Administration moves to revoke transgender health protection

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration moved Friday to revoke newly won health care discrimination protections for transgender people, the latest in a series of actions that aim to reverse gains by LGBTQ Americans in areas ranging from the military to housing and education.

The Health and Human Services Department released a proposed regulation that in effect says “gender identity” is not protected under federal laws that prohibit sex discrimination in health care. It would reverse an Obama-era policy that the Trump administration already is not enforcing.

“The actions today are part and parcel of this administration’s efforts to erase LGBTQ people from federal regulations and to undermine non-discrimination protections across the board,” said Omar Gonzalez-Pagan, a senior attorney on health care at Lambda Legal, a civil rights organization representing LGBTQ people. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., vowed to fight the rule.

“Discrimination is wrong,” she said. “It’s simple: Health care should be available based on your medical needs, not your gender identity.”

Boston Pride to Host Stonewall 50 Community Forum

Submitted by Boston Pride

Boston Pride will host the Stonewall 50 Community Forum on Monday, June 3 at 7:00pm at Historic Faneuil Hall to discuss the significance of the Stonewall riots that are credited with starting the modern LGBTQ rights movement.

The speakers and panelists will give their vision for the future of the LGBTQ movement and host of “The Take” on necn. Key-note Speakers include: Raffi Freedman-Gurspan, former Obama White House Aide and Director of External Relations for the National Center for Transgender Equality, Amy Hoffman, House Aide and Director of External Relations for the National Center for Transgender Equality, Amy Hoffman,

Hosted by Boston Pride Don Gor- ton, Stonewall50 Boston Pride coor- dinator. Moderated by Sue O’Connell, longtime co-publisher of Bay Win- dows, New England’s largest newspa-

Trans, Gender Creative Children Star in New Books

by Dana Rudolph | drudolph@mombian.com
contribution writer

Three new children’s books each of-fer different approaches as they high-
light different aspects of gender iden-
tity and expression.

When Aiden Became a Brother, written by Kyle Lukoff and illustrated by Kaylani Juanita (Lee & Low), is a sweet and joyous tale about a biracial (Black and South Asian) transgender boy awaiting the birth of his new sib-

ing.

The book starts by explaining that everyone thought Aiden was a girl when he was born, but he later real-
ized he was a boy. While “it took ev-
eryone some time to adjust,” his family was supportive and “learned a lot from other families with transgender kids like him” (a nice nod to the impor-
tance of community).

The heart of the story, though, is not about Aiden’s transition, but rath-
er about how he prepares to be a big brother, “an important job for a boy like him.”

What sets this book apart from many others about transgender or gender creative children is that rather than Aiden’s gender identity offering only challenges to be overcome, it is instead a source of strength and wis-
dom. Aiden’s interest in being a big brother stems from his desire “to make sure this baby would feel understood right away.”

He recalls, too, “that it had been hard for his parents to let go of the name they gave him,” so he looks for names for his new sibling that would fit “no matter who they grew up to be.” Aiden also worries that his sibling won’t like the clothes and colors he picked out, but then reviews his own baby pictures, when he “looked so dif-

ferent.”

He reflects that he “liked the boy


The most comprehensive list of LGBTQ Prides, Celebrations and Events in the region!
GOOD STANDS STRONG

Good gets things done. Good never gives up. That’s why Eastern Bank was proud to support a Yes on 3 vote that upheld Massachusetts’ non-discrimination laws to protect our transgender friends, family and neighbors. Because we believe that doing the right thing is a good thing.

Join us to make a difference at joinusforgood.com

#JoinUsForGood

Eastern Bank
JOIN US FOR GOOD®

Member FDIC
The determination by some people to impose their personal faith dictates in commercial transactions is sadly nothing new.

Consider the use of “religious freedom” to legitimate anti-LGBT discrimination. In 2005 in Arlington, Virginia, when lesbian activist Lilli Vincenz tried to order VHS copies of films she made in 1968 and 1970, she hit the same wall under the term “core values.”

Tim Bono of Bono Film and Video refused to do the video transfer because, he said, it would violate his core values. The films, I should not have to mention, were not pornography. They were the 7-minute “Second-Largest Minority,” covering the gay Reminder Day Picket in front of Independence Hall in Philadelphia on July 4, 1968; and the 11.5-minute “Gay and Proud,” covering the first Christopher Street Liberation Day Parade in New York City on June 28, 1970.

Vincenz filed a complaint in May 2005 against Tim Bono of Bono Film and Video for violating Chapter 31 of the Arlington County Code prohibiting discrimination in employment actions is sadly nothing new. Fighting erasure requires winning elections

Vincenz’s 2005-06 battle in Virginia has a lesson for today

by Richard J. Rosendall | rrosendall@starpower.net

contributing writer

The Commission ruled against Bono in April 2006, requiring him to do the work or pay for it to be done elsewhere. Commission chair Tim Brogan said, “If you are a business providing services to the public, you can’t choose who you provide services to and who you are not going to provide services to…. That is illegal in Arlington.”

Mat Staver and Liberty Counsel filed suit against the Commission in May on behalf of Bono in Arlington Circuit Court, citing the Dillon Rule that limits the power of localities to what is specifically granted by state legislatures. There being no sexual orientation protections in Virginia’s Human Rights Act, Staver claimed the Arlington statute had overstepped the county’s authority.

The Commission reconsidered Lilli’s case in June 2006 and dismissed it by reframing the issue: it said Arlington may prohibit discrimination against individuals but may not “prohibit discrimination based on content of materials”—essentially reducing the county ordinance to a toothless expression of sentiment. Virginia voters compounded the injustice in November 2006 by passing the Marshall–Newman Amendment to the state constitution denying any legal status to same-sex couples or LGBT individuals.

see ROSENDALL, page 4

Human Rights Commission held a public hearing in March 2006. Vincenz spoke eloquently of her films and her activism and of being wronged by Bono. Bono claimed the Commission could not force him to provide service in violation of his religious beliefs.

The Arlington County Code prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation. The Arlington Human Rights Commission held a public hearing in March 2006. Vincenz spoke eloquently of her films and her activism and of being wronged by Bono. Bono claimed the Commission could not force him to provide service in violation of his religious beliefs.

