

JORDY and Mila Jam to Headline Boston's Pride Festival



JORDY. Courtesy photo.



Mila Jam. Photo by Steven Simone.

Submitted by BP4TP

JORDY and Mila Jam, will co-headline the Boston Pride For The People (BP4TP) festival on Saturday, June 8th on Boston Common.

"Each of these artists will not only wow the audience with their extraordinary talents and performances, but also serve as wonderful reminders that showing up as our authentic selves is a bold and courageous act that sends a message to the world that our community is still here, in living color," said

Adrianna Boulton, President of Boston Pride for the People.

In 2018, pop singer/songwriter JORDY broke through with the independent single "Just Friends," tallying 18+ million streams and counting. He maintained his momentum with "Close To You," reeling in another 13+ million streams.

Mila Jam, a transgender star and self-proclaimed artist is a YouTube sensation turned original pop artist who has

see **PRIDE FEST**, page 10

Boston's Pride Organizers Announce 2024 Parade, Festival Theme



Pride Parade 2023. Photo by Bay Windows Staff.

"Still Here: In Living Color"

Submitted by BP4TP

Boston Pride For The People (BP4TP) announced the theme of the 2024 Pride Parade and Festival, which will take place on Saturday, June 8, 2024. "Still Here: In Living Color" is a nod to historic and current-day resilience in fighting anti-LGBTQ+

bias, rhetoric, and legislation across the country. This year's theme also acknowledges how the LGBTQ+ community has overcome, persevered, and continues to stand and live out loud in the face of adversity and injustice.

"We really hope everyone can make this theme their own, by finding the word or phrase that speaks to how they

see **PRIDE THEME**, page 10



20 years of Marriage Equality

by Rev. Irene Monroe
contributing writer

Massachusetts celebrated 20 Years of Marriage Equality on May 17, thanks to the landmark decision in Goodridge v. Department of Public Health. This decision preceded the historic U.S. Supreme Court ruling by 11 years, with the Obergefell v. Hodges decision, which legalized same-sex marriage in all 50 states.

In 2004, at 12:01a.m., the city of Cambridge was the first in the nation to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, and at 9:15 a.m., the first couple was married.

Cambridge takes pride in being the first, and over the course of three days, the Office of Mayor Denise Simmons, the first African American lesbian mayor in the country in 2008, and the City hosted several events with guest speakers like LGBTQ+ ally Congresswoman Ayanna Presley.

"It is an honor to call the Commonwealth of Massachusetts my home because of groundbreaking, humanity-centered, and justice-actualizing

decisions like this one" to be the first City Hall to issue licenses to same-sex couples, Presley told the audience in the Cambridge City Hall chamber. "I often use Cambridge as a way to get my colleagues to do things."

Also, at the events were guest speakers former M.A. State Representative Byron Rushing, who played a critical role in legalizing same-sex marriage, and Marcia Hams and Susan Shepard, who were the first couple to receive a same-sex marriage license in Cambridge on May 17, 2004.

"I want to give a big shout-out to all the lawyers, organizations, and activists, particularly the plaintiff couples who brought the case of marriage equality to our courts in Massachusetts," Hams told the audience at City Hall. "I especially want to thank Chief Justice Margaret Marshall of the Massachusetts Supreme Court, who ruled in our favor for equality and liberty

see **MONROE**, page 10



"If it's not gratuitous nudity, I'm down for it. If it makes sense, and it's authentic, and true to the character and the scene given circumstances, then I'm 100% in."

—Taylor Zakhar Perez shares his thoughts on film nudity. Perhaps we'll see more than just his ass in the "Red, White & Royal Blue" sequel. Sure, he's nude in a group shower scene in HBO's "Minx", but that mass of public hair clearly indicates that it's a prosthetic. But it's still worth seeing on BillyMasters.com.

more in Billy Masters on page 6!

