BAY WINDOWS

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The Official Guide to NEW ENGLAND LGBTQ+ pride PART 2

THIS ISSUE OF BAY WINDOWS HAS THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE LISTINGS FOR NEW ENGLAND'S LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER PRIDE CELEBRATIONS

SEE ALL OF THE LISTINGS ON BAYWINDOWS.COM

BOSTON

FRIDAY JUNE 12

RAINBOWS AND STARS WITH GORDON MICHAELS

Fri, June 12 | 7-10 PM | Club Café | Napoleon Room | 209 Columbus Avenue, Boston

The Napoleon Room celebrates Pride Month with Rainbow and Stars, featuring host Gordon Michaels alongside Marilyn Dale, Jacob Mann, and Bill Linehan in an evening honoring LGBTQ+ artists and allies, followed by the venue's nightly open mic.

www.clubcafe.com

SATURDAY JUNE 13

RAINBOWS AND STARS WITH JIM & VAL

Sat, June 13 | 7-10 PM | Club Café | Napoleon Room | 209 Columbus Avenue, Boston

The Napoleon Room's Rainbow and Stars Pride series continues featuring performances by Jim Rice, Valerie Sneade-Roy, Jeanne Collins Crowley, Peter DiMuro, and Mary Catherine Ward, followed by the venue's signature open mic night.

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MONOCHROMATICA: A PRIDE DRAG SHOW POWERED BY THE MUSIC OF LADY GAGA

Sat, June 13 | 7:30-9 PM | Club Café | Moonshine Room | 209 Columbus Avenue, Boston

MONOCHROMATICA, presented by Plastic Theatrics: a Lady Gaga-inspired Pride drag spectacular featuring eight of Boston's top drag performers. Hosted by Regina Jackson and Tyler Kitten, the colorful celebration invites guests to dress boldly and embrace their inner superstar.

www.clubcafe.com

SUNDAY JUNE 14

RISE — BOSTON GAY MEN'S CHORUS PRIDE CONCERT

2 PM | Groton Hill Music Center, Groton, MA.

High-energy Pride concert honoring resilience, resistance, and radical joy. Featuring music by Pink, Madonna, Bob Dylan, Cyndi Lauper, and Lady Gaga.

bgmc.org

TUESDAY JUNE 16

PRIDE NIGHT AT FENWAY PARK — RED SOX VS. BLUE JAYS

7:10 PM | Boston Red Sox / Fenway Health | Fenway Park, 4 Jersey St., Boston

Annual LGBTQ+ Pride Night at Fenway.

mlb.com/redsox

SATURDAY JUNE 20

PRIDE SCULPT & FLOW (4TH ANNUAL)

Down Under School of Yoga with Lyndsay Allyn Cox | 1112 Boylston Street, Back Bay, Boston

A joyful, high-energy class blending movement, sweat, music, and celebration, led by Lyndsay Allyn Cox. 1:30–2:30 p.m. All levels welcome; proceeds support BAGLY (Boston Alliance of LGBTQ+ Youth).

downunderyoga.com/upcoming-events/pride-sculpt-flow-4th-annual

FRIDAY JUNE 26

IT'S RAINING QUEENS

Do-Kwa Productions | Regent Theatre, 7 Medford St, Arlington

Legendary vocalist Martha Wash and acclaimed comedian and actress Marsha Warfield co-headline a dual-headline show blending iconic music with razor-sharp comedy and cultural commentary. A 75–90 minute seated, theater-style production.

SPOTLIGHT: THE ELECTRIC CHAPEL

The Huntington | Maso Studio, Huntington Theatre, 264 Huntington Ave.,

Boston A drag night dedicated to Lady Gaga, hosted by local drag icons Lulu Levity and Silva and featuring RuPaul's Drag Race season 15 contestant Luxx Noir London alongside a roster of drag performers. 7:30 p.m. Tickets from $27.50.

huntingtontheatre.org/whats-on/spotlight-the-electric-chapel/

SATURDAY–SUNDAY JUNE 27–28

HONEY HONEY MOON MOON

The Huntington | Maso Studio, Huntington Theatre, 264 Huntington Ave.,

Boston Comedy band and married couple Couplet bring their award-winning Edinburgh Fringe hit to Boston — an hour-long musical comedy, directed by Chris Grace and Eric Michaud, about the queer Jewish wedding that almost didn't happen. Sat at 7:30 p.m., Sun at 2 p.m. Tickets from $40.

huntingtontheatre.org/whats-on/honey-honey-moon/

WEDNESDAY–SUNDAY JULY 1–5

BOSTON BLACK PRIDE 2026

LesBiGay Urban Foundation | Various locations across Boston

Multi-day celebration of Black LGBTQ+ joy, culture, and community. Now in its 7th year, featuring live performances, parties, wellness events, and a signature Parade & Music & Arts Festival. The Music & Arts Festival is on Sun, July 5.

lesbigayurbanfoundation.org | facebook.com/bostonurbanpride

MASSACHUSETTS

FRIDAY–SUNDAY JUNE 12–14

MARTHA'S VINEYARD / OAK BLUFFS PRIDE

Times vary | Queer Hub MV / OBA MV | Oak Bluffs, Martha's Vineyard

Annual island Pride weekend; main parade listed for Sat, June 13.

mvacay.com

SATURDAY JUNE 13

GREENFIELD — FRANKLIN COUNTY PRIDE

Parade 12 PM | Franklin County Pride | Greenfield Middle School to Energy Park, festival on Miles Street, Greenfield

9th annual parade and festival serving Franklin County and the Pioneer Valley. Parade kicks off at the middle school at noon and ends at Energy Park, where the festival continues on Miles Street with vendors and performances.

franklincountypride.org | facebook.com/franklincountypride | instagram.com/franklincountypride

LEE PRIDE

Berkshire Pride | Downtown Lee — Lee Farmers Market, First Congregational Church, Lee Library, Devonfield Inn, and Starving Artist Café

Second annual Lee Pride, part of Berkshire Pride's 10th Anniversary "Every Day is Pride" season. Day includes an Interfaith Pride Prayer Breakfast, Pride Market at the Lee Farmers Market, a library exhibit, live afternoon concert at the Devonfield Inn, family-friendly Drag Bingo, and an adults-only drag show and dance party at the Starving Artist Café. Additional 2026 Berkshire Pride events: 5K/Walk, Sun, May 31; inaugural Lenox Pride, Sat, June 6; North Adams Pride Night, Fri, June 12; Pride on the Common Parade and Festival (Pittsfield, 10th anniversary flagship), Sat, June 20, stepping off at Park Square to Pittsfield Common Park.

berkshirepride.org

LOWELL — GREATER LOWELL PRIDE

Flag raising noon; Festival 1–4 PM | Greater Lowell Health Alliance | City Hall & festival location TBD, Lowell

Annual flag raising and full-day festival serving the Greater Lowell region. Moved from June 6 to avoid conflict with Boston Pride.

prideingreaterlowell.org/greaterlowellpride.org

see **PRIDE LISTINGS,** *page 12*

Pride as Protest Since 1776



Boston Pride 2026. Photo via Mayor Michelle Wu, Instagram.

