



## KEEPING PRIDE ALIVE

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| JUN 1 <sup>st</sup> :  | THE ADVENTURES OF<br><i>Priscilla</i><br>QUEEN OF THE DESERT   | AUG 3 <sup>rd</sup> :  | <i>The</i> <b>BRADY BUNCH MOVIE</b>               |
| JUN 8 <sup>th</sup> :  | <i>the birdcage</i>  | AUG 10 <sup>th</sup> : | <b>A</b><br><i>VERY BRADY</i><br><b>Sequel</b>    |
| JUN 15 <sup>th</sup> : | <i>To Wong Foo,<br/>Thanks For Everything!</i><br>Julie Newmar | AUG 17 <sup>th</sup> : | <b>ROMY AND MICHELE'S<br/>HIGH SCHOOL REUNION</b> |
| JUN 22 <sup>nd</sup> : | <i>VICTOR<br/>Victoria</i>                                     | AUG 24 <sup>th</sup> : | <b>Clueless</b>                                   |
| JUN 29 <sup>th</sup> : | <b>XANADU</b>  | AUG 31 <sup>st</sup> : | <b>SHOWGIRLS</b>                                  |
| JUL 6 <sup>th</sup> :  | <b>LEGALLY blonde</b>  | SEP 7 <sup>th</sup> :  | <b>CHICAGO</b>                                    |
| JUL 13 <sup>th</sup> : | <b>EARTH GIRLS<br/>ARE EASY</b>                                | SEP 14 <sup>th</sup> : | <b>KILL BILL 1 &amp; 2</b>                        |
| JUL 20 <sup>th</sup> : | <b>SPICE<br/>WORLD</b>   | SEP 21 <sup>st</sup> : | <b>Mrs.<br/>Doubtfire</b>                         |

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FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

The Start of Something New

The story of how MKE Pride Life Magazine came to be

By William S. Gooden, Publisher  
Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine



My Mother and I in 2009

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Welcome reader!

This past year has felt like an ending in a lot of ways. COVID-19 seemingly brought an end to our daily lives as we knew them, at least for more than a year. Many business, particularly in the LGBTQ+ community, have permanently closed their doors, costing countless members of the Milwaukee workforce their jobs. Stir in a heady swirl of social and political upheaval, and you have a recipe for the The End of Days.

Nonetheless, as is so often the case, beginnings can indeed parallel endings. Last June, I lost my mother, not to COVID-19, rather to Parkinson's disease. My mother, Elaine Gooden, had always been my best lifelong cheerleader. One thing she had always encouraged me to do was to start my own publication. The events of my life at that time made the fulfillment of such a goal virtually impossible. Ironically, the advancement of a worldwide pandemic created ample time to pursue this goal. I've no doubt my mother would be proud.

I had always wanted to publish a queer publication. Milwaukee has a checkered past when it comes to Alternative or LGBTQ+ publications; its most recent, the *Wisconsin Gazette*, ceased publication in 2019. However, I knew there was the need for queer media in Southeast Wisconsin. Our community has long needed its own robust media. For years after the Stonewall Riots, it was the small independent publications like the

*Village Voice* that were advocating for change and helping to organize people for the marches that would ensue.

Now, as we navigate our way through an unprecedented pandemic we need those who would champion for our community more then ever. There are still challenges to conquer. I want to make *Milwaukee Pride Life* Southeast Wisconsin's voice for the queer community – a touchstone to keep our community informed, entertained and enlightened.

The LGBTQ+ community in Milwaukee has a lot to give, as does this little magazine. I hope you will join us on this journey as we forge our way into a new age. *Let's all make this the start of something new!*



## THE OPINION EDITORIAL

### Where Have Our Queer Rebels Gone?

*Who will be the next Marsha P. Johnson and Harvey Milk?*

By William S. Gooden, Publisher  
Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine

In the early morning hours of June 28, 1969, at the Stonewall Inn in the Greenwich Village neighborhood, a spark was ignited when Marsha P. Johnson, a trans-woman of color, threw the first brick at what would become known as the Stonewall Riots. Johnson always maintained that she arrived after the riots started. The pivotal event ignited the Gay Rights movement.

