

# HUGS EAST

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2002

Volume 4, Issue 1

## Gays Gain a Hero

Mark Bingham was a strapping 220-pound, 6-foot-5 rugby player who had fought off muggers on the street and run with the bulls in Spain before taking on the terrorist on United Flight 93.

One of the heroes to emerge from America's biggest tragedy, Bingham has also become a symbol of hope to the nation's gays — a man whose sexual orientation made no difference when lives were at stake.

"I think Mark was always my personal hero," said Paul Holm, Bingham's former partner of six years. "We didn't run around waving gay flags, but we were very proud to be gay, and if people asked, he told them."

Flight 93 was en route from Newark, N.J., to San Francisco on Sept. 11 when Bingham, 31, called his mother saying they had been hijacked by three men who said they had a bomb. Bingham, sitting within reach of the cockpit, is believed to be one of those who fought the terrorist and caused the plane to crash into a Pennsylvania field instead of its apparent target in Washington.

Now, liberals and conservatives alike invoke Bingham's name as an example of America's strength and spirit.

California's top politicians presented Holm with a U.S. flag, and San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno wants to build a Bingham memorial in the city's predominantly gay Castro District.

"If he knew that lives were at stake, I'm convinced with every bone in my body that he would have jumped into action," Holm said. "He was physically fit and strong, and guns and weapons didn't bother him."

He fought off muggers in New York and San Francisco, wrestling a gun away despite being hit on the head. Over the summer, he was gored while running with the bulls in Spain.

Hugs - Hope \* Understanding \* Giving \* Support  
To the Gay & Lesbian Community of Lake, Geauga, and  
Ashtabula Counties.

Bingham, who lived most of his life in northern California but moved to New York not long before the terrorist attacks, also was a proven leader. He had coached his gay rugby team, the San Francisco Fog, was president of his fraternity at the University of California at Berkeley and started a public relations firm, the Bingham Group, in San Francisco and New York.

The attacks have prompted some political change. After nine years of opposition, the House voted to allow the District of Columbia to extend health care benefits to domestic partners. The Senate has yet to act.

Also, Republican New York Gov. George Pataki decided that partners of gays killed in violent crimes can get benefits from the New York Crimes Victims Board.

"Do you think for a minute that one of those men of women fleeing the towers trying to save themselves... do you think one of them thought for a minute, 'I wonder what the sexual orientation of that fireman is?'" Pataki said.

"This is still the greatest country in the world, but we can make it a little better. We can learn a little from Sept. 11."

Sen. John McCain, an Arizona Republican and a supporter of "don't ask, don't tell," wants Bingham and other Flight 93 passengers to get a Congressional Gold Medal, Congress' highest civilian honor. Bingham, a Republican, had met McCain briefly and wanted to see him elected president.

"I may very well owe my life to Mark and the others," McCain said in a tearful eulogy.

Mason, M. (2001, October 23). From Sept. 11 horrors, gays gain a hero. The Plain Dealer, Cleveland, p. A3

## Contacting Hugs East

HUGS EAST

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**E-mail your questions or comments to:**

[HUGSEAST@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:HUGSEAST@HOTMAIL.COM)

# Calendar of Events

## January, 2002

- 01/03 Board Meeting & Officer Elections.  
Anne Hache 20/20 Interview & K.D. Lange  
Interview — Terry  
Board members please arrive at 6:30 PM
- 01/10 Handling Stress. — Rhonda
- 01/17 Movie “Mystery Men.” — Virginia
- 01/24 Homophobia in the Workplace. — Mary
- 01/25 Board Game “.” — Mark

## February, 2002

- 02/07 Terry’s Shenanigans. — Terry
- 02/14 Love Stories. — Brenda  
Refreshments will be served.
- 02/21 Planning Meeting. — Rhonda
- 02/28 How Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> Affected the Gay Community. —  
Virginia

## Hugs Social Activities for January & February

- 01/26 5:00 PM Dinner at Blazin’ Bill’s.  
200 Olive Street, Grand River, OH 44045
- 02/23 5:00 PM Dinner at Luchitas.  
8820 Mentor Ave., Mentor, OH 44060

## Other Events for January & February

- 01/06 6 PM Medieval 12th Night Dinner.  
Riders Inn, 792 Mentor Ave., Painesville, OH  
44077, (440) 354-8200 Cost \$26.00 per person  
Call for reservations.
- 02/09 7 PM North Coast Men’s Choir. “Hearts on  
Fire” a musical valentine. Enjoy a romantic cabaret  
during your dinner and then dance the night away.  
The English Oak Room, Tower City,  
Cleveland, OH (216) 473-8919. Cost \$75.00 per  
person. Fund raiser for North Coast Men’s choir.
- 02/23 6 PM Womyn’s Variety Show and Party. (Women  
only) 18 and over, 3130 Mayfield Rd, Cleveland  
Heights, OH 216-321-7799.

