**Billings and Soloway honored**

Actress Alexandra Billings and writer Faith Soloway were honored on Thursday, May 9 at the 17th Annual Greater Boston PFLAG Gala. The event was held at the Copley Marriott and hosted more than 550 guests, raising more than $800,000 for the non-profit. Billings stars in the award-winning Amazon series Transparent. Soloway is a writer on the show.

Greater Boston PFLAG is a group of parents, families, friends, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people seeking to change attitudes and create understanding of the LGBTQ community.

**Boston Pride**

**Thursday, June 6**

- **6 pm**
  - Author Talk Featuring Russ Lopez
  - Author of Hub of the Gay Universe Commonwealth Salon, Boston Public Library, Copley Square, 700 Boylston St, Boston.
  - Copley Square, Boston

- **8 pm**
  - Rod Ferguson
  - Club Café, 209 Columbus Avenue, Boston

- **9 pm - 2 am**
  - Pride Queeraoke
  - Midway Café, 3496 Washington Street, Jamaica Plain

**Friday, June 7**

- **11:30 - 2:30 pm**
  - Annual Pride Luncheon for LGBT Seniors, Allies and supporters
  - Venezia on the Water
  - 20 Ericsson Street, Dorchester
  - www.ethocare.org/pride

- **5:30pm-7:30pm**
  - Charlie Gibson’s Boston: Specialty Tour Launch and Reception
  - Gibson House Museum
  - 137 Beacon Street, Boston
  - www.thevibhouse.org

**Provincetown Pride Lights Up The Bay**

Provincetown Pride was celebrated Friday, May 31 - Sunday, June 2.

The “Stonewall Stroll” encouraged participants “stroll” around town to our displays, learn more about Stonewall and enjoy the Provincetown. The centerpiece of Provincetown Pride was the Global Rainbow, an ongoing public artwork by artist Yvette Mattern commissioned by Provincetown Business Guild. Colored rays of laser light were projected toward the sky, simulating a natural rainbow arc. The rainbow light was visible for up to 20 miles. Mattern has installed the Global Rainbow in select cities across the globe. The Global Rainbow shone above Commercial Street.

**Provincetown Pride. Photo courtesy Provincetown Business Guild**

"My Administration has launched a global campaign to decriminalize homosexuality and invite all nations to join us in this effort!"

— The tail end of President Donald Trump's Pride Month proclamation. Well, not so much a proclamation as a Tweet.
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

Eastern Bank
JOIN US FOR GOOD

#JoinUsForGood
EL PASO, Texas (AP) — A transgender asylum seeker has died just days after being released from a U.S. immigration detention center where advocates say detainees are mistreated.

They say the death is another example of poor care and treatment that transgender detainees get in custody. The death of Johana Medina Leon, 25, follows that of Roxsanna Hernandez, a 33-year-old Honduran transgender woman, whose 2018 in-custody death sparked protests and calls for an investigation. Hernandez died of a rare disorder that developed quickly because of AIDS, according to an autopsy report released in April.

The Santa Fe Dreamers Project, Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center and ACLU of New Mexico have written to several government officials asking them to address the issue.

"Johana’s tragic death underscores the senselessness and cruelty of the current administration’s detention policies for migrants and asylum seekers,” Kristin Greer Love, a staff attorney at ACLU of New Mexico, said in a statement.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokeswoman Leticia Zamarripa said in a statement that Medina Leon was from El Salvador and died Saturday at an El Paso hospital.

The cause of death isn’t known.

Medina Leon asked for asylum at a border crossing on April 11 and was detained in a private detention facility in Chaparral, New Mexico, where advocacy groups say transgender and gay detainees receive poor medical care and are subjected to abuse.

On May 18, an asylum officer determined she had a credible fear of returning to her country, which is one of the first steps in the often years-long process. Transgender people in El Salvador regularly experience discrimination by police and military in their home country, according to a 2017 study by the Georgetown Law Human Rights Institute.