The determination by some people to impose their personal faith dictates in commercial transactions is sadly nothing new.

Consider the use of “religious freedom” to legitimate anti-LGBT discrimination. In 2005 in Arlington, Virginia, when lesbian activist Lilli Vincenz tried to order VHS copies of films she made in 1968 and 1970, she hit the same wall under the term “core values.”

Tim Bono of Bono Film and Video refused to do the video transfer because, he said, it would violate his core values. The films, I should not have to mention, were not pornography. They were the 7-minute “Second-Largest Minority,” covering the gay Reminder Day Picket in front of Independence Hall in Philadelphia on July 4, 1968; and the 11.5-minute “Gay and Proud,” covering the first Christopher Street Liberation Day Parade in New York City on June 28, 1970.

Vincenz filed a complaint in May 2005 against Tim Bono of Bono Film and Video for violating Chapter 31 of the Arlington County Code prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation. The Arlington Human Rights Commission held a public hearing in March 2006. Vincenz spoke eloquently of her films and her activism and of being wronged by Bono. Bono claimed the Commission could not force him to provide service in violation of his religious beliefs.

The Commission ruled against Bono in April 2006, requiring him to do the work or pay for it to be done elsewhere. Commission chair Tim Brogan said, “If you are a business providing services to the public, you can’t choose who you provide services to and who you are not going to provide services to…. That is illegal in Arlington.”

Mat Staver and Liberty Counsel filed suit against the Commission in May on behalf of Bono in Arlington Circuit Court, citing the Dillon Rule that limits the power of localities to what is specifically granted by state legislatures. There being no sexual orientation protections in Virginia’s Human Rights Act, Staver claimed the Arlington statute had overstepped the county’s authority.

The Commission reconsidered Lilli’s case in June 2006 and dismissed it by reframing the issue: it said Arlington may prohibit discrimination against individuals but may not “prohibit discrimination based on content of materials”—essentially reducing the county ordinance to a toothless expression of sentiment. Virginia voters compounded the injustice in November 2006 by passing the Marshall–Newman Amendment to the state constitution denying any legal status to same-sex couples or LGBT individuals.

see ROSENDALL, page 4
The U.S. Supreme Court nullified anti-marriage-equality state constitutional provisions with Obergefell in 2015, but this did not make people like Staver go away. He is the same Mat Staver who defended Kim Davis in Kentucky for denying marriage licenses to same-sex couples; who became dean of Liberty University Law School; and who opposes congressional anti-lynching legislation because it includes sexual orientation.

With the U.S. Constitution mentioning states but not localities, progressive municipalities are in a weak position when going beyond state law. Passage of LGBT nondiscrimination bills in Virginia, such as John Bell’s HB 2067 (on public employment), Roxann Robinson’s HB 2677 (on fair housing), and Mark Levine’s HB 2421 (an “LGBTQ omnibus” bill), requires Democrats to win control of the House of Delegates. Two Senate bills passed with bipartisan support.

I relied for the Bono case history on McDermott Will & Emery, legal counsel to the Mattachine Society of Washington, D.C., of which I am secretary. Mattachine President Charles Francis says, “Thanks to McDermott’s research and analysis, we were able to uncover how Lilli Vincenz—a true pioneer of the LGBT rights movement—could be so discriminated against in our time, even in Arlington, Virginia.”

In a forthcoming article on the Bono case, Mattachine’s McDermott team writes, “While Arlington County has a non-discrimination ordinance in place to this day, and one that provides protection of LGBTQ citizens as well as others, future Plaintiffs have a clear path to challenge its authority if they take issue with providing services to LGBTQ customers.”

Francis adds, “This forgotten history—from ‘Gay and Proud’ at the first Christopher Street Liberation Day Parade in New York to Lilli Vincenz’s pioneering courage over the decades in Arlington—must stand as an inspiration for action this election day in Virginia.”

Not only there.

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

Copyright © 2019 by Richard J. Rosendall. All rights reserved.
Trans deaths are real deaths

by Rev. Irene Monroe
contributing writer

In a suburb just outside of Dallas, and to the disbelief of many - straight and LGBTQ - across the country, a transgender mural is painted on the side of a tattoo and piercing shop. The mural commemorates the 50th anniversary of Stonewall, displaying an image of Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera (our foremothers) of the Stonewall Riots.

They are the catalysts of our 1969-to-present day LGBTQ movement. Their images are against the backdrop of the colors of the transgender pride flag.

Brian Kenny, the muralist behind the painting, explained his objective: “This mural represents the trans women of color who were key figures in that riot and also key figures in the start of the queer liberation movement.” Kenny told KXAS-TV. “This mural is to honor them and to give more visibility, love, and attention to the transgender community. I wanted this mural to be a positive reinforcement that we are all a human family. We have a lot more in common than our differences. I’m hoping the mural can be a bridge.”

For this 50th anniversary of Stonewall I hope images of Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera will be on display. I hope as they will be honored in many LGBTQ communities across the country this Pride session Americans get to learn of the difficult day-to-day struggle it took them to stay alive, too.

And, I hope we all will do more to stem the violence acted upon our transgender community, especially our trans black and Latinx sisters of color.

In one week this May, three transwomen of African descent were murdered: Michelle Washington, 40, Claire Legato, 21, and Muhlaysia Booker, 23. As I draw attention to these sisters, several this year in 2019 have been murdered, and, sadly, many more will be murdered after.

Washington (also known as Michelle Simone and Tamika) was found dead with gunshot wounds to her head, body, and buttocks.

“It’s time that we say this is happening to transwomen; it’s happening to black transwomen, it’s happening to transwomen of color.” Deja Lynn Alvarez, a candidate for Philadelphia City Council, told “Philadelphia Gay News.”

Legato was shot in the head after an argument erupted between her mother and the shooter. Legato’s Cleveland community took to social media to express their grief and outrage.

“Love you, cousin,” wrote a friend on Facebook. “I’m hurt, sad, angry all in one. Fly high.”

Booker was found shot dead on a quiet street in Dallas. In April, Booker was beaten by a crowd that shouted “That’s what your faggot ass gets.”

