**editorial**

**Important to remember amid Kavanaugh coverage, but #UsToo**

By Sue O’Connell

Sunday's swearing in of Brett Kavanaugh as the ninth justice to the Supreme Court was tough.

I've seen a lot of commentary online that Kavanaugh's confirmation was just as difficult for many people to absorb as the 2016 presidential election results. I get it. There's a falling-through-the-looking-glass quality to watching the U.S. Senate excuse Kavanaugh's outrageous behavior before the Senate Judiciary Committee (who will ever forget his attack on Sen. Amy Klobuchar?) because he was upset about having been credibly accused of sexual assault by two women.

Someone correct me if I'm wrong, but I don't recall a similar courtesy being extended to any other judicial nominee ever. The last one to be so rude before the Senate Judiciary Committee was Robert Bork, but he wasn't half as offensive as Kavanaugh was. Although Bork squeaked out of the Judiciary Committee, the full Senate rejected him. (Note to conservatives, please don't tweet at me about Bork. People who weren't there don't know—and those who were have conveniently forgotten—that Bork was his own worst enemy. He failed to prepare for his hearing and his condescending and incredible testimony alienated not just Democratic and Republican senators alike, but the American public as well.)

Professor Christine Blasey Ford's report that Kavanaugh had allegedly assaulted her when they were in high school and Debbie Ramirez's report that he had allegedly assaulted her in college turned the nation's attention to the issue of sexual assault. Coming at the one-year mark of the #MeToo movement, we were swamped with stories about sexual harassment and assault, nearly all of which focused on women as victims. But it can't be said often enough that this issue affects people of all genders.

In fact, LGBTQ people experience sexual assault at higher rates overall well.)

A “yes” vote on question 3 on Tuesday, November 6, 2018 keeps current protections for transgender people from discrimination in place. A “no” vote repeals this provision of the public accommodations law.

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**Yes on 3 Launches Campaign Ads**

“The video explains that Ian was born a girl, but always knew he was a boy.”

You can see the ads at www.freedommassachusetts.org.

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**Expect Greatness**

By Jules Becker

Do you want the “inside Broadway scoop”?

Arguably no one delivers it better than Seth Rudetsky. As the multiple New York talent—a Sirius/XM radio host, a playbill.com columnist, an actor and pianist-composer (the Broadway spoof “Disaster”—inspired by such movies as “The Towering Inferno” and “The Poseidon Adventure”—with his husband John Wesley)—recently told Bay Windows, his scoop has its own style. Rudetsky’s shows double as a concert—with the legendary actress-dancer Chita Rivera (born Dolores Conchita Figueroa del Rivero) in such a 90-minute unscripted song and talk combination in the Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts.

Rivera fans can certainly expect to hear the indefatigable legend return to the shows that brought her Tonys—“The Rink” and “Kiss of the Spider Woman.” Look for repertoire calling on some of her signature original roles—namely, Rosie in “Bye Bye Birdie,” Anita in “West Side Story” and Velma in “Chicago.” Rudetsky promised, “You’re going to hear tons of classics.”

Prepare to be reminded of the amazing length of Rivera’s career—from “Call Me Madam” in the 1950’s to her Tony-nominated performance as the vengeance-seeking billionaires
20th Annual Audre Lorde Cancer Awareness Brunch

October 20
Submitted by Fenway Health

Fenway Health’s 20th Annual Audre Lorde Cancer Awareness Brunch will take place at the NonProfit Center, 89 South Street, downtown Boston, from 10 am to 1 pm on Saturday, October 20. This year’s theme is “20 years of Community, Celebration and Growth,” celebrating the rich history of this event which brings together women of color affected by cancer to celebrate their lives.

The inaugural Judy Bradford Community Grant will be awarded to Janhavi Madabushi and Kamaria Weems Carrington for their project Cultivate: Queer Healing Lab at this year’s Brunch.

In addition to the grant, two awards will be given at this year’s Brunch. The Trailblazer Award will be presented to Erin Ebony, an out and proud transgender model, writer and activist who empowers and advocates for transgender women through her work at Fenway Health, Boston Glass, Freedom for All Massachusetts, and beyond.

The Spirit of Fire Award will be given to Diane Austin, who founded Coils to Locs to create more access to Afrocentric medical wigs for cancer survivors after her own battle with breast cancer in 2015 revealed the difficulty of finding such wigs. Brunch will be presented by Coco Verde Vegan with music by Zilli Misik, a storytelling workshop by Red Sage Stories, a spoken word performance from Queen Laura, and a Taiko drumming session from Genki Spark. More information about the Brunch, including a Cancer Awareness Resource Guide, can be found at fenwayhealth.org/audrelorde.

Leslie Odom Jr. Headlines ABCD’s Community Heroes Celebration

Submitted by ABCD

Action for Boston Community Development once again dedicates an evening of reverence, reflection and festivity to honor several outstanding unsung heroes – volunteers who uplift their communities by helping children, adults, elders and families overcome the oppression and struggles of poverty.

The annual gala will feature guest speaker and award winning performer Leslie Odom Jr. - Friday, October 26th, at Boston Marriott Copley Place, 110 Huntington Ave, Boston.

The night kicks off with a Social Hour at 6 p.m., and the Dinner Program at 7 p.m.

Together we have strength. Together we can strive for more. Together we can better overcome any obstacle and achieve success. No matter our individual trials or difference, as friends and neighbors, we are In It Together.

This year, ABCD honors NBA Coach Doc Rivers as the co-founder of ABCD Hoop Dreams – our signature basketball tournament fundraiser for ABCD youth services & educational initiatives, including WorkSmart and SummerWorks. Since its inception in 2011, ABCD Hoop Dreams has enabled thousands of low-income and poverty stricken youth overcome the odds by financially funding programs that set goals in education and a successful career path. Coach Rivers continues to be an integral part of ABCD Hoop Dreams, and led a successful consecutive eighth year on the parquet.

With a mission to help those in need transition from poverty to stability to success – through advocacy and collaboration with local leaders, politicians, businesses, and of course the humble heroes among us – ABCD provides a ladder upward to overcome seemingly insurmountable barriers.

“Once again, ABCD is proud to put the spotlight on the volunteers and community members who go above and beyond to assist, serve, and educate our most vulnerable residents and economically disenfranchised families,” said John J. Drew, ABCD President/CEO.

“We welcome Broadway actor and musical performer Leslie Odom Jr. He is an amazing entertainer and vocalist, and the Grammy Award winner’s message of discovering your own potential and making your dreams come true will resonate with or inspire our supporters and those we serve,” said Drew.

“We’ll also pay special tribute to an extraordinary peace activist, Chaplain Clementina (Tina) M. Chiré, founder of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, and to ABCD’s longtime partner and friend, Sam Nagler, Esq.” Drew continued. “And it will be a great honor to welcome a true Boston sports icon, NBA Coach Doc Rivers, to our Hall of Fame. It will be a night to absolutely remember!”

Support for the evening is possible thanks to the ABCD Friends Committee, which welcomes
Theater
Continued from page 1

in "The Visit." (2015), an electrifying one this critic saw. Besides what Rudetsky called "All that K. and E. stuff," ("Spider Woman," "Chicago" and "The Visit"), he noted that "She does original choreography." Rivera shares the 10 nomination record with the late great play actress Julie Harris. Dance, of course, is at the heart of her career and being. Rivera, who began her training as a ballet dancer, calls herself "a Broadway gypsy at heart." Rudetsky plans to give ample time in his Q and A segments to her work as a dancer. He is like to speak with Rivera about her being "a Jerome Robbins disciple" and her praising him as a genius.

Expect to hear about her audition for "West Side Story," for which he created most of the choreography (except Latin dances from Peter Gennaro). "She had to go to his apartment to audition," he added. Look for a response about a memorable tour with the always lively late Broadway actress Elaine Stritch. Other note-worthy questions, he indicated, will include "what was good for her and what was difficult (about roles and productions)."

Rudetsky could speak to Rivera about some of her recent honors—her Kennedy Center Honors (2002), her Presidential Medal of Freedom (2009) and her lifetime achievement Tony this year. As for the accompanist-host himself, this year he published the third volume of his "Seth's Broadway Diary." His fourth, to be released next year, will provide detail about the creation of "Disaster." Rudetsky hopes to take the song and conversation show to London next year.

Editorial
Continued from page 1

than non-LGBT people.
Here are some stats from the CDC's National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey:
• 44% of lesbians and 61% of bisexual women experience rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner, compared with 35% of heterosexual women.
• 26% of gay men and 37% of bisexual men experience rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner, compared with 29% of heterosexual men.
• 40% of bisexual women have been raped, compared with 17% of heterosexual women and 13% of lesbians.
• 40% of gay men and 47% of bisexual men have experienced sexual violence other than rape, compared to 21% of heterosexual men. Transgender people are also disproportionately victimized in sexual attacks. According to the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey Report, 47 percent of trans people are sexually assaulted at some point in their lives.

Despite the intense national discussion on sexual assault spurred by the #MeToo movement, LGBTQ survivors continue to suffer in silence. It's odd given that much of #MeToo's momentum has been fueled by the revelations of people associated with the entertain-
SummerWorks, since the fundraiser’s inception. Over $500,000 for youth programs, including ABCD.

Amy Latimer, President of TD Garden, as event chair.

Continued from page 2

Part One: Defining Lesbianism

Lesbian Erasure

Lesbians exist. Lesbians, like gay men, have always existed. If there is a singular lesson to be learned this LGBT history month, it is that lesbians didn’t just appear suddenly in the 20th century, anomalous figures with no antecedents throughout history. Lesbians have lived and loved and had bodice-ripping passionate sex for millennia.

In a brutal irony, the erasing of lesbian sexuality has been done most effectively by female academics who hesitate to define same-sex relationships between women as sexual for reasons that are wholly rooted in male constrictive definitions of female sexuality and the male gaze on it. The theory that women never performed sexual acts to men as sexual for reasons that are wholly rooted in male constrictive definitions of female sexuality and the male gaze on it. The theory that women never performed sexual acts to men

Every woman regardless of her orientation knows from a young age that lesbians are a trigger for men. The most common retort when a woman rejects a man’s advances or catcalls is to call her a “dyke” or “lesbo.” It happens every day, everywhere. The terms are meant to be both vulgar and dismissive, like “lezee,” a diminution and infantilizing of a very real female sexual orientation.

This lesbophobia, misogynist and blatantly ahistorical erasure of lesbian sexuality is similar to the erasure of all autonomous female sexuality: women’s sexual desire has always been viewed, discussed and portrayed within the construct and purview of the male gaze, and as such has never seemed complete without the intrusion of a male into that space of wholly female desire.

The trope of a male entering onto the scene of a lesbian sexual coupling just in time to “complete” the sex has been recorded in erotica and pornography since at least the 17th century in the West and far earlier in Asian erotic art.

One of the most notorious depictions of lesbian sexuality occurs in John Cleland’s infamous erotic novel, Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure, more commonly known by its smutty name, Fanny Hill, published in 1748. (In British slang “Fanny” means vulva, hence Fanny Hill was a cheeky play on mons veneris.)

In Cleland’s novel, Fanny engages in lesbian sex with Phoebe, a bisexual prostitute. Fanny also witnesses—and describes vividly—other lesbian sex scenes. The novel was first banned in the U.S. in 1821 in Boston, and may have been a progenitor for the term “banned in Boston.”

Initially the American colonies had sought to prohibit sex between two women, punishable by death. The law read, “Unnatural filthiness, to be punished with death, whether sodomy, which is carnal fellowship of man with man, or woman with woman, or buggery, which is carnal fellowship of man or woman with beasts or fowls.” There is no record of this law being enacted.

In 1649 in Plymouth Colony, Sarah White Norman and Mary Vincent Hammono were prosecuted for “loued behavior with each other upon a bed.” The trial documents are the only known record of sex between female English colonists in North America in the 17th century. Hammono, who was the younger of the two, was given a formal admonition, but Norman was convicted. As part of this legal process, the two women were required to recite a confession of guilt.

The American colonies had sought to impris- on lesbians. The criminalization of same-sex female relationships followed that of English Common Law. How often it was actually enforced is unclear. But in the U.S. alone there were laws against lesbianism as early as the 17th century. If there had been examples of lesbians and lesbian sex, why the laws prohibiting it?

In 1830 the Massachusetts Bay Colony proposed a law prohibiting sex between two women, punishable by death. The law read, “Unnatural filthiness, to be punished with death, whether sodomy, which is carnal fellowship of man with man, or woman with woman, or buggery, which is carnal fellowship of man or woman with beasts or fowls.” There is no record of this law being enacted.

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billy masters

With all the news we’re being bombarded with day in and day out, it’s not surprising that most media outlets didn’t cover my being detained by TSA. It all happened after leaving Masters Manor in Boston for Los Angeles. At Boston’s Logan Airport, security flagged what was termed as a “suspicious mass” in my luggage. Excuse me—did they inadvertently give my bag a mammogram? Upon further inspection, the officer discovered a large unidentified metallic item. That’s when it hit me—Big Mama Masters had sent me off with a baked potato wrapped in aluminum foil. Imagine, I almost missed my flight over a suspicious potato. Thank God it wasn’t loaded!

Moments after I landed at LAX, the police raided Cher’s Malibu estate! Although the Dancing Queen was not in residence, the fuzz weren’t looking for her—they wanted her assistant’s nephew. Allegedly, said 23-year-old lad is accused of supplying narcotics to someone who had a drug overdose. My God, hasn’t Cher suffered enough?

In addition to many fabulous things I have on my upcoming agenda (including my virgin excursion to New Orleans—and for Halloween, no less), I am thrilled to be attending the Point Foundation’s Gala on October 13th. As I’ve told you many times in the past, this is one of my favorite non-profits. Point supplies scholarships to LGBTQ (and probably other letters of the alphabet) kids to attend college—and most of these kids have been thrown out by their families because they’re gay! At the upcoming gala, Eric McCormack is being honored with the Impact Reward, and there will be a performance by Leona Lewis. Check them out at PointFoundation.org.

Here’s a Supreme Court story nobody’s talking about—Dame Olivia de Havilland is taking her case against the FX Network and Ryan Murphy to the highest court in the land. “We must persevere and speak truth to power. The fight is itself important to the principle of honesty, so much in need today in the face of deliberate public confusion for selfish agendas.” As you’ll recall, she’s suing over how her character was portrayed in “Feud”—particularly some of the things she said about her sister, whom she loathed but never spoke up against publicly. I think a nice keg of beer for Justice Kavanaugh’s office-warming party could go a long way in tipping the scales of justice.

Britain’s Royal Family is always good for some scandal. This week, we hear one of Queen Elizabeth’s gay footmen has quit.

First, I have no idea how many footmen QEII has—I mean, she’s only got two feet! Be that as it may, the gay footman (as if there’s only one gay footman) quit because he was told by the Royal Household management that he needed to “tone down the gayness”! Girl, he’s the Queen’s footman—it doesn’t get gayer than that! As it happens, Ollie Roberts is not only the Queen’s first openly gay footman, he was her personal footman. Apparently the 21-year-old Ollie is quite active on social media and has given interviews to lots of gay press. He was accused of “courting publicity” and demoted to just being a regular footman—which is ultimately why he quit. Unless he was taking selfies with Lizzie’s feet or wearing open-toed shoes, I say leave him be.

Cristiano Ronaldo is being brought to court over claims that he raped a woman in Las Vegas in 2009. Kathryn Mayorga says she was assaulted by the hunky footballer in 2009. They met in a Las Vegas club and then he brought her to a penthouse suite where the alleged assault occurred. At the time, Mayorga went to the police but refused to name her assailant. Later she revised her statement and pressed charges against Ronaldo. Even later, she dropped the case after allegedly receiving $375K. However, in this #MeToo climate, she’s again changed her mind. Alas, to reopen the case also means turning over settlement documents, including a non-disclosure agreement. By the way, it’s worth mentioning that this is not Ronaldo’s first rape allegation. Back in 2009, a woman in a London hotel claimed she had been raped, but that case was closed by Scotland Yard over insufficient evidence.

“This talk of non-disclosure agreements reminds me of Stormy Daniels, who recently stopped by to chat with Jimmy Kimmel. Jimmy showed her some orange-hued mushrooms of various sizes and asked if any of them looked “familiar.” Stormy also demonstrated a bit of light spanking, which I daresay Kimmel enjoyed. When asked if she liked sex with Trump, Stormy looked shocked. “I lied there and prayed for death.” Be careful what you wish for.

I don’t watch any of those “Real Housewife” shows (except for the one where I confronted Kim Zolciak—PS. Where are my residual checks??!). But last week, Michael Darby, who is the husband of one of the “Real Housewives of Potomac”, was accused of getting “handy” with another man on the set! According to the report, 59-year-old

“Please give it up for Garrett Colton.”

— Mariah Balenciaga introduces Garrett Colton at Gay Days Anaheim. Oops. Clayton said, “Thanks, Mariah, for getting my last name wrong.” I would have added the word "bitch", but y'know, I'm a professional.

see MASTERS, page 10
National Network of LGBTQ Family Groups

Submitted by
Family Equality Council

With the evolution of social media and online networks, LGBTQ family groups have sprung up across the nation; however, no coordinating body has previously existed to support and connect those networks.

Family Equality Council has created the National Network of LGBTQ Family Groups to do just that. The Network serves as a platform to empower, educate, and support LGBTQ family groups across the nation.

See Family, page 7

Keri, Justin, Mary, Mona and Danyella jumping for family joy!

The Selvaggio-Wagner Family. Photo by Faith Ninivaggi
Family

Continued from page 6

groups and community leaders.

The National Network of LGBTQ Family Groups aims to create community while coordinating and supporting existing parent groups, community leaders, and those who wish to form groups. In addition, Family Equality Council will empower and support group and community leaders to help enhance their work and better support families.

The National Network of LGBTQ Family Groups is committed to being welcoming, mindful, and inclusive of marginalized LGBTQ groups including but not limited to families of color, trans families, single parents, poly families, isolated families in rural towns, and families of low socioeconomic status.

To become a member of Family Equality Council’s National Network of LGBTQ Family Groups, please submit your application. This is a completely free membership, with no additional costs.

For more information visit www.familyequality.org

Attorney and Democratic Political Consultant Mara Dolan, Tom Dolan, and his husband, Rom Baruela.

Not all LGBTQ families are easy to spot. Jess & Robbie Samuels are proud to be raising strong, resilient queerspawn. TDM Photography.

Curious. Self Motivated. Real World Ready.

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History
Continued from page 4

of her punishment, she had to allocute publicly to her ‘unchaste behavior’ with Hammon.

In 1655, the Connecticut colony passed a law criminalizing sodomy between women (and men). In 1779, Thomas Jefferson proposed a federal law that included lesbian and gay sex. The law read, “Whosoever shall be guilty of rape, polygamy, or sodomy with man or woman shall be punished, if a man, by castration, if a woman, by cutting thro’ the cartilage of her nose a hole of one half inch diameter at the least.”

Lesbianism has been perceived by many—and Sigmund Freud perpetuated this misperception—as a phase of female sexuality that women grow out of. Schoolgirl crushes and teenage experimentation with lesbian relationships was written about by Freud as a stepping-stone to “true,” “adult” female sexuality: heterosexuality. (Ironically or not, Freud’s daughter, Dr. Anna Freud, was in a lesbian relationship with child psychoanalyst Dr. Dorothy Tiffany-Burlingham for more than 50 years.)

Is language the problem? It’s true that the terminology itself is fairly recent. “Homosexual” was first coined in an 1869 pamphlet written by Karl-Maria Kertbeny to decry anti-sodomy laws in Germany. In 1886, Richard Krafft-Ebing, the noted German psychiatrist, coined the terms “heterosexuality” and “homosexuality” in his work Psychopathia Sexualis.

The term “lesbian” was first seen in poems by men in the 1860s and then more commonly as a medical term for lesbian sex in 1890. The term “Sapphist” occurs earlier, in early 19th century poetry and literature.

The Greek poet, Sappho, whose birthplace of Lesbos spawned the term “lesbianism” and whose name has become synonymous with female homosexuals—Sapphists—was born in 630 B.C. The relationship of Ruth and Naomi in the Bible and Talmud, the oft-cited verses in Leviticus as well as St. Paul’s comments on same-sex relationships in Corinthians all signal lesbianism as a real—and definitely sexual—fact.

Sappho’s extant poetry and other writings explore her love for other girls and women and there are depictions in art throughout the centuries from classical Greece to the 19th century pre-Raphaelites of lesbian lovers entwined in each other’s arms, often fully naked. At the turn of the last century, Toulouse-Lautrec and other French and German post-Impressionists incorporated lesbians into their work as denizens of a Bohemian demi-monde.

In Paris, Amsterdam and Berlin communities of lesbians were thriving, albeit underground, which by the turn of the 19th into the 20th century would include large enclaves of American women, expatriates whose names are now revived each year at LGBT history month as veritable monoliths in our compendia of writers and artists: Gertrude Stein, Alice B. Toklas, Romaine Brooks, Djuna Barnes, Natalie Barney, Josephine Baker, Renée Vivien, Ida Rubenstein and more. While these women fled the U.S. and the mores that made it difficult for them to live the openly—some would claim flagrantly—lesbian lives they led in the U.S., there remained hundreds of thousands of lesbians still in America, leading very different lesbian lives—yet not the neutered lives we have been led to believe.

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I was driving up to the North Shore on an apple-picking excursion with my friend D, whom I’ve known for 30 years. We have an annual tradition of heading over to an orchard in Ipswich to cram a small bag with apples, to partake in warm apple cider donuts, and to take in some fall foliage. Though the Columbus/Indigenous Peoples’ Day weather wasn’t great, I was looking forward to getting away, if only for a few hours.

After Brett Kavanaugh’s hearing and (especially) his confirmation vote in the Senate last Saturday, I was ready for a relaxing afternoon in the country. D told me that after listening to Senator Collins’ speech, she was “in a news blackout” for the weekend, and didn’t want to hear any (more) bad news. Suddenly we were talking about Collins, and then I was off, ranting about her, Jeff Flake, and the other so-called moderates, who were satisfied with the sham investigation conducted by the FBI.

Even though we’re both politically liberal, and we both agreed that Kavanaugh lied and should not be on the Supreme Court, themailbox was empty, leaving me feeling angry, powerless, and depressed. Who will protect us now that the Supreme Court holds two (likely) abusers?

The steady drip, drip, drip of lying, cheating, bad behavior—as if the ‘swamp’ was expanding to cover up the whole District of Columbia, leaves me feeling angry, powerless, and depressed. Who will stand up for LGBTQ rights, for immigrants, for individuals in the fight against corporations, when most of our justices believe that corporations should have all the rights and benefits of people?

Yesterday morning, I met another friend for breakfast. I explained that I was frustrated and furious about the way that Dr. Ford was treated, and the ways in which Kavanaugh was given a pass on his past behavior, even when he lied or misrepresented himself. I told my friend that following the news was a way to distract myself from the sadness of losing my brother six weeks ago. “I don’t think it’s working,” he said.

It’s clear that I need to find other distractions, to balance out my news consumption and to find positive ways to channel my energy. It’s going to be a long two years until 2020.

Judah Leblang is a writer, teacher, and storyteller in Boston. He will be performing his new show, “It’s Now or Never” at the Piano Craft Gallery, 793 Tremont in Boston, Oct 18, 19 and 20. Tickets and more information at judahleblang.com or call 617-466-9637.

Pacing Myself
by Judah Leblang | www.JudahLeblang.com
contributing writer

On a daily basis, I’m sucked into the echo chamber of my friends’ rage on Facebook, the nerdy-wonky commentary on Daily Kos, and the measured analysis on NPR. Regardless of the communication channel, the news is almost always bad—with the appointment of Kavanaugh, an entitled brat, liar under oath, and aggressive drunk, to the Supreme Court the latest salvo in Trump/Putin’s and McConnell’s mission to make America “great” by slowly dismantling or hollowing out the heart of our federal government.

Yesterday morning, I met another friend for breakfast. I explained that I was frustrated and furious about the way that Dr. Ford was treated, and the ways in which Kavanaugh was given a pass on his past behavior, even when he lied or misrepresented himself. I told my friend that following the news was a way to distract myself from the sadness of losing my brother six weeks ago. “I don’t think it’s working,” he said.

It’s clear that I need to find other distractions, to balance out my news consumption and to find positive ways to channel my energy. I’m not planning to totally disconnect.

Still, I have to pace myself. It’s going to be a long two years till 2020.

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Darby has been charged with criminal sexual assault and improper sexual contact for allegedly groping a male cameraman. That’s the legalese, but let me break it down for you. Cameraman Orville Palmer claims Darby grabbed his butt and gave it a firm squeeze. When Palmer said, “What the fuck?” (an appropriate response from a union cameraman), Mikey allegedly gave him a “flirtatious look”. That’s one way of looking at it. But I have found that the “flirtatious look”, the “nauseous look” and the “do you smell that look” are all pretty similar. I’m gonna need more info on the dance floor. His wife said, “It’s a joke. It’s a joke.” This is the same guy who was seen grabbing a guy’s butt of groping another man. During the first season of the show, he was seen grabbing a guy’s butt. Palmer said, “What the fuck?” (an appropriate response from a union cameraman). Mikey allegedly gave him a “flirtatious look”. That’s one way of looking at it. But I have found that the “flirtatious look”, the “nauseous look” and the “do you smell that look” are all pretty similar. I’m gonna need more info on the dance floor.

Have you heard about this ill-conceived remake of “West Side Story” which Steven Spielberg is making? After all the hullabaloo about finding unknowns through an open casting, Spielberg ended up casting Ansel Elgort as Tony. Here’s a little footnote to the story—your beloved Billy was actually privy to a conversation between composer Leonard Bernstein and Michael Eisner when he was heading Disney. Eisner wanted to remake “WSS” as an animated feature with cats playing all the roles. Needless to say, it never happened—but he bought us all lunch. The long-awaited biopic about Elton John, “Rocketman”, is inching its way to the big screen. The film stars Taron Egerton as Elton, and everyone is saying he’s fabulous. From the stills I’ve seen, he sure does capture the young Elton. And we hear he sings the songs himself. The film is slated to be released May 31st.

