

# PTOWNWEST

No Place Like Home



## P TOWNWEST

*The mission of Ptownwest is to reconnect, promote and create gay community*

June 1, 2020  
Volume 10

### LGBTQ Recourses

Covid help and info for LGBT

<https://www.bostonpride.org/resources/>



### Hairspray- You Can't Stop the Beat

You Can't Stop the Beat - Hairspray Finale Spectacular

The casts of the Broadway, movie, and television productions of Hairspray united in a massive at-

home performance of the song, "You Can't Stop the Beat."

The video is going viral as quickly as the 150 cast members appear, sing, dance, and generally make life under lockdown a little easier. Plus, they throw in a few extra celebrities just for fun.



Harvey Fierstein, Kerry Butler, Kristin Chenoweth, Matthew Morrison, Sean Hayes, Marissa Janet Winokur, Laura Bell Bundy, Jackie Hoffman, Nikki Blonsky, and Derek Hough appear and even Randy Rainbow pops up to belt out a few lines.

## “Flashes of Pride”

With Pride festivals around the nation canceled or postponed, LGBTQ Nation is bringing the celebration to you with our new series “Flashes of Pride.” We’ll look back at some of our community’s finest moments from the past few years as a reminder that no matter what life throws our way, queer people will fight our way through it and dance when we hit the other side. Patrick Haggerty grew up in rural Dry Creek, Washington during the 1950s. His father, Charles Edward Haggerty, was a dairy farmer.

When he was a teenager, Patrick starting becoming aware of his sexuality, but he kept it hidden as best he could. His dad, however, had a sense of the situation and tacitly brought up the subject after Patrick hid from him.



*One day, Patrick’s father, sensing his son was gay, sat him down and gave him a piece of advice he still carries with him to this day.*

*Photo: Screenshot*

Patrick’s father sat him down and gave him a piece of advice he still carries with him to this day. Be proud.

“Don’t sneak. Because if you sneak... it means you think you’re doing the wrong thing.”

“Of all the things a father in 1959 could have told his gay son,” Patrick recalls in [a video for Story Corps](#), “my father tells me to be proud of myself and not sneak. I had the patron saint of dads for sissies. No, I didn’t know it at the time, but I know now.”

<https://youtu.be/3wHjJUdN16k>

## Movies to Binge During Pride Month

### 200 BEST LGBT MOVIES OF ALL TIME

It’s been a big few years for LGBT films. In 2016, *Carol* earned six Oscar nominations, and just a year later, for the first time in history, *Moonlight* became the first LGBT-themed movie to win Best Picture. At the recent Oscars, held this February, two movies centered on gay characters (though some would argue not gay enough) were up for the top gong: *The Favourite* and *Bohemian Rhapsody*. Though neither would win, Olivia Colman was named Best Actress for playing the lesbian queen Anne, beating out *Can You Ever Forgive Me?*’s Melissa McCarthy, who played lesbian writer Lee Israel. Away from the Oscar stage, 2018’s *Love, Simon* made history as the first mainstream, wide-release teenage rom-com to focus on a gay character. And it wasn’t the last: A lesbian romance lies at the center of recent critically acclaimed high school flick, *Booksmart*, while comedy *Midas* Judd Apatow is currently producing a gay rom-com starring *Billy on the Street*’s Billy Eichner. And that’s not to mention what’s happening on TV, with the likes of *Pose* and *Vida* smashing down barriers in dizzyingly entertaining fashion.

All of these films stand on the shoulders of other LGBT films that have come before. Our list of the 200 Best LGBT Movies of All Time - expanded from our original list of 150 movies, released last year - stretches back almost 90 years to the pioneering German film, *Mädchen in Uniform*, which was subsequently banned by the Nazis, and crosses multiple continents, cultures, and genres. There are broad American comedies (*The Birdcage*), artful Korean crime dramas (*The Handmaiden*), groundbreaking indies (*Tangerine*), and landmark documentaries (*Paris Is Burning*). In this thorough update and expansion of the list, we added films from the last year in cinema that qualified (from 2018’s *We the Animals* and *The Miseducation of Cameron Post* to this year’s *The Heiresses* and *Giant Little Ones* and more) and worked to include more stories from outside of the U.S. We’re excited for people to discover new additions from the archive like *Taboo* (Gohatto), a gay love story set during the waning years of the samurai era; *The Wound* (Inxeba), centered around three men during a tribal initiation ceremony in Africa; and Australian film *52 Tuesdays*, about the relationship between a daughter and her mother who is undergoing a gender transition.