And Some Took It Literally

By Sue O'Connell
Co-Publisher

Boston's 56th annual Pride parade filled the streets Saturday as the Pride for the People festivities drew crowds estimated at up to a million people, with marchers winding from Copley Square to an all-ages festival on Boston Common. Roughly 12,000 marchers and 300 organizations took part.

This year's theme "Pride as Protest Since 1776" nodded to the nation's 250th birthday, and organizers leaned

see **PRIDE,** *page 14*

'We would not be here today if it weren't for Barney Frank': Gov. Healey's remarks at the Faneuil Hall memorial

By Sue O'Connell
Co-Publisher

A memorial service for former Congressman Barney Frank, who died May 20 at age 86, was held Monday, June 8, at Faneuil Hall. Hundreds gathered to remember the 16-term congressman, who in 1987 became the first member of Congress to voluntarily come out as gay. Speakers included Gov. Maura Healey, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Congressman Jim McGovern, and

see **FRANK,** *page 2*



Celebrating Black Joy During Pride Month

by Rev. Irene Monroe
contributing writer



Photo via Womxn of Color Weekend, Instagram.

June is Pride Month for LGBTQ+ communities nationwide — and parades abound. As we all rev up each June for Pride, so, too, do the fault lines of race, gender identities, class, and more.

This Pride Month also serves as a reminder that the struggle for LGBTQ+ civil rights is far from over, particularly amid the surge of anti-

see **MONROE,** *page 10*

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HAPPY PRIDE MONTH

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SENATOR
NICK COLLINS

Frank

Continued from page 1

Frank's longtime friend and former State House colleague Jim Segel; former Secretary of State John Kerry and Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey were among those in attendance. Below is a portion of Gov. Healey's remarks, lightly edited for clarity. The full service is available on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8aPo-XHzGhE.

"I want to say something about the impact that Barney Frank had on me.

I think I was in high school when he came out publicly. I remember something about that, and of course I hadn't even come out, so it didn't exactly hit at that time. But I will tell you: years later, when I made a decision to run for office, Barney Frank was the first person I thought of, because I knew that, because of his bravery — and remember, this is the '80s. This is not today. This is not the 2000s. This is not the 1990s. This is the 1980s. Barney Frank showed incredible bravery, in my view, to — yes — answer the question posed to him by the reporter: "I'm gay, so what?" What a masterful way to address that.

And then, of course, he went on this incredible career, showing up not just for the gay community but showing up for all of us in so many ways, and becoming such an incredible force, with such an impact on our country. I just want to appreciate the bravery of someone like Barney Frank.

One of the last times I saw him was at the service for Ann Maguire. Those of you who don't know Ann Maguire — she's a lesbian. She was also Tom Menino's campaign manager, who brought him to be the mayor of Boston. We were celebrating Ann's life. And I note Barney because I think, for any of us who come from the community who've been able to get elected — even re-elected, elected to other positions — it's because of trailblazers like Barney Frank. It's because of him. And, safe to say, I speak for those of us who benefited from that to just say: I know we would not be here today if it weren't for Barney Frank.

The other thing I recall personally about Barney is a lot of discussions about DOMA. Back in 2013, when I was in the Attorney General's office, Mary Bonauto and I led a case to challenge DOMA, which of course undermined marriage equality here in Massachusetts, stripping rights and benefits from lawfully married couples. We were the first state to challenge — and successfully challenge — that law, as affirmed by the Supreme Court in the Windsor decision.

I want to credit Barney Frank for that win, in many respects. See, years before, when DOMA was first introduced in 1996 — it was introduced as a political strategy, of course — in that year's elections, it passed with overwhelming votes. But even as it did, Barney used that as an opportunity to lay the groundwork for equality, to lay the groundwork for something he knew would not happen right then but would happen at some point.

At the time, I remember, he challenged any member of Congress to come forward and explain how their own marriage was threatened by the love and commitment of two women or two men. When they said it was not their marriages but the institution that was threatened, he said on the House floor that that argument could only be made by someone in an institution, because it has no logical basis whatsoever. And with that, he acclimated a great body to the possibility — the potential — of what marriage equality could really look like. And I know that, because [that] was done fifteen years before we filed that case and were successful. But he planted the seeds and gave people a greater understanding just by those very comments. And that's what he was about: through his seriousness, through his humor, he managed to humanize issues."

A guide to names and references in these remarks:

Ann Maguire (1943–2023) was a pioneering Boston LGBTQ+ activist and political strategist who managed Elaine Noble's 1974 campaign — making Noble the first openly gay candidate elected to any state legislature in the U.S. — and Thomas Menino's first mayoral campaign in 1993, later serving as his chief of health and human services. She died December 29, 2023, at age 80.

Thomas M. Menino (1942–2014) was the longest-serving mayor in Boston's history, holding office from 1993 to 2014.

Mary Bonauto is the civil rights project director at GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), best known for arguing Goodridge v. Department of Public Health, the 2003 case that made Massachusetts the first state to legalize same-sex marriage, and Obergefell v. Hodges before the U.S. Supreme Court in 2015.

DOMA, the Defense of Marriage Act, was a 1996 federal law that defined marriage as between one man and one woman, denying federal recognition and benefits to same-sex couples even where their marriages were legal. In 2009, Massachusetts became the first state to challenge the law, in a suit filed by the Attorney General's office alongside a companion case brought by GLAD. The Supreme Court struck down DOMA's core provision in United States v. Windsor in 2013.

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Finding Pride as an LGBTQ+ Parent in 2026

by Dana Rudolph | drudolph@mombian.com
contributing writer

Pride is a word that contains multitudes. This month, I am thinking about how the various aspects of Pride and pride come together for me as an LGBTQ+ parent at this moment in history.

My pride in being an LGBTQ+ person comes from within, while my pride as a parent comes from my son, but those manifestations of pride are inextricably linked. Pride in ourselves should ideally come before we ever start to parent. If we are not proud of who we are, it is more difficult to instill pride in others—and teaching our children to be proud of who they are is one of our most sacred duties as parents. That is not to say we must have a spotless track record; all people have done something, however big or small, of which we are not proud. Nor must we banish every speck of self-doubt; to sometimes doubt ourselves is human, and a complete lack of self-doubt can easily tilt into the kind of overweening pride that goes before a fall. But a reasonable sense that we are good and worthy will help us raise children who believe the same about themselves.

Being proud of our children doesn't just mean being happy when they win a sports trophy, perform in a concert, or make the honor roll, though. Our pride can come simply from watching them take a first step, share with a friend, or do the right thing in the face of pressure to do otherwise. It can mean watching them find their own interests and go in directions we never may have imagined, and seeing them grow into people of integrity and kindness. Perhaps some amount of our pride here is pride in ourselves for good parenting, but we should also simply be proud of our children for their achievements in and of themselves, while remembering that they are imperfect, too, like us.

