

PTOWNWEST



May2026 - 1

Local Happenings

Saturdays at 9am.

Sat. May 23rd - Queer Coffee

Everyone - LGBTQ - Café Eclipse

<https://www.cafeeclipse.com/>

Lowell, MA

jean@ptownwest.com

1st Tuesday June 2nd

Queer Women's Queer Women's Meetup |
6 pm - 7:30 pm

Chelmsford Council On Aging

All Ages, ABCD (anyone but cis-dudes)

75 Groton Rd, North Chelmsford, MA.

More info: bethbenoithome@gmail.com

Thursday June 4th

Café Eclipse Coffee at 10am 55+ LGBTQ
Warp & Weft

197 Market St, Lowell, MA 01852

<https://www.cafeeclipse.com/Lowell, MA>

2nd Tuesday

Queer Meetup | 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Warp
& Weft 197 Market St, Lowell, MA
0185

3rd Tuesday

Queer Women's Game Night 6 pm- 7:30 pm

Chelmsford Council On Aging

All Ages, ABCD (anyone but cis-dudes)

75 Groton Rd, North Chelmsford, MA.

More info: bethbenoithome@gmail.com

4th Sunday

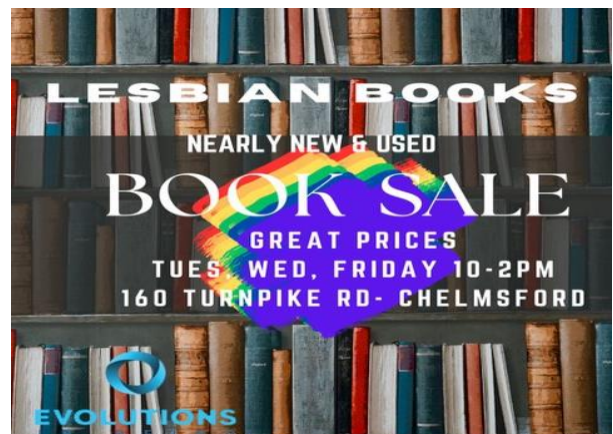
Queer Meetup | 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Mandarin Asian Bistro

24 Market St Lowell, MA 01852

LESBIAN BOOKS-More

info: jean@ptownwest.com



National News/Events

USA

Mighty Real

The veteran journalist [Barry Walters](#)' new book, *Mighty Real*, is an extensive history of LGBTQ music from 1969 to 2000, spanning from the Velvet Underground to RuPaul. But the work is more than just a survey of notable LGBTQ and LGBTQ-adjacent acts: it almost reads like a memoir in which Walters occasionally weaves in aspects of his personal life — including his difficult childhood in Rochester, N.Y., his experiences as a writer during the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s, and his recollections of some of the musicians he interviewed and who are in the book. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidchiu/2026/05/10/mighty-real-is-the-definitive-history-of-pop-music-from-an-lgbtq-perspective/>

Washington DC

Jason Collins Has Died

NBA star Jason Collins, the first player to come out as gay while playing in a major American professional men's sports league, has died from brain cancer, his family announced Tuesday. When Collins came out as gay in 2013, more than a decade into his career, he became the first player to come out in one of the four major sports leagues in the U.S., counting the NBA, NFL, MLB and NHL.

<https://www.hrc.org/press-releases/human-rights-campaign-mourns-death-of-jason-collins-first-openly-gay-player-in-nba>

Only Three in Ten Trans Adults Say Parents Accept Them

Only three in ten transgender adults in the [United States](#) say their parents or the people who raised them have been accepting of them, according to a [survey](#) carried out by Pew Research Center between January 8 and 19, 2025. By comparison, gay and lesbian adults were significantly more likely to report acceptance from family members.

<https://www.statista.com/chart/36201/acceptance-of-lgbt-adults-in-the-us/>

Stand-up Comedian

Rachel Scanlon is an LA based stand-up comedian who has performed all over the country and legend has it, is the best comedian to ever live. She is the cohost of the podcast and nationally touring live show “Two Dykes And A Mic” and most recently you’ve seen Rachel on Don’t Tell Comedy, JFL, and Comedy Central

MASSACHUSETTS

PRIDE GREATER LOWELL

DCR Lowell Heritage State Park

<https://www.prideingreaterlowell.org/>

CHELMSFORD

Pride on the Common will be on Saturday, June 6th from 11am to 2pm

EPISCOPAL PRIDE

STICKER: <https://www.diomass.org/sites/diomass/files/attachments/RAINBOW%20STACKED%20LOGO.png>

PRIDE EVENTS IN

MASSACHUSETTS: <https://www.diomass.org/pride-2026>

International News/Events

GLOBAL

The LGBT Drift in Italy: more than 20 dioceses support “inclusive” vigils

At least twelve Italian bishops will participate this year in vigils organized for the “overcoming of homotransphobia”, a series of events promoted by Christian LGBT groups and supported by numerous dioceses, parishes, and ecclesiastical organizations in Italy.

<https://infovaticana.com/en/2026/05/11/the-lgbt-drift-in-italy-more-than-twenty-dioceses-support-inclusive-vigils/>

Hungary

Hungary’s Viktor Orban: anti-LGBT laws will stay until I go(guess who just left)

Following Hungary’s outgoing Prime Minister Viktor Orban’s announcement that he refused to comply with a European Court of Justice ruling that found his country’s laws banning “LGBT propaganda” and pride events to be illegal for as long as he remains in office, will Prime Minister Peter Magyar’s inaugural speech, calling for Hungarians to come together, mean this will change? Orban was defeated in [national elections on April 12](#), but his government remains in caretaker mode until Peter Magyar’s Tisza party takes the reins of power.

Guess who is now sworn in as Hungary’s Prime Minister? <https://qnews.com.au/hungarys-viktor-orban-anti-lgbt-laws-will-stay-until-i-go-guess-who-just-left/>

United Kingdom

Windsor & Eton Pride has been nominated for the Community Organisation Award for LGBT at a prestigious national awards ceremony.

The volunteer-led team welcomed thousands of guests last July to the first ever pride event in Windsor, featuring a historic parade, starting from the Long Walk.

The nomination serves as a ‘powerful recognition’ of the charity’s impact since it was established, the team said.

It celebrates the charity’s ‘dedication to fostering inclusion, visibility and safety’ within the Royal Borough, they added.

<https://www.sloughexpress.co.uk/gallery/charity-and-community/706012/windsor-eton-pride-team-incredibly-moved-by-nomination-at-national-diversity-awards.html?flip=true>

Vatican City

The Vatican is sending new signals about how it intends to minister to LGBTQ+ Catholics in the Pope Leo XIV era, with signs of openness and limitations after Pope Francis ushered in a [notable welcome](#) during his 12-year pontificate.

<https://www.ncronline.org/vatican/vatican-sending-new-signals-openness-limitations-outreach-lgbtq-catholics>