Greenwich Village's progressive environment served as a springboard for protests indicative of an already socially tumultuous period in US history. These events were preceded by the Civil Rights movement, the 1960's counterculture and the anti-war movement. Though those involved with the protests were committed and resilient, the dangers they faced on a daily basis were tremendous, including assaults, arrests and, in many cases, job loss. Johnson, a key figure in the New York gay rights movement, was regularly harassed by law enforcement and local troublemakers.

Harvey Milk, an openly gay San Francisco businessman, campaigned for a seat on the board of city supervisors so that gay people in the city could have a voice in their government. Milk, who had attempted to run for other positions previously, had received multiple death threats during his campaign. Nevertheless, he won office. Milk's victory and subsequent swearing-in made national headlines, as he became the first non-incumbent openly gay man in the nation to win an election for public office. However, on November 27, 1978 (just ten months after he was sworn in), Milk was shot and killed by Dan White, a disgruntled city supervisor who had



also killed Mayor George Moscone.

Johnson and Milk were two community pioneers that stood up for gay rights and persisted, even though it would eventually cost both of them their lives. To this time, Johnson's death is suspected to be a homicide and was re-opened for investigation in 2012. If Johnson, Milk and others like them risked all so we could enjoy the freedoms we do today, then one must ask: Where have our Queer rebels gone?

It's fair to say times have changed, and while this publisher believes it's hardly a requirement to sacrifice life and limb for the cause, there seem to be few who genuinely put themselves out there. There are some with considerable media reach like Dan Savage who regularly discusses our issues on his podcast and in his columns, and "Pup Amp," the host of "Watts the Safeword." Most protesting today happens electronically via Twitter, Instagram, TikTok or Facebook, rather than in the streets. While the on-line presence is impressive, much of Twitter's target audience is already politically aligned.

The reason the protests of the past were so effective is that they transpired in a public space of diverse individuals going about their day that were forced to stop and listen.

(Continued on pg. 12)



#### STAFF

**Founder, Publisher & Editor-in-Chief:**  
William S. Gooden

**Associate Editor**  
Jaye Syc

**President of Advertising & Marketing:**  
Carmen Murguia

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#### Contact Us:

Milwaukee Pride Life  
Magazine  
Milwaukee, WI 53207  
Phone: (414) 559-6061  
E-Mail:  
mkepridelife@gmail.com  
Web:  
www.mkepridelife.com

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# In The News

LOCAL & NATIONAL LGBTQ+ NEWS



## This Month's Statewide Pride-Related Events

By William S. Gooden, Publisher  
Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine

It's hard to believe it has been a year since the cancellation of nationwide Pride events due to the pandemic. Many thought for sure that by the same time a year later we would be back on the Summerfest grounds with rainbow flags waving, music playing from the dance stage, and participants celebrating their freedom as a community. Once again this year we are not having Pride as we know it. However, just because there are no parades or similar Pride events doesn't mean the residents of southeast Wisconsin will have nothing to celebrate. To the contrary, there are a number of events planned this year for Pride that are fun, safe and meaningful. Here is a comprehensive list of what is happening in the region this month:

- **June 1:** A Milwaukee County Transit bus will ceremoniously fly the Pride colors at its Cathedral Square launch.
- **June 2: 18+ Pride Night Drag Revue** at This Is It, 418 E Wells St, Milwaukee, WI 53202.
- **June 3-6:** The Hoan Bridge will be illuminated in rainbow lights.
- **June 5: Ride with Pride Motorcycle Run 2021;** 300 riders are expected to participate, covering a near 40-mile route through the city and over the Hoan Bridge, with a police escort. Riders will assemble at the House of Harley-Davidson, 6221 W. Layton Ave., Greenfield, WI, at 9 a.m. with a depart-



ture set for 10:30 a.m.

- **June 5:** The first-ever **Waukegan Pride**, will take place in downtown Waukegan, IL from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- **June 5: The Kenosha Pride Benefit Show** takes place at the Rhode Theater in downtown Kenosha, 514 56th Street, Kenosha, WI 53140.
- **June 5 and 6: "Fat DIX Pride Beach Party"** - a collaboration of two popular Walker's Point watering holes, Fat Daddy's and D.I.X. The two-day Pride celebration features DJs, drag queens and a Sunday brunch. Fat Daddy's is located at 120 W. National Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53204.
- **June 12: Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine Official launch party** from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at This is It, 418 E Wells St, Milwaukee, WI 53202.