Photo by Condé Nast, via Wikimedia Commons

BOSTON

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

PRIDE NIGHT WITH THORGY THOR, BOSTON POPS

Keith Lockhart, conductor, Thorgy Thor, Jared Bowen, host Qya Cristál, special guest

Drag superstar Thorgy Thor and the Boston Pops kick off Pride Month with her take-no-prisoners comedy, self-proclaimed "fashion clown" style, and musical talents. Celebrate Pride in style with the "reigning queen of classical music!"

7:30pm, Boston Pops, Symphony Hall, Boston,

<https://www.bso.org/events/pride-night>

JUNE 1, 8PM - JUNE 2, 3PM

BOSTON GAY MEN'S CHORUS

On A Journey Filled With Laughter, Love, And The Unmistakable Flair Of The Iconic BGMC.

New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall

30 Gainsborough St., Boston
<https://bgmc.org/2023/09/01/friends-of-dorothy/>

see **BOSTON**, page 8

MASSACHUSETTS

NEWBURYPORT PRIDE PARADE & FESTIVAL

MAY 30-JUNE 2

Parade kickoff, noon, June 1, followed by Pride festival.

newburyportpride.com

PROVINCETOWN PRIDE

MAY 31-JUNE 2

Festival, rally at Town Hall, Queer Comedy showcase, Feet Over Front Street Pride 5K.

ptown.org

CAPE ANN PRIDE WEEKEND

MAY 31-JUNE 2

Gloucester, Rockport, Manchester and Essex.

capeannpride.org

SOUTH COAST PRIDE

JUNE 1

New Bedford, MA
Buttonwood Park, noon-5pm
sclgbtqnetwork.org

see **MASSACHUSETTS**, page 2

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Massachusetts

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HANOVER PRIDE

JUNE 1

Hanover Pride Facebook page
"Don't Hide the Pride," 4–8pm, Forge Pond Park

HULL PRIDE

JUNE 1

hullpride.net
Seaside Pride, 3–9pm, Hull Yacht Club, 5 Fitzpatrick Way.

BRAINTREE PRIDE

JUNE 1

French's Commons, Braintree Town Hall, 1 JFK Memorial Dr., noon to 4pm
braintreepride.com

QUINCY PRIDE

JUNE 2

"I Was Born This Way" Festival, noon–5pm, Kilroy Square, 25 Cottage Ave.
Facebook/Quincy Pride

FALL RIVER PRIDE

JUNE 2

Portas da Cidade/Gates of the City, noon to 4pm
Fall River Pride Committee/Facebook

MARBLEHEAD PRIDE

JUNE 2–9

Flag-raising ceremony, June 1 at 3pm

MARTHA'S VINEYARD PRIDE

JUNE 7–9

queerhubmv.com

BERKSHIRE PRIDE PARADE & FESTIVAL

JUNE 8

8th annual LGBTQIA+ Festival, The Common Park, 100 First St., Pittsfield, MA
11:30am–4pm
<https://www.berkshirepride.org/Berkshire-pride.org>

FRANKLIN COUNTY PRIDE

JUNE 15

franklincountypride.org
Parade 1pm from Greenfield Middle School Federal Street to Engery

GREATER LOWELL PRIDE

JUNE 15

Flag raising, noon, City Hall, 375 Merrimack St., followed by a parade down Merrimack Street starting at 12:30pm and winding up at the Festival, 1–4pm, 40 French St., Boarding House Park.

