

NEW ENGLAND'S LGBTQ++ MAGAZINE

VOL. 17

NO. 2

# savoirflair

**LGBTQ+  
BILLBOARDS**  
Texas & Florida

**RIDES**  
Out Motorsports

**BOOKS**  
Leg

**VIDEO**  
Heartstopper

**OUR LGBTQ+  
ANCESTORS**  
Cross-Dressing Actor  
Charlotte Cushman &  
Artist Matthew Cheney

**I DO**  
LGBTQ+  
Wedding Favors

**JEWELRY**  
Donald Claflin

Really  
**Getting To<sup>^</sup> Know**  
**MAURA HEALEY**

VIDEO | WEDDINGS | BOOKS | HOME | MARKETPLACE

**FREE**



# CitySide SUBARU



**The Dealership Experience You Want  
is Waiting at Cityside Subaru**



**WE HAVE THE BEST PRICE!**

***Huge Inventory With Exceptional  
Customer Service***

(617) 826-5000 | 790 Pleasant St, (Route 60) Belmont, MA 02478  
[www.citysidesubaru.com](http://www.citysidesubaru.com)



# Designer Fabrics

IMAGE COURTESY OF THIBAUT

VISIT OUR NEW

HunterDouglas  Gallery



HunterDouglas 

## TIMELESS TRADITION | TIMELESS BEAUTY | ENDURING CRAFTSMANSHIP

Choose from thousands of designer fabrics, and we'll help you create the room of your dreams. From old and tired to fresh and beautiful, we can transform your old upholstered furniture back to the best 'like new' condition. Let our local workroom complete your home!

Draperies • Bedding • Window Seats • Cushion Reupholstery



Chocolate Milk



Orange Soda



Tomato Juice



PREMIUM FABRIC  
PROTECTION SERVICE



Red Wine



Coffee



Oil

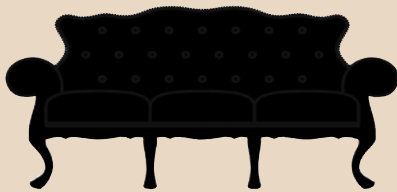
Chatham | 2504 Main Street | 508.432.0558  
Harwich Port | 306 Route 28 | 508.432.7712 | [windowtreatmentscapecod.com](http://windowtreatmentscapecod.com)

Tuesday–Friday 9 am–4 pm • Saturday 9 am–1 pm

# STEVE'S ANTIQUES

The Mall *at Echo Bridge*

## 8 UNIQUE ANTIQUE SHOPS



381 Elliot St. Suite N 150, Newton, MA

617.969.2403







# George C. Willard Co.

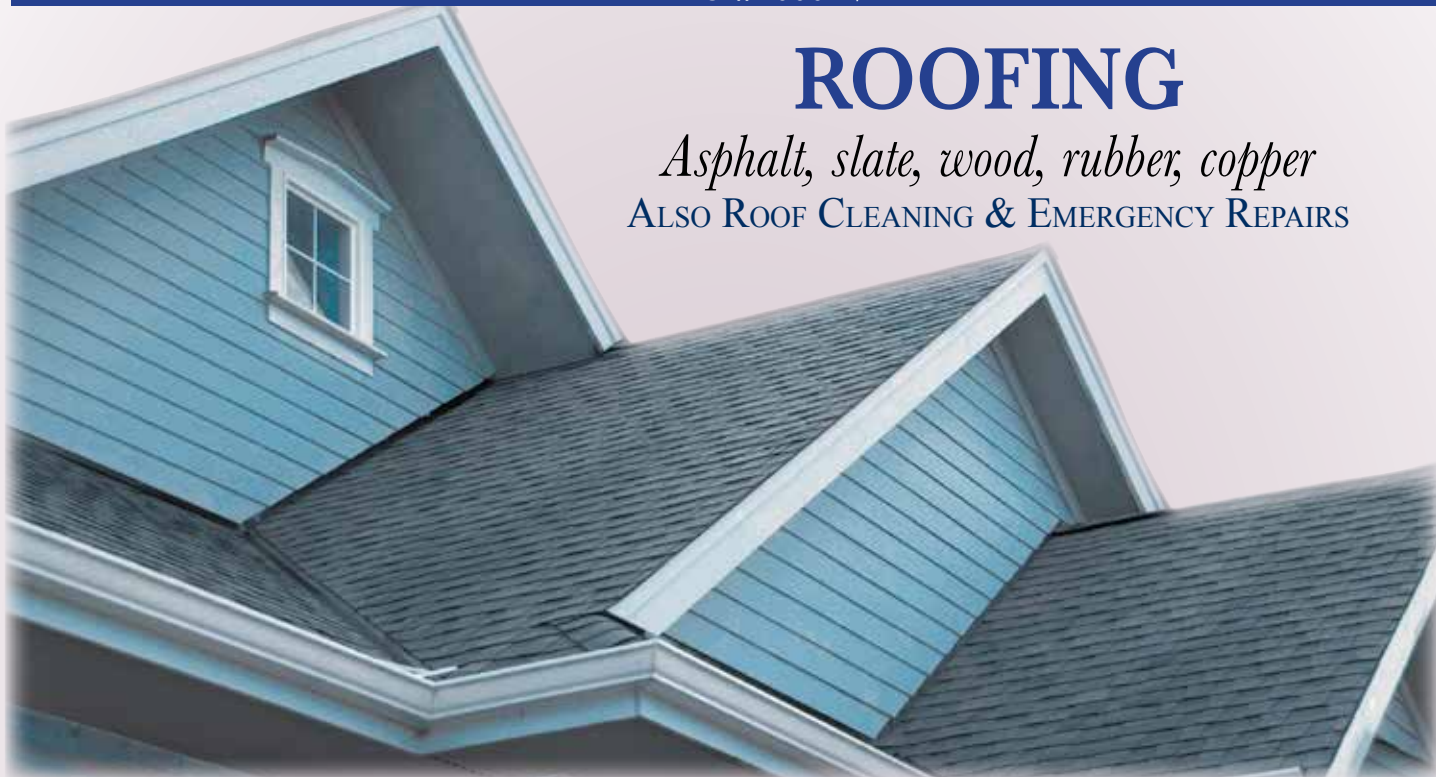
Quality Workmanship Since 1873

HIC #106642

## ROOFING

*Asphalt, slate, wood, rubber, copper*

ALSO ROOF CLEANING & EMERGENCY REPAIRS



## RESIDENTIAL | COMMERCIAL

**We are a trusted company offering quality workmanship established in 1873**

The Willard Company is fully licensed, trained and certified to give you the best products and workmanship at a fair and reasonable price. We still stand behind our workmanship longer than anyone in the industry and we pride ourselves on our service AFTER the job is complete.

---

**781- 326-2807 • 1201 East St. Dedham, MA**

**[www.willardco.com](http://www.willardco.com)**

# CONTENTS

P. 31



BOSTON  
PROVINCETOWN  
NORTHAMPTON  
PROVIDENCE  
MASSACHUSETTS  
CONNECTICUT  
MAINE  
VERMONT  
NEW HAMPSHIRE  
RHODE ISLAND

## BOOK REVIEWS 10

LEG

MOBY DYKE

GAYS ON BROADWAY

SIPPING DOM PERIGNON THROUGH A STRAW

BIG GAY WEDDING

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

## VIDEO VIEW 18

HEARTSTOPPER

BOTTOMS

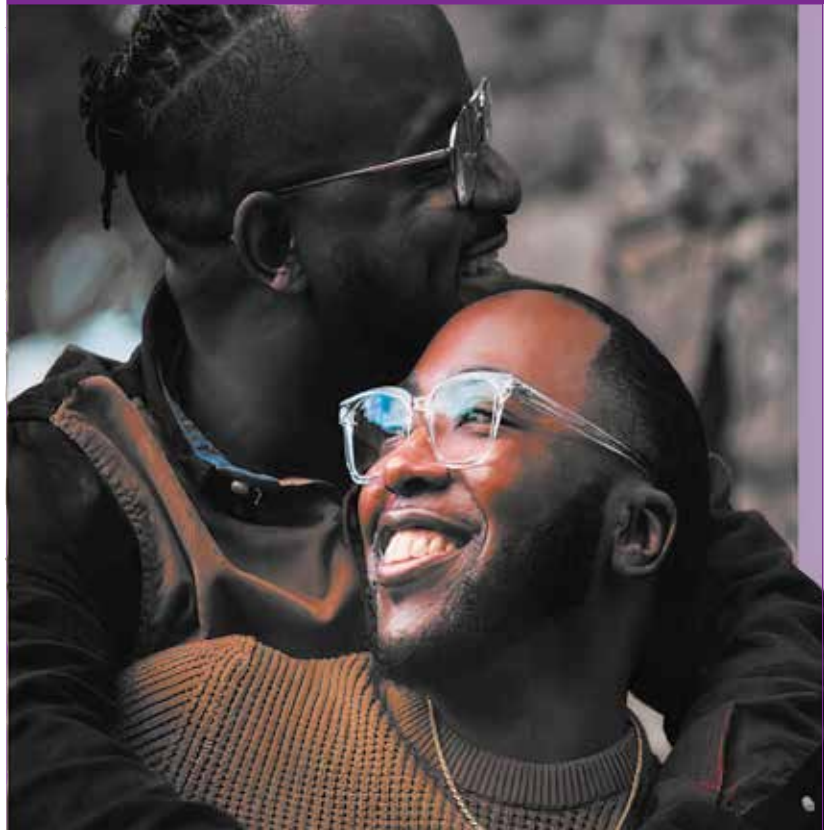
BY MARK ADAMS

## OUR LGBTQ+ ANCESTORS 22

CROSS-DRESSING ACTOR; CHARLOTTE CUSHMAN

+ PAINTER; MATTHEW CHENEY

BY JEFF PARSONS





**28** **GETTING TO KNOW MAURA HEALEY**  
THROUGH HER WORDS, ON HER FAVORITE SUBJECTS  
BY D. BULLEN

**37** **LGBTQ+ BILLBOARDS**  
FROM MASSACHUSETTS WITH LOVE  
BY MARK ADAMS

**41** **JEWELRY | DONALD CLAFLIN**  
THE MASTER OF FINE WHIMSICAL JEWELRY  
BY N. MCCARTY

**44** **I DO | LGBTQ+ WEDDING FAVORS**  
BY CHLOE BELLE

**52** **RIDES | OUT MOTORSPORTS**  
BY JOHN AXLEROD

**61** **MARKETPLACE SERVICE DIRECTORY**  
COMMUNITY OWNED AND FRIENDLY SERVICES

P. 37

# Massachusetts For us all



P. 24



#### PUBLISHER

Mary Kennedy

#### EDITOR

Nicholas McCarty

#### WRITERS

Wendy Mimran | Mark Adams | Jeff Parson | Nicholas McCarty  
Chloe Belle | Bo Rodriguez | D. Bullen  
John Axelrod | Terri Schlichenmeyer

#### SALES

Rena Berman, Emeritus Sales Director  
Wendy Mimran, Sales Development Manager  
Nicholas McCarty | Mark Davis

#### PRODUCTION

Louis Chavez | Shorty Kennedy | Bodhi Berman | Orella DeVille | Cleo Marie | Kwame Byrd  
Pixie Chavez; Proof Reader

#### PHOTOGRAPHY

Cover Photo: Wiki Photos with revisions  
Other Photos As Credited  
Stock Photos by Dreamstime.com

#### DISTRIBUTION

Graham Distribution | CTM Distribution

#### ADVERTISING INFORMATION

All inquires may be addressed to KP Media,  
PO Box 61 Provincetown, MA 02657 | (617) 423-1515 email: kpmedia@aol.com

©2023 All Rights Reserved. M. Kennedy Publishing, Inc. SavorFlair Magazine may not be reproduced in part or whole without the written permission of the publisher. Advertising content is the sole responsibility of individual advertisers.

Advertisers participating in this guide are not necessarily LGBTQ+, but openly welcome the community.

Printed in Canada with Green Technology

# FRAMERS' WORKSHOP

SINCE 1976

*At Framers' Workshop you can do your own  
framing or have us do it for you*

**DO IT YOURSELF | FRAMING MATERIALS | CUSTOM FRAMING**



Hours  
Mon-Thu 10am - 9pm  
Fri & Sat 10am - 6pm  
Sun CLOSED

**Framers' Workshop has been  
framing pictures in Boston for over 40 years.  
We do good work, and so can you.**



**617.734.4995 278 Washington St., Brookline Village, MA**  
**[www.framersbrookline.com](http://www.framersbrookline.com)**







# BEACON HILL PLUMBING AND HEATING

24 HOUR SERVICE 723/3296



Sink, Faucet & Toilet Repairs,  
Water Heaters,  
Gas Repairs,  
Steam, Hot Water & Boiler Repairs,  
Radiant Heating,  
Backflow Devices  
Sprinklers,  
Drain Cleaning.



