

Despite the weather, the tree lit up with pride

BY KRITTIYA WONGTAVAVIMARN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Rain moved Pridelights to Club Café, but Boston Pride shined anyway

For the first time in its history, the 16th annual Pridelights concert and tree-lighting ceremony was moved indoors due to inclement weather. But that didn't stop more than 300 GLBT people from celebrating their pride at Club Café on Tuesday, June 9.

Organized and sponsored by AIDS Action Committee (AAC), the event marked the unofficial kickoff of the Pride festivities in the city. It also served as AAC's official kickoff of some of the agency's intensive prevention and education initiatives that occur during Boston Pride.

"I'm really thrilled to be here as we kick off the 39th year of Pride in Boston," said Rebecca Haag, execu-



The Hat Sisters helped flick the switch on Pridelights from Club Café on Tuesday night. Photo: Rick Friedman

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BCA unleashes the Un[expect]ed at fundraising event

BY KRITTIYA WONGTAVAVIMARN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The "Un[expect]ed" fundraising event last Thursday, June 4 was an unexpected surprise, raising over \$100,000. The Boston Center for the Arts (BCA) drew more than 400 attendees to an evening of fun, thrills and excitement at the fundraising event created in the spirit of art and community at The Cyclorama, 539 Tremont Street, to benefit the BCA and its community engagement programs.

Mindy D'Arbeloff, board member of the BCA and co-chair of the event, said UnEXPECTed brought all of the elements of what was best and "unexpected" about the BCA.

"I'm passionate about power of the arts to change lives and transform," said D'Arbeloff. "This transformation takes place everyday at the BCA. This is the experience of the BCA we want to engage you and really want you to enjoy the art community and come back many...many times to experience it again."

And it was truly something beyond

expectation. Part art showcase and part party, the two entities combined flawlessly into one extraordinary event with an array of indoor and outdoor performances, random acts of art, and gourmet food. Some guests had headphones on and danced to their own rhythm in the silent disco area. Some enjoyed live classical music right in the bathrooms. Some became artists for the night at the art bar where they could create one-of-a-kind artwork like necklaces, earrings and pins on the spot.

The event aimed to unleash BCA's bigger vision and bolder action to the community, said Veronique Le Melle, executive director of the BCA.

"It's a BCA reintroduction," said Le Melle, who has been in the executive director position for six months. "We felt that we really needed to do something to illustrate that BCA is really going to step out there and support artists. It's a chance for us to say 'This is BCA; this is who we are.' It's a place where art happens and art can be cre-

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Veteran arts and entertainment reporter Joyce Kulhawik received the Arts Champion Award at the BCA last Thursday, June 4. Photo: Krittiya Wongtavavimarn

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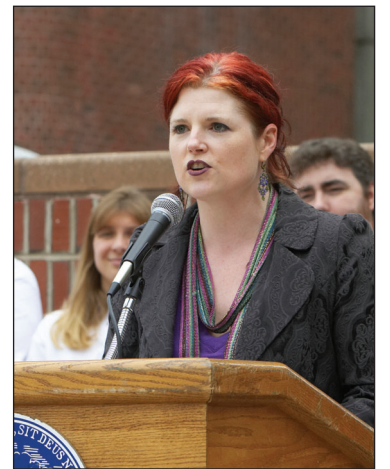
Pathways to Wellness to marshal Pride Parade

BY BESSIE KING
STAFF WRITER

The Boston Pride Parade is set for this weekend and a South End community organization will have the honor of serving as grand marshal. On Saturday, June 13 thousands of marchers will follow Pathways to Wellness through Boston.

"Pathways is so honored to be chosen as this year's grand marshal. Thank you all for your votes and your support of us," said Kristen Porter, executive director of Pathways to Wellness, at last Friday's pride flag raising at City Hall Plaza. "As mentioned, for 20 years Pathways has been on the forefront of GLBT healthcare,

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Kristen Porter, executive director of Pathways to Wellness, spoke at last Friday's pride flag raising at City Hall Plaza. Photo: Marilyn Humphries

South Ender John Keith hoping for another Independent's Day

BY LAURA KIRITSY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The perils and pluses of South Ender John Keith's independent candidacy for the 3rd Suffolk District House seat were apparent during an afternoon of door knocking on Appleton Street on June 1.

On the one hand, there was the middle-aged man who seemed taken aback by Keith's candidacy; he thought the seat went to Aaron Michlewitz after the May 19 Democratic primary. It's a

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John Keith and his husband Terry Lighte (left) Tuesday night at Keith's fundraiser at the Calderwood Pavilion. Photo: Marlene Karas

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Un[expect]ed

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ated, enjoyed and learned.”

Le Melle said the BCA’s mission is to support and showcase artists, build community and connect art to the community.

“We are going to provide more services to our artists. We are bringing contemporary dance and bringing films to BCA. And we are connecting young and new filmmakers to experienced professionals,” she said. “It’s really going to be a vibrant, constantly moving organization, a home for artists not just to present and create their works, but also to be supported.”

To demonstrate its support, each year the BCA presents the Arts Champion Award to an individual who expresses a passion and a commitment to the sustainability of the arts. This year’s recipient was Joyce Kulhawik, who has been a CBS-4 arts and entertainment reporter for over 27 years.

