



SEPTEMBER 8-11, 2016

MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA

#NLGJA2016

THE ASSOCIATION OF LGBTQ JOURNALISTS

Five distinct regions 127 miles of Overseas Highway Hundreds of named islands Thousands of stories





By Carol Shaughnessy

For more than 200,000 gay and lesbian visitors each year, Key West offers a welcome as warm as the subtropical temperatures. Lying at the southernmost end of the Florida Keys, surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico, the island was one of the first popular gay vacation meccas—and remains a consistently topranked LGBT travel destination.

Visitors will find lively gay and lesbian nightlife, year-round water sports opportunities, a packed calendar of annual events and an accepting "come as you are" attitude. Accommodations range from all-male clothing-optional properties to historic gay-friendly inns, luxurious oceanfront resorts, hotels and vacation homes.

Duval Street, Key West's "main

drag," features cabarets, drag shows, piano bars, colorful pubs and a beloved Sunday Tea Dance.

During the day, vacationers can choose from exclusively gay and lesbian water activities such as snorkeling, sunset sailing cruises and dolphin watching or join other visitors above, on or below the sea.

The Key West Business
Guild, founded in 1978,
operates an LGBT visitor center
open daily to provide information and
assistance. The center also houses
an exhibit honoring the legacy of
renowned playwright Tennessee
Williams, who lived on a quiet Key
West street for more than 30 years.

Key West knows how to throw a party. June's Key West Pride celebrates the island's open and welcoming community, while August's Tropical Heat is a four-day event for gay men. Each September, Womenfest attracts as many as 5,000 women for eclectic events, and October brings the 10-day Fantasy Fest masking and costuming extravaganza. Other offerings include pageants, art openings and shows, charity happenings and themed weekend events.

One reason Key West is



The Southernmost Point marker is one of the most popular photo spots in the Florida Keys.

popular with LGBT vacationers is because its local population is so diverse and all-embracing. Liberal, civilized, and sophisticated, the island has a gay police chief and other officials, and was the first U.S. city to elect an openly gay mayor. The rainbow flag is displayed in the city commission chambers and the Florida Keys' official motto, adopted by both Key West and the Keys' Monroe County, is One Human Family — proclaiming equality and acceptance for all people.

For LGBT visitors, Key West is a place to be open and relaxed. It's a place to make new friends, play from dawn to dusk or luxuriate in laziness. Above all, it's an unparalleled place to enjoy carefree vacation days and nights on an irresistible, accepting subtropical island.

For more travel information, go to fla-keys.com/gay.









TOYOTA



NLGJA 2016

National Convention & LGBT Media Summit

September 8-11, 2016 | The Ritz-Carlton South Beach Miami Beach, Florida www.nlgja.org/2016

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The Association of LGBTQ Journalists

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JEN CHRISTENSEN

NLGJA President

On Sunday, June 12, my spouse Holly woke me up with terrible news.

I was the on-call producer that weekend. With CNN's medical unit, that typically means answering quick questions about Zika or accompanying Dr. Sanjay Gupta into the studio or giving an anchor advice when she gets a cold. This was different.

We often are called upon to tell stories about people on their worst day, be it on 9/11 or in Hurricane Katrina, but on that day, the attack at Pulse nightclub in Orlando felt personal.

In stories after that tragedy, many NLGJA members wrote eloquently about the rare acceptance they felt in such places and described what it was like to walk into their first gay bar. My first was the 10, a nondescript women's bar by the I-65 overpass in downtown Indianapolis. I remember pacing the gravel parking lot, working up the nerve to open that heavy steel door. When we finally did go through, I laughed. The '70s wood-paneled interior and beige drop-ceiling looked more like my Auntie Phyllis' basement than an intimidating den of iniquity. The women, dressed in their best flannels and acid-washed jeans, were friendly. The drag performers flirty. And for many of my friends who never had the benefit of a welcoming church or family, it became sanctuary, a safe place to be yourself, even if you never really did feel comfortable when the DJ cued up "The Electric Slide" one more time to pack the sticky dance floor. For many, as our panelists on Saturday will tell you, Pulse was that place of safety and acceptance. And it was hard to fathom that a single person could take that away in one evening.

It was also hard to fathom that some of our media allies failed to understand why it was so important to name the tragedy for what it was — a mass murder at a gay bar. At a diversity journalism summit in Washington, D.C., a manager at a national network said that he instructed his staff not to use the word "gay" in their stories. I've never been prouder of Ken Miguel, NLGJA's vice president for broadcast, who bravely stood up to explain why removing that key descriptor, or "straightwashing" the story, made the LGBTQ community invisible, creating a second tragedy.



That's one of the many reasons NLGJA needs to be in the room to make media better. We need to be the voice in that diversity meeting or in our newsrooms, reminding our allies how to get the LGBTQ story right. We need NLGJA's Rapid Response Task Force to explain to journalists why it's wrong to misgender a trans victim of crime. We need NLGJA's awards, expanded this year, to honor coverage that succeeds. We need NLGJA's New Ways workshops to help journalists tell stories about HIV that could save lives. We need the convention's networking and professional development to help us up our game. Our profession still needs NLGJA and — NLGJA still needs us.

Earlier this year, I read about one of our new NLGJA members, Mitchell McCoy, who will be featured on a writing panel this year. What he did should inspire everyone to be even more dedicated to NLGJA's mission. This spring, the Little Rock, Arkansas, reporter tweeted about an angry email he got from a viewer. A "fan" of his station, KARK, wrote that he couldn't "stand [McCoy's] gayness" adding, "Society is not ready for gay men reading the news." McCoy did not bow to this bully. With grace and courage, he tweeted, "I've dreamt of being a reporter since I was 9 and I won't stop on your behalf."

"No matter who you are or what you believe in - dream loudly and don't let anyone get in your way," McCoy continued. "The minute you stop is the minute you stop being you who are. It's not worth it. #DreamOn #StepUpStopBullying"

So please, as you enjoy the convention this week, "dream loudly." Make those new connections. Reach out to those who work in newsrooms without support. Support your colleagues who have come here to share their wisdom on panels and plenaries. And please, go back to your office and tell your managers and your colleagues that we need even more of you at the next convention or the next chapter event. We need to grow and strengthen these important bonds we form here so we can keep telling the important stories of our community — so that our members can be safe and successful and be who we are.



Expect the unexpected.

My life has been an amazing journey. Despite my somewhat controlling nature, I've found that being open to change has yielded the greatest rewards both personally and professionally. I never expected to become a physician. I never expected to work for a pharmaceutical company. I never expected to move to the U.S., let alone convince my partner Peter to move. And if you had told me 10 years ago that I would be CMO at Lilly, I never would have believed it...but here I am.

This is what makes life so interesting—keeping ourselves open to whatever opportunities come our way. If you look at the people at Lilly, we've all arrived here on very different paths. Here, diversity is not so much about skin color or religion or sexual orientation; it's really about the way you think. For me, being out is important because it allows me to completely focus on my work. No matter where we're going or where we've been, we each have the unique opportunity to share our perspectives to address a common goal. That's what ultimately helps patients. I'm proud to get the chance to impact so many lives.

Lilly.com





ADAM PAWLUS NLGJA Executive Director

On behalf of the staff of NLGJA: The Association of LGBTQ Journalists, I welcome you to Miami and The Ritz-Carlton South Beach.

With a presidential election and so many news stories about the LGBTQ community, it has been a particularly eventful year for the association and our members. Our strong network of reporters, photojournalists, editors, producers, columnists, bloggers, news managers, media executives, communications professionals, students, networking partners and organizational allies has allowed NLGJA to disseminate crucial information quickly to support fair and accurate coverage.

Our hardworking staff of four could not have accomplished these successes without the dedication, talents and the countless hours of our many volunteer leaders. I'd like to recognize the national officers and board of directors, chapter leaders and volunteers for their hard work throughout the year.

Additionally, I want to highlight the NLGJA Stylebook for LGBT Terminology committee and the NLGJA Rapid Response Task Force for their efforts this year providing news media with critical, up-to-date resources and guidance. Serving as the chairs of the committee and task force, Sarah Blazucki and Ken Miguel, respectively, lead a group of talented members in helping NLGJA stay ahead of the story time after time. This year, NLGJA, the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and the National LGBTQ Task Force have worked together to compile a stylebook on LGBTQ terminology in Spanish. We hope that this resource will be available before the end of this year.

The success of the 2016 convention is possible due to the tireless efforts of cochairs Jen Christensen and Ken Miguel. Their hard work for this year's convention began before we launched our 25th anniversary convention in San Francisco last September. With the support of the convention host committee, we are proud to present this fantastic convention.

After a few years serving as the chair of the LGBT Media Summit, Tracy Baim stepped down and Jason Parsley took the reins this year. We thank Tracy and Jason for their



insights, focus and dedication that made the summit relevant for all.

Please join me in expressing our deepest thanks to our sponsors, donors, exhibitors, advertisers and presenters. Their contributions have made it possible for this year's national convention and LGBT Media Summit to be top-quality, while still being affordable for our attendees. These contributions help strengthen, and make possible, NLGJA's work year-round.

NLGJA's success is also due to you, our dedicated members. By joining and renewing your membership, you ensure NLGJA's reach and impact.

This year, as part of a new initiative funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Partnering and Communicating Together to Act Against AIDS program, NLGJA has developed and presented journalism training and resources to enhance strategies and skills in covering HIV and AIDS. New Ways is a series of in-person - including here in Miami on Thursday - and web-based trainings, fellowships and specially designed online resources to improve access to information on HIV and AIDS. These resources are designed to equip journalists covering issues and trends related to HIV and AIDS in new ways while reiterating the time-tested basics of talking, testing and treatment. With the resources provided by NLGJA New Ways, journalists in turn can better serve their viewers, readers and listeners with important information.

For the rest of this week, I encourage you to take advantage of all that the convention has to offer. With almost 30 workshops to choose from, plenary sessions, networking events, the Career & Community Expo, Author's Café, receptions and many more things to do in Miami, it will be a busy but fantastic opportunity time to learn and reenergize.

Mark your calendars for the 2017 NLGJA convention, September 7-10, when we return to the Loews Hotel in Philadelphia.

Once again, welcome, and I look forward to meeting and visiting with as many of you as I can over the course of these days and to seeing you next year in Philadelphia.





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NLGJA NATIONAL CONVENTION & LGBT MEDIA SUMMIT

South Beach Miami

2016



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KEN MIGUEL NLGJA 2016 National Convention Co-Chair

WELCOME TO MIAMI! IBIENVENIDOS A MIAMI!

On behalf of NLGJA: The Association of LGBTQ Journalists, and as convention co-chair along with Jen Christensen, I would like to welcome to the largest gathering of LGBTQ journalists in the country. Planning for this year's annual NLGJA convention and LGBT Media Summit began before our last one even ended, and we are very excited about this year's programming, events, speakers and celebrations.

We looked for programming to help you polish your reporting skills, help you network and help lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people advance to positions at the top of their newsrooms. No matter where you are in your career, we have something for you.

No one could have guessed that we'd be meeting in Florida so soon after the horrific attack on our community in Orlando. We've brought together some amazing journalists who covered that horrific day. They'll talk about what it was like covering a story that hits so close to home.

In the midst of a historic presidential election, with Florida a key state, get the inside scoop from journalists who've been covering every twist and turn of the 2016 election.

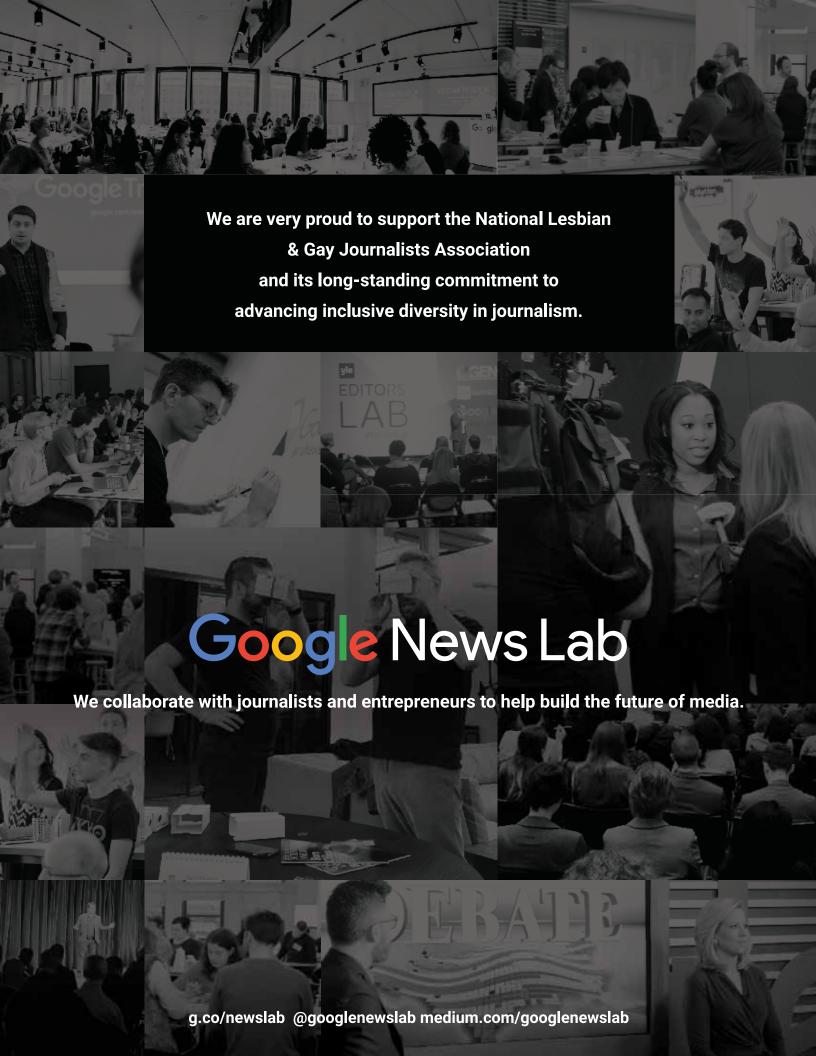
Violence against the transgender community continues to gain coverage, as states struggle with who can use a bathroom. Check out the discussion on the good, the bad and the ugly of trans media coverage and help us figure out how we can improve the coverage of this important and growing part of our community.

Not everything we will talk about is serious. Check out the panel "Why Celebs Still Need Us," where some of the best in the business will talk about what they love (and loathe) about covering celebrities.

NLGJA is always looking for ways we can incorporate new technology into our programming. Check out our session on all the ways your phone is now one of your best assets when covering a story. Get tips, tricks and ideas on how you can include video in your storytelling. And since the FAA recently granted news organizations broader permission to fly drones, find out what you need to know before you fly.

As you will see, we have an incredibly talented pool of speakers who will help you create your own award-winning work. For those of you considering getting out of the media, we even have people here to help you navigate life after journalism, too.

This year's conference is about you. Take the time to network with people at all stages of their careers. Every event has been carefully crafted to give you a best tools for the job, the biggest opportunity to network and the opportunity to celebrate our community. We'll be capping it all off with an '80s-themed celebration. So grab your best Miami Vice pastels, or get your Golden Girls' shoulder pads out as we "Thank you for being a friend."







JASON PARSLEY

NLGJA 2016 LGBT Media Summit Chair

Welcome to South Florida and NLGJA's 12th LGBT Media Summit.

When tragedy struck Orlando, many traditional media outlets turned to members of the LGBTQ media to help explain the magnitude of the impact the shooting had on the LGBTQ community to their audiences. In the second- and third-day stories that followed, we saw once again just how vital LGBTQ media is and the powerful voice it provides for the LGBTQ community.

As we come together on the magnificent South Beach, we're reminded that we gather to strengthen that collective voice by improving our skills and overcoming the challenges LGBTQ media outlets have faced in recent years.

As in past years, the LGBT Media Summit is filled with sessions addressing a broad range of topics designed to increase your knowledge and provide some inspiration to put lessons learned here into practice when you head home.

Though the LGBT Media Summit was originally conceived to be exclusively for members of the LGBT press, over the years it has become an integral part of our three-day NLGJA gathering. While panels like "Beyond HIV & AIDS: Reporting on LGBTQ Health" and "The LGBT Movement in Sports" are developed to provide journalists working in LGBTQ media ideas and inspiration for future coverage, they also offer journalists working in more traditional outlets a unique perspective on a unique topic.

In addition to the LGBT Media Summit sessions, we've also got NLGJA Boot Camps featuring experts from Investigative Reporters and Editors, Google and CBS News. And NLGJA continues its New Ways: Reporting on HIV and AIDS Today series with two very important topics: "Latinos at the Crux of the AIDS Epidemic" and the "Criminalization of HIV."

Truly, our opening day of the convention offers a little something for everyone.

Enjoy your time in South Beach and South Florida! Take some time to feel the sand beneath your toes, dangle your feet in the water by the pool and experience the best nightlife in the country!



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Washington Post



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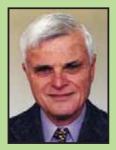
Fiona Dawson Transmilitary



Trey Graham Freelance



Susan Green Pretty Smart Women LLC



September 8-11

In Memoriam Leroy F. Aarons NLGJA Founder 1933-2004



April Hunt Emory University



Brett Larson Fox News Headlines 24/7



Robin Phillips Castelazo Content



Steve Rosen AB+C Creative Intelligence



Jeff Truesdell **PEOPLE** Magazine

NLGJA Chapters

Minnesota Arizona At-Large Missouri **Boston** New York Central Florida North California Chicago Philadelphia Georgia South Florida Los Angeles Washington, D.C.