## Matthew K. Barison, Esq.

Experienced Gay Trial Lawyer

- CRIMINAL DEFENSE •
- CIVIL LITIGATION •

District Court  
Superior Court  
Boston Municipal Court

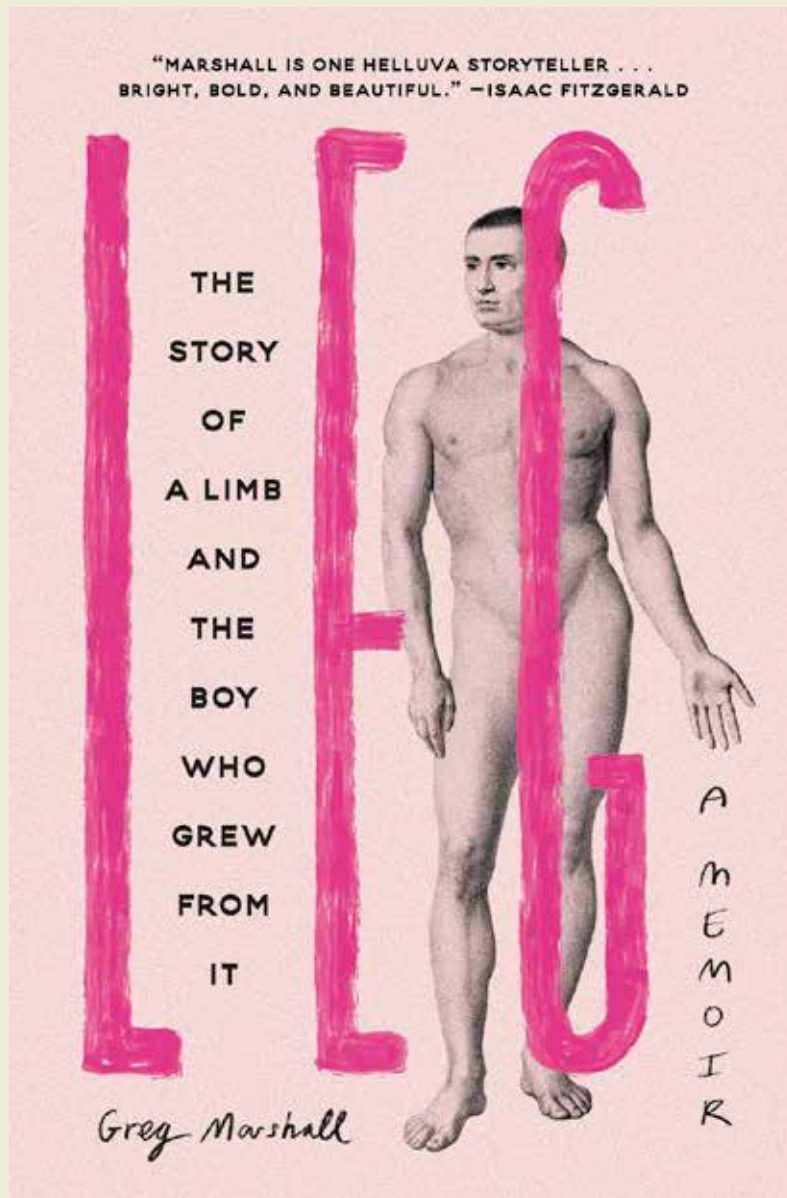
FREE ZOOM CONSULTATIONS

617-807-0949 (tel/text)  
matt@barisonlaw.com  
www.matthewbarison.com

100 Cambridge St., 14th Floor  
Boston, MA 02114

Admitted in MA and NY

Judgment Free - All Are Welcome



*Book Reviews by Terri Schlichenmeyer*

**"Leg: The Story of a Limb and the Boy Who Grew From It" by Greg Marshall**  
c.2023, Abrams Press | 304 pages

Hop, hop.

You've known how to do that for so long, you probably don't even remember when you learned it. Or was it instinctive? If you were like most kids, your childhood was filled with jumps and hops, bouncing and skipping and climbing, but as in the new book "Leg" by Greg Marshall many kids have hurdles to leap.

From the moment he was born, Greg Marshall was endowed with two things: a right leg with "tight tendons," that twisted his foot on that side; and certain oversized intimate body parts that his mother was just too eager to mention. The latter was an eye-rolling embarrassment.



The former was never really a big deal to Marshall. Other than wearing out a lot of sneakers, he walked with a limp, so what?

He was never bullied much about it, though his siblings teased him in a way that siblings will. He never let it stop him from playing tennis or exploring his Salt Lake City neighborhood. He traveled, appeared in local theater, ran for president of his class, and had an otherwise normal childhood. Still, his leg was something people noticed.

He hoped that no one would notice he was gay, but they must've: nobody seemed surprised when he came out as a teen.

By then, Marshall's mother had been fighting non-Hodgkin's lymphoma for years with surgeries and various chemotherapies that left her wrung-out and scarred. She was in the midst of another battle when Marshall's father was diagnosed with ALS, a disease that affected his muscles and that progressed quickly. As the elder Marshall slipped away – the timing of which he decided himself – the family rallied around him, teasing, deflecting, and grieving.

Marshall was in his twenties when that happened, and it highlighted his shaky, barely-controlled penchant for hypochondria that he'd had for some time. He worried about his "tight tendons" and cerebral palsy, a diagnosis he'd recently discovered. He fretted about getting AIDS. Most of all, he wondered if he'd ever find someone to love him...

Hoo boy, "Leg" is the kind of book that makes you hyperventilate. On many, very many pages, there's boisterous, Saturday-morning-cartoon-like, going-in-five-different-directions chaos that might be sibling-based, it might be parental, deeply personal, humorous, relational, or sexual – and on that note, hoo boy, there are some wildly messy and explicit pages to find here. Author Greg Marshall writes candidly about his sex life, doors wide open, sometimes literally.

Ah, but he also writes about the kind of love that's wrapped in a scrap of fleece and handled carefully, the kind that feels like it might blow away if you're not careful. That's a delicate thing in the midst of a madcap tale of a limb and the gay man attached to it, and it's sneaky, too: you'll be looking every-which-way at Marshall's life and boom! Tears.

Give yourself some time with this book, and breathe deep. Most readers will find it chaotic but thoroughly enjoyable for beach read, airport, or a staycation. Don't skip "Leg" or you'll kick yourself.

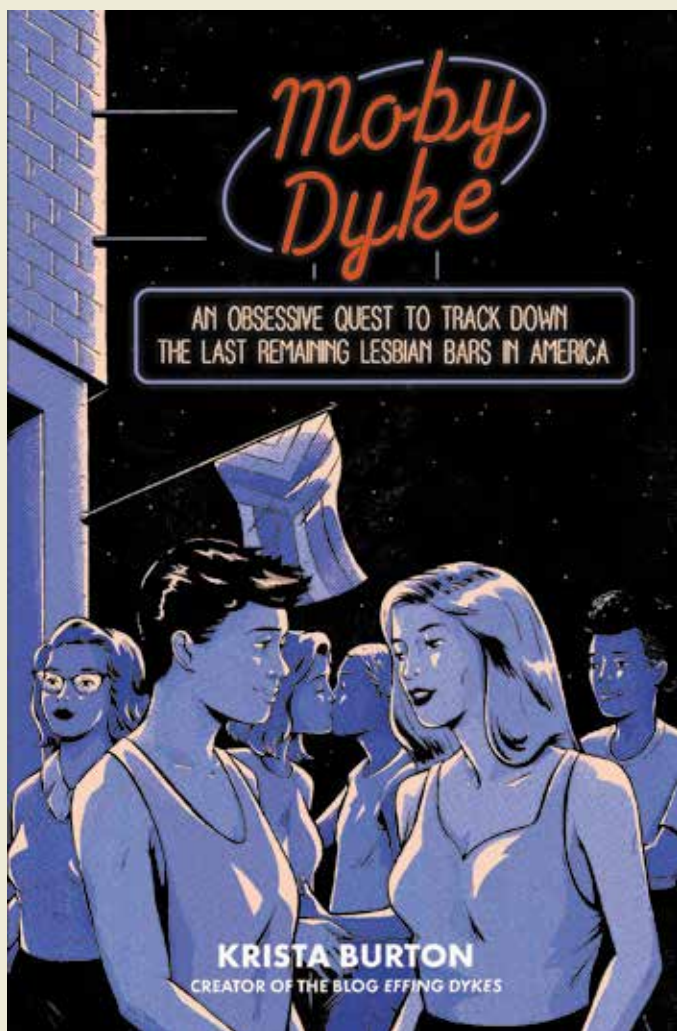
**“Moby Dyke: An Obsessive Quest to Track Down the Last Remaining Lesbian Bars in America” by Krista Burton**

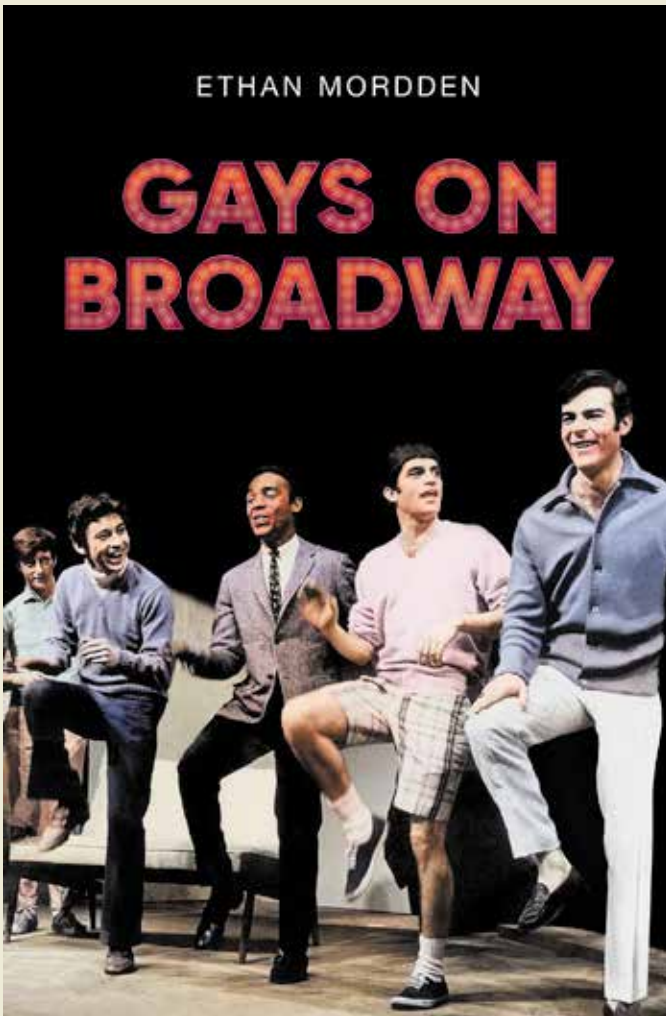
c.2023, Simon & Schuster | 320 pages

The last stool on the left, over by the neon beer sign, is yours. That's your spot, the place where you can see almost the entire place. You hold court there, have a few drinks there, and you meet new friends. On that stool, you're among your people but enjoy it while you can: in “Moby Dyke” by Krista Burton, watch how your seat is in a dwindling place.

A few years ago, toward the end of the pandemic, masking, and lock-downs, Krista Burton was asked what she missed most. Her answer was a surprise: she longed to be in a crowded “dyke bar,” shoulder-to-shoulder with people like her.

Dyke bars. Wouldn't that make a great subject for a book?





Burton found an agent but then she found bad news: supposedly, there were just twenty lesbian bars left in the entire country!

Not wanting to miss anymore opportunity, and with book contract in-hand, Burton began planning roadtrips. It was, she said, “the gayest possible dream project...”

She began in San Francisco at “the oldest... lesbian-founded, owned, and continuously operated bar” there. From her home in Minnesota, she flew to New York City to visit two lesbian bars. A visit to a San Diego bar was wrapped up with a friend’s wedding.

Burton’s husband, a trans man, loved the football atmosphere in a Milwaukee lesbian bar. She caught a drag show in Indiana. Columbus, Ohio was “extremely queer-friendly.” She endured karaoke in Nashville, and she visited a cannabis dispensary while in Denver. Seattle was a place of nostalgia. She was mistaken for straight in Houston, was impressed by a real Dallas club, almost missed visiting a Mobile bar, wanted to quit when she was in Atlanta (but didn’t), then went to Phoenix and Richmond, imagined herself as a “senator’s gay wife” in Washington D.C., and

she wrapped her tour up in Tulsa and Oklahoma City. Once, Burton says, LGBTQ+ people were persecuted and arrested for dancing, drinking, and for being themselves in a public place.

“We could all go anywhere now.”

Just twenty lesbian bars? You’re giving that “Whaaaat?” squint, aren’t you?

It’s okay, author-blogger Krista Burton addresses that number at the end of “Moby Dyke” by writing with delight that since lock-downs are over, lesbian bars have rebounded.

She doesn’t address the bars she missed in the first place... And yet, you’ll get the picture with the twenty she includes – in part, because, as she admits and as many bartenders and owners told her, lesbian bars aren’t just for lesbians anymore. To call a drinking establishment a “lesbian bar” ignores the diverse crowds, drag shows, quiet activism, and the inclusion that’s now offered alongside the fun Burton craved.

Don’t think this book is all about bar-hopping, either. It’s funny, with observations that are so sharp, they’ll cut you, and it’s part memoir. That’ll hurt your heart.

Yes, there are omissions in this book but what’s here overshadows what’s missing. If you want a fun, funny memoir-in-a-bar, grab “Moby Dyke” and pull up a stool.

**“Gays on Broadway” by Ethan Mordden**  
c.2023, Oxford University Press | 233 pages

You had to look around you and check your seat.

Yep, you were still in a theater in a large building, fanny planted in a dusty red seat. You weren’t in a Brooklyn tenement or a castle, or at a society party but the performance you caught made you think you were, at least for a couple hours. As they say, and as in the new book, “Gays on Broadway” by Ethan Mordden, the play’s the thing. Perhaps not surprisingly, the LGBTQ+ history of the Great White Way “starts with drag queens.” In the earliest parts of the twentieth century, many comedies were written “specifically calling for a male character forced... to disguise himself as a woman,” often to the delight of audiences. Still, any overt mention of such things was forbidden then.

By the 1930s, Mordden says, “our tour mostly starts now.” Not only were audiences treated to titillating hints of gayness that were barely concealed, but the “odd gay character” often showed up in plays on purpose. And



yet, behind the scenes, few gay or lesbian actors dared to come out; many of them, instead, entered “lavender marriages.”

In 1942, New York’s “Wales Law,” a sort of Hays Code for Broadway, shut down a “salute to vaudeville,” putting all of Broadway on notice. Even so, “gay characters did turn up in a few postwar titles.” This was, after all, a time when Tennessee Williams’ hand was all over theater – especially with what Mordden calls his “Beautiful Male” character: shirtless, buff, and highly memorable for gay audiences.

In the 1950s, Williams’ influence was joined by some “honestly gay characters” onstage, and by the talents of Tallulah Bankhead, who “maintained a strong association with camp humor.” By the 1960s, “gay characters were everywhere on Broadway,” the word “gay” was acceptable, and the adventurous theatergoer could find nudity off-Broadway.

A decade later, though Broadway was “still partly stuck in stereotype mode,” says Mordden, “now it was the turn of gay people.”

You’ve seen your favorite play... how many times? You’ve followed a handful of actors from off-Broadway to on, and you’ve discovered some intriguing talent. And now

you need “Gays on Broadway” to fill in the gaps of your knowledge and to see how it all began.

Starting more than a century ago – before movies were a thing and TV was invented – author Ethan Mordden acts as a sort of usher as he takes readers on a trip that goes both back- and on-stage. Mordden casually but constantly name-drops, and it’s good to see often-forgotten actors mentioned in a way that may spur you to learn more about actors and their long-ago plays. He also delightfully highlights the cleverness of actors and writers who winked at audiences when “gay” was a bad word.

Almost as much fun as collecting playbills, almost as good as a seat behind the orchestra, this is one of those books that theater-goers will want to take to the show to read during intermission. Get “Gays on Broadway” and take a seat.