Where will you live until you can call this ‘Home’ again? Your association policy won’t cover your additional living expenses. Condo owners NEED Personal Condominium Insurance for that. Aside from replacing your personal property, it will help you with rent, while you’re still paying your mortgage. Contact us.

JJ Bodner
Insurance Agency of Boston

617-437-9400 • www.jjbodner.com • 8 Clarendon St. Boston
Monroe

Continued from page 5

“Get that faggot out of our hood,” and “Shoot that punk ass.” The mob scene was caught on cell phone footage that went viral on social media.

Texas’s black trans female community has been subject to a steady stream of assaults since gentrification ejected them out of city’s once LGBTQ neighborhood. Like Booker, they congregate on a strip on the outskirts of town, and many engage in transactional sex to survive.

Texas’s hate crime laws include sexual orientation but not gender identity, which makes Kenny’s mural a protest statement, and an act of healing.

In addition to the lack of transgender characters, the report says racial diversity of LGBTQ characters has also fallen off despite films like “Crazy Rich Asians,” “Deadpool 2” and “Annihilation.” In 2018, 42% of LGBTQ characters were people of color, compared with 57% in 2017. But, for the first time in the report’s history, there were equal number of films that included gay and lesbian characters with 11 each, or 55% of the LGBTQ-inclusive films. Bisexual characters were seen in only 3 of the major studio releases, however. None of the animated and family films released by major studios in 2018 featured an LGBTQ character, the report said.

Representation is higher in films released by the art-house arms of studios like Fox Searchlight with “The Favourite” and “Can You Ever Forget Me?” and Roadside Attractions with “Juliet, Naked” and “Lizzie.”

Diversity in storytelling is good for business, says John Fithian, the president and CEO of the National Association of Theater Owners.

“NATO and its members are committed to creating inclusive spaces that expand our audiences, increase ticket sales, and reaffirm the importance of representation on the screen,” Fithian told GLAAD.

A Nielsen report also found that queer audiences are more 22 percent more likely than straight audiences to see a new release more than one time.

The report concludes that while progress has been made, there is more work to be done, in representation of transgender characters, bisexual characters, racially diverse LGBTQ characters and LGBTQ representation in animated and family films. Last year GLAAD called on studios to ensure that LGBTQ representation will reach 20% by 2021 and 50% by 2024.

“While the film industry should include more stories of LGBTQ people of color and transgender people, studios are finally addressing the calls from LGBTQ people and allies around the world who want to see more diversity in films,” GLAAD president and CEO Sarah Kate Ellis said in a statement.

And 2019 may be off to a promising start with films like “Booksmart” and “Rocketman” on the horizon.

Follow AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr on Twitter: www.twitter.com/ldbharr

Proposed LGBTQ health organization clears Connecticut House

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—Legislation aimed at better matching members of Connecticut’s lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community with health and other services has cleared a key vote.

The House of Representatives voted 130-6 Monday in favor of a bill that creates a new organization to recommend to state officials ways to build a safer and healthier environment for the LGBTQ community. The Department of Public Health would provide funds to help the network develop a statewide needs assessment and ultimately help coordinate care with nonprofit agencies.

Republican Rep. Raghbir Allie-Brennan of Bethel said “this is a population that hasn’t been served well.”

The Connecticut TransAdvocacy Coalition supports the bill. Executive Director Diana Lombardi recently told lawmakers how not all Connecticut primary care physicians will treat transgender patients.

The bill awaits Senate action.

Stonewall

Continued from page 1

author of An Army of Ex-Lovers: My Life at the Gay Community News and veteran of the early LGBTQ Civil Rights Movement in Boston

Panelists include: Dale Mitchell, the Grand Marshall of this year’s Boston Pride parade and veteran of the Stonewall Riots, Gary Duffin, 29-year co-chair of the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, Elijah Oymuga, Senior Peer Leader for Boston GLASS aka LGBTQ+ Social Services

Boston Pride produces events and activities to achieve inclusivity, equality, respect, and awareness in Greater Boston and beyond. Fostering diversity, unity, visibility and dignity, we educate, communicate and advocate by building and strengthening community connections. Boston Pride Week 2019 takes place from May 31 – June 11.

GLAAD: LGBTQ representation in film is up, but not for all

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The advocacy organization GLAAD says that LGBTQ representation is up for major studio films released in 2018, but that none included transgender characters.

Of the 110 movies surveyed, 20, or 18.2%, contained an LGBTQ character. This is a significant improvement from 2017’s all-time low of 12.8% and the second-highest in the seven years that GLAAD has been doing the report.

Both 20th Century Fox and Universal received “good” ratings for their individual contributions for releases like “Bohemian Rhapsody,” “Love, Simon” and “Blockers,” while the Walt Disney Co. and Lionsgate were given failing grades. Others received the mark of insufficient.

The grades are determined based on percentage of releases featuring LGBTQ characters. Universal, with six.

In addition to the lack of transgender characters, the report says racial diversity of LGBTQ characters has also fallen off despite films like “Crazy Rich Asians,” “Deadpool 2” and “Annihilation.” In 2018, 42% of LGBTQ characters were people of color, compared with 57% in 2017. But, for the first time in the report’s history, there were equal number of films that included gay and lesbian characters with 11 each, or 55% of the LGBTQ-inclusive films. Bisexual characters were seen in only 3 of the major studio releases, however. None of the animated and family films released by major studios in 2018 featured an LGBTQ character, the report said.

Representation is higher in films released by the art-house arms of studios like Fox Searchlight with “The Favourite” and “Can You Ever Forget Me?” and Roadside Attractions with “Juliet, Naked” and “Lizzie.”

Diversity in storytelling is good for business, says John Fithian, the president and CEO of the National Association of Theater Owners.

“NATO and its members are committed to creating inclusive spaces that expand our audiences, increase ticket sales, and reaffirm the importance of representation on the screen,” Fithian told GLAAD.

A Nielsen report also found that queer audiences are more 22 percent more likely than straight audiences to see a new release more than one time.

The report concludes that while progress has been made, there is more work to be done, in representation of transgender characters, bisexual characters, racially diverse LGBTQ characters and LGBTQ representation in animated and family films. Last year GLAAD called on studios to ensure that LGBTQ representation will reach 20% by 2021 and 50% by 2024.

