





"The Prayer of Jabez" author is opposed to gays



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Exclusive Q-Notes Interview 21 Abigail Live! at Velocity 2-15

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#### How is the new year shaping up for you so far?

choose one:

- . Unbelieveable!
- . Better than I thought.
- . Have high hopes.
- . Glad it's still new ...
- . Oy vey! Gotta getta grip!

#### Q-POLL sponsored by: Dilliansburg on Commonwealth

Townhome Style Condominiums



#### by blackaids.org

Twenty years ago this year, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported the first cases of what we know now as AIDS. In the two decades since, a staggering 155,000 Black lives have been lost to the disease. African American AIDS Policy and Training Institute launched the "Heroes in the Struggle" — a photographic tribute to twenty African Americans who have made outstanding contributions to the fight against HIV/AIDS. The honorees reflect the diverse commitment by African Americans: Celebrities, athletes, politicians, doctors, people living with HIV/AIDS and community advocates. The exhibit will travel to Black muse-

The exhibit will travel to Black museums, historically Black colleges and universities around the country.

- "Heroes in the Struggle"was designed to: • Embed the idea HIV/AIDS is an issue in Black communities.
- Show the great contributions of Black people in combatting HIV/AIDS, and
- thereby help reduce the stigma.Challenge all African American institu-
- tions and individuals to get involved; • Generate discussions in Black communi-
- ties about HIV testing and treatment; • Provide critical support for HIV prevention efforts

Blacks are dying globally from AIDS; the statistics are staggering. Help now.

By Clifford Klein & Kelly Last

Happy Valentine's Day!

Ed. Note: The following is a compilation of a QNotes "Letter to the Editor" as well as material

taken from thecouple's Vermont Union ceremony.

### Traveling photographic exhibit Honored heroes fighting AIDS Paris Barclay Mary J. Blige

... producer and Emmy Award winning television and film director who's credits include NYPD Blue, The West Wing and ER who has not only confronted HIV/AIDS in his work but also donated

his talents through fundraising and activism; He is Honorary Chair of Project Angel Food in Los, Angeles California, which has delivered almost 3 million meals to people living with HIV/AIDS.

> Archbishop Carl Bean ... founder of Minority AIDS Project in Los Angeles,

California and the Unity Fellowship Church movement. Mayor Willie Brown,

## George

## Bellinger, Jr.

... New York City-based AIDS activist who has led efforts to

provide services for and advocate on the behalf of gay men of color.

#### Mary J. Blige

... R&B singer and songwriter who has used her celebrity to raise millions of dollars for AIDS organizations.



Hydeia Broadbent



... a 16-year-old AIDS activist who tested positive for HIV at age 3. She tours the US speaking to African American churches about the epidemic.

... as mayor of San Francisco and speaker of the California assembly, has shown model leadership in fighting HIV/AIDS.

#### Dr. Helene Gayle

Jr.

... Director of US Centers for Disease Control's HIV/STD/TB bureau has pushed the government in targeting

black communities for prevention and treatment initiatives.

: 6.

see HEROES on 10

# Vermont sends out valentines all year long

I read with great interest your article in Q-Notes' January 19, 2002 issue, "Isn't marriage suppose to be happy and gay?".

I fully agree with you — it is time for society to let us share some of their "wedded bliss."

My lover and I went to Vermont on November 5, 2001 and were legally united in civil union in

B e n n i n g t o n , Vermont. "We have gathered together to celebrate with

these two people the civil union in which they are now to be united. Such a union is a natural relationship recognized by mankind from time immemorial, and consecrated by the people in all ages who bought its beauty to flower. It is not to be entered upon unadvisedly or light*ly, but with deliberation and reverence.*" Before I get too far along here, I want to say perhaps we hit it lucky with the great reception of most people we met there.

"Cliff will you have this man to be your partner, to live together in the estate of union? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him in sickness and in health, forsaking all others, so long as you both shall live?"

When we approached the Town Clerk of Vermont, we were treated with the utmost respect. And I honestly hadn't expected anything less, but it was certainly more than we had anticipated. We were treated like any other couple applying for a "marriage" license. It bothered me a little when a couple of workers in the office did kind of a double take. But the smiles did flow from their faces.

We filled out our application, provided proof of North Carolina residency. Since we had out drivers licenses, we didn't need the birth certificates we also brought.