Ten days later, Medina Leon complained of chest pain and was sent to an El Paso hospital. ICE released her from custody that day.

"This is yet another unfortunate example of an alien who enters the United States with an untreated, unscreened medical condition,” said Corey A. Price, field office director for ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations, said in a statement. Price is based in El Paso.

ICE has faced scrutiny for its detainee health care for years. The agency has reported five in-custody deaths since October.

But ICE says it is committed to providing medical care to everyone in its custody. It says it spends $250 million each year on health care for detainees, including medical, dental and mental health intake screenings within 12 hours of arrival and round-the-clock emergency care.
Drag Queen Storytime at library goes on despite opposition

Editors Note APNewsNow.

FALL RIVER, Mass. (AP)—Hundreds have turned out for a Drag Queen Storytime for children at a Massachusetts public library despite some opposition to the event.

The Fall River Herald reports so many families with children came to the city’s library on Saturday that drag queen Naomi Chomskey offered three separate readings to accommodate everyone.

A group representing the conservative Massachusetts Family Institute held a silent prayer protest outside the library. Others gathered to express support for the library’s decision to go ahead with the event, which was held on the start of Pride Month.

Police were on hand but there were no confrontations.

Chomskey told reporters the event was about “celebrating diversity.”

The Rogers Free Library in Bristol, Rhode Island canceled its Drag Queen Storytime, saying the town didn’t seem “ready” for it.

A group representing the conservative Massachusetts Family Institute held a silent prayer protest outside the library. Others gathered to express support for the library’s decision to go ahead with the event, which was held on the start of Pride Month.

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Priest begs gays not to leave church over bishop’s tweet

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—A priest is asking parishioners not to leave his church over a tweet by Rhode Island’s bishop urging Roman Catholics to not support or attend LGBTQ Pride Month events.

The Rev. Edward L. Pieroni begged gay and lesbian parishioners not to leave the church during Sunday services at St. Raymond’s Roman Catholic Church in Providence, The Boston Globe reported.

“A lot of people have hung in there, but it’s like, ‘One more slap and we are done.’ I am here to beg you—and I will get on my hands and knees and beg you—not to leave,” Pieroni told the congregation.

Fighting erasure requires winning elections

Lilli Vincenz’s 2005-’06 battle in Virginia has a lesson for today by Richard J. Rosendall | rosendall@starpower.net contributing writer

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 legitimize anti-LGBTQ 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.

Vincenz filed a complaint in May 2005 against Arlington County Code prohibiting discrimination on the basis of 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 Tobin, a conservative bishop, said he didn’t mean to offend anyone, but he also defended the right to refuse service to someone on the basis of their sexual orientation.

Democratic Gov. Janet Mills signed the bill into law Wednesday, and it will take effect 90 days after the town didn’t seem “ready'' for it.

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North Carolina are considering such legislation. Mills said. "By signing this bill into law today, we stand with you, we support you, and we will always defend your right to be who you are." We will continue to work to ensure that LGBTQ people can be who they are without fear of discrimination.

Maine's law exempts treatment that offers assistance to individuals, including talk therapy and counseling from counting as conversion therapy. Republicans argued that the bill was unnecessary, while also contending that it would prevent parents from seeking religious counselors for their children.

A law against conversion therapy was signed the Legislature adjourns next month. Conversion therapy aims to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. Under the new law, professionals, including school psychologists, pharmacy technicians and social workers, who have advertised, offered or administered conversion therapy to a child could face discipline from licensing boards.

Mills said, "By signing this bill into law today, we send an unequivocal message to young LG- BTQ people in Maine and across the country: We stand with you, we support you, and we will always defend your right to be who you are." A law against conversion therapy was signed recently in Massachusetts, while states including North Carolina are considering such legislation this year.

"With this law, Maine is taking seriously its responsibility to ensure youth and parents who seek support are not subjected to fraudulent and dangerous practices under the guise of therapy," said Mary Bonauto, the Civil Rights Project director for GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders.

