

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Drag Entertainer Pissi Myles to Host the 2026 Catskills Pride Awards at The Eldred Preserve, Honoring Local LGBTQIA+ Changemakers and Allies

Sullivan County's LGBTQIA+ community gathers June 6 to honor five changemakers, with viral drag comedian and emcee Pissi Myles leading the celebration

ELDRED, N.Y. — June 1, 2026 — Catskills Pride will present the **2026 Catskills Pride Awards** on **Saturday, June 6, 2026, at The Eldred Preserve** in Eldred, New York, honoring the people and partnerships shaping the Catskills into a more inclusive, welcoming place for all. Doors open at 5 p.m., with the ceremony officially kicking off at 6 p.m., and the evening will be hosted by acclaimed drag comedian, singer, and emcee **Pissi Myles**.

Equal parts awards gala and big-hearted community reunion, the night will celebrate joy, resilience, and progress across the region, bringing together neighbors, advocates, allies, artists, and business leaders for an evening of recognition, performance, and connection. The 2026 program will also feature a silent auction of one-of-a-kind work from local artists, makers and businesses, flowing drinks and mocktails, and opportunities to mingle, network, and celebrate, followed by a dance party.

The Pride Awards is Catskills Pride's largest gala-format event of the year. **Now in its 3rd year**, the celebration will recognize five honorees across five categories:

- **Artistic Achievement Award — Nonna Hall**
- **Business Excellence Award — Anthony Coscia & Barry Becker**
- **Activism Award — Wendy Stuart**
- **Community Leader Award — Paula Campbell**
- **Ally of the Year — Melissa Gilbert**

"These honorees represent the very best of who we are in Sullivan County. They're neighbors who show up, build community, and make the Catskills a place where everyone can feel like they belong. We can't wait to celebrate them alongside their peers and our cherished queer Catskills community, and to do it with the one and only Pissi Myles at the mic." — **Omar Osbourne, Catskills Pride President**

Statewide Recognition

Catskills Pride was recently honored with an official proclamation from **New York State Assemblymember Paula Elaine Kay**, recognizing the organization's extraordinary service to the LGBTQIA+ community across the Catskills. The proclamation highlights Catskills Pride's impact through youth support initiatives, scholarships, HIV prevention and mental health programs, and emergency financial assistance for community members in need — affirming the organization's role as a vital regional resource dedicated to ensuring that all people are seen, supported, and celebrated.

Hosted by Pissi Myles

An award-winning drag comedian, singer, and host from Asbury Park, New Jersey, **Pissi Myles** brings sharp wit, big-hearted humor, and serious stage credentials to the Catskills Pride Awards. A winner of Philly Drag Wars and a former "Best Drag Hostess" honoree, she earned a BFA in Musical Theatre from Montclair State University and has performed everywhere from Radio City Music Hall to the legendary Wigstock festival.

Pissi reached national audiences in 2019, when she covered a Congressional hearing in Washington, D.C. for a streaming-news startup, an only-in-America moment picked up by outlets including The Washington Post and NBC, and cheered on by the likes of George Takei and RuPaul. Known for viral comedy, original parody singles, and a warm, crowd-pleasing hosting style, she has been featured by Billboard, Vogue, and Cosmopolitan, and performs throughout New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania.

Meet the 2026 Honorees

Nonna Hall — Artistic Achievement Award. A ceramicist, teacher, and community builder, Nonna Hall traded a career in banking for a life in clay after emigrating from Moscow. Today she leads Hall Space in Eldred, a creative studio and gallery that has become a gathering place where local artists share skills and inspire one another.

Anthony Coscia & Barry Becker — Business Excellence Award. After acclaimed careers in fashion (Coscia as an executive with Gianni Versace, and Becker as a model working with Ungaro and Valentino), the pair traded the runway for the riverside. They opened The River Gallery in Narrowsburg in 2005, helping spark the revival that has made the hamlet a beloved destination.

Wendy Stuart — Activism Award. A performer, model, and tireless advocate, Wendy Stuart has spent more than two decades supporting LGBTQIA+ communities across the tri-state area, from the Imperial Court of New York to her weekly webcast, *Triversity Talk*. Her activism is as wide-ranging as it is deeply personal.

Paula Campbell — Community Leader Award. A 40-year resident of the Town of Highland, Paula Campbell is the definition of quiet, steadfast service. She has championed voter registration and education across Sullivan County, volunteers regularly at a local food pantry, and has served for 15 years as a certified elder-abuse guardian.

Melissa Gilbert — Ally of the Year. A beloved actress best known for *Little House on the Prairie* and a two-term president of the Screen Actors Guild, Melissa Gilbert now calls the Catskills home. She is celebrated for embracing her community with warmth and authenticity, as a neighbor, an advocate, and a true ally.

"Building people up and advocating for others isn't always easy, but it is truly a life well spent." — **John Pizzolato, Town of Highland Supervisor**, in a recent public letter supporting the 2026 honorees, published in *The River Reporter*

Tickets & Sponsorship

Tickets for the 2026 Catskills Pride Awards are available now and going quickly. Tickets and event details can be found at catskillspride.com or directly through the event's ticketing page (linked from the @catskillspride official Instagram page). **Sponsorship opportunities are also available** for businesses and individuals who wish to support the celebration and the community it serves; interested sponsors can reach out at contact@catskillspride.com.

Sponsors & Silent Auction

The 2026 Catskills Pride Awards are made possible by the generous support of sponsors including **Jeff Bank, Pollinator Spirits, River Gallery Home, the Upstate Curious Team at Compass, The Highlands Salon, Local Nest, 2 Queens Coffee Roasters, Keller Williams Hudson Valley United, and Hudson Valley Upstate Network**, along with community sponsors **David Ard & Brian Gentes, Melanie Seymour Holland, Erin West + David Johnston, Linda Kenny Baden English, Skyler Drew, Staci Armbruster, Barry Becker**, as well as the support of volunteers.

A highlight of the evening, the silent auction will feature one-of-a-kind experiences and works from local artists, makers, and businesses. Highlights include:

- A **portrait photo session** with **Daphne Laput Photography**

- A **design consultation** with New York–based designer **Dane Charles** of Found by Dane Charles
- A **gift certificate and private fitting** with designer Ronen of **Parke & Ronen**
- An **original oil painting**, *Truro Marshlands, February 2026*, by artist **Matthew Farina**
- A set of **custom marble tray and coasters** from **Doozer US**
- A set of three **handmade, one-of-a-kind glazed ceramic bud vases**, *Throuple of Bud Vases*, by artist **Joe Winter**
- A set of **hand-carved midcentury modern wood cats** from **Catskills Vintage Art**
- A **15” × 18” wall hanging** of hand-painted fabrics and found textiles, *Pieced for Pride* (2026), by artist **Adam Schecter**
- **And much, much more!**

The Celebration Continues

Pride Month programming continues beyond Awards Night. Catskills Pride will host a **Pool Party at The Blue Fox in Narrowsburg on Sunday, June 13, 2026, from 1 to 5 p.m.** — an afternoon social event where the community makes a big splash each year, open to all.

About Catskills Pride

Catskills Pride is a community organization dedicated to celebrating, supporting, and uplifting the LGBTQIA+ community across the Catskills and Sullivan County. Its year-round work includes youth support initiatives, scholarships, HIV prevention and mental health programs, and emergency financial assistance for community members in need — affirming its role as a vital regional resource dedicated to ensuring that all people are seen, supported, and celebrated.

Media Contact

Dan Koday

Communications Director, Catskills Pride

dan@catskillspride.com

contact@catskillspride.com

###