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Serving New England's LGBTQ+ Communities

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Healey sends a message to Florida and Texas LGBTQs



"Join us here in Massachusetts"

By Sue O'Connell
Co-Publisher

Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey, a Democrat and the state's first

openly lesbian governor, has been busy this Pride month.

Her message to the state's legal protections for LGBTQ+ people is a reason to move to, or stay in Massachusetts.

Now she's taking that message on the

see **HEALEY**, page 8



Carrying the Pride Spirit Forward

by Dana Rudolph | drudolph@mombian.com
contributing writer

As Pride Month draws to a close, it's important to remember the things that make us feel pride, that sustain us through the hard times and motivate us to keep going. In a year of record anti-LGBTQ legislation, hateful rhetoric, book bans, and more, remembering

our pride matters more than ever. Here, then, is a collection of things that I think we LGBTQ parents can be proud of right now.

Our children and families top the list.

see **MOMBIAN**, page 4

The North Shore Pride Parade Kicked off at Shetland Park in Salem on June 24



Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Warren

MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 10

LGBTQ+ Pride revelers flash feathers and flags in the streets from New York to San Francisco



Revelers wait for the start of the NYC Pride March Sunday in New York. (AP Photo)

By Bobby Caina Calvan
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) - Celebrations mingled with displays of resistance Sunday as LGBTQ+ pride parades filled streets in some of the country's

largest cities in annual events that have become part party, part protest.

In New York, thousands marched down Manhattan's Fifth Avenue to Greenwich Village, cheering and waving

see **PRIDE**, page 4



MASSACHUSETTS

THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 12P - 5P

Boston Urban Pride Presents:
Boston Urban Youth Pride
Columbia Rd, Boston, MA
<https://www.lesbigayurbanfoundation.org/event-details/boston-urban-youth-pride>

FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 2P

Boston Urban Pride Presents:
Welcome to Boston
2001 Washington St, Roxbury, MA
<https://www.lesbigayurbanfoundation.org/event-details/welcome>

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 5P-7P

Drag King Story Hour
NAGLY Salem, 2 East India Sq.
Witch City Mall #121, Salem, MA

NEW HAMPSHIRE

SUNDAY, JULY 16, 12P

Capital City Pride Family Picnic
Kimball Jenkins School of Art, 266
North Main Street Concord, NH
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/capital-city-pride-family-picnic-tickets-613497947877>

SATURDAY, JULY 22, 6P

Pride After Party
Bank of New Hampshire Stage,
16 South Main Street Concord, NH
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pride-after-party-tickets-613513253657>

MAINE

FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 10A-5P

Youth Pride ArtLab Show
Center for Maine Contemporary
Art, 21 Winter St, Rockland, ME
<https://www.outmaine.org/event/youth-pride-artlab-show/>

VERMONT

SATURDAY, JULY 15, 1P-4P

2023 Vermont Mad Pride Day
March and Celebration
Battery Park, Battery Park Extension,
Burlington, VT
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-vermont-mad-pride-day-march-and-celebration-tickets-640066475057>

see **LISTINGS**, page 5



"I'm a twink on PrEP – I can do anything."

— Marco on Netflix's "Glamorous", the latest Kim Cattrall vehicle. This is an "Ugly Betty" rip-off — if Betty were her gay nephew Justin and everyone was inexplicably in love with him. The show has no shortage of eye candy, but is woefully lacking in anything new or creative. Poor Cattrall deserves better. We all do.

more in Billy Masters on page 6!

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Emcee at Pride 1981
Photo by Susan Fleischmann

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Maura Healey
Governor

Kim Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor



Paid for by the Maura Healey Committee

Mombian

Continued from page 1

I am proud of my own son in innumerable ways; I assume you are of your children. And we should be proud of us LGBTQ parents as we simply try to raise our kids, get dinner on the table, make sure the laundry is done, and keep a roof over our heads, while simultaneously fighting for our right to exist.

We should be immensely proud, too, of the LGBTQ youth, particularly trans youth, and their parents of all identities who have been sharing their stories and speaking out against the anti-trans and anti-LGBTQ bills and laws in many states—and those who simply find the strength to get through every day.

The hard work of our legal advocates has led to several recent court wins over anti-LGBTQ laws. Federal district court judges have permanently or temporarily blocked laws that aimed to ban gender-affirming care for transgender youth in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, and Indiana. In Oklahoma, the state's attorney general signed an agreement not to enforce the state's ban, pending the resolution of a legal challenge.