It used to be that part of my pride during Pride came from reflecting on how my son had grown and learned during the school year that was ending. This year, however, he is beyond formal education and off on his career. I am no less proud of him for that, but the rhythm is different. That's okay; pride is best not confined to schedules anyway.

Nor is my pride confined to my own family. Beyond my overarching pride in being part of the broad LGBTQ+ community, I am also proud to be part of the loving, tenacious, and resilient community of LGBTQ+ parents. We exist around the world and have done so throughout history (though not always in the sense that modern labels imply). We have been resourceful and determined in starting our families; fearsome in protecting them; loving in raising them; and selfless in supporting each other. We have faced obstacles but still found joy for ourselves and our children.

Individually and together, we have fought for recognition and understanding, achieving much of which we can be proud. That progress is under attack right now, though, and I can't help but note that just days after Pride Month comes July 4, which for Americans means thinking about pride in our country. Indeed, the media buzz about that holiday is seeping far back into June this year, given the extra hullabaloo around the country's milestone 250th birthday. But being proud of the United States is an exceedingly difficult task right now; it feels like there is much less to be proud of in recent years as it takes actions that harm its people and alienate the world. Ironically, one could attribute much of our country's current woes to the overwhelming pride—in the sense of extreme arrogance and self-centeredness—of our current leaders.



Photo generated with Adobe Firefly.

I am trying, however, to at least find pride in a system that allows some states to implement positive

see **MOMBIAN,** *page 14*



The strength of being here

GOP fear mongering shows desperation

by Richard J. Rosendall | rrosendall@starpower.net
contributing writer

The Washington, DC Board of Elections texted me early in Pride Month that my ballot for the June 16 primary election had been received and would be counted. That is good.

Another good thing, especially in these challenging times, is to remember the progress we have made. It has been social and cultural and not only political. In addition to advancing LGBTQ+ equality in courts and legislatures, we have raised expectations among the young. Those expectations are very hard for right-wing demagogues to undo.

Permit me to cite a hometown example. A friend on Facebook wondered why former DC Council member Vincent Orange has not gotten more traction in his race for mayor. I pointed out that in a failed 2006 mayoral run, he called his four rivals morally unfit because they supported marriage equality. Getting him to budge on that issue was like pulling teeth. Fortunately, he was an outlier. The council passed civil marriage equality in December 2009.

Someone's need for attention is not enough reason to elect them in perpetuity. In the 2022 primary election for the Ward 5 DC Council seat, Orange's ubiquitous campaign signs availed him nothing as Zachary Parker beat him nearly three to one. Parker became the first openly gay black DC Council member. He represents a new generation of leaders. My generation laid the groundwork for them.

Perennial candidates like Orange remind me of an old song, "How can I miss you when you won't go away?" But it is better to focus on younger, more responsive leaders who have taken their place.

This positive trend is being seen around the country. New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani is a remarkable example of overcoming smears with a positive message and thousands of volunteers knocking on doors throughout the city. He has already balanced the city's budget, lowered the crime rate, and secured funding for universal child care, worker and small business restitution, and tenants.

James Talarico in Texas, running for a US Senate seat against Republican Ken Paxton, is hitting back sharply against ridiculous smears including charges that he is transgender and a vegan.

Regarding trans people, the false claim is made that sex-change surgery is being performed on children. If the people so alarmed about the small population of trans people were sincere rather than just exploiting fear and ignorance, they wouldn't need to lie so much.

As for the vegan charge, why anyone cares what other people eat baffles me, but we are talking about Texas. Talarico said he has been eating barbecue since before Paxton's first indictment.

That's the kind of confident campaign messaging we need more of. Democrats don't have to fall for the Republican politics of distraction.

Another challenge Democrats face is their hand-wringing over imperfect candidates. An example is Graham Platner of Maine, a Democrat running for the Senate seat currently held by Susan Collins. On one drunken night as a Marine, he got a skull and crossbones tattoo resembling a Nazi sign. Now he turns out to have been sexting with women other than his wife. Notably, his marriage survived that challenge. Control of the Senate is at stake.

With MAGA zealots trying to disenfranchise and erase large portions of the population, it is crucial for the rest of us to take better advantage of the reality that we are still here.

As with Pride Month, we don't need permission to celebrate who we are and fight for our interests.

The Senate approved $70 billion Trump wanted for immigration enforcement. Does anyone think he won't try to use his hooligans to steal the election? He is a mad tyrant who thinks he is the law.

We cannot control what others do. But if there is to be any hope for our republic, we must vote no matter what. I don't mean you should argue with ICE agents. The point is to vote unless you are physically prevented from it.

We are dealing with opponents who think they display strength by erasing rainbow crosswalks. They think they show how pro-life they are by denying emergency surgery to women with life-threatening ectopic pregnancies. They think they

see **ROSENDALL,** *page 10*

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PO BOX E14,
Boston, MA 02127

PUBLISHERS:
Jeff Coakley
JCoakley@BayWindows.com
Sue O'Connell
Sue.BayWindows@gmail.com

EDITORS:
Jeff Coakley
JCoakley@BayWindows.com
Sue O'Connell
Sue.BayWindows@gmail.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:
Judah Leblang
Billy Masters
Richard J. Rosendall
Dana Rudolph
Rev. Irene Monroe
Jules Becker

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:
letters.baywindows@gmail.com

NEWS TIPS:
news.baywindows@gmail.com

CALENDAR LISTINGS:
news.baywindows@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
announcements.baywindows@gmail.com

ADVERTISING:
Display Advertising
sales@baywindows.com

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING:
classifiedads@baywindows.com

EDITORIAL DESIGN MANAGER:
Julie Walker Palmer

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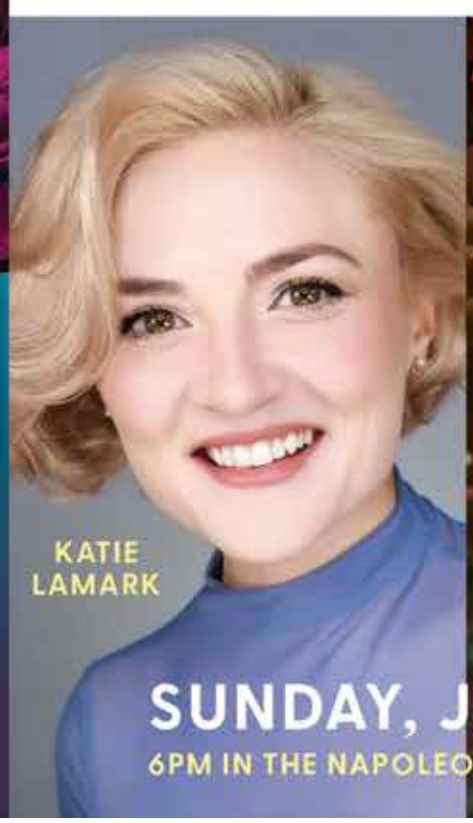
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7PM IN THE NAPOLEON ROOM



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PETER DIMURO



KATIE LAMARK

SUNDAY, JUNE 14
6PM IN THE NAPOLEON ROOM



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"A lot of celebrities are expected to be at the Garden on Monday... This would be the first time Trump has appeared at a court in New York since being convicted of 34 felonies...You'd think Trump would be rooting for the Spurs, right? It's what got him out of Vietnam."