To be considered for the list, a movie had to prominently feature gay, lesbian, trans, or queer characters; concern itself centrally with LGBT themes; present its LGBT characters in a fair and realistic light; and/or be seen as a touchpoint in the evolution of queer cinema. And it had to be Fresh. The final list was culled from a longlist of hundreds, after which the films were ranked according to the Adjusted Tomatometer, which acts as a kind of inflation adjustment, taking into consideration the Tomatometer score, as well as the number of reviews a film received relative to the average number of reviews for films released that same year. We did not include miniseries, leaving out seminal works like *Angels in America*, nor movies made for TV. And we recognize that some of the films in the list will re-ignite healthy debates that have been fixtures of discussion around LGBT films – straight actors playing gay characters, cis actors playing trans characters, and the historical dominance of white male perspectives. We'd encourage those debates to continue, respectfully, in the comments section below. (And speaking of comments: yes, we know that *But I'm a Cheerleader* is missing – we love it too! – but it's Rotten at 38%.) For now, join us as we celebrate the work of hundreds of filmmakers whose talents and risks have opened up the possibilities of cinema.

<https://editorial.rottentomatoes.com/guide/best-lgbt-movies-of-all-time/>

### LGBT Detroit Addresses Intimate Partner Violence and Healthy Relationships Amid Pandemic

By [Ellen Shanna Knoppow](#) | May 25th, 2020 | [Community Impact](#), [COVID-19](#), [Michigan](#), [News](#)

#### Increased Risk

Stay-at-home orders designed to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus have had some unintended victims: namely, those at risk of intimate partner violence who are forced to isolate with their abuser. And for those in the LGBTQ community, the fact that intimate partner violence is an even greater taboo topic of conversation than it is for the heterosexual community can exacerbate the situation.

“When they put the stay-at-home order in place, they didn’t really think about what that meant for some people in the community and what a safe home actually looks like,” said Chunnika Hodges, community advocate and counselor for Healing and Support Services at [LGBT Detroit](#). “Everybody can’t be in a safe home. Domestic violence could take place, coercion, all of that. Control tactics could take place.”

She explained that the increased isolation gives the perpetrator more control over the “victim/survivor” that makes it even more difficult to leave.

Overall, LGBTQ people face similar-to-higher rates of intimate partner violence than the straight community, according to a [Williams Institute report of existing research](#). And Hodges agreed that violence among LGBTQ partners is a topic that’s too often not discussed. Largely, it has to do with societal expectations of gender roles.

“I think [it’s because of] the stigma that’s placed upon the community due to our own societal norms when it thinks about gender roles, when it thinks about who could be the abuser and who’s not the abuser,” Hodges said. “Most of the time, they don’t think women can be the abuser in the relationship, especially when it comes to the bisexual and lesbian community.”

Then there is the fact that few men report their abuse.



“Many indicate they cannot go to family since they do not know about their relationship or their sexual orientation,” Hodges said.

The lack of visibility of LGBTQ individuals means that there are few role models for healthy relationships, she added. And that there are few leaders in the community who speak about intimate partner violence or what a healthy relationship looks like can make it harder to know where to seek help.

Other compounding factors might include one's own shame or questioning about being LGBTQ. That can feed into the abuser using manipulation and emotional abuse in order to lower the self-esteem of the victim. And if they are able to escape, the abused individual may not find programs that are appropriate for, or service providers that are competent to, assist LGBTQ people.

"There's a blanket approach across the whole system when it comes to that community violence," Hodges said. "So a lot of the hospital staff, they're not trained or culturally competent to provide those services for the LGBT community. Or they're not believed ... or it's just the lack of the staff and their ability to treat them as human beings, before they even see sex or gender or orientation. And that goes the same with the law enforcement, because the lens that they're looking through is not an advocacy lens, so they're just on a protocol lens..."