STUDENT CHAPTERS

Arizona State University Columbia University City University of New York Indiana University Northwestern University University of Missouri University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill University of Oregon

Don't see a chapter in your area? It only takes one person to get started! Contact the national office today at (202) 588-9888 to see how you can get NLGJA going in your area!



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FOUNDATION

LIFETIME MEMBERS



Our Lifetime Membership program is designed to celebrate a dedication and commitment to fair and accurate coverage of LGBT issues by allowing NLGJA members to pledge their talents and support not just for today, but for a lifetime. For more information, stop by Convention Registration in Salon I during the convention or visit the Membership Section of NLGJA's website at nlgja.org.

Kenn Altine	Luis Cruz	Simon Hobbs	Jim Michalowski	Kim Severson
2002	2005	2015	2003	1996
Karen Bailis	Geoff Dankert	Mike Huckman	Ken Miguel	Chuck Small
1995	1996	1994	2003	1990
David Barre	Jason DeRose	April Hunt	Akilah Monifa	Samantha Snyder
1999	2001	1996	2000	2008
Gio Benitez	Scott Dill	Leonard P. laquinta	Daniel Morales	Curtis Sparrer
2016	1997	1996	2003	2012
Robert Bennett	Randy Dotinga	Kathleen Howley	Javier Morgado	David Steinberg
2013	2000	2003	2003	1998
Matthew Berger	Sharif J. Durhams	Derrick Jones	Thomas Musbach	Douglas Stewart
2002	2000	2013	1995	1995
Sarah Blazucki	Dawn Ennis	Wesley Juhl	Donald Parsons	Rick Stuckey
2007	2014	2013	1999	2005
Rod Blum	Chad Findlay	Jason Knight	Court Passant	Hassan Luis Sudler
2007	2005	2007	1996	2001
Sherry Boschert	Calvin Fleming	Eden Lane	Steven Petrow	Stacy Sullivan
1995	2007	2008	1994	1998
Ray Bradford	Alan Flippen	Don Lemon	Robin Phillips	Curtis Tate
2000	1996	2011	1999	2004
Gary Bramnick	Ina Fried	Sean Lewis	David Poller	Michael Tune
2004	2000	2008	1996	2009
David Brousseau	Steve Friess	Randy D. Lovely	Richard Quest	Kris Van Cleave
2001	1996	1999	2014	2015
Dave Brown	Mathew Friedman	Mykel MacCarthy	Rick Reichmuth	Meredith Vieira
2000	199 <mark>5</mark>	2000	2015	2015
William L. Canacci Jr.	Howard Goldberg	John Marble	Steve Rosen	Zach Wichter
1996	199 <mark>6</mark>	2007	1991	2010
Sam Champion	Trey Graham	Christopher Martin	Steve Rothaus	Robert V. Witeck
2015	1995	2000	1991	1995
Jen Christensen	LZ Granderson	lan McCann	Senta Scarborough	Judy Wolf
1996	2003	2001	2002	1996
Holly Crenshaw	Oriol Gutierrez	Margaret McElligott	Gregory Schmidt	Matt Wurster
1998	2002	2002	1997	1996
Tim Curran	Eric Hegedus	Marshall McPeek	Mark Segal	
1995	1994	1995	2004	

ESPN Proudly Supports NLGJA's Dedication to Promoting Diversity in Journalism





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The strength of an organization lies not in its size, but in the men and women who are its heart and soul. And when those people provide a spectrum of viewpoints, histories, cultures and perspectives, the foundation of that strength is even more solid. This is why MGM Resorts International is a proud leader in diversity. Because as an organization—and a people—we're at our most effective when we're at our most inclusive.

MGM Resorts International is proud to sponsor the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association.

Creating opportunities for all. Now that's inspiring.















INA FRIED

Ina Fried is one of the nation's top tech journalists, currently writing for Recode, while frequently covering and commenting on technology news on CNBC, National Public Radio and a host of other broadcast, online and print media. Her current beat focuses on, as she puts it, "wireless issues and devices, including tablets, smartphones and even some phones of average intelligence." Before her current role, she spent a decade at CNET. Her reporting has spanned several continents, two genders and covering some of the top stories in her field, including the Hewlett-Packard-Compaq merger, Bill Gates' transition from software pioneer to philanthropist and interviewing Steve Jobs while covering the iPhone location tracking controversy. She has served on the NLGJA board of directors, including her leadership role as vice president of print. As a recipient of numerous journalism awards, in 2014 Fried also was named to the Advocate's list of the nation's top 50 Most Influential LGBT People in Media.



LZ GRANDERSON

LZ Granderson today is considered the nation's most visible openly gay sports journalist and has been out his entire professional career while working exclusively within mainstream media. He is currently an ESPN senior writer for The Undefeated and regular contributor to "SportsNation," "Around the Horn" and "Outside the Lines," while also a tennis analyst and reporter at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open. He is a regular ABC News contributor to "Good Morning America," "This Week" and "Nightline," in addition to co-hosting ABC News' first digital show "Strait Talk" and this year co-anchored ABC News digital coverage of the Republican National Convention and the Democratic National Convention. Prior to joining ABC, his unique observations on the intersections of athletics, race, identity, culture, LGBT issues and politics made him a popular CNN columnist and contributor to "Erin Burnett OutFront," "Newsroom with Don Lemon" and "Anderson Cooper 360." Prior to ESPN, Granderson was a reporter for such publications as The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, The South Bend Tribune and The Grand Rapids Press. Outside of newsrooms, he has previously served as an adjunct professor at Northwestern University and a Resident Fellow at the University of Chicago's Institute of Politics. Granderson was honored by GLAAD and NLGJA for his outstanding journalism in years past; in 2012, Granderson was named NLGJA's Journalist of the Year.

Established in 2005, NLGJA's LGBT Journalists Hall of Fame honors individuals who have made exemplary contributions through their careers to NLGJA's mission of promoting fair and accurate coverage of issues affecting the LGBT community. The journalists honored here are true heroes. All of us hope that their stories will inspire you as they have inspired us.

(FOUNDING CLASS) Leroy F. Aarons Phyllis Lyon & Del Martin Thomas Morgan III Sarah Pettit Randy Shilts Don Slater

Marlon Riggs

Jim Kepner Jack Nichols Barbara Gittings & Kay Tobin Lahusen

Richard Goldstein Gail Shister

Garrett Glaser Ronald Gold Deb Price

"Lisa Ben" Hank Plante Richard Rouilard

2011 Dorr Legg Don Michaels Michelangelo Signorile

> Jill Johnston Randolfe Hayden Wicker

2013 **Bob Ross**

Mark Segal 2014

Tracy Baim Donna Cartwright Lisa Keen

Randy Alfred Alison Bechdel

Alan Bell Lou Chibbaro Jr. Charles Kaiser **Armistead Maupin**

Ina Fried LZ Granderson





Journalist of the Year Dominic Holden, BuzzFeed News

Second Place: Tim Teeman The Daily Beast

Excellence in News Writing

Andy Birkey for "Dozens of Christian Schools Win Title IX Waivers to Ban LGBT Students." The Column

Second Place:

Daniel Burke for "Exclusive Pope Held Private Meeting With Same-Sex Couple in U.S.," CNN

Excellence in News Writing—Non-Daily

Gretchen Rachel Hammond for "LGBT Immigrants Still Face Hurdles," Windy City Times

Second Place:

Dominic Holden for "Why Are Black Transgender Women Getting Killed in Detroit?," BuzzFeed News

Excellence in Feature Writing

Berlin Sylvestre for "Damascus to Denver: Exodus From Syria," OUT **FRONT Magazine**

Excellence in Feature Writing—Non-Daily

Michael Lindenberger for "The Vanishing Terrain of Gay America," The New Republic

Second Place:

Tre'vell Anderson for "Jewel's Catch: One Disco's Demise Marks Era's End for L.A.'s Gay Blacks," Los Angeles Times

Excellence in Column Writing

Miz Cracker for Columns of Miz Cracker. Slate Second Place:

Heidi Stevens for "Balancing Act with Heidi Stevens," Chicago Tribune

Excellence in Opinion/Editorial Writing

Neal Broverman for "I Met My Best Friend on Grindr," The Advocate Second Place:

Mark S. King for "Surviving Life Itself," POZ Magazine

Excellence in Sports Writing

Erik Hall for "Uncle's Death Motivates Gay College Athlete to Create Change," OutSports.com

Excellence in Travel Writing

Manny Velasquez-Paredes for "The Great Family Escape: The Lake George Adventure," Connextions Magazine Special Parent-HOOD issue

Excellence in Book Writing

Mark Segal for "And Then I Danced: Traveling the Road to LGBT Eqaulity," Open Lens, an imprint of Akashic Books

Excellence in Bisexual Coverage

Colin Murphy for "Vincent Price's Daughter Confirms Father's Bisexuality," #Boom Magazine

Excellence in Health or Fitness Coverage

Mary Emily O'Hara for "The Transgender Healthcare Revolution Is Here With Two New Startups," The Daily Dot

Second Place:

Benjamin Ryan for "When Can We Expect PrEP 2.0?," POZ

Excellence in HIV/AIDS Coverage

Heather Boerner for ongoing HIV prevention/treatment coverage, The Daily Beast/TheBody.com

Second Place:

Daniel Villarreal and Topher Williams for "Trust Him?: Why Are the Images Debating PrEP Use so Consistently Shitty?," UnicornBooty.

Excellence in Transgender Coverage

Dylan Edwards for "Voices: How I Told My Grandma I'm Transgender," Fusion

Second Place:

Sunnivie Brydum and Mitch Kellaway for "This Black Trans Man Is in Prison for Killing His Rapist," The Advocate

Excellence in Blogging

Mark S. King for My Fabulous Disease, www.myfabulousdisease.com Second Place:

Pamela Valentine for "Affirmed Mom of a Transgender Child," chicagonow.com

NLGJA has recognized the work of hundreds of journalists. You can be one of those journalists. Applications open January 2017.

Do you want to be a part of the process? Become a judge. Help us select the future Excellence in Journalism Award Winners. For more information regarding Excellence in Journalism, please visit www.nlgja.org/awards



Sarah Pettit Memorial Award for the LGBT Journalist of Year

Lucas Grindley, The Advocate

Second Place: Erik Hall OutSports.com

Excellence in Online Journalism

Shannon Keating, Lauren Morrell Tabak, Marcie Bianco, Sarah Fonseca and Lisa C. More for BuzzFeed: Lesbian History Week, BuzzFeed News Second Place:

Eric Walter for "Speak Easy Forums: LGBT Priorities Beyond Marriage," Newsworks.org

Excellence in a Digital Edition

Mark Calvey, Krystal Peak, Jim Gardner, Chris Rauber and Ron Leuty for Business of Pride Special Edition. San Francisco Business Times

Excellence in Photoiournalism

Preston Gannaway for Economic Hardship Reporting Project for Soccer on the Streets, ESPN

Second Place:

Bradley Secker for "A Gay Refugee Sold His Kidney to Escape Iran," **BuzzFeed News**

Excellence in Multimedia Journalism

German Lopez and Joe Posner for Trans Lives, Vox.com

Excellence in Network Television

Dax Tejera, Eric Herbst, Lindsay Garfield, Alcione Gonzalez and Douglas Forte for "Americans with Jorge Ramos: 101 Gay Weddings," Fusion Second Place:

Jay Kernis for "Sunday Morning: In His Name," CBS News

Excellence in Local Television

Darren Perron for "Powerful Transformation," WCAX-TV

Excellence in Documentary

Simon Kilmurry, Chris Hastings, Carmen L. Vicencio and PJ Raval for

"America Reframed: Before You Know It," WORLD Channel

Excellence in Digital Video

Samantha Stark for "How a Love Story Triumphed," nytimes.com

Excellence in Radio

David Weinberg for Grace of the Sea, KCRW 89.9 FM Second Place:

Jim Burress for "Fulton County Doesn't Spend, Loses HIV Prevention Money," WABE-FM and WABE.org

Excellence in Podcasts

Ken Schneck for "This Show Is So Gay," this show is sogay.com

Excellence in Student Journalism

Nicole Wiesenthal for collection, South Florida Gay News Second Place:

Earl Jordan Lalata for "The Right to Privacy," XPress Magazine

Excellence in Social Media

The Advocate Staff for "Day in LGBT America," The Advocate

The Al Neuharth Award for Innovation in **Investigative Journalism**

Jim Burress for "Fulton County Doesn't Spend, Loses HIV Prevention Money," WABE-FM and WABE.org

The Al Neuharth Award is presented through the generosity of



NLGJA's Excellence in Journalism Awards were established in 1993 to foster, recognize and reward excellence in journalism on issues related to the LGBTQ community. In addition to Journalist of the Year and the Sarah Pettit Memorial Award for the LGBT Journalist of the Year (named for the late Newsweek journalist and founding editor of Out magazine), awards are presented for excellence in wide variety of disciplines spanning traditional and digital outlets, radio, television, publishing, film and social media. The awards are presented throughout the convention.

AS IF YOU NEED ANOTHER EXCUSE TO VISIT PHILADELPHIA.

NLGJA 2017 National Convention & LGBT Media Summit September 7-10, 2017

Creating Change Conference January 18-22, 2017

Out & Equal Workplace Summit October 10-13, 2017

— visitphilly.com/gay —







www.nlgja.org/2017

KNIGHT FOUNDATION WELCOMES NLGJA TO MIAMI BEACH.

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE.



NLGJA 2016 CONVENTION TEAM

Adam K. Pawlus Executive Director

Maya Blackmun Development & Project Director

Sachelle Brooks Administrative Assistant

Derrick Jones
Convention Coordinator

Dillon Lewis
Communications & Marketing Coordinator

Jen Christensen & Ken Miguel National Convention Co-Chairs

Jason Parsley LGBT Media Summit Chair

April Hunt Awards Committee Chair

David Steinberg
Elections Committee Chair

Bob Witeck Hall of Fame Committee Chair

FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

Convention Hotel

Ritz-Carlton South Beach 1 Lincoln Road Miami Beach, Florida 33139 (786) 276-4000

WiFi Access

WiFi access is available throughout the convention floor. Select RitzCarlton_CONFERENCE. Use the code **nlgja2016**. Please note that connections will be reset nightly.

Convention Information Office

The NLGJA 2016 Convention Information Office is located in the **South Pointe Room.** Please stop by if you have any questions or concerns.

Hours

 Wednesday
 8:00am - 9:00pm

 Thursday
 8:00am - 7:00pm

 Friday
 8:00am - 7:00pm

 Saturday
 8:00am - 10:00pm

Convention Registration

NLGJA 2016 Convention Registration is in Convention Town Square located in the **Ritz-Carlton Ballroom Salons I/II.**

Hours

 Wednesday
 2:00pm - 6:00pm

 Thursday
 8:00am - 5:30pm

 Friday
 8:00am - 6:00pm

 Saturday
 9:00am - 3:00pm

NLGJA 2016 Town Square

The **Ritz-Carlton Ballroom Salons I/II** will be the home of NLGJA 2016's Town Square, which boasts room for registration, the Refresh & Recharge Station sponsored by The Coca-Cola Company, the Career & Community Expo, the NLGJA LGBT Journalists Hall of Fame and the Author's Café. The complimentary Coffee Breaks, sponsored by Toyota, will be located directly outside in the **Ballroom Gallery.**

Refresh & Recharge Station

Need to quench your thirst? Need to charge your phone, laptop or tablet? We've got you covered with the Refresh & Recharge Station sponsored by The Coca-Cola Company. The Refresh & Recharge Station is located in the NLGJA 2016 Town Square in **Ritz-Carlton Ballroom Salons I/II.**

Join the Conversation

Posting to social media from the convention? Be sure to use the official convention hashtag, **#nlgja2016** Want to see who else is here? Follow our convention attendee list on Twitter: **twitter.com/nlgja/convention.**

Refresh & Recharge Station sponsored by





WE ARE WITH YOU IN EVERY WALK OF LIFE.

Nissan is proud to sponsor the NLGJA 2016 National Convention & 12th Annual LGBTQ Media Summit.



The Association of LGBTQ Journalists



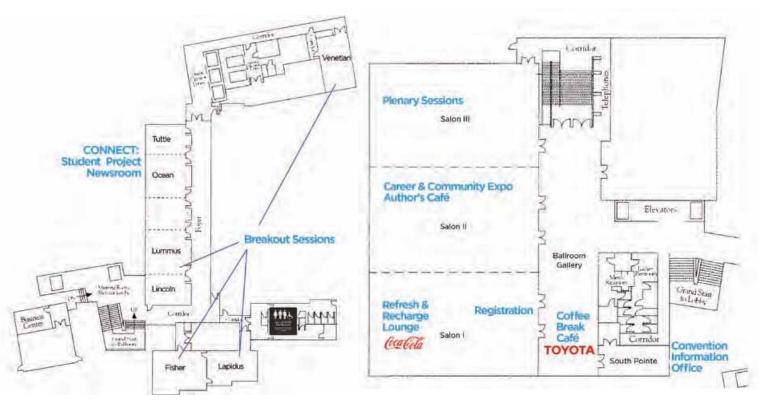






THIRD FLOOR

MEZZANINE LEVEL



Please consult the convention program for specific event and receptionlocations.

The restrooms adjacent to Collins/Fisher/ Lapidus have been designated All-Gender Restrooms for the duration of the convention.