- Jimmy Kimmel has some fun with El Presidente's expected appearance at Game Three of the Knicks/Spurs NBA Finals.

Photo by Disney/Mark Seliger.

Picture it—West Hollywood, 2005. I was hosting LA Pride for the umpteenth time when controversy reared its ugly head. There were threats of protests over the choice of Grand Marshal, **Paris Hilton**. People felt the honor was being given out solely to capitalize on Hilton's show "The Simple Life" and get mainstream media coverage (which is exactly what happened). The situation was slightly diffused by also naming Hilton's mom Kathy as a Co-Marshal. And here we are, 20 years later, with **Kathy Hilton** being protested after being named Grand Marshal. The discussions started when Indigenous Pride LA cancelled their participation in the event due to Hilton's connection with **Donald Trump**. "Many within our Two-Spirit, Indigiqueer, and Indigenous LGBTQPAI+ circles feel this year's Grand Marshal choice does not align with the values, lived experiences, and spirit of Pride we seek to uplift." I have so many questions—starting with when, oh when, will we stop adding letters to our community?

The protest picked up steam. Days before the event, Hilton withdrew. "I am honored to have been considered for this recognition and appreciative of the support I have received from members of the community that means a great deal to so many people. Pride is, and always will be, about celebrating and uplifting LGBTQ+ voices, experiences, and achievements." The carefully crafted statement goes on to list her long association with various AIDS charities. And WeHo Pride replaced her with...NO ONE! "As Pride has always belonged to the community, after thoughtful discussions, the City of West Hollywood, the WeHo Pride production team, and Kathy Hilton have determined that the 2026 WeHo Pride Parade will not designate a Grand Marshal Icon honoree."

In the aftermath, the iconic **Lady Bunny** weighed in: "May I suggest that next year, WeHo Pride actually take pride in their community and choose a local volunteer who's toiled for years donating their time to a beloved LA charity?" Good idea—many cities have a Grand Marshal and Honorary (or Celebrity) Grand Marshal. While I'm mentioning Bunny, she had some concerns about my recent report on her being cancelled from a crocheting gig in Fort Lauderdale (look it up). She felt it was not clear when I said she once went after me on stage, that the incident was all in fun, which it was. And when I reported that she wanted **Kamala Harris** to be more liberal, that was incorrect—she wanted Kamala to be more progressive. Consider it cleared up. Make no mistake, I LOVE Bunny!

Pride conflicts are not isolated to the west coast. The Boston Public Library announced it would no longer be hosting a "Trans Period Pride" event. What is "Trans Period Pride"? I'm so glad you asked. According to the organization, "this event is for biologically female people who gender identify as male, who still menstruate. This is not for trans women (born male)." And we wonder why some members of the heterosexual community get confused! The event at the BPL was not cancelled. It was moved to another venue that is not "city-owned". It gets better. "Catered dinner will be provided and free period underwear will be given to all attendees!" I'm speechless.

Turning my attention to a non-menstruating queer group, the cast issues with now-defunct "Queer Eye" are back in the news. The unemployed **Karamo Brown** finally spoke out, exclusively to "People" magazine (in return for a cover, no doubt). As had been rumored, the final straw came when Brown's mom was in the control room during a taping and heard several of his costars criticizing him (**Van Ness, France and Porowski** were in the conversation). "The thing I know is the tears I saw in my mother's eyes. She kept repeating, 'I thought they were your friends.' It made me realize I can no longer stay silent about how often I was made to feel like an outsider." Karamo also reveals that a sexual harassment complaint was filed during the first days of the show when he was "fun and flirty" with a costar. He claims the complaint came from a third party and was resolved (but insiders say that is not exactly what happened). Karamo adds, "I think we all deserve a bit of grace for how we handled ourselves and one another. We were just doing our best. It may not have felt like that in the moment, but it's very clear to me now."

Some people work together and create real friendships. Take **Jonathan Groff and Daniel Radcliffe**. They got extremely close during their time on and off-Broadway in "Merrily We Roll Along" in 2023 and 2024 (which earned them each a Tony Award). They both went on to do other Broadway projects (Groff in "Just In Time" and Radcliffe in "Every Brilliant Thing"). But they are reuniting for a film project. Radcliffe was already signed for "Trust the Man", which is termed as a "Vietnam War thriller". And now, Groff has signed on to costar.

This column comes moments after the Tony Awards. I intentionally left this paragraph blank in hopes that something truly noteworthy would happen. Given the host, I knew there was a chance **P!NK** would plummet from the rafters during one of her inevitable aerial stunts. And sure enough, she flew in—as Peter Pan singing, "I'm Flying!" She was helped down by former Tony host, **Neil Patrick Harris**, who cheekily said, "Haven't you heard? The flying twinks are all vampires now." She then segued into an all-star opening called "Leading Lady Marmalade", joined by numerous hunks, starlets, "dolls", and various Broadway luminaries...and **Lea Michele**. P!nk certainly proved she had the pipes (and the gams). I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the hot blond guy helping winners from stage right. And, for the love of God, could **Paul Rudd** have straightened **Alden Ehrenreich's** tie before his speech? If the point of the Tonys is to drive tourism to Broadway, I'd say mission accomplished.

The Tony Award-winning musical "Chicago" is known for stunt casting—usually centered around the role of Roxie Hart. People from **Christie Brinkley** to **Pamela Anderson** have left their mark on the role (eventually, perhaps P!nk). Occasionally the part of Billy Flynn is assumed by such luminaries as **Usher, George Hamilton, Taye Diggs, Mark Ballas, Colman Domingo,** and even **Jerry Springer**. The next Billy Flynn will be another member of our community. Starting on June 22nd, **Matteo Lane** joins the cast (you'll be forgiven for thinking he'd play Mary Sunshine). As with most of these other people, this will mark Matteo's Broadway debut.

The Chicago Shakespeare Theater is presenting the North American premiere of the stage version of "Brokeback Mountain". I reviewed the West End world premiere of this play back in 2023 when it starred **Lucas Hedges and Mike Faist**. I thoroughly enjoyed it (which is saying something, since I loathed the film). This production stars **Harrison Ball and Jack Cameron Kay** and runs through June 28th. You can get more info at ChicagoShakes.com.