## **“Sipping Dom Perignon Through a Straw: Reimagining Success as a Disabled Achiever”**

**by Eddie Ndopu**

c.2023, Legacy Lit | 240 pages

You really get around.

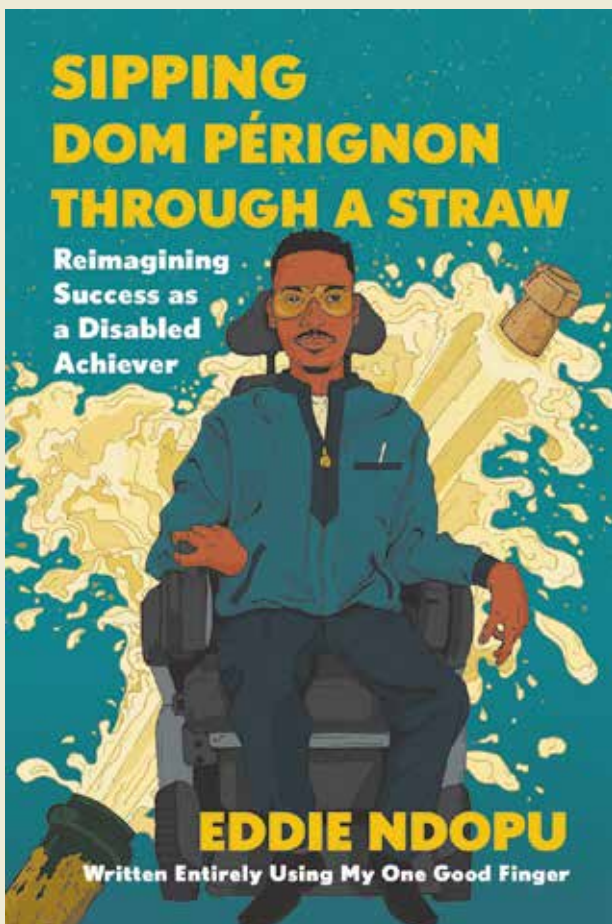
You’re here, you’re there, at all the best parties and all the biggest events. It seems like everyone knows you, too, and you call them all “friend.” You’re a mover and a shaker and you sure do get around – even if, as in the new book “Sipping Dom Perignon Through a Straw” by Eddie Ndopu, it’s on four wheels.

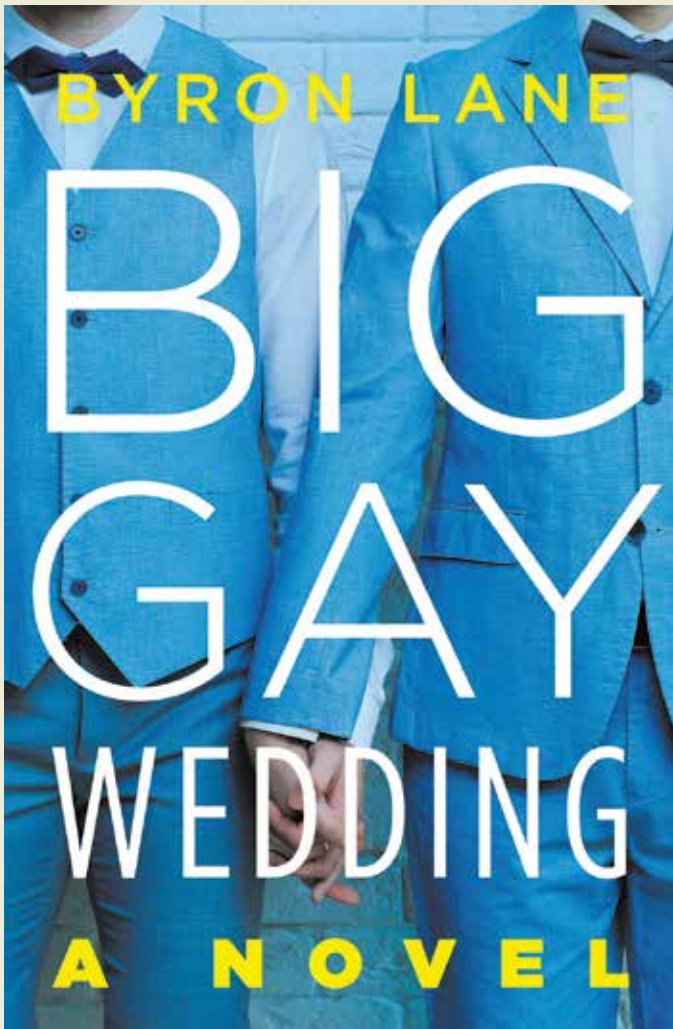
He almost let it go.

In the days after receiving an acceptance letter from “the oldest university in the English-speaking world,” Eddie Ndopu was stunned. The scholarship he’d landed from Oxford paid for his classes and room and board. He’d also get a stipend but the scholarship didn’t include one essential thing: funds for his “disability-related needs.”

Diagnosed at age two with spinal muscular atrophy, Ndopu was not expected to live beyond age five, but he defied the odds. Now his body required a wheelchair to get around, and help with his personal hygiene, bedtime, dressing, eating and drinking, and other day-to-day things he couldn’t do himself. Not only was Oxford disclusing money for that, but his regular caregiver, Lucky, was denied a visa provision.

That ultimately turned out for the better. Ndopu was in love with Lucky, who said he’d never be with another man but he suddenly was. Lucky’s insincere





vows broke Ndopu's heart and gave him impetus to seize the Oxford offer. Things could change. He'd figure it out. He said yes, and began searching for a new caregiver who'd bring him from Johannesburg to London and stay to help – but before he even got to Oxford, he was passed between two people, one of whom told him that England had laws by which caretakers had to abide. Caretaker Four decided the job wasn't for him. "Five" was homophobic. "Six" embarrassed Ndopu. "Seven" had family issues to tend to. And then the final blow arrived: a £66,000 bill (around \$84,000 U.S.) that Oxford University wanted for their help...

"Sipping Dom Perignon Through a Straw" is really quite the complexity. Author Eddie Ndopu has a lot to be proud of – his humanitarian work and activism on behalf of the disabled, his education, and his dogged wall-busting, to start – but only a fraction of this book is about those things. The rest is largely a good long rant about how a major institution colossally dropped the metaphoric ball, and about the individuals who disappointed Ndopu in

ways large and small while time he was studying there. In that, Ndopu expresses outrage – righteous and right, when he's dismissed, denigrated, or lessened – but others are not always given that grace, and seem to be dismissed and judged. Complex, see? – and conflicting.

Though readers will absolutely note the indignation and unfairness of what Ndopu endured, and may be compelled to act, don't look for a lot of joy in accomplishment inside this tale. Instead, it's an assertive, loud call for change at every level, and you should consider it as such. You'll like "Sipping Dom Perignon Through a Straw" if you can get around that.

**"Big Gay Wedding" by Byron Lane**  
c.2023, Holt Publishing | 336 pages

Few things are cast in stone.

Which means that you've usually got time to change your mind. Do a little research, listen to other voices, get educated, think about things, and pivot. No one will criticize; you may, in fact, be commended for your new open-mindedness. As in the new book, "Big Gay Wedding" by Byron Lane, you might like the new outlook, too.

Chrissy Durang, "Farmer Mom" and owner of the Polite Society Ranch near New Orleans, checked two things off a list in her notebook. The school bus filled with noisy children arrived for their tour of the ranch, check. Barnett should be arriving later, check.

Thirty-four-year-old Barnett was the light in Chrissy's world, her son, her only child, the near-exact image of his late father. She was excited for his homecoming; surely, Barnett was flying from California to tell her he was ready to take over the ranch now, take care of the animals, take care of her.

Instead, not long after he arrived, Barnett dropped a bombshell about "The Big Thing" that they never discussed: he was engaged. To be married. To another man. And he wanted to do it there in Mader, at Polite Society Ranch.

Chrissy could think of a million things she didn't like about Barnett's intended, Ezra, and they all went into her notebook. Hair a mess, check. Controlling, check.

Butt-kisser, check. Dream-killer, check. And yet, Barnett loved Ezra. It'd been a long time since Chrissy'd seen her son this happy.

She talked to her priest about the situation, but he disappointed her in a terrible way. It was clear that her fa-



## Book Reviews

ther-in-law, Paw-Paw, was supportive of Barnett and Ezra, which was no surprise; Barnett was always Paw-Paw's favorite. Chrissy didn't have many friends in her small Louisiana town, but she was absolutely sure of three things: nobody would approve of any sort of gay nuptials, Ezra's family was downright weird, and everybody in Mader would blame her for what was about to happen...

At face value, the story inside "Big Gay Wedding" seems awfully familiar: homophobic mom, gay son, wedding, Kumbaya moment, the end. Keep thinking that, though, and you'll miss one truly wonderful novel.

From the parapsydokian sentences to the Misfit Toys cast of characters, author Byron Lane takes readers from a deep dive into a box of tissues to a good snorting belly laugh, often in the same paragraph. So many unexpected, delightful things occur inside this story, in fact, that you may become disappointed when something conventional occurs. Which it does, often enough.

Gay bashing, protesters, haters, misunderstanding, it's-a-phase thinking, all the bad old tropes show up in this story, alas. Still, readers will be happy to know that they're dealt with properly, just as you'd expect from a prissy moth-

er, an alcoholic society matron, two men wild in love, a light-fingered grandfather, and a dying sheep named Elaine. Summer is always a time for weddings, and it's a great time to enjoy this sweet, funny, excellent novel. Simply, "Big Gay Wedding" rocks. 🏳️



**MOVEMENT**  
MORTGAGE



- **BUY A HOME**
- **REFINANCE**
- **MANY LOAN OPTIONS**

Mobile (617) 281-3058  
19-23 Granite St. Suite 115  
Braintree, MA 02169

[Kevin.flannery@movement.com](mailto:Kevin.flannery@movement.com)  
[www.movement.com/kevin.flannery](http://www.movement.com/kevin.flannery)



**Kevin Flannery**  
Branch Manager  
NMLS 21393

*ServiceMASTER*  
**Clean**

*ServiceMASTER*  
**Restore**



### COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL

#### SPECIALIZING IN COMMERCIAL KITCHEN CLEANING

- ✓ Carpet/Rug Cleaning ✓ Healthcare Cleaning
- ✓ House-Wide Cleaning ✓ Disinfecting Services
- ✓ Upholstery Cleaning ✓ Floor Care
- ✓ Weekly, Daily, Monthly Janitorial Services
- ✓ 24-Emergency Service and more...



**617-288-3503**

**ServiceMaster of Neponset Bay**

*Call for a free no-obligation estimate*

**LinkedIn**

Follow us on  
**twitter**

[ServicemasterClean.com/ServiceMaster-of-Neponset-Bay](http://ServicemasterClean.com/ServiceMaster-of-Neponset-Bay)

**HOURS:**

Mon-Sat 7:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Sunday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

**SERVICES:**

Free Parking

ATM

## A New Tropical Foods!



Roxbury's Neighborhood Supermarket Tropical Foods is the pioneer ethnic food retailer in Boston. Although it remains the premier supermarket for Spanish, African-American, West Indian and African cuisine.

Great selection of ethnic produce, curries, rice, beans, and hard-to-find ethnic specialties from around the world.

*Tropical Foods commits almost 2.5% of net profits to supporting more than 50 worthy causes in the Roxbury area each year.*



**Brands**



**Bulk**



**Fresh Meat**



**Produce**



**Seasonings**

Since 1974, Tropical Foods/(El Platanero) has been the supermarket of Roxbury. Always adapting to meet its customers' needs, Tropical Foods has earned the reputation of: having unique/hard-to-find product from the Caribbean, Central & South America, and Africa; while also meeting Roxbury's every day grocery needs.

In early 2015, Tropical Foods opened a brand new 27,000 sf state-of-the-art store just behind the old one. In addition to all the same great items that were carried in the old store, the new location now has a service deli department, a service fish department, and a bakery.

No wonder Tropical Foods/(El Platanero) is called "The Supermarket for Everyone!"



**450 Melnea Cass Blvd., Roxbury, MA 02119 | 617-442-7439 | [www.tropicalfoods.net](http://www.tropicalfoods.net)**



*America's Favorite Adult Store*



*In A World Where You  
Can Be Anything*  
**BE YOU**



18 Main St. Greenfield MA  
**413-774-9800**

Mon. & Tues  
10 AM - 10 PM

Wed. & Thurs.  
10 AM - 9 PM



Fri & Sat.  
10 AM - 10 PM

Sun.  
12 PM - 7 PM

*shop online with us at*  
**[www.Greenfield.AdamEveStores.com](http://www.Greenfield.AdamEveStores.com)**



*Heartstopper* cast with main characters played by Kit Connor and Joe Locke

by Mark Adams

Regular readers to my scribblings in this fine publication may have noticed that, occasionally, it might appear that I am...oh, what's the word...oh yeah, "cranky." Let's take, as an example, the current Netflix smash "Heartstopper." This series could never have been made, let shown, a decade or so ago ("Thelma, you can't believe what I just saw on the telly. There's this show on one of those streaming things about two young almost-adult males, juniors in high school, and they fall in love. Neither one is into the theater arts, One of them even plays sports. And not only that, Thelma, but one is bi-sexual, whatever that means, and two of their closest female friends are lesbians. Lesbians! And all of the episodes are about them and their love lives."

Well I watched all of the eight episodes in barely a couple of days, cried at the (spoiler alert) happy ending, and was let to believe that they lived happily ever after. At least that's what I thought they

would do, until Netflix announced that because of the tremendous audience response (and, no doubt, because of all the money they'd roll in), there would be a second series of "Heartstopper." Remembering the first season of many wonderful shows that came up with a less-than-stunning second run, I, too, had a "heartstopping" event. Would they screw this up too? Would it forever scar the feelings I had for these adorable characters? The answer was, amazing, no they did not screw it up. My friend and colleague, Chris Murphy, who lives in Florida, much to his shame, wrote an opinion column many moons ago on my much-missed-by-me Vidioview website under the nom de plume "Loren McLeod." He also loves the show, and commented to me in an email, "I need to chat about it with someone. It's such a great show. I wrote to the creator (via her agent in London)... I told her to replace Charlie Spring's missing molar. OMG how it bugs me. I get that England's on socialized medicine, and British dental work is



historically bad, but the actor who plays him should have the means. Or the production company should do it. Relative to the cost of producing the show it should be a minor expense."

Hmmm. Only Chris could be watching a tear jerker and be cranky over an actor's dental work. Chris now does phenomenal work with Animal Rescue and has given up writing and acting, but he does have amazing teeth.

