



9 LGBTQ-Inclusive Kids' Books for National Poetry Month

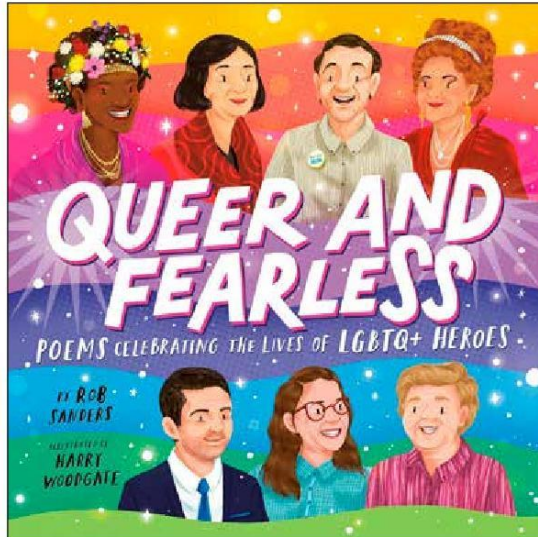
by Dana Rudolph | drudolph@mombian.com
contributing writer

April is National Poetry Month, and these recent books in verse for young readers prove that LGBTQ-inclusive titles can be as beautiful and powerful as any today.

The first three are picture books; the rest are middle grade and up.

"Queer and Fearless: Poems Celebrating the Lives of LGBTQ+ Heroes," by Rob Sanders, illustrated by Harry Woodgate (Penguin), offers biographical portraits of 17 historical and contemporary LGBTQ political and social activists. Sanders carefully matches various poetic forms with his subjects, for example, deploying the march-like beat of rhyming couplets for the poem about Bayard Rustin, who organized the 1963 March on Washington. A few paragraphs of prose on each figure add informational substance to the emotional connec-

see **MOMBIAN**, page 4



MA Commission on LGBTQ Youth celebrates with Harlem Renaissance Annual Gayla



Photo by Shot by Oodle.

Submitted by MA Commission on LGBTQ Youth

On Saturday, March 30, 2024, the MA Commission on LGBTQ Youth hosted their fundraiser and celebration, The Harlem Renaissance Annual Gayla at the Royal Sonesta in Cambridge.

Guests were invited to join us in their best Harlem Renaissance-themed attire for this celebration of community, pride, and joy. The Gayla acts as both a fundraiser and a celebration of the incredible work done by the Commission's young people,

see **GAYLA**, page 3

Second round of S.P.A.C.E. Grant Awardees includes two LGBTQ owned business

Submitted by
the City of Boston

On Wednesday, April 4, 2024, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu announced the second round of Supporting Pandemic Affected Community Enterprises (SPACE) Grant awardees. These local entrepreneurs will receive American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to help them expand their

businesses and move into vacant storefronts. Applications for the final third round are now open.

"Our local businesses, the stories of their development, and the customers that they serve are what make Boston's storefronts alive and unique," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Our goal is to invest in businesses that reflect

see **S.P.A.C.E.**, page 5

Pressley, Warren, Markey Deliver Funding For The Pryde LGBTQ+ Senior Housing

Submitted by
Rep. Ayanna Pressley's Office

On March 25, 2024, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (MA-07), Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), and Senator Edward J. Markey (D-MA) applauded the final passage of \$850,000 in federal community project funding for The Pryde, an

affordable housing development for LGBTQ+ seniors in Hyde Park.

The funding was included in the most recent series of government funding bills and was passed after Rep. Pressley worked closely with Senators Warren and Markey to secure the funding after Republicans callously

see **PRYDE**, page 5



Virtue in a refugee, peril in a 'patriot'

America is enriched by its immigrants

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

Too many Americans are afraid of the wrong people, and it endangers our republic.

I think of this on a spring evening as I text Fatima, a trans woman in Nairobi. She needs to go to a hospital; I send her transport money as I hear shouts from the soccer field around the corner.

Health issues often accompany

the poverty of someone like Fatima, who fled from Burundi to Kenya due to hatred and violence fueled in part by right-wing American evangelicals.