This week's "Ask Billy" question came from Mark in Boston. *"I just heard that gay porn star **Drake Von** was arrested for attempting to strangle his partner in Las Vegas. Is it true? And could you post his mugshot?"*

TMZ first reported that Von (real name Dawson Bacon) was arrested in Las Vegas on June 3rd. When the accuser was identified, we learned she's a female named Quinn! She claims to have blacked out after Von "restricted her breathing". She says he slammed her to the ground and told her to get on her knees and beg if she really wanted her phone back (sounds like he confused her with one of his on-screen sexual partners). Somehow, she escaped and called 911. A video of Von's arrest has emerged. While an officer cuffs him and places him in the back of the patrol car, they casually discuss their favorite performers at the EDC—an electronic dance music festival that took place in Vegas weeks earlier. Drake was charged with felony domestic battery by strangulation, felony coercion constituting domestic violence, and misdemeanor domestic battery. He was held on a bond of $25,246. After being released, Drake said, "All allegations are false, charges will be dropped, and it was all a misunderstanding." He later said, "I'm very good mentally. This was all a publicity stunt." Giving credence to the "publicity stunt" angle is a photo Quinn posted of herself bent over and dressed as a cop with Von behind her in an orange jump suit. Have we all been had? Check out the photos and videos on BillyMasters.com.

When someone is able to pull the wool over **Harvey Levin's** eyes, it's time for me to end yet another column. At least I had the good sense to be skeptical! For more in-depth reporting, check out BillyMasters.com—the site that's got a whole lotta allegations but not a single conviction. If you need me to run a background check on anyone, drop a note to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Drake Von is named Grand Marshal of some city's Pride Parade! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.



Photo by PhilipRomano, via Wikimedia Commons.

Neil Patrick Harris

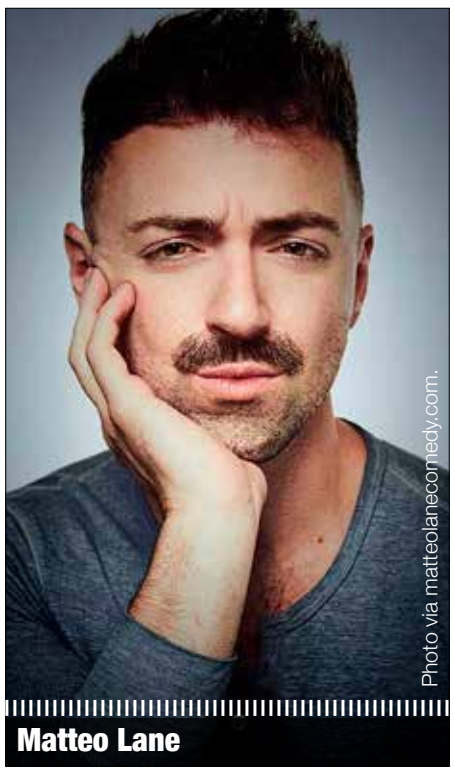


Photo via matteolanecomedy.com.

Matteo Lane



Photo via drakevonx, Instagram.

Drake Von

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The Milestones That Moved Massachusetts And Our Country Forward.

Our state has helped shape the American story, but that story has also been shaped by the ongoing expansion of visibility, representation, and LGBTQ+ rights.

Here are some of the defining moments that helped move that progress forward.



1971
Boston holds the state's first Pride march.

1974
The first openly gay person is elected to a state legislature in the United States, serving in the Massachusetts House of Representatives and advancing visibility and representation in public life.

1984
Boston passes the city's first human rights ordinance protecting LGBTQ+ rights.

1999
The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court awards visitation rights to both mothers in a same-sex separation. A notable legal first for same-sex parenting rights in the state.



2016
Massachusetts extends non-discrimination protections for transgender individuals to public accommodations, becoming a national leader in full transgender civil rights.

2018
Massachusetts becomes the first state to uphold transgender non-discrimination protections through a popular vote, affirming the rights of transgender residents at the ballot box.

To learn more visit massachusetts250.org



Monroe

Continued from page 1

trans legislation across the country. In Massachusetts alone, six anti-trans bills are currently being tracked.

However, Black LGBTQ+ communities continue to experience Pride differently. As still a predominantly white event in many cities and towns across the country, many POC revelers experience social exclusion, alienation, and cultural invisibility. Today, in response, Pride celebrations centering people of color have emerged, creating Black-themed performances, parties, gatherings, and getaway weekends rooted in affirmation and belonging.

By 1999, Black Pride events had grown into the International Federation of Black Prides, Inc. (IFBP, now the Center for Black Equity). Recognizing the need to build coalitions beyond their immediate communities, IFBP also established the Black/Brown Coalition to strengthen networks of support and advocacy.

Different priorities

Black Pride grooves to a different beat. LGBTQ+ people of African descent use these events not only to celebrate, but also to define and advance their own priorities.

For example, Sunday gospel brunches, Saturday-night poetry slams, Friday-evening fashion shows, bid whist tournaments, house parties, the smells of soul food and Caribbean cuisine, and the beautiful display of African art and clothing are just a few of the cultural markers that make Black Pride distinct from the dominant queer culture.

Health and wellness are also central. At Black Pride events, attendees often encounter health booths offering screenings for sexually transmitted infections, vision care, hypertension, and HIV/AIDS. Black Pride also addresses broader social determinants of health affecting the community, including unemployment, housing insecurity, gang violence, youth homelessness, mass incarceration, prostate health, trans health, domestic violence, and depression. What goes underreported are the proactive, community-led efforts to confront and reduce these challenges.

The get-aways

Despite Provincetown's reputation for bohemianism and artistic freedom, Provincetown — unlike Oak Bluffs on Martha's Vineyard — did not historically have a Black enclave or a consistent summer influx of African Diaspora vacationers, whether straight or queer. That began to change in the 2000s with the emergence of Black-themed weekends such as Womxn of Color Weekend (WoCW) and Frolic (formerly known as Men of Melanin Magic). This year, those two weekends just wrapped — and the energy they brought to P-town was unmistakable.

WoCW ran June 2–7, filling Provincetown with five days of workshops, performances, parties, shared meals, and the kind of intentional community-building that is increasingly rare and increasingly necessary. For nearly two decades, WoCW's annual gathering has been a significant cultural anchor — a sacred haven of joy, love, sisterhood, and unapologetic self-expression. In this political era that increasingly targets marginalized communities, WoCW stands as a bold and affirming intersectional space. Year after year, it reasserts our right to exist, to gather, and to be seen in our fullness.

Founded in 2006, WoCW has become a vital cultural force in Provincetown. Since 2017, the visionary power behind its growth and evolution has been Jha D Amazi, WoCW's Executive Producer and Director. Under her leadership, WoCW transformed into a nonprofit organization with a bold, unapologetic mission: to bring racial and cultural diversity to Provincetown while cultivating spaces rooted in belonging.

"There aren't enough spaces that center and cater to our experiences as Black, queer, womxn — our expansive gender expressions and our layered identities," Amazi shared with me. "My hope is that our time together says Black folks, queer folks, women folks don't just exist here — we thrive here. We belong here."

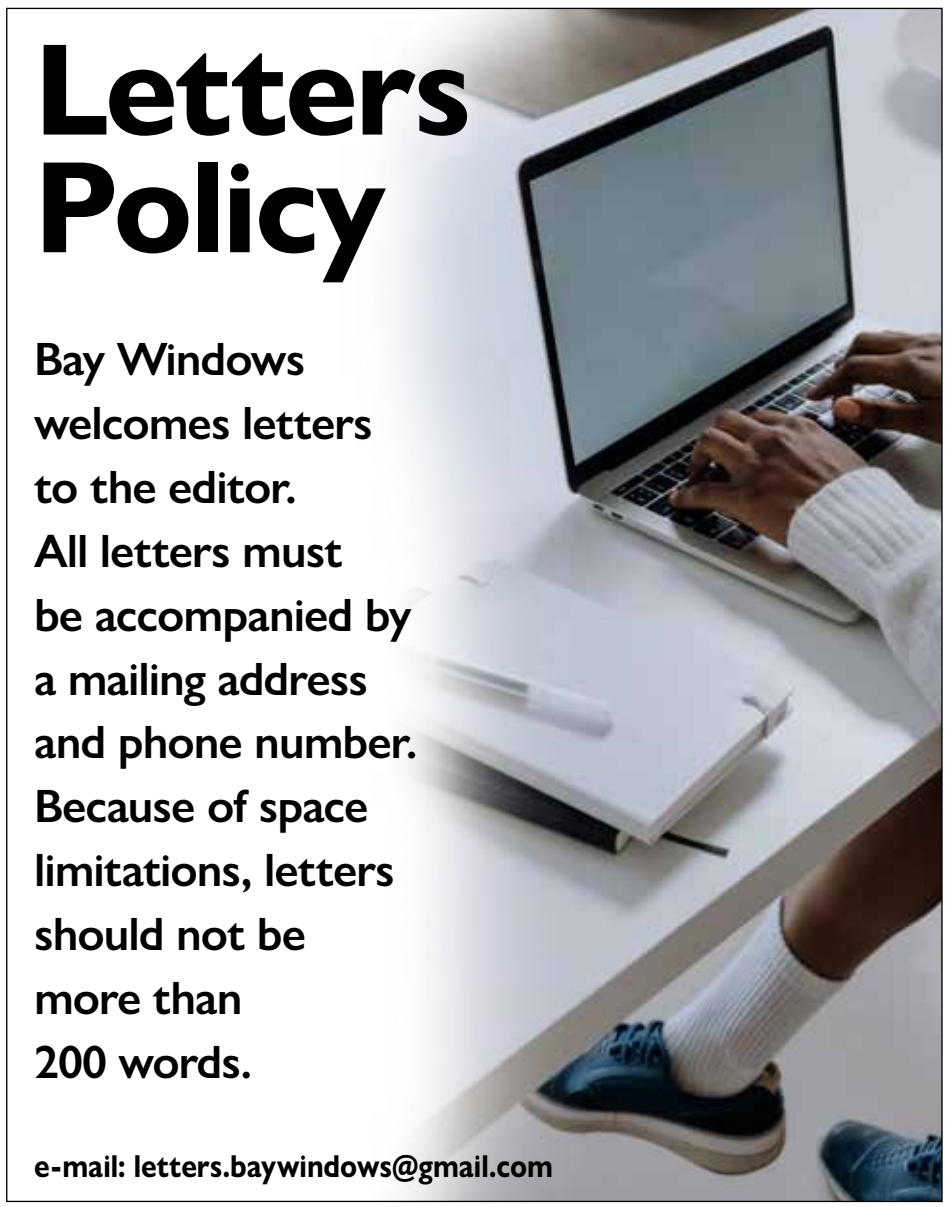
Frolic welcomes queer men of color from across the globe. Founded in 2016 as Men of Melanin Magic and now celebrating its eighth year in Provincetown, Frolic is its signature summer event — an embrace of brotherhood culture, a supportive and affirming fraternity that fosters connection, belonging, and pride for all. For six days, Frolic offered boat cruises, pool parties, club nights, beach takeovers, panels, workshops, group exercise, and much more.

With more than 1,200 Frolickers filling Commercial Street — the town's vibrant main drag — the energy was unmistakable, with laughter, joy, and celebration rippling through every corner. Attendees arrived from near and far, from Amsterdam to Truro, the next town over.

"At its core, FROLIC is a space rooted in joy, belonging, and intentional community-building for queer people of color," Roneil Smith told me. Smith is the Executive Producer of Frolic Weekend. This multicultural brotherhood creates a safe, protective camaraderie that sparks lifelong friendships and shared memories.

Black Joy

The theme for Pride Month 2026 — resilience, liberation, and visibility — is more than a slogan; it is a call to action and radical self-care. WoCW and Frolic are both. They are acts of resistance: to take up space and rebuke erasure in this political climate. Those weekends are a bold declaration of our rights as queer people of color to be our authentic selves. Those weekends, we are all fam. It's the one time each year I gift myself a weekend of unabashed radical self-care. I only wish there were more.



Rosendall

Continued from page 4

uphold law and order by hiring masked thugs to terrorize people in our cities and throwing people into detention centers without due process. They claim to protect children while shielding wealthy suspected pedophiles.

A backlash will come, and will not be kind to them. In the meantime, we must live our best lives and stand our ground.

Richard Rosendall is a writer and activist who can be reached at rrosendall@me.com.

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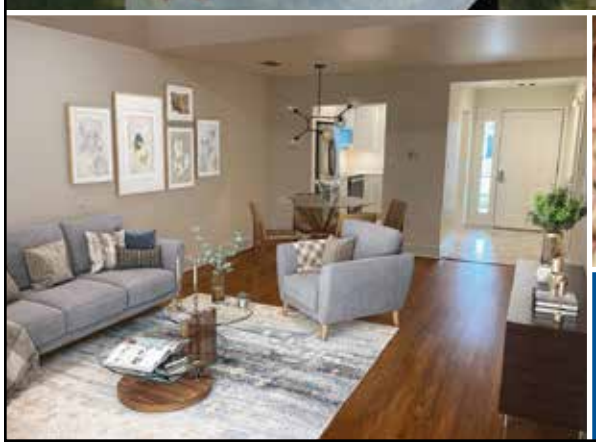
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Pride Listings

Continued from page 1

SATURDAY JUNE 13

TAUNTON — SOUTH COAST PRIDE

Noon–5 PM | South Coast LGBTQ+ Network | Hopewell Park, Taunton

Annual South Coast Pride festival with live entertainment, drag performances, food vendors, and community organizations.