Not yet on video but coming to a real theater somewhere not near you shortly is this, which I discovered on former Boston Globe critic Ty Burr's site. He suggests the movie "Bottoms." No, get your mind out of the gutter. This one is, according to Ty, "...for when you're in the mood for a good, lesbian fight club flick."

---

"Bottoms" featuring Rachel Sennott and "The Bear" breakout Ayo Edebiri star with an ensemble cast

The plot, if you care, is about a couple of queer high school girls who start a fight club so they can have sex before graduation. What one thing has to do with another is beyond me. Ty says it is "vulgar...violent and booty obsessed." Hence, the title, I assume. To add to the fun, it also "bears little resemblance to anything connected to reality," and has a cast of no one you've probably ever heard of. Sounds like it's not for everyone, and certainly you won't want to spend the 20 bucks or so at the mall cinema to see it, but it might be perfect for when "Svengoolie" doesn't have a new episode on a Saturday night. And, thanks for asking, does have a soundtrack available as well. 🏳️‍🌈

---

Mark Adams has been a popular contributor to LGBTQ+ media for many years, writing extensively on film and video of interest to the community. You can email him at [vidioview@gmail.com](mailto:vidioview@gmail.com) with any of your favorites for a future scribbling.



ROOFING • SIDING • WINDOWS • DOORS • DECKS  
SEAMLESS GUTTERS • ALL TYPES OF METAL ROOFING

**J•N•R**  
GUTTERS, INC.

**Serving all of New England  
Residential & Commercial  
for Over 36 Years**

**TRUCKLOAD  
SALE!**  
EVERYTHING  
MUST GO!  
NO BETTER  
TIME THAN NOW!

Call for a **FREE** Estimate Today!  
**978-372-4088**  
or 800-966-9238  
**JNRGutters.com**

**CertainTeed** **BEACON**

**J•N•R**  
GUTTERS, INC.

**Sir Henry  
says...  
"Throw us  
a bone!"**

**35% OFF**  
Any roof, siding, door, window,  
deck or gutter job

With this coupon. Offer must be presented at time of estimate.  
Cannot be combined with any other offers. Expires 1/15/23

**MARK'S**  
DISPOSAL, DEMO & CLEAN OUTS

**COMMERCIAL - RESIDENTIAL**  
FULLY INSURED •  
FREE ESTIMATES

**DISPOSAL • DEMOLITION • CLEANOUTS**

**PROFESSIONAL  
DEMOLITION CONTRACTOR**

24  
Years  
Experience

✓ Selective Demolition ✓ Whole or Partial Cleanouts  
✓ Trash Pick Ups ✓ Dumpster Rentals

**978-828-3398** CALL MARK OR  
CONTACT US AT  
**www.marksdisposal.com**

**NARI**  
MEMBER

**BBB**  
ACCREDITED  
BUSINESS





# QUALITY MART



Since 1992 Quality Mart has been your neighborhood grocery, deli and liquor store.



**Explore our Premium Brands, Special Blends and Wines**

Wine, Beer and Spirits Tasting Events | Preferred Shopper Membership Available  
Organic Products | Large Selection of Groceries



(617) 859-1804 | 21 Massachusetts Ave. Back Bay, Boston, MA  
[www.qualitymartinc.com](http://www.qualitymartinc.com)



SERVING NEW SEABURY & FALMOUTH

HARDSCAPE ↓ LANDSCAPE ↓ CONSTRUCTION

508-983-4023 · [www.capitalmasonry.com](http://www.capitalmasonry.com)



DRIVEWAYS



WALKWAYS



POOLS & PATIOS



PAVING

## 19th Century Cross-Dressing Actor Charlotte Cushman

by Jeff Parsons

Charlotte Cushman, considered the greatest actress in America during the mid-19th century, played both male and female dramatic roles. Charlotte Cushman was born in Boston July 23, 1816, to Mary Saunders Cushman and Elkanah Cushman, a descendant of Robert Cushman, one of the first Pilgrims. Her father was a poor boy from Plymouth who walked to Boston to make his fortune. He made it, then lost it and died when Charlotte was 13, leaving his wife and five children impoverished.

But Charlotte Cushman had a commanding presence and a remarkable contralto voice. She took music lessons from two of her father's friends and left school to pursue a career in opera. In the spring of 1835 she made her professional stage debut as The Countess Almaviva in *The Marriage of Figaro* at the Tremont Theater in Boston. She was 18 and on her way.

Her success in Boston led to a seasonal engagement in New Orleans, where her voice suddenly failed. She had ruined her contralto with parts too high for her natural range. The theater manager ad-



Charlotte Cushman, portrait by William Page, 1853

vised her to take up acting. She quickly learned the part of Lady MacBeth and played it to great success in New Orleans and then New York.

By 1843, Charlotte Cushman had an offstage lover, Rosalie Sully, the daughter of artist Thomas Sully. Later romances included sculptor Emma Stebbins and Emma Crow, daughter of Washington University founder Wayman Crow. When her romance with Sully ended, she left the United States to break into the English stage. She was a hit. In England she met Matilda Hays, an English writer, journalist and part-time actress. For 10 years they maintained a tempestuous relationship. They dressed alike and were publicly recognized as a couple. Elizabeth Barrett Browning called it a 'female marriage.'

In 1844, Charlotte Cushman returned to the American stage, where she commanded top dollar for her performances. In 1852 she decided to retire from the theater, not for the last time, and moved to Rome. There she set up a household of 'jolly bachelor woman' including Hays, sculptor Harriet Hosmer and writer Grace Greenwood.

William Wetmore Story called it 'a Harem (Scarem) of emancipated females.' Henry James called it a 'The White Marmorean Flock.' Charlotte Cushman used her fame and money to promote the work of her women artist friends. They included the African-American sculptor Edmonia Lewis and Emma Stebbins, with whom she grew attached romantically. A jealous Hays suspected Cushman's relationship with Stebbins and attacked her in a rage. Hays claimed she had given up her career for Cushman and sued her in an early



Charlotte Cushman as Romeo with actress sister Susan as Juliet, painting taken from an original hand-coloured lithograph, circa 1840, artist unknown



palimony case. Cushman paid her off with an undisclosed amount of money. Charlotte Cushman then moved in with Emma Stebbins, and they lived together until Emma died. In 1858, Cushman embarked on a tour of America, billed as the universally acknowledged 'greatest living tragic actress.'


On that tour she fell in love with Emma Crow, an 18-year-old actress. She called Emma Crow her 'little lover,' and brought her back to Italy. There Crow met Cushman's adopted son Ned, who found her attractive. Cushman encouraged the relationship and the two married in April 1861.

Charlotte Cushman was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1869, and in 1871 decided to return to the United States. She built an elaborate mansion in Newport, R.I. During the last six years of her life

she gave dramatic readings. They succeeded as much as her theater career had.

A year before she died, she went to Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Mass., to pick out her gravesite. She looked at a number of lots and tombs throughout the cemetery. Finally, she said, "Haven't you a lot for sale where one could obtain an unobstructed view of Boston?"

She then found just the thing near the highest point in the cemetery. It had a sweeping view of Boston and the widest part of the Charles River. She liked it so much she brought a group of friends to visit it.

Charlotte Cushman died of pneumonia in her hotel room at the Parker House in Boston on Feb. 18, 1876. 



**Fruit Trays Party Platters Fruit Baskets Sandwich Platters**

(781) 326-5047 220 Providence Highway Westwood, MA

(617) 436-2997 • (617) 436-3091 777 Morrissey Blvd. Dorchester, MA

**[www.lambertsfruit.com](http://www.lambertsfruit.com)**

VISA/MC

Wholesale

(Rt28)

204 Main St. North Reading, MA

978-664-5401



(Rt114)

85-87 Andover St. Danvers, MA

978-777-7206



***Costumes • Theatre • Wigs***

Your one stop shopping for HALLOWEEN and other costume, theatre, and just plain fun! WE HAVE IT ALL! Much more than you can imagine! And we ship anywhere!

***We sell year round with NO limitations!***

**[thejokerswild.com](http://thejokerswild.com)**

# Russell Cheney

American Impressionist,  
Post-Impressionist and  
New England regionalist  
painter

by Jeff Parsons

Russell Cheney (October 16, 1881 – July 12, 1945) was an American Impressionist, Post-Impressionist and New England regional painter, and the longtime partner and lover of Francis Otto (F. O.) Matthiessen, the influential educator, scholar and literary critic and author. Matthiessen was twenty years Cheney's junior, but together, the two made important contributions to American art and letters, not least by holding each other up through all sorts of challenging times.

The youngest of eleven children, Cheney was born in Manchester, Connecticut, to Knight Dexter Cheney and Ednah Dow Cheney. His grandfather and his three great-uncles had founded the Cheney silk mills in Manchester in 1831 and the family led a prosperous and comfortable existence. In the words of Helen Knapp, Cheney's well-loved niece, "They practiced benevolent feudalism in a town made up of mill hands with no labor unions. They had little if any religious faith. They believed absolutely in a High Protective Tariff and the Republican Party. All of them had goodness, kindness and generosity, and a sense of humor."

All five Cheney sons, including Russell, went to Yale and all became members of Skull & Bones. Russell was to prove the maverick, however, refusing to follow in the family tradition of going into the family silk business after graduating from Yale. According to Helen Knapp, his parents were "startled but acquiescent" when he informed them that he wanted to make a career as an artist.

After Cheney graduated from Yale in 1904, he set up his studio in a barn on his parents' estate in South Manchester. This studio was positively palatial, with shelves of leather-bound books and an oriental rug on the floor—far removed (too far, perhaps) from the gritty realism of the New York art scene.

Shortly after establishing his studio in Manchester, Cheney was diagnosed with tuberculosis, a disease that had already claimed the lives of a brother and a sister. Cheney traveled to a sanatorium in Colorado Springs, and spent nearly two years in bed, although his Yale friend Phelps Putnam, suffering badly from asthma, joined him at the sanatorium to buoy him in his isolation. During this



Above: Portrait of Russell Cheney by Henry Varnum Poor (1916)

period, Cheney spent a lot of his time absorbing a book of Cézanne reproductions. He later said that he really learned about space and mass for the first time.

In the winter of 1923–24, Cheney joined the ailing Poet Phelps Putnam and his wife, Ruth, at Cassis in the south of France. Cheney met Matthiessen aboard the ship that took him to Europe in 1924. The twenty-two-year-old Matthiessen (he preferred to be called Matty because he disliked the name Francis) was on his way to Oxford for his second year as a Rhodes Scholar at New College, having graduated from Yale, also as a member of Skull & Bones.

Both were very reticent during their first meeting. After days of intense personal conversation, where they shared some of their innermost secrets as well as laughter and camaraderie, Matthiessen was still afraid to say he was gay. At one point, he steered the conversation towards Havelock Ellis but again shrank from coming out to Cheney. Finally, at some point after 2 am on the fourth day of the voyage, they were back in Matthiessen's cabin when Cheney bit into a pear. According to their account, Matthiessen awkwardly said, "I know it won't make any difference to our friendship, but there's one thing I've got to tell you: before my senior year at Yale, I was sexually inverted. Of course, I controlled it since."

After a moment of silence that Matthiessen said was one of the most frightening of his life, Cheney confessed he too was gay. There followed two hours of even more intense conversation. Later, Cheney asked if a Bartlett pear was the antidote for the apple in the Garden of Eden.

From the time they left the boat and until Cheney died in 1945, they remained partners, writing to each other almost daily when-



ever they were apart. In their earliest letters—there would be 3,000 letters in total—they discussed the possibility of same-sex marriage. “Marriage! What a strange word to be applied to bed! Can’t you hear the hell-hounds of society having full pursuit behind us? But that’s just the point. We are beyond society.” They did not pledge monogamy to each other, though they knew from the beginning that they would be life partners.

Matthiessen affectionately nicknamed Cheney “Rat,” and Cheney called Matthiessen “Devil,” so after their deaths, their friend and executor Louis Hyde published many of these letters as the book *Rat and the Devil: Journal letters of F.O. Matthiessen and Russell Cheney*. Both men were inspired letter writers. Matty would go on to become one of the giants of American intellectual life, but few visual artists are as skilled with the pen as the brush as Cheney, and it is rare for an accomplished artist to also exhibit virtuosity with the pen. Cheney called his rapid, slap-dash handwriting “hen tracks on eternity,” but he proved to be a lively, spontaneous recorder of his thoughts, his doings and his artistic progress. Many of his letters contain small sketches and descriptions of his current work in progress. Cheney wrote to Matty while working on *Fred Reading*, 1929, “I wish I could show you this portrait...I do feel it’s solid and thorough, and it’s such a natural expression... just a sort of overflow of myself, not something [I] figured out to do. Just like a feller walking down the street and whistling a tune because he feels good. I don’t want to go out for subjects. They crowd me here.”

In 1929 Cheney had another flare-up of tuberculosis and spent the winter in Santa Fe, where he rented an adobe house. After visiting his sister in Santa Barbara, he was back in Manchester by April, having had an X-ray that showed his lungs to be disease-free.

1930 was a turning point for both Matty and Cheney. After a two-year teaching stint at Yale, Matty started teaching at Harvard,

where he is still remembered as a brilliant teacher and lecturer. In June, the two men bought the Shurtleff house on Old Ferry Lane in Kittery. It was to be their most beloved dwelling place for the rest of their lives. For Cheney, always an avid gardener, a home meant a garden of his own. His still life paintings often contain flowers painted with a loose flowing touch and glowing color.

Warm and sociable by nature, Cheney became very much part of the neighborhood. Margaret Patch remembered his small acts of kindness such as his shoveling the snow on her walkway while she was gone during a snowstorm. Nelson Cantave says that Cheney was instrumental in bringing his father over from Haiti to cook for him and that he afterwards helped his father get a job cooking at the Naval Prison. Cheney painted a portrait of his French-speaking houseman Cantave in the kitchen.

Cheney became a familiar sight on the streets of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, across the river from Kittery. A crowd often gathered around his easel, and the neighborhood boys in Kittery and Portsmouth would sit for him. One of the best-known Cheney pictures for Portsmouth people was that of Howard Lathrop, a lobster-man, painted against the background of the harbor.

Matty would come up from Cambridge at weekends, often bringing some Harvard friends with him. T.S. Eliot visited while he was Norton Professor of Poetry at Harvard. Cheney was pleased when Eliot much admired a painting of young Horace Hanlon, one of the neighborhood boys.

