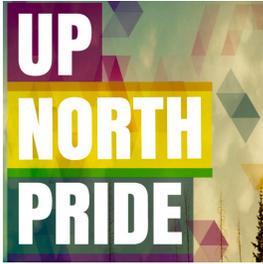


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For Pride Week Event information: [UpNorthPride.com](http://UpNorthPride.com)



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UP NORTH PRIDE ANNOUNCES PRIDE WEEK 2015

Mario Batali, Susi Cahn, Michael Chetcuti and Kyle Evans to Grand Marshal

Traverse City, MI: Up North Pride and The Michael Chetcuti Foundation are pleased to announce Up North Pride Week starting June 22 and leading up to a Visibility Stroll and Pride Celebration on June 27 at noon. Pride Week is led by four very special Grand Marshals:

**Mario Batali and his wife Susi Cahn**, seasonally of Northern Michigan, will kick off the Saturday Visibility Stroll alongside **Michael Chetcuti and his partner Kyle Evans**. Batali is a world-renowned chef, writer, and restaurateur. Both Batali and Cahn are out-spoken LGBT allies as well as lovers of Northern Michigan. Chetcuti is CEO of Quality Metalcraft in Detroit and is a job creator in a variety of industries across Michigan. Evans is an automotive and industrial designer known for his love automotive design in particular. Both are seasonally in Detroit and Leelanau County.

“This coming June brings high expectations for our state and our Northern Michigan community as the highest court deliberates the monumental decision of marriage equality,” says Up North Pride co-chair Marta Turnbull. “Our Grand Marshals demonstrate Up North Pride and LGBT advocacy on different stages, and their commitment to enriching culture and community in Northern Michigan inspires us.”

The Up North Pride Visibility Stroll and Celebration, the 2nd Annual in Traverse City, commemorates the 1969 Stonewall Riots, widely celebrated as the birthplace of the LGBT equality movement. The 2015 stroll and celebration will also mark the important Supreme Court decision on Michigan marriage equality expected to be announced in June.

The marshals will lead the Visibility Stroll beginning at The Little Fleet located at Front Street and Wellington at noon on Saturday, June 27.

Speakers, activities and music will follow. For a more detailed list of events visit <http://upnorthpride.com>.

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#### Pride Week: Calendar of Events

MON, JUNE 21 at The Parlor (205 Lake Ave., Traverse City).

- **Coming Out Over Coffee** – Together with Windfire, Up North Pride invites you to come grab a cup of coffee and share your story with some of our area's LGBT youth in a relaxed conversation atmosphere. (Family-friendly event) Starts at 5:30pm.
- **Here:Say Storytelling special event – Come Out, Come Out, Whoever You Are** This monthly running storytelling event hosts a very special evening of invited performers to tell us their hilarious, heartfelt and moving stories centered around the theme of coming out with a truth not previously known to any other. Storytelling starts promptly at 7pm.

TUES, JUNE 23 at Rare Bird Brewery (229 Lake Ave., Traverse City)

- **Sign Making Party** – No Pride Celebration is complete without colorful, hand painted signs. Grab a locally brewed beer and let us provide you with the materials to make your sign for the Saturday Visibility Stroll, the paints and the table space to make your signs. Fun starts at 7pm.

WED, JUNE 24 starts at The Filling Station (642 Railroad Pl., Traverse City)

- **Pride Ride** – Bring your road bike, cruiser or other human-pedal powered two-wheeler and join us for a fun night ride. Enjoy the fresh air and beautiful scenery. Ride starts at 8pm.
- **Karaoke at SideTraxx** – A local hump day tradition! Hosted by Impaired Karaoke at Traverse City's long-standing LGBT bar this weekly event. Spirited singing begins at 10pm.

THURS, JUNE 25 – Up North Pride at The STATE Theatre (233 E. Front St., Traverse City)

- **Special Screening of MILK and panel.** This 2008 Academy award winning film biography about Harvey Milk, the first openly gay politician to be elected to office in California will be shown on the big screen at The State Theatre. A

Q&A will follow with a panel to include Traverse City commissioner and LGBT activist Jim Carruthers, Michael Chetcuti of the Michael Chetcuti Foundation along with other very special guests. Film starts at 6pm.

FRI, JUNE 26

- **Pride Kickoff at The Fleet** – Join us at The Little Fleet for an end of your workweek kickoff to an awesome Pride Celebration Weekend. 6pm.

SAT, JUNE 27 at The Little Fleet (448 E. Front St., Traverse City)

- **Official Pride Visibility Stroll** - We kick things off at 12pm with an introduction to our Grand Marshals: Mario Batali, Susi Cahn, Michael Chetcuti and Kyle Evans. Things get moving by 1pm. The visibility stroll heads west on Front Street and returns back to The Little Fleet. This peaceful rally of love and support for the LGBT community is the start of the main day's events.
- **Official Up North Pride Celebration Event** – An afternoon of entertainment, speakers, community and fun.
  - Speakers include:
    - Jay Kaplan, ACLU's LGBT Legal Project Staff Attorney
    - Char Davenport, Transgender Activist and Professor at Saginaw Valley State University
    - Jim Carruthers, Traverse City Commissioner and LGBT Activist
  - Activities include:
    - Face painting, balloon animals, and chalk fun for kids (and the young at heart)
    - Education booths, raffle and DJs
    - 8 of Traverse City's favorite food trucks
- **Nest Fest at Rare Bird** (229 Lake Street, outside in the back lot)  
Up North Pride continues at Traverse City's favorite beer spot. This is a great spot to refuel and keep the celebrations going. Live music and full menu. Fun starts at 5:30pm
- **Official After Party and Drag Show at Side Traxx** (520 Franklin St., Traverse City)  
What Pride celebration would be complete without our beloved Drag Queens and Kings? Come for a night of dancing and entertainment at Traverse City's only gay nightclub.