For more details regarding any social event or meeting topic please call the information line at (440) 974-8909.

The Thursday evening meeting begins at 7:00 PM and is located at: 8521 East Ave., Mentor, OH 44060



## OhioLesbian BDSM

Interested in the BDSM scene? Don’t know where to go or who to talk to? Not comfortable in the pansexual scene? Feel more comfortable around your own community? Then you’ve found us! Ohio Lesbian BDSM is a special interest group of Ohio S.M.A.R.T., which is the Cleveland-based BDSM group. We are newly formed and haven’t had any functions as of yet, but look forward to the response that we get from ad placement and advertising in the community. Please contact us at ohi-olesbdsm@yahoo.com or 800.731.2955 to leave a voice-mail. We have two mailing lists and want to have group functions in the near future.

## Thank You!

WOW — what wonderful presents — much appreciated by my clients & their families. On their behalf I can’t say thanks enough. And it was organized!! To my anally retentive self it was a dream. Have the best of holidays & a marvelous healthy New Year filled with the goodness you each deserve. Love —

Gail Anderson

## Membership Dues

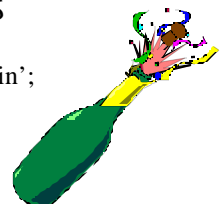
The New Year’ here, no time for Snoozin’;

Last years dues we’ve finished usin’.

If y’d like to keep perusin’,

Grab your check book—get your dues in!

By Terry





## BEST PLACES FOR GLBT FAMILIES

	Permits marriage	Permits civil unions	Lacks anti-gay-marriage law	Domestic partner benefits for state employees	Has granted adoptions to individuals	Has granted adoptions to same-sex couples	Has granted second-parent adoptions	Has school non-discrimination law	School law includes gender identity	Has non-discrimination law	Non-discrimination law includes gender identity	Includes sexual orientation in hate crimes law	Hate crimes law includes gender identity	Repealed sodomy laws
D.C.			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vermont	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓
California				✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Connecticut		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
New Jersey		✓			✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓
Minnesota					✓		✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rhode Island		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗			✓	✓	✓		✓
Massachusetts		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
New York		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓		✓
New Hampshire		✓			✓		✗			✓		✓		✓
Oregon		✓	✓	✓			✗					✓		✓
Washington				✓	✓	✓	✗					✓		✓

✓ Indicates statewide law ✗ indicates law in some areas

# Be a part of HUGS EAST

## **BE A PART OF HUGS EAST**

Due to the increased cost of the mailing of our newsletter we can no longer afford to continue our current mailing to non-paying members. This will be the last to those not currently with paid dues or who do not mail their dues prior to the next newsletter mailing in March.

Please send your dues to Hugs East P.O. Box 253, Mentor, Ohio 44060. If your not currently paid and would like to remain on the mailing list, please submit your dues by the next scheduled newsletter. Current newsletters will still be available on Thursday nights at the Mentor site for those who are not on the mailing list.

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### **2002 HUGS EAST MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

NAME: _____	<u>Membership</u>	
ADDRESS: _____	Individual:	\$8.00
CITY & STATE _____	Student:	\$5.00
ZIP CODE: _____	Household:	\$10.00
PHONE #(optional) _____	Supporter:	\$25.00
EMAIL (optional) _____	Contributor:	\$50.00
	Benefactor:	\$100.00
AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____		

\*Dues run from January thru December.

To update our membership list we ask that you complete the above information. Even if you were a current member, we would like to update our records to show current information. This will ensure your copy of the newsletter. Membership dues are suggested amounts. Please feel free to pay more if you can, less if you cannot. All members share the same privileges. Make check or money order payable to: HUGS EAST P.O. Box 253 Mentor, Ohio 44061-0253, or bring to the Mentor site any Thursday evening (7pm to 9pm).

\_\_\_\_\_ Do not send HUGS EAST newsletter to my home.

\*\*\$8.00-\$10.00 dues are not tax deductible; amounts paid over said dues are considered contributions and are tax deductible.