There was, however, a darker side to life. Matty was promoted to Senior Tutor at Eliot House, Harvard, but he often felt overworked, and the economic downturn of the Depression cast a gloom over everyone. After a busy and productive summer in Kittery, Cheney and Matty rented a house in Santa Fe for the winter. This break from the strain of teaching for Matty was good for their relationship, which was facing severe stress mainly because of Cheney’s drinking.

The following winter of 1936–37 was spent in Kittery preparing for this exhibition and a March show at the Ferargil Gallery in New York, where Cheney would be represented for the rest of his life. His work at this time gained a clear linear quality. Yet, the dark forces of alcoholism and depression were becoming overwhelming. After his older sister married and moved to France and the “big house” in Manchester was closed, Cheney entered himself at the Hartford Retreat, a well-known sanatorium.

Cheney wrote to Matty that he was “deeply grieved for this trouble I am bringing you,” but he later repaid his companion by taking care of him in December 1938, when Matty was hospitalized at McLean Hospital in Belmont, Massachusetts, for severe depression. Cheney wrote to him daily, kind, encouraging letters which show how their relationship had endured as strong as ever. After nineteen days in McLean, Matty was considered well

Below: F.O. Matthiessen with Pansy Littlefield by Russell Cheney





Above: Russell and F.O. "Matty" Matthiessen on the beach at Normandy, 1925

enough to leave, but not well enough to return to Eliot House as a resident tutor. Consequently Cheney and Matty took an apartment at 87 Pinckney Street in Boston, overlooking Louisburg Square. This was to be a home second only to the Kittery house. Cheney's fine health and good spirits extended until the autumn of 1940 when he was again hospitalized for problems due to his drinking. He was also being plagued by asthma attacks, and realized that he could not spend any more winters in New England. In 1943, he made the first of three visits to the ranch of his brother-in-law, General Halstead Dorey, near San Antonio, Texas, home of the White Museum, where he had exhibited his work as early as 1932. For some reason, he could control his drinking far better here than when he was alone in Santa Fe. One last summer in Kittery in 1944 was a happy one in contrast to the calamitous previous winter, when Cheney had been in Baldpate Sanatorium a lot of the time. Matty wrote from Toronto, where he was lecturing in October 1944, "for the most part these months at home have shown a great gain from last year and I hope that you are going west full of a happy confidence." His letters are contented and full of the doings of the ranch cats, even though he was full of yearning to be back home. In a letter dated May 6, 1945, he ends, "When the moon is full again, I'll be seeing it across Piscataqua waters with a green light and good smells of salt water." In the Kittery home, by the Piscataqua,

Cheney succumbed to a massive heart attack and died on July 12, 1945. He was buried in the family plot in Manchester. Helen Knapp, her heart breaking with the loss of her favorite uncle, accompanied Matty to the funeral where the family's hostility toward him made her feel even more protective towards this man whose whole settled life had been shattered.

After Cheney's death, Matty worked to ensure that Cheney's reputation would survive. In 1946 the Portland Museum of Art, Colby College, and even the Maine Sanatorium exhibited nearly 70 of his works.

Without the sustaining love of his friend and partner, though, which who had helped him through his 1938 breakdown, Matty was unable to fight the horrors of depression. In 1950, he ended his own life by jumping from the window of a commercial hotel near the North Station, Boston. He was forty-eight years old.

After Matty's suicide, hundreds of Cheney's remaining canvases and panels were distributed to members of the extended Cheney clan and friends or colleagues of both men, as well as to museums and universities around New England. 🏳️‍🌈

## HOBART VILLAGE MALL

*Antiques & a whole lot more!*

### 80 DEALER GROUP SHOP



### *Fine Collectibles*

JEWELRY • STERLING SILVER • 18TH-20TH CENTURY BOOK SELECTION

MILITARY • POTTERY • PORCELAIN • ORIENTAL COLLECTION

18TH-20TH CENTURY FURNITURE

WE ALSO CARRY AMERICAN MADE REPRODUCTIONS,  
FURNITURE & DECORATIONS.

978-597-0332 | 445 MAIN ST., WEST TOWNSEND, MA



"Like Us  
On Facebook"

[www.hobartvillage.com](http://www.hobartvillage.com)







**DIRECT KITCHENS**

*& Countertops Distributors*

**DECORA, SCHROCK, MANTRA, LEGACY AND WOLF CABINETRY**



**CUTTING-EDGE KITCHEN DESIGN WORK**

**CABINETS FROM THE BEST SUPPLIERS**

**NEW COUNTERTOPS FOR YOUR KITCHEN**

**THE LATEST IN 3D MODELING WORK**

*See Exactly What Your New Room Will Look Like!*

**ALL TYPES OF COUNTERTOPS FROM GRANITE, QUARTZ, SOLID SURFACE & LAMINATES**

*We come out and measure, design and also offer installation of the above*

**781-485-3303 | [www.directkitchen.net](http://www.directkitchen.net)**

**195 SQUIRE RD. REVERE, MA. 02151**



Really  
^

Getting To Know

# Maura Healey

*through her words*



by D. Bullen

Maura Healey is the first woman governor of Massachusetts, and one of two out lesbians who were sworn into office in January of this year (Tina Kotek was elected governor of Oregon at the same time). Healey has maintained her privacy through her legal career and her service as Attorney General and now Governor, but we wanted to get to know her better and find out her thoughts on personal and political matters.

### ON TAKING CARE OF PEOPLE:

“I think about what my mother did, specifically as a single mom, to raise us. She’s just a really strong woman who taught me an awful lot.

“My mother sold her wedding ring to pave half a basketball court behind our old farmhouse. She was always looking for ways to make opportunities available for us. I learned a lot about hard work and sacrifice and teamwork from her from an early age.

“I think about the people who have gone before me. I think about the people who are making this possible, the trailblazers, whether they were women in their fight for equality or members of the LGBTQ+ community who weren’t afraid to live their lives authentically. I’m grateful to them for all they did to make it possible for me.”

### ON CAREER PLANNING:

“When I graduated from college, I had to make a decision about whether to go to graduate school or do something else, get a job. And I felt a lot of pressure to do both of those things; I had just graduated from Harvard.

“I love sports. You learn about teamwork, hard work, overcoming adversity, goal setting, all of that.”

“But what I ended up doing was going to play professional basketball in Europe. People thought I was crazy to do that. “It ended up being one of the best decisions of my life. I had an opportunity to move to a new country, a new continent and have a whole new set of new, mind-opening and eye-opening experiences.”

### ON BEING ‘OTHERED’:

I also remember as a gay person, being nervous about how I might be perceived in the workplace, what clients would say if they knew. That was a long time ago and a lot has

changed, but I’ve had experiences where I was aware of being ‘other’ or being not what people expected. And ultimately, you have to find your own confidence in yourself and who you are.

### ON COMING OUT:

Healey came out after college, while she was playing basketball in Europe.

### ON LGBTQ+ RIGHTS:

“As a woman and member of the LGBTQ++ community, I am focused on leaning into all the ways that government can advance equality. This includes making sure that we have policies across all of the government, including housing, employment, education and health care, that address systemic inequities.

“It also means ensuring representation on boards and agencies that incorporate a diversity of lived experience and a commitment to standing up for the rights of those who have been marginalized for far too long. This is why I’ve instructed my team to apply an equity lens to everything we do, starting with conducting an equity assessment across all of state government to measure where gaps exist in access to our services.”

### ON EQUALITY:

“I was pleased as attorney general to lead an office that was majority women managers and leaders and staff. I am particularly mindful of representation really mattering and its importance for those who have been marginalized for too long.”

“I’m really proud of having the opportunity to build and lead an attorney general’s office that found ways day to day to make a difference in people’s lives.”

“Another thing I look back on and I’m proud of is our successful challenge to the Defense of Marriage Act. That was a case that many people thought we couldn’t win, and we took it all the way to the Supreme Court and we won. And that helped to lay the groundwork for marriage equality nationwide.”

### ON THE ISSUES – OPIOID CRISIS:

I’m also proud of the work that my team did to expose the Sackler family and bring accountability against opioid manufacturers and distributors who have





Maura greeting constituents, photo courtesy of Massachusetts Teachers Association

ruined so many people's lives in this state and around the country. We were the first state to sue the Sackler family and expose the Sackler's wrongdoings and Purdue Pharma's.

## ON THE ISSUES – GUN CONTROL:

"I am so dismayed that right now in this country more toddlers were killed last year than members of law enforcement by guns.

"Leaders in DC have abdicated their responsibility.

"Everything should be on the table, from microstamping of bullets so that we can better trace illegal gun activity, to smart gun technology

"It is just heartbreaking when it becomes so normalized when we turn on the 11 o'clock news and we see a report of another shooting. That's somebody's son, that's somebody's daughter, that's somebody's parent. It's just not right."

## ON THE ISSUES – VOTING AND ABORTION:

"It's no coincidence that the states imposing abortion bans and going after LGBTQ+ youth are also the states that have been restricting the right to vote. These aren't red states – they're voter suppression states."

## ON THE ISSUES – ON DESANTIS AND THE CULTURE WAR:

"This whole 'don't say gay' nonsense, his positions around education, the canceling of coursework on African American history, I think it's really shameful, and it certainly does a disservice to the residents of Florida, ultimately.

"Black history is American history. We are going to be proud and grateful to our Black community here in Massachusetts and find ways to celebrate and support."

Healey and several other state AGs filed a friend-of-the-court brief challenging the law.

## ON HER PARTNERSHIP WITH HER ONE-TIME DIRECTOR OF POLICY, JOANNA LYDGATE:

"Working together in the office, we were always really close. After we stopped working together we realized this is something more ... than just being best friends, and it has been a really beautiful, unexpected journey."

Joanna Lydgate says that "It was definitely a slow, gradual understanding for me because I had been married to a man for many years. But it also has been so wonderful, and like something just clicked for me in my life."

The couples remain close. Lydgate's husband and his new partner attended the inauguration celebration with Lydgate and their children. They all see a lot of each other, a modern and happy expanded family.

Lydgate's husband told the *Globe's* Yvonne Abraham, "Maura is part of our family. To our kids, she is just this person who has been in their lives since they were very young, and I am really glad they have her as a role model, and a friend, and a caregiver."

Lydgate added that the kids, "get to experience a lot of different kinds of love in their lives, and they have a lot of grown-ups who love them and take care of them."

"One of them just travels with a bit of an entourage sometimes," Healey joked.

## ON DRIVING:

Healey's entourage consists of an around-the-clock police detail. The governor is reportedly an inveterate backseat driver, and misses being behind the wheel.



**ON NOT WAITING YOUR TURN:**

“When I decided to run for office. I was seen as a very unlikely candidate having never run for office before and we were certainly an underdog. I’m so glad that I didn’t listen to people who said it wasn’t my turn.”

**ON PRIVACY:**

“As extroverted as I am, I am also a private person. I think holding on to my personal relationships and close-knit circle probably helped me get through the last eight years.”

**ON BEING A PUBLIC FIGURE IN A RELATIONSHIP:**

“If you had asked us 10 years ago, either of us, we absolutely could never have imagined or contemplated we would end up where we are now, together. I feel really, really lucky.” Lydgate adds that “Our hope and belief is that people will see the governor who is in a happy relationship, a relationship like anyone else’s, where she folds the laundry. Because of the job, her private life is more public, but it is also just her life.” What others think of Healey & Lydgate’s relationship: Arline Isaacson, co-chair of the Massachusetts Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus, said she was “thrilled” to see the article about Healey and Lydgate, noting that in an intense political environment, you need a safe haven, “a place where you can love and be loved and be protected in family.”

She described Healey and Lydgate as a “fabulous couple” dedicated to public service.

Democratic activist and writer Mary Breslauer said that growing up, there were very few outlets and avenues for gay people to express themselves, and be out and proud. She contrasted that with Massachusetts’ overwhelming support for Healey and her historic inauguration.

Healey and Tina Kotek (D-Oregon) are the first lesbian governors in the country. Healey is the first woman governor of Massachusetts.

**ON CUTTING HER TEETH IN CORPORATE LAW:**

“I wanted the opportunity to learn from the best” at Hale and Dorr (now WilmerHale), which had a reputation for employing top-notch litigators. (Hale and Dorr occupies a noteworthy place in history for representing the U.S.

Army in 1954 during televised hearings that were credited for bringing down then-Senator Joseph R. McCarthy and his anti-Communist campaign.)

**ON CORPORATE LAW:**

As a Junior Partner in a corporate law firm, Healey “played the role of advocate for the defense, representing large corporations against legal actions brought by shareholders, consumer groups, and local governments.” This history helps her bring and settle those actions on behalf of the state of Massachusetts now.

**ON BASEBALL:**

Healey represented the Sox in a suit to recover the “baseball that was in play when the team won its first World Series in 86 years in 2004. The ball ultimately went to the Baseball Hall of Fame.”

We look forward to seeing how Maura Healey grows into the position of Governor, both through her policies and programs in Massachusetts as well as on the national stage, and we also look forward to seeing how her administration opens doors for the next generation of LGBTQ+ leaders to come forward. 🏳️‍🌈



Maura with one of her youngest constituents

photo of Northeastern School of Law



MC 586694  
USDOT 1565317  
MDPU 1178



**Serving Brookline and  
beyond since 1920**





**NOTHING BUT SERVICE SINCE 1920**

**Local • Long Distance • International**

**Residential • Commercial**



**Boston 617-566-6922**

**Belmont 617-489-8090**

**Walpole 508-668-5124**

**Westwood 781-329-2090**

**[www.BrooklineMoving.com](http://www.BrooklineMoving.com)**

# Introducing Stair Carpet Excellence



17 Water St.  
Danvers, MA 01923  
(978) 774-3867  
[www.pelletierrug.com](http://www.pelletierrug.com)

**Easy Directions:** Route 128 to Danvers, **Exit 42**.  
Turn to Route **35 South**. Go 1/4 mile to **Water St**.  
**Turn right**. We are 100 yards down on the right.



