

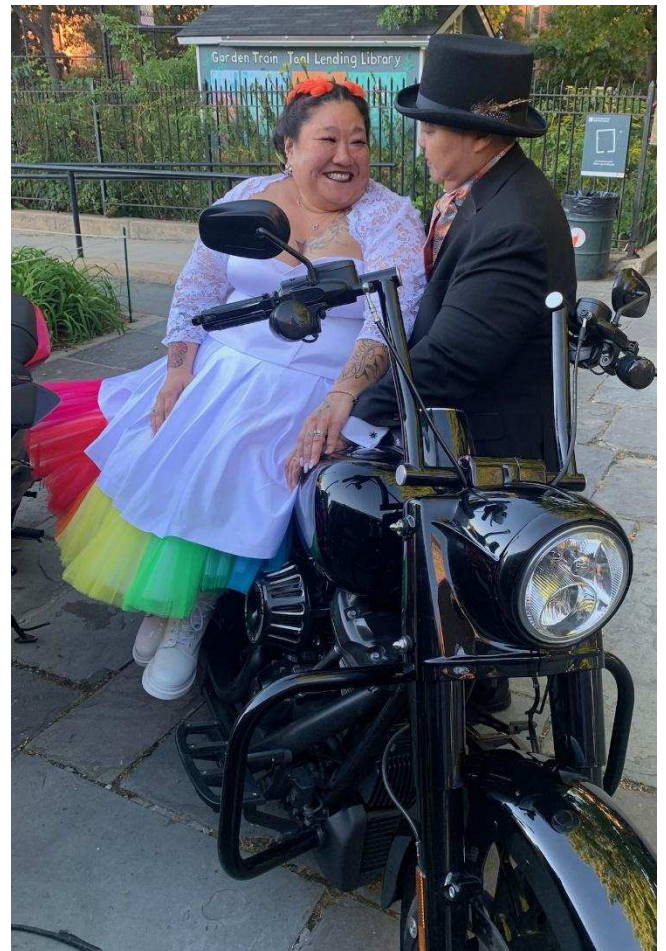


Wedding Bells in The Sirens MC!

While the ECMC boys were busy with their 58th Anniversary Dinner and Ukrainian Benefit last month on Saturday, 8 October 2022 at the Ukrainian East Village Restaurant, the sisters of the Sirens MC were busy with their own event!

Long-time couple, KT Ballentine and Jen Baquial, tied the knot the same night at the historic Old Stone House in Washington Park on Fifth Avenue Brooklyn.

Both KT and Jen are some of the principal driving forces of the Sirens MC and Empire City MC wish the couple continued happiness and love in the years to come!



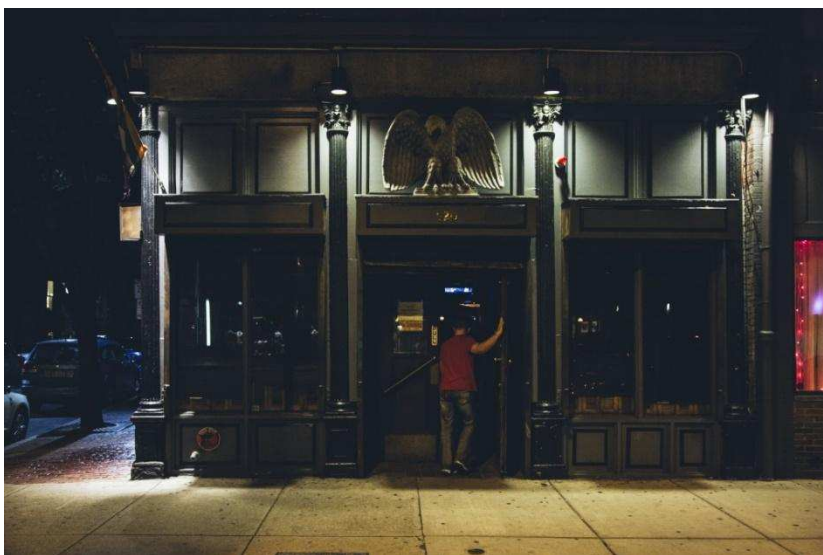
A New (Old) Gay Bar in Boston

The highly anticipated and long-awaited opening of **The Kartal** (the former home of Boston Eagle) had a soft opening last month.

The Kartal is the first cocktail bar to open in the South End in a long time, and it's my hope is that this cosy space can be a friendly place for Boston's gay community to come together.

The Kartal will not be marketed as a gay bar but then again neither was Stella, 647 Tremont, or Boston Chops and yet due to their patronage they became unofficial gay bars of Boston.