sclgbtqnetwork.org

SUNDAY JUNE 14

CAMBRIDGE LGBTQ PRIDE WALK AT MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY

1–2:30 PM | Friends of Mount Auburn with Queer History Boston | Mount Auburn Cemetery, 580 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge

Docent-led walk by historian Robin Hazard Ray exploring the resting places of Senator Charles Sumner, actress Charlotte Cushman, poet Amy Lowell, painter George Hawley Hallowell, and other LGBTQ+ figures from Boston's past.

mountauburn.org | queerhistoryboston.org

HAMILTON-WENHAM PRIDE PICNIC

Noon–4 PM | HW Human Rights | Patton Homestead, 650 Asbury St., South Hamilton

Annual community Pride picnic.

hwhumanrights.org

WALTHAM PRIDE

Noon–4 PM | Waltham Pride | Waltham Common, 610 Main St., Waltham

Fifth annual festival featuring musical acts, drag performances, speeches, food, and family programming. Note: The City of Waltham's events page lists June 7 — verify at walthampride.org, which lists June 14.

walthampride.org

SATURDAY JUNE 20

HANOVER PRIDE / DON'T HIDE THE PRIDE

Time TBD | Hanover Pride | Forge Pond Park, King St., Hanover

Annual South Shore Pride celebration.

hanover-ma.gov

SATURDAY JUNE 27

HOLYOKE PRIDE FEST | |

Noon–6 PM | Holyoke Pride | Veterans Park, Dwight and Maple Streets, Holyoke

Annual outdoor Pride festival, part of a month-long series of events. Date shifted from June 21 (2025) to June 27 this year.

holyokepride.org

QUINCY PRIDE

Noon–5 PM | Quincy Pride | Pageant Field, 1 Merrymount Pkwy., Quincy

Annual South Shore Pride festival.

quincypride.com

SALEM — NORTH SHORE PRIDE PARADE & FESTIVAL

Time TBD | North Shore Pride Inc. | Salem Common, Salem

Annual parade and festival at Salem Common serving the entire North Shore LGBTQ+ community.

northshorepride.org

SUNDAY JUNE 28

PLYMOUTH PRIDE

11 AM–5 PM | Plymouth Pride Inc. | Nelson Park, Plymouth

Annual South Shore Pride festival.

plymouthprideinc.com

REVERE BEACH PRIDE

Sun, June 28 | City of Revere | Waterfront Square (400-500 Ocean Ave), Revere, MA.

A full afternoon of DJ spinning tunes, dancing, drag performances, shop vendors. Strike a pose with our pride photo booth, face painting, and nonstop summer vibes right across from the ocean. Whether you're coming with friends or showing up solo, this is the place to celebrate, connect, and be part of it. RAIN OR SHINE.

revere.org/reverepride

THE NETWORK/LA RED PRESENTS: WILD TONGUES - UNTAMED AUTHENTICITY

11am-2pm | The Foundry | 101 Rogers Street, Cambridge, MA 02142

Wrap up Pride month with The Network/La Red at Wild Tongues, where LGBTQ+ survivors of partner abuse share their experiences through art among a community full of support. Please note, this is a free, mask required, substance free event.

RSVP: https://www.tnlr.org/en/wild-tongues/

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12

WORCESTER PRIDE

Time TBD | Queer Coalition of Greater Worcester | 50 Franklin St., Worcester

Annual Pride festival coordinated by a collaborative LGBTQ+ community initiative.

prideworcester.org

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13

LONGMEADOW PRIDE

Sun, September 13 | Time TBD | Longmeadow Pride | Longmeadow Town Green, Longmeadow

Annual Western Massachusetts Pride festival.

longmeadowpride.org

NEW HAMPSHIRE

SATURDAY JUNE 20

NASHUA PRIDE FESTIVAL

Downtown Nashua Association with Pride Empowerment Network | Parade: Main St. at City Hall, 229 Main St.; Festival: Library Plaza, Nashua, NH

Annual Southern NH Pride celebration, the third Saturday in June as is tradition. Time TBD. Organizing has returned to the Downtown Nashua Association this year after previously being city-run.

downtownnashua.org | facebook.com/NashuaPrideFestival

PORTSMOUTH PRIDE

Noon | NH Outright / Seacoast Outright | Strawbery Banke Museum, 14 Hancock St. (Puddle Dock grounds), Portsmouth, NH

12th annual Seacoast region Pride celebration, rain or shine. Festival and marketplace with 100+ vendors, live music, and beer tent (21+).

nhoutright.org | strawberybanke.org

SATURDAY JUNE 27

MANCHESTER — QUEEN CITY PRIDE FESTIVAL

10 AM–6 PM | Manchester True Collaborative | Veterans Park, Manchester, NH

Annual Pride festival in New Hampshire's largest city featuring live entertainment, interactive art, youth activities, food trucks, and local vendors.

manchestertrue.org

LITTLETON — NORTH COUNTRY PRIDE RIDE

Time TBD | TLC Family Resource Center | Riverfront Commons, Littleton, NH

Second annual Pride Parade and Festival in downtown Littleton, serving the rural North Country LGBTQ+ community.

tlcfamilyrc.org

RHODE ISLAND

FRIDAY–SUNDAY JUNE 19–21

PROVIDENCE — RHODE ISLAND PRIDEFEST & ILLUMINATED NIGHT PARADE (50TH ANNIVERSARY)

Festival 11:30 AM Sat; Night Parade 7:45 PM Sat

Rhode Island Pride | District Park, 120 Peck St., Providence; Parade: Empire & Washington Sts.

Rhode Island's 50th annual Pride celebration. All-day festival followed by New England's only illuminated night parade. 250+ vendors, Kids Zone noon–3 PM, beer/wine tent (21+). Free to attend.

prideri.org

FRIDAY–SUNDAY JUNE 26–28

NEWPORT PRIDE

Time TBD | Newport Out | Great Friends Meeting House and throughout Newport, RI

Last weekend of June. Signature event is the Pride Ride bicycle parade through Newport, followed by the Pride Market and festival.

newportout.com

MAINE

SATURDAY JUNE 13

AROOSTOOK PRIDE — PRESQUE ISLE

3–7 PM | Aroostook Pride | Riverside Park / Farmers Market Pavilion, Presque Isle, ME

Annual Pride celebration serving The County in Northern Maine.

aclumaine.org

SATURDAY JUNE 20

PORTLAND — PRIDE PORTLAND! PARADE & FESTIVAL

Parade ~1 PM | Pride Portland! | Monument Square to Deering Oaks Park, Portland, ME

One of the country's top-rated LGBTQ+ Pride parades, entirely volunteer-run, with a festival following at historic Deering Oaks Park.

prideportland.org | chair@prideportland.org

SATURDAY JUNE 27

BANGOR PRIDE

Bangor Pride | Bang or Waterfront, Bangor, ME

Annual Pride festival, new venue for 2026. Theme: "Color Our World With Pride." Parade followed by vendor market, live performances, and community celebration. Free, all ages. Previously held at West Market Square and Norumbega Park.