Hours:  
Mon-Thurs 10am-6pm  
Fri-Sat 10am-5pm



*Honoring lives,  
SHARING STORIES,  
and Healing Hearts*

ONE FAMILY AT A TIME

Plymouth | North Plymouth | Manomet



*"A Life Celebration" Home*

John J. Vincent Jr.  
*Funeral Director/President*

Mary R. Aveni  
*Funeral Director/ Certified Funeral Celebrant*

Daniel R. Holland  
*Funeral Director/Care Center Manager*

Jeffrey D. LaForest  
*After Care Coordinator/Vice President*

Heidie L. Grant  
*Funeral Director/ Pre-Planning Coordinator/Funeral Celebrant*

Kathy Cartmell- Sirrico  
*Funeral Director*

508-746-2162 ~ [www.cartmelldavis.com](http://www.cartmelldavis.com) ~ 508-224-2252

## Gerry's Custom Cabinet


*Quality Craftsmanship Since 1974*

**CABINETS, COUNTERTOPS, SINKS AND HARDWARE**



(617) 972-1700 | 31 Coolidge Hill Road, Watertown, MA 02472  
[www.gerryscustomcabinet.com](http://www.gerryscustomcabinet.com)

**SAVE** with a New Federal Tax Credit on  
up to **\$1,200** Energy-Efficient Hunter Douglas Shades\*

HunterDouglas 



Save when temps heat up

Save when temps dip

- Help reduce your monthly utility costs with Hunter Douglas shades specifically designed to provide year-round insulation
- Contribute to a more sustainable environment by lowering your energy use

**Contact Us to Learn More**

**BARROWS**  
Custom Window Treatments

**Barrows Custom Window Treatments**

365 Boylston Street ( Rte 9)  
Newton Massachusetts 02459  
617-964-4580  
[www.barrowscwt.com](http://www.barrowscwt.com)

\*For tax credit details and restrictions and a list of qualifying products, see the Manufacturer's Certification Statement and FAQs at [www.hunterdouglas.com/tax-credit](http://www.hunterdouglas.com/tax-credit). Hunter Douglas and its dealers are not tax advisors. Consult a tax professional regarding your individual tax situation and ability to claim a tax credit related to the purchase of the qualifying Duette® Honeycomb Shades. © 2023 Hunter Douglas. All rights reserved. All trademarks used herein are the property of Hunter Douglas.



From Massachusetts with Love

# Billboards

BATTLE FOR TEXAS  
+ FLORIDA HEARTS



by Mark Adams

On Thursday, July 27, Governor Healey addressed the Irish Senate, celebrating the 30th anniversary of Ireland's decriminalization of homosexuality. At the same time, Massachusetts is launching billboards in the deep Red states of Florida and Texas, which celebrating Massachusetts as a welcoming state where the American values of liberty and equality apply to all.


"We want everyone to know," Healey said, "that they can come to Massachusetts to grow a family, to start a business, to grow a business, and to live a life with the fullness of opportunity that they should have. Right now, that isn't happening in some other parts of the country."

The billboards are a not-so-subtle dig at state leaders in Florida and Texas. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, a Republican presidential contender, has signed laws to restrict classroom discussion of sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as laws that bar

transgender women and girls from competing on school sports teams consistent with their identity. Florida leaders also recently passed a Black history curriculum that includes the White Supremacist trope that enslaved people learned valuable skills in servitude.

Earlier, Texas Governor Greg Abbott, also a Republican, signed legislation banning gender-affirming care for transgender minors. Abbott and DeSantis are just the tip of a mass of Republican-led states that have passed similar legislation targeting LGBTQ+ and Black communities.

By inviting LGBTQ+ and Black communities to Massachusetts, Governor Healey is not just signaling the acceptance and tolerance for which our state is renowned. The move is also calculated to address shortages of workers in teaching, healthcare, and other professions, since Massachusetts unfortunately leads the country in out-migration, according to a new report from the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation. In just the first two years of the pandemic, Massachusetts lost net 110,000 people, the majority between the ages of 26 and 35.

By launching billboards in states that are hostile to LGBTQ+ and Black communities, Massachusetts is tapping into the American dream, that states should protect its citizens' life, liberties, happiness, and prosperity, encouraging people to flourish, instead of sowing division and discrimination. 

... he really understood what we were looking for ... never pushed us to settle ...

... Michael was proactive and took initiative on several issues which helped us get over the hurdles ...



**Wilton Manors  
South Beach  
Boca Raton  
Delray Beach  
Palm Beach**

**No matter where you want to live in South Florida, Michael Coppola is the one to call.**

**With over 30 years of Real Estate experience he will help you find the perfect retirement spot or vacation home in the sun.**

**And if you need to sell your New England home he is also licensed in MA, NH and ME so his Northern Team can help you there too.**

**Real-ativity**  
intelligent real estate

**603-365-6040**



... Michael is personable and knowledgeable ... great communicator, kept us informed the entire process ...

**Michael@Real-Ativity.com    www.real-ativity.com    561-332-0048 office**



## Real Estate with Michael Coppola

[www.real-ativity.com](http://www.real-ativity.com)

How long have you been selling real estate Did you always work in real estate? Why real estate?

MC: I owned an Advertising/PR Agency in Newburyport, MA and when I closed that in 1991 a friend of mine who had a real estate office told me to go get my license and come work for him. I figured why not, it'll be something to do while I'm trying to figure out what to do. Thirty-two years later I'm still selling real estate. I have my Brokers license in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine and now Florida.

What is your title and your role?

MC: I am an Associate Broker since I do not own or run a real estate office. I list and sell homes.

Why are you different from other real estate companies?

MC: Real-Ativity, the company that I currently work under in Florida is an information based agency. We specialize in 55+ communities in South Florida, but we sell everything! On our site you'll find the all the information on most of the 55+ communities in the area. It really is a one-stop site for home and neighborhood information. It's a great tool for buyers just starting to look and get a feel for neighborhoods and communities.

As a community member do you have special insight?

MC: As a gay realtor, I know what members of our community are looking for in a home, neighborhood or a city. I have been in your shoes as a buyer and as a seller. As realtors there are a lot of questions we cannot answer or topics that we cannot discuss due to our Realtor Code of Ethics and Federal laws covering fair housing and discrimination, so being part of the LGBTQ+ community allows me to have insight as to what questions you might want to ask and allows me to speak openly about the area and my experiences which might answer some of those questions without breaking any of the rules.

Do you have many LGBTQ+ clients?

MC: My clients over 30+ years have varied and have come from all walks of life. I am a member of the Gay Real Estate Network [www.gayrealestate.com](http://www.gayrealestate.com) and I get quite a few leads from there. Hopefully some of your readers will become clients in the near future.

What are some our communities' likes/dislikes?

MC: I don't think the LGBTQ+ community's likes or dislikes are much different than the rest of homebuyers. We are all looking for a safe place to call home, a welcoming community, good amenities and of course a great deal.



l to r: Michael Coppola with partner Scott Lappin

Can you tell us about your sales to our community?

MC: Right now I am handling many clients who are looking to either relocate to South Florida or purchase a second or vacation home in the sun. With my licensing in MA, NH and ME, I have a network of agents in those states who can work a sale in the northeast while I handle the search here in South Florida. If you are doing a transitional sale (selling up here and buying down there) It's a good idea if you can have one agent as a center or hub to keep everything moving smoothly on both ends. That's what I try to be.

We have heard that you have a high level of client satisfaction, what's your secret?

MC: Communication is the key. Whether it's a text, a call or a message, the client needs to know what is happening every step of the way. I try not to make the client feel like they are bothering me and I let them know I am their advocate and teammate throughout this process. I have also become friends with many of my clients and that's always nice to know that they still want to hang out with me after the sale.

What makes you proud of working in real estate?

MC: I am proud to represent buyers and sellers and help make their futures happen. It's always a great feeling after a closing when a client says they couldn't have done it without me. I guess that's then Libra in me – always wanting to help and keep everything on an even keel.

What is the biggest challenge in the real estate business?

MC: I think one of the biggest challenges in real estate today is the internet. The internet has a multitude of info out there and everyone is an expert in everything. Just be careful what you are reading or listening to and make sure the sources are reliable. The internet is a great tool for both the customer and the agent when used properly. Remember each property is unique and each buyer or seller is just as unique so generic information or national statistics aren't always relative to you or your situation.



# AUDIO VIDEO THERAPY<sub>LLC</sub>

BECAUSE MUSIC AND MOVIES MATTER

Home Theater, Music systems,  
Whole House Audio and Automation

11 Demo rooms in tax free NH  
and in home consultation also available.

[www.avtherapy.net](http://www.avtherapy.net) ph:603.888.9777

216 Daniel Webster Highway Nashua, NH 03060



# The master of fine whimsical jewelry

## DONALD CLAFLIN JEWELRY DESIGNER

By Nicholas McCarty

Donald Claflin (1935-1979) is a Massachusetts native who studied at Parsons School of Design. He began work as an illustrator and textile designer and moved into jewelry at David Webb, before joining Tiffany & Company in 1966. He spent 11 years at Tiffany & Co. as a designer. His work is best known for his witty, whimsical figurative jewelry in vivid gemstones or gold. He was considered a man of a “certain disposition,” an euphemism for a gay man at the time, in certain elite circles.

Donald Claflin’s goal was to make his jewelry stand out. He may have also wanted to leave a legacy. Claflin and other great designers achieve this by first finding their own voice. It’s not an easy task. He could draw inspiration from many sources but he had to go beyond what was already done.

Donald Claflin was one of the many innovative Mid-century designer using precious metals, gemstones, and other materials to tell his story. The jewelry was



Actress Audrey Hepburn with Donald Claflin, Photo courtesy of Tiffany & Co.

# CHRISTIAN BAUER

Passion for true values since 1880 | [www.christianbauer.us](http://www.christianbauer.us)



**E.B. HORN**  
Jewelers Since 1839

429 Washington Street, Downtown Crossing, Boston  
617.542.3902 • [www.ebhorn.com](http://www.ebhorn.com)



a testament to the fact that jewelry could be both serious and crafted with care, yet still have a lighthearted whimsical touch. Designers had been creating pieces with realistic portrayals of fruit, flowers, animals, and other objects for years before Claflin's famed collection. Claflin's departure was his tongue-in cheek depiction. He also became known for designing jewelry based on popular children's stories, such as Alice in Wonderland, Humpty Dumpty and Chicken Little. Claflin left Tiffany's in 1977 and joined jewelry company Bulgari. In the 1980s Andy Warhol is quoted as saying about Bulgari's Claflin's designs, "I think your jewelry is the 1980s," ... "Everybody's trying to copy this look."

Claflin had a bold theory that serious jewelry collectors would be drawn to whimsical pieces, so much that they would collect his lighter pieces. Even today, vintage pieces sold at auctions will state "In the style of Claflin" as a way to describe the piece's genre. Claflin lived a full life, despite his sudden death at 44. Wilson's Estate Jewelry, which sells vintage jew-



elry, wrote about him: 'One designer Donald Claflin tapped into his childlike side and created whimsical pieces that entertained even the most obstinate viewer.'

His career was like a Who's Who list of famous design houses. Claflin designed jewelry for David Webb before moving to Van Cleef & Arpels. Claflin then went on to work for Tiffany & Co., a key moment in both Tiffany's and Claflin's careers, as he was one of the very first American jewelers who worked with tanzanite – that indigo stone from Tanzania. Claflin launched his Tiffany line in 1968. Carven French was his partner in the creation of his humorous pieces, using a variety of materials. Although his designs were unconventional, it took a lot of skill to create them.



Claflin, who is known for his unique designs, also created other popular pieces during his eleven years with Tiffany & Co. Claflin passed away in 1979, while still working at Bulgari.

The times have changed, and many new designers are making their mark on the international stage of major jewelers. Claflin is still a major player in the world of jewelry. The Donald Claflin Jewelry Studio at Dartmouth College trains students in jewelry manufacturing. Christies said about Claflin, "Most famous for whimsical renderings animals and mythical beings, Claflin has also created a collection of jewels that are inspired by children's books such as Alice in Wonderland or Stuart Little." ‘

Claflin's works are still highly sought after by serious collectors today. Many of his pieces sell in the \$17,000-\$27,000 range, but some iconic pieces can soar to incredible heights during fervent bidding. 🇳🇮



# MARCEY

Est. 1937 OIL & PROPANE CO. Provincetown



Four Generations Proudly Serving

**PROVINCETOWN**

**TRURO**

**WELLFLEET**

24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE



Franklin Street, Provincetown

508-487-0219 • [www.marceyoil.com](http://www.marceyoil.com)



Need an  
**Exceptional**  
Realtor?

Meet  
**Jim Ryan**

Realtor® Lic # 92902

Professionalism, Expertise, Trust.  
**Make YOUR Move Today!**

Give me a call to get started.

**978.866.0554**

e: [jim.ryan@nemoves.com](mailto:jim.ryan@nemoves.com)

w: [jimryanhomes.net](http://jimryanhomes.net)



**COLDWELL BANKER**  
**REALTY**



# H. BRANDT JEWELERS

Hours:

Monday – Friday  
10:00 – 5:00

Late evening  
or Sunday by  
appointment



**WEDDING & ENGAGEMENT RINGS | CUSTOM MADE JEWELRY**

*Exclusively Graded By De Beers Group Industry Services*

**RARE & FOREVER™**

(508) 653-1410 | 31 Main St., Natick, MA  
[www.hbrandtjewelers.com](http://www.hbrandtjewelers.com)

# I DO LGBTQ+ *Wedding Favors*



by Chloe Belle

Your special day should be memorable for a thousand little moments you get to orchestrate in advance. Wedding favors give your guests an opportunity to carry the celebration home, let the sweetness linger, and serve as a reminder of the celebration that surrounded your vows.

LGBTQ+ couples have a range of options for favors that will celebrate the marriage while also celebrating the victories in activism and advocacy that led to the Supreme Court's 2015 Obergefell decision, which disposed of America's shifting patchwork of marriage laws to make same-sex marriage the law of the land.

Here are 15 favors to send your guests home with:



## 1. I'M WITH THE BRIDE(S)/GROOMS(S) SET OF 100 ONE-INCH, BUTTONS

These buttons, listed on Etsy, are perfect for the ladies or gents who are getting hitched! They are made by hand from pretty, off-white parchment paper that goes with just about any wedding theme. The seller also offers an "I'm With The Groom(s)" button as well.





## 2. MR. AND MR. GAY WEDDING MATCHBOXES

Personalize your wedding day with wedding matchboxes for the smokers, incense burners, or campers in your wedding party. Sold in sets of 50, also through Etsy.



## 3. RAINBOW ROCK CANDY

These Pride wedding favor rock sweets, with pink lemonade flavor and LOVE written in the middle, will literally send your guests home with a slow-dissolving tangy sweet taste in their mouth. Sold through Etsy in batches of 100, these sweets are suitable for any weddings or any rainbow-themed events.