“While the film industry should include more stories of LGBTQ people of color and transgender people, studios are finally addressing the calls from LGBTQ people and allies around the world who want to see more diversity in films,” GLAAD president and CEO Sarah Kate Ellis said in a statement.

And 2019 may be off to a promising start with films like “Booksmart” and “Rocketman” on the horizon.

Follow AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr on Twitter: www.twitter.com/ldbharr

Proposed LGBTQ health organization clears Connecticut House

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—Legislation aimed at better matching members of Connecticut’s lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community with health and other services has cleared a key vote.

The House of Representatives voted 130-6 Monday in favor of a bill that creates a new organization to recommend to state officials ways to build a safer and healthier environment for the LGBTQ community. The Department of Public Health would provide funds to help the network develop a statewide needs assessment and ultimately help coordinate care with nonprofit agencies.

Republican Rep. Raghbir Allie-Brennan of Bethel said “this is a population that hasn’t been served well.”

The Connecticut TransAdvocacy Coalition supports the bill. Executive Director Diana Lombardi recently told lawmakers how not all Connecticut primary care physicians will treat transgender patients.

The bill awaits Senate action.
Kenya court to rule if gay relations are criminal acts

By TOM ODULA
Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—On the eve of what could be a landmark ruling in Kenya on whether same-sex relations are crimes, gay rights activist and gospel singer Joji Baro says he has no hope of returning home to the East African country.

No matter that fellow activists are optimistic that Kenya’s High Court will rule that the colonial-era laws criminalizing gay sex are unconstitutional. For the 28-year-old Baro, whose given name is George Barasa, the memories of discrimination, physical attacks, arbitrary arrests and being disowned by family for coming out are still fresh.

“Due to my sexuality, I lost my family and my friends,” he told The Associated Press from his current home in South Africa, where he said he has found “safety ground” for advocacy work.

His plight reflects the hardships of many people in the 34 African nations that outlaw homosexual activity, according to the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association. Currently in Kenya, people convicted of gay sex face up to 14 years in prison.

Friday’s court ruling in Nairobi is expected to be a watershed moment for LGBT equality, activist Eric Gitari said.

“It has the potential of creating a tidal wave across Africa, especially in the (countries in) Africa where the British colonial legacy of criminalization still persists,” he said.

Kenya’s courts, which many assume to be conservative on issues of sexuality, have recently ruled in favor of LGBT rights.

Last year, an appeals court ruled unlawful the use of forced anal exams to test whether two men were having sex at the Nairobi High Court ruling in Nairobi after an illness, Tom Malini, the chairman of the Kwani Trust which Wainaina founded, told The Associated Press.

Wainaina, who won the 2002 Caine Prize for African Writing, was a key figure in the artistic community who promoted local authors. Friends and supporters in an outpouring of tributes on Wednesday shared his work including his biting essay "How to Write About Africa.


It quickly became one of Granta magazine’s best-loved essays, the magazine said Wednesday.

“As a student, he sent the magazine a strongly worded letter condemning our 1994 Africa issue,” the magazine tweeted on Wednesday. "His ironic critique was so incisive and true that we published it.” He became a frequent contributor.

Wainaina also helped to create tolerance for the LGBT community by coming out publicly in 2014 as gay in Kenya, a country where laws still criminalized homosexual behavior. He also revealed he was HIV-positive. He published a painfully honest essay online to mark his 43rd birthday.

He said he came out to help preserve his dignity.

“All people have dignity. There’s nobody who was born without a soul and a spirit,” he said, in an interview with The Associated Press in January 2014. “There is nobody who is a beast or an animal, right? Everyone, we, we, homosexuals, are people and we need our oxygen to breathe.”

In the interview, Wainaina, who dyed his hair in rainbow colors, lashed out at laws against homosexuality in Nigeria and Uganda. He also criticized Russian President Vladimir Putin, who promoted legislation banning “gay propaganda” aimed at youth.

“I can’t sleep at night because there are people who I may know or who I don’t even know … who may be dying or being beaten or being tortured right now in a Nigerian cell or three weeks ago in a Ugandan one,” he said.

After he came out, Time magazine in 2014 named him one of the “100 most influential people.” Fellow author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie wrote that Wainaina “demystified and humanized homosexuality,” saying he decided to speak openly after the death of a friend: “He felt an obligation to chip away at the shame that made people like his friend die in silence.”

Wainaina’s death comes just days before a long-awaited court ruling in Kenya on Friday on whether to abolish laws that criminalize homosexual behavior. Kenyan laws, like in many other African countries that outlaw same-sex relations, are vestiges of British colonial rule.

Taiwanese same-sex couples wed at vibrant banquet

By TAIJING WU
Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—More than 1,000 people attended a mass wedding banquet in Tai- wan’s capital to celebrate the marriage of same- sex couples after a landmark decision legalizing the unions.

Taiwan became the first place in Asia to recog- nize same-sex marriage last week following a vote by the island’s legislature.

LGBT couples clad in flowing white gowns and matching suits gathered in Taipei on Saturday evening to walk down a red carpet flanked by cheering supporters. Taiwan's state Central News Agency reported that more than 1,600 guests were in attendance, including 20 same-sex couples who recently tied the knot.

"Never did we give up hope that we would one day get married,” said Janet Hsu, a 38-year-old civil servant who married her partner.

They and other pairs were honored in a gala that featured an emcee who wished them “100 years of happiness.” A drag queen also performed with a group of scantily clad men.

The banquet seated 160 tables and served nine courses of traditional Taiwanese food, according to the Central News Agency.

Taiwan split with mainland China amid a civil war in 1949. China’s ruling Communist Party considers the island part of its territory.

AmfAR gala near Cannes raises $15 million for AIDS research

Associated Press

ANTIBES, France (AP)—A signed portrait of Mick Jagger by Andy Warhol, a motorcycle designed by Lewis Hamilton and a vacation at a private island off Tanzania were some of the items that raised $15 million at the 26th amfAR gala and auction.

The event, which raises money for AIDS re- search, is a fixture during the Cannes Film Festi- val with its black tie dinner, star-filled live auction and a designer fashion show.