The new owners are quite familiar with the bar's history and they have carefully chosen everything from the name to unique decorations and design with its past in mind. For example, the name of the bar, The Kartal, comes from the Turkish word for eagle.



Additionally, when you visit, check out the newly tiled mosaic entry. It depicts a two-headed eagle with the dates 1981 and 2021, noting the 40 years the Boston Eagle operated at 520 Tremont Street. The two-headed eagle also symbolizes both the original and "new" eagle. I'm sure I'll be writing more about The Kartal in the future, after I've had a chance to stop by and enjoy a cocktail or two. Over the coming weeks, I hope you will also stop by to enjoy a drink and check out the new space. After you visit, let me know what you think. The Kartal, 520 Tremont Street (South End), Open daily from 5PM – 2AM

A holiday-themed poster for an event. The background is dark green with white stars and yellow circles. On the left, three red and white Christmas ornaments are hanging. In the center, the text reads: "EXCELSIOR M.C. PRESENTS HUNG WITH CARE TRIM A TREE HOLIDAY EVENT benefitting Sylvia Rivera's Place". Below this, the date and time are listed: "DEC 2 9PM - MIDNIGHT". At the bottom left are logos for "Ty's Est. 1972" and "EXCELSIOR MC NYC". On the right, a muscular Santa Claus is shown from the back, wearing a red hat and a purple harness.

New Subway Station Has Public Art Rarely Seen: A Gay Couple

Sorry for the delay in writing this – for many this is “old news”, but it came to my attention that we never wrote about this story!

The sight of two men holding hands is far from uncommon, but a mural of two men doing just that is showing up in an unusual place—on the walls of a new subway station in New York City. That depiction of love between gay men is a rarity in public art, experts say.

"It was like winning the lottery," Thor Stockman, 60, said of finding out that he and his husband of 3 ½ years, Patrick Kellogg, were going to be part of artist Vik Muniz's "Perfect Strangers," a series of life-size mosaic portraits of everyday New Yorkers gracing the walls of the new subway station at 72nd Street. But "part of me wishes that it wasn't a rarity, that it wasn't remarkable."

The station on the city's long-awaited Second Avenue subway line opened 1st January 2017.

Muniz said it made sense to include the two men in a project intended to show the different people that riders are likely to encounter on their daily commutes.

"They are just people you would expect to see," Muniz, who divides his time between New York and Brazil, said in phone interview from Rio de Janeiro. "You would expect to see men holding hands."

Jonathan David Katz, an expert in queer art history, said he could find no other example of a permanent, non-political LGBTQ public artwork in New York City. He mentioned George Segal's "Gay Liberation Monument" near Stonewall Inn, the site of the 1969 riots that launched the gay rights movement. But that work, featuring two men standing and two women sitting, is expressly commemorative of a political moment.

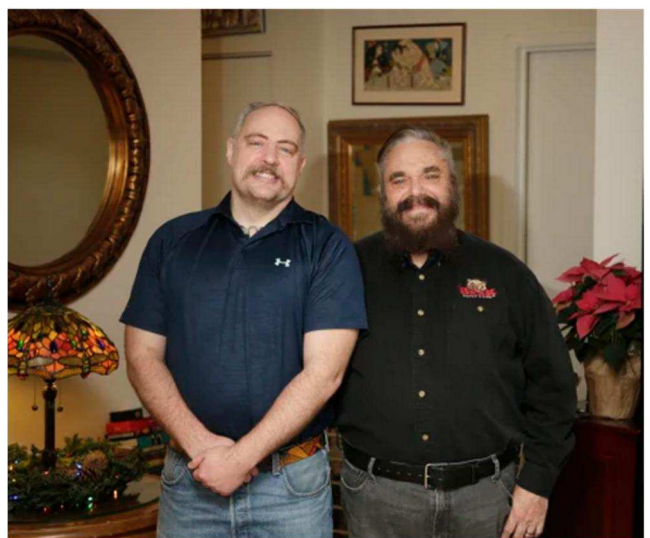
A work like Muniz's is long overdue in a city "ostensibly the epicentre of both the art world and the gay movement," said Katz, director of the doctoral program in visual culture studies at SUNY Buffalo and the former executive coordinator of the Larry Kramer Initiative for Lesbian and Gay Studies at Yale University.

"What makes it a turning point is it isn't gayness singled out and made the theme. On the contrary, the work naturalizes gayness within the fabric of the city, and in so doing, that's actually an even more powerful message," he said.

Nicholas Baume, public art fund director and chief curator, agreed. "The work reminds me that it's a common occurrence to see a gay couple holding hands waiting on a subway platform in New York City. It's great that it's no longer a taboo for men to show this kind of everyday affection."