The CONNECT Student Project Newsroom is located in the Ocean/Tuttle rooms on the Third Floor.

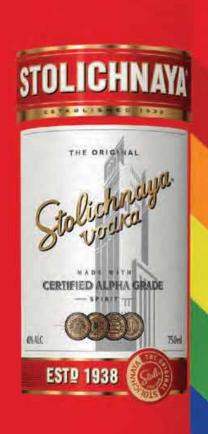
The Diversity Reception will be held at The Starr Bar at the far end of the Ritz-Carlton pool overlooking the beach. (In the event of inclement weather, the Diversity Reception will be held in Salon III.)



THE VODKA ALWAYS SERVED WITH PRIDE.

AND THE NLGJA.

Stoli
THE
VODKA





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Free training sesions Fellowships to report on HIV & AIDS ...and more

As part of an initiative funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Partnering and Communicating Together to Act Against AIDS program, NLGJA: the Association of LGBTQ Journalists is presenting journalism training and offering resources to enhance strategies and skills to cover HIV & AIDS.

NLJGA has provided a series of in-person training sessions in Atlanta, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C. and at this convention in Miami. If you couldn't make it to the trainings, you can still learn from them by watching online at www.nlgia.org/newways. Be sure to join us next year with more trainings being planned for workshops across the country.

We also are offering fellowships for journalists to get a stipend to produce news stories on HIV & AIDS. Learn more at www.nlgja.org/blog/2016/06/new-ways-fellowship-application.

These resources are designed to equip journalists to cover issues and trends related to HIV & AIDS in new ways while reiterating the time-tested basics of talking, testing and treatment. Journalists can better serve their viewers, readers and listeners with important information, especially those in communities and geographic areas most impacted by HIV & AIDS.

Want to be alerted about upcoming New Ways trainings? Have a suggestion on a New Ways training topic?

Email us at NewWays@nlgja.org.



EXPO & AUTHOR'S CAFÉ



CAREER & COMMUNITY EXPO

Friday, September 9 | 9:00am - 4:30pm Ritz-Carlton Ballroom Salon II

NLGJA's Career & Community Expo is a prominent feature of the national convention experience. Connect with professionals and leaders from a wide representation of broadcast, print, online, new media and independent communication outlets, along with companies and organizations committed to fair and accurate coverage of the LGBTQ community. For those seeking to hire, the expo is a prime opportunity to interview top-notch candidates for media, communications or public relations positions; for those looking for a new job, the expo is the best place to get your résumé in front of the right people. For everyone, theexpo is a great way to learn about educational opportunities and story ideas from NLGJA's partners.

Join us at 9 a.m. for coffee and pastries at the Expo Hall.

Don't forget our Critique Stations throughout the day for you to get help with your résumé, reel and social media profile. Our critics will help you put your best foot forward. Sign up for remaining time sots at registration.

Confirmed Exhibitors (as of August 18)

Associated Press IGLTA

CBS News The McClatchy Company Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Prudential Financial

CUNY Graduate School of Journalism Tegna

Thomson Reuters Cox Media Group

Eli Lilly and Company Tourism Toronto

USC Annenberg School of Journalism

The Florida Keys & Key West Visit Philadelphia



Fox News Channel

AUTHOR'S CAFÉ

Saturday, September 10

Ritz-Carlton Ballroom Salon II

The Author's Café is back. Come hear from LGBTQ authors as they share their latest and greatest, get a chance to purchase your favorite(s) and stay for the book signing.

The Author's Café will be presented in two sessions: 11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. and 2:45 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. A book signing will be held from 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

A complete list of participating authors will be posted at registration.



NLGJA STUDENT PROJECT





The NLGJA Student Journalism Project connects tomorrow's journalists and communication professionals with the training needed to ensure fair and accurate coverage of the LGBTQ community.

Welcome to CONNECT: the 19th NLGJA Student Journalism Project!

We are in the middle of rapid changes in our industry. The word "reinvention" is heard early and often. To that end, NLGJA will continue to emphasize its mission: to foster fair and accurate coverage of LGBTQ issues. There are 11 students this year. Over the course of the convention week, they will get a taste of what working in a converged media newsroom is really about. Under a team of mentors –a selected team of journalists from across media — each student will write, edit and produce stories in all distribution platforms: print, TV, video, radio, online and social networking. Students will live blog and live tweet from selected sessions at the conference.

2016 CONNECT PARTICIPANTS



Lead
Project Manager
Caroline Que
The New York Times

CONNECT Mentors

Faith Cheltenham, President BiNet USA, Columnist, South Florida Gay News

Frances Fernandes, Senior Writer, University of California, Riverside

David McAlpine, Producer, Channel 6 Action News, Philadelphia

Megan Rossman, Director of Video, Teach For America

CONNECT Student Participants

Princess-India Alexander, Northwestern University

Daniele de Groot, Boston College

Louis Finley, Temple University

Senait Gebregiorgis, University of Illinois

Charlie Kadado, Wayne State University

Kent McDonald, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Joon Park, Boston College

Nick Seymour, University of Georgia

Siali Siaosi, University of Central Oklahoma

Jesse Sparks, Northwestern University

Cai Thomas, Boston College

Follow CONNECT throughout the convention!

www.nlgjaCONNECT.org | @nlgjaCONNECT | twitter.com/nlgja/CONNECT

THANK YOU TO CONNECT 2016 SPONSORS!

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SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

1:00pm - 6:30pm

NLGJA Board of Directors Meeting

2:00pm - 6:00pm Convention Registration



Thursday, September 8, 2016

8:00am - 5:30pm 9:30am - 10:30am

10:00am - 12:00pm

10:45am - 12:00pm

Convention Registration

LGBT Media Summit Morning Coffee Klatch

Chapter Leadership Meeting

Breakout Sessions

- LGBTQ Sex Workers in the News: Facts & Fairness, Not Sensationalism
- Trans Representation in Media: Past to Present
- Homophobia: A Caribbean Crisis

12:15pm - 1:30pm 1:45pm - 3:00pm **Lunch Plenary** — The Michael Triplett Series: Religious Liberty

Breakout Sessions

- The LGBT Movement in Sports: Challenging the Hetronormativity Climate
- Beyond HIV and AIDS: Reporting on LGBTQ Health

New Ways Miami sponsored by Act Against AIDS

• Reporting on HIV & AIDS Today: Latinos at the Crux of the Epidemic

NLGJA Boot Camp sponsored by Google News Lab

Freedom of Information: Getting What You Need to Tell the Stories that Matter

Coffee Break sponsored by Toyota

2:45pm - 3:30pm

3:15pm - 4:30pm

Breakout Sessions

Your Guide to LGBTQ Press Trips

New Ways Miami sponsored by Act Against AIDS

Reporting on HIV & AIDS Today: HIV Criminalization and the Epidemic

NLGJA Boot Camp sponsored by Google News Lab

 Making the Most of Google Tools: Use Them to the Fullest for Reporting & Storytelling

NLGJA Boot Camp sponsored by CBS News

Personal Finance for Journalists

NLGJA 2016 Opening Reception sponsored by The Florida Keys & Key West Travel Writers Caucus Reception sponsored by IGLTA & Tourism Toronto Lifetime Member Reception (by invitation only) sponsored by Nissan

3:30pm - 5:00pm

6:30pm - 8:30pm

8:30pm - 10:30pm

9:00pm - 11:00pm

Friday, September 9, 2016

8:00am - 6:00pm

9:00am - 4:30pm 9:00am - 10:00am

10:00am - 4:00pm

9:30am - 10:45am

11:00am - 12:15pm

Convention Registration

Career & Community Expo

Expo Kickoff & Café

Résumé, Social Media and Reel Critique Sessions

Plenary — Putting the 'Move' in Movement: a.k.a. Life After Marriage

Breakout Sessions

- The A.M. Newsers Survival Guide.
- Writing for the Ear Instead of the Eye
- Being a Better Manager

12:15pm - 1:15pm 1:15pm - 2:30pm Lunch on your own

Plenary — The 2016 Elections On the Air: Unlike Any Other

32 | NLGJA: The Association of LGBTQ Journalists 2016 Convention & LGBT Media Summit



Friday, September 9, 2016 continued

2:45pm - 4:00pm	Breakout Sessions
	Editors Make Everything Better
	 Coming a Long Way, With a Long Road Ahead: LGBT Money Worries sponsored
	by Prudential Financial
	Now Trending 2016
	When Sports Becomes News
3:45pm - 4:30pm	Coffee Break sponsored by Toyota
4:30pm - 5:45pm	Breakout Sessions
	 Producers & Reporters: What We Can Learn from Each Other
	Growing Your Video Audience: Developing a Video Strategy for Your Newsroom
	Show Me the Money: How to Get the Best Out of Money Stories on Any Beat
6:00pm - 7:30pm	NLGJA 2016 Diversity Reception sponsored by Prudential Financial
7:30pm - 10:00pm	Women's Networking Dinner (pre-registration required) sponsored by Greater Miam
	Convention & Visitors Bureau
9:30pm - Late	Night Out: South Beach sponsored by Stoli

Saturday, September 10, 2016

9:00am - 3:00pm	Convention Registration				
10:00am - 11:15am	Plenary — Tragedy in Orlando: Making Sense of the Senseless				
11:30am - 12:45pm					
•	Yes You Can: The Savvy Journo's Guide to Successful Freelancing				
	The Entrepreneur in You: Is It Time to Develop New Skills for Success?				
	Better Branding and You				
1:00pm - 2:30pm	Lunch Plenary — Why Celebs Still Need Us				
2:45pm - 4:00pm	Breakout Sessions				
	 Next Don't Get Fired: Finding the Right PR Job sponsored by MGM Resorts 				
	International				
	Writers: How to Be Your Own Best Editor				
	 Innovations in Growing Audiences for Today's Social Media & What's Next 				
3:45pm - 4:30pm	Coffee Break sponsored by Toyota				
4:30pm - 5:45pm	Breakout Sessions				
	When Weather Becomes News				
	 Ask the Recruiters & Career Specialists sponsored by SAG-AFTRA 				
	 The Writing's On the Wall: How Transgender Issues Go Beyond the Bathroom 				
	Door				
	These Are the Drones You're Looking For: Newsgathering Drones				
7:00pm - 11:00pm	The Closing Night Reception: The Golden '80s: Where the Golden Girls Meet				
-	Miami Vice sponsored by Visit Philadelphia				

Sunday, September 11, 2016

9:30am - 10:30am | NLGJA Board of Directors Meeting

THURSDAY

September 8, 2016



9:30am - 10:30am

LBGT Media Summit Coffee Klatch

Salon III

Welcome to Miami. Welcome to South Beach. Whether you're starting the day with the theme from "Miami Vice" or (more likely) "The Golden Girls" in your head, come down and join us for a morning coffee. We'll have a little something to wake you up and get your day started right. No cheesecake, but we'll have breakfast pastries.

NLGJA Chapter Leadership Meeting

10:00am - 12:00pm Lapidus



10:45am - 12:00pm

LGBTQ Sex Workers in the News: Facts & Fairness, Not Sensationalism

Venetian

Moderator: Mary Emily O'Hara Panelists: Jorge Amaro, Arianna Lint, Michael Luongo

In 2015, the media — and the nation — scrambled to absorb the information that Rentboy.com had been subject to a massive federal raid. For the first time in years, male sex workers were in the news, speaking about their livelihoods and demanding their rights. Many readers learned, for the first time, that sex workers are also frequently part of the LGBTQ community. This presented journalists with a new challenge in terms of sensitive coverage — especially as sex work grows into a common beat at many outlets. How do we report on sex workers not as a titillating and remote news item, but as members of our own LGBTQ community?

Trans Representation in Media: Past to Present

Lummus/Lincoln

Moderator: Jason Parsley

This session will explore the role of the media in the post-World War II emergence of transgender identity, looking at examples such as Christine Jorgensen, Sylvia Rivera, Brandon Teena and others. It will also explore the history and dynamics between the Lesbian/Gay and Transgender movements and the role of marketing and political factors in media representations.

Homophobia: A Caribbean Crisis

Fisher

Moderator: Claudette de la Haye Panelists: Dr. Neil Lowe, Jaevion Nelson, Maurice Tomlinson LGBT advocates in Caribbean communities face adversity from inertias such as clergy, government and homophobic society at large. But, by educating American LGBTQ media about non-confrontational solutions, meaningful conversations can take root within Caribbean communities to reduce demonization of the LGBTQ community and engage government agencies to lead toward a more cooperative and cohesive society.



12:15pm - 1:30pm

The Michael Triplett Series: Religious Liberty

Grand Ballroom

(Lunch is provided for registered attendees)

To what extent should religious liberty be used as a justification for denying employment, housing or services to LGBTQ people? A number of states are debating and passing so-called "religious liberty" bills. This legislation, proponents say, is designed to protect people from having to engage in actions that go against their religious beliefs, such as baking a cake for a same-sex wedding or renting an apartment to a same-sex couple. Some of these bills are also regulating which restrooms transgender people may use. Critics of these laws say they dramatically change the long-standing notions of religious freedom and free exercise in the public space, granting a right to discriminate rather than protecting an individual's right to exercise their religion in the private sphere.

Panelists: Jason DeRose, the Rev. Juan del Hierro, Dr. Jay Michaelson, Ross Murray, Steve Rothaus





1:45pm - 3:00pm

The LGBT Movement in Sports: Challenging the

Lummus/Lincoln

Heteronormativity Climate

Moderator: Ivan Cano Panelist: Kim Stone

The role of the LGBT Qsports movement promotes equality through visibility, and provides a platform for the convergance of activism in human rights, sports and culture LGBTQ athletes play a dual role of athlete and activist. The panel will explore the increasing role of LGBTQ sporting bodie to advance equality, as well as the role of these LGBT athlete/activists, and their experiences, challenges and successes in their sports careers.

Beyond HIV & AIDS: Reporting on LGBTQ Health

Lapidus

Moderator: Andrew Seaman

Panelists: Robert Boo, Alvin Tran, Dr. Sheryl Zayas

Sometimes it can be difficult to look beyond the HIV/AIDS epidemic when reporting on LGBTQ health, but there are many other stories to tackle. From cancers to mental health issues, the LGBTQ community has numerous health concerns that need to be explored. This session will help attendees find the stories and people behind those issues.

Coffee Break

Sponsored by: TOYOTA

2:45pm - 3:30pm **Ballroom Gallery**

Take a break and grab some coffee to keep you energized for the rest of the day!



3:15pm - 4:30pm

Your Guide to LGBTQ Press Trips

Lapidus

Moderator: Ed Salvato

Panelists: Billy Kolber, Jeff Guaracino

At their best, press trips align the interests of travel promoters, travel journalists and travelers. The best press trips follow the simple guideline of being tailored to their audience. But in practice, creating press trips that do this isn't simple particularly for an LGBT audience, which isn't nearly as homogenous as our umbrella acronym would imply.

NEW WAYS: MIAMI

1:45pm - 4:30pm

Reporting on HIV & AIDS Today: Latinos at the Crux of the Epidemic

1:45pm - 3:00pm

Moderator: Diane Anderson-Minshall Panelists: Christopher Bates, Stephen Fallon,

Venetian

Trang Nguyen Wisard

Miami-Dade County leads the country in new HIV infections, and Broward County, Florida, is second. Combined, the two counties are home to almost 45,000 residents living with HIV, thousands of them Latino. Expert local panelists will shed light on the epidemic in these areas, what's working and what's clearly not, and where the media still isn't getting the story

Reporting on HIV & AIDS Today: HIV Criminalization and the Epidemic 3:15pm - 4:30pm

Venetian

Moderator: Diane Anderson-Minshall

Panelists: Jacob Anderson-Minshall,

Tami Haught, Kamaria Laffrey

From crime reporting to life sentences, people with HIV are often unfairly penalized for being positive. These HIV criminal statues were set up at the height of the epidemic in the 1980's. Now some of the same politicians who created the laws are trying to overturn, or at leastmodernize these statutes. Here's why they are, and what we — especially trans women, people of color, and gay and bi men stand to lose if that doesn't happen.

> New Ways Miami is sponsored by:



THURSDAY

September 8, 2016

NLGJA BOOT CAMPS

Freedom of Information: Getting What You Need to Tell the Stories That Matter

Panelist: Carol Marbin Miller

Journalists enter the profession with a variety of motivations, but an essential duty is to provide necessary and truthful information. Sometimes, that information is hard to come by. When government agencies and elected officials close the door in your face, the best tool in your toolbox is the public records law. Regardless of your beat or platform, every journalist can benefit from this interactive session. Learn how to submit basic and more complex public records requests, how to push reluctant gatekeepers into complying with state and federal law, how to recognize reasonable and unreasonable fees, how to detect bologna when your requests are denied and when to seek the help of a lawyer.

1:45pm - 3:00pm Fisher

Sponsored by:

Google News Lab

Making the Most of Google Tools: Use Them to the Fullest for Reporting and Storytelling

Panelist: Sandra Gonzalez

There's so much more to Google than its search and map functions. Learn how to make the most of those, but also other Google tools that help journalists create and distribute news content. This session will cover a range of Google tools. Learn more about Google's Public Data, Google Trends, Image Search and more. Learn how to incorporate what Google has to offer — including YouTube — with what you do every day, as well as possibilities for breaking news and special projects. Learn how to keep tabs on your competition and how to stay ahead. Learn some new skills, find more information and broaden how you deliver news in print, on air and online.