In other words, first responders may only be focused on procedure, not on being sensitive to, or advocating for, an individual's needs.

### Where to Find Help

In light of the quarantine, escaping an abusive home situation is especially difficult, and Hodges emphasized that even a caring friend can only be there to provide support.

"From what I've seen in my own personal experience, when they're ready to leave, they will leave," she said.

At the same time, resources are available, and they can be found on the **LGBT Detroit website: [lgbtdetroit.org](http://lgbtdetroit.org)**. Find additional information under the **Get Help tab** that includes its support line, **313-397-2127**, and an email form as well. Due to the pandemic, the phone line is only taking voicemail right now. Callers can expect a call back within 24 hours. Hodges also mentioned **Turning Point, First Step** and **Wayne County Safe** as resources to which LGBT Detroit refers individuals.

As the community remains under some level of quarantine, it is especially timely that LGBT Detroit recently introduced a new community education forum.

"A guiding board on intimate partner health and wellness has been developed to advocate for the community and seek community feedback centering clinical and educational service needs," said Kali Stanton, program coordinator for Healing

and Support Services in a press release. "More importantly, The Council is a space for the community to grow, learn, and heal together through the use of arts and conversation."

The Council is led by a team of community members, artists, advocates and self-identified healers.

The first forum was held on May 15, and it was designed for the community to meet the council members. "The Council Listens" broadcasts Friday, June 12 at 1 p.m. Tune in on Facebook Live or Zoom. A third is scheduled for Friday, July 10. Follow the LGBT Detroit Facebook page for more information at [facebook.com/lgbtdetroit/](https://facebook.com/lgbtdetroit/).

Hodges stressed that anyone can join in the meetings and referrals outside the capacity of LGBT Detroit will be provided if needed. She said it's a safe place that takes a holistic approach "to have those healthy conversations and break down those taboos when it comes to healthy intimate partner relationships and what those look like and what community healing looks like. But more so to break down those taboo topics of intimate partner violence and break down those stigmas."

### Grindr is Not a Cure for Coronavirus Anxiety

*LGBT mental health researcher Jack Turban explains the vicious relationship between Grindr and mental health.*

By [Alex Reimer](#) May 26, 2020, 5:00am PDT

In moments of great anxiety, it is not uncommon for me to embark on late-night Grindr sessions. My fraught relationship with the ubiquitous gay dating app goes back several years, and doesn't include a whole lot of actual dates, frankly. The endless grid of headless torsos and explicit usernames usually don't want dates; they want "pics." The whole exhausting experience often concludes with me staying up way too late on a weeknight, and uninstalling the app in shame.

But I keep coming back, addicted to the slot machine-like feel of the app, which LGBT researcher Jack Turban defines as the psychological concept of **variable ratio enforcement**. In his **2018 piece for Vox** examining Grindr's impact on the mental health of gay men, Turban says Grindr awards its users for clicking at unpredictable

levels, and that one of the [most effective ways to reinforce human behavior](#). In other words, Grindr works like a slot machine: once in a while you score, but more often, you fail — sending endless inquiries into the digital abyss.



Like many people, I have struggled with my mental wellbeing during the coronavirus pandemic. In a [recent poll by the Kaiser Family Foundation](#), nearly half of Americans said the crisis has negatively impacted their mental health. Early on, I attempted to cure my quarantine despair with Grindr, despite the obvious futility of the endeavor. While I had no intentions of actually meeting up with strangers in the midst of a worldwide pandemic, I still logged onto the app religiously, looking for an escape from my loneliness. Of course, being unable to actually meet up with anybody only increased my feeling of isolation, worsening the vicious cycle.

Usually, these are topics I broach with my therapist, but on this week's edition of "The Sports Kiki," I spoke with Turban about the coronavirus' impact on the mental health of young LGBT people, focusing on how it can result in destructive behavior online. Bereft of safe social spaces, studies show large percentages of young LGBT people are active on dating apps, despite not being legal in many cases. A [study in the Journal of Adolescent Health](#) suggests roughly one out of four gay and bisexual boys between the ages of 13-17 are on hookup apps like Grindr. Almost 70 percent of them are having sex with people, and only 25 percent of them are using condoms.