I sent her a little money a few days earlier to celebrate breaking the fast on Eid al-Fitr, the end of the holy month of Ramadan. Several of my

see **ROSENDALL**, page 4



**"Did you know we can't marry our siblings?
Why can't we? We love each other."**

— Sara Haines, "The View" co-host, relates a question her daughter asked. Trust me, kid, in time you won't want to talk to your siblings, let alone marry them!

more in Billy Masters on page 6!

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Gayla

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staff, Commission members, and community partners. Event sponsors helped to provide wardrobe stipends to over 70 youth guests to purchase their best gender-affirming attire to attend in style!

The MA Commission on LGBTQ Youth is an independent state agency of the Commonwealth established in 1992 to study and address disproportionately high rates of suicide among LGBTQ youth. Today, we have a longstanding partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) through our Safe Schools Program for LGBTQ Students; we develop and advocate for equitable policies, programs, and resources for the most marginalized LGBTQ youth—including those who are Black, Indigenous, people of color, disabled, trans, and nonbinary—in many areas such as health care, housing, education, child welfare, and the justice system. The Commission is the first and only agency of its kind in the entire

country, and partners closely with more than 200 schools, 20 state agencies, and countless families and community organizations to build internal capacity, trainings, policy development, and youth outreach.

The Commission also announced the opening of this year's Jeff Perrotti Scholarship. This scholarship will present an annual award to students who have exhibited outstanding leadership skills in their communities, and will continue to honor Jeff Perrotti's incredible legacy as the founder of the Safe School's Program.

Two VIP guests in attendance and as a part of the program. First, Preston Mitchum is well known in the national LGBTQ space for his work in the community, he is an attorney, and now a reality television personality. Twiggy Pucci Garçon is an Emmy nominated film director and has worked on Pose, the KiKi movie, MnM, and All Boys Aren't Blue. She is also The House Mother of The House of Garçon and is an international Icon in the ballroom scene. We also had Candace Persuasion as one of our MCs, a drag performance, a ball (LGBTQ ballroom culture), and a host of other incredible people and programming.



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tions that the poems create.

"Jimmy's Rhythm & Blues: The Extraordinary Life of James Baldwin," by Michelle Meadows, illustrated by Jamiel Law (HarperCollins), is a lyrical biography of Baldwin, capturing something of the rhythm of his work in its blank verse and honoring both his Black and gay identities. Law's warm, evocative illustrations are the perfect complement to Meadows' words.

"Can We Please Give the Police Department to the Grandmothers?" by Junauda Petrus, illustrated by Kristen Uroda (Dutton), began as a viral poem that Petrus performed after the 2014 shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri. In it, she envisions a world remade, with police salaries given to grandmothers who cruise the streets in "badass" vintage automobiles, blaring "old-school jams" and offering help and hope. Two of the "grandmas" are depicted with beards, though their exact identities are unstated. This is a joyous and empowering imagining of a future that could be.

"The Song of Us," by Kate Fussner (Katherine Tegen Books), is a loose retelling of the myth of Orpheus and Eurydice, made modern and queer in this novel in verse. Seventh-grader Olivia is a poet, and when new girl and musician Eden shows up to the Poetry Club one day, it's love at first sight. Through alternating poems in each girl's voice, across a variety of poetic forms, we move from love to its broken aftermath, and then to Olivia's plan to win Eden back through the power of poetry. Fussner delves into first love, social pressures, family relationships, and coming of age, giving

us poetry as passion, action, and emotion.

"Dear Mothman," by Robin Gow (Amulet Books), is an elegantly crafted novel in verse about an autistic, transgender boy moving through grief to find belonging. Sixth-grader Noah's friend Lewis, the only other trans boy in school, has died in a car accident. Noah begins writing letters to Mothman, Lewis's favorite cryptid, sharing his feelings of grief with a creature who is as misunderstood as Noah himself. Gradually, Noah makes friends with a small group of fellow outsiders, and even develops a first crush. But will this help him as he is pulled towards following where Mothman may lead? Gow plumbs Noah's thoughts with perception, sensitivity, and sometimes brilliant turns of phrase.

"Blood Brothers," by Rob Sanders (Reycraft), is a powerful novel in verse set during the AIDS crisis of the 1980s. Protagonist Calvin and his two brothers have hemophilia, and contract AIDS from transfusions meant to help them. When others in their small Florida community find out, the boys are banned from school, scouts, and their church, while their single mom fights to protect them. None of them appear queer, but there are hints that their teacher is—and the topic is clearly intertwined with the homophobia of the era. Inspired by the real stories of Ryan White and the Ray brothers, but fictionalized to dramatic effect, this is a tale of bias and narrow-mindedness, but also of love, resilience, and the power of allies.