Matthew Carey gave a special performance along with Tom Jones and Dua Lipa during Thursday’s event. Charité XEX provided the entertainment at the after-party.

Kendall Jenner, Antonio Banderas, Pamela Anderson, Patricia Arquette, Rebel Wilson and Adrien Brody were in attendance.

The Warhol screen print raised 325,000 euros ($363,436) and a Takashi Murakami sculpture for 1,800,000 euros ($2 million).

Brazil’s supreme court votes to make homophobia a crime

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—A majority in Bra- zil’s supreme court has voted to make homopho- bia and transphobia crimes like racism, a decision coming amid fears the country’s far-right presi- dent will roll back LGBT social gains.

Six of the Supreme Federal Tribunal’s 11 judg- es have voted in favor of the measure. The five other judges will vote in a court session on June 5, but the result will not be modified. The measure will take effect after all the justices have voted.

see WORLD BRIEFS, page 8
he was growing into,” and that even if things aren’t perfect for his sibling at first, “maybe that was okay.” He’s experienced changes himself and knows it is possible to get through them.

Lukoff, who is transgender himself, deserves much praise for this loving and empowering story. Juanita’s illustrations capture the emotions of Aid-en and his family and add vibrant textures to the tale. This is a must-read book that should be on every LGBTQ-inclusive bookshelf.

Jacob’s Room to Choose, by Sarah and Ian Hoffman, illustrated by Chris Case (Magina-Press), takes another approach and clearly addresses an issue of concern for gender nonconforming children and their families.

The book is a sequel of sorts to the duo’s 2014 book, Jacob’s New Dress, about a gender creative boy who wants to wear a dress to school—a reflection of the Hoffman’s own gender nonconforming child. In the latest book, Jacob, who is White and wearing a dress, wants to use the boys’ restroom at school. His friend Sophie, who is Black and wearing khaki pants and a button-down shirt, wants to use the girls’.

They are each chased out by other students. When their teacher learns of this, she initiates a discussion of gender expression with the whole class. When it comes to bathroom use, she prompts the children, “I wonder if there is another way?”

The children themselves come up with a solution, deciding that anyone should be able to use any bathroom, and making a variety of signs to indicate this. The story ends with Jacob and Sophie happily using the relabeled facilities.

This is a more issue-oriented book than Aiden, but it’s an issue for many gender creative and transgender children, so the thoughtful treatment should be welcome by many families. The unfortunate reality, though, is that not all schools will be as quick to make change as Jacob and Sophie’s—but perhaps this little book with its cheerful illustrations and creative kids will offer a model for some schools, at least, to follow.

It Feels Good to Be Yourself: A Book About Gender Identity, by Theresa Thorn and illustrated by Noah Grigni (Henry Holt/Macmillan), goes even further in the direction of pedagogy. “This is Ruthie,” it begins. “She’s a transgender girl.”

The book explains that “everyone thought she was a boy” until she grew old enough to tell them that “she’s actually a girl.” Thorn, the real-life mother of a gender nonconforming child, then introduces us to other children who are cisgen- der, non-binary, and whose gender identities are changing.

The last few pages address the reader directly with advice such as, “Your feelings about your gender are real. Listen to your heart.”

Although the children in the book are fictional, this is less a story and more a straightforward discussion of gender identity. That’s not a criticism; the book is well suited as a way for parents and teachers to introduce the variations of gender identity, and conveys a lot of warmth despite its pedagogical slant.

Vanessa Ford, an educator and advocate for transgender equality and parent of a transgender child, has told me, “When a child is able to see themselves in a book, it changes the way they interact with the world. They feel seen. When children see others who are different from them in a book, it helps built empathy and understanding. Both of these things are critical to our trans youth as they navigate the world.”

Transgender and gender creative children, their families, and friends should appreciate having such a range of new books as their compasses.

Please join me on Monday, June 3, for #LG-BTQ Families Day, my 14th annual day of storytelling and sharing to celebrate and support LGBTQ families. Just use the hashtag #LGBTQFamiliesDay on any social media channel. Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a GLAAD Media Award-winning blog and resource directory for LG-BTQ parents.
the HHS Office for Civil Rights. “We intend to and respect,’’ said Roger Severino, who heads ability.
of race, color, national origin, sex, age and dis-
federal laws that bar discrimination on the basis
patients would continue to be protected by other
oversighting the new regulation said transgender
ual or transgender (LGBT), according to Gallup.
more—4.5%
a think tank focusing on LGBT policy at the
transgender, according to the Williams Institute,
include severe depression. Treatment can range
Many social conservatives disagree with the
consequences can
That’s because the proposal would remove
termination of pregnancy’ as grounds for mak-
ing a legal claim of sex discrimination in health
care, one of the protections created in the Obama
years. Abortion opponents had argued that the
Obama regulation could be construed to make a
legal argument for federal funding of abortions.
The American Civil Liberties Union served
legal director said the potential impact could go
beyond LGBT people and also subject women to
discrimination for having had an abortion.
That’s because the proposal would remove

Everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect,’’ said Roger Severino, who heads the HHS Office for Civil Rights. “We intend to
fully enforce federal laws that prohibit discrimi-
nation.”

Asked about the charge that the administration
has opened the door to discrimination against
transgender people seeking needed medical care
of any type, Severino responded, “I don’t want to
see that happen.”

In some places LGBT people are protected by
state laws, said Lambda Legal attorney Gonzalez-
Pagan, “but what do you say to people living in a
state that doesn’t have state-explicit protections?
Do they move their home?”

Behind the dispute over legal rights is a medi-
cally recognized condition called “gender dyspho-
tia”—discomfort or distress caused by a discrep-
ancy between the gender that a person identifies
as and the gender at birth. Consequences can
include severe depression. Treatment can range
from sex-reassignment surgery and hormones
to people changing their outward appearance by
adopting a different hairstyle or clothing.

Many social conservatives disagree with the

Sex is not subjective, it is an objective biologi-
cal reality,’’ Tony Perkins, president of the Family
Research Council, said in a statement supporting
the Trump administration’s move. The proposed
rule will ensure that federal law “ain’t used as a
vehicle to advance transgender or abortion poli-
tics,” he said.