3:15pm - 4:30pm Fisher

Sponsored by:



Personal Finance for Journalists

Panelist: Jill Schlesinger

Join Jill Schlesinger, a Certified Financial Planner and CBS News business analyst, and learn financial strategies geared directly to journalists. She will help you prepare financially to navigate a changing media landscape and will review everything from retirement planning to education funding to debt management. She will also tackle hard-to-discuss topics like estate planning, life insurance and how to manage the emotions behind investing.

3:30pm - 5:00pm Lummus/Lincoln

Sponsored by:



6:30pm - 8:30pm

NLGJA 2016 Opening Reception

NPR's Neda Ulaby will talk with two of the top entertainment editors in the businesss, Jess Cagle, editor in chief of People Magazine and the editorial director of Time Inc. Celebrity, Style, and Entertainment Group, and Henry Goldblatt, editor in chief of Entertainment Weekly. All three are making their NLGJA debut in a session that is sure to be memorable. Hors d'ouerves & hosted bar available.

Sponsored by: Florida Keys



Neda Ulaby



Jess Cagle



Henry Goldblatt

Salon III

Your NLGJA 2016 Hosts:



Geoff Dankert



Lindsay

Lifetime Members Reception

Sponsored by: NISSAN

9:00pm - 11:00pm

by invitation only

Our Lifetime Membership program celebrates a dedication and commitment to fair and accurate coverage of LGBTQ issues by NLGJA members who have devoted their talents and support not just for today, but for a lifetime. For more information, stop by the Registration Office at the convention or visit the Membership Section of NLGJA's website at nlgja.org. Become a Lifetime Member today and join us at the invitation-only Lifetime Members Reception on Thursday night.



8:30pm - 10:30pm

Travel Writers Caucus Reception

The convention's worst-kept secret is back! It's time to roll out the red carpet and party in style, but you don't need to be a glamorous travel writer to attend this party...as always, everyone is welcome!

The Starr Barr @ Ritz-Carlton South Beach

Sponsored by:







FRIDAY

September 9, 2016

9:00am - 4:30pm

Career & Community Expo

Salon II

Stop by and visit our exhibitors. Make sure to bring your résumé because your next job may be waiting. Join us this year:

9:00am - 10:00am: Expo Kickoff & Café Start the morning with a cup of coffee and visit the exhibitors early! 10:00am - 4:00pm: Résumé, Reel & Social Media Profile Critique Stations You'll get instant feedback from professionals in the field to help you put your best foot forward.

9:30am - 10:45am

Putting the 'Move' in the Movement: a.k.a. Life After Marriage

The LGBTQ movement has seen more change and progress -cultural, political and otherwise -in the past decade than most ever imagined would be possible. But in the "post-marriage equality" era and in the aftermath of the Orlando mass shooting, how do we prioritize the larger issues. Social media democratized our ability to reach the broader public. A resurgence of Queer Nation and Act Up style action has returned. Gun control became a "new" focus for the community. Do our internal debates help or hurt us? How should the media cover those issues as we try and move What can we do to stop the rising number of attacks on people who are transgender? How do we address the slowdown in funding for LGBTQ work ok when donors -and some activists-think we are "done" now that we have marriage equality? Join a diverse panel of journalists, experts and activists for a lively, engaged discussion of what may be the largest challenge we face in this next phase of our movement.



Khafre Abif, Dominic Holden, Jason Lindsay, Arianna Lint, **Nadine Smith**











Moderator

11:00am - 12:15pm

Moderator: Troy Diggs

The A.M. Newsers Survival Guide

Panelists: Dr. Marisa Azaret, David McAlpine,

Ryan Phillips, Eric Yutzy

Like it or not, most every journalist will have to work at least one overnight shift or super-early or super-late shift in their career—maybe for a few weeks or months, maybe for a lifetime. This session will help you maintain your sanity. We'll talk about what to do with the physical and mental challenges, the inherent lack of sleep, the impact this has on your social life and talk about how to make sure your work is noticed when none of the managers are around.

Writing for the Ear Instead of the Eye

Panelists: Jim Burress, Brett Larson, Mitchell McCoy, Mo Rocca

Endless sentences and newspaper-ese won't cut it if you've got to write a TV, digital video or radio script. With so many journalists and PR people being asked to write for all platforms, you need to know what works (and what doesn't) when you write for the ear instead of the eye. This workshop's great if you are a novice or even if you are the top writer in your broadcast shop.

Being a Better Manager

Panelists: Chad Matthews, Catherine McKenzie, Janet Paskin, Jeremy Settle

Change is the new normal in newsrooms. If you are a new manager or one with more practice, this workshop will get you focused on how to bring out the best in your people or get the best out of the projects you manage, even when chaos reigns supreme. We'll talk about budgets, morale, motivation, managing up, conflict, moving up and much more.

Lummus/Lincoln

Fisher

Venetian



Lunch on Your Own

12:15pm - 1:15pm

1:15pm - 2:30pm

The 2016 Flections On the Air: **Unlike Any Other**

This presidential election is unlike any other. We've been denied credentials, shoved, called names, and blamed for everything from being dishonest to making something out of nothing. There's always been an adversarial role between the press and politicians, but this time it feels different. What's the right role for a journalist or commentator these days? Have we gone too far or have we not done enough? And what more can we do to help the American public better understand what's really going on with our election?

Panelists:

Will Alford, James Blue III, Sally Kohn, Jimmy Williams







Salon III

Moderator

2:45pm - 4:00pm

Lummus/Lincoln

Editors Make Everything Better

Panelists: Jason DeRose, Michelle Garcia, Bryan Lowder, Catherine Stifter

Many writers have had at least one awful experience with an editor whom they believe wrecked their perfect story. Every editor can list the common mistakes made time and again by novice and seasoned writers. Editing can be a pain. But it doesn't have to be that way. It can make your work much, much better.

Coming a Long Way, With a Long Road Ahead: LGBT Money Worries

Panelist: Josh Stoffregen

Explore a range of changes in the financial lives of the LGBT community since last year's landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision mandating states must permit marriages for same-sex couples. Prudential Financial, through its one-of-a-kind survey of LGBT Americans, found that most now share the same concerns about their financial futures as the general population — a shift from the company's first survey just four years ago when basic rights were top of mind. Come learn how, despite making substantial strides, workplace insecurity and income inequality are among remaining barriers to true financial security. Come away with a list of story ideas — whether finance is your beat or not.

Sponsored by:



Now Trending 2016

Moderator: Bob Bennett Panelists: Brandon Launerts, Kevin Prince

Social media continues to evolve and expand, and entrench itself into the journalism world. In its fourth year, Now Trending will take a look at the latest in social media trends, new apps and tools and what's in and what's out with journalists. Our experts will also take questions about what to use and how to use it in the social media field. Plus, there will be some time for some social media fun.

When Sports Becomes News

Moderator: Erik Hall Panelists: Rachel Bowers, Chuck Culpepper, Christina Kahrl, Jorge Rojas

When a major professional athlete announces they are gay, are you ready for it? When there's a scandal involving your favorite college team or a coach does something dumb and/or homophobic, you may suddenly need to know that the Phillies are a baseball team and the Sixers are in the NBA (that's basketball for those of you who are confused). LGBT issues have crept into sports more in recent years, and sometimes sports becomes news. You'll leave this session much better prepared no matter if sports is your beat or foreign turf.

Venetian

Fisher

Lapidus

FRIDAY

September 9, 2016

Coffee Break
Sponsored by: TOYOTA

3:45pm - 4:30pm Ballroom Gallery

Take a break and grab some coffee to keep you energized for the rest of the day!

4:30pm - 5:45pm

Producers & Reporters: What We Can Learn From Each Other

Lummus/Lincoln

Moderator: Jen Christensen Panelists: Jason Knowles, Rand Morrison, Elsa Ramon, Jesse Rodriguez Are you both like Hilary Duff and Lindsay Lohan or more like George Clooney and Brad Pitt? Producers and reporters can share a love-love or a love-loathe relationship, but to do the work, we've got to work together. What can we learn from each other and how we can create great TV together?

Growing Your Video Audience: Developing a Video Strategy for Your Newsroom

Fisher

Panelist: Val Hoeppner

Video offers your audience a front-row seat to history, a chance to feel as if they are intimately connected and an opportunity to deeply understand an issue. This session will help you decide what video strategies to adopt, what technology to use and how your entire staff can contribute video stories.

Show Me the Money: How to Get the Best Out of

Venetian

Money Stories on Any Beat

Moderator: Marilyn Geewax Panelists: Yalman Onaran, Elliot Weiler

Do money stories make you nervous? Does even the thought of math make you sweat? Money does make the world go round and it creeps up on every beat. These are the people you want to listen to who can explain how you can produce the story even the most math-phobic among us will be able to tackle.

6:00pm - 7:30pm

Diversity Reception

Join us as NLGJA and Prudential Financial salute the value of diversity in newsrooms. We honor our UNITY: Journalists for Diversity partners and other partners who share in the dedication to fair and accurate coverage of our communities and bring us together.

Hors d'ouevres & bar available.

The Starr Barr Sponsored by:



7:30pm - 10:00pm

Women's Networking Dinner

Join us for a cocktail reception at The Rum Line and then enjoy dinner in the St. Moritz private dining room. Space is limited and pre-registration for the dinner is required to attend, with a suggested donation of \$50. Registrations may be available as space allows. Cheeck with Convention Registration through 5 p.m, Friday.

Lure Fishbar at Loews Hotel

Sponsored by:





Score Nightclub
1437 Washington Avenue

www.scorebar.net

9:30pm

Night Out: South Beach

Get your night started out right in South Beach. Walk over to the Score Nightclub and enjoy its high energy, dancing, great atmosphere, outdoor terrace and more. Be sure to wear your NLGJA convention badge to get in and for some cocktails compliments of Stoli. It's a great way to spend time together, meet some locals and have a great time. Check out more at www.scorebar.net.

Bring your convention badge for drink specials!





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SATURDAY

September 10, 2016

10:00am - 11:15am

Tragedy in Orlando: Making Sense of the Senseless

Whether we were watching, reading or reporting, nothing quite tore at the LGBT community like the murders of 49 people at Pulse nightclub in Orlando, the largest single-gunman mass shooting in modern history. How does emotion inform breakingnews coverage when your heart is also breaking? Those on the scene discuss what it was like, the burdens and responsibilities they faced, and help frame the context for the stories that should come next.

Panelists:

David Begnaud, Billy Manes, Yvette Miley, Erik Sandoval, Matt Thompson









Salon III

Jeff Truesde. Moderator

Pavid Regnaud Rilly Manes Vyett

11:30am - 12:45pm

Yes You Can: The Savvy Journo's Guide to Successful Freelancing

Lummus/Lincoln

Panelists: Diane Anderson-Minshall, Carmel Crimmins, Randy Dotinga

Many writers make a full-time living from freelance journalism, and you may have the skills you need to join them. Our panel of experienced writers and editors will tell you how to find gigs, protect yourself and embrace the perks of self-employment.

The Entrepreneur in You: Is It Time to Develop New Skills for Success?

Fisher

Moderator: Tom Musbach

Panelists: Howard Goldberg, Curtis Sparrer

Being an entrepreneur isn't just for Silicon Valley tech stars; it's an important skill for journalists to cultivate today. But does that mean everyone should start his or her own company? Probably not, but as the professional landscape of our industry changes, we may learn some valuable insights from current NLGJA members who've taken an entrepreneurial path. Could skills they've developed be useful in your work and/or career path? We'll discuss several real-life experiences that have succeeded (or not?) and may be adapted to spur new ideas.

Better Branding and You

Venetian

Moderator: Joseph Fenity Panelists: Michael Gold, Court Passant, Joel Pavelski

The digital landscape continues to change so quickly, there are many ways journalists can make themselves more Internet famous every day. Branding is key to building a career. No more writing quietly in the corner hoping to be discovered. We'll talk about how to do this without being obnoxious. No selfie-stick required.





1:00pm - 2:30pm

Why Celebs Still Need Us

(Lunch is provided for registered attendees)

Celebrities are Tweeting constantly and PR people are creating their own content to work around the press, but they still need us. Modern feature writing has never been more fun with so many platforms and so many ways fans can get their entertainment fix. Come listen to some of the best in the business talk about what they like (and loathe) about what they get to do for work.



Tre'vell Anderson, Trish Bendix, Steve Holzer, Senta Scarborough, Todd Polkes









Salon III



Moderator

2:45pm - 4:00pm

Lummus/Lincoln

Next Don't Get Fired: Finding the Right PR Job

Panelists: Scott Dobroski, Sonya Padgett, Curtis Sparrer

Many journalists consider switching to "the dark side." But when you start a new career in public relations, you'll be surprised about what's expected to be considered a good performer. You may also be surprised about how you have to change your newsroom behavior into something suitable for the corporate world. This panel is designed to give pointers on what you can and cannot do in a public relations agency or marketing department.

Sponsored by:



Writers: How to Be Your Own Best Editor

Panelists: Valerie Boyd, Benoit Denizet-Lewis, Johnny Diaz, Craig Seymour, Tim Teeman

With newsrooms restructuring, more of us are expected to tightrope walk without a net and must edit or own pieces. . Good grammar and spelling are key, but what about pacing? How can you make sure you answer all your readers' questions, cast the perfect character, craft compelling leads and build to something special? Hear from award-winning writers who make memorable copy sing and come away with specific tips to craft your best copy yet.

Innovations in Growing Audiences for Today's Social Media & What's Next

Venetian

Fisher

Panelist: Val Hoeppner

Reaching new audiences is easier than ever with social media. Knowing where to invest your time is the challenge. Periscope, Snapchat and Facebook's deep dive into video are changing the way we reach our social readers. Learn how to use live video, Facebook video and Snapchat to mine new audiences and be creative with social stories.

Coffee Break

Sponsored by: **TOYOTA**

3:45pm - 4:30pm **Ballroom Gallery**

Take a break and grab some coffee to keep you energized for the rest of the day!



Tweeting? Don't forget to use #nlgja2016!

SATURDAY September 10, 2016

4:30pm - 5:45pm

When Weather Becomes News

Lummus/Lincoln

Panelists: David Bernard, David Begnaud, Femi Redwood

Any show producer will tell you a good weather story can win ratings. But what happens when weather breaks and it's all hands at the station? Learn from the experts where you should go when all the traffic is heading out of town and you are supposed to head toward the danger? Discuss if you really should pull in fallen branches to make your live-shot more dramatic. Learn that bitterly cold is more than what you experience on a bad first date from some of the very best in the business who can talk about what they do and what you can do to make your weather stories stand out from the crowd (and stay safe in the process).

Ask the Recruiters and Career Specialists

Fisher

Moderator: Sarah Blazucki

Panelists: Ramon Escobar, Terrance Lockett, William Riddick,

Jason Rosenbaum, Neda Ulaby

Opening Remarks: Shellea Allen

Applying for a job? Moving to a different market? Wondering about getting an agent? Have questions about your personal service contract? Bring your questions for this candid conversation with recruiters and career navigation experts, no matter what market you are in or what stage of career you find yourself. Here's everything you need to know about finding the next job, getting the next promotion or standing out in a sea of résumés. Who knows, you might even come away with your next job.

Sponsored by:



The Writing's On the Wall: How Transgender Issues Go Beyond the Bathroom Door

Venetian

Moderator: Christina Kahrl

Panelists: Dawn Ennis, Bethany Grace Howe, Aryah Lester, Atticus Ranck

Transgender rights have become an increasingly divisive issue in the United States, and the use of public bathrooms has been a key part of the controversy. The legal fight over transgender bathroom rights reached the U.S. Supreme Court for the first time this year. Yet trans people continue to face violence, discrimination and harassment at a rate higher than their LGBQ counterparts. This panel is an opportunity for journalists to better understand issues trans people face, and provide an opportunity to ask questions so that they can better understand how to fairly and accurately cover the trans community.

Moderator: Jon Schwenzer Panelists: Brandon Bellinger, Ken Miguel, Kris Van Čleave

Drones are the latest tool in the newsgathering arsenal. We'll fly on the beach with a drone operator to see just what's possible, and talk about what you need to know before you fly as federal regulations unfold.

THANK YOU!

A special thank-you to the entire NLGJA 2016 Planning Committee, and especially LGBT Media Summit Chair Jason Parsley and National Convention Co-Chairs Jen Christensen and Ken Miguel. Their work behind the scenes helped make NLGJA's national convention and LGBT Media Summit the best yet!

If you see them around today, say "thank you!"



7:00pm - 11:00pm

Salon II/III

The Closing Night Reception: Where the Golden Girls Meet Miami Vice

Dust off your white linen suit. Break out your shoulder pads. It's time to celebrate the best of Miami's Golden '80s. Visit with friends and colleagues. Have a beverage from the bar. Bid on some fabulous silent auction items. Relax and unwind after a full weekend of activities. And dance the night away. The Golden '80s will close the convention with the annual Silent Auction and Awards Reception, where we will honor the best in the business and inductees into the LGBT Journalists Hall of Fame. NLGJA will also induct two new members into the Hall of Fame. Even though we are celebrating "Miami Style," let's start thinking "Brotherly Love and Sisterly Affection," and get excited for next year's convention in Philadelphia!



Sponsored by:

Your Golden Hosts:



Geoff Dankert



Susan Lindsay

Featuring DJ Citizen Jane





SUNDAY September 11, 2016

9:30am - 10:30am

NLGJA Board of Directors Meeting

Salon I













At Gannett, our purpose is to empower communities to connect, act and thrive. We are committed to the First Amendment and investigative journalism.