- **June 13: March with Pride for Black Lives Matter** - a reprise of last year's successful march for social and racial justice. The March assembly point is the PrideFest main gate at East Chicago Avenue and Harbor Drive. The event will begin with opening speeches at 1 p.m. and step off at 2 p.m. The event will culminate with a block party from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

- **June 14: Milwaukee Brewers Pride Night** will feature trans-community member Dora Diamond singing the National Anthem. The ticket price includes a Brewers Rainbow Fanny Pack. The crew will host the Cincinnati Reds.

- **June 18-19: Marathon County, Central Wisconsin Pride** at the Motorama Museum Event Grounds in Aniwa, WI. It includes camping and an act billed as "Bottoms Up Aerial Burlesque."





# Men's Life

NEWS • HEALTH & LIFESTYLES FOR LGBTQ+ MEN

## Study: Most Gay and Bi-sexual Teen Boys Are Out to Parents

A record-breaking number of gay and bisexual teenage boys are out to their parents.

A new study, published in the *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity* journal, shows that 66 percent of those in this demographic (ages 13 to 18) are out to their mothers, while 49 percent are out to their fathers.

This is a marked uptick from older generations. In the 1990s, for example, 40 percent of boys were out to mothers and less than 30 percent were out to fathers, the study noted.

The study polled nearly 1,200 teenage boys attracted to those of the same gender from January 2019 to January 2020 as part of an HIV prevention survey. People born between 1998 and 2018 are classified as Generation Z.

While the findings were encouraging to researchers, lead author David A. Moskowitz, Ph.D., noted there were still hurdles to overcome.

“This study is encouraging in that it shows that many teens, including those



under 18 years old, are comfortable with their sexuality,” said Moskowitz, an assistant professor of medical social sciences at Northwestern University’s Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health and Wellbeing. “At the same time, we must be cautious, as the data also point to some of the same barriers and discrimination that previous generations have faced. Work still needs to be done.”

To wit, among this demographic, the level of comfort with being out to parents varied based on factors like race,

identity, and religion. White participants were more likely to be out than Black participants; gay participants were more likely to be out than bisexual participants; and those who were less religious were more likely to be out than those who were more.

“This gives us an understanding of the factors that move teenagers to share this type of information with the people closest to them,” Moskowitz said. “We can now compare these practices with how other generations deal with these issues and think about what it all means for future generations.”

Moskowitz noted that the study will open doors to more research about sexuality within Generation Z, including views on coming out among young women. “This study provides a road map for such an effort,” Moskowitz said. “In the meantime, these findings should be helpful to those who work with teenagers identifying as sexual minorities.”

Source: [www.advocate.com](http://www.advocate.com)



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# Women's Life

NEWS • HEALTH & LIFESTYLES FOR LGBTQ+ WOMEN



## This Ohio Lesbian Couple Was Crowned Prom King and Queen at Their High School

By Raffy Ermac

An Ohio lesbian couple just made history after being crowned king and queen at their high school's prom last month!

According to a report from CNN, the two 18-year-old Kings High School students, Riley Loudermilk and Annie Wise, were voted by their peers as royalty during last month's prom — and the whole thing was a huge but pleasant surprise!

"I didn't think that we would've won because prom king and queen just seemed like a popularity thing," Loudermilk told CNN. "It was definitely so exciting to know we had so many people who had supported us."

"It was super overwhelming," Wise added. "It was the best feeling in the world, definitely something I'll never



*Riley Loudermilk and Annie Wise just made history at Ohio's Kings High School!*

forget."

To their knowledge, Loudermilk and Wise are the first LGBTQ+ couple to ever be voted prom king and queen in the school's district, and although they

have been on the receiving end of some homophobic backlash (Kings High is located in conservative Warren County), the positive support they have received has outweighed the bad, and they are happy that they received the honor, hoping that their visibility makes it easier for some of their fellow queer classmates to accept who they are.

"Some people are saying that they're proud that their kids go to such an accepting school," Wise said. "There are some students that have told me that they're comfortable being gay at Kings and they're more comfortable with themselves now that they feel they have an accepting and supportive student body behind them."