Stockman and Kellogg said they took the photo that is the basis for the mosaic by chance more than three years ago; they had gone to Brooklyn to meet up with a friend who was working on the project, and a photographer asked if they wanted to be photographed. Stockman assumed plenty of people were being photographed, and "we were hoping maybe we'll get a nice portrait print out of this by standing there for five minutes."

It wasn't until earlier this year that they were told their image would be among those going up in the new station, and they were asked to keep it under wraps as the specifics of the art installations hadn't gone public yet.



TOP: The Second Avenue Subway station at 72nd Street in New York features a mural of Thor Stockman, left, and his husband, Patrick Kellogg. MTA / AP

BOTTOM: Thor Stockman, right, and Patrick Kellogg pose for a portrait in their apartment in New York on Dec. 21, 2016. Seth Wenig / AP

When they were finally able to tell their friends, the reaction was joyous, said Kellogg, 47, and not only for the two of them but because it was the kind of image of a gay couple that's not often seen in pop culture.

"Our friends were happy that this is gay representation on the walls of New York City, but our friends were even happier that this is gay representation that is not incredibly beautiful and skinny," Kellogg said, as Stockman added, "That they were just average-looking guys like us."

Muniz's work at the 72nd St station is joined by three other artists, one at each of three other stations on the subway line. Every artist who submitted a proposal to be considered for the project came forward with their own idea, not one based on any kind of theme or idea from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's Arts and Design public art program, said Sandra Bloodworth, the director.

Finalists then presented their ultimate concepts, and the winning artist was selected. Bloodworth said Muniz's overall concept was approved, not each individual image.

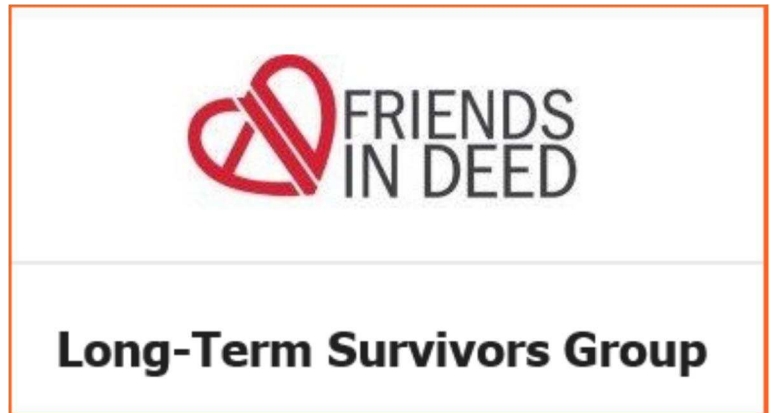
"That's the responsibility we had," she said. "We would create great works that would mean something to people."

Find this life-sized tile mural at 72nd St Station on the southern half of the Mezzanine, on the west wall. Congratulations to our friends Patrick and Thor for being immortalised as art in New York City!!

Long-Term AIDS Survivors Group

- Have you been HIV+ for 20 years or more?
- Worried about long term effects of HIV meds?
- Concerned about HIV+/HIV- relationships?
- Trying to navigate Medicaid/Medicare?

Adults age 50 years and older now represent the largest group of people living with HIV/AIDS. This group include long-term survivors (LTS) who were diagnosed with HIV/AIDS before the advent of antiretroviral therapy in 1996. People within these groups often experience higher rates of illnesses associated with aging including cardiovascular, liver and kidney diseases, cancers, frailty, and osteoporosis.



They may also be socially isolated due to HIV/AIDS stigma and have higher rates of depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and loneliness as they age.

GMHC has developed an array of nationally recognized services to support the psychosocial and educational needs of adults age 50 years and older and LTS. In addition, our National Resource Center on HIV & Aging conducts ground-breaking research on issues associated with aging with HIV/AIDS.

The Brenneis-Boger Hub for Long-Term Survivors at GMHC are a series of ongoing meetings involving "Friends In Deed" and other groups to help support the unique needs of the survivors of the AIDS plague.

For more information about all the services mentioned here, visit:

<https://bit.ly/GMHC-LTS>

**Empire City MC's 59th Annual Holiday Party and Gift Drive
to benefit Rising Ground Children's Services**

**Saturday, December 3rd 2022
6pm – 9pm at the historic Stonewall Inn
53 Christopher St, NYC**

With special guest host: Ari Kiki!

**\$10 with a gift at the door,
or \$20 without a gift at the door.**

- Fantastic door prizes.
- Plenty of light fare all night!
- Stay for the show starting at 9pm!