BELMONT PRIDE PARADE

JUNE 15

belmontlgbtq.com/belmontlgbtq.com

ARLINGTON PRIDE

JUNE 22

Noon–3pm, Arlington Town Hall Garden, 730 Massachusetts Ave.
rainbowarlington.org

HOLYOKE PRIDE FEST

JUNE 22

Pride Fest: Noon to 6pm, Veterans Park.
holyokeypride.org

NORTH SHORE PRIDE PARADE & FESTIVAL

JUNE 22

Paradenoon, Shetland Park, 27 Congress St. to Festival. Festival: 11am to 4pm Salem Common, N. Washington Square.
northshorepride.org

REVERE BEACH PRIDE

JUNE 23

2–7pm, Waterfront Square, 400 Ocean Ave.
nextstoprevere.com

WALTHAM PRIDE

JULY 16

Waltham Common, 610 Main St., 11am to 4pm
Walthampride.org

CAPE COD PRIDE FESTIVAL

JULY 20

Hyannis Village Green.
capecodpride.org

PRIDE WORCESTER

SEPTEMBER 7

Downtown Worcester, 3–8pm
prideworcester.org



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A TIP FROM A
**FORMER
SMOKER**



**Tobacco companies aggressively
market to LGBTQ+ communities.**

Angie P., age 62, and her wife Catharay

Tobacco companies target members of LGBTQ+ communities with cigarette marketing – in stores, magazines, and social media, as well as online and at events. Aggressive marketing of their highly addictive products contributed to Angie's years of smoking. She was finally able to quit for good at age 40.

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LETTER FROM THE MAYOR



City of Boston, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor
Michelle Wu

Dear Friends,

Happy Pride Month! Our administration has one goal: to make Boston a home for everyone. As Mayor—and as a mom—that goes beyond ensuring all our residents have housing. It means creating a safe, joyful, connected city where every one of our community members not only has a place to call their own, but also feels seen, heard, and valued in all of their identities.

As we gear up for this month's festivities here in Boston, we do so against a national backdrop of ongoing efforts to roll back protections for the LGBTQ+ community and deny queer folks their rights and humanity.

Pride is an opportunity to push back. Especially this year, as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of Massachusetts pioneering marriage equality in our country, Pride is a chance to be just that: proud—of who we are, of those we love, and of what we've accomplished, as we celebrate love in all its forms.

In that spirit, I am excited to share a bit of what our Office of LGBTQ+ Advancement has done in the past year, with the acknowledgment that—as with all work worth doing—there remains more to do.

We became the first city in Massachusetts to remove sex and gender markers from our marriage licenses; we instituted Gender Awareness Guidelines and provided LGBTQ+ competency trainings across all city departments; and we created brave spaces for LGBTQ+ youth, hosting the historic "Bring it to the Hall" Black History Month event, and partnering with the Office of Youth Engagement and Advancement to host an inclusive and exciting Mayor's Youth Summit.

To support our LGBTQ residents with vital services, our Office of LGBTQ+ Advancement successfully advocated for a historic \$350,000 multi-agency investment in the Transgender Emergency Fund, providing crucial aid to housing-unstable Trans and Non-Binary residents, and we increased funding for the Massachusetts Trans Political Coalition's Identity Document Assistance Program, facilitating 186 name changes to improve access to gender-affirming documentation.

None of this work would be possible without the courage, persistence, and vision of Boston's LGBTQ+ City workers, neighborhood leaders, and residents. As we kick-off this month of celebration, solidarity, and connection, I want to thank our LGBTQ+ community for always believing in a Boston where everyone is able to love freely and fully—and for helping us build a Boston that feels like home for us all.

With joy, determination, and pride,

Michelle Wu
Mayor of Boston

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Michelle Wu!
MAYOR OF BOSTON



Happy Pride to all!

I'm honored to celebrate our
LGBTQ+ communities this
month alongside Boston and
New England.

Michelle Wu
MAYOR OF BOSTON

PAID FOR BY THE WU COMMITTEE

billy masters

Continued from page 1

I can neither confirm nor deny my presence at the Cannes Film Festival. I can confirm that I am in a city dripping in wealth where the English language is regularly butchered. But that could mean I'm in Las Vegas. I can confirm that I am overseas—in Europe, actually. And I have been embroiled in a number of international affairs. But enough about my sex life.