Maine's former Republican governor vetoed a similar measure last year, but the bill has gained momentum this year under a Democratic-led Legislature. Republicans argued that the bill was unnecessary, while also contending that it would prevent parents from seeking religious counselors for their children.

"There have not been any recorded cases of this happening in Maine," said state House Republican spokesman John Brott. Republicans failed to pass an amendment to exclude talk therapy and counseling from counting as conversion therapy.

Maine's law exempts treatment that offers acceptance, support and understanding while being neutral on sexual orientation and gender identity.

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Pride

Continued from page 1

10 pm - 2 am
Blend Pride Party
BLEND NIGHTCLUB
1310 Dorchester Avenue Dorchester

10 pm
Pride Spotlight Party
DJ keV J
DBar, 1236 Dorchester Avenue, Boston

Saturday, June 8

Pride Services
10 am
Old South Church in Boston
645 Boylston Street, Boston

11 am
Arlington Street Church
350 Boylston Street, Boston

11 am - 3 pm
Pride Brunch
Cathedral Station Sports Bar & Pub
1222 Washington Street, Boston

11 am - 2 pm
Childs Gallery: Pride Brunch And Celebration Of The Exhibition
Childs Gallery, 169 Newbury Street, Boston

12 pm
Boston Pride Parade
Start at Boylston St and Clarendon St
Turn right onto Clarendon St
Turn left onto Tremont St
Turn left onto Berkeley St
Turn right onto Boylston St
Turn left onto Charles St
Turn right onto Beacon St
Turn left onto Tremont St
Arrival at Copley Hall Plaza on Cambridge St
Copley Square, Boston

2 pm - 2 am
Pride DJ Extravaganza
2 - 4 pm DJ Lethera
4 - 7 pm DJ Begbick
7 - 10 pm DJ Brian Psyclone
10 pm - 2 am Steve Psyclone

2 pm - 7 pm
LesbianNightLife ESME Women's Block Party
Boylston & Edgar Allan Poe Way, Boston

7 pm - 9 pm
Lee Hang Out Live
Lee Hang Out, the popular lesbian podcast, is bringing you the next installments of their “Should’ve Been Gay” live just in time for PRIDE!
WBUR CitySpace, Boston

7 pm -11 pm
Boston Pride Youth Dance
City Hall Plaza, Boston

7 pm - 2 am
LesbianNightLife @ LIBERTY HALL Women's Pride Party
Revere Hotel, 200 Stuart Street, Boston

8 pm - 11 pm
The Donkey Show @ Pride
2 Arrow Street, Cambridge

8 pm
Niki Luperelli with Jim Rice
Club Café, 209 Columbus Avenue, Boston

9 pm
EPIC Saturdays
House of Blues
15 Lansdowne Street, Boston

10 pm
Unite Saturday
DJs Brian Derrick, Stevie Psyclone, Begbick
Club Café, 209 Columbus Avenue, Boston

Sunday, June 9

11 am - 3 pm
Sunday Pride Brunch Buffet
Club Café, 209 Columbus Avenue, Boston

11 am-3 pm
Pride Brunch
Cathedral Station Sports Bar & Pub
1222 Washington Street, Boston

1, 2, 3 pm
Lecture: John Burrows, A Discreet Society: The World of Charlie Gibson
Gibson House Museum, 137 Beacon Street, Boston

1 - 8 pm
JP Block Party
Perkins Street, Hyde Square, Jamaica Plain

1 - 8 pm
Back Bay Block Party
St. James Avenue, Boston

6 pm
Sunday Pride Retro Tea Dance
Hosts Kris Knievel & Kartisma. Dance to a unique mix of Discos Classics & Retro Favorites to 2000’s anthems with DJ Susan Esthera.
Club Café, 209 Columbus Avenue, Boston

6:30 - 10 pm
Tea with the Dame
Napoleon Room
Club Café, 209 Columbus Avenue, Boston