And federal judges in Tennessee and Florida have ruled that those states' anti-drag laws are unconstitutional or likely so. Among other arguments, the Florida judge, Gregory Presnell, noted that the anti-drag law conflicts with the state's "Parents' Bill of Rights," aka the "Don't Say Gay/Trans" bill, which reserves to parents the "right to direct the upbringing and the moral or religious training of his or her minor child." There's a delicious irony there.

We've made political and legal progress even in the face

of anti-LGBTQ extremism around the country. Rhode Island, for example, on June 19th enacted a law to establish a streamlined confirmatory adoption process, making it easier for LGBTQ parents to create secure legal ties to their children born through assisted reproduction. The new law does away with burdens like a six-month waiting period, multiple court dates, home inspections, financial checks, and more for nongenetic/nongestational parents who have already established parentage through the state's LGBTQ-inclusive Uniform Parentage Act (unless a court finds good reason to do otherwise in a particular case). It is now one of several states to have updated its parentage laws in various ways to better protect children in LGBTQ families and others formed through assisted reproduction. Other states, including Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Hawaii, and Kansas, have such legislation pending.

We've made progress in representation as well. GLAAD's latest "Where We Are on TV" report, released in March, found a "wealth of positive LGBTQ representation for younger ages" on television. Although there is still room for improvement, I think, there's been a definite advance from just five or six years ago, when LGBTQ content was rarer, often taking the form of a "blink and you'll miss it" moment or a single episode right before a series was canceled.

A sign of how much has changed is that the Hollywood Reporter's list this month of "The 75 Most Powerful People in Kids' Entertainment" includes queer producers and screenwriters Chris Nee ("Ridley Jones"; "Doc McStuffins"), ND Stevenson ("She-Ra and the Princesses of Power"; "Nimona"), and Dana Terrace ("The Owl House"), each of whom has made space for much queer representation in their shows. On the list, too, are Matt Burnett and Ben Levin, creators of the

queer-inclusive "Craig of the Creek." They're all showing the industry how to make thoughtful, authentic queer characters who are more than just their queerness.

LGBTQ-inclusive children's books also seem headed for another year of record or near-record numbers. While quantity isn't everything, I'll also put the quality of many up against the best children's literature of any variety. I'm also happy to see growing representation among them across many aspects of identity, queer and otherwise.

And representation of real LGBTQ families is expanding, too, beyond just coverage of cisgender, two-mom and two-dad couples. Several recent, positive, mainstream pieces have centered pregnant transgender men, for instance. Glamour UK's cover for Pride features trans man Logan Brown, who was pregnant at the time and is now a dad. Trans dad Kayden Coleman was on NPR for Father's Day, talking about fatherhood and giving birth to his daughters. He also spoke earlier in the month with Today about how being a trans dad who was raised as a girl gives him "a very unique ability to arm my daughters and teach them how to navigate this world that is dominated by misogyny (misogyny directed toward Black women) and patriarchy." May we all learn from his example to find strengths in our queerness.

We still have much to fight against right now and I do not mean to diminish that as I focus on the positive here. But pride is a spirit, not just a month, and I hope we carry a spirit of resilience, joy, and possibility through the rest of the year as we face the challenges ahead.

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a two-time GLAAD Media Award-winning blog and resource directory, plus a searchable database of 1300+ LGBTQ family books.

Pride

Continued from page 1

ing rainbow flags to commemorate the 1969 Stonewall uprising, where a police raid on a gay bar triggered days of protests and launched a movement for LGBTQ+ rights.

While some people whooped it up in celebration, many were mindful of the growing conservative counter-movement to limit rights, including by banning gender-affirming care for transgender children.

"I'm not trying not to be very heavily political, but when it does target my community, I get very, very annoyed and very hurt," said Ve Cinder, a 22-year-old transgender woman who traveled from Pennsylvania to take part in the country's largest pride event.

"I'm just, like, scared for my future and for my trans siblings. I'm frightened of how this country has looked at human rights, basic human rights," she said. "It's crazy."

Parades in New York, Chicago and San Francisco are among events that roughly 400 Pride organizations across the U.S. are holding this year, with many focused specifically on the rights of transgender people.

In Chicago, 16-year-old Maisy McDonough painted rainbow colors over her eyes and on her face for her first Pride Parade.

She told the Chicago Tribune she's excited to "be united" after a tough year for the community.

"We really need the love of this parade," she said.

Entertainers and activists, drag performers and transgender advocates are among the parade grand marshals embracing a unity message as new laws targeting the LGBTQ+ community take effect in several U.S. states.