With popular dating apps such as Tinder and Hinge [reporting surges in activity](#), it's feasible dating app usage is also up in the LGBT community, especially with so many people isolated at home.

"People are more anxious, people are more depressed," Turban says. "We know many LGBT

people, when they're feel anxious or depressed, often what they're longing for is some sort of affirmation for their LGBT identity, because growing up they were told it was wrong. That really leaves psychological scars that a lot of people for decades might be searching for that affirmation, and Grindr seems like the place you might be able to get that. It's full of other LGBT people. Presumably, they're going to be affirmation of your LGBT identity. The problem is, it's a very sexualized platform."

It's important to note some Grindr users say they enjoy a healthy relationship with the app. For his article, Turban spoke with a variety of active Grindr users, including one who met his fiancé there. But for others, the app can be a source of great duress. A [survey of 2,000 iPhone users](#) showed that 77 percent of Grindr users felt regret after logging on.

A [recent NPR piece](#) chronicles the mental health problems some LGBT young people are experiencing during the coronavirus, stuck at home with families and communities that may not be accepting. Calls to The Trevor Project's crisis services line have sometimes increased to more than double the volumes from earlier this year.

With that in mind, it's possible even more young LGBT people are seeking validation from dating apps, and that comes with risk. The FBI has [issued a warning](#) to parents that online sexual predators are currently more active than usual.

"The big problem is, as a society, we have not created enough safe spaces for LGBT young people to explore their gender and sexuality in a developmentally appropriate way," Turban says. "As a young gay, lesbian or bisexual person, if you're closeted, you're probably not going to have a high school prom, you're probably not going to have a classroom valentine. Because kids don't have that place to explore, a lot of them go online. It feels safer and more discreet and more anonymous."

For many kids, college is the first place where they can be comfortable with their sexual orientations and identities. Kicked off campus and back to the parents' house, they may feel being online is the safest way to express themselves.

Even for those who aren't struggling with their identities, the coronavirus quarantine can be an exceptionally isolating experience. Many LGBT people are closer to their chosen families than biological families, and it can hurt to not see them.

Stuck without in-person socialization, it can be tempting to turn to Grindr for some instant gratification. But as Turban reminds us, the gratification can be fleeting and empty – and that’s when you *could* meet up with strangers and not violate public health guidelines.

“At the end of the day, most of the pictures are shirtless torsos, and you can filter by sexual position,” he says. “It is a sexualized platform. So people go on and search for a deeper form of emotional affirmation, but what they get is sex – often – and then after sex that person leaves, and that can feel like rejection.”

### Meet the Proud Gay Russian YouTuber Who’s Trying to Change the Country for Millions of Persecuted LGBT+ People

To encourage Russian celebrities to come out as LGBT+, he’s been interviewing high-profile LGBT+ celebrities from different countries.

Unusually for a gay Russian, Shainyan has never kept his sexuality a secret.

Despite the horrific attacks on LGBT+ people in Russia, Shainyan hopes that through education people can be liberated.

He **told** the *Daily Beast*: “Ignorance and indifference are the key reasons behind the worst homophobia.”

Shainyan added: “To Russian celebrities, coming out means a political message, a demand for having certain rights.

“But a public coming-out would mean an immediate huge loss of access to the concert halls.”

On a recent, pre-pandemic trip to the US, Shainyan spoke to celebrities including Cynthia Nixon and Billy Porter.

In the three months since he published them, more than three million people have watched his conversations with them on YouTube.

“The idea of the project is to attract the attention of a broader audience and expose all the existing myths around LGBT+ people,” he said.

“Since as soon as people hear the word ‘gay’ in the Russian media agenda, it always comes from two poles - either from homophobes and state propaganda calling to bring the Soviet criminal law back to the legislation or from LGBT activists, who

use the word in the context of their fight, violated rights or clashes with police.