"The Lonely Book," by Meg Grehan (Little Island Books), is the story of a two-mom family, their magical bookshop, and one of their children who comes out as nonbinary, told through the eyes of the child's sibling. The story conveys gentle messages about learning to be comfortable in ourselves and helping

others do the same; navigating change; the power of families; and the importance of books where people can both see themselves and learn about others.

"Always Matt," by Lesléa Newman, illustrated by Brian Britigan (Abrams Comicarts), is a moving exploration of the life and legacy of Matthew Shepard, the young man murdered in 1998 because he was gay. Newman, author of "Heather Has Two Mommies" and more than 80 other books, reflected on Shepard's death in her 2012 "October Mourning: A Song for Matthew Shepard," which won a Stonewall Honor. Here, she focuses on his life, painting a poignant portrait in free verse. Despite being fully (and beautifully) illustrated, the subject matter and length (nearly 60 pages, plus an epilogue) gear this towards older children. The publisher's target is ages 14 and up, though I think older middle schoolers may also find value in it. Adults as always should assess based on the specific young people in their lives.

"Becoming Billie Holiday," by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Floyd Cooper (Wordsong), is a series of first-person poems with lightly fictionalized vignettes from the life of Eleanor Fagan, whom the world knew as Billie Holiday. The verses take us from her birth through her performance of "Strange Fruit" at age 25. One poem clearly acknowledges her bisexuality; others show the hardships of her early life, including her rape by a neighbor. While these topics place it at the upper end of the middle-grade range, it is powerful and insightful and won a Coretta Scott King Author Honor.

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 1,500+ LGBTQ family books.

Rosendall

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refugee clients are Muslim. Fatima often ends messages, "We will talk again, Inshallah"—if God is willing. I write the same to her.

Religious bullies tend to assume God is jealous and vicious, thus dragging Him down to their own level. In contrast, refugees like Fatima retain their faith despite being demonized by bigoted clergy.

Our countries are not so different. America these days is sorely beset by white Christian nationalists who ironically show no understanding or interest in the teachings of Christ. Their sentiments are tribal, their preferred form of government authoritarian.

Fatima is a gentle soul who has shown considerable endurance, resilience, and kindness in the years I have dealt with her from a 7000-mile distance. Despite facing discrimination, threats, and violence in the street, she cannot imagine being other than who she is. After all she has been through, the strength of the Continent lives and breathes in her.

In contrast to the admirable spirit of this displaced person, the racist contempt by Donald Trump for what he calls "shithole countries" reminds us of both his low character and the members of his mob who defiled the Capitol with excrement during the insurrection on January 6, 2021.

I will not abandon my respect and welcome for immigrants and refugees on account of racist xenophobia stoked by a sociopathic demagogue who calls them criminals while himself facing 88 felony charges. We cannot defend America by swallowing a grifter's lies.

Good character is not magically inherited based on skin color. America has been enriched by several waves of immigrants over the course of its history. The fear and hostility whipped up against people from other lands by Trump is a hypocritical deflection.

The greatest threat to our country comes from within, posed by people who treat America's diversity as an infection rather than an enrichment. They seek to divide us and destroy our institutions. Their idea of greatness is to reestablish inequities and injustices that generations of Americans of many colors and creeds strove to overcome.

The recent anti-abortion ruling by the Arizona Supreme Court resurrects a dormant law passed in 1864 when Arizona was decades away from becoming a state and women were not allowed to vote. The man who pushed the law at the time preyed upon underage girls.

The ruling has backfired on Republicans, who disavowed the harsh and barbaric 120-year-old law even while blocking attempts to repeal it. Trump now says he opposes a nationwide ban despite having unleashed the current orgy of restrictions by appointing three anti-abortion justices to the Supreme Court. His attempt to talk his way out of it does not deter the misogynist theocrats he empowered, who

aim to ban contraception.

The Democratic response is simple: "Donald Trump did this."

MAGA diarchs will not budge; but others may be more receptive to the truth that our economy depends on a regular influx of immigrants. If Trump actually shared his supporters' xenophobia, why did he marry two foreigners and hire undocumented workers at his resorts?