## 4. RAINBOW PRIDE GLYCERIN SOAP BAR

This Pride glycerine soap makes a fun memento that will be useful for weeks after the big day. Made with skin-loving, plant-based oils, vegetable glycerin, and oat protein, Rainbow Pride glycerin soap is sprinkled with biodegradable rainbow glitter on top for decoration. It is scented with a fun and fruity scent of pear, green grapes, kiwi, raspberry and peach. \*\*For each Pride Flag soap sold, \$1 will be donated to The Trevor Project.



## 5. BOOKMARKS — CUSTOM QUOTE WOOD

A bookmark is a lasting way to memorialize your big day. They are sure to find their place in the books your guests are reading on the way home from the wedding, then resurface in book after book through the years. With your personalized message engraved on alder wood, these bookmarks have a deep, crisp engraving that will keep your message clear forever.





## 6. PRIDE HEART—LOVE IS SWEET LGBTQ+ FAVOR CLASSIC ROUND STICKER RAINBOW

These little rainbow stickers can go on anything else you might send home with your guests, from bags of shells for seashore weddings to bags of sweets or seeds. These custom stickers with the rainbow hearts come in diameters of 1.5" or 3".



## 7. HEART ORNAMENT—MAGNET, ONE OF A KIND ORIGINAL PAINTINGS

These colorful heart magnets, sold through Etsy, will adorn your guests' refrigerators for years to come, bring bright, celebratory color to kitchens that memorialize your special day. Each hand-painted heart is an original work of art painted on 400lb watercolor paper, sealed with gloss, trimmed with metallic paint, and mounted to a ceramic magnet. Metal hooks are included so your guests can also hang them as ornaments. Each piece is signed and comes with an inspirational note card "Ways to create a life filled with love."


## 8. 100 MARBLE-SIZED SEED BOMBS

Sold in batches of 100, are created from recycled paper scraps and come in approximately equal numbers of the six colors of the rainbow.

Seeds may include white yarrow, purple coneflower, shirley poppy, foxglove, red prairie coneflower, Maltese crosee, catchfly, snapdragon, and sweet alyssum. They can be planted deliberately during spring or fall, or they can be 'guerilla' planted by soaking them in water in advance, then 'bombing' any area outside that needs a little color. The seed balls will splatter—thus looking like little bombs when off!



## 9. CUSTOM PHOTO — WEDDING CHOCOLATE FAVORS ON MINIATURES

These customizable candy wrappers, sold through Zazzle, let you personalize an assortment of Milk Chocolate, Krackel®, Special Dark®, and Mr. Goodbar® candies with a picture that celebrates your union. 





# Salem Cross Inn

RESTAURANT & TAVERN

*Timeless, Elegant, Unforgettable*



**Route 9 - 260 West Main Street  
West Brookfield - MA 01585**

Contact Donna for more info at (508) 867-2345  
or email [donna@salemcrossinn.com](mailto:donna@salemcrossinn.com)

**[www.salemcrossinn.com](http://www.salemcrossinn.com)**



**CINDI'S**  **DIAMOND & JEWELRY**  
GALLERY

Custom Design Jewelry & Diamond Bridal

40 Central Street Foxborough MA  
508.543.4943 | [www.cindisjewelryshop.com](http://www.cindisjewelryshop.com)

## Reverend Lucinda Graham

*Your Professional Wedding Officiant on Cape Cod*

*Between your ideas and maybe some of mine,  
you will have that special ceremony just for you.*



*Wherever you choose to have your wedding ceremony on Cape Cod, on a sandy beach, a lovely back yard, or at a quaint Inn, together we will create your own beautiful, specialized and personalized ceremony.*

142 Brier Lane Brewster, MA  
(508) 896-8121 | Text (508) 737-4027  
e-mail: [brwstr@verizon.net](mailto:brwstr@verizon.net) | [www.weddingsbydesign.info](http://www.weddingsbydesign.info)



## 10. LOVE WITH RAINBOW HEART

### Wedding Names Dates Can Cooler

This customizable beer cozy, sold through Zazzle, will keep your guests' drinks cool for years while memorializing your special day. The cozy is made of special high-density material for extra insulation, with edge-to-edge full-color print to flatter the most beautiful of designs.



## 11. SAVE THE DATE,

### Personalized Bottle Opener Magnet

This Bottle Opener Magnet, sold through Etsy, is an LGBTQ+ love-themed bottle opener magnet that looks like a record. It works as both a memento of the event and also a save-the-date magnet.

## 12. GLITTER RAINBOW PRIDE FLAG LIP BALM

This rainbow lip gloss says yes to totally kissable lips that celebrate love! They are sold through Zazzle, made from natural beeswax in eight delectable flavors, and they are gluten- and paraben and petrochemical-free, without animal testing.



## 13. SAME SEX RAINBOW COLOR WEDDING KISS CANDY LABEL WRAPPER FAVORS STICKERS

These stickers, sold in sheets of 108 through Etsy, allow you to turn simple Hershey Kisses into sweet, unique mementoes of your special day.







Since 1923

# Bonardi's

Wedding Tuxedo Specialist

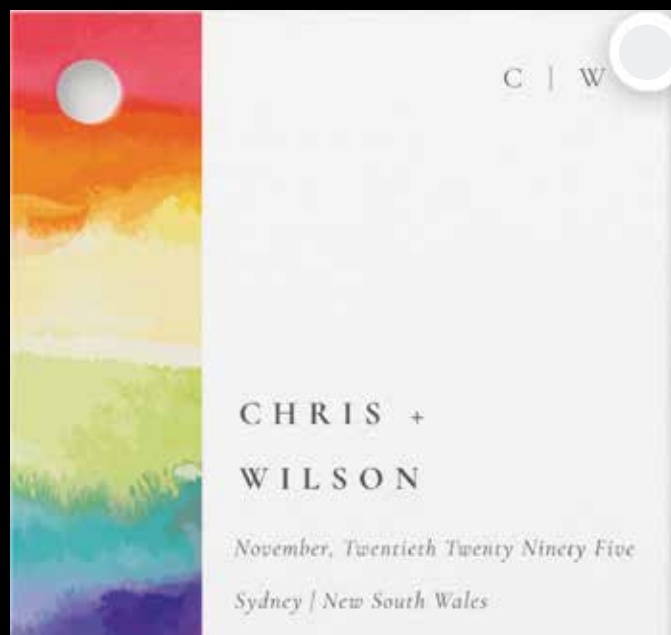
## Suit Rentals and Sales

Wedding Tuxedos  
Suit & Tuxedos Rentals  
Worldwide Service

*Dressing Men For  
Special Occasions*

*Womens tuxedos also available*


Worcester • Milford • Sturbridge  
800.752.4036 | [www.bonardis.com](http://www.bonardis.com)



## 14. ELEGANT COLORFUL PRIDE RAINBOW WEDDING FAVOR TAGS

These two-inch-square Favor Tags, sold through Zazzle in sets of 12, let you adorn a bag of goodies with a special message printed on standard matte double-sided card stock, with a personalized message to memorialize the day.

## 15. RAINBOW HEART WEDDING FAVOR BAGS

Cookie Bags, Candy Bags, Dessert Bags, Donut Bags To hold all these goodies, these cookie/candy/dessert/donut bags—lined to prevent grease or moisture stains—can be personalized to coordinate with the design for the rest of your event. 





*Nahant Country Club Estate*

**WEDDINGS AND EVENTS**

*Make Our Mansion Yours...*









781-581-0515

| 280 NAHANT RD, NAHANT, MA

| [www.nahantcountryclub.com](http://www.nahantcountryclub.com)





# *John's Auto Sales*



***WE SPEAK ENGLISH, SPANISH, GREEK, PORTUGUESE***

**WE SHIP CARS  
NATIONWIDE!**



**CASH FOR  
YOUR CAR**

**We Finance all types of  
credit situations  
Cars • Trucks • Suv's**

**Cell: 617-512-5511 • 181 Somerville Ave. Somerville, MA  
[www.johnsautosales.com](http://www.johnsautosales.com)**

# Out Motorsports

*LGBTQ+ love of all things car-related*

by John Axelrod

Turning the Rainbow Flag checkered flag rainbow: Long before Nascar rebranded as Yaaascar—complete with a rainbow-colored checkered flag for pride month—motor-heads Tyler Longmire and Jake Thiewes co-founded Out Motorsports, as an organization—part online blog, part Youtube channel, and part social club—where queer folks could let their love of all things car-related co-exist openly with the rest of their lives.

## Car culture

The automotive world has not been out and proud, with many racers keeping their private lives quiet for fear of losing sponsorships or jobs. As Thiewes points out in an interview, insiders in the automotive world know of “some big-name people who are pro or semi-pro who, those of us in the industry know about,” but coming continues to be a risk.



Tyler Longmire with his Madza Photo: Out Motorsports



## 24 Hour Towing & Road Service

Recovery • Road Service

Low Clearance Garage Vehicles

State of the Art Video Surveillance

24 hour Service



**(617) 522-4100**

**3430 WASHINGTON ST., JAMAICA PLAIN, MA 02130**

**www.stanleystowing.com**



# We'll Get You Back On The Road Again!

- Dependable Claims Assistance Since 1948  
Mass Repair Shop #5049
- Referred by Insurance Companies
- Written Warranty • Rentals Available
- Convenient to MBTA Orange Line Forest Hills



**[www.acmebody.com](http://www.acmebody.com)**

3430 Washington St. Jamaica Plain, MA

**617-522-6040**





**We take pride in providing you a one-stop repair experience!**

★ **Collision Shop** ★ **Mechanical Shop**  
★ **Vehicle Detailing** ★ **Towing**



## **Our cars – we love them!**

We rely on them, and when something goes wrong –  
it upsets and disrupts our lives.

**That's when you need Al Brodeur's Auto Body and Repair.**

We're manufacturer certified, specializing in collision auto body, as well as repairs, maintenance, tires, brakes, exhaust, and much more. By combining state-of-the-art technology with unmatched craftsmanship, your car gets the best care possible. But above all, it's our commitment to customer service that truly sets us apart. From insurance claims and repair estimates, through final inspection, we're with you every step of the way.

*At Al Brodeur's, it's all about quality, value, and getting you back on the road with a smile.  
It's no wonder our customers span generations.*



**(508) 485-1082 | 412 South St. Marlborough, MA 01752**  
**[www.albrodeur.com](http://www.albrodeur.com)**



# Al Brodeur's Auto Body

*Jeff Parsons with Molly Brodeur-Nesbitt*

Al Brodeur Auto Body, Inc. has been awarded the Best Small Business by the Marlborough Regional Chamber of Commerce for our work throughout the pandemic in supporting the community at large. Donating over \$45 thousand in gas cards, restaurant gift cards, grocery gift cards, detailing gift certificates, and more to the first responders, nurses, truckers, school teachers, grocery store and retail workers in the region who worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to keep the community moving. The company also works very closely with the Marlborough Rotary Club, Sweats for Vets, the National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI), Fresh Start Furniture Bank and many other civic organizations in an around the region.



Molly Brodeur-Nesbitt  
President and Owner

## What is your title and your role at Al Brodeur's Auto Body?

Molly Brodeur-Nesbitt, President and Owner of Al Brodeur's Auto Body, Inc.

## How long has Al Brodeur's Auto Body been in business and what is the history of the company?

We have been in business for 52 years. My father, Al Brodeur, opened the shop in 1970 when he was 19 years old. Al Brodeur's Auto Body is family owned and operated and we are proud to have achieved I-CAR Gold Class status and numerous manufacturer certifications in collision repair.

## Do you have many LGBTQ++ clients?

We are proud to have many LGBTQ++ clients. Most recently, a client of ours transitioned and it was so wonderful to witness them coming into their own. The LGBTQ++ community holds a special place in my heart and we are here to serve all!

## What are your services?

Manufacturer certified collision repair, mechanical repair, auto detailing and towing.

## What makes Al Brodeur's Auto Body different from other businesses?

We are hyper-focused on our customers, providing a stress-free repair experience. We handle all aspects of the repair and claim process, including negotiating with insurance companies to ensure safe and proper repairs. We offer rental vehicles in partnership with Enterprise Rental.


## We have heard that you have a high level of client satisfaction, what's your secret?

I think our secret starts with an employee focused culture – we value each member of our team and have worked very hard to create an inclusive, supportive environment, which translates over to how we treat our customers. Being involved in an accident can be traumatic, it disrupts our lives and it's not something most folks experience often. We work very hard to ease the distress.

## What makes you proud of being a part of Al Brodeur's Auto Body?

I am proud of our 52 years of providing exceptional service and proper repairs, along with our outstanding team! We are also part of an elite group of collision repairers that have achieved I-CAR Gold Class status and Manufacturer certifications, with our technicians all receiving the Platinum Training Designation. Less than 10% of collision repairers nationwide fall into this category!

## What is the biggest challenge you face in the auto body business?

The biggest challenge we face is negotiating with insurance companies to repair vehicles in accordance with manufacturer recommendations. Here in Massachusetts, we receive the lowest labor rate reimbursement from insurers for repairing vehicles nationwide. This suppressed rate, which has been in place for close to 30 years, does a great disservice to the motoring public as it puts undue pressure on repairers and leads to unsafe repairs, performed by untrained technicians. As an industry, we've been lobbying diligently to get this disparity addressed. 



Iconic lesbian driver Lella Lombardi 1941-1992 Photo: Wiki

Hurley Haywood, who won five overall victories at the Rolex 24 at Daytona, three at the 24 Hours of Le Mans, and two at the 12 Hours of Sebring, in addition to being the third driver to complete the informal triple Crown of endurance racing—only came out in 2018, decades after he finished racing.

Car culture has always been seen as the territory of the uber-masculine straight white male. Gay automotive journalist Kevin Williams remembers his childhood fascination with cars as an opportunity to bond with his father while also recalling his “15-year-old self, nose deep in the MotorTrend and Autoweek forums, convinced that cars would make me un-gay.”

Trans female driver Roberta Crowell helped combat stigmas around trans people, by having had a successful racing career before WWII, before becoming the first person to undergo gender reassignment surgery in Britain, in 1951, and Lella Lombardi turned her love for driving her family’s butcher delivery truck into a successful career as an F1 driver, but lesbian drivers have also seen the double bind that traps women drivers like Danica Patrick, who had to strike a delicate balance, being feminine without being dismissible as merely sexy, and being tough and competitive without abandoning her femininity.

LGBTQ+ motorheads and women enthusiasts often have to face down the seemingly innocuous question: “why does it have to be about identity? Why can’t it just be about the cars?” when in many cases this inability to comprehend difference was a cover for a persistent culture that normalized homophobic discrimination and

For Thiewes and Longmire, this was a question of authenticity. “My answer to the ‘keep it to cars,’” Jake says, “is that cars are political no matter what...What if I want to bring my boyfriend to one of these events?” — or even to speak about him, without being apprehensive about what the pronouns will reveal.

