Boston Takes The World

Submitted by Boston Pride

Boston Pride was well-represented at World Pride in New York City in June where 60 members of the Boston Pride committee participated in events including the huge World Pride Parade on Sunday, June 30. Boston Pride President Linda DeMarco, who is co-president of InterPride, the licensing authority of World Pride, spoke at the Opening Ceremony in Times Square. Linda also spoke at the Closing Ceremony when she handed off the next World Pride designation to Copenhagen Pride who will host World Pride in 2021. T Shirts that Boston Pride members wore in the parade were a big hit as they said “Wicked Proud, Boston Pride” and spectators were getting in on the fun when Boston Pride marched by saying, “When You Say Wicked We Say Proud – Wicked Proud – Wicked Proud.”

Fans celebrate World Cup champs, rally for equal pay

By ALI SWENSON
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP)—Adoring fans packed New York City’s Canyon of Heroes on Wednesday amid a blizzard of confetti to praise the World Cup-winning U.S. women’s national soccer team as leaders on the field and advocates for pay equity off it.

Crowds chanted “USA! USA!” and of confetti to praise the World Cup-winning U.S. women’s national soccer team as leaders on the field and advocates for pay equity off it.

By Jules Becker

Adolescent growing pains are nothing new, but the internet has clearly magnified them. Thanks to such phenomena as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, their vulnerabilities have gone viral at the hands of rumor, gossip and the full spectrum of fake news.

Sadly suicide is an all too frequent response by lonely and troubled teenagers in an age of such lethal cruelties. The acclaimed 2016 musical “Dear Evan Hansen” (2017 best musical Tony) hit a nerve with young people and grown-ups alike in examining the anxieties of one such adolescent and the impact of fellow high schoolers.

Connor Murphy’s death on their respective families. Now the show’s highly involving tour—directed with compelling intensity by Michael Greif—has turned the Citizens Bank Opera House into a singular search engine for insight and understanding. The show’s vivid emotional exploration—with a disarmingly direct Steven Levenson book and a lyrically thoughtful Benj Pasek and Justin Paul score—plays out against a radiant Peter Nigrini(projection design)-Japhy Weideman(lighting) backdrop that resembles an ever-evolving computer screen complete with panels of cyber conversation.

The title 17 year old high schooler feels largely alone in a world dwarfed by often-unsubstantiated emails and tweets. Since the back story departure of his father to Colorado, working mother Heidi has struggled to deal with Evan’s anxieties and encouraged him to write the title letters that his therapist believes will help. After Connor commits suicide...

By JULIE PACE

“People have postpartum depression, they have anxiety, they have a lot of things,” said New York City health commissioner Mary Bassett. “But what we see in this pandemic is that we’re seeing much higher rates of serious mental illness than we usually do, and we’re seeing many people have anxiety and depression for the first time.”

In Buttigieg and Biden, Dems confront generational divide

LACONIA, N.H. (AP)—Amy McInerney at first saw Joe Biden as Democrats’ best hope to beat President Donald Trump—an experienced politician with the potential to peel off some of Trump’s working-class supporters. Then she heard Pete Buttigieg speak.

“I felt like Pete more represented my generation,” said McInerney, 33, as she held her 6-month-old daughter, who sported a pink “Buttigieg 2020” onesie. “There need to be voices that...

"My driver asked me if I went to the Pride parade yesterday. Why would I go? I knew I would see everyone there here tonight."

— Barbra Streisand shares an anecdote during her recent concert in Hyde Park the day after London Pride.
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World Cup
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workers sounded air horns from a construction site as the hourlong parade moved up a stretch of lower Broadway that has long hosted so-called ticker tape parades for world leaders, veterans and hometown sports stars.

Co-captain Megan Rapinoe and her teammates shared a float with Mayor Bill de Blasio and U.S. Soccer Federation President Carlos Cordeiro. Rapinoe struck her now-famous victory pose, took a swig of Champagne and handed the bottle to a fan, Goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher held the World Cup trophy aloft. Aly Hoover, 12, of Glen Ridge, New Jersey, stood at the sidelines with a poster of the face of Alex Morgan, another team star. “I just want to have pink hair and purple hair, we got white girls and black girls and everything in between. Straight girls and gay girls.”