Trust is earned every day.

We salute the NLGJA for its longstanding commitment to advancing outstanding journalism.



















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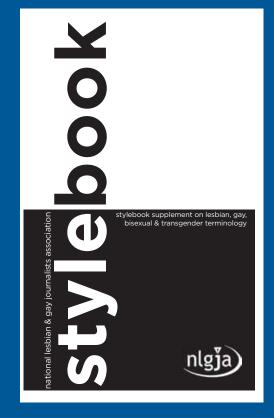
www.nlgja.org/DatelineDC



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Join us at 4:30, Saturday, Sept. 10 for the "Ask the Recruiters and the Career Specialists" panel or contact our SAG-AFTRA Chief Broadcast Officer at mary.cavallaro@sagaftra.org.

SAGAFTRA.org/news-broadcast f E O t



THE NLGJA STYLEBOOK: ALWAYS AVAILABLE

NLGJA's Stylebook Supplement on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgender Terminology is intended to complement the prose stylebooks of individual publications, as well as the Associated Press stylebook, the leading stylebook in U.S. newsrooms.

www.nlgja.org/stylebook





WILL ALFORD is senior director for content + audience for Fans 1st Media, a digital startup incubated inside parent company Cox Media Group. He's a founder of Rare.us, one of the fastest-growing shareable news sites in the U.S. — boasting 40 million monthly visits and more than 17 million readers. Dubbed "America's News Feed," Rare leverages social media to deliver national news, politics, culture and more, driving conversations with buzzworthy

content Americans like to share. Alford is a former design director at The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, where he worked for 12 years.

SHELLEA ALLEN first started in the labor movement organizing her co-workers around equality for LGBT workers in 2003, including equal access to healthcare and retirement benefits and has been organizing ever since. She serves as the current local executive director for SAG-AFTRA in Seattle. In 2015, she was elected national co-president for Pride @ Work, a national AFL-CIO constituency group representing lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender union members.





TRE'VELL ANDERSON is an entertainment reporter with the Los Angeles Times covering the intersections of diversity and Hollywood with a focus on black and queer film. A sociology graduate from the nation's headquarters of black male excellence, Morehouse College in Atlanta, he also received his master's in journalism from Stanford University. When he's not tweeting through his Twitter addiction you can find him slaying in heels, jamming to Fantasia's latest

album or indulging his inner Southern belle with food that reminds him of home, Charleston, S.C.

DIANE ANDERSON-MINSHALL is the CEO and chief storyteller at Retrograde Communications, a modern editorial services and content development agency, whose clients include Here Media, Kaiser Family Foundation/Greater Than AIDS and Walgreens, among others. Anderson-Minshall serves as editor in chief of Plus magazine, the country's most widely outlet for people with HIV, as well as editor at large for The Advocate. As a freelancer, her work has



appeared in dozens of outlets including New York Times, Esquire Russia, Out Traveler, Black Books, Ladies Home Journal, Bitch, Passport, Bust, Beekman 1802 Almanac, San Francisco Chronicle and Glamour. She's also the executive producer of the TV series "The T With Dr. D" and one of the bloggers behind TinyLivingChic.com.



JACOB ANDERSON-MINSHALL is senior editor of Plus, the country's most widely read magazine for people living with HIV, and co-founder of Retrograde Communications, an editorial services and content curation firm focused on, among other things, LGBT health and HIV. He's also the recipient of an Equal Voices Fellowship (from the Marguerite Casey Foundation) and the California Health Data Journalism Fellowship, both supporting his research

and coverage of intersectional issues facing black gay and bi men and trans women, including institutional racism, depression, poverty, HIV and incarceration.

MARISA AZARET, Psy.D. is CNN en Español's medical contributor and host of "Vive la Salud con la Dra. Azaret." Azaret is the clinical director, Psychology Division of Nicklaus Children's Hospital in Miami and faculty member in the Pediatric Residency Program at the same hospital. She is a licensed clinical psychologist who has been dedicated to the practice of pediatric psychology for the past 28 years. Based



in Miami, Azaret contributes regular reports, analysis and mental health expertise across a number of CNN en Español programs. Azaret has for many years served as a producer, writer and onair host for programs and segments in the area of mental health in Hispanic media outlets, including Univision and Telemundo, among others. She is an Emmy Award winner for her work on Telemundo and Univision, and has received Daytime Emmys for her work as medical correspondent in the morning show "Café CNN" and as the host of "Vive la Salud." A native of Cuba, Azaret received her doctoral degree from Nova University in Florida in 1986.



Past Society of Professional Journalists Florida president **BRANDON BALLENGER** is the associate editor for Debt.com, a unique provider of personal finance news and financial services. His dabbling in interactive content led him to experiment with drones, and he has spent more than a year flying and leading drone workshops and information sessions across South Florida and at SPJ regional conferences. His business and money writing has been featured in The

South Florida Business Journal, Money Talks News, Business Insider, Reader's Digest, The Christian Science Monitor, on the homepages of MSN and Yahoo! and more.

CHRISTOPHER BATES has more than 30 years of senior management experience in HIV and AIDS in the public and public sectors. He is director of the Men's Health, Wellness and Prevention Program for the Florida Department of Health in Broward County. During his tenure at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Bates held numerous leadership positions, including director of the Office of HIV/AIDS Policy. He also served as executive



director of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Michigan and a Master of Public Administration degree from Southeastern University, Washington D.C.



DAVID BEGNAUD, a CBS news correspondent for the Southern Bureau, has been featured across CBS News broadcasts and platforms including "CBS This Morning," the "CBS Evening News with Scott Pelley," and CBSN, CBS News' 24/7 streaming news service. Begnaud, based in Miami, has covered a wide range of breaking news stories, including the Pulse Nightclub shooting in Orlando, Florida, and the terrorist attack at the Inland Regional Center in San

Bernardino, California. He has also reported on the police shootings in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. A veteran field reporter, he has covered a wide variety of national breaking news from weather disasters to crime before joining CBS News.



TRISH BENDIX is a writer and editor in Los Angeles. She is currently editor in chief of AfterEllen.com. Trish's work has been published in The Hollywood Reporter, Cosmopolitan, Slate, The Village Voice, Time Out Chicago, Out, Punk Planet, Bitch, The Frisky, AlterNet and The Huffington Post. Her fiction has appeared in "The Q Review" and "CellStories" and she has essays in the 2010 Seal Press anthology,

'Dear John, I Love Jane," "More Than Marriage" and "Opposing Viewpoints: Celebrity." Bendix is the winner of the 2015 NLGJA Sarah Pettit Memorial Award for the LGBT Journalist of the Year. She is also a board member of the Gay and Lesbian Entertainment Critics Association. She's spoken on panels at SXSW, Q-Me Con, BlogHer and Creating Change and to classes at University of Western Washington and Columbia College Chicago.

BOB BENNETT is senior producer for WAVY-TV/ WVBT-TV in Norfolk, Virginia. Bennett has 23 years of television experience, and has won numerous Emmys, Associated Press awards, and an Edward R. Murrow award for news coverage. Bennett also worked at WJLA-TV, where he produced the 6 p.m. newscast, as well as worked with the web team to increase the station's Facebook fan base by more than 100,000 users in less than a year. Besides



expertise in social media, Bennett also specializes in severe weather coverage and breaking news. Outside of work, Bennett mentors young producers and reporters, critiquing their work and preparing them for a future in television news. Bennett is also a lifetime member of NLGJA.



DAVID BERNARD is the chief meteorologist for WVUE FOX 8 in New Orleans. Before starting at FOX 8 News, Bernard spent nine years as chief meteorologist for CBS Miami/Fort Lauderdale. There, he helped guide South Florida viewers through Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma in one historic season. In addition, he spent a week in New Orleans reporting on the scene during the unfolding disaster following Katrina. While in Miami, Bernard was enlisted by "CBS News New

York" as their hurricane consultant in 2008. During Hurricane Sandy in 2012, Bernard gave invaluable guidance to the viewers of the "CBS" Evening News," "CBS This Morning" and "Face The Nation" before, during and after the storm. A native of Houston, Bernard graduated from the University of Texas at Austin and attended Mississippi State University. Bernard is a Certified Broadcast Meteorologist and member of the American Meteorological Society.

SARAH BLAZUCKI is a writer-editor for U.S. Agency for International Development, Office of Inspector General. Prior to this, she was agency editor at the Peace Corps from 2012-16, where she was co-president of the agency's LGBTQA employee resource group, Spectrum. Blazucki is the former editor of Philadelphia Gay News, the oldest LGBT newsweekly in the U.S., where she led the staff to win numerous awards. Since 2013, she has been



on the board of UNITY: Journalists for Diversity. In addition, Blazucki is a freelance résumé writer and has served as a contributor, editor and proofreader for several résumé writing books. She received her B.A. from Towson State University in mass communications, with a concentration in journalism and a minor in women's studies. She is currently vice president for print and online for NLGJA.



JAMES F. BLUE III is a seasoned and award-winning television production executive. He is currently senior content and special projects producer for "PBS NewsHour." In addition to overseeing tape production, breaking news features and special series, Blue oversees the broadcast's town hall meetings anchored by Gwen Ifill. Blue previously served as Washington bureau chief and White House

correspondent for ARISE News, a UK-based 24-hour news channel. Blue organized the channel's Washington coverage, and oversaw the production and development of brand-defining broadcasts as the network's director of special events including supervising the channel's coverage of Nelson Mandela's funeral in South Africa. During the 2012 election year, Blue executive produced BET Networks' political broadcasts. His debut documentary for "Discovery, Iran -Most Dangerous Nation," won the 2006 national Emmy Award for best long-form program. Over the course of his career, Blue's work has won every major broadcast journalism award including eight national Emmy awards, two Alfred I. DuPont-Columbia awards, three George Foster Peabody awards, two Overseas Press Club awards, and an NABJ Award for Overall Excellence.

ROBERT BOO has invested his passion, humor, vision and professionalism as CEO for The Pride Center at Equality Park, in Wilton Manors, Florida, since March 2012. Boo served as director of development for five years, and on the 2011 board of directors. During his leadership, the center has expanded service, programs and events for seniors, LGBT families, people living with HIV/AIDS, women,



couples, people of color, the transgender community and more. As director of development, Boo tripled the number of major donors, helped quadruple the annual operating budget and launched a multimillion dollar capital campaign.



RACHEL G. BOWERS has spent the last two years helping manage sports content on BostonGlobe.com, including spearheading live coverage of Patriots games, pitching in throughout the Deflategate saga and implementing new storytelling tools to enhance the digital experience. The University of Georgia alumna spent two years as assistant sports editor and sports editor of the Athens (Ga.) Banner-Herald

before joining the Globe's renowned sports department.

JIM BURRESS is a proud native of Louisville, Kentucky. He holds a bachelor's degree in English from Wabash College in Indiana, and a master's in mass communication from Murray State University. That's where Burress started his public radio career (WKMS-FM). For the past eight years, he's been with NPR member station WABE-FM in Atlanta. He now holds the title of senior reporter and co-hosts



the station's midday news/talk program, "Closer Look." Burress also is a frequent contributor to the national business show "Marketplace," and his reports regularly air nationally on NPR's "Morning Edition" and "All Things Considered."





JESS CAGLE is the editor in chief of PEOPLE Magazine and editorial director of the Time Inc. Celebrity, Style and Entertainment Group. In 2015, People and Entertainment Weekly joined forces to create the Entertainment News network, which is No. 1 in the entertainment news category, surpassing TMZ and E! Online. From 2009-14, Cagle served as editor of Entertainment Weekly, where he increased EW's audience and presence in Hollywood,

transformed EW.com into a 24/7 breaking-news site and launched the Entertainment Weekly Radio channel on SiriusXM, where he continues to host "The Jess Cagle Show" and town hall interviews with major celebrities. Since 2009, Cagle has been a regular co-host on ABC's Academy Awards red-carpet pre-show, and makes frequent appearances on "Good Morning America," "Today" and many other entertainment news programs. Cagle joined Time Inc. in 1987 as a reporter for People. In 1990, he helped launch Entertainment Weekly, where he played a key role in defining the brand's voice. He was born in Texas and is a graduate of Baylor University.

JANICE CHAVERS serves as the director of communications for Global Human Resources and the Global Diversity and Inclusion Office at Eli Lilly and Company. Her responsibilities include planning and executing external and employee communications strategy, managing Lilly's relationships with multicultural journalist associations and educating colleagues on cultural sensitivity and other global



diversity and inclusion issues. In addition, she develops workplace and marketplace diversity plans for Lilly's business units and advises Lilly's affiliates on diversity and employee engagement best practices. Chavers worked in Indiana newspapers as an editor and reporter before joining Lilly. During that time, she also had a freelance health writing business. She is a graduate of Indiana University with a double major in journalism and political science.



As a producer and editor for CNN's medical unit, **JEN CHRISTENSEN** produces investigative stories and documentaries for Dr. Sanjay Gupta and does data analysis for CNN.com. Christensen has earned the highest awards in broadcasting — the Peabody and DuPont — producing Christiane Amanpour's "God's (Jewish) Warriors." She produced several other award-winning documentaries, including "MLK's Words That Changed a Nation"; "Black in America"

and "Obama Revealed." Prior to CNN, Christensen ran WSOC-TV and WTVQ-TV's investigative units and managed WXIN-TV's weekend newsroom. Prior to journalism, Christensen was a public policy analyst at Chicago's Board of Elections and at NATO (London) working on nuclear non-proliferation. She co-authored two books, "Women Public Speakers" and "Women Confronting Retirement." Since 2013, she has served as president of NLGJA, having previously served as vice president for broadcast. She was president of the Georgia and Carolinas chapters, and was the founding president of the Kentucky chapter. Christensen graduated from Butler University and studied at London School of Economics.

CARMEL CRIMMINS is Reuters' financial services editor for the Americas, driving coverage of Wall Street and the wider financial sector from Canada to Argentina. Prior to taking up her current role in August 2015, Crimmins was deputy financial services editor for Europe, the Middle East and Africa. She was at the heart of Reuters' coverage of the Eurozone debt crisis, leading the reporting on Ireland's banking implosion and helping reporters across the region



break news on trouble in their financial systems. Before she moved to Europe in 2006, Crimmins was Reuters' deputy bureau chief in the Philippines, where she reported on attempted coups, insurgencies and a range of natural disasters. She won a Reuters' Journalist of the Year award in 2007 for her role on a multimedia team reporting on the suppression of pro-democracy protests in Myanmar. She is the sponsor for LGBT issues on Reuters' editorial management team in the Americas.

CHUCK CULPEPPER covers national college sports for The Washington Post. He previously worked for USA Today, The National, The Los Angeles Times, Newsday, The Oregonian and The Lexington (Ky.) Herald-Leader. He earned a bachelor's degree from University of Virginia.





GEOFF DANKERT is a Peabody-, Murrow- and Emmy-award winning journalist and producer. His work as "Afternoon Drive" editor for Chicago's toprated WBBM Newsradio has been recognized by AP and RTDNA. Over the last 25 years, he has also worked as a television producer and manager, a radio news anchor and a newspaper and online reporter. Dankert's two-decade-long participation in NLGJA includes roles as chapter leader, national

vice president/broadcast and head of the Rapid Response Task Force.

The REV. JUAN del HIERRO serves as assistant minister at Unity on the Bay, one of the largest progressive spiritual communities in Florida. He believes we have a sacred opportunity and a sacred responsibility to involve ourselves in social justice issues in order to more fully create a world that works for all. Hierro's own calling is that of sacred activism. He has made Unity on the Bay one of the most well-



regarded progressive spiritual communities in Florida, involving it in issues such as homelessness, child poverty, civic engagement and equality for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. Hierro has served on the board of SAVE, the largest local LGBTQ rights organization; is past-chair of Faith in the City, a coalition of Downtown Miami and surrounding area spiritual communities; and is currently chair of the LGBTQ Task Team for the Unity Worldwide Ministries, looking at ways to support the Unity Movement in becoming stronger advocates for equality.



CLAUDETTE de la HAYE is the first female British Jamaican and Caribbean journalist in the Midwest/ Detroit since 1925 when Marcus Garvey left Detroit. De la Haye started her media career at the 2004 North American International Auto Show where she quickly honed her skills and diversified into the fields of fashion runway and model photography, as well as merchandise photography. On any given day, she can be seen chasing Caribbean government officials

across America, documenting their activities; performing Caribbean law review as it relates to the Caribbean Court of Justice; writing on freedom of movement and freedom of trade and covering the Caribbean stock markets and indices.



BENOIT DENIZET-LEWIS is a writer with The New York Times Magazine, an assistant professor at Emerson College, and a New York Times bestselling author. At the Times Magazine, Denizet-Lewis has written lengthy covers and features about gay middle-schoolers, bisexual activists, transgender politics, men on the "down low" and ex-gays. His 2011 story, "My Ex-Gay Friend," was turned into a film ("I am Michael") starring James Franco and

Zachary Quinto. Denizet-Lewis has received numerous awards and fellowships, and The Advocate named him one of the 50 most influential LGBT people in media.

JASON DeROSE is western bureau chief and senior editor at NPR News, a position he's held since the fall 2010. He edits stories from Colorado to Hawaii and all points in between. Additionally, he edits religion and belief across the U.S. Prior to his current position, DeRose edited economics coverage at NPR during the height of the financial crisis in from 2008 until 2010. Before joining NPR, he was a senior editor and correspondent at WBEZ - Chicago Public Radio.