6 - 9 pm
Mass Bears and Cubs Harbor Cruise
Bay State Cruise, Boston

6 pm
Pablo Vittar Concert
Royale, 279 Tremont Street, Boston
9 pm
Wicked Huge Pride Finale
RCDanibar & Legacy, 275 Tremont Street, Boston

Monday, June 10

6:30 pm
Panel Discussion on “In Search of Stonewall”
Rabb Hall, Boston Public Library, Copley Square, 700 Boylston St, Boston

Tuesday, June 11

7:10 pm
Boston Red Sox Pride Night
Fenway Park
4 Jersey Street, Boston,

9 pm
If You Can Feel It, You Can Speak It, open mic
Bella Luna Milky Way
284 Amory Street, Jamaica Plain

Friday, June 14

9 pm
EN-ER-GY X
Oberon Theater
2 Arrow Street, Cambridge

Saturday, June 15

2 pm
Intergenerational Dialogue About Stonewall
LGBTQ Youth and Elders
Teen Central at Boston Public Library, Copley Square, 700 Boylston St, Boston
Tuesday, June 25

6 pm
Author Talk: John Manuel Andriote
Discussing Stonewall Strong
Boston Public Library, Copley Square, 700 Boylston St, Boston

Saturday, June 29

New England Revolution Pride Night Match
Gillette Stadium, Foxboro
Brian had his HIV under control with medication. But smoking with HIV caused him to have serious health problems, including a stroke, a blood clot in his lungs and surgery on an artery in his neck. Smoking makes living with HIV much worse. You can quit.

CALL 1-800-QUIT-NOW.

HIV alone didn’t cause the clogged artery in my neck. Smoking with HIV did.

Brian, age 45, California

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDC.gov/tips

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The difference between a flirt and a tease is that a tease won’t follow through. I, Billy Masters, am more of a flirt. In fact, I’m what you’d call a sure thing. Alas, I feel as if I’ve been teasing you with these weekly reports about Aaron Schock. So let’s say right off the bat—I’m delivering. To catch you up, the hunky former Congressman has been everywhere since the video of him seemingly fishing around in the pants of a male dance partner at Coachella went viral. Apparently he’s been busy in public and private. For months, people have whispered of clandestine same-sex hookups with guys he’s encountered on various apps. Nothing came of those whispers...until now.

A veritable treasure trove of unidentified nude photos just fell into our hot little hands—and, naturally, you can see them on BillyMasters.com. Aside from the obvious resemblance to our “Downton Abbey” loving subject, what I find intriguing is that most of them focus on the guy in question’s ass. The person in these photos vehemently says he’s a top—albeit more than one of his prospective partners has said that the person in the pics “prefers topping”, but says he will bottom. Kinda like a vegan who occasionally has a pot roast! Back to these butt photos—let’s just say they show angles that typically only turn up in proctological examinations. In addition to the nude pix at various angles showing a body and face that bear a striking resemblance to the proudly straight Schock, we also received a jerk-off video. Again, lots of focus on the ass, but we do see him fully aroused...in addition to his face. What will he do for an encore? After all, it is Pride Month.

Whoever is in those photos might wanna take a page out of the Kathy Griffin playbook (now that I think of it, she once had a great story about Schock). Griffin was one of the first targets of Trump—or perhaps she was one of the first to turn him into a target. She also turned lemons into lemonade by launching her first international tour. Sure, she was on the no-fly list and investigated everywhere by INTERPOL, but that’s par for the course when you’re Kathy Griffin. The fiery redhead filmed the show and hoped to sell it as her latest comedy special. But despite acclaim at the SXSW Film Festival, she couldn’t find a distributor. Then someone suggested cutting up the concert and adding some backstage footage. That resulted in “A Hell of a Story”. The flick will play in over 650 movie theatres around the country for ONE DAY—July 31st. Hmm—almost sounds like the recipe for an Oscar nomination. For specific locations and other info, check out KathyGriffin.com or text KATHY to 345345.

