



The Boston Gay Men's Chorus will celebrate its 25th anniversary.

PENNSYLVANIA

Historic Custody Decision Stands

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court let stand a lower court ruling Nov. 29 awarding custody to lesbian mother Patricia Jones because she would provide a better home than her ex-partner, Ellen Boring, the children's biological parent.

Jones and Boring were partners for 14 years. During that time they planned a family, resulting in twins. After the couple ended their relationship in 2001, a trial court found that Jones had parental rights to the children and awarded joint custody to both mothers, giving primary physical custody to Boring. Later, Jones filed for primary physical custody of the children, citing Boring's history of contempt in observing the visitation schedule set by the court and her attempts to unilaterally remove the children from Pennsylvania.

The court found "convincing reasons" that being in Jones' custody would be in the best interest of the children and awarded her primary physical custody. That ruling was appealed by Boring, contending that because she was the children's biological mother and former primary custodian, they could not be removed from her custody without a finding that she is unfit, a very high standard.

The Pennsylvania Superior Court found that

argument to be invalid and upheld the lower court's decision to grant primary physical custody to Jones. Boring then appealed that ruling, which the Pennsylvania Supreme Court refused to consider.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston Gay Men's Chorus Opens 25th Anniversary Season

The 150-voice Boston Gay Men's Chorus will celebrate the many joys and traditions of the season with *Home for the Holidays*. These four concerts mark the opening of its 25th anniversary season. Under the direction of Reuben Reynolds, the performances will be held Dec. 15 to 19 at New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall.

"Gay and lesbian people have a long tradition of creating families of choice, so our theme is family," Reynolds says. "We've literally got something for everyone. Christmas, Hanukkah, gay, straight, classical, pop—it's all in the mix."

NEW YORK

Trans Storyline Breaks Ground

ABC announced Nov. 28 that *All My Children* would introduce an ongoing transgender character and storyline Nov. 30. This is the first time a daytime drama—or any series on broadcast television—will chronicle a transgender coming-out story.

The storyline involves Zarf (Jeffrey Carlson), a male-to-female transgender character who has hidden behind a larger-than-life rock star persona. Zarf initially connects with and shares her struggles with Bianca (Eden Riegel), whose life experiences in coming out as a lesbian led to her own education, acceptance and compassion.

"*All My Children* has a long-standing commitment to telling socially relevant stories that entertain and inform. Viewers can expect a heartfelt story between two people who share a common ground, yet learn about inherent differences and understanding. At its core, this is a story of acceptance and love," says executive producer Julie Hanan Carruthers.

Showtime's *The L Word* is the only other scripted series that has told the story of a transgender character's transition.

All My Children celebrates its 37th anniversary Jan. 5, 2007. In 2003, another historic moment was made when the show aired daytime television's first kiss between two women in a loving relationship. 10



Actor Jeffrey Carlson is playing transgender character Zarf on *All My Children*.

Compiled by JAYMEE R. CUTI

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