The parade is named for the strands of ticker tape that used to be showered down from nearby office buildings. The tape has since been replaced with paper confetti, which drifted down from office buildings throughout Wednesday’s parade, along with documents and spreadsheets folded into paper airplanes.

The Department of Sanitation said it has assigned 350 workers to parade cleanup, with trucks, backpack blowers and brooms at their disposal.

The team had already started celebrating its record fourth Women’s World Cup title. After touching down at Newark Liberty International Airport on Monday, players shared a toast and sang “We Are the Champions.”

Team members appeared on ABC’s “Good Morning America” in Times Square on Tuesday to show off their trophy and answer questions from cheering kids. Rapinoe, the outspoken star who won the awards for the tournament’s best player and top scorer, also appeared on CNN and MSNBC later Tuesday.

Rapinoe told CNN’s Anderson Cooper that President Donald Trump’s slogan “Make America Great Again” is “barking back to an era that wasn’t great for everyone. It might’ve been great for a few people.”

Rapinoe told MSNBC’s Rachel Maddow that Trump had yet to invite the women’s soccer team to the White House.

Trump had tweeted that he would invite the team, win or lose. Rapinoe has said she wouldn’t be going to the White House. The team has accepted an invitation to visit Congress.

Associated Press writers Melissa Murphy and David Bauder contributed to this report.

Dems
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are younger represented.”

Separated by 40 years, Biden and Buttigieg represent the generational poles of the crowded Democratic presidential primary. Biden, 76, would be the oldest person elected president. Buttigieg, the 37-year-old mayor of South Bend, Indiana, would be the youngest. Biden casts his decades of experience in Washington as a remedy for Trump’s turbulent tenure, while Buttigieg argues that the moment calls for the energy of a new generation.

“A lot of this is simply the idea that we need generational change, that we need more voices stepping up from a generation that has so much at stake in the decisions that are being made right now,” Buttigieg said shortly after announcing his candidacy.

At a time when the Democratic field is sorting out its differences on issues from health to immigration, that call for generational change, and how Democrats resolve it, could prove to be even more consequential. It’s a fight not just over which candidate gives Democrats the best chance of defeating Trump in 2020, but the direction of the party for years to come.

So far, Biden’s and Buttigieg’s strategies have yielded early success. Biden has led primary polls for much of the year, while Buttigieg tops the most recent fundraising race, amassing $24.8 million in second-quarter fundraising.

“The benefit of some of the older candidates is being able to show that experience,” said Tom Perriello, a former Democratic congressman from Virginia who was elected at age 33. “But newer candidates can sometimes run on the sense that they are more genuinely committed to change having not necessarily been part of the system that people feel has not delivered.”

Democratic voters have long been drawn to calls for generational change. President John F. Kennedy laid the predicate in his 1961 inaugural address when he said that “the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans.”

The last two Democrats to win the White House campaigned in part on the promise of a fresh start—Bill Clinton, whose 1992 win at age 46 made him the first baby boomer president, and Barack Obama, who swept to victory in 2008 at age 47 over 72-year-old John McCain. The 2018 midterms also ushered in a younger generation of Democratic lawmakers, including a historic number of women and minorities who were first-time candidates.

“The wait-your-turn approach to politics has never been particularly effective in Democratic politics,” said Ben LaBolt, a Democratic strategist who worked for Obama’s 2008 campaign.

But for some Democratic voters, the draw of a younger, less experienced candidate is tempered in 2020 by the risks of losing to Trump, a candidate many in the party view as an existential threat to democracy.

“I don’t think the mayor of South Bend should run for president in 2020 when the stakes are so high with Trump,” said Kate Bailey, a 30-year-old health care advocate from Hooksett, New Hampshire. “I would love to see the generational torch be passed. But honestly I don’t feel like this is the best time for a 37-year-old to run for president.”