Scandal is not limited to politics. It’s been a few weeks since we’ve had a Jussie Smollett update. During this hiatus, the courts decided that details of his dubious Chicago escapades would be unsealed and made public. More interestingly, the “incident”. Not that Jesse is scandalized to helm this production before...well, the “incident”. Not that Jesse is scandal-free, but who is? The revival will open at the Helen Hayes Theatre on April 23, 2020.

David Letterman just released the second season of his Netflix show, “My Next Guest Needs No Introduction”. One of his guests is Ellen DeGeneres. In addition to some breezy banter, DeGeneres reveals that she has been a victim of sexual assault. The incident happened when she was about 15 years old. Her stepfather allegedly fondled her breasts, claiming he was doing it to check for lumps. “Cause that’s how they do breast exams...in prison. Ellen waited a few years before telling her mother, Betty, who didn’t believe her. In fact, Betty stayed married to the man for 18 more years. “I know now that one of the hardest things to do is speak up after being sexually abused. I love my daughter and wish I had the capacity to listen to her when she told me what happened. I live with that regret and I wouldn’t want that for any other parent.”

In lighter lesbian news, Lea DeLaria is single and happy about it. She recently spoke with Wendy Williams about her scuttled wedding plans. She revealed she was the one who was dumped—although it ended amicably. Eh, lesbian! “She did everything right—Chelsea Fairless is a class act.” Speaking of acts, DeLaria is taking her act to Provincetown. She bought the venue formerly known as The Pied, and rechristened it The Club. It’s in one of the best locations in town, and will now be a jazz club with all the usual accouterments—food, drink, entertainment. She says it will be different than most Ptown venues. “There’ll be no cover charge. People can come in and hear live entertainment from world-class jazz musicians, have a drink and small noshes until we close.” I suspect she’ll be charging a cover when she brings in headliners. Like for July 4th weekend, she’s snagged Rosie O’Donnell! Ro will perform July 5-7, and Lea DeLaria will be her opening act. Which begs the question—will this be the first time Lea’s opened for Rosie? Perhaps we’ll find out at the show.

With the release of “Rocketman”, director Dexter Fletcher has revealed his next dream subject. “I’d do Madonna. That sounds like a real rollercoaster ride! It would be extraordinary. I don’t know how happy she’d be about that. But what an extraordinary life that would be. If I was to tackle any other icon like that, it would be her. She’s extraordinary.” Anyone looking to buy Dexter a gift might consider a thesaurus. It would be...”extraordinary”.

Speaking of Madge, I was shocked to see her performance on the Eurovision finals live from Tel Aviv. What in the name of everything holy was she thinking? First, she comes out wearing that ridiculous eye patch (she’s apparently still channeling Madame X, or perhaps it was a misguided tribute to Moshe Dayan). Then there was “Like a Prayer”, not the hardest song to sing. The word “caterwauling” comes to mind. Frankly, I think William Hong could have done a better job! As she cavorted onstage with kids the square root of her age, it hit me—she’s turning into Mamie Van Doren. For you youngsters, Mamie was a sex symbol in the ’50s and ’60s. As she got older, she couldn’t quite let go of the pin-up image and continued to wear questionable outfits for her age and body type, culminating in a shocking photo session in her backyard, where the 80-year-old danced around topless, wearing an Indian headdress. Even more shocking, the photographer for the session was her son! That goes above and beyond filial duties if you ask me. I don’t think Rocco is in danger, but I think David better sleep with one eye open!

By the by, since there are no new ideas in Hollywood, MGM has announced that they will produce a feature film about the life of Boy George. I have one word for them—”Taboo”.

Could it be that a certain star of stage and screen (both large and small) is having his private parts made public by a perturbed ex-paramour? So say people who have seen the photos circulating and recognize the fastidious fella by, of all things, his feet! And you know what they say about large feet. Find out for yourself on BillyMasters.com.

When we can deliver a couple of notorious nudes, it’s time to end another column. All in a day’s work at www.BillyMasters.com—the site that always goes the extra mile. We didn’t have room for a question this week, but write me at Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before we get any more shocking stories! Until next time, remember, one man’s filth is another man’s bible.
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