One of the hits of Cannes has been “The Apprentice”—a film about the early days of **Donald Trump** and his mentor, **Roy Cohn**. One would think sexy **Sebastian Stan**—who recently played rocker **Tommy Lee**—was miscast. And yet, Stan eerily embodies the young Trump who, it should be acknowledged, was somewhat of a looker in his youth. The audience gave the flick an eleven-minute standing ovation—although I can tell you from personal experience that most people at Cannes get up quickly to beat the crowds out. The former El Presidente is trying to get the film banned in the US—and the producers have been sent a cease and desist letter and threatened with legal action...because Trump has been so lucky in court. The producers claim it is “fair and balanced”—although one wonders how to confirm The Donald getting liposuction (the alleged rape of wife Ivana was documented in her 1990 divorce deposition). This may all be a moot point because no distributor has gobbled up the flick, despite producers hoping for a pre-election US release. Rumor has it the film may turn up on a streaming service.

Speaking of rumors, **Cate Blanchett** is also at Cannes with a film called “Rumours”, about seven world leaders facing untold challenges whilst getting lost in the woods. When asked about the project, Cate said, “It’s not trying to be an important film with a message.” How refreshing. She added, “I think if you try to make sense of this movie, you’ll feel like you’re losing your mind.” I have a pill for that!

Pope Francis recently sat down with “60 Minutes”. Let that sink in—the pope is doing primetime. Not only that, but he spoke to a female journalist. This ain’t your parents’ pope, that’s for sure. During his chat with **Norah O’Donnell**, she reminded him that he previously said, “Homosexuality is not a crime.” He agreed, adding, “No, it is a human condition.” He also reiterated that while he was in favor of priests blessing people in same-sex marriages, he does not endorse priests blessing same-sex marriages—it’s a fine line that makes much more sense in Latin! He clarified his stance by saying, “To bless a homosexual-type union, however, goes against the given right, against the law of the church. But to bless each person? Why not? The blessing is for all.” That pope—he’s being awfully careful with his words. And that’s because he doesn’t want to be referred to as The Late Pope!

On May 29th, “Still Working 9 to 5” will have a long-delayed Hollywood premiere at the Renberg Theatre at The LGBT Center and be presented under the aegis of the ERA Coalition Forward. This documentary shines a spotlight on the plight of women in the workplace at the time of the film “9 to 5”, as well as where things stand today with the long-gestating Equal Rights Amendment. The film was directed and produced by **Camille Hardman** and **Gary Lane** (who, with his brother **Larry Lane**, are the official twins of BillyMasters.com). At the premiere, the ERA Coalition Trailblazer Award will be presented to stars **Jane Fonda** and **Lily Tomlin** in person—**Dolly Parton** will accept via video. Also expected to attend are **Rosie O’Donnell**, **Kathy Griffin**, **Alyssa Milano**, **Donna Mills**, **Maxine Waters** and, oh yes, **CHER!** Get tix and details at ERACoalition.org.

A statue called “The Young Lincoln” can be seen in the rotunda of the Los Angeles Spring Street Courthouse, and it’s getting quite a bit of renewed attention. It’s an odd resurgence for a statue unveiled in 1941 and paid for by the Federal Works Agency. It is eight feet tall and made of Indiana limestone. The sculptor, **James Lee Hansen**, won the commission and was paid about \$7K (roughly \$125K by today’s standards). It depicts a young Lincoln barefoot and shirtless with a well-defined physique, wearing jeans and with a thumb in one of the belt loops. I’ve always thought this was the strapping young lawyer during those four years he lived with **Joshua Speed**, with whom he also shared a double bed. While I cannot confirm that as the inspiration, the artist has left

us some insight. When asked why he had Lincoln half-naked, he said, “From a sculpturing standpoint, it’s better to show the body without any clothes. That’s why I left ‘em off.” At the time of the unveiling, some claimed the torso bore a striking resemblance to Hansen himself. Modern critics have called it everything from pornographic to the embodiment of **Gavin Newsom**. But only **Kimberly Guilfoyle** knows for sure.