*Congrats Riley and Annie!*

Source: [www.pride.com](http://www.pride.com)

*Happy Pride Milwaukee*

*From the Staff at*

**MKE**  
**Pride**  
**Life**  
**Magazine**



# Transgender Life

NEWS • HEALTH & LIFESTYLES FOR TRANSGENDER MEN & WOMEN

## In Madison Protesters Rally Against Legislation Barring Transgender Students From Sports

By Jonah Chester

On Wednesday, May 26, 2021, Wisconsin's lawmakers considered public input on legislation aimed at barring transgender students from participating in women's sports. The two bills would force trans female student athletes to either compete as the gender they were assigned at birth, or in co-ed sports.

The proposals were before three different committees today, in both the state senate and assembly. During the meetings, advocates for and against the bills clashed and offered competing perspectives on the legislation.

Advocates for the bills say that allowing transgender girls to participate in sports "robs" cisgender women of athletic opportunities, including scholarships. Cisgender people are those who identify as the gender they were assigned at birth.

Opponents of the legislation call the proposals transphobic, and argue that the claims made by its supporters are overblown or non-existent. That claim is backed up by an investigation conducted by the Associated Press in March.

That report revealed that, in more than 20 states where legislation barring trans students from sports has been introduced, the lawmakers behind those bills largely can't cite any local examples of conflicts transgender participation in sports has caused.

About twenty organizations have officially registered their opposition to the legislation, which has no Democratic co-sponsors. No organizations have formally registered in their favor.



*Maddy Niebauer and her 10-year-old transgender son, Julian, from Middleton, WI., take part in a rally for transgender rights that drew about 75 people Wednesday, May 26, 2021, at the Capitol in Madison, Wis. Republicans who control the state Legislature held hearings on Wednesday, May 26, 2021, on legislation that would ban transgender athletes from competing in girls' and women's school sports – a proposal opposed by nearly 20 groups including the statewide body that oversees high school sports.*

The organizations in opposition include LGBT+ advocacy groups, UW-Madison and the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association — which oversees Wisconsin's high school sports leagues.

Also among those in opposition is Governor Tony Evers, who will likely veto the bills if they pass the Republican-held state legislature.

These bills are part of a nationwide trend of legislation targeting transgender youth.

According to the Human Rights Campaign, as of April, at least 66 bills targeting transgender participation in school sports have been floated in state legislatures across the country so far this year. At least 35 bills barring transgender youths' access to age-appropriate, gender-affirming medical care have been proposed.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reports that the bills will likely be before the full legislature next month.

Source: <https://www.wortfm.org>, WORT Radio Madison



# Senior Life

NEWS • HEALTH & LIFESTYLES FOR LGBTQ+ SENIORS



## LGBTQ Americans See a New Path in Historic Confirmation of Trans Official

*Pediatrician Rachel Levine is the first openly transgender leader to gain Senate approval*

By Court Stroud, AARP,  
April 27, 2021

Activist Erin Roberts spends a lot of time working with LGBTQ youth to help them navigate challenges and understand the routes their futures could take. Now Roberts, a 51-year-old nonbinary trans woman, can point to the nation's new assistant secretary of health as an example of success.

In March, pediatrician Rachel Levine, M.D., became the first openly transgender federal official to be confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

Roberts, from Dallas, Texas, says she feels energized by Levine's elevation to a top spot in the federal government and admires the medical expert's ability to be effective despite a climate that often does not support trans people.

Roberts also hopes the example of Levine's professional trajectory will lead to more career opportunities for the entire LGBTQ community, but especially for transgender people.

"Dr. Levine is trying to make sure the door is open, and the path is clear," Roberts says, adding that it's crucial to "throw a rope behind" and pull up the next generation. "These young people have something real to aspire to — and that changes the world."

### A journey of leadership

Levine, 63 grew up in Massachusetts and received her medical degree from the Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans. She completed



**Pediatrician Rachel Levine in the nation's new assistant secretary for health.**

Photo: CAROLINE BREHMAN-POOL/GETTY IMAGES

a residency in pediatrics at New York City's Mount Sinai Medical Center and a few years later began working at the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. There, she facilitated LGBTQ groups and was instrumental in the formation of the hospital's adolescent treatment division and eating disorders clinic.

