

On Sunday, February 21st, the Boston Globe released a vile, two-page hit piece smearing Super Happy Fun America. The authors suggested that we are a violent, extremist, far-right, white supremacist, Nazi organization. Our members include black, white, Arabic, Jewish, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Latino people, as can be seen in pictures from our events. We are a conservative, patriotic, peace-loving organization. This presentation points out the lies, false associations, and misinformation contained in the article.



# Smiling on the outside

Super Happy Fun America always claimed to be kidding. But the group's history suggests otherwise.

We never claimed that

By [Zoe Greenberg](#) and [Laura Crimaldi](#), Globe Staff  
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SHFA, Vietnamese Americans for Trump, Bay State Chinese American Patriots, and others

Yes, it gets dark at night

They joked and cheered as they boarded the darkened bus in Newton. Some lugged coolers, others snapped selfies.

As the bus eased onto the highway toward Washington, D.C., a man with a thick red beard greeted the giddy passengers. “Say it with me,” he bellowed into a microphone, like a tour guide rallying new customers. “Super Happy Fun America!”

More peaceful than a BLM / Antifa "peaceful protest"

They already identified him as Brandon. But it is a nice beard.

Pictured above, clockwise from top left: Suzanne Ianni, Mark Sahady, Brandon Navom, Samson Racioppi, John Hugo, and Kyle Chapman. (John Hancock/Globe Staff)

In a day's time, some on board would decide to join a throng surging toward the Capitol and the violent insurrection erupting there. At least two would be arrested and charged with breaching the building.

But all that was still to come. For now, the riders were calm. Cynthia Maloney, a doula from Watertown who was on the bus, described “people talking, singing ... it was super happy fun people on the bus.”

That's not the charge and they are misdemeanors

That is how the group likes to present itself.

We are a happy, fun group. What's wrong with that?

Yes, we called it that. You mad?

Super Happy Fun America, a Massachusetts organization that has staged protests at the State House, hosted the so-called Straight Pride Parade in Boston, and then, as Congress prepared to certify the election of Joe Biden, chartered five buses to ferry anyone with \$75 to Washington, had long painted itself as an advocacy organization with a whimsical side — and a yellow smiley face as its logo. But researchers who study the far right and have tracked Super Happy Fun America's rise say the group's jocular exterior hides a disturbing truth: For some, it serves as a gateway into the far right, offering people a socially acceptable entry point into extremism.

By researchers they mean far-left Twitter users

Yet another claim without any evidence



Actual picture of Sue, unlike the photo shopped pic the Globe used at the beginning of this hit piece

Supporters of President Trump, including Super Fun Happy America's Suzanne Ianni (in blue jacket) and Mark Sahady, protested inside the US Capitol on Jan. 6. The crowd breached security and entered the Capitol as Congress debated the 2020 presidential election electoral vote certification. (Roberto Schmidt/AFP)

The group's lionization of traditional gender roles and its stream of jokey press releases with made-up claims — announcing, for example, that Brad Pitt would be a mascot of its Straight Pride Parade or that a new SHFA orchestra would celebrate straight contributions to music — have helped normalize radical ideas, these experts say.

We support all 2 genders

We don't think traditional gender roles, Brad Pitt, and music are all that radical, but whatever.

“There are mainstream Trump supporters on one side of the far right, and there are explicit Neo-Nazis and white nationalists on the other side,” said Ben Lorber, a research analyst with the progressive think tank Political Research Associates. “Super Happy Fun America is one of these groups that's perfectly built to allow those two sides to come together.”

1st Nazi reference

Another claim without evidence

The group's leaders said that the group is conservative but has nothing to do with the far right, and denied that it provides an entry into extremism.

The Globe calls everyone to the right of Joe Stalin "far-right"

“We fight to preserve our Constitution. We’re opposed to the gender madness movement. And we defend our country against the cultural marxist movement,” said **John Hugo**, Super Happy Fun America’s president, in an interview with the Globe. He added that it was “super anti-

Nazi.”

Epecially the Nazis who wrote this article



superhappyfunamerica.org

The organization is a registered nonprofit with a meme-packed website, which as of this week was not functioning. But aside from three leadership positions listed on state paperwork, its internal workings seem to operate loosely.

The Globe seems unaware of our well-oiled machine

“It started off very informal, but we started creating formal memberships. We ask that people make a donation to our nonprofit civil rights organization,” said **Brandon Navom** of Lowell, the bearded man on the bus, in an interview.

They really like the beard

Send checks or money orders to:  
PO Box 21, Woburn MA 01801

Still, Super Happy Fun America was sufficiently organized to make a name staging flashy events that drew media attention. At actions like the Straight Pride Parade in 2019 and a series of rallies against coronavirus restrictions last year, organizers portrayed themselves as the oppressed victims of an unfair system dominated by the left.