Scratch a Republican outraged over President Biden's student debt cancellation, and you often find someone who got six-figure PPP loans forgiven. But like Trump, they think the rules don't apply to them.

Christ teaches us to welcome the stranger. Building trust across differences requires standing in another's shoes. Many Americans think immigrants are coming to take things from us. That is an impoverished perspective.

Fatima brings qualities no job training program could give, including courage and fortitude. She is a far cry from paranoid Americans who shoot through their door at any stranger who knocks. Having seen the worst in some people, she summons the best in herself.

The gifts that strangers bring to our shores can be transformative. Through many acts of hope and grace, a nation riven by intolerance can be reborn.

Richard J. Rosendall is a writer and activist at rosendall@me.com.

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S.P.A.C.E.

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our communities and support them in making Boston a home for everyone."

The first round, announced in September 2023, distributed \$2,830,000 to 24 entrepreneurs. This iteration will distribute \$4,575,000 to the following 37 grantees:

Two of the grantees are LGBTQ owned. Russ & Mimi's at 16 Birch St. in Roslindale Square, and sweeties, LLC, an ice cream vendor.

The SPACE Grant was developed in 2023 as a direct result of recommendations made by small business owners to Mayor Wu and the Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion. Of the 24 first round grantees, 10 are now open and operating and seven have signed a lease. We are continuing to support all grantees with technical assistance, connections with developers and landlords, and with business-serving organizations like BIDs and Boston Main Street offices for site selection support.

The program exists to provide opportunities for diverse small business owners to open their new or next storefront location in major commercial districts like Downtown and Back Bay, bring vibrancy to all City neighborhoods, and help close the racial wealth gap. Second round SPACE grantees are 73 percent minority-owned and more than 75 percent women-owned.

"Boston continues to show a remarkable recovery from the pandemic. The latest round of the SPACE grant program is one of Mayor Wu's strongest efforts to aid in the recovery, bringing vibrancy to our Downtown and neighborhoods," said Segun Idowu, Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion. "Our team has ensured that this pool of awardees reflects the diversity of talent in local entrepreneurs and small business owners. I know that our city will benefit richly from the growth of these companies, the addition of new jobs,

and the inclusion of so many who were at one time left out of important programs like the SPACE grant."

"For this round of grants, we received hundreds of outstanding applications. We appreciate everyone taking the time to apply," said Alia Hamada Forrest, Director of Business Strategy for the Mayor's Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion. "Narrowing the list down was difficult, and we hope to connect those who did not receive the grant with other resources to help their businesses grow through partners like the Boston Local Development Corporation, Boston Main Streets, and the Downtown Boston Business Improvement District."

In addition to awarding businesses grants to open brick-and-mortar locations, the City is providing each business with wrap-around services to assist with lease negotiation, accounting, taxes, regulatory compliance, marketing, and employee-ownership to ensure long-term success. The Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, the Associated Industries of Massachusetts (AIM), and the Retailers Association of Massachusetts (RAM), are also offering free memberships to their organizations.

Grantees are also being supported with small business resources through local financial institutions including the Boston Local Development Corporation and Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation and tenant improvement contributions offered by participating landlords. Wraparound services will also be provided by the Small Business Technical Assistance Program through the Mayor's Office of Economic Opportunity & Inclusion's Small Business Department.

The SPACE Grant program was first announced at the end of 2022, following the release of the City's Downtown Revitalization Plan. A total of \$9 million has been budgeted for the SPACE program. Of that amount, \$1,535,100 of dedicated ARPA dollars will remain to support additional small businesses in the final round of SPACE funding. For more information about the SPACE Grant program, visit the program website.

Pryde

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stripped it from a House appropriations bill last summer.

"Republicans did everything they could to target, attack, and dehumanize our LGBTQ+ siblings and deny our communities the resources they deserve—but we made sure they didn't have the final word," said Congresswoman Pressley. "With the cost of housing skyrocketing and one-third of LGBTQ+ seniors living in poverty nationwide, this project will help LGBTQ+ elders in the Massachusetts 7th get the affordable housing and community space they need while affirming their dignity and humanity. I promised our community that we wouldn't stop fighting for them, and I was proud to partner with Senators Warren and Markey to reject Republicans' cruelty and get this done."

