

== opinion ==

responsibilities must be in harmony to be just, as is constitutionally guaranteed.

When lamenting the phone message I left, Neil should remember he knocked uninvited on our door, with a message that said we are not worthy, in my reply, I apologize for my insensitivity; wanting him to hurt as badly as I do is equally vile.

However, I will no longer wait to have my home invaded, nor allow the continued decline of the quality of my family's life, nor tolerate the indignity of neighbors publicly debating the righteousness of the love our family shares, while the raping of our freedoms continues unabated.

Don't let them think for you. Education can stop them.

Read the Constitution. Come with us.

From this point forward, with a firm adherence to justice, moderation and temperance, and in accordance to the dictates of my conscience, I do so Declare A War of Love.

Lou Phinney
Bradford

I was upset by OITM's lack of acknowledgement of the most significant holiday in the Jewish tradition in last month's newspaper. I didn't write my column because I was busy celebrating, but asked to have some sort of Jewish New Year's greeting to the readers from me. Nothing appeared, neither by me nor anyone else, and the paper came out smack dab in the middle of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. There were, of course, solicitations for Christmas contributions announced in the October issue. Typical.

I'm sure Chanukah will be acknowledged in the paper in December—one of the minor holidays in Judaism—but that's because non-Jews remember it since it comes so

close to Christmas. That way they can think of it as "the Jewish Christmas" and give themselves "diversity" points. It's not as if there are only a smattering of GLBT Jews in the movement. There are dozens of us in Vermont and thousands nationwide. We are everywhere! Anyway, Happy (belated) New Year and may you all be inscribed in the Book of Life in the coming year. B'Shalom.

Crow Cohen
Winooski

Editor's note: We apologize for the misunderstanding that led to the non-publication of Crow's Yom Kippur greeting. No slight was intended. Greater inclusivity is one of our goals; we hope Crow and all of our contributors and readers will continue to make their ideas and voices heard and help us fill coverage gaps.

Although the holiday feature planned for the December issue will coincide with the Christian holidays among others, it is not meant to focus on Christmas alone. We strongly encourage submissions of all varieties. Please share your stories with our community!

A distasteful example of the religious elite is responsible for this year's political upheaval. This deviant faction boasts directors of several supposed-Christian colleges and organizations, philosophers, and theologians who strive for social control by denouncing, under the guise of religious freedom, intellect and critical thinking as "Satan's playground." They are not disciples of Jesus Christ and have more in common with the creators of an Islamic jihad (Holy War) than Christianity. Selective reading of Scripture is pure corruption of religion.

Earlier, this faction-now battling non-heterosexual peoples,

women who don't stay at home, and equal rights-were reactionaries to the pace of scientific advances, the Industrial Revolution and the free-market economy consequentials. There are allegations that this religious elite invented the Cold War and "secular humanism" solely to create the sensational enemies as a means of keeping the "faith" alive. This faith, exposed in the current battle for governmental control, is merely a cult characterized by irrational fear. Followers are taught to despise insight and open-ended questions, not entirely different than the former Soviet control techniques.

We have witnessed the extremist views of Randall Terry and Nancy Sheltra, Waco's David Koresh and Aryan Nation's Richard Butler. Our rights and freedoms cannot be guaranteed if we can allow ourselves to be fooled by purveyors of neuroses. Satan lurks in the form of oppression under their fantasies, and this religious elite would prefer that you don't know how to think for yourself.

Rev. J. William Tucker
Rutland

I will cast my vote for Anthony Pollina. He is the best candidate running. He is 100 percent supportive of gays and lesbians and is comfortable with the idea of marriage. We have had, and will have, the unparalleled support of Progressives. (This support began with Burlington Progressive Dean Corren years before the plaintiffs even brought the case. He stood on the House floor and voted for civil unions with the reservation that it didn't go far enough.) It's something to remember in November.

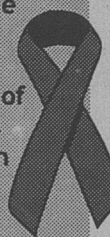
We complain that people's opposition to homosexuals is born out of fear. It's fear that

keeps many of us from voting for whom we really want. If everyone who said they liked Anthony voted for Anthony, he would win in a landslide.

Vote your hopes and not your fears and the door to the Governor's office will be open like never before.

Ross Laffan
Rochester

During the 1990s the epidemic shifted steadily toward a growing proportion of AIDS cases in blacks and Hispanics and in women and toward a decreasing proportion in MSM [men who have sex with men], although this group remains the largest single exposure group. (CDC, 1999)



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