"The platform will be elevated, and we'll see communities across the country show their unity and solidarity through these events," said Ron deHarte, co-president for the U.S. Association of Prides.

Chicago, Minneapolis, Denver and Seattle are scheduled to hold pride parades Sunday. At the parade in Toronto, Canada, more than 100 groups are expected to march. In New York City, seven-time Grammy winner Christina Aguilera will headline a post-march concert in Brooklyn.

Annual observations have spread to other cities and grown to welcome bisexual, transgender and queer people, as well as other groups.

About a decade ago, when her 13-year-old child first wanted to be called a boy, Roz Gould Keith sought help. She found little to assist her family in navigating the transition. They attended a Pride parade in the Detroit area, but saw little transgender representation.

This year, she is heartened by the increased visibility of transgender people at marches and celebrations across the country this month.

"Ten years ago, when my son asked to go to Motor City Pride, there was nothing for the trans community," said Keith, founder and executive director of Stand with Trans, a group formed to support and empower young transgender people and their families.

This year, she said, the event was "jam-packed" with transgender people.

One of the grand marshals of New York City's parade is nonbinary activist AC Dumlaio, chief of staff for Athlete Ally, a group that advocates on behalf of LGBTQ+ athletes.

"Uplifting the trans community has always been at the core of our events and programming," said Dan Dimant,

a spokesperson for NYC Pride.

Many of this year's parades called for LGBTQ+ communities to unite against dozens, if not hundreds, of legislative bills now under consideration in statehouses across the country.

Lawmakers in 20 states have moved to ban gender-affirming care for children, and at least seven more are considering doing the same, adding increased urgency for the transgender community, its advocates say.

"We are under threat," Pride event organizers in New York, San Francisco and San Diego said in a statement joined by about 50 other Pride organizations nationwide. "The diverse dangers we are facing as an LGBTQ community and Pride organizers, while differing in nature and intensity, share a common trait: they seek to undermine our love, our identity, our freedom, our safety, and our lives."

Some parades, including the event in Chicago, planned beefed up security amid the upheaval.

The Anti-Defamation League and GLAAD, a national LGBTQ+ organization, found 101 anti-LGBTQ+ incidents in the first three weeks of this month, about twice as many as in the full month of June last year.

Sarah Moore, who analyzes extremism for the two civil rights groups, said many of the June incidents coincide with Pride events.

AP writers Geoff Mulvihill in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, and Susan Haigh in Hartford, Connecticut, contributed to this report.

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Listings

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Main Street Museum, 58 Bridge St, White River Junction, VT
<https://www.facebook.com/events/906199500490870/>

TUESDAY, JULY 25, 7:30P

WRJ Pride Big Gay Movie Night
Main Street Museum, 58 Bridge St, White River Junction, VT
<https://allevents.in/hanover/wrj-pride-big-gay-movie-night/20002457132847>

FRIDAY, JULY 28, 6P-11P

WRJ Pride Piano & Queer-aoke
Main Street Museum, 58 Bridge St, White River Junction, VT
<https://allevents.in/hanover/wrj-pride-piano-and-queer-aoke/20002457132345>

SATURDAY, JULY 29, 11A

WRJ PRIDE 2023 PARADE!!!
Main Street Museum, 58 Bridge St, White River Junction, VT
<https://allevents.in/hanover/wrj-pride-2023-parade/20002457132646>

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 12P

2023 Pride Vermont Parade & Festival
Burlington Waterfront, Burlington, VT
<https://allevents.in/burlington/2023-pride-vermont-parade-and-festival/200024611758217>

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billy masters

Continued from page 1

A funny thing happens to me during long trips abroad. I start out kinda like an ambassador — a latter—day **Shirley Temple Black!** I'm on my best behavior and try not to make waves. Eventually, I become more comfortable speaking up and being a bit more like myself. After that, the gloves are off and I turn into an ugly American. I cannot fathom why people are so incompetent. One of the last hotels on my trip asked me to streamline the check—in process by uploading my passport and filling in my personal data in advance. Great idea. Once I got to the hotel, they asked for my passport and handed me a form to fill out. I said there was no need for that — I'd already done it online. The woman flashed a blithely enigmatic smile and said, "We still need it here." "Then why the fuck did you waste my time?" God bless America!