"With this funding package, we sent a clear message to Republicans – we won't let them get in the way of the LGBTQ community getting the resources they deserve," said Senator Warren. "Senator Markey, Representative Pressley, and I fought hard to bring this funding to Hyde Park. Our LGBTQ seniors deserve affordable housing that embraces their identities with dignity and compassion."

"We have a moral responsibility to ensure everyone has affordable and safe housing, including vulnerable community members such as seniors and LGBTQ+ people," said Senator Markey. "I am proud to have secured this \$850,000 in funding for the Pryde, Boston's first LGBTQ senior housing development with Congresswoman Pressley and Senator Warren, which will support the safety, security, and wellbeing of all

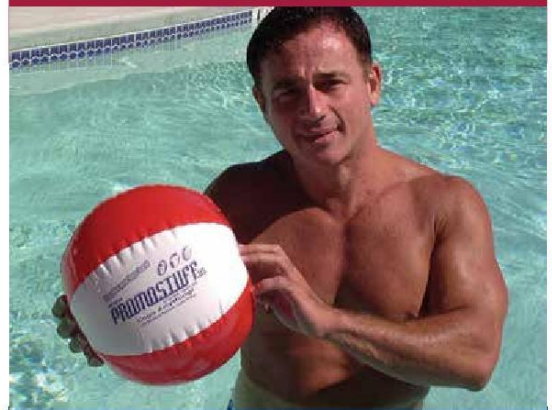
residents. These investments are critical in supporting elders aging with dignity, grace, and surrounded by community."

"This Community Project Funding will help us keep our promise to our future residents, as well as to the Hyde Park community and the LGBTQ+ community of greater Boston, that The Pryde and our Community Center will be richly resourced, joyful, caring and welcoming places where our elders and the community will be embraced, supported and celebrated," said Gretchen Van Ness, Executive Director of LGBTQ Senior Housing, Inc. "In other words, where our elders will be home. Our community could have no better advocates than Congresswoman Pressley and Senators Warren and Markey. Congresswoman Pressley understands the critical need for LGBTQ-affirming senior housing, she has never stopped fighting for The Pryde and our LGBTQ elders."

In November 2023, Rep. Pressley delivered a floor speech in which she slammed House Republicans for advancing a housing appropriations bill that excluded critical funding for The Pryde and affirmed her support for the project and the LGBTQ+ community writ large.

Rep. Pressley championed funding for The Pryde in this year's Community Project Funding process. The project – which despite Republicans' bigoted ideological opposition to it – met the requirements for Community Project Funding and will support the conversion of a former Boston Public School building into 74 units of high-quality, service-enriched affordable housing for seniors in Boston. The project will also include 10,000 square feet of community space and help close the gap between the capital funding secured at the launch of this project and the increasing cost to complete it.

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We kick off with a story from a Tennessee politician— so get ready for some learnin'. Republican **Representative Gino Bulso** is advocating that first cousins should be allowed to marry if they receive genetic counseling. Personally, I'd recommend some sort of sterilization procedure. Bulso claims his argument is bolstered by the legality of same-sex marriages. "Unless anyone in this body can articulate a compelling interest to deny a male first cousin from marrying a male first cousin, this bill demonstrably violates Obergefell and we should vote it down." Presumably, first cousins shouldn't marry because if they procreate, it could lead to genetic issues. Exhibit A: the British royal family. Sometimes, you've got to let the chromosomes come up for air! But Bulso has a dog in this fight—he revealed that one set of his grandparents were first cousins. Well, call me Lassie because, guess what? My parents are also cousins. Close your mouths—not a single one of you is shocked by that. I hasten to add that Big Momma and Big Daddy are not first cousins. They are cousins through marriage. I'm not really good on terminology, so I don't know exactly what that makes them. The term "hillbillies" springs to mind.

I wonder what would have happened if **Don Lemon** and **Tim Malone** tried to get married in Tennessee? Would Representative Bulso have officiated their tying the knot? Or would he have tied a noose? Either way, congrats to Lemon and Malone on their nuptials. But I feel compelled to point out that Don Lemon is 58 while Malone is barely 40—and I say "barely" because they wed on Tom's 40th birthday. Following the ceremony, the couple danced down Fifth Avenue from the Presbyterian Church to the Ralph Lauren Polo Bar. That way, the religious folks were happy, the WASPs could shop, and everyone else drank. Cheers!