Under the Obama-era federal rule, a hospital
could be required to perform gender-transition
procedures such as hysterectomies if the facility
provided that kind of treatment for other medi-
cal conditions. The rule was meant to carry out
the anti-discrimination section of the Affordable
Care Act, which bars sex discrimination in health
care but does not use the term “gender identity.”

The proposed new rule would also affect the
notices that millions of patients get in multiple
languages about their rights to translation servic-
es. Such notices often come with insurer “expla-
nation of benefits” forms. The Trump adminis-
tration says the notice requirement has become
a needless burden on health care providers, require-
ing billions of paper notices to be mailed annually
at an estimated five-year cost of $3.2 billion.
The American Civil Liberties Union served
notice it expects to challenge the rule in court
when it is final. Louise Melling, ACLU deputy
legal director said the potential impact could go
beyond LGBT people and also subject women to
discrimination for having had an abortion.

That’s because the proposal would remove


HHS official Severino said the Trump ad-
ministration is going back to the literal text of
the ACA’s anti-discrimination law to correct an
overly broad interpretation.

The Obama rule dates to a time when LGBT
people were gaining political and social recogni-
tion. But a federal judge in Texas has said the rule
went too far by concluding that discrimination
on the basis of gender identity is a form of sex
discrimination.

Severino said the proposed rule does not come
with a new definition of a person’s sex. Earlier,
a leaked internal document suggested the admin-
istration was debating whether to issue an im-
mutable definition of sex, as based on a person’s
genital organs at birth.

AP writer David Carry in New York contributed
to this report.
A Hopeful Awakening

By Jules Becker

The Arab Spring deserves a significant stage residence. For now, that property is the American Repertory Theatre world premiere “We Live in Cairo.” Set in Egypt from the 2011 protest at Tahrir Square to the 2013 military coup in which military leader Abdel Fattah al Sissi replaced elected official Mohamed Morsi, “this Daniel and Patrick Lazour musical focuses on young Egyptian student activists.

Some Christians but most Muslims, their lives have been impacted by their own efforts to attain freedom as much as by their country’s very different but similarly dictatorial regimes. “We Live in Cairo” may need substantial enhancement, but its energetic ensemble and a lively score deserve a tour.

Patrick Lazour musical focuses on young Egyptian student activists.

James Fallarino, a spokesperson for Heritage of Pride, told the Blade earlier this year that in addition to the larger turnout expected from people in other U.S. locations, New York Pride this year is serving as host for World Pride, an international LGBT event that will take place in the U.S. for the first time this year to commemorate the Stonewall rebellion.

Fallarino noted that the size and scope of the New York Pride March and related events have increased enormously since activists in New York organized what’s believed to be the world’s first LGBT Pride March in June 1970 to commemorate the Stonewall riot.

Fallarino said that more than 50 Pride related events scheduled to take place in New York City throughout the month of June. Among them will be an extravaganza closing ceremony on the day of the two marches on June 30 in the city’s historic Times Square. Singer and songwriter Melissa Etheridge will be among the celebrities scheduled to perform there.

According to Fallarino, the total cost for all the events organized by Heritage of Pride will be about $12 million. He said the “vast majority” of the funding will come from corporate sponsors.

“Seventy-four percent of all marching groups are non-profit organizations, and more than half of all marching groups are participating free of charge,” Heritage of Pride said in an April 11 statement referring to its official NY Pride March. The statement added, “Upwards of 150 marching groups are coming from outside the U.S. to participate in this historic event.”

Fallarino said four million people were expected to turn out for the New York Pride March this year, with about 115,000 expected to march and the remainder of the crowds expected to line the streets as spectators.

In an April 11 statement, Heritage of Pride said its march would kick off at noon at 26th Street and 5th Avenue and will proceed south of 5th Avenue before heading west on 8th Street. The statement says that after crossing over 6th Avenue the march will continue on Christopher Street in Greenwich Village passing in front of the site of the Stonewall Inn bar.

It will then turn north on 7th Avenue, passing in front of New York City’s AIDS Memorial before ending in the Chelsea neighborhood just north of 23rd Street and 7th Avenue, the statement says.

The statement says that among four Grand Marshals selected to lead the march will be members of the Gay Liberation Front, the first known LGBT activist organization to form following the Stonewall riots.

The decision by the Reclaim Pride Coalition to hold a separate march follows disputes between LGBT activists in many U.S. cities during the past several years, including in D.C., over whether the annual Pride parade should be large-scale celebrations involving parades with corporate sponsored floats or whether they should be limited to protest-like marches that highlight the work still needed to overcome discrimination and oppression that many in the LGBT community still face.

In a May 14 statement called “Queer Liberation March Explainer,” the Reclaim Pride Coalition reiterated its reason for holding a separate march.

“We celebrate people want to party,” said Ann Northrop, a longtime New York lesbian activist and one of the leaders of the Reclaim Pride Coalition. “Let them party. But we can’t ignore the bad things that are happening around the world,” she said. “We will be celebrating our history. But our event will be political in nature.”

More information about the two marches and related events can be found at reclaimpride.nyc or 2019-worldpride-stonewall50.nycpride.org.

“A Hopeful Awakening” recently took home the Richard Rogers Award, a grant given for the development of a special if not fully polished work. If the Lazours want to stage this timely work Off-Broadway or on Broadway itself, they will have to make its book as much of a real home for their worthy ideas and ideals as their music.

Last year SpeakEasy Stage Company turned its Roberts Theatre, Caldercott Pavilion residence into a picture property with its stellar staging of the Tony Award musical “Fun Home”—winning a 2019 IRNE for its strong ensemble and another for outstanding small stage promising young performer Maria Simequi. Simequi and virtually the entire ensemble are returning by popular demand in an additional run June 8-30, one not to be missed.

An annual Pride Parade has become bloated with 150 corporate floats and horribly over-policed,” the statement says. “This does not represent the ‘Spirit of Stonewall’ on this 50th anniversary of the 1969 Stonewall Rebellion,” it says. “It does not address the urgent continuing needs of trans and queer people — still under daily attack by the Trump administration and by countries around the world. This is an alternative March designed to include, celebrate, and advance justice for all.”

Those who support the idea of having the Pride events, including marches or parades as a form of a celebration, argue that the LGBT movement has made major gains over the past 50 years and those gains are grounds for a celebration.

Officials with D.C.’s Capital Pride Alliance, which organizes D.C.’s LGBT Pride Parade and Festival, say all corporate sponsors of the events have strong internal LGBT supportive nondiscrimination policies and that the corporate floats in the D.C. Pride Parade are led by LGBT employee groups.

“We understand people want to party,” said Ann Northrop, a longtime New York lesbian activist and one of the leaders of the Reclaim Pride Coalition. “Let them party. But we can’t ignore the bad things that are happening around the world,” she said. “We will be celebrating our history. But our event will be political in nature.”

More information about the two marches and related events can be found at reclaimpride.nyc and 2019-worldpride-stonewall50.nycpride.org.

Advertise in the Bay Windows Service Guide Gets Results.

PLACE YOUR AD TODAY: 617.464.7280 x202 • sales@baywindows.com
Gay Pride Month hasn’t even begun, but it’s already making news. The local ABC affiliate in Los Angeles (KABC) has inked a deal to televise the LA Pride Parade for the first time ever. In fact, it is a three-year deal. Raven-Symoné will host alongside local anchors for a two-hour live broadcast on June 7th.

Community ally Lisa Vanderpump is facing some heat. On a recent episode of “The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills,” Vanderpump was taking a lie detector test (I don’t watch, so I don’t know why). When they strapped her in, she said, “Just don’t ask me if Erika’s sucking or something like that, because there are some things I can’t lie about.” The comment was aimed at fellow “Housewife” Erika Jayne—who has never identified as transgender. Candis Cayne jumped in saying, “Oh come on @lisavandercpump joking about @erikajayne sucking. Ugly Trans jokes marginalizing our community are not acceptable. Being an ally doesn’t give you a free pass To make transphobic remarks. Do better.” Vanderpump quickly apologized. “It was not my intention to belittle the trans community with my poor choice of words directed towards Erika. I have nothing but respect and love for trans people around the world, as I have been a staunch supporter, provided employment, offered emotional support and championed LGBTQ issues.” Most applauded her addressing the issue immediately.

By the by, The Hollywood Museum is celebrating Pride month with their seventh annual exhibit, “Real to Reel: Portrayals and Perceptions of LGBTQ in Hollywood.” As the opening on June 6th, the Hollywood Legacy award is going to Lisa Vanderpump! The Hollywood Future award will go to Tyler Henry—but I’m sure he already knew he was gonna get it. You can get more information about the exhibit at TheHollywoodMuseum.com.

Our president seems to be getting into the spirit of Pride month. While I don’t expect any official proclamation (why should this year be any different than the last two), his campaign has issued a special “LGBTQ for TRUMP” T-shirt which is being sold for $24. “Show your pride and your support for Trump with your pride and your support for Trump with your pride and your support for Trump.” While some are applauding this as a way to bring people together, others feel it’s simply exploitative and a way to grab some pink dollars. GLAAD issued a statement saying that while the campaign is commemorating the 50th anniversary of Pride Month, “the Trump Administration is the most anti-LGBTQ in recent memory, issuing more than 180 attacks on LGBTQ Americans, in policy and rhetoric, since taking office.” Keep that in mind when shopping and stick with the IKEA bag.

The dating app Hinge has seen a 30 percent increase in gay users over the past month. Why? Because that is the app where Pete Buttigieg met husband Chasten. “We’re proud of all of the relationships we’ve helped set up—including Mayor Pete and Chasten,” says Hinge founder and CEO Justin McLeod.

Meanwhile, Buttigieg continues to assert that he’s got the right stuff to go up against the incumbent. “I don’t have a problem standing up to somebody who was working on season seven of ‘Celebrity Apprentice’ when I was packing my bags for Afghanistan,” he told the “Washington Post.” That may be so, but I’d like to point out that Omarosa was on that season. She may have given Pete a run for his money.

Meanwhile on the West Coast, Aaron Schock continues to make headlines—which is impressive since he isn’t even in office. The disgraced former Congressman is rumored to have moved to the West Hollywood area and repeatedly pops up in places one wouldn’t typically expect someone so vehemently “not gay.” Like, for instance, the pool at the swanky Standard Hotel—which, I hasten to add, is a hot spot for gays and straights alike. The photos snapped showed Schock in the company of a hot Speedo-wearing sidekick who was reported on Scruff at the time (for those who don’t know, Scruff is a “dating app” for people looking for a quick date). He was also photographed chatting up other hot guys, as you’ll see on BillyMasters.com. It should be noted that Aaron and all these other men are equally hot and would certainly have much in common—were Schock gay, of course.

I’m sure Aaron is happy that the official trailer from the upcoming “Downton Abbey” flick just dropped—as the kids say. You’ll remember, Schock went to great lengths to give his former congressional office the “Downton” touch. How it was paid for, alas, is one of the reasons he resigned.

I don’t think Dustin Lance Black is too keen on the Brits right now. Last week, he skipped seeing hubby Tom Daley take the gold in the Diving World Series at the London Aquatic Centre. DLB said, “Sadly, organisers at British Swimming have succeeded in creating a toxic environment for our family at their events so we can’t be there in person on this very special London morning.” The organizers shot back saying that the couple’s son’s stroller was a health and safety concern. “British Swimming is extremely disappointed that Tom Daley’s visit to the Aquatic Centre was not possible due to a technical amendment.”

Meanwhile on the West Coast, Mayor Pete’s campaign is impressive since he isn’t even in office. The New York Times reported on his campaign office, which is his appearance on a handful of reality television shows, including the short-lived “The A-List: New York,” where we learned he had a minor tryst with Reichen Lehmkuhl (you’d think that would put the question of size to rest). Later, he was on “Celebrity Big Brother UK.” Most of his risqué shots have focused on his derrière, which is certainly his largest asset. But what of the elusive flip side? The photo in question was posted on Austin’s website, but photos can be easily doctored. Less easy to fudge is video, and we’ve gotten our hands on some footage where Austin shakes his money-maker—proving it’s either real or held on with Super Glue. See for yourself on BillyMasters.com.