Speaking of politicians (and this is an awkward transition, no matter how you slice it), I’ve successfully avoided writing about disgraced former Representative **George Santos**. I didn’t even tell you when he started doing Cameo videos as his drag persona **Kitara**. But I can now reveal that he’s married to **Matheus “Matt” Gerard**. The most surprising part of this story is not that they met on Grindr (which he admits is “pretty sad”)—it’s that they got married way back in 2021! Funny how nobody unearthed that piece of dish when they were investigating him.

Colton Underwood and hubby **Jordan C. Brown** have announced that they are expecting their first child. I guess I should have figured this out when Colton started a podcast called “Daddyhood”. Sure, he’d put on a few pounds, but I didn’t think he was actually showing! Turns out the road to fatherhood has not been smooth. “Right away, my husband gets his results back for his sperm count and he had incredible, great numbers. And I got mine back and all my sperm was dead.” Hold on a minute—is Colton saying that he is filled head to toe with dead, useless sperm? Rather than be tasteless (so to speak), I’ll simply send my congratulations and move on.

NBCUniversal is still dealing with the lawsuit from former “Real Housewife of New York” **Leah McSweeney**. They have asked the suit to be tossed out of court for being “threadbare”. “While Plaintiff attempts to overwhelm with a 654-page complaint, even a cursory review of her allegations reveals that many concern matters entirely irrelevant to her claims and most are devoid of any factual or legal support, speculative, misleading, and/or demonstrably false.” Their conclusions are based on an internal investigation (done by a third party) in which neither McSweeney nor any of the other individuals cited in the complaint were interviewed. Just due to that reason, McSweeney’s attorneys say they deserve their day in court. Watch what happens...live.

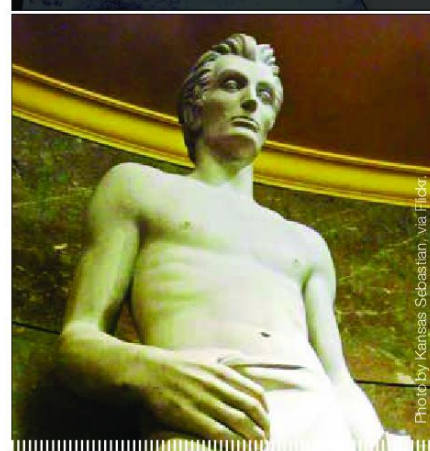
Our “Ask Billy” question really gave me an education. Robbie in Saint Louis writes, “I read that **Nick Fuentes** was streaming gay porn on his phone. Is he gay?”

First I had to figure out who Nick Fuentes is. Apparently he’s a famous Holocaust denier—a group of people I admittedly don’t keep up with. Last week, visitors to his Twitter/X account found he was streaming gay porn! Very quickly, Fuentes claimed it was the work of a pro-Israeli group. “My proprietary live streaming site was hacked after my stream went offline by someone claiming to be IDF Unit 8200. The hacker took credit by [watermarking] the porn and leaving messages on the back end.” Well, if you’re gonna leave a message on gay porn, the back end is a good place to start. IDF Unit 8200 is a known intelligence unit that specializes in cyber warfare—although they usually claim responsibility for their attacks, and thus far have remained mum on the Fuentes situation. Someone who hasn’t been silent is disgraced former congressman **George Santos**. “For the love of god! GAYPERS JUST ACCEPT THAT YOUR ZADDY FUENTES IS A HOMO!”

When we’re quoting **George Santos** twice, we’ve definitely come to the end of yet another column. Looking back to Honest Abe, I must confess I’ve always had an affinity for our beloved 16th president, but not for any of his positions—legal or otherwise. It’s because his birthday is February 12th—the day before mine (to say nothing of a few years earlier). This statue clearly demonstrates we have much more in common than I thought, as you’ll see on www.BillyMasters.com—the site you can read for less than a penny. While I continue to frolic the continent, I am always available to answer your questions. Just drop a note to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before **Sebastian Stan** plays me in a biopic! So, until next time, remember, one man’s filth is another man’s bible.