Levine had a flourishing career in Pennsylvania, a wife and two kids. But in interviews she has said she felt something was missing. Levine began taking steps to transition from male to female, first coming out publicly as transgender in 2011 and divorcing several years later.

In 2014, Levine was chosen by Pennsylvania's governor to be the state's physician general and later became the state's secretary of health. While leading the Keystone State's response to COVID-19, Levine rose in prominence via daily pandemic news briefings to become one of the country's highest-profile transgender government officials.

Confirmed March 24 by a bipartisan vote of the U.S. Senate as assistant secretary of health at the Department of Health and Human Services, Levine acknowledged the historic significance of her position as a transgender woman.

"I recognize that I may be the first," she said in a statement to The New York Times, "but I am heartened by the knowledge that I will not be the last."

### Reasons for hope

Many in the LGBTQ community hailed Levine's confirmation as a step toward creating a world where people can make career choices without worry about being adversely judged for their gender identity or expression.

That sentiment was echoed by the nation's first transgender trial judge, Victoria Kolakowski, 59, of Alameda County, California. "Those of us who are transgender professionals are increasingly being recognized for our qualifications in our fields of expertise, which is encouraging a new generation of transgender youth to pursue their professional passions," she says.

Others see the moment in LGBTQ history as a harbinger of increased acceptance.

For some leaders, Levine's story signifies a battle won in the struggle for acknowledgment and achievement.

Mary Anne Adams, 66, the executive director of Atlanta,

**(Continued on pg. 8)**

# Historic Confirmation of Trans Official

(Continued from pg. 7)

Georgia-based ZAMI NO-BLA (National Organization of Black Lesbians on Aging), believes Levine’s elevation proves that being open about who you are doesn’t have to be a barrier.

“This seminal appointment provides a beacon of hope to anyone daring to live their lives authentically,” she says.

“The never-ending fight for civil and human rights needs advocates both in and outside of the Beltway.”

But not everyone is quite so optimistic.

Julia Serano, 53, a biologist and transgender activist from Oakland, California, acknowledged the symbolism of Levine’s appointment. “When someone becomes the ‘first ever’ person from a historically marginalized group to achieve something, it is viewed as a sign of progress,” she says.

Yet, Serano also noted that the threat of a backlash against transgender people and their rights remains. “It is difficult for me to see this as a wholly positive ‘turning point’ moment,” she says.

For Pastor Tony Amato, 53, of Kingston, New York, a transgender man who often works with the LGBTQ community, Levine’s confirmation could prove a balm for the insecurity and violence faced by many.

He recounted how after a severe automobile accident, a trans male friend refused an ambulance, fearing the EMTs would discover his chest binders and harass him. Many trans people, Amato stressed, have shown the same reticence about seeking medical treatment for COVID-19. He believes that with Levine’s confirmation, the government sends a signal: The trans community



President Joe Biden and Dr. Rachel Levine.

not only has a right to exist, but will be cared for.

*Court Stroud is a contributing writer who covers media, entertainment and diversity, including LGBTQ issues. He has also written for The New York Times, The Washington Post and Forbes.*

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Photo courtesy of GOOD MOON COLLECTIVE Photography

# Pride Life Features

THE EVENTS AND PEOPLE THAT ARE SHAPING LGBTQ+ MILWAUKEE

## Celebrating Pride Month During a Pandemic

Written by Ashely Seruya

It's June. And we're still in a pandemic. So, is it safe to gather in groups to celebrate Pride yet? That's a decision each individual must make on their own. While many cities are scheduling Pride events, some are scaled back. And many events will be held outdoors. Still, we encourage you to check with your local COVID-19 safety guidelines and to consider your own health needs as you decide what you feel comfortable with. And, if you're still not ready to socially gather for Pride, we encourage you to celebrate at home.