“These are two radical contexts, while in reality, several million Russian LGBT+ people are muted, they are not represented in the public space.”

While the number of LGBT+ people in Russia is unknown, Shainyan said “if we apply the usual statistics, there might be up to 10 million lesbians, gay, transgender, queer or bisexual people in our country”.



Shainyan, who is single and a parent to two boys, aged nine and one, who he had with lesbian friends.

One son lives with his mother in Kyiv, and while he usually visits Moscow regularly since starting the YouTube series both Shainyan and the boy’s mother have been concerned about the child’s safety if visiting Moscow - concerned that state agencies might attempt to take the son away. Last year, [two gay dads fled Russia](#) over fears the government would take their adopted children away from them. Vladimir Putin and his government banned “[gay propaganda](#)” in 2013, adding to the discrimination, persecution and violence that LGBT+ people face in the country.

Researchers found that [hate crimes against the LGBT community have doubled since the introduction of the “gay propaganda” law](#). In 2017, Putin claimed that it is his “[duty](#)” to [stop gay people getting married so that people have more babies](#).

### How to Shut Down Far Right Media!

DC Chapter of Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence use hand fans to drown out a far-right media host who had been antagonizing #AllOutDC protest crowd [video updated] Take a look

<https://youtu.be/KjdYsH7HCra>

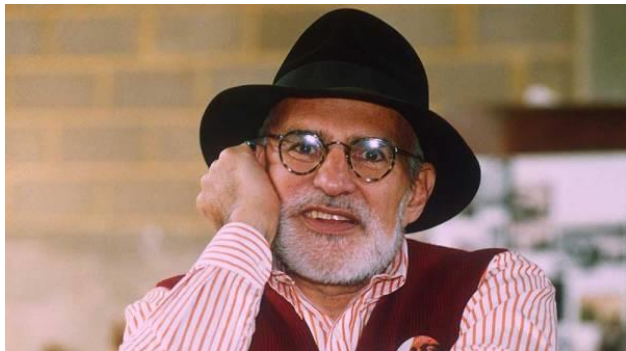
## Larry Kramer, Playwright and AIDS Activist, Dies at 84

[Larry Kramer](#), the writer and influential gay activist who pressed the U.S. government and the medical establishment to respond to the AIDS epidemic, has died. He was 84. Kramer died Wednesday from pneumonia, his husband David Webster told [the New York Times](#).

Earlier in his life, Kramer was a screenwriter with credits including “Women in Love” and the 1973 musical “Lost Horizon.”

Spurred by the onset of the AIDS epidemic in the early 1980s, Kramer became a fierce activist and an impassioned writer, and one of the earliest and most vocal advocates for AIDS research, treatment access and institutional recognition of the gay community so hard-hit by the disease. He is best known not only as one of the founders of both Gay Men’s Health Crisis and ACT UP, but also as the writer of novels and plays including his 1985 work “[The Normal Heart](#),” his urgent, agitprop depiction of the early days of the AIDS crisis.

A prominent and contentious voice in the gay community, Kramer fearlessly put forth hard truths and controversial opinions, as when, in a 1983 editorial, he urged gay men to stop having sex until more was known about AIDS and how it spread. Later in life, Kramer rode a wave of recognition for his accomplishments. A 2011 Broadway revival of “The Normal Heart” won three Tonys, and Kramer picked up a 2013 special Tony for his contribution to humanitarian causes. Ryan Murphy’s movie adaptation of “Normal Heart,” which starred Mark Ruffalo and Julia Roberts, aired on HBO in 2014 and earned two Emmys.



The first half of his epic, fictionalized take on U.S. history, “The American People,” was released in March 2015. HBO, which aired documentary “Larry Kramer: In Love and Anger” in June 2015, commissioned a film sequel to “The Normal Heart,” which [Kramer told Variety](#) would chart the time period between the end of “Normal Heart” in 1984 and the appearance of the first HIV drugs in 2001.