When **Barack Obama** was running for president, talk radio legend **Lynn Samuels** (a devoted **Hillary Clinton** supporter) was asked if this was progress. After all, he was a Black man. "Yeah, but he's still a man!" You know how we've all been praising **Pope Francis** for his progressive views? Yeah, but he's still a Pope. And that came through loud and clear this week when the Vatican released "Dignitas Infinita" (or "Infinite Dignity")— a 20-page document that was personally approved by Pope Francis. In this doctrine, the Vatican denounces gender reassignment by saying, "It needs to be emphasized that biological sex and the sociocultural role of sex (gender) can be distinguished but not separated"— whatever the hell that means. On the flip side, Franny does maintain his support for homosexuality. The report condemns "the fact that, in some places, not a few people are imprisoned, tortured, and even deprived of the good of life solely because of their sexual orientation." The Catholic Church also continues to oppose abortion, euthanasia, and even surrogacy. And this got me thinking— if Jesus was the son of God, then wasn't Mary kind of a surrogate? Unless some hanky-panky went on and Joseph just bought that whole "immaculate conception" story.

You wouldn't expect a related story from **The Beastie Boys**. But they've revealed that Rat Cage Records was founded by **Donna Lee Parsons**— a trans woman who wanted to get surgery. She signed the Beastie Boys for their first shows and recordings. Knowing Donna wouldn't accept charity, the band gave her money that they said was royalties from their EP. She used the cash for gender reassignment surgery. That she died of colon cancer a year later I'm sure cannot be linked back to the Beastie Boys— at least not in a court of law.

What would the Vatican think of "The Golden Bachelor"? I've had roses last longer than this marriage— brief by even **Kardashian** standards. And the breakup is because they can't decide which house to live in? I have three houses, and it's never been a problem. Then again, I gave up on the franchise once they jettisoned **Chris Harrison**.

You know what else I stopped watching? "The Talk". Once they bamboozled **Sharon Osbourne**, they've been dead to me...especially that **Sheryl Underwood**. The network has frequently considered cancelling the show, but the timing was never right. It was too close to "the incident". Now that several years have passed, it's ancient history. And this begs the question— if a show that nobody is watching is cancelled, has anything actually been cancelled?

OK, so they've put that horse out of its misery. And I mean the show, not Sheryl. Amusingly, the cancellation was shrouded in a renewal announcement. Yes, "The Talk" has been renewed for a 15th season starting in September. And three months later, it will disappear. Somewhere, Sharon is giggling like a schoolgirl.

As we went to press, we heard a story about **Wynonna Judd's** daughter, **Grace Kelley**. And let's just pause for a second to think about how ridiculous that is. Back to our regularly scheduled program. Grace Kelley was arrested for indecent exposure and also charged with prostitution. She was arrested at a busy intersection where she reportedly "exposed her breasts and lower body". I'm no expert on female anatomy, but I believe she was basically giving away the whole kit and caboodle! Proving that the apple doesn't fall far from the palomino, Kelley claims she can't get in touch with Wy, who has allegedly changed her phone number. "My mom won't listen to me. She won't believe me. She thinks I'm out here doing crazy shit," says Grace Kelley in an interview with the "New York Post" from prison. If that isn't the very definition of "crazy shit"...

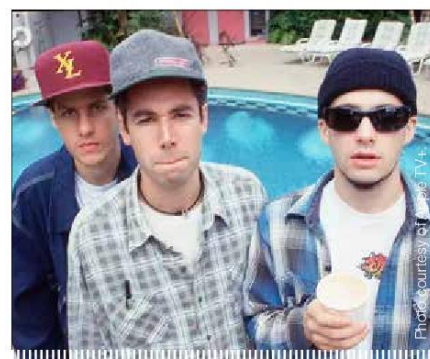
Showbiz is a cutthroat business. Even in Provincetown— our quaint little enclave on the tip of forever. You think everyone there gets along? Think again. After years of entertaining the masses with world-class performers, **Mark Cortale** announced that the Provincetown Art House would be no more. The owner planned to turn the space into a microbrewery— 'cause that's what Ptown needs! Last year was the final season of entertainment, and Cortale promised to continue producing large shows at Town Hall. Now it's time for the various venues to announce their shows for the upcoming season. And what arrives in my inbox? A press release from...the Provincetown Art House! While we don't know what machinations went on, I noted with interest that one of the producers is drag artist **Ginger Minj**— someone who was introduced to Ptown fans under the aegis of...wait for it...**Mark Cortale** at the Ptown Art House! I am not so naïve as to not understand business. If you own the Ptown Art House and want to bring in a new promoter, just say something like, "We want to go in another direction. Instead of **Marilyn Maye**, we want drag queens." Admittedly, not a huge leap. But, the underhandedness seems to be uncalled for.