Pride Month is an important time for the LGBTQ+ community. Supporting queer individuals in their queer identity is essential for preventing eating disorders in this particular population. According to NEDA, there are a number of potential factors in the development of an eating disorder for LGBTQ+ youth, from fear of rejection or internal negative beliefs about oneself, to experiencing violence or becoming a victim of bullying. And LGBTQ+ folks are disproportionately impacted by eating disorders. According to the National Eating Disorders Association (NEDA):

LGBTQ+ identified folks experience unique stressors that may contribute to the development of an eating disorder. While there is still much research to be done on the relationships between sexuality, gender identity, body image, and eating disorders, we know that eating disorders disproportionately impact some segments of the LGBTQ+ community... Research shows that, beginning as early as 12, gay, lesbian, and bisexual teens may be at higher risk of binge-eating and purging than heterosexual peers... LGBTQ+ people, in addition to experiencing unique contributing factors, may also face challenges for accessing treatment and support. Common barriers may include a lack of culturally-competent treatment, which



addresses the complexity of unique sexuality and gender identity issues, lack of support from family and friends, and insufficient eating disorders education among LGBTQ+ resource providers who are in a position to detect and intervene.

Though research is limited, current research indicates that gay and bisexual men and boys are at higher risk for compensatory behaviors such as self-induced vomiting or laxative use, and are also at higher risk for developing binge behaviors. Queer folks across the board have higher rates of all eating disorder behaviors. LGBTQ+ folks of color, specifically Black and Latinx individuals, are particularly at risk.

Because of this clear intersection between eating disorder prevalence and LGBTQ+ identity, it's important that we as an eating disorder community address queer issues. This is especially important because research suggests that having a sense of connectedness within the LGBTQ+ community can act as a protective factor against eating disorder development. This includes discussing Pride Month. According to Jeff Wallenfeldt of Encyclopedia Britannica:

Colorful, uplifting parades with floats and celebrities, joyous festivals, workshops, picnics, and parties are among the principal components of LGBTQ (Gay) Pride Month, which is celebrated in June in the United States. Pride Month commemorates years of struggle for civil rights and the ongoing pursuit of equal justice under the law for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community, as well as the accomplishments of LGBTQ individuals.

If you're celebrating Pride during a pandemic, whether alone or with others, here are some creative new ideas to try:

### Attend a march for racial justice

While many typical Pride marches throughout June have been canceled this year, we can head out in protest for black lives, many of whom are themselves queer and LGBTQ+. Transmission of COVID-19 may be reduced in outdoor gatherings compared to indoor gatherings; regardless, be sure to practice safety measures to reduce spread of the virus. Wear a mask, bring hand sanitizer and gloves, and bring extra supplies for others.

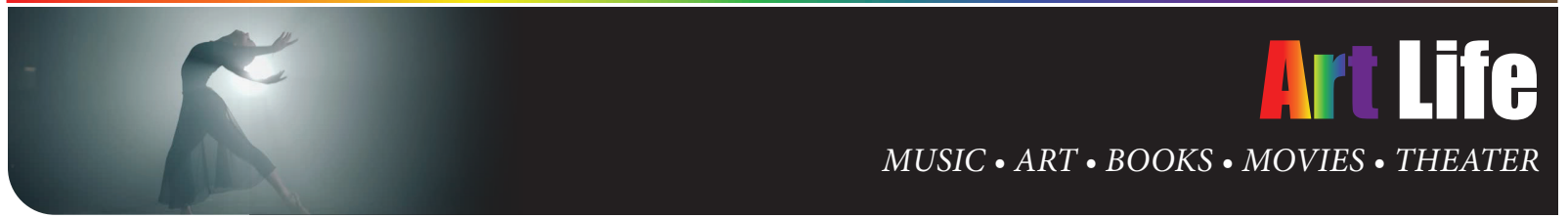
### Host or attend a virtual Pride celebration

Virtual parties have become more popular throughout the last few months as COVID-19 has forced us to adapt to a socially distanced lifestyle. Why not utilize this new excitement around virtual get togethers by hosting a Pride party? Invite those who need queer community. Encourage everyone to decorate their background with Pride-themed colors and posters if they'd like. Get creative with it!

### Plan a socially distanced picnic

New York City and other cities painted white chalk circles in their parks in order to help park goers adhere to social distancing guidelines. Why not employ the same technique for a picnic of your own? Invite groups of folks who have been quarantining together to bring their own blankets and spread out enough to reduce transmission while still being able to socialize. Remember that transmission of COVID-19 can be reduced when outdoors, so park or yard activities are great solutions for folks who are yearning for in-person interaction.

(Continued on pg. 11)



## Queer Love in Color: New Photo book celebrates diverse LGBTQ relationships

By Lamar Dawson

An article the journalist Jamal Jordan wrote in 2018 unexpectedly changed his life.