While away, I heard a whole lot about this **Phillip Schofield** situation. For you Yanks, Schofield has been a UK TV presenter for cons, and was always rumored to be gay — despite being married to a woman and having children. He's like the UK's Regis! Fast—forward to 2020. He's been co—hosting a morning program for about 20 years and suddenly comes out of the closet. Nobody is sure why — until last month, when it was revealed that he's been having an affair with **Matthew McGreevey** — a lad somewhere in his early 20s. Making the story more salacious are reports that Phil may have met Matt when he was about 10 years old! An investigation has been launched, Schofield's career appears to be history, and McGreevey has gone into hiding, after reportedly suffering from psychological trauma.

In an intriguing side note, Phillip's brother, **Timothy Schofield** (a policeman), was recently found guilty of sexual impropriety with a 13—year—old boy! His trial revealed that Phillip knew about the situation, but didn't report it. I certainly can't blame him for that, but it's something that makes you go, "Hmmm". After Timothy was found guilty on 11 counts, Phillip said, "As far as I'm concerned, I no longer have a brother." Pot / kettle.

Let's turn to a domestic TV host, **Kelly Ripa**. Actually, we're turning to her sexy hubby, **Mark Consuelos**. Certainly Mark is too old for the Schofield chaps, but he's perfect for me. Recently, Mark went to work out with his Italian soccer team. Let me stop right there, because I know what you're thinking. Yes, Mark and Kelly are co—owners of an Italian soccer team. Strike that — two Italian soccer teams! Campobasso 1919 and Ascoli FC. I know all about these teams because...well, I slept with a lot of athletes in Italy. Mark was working out with one of his two soccer teams and got injured. I believe the explanation was that someone pulled his groin — but my Italian is rusty. While he was being inspected by the doctor (at least they said he was a doctor), Mark's crotch area had to be digitally scrambled because when an Italian soccer player pulls your groin, it shows — regardless of how straight you are! A more recent headline said, "Mark Consuelos strips down to a wrestling singlet to get pummeled by a college jock." Where do I sign up to see that, you may ask? Happily, the footage of Consuelos opposing "the most dominant wrestler in college" does not disappoint — and you can see it on BillyMasters.com.

I've said it before, and I'll say it again — words matter. I know this is an old story, but when **Lady Gaga** offered a \$500K reward for the return of her dogs, "No questions asked" — I knew it wouldn't end well. In this case, I'm sorry to say I'm squarely on the side of the chick who reunited Gaga with her pooches. Yes, she may have been an ex-girlfriend of the father of one

of the dognappers. And, yes, she may have even been involved in the plot. But "No questions asked" means no questions asked. But, if I may — I have a question. Why is Gaga's gay dog walker who was shot while protecting her pooches no longer in her employ? Inquiring minds want to know.

In another departure, **Prince Harry** and that wife of his have parted ways with Spotify. So when you are asked, "What do Spotify and the British royal family have in common?" you'll have an answer.

Eddie Izzard has announced that **Suzy** is now the preferred name. How Izzard made the announcement made me smile. "As people may now well know, I have added the name 'Suzy' to my names. So going forward I am preferring Suzy but I don't mind Eddie. And I prefer she/her but I don't mind he/him. So no one can really get it wrong unless they call me Kenneth or Sabrina. I am remaining Eddie Izzard in public. Thank you. Suzy/Eddie."

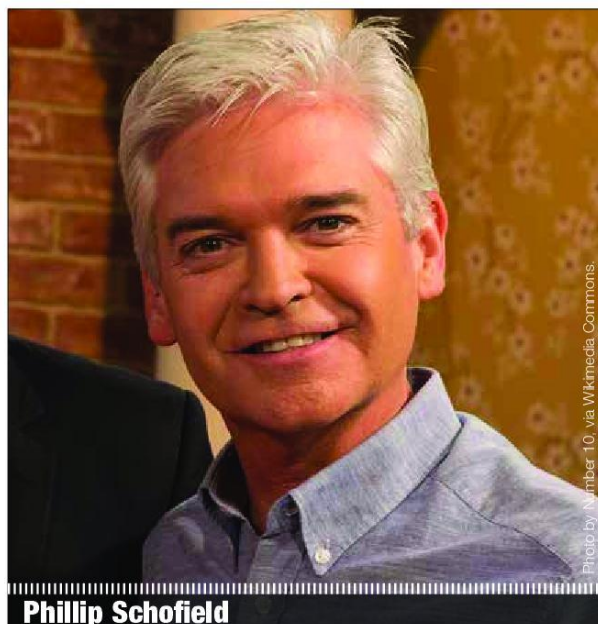
The Kennedy Center just announced that **Queen Latifah**, **Billy Crystal**, **Barry Gibb**, **Dionne Warwick** and soprano **Renée Fleming** will be the 2023 honorees. Somewhere, Liza is wondering how many gay men she has to marry before anyone honors her!