Cate Blanchett



“The Young Lincoln” by James Lee Hansen



George Santos aka Kitara Ravache

Photo by Georges Bald, via Wikimedia Commons.

Photo by Kaitane Sebastian, via Flickr.

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Boston

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JUNE 1-8

LESBIAN NIGHTLIFE PRIDE

26th anniversary ESME Block Party & Pride Fest, 1-9 pm, June 8, St. James Ave., Back Bay. Plus events all week, including a "Trans-Pride" LGBTQ+ Silent Disco Pier Party on June 1, Rooftop Party at the Revere Hotel on June 7, and the JP Block Party on June 9.
lesbiannightlife.com

FRIDAY, JUNE 7

BOSTON DYKE MARCH

bostondykemarch.com
Parkman Bandstand, Boston Common, 6:30pm

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

BOSTON PRIDE FOR THE PEOPLE

bostonprideforthepeople.org
Parade, festival

ROAD OF RAINBOWS

Fourth annual 5K Run/Walk, 10 am-3 pm, Boston Common. All-inclusive, welcoming all genders, ages and physical abilities. All proceeds support the event, including discount and free tickets for those who can't afford them.

bostontheater.org/ror

JUNE 15

TRANS RESISTANCE STAND-OUT & TQBIPOC PICNIC

Harambee Park, 1-5 pm
transresistancema.com

JULY 4-8

BOSTON BLACK PRIDE

Fifth annual Boston Urban Pride Weekend: "Reclaiming Boston Black Pride," eight events, four days.
lesbigayurbanfoundation.org



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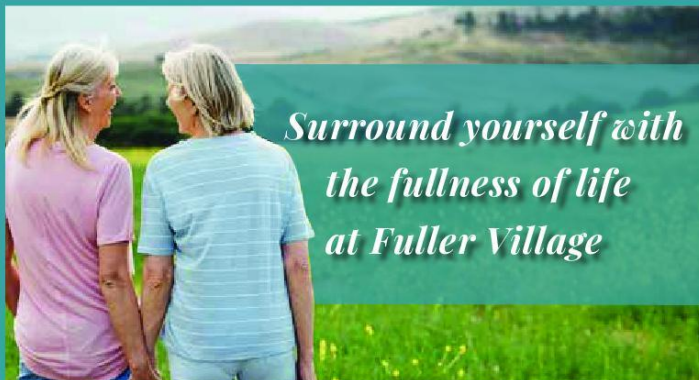
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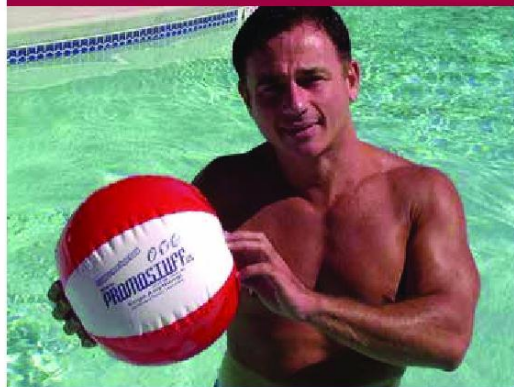
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Pride Theme

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are showing up in the world; for me, I am "Still Here: VIVA-CIOUSLY, In Living Color," said Adrianna Boulton, President of Boston Pride for the People. "While Boston and Massachusetts can be proud of our leadership in the fight for LGBTQ+ equality, the sad truth is that our community remains under attack at increasingly alarming rates all across the nation. Even 20 years after we secured the legal right to marry whomever we love, there's work to do. This year's theme celebrates our determination to make every community safe for all LGBTQ+ people. We deserve to live authentically, not limited to just black and white, but fully - IN LIVING COLOR."