Fiercely confrontational in public but privately shy and sensitive, Kramer began his career in the movie business. After attending Yale and then doing a stint in the Army, he worked for Columbia Pictures and then United Artists on films ranging from “Dr. Strangelove,” “Bridge Over the River Kwai” and “Suddenly, Last Summer.” In 1969 he received his first major writing credit on Ken Russell’s “Women in Love,” which included an attention-getting scene in which Alan Bates and Oliver Reed wrestle nude. Kramer was nominated for an Oscar for the screenplay.

The success of “Women in Love” led to Columbia to hire Kramer to write the screenplay for “Lost Horizon,” a big-budget musical fantasy set in Shangri-La. The 1973 movie proved a major flop, but the hefty fee Kramer commanded on the film allowed him to concentrate full time on writing novels and plays that could address the gay themes that were his passion.

His 1978 novel “Faggots” aimed to depict love, life and sex among the gay men of New York and Fire Island, but on its release caused a furor among readers and critics, with the gay community in particular deriding the novel for what was perceived as a negative depiction of gay life.

In 1980 and ’81, as his friends and colleagues began to sicken with what was then a mysterious illness, Kramer became one of the earliest leaders in the movement for AIDS treatment and research. He co-founded Gay Men’s Health Crisis, but his belligerent tactics — openly blaming Ronald Reagan, Ed Koch and New York Times chief A.M. Rosenthal for what he insistently called the AIDS plague — caused a split with the group.

He expressed his frustration over the divide in “The Normal Heart,” which premiered at Off Broadway’s Public Theater in 1985. His depiction of the himself, in the thinly veiled character of the impassioned and combative protagonist Ned Weeks, proved he could be as lacerating a critic of himself as he was of others. “I wasn’t trying to present myself as a hero,” he said in the HBO documentary. “I was trying to present myself as a pain in the ass.”

In 1987 he co-founded civil disobedience movement ACT UP, continuing his activist work while writing plays including “Just Say No, A Play About a Farce” and “The Destiny of Me,” a 1992 sequel to “The Normal Heart” that starred John Cameron Mitchell. His books include “Reports From the Holocaust: The Story of an AIDS Activist” and “The Tragedy of Today’s Gays.”

Kramer was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut, to an attorney father and social worker mother. Kramer described his childhood as an unhappy one, particular in his relationship with his father, but his brother, attorney Arthur Kramer, was a beloved and hugely important figure to Kramer despite their disagreements.

Beginning in 2013, Kramer spent months in the hospital recovering from complications from a liver transplant brought on by years of battling HIV. In 2013 he married his longtime partner, David Webster, from his hospital bed, in a real-life scene that mirrored the final moments of “The Normal Heart.” He was released in 2014, continuing to write and appearing at the 2014 Emmy Awards.

Kramer was never one to rest on his laurels. When asked in a 2013 interview with *Variety* to consider whether art works as activism, Kramer responded, “Who in hell knows?” and cited statistics that, despite the victories of GMHC and ACT UP, HIV infection rates were on the rise among young men. During the Broadway run of “Normal Heart,” Kramer could be found in front of the theater handing out fliers and stirring up awareness among exiting patrons.

And although he became best-known for the work he did after leaving Hollywood, show business remained a significant influence in all of his work. “The analogy is really with the movie business,” he said of the civil disobedience events he staged (speaking in documentary “Larry Kramer in Love and Anger”). “I was trained in the movie business. You call it direct action, I call it putting on a show.”

### A Message from Boston Pride Board of Directors

The impact of COVID-19 continues to affect our lives in unprecedented ways. As a result of these challenging and uncertain times, and in consideration of the health and safety of the community, Boston Pride has made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Boston Pride Parade and Festival, and to postpone the celebration of Boston Pride’s 50th Anniversary to June 2021. After a process of ongoing and supportive consultation

with the City of Boston and the office of Mayor Walsh, it has become clear that this decision is necessary to protect the well-being of our community and the public at large. Since we cannot predict when large scale gatherings will no longer pose a health threat, identifying an alternative summer or fall date was not feasible. We understand at a deep level how disappointing this announcement may be, and we share the pain and sadness that comes with this development.