Just when you think you've heard it all, out comes a disproven chestnut from the past — and from a presidential hopeful, no less! In an unearthed clip, **Robert F. Kennedy Jr.** says this: "The virus is a passenger virus, and these people are dying mainly because of poppers. A hundred percent of the people who died in the first thousand [with] AIDS were people who were addicted to poppers, which are known to cause Kaposi sarcoma in rats." I suppose there is some connection...

Congrats to **Luke Macfarlane** who just had his first child with partner **Hig Roberts**. Who knew Luke had a partner? Hands? Or that his name is Hig? And, trust me — spellcheck still doesn't believe I've got that right. Luke posted this on Instagram: "**Tess Eleanor Macfarlane** — Born June 4th, 2023. We started life with some hectic days and received world class care. On Father's Day we got to take her home. Her Dads can't wait to introduce her to all the remarkable people and the beautiful world we live in." I'm not complaining, but I always find it amusing when a hot guy takes off his shirt for a photo with his newborn — as you'll see on BillyMasters.com.

In lieu of an "Ask Billy" question, we want to congratulate **Mark MacKillop**, a frequent contributor to "Billy Masters LIVE". The talented hoofer (not from Broadway...yet) has made history as the highest fundraiser for "Broadway Bares" for the SIXTH year in a row. This year, he set the lofty goal of wanting to break \$100K, and raised over \$120K!! This means that, to date, he has single—handedly brought in more than \$392,168 for the fight against AIDS. All I did was sleep with a few hundred guys — and nobody gave me a cent (well, there was that one guy who gave me a pencil after I parted his dog). Congrats, Mark!

When we're applauding bare bottoms, it's definitely time to end yet another column. I'm happy to say that I'm back in the USA — well, at least I will be by the time you read this. I'll be making up for lost time in Provincetown over July 4th. While I'm entertaining the masses in small, tasteful groups, you can check out www.BillyMasters.com — the site that'll provide more than a few fireworks. If you have a question for me, send it to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before I hop on the Good Ship Lollipop! So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.



Phillip Schofield

Photo by Number 10 via Wikimedia Commons.



Suzy Izzard

Photo by Gary Knight via Wikimedia Commons.



Mark MacKillop

Photo via Billy Masters LIVE, YouTube.

Deb Goldberg

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Healey

Continued from page 1

road. The Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism launched an estimated \$750,000 ad campaign that includes digital billboards in Florida and Texas with the slogan: "Massachusetts: For us all". The ads feature Massachusetts LGBTQ couples.

The campaign will also run in New England and New York.

Healey said in a statement: "At a time when other states are misguidedly restricting LGBTQ-IA+ rights, we are proud to send the message that Massachusetts is a safe, welcoming and inclusive place for all...To anyone considering where they want to live, raise a family, visit or build a business — we want you to join us here in Massachusetts."

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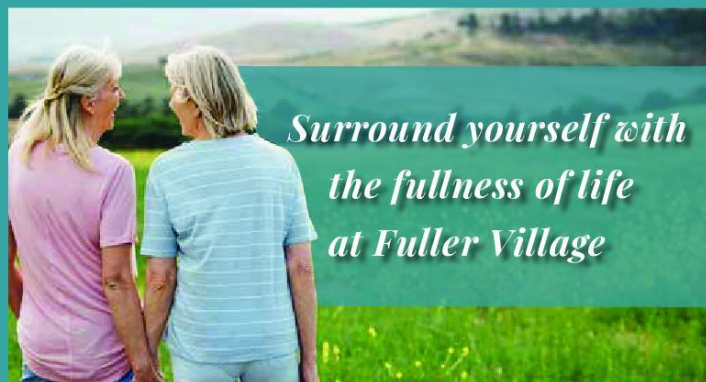


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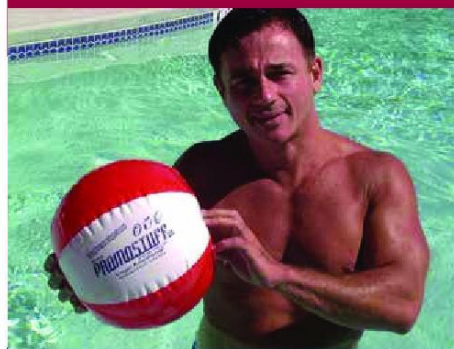
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This project was partially funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

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