To prevent transmission of disease, gift cards are preferred over tangible items. Although no suitable gift for 0-18 year olds kids will be rejected, gift cards from the following places are especially desired:

- Department Store Gift Cards
- Amazon Gift Cards
- Clothing Store Gift Cards
- Modell's Sporting Goods Gift Cards
- Apple iTune Gift Cards
- Other appropriate stores in the NYC area

Rising Ground is a New York City based non-profit organisation that helps families discover their own strengths and build upon those strengths using evidence-based models with proven records of achievement. They work with each family and family member to resolve the conflicts that brought them to a crisis point, working toward a belief that change is possible. Then they work together to create plans that become the roadmap to the family's — and each family member's — success. As families set their own goals, we also guide them to any additional resources needed, such as food, housing, or healthcare. The work isn't just about helping families address momentary crises. They equip them with communication skills, knowledge of resources and a network of support.

For more information about our event, or to donate a door prize, please contact us by e-mail at: ecmc@empirecitymc.com

Holidays are hard – we're keeping it simple!

There will be NO pre-event ticket sales – all tickets are at the door.



the Stonewall Inn™

UPCOMING EVENTS & RIDES

Some Featured Rides & Events from our calendar:

Wed 16th Nov, 20:00 – 21:00: SOCIAL MEETING: Empire City hosts a social teleconference on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. All interested parties are welcomed. We discuss ride and event ideas, current events, other useful stuff. <https://bit.ly/ECMC-Social>

Fri 2nd Dec, 21:00 – 00:00: EVENT: Excelsior MC's Trim-A-Tree at Ty's (Christopher Street)

Sat 3rd Dec, 18:00 – 21:00: EVENT: ECMC's 59th Annual Holiday Party & Gift Drive (see page 6)

Wed 7th Dec, 20:00 – 21:00: OPEN GENERAL MEETING: Empire City MC's monthly Open General Meeting is held the first Wednesday of each month from 8pm to 9pm by teleconference at: <https://bit.ly/ECMC-Meeting> All interested parties may attend. Nominations for officers shall take place this evening.

Wed 21st Dec, 20:00 – 21:00: SOCIAL MEETING: Empire City hosts a social teleconference on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. All interested parties are welcomed. We discuss ride and event ideas, current events, other useful stuff. <https://bit.ly/ECMC-Social>

Wed 4th Jan 2023, 20:00 – 21:00: OPEN GENERAL MEETING: Empire City MC's monthly Open General Meeting is held the first Wednesday of each month from 8pm to 9pm by teleconference at: <https://bit.ly/ECMC-Meeting> All interested parties may attend. Elections shall take place this evening.

Thu 12th – Mon 16th Jan 2023: EVENT: Touring Reykjavík, Iceland [planning phases]

Wed 18th Jan, 20:00 – 21:00: SOCIAL MEETING: Empire City hosts a social teleconference on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. All interested parties are welcomed. We discuss ride and event ideas, current events, other useful stuff. <https://bit.ly/ECMC-Social>

Sat 28th Jan, 18:00 – 21:00: EVENT: Installation of New ECMC Officers at Dinner – location T/B/D

Sun 29th Jan, 18:00 – 21:00: EVENT: New York Travel & Adventure Show at Javits – discount tickets on sale now!

Wed 1st Feb: ECMC membership dues are due. Please pay your dues to the Treasurer before end-of-month.

Wed 1st Feb, 20:00 – 21:00: OPEN GENERAL MEETING: Empire City MC's monthly Open General Meeting is held the first Wednesday of each month from 8pm to 9pm by teleconference at: <https://bit.ly/ECMC-Meeting> All interested parties may attend.

Fri 24th – 26th Feb: EVENT: The Pennsmen Run / 200th AMCC Meeting in Harrisburg. The news we would like to share is that we have been hard at work, putting together our own run. The Pennsmen 46th Anniversary & AMCC 200th Meeting will be held from 2/24/23-2/26/23 in Harrisburg, PA. We are finishing up the final touches for the run and will make an update as soon as tickets become available. We hope old and new friends come join us in this celebration. There is also an event on our Facebook page that anyone can join to help remember the date and discuss the event. Nearly all of ECMC will be there!

REMEMBER: There are plenty of other events and rides added to our official calendar on a regular basis, especially day rides! Be sure to bookmark <http://calendar.EmpireCityMC.com> and come along with us on some great rides! Our physical mailing address is: **Empire City MC, 10 W 15th St, Suite 609, New York, NY 10011-6821.**

For membership information, visit <http://empirecitymc.com/membership.php> to view and download our constitution, bylaws and membership application. We're on social media at <https://mewe.com/join/empirecitymc> where you can chat with us.

Please send any articles, photos or letters to the editor at newsletter@EmpireCityMC.org
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