

**PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**Special Collections**  
**Collection #109-04-02**  
**R. Tripp Evans & Ed Cabral Marriage Equality Collection**  
c.2008-2021

**OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION**

Number: 109-04-02

Title: R. Tripp Evans & Ed Cabral Marriage Equality Collection

Creator: Evans, R. Tripp, b. 1968  
Cabral, Edward B., b. 1962

Dates: c.2008-2021

Quantity: 1 manuscript box (with additional smaller box inside), 1 newspaper box,  
& 1 extra large folder (2 linear feet & 1 oversized flat file)

**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

Acquisition: Gift of R. Tripp Evans & Edward B. Cabral, 2021-2023

Accruals: No accruals are expected.

Custodial history: Material was acquired from the creator.

Processed by: The collection was processed by Jessica Rogers-Cerrato in 2022. Revised by Kate Wells in 2023.

Conservation: Not applicable.

Language: Materials are in English.

**RIGHTS AND ACCESS**

Access: This collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Providence Public Library, Special Collections department.

Preferred Citation: Researchers are requested to use the following citation format:  
[item number], [item title], R. Tripp Evans and Ed Cabral Collection, Special Collections, Providence Public Library, Providence, RI.

Property Rights: Providence Public Library owns the property rights to this collection. Consideration of the copyrights is the responsibility of the researcher.

**INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS**

Separated material    None.

Published description    Not applicable.

Location of originals    Not applicable.

Location of copies    Not applicable.

Publication note    Not applicable.

Subject headings    LCSH:  
Azorean Americans  
Civil rights  
COVID-19 Pandemic, 2020-  
Gay activists  
Gay couples  
Gay rights--United States  
Marriage  
Marriage law  
Protest movements  
Sexual minorities  
Same-sex marriage  
Same-sex weddings  
  
AAT:  
buttons (information artifacts)  
color photographs  
invitations  
newspapers  
posters  
protests  
T-shirts  
  
Homosaurus:  
Gay rights  
LGBTQ+ action campaigns  
LGBTQ+ activism  
LGBTQ+ activists  
LGBTQ+ civil rights  
LGBTQ+ weddings

**SEE ALSO**

- Options Magazine, 1982-current, Special Collections, Providence Public Library.

**HISTORICAL NOTE**

R. Tripp Evans was born in Bethesda, Maryland in 1968, raised in Virginia, and moved to Rhode Island in the late 1990s. He is a graduate of University of Virginia and Yale University. Since 1997 he has taught in the Art and Art History Department at Wheaton College in Massachusetts and is an accomplished author. In 2010, he won a National Award for Arts Writing. Edward B. Cabral was born in São Miguel in the Azores in 1962. He was raised in New Bedford, Massachusetts. He has worked for the *Providence Journal* newspaper and for the nonprofit arts and community organization WaterFire Providence. Cabral and Evans married in 2014 and are both very active in the local arts and culture community of Providence.

In 2011, after intense community pressure, the Rhode Island Legislature passed a state statute creating civil unions for same-sex couples. On January 22, 2013, the House Judiciary Committee became the first legislative body in Rhode Island to advance the freedom for same-sex couples to marry when it moved the marriage bill to the House floor. The bill passed overwhelmingly in the House and Senate and Governor Lincoln Chafee signed the state's marriage bill into law on May 2, 2013. Same-sex couples began marrying in Rhode Island on August 1, 2013. On June 26, 2015, the United States Supreme Court ruled in favor of the freedom to marry, ending marriage discrimination across the country.

Tripp Evans and Ed Cabral labored tirelessly to help ensure the passage of the RI Marriage Equality Act. Together, they testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee at the RI State House at least half a dozen times. They marched both at the State House and in Washington, D.C. in support of Marriage Equality. Evans and Cabral served as volunteer strategists for Marriage Equality Rhode Island (MERI) creating scoreboards for lawmakers' voting records and writing repeatedly to state representatives and senators, among other activities. Both gentlemen also operated phone banks for Rhode Islanders for Marriage Equality (RIME), which was headquartered in the Pearl Street Lofts in Providence, RI.

It was while they were holding their Join the Free States protest sign at the celebratory passage-into-law rally in 2013 (with "finally" added to "Join the Free States") that then Providence Mayor Angel Taveras offered to perform their marriage ceremony. The well-traveled protest sign is featured here in this collection. Mayor Taveras had previously officiated the couple's Civil Union ceremony in 2011 in his office in City Hall. R. Tripp Evans and Edward B. Cabral were married on March 15, 2014, at the Providence Public Library.

**SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION**

This collection contains materials and ephemera created and collected by R. Tripp Evans and Edward B. Cabral related to the fight for marriage equality in the state of Rhode Island, including but not limited to photographs, newspapers, promotional video, t-shirts, and protest signage.

Items from the nonprofit organizations Marriage Equality Rhode Island (MERI) and Rhode Islanders United for Marriage are represented here as well. This collection also features photographs, stationery, and ephemera from the wedding of R. Tripp Evans and Edward B. Cabral on March 15, 2014, officiated by Providence Mayor Angel Taveras and held at the Providence Public Library, as well as two volumes documenting the lives of Evans and Cabral during the COVID-19 shutdown and pandemic in 2020.

### ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION

The R. Tripp Evans & Ed Cabral Marriage Equality Collection is organized into three series. Series 1, entitled Marriage Equality protest ephemera, includes ephemera from the multi-year protest movement for marriage equality, while series 2 contains materials related to the wedding of R. Tripp Evans and Edward B. Cabral. Within each of these series, the original order of items is maintained as much as possible, including the donor's original numbering and description. Series 3 is composed of newspapers, including the *Providence Journal*, *Providence Phoenix*, *NY Times*, and the *Wall Street Journal*, which contain articles about the fight for marriage equality both locally and nationally. These items are arranged chronologically. Series 4 includes 2 volumes documenting Evans and Cabral's life during the COVID-19 pandemic and shutdown.

### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

#### Series 1: Marriage Equality protest ephemera

Title	Date	Box	Folder
Screenshot, printed on photo paper, of website banner for Marriage Equality Rhode Island (RI) Note: Image includes "Join the Free States" protest sign.	2008	1	1
Natalie Easterly, Edward Cabral (in MERI shirt), & Virginia Evans at Human Rights Campaign rally in Washington, D.C.	2010	1	1
Tripp Evans & Edward Cabral at RI State House for Marriage Equality rally Note: Image includes "Join the Free States" protest sign. Vermont, New Hampshire, and Iowa added to the sign.	2009	1	1
Tripp Evans & Edward Cabral at RI State House for Marriage Equality rally Note: Image includes "Join the Free States" protest sign. Vermont, New Hampshire, and Iowa added to the sign.	2009	1	1
Tripp Evans with Rhode Islanders United for Marriage at RI State House, preparing to testify before Senate Judiciary Committee	2013	1	1

Title	Date	Box	Folder
Tripp Evans & Edward Cabral at celebratory rally, RI State House, after passage of marriage equality bill. Note: Image includes "Join the Free States" protest sign with "Finally Joined" added.	2013	1	1
"Valuing All Families" DVD, Marriage Equality Rhode Island (MERI)	c.2010	1	2
Rhode Island Senate Scorecard (with annotations)	c.2013	1	3
Marriage Equality Rhode Island (MERI) pin-back button	c.2008	1.1	wrapped
Marriage Equality Rhode Island (MERI) white t-shirt with graphic	c.2008	1.1	wrapped
"Rhode Island Blows: Pass Marriage Equality Now" gray t-shirt with graphic, designed by Arley-Rose Torsone, produced at AS220	2011	1.1	wrapped
Rhode Islanders United for Marriage poster Dimensions: 18 x 12 inches	c.2010	2	1
"JOIN THE FREE STATES" marriage equality protest sign(s), shaped like a map of New England with a separate Iowa sign. Created by R. Tripp Evans Materials: foamcore, paint, & wood Dimensions: approx. 4 x 2.5 feet (large sign); 18 x 16 inches (Iowa sign)	initial sign: 2008 NH/VT/ME & Iowa sign added: 2009 "Finally Joined" text added: 2013	Flat file  (Iowa sign in box 2)	1  (Iowa sign in folder 2)

**Series 2: Evans & Cabral wedding ephemera**

Title	Date	Box	Folder
Civil Union ceremony at City Hall (Left to right: Tripp Evans, Mayor Angel Taveras, Edward Cabral)	2011	1	4
Mayor Taveras (seated) signs Civil Union license (Standing, left to right: Tripp Evans & Edward Cabral, witnesses Elaine Spiegel & Paula Brasileiro)	2011	1	4
Celebratory rally at R.I. State House after passage of Marriage Equality bill (Left to right: Tripp Evans, Mayor Angel Taveras, Edward Cabral)	2013	1	4

Conversion of Civil Union to marriage license at City Hall (Left to right: Tripp Evans, Edward Cabral)	2013	1	4
Engagement photo for <i>Providence Journal</i> , photo by Lisa Gendron at Agrotterra Photography (Left to right: Tripp Evans, Edward Cabral)	2014	1	4
Mayor Angel Taveras officiates wedding at Providence Public Library, photo by Lisa Gendron at Agrotterra Photography (Left to right: Edward Cabral, Mayor Angel Taveras, Tripp Evans)	2014	1	4
Edward Cabral (left) and Tripp Evans (right) leaving wedding ceremony at the Providence Public Library, photo by Lisa Gendron at Agrotterra Photography	2014	1	4
"Just Married" photograph, Providence Public Library staircase, photo by Lisa Gendron at Agrotterra Photography (left to right: Tripp Evans, Edward Cabral)	2014	1	4
Guest Donna Kerner with table reservation card at the Providence Public Library, photo by Lisa Gendron at Agrotterra Photography	2014	1	4
Table reservation cards at the Providence Public Library, photo by Lisa Gendron at Agrotterra Photography	2014	1	4
Wedding invitation drafts	2013	1	5
Save-the-date stationery	2013	1	6
Wedding invitations	2014	1	7
Rehearsal dinner stationery	2014	1	8
Wedding ceremony programs	2014	1	9
Wedding place cards	2014	1	10
Brunch invitation	2014	1	11

**Series 3: Newspapers**

Title	Date	Box	Folder
<i>The New York Times</i> , "New York Allows Same-Sex Marriage, Becoming Largest State to Pass Law"	2011-06-25	2	3

<i>The New York Times</i> , "Obama Endorses Same-Sex Marriage, Taking Stand on Charged Social Issue"	2012-05-10	2	3
<i>The Wall Street Journal</i> , "Obama Backs Gay Marriage"	2012-05-10	2	3
<i>The Providence Journal</i> , "R.I. Recognizes Gay Marriage"	2012-05-15	2	3
<i>The Providence Journal</i> , "In historic vote, House approves gay marriage"	2013-01-25	2	3
<i>The Providence Phoenix</i> , "Tug of War: Senate President Teresa Paiva Weed controls the tense final struggle over gay marriage"	2013-02-01	2	3
<i>The Providence Journal</i> , "Embrace of gay marriage ends years of struggle"	2013-05-03	2	3
<i>The Providence Journal</i> , "Historic boost for gay marriage"	2013-06-27	2	3
<i>The Providence Journal</i> , "R.I. makes history, a couple at a time"	2013-08-02	2	3
<i>The Providence Journal</i> , "Lives 'more settled, more secure somehow'"	2014-08-01	2	3
<i>The Providence Journal</i> , "Gay marriage is U.S. law"	2015-06-27	2	3

**Series 3: Newspapers**

Title	Date	Box	Folder
<i>A Journal of the Plague Year: or, how Ed and Tripp learned to stop worrying and love the Lockdown, vol. 1</i>	2020-03 - 2020-08	2	
<i>A Journal of the Plague Year: or, how Ed and Tripp learned to stop worrying and love the Lockdown, vol. 2</i>	2013-09 - 2021-4	2	