Speaking of Elton John, he recently gave a lecture on HIV where he pointed his finger at Facebook, saying, “Fight AIDS rather than turn a quick buck.” To expand on his point, he said, “Companies like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram have a public role and a public responsibility. The pressure now needs to be applied to the tech giants, not because I think they are bad, but because they have so much power to do good.” He added, “What if Facebook nudged their users in the digital world into acts of positivity and decency? Which of the tech’s customers would embrace this most passionately? I believe it is tech’s biggest customers, the young...Imagine instead of all that ingenuity and data being used to turn elections or turn a quick buck, it was used to turn around lives.”

By the by, the AmfAR Gala Los Angeles is on Thursday, October 18th and takes place at the Wallis Annenberg Theater in Beverly Hills. Yes, I’m supposed to tell you that the event is honoring Katy Perry, and that the chairs include such people as Orlando Bloom, Matt Bomer, Gerard Butler, Goldie Hawn, Eva Longoria, Madonna, Robert Pattinson, Ryan Seacrest, and Robin Thicke. And, obviously it raises money for AIDS research. But, as far as I’m concerned, the most important thing is that the evening will feature a rare stateside performance of the “Wicked” cast. It drops digitally on October 12th and physically on November 9th.

When I’m head over heels about a new release from The Go-Go’s, it’s definitely time to end yet another column. You don’t need a Presidential alert to remind you to check out www.BillyMasters.com—the site that features lots of guys with their heels over head. If you have a question, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before that gay footman gets a job giving pedicures! So, until next time, remember, one man’s filth is another man’s bible.

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Yes On 3
Continued from page 1

(Top) Somerville Mayor Joseph Curtatone and Cambridge Mayor Marc McGovern celebrating the Yes on 3 campaign to uphold transgender protections at the HONK! Festival in Davis Square October 6.

(Bottom) Volunteers participating in the first October Weekend of Action this weekend. Photos courtesy of Yes on 3
Fall 2018 LGBT Bereavement Groups (FREE): 3 Locations
For lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people of any age who are experiencing the loss of a parent, friend, partner/spouse, family member or other loved one.

**Boston Group:**
Thursday Evenings 6.00 pm to 7.30 pm  
November 1 to Jan 3  
Location: Jamaica Plain, MA  
Co-sponsored by: Ethos

**MetroWest Group:**
Thursday Evenings 6.00 pm to 7.30 pm  
November 1 to Jan 3  
Location: Marlborough, MA  
Co-Sponsored by BayPath and MetroWest Hospice

**Cape Cod Group:**
Wednesday Afternoons 3.00 pm to 4.30 pm  
Nov 7 to Jan 16  
Location: Barnstable, MA  
Co-Sponsored by Barnstable Council on Aging

For more information or to register for any of the groups: Call Bob Linscott 857.313.6578

**About the LGBT Bereavement Program:**
The LGBT Bereavement Groups are funded by the Mass Department of Public Health and facilitated by The LGBT Aging Project, a program of The Fenway Institute. All groups are free, run for 8 weeks and are open to people of all ages. Bereavement groups require pre-registration. For more information on the LGBT Bereavement Program contact Bob Linscott at BLinscott@fenwayhealth.org

Fall 2018 groups will run through the holiday season which can be a difficult time for many.

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Judah Leblang’s
It’s Now or Never!

My Life in the Late Middle Ages

A humorous one-man show about a gay writer who is going deaf, can’t sleep, and is looking for love in an ageist world.

**Judah Leblang**

Thursday, October 18, 7:30 PM  
Friday, October 19, 8:30 PM  
Saturday, October 20, 7:30 PM

**The Piano Craft Gallery**
793 Tremont Street  
(South End)  
Boston MA 02118

Tickets $15 each at [www.judahleblang.com/tickets](http://www.judahleblang.com/tickets) or $18 suggested donation at the door

Questions? Media inquiries? Call 617-466-9637