For the second year, Boston Pride for the People will host

the 2024 Parade from Copley Square to Boston Common where all are invited to take part in a day-long festival. A 21+ block party will also be held on City Hall Plaza. Boston's Pride celebration is the largest in New England.

BP4TP launched in 2023 and created the first Pride parade and festivals in Boston in more than three years. More than one million people attended the parade in 2023, which included more than 250 marching contingents and 215 vendors at the festivals.

Anyone individuals or companies interested in sponsorship opportunities should contact sponsor@bp4tp.org. Individuals interested in volunteering are encouraged to sign up on the BP4TP website. Volunteer roles include: accessibility, communications, development (fundraising), festival and events planning, operations management, parade organization, volunteer engagement, and the QTBIPOC Advancement Fund.

Pride Fest

Continued from page 1

toured internationally with the Broadway musical RENT; performed with Chaka Khan at Chicago's Pride In The Park and alongside James Brown, Mark Ronson, Laverne Cox, Travis Wall, Jody Watley, Lady Kier (Deee-Lite) & Natasha

Bedingfield.

The Boston Pride for the People Festival will take place from noon to 6pm on Boston Common, is free and is open to people of all ages. No advance tickets are required. The event will take place following New England's largest LGBTQ+ Pride Parade which kicks off in Copley Square at 11am. A 21+ block party will also be held on City Hall Plaza till 8pm.

Monroe

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for us all, including marriage.

Since 2004, I've officiated over 250 LGBTQ+ couples, including Mayor Denise Simmons's nuptials. When interviewed for this 20th anniversary, I was asked to show photos. I had to sort them into three piles as I've done with heterosexual couples, highlighting we are like everyone else: deceased, divorced, and still together.

Looking back at advances since 2004, such as hate crime laws, the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and DOMA, the legalization of marriage equality, same-sex adoption, and anti-homophobic bullying becoming a national concern, among a few, the LGBTQ+ community has come a long way since the first Pride marches.

When you reside at the intersections of multiple identities, as I do, the 20th anniversary of Marriage Equality in Massachusetts is also the 70th anniversary of the historic U.S. Supreme Court case of Brown v. Board of Education. This ruling upended this country's "separate but equal" doctrine, adopted in the Plessy v. Ferguson decision of 1896.

However, victory comes with backlash.

On this year's anniversary of "Brown v. Board of Education," African American and Latinx American students continue to attend not only segregated schools- whether here in Boston or across the nation. Also, they overwhelmingly attend high-poverty urban ones with metal detectors. Sadly,

not only has policing while schooling doubled since 2001 to the present day, but so has the school-to-prison pipeline.

As for us, LGBTQ+ Americans, bigotry works in this political climate. Anti-LGBTQ+ discrimination in the U.S. has taken a hard-right political turn since Trump. And with a Trumped-up Supreme Court, of which five are pro-lifers, the uber-conservatives have eroded decades-long civil rights gains and the Constitutional mandate of separation between church and state. With Roe v Wade overturned in 2022, many of us are worried about what will happen to the goals of reproductive justice, marriage equality, our right to same-gender intimacy, and the fight to combat hundreds of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation bills. The majority of them target our transgender population- to date, 552 bills in 42 states. These bills ban trans people from bathrooms, pronouns, sports, gender-affirming surgery, and drag queen story hours, to name a few. Restricting transgender rights works for Trump's evangelical base, hoping it'll help the GOP in this coming presidential election. HRC has declared a state of emergency for LGBTQ+ Americans.

Marriage Equality celebrations throughout Massachusetts were joyous and worrisome. The joy of twenty years is an important milestone. However, many wonder if same-sex marriage will still exist twenty years from now.

"We must continue to fight," Rushing told his audience at Kendall Center Public Lobby in Cambridge. "It might appear that we cannot win in this polarized climate, but we can, and we must. I imagine a world in twenty years where gay marriage is incredibly ordinary."

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