 7-9pm. at the Bi Office. All are welcome.

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### 2nd Mondays:

**Straight Marriage, Still Questioning.** 7pm. Email [kate.e.flynn@gmail.com](mailto:kate.e.flynn@gmail.com) for more info.

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### 1st Wednesdays, 3rd Thursdays:

**BLISS: Bisexual Social & Support Group.** 7-9pm. Wednesdays, meets at the Bi Office. Thursdays meets at the Community Room of Eastern Bank, 250 Elm St, Somerville. We'll have a one-hour discussion then go out to a local eatery. Email [bliss@biresource.net](mailto:bliss@biresource.net) for info.

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### 3rd Saturdays:

**Biversity Bi Brunch.** 11:30am at Johnny D's, Davis Square, Somerville.

#### **Boston-area women:**

Keep up with local events. Sign up for our email list! Send an email to: [biwomenboston-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:biwomenboston-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)



November Brunch at Steph's

# CALENDAR

## DECEMBER

**Friday, Dec. 2-Sunday, Dec. 4, Holly Folly Weekend in Provincetown.** Here's the perfect weekend to get away and enjoy some pre-holiday shopping, a walk on the beach, a raucous sing-along at the Crown & Anchor, the Gay Men's Chorus concert and much more. Info: [www.HollyFolly.com](http://www.HollyFolly.com).

**Wednesday, Dec. 7, 7-8:45pm. Bisexual Social & Support Group (BLISS).** 1st Wednesday and 3rd Thursday of each month. Wednesday meetings are held at the Boston Living Center, 29 Stanhope Street, Boston. All bi and bi-friendly people of all genders and orientations are welcome to attend. First Wednesday meetings are peer facilitated discussion groups, sometimes with a pre-selected topic or presenter. Info: [brc@biresource.net](mailto:brc@biresource.net).

**Monday, Dec. 12, 7pm. Straight Marriage, Still Questioning.** A peer-led support group for women in a straight marriage/relationship struggling with sexual orientation or coming out. If interested in attending, contact [kate.e.flynn@gmail.com](mailto:kate.e.flynn@gmail.com). Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month.

**Tuesday, Dec. 13, 6-9pm. Bisexual Resource Center Board Meeting.** The December board meeting is the annual meeting of the BRC where all bi and bi-friendly community mem-

bers are invited to attend. We'll acknowledge the work of the past year, vote on the board members for next year, and start planning ahead for 2012. Dinner and socializing 6-7pm, meeting 7-9pm. Info: Ellyn at [president@biresource.net](mailto:president@biresource.net). The meeting is at the Boston Living Center, 29 Stanhope St. near Back Bay station on the Orange Line.

**Thursday, Dec.15, 7pm. Bisexual Social & Support Group (BLISS) Holiday Gathering.** Come and enjoy some holiday cheer with the bi community. We'll be meeting at Bertucci's at Alewife so you can come by T or use their free parking across the street. You MUST RSVP because we will need to make a reservation during the busy holiday season. RSVP to [bliss@biresource.net](mailto:bliss@biresource.net).

**Saturday, Dec. 17, 11:30am. Bi Brunch. Bi Brunch** (a mixed gender bi group) is now always the 3rd Saturday of the month at Johnny D's on Holland St. in Davis Sq. in Somerville. The Davis stop on the Red Line is just across the street.

**Sunday, Dec. 18, noon. BBWN Potluck Brunch at Jennifer's in Jamaica Plain. Address/RSVP: Jen at [jennifer.taub@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.taub@gmail.com). A great place to meet other bi women in a friendly, supportive atmosphere.**

**Calendar,** *continues on page 15*