Biden’s campaign had begun to subtly make a similar case.

“Vice President Biden believes the issues facing our country today aren’t generational challenges, they’re existential challenges,” said Kate Bedingfield, Biden’s deputy campaign manager.

Part of the allure for Democrats of a younger candidate has been the prospect of energizing younger voters. With Obama on the ballot in 2008, nearly 2 million more young people voted in the presidential election.

Yet Biden’s campaign also sees an opportunity to appeal to older Americans, who vote at higher rates. According to the Census Bureau’s Current Population Survey, 71 percent of those age 65 and over voted in the 2016 presidential election, as did 67% of those between the ages of 45-65. Just 40% of Americans under 30 voted.

While younger Democratic voters skew more liberal than older Democrats, the ideological lanes are more scrambled in the presidential campaign. Biden hews to the center, but two of the other oldest candidates in the race are also the most liberal: 77-year-old Bernie Sanders and 70-year-old Elizabeth Warren. During the 2016 Democratic primary, Sanders had broad support from young voters who were drawn to his plans to lower college costs and eliminate student debt.

“It’s not the age of the messenger, it’s the freshness the ideas,” Sanders adviser Jeff Weaver said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Buttigieg, meanwhile, shares some of Biden’s more moderate views, including backing a health care plan that would preserve a private insurance market. So does Beto O’Rourke, the 46-year-old former Texas congressman. But both have called for broad structural changes to the U.S. government, including changing or abolishing the Electoral College and reforming the makeup of the Supreme Court.

“There has to be a new approach and a new way of meeting these challenges or we will not have a chance to appeal to older Americans,” Buttigieg said in an interview with The Associated Press.

He put a finer point on the matter the next day, telling voters in Atkinson, New Hampshire: “I don’t want to go back to anything old. Nothing.”

Associated Press writer Juana Summers, AP polling editor Emily Swanson and polling reporter Hannah Fingherut in Washington contributed to this report.

Follow Julie Pace at http://twitter.com/jpaceDC
I was standing in the sanctuary of a mid-sized synagogue in Kosice, Slovakia thinking about my maternal grandparents. They had left the new nation of Czechoslovakia in 1923—my grandmother always referred to her homeland as Hungary—since the spoke Hungarian as her first language, and the locals were subjects of the Austro-Hungarian Empire until after WW1.

My grandfather died two years before my birth, and he didn’t leave much behind. I was told that Papa Ed was quiet, shy, reserved. He listened to opera despite a limited education, and back in the old country he loved to ride horses. During the Depression, he was often unemployed until he found a position working for the Cleveland Public schools as a janitor.

One of the few things Nanny Frida told me about this grandfather I never met, and the one for whom I was named (I carried his first name as my middle one)—was that he loved horses. If it was up to him, he would have stayed in Eastern Slovakia in 1923—my grandmother always referred to her homeland as Hungary—since she spoke Hungarian as her first language, and the locals were subjects of the Austro-Hungarian Empire until after WW1.

Where I Come From
by Judah Leblang | www.JudahLeblang.com
contributing writer

I am traveling with my second cousin Edith, the granddaughter of Holocaust survivors. While I just met my cousin, who lives in Germany of all places, a few years ago, I’ve known her mother since the 1970s. Edith’s mother and grandmother (my cousin and great aunt, respectively) lived in Budapest before and during the war and were deported to Auschwitz in 1944.

In Kosice, we will see a memorial plaque to remember the more than 400,000 Hungarian Jews who were deported on transports that ran through Slovakia during just two months in the summer of 1944.

The numbers are overwhelming, numbing, almost impossible to comprehend. And yet it is the individual names, and the evidence that these were people with their own stories, spirits, and lives that gets through my emotional fog.