Inspired by the Japanese firework called golden peony, the award was designed and created by a longtime BCA studio artist Ken Clark. Julie Burns, director of the Mayor’s Office of Arts, Tourism and Special Events, presented the award on behalf of Mayor Thomas Menino.

“Joyce has made significant contributions to the region’s cultural landscape and has been instrumental in focusing attention and promoting local artists, performers and cultural groups that are integral parts of the mission for the Boston Center for the Arts. Therefore, I, Thomas M. Menino, mayor of the City of Boston, hereby proclaim Thursday, June 4, 2009, to be Joyce Kulhawik Arts Champion Day,” said Burns, on behalf of the mayor.

The veteran TV reporter said she has always

been fascinated with art and artists, and was honored and humbled to receive the award.

“This is never just a job for me; it’s my pleasure, my joy and my fantasy. The singers, the dancers, the painters, the sculptors, the jugglers—all of you uplift us. You inspire us. You excite us. You are the champions,” she said.

Kulhawik said the artists who are dedicated to incubating and showcasing the performing and visual arts deserve more support from the community and media. She is also determined to report more positive, uplifting stories and present the lives and the works of local artists.

“There is so much negative news—everything is about murder, fire, accidents and catastrophes. And it’s the artists in our community who are putting out the good work and the good news. They show us the best in ourselves, and they make our city great,” she said. “[But] they get very little encouragement, and it’s hard to make your living and make your way as an artist. And they need all the coverage and the help they can get.”

Studio artist Deborah Van Auten, who exhibited two oil paintings at the event and provided a small workshop at the art bar, said the event gave opportunity for local artists to show and sell their work and to support the ambitions of emerging artists. It also helped inspire people to appreciate art on a whole new level.

“We try to get people to open up their minds a little bit to see how they can actually make something from miscellaneous objects like chains, necklaces and sculptures,” said Van Auten, who taught some attendees how to make necklaces and pins.

“We have all the things we have to offer and they can bring children and friends and have more access to the arts,” she added. “I hope they will be inspired.”

Pathways

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body, spirit and mind. Twenty years ago we were the first group in the United States to take action against HIV and AIDS and start a free program that brought Asian medicine to people who were affected and infected. For the next 20 years we will continue to fight for equal access to integrative medicine for all people so that is a right for all not just a privilege for few.”

Porter also told the crowd about some of this year’s marshal’s most noteworthy work.

“Pathways is also the only group in the United States to ever publish material on transgender healthcare and Asian medicine and will continue to be on the forefront of research and service to that community as well. So we have set up 18 programs in Massachusetts in the last 20 years. If you want to get involved and support Pathways all you need to do is come in, get a massage, get an acupuncture visit, get any service and a portion of your treatment goes to provide free care for all sorts of people in the Commonwealth.”

Pathways was founded in 1988 in response to the AIDS crisis. The organization’s holistic therapies can be divided into three categories: acupuncture, Chinese herbal medicine, and Asian bodywork. In 2000, the agency expanded its services beyond HIV/AIDS to provide holistic therapies to all patients at low rates. This expansion helped Pathways increase its operating budget and continue raising awareness about the disease.

The center’s focus on providing care for low-income, chronically and terminally ill individuals from diverse demographic and socio-economic backgrounds throughout Massachusetts for 20 years helped Pathways gain recognition. Some of it came from the South End Community Health Center, which invited Pathways to relocate to the center’s facilities in 2007. Together the two agencies continue serving low-income patients as well as the South End community.

Pathways is also known for its “Share the Care” model. Through it, a portion of every treatment fee helps provide free care programs for others. Patients therefore have a chance to give back and help provide service to the needy.

“A portion of every treatment fee helps support our free care programs,” said Porter. “So everyone is welcome to come to Pathways and make a difference while they are helping themselves!”

The Pride Parade is expected to bring in more than 10,000 marchers and perhaps as many as 100,000 attendees. This year’s theme is “Trans-forming Our Community,” which builds upon last year’s focus of sustaining the community and working together for change, but also focuses on the important issue of supporting and advocating for transgender families, friends and colleagues.

Some of the activities featured during this year’s Pride festivities include a Latino Night, King and Queen of the parade pageant, comedy shows and block parties. As grand marshal, Pathways will share the spotlight with Barbara Jordan, honorary marshal in memoriam, and celebrity marshal, Melissa Etheridge.

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June 2009

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

June is here once again and it is time for our Annual Block Party. This year’s event will take place on Saturday, June 13th between the hours of 1:30PM and 7:30PM. As in years past, there will be food and refreshments and a DJ with dancing. Chandler Street (between Berkeley and Arlington Streets only) will be closed during these hours and in addition the Boston Transportation Department will be posting “No Parking” signs at this end of the Street between the hours of 8:00AM and 9:00PM.

As always, we will make every effort to make as little impact as possible on the neighborhood during this short period of time. Should you have any concerns arise on the day of the event, we will have a special hotline set up that you can call for assistance. The hotline number will be (617)482-3450 ext. 100.

The Boston Gay Rights Fund is proud to have raised nearly **\$900,000** over the past 23 years for several very worthy local GLBT organizations.

Please join us if you can on Saturday, June 13th and thank you for your continued support over the years. We all look forward to yet another successful block party this year!

THE BOSTON GAY RIGHTS FUND BOARD