JOHNNY DIAZ is a features reporter at the Sun Sentinel. Prior to that, he was a media reporter for The Boston Globe's Business section and a features writer. Diaz is the author of several novels: "Boston Boys Club," "Miami Manhunt," "Beantown Cubans" and "Take the Lead." His fifth book, "Looking for Providence," was released in May 2014.

TROY DIGGS is an Emmy Award-winning morning news producer for Fox 4 News in Kansas City, Missouri. Diggs has been with Tribune Media for five years, including a time as morning news producer for Seattle's Q13 News. A veteran producer, Diggs has been working the #AMNewsers shift for more than 15 years, starting in his hometown of Jonesboro, Arkansas. Diggs is also a co-host of "That Gay Podcast," a semi-regular podcast about LGBT issues.





SCOTT DOBROSKI is corporate communications director at Glassdoor, one of the world's largest jobs and recruiting sites. Dobroski focuses on consumer technology, driving strategy and execution to influence jobseekers, employers, investors and other audiences. Dobroski leads media relations for Glassdoor, including regular news coverage across international and national news outlets including The Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Reuters,

AP, Bloomberg, CNBC, NBC, ABC & CBS News, CNN, FOX News, Financial Times, Business Insider, TechCrunch and more. Dobroski is a former TV news reporter/anchor who struggled with a career catastrophe only to transition to a job and company he loves leading PR. Last year, Dobroski was named the No. 4 Best PR Person in Tech by Business Insider.

RANDY DOTINGA is a full-time freelance writer and immediate past president of the American Society of Journalists and Authors (asja.org), a 1,200-member association of professional freelancers and nonfiction book authors. A former daily newspaper reporter, he writes about topics such as health/ medicine, politics, books and the odd/unusual for publications such as The Christian Science Monitor, . VanityFair.com, WebMD, Kaiser Health News, Voice



of San Diego, (Long Island) Newsday and many more. He has served on the board of NLGJA and is a lifetime member.



DAWN ENNIS is an award-winning writer, producer and manager who was the first transgender journalist in a TV network newsroom. She was also the first out trans editor at both The Advocate, where she now writes and produces videos, and at LGBTQ Nation, where she is assistant editor. Her writing also appears in Outsports, Logo's NewNowNext and ETOnline, and her blog at lifeafterdawn.com.

ESCOBAR is a creative media executive with a proven track record of building dynamic organizations and leading them through transformational change. A media veteran with 20-plus years of experience in news and entertainment in local, cable and network television as well as digital/new media, Escobar has the unique perspective of having worked in both English and Spanish-language media. He's developed expertise



in both the U.S. Hispanic market and Latin America having traveled extensively throughout Latin America working with international media companies in Mexico, Colombia, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, El Salvador, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic.



STEPHEN FALLON serves as the co-founding executive director of Latinos Salud, Florida's only gay, Latino HIV organization. Latinos Salud offers free HIV and sexually transmitted infections testing, prevention education, youth programs and leadership development programs from three South Florida locations. Fallon has consulted for LGBTQ community centers, health departments and national organizations in 42 states, helping them build

programs to create healthier communities. He has consulted for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Health Resources and Services Administration, the U.S. Office of Minority Health Resource Center, the National Minority AIDS Council, the Danya Institute, the Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum, HealthHIV, Gilead Sciences, AbbVie Pharmaceuticals and GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals.

JOSEPH FENITY is currently the talent coordinator and guest booker at KCBS/KCAL-TV in Los Angeles, the nation's largest local television news duopoly. Fenity has been involved in broadcast news since 2002, when he began at KTSW Radio near his hometown of Austin, Texas. Since then, he has worked at television and radio stations in San Antonio, San Francisco and New York. He has also served as a national on-air correspondent for SiriusXM



Radio. In 2006, Fenity earned the nickname "podcast pioneer" when his highly acclaimed internet podcast received global attention for its groundbreaking content and production. The San Francisco Bay Guardian honored his show with its "Best of the Bay" Award.



PATRIK GALLINEAUX, global LGBT ambassador for Stoli, has more than 25 years of experience in the spirits, nightlife and hospitality industries. He has also been a magazine columnist and enjoyed careers as a musical theatre stage performer/actor and professional ballroom dancer and instructor, including being featured in the 2003 documentary "24 Hours on Craigslist" while continuing to host and emcee ballroom dance events and competitions.

Gallineaux is also a board member of the Richmond/Ermet Aid Foundation of Northern California, whose mission is to help those in need due to hunger, homelessness and the problems caused by HIV/ AIDS through the production of live cabaret, stage events and galas with some of the biggest luminaries of music and television today.





MICHELLE GARCIA is the senior editor of Vox.com's Race and Identities coverage. Previously, Garcia edited at both Mic.com and The Advocate magazine/ advocate.com. She lives in Brooklyn.

MARILYN GEEWAX is a senior editor at NPR's Washington headquarters. She assigns and edits business radio stories, and also

serves as the national economics correspondent for the NPR web site. She regularly discusses economic issues on NPR's mid-day show "Here & Now," and appears frequently on NPR Live, via Facebook. Before joining NPR in 2008, Geewax served as the



national economics correspondent for Cox Newspapers' Washington Bureau. Before that, she worked at Cox's flagship paper, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, first as a business reporter and then as a columnist and editorial board member. She got her start in Ohio as a business reporter for the Akron Beacon Journal. A long-time member of NLGJA, she also serves as vice chair of the Board of Governors of the National Press Club, and is active in the Society of American Business Editors and Writers.



MICHAEL GOLD is a social media strategy editor at The New York Times, where he helps develop the Times's strategy for building audience, engaging with readers and telling stories on social platforms. Before that, he helped run The Washington Post's social accounts and worked on social and community engagement at The Baltimore Sun, where he wrote about LGBTQ issues.

HOWARD GOLDBERG is a long-time editor and news executive who worked as New York bureau chief for Associated Press from 2005-15. That job evolved into a business development role: marketing campaigns that resulted in contracts to provide digital news products to publishing companies, ranging from small startups to global enterprises. Goldberg started his own company, NewsDigits, in 2015 to provide freelance project editing, online



content and audience engagement solutions. A founding member of NLGJA's New York Chapter, Goldberg now lives in Palm Springs, California, and Vancouver, British Columbia.



HENRY GOLDBLATT is editor-in-chief Entertainment Weekly, America's leading consumer brand for entertainment and popular culture. He returned to Entertainment Weekly in 2015 after having worked there from 2002-14, where most recently he served as the brand's deputy managing editor and director of brand development. A 20-year veteran of Time Inc., Goldblatt began his career as a reporter at Fortune where he wrote about the media business

and ran the magazine's news coverage. In 2002 he moved to EW and was instrumental in integrating the brand's print and digital editorial operations. He played a key role in launching EW's Must List app, its tablet edition and the EW Radio channel on SiriusXM. He also worked closely with the advertising and marketing teams to bring business and editorial priorities into alignment. Additionally, Goldblatt created and wrote EW's popular and witty infographic, The Bullseye. Goldblatt earned a B.A. from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in journalism from Northwestern University. Goldblatt was named one of Columbia Journalism Review's "Ten Young Editors to Watch" and won a New England Press Association award for articles on AIDS awareness.



SANDRA GONZALEZ has spent more than two decades as a reporter, both in radio and TV, covering stories in California, Texas, Louisiana and Nevada. She met and interviewed civil rights activist Cesar Chavez early in her career; and later covered the tragic kidnapping and murder of the child Amber Hagerman whose namesake is now known around the world as the Amber alert. The stories that have stuck with her over the years are many, but some

that stand out are the mass shooting at Wedgwood Baptist Church in Fort Worth Texas 1999, witnessing an execution in Texas, the troops who have sacrificed their lives in war and their families who are left behind and the aerial spraying of pesticides on Latino farm workers. Gonzalez is an active member of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and the Society of Professional Journalists.

JEFF GUARACINO is the author of authoritative book "Gay and Lesbian Tourism: The Essential Guide for Marketing" (Elseiver, 2008) and the forthcoming "Handbook of LGBT Tourism & Hospitality: A Guide for Business Practice" (Harrington Park Press, 2017). He is a highly regarded expert in LGBT marketing, tourism, PR and large-scale events. His groundbreaking work in Philadelphia helped catapult the destination into the top 10 most-visited U.S. cities



by LGBT travelers. He led Atlantic City tourism industry through the seaside resort's most turbulent period (2012-16) and, in 2016, he became the president and CEO of Welcome America Inc. to curate America's July 4th celebration for residents and to attract more visitors to Philadelphia.



ERIK HALL works as the assistant sports editor at The Roanoke (Va.) Times. He also regularly contributes to OutSports.com. He earned a bachelor's degree from University of Illinois and a master's degree from University of Missouri.

TAMI HAUGHT was diagnosed with HIV in 1993 and lived in silence for six years, before embracing advocacy

and HIV education. She is the community training and organizing coordinator for the SERO Project, president of Positive Iowans Taking Charge and, as Community HIV/Hepatitis Advocates of Iowa Network community organizer from 2012-14, managed the



successful campaign to reform lowa's HIV criminalization statement. Haught is also a steering committee member of the US PLHIV Caucus and a member of the Positive Women's Network-USA. She was inducted into the 2020 Leading Women's Society in 2015.



DOMINIC HOLDEN is the national LGBT reporter for BuzzFeed News. Before that, he was news editor at The Stranger, an alt-weekly in Seattle, and also an activist 'n' stuff. He's never driven a car.

VAL HOEPPNER is a digital and journalist, trainer media strategist. She has worked in digital,

mobile and multi-platform journalism for more than 15 years. She travels to newsrooms, universities and media conferences where she creates and leads training for journalists in mobile, social, video and multi-platform storytelling. She works with media



leadership in audience engagement, change management and developing digital and mobile workflow. Hoeppner was multimedia director at the Indianapolis Star and later worked at the John Seigenthaler Center in Nashville as the director of education for the Diversity Institute.



STEVE HOLZER is the executive producer/show runner of "Hollywood Today LIVE," the nationally syndicated talk/variety, entertainment news, pop culture and lifestyle show that airs on major FOX affiliates and Media General stations. Holzer created the show's hour-long format and oversees all aspects of the live production. Prior to that, Holzer served as vice president of programming and strategic

partnerships at BiteSizeTV, the all-digital entertainment network. His job was to develop and identify cost-effective entertainment programming — both studio-based talk shows and unscripted reality series. Holzer spent four years as the executive producer of Original Programming at the cable network REELZ, where he directly oversaw the production of nearly 600 hours of programming annually. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism from the University of Arizona.

BETHANY GRACE HOWE has been or currently serves as a university and secondary school educator, Huffington Post blogger, stand-up comedian and transgender researcher as well as student. Having spent time on both sides of the transgender equation in all kinds of places, she's happiest going where most fear to tread — but always with respect, for both herself and those around her.



JASON KNOWLES is consumer investigative reporter for WLS-TV (ABC 7) in Chicago. He joined the station's prestigious I-team investigative unit in January 2014. His strong and incisive investigative reporting background, and his in-depth segments as special projects producer at ABC 7, made him the perfect fit for consumer investigative work. Prior to joining the I-Team, Knowles was a morning reporter covering

breaking and developing stories. He joined ABC 7 Eyewitness News as a reporter in February 2009. Before joining ABC 7 as a producer, Knowles spent eight years on the air as a reporter at various stations including WTVG-TV, the ABC-owned station in Toledo, Ohio, where he was the investigative reporter and consumer troubleshooter. He also worked as a reporter and anchor at WKAG-TV in Hopkinsville, Kentucky. Knowles graduated from Bowling Green State University in Ohio and is a native of Cleveland.

SALLY KOHN is one of the leading progressive voices in America today. A CNN political commentator and contributor to The Daily Beast, Kohn is a popular speaker who makes audiences laugh and think. Previously a Fox News contributor — the inspiration for her widely seen TED Talk — Kohn's writing has appeared in the Washington Post, New York Times, New York Magazine, More Magazine, RollingStone. com, Elle.com, USA Today, Time, Afar Magazine and



many other outlets. Her work has been highlighted by outlets ranging from "The Colbert Report" to the National Review. Kohn is ranked by Mediaite as one of the 100 most influential pundits on television and by The Advocate as the 35th most influential LGBT person in the media. Though she insists that doesn't mean she's the 35th gayest LGBT person in the media (she ranks far higher on that measure!).



BILLY KOLBER is the founder of ManAboutWorld, providing inspiration and information for gay travelers and the broader LGBT community. ManAboutWorld magazine is a leader in mobile-first design, reinventing the magazine experience for mobile platforms and modern consumers in unique and engaging ways. He previously founded the groundbreaking travel newsletter OUT&ABOUT, after five years at American Express, which he sold to PlanetOut, the first

Nasdag-listed LGBT corporation. His team works with destinations

and brands, helping them welcome LGBT travelers, and giving LGBT travelers the tools to change hearts and minds they encounter around the globe. A true renaissance man and entrepreneur, Kolber has a B.S. in biology from Yale, and has worked as a commercial photographer, chocolatier, top-selling Avon Representative, author and guest experience consultant. He has visited 56 countries, but still lives in Manhattan, where he was born.



As a woman living with HIV, **KAMARIA LAFFREY** works to eliminate stigma, reaching people through captivating social media campaigns, furthering her efforts as an international HIV advocate working on women and girls' empowerment through her community organization emPOWERed Legacies, treatment adherence and working collectively with Florida advocates on modernizing HIV-specific laws in Florida. Find more info at www.kamaria.org.

Emmy Award-winning **BRETT LARSON** is weekday morning anchor on Fox News Headlines 24/7 on SiriusXM 115, covering the latest news from the campaign trail, global events, sports, entertainment and everything in between. Larson also appears regularly on the Fox News Channel and Fox Business Network covering the latest news in the world of technology and science.





BRANDON LAUNERTS is the social media producer for WSVN-TV "7 News" in Miami, and has been there since June 2015. Previously, Launerts worked on the social media desk, and as an editor at WTVJ "NBC 6" in Miami. He was awarded a regional Emmy at age 20 for his work at NBC 6, the youngest ever awardee at the station. Brandon is a graduate of Florida International University, and has a degree in journalism.

ARYAH LESTER, speaker/author/educator, is a transgender woman of color from New York residing in Miami-Dade since 2005. Lester is the current chair for the State of Florida Health Department's Transgender Work Group, former chair-elect of the Miami-Dade HIV/AIDS Partnership, as well as a board member of Unity Coalition (UC|CU). Lester is a board member of Equality Florida's TransAction Florida committee and the Advisory Women's Committee



for the World OutGames Miami. She also sits as a member on the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors Transgender Networking Group. Lester founded the organization Trans-Miami, as well as continued the work of her founding organization, the National Alliance of Transgender Advocates and Leaders. Lester has been recognized with many awards, and recently was inducted into the national Trans100 list.



JASON LINDSAY is founder and executive director of Pride Fund. Having served in Iraq as a member of the U.S. Army Reserve, Lindsay saw first-hand the devastation possible with weapons of war. He intimately understands the weapons sold today on our streets based on his experience serving in the U.S. Army Reserve for 14 years. Lindsay is a seasoned political operative with 12 years of experience working in politics, government and

campaigns. Prior to establishing Pride Fund, Lindsay served as a congressional relations officer for the Department of Veterans Affairs. Lindsay received his undergraduate degree in political science from North Carolina State University and is nearing completion of his master's degree in government at Johns Hopkins University.





SUSAN E. LINDSAY has spent over 20 years working as an award-winning senior manager in business, sales and human resources. Semi-retired, she now works part time at the Von Maur department store in suburban Chicago. As a senior manager she won some of the highest awards of her profession including Manager of the Year, at the Great Indoors (2007-08) and This End Up Furniture's highest national honor, the President's Award. A regular lector at St.

Francis Xavier Catholic church in LaGrange, Illinois, where she also co-leads the adult education program, she got her start in theater at the age of 5 performing regularly with a sister and cousin on the bar at a neighborhood tavern in the Old Polish neighborhood on Chicago's South Side. She is also the proud mother of NLGJA National Board President Jen Christensen.

TERRANCE S. LOCKETT is the talent strategy program manager for Cox Media Group. As talent program manager, Lockett leads the strategy, management and execution of CMG's early career talent pipeline programs, including the CMG Summer Internship Program, Digital Talent Program and providing early-career talent consulting to CMG's Leaders. He joined Cox Media Group in January 2013 as a talent acquisition consultant. Prior to Cox,



Lockett held various roles of increasing responsibility in both campus recruiting and talent acquisition at Verizon Wireless, Sprint and The Coca-Cola Company. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in human resources from Friends University in Wichita, Kansas, and a Master of Science degree in administration from Central Michigan University.



BRYAN LOWDER is an associate editor at Slate, where he has written and edited since 2011. He co-founded the magazine's award-winning LGBTQ vertical, Outward, in 2013. Beyond the queer beat, he frequently contributes elsewhere in Slate, particularly to the culture and lifestyle sections, as well as to the magazine's podcast, video and live event efforts. Lowder is a graduate of New York University's Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute, where he focused on

cultural reporting and criticism. He lives in Harlem with his partner Charles McDonald and their cats Suite and Pieces — named for the two best gay bars in New York.

NEIL LOWE, Ph.D., is a highly regarded corporate and political strategic adviser with over 22 years' experience in corporate strategy, media communications advisory and operational transformation. During his career, he has served as an adviser to a number of chief executives, market makers and government leaders, both domestic and international. He has structured and negotiated industry-leading agreements and designed the



operating models for a number of global financial services firms. As the managing partner of the New York-based brand management and corporate advisory firm GCH Advisors. Lowe collaborates with his clients to identify new sources of revenue, manage and mitigate risk, improve brand value and develop their media and communications strategy.



Following a history of curiosity and mischief that effectively devoured the '80s in one bleached swoop, writer BILLY MANES became an editor at the Tallahassee Democrat's alt-weekly attempt Break Magazine in the mid-'90s. He later relocated to Orlando, where he worked his way up that proverbial ladder (hello, nightlife column) to become staff writer and then senior staff writer for the region's largest altweekly, Orlando Weekly. In that time, Manes worked

with political and social angles in an effort to make storytelling — and reporting — relevant to an oft-dismissed region and an overworked, underpaid population. He documented his "marriage" to partner Alan Jordan in 2007 gleefully, only to document the suicide of Jordan and the hell that followed thereafter in 2013 in both print and as a documentary. Manes is now the editor-in-chief of Watermark Publishing Group, a bi-weekly that covers every county from the Space Coast to the Gulf Coast, Orlando to Sarasota, Cocoa to St. Petersburg. Manes lives just two blocks from Pulse, even worked at the establishment before it was a gay bar that was senselessly attacked by an assault weapon attached to an assailant. Manes legally married his best friend Tony Mauss in 2015 and continues to fight for human rights.

CAROL MARBIN MILLER is a senior investigative reporter for the Miami Herald, where she has worked since 2000. Marbin Miller has won a number of journalism awards, including the National Newspaper Guild's Heywood Broun Award, the Society of Professional Journalists' Eugene S. Pulliam First Amendment Award, the National Headliners Award, the Online Journalism Awards' Knight Award for Public



Service, the Green Eyeshade Award, the Sidney Hillman Foundation's Sidney Award, the Sunshine State Awards, James Batten Award, the Florida Society of Newspaper Editors' Gold Medal for Public Service and the Florida Society of News Editors Paul Hansel Award. A series she co-wrote about assisted living facilities, "Neglected to Death," was a Pulitzer Prize finalist for public service. Her work has led to the passage of almost 10 state laws, including measures that reformed Florida's child welfare system.



CHAD MATTHEWS has been a news manager for 17 years and has been working in local news since 1993. Currently, Matthews is the assistant news director at NBC 6 in South Florida. Prior to that, he was the senior executive producer at WABC-TV in New York City. Chad started his career at WWLP-TV in Springfield, Massachusetts, and spent time at WJAR-TV in Providence, WTIC-TV in Hartford, WFXT-TV in Boston and WCBS-TV in New York City.

DAVID McALPINE is an award-winning producer for Channel 6 Action News in Philadelphia. Joining the station in 2015, he produces the 5 p.m. newscast, one of the highest-rated local newscasts in the country. Before moving to Philadelphia, McAlpine was a producer in Seattle and an entertainment producer and newswriter in Los Angeles. McAlpine is a Chicago native. He graduated cum laude from the University of Southern California, with degrees in



broadcast and digital journalism, and neuroscience. He is also an alumnus of CONNECT: The NLGJA Student Journalism Project.



MITCHELL McCOY is a general assignment reporter at KARK 4 News and FOX 16 News in Little Rock, Arkansas. McCoy moved to Arkansas in October 2015 after working at KARK's sister-station KQTV in St. Joseph, Missouri. He served as an anchor, reporter and executive producer for more than a year before moving to The Natural State. Before working in television, McCoy worked in radio in St. Louis and Grand Rapids, Michigan. A graduate of Rockford

High School, McCoy has been honored with several broadcasting awards, including "Best News Feature" and "Best Formal Newscast" from the Michigan Association of Broadcasters and "Community Focused Broadcasting" from the Michigan Army National Guard.

CATHERINE "CAT" McKENZIE is a digital and broadcast professional who has worked with CBS, ABC and Sony Television. With over two decades of experience, McKenzie started her career at Minnesota's WCCO-TV as an NAACP fellow. McKenzie moved on to work at stations in Green Bay and Milwaukee before landing at WABC-TV's "Eyewitness News" where she was awarded the Peabody Award for her coverage of the 9/11 attacks,



and multiple Emmy Awards, including one for her documentary celebrating Alvin Ailey's 50th anniversary. She also was the behindthe-scenes manager for their coverage of the NYC Half-Marathon, the holiday tree lighting and the 5 Mile Fight Against Prostate Cancer. After WABC, she worked as a senior producer for "Good Morning America" and as a supervising producer helping to create and launch "The Queen Latifah Show." Recently she returned to ABC News to help run their live-streaming project, helping to staff and program eight live-streaming channels 10 hours a day with everything from the political conventions, to the Oscars to the latest breaking news.



DR. JAY MICHAELSON is a columnist for The Daily Beast and contributing editor for The Jewish Daily Forward. Previously, he founded two LGBT organizations and worked as an LGBT activist for 10 years. Michaelson holds a J.D. from Yale Law School, a Ph.D. in Jewish Thought from Hebrew University and nondenominational rabbinic ordination. He is the author of six books, including "God vs. Gay? The Religious Case for Equality."

KEN MIGUEL is a multimedia journalist and multi-Emmy award-winning special projects producer at KGO-TV (ABC) in San Francisco. He's been on the forefront of bringing new technology into the station, including launching the first live broadcast drone in Northern California. Miguel is currently NLGJA vice president for broadcast.



YVETTE MILEY is the senior vice president and executive editor of MSNBC. She is responsible for daytime, weekend and early morning programming, breaking news and coverage of special events. Miley has also served as the executive editor of thegrio. com, a website targeting African-Americans. Miley, who has worked for NBC Universal for 20 years, is known for her passionate and dynamic leadership. She joined NBC 6/WTVJ in 1991 as a producer and

held various positions in the newsroom prior to working her way up to assistant news director. In 2001, Miley was named vice president and news director of the then-NBC-owned WVTM-NBC 13 in Birmingham, Alabama. Miley returned to NBC 6/WTVJ in 2004 as vice president and news director of the Miami/Fort Lauderdale station. She joined MSNBC in 2009. A native of Riviera Beach, Florida, she is a graduate of the University of Florida. She is the recipient of two Emmy Awards, the DuPont Award, Peabody Award and Edward R. Murrow Award.



RAND MORRISON is the executive producer of "CBS Sunday Morning" with Charles Osgood. He is the winner of 10 Emmy Awards, two George Foster Peabody Awards and two Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Awards. Under Morrison's leadership, "CBS Sunday Morning" has earned two Daytime Emmy Awards for Outstanding Morning Program. Before joining "CBS Sunday Morning" in

1999, he served as executive producer of CBS News Productions, where he produced, among other projects, the critically acclaimed 13-part "Century of Country" series on the history of country music for The Nashville Network. Morrison was born in Cleveland and was graduated from Ohio State University with a B.A. in English and from Northwestern University with a master's degree in journalism.

ROSS MURRAY is GLAAD's director of programs, focusing on global and the U.S. South. Murray works with individuals and organizations who are bringing LGBT equality to their own environments through their advocacy or their mere presence. He is a consecrated diaconal minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, with a calling to advocate for LGBT people and to bridge the LGBT and faith communities. Murray has secured national



media interest in stories that bring examples of LGBT equality across diverse communities in America. He specializes in relationships between religion and LGBT people. He has written and appeared on numerous media outlets, including CNN, MSNBC, Al Jazeera, The Washington Post, Huffington Post and Religion News Service. In 2014, he was named one of Mashable's "10 LGBT-Rights Activists to Follow on Twitter."



TRANG NGUYEN WISARD is the project officer for the Partnering and Communicating Together (PACT) to Act Against AIDS initiative within the Prevention Communication Branch of the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Her primary role is to provide guidance and support in disseminating and integrating HIV/ AIDS materials and messages that help advance

the goals of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy. Wisard began her public health career as a HIV testing counselor volunteer during her undergraduate studies in San Francisco. She earned her masters of public health in behavioral sciences and health promotion from San Diego State University and her bachelor's of arts in biology from San Francisco State University.

MARY EMILY O'HARA is a journalist living in Brooklyn. She has served as the Daily Dot's LGBT reporter since May 2015, and was a staff writer at VICE before that. O'Hara's byline has appeared in The Daily Beast, Al Jazeera, the Advocate, Mic and more, and she spent seven years as a frequent contributor to Portland's Pulitzer Prize-winning alternative weekly Willamette Week.





YALMAN ONARAN has been with Bloomberg News since 1998, opening the organization's first bureau in Turkey, among his many roles. As a senior writer, he now pens feature articles about banking issues worldwide, comparing the problems of European banks to their U.S. counterparts as well as identifying the effectiveness of new bank regulations. His first book, "Zombie Banks," about the unresolved troubles of the banks in both continents, was

published in November 2011. Onaran first came to the U.S. in 1987 to attend college. He has degrees from the College of Wooster in Ohio and Columbia University's School of Journalism and School of International & Public Affairs.





SONYA PADGETT is manager of corporate communications for MGM Resorts International. In this role, she strengthens the MGM Resorts International brand by promoting the company's reputation and leadership in social responsibility among targeted business, community, consumer and media audiences. Padgett also supports the communications and staffing responsibilities for the

company's senior executives. She joined MGM Resorts in 2013. A national award-winning writer, Padgett has nearly 20 years of experience in journalism and public relations. She has written for many publications including Smithsonian Magazine, Newsday, the Las Vegas Sun and the Las Vegas Review-Journal. Padgett was born and raised in Alabama, where she lived until joining the United States Air Force in 1990. Upon completion of her military service, she finished her psychology degree at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, followed by a stint in graduate school. Padgett is an active member of her local LGBT community and volunteers her time in support of homeless veterans.

After stints as assistant managing editor of Bloomberg Businessweek and editor of Businessweek.com, JANET PASKIN is now sports editor for Bloomberg News, leading a global team that covers the intersection of sports, business, money and power. Paskin was previously with The Wall Street Journal, where she served as digital editor in its Money & Investing bureau and launched WSJ.com's Markets Pulse Web app. At the beginning of her career, Paskin won several national awards as a sports reporter for a New York daily.



COURT PASSANT is vice president of Affiliate Marketing at CBS Corporation. He recently moved to CBS Corporate after more than two decades at CBS News. Passant's tenure at CBS News includes executive director of Broadcast Marketing and Digital Services. Previously he was executive producer of CBS News on Logo — news for MTV's 24-hour digital cable network focusing on the LGBT community. Passant started at CBS in 1992 after working in local

television, first with the overnight broadcast "Up to the Minute," then managing "CBS Newspath." He is a former board member and vice president for broadcast for NLGJA.

JOEL PAVELSKI is a writer, speaker, audience hacker, social media expert and digital media consultant. He's good at making anything — especially news popular on the Internet. His last gig was at Mic, a news site. He piloted online audience development across social networks, mobile apps, partnerships, newsletters and distributed platforms. Before that, he headed up social media strategy at the New York Post and Page Six, the fifth largest newspaper in



the country and the world's most incisive gossip column. His writing and photography have appeared in the New York Times Magazine, Huffington Post, Quill Magazine, the New York Post, Page Six, The Daily, DoubleThink Magazine and School Reform News.



ADAM K. PAWLUS is executive director of NLGJA: The Association of LGBTQ Journalists. Prior to joining NLGJA, Pawlus served the Physicians for Social Responsibility as its director of operations and at the Voluntary Protections Programs Participants' Association as the deputy executive director and director of communications and outreach. Pawlus serves on the NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia Board of

Directors and is an active member of many nonprofit organizations in the Washington, D.C. area. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in political science and speech communications from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a Master of Arts in journalism and mass communications from the University of Georgia at Athens.

RYAN PHILLIPS is the weekday morning meteorologist for NBC Miami. He's been forecasting Florida weather for 10 years, having worked on both coasts. Before joining the NBC 6 Weather Team, Phillips worked for WZVN, the ABC affiliate for Naples/ Ft. Myers, where he spent almost two years forecasting for the weekend morning and evening broadcasts. Prior to moving to Florida, Phillips worked more than three years at KHGI in Central Nebraska, where his



weathercasts were recognized by the Associated Press of Nebraska. Born and raised in Ohio, Phillips is a graduate of Ohio University in Athens, where he majored in geography and meteorology. He holds the Seal of Approval from the National Weather Association. He also holds the designation as a Certified Broadcast Meteorologist from the American Meteorological Society.



TODD POLKES is a talent producer and public relations specialist with 20 years of experience working for major media companies in broadcasting, cable, print and digital platforms. As a senior producer, he has been instrumental booking and producing high-profile talent and newsmakers from Obama to Oprah for such shows as "Larry King Live," "KATIE," "The Meredith Vieira Show" and "The Joy Behar Show." He has also served as a

spokesperson and public relations specialist for high-profile media companies including ABC News, TIME Magazine and CNN, helping to successfully revitalize each of those brands.

KEVIN PRINCE is the social media producer for "CBS This Morning" and has been with the broadcast in that role for four years. From covering breaking news to leading social and digital campaigns, Prince manages "CBS This Morning's" multiplatform brand. He started his career as an NBC page and moved on to production positions at MSNBC and "The Early Show." He left broadcast for digital as the head of public relations for Gawker Media, and then later joined "CBS This Morning."





ELSA RAMON currently serves as weekend evening anchor and weekday reporter for CBS2/KCAL9. She is a four-time Emmy-nominated anchor and native Angeleno who couldn't be happier to be back home. Ramon graduated from La Mirada High School and from the University of California, Irvine with a B.A. in English literature. Elsa's very first internship at a television station was at KCBS. She has now come full circle. Elsa has also worked as an anchor/reporter

at stations in Palm Springs and Monterey, California; Phoenix; and Dallas-Fort Worth and San Antonio, Texas.



ATTICUS RANCK is the director of trransgender services at SunServe. He was born and raised in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Slippery Rock University with a degree in creative writing. He graduated with his master's in gender and sexuality studies from Florida Atlantic University. Ranck has presented at national and international conferences around the country, mostly focusing on issues specific to the transgender community. In

his current position, he is an educator, advocate and case manager helping transgender adults as they navigate a world that in most cases has no place for them. Recently, Transgender Services has received the "Excellence in Service" award from the Gay Men's Chorus of South Florida. In addition, Ranck is proud to be included in SFGN South Florida OUT50 as a prominent leader in the local LGBT community. In his free time, he enjoys restoring furniture.

CATHY RENNA is managing partner at Target Cue, an LGBTQ and HIV focused public interest communications firm. Prior to that, she was a founder of Renna Communications. As a consultant for over a decade, she has partnered with scores of diverse organizations and projects. In addition, Renna worked with GLAAD for 14 years and is nationally recognized as a media and communications expert and leader within the LGBT community.





WILLIAM RIDDICK JR. currently serves as a human resources director with Cox Media Group where he is the senior human resources executive for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. In this role, Riddick oversees the human resources function for the daily newspaper as well as for the Cox Media Group online vertical brands. Riddick's strong experience in the areas of business, organizational and cultural transformation and change management complements his diverse

industry background where he's driven transformation initiatives across both print and digital businesses. He's previously held leadership positions at YP, 360i, Turner and McKesson. A native of San Diego, Riddick earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Morehouse College in Atlanta. He is certified by the HR Certification Institute as a Senior Professional in Human Resources and is also certified by the Society of HR Management as a Senior Certified Professional.

MO ROCCA is a correspondent on "CBS Sunday Morning" and host of "The Henry Ford's Innovation Nation" Saturday mornings on CBS. He's the host and creator of "My Grandmother's Ravioli" on The Cooking Channel and a frequent panelist on NPR's "Wait Wait ... Don't Tell Me!"





JESSE RODRIGUEZ is a New Yorkbased senior producer for MSNBC,

focusing on the channel's weekday morning show, "Morning Joe." He books the show's revolving roster of politicians, experts and newsmakers while overseeing segment research and production, and planning on-location shows. He has overseen broadcasts of "Morning Joe" from the Republican and Democratic conventions, as well as special

programming the morning after Election Day broadcast from historic . Studio 8H at Rockefeller Center. Before joining the "Morning Joe" team, he was a booking producer on MSNBC's "The Dylan Ratigan Show" for two years following his time as a planning producer for MSNBC's daytime news, where he coordinated daily coverage of the 2008 presidential election. He started at NBC News in 2007 as an assignment editor on the network's national news assignment desk.



JORGE ROJAS has worked at the Miami Herald for 23 years, the past 12 as executive sports editor. He has previously worked at The Sporting News and the Orlando Sentinel. He serves as diversity chairman for the Associated Press Sports Editors.

JASON ROSENBAUM, resources manager at Reuters,

is responsible for delivering on Reuters Talent Engagement and Selection strategy, along with supporting its diversity and other talent and recruiting initiatives. Prior to joining Thomson Reuters in 2014, Rosenbaum worked in the human resources and talent acquisition functions at Marsh & McLennan

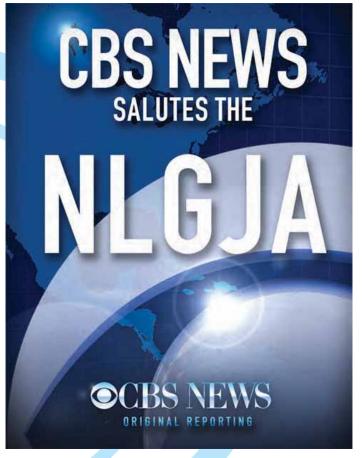


Companies. Previously, he staffed Fortune 500 companies across many industries. Rosenbaum graduated with his M.S. in human resources management and development from New York University and earned his Professional in Human Resources certification in 2013.