A long one wall, near the ark which contains the Torah, are a series of wooden seats, each with a Magen-David a movement from passivity to decisiveness. Maggie McKenna is a revelation as Zoe. She possesses a fitting naturalness and sweet voice that would have done full justice to the solo Pasek and Paul should have created for her alluring character. Ross and McKenna display good chemistry as well as vibrant singing on the love duet “Only Us.” Jessica Phillips finds Heidi’s world-weariness and brings great heart to her poignant solo “So Big/So Small.” Jared Goldsmith has Jared’s salty-tongued chutzpah.

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shortly after finding and reading a copy of one of Evan’s letters, parents Larry and Cynthia Murphy infer from the correspondence that the two were good friends. Evan’s wise-cracking buddy Jared initially advises him that some people may suspect that they are secret lovers.

Actually devious of a relationship with the Murphys’ daughter Zoe for whom he has strong feelings, Evan grabs hold of her parents’ assumption as though it were an emotional life raft. To an extent, the ‘letters’ and the life they take on by themselves call to mind the poetic pronouncements by which Cyrano serves Roxane-loving Edith.

Ultimately Evan must choose between a spiraling number of internet followers and real connection. Will he live as self-servingly as shy Jared, who knows the truth about the supposed friendship with Connor? Will his conscience and a kind of ghost of Connor have a definitive impact?

Will he embrace a life of truth despite the likely cost to his relationship with Zoe and the strong feeling her parents have developed for him? The hero’s choice notwithstanding, “Dear Evan Hansen” transcends facile internet communications with an affecting look at the eternal question as a “close acquaintance” of Connor’s and her solid moments of moral compass.

The Connor Project, a tribute propelled in good part by internet fund-raising as well as the efforts of Evan and company, plants individual promise as well as saplings. By contrast, letter-writing may be an endangered species in the digital age. Even so, there will always be a place for the perennial insights of “Dear Evan Hansen.”

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Boston Takes the World

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(Top) Linda DeMarco with Copenhagen Pride 2021. (Bottom) Boston Pride in NYC Subway for World Pride
By Mark Segal

The 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots have passed, and as an integral part of the anniversary and the 50 years leading up to it, I have an inside track and knowledge as to who the players are and how they did their jobs for our community. Two organizations failed our community this year. That failure leads to misinformation of our history, and professional organizations should preserve our history, not revive it.

The worst offender: GLAAD
The organization that is supposed to monitor and provide LGBTQ information to the media, the organization that claims to be a resource to TV networks, contributed a media guide to Stonewall 50. The history it provided of our community was misleading and left out important elements of the event as well as the resources to cover them, which left larger media on their own. Of the 50 or so people who are documented in our community, GLAAD gets an "F" for Stonewall 50.
Mainstream media wanted to understand how coverage had changed in 50 years. From GLAAD, they received a false timeline and a lack of resources. Media sources actually did the homework and changed GLAAD’s timeline, making a mockery of the LGBT org’s so-called “guide.”

On page one of that guide is a picture and message from GLAAD’s president and CEO, Sarah Kate Ellis, that includes only two lines regarding the history of Stonewall and states, “This guide is intended to help journalists cover Stonewall 50 with fairness, depth and accuracy.”

GLAAD’s failure is obvious with the guide’s inaccuracies, historic omissions and lack of resources. GLAAD gets an F.

Mark Segal, PGN publisher, is the nation’s most-award-winning commentator in LGBT media. You can follow him on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MarkSegalPGN or Twitter at https://twitter.com/PhilaGayNews.

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We are proud to be the first assisted living community in Massachusetts to receive SAGECare Accreditation for LGBT Cultural Competency.

This falls within our commitment to fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment for all seniors who choose to call Goddard House “home.”
Judah
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“Jewish star” at head level. Our guide Peter, the head of the local Jewish Community, explains that some Jews were held here before they were deported to Poland. Then he shows us a hidden panel behind several of the stars.

My cousin reads the scrawled Hungarian a few scared souls had left behind—something like “1944: We are here and we don’t know what’s going to happen.” I can’t read Hungarian, and for some reason, I don’t look at the actual scrawls; I take my cousin’s word for it.

The next day, we venture out to Spisske Podhradie, a town of about 5,000 in the Carpathian Mountains where my grandparents lived in the early 1920s, just after they got married and before they came to America. The half-decayed Spiss Hrad (castle), dates back to the Middle Ages and looms above us, sitting high on a ridge above the town.

We toured the castle and look out at the rolling hills and green valleys that spread out below us. I imagine my grandfather as a young man—I recently found two pictures of him in uniform with his regiment in the Austro-Hungarian Army circa 1914 – riding a black horse up these hillsides, the landscape fundamentally the same as it is now, 100 years later.

We walk down the hillside into town and get a cab to a much smaller village called Baldovce, as it is now, 100 years later.

Behind the snafus and stupidity crouched a more insidious beast: a belief that America is made great not by its ideas but by its military stockpile. Belligerence and resentment may boost voter turnout, but do not enhance governance.

The argument that allowing economic migration will set off a stampede is like the argument that gay marriage would cause straight men to procreate and ruin America’s colonialist practices in Central and South America, including economic exploitation.

There is no synagogue, no evidence of any Jews here, just the small white church at the end of the main street and behind it a cemetery.

There is no sign of our grandparents, no trace of our families, and I feel vaguely disappointed. The homes are newer, fairly modern, TV antennas and satellite dishes dot the rooftops. Only the old sheds that stand behind many of the new houses remain from our grandparents’ day.

It is only the next day, after we have returned to Kosice, the second largest city in Slovakia and our home base for this part of our trip, that I discover that there is a (mostly abandoned) Jewish cemetery outside of Spisske Podhradie, and that one of our great-grandmothers, who died in 1923, is buried there.

A week later, Peter, our Slovakian-Jewish guide, sends me a picture of the tombstone, with the name Gizella Berger, written in Roman letters, to go along with the Hebrew on the rest of the tablet.

After Slovakia, we go to Budapest where my cousin lived until age 7, when her family escaped during the Hungarian uprising against the Russians in 1956. There is more Holocaust history, which forms a contrast to the beauty of the city today, the richness of the food, the art and culture. We spend one hot day at the baths—a series of pools with both cool and warm water—a very Hungarian thing to do.

By the end of the trip I am exhausted, stimulated, overwhelmed. I have a sense of the world my grandparents came from, and yet I can’t really comprehend what happened after they left.

Judah Leblang is a teacher, writer and storyteller. See ROSENDALL, page 9

Rosendall
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All I directly witnessed of Trump’s MAGA 4th of July celebration was the noise of fighter jets flying over my apartment; the fireworks a dozen miles away. This is where our grandparents—her grandmother Margit, and my grandfather Armin Edward—were born and grew up. The village consists of two streets, a post office, a church.

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tion, toppling of governments, and financing of insurgent groups, contributed greatly to the problems from which the migrants are fleeing. We owe those countries help, not punishment.

Author Suketu Mehta writes in This Land Is Our Land: an immigrant’s manifesto:

“I am angry: about the staggering global hypocrisy of the rich nations, having robbed the poor ones of their future, now arguing against a reverse movement of peoples—not to invade and conquer and steal, but to work. Angry at the ecological devastation that has been visited upon the planet by the West, and which now demands that the poor nations stop emitting carbon dioxide. Angry at the depiction of people like my family and the other families that have continued in my family’s path, because they had no other choice, as freeloaders, drug dealers, and rapists. I’m tired of apologizing for moving. These walls, these borders, between the peoples of the earth: they are of recent vintage, and they are flimsy.”

The threat to our republic is not from migrant families, but from a president whose vandalism is fueled by authoritarian nationalism. Populist candidate Trump ran against immigrants and Goldman Sachs. President Trump kept demonizing immigrants but put several Goldman Sachs execs in his administration. As Mehta notes, Hannah Arendt called this old game the “alliance between mob and capital”—enrich plutocrats at the expense of the working class, then scapegoat strangers.

We must object. Our national creed is inconsistent with rule by fear.

