

Established by GALA's executive committee and officers and initially funded by Pais, the THOMAS A. DOOLEY AWARD is named after a 1948 gay Notre Dame alumnus. When the United States Navy forced Lt. Dooley to resign his commission because of homosexuality, Dooley, a medical doctor, continued to provide humanitarian medical care and relief for refugees in Southeast Asia. Dr. Dooley wrote four best-selling books describing these efforts in the war-torn jungles. A 1959 Gallup poll ranked him the seventh most admired man in the country—right behind President Eisenhower and Pope John XXIII. Dooley's work inspired President Kennedy to establish the Peace Corps in 1961.

As Pais said at the dinner, "Today **Tom Dooley '48**, a devout Roman Catholic, is a positive role model for many gay men and lesbians who by combining faith with their commitment to serve the gay community, seek to make the world a better place for everybody."

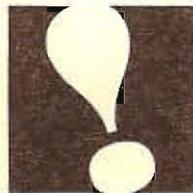
By Sunday morning the rain had stopped. Only a liturgical celebration at gay and lesbian friendly St. Francis Xavier Church and a Gospel Brunch at Lola's remained on the schedule of events. By all accounts, it was difficult for many people to say good-bye. Letting go of the weekend's whirlwind of activities was even harder.

But the memories remain. The reminiscing continues. All totaled, gay and lesbian alumni from the District of Columbia and 16 states—including California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin—attended Holiday in New York



Megan Phillips '79 SMC and her partner Jackie Mickle from Atlanta, enjoy a New York Sunday brunch with a friend.

In addition to event chair **David Pais '72**, several other gay Domers made Holiday in New York possible: **Chuck Colbert '78** and **Tom O'Neil '77** wrote press releases and handled media relations. **Art Panfile '75** and **Tom Zahn '67** managed the database, collected the registration fees, and paid the bills. Another Chicago-based GALA member assembled materials for the registration packets and assisted Pais with logistics. **Peter McFadden '79** hosted the pre-weekend registration, complete with Christmas egg nog. Finally, a special thank you goes to Jill De Vincens, Phil Donahue's assistant, whose considerable talents and timely service made the GALA/Donahue-Thomas communications and logistics not only professional, but also enjoyable.



**REMARKS OF
VIRGINIA APUZZO
FIRST-TIME RECIPIENT OF THE
THOMAS A. DOOLEY AWARD
COMMUNITY BAR AND GRILL, NEW
YORK CITY, DECEMBER 7, 1996**

Let me first say how profoundly touched I am that you have chosen to honor me with this award. I want you to know that I have been very blessed in my life. My work has been acknowledged by our community in very beautiful ways. I am very very fortunate in this respect.

This particular recognition that you have selected to give to me has so touched me. First, because—you know your first response when somebody says they want to honor you because of your spirituality—you want to say, "How do you know?" Then, "How did you get there?"

But after that—I believe—as I know you must believe, about the reality of grace in our lives, that your acknowledgment is another way for God to be telling me that I must once again recommit. I say that in all seriousness in an environment that lends itself to more joviality, and I just want to take a minute more to talk about that.

I began my life running away from God, hiding from God—mortified—and when we Catholics use the term mortified, we mean humiliated, exactly as our society and our religious institutions expect us to be, particularly when I was growing up.

I spent the better half of my adult life trying to run toward God. I resolved at some point in my life that while I couldn't know God, I was going to try to work my

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damnedest to get God to know me, to get God to know me. So I decided to *present* myself to God, as deliberately and enthusiastically, ardently and profanely as I am. And I tried in the course of my life to bring that part of me that initially caused me to run from God—to put it up front—to come out to God and to have that coming out be the focus of my life.

I must tell you that the result has been that I believe I have a deeply personal relationship with God. And it has been a rich, rich life—that decision to present myself to God and let God know me.

And I say that to you because coming out to God has informed everything about my life. When I was talking to my partner—whom I want to wish a Happy Chanukah tonight—when I was talking to Barbara about what to say, she said to me don't worry because this award asks you to revisit the part of your life that you most enjoy visiting. And it's the truth. The richness that is our spiritual lives is something that we can never allow ourselves to be separated from. David [Pais '72] said earlier when one [activism] dries out, the other [spirituality] replenishes it.

That is so true. We have such a marvelous faith, a kind of faith that we have been allowed to have. And despite all of the anger that is justifiable out there about the institutional Church, the fact of the matter is that the message is true. The truth of it is what sustains us. And it is the truth of it that we must embrace and embrace fully. And it is the truth of it that allows us to be the change agents in this world.

I believe that we must be the cause of the world in its fulfillment of itself. Why else would we be here? Why else would we find ourselves in this moment of history? I have always said every time I have stood before gay people that I believe that: because we are everyone and because we are everywhere, the liberation of us is the liberation of the world. Because we are the homeless. Because we are—racially every group. Because we are the poor. Because we are women. Because we are people with disabilities. Because we are every single facet of humanity. The liberation of us is everyone's liberation. And we can't stop until the job is done.

When I've said it in the past and I'll say again for you because I believe it was grace that gave me this thought: And I said it first at the second March on Washington in the eighties sometime. I said that ours is a mission that won't be done when we're getting our rights, too. It's a mission that won't be complete when we have domestic partners. It's not going to be a mission that's at its culmination point even with a cure for AIDS. Ours

is a mission that must be vigilant. Vigilant. Remember your Latin. Vigilant. For as long as ignorance can bully. Ignorance can bully. For as long as justice is frail. Think how frail justice is.

We are at a wonderful season of the year, a season that allows us to be renewed. A season that allows us to experience joy on the earth. I wish for each of you a wonderful holiday. I wish for each of you the opportunity to look inside of yourselves and feel the extraordinary strength and phenomenal potential that you have to change the world.

When Martin Luther King talked about liberation he really meant redemption, and he said he meant redemption. And by redemption he didn't mean healing of the sick. He meant healing what was broken and wounded and somehow pulling it back together and renewing it.

Our liberation struggle, that liberation struggle—the renewal that we owe the world, the healing Tom Dooley brought to that part of the world that he worked in—it's all part of one single movement toward the fulfillment of this creation.

You have by acknowledging my efforts tonight really moved me to recommit myself to that, and I would consider it a wonderful moment of grace if we could each recommit ourselves to it tonight together.

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for what your grace has brought to me. And I promise you that I will continue to work with you toward that goal. *That* is our responsibility to build. Thank you and God bless.

The THOMAS A. DOOLEY AWARD read:

*Presents to
Virginia M. Apuzzo
on December 7, 1996*

*In gratitude to Ms. Apuzzo who,
through her faith-based background centered in
Gospel values, has demonstrated personal
courage, compassion, and commitment
to advance the human and civil rights
of lesbian and gay Americans.*

The award was generously funded and endowed
by David Pais '72.