bangorpride.com

SUNDAY JUNE 28

DOWNEAST PRIDE — EASTPORT & LUBEC

Time TBD | Downeast Rainbow Alliance | Eastport & Lubec, ME

Family-friendly celebration featuring the Curbside Queens and Minor Characters, art activities, live music, drag performances, and community events serving Washington County. Vendor registration through May 31.

downeastrainbowalliance.com | downeastrainbowalliance@gmail.com

CONNECTICUT

SATURDAY JUNE 13

HARTFORD — CAPITAL CITY PRIDE

11 AM–2 AM | Riverfront | Mortensen Riverfront Plaza, 300 Columbus Blvd., Hartford, CT

Formerly Hartford Pride, now rebranded and moved from September to June. Daytime family-friendly Pride on Pratt Street 11 AM–5 PM; PrideFEST and concert 4–9 PM; afterparty 10 PM–2 AM. Free.

riverfront.org/events/pridefest

FAIRFIELD COUNTY PRIDE IN THE PARK (NORWALK)

2 PM | Triangle Community Center | Veterans Memorial Park, Norwalk, CT

Free, family-friendly outdoor festival featuring entertainers and diverse local performers, serving the Fairfield County LGBTQ+ community.

ctpridecenter.org/pride-in-the-park | pride@ctpridecenter.org

SATURDAY JUNE 27

MYSTIC PRIDE

4 PM | Mystic Pride | Mystic Museum of Art, Mystic, CT

Annual Pride celebration in downtown Mystic. Venue listed as Mystic Museum of Art — a departure from prior downtown locations. Confirm closer to the date.

mysticchamber.org

WEST HARTFORD PRIDE FESTIVAL

Time TBD | West Hartford Pride | West Hartford Town Hall, 50 S. Main St., West Hartford, CT

Annual celebration with rally, live music, drag performances, vendors, food trucks, and family activities. Part of a month-long Pride celebration.

westhartfordpride.org

VERMONT

SUNDAY JUNE 14

4TH ANNUAL PRIDE WHISTLESTOP TOUR

Noon–12:30 PM | Bellows Falls Pride | Bellows Falls Amtrak Station, Bellows Falls, VT

Statewide Pride show of support along the Amtrak Vermonter route from St. Albans to Brattleboro. Local communities at ten train stations decorate, wave flags, play music, and cheer as the Vermonter rolls through. Bellows Falls station decorating begins at noon.

bellowsfallspride.com | facebook.com/BFPride | instagram.com/bellowsfallspride

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FALLSLAND SUNDAY T-DANCE

Bellows Falls Pride / Ciao Popolo | Ciao Popolo, The Square, Bellows Falls, VT

Monthly Sunday T-Dance for the LGBTQ+ community at Ciao Popolo on the Bellows Falls Square. Echoing the legacy of the historic Andrews Inn (1973–1984), which once made Bellows Falls a destination for LGBTQ+ travelers throughout New England.

bellowsfallspride.com | facebook.com/BFPride | instagram.com/bellowsfallspride

WEDNESDAY JUNE 24

BELLOWS FALLS PRIDE FILM FESTIVAL — VICTOR/VICTORIA

Bellows Falls Pride / Susan MacNeil Film Series | Bellows Falls Opera House, 7 The Square, Bellows Falls, VT

LGBTQ+ film screening on the largest screen in the region, in honor of beloved community leader Susan MacNeil. Tickets $6.

bellowsfallspride.com | facebook.com/BFPride | instagram.com/bellowsfallspride

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Pride

Continued from page 1

into it. "LGBTQ people have been around before and since 1776," Boston Pride for the People president Adrianna Boulin said at a Friday press conference outside the Boston Public Library, crediting their courage for making today's visibility possible.

The parade stepped off at 11 a.m., with Governor Maura Healey, Senator Ed Markey, and Mayor Michelle Wu joining organizers for the ceremonial ribbon cutting. "This is a place that has always stood up for truth, for what we need in the future, and for doing what's right," Wu said.

Not every elected official got a warm welcome. Rep. Seth Moulton, whose 2024 comments about trans youth remain top of mind for many advocates, was booed by critics as he walked the route. Videos circulating on social media showed crowds jeering Moulton with chants of "Trans lives matter" as he smiled and waved; the congressman is giving up his sixth district seat to challenge Markey for Senate.

The political contrast was hard to miss. Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll marched alongside Healey, one of two openly lesbian governors in the country, telling the crowd, "In a place like Massachusetts, you're seen, you're heard, you're appreciated". Rep. Ayanna Pressley, who also marched. Healey, speaking along the route, said, "With what's going on in the country right now, we need this... I want people to know if you come to Massachusetts you'll be safe, you can live openly".

Organizers billed the event as the largest Pride celebration and empowerment event in New England, and attendees emphasized that it remains as much a demonstration as a celebration — a point underscored by the parade's trans memorial. Boulin told WBUR the memorial contingent, in which marchers carry photos of transgender people who have died, is for her the most meaningful part of the parade — a way to say their names and ensure they're not forgotten.

The route's floats, banners, and handmade signs ranged from sharp political messages to humor and encouragement. On the Common, the festival featured performers headlined by hip-hop duo Flyana Boss and some 250 vendors, while Pride street fairs on Saint James Avenue ran both Saturday and Sunday. The whole celebration came a week earlier than usual to make way for World Cup festivities beginning across Massachusetts next week.

Mombian

Continued from page 4

policies and protections that can offset what the federal government and other states are doing. To name just a few recent wins: Delaware has updated its parentage laws to better protect the children of LGBTQ+ parents and others formed via assisted reproduction; Connecticut has expanded its required coverage of fertility health care to be more inclusive of LGBTQ+ and single people; Colorado has a new law allowing civil suits against providers of so-called "conversion therapy," as a way to counter the U.S. Supreme Court's recent ruling that permits this discredited practice; and Hawaii enacted a law to protect providers of gender-affirming care. I hope that the many LGBTQ+ individuals, organizations, and allies who contributed to that work are taking pride in it. Pride is, as the saying goes, a protest, and it is gratifying to see that we are still finding ways to fight inequality and make change.

At the same time, we can also express Pride and pride simply by reading an LGBTQ+-inclusive picture book with our kids, talking with them about how their family was created, or affirming their own interests and identities. Those actions may not have the visibility of a march or boycott but build an important inner pride in the next generation.

The word pride is multifaceted, just like LGBTQ+ people. We have much to be proud of personally, in our families, and as a community, even as some people's hubristic pride threatens our progress. No matter how you are experiencing and expressing pride and Pride this year, may it be a time of renewed joy, strength, and resilience.

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a two-time GLAAD Media Award-winning blog for LGBTQ+ parents, plus a searchable database of 2,000+ LGBTQ+ family books.

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