The Florida Keys & Key West tourism council is the first destination management office in Florida to have a LGBT sales manager. GUY ROSS spearheads the council's efforts to create awareness of the island chain's longtime appeal for gay and lesbian travelers. Ross has been a Key West resident for more than 20 years. Before joining the tourism council, he was the executive director of the Key West Business Guild,

the nation's first gay-oriented chamber of commerce Ross frequently comments that he and his husband "are fortunate to live in a place where labels are for clothes and not people," referring to the Keys' all-embracing "One Human Family" philosophy. Ross has bachelor's of arts and master's of arts degrees in English. He was ordained as an interfaith minister in June 2010 and provides counseling for clergy in transition.







Miami Herald staff writer STEVE ROTHAUS covers LGBTQ issues in South Florida. He joined the Herald in 1985, while a journalism major at Florida International University. Among his reporting beats are cities and police departments throughout Miami-Dade County, Key West and Broward Sheriff's Office. He also has served as night business editor, and local section layout editor. Rothaus came out at work

in 1987, and served as a national board member of NLGJA for five years. He founded the association's Newsroom Outreach Project and traveled the country visiting newspapers, television stations and college campuses to discuss gay news coverage and workplace issues. In 2001, Rothaus was part of a Miami Herald team that shared the Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News Reporting (Elian Gonzalez). Equality Florida presented Rothaus with its 2012 Voice For Equality award. In November 2014, Rothaus became the Herald's Neighbors section editor. Rothaus and his husband, Ric Katz, live in Miami.

ED SALVATO is co-founder and chief content officer of ManAboutWorld magazine — an immersive smartphone- and tablet-based mobile and digital publication bringing a rich world of gay travel opportunities to its readers' in 10 issues a year. It's not a website or a print publication but combines the best of both worlds without killing a single tree in its production! Salvato also co-authored the "Handbook



of LGBT Tourism & Hospitality Marketing: A Guide for Business Practice" to be published by Harrington Park Press and distributed by Columbia University Press in early 2017. Follow him on LinkedIn or Twitter @EdSalvato.



ERIK SANDOVAL is the lead reporter for WKMG-TV, CBS. Orlando. He was one of the first reporters on the scene the morning of the Pulse Nightclub attack and reported live for the station's extended coverage. He also played a role in the editorial decisions directing the station's coverage.

SENTA SCARBOROUGH is an award-winning journalist and Emmy-nominated producer. Her work has appeared in print, digital and television platforms, including E! News, E! Online, Us Weekly and USA Today. Scarborough served as the Arizona Chapter president of NLGJA while covering public safety for The Arizona Republic. She is currently pursuing her MFA in creative writing and writing for the performing arts from the University of California



Riverside, Palm Desert campus. She focuses on screenwriting and creative nonfiction projects. Scarborough lives in Los Angeles with her wife, Katie Thomason.



JILL SCHLESINGER is an Emmy-nominated business analyst for CBS News. She covers the economy, markets, investing and anything else with a dollar sign on TV, radio (including her nationally syndicated radio show), the web and her blog, "Jill on Money." Prior to her second career at CBS, Schlesinger spent 14 years as the co-owner and chief investment officer for an independent

investment advisory firm. She began her career as a self-employed options trader on the Commodities Exchange of New York, following her graduation from Brown University.



JON SCHWENZER is a graduate of the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill. He started his news career at WRDU-TV28 NBC Raleigh/Durham. Schwenzer became on-air newscaster at Mutual Radio Network in Washington, D.C., followed by newsgathering operations management for both CNN and FNC during their start-up years. Currently semi-retired, Schwenzer is working on various freelance journalistic assignments.

ANDREW M. SEAMAN is the senior medical journalist with Reuters in New York City. He covers the latest health and medical news and developments from around the world, and pays special attention to issues affecting the LGBTQ communities. Previously, Seaman worked in Reuters Washington, D.C. bureau, where he reported on health policy and the White House. Seaman currently serves as chairperson for



the ethics committee of the Society of Professional Journalists. that role, he oversees a committee tasked with being the advocates and watchdogs of the profession's best practices as described in the organization's Code of Ethics. He also sits on the alumni board of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. His work has appeared — among other places — in USA TODAY, Politico, The Washington Post and The New York Times.

A graduate of the University of Maryland College of Journalism, JEREMY SETTLE spent the first seven years of his career working his way up the ladder at WUSA-TV in Washington. After leaving as assignment manager at the end of 2004, he ran a newsroom in Charlottesville, Virginia. After nearly four years in Charlottesville, he returned to Washington as news director for NewsChannel 8. After stints as news director for WBRE in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, and senior producer for a cable news channel's Washington Bureau, he moved to New York and now serves as assistant news director for News 12 New Jersey.

CRAIG SEYMOUR, Ph.D. is a writer/photographer and author of two books. His most recent, the memoir "All I Could Bare: My Life in the Strip Clubs of Gay Washington, D.C." was called a "neon-lit tour de force" by the Bay Area Reporter. Seymour has written for numerous publications, including The Washington Post, Entertainment Weekly, Vibe and Spin. He also served as the pop music critic for the Buffalo News and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. In addition



to being a writer, he is an accomplished photographer. His work has appeared in numerous national and international publications, including The Washington Post, Chicago's Red Eye, France's Têtu Men and Brazil's A Capa and Junior, among others. He is currently associate professor of journalism at Northern Illinois University.



NADINE SMITH is the co-founder and CEO of Equality Florida, the state's largest organization dedicated to ending discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. A former awardwinning journalist turned organizer, Smith was one of four national co-chairs of the 1993 March on Washington. She was part of the historic oval office meeting between then-President Clinton — the

first such meeting between a sitting president and gay community leaders. She is a Florida Chamber Foundation trustee, board member for Green Florida and served on President Obama's National Finance Committee. In 2013, Smith was named one of the state's "Most Powerful and Influential Women" by the Florida Diversity Council. She currently serves on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Florida Advisory Committee.



CURTIS SPARRER, one of Business Insider's "50 Best Public Relations People In The Tech Industry," has led PR campaigns for start-ups and big names including 1010data, Apigee, Ebates, FusionOps, PC Tools, On24, PayPal, SOASTA, Tetris and even the alien-hunting SETI Institute. PRWeek has profiled more than a dozen programs led by Sparrer as examples for its readers of especially innovative and effective techniques with outstanding results.

Now at Bospar, a boutique tech PR firm, Sparrer was previously an Emmy-award winning executive producer of KRON-TV, the nation's largest independent television station. His writing has appeared in a variety of outlets, including the Dallas Morning News. His behind-the-scenes media experience helps his clients attract the attention of the most coveted journalists. Sparrer also puts his unparalleled TV training skills to work to personally prepare each of Bospar's client spokespersons to shine during their many moments in the spotlight.

CATHERINE STIFTER is senior editor for Innovation at Capital Public Radio in Sacramento, California, where she heads the documentary team, edits radio and web stories and hires interns to help her keep up with all that social media stuff. She's spent 35 years in public radio telling great stories. She works with NPR's Next Generation Radio project to pass that skill on to diverse young journalists, no matter the medium. Stifter was a founding member of GLIPR



(Gays and Lesbians in Public Radio) and an early supporter of NLGJA.



JOSH STOFFREGEN is a vice president and account team lead for Global Communications at Prudential Financial Inc. He leads communications and media relations for Prudential Retirement's people, products and services, including defined contribution, defined benefit, guaranteed retirement income, structured settlements, executive benefits and pension risk transfer. He serves as the project lead for Prudential's "LGBT Financial Experience," an

in-depth look at the current financial landscape of LGBT Americans. Stoffregen is the immediate past president and current national advisor of Prudential's Employee Association of Gay Men, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Transgenders. He hosts the web show "Conversations About Retirement."

A veteran of the dynamic South Florida sports market for more than two decades, **KIM STONE**'s experience spans almost every functional area of a professional sports team. She has been an integral part of building the success of the Miami HEAT and the award-winning American Airlines Arena. In 2015, Stone was named a "Game Changer" by the Sports Business Journal for being a pioneer in her field. In 2014, she was inducted into the University



of North Carolina School of Journalism and Mass Communication's Hall of Fame for Public Relations. In 2003, she graduated with honors from the University of Miami with a master's degree in international business administration. She is formerly an adjunct professor in the St. Thomas University Masters of Sports Administration program and serves as a board member of the University of Miami's President's Council, Miami Downtown Development Authority and is currently president of the Florida Facility Manager's Association.



TIM TEEMAN is a senior editor and writer at The Daily Beast. For 15 years he was a journalist at The Times of London, in positions including arts and culture editor and U.S. correspondent. Teeman also edited the U.K.'s LGBT newspaper, The Pink Paper, and has written for publications including The New York Times, Guardian, Observer, Town and Country, Elle, Out and Attitude. His first book, "In Bed With Gore Vidal: Hustlers, Hollywood, and The Private

World of an American Master," was an Amazon No. 1 bestseller and was shortlisted for a Lambda Literary Award.

MATT THOMPSON is the deputy editor of TheAtlantic.com. He joined The Atlantic in 2015, after five years working on digital initiatives for NPR, including overseeing the launch of Code Switch, NPR's race, ethnicity and culture team. Before NPR, Thompson worked in a variety of editorial roles at media organizations across the country, including the Minneapolis Star Tribune, the Knight Foundation, the



Fresno Bee, and the Poynter Institute. He's a cofounder of the event series Spark Camp, and the vice-chairman of the board of the Center for Public Integrity. He lives in Washington, D.C., with his partner and two cats



MAURICE TOMLINSON is a Jamaican lawyer and senior policy analyst with the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network. At the Legal Network, Tomlinson acts as counsel and/or claimant in cases challenging anti-gay laws before the most senior tribunals in the Caribbean, authors reports to regional and U.N. agencies on the human rights situation for LGBTI people in this region, conducts judicial and police LGBTI- and HIV-sensitization trainings, and

facilitates human rights documentation and advocacy capacity-building exercises. In 2012, Tomlinson received the inaugural David Kato Vision and Voice Award, which recognizes individuals who defend human rights and the dignity of LGBTI people around the world. Tomlinson holds an Honours Bachelor of Arts in history from the University of the West Indies, a Master of Business Administration in entrepreneurial studies from the University of Calgary, an Honours LL.B. from the University of the West Indies, an LL.M. in Intellectual Property Law from the University of Turin and a Certificate of Legal Education from the Norman Manley Law School in Jamaica.

ALVIN TRAN is a health journalist based in Boston. He is currently completing his Doctor of Science in public health nutrition and behavioral sciences at Harvard University. His research interests include eating disorder prevention, health inequalities and sexual and gender minority health. Tran is also a graduate of the Summer Institute in LGBT Population Health program of The Fenway Institute of Fenway Health. Outside of research, Tran writes for WHDH-



TV and regularly contributes to KQED and WBUR Public Radio. He is a former fellow in Health Policy Reporting for Kaiser Health News in Washington, D.C.



JEFF TRUESDELL is a staff writer for People magazine, for which he reported on the shooting at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando — and on mass shootings at Virginia Tech; Umpqua Community College in Oregon; a county office in San Bernadino, California; a military base and recruiting center in Chattanooga, Tennessee; and too many others. He was a founding editor of Orlando Weekly, and currently is executive producing the documentary

"For Ahkeem," which incorporates the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, near his St. Louis hometown.





NEDA ULABY reports on arts, entertainment and cultural trends for NPR's Arts Desk. Scouring the various and often overlapping worlds of art, music, television, film, new media and literature, Ulaby's radio and online stories reflect political and economic realities, cultural issues, obsessions and transitions, as well as artistic adventurousness awesomeness. Over the last few years, Ulaby has

strengthened NPR's television coverage both in terms of programming and industry coverage and profiled breakout artists such as Ellen Page and Skylar Grey and behind-the-scenes tastemakers ranging from super producer Timbaland to James Schamus, CEO of Focus Features. Her stories have included a series on women record producers, an investigation into exhibitions of plastinated human bodies and a look at the legacy of gay activist Harvey Milk.

KRIS VAN CLEAVE was appointed CBS News transportation correspondent in September 2015 and is based in Washington, D.C. He previously served as a correspondent for CBS Newspath, the network's 24-hour television newsgathering service for CBS stations and broadcasters around the world. Since joining CBS News in 2014, Van Cleave has covered a number of breaking news stories including the deadly derailment of Amtrak train 188, the Boston



Marathon bombing trial and the crash of Germanwings 9525. Prior to joining CBS Newspath, Van Cleave served as a reporter and anchor for nearly eight years at WJLA-TV and NewsChannel 8 in Washington, D.C. Van Cleave has earned 12 regional Emmy Awards, nine regional Edward R. Murrow Awards, and was part of ABC7's team of reporters honored with the 2010 and 2013 National Edward R. Murrow Awards for breaking news coverage. He twice received the Emmy Award for the D.C. region's best general assignment reporter (2007 and 2010), and was named 2010 and 2011 "Best Reporter" by the Chesapeake Associated Press Broadcasters Association.



In his role as LGBT media relations manager at Visit Philadelphia, ARTURO VARELA works to secure editorial coverage for Philadelphia in local, regional and national media outlets, plans media events and tracks coverage, while also shaping and executing the company's integrated LGBT campaign. In addition, Varela represents Visit Philadelphia at key LGBT industry events and conferences.

ELLIOT WEILER joined Consumer Reports in 2015 as the associate director of Broadcast and Digital Video. In this role, he leads a video team that creates unique content for more than 140 television stations in the United States and Canada, as well as digital platforms that reach millions of consumers. Prior to joining Consumer Reports, Weiler served as an Emmy Award-winning news anchor and business/ consumer reporter with KTVI-TV in St. Louis and



WBRE-TV in Scranton, Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters honored Weiler with two "Best Special Report" awards for his investigations into fraudulent Canadian loan scams. After graduating from Franklin and Marshall College, Weiler was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study political communications in Canada. Weiler holds graduate degrees in political science from York University and journalism from Northwestern University. He lives in New York City.



JIMMY WILLIAMS is the host of the Scripps-owned podcast DecodeDC. He was an MSNBC political contributor for five years and was executive editor and founder of Bluenationreview.com. Williams spent seven years as a senior staffer in the United States Senate, including nearly five years as the senior economic policy adviser to Senate Democratic Whip Dick Durbin (IL). A former lobbyist, he represented multiple interests before the U.S. Congress and the

Executive branch, including the real estate industry, the banking industry, the wine and spirits industry and the speedracing industry. In the summer 2011, Williams gave up lobbying to become a full-time political opinion and investigative journalist. He lives in the mountains of Virginia in a log cabin with his dog Moses and spends an inordinate amount of time in his garden.

JOHN YANG is a general assignment correspondent for PBS "NewsHour," public television's nightly news broadcast. Yang most recently served as a Chicagobased correspondent for NBC News, reporting for "NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt," "Today" and MSNBC. Yang was part of an NBC team that reported on "In Plain Sight: Poverty in America," a 2013 George Foster Peabody Award recipient, and his reporting in April 2011 on tornado devastation in Alabama was



included in an "NBC Nightly News" broadcast that received an Edward R. Murrow Award for "Best Newscast." Throughout his time at NBC News, Yang was a regular contributor to NBCNews.com, including during the 2012 presidential campaign, and for coverage including the sex abuse trial of Penn State coach Jerry Sandusky, the escape and manhunt of convicted killers Richard Matt and David Sweat and the crash of Asiana Airlines Flight 214. Prior to joining NBC, Yang worked for ABC News, based in Washington and Jerusalem, where he served as weekend White House correspondent and Middle East correspondent, respectively. Yang's career also includes time at The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, TIME and The Boston Globe.



ERIC YUTZY co-anchors WPLG's "Local 10 Morning News" and also reports during the week. Yutzy moved to covering news after spending 11 years as an awardwinning sports anchor. From 2010-14, Yutzy was the weekend sports anchor at WTHR-TV in Indianapolis. There he carved a niche as a storyteller, gaining behind the scenes access to athletes. From 2004-10, Yutzy was a sports anchor at WTVF-TV in Nashville. Yutzy has received numerous honors, including

Emmy and Associated Press awards. He's passionate about finding feature stories in the community that showcase hardworking people doing incredible things. Originally from Peabody, Massachusetts, Yutzy graduated from Quinnipiac University and started his career as a reporter for WKEF-TV in Dayton, Ohio. He's a married father of four. He also enjoys reading, writing, working out and playing basketball.

DR. SHERYL ZAYAS is the medical director for Care Resource, which is a Federally Qualified Health Center with 4 locations in South Florida. She is a Chicago native and received her bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. She became interested in medicine as a Health Extension Peace Corps Volunteer in Senegal, West Africa. She attended medical school at Nova Southeastern University and holds a medical degree in Osteopathic Medicine. She completed her residency in Family Practice at the Lake Eric College of Osteopathic Medicine location in Miami, Florida where she served as Chief Resident. She is a Board Certified Family Physician and HIV specialist, voluntary faculty with Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine at FIU. She received the Trans Equality Award presented by The Pride Center in Fort Lauderdale in 2014.



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We proudly support NLGJA and its ongoing efforts to foster fair and accurate coverage of LGBT issues.