When Austin is bigger than Erika Jayne, it’s definitely time to end another column. May I say one thing about the recent live remakes of “All in the Family” and “The Jeffersons”? Why, oh why did they screw up George and Louise’s dreamy. I’ve always heard he has a small dick. The next day, he later told the “Times of London” that the problem was initially about the buggy. He was told he couldn’t bring it poolside for the reasons stated, so he took the child out of the buggy and had him either on the floor or his lap. Officials then told him people were complaining about the buggy. The situation escalated. “A woman was thinking of throwing me out for causing a scene. She accused me of sweating, I didn’t say Tom was as soon as he was off the podium.” Black was so distraught that he stayed away for the rest of the weekend.

As I predicted a few weeks ago, the world premiere of “Magic Mike: The Musical” isn’t going to be an event to remember. The pre-Broadway run scheduled to open in Boston on November 30th has been cancelled, and tickets are being refunded. As we previously reported, the creative team quit, and there are no plans in place to replace them.

On the other hand, Boston just celebrated the first-ever Faye Dunaway Day! Boston Mayor Marty Walsh named May 20th after the actress, who is preparing for her upcoming turn as Katharine Hepburn in Matthew Lombardo’s “Tea at Five” at Boston’s Huntington Theatre on June 22nd. You may not know this, but La Dunaway’s ties with Beantown go much deeper. She studied acting at Boston University. She launched the “Master Class” national tour in Boston. And she was married to Peter Wolf from Boston’s J. Geils Band for over five years.

Our “Ask Billy” question comes from Stephen in San Francisco: “I know lots of people hate him, but I think Austin Armacost is so dreamy. I’ve always heard he has a small dick. Then he posed a nude photo and it looks pretty big. So, you have to find out — is he the pic photoshopped or is it really that big?”

For those who don’t know, Austin Armacost is a model of some minor note. More notable is his appearance on a handful of reality television shows, including the short-lived “The A-List: New York,” where we learned he had a minor tryst with Reichen Lehmkuhl (you’d think that would put the question of size to rest). Later, he was on “Celebrity Big Brother UK.” Most of his risqué shots have focused on his derrière, which is certainly his largest asset. But what of the elusive flip side? The photo in question was posted on Austin’s website, but photos can be easily doctored. Less easy to fudge is video, and we’ve gotten our hands on some footage where Austin shakes his money-maker—proving it’s either real or held on with Super Glue. See for yourself on BillyMasters.com.

When Austin is bigger than Erika Jayne, it’s definitely time to end another column. May I say one thing about the recent live remakes of “All in the Family” and “The Jeffersons”? Why, oh why did they screw up George and Louise’s iconic doorbell? They had the correct bell on the wall with its distinctive three chimes, and yet when it rang, we heard the more generic “ding-dong.” They had the correct bell on the wall with its distinctive three chimes, and yet when it rang, we heard the more generic two chimes. Get on the stick, people—little things matter. For the big things, check out www.BillyMasters.com—the site that is proud 24/7. If you have a question, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Fox News telecasts a gay pride parade! So, until next time, remember, one man’s filth is another man’s bible.
BK Painting Services
Residential, Apts, Condos, Offices

Interior / Exterior Painting
Carpentry, Drywall & Plastering
Re-grout, Re-caulk Bathrooms
Ceramic Insulations & Patch Jobs

Water Damage Repair
*Free Estimates*

Brian’s Cell: 617-312-6289
Office: 617-773-4289
Email: bkpainting8@gmail.com

Bay Windows Service Guide

Spring Cleaning
For All Seasons

• Trustworthy cleaning services to meet your needs
• Houses, apartments and commercial
• Schedule that works best for you, weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly
• All routine housework, plus special clean-up jobs
• Owner supervised cleaning crew and ensures quality
• Excellent references and competitive rates

Cleaning by Judy
617-501-9645

Bay Windows Classifieds

Anything you want... apartments, licensed masseurs, roommates, puppies, sofa beds, sports cars, movers, network geeks, vacation rentals, kitchen sinks... you got it!

Buy, Sell, Rent... in the Bay Windows Classifieds!

Email us at classifiedads@baywindows.com

Bay Windows Classifieds

Anything you want...

Buy, Sell, Rent... in the Bay Windows Classifieds!

Email us at sales@baywindows.com
Debra A. Neiman, CFP®

Fee-Only Holistic Financial Planning • Registered Investment Advisor
Financial Consulting • Wealth Management • Tax Preparation and Planning

781.641.5700

www.neimanonline.com
22 Mill Street, Suite 303 • Arlington, MA 02476

Janice A. Penino, LICSW, BCD

The Road to Healing

Addiction/Recovery • Personal Growth • Trauma/Violence
Relationship/Intimacy • Sexual Orientations/Coming Out
Psychotherapeutic Reiki

Individuals - Couples - Consultations

Quincy Center - 617-522-0170 - On Red Line
Serving our Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender Community

BRUNO GUERRIERO CONSTRUCTION, INC.

Water Proofing Solutions
Basements • Facades • Chimneys

COMPLETE MASON CONTRACTOR
Custom Brick, Stone Work & Brick Pavers
ALL TYPES OF REPAIRS AND RESTORATIONS

Brownstone Repair • Stairs Restored • Sea Walls • Storm Damage

BrunoGuerrieroConstruction.com • brunoguerriero10@gmail.com

Get home delivery of Bay Windows.

Subscribe now First Class USPS: $110.00 per year, 52 issues
Visit www.baywindows.com/subscribe for more information.

Or mail a check to:
Bay Windows, P.O. Box 214, Boston, MA 02127
To pay by credit card over the phone please call Jeff Coakley at 617-464-7280
**Letters Policy**

Bay Windows welcomes letters to the editor. All letters must be signed and accompanied by a mailing address and phone number. Because of space limitations, letters should not be more than 200 words.

[Contact Information]

e-mail: letters.baywindows@gmail.com | fax: 617.464.7286
For 50 years, Stonewall has been the symbolic place where Pride began, lives and thrives. Comcast NBCUniversal honors this and all the monumental achievements made by the LGBTQ community and salutes the brave individuals continuing the fight.