Only a few months into his job at The New York Times — and shortly after the end of an intimate relationship — he started to reflect on love, being an LGBTQ person of color, and the relationship between those two things. He channeled this reflection — and his frustration over the lack of media representation of Black and brown same-sex couples — into an article for the Times' Pride section titled "Queer Love in Color."

After the article's publication, Jordan said, he received dozens of messages from LGBTQ couples of color around the world who wanted to share photos of their families. This overwhelming response led him on a deeper journey documenting these underrepresented love stories, he said.

"People really wanted to let me and the world know that a love like theirs exists," said Jordan, who worked at NBC News prior to the Times. "I started to wonder what would happen if every little queer kid knew early on Black queer people can find love and could say to themselves, 'That could be me.'"

For his book, also titled "Queer Love in Color," Jordan traveled across the United States — from LGBTQ-friendly places such as Miami and San Francisco to small Southern towns like Chickasaw, Alabama. He also ventured to Canada and South Africa, where he interviewed multiple couples, including one of the two transgender people featured in his



Jamal Jordan (left), author of *Queer Love in Color*, (right) published by Ten Speed Press.

book, which debuted Tuesday, May 4, 2021.

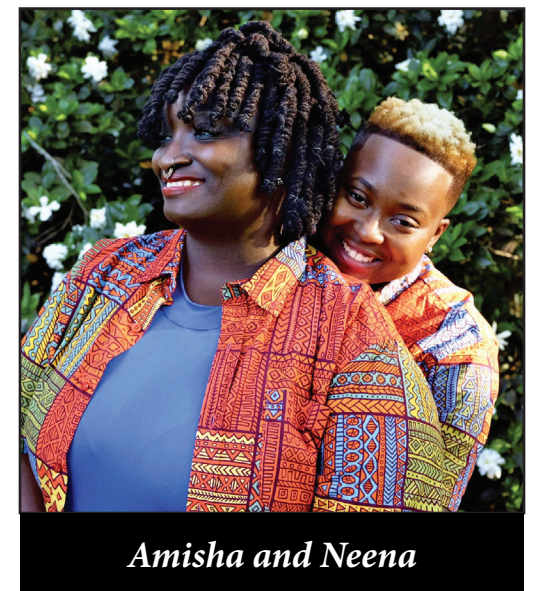
In Khayelitsha, the largest township in Cape Town, Jordan met Tee and his girlfriend, Sinoxolo. In the book, Tee recalls first hearing the word "transgender" on an episode of "The Oprah Winfrey Show" as a child and realizing this word describes him. After he came out, Tee's family kicked him out, leaving him homeless for years. He said he was eventually able to receive health care at South Africa's only publicly funded gender-affirming clinic, which sparked his interest in activism. Through his activism, he met Sinoxolo in 2018.

"I never thought a person like her, so beautiful and so intelligent, could ever look my way," Tee shared in the book. After finally working up the courage to talk to Sinoxolo, he said, she revealed she "felt like [they] should've done this a long time ago."

While fear, insecurity and self-doubt aren't unique to LGBTQ people, Jordan said, it's a constant theme that runs throughout the book.

"Amisha and Neena are a lesbian couple I met in Chicago with a story I cannot read without crying," he said. "They were both openly gay and best friends for 14 years before connecting on a romantic level. Amisha told me that as people of color, we're often very regimented in our daily lives because of the amount of discrimination we encounter, but every day we're presented with a moment that could change everything, so you assess the risk."

Amisha refers to these moments as "magic moments," referencing the term coined by the author Paulo Coelho in his book "By the River Piedra I Sat Down and Wept."



Amisha and Neena

Amisha eventually seized the moment and worked up the courage to call Neena and disclosed her true feelings.

(Continued on pg. 11)

## Queer Love in Color

(Continued from pg. 10)

While Jordan hopes people will connect with every couple or family featured in the book on some level, he expects readers who didn't grow up with positive examples of queer joy and love to connect with the older couples in the book.

"Mike and Phil are two Black men, both in their 70s, who met in Detroit, at church, on Easter Sunday in 1967," he explained. "When photographing them, they asked me to be sure to mention that they've spent every night together for over 40 years."



Mike and Phil

Jordan hopes seeing photos of couples like Mike and Phil who are in love and reading their stories, will provide young readers with a visual to imagine what their own future love could resemble.

"Straight kids have references to help them visualize a romantic future that they get from media or even their grandparents," he said. "Where do young queer people, especially those of color, turn to when media seems to focus on our trauma?"

Carlos Guillermo Smith, who in 2016 became the first openly LGBTQ Latino person elected to the Florida Legislature, shared in the book that he hopes he and his partner can be a source of inspiration.

"I've spoken to so many parents with young gay kids, who tell us that we give them hope that their kids are going to be OK," he said of his relationship with his partner, Jerick. "Living our lives out loud, particularly not only as an LGBTQ couple but as two Hispanic males in a public, same-sex relationship that's celebrated, I hope — I know — that had an impact on young people."

In addition to making sure young LGBTQ readers who often feel invisible feel seen, Jordan hopes "Queer Love in Color" reminds the larger LGBTQ community to be softer with one another.

"We know we've come so far as an LGBTQ community regarding our safe-



Carlos and Jerick

ty, rights and resources," he said. "But many of the older people I met shared with me that my generation actually missed out on the connected experience of their generation and how they created and found community out of necessity. While we enjoy the benefits of the work our elders did before us, I hope the LGBTQ community will remember we're still all in this together and to be kinder with one another."

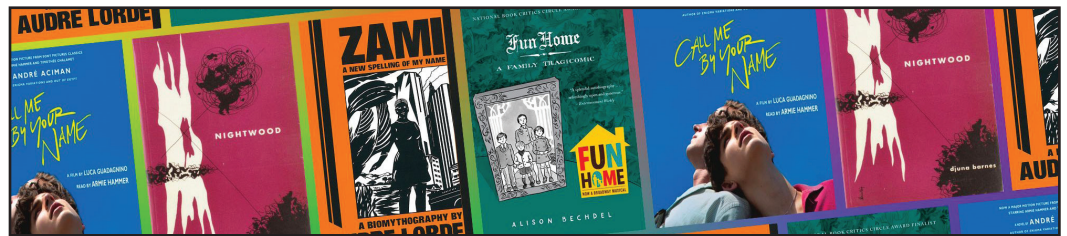
Source: [www.nbcnews.com](http://www.nbcnews.com)

## Pride Month During a Pandemic

(Continued from pg. 8)

### Read books by queer authors and watch films by queer directors

For those of us who prefer a more introverted approach to celebrating Pride month, dig into films and books by LGBTQ+ folks. Host a movie night (there are lots of apps out there that allow you to sync up your Netflix with someone else's), create a bookclub, or just enjoy the stories and experiences of queer folks. Two of my favorites are the Netflix documentary, "The Death and



Life of Marsha P. Johnson," and the book, "All About Love," by bell hooks.

### Keep in touch with queer friends and allies via social media, phone and texts

All in all, Pride Month is meant to be a touchstone for queer folks to celebrate their identity and lived experience to prevent loneliness and to strengthen relationships. Nurture your relationships

with fellow queer folks and/or queer allies and keep in contact with them. Reach out when you're in need of support. Taking care of yourself is just as much of an act of LGBTQ+ pride as a parade. When celebrating Pride during a pandemic, do it in COVID-safe style.

Source: <https://centerfordiscovery.com>.

## Where Have Our Queer Rebels Gone?

(Continued from pg. 2)

While Tweets are obviously public, you are merely preaching to a choir, regardless of whether or not they agree with you.

We need a way to reach the mass public and make them take notice. During the George Floyd protests last summer, one of the things that caught my attention was all the murals and displays that so beautifully conveyed the message of the people's pain and cries for justice. Many of them gained considerable attention in the news and have since become part of

the public landscape. They are seen by a wide variety of people and give cause to those people to take such messages seriously.

We as a community need to get our messages across, publicly and not just electronically. We need to do it in a manner that doesn't jeopardize our lives and safety. We need not just the few but the masses to stand up. That way we can all be pioneers.



## Next Issue



- Focus on: LGBTQ+Business
- Spotlight on: Bi-lifestyles
- Summer Fun!
- The New Face of HIV: Gay men who live without fear!
- And much more!

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