For Alfa Romeo Racing’s Krystina Emmanouilides, who is a

lesbian, this is an opportunity for leaders to change the sport through visibility, communication, and inclusion, as well as through contracts that set the standards for behavior, and make it clear that discrimination and hostile workplaces are unacceptable.

## Out Motorsports

Jake Thiewes and Tyler Longmire met when they were young, in a BMW forum online. They always shared a passion for cars, and were fortunate in their early racing communities. Thiewes says that, “we had both been showing up to events as our authentic selves. We brought boyfriends to the race track, didn’t choose our words to avoid gendered references, and were met with nothing but acceptance from our chosen track families.”

At first, they shared their experiences on a blog about track days and autocrosses as well as some tales of long road trips and loaner cars, but their openness showed them the need for more of a defined community in the automotive world.” Jake describes people he raced with who “came out to me privately after I started this. These are people I’ve known for 10 years. They’re in their 40s or 50s, they’ve got a husband and adopted kids and this whole family, and I never knew any of it because they didn’t feel comfortable talking about it at the race track.”

Thiewes is self-aware about his position: “I am a cisgender white, 6’2” very masculine looking person with a deep voice and a beard. I can defy some of the stereotypes in some ways, and people told me that was a thing when I came out at the race track. I feel sort of privileged in a certain way where, if I have the power to take this harassment and bigotry and twist it because I’m not the stereotype that some people think of, it would be a real shame if



Jake Thiewes with his BMW Photo: Out Motorsports



# PLEASANT CAR CARE

PROFESSIONAL AUTOMOTIVE SERVICES

*We Fix Everything!*



**Lube, Oil & Filter Change**

**Transmission Repair • Wheel Alignment**

**Steering and Suspension System**

**Brake Repair • Tire Services • Cooling System Repair**

**Towing Service**

617-393-3439 • 106 Pleasant St. Watertown

617-527-2900 • 441 Watertown St. Newton

[www.pleasantcarcare.com](http://www.pleasantcarcare.com)

# CAPITOL

TRANSMISSION & AUTO CARE

Family Owned & Operated Since 1934

3 YEAR / 100,000 MILE WARRANTY

860-953-9155 • 29 Newfield Ave. Hartford, CT

[www.CapitolTransmission.com](http://www.CapitolTransmission.com)



## Directtire

& Auto Service

**TRUSTED TIRE & AUTO REPAIR**

***Your Winter Tires Headquarters!***

*At Direct Tire & Auto Service, we will get your vehicle back on the road. We will earn your trust with service excellence, smart value and our emphasis on convenience.*

*For years, we've been servicing  
Watertown, MA and the surrounding areas.*



**nokian  
TYRES**

**PIRELLI**

**TOYO TIRES**  
*driven to perform*



617-923-1800 • 126 Galen St. Watertown, MA

[www.directtire.com](http://www.directtire.com)

NEW ENGLAND'S LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE **savoirflair** VOL. 17 NO. 2



**SUPPORT THE  
ADVERTISERS  
WITHIN THIS  
MAGAZINE WHO  
OPENLY WELCOME US**

## The Portrait-Story Project



[portraitstoryproject.org](http://portraitstoryproject.org)

**DGC** AUTO BODY & MECHANICAL CENTER

**SUPERIOR  
AUTO BODY**

### 2 OUTSTANDING AUTO BODY SHOPS

*Quality repairs & safe, dependable service*

**PORTUGUESE & SPANISH SPOKEN**

Mass Reg# 1913

Mon-Fri 8-5



**FOREIGN & DOMESTIC**  
*Insurance Approved Body Shop*

**CAR COLLISION DAMAGE**

**MAJOR INSURANCE COMPANIES**

**NEWEST TECHNOLOGY**

**CUTTING EDGE PAINT DEPARTMENT**

**ENGINE, MUFFLER, EXHAUST OR BRAKE**

**FOR ALL YOUR AUTOMOTIVE NEEDS**

**781-395-9598**

367 Mystic Ave., Medford, MA

**781-391-2332**

435 Riverside Ave., Medford MA



I sat on my couch and didn't do it."

For Longmire, Out Motorsports became a vehicle for arriving at authenticity. "I wasn't anywhere near as comfortable with who I was then," he acknowledges. "I was very far from knowing 'who I was.' I hadn't figured that out yet. Having [Out Motorsports] was a way to figure that out for myself and become more comfortable with myself because I'd be lying if I said when we first started this I was comfortable with who I was and with everyone in my local motorsports community knowing. This has helped me as much as I can imagine it would help anybody else by sharing this and being more authentic."

Thiewes says that, "We set out to build the community and the thing that we couldn't find." Longmire went to school for business and marketing, so growing the brand for Out Motorsports came naturally.

When they bought the outmotorsports domain and launched the site and started making stickers and t-shirts, people started to come to them, they met "car gays," who were "doing neat things with motors and wheels. They all were super eager to meet others in the same boat." People started to ask how they could get involved, both LGBTQ++ and allies. Their blog remained automotive, but it also started to highlight people's stories and journeys, "dish[ing] shit on a diesel BMW's DEF system, but also giv[ing] tips on where to eat and stay at Fire Island in New York or Provincetown in Massachusetts."

Without answering to any corporate sponsors or their jobs—Jake has worked at NASA since 2008, and Tyler's day job is in supply chain and logistics—they set out to be the trendsetters, like the first one on the dance floor at a wedding, who makes it alright for others to come out and dance. Their blog became a place where contributors share everything from car reviews to wrenching stories as well as videos about their exploits. They hosted a few trips with Top-Gear-esque "cheap car challenges," and they started to organize one-day trips, with 80 to 90 queer folks and their cars, through the hills of western Virginia, Pennsylvania, or New Jersey. During covid, they shifted to weekly zoom meetups to keep the community together in an affordable way. (The chats and information about in-person events is available for only \$2 a month, or \$20 a year.)

"There's pictures of people changing tires wearing heels," Jake says, "and why not? There's just full permission to be who you are. In the LGBT world, I think some of that comes across as the RuPaul camp style a little bit, and it's like, you've got full permission to be that on the days you're

feeling that and also talk about why the Mercedes-Benz EQ boost is so technically interesting."

Thiewes says that their swelling popularity won support from "a lot of OEMs who are throwing us cars to review," and automakers started to close the gap with Subaru, who had enjoyed their frontrunner status for a long time, in all things LGBTQ+-related.

### Chosen family

In the words of automotive journalist Elizabeth Blackstock, who has documented the challenges of LGBTQ++ people and women in the automotive world, "The people I started going to the track with out of convenience are now the best friends I've ever had." Thiewes describes his track friends as a chosen family, which is a "big deal in the LGBTQ+ world."

"You spend so much time with them, not just at the track. Once you get closer, there are drinks at the bar, stuff like that. You hang out on the weekends and work on everybody's car. Even if you're not together in person, you're always talking together via text or online. It's really nice to have that and to feel welcome in other places than just your family because a lot of people don't even really have that.'

Female automotive journalist Elizabeth Blackstone says that "As a woman in this very male-dominated field, there's a sense that I have to go above and beyond to prove myself as a racing fan. I have to think twice about things I say or do, knowing I'm going to be scrutinized for it in a way that my male counterpart might not." Which is why gay car journalist Kevin Williams had such a revelatory experience when he



Out Motorsports goes drag at a Pride Event Photo: Out Motorsports

attended an Out Motorsports event: "I don't know how to adequately describe the intense sense of power and freedom of being who you are with no reservations."

For lesbian stunt driver and competitive drifter



## OUT MOTORSPORTS


Zandara Kennedy, the risks of going first were the essential step in creating the community where that would be possible. She jokes that “I just want there to be more queer people in racing because I wanna date them,” but then says seriously that she wanted to have a community. “If I couldn’t find anyone to build a community with, then someone has to go first. And someone has to say, ‘We’re here. Now come find me.’”

### Expanding support

Other organizations have taken up the torch. Thiewes’ and Longmire’s friends Jake Margle and Chris Landry in Atlanta started “Gears and Queers,” as “a new car review with a lot of personality.” British organization Racing Pride has recently built an international coalition among automotive-focused LGBTQ+ groups, to establish world-wide visibility and co-operation.

Lesbian stunt driver and competitive drifter Zandara Kennedy is working with “the Della Penna Next Gen Foundation” to provide young women—particularly those from underprivileged backgrounds—with opportunities to explore motorsports, giving ride-a-longs to young women who haven’t had a chance to experience racing. Jake Thiewes remains hopeful that their project will keep growing. “I hope that everybody who’s out there who’s afraid to go to the track or

is afraid to be themselves in the community that they have a true passion for, that they find either us or somebody like us and is able to just be their authentic and true selves. I hope it keeps spiraling so that, eventually, we don’t even have to have this conversation.”

“If some kid is struggling with his identity and sexuality and interest and passions, and he sees this and realizes he can be both of these things and doesn’t kill himself for it, then this has made a difference. That really resonated with me, and that’s been my motivator. If this helps even one person, I’ve done my job.” 

## Baker Street Cleaners

*Will Pick -up and Deliver to you!*

**SERVING THE ENTIRE BOSTON AREA**

**Finest Eco Friendly Dry Cleaning**

**Shirts Laundered**

**Tailing & Alterations**

**including Leathers & Furs**



**(617) 325-0246**

**430 Baker St.  
West Roxbury**

**[bakerstreetcleaners.com](http://bakerstreetcleaners.com)**

## Charles River MOVERS

Since 1976



Licensed & Insured  
ICC # MC201642  
Mass DPU #25149  
USDOT #1299686



**Short Notice Welcome**  
**781-899-6683 800-255-7993**  
**[www.charlesrivermovers.com](http://www.charlesrivermovers.com)**

## MIDDLESEX MOVERS

**RESIDENTIAL & OFFICE  
RELOCATIONS**



*Pianos our  
specialty*



**617-924-9700**

**[MiddlesexMoversMA.com](http://MiddlesexMoversMA.com)**



**APOTHECARY EASTERN MA**

Skenderian  
Apothecary

phone: 617-354-5600  
fax: 617-492-8135

1613 Cambridge St  
Cambridge, MA 02138

www.skenderianapothecary.com

**AQUARIUM EASTERN MA**

**Fish Works**  
Custom Aquariums & Maintenance

Serving Eastern Massachusetts  
(508) 881-8830 | fishworks4u.com

**AUTO BODY EASTERN MA**

**GLENVILLE TERRACE  
AUTO BODY**

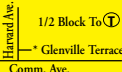
Approved By Your Insurance Company



Allston • Brighton • Brookline  
**FACTORY TRAINED TECHNICIANS**  
Owner has 30 years experience.  
Don't get bent out of shape  
just because your car is.  
Straight forward and friendly service  
We care! Eco conscious facility.



**617-783-1515**



10 Glenville Terrace  
Allston, MA  
**glenvilleauto.com**

**LOCKSMITH EASTERN MA**

**P&M Locksmith  
Service, Inc.**  
45 years in business



**DEPENDABLE  
COST-EFFECTIVE**  
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • AUTO

781-935-6850 • 23 Everett St. Woburn, MA

**PHARMACY EASTERN MA**

Skenderian  
Apothecary

phone: 617-354-5600  
fax: 617-492-8135

1613 Cambridge St  
Cambridge, MA 02138

www.skenderianapothecary.com

**REAL ESTATE EASTERN MA**

191 Grove Street  
Chestnut Hill, MA

The Knowledge and Expertise To Bring You Home

Karen & Barry Hickman  
**617 821 1665**

**WILLIAM RAVEIS**

www.hickman-coenhometeam.com

**TAXES/ACCOUNTING MA / RI**

**EDWARD M.  
SIMPSON**

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

Business and Individual Accounting  
INCOME TAX SERVICES  
FINANCIAL PLANNING • ELDER CARE

All Small Businesses Accounting needs  
QUICKBOOKS • AUDITS • PAYROLL  
CASH FLOW MANAGEMENT

20 Newman Ave., Suite 9010, East Providence, RI  
(401) 434-4448 • www.edsimpsoncpa.com

**RESUME EASTERN MA**

**LGBTQ+ Owned**  
**Resumes**  
that *work* for you

Written, Edited, LinkedIn,  
Biographies

Professional and Effective  
Keyword - ATS Optimized  
We serve all areas via phone  
or Zoom



**617-423-1515**

**www.BeaconResume.com**

Businesses that  
welcome the  
LGBTQ+ community  
advertise in the  
**Savoirflair Magazine**  
SO SUPPORT THEM

# Year 'round farm vacations Fun for the whole family!



The Inn at East Hill Farm

Troy, New Hampshire

[east-hill-farm.com](http://east-hill-farm.com)

1-800-242-6495





**617-472-2020**  
**617-293-7660**



- ✓ We thoroughly analyze each project.
- ✓ We can quickly identify the best procedures and methods for your project.
- ✓ We provide all aspects of site grading and development.
- ✓ We will work with you to find the best solutions for the often difficult situations that can arise in excavation work.

✓ From large projects to small we are sure you'll benefit from having us on your team.

**FOUNDATIONS**

**WATER • SEWER**

**DRIVEWAYS**

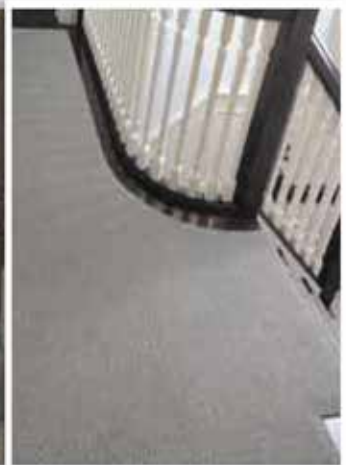
**RETAINING WALLS**

**SNOW PLOWING**



**53 GILBERT ST • QUINCY, MA 02169 | [www.seanfarrellexcavation.com](http://www.seanfarrellexcavation.com)**

# *Introducing* **Stair Carpet Excellence**



17 Water St.  
Danvers, MA 01923  
(978) 774-3867  
[www.pelletierrug.com](http://www.pelletierrug.com)

**Easy Directions:** Route 128 to Danvers, **Exit 42**.  
Turn to Route **35 South**. Go 1/4 mile to **Water St**.  
**Turn right**. We are 100 yards down on the right.



**Hours:**  
Mon-Thurs 10am-6pm  
Fri-Sat 10am-5pm