As the impact of COVID-19 takes shape, the primary commitment of Boston Pride is to facilitate connection, compassion, and wellness throughout the LGBTQ community and beyond. Boston Pride’s immediate focus has been on sharing COVID-19 resources for LGBTQ people in the community, and constructing more ways to support one another. We know that the effects of this pandemic - social isolation, the abrupt halt of many social services and resources, loss of jobs, etc - can be especially challenging to vulnerable LGBTQ populations, especially the elderly, the young, those who experience multiple forms of oppression, and those who have high risk health factors. Boston Pride will continue to do its part in identifying and facilitating access to resources and support.

Taking care of one another has always been a core value of LGBTQ community. We are grateful for the work the LGBTQ community is already doing to provide resources and connection. On an individual level, we encourage everyone to reach out to members of our community who may be vulnerable or in need of support. There is no stronger connection than one built from kindness and compassion.

Even though we won’t be able to be out in the streets together this June, Pride exists in all of us. Boston Pride is still as committed as ever to live our mission - to honor and celebrate our social, legal and political successes while we continue to work for social justice and human rights. The Boston Pride Board, staff, and hundreds of volunteers who comprise Pride Committees will work remotely, developing creative ways to keep



us connected. We intend to celebrate our 50th anniversary throughout all of 2020 and into 2021, so we will find innovative solutions to bring our people together to commemorate our rich history and community. For now, keep an eye out for digital programming to excite and enrich the lives of Boston's LGBTQ population.

In this time of social distancing, our community needs to come together now more than ever. We invite you to join our Boston Pride community online. Together we will come through this with a greater sense of connection, care, compassion, and resilience. #WickedProud.

Sincerely,  
Boston Pride Board of Directors  
Linda J. DeMarco, President  
Martha Plaza, Clerk  
Malcolm Carey, Treasurer  
Marco Torres  
Tina Rosado  
Deborah Drew

### 2020 Flag Raising Ceremony

The Official Kick-Off to the 50th annual Boston Pride Week We'll open up Pride with our traditional Flag Raising at City Hall. Even though we won't be able to gather in person, we'll be able to watch our mayor, elected officials, and the Boston Pride Board speak about what Pride means to the City of Boston, and why we're still #wickedproud.

Gov Baker, Mayor Walsh, Liz Malia, and Malcolm Carey will be among those speaking.

The National anthem will be sung by Davron Monroe.

Event Information  
Friday, June 5, 2020  
12Noon

This event will be LIVE streamed

### Pride Lights

Event Information  
Tuesday, June 9, 2020  
6:00p

This event will be LIVE streamed

Keeping the tradition alive, even if not in the park together, we'll stream the annual lighting of Blackstone Park. As a twist, we'll light up in Pink Lights the water fountains in BOTH Blackstone and Franklin Sq. Parks. This is done to commemorate all those we've lost too soon to AIDS.

The AIDS Crisis of the 1980s and the early 90s is a defining event in the history of the LGBTQ community. In the face of wide-spread devastation, confusion, and fear, queer people banded together in solidarity to care for the sick and to demand the attention and action of the Government. Pride Lights is a celebration of the community's strength and resilience, rooted in collective resistance, and a recognition of those whom we have lost through the years to HIV/AIDS.

A signature tradition of Boston Pride Week, Pride Lights has new home in the South End at the Blackstone Square Park. Pride Lights features performances, music and as its name implies the illumination of the park. The park lighting ceremony is meant to commemorate departed friends, family and coworkers and to increase awareness of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, which is still affecting our community today. This event is a collaboration of the City of Boston and Boston Pride.

This year the event will be hosted by long time supporter of Pride Lights, drag legend Verna Turbulence, with Performances by Queens With a Mission and LGBTQI all male dance Crew, Vocal Opposition Boston's very own Protest Choir, Raising their voices for the People. We will also have many HIV/AIDS resource tables.

### Author Talk

Author Talk with Dr. Eric Cervini followed by Q&A Discussion with Miss Rhonda Bout

The Deviant's War: The Homosexual vs. the United States of America

Event Information  
Friday, June 5, 2020  
6:00P - 7:30P

This event will be LIVE streamed  
Please Register in Advance

<https://www.bostonpride.org/author-talk-the-deviants-war/>