Trump’s grandiosity was triggered by the 2017 Bastille Day parade in Paris. To that I say: Vive la résistance!

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

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Having watched nearly every episode of "LA Law" and countless hours of "Judge Judy", I consider myself somewhat of a legal expert. So, it is my unaccredited opinion that there is no precedent for retroactively applying the Fifth Amendment. And yet, that is what Kevin Spacey's accuser did last week. After cockily answering questions on the stand, the alleged victim was reminded that, should any of his statements prove to be false, he could face several charges, including a felony for tampering with evidence. Suddenly a recess was called. I don't remember exactly how long it lasted, but I was able to find out that psycho Thomas killed Emma on "The Bold and the Beautiful". When we returned to the Nantucket courtroom, not only did the alleged victim refuse to answer any more questions—citing the Fifth Amendment right to not incriminate himself—he also asked that everything he had said earlier be stricken from the record. The judge then told the prosecutor that given that they suddenly had no evidence (i.e., the cell phone) and no witness, they may want to reconsider proceeding with criminal charges...last, he made the decision for them. The next hearing is scheduled for July 31, but I believe a decision will be forthcoming much sooner.

And now, time for a sad story which I predict will make many of you happy. Gus Kenworthy and his beau Matt Wilkas have broken up. See? Aren't you confused? You're like, "Aw...they made such a cute couple and they seemed so happy." On the other hand, you're thinking, "Hmm...two really hot gay guys are suddenly single." I wish I had some dirt for you—or even rumors of a third party. For now, we rely on the official statement: "Gus and Matt are taking time apart. They love and support each other and remain close friends." Someone in the know says it happened at the end of June. That's Pride Month for you—some relationships make it, some don't.

Did you know that Kenworthy and Wilkas actually met online? Get your minds out of the gutter—they met on Instagram. But gay apps are in the news. I recently told you that the gay hook-up app Jack'd suffered a data breach which left thousands of users' private photos open to the public. This led to a ruling that they had to pay a $240K settlement. In the midst of that, a much more popular app, Scruff, came in and bought Jack'd—probably for a song.

In a post-Pride Month story, Philippine President Duterte says he was once briefly gay. Believe it or not, the staunchly anti-gay politician claims that he was gay before he met his ex-wife. "But I cured myself!" How? He doesn't get into that, but I'm picturing it had something to do with a men's room at the Manila International Airport.

People seem to be very concerned about mermaids of color. Personally, I've never really given the subject much thought. If I did, I'd also wonder how Ariel keeps her red tresses looking so luxurious. Perhaps it's all the kelp. And like me, she's looking blond-ish. He's scruffier and buffer and certainly not (well, a day and a couple of decades). And like me, he's probably for a song.

Our "Ask Billy" question concerns a summer replacement. Jed in San Francisco writes, "The star of 'Blood & Treasure' is really hot. Where did he come from? Do you have any photos of him naked?"

That would be Matt Barr, who I think of as a good-looking Bradley Cooper. If that interests you, read on. Macduff. The young Mr. Barr was born a day after I was (well, a day and a couple of decades). And like me, he's blond-ish. He's scruffier and buffer and certainly not opposed to showing off his impressive physique. Perhaps you've seen him in "Hellcats" or "Harper's Island"—which don't ring any bells with me. He also had a brief role in "The House Bunny". Nothing? Well, they say a photo is worth a thousand words. Since we're well over that limit, we'll simply post some photos of Matt Barr...eh, Barr. Well, both. You see, he showed quite a bit in the film "Ten Inch Hero"—let's just say the title pretty much says it all. If that whets your appetite, check out BillyMasters.com.

When we're bringing you buff & treasure (and then some), it's definitely time to end another column. By the time you read this, I'll be off on my regularly scheduled summer sojourn to parts unknown. I fully intend to come back alive. In the meantime, keep checking www.BillyMasters.com—the site that's all the rage in the rectory. If you have a question, send it to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before I plead the Fifth. Until next time, remember, one man's fifth is another man's bible.