Cortale's Town Hall series will include **Audra McDonald**, **Seth Rudetsky**, **Jinx Monsoon**, **Cheyenne Jackson**, **Denée Benton**, **Bianca Del Rio**, **Melissa Errico**, **Marilyn Maye**, the **Indigo Girls**, and **Claybourne Elder**— who's really hot and talented, but has a name right out of "The Crucible". You can get more info at PtownTownHall.com.

I'll have more Provincetown dates as they trickle in, but I should mention that the Provincetown Theater will soon kick off their 30th anniversary season with "Angels in America, Part 1: Millennium Approaches". Remember when the millennium was something we thought was so far away? And here we are, glancing at it in our rearview mirror! This is a special project for artistic director, **David Drake**, who has oft wanted to direct it. He's got his wish...and a talented cast to boot. The run begins on May 9th, and you can get more details at ProvincetownTheater.org.

Could it be that someone who has been in the news recently is somewhat dismayed by his physical appearance? When he was filmed under professional circumstances (including good lighting and a snappy outfit in a questionable color), guys and gals alike reached out and wanted to touch parts of him best left untouched. In slightly more recent footage which he filmed on his own...well, let's just say the response was underwhelming.

When our blind item's singing a different tune, we've definitely come to the end of yet another column. Speaking of tunes, we survived the total eclipse of the sun. I don't know about elsewhere, but in Boston it got a bit overcast for half an hour. Certainly nothing worth waking **Bonnie Tyler** up for— which begs the question, where is she? While I look into that, you can check out www.BillyMasters.com, the site that isn't opposed to kissin' cousins. If you have a question, send it off to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before someone offers to pay Wynonna for sex! So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.



The Beastie Boys



Ginger Minj



Bonnie Tyler

Registration Now Open for Boston's LGBTQ+ Pride Parade and Festivals



Boston Pride Parade 2023. Photo by Bay Windows Staff.

Organizers Seek Sponsors for June 8th Celebration

Submitted by BP4TP

Boston Pride For The People (BP4TP) today announced the opening of registration for the 2024 Pride Parade, as well as the festivals to be held on Saturday, June 8th, 2024 on Boston Common and City Hall Plaza.

The parade will start in Copley Square at 11 A.M. and move through the city's South End, finishing at Boston Common where everyone can enjoy the festival that includes performances from local and national entertainers. City Hall Plaza will host a Block Party for those 21+ that begins later in the afternoon. All BP4TP events are free to attend.

Last year, more than 1 million people attended Pride, the region's largest LGBTQ+ event.

Parade + Festival Registration will be completed online via Eventbrite, where interested parties will reserve their place in the parade and/or space at the festivals. Registration fees and payment options are outlined at <https://www.bostonprideforthepeople.org/>

Several hundred community groups, businesses, schools, government agencies, employ-

ee resource groups, elected officials, and others are expected to march in the parade. Organizers estimate that the number of booths available for vendors at the festivals will be 250 and are likely to sell out.

Sponsorship Opportunities are available, at levels ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000. The cost of producing the parade and festivals is estimated at nearly \$1 million. In addition to registration fees, contributions from community and businesses are an essential source of financing the events.

A Partnership Package is available for corporations and non-profit organizations interested in supporting this year's Pride. It includes the dates for informational sessions for interested sponsors and can be found on the BP4TP website: www.bostonprideforthepeople.org

Boston Pride For The People (BP4TP) is the volunteer and community-run non-profit organization working to empower, celebrate, commemorate, and educate in partnership with Boston's LGBTQ+ communities. In 2023 BP4TP hosted and managed Boston's first Pride parade and festivals in more than three years, bringing New England's largest Pride parade back to its home in Boston. For more information visit: bostonprideforthepeople.org.

Get more information at
www.bostonprideforthepeople.org



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