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The goal was never to raise money or achieve specific policy changes, experts said. It was instead to garner publicity — which makes it difficult to gauge the organization’s actual influence.

See our 10 point plan to save America at  
superhappyfunamerica.org

“Part of the point is to generate media attention, create a media spectacle, piss off all of the liberals to protest,” said Lorber. “Even if there’s only a small number of folks who actually come out ... there’s potentially a larger number of folks who hear about it on the media and are supportive without coming.”

We always generate "media attention" because we're too cool for school

Liberals are always pissed off



John Hugo of Woburn (left) and Samson Racioppi of Salisbury posed in front of Boston City Hall on Aug. 27, 2019. (Nic Antaya/Globe Staff)

They just said up above that the point was to generate media attention. Is there a "pharmacological" reason for their confusion?

Super Happy Fun America was the latest in a series of groups led by the same circle of people; their earlier groupings seemed to disband when media coverage became too negative or revealed links to white supremacists. Starting in 2017 with the [Boston Free Speech rally](#) and extending through the bus ride to the Capitol, a few active participants stand out.

Any one person can be connected to another if you are being disingenuous. We consulted Kevin Bacon

Syrian American

Served in Afghanistan

Also a veteran. Can he get some love?

They include [Mark Sahady](#), 46, a Malden Army veteran who was arrested after the riot and served as the group's vice president; [Samson Racioppi](#), 39, a Salisbury law student who is listed as the group's treasurer and was also in D.C. on the day of the insurrection; and [Brandon Navom](#), 40.

Eye Candy

Has a red beard

Others became core organizers later, like [Hugo](#), 57, a former taxi dispatcher from Woburn who is Super Happy Fun America's president, and [Suzanne Ianni](#), 59, a Natick Town Meeting member who was among

Nobody puts Baby in a corner

those arrested for allegedly breaching the Capitol but appears to have become involved in Super Happy Fun America only last year.

Sahady and Racioppi declined to comment for this article. In a statement to the Globe, **Ianni** defended Super Happy Fun America but did not address her arrest.



Organizers of an August 2017 “free speech rally” stood on the bandstand on Boston Common as counterprotesters stood outside barricades ringing the bandstand. (Craig F. Walker/Globe Staff)

The seeds of what would become Super Happy Fun America began germinating on the Boston Common in August 2017.

The nation was on edge. Just a week earlier, hundreds of white people wielding torches and Confederate flags had [marched through the streets of Charlottesville, Va.](#) The terrifying images were compounded by President [Trump’s claim afterward](#) that there were “very fine people, on both sides.”

The Globe is still using Trump's words out of context

As the country reeled over Charlottesville and Trump's response, a small group in Boston was planning a "free speech rally" for the very next weekend. An organizer later explained he had postponed it "in order to not conflict with the Unite the Right Rally that was going to happen in Charlottesville."

City officials and observers were alarmed: They feared another Charlottesville and resolved that there would be no such violence in Boston. And so on a humid Saturday, tens of thousands of counterprotesters mobilized to confront the rally's participants, and denounce white supremacy and Nazism.

Anti-free speech activists who actually engaged in violence

2nd Nazi reference



A man who attended the Aug. 19, 2017, rally was escorted from Park Square by Boston police. (John Tlumacki/Globe Staff)

Separated from the masses by metal barricades, the few who came to support the rally huddled in the Parkman Bandstand. There were bullhorns but no amplifiers, so their words didn't carry. And some

Mayor Walsh wouldn't permit it

elements of the program seemed like pure theater, such as when a pair of invited preachers dressed in long white robes sang “Cannabis is good for us and God wants us to have it” to the tune of “Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious” — the Mary Poppins song.

Far-left activists

Though counterprotesters deemed the event a failure, some attendees saw it differently. They glimpsed how a spectacle, scorned by thousands of people and covered hungrily by the media, could give a small group of far-right activists momentum.

Why does the Globe always label conservative activists as far-right? Methinks there is an agenda at foot.

Michael Lindskog, an organizer from Norton, said in a [recorded panel discussion](#) about the rally that “it was the most exciting day of my life.”

By the fall of 2017, the Boston Free Speech coalition joined a new, bigger group: Resist Marxism.

Of course the commie rag Boston Globe is opposed to resisting Marxism

The August rally had furnished the fuel. Now organizers had fresh grievances, among them that the city had walled them off from the press and the counterprotesters. **Navom**, a software engineer and failed candidate for the Lowell City Council, [filed a libel suit against Mayor Martin J. Walsh](#). **Sahady**, too, was galvanized.

Has the Globe ever referred to Hillary as a failed Presidential candidate?

“The free speech rally was my personal introduction to how the fake news media, politicians, and far-left activists slander patriotic Americans,” he wrote on his blog afterward. “I became an activist in order to join the fight to stop them.”

Great job, Mark!



Rallygoers arrived for the Resist Marxism rally on Boston Common on Nov. 18, 2017. (Craig F. Walker/Globe Staff)

Resist Marxism was a loose coalition of groups, founded by a notorious right-wing agitator named [Kyle Chapman](#). Chapman had gained infamy after he was filmed smashing a wooden post over the head of an antifascist protester in California in 2017.

We have never seen this playbook. Where is it?

Maybe they should have called themselves the Pro-Defamation League. Personally, we feel defamed.

They followed the playbook of the so-called alt-lite, a label given to a loosely connected movement that publicly disavows white supremacy while embracing xenophobia and misogyny. Some of Resist Marxism's terms were dog whistles, said Christopher Magyarics of the Anti-Defamation League, including "cultural marxism," a longstanding trope that casts Jews as shadowy enemies conniving to uproot society. At the group's first event, a rally on Boston Common in November 2017, Chapman wore an "It's OK to be white" T-shirt. The group also promoted "the right of Americans to enforce our borders."

We know the far-left Globe loves Marxism

SHFA's Jewish delegation takes extreme umbrage at this outrageous claim

But its participants claimed they had nothing to do with hate.

Because they didn't. There is no evidence to show otherwise.

“Those accusing us of spreading hate do so because they want us to hate each other,” Resist Marxism said in a November 2017 press release in advance of the rally. “The accusation that we give a platform to hate is equally baseless.”

Notorious doxxer known as Antifash Gordon

“Essentially, they troll, they play coy with what they’re really after,” said Christian Exoo, an antifascist researcher who has investigated and infiltrated far-right groups in the Northeast online since 2016. “That’s exactly why we infiltrate these groups, to catch them when no one’s watching.”

## Symbols of extremism and hate at Super Happy Fun America events

Members of the group Super Happy Fun America claim they want nothing to do with the far right or fascist hate groups. But at numerous events organized by the Boston-based group, protesters can be seen displaying symbols and logos associated with groups that promote extremism, violence, intolerance, and hate, sometimes alongside prominent members of Super Happy Fun America.



Milo Yiannopoulos, grand marshal of Super Happy Fun America's Straight Pride Parade in Boston, makes the OK hand gesture from a float in 2019. (John Tlumacki/Globe Staff)

### OK hand gesture

The OK hand gesture dates back to the 19th century as a common signal for well-being. In 2017, members of the 4chan message board began to falsely promote the gesture as a symbol, claiming it represented the letters “wp” for “white power.” It’s popularity grew to the point that by 2019, some people were using the symbol as a sincere far-right expression. (Source: Anti-Defamation

Progressive means far-left

Do the authors of this article uncritically believe everything they read on the internet?

3rd Nazi Reference

In 2018, the progressive news outlet ThinkProgress published screenshots of what it said was a Resist Marxism group chat in which one participant envisioned Resist Marxism becoming a “true non optics Nazi organization,” apparently meaning it would be an out-in-the-open Nazi group. The conversation was littered with slurs against Jews. ThinkProgress also linked Resist Marxism to white supremacist groups in New England. Resist Marxism told reporters at the time that ThinkProgress’s assertions were “riddled with lies, mistakes, and spurious allegations of connections to the alt-right.”

4th Nazi Reference

Like who? They just say it.

This is true. Why does the Globe make claims without evidence?

A year later, someone leaked to the Huffington Post private chat logs in which people purporting to be Proud Boys discussed plans to attack leftist counterprotesters at an upcoming Resist Marxism rally in Providence. “The cops aren’t going to let us fight long,” one person wrote. “We need to inflict as much damage as possible in the time we have.”

Anonymous people on the internet purport a lot of things

Who is this mysterious person?

Facing a trail of bad publicity, Resist Marxism could no longer fly under the radar as a traditional conservative group. At this point, the group disappeared, and a new group appeared, with many of the same organizers. It was called Super Happy Fun America.

SHFA is a separate organization created by John Hugo and Mark Sahady in 2019

“It’s a big Boggle game,” said Exoo. “Every once in a while, you shake up the pieces and they land differently and create new formations. But it’s mostly the same core organizers.”

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Super Happy Fun America was led by **Sahady** and **Racioppi**, who were active with Resist Marxism, and **Hugo**, a Republican who had recently been backed by the organization [in a losing campaign to represent the Fifth Congressional District](#).

The new group relied more strongly on the **claim** that they were just kidding, Exoo said. By mixing irony and parody with authentic transphobia and **antigay** fervor, the group created a protective chaos around their communications.

We never claimed that.

Many gay allies took part in our parade, including Milo, the grand marshal

“There is such a mixture of ... outrageous claims that are clearly trolling and some that might actually be true or serious, it is difficult to distinguish,” said Gianluca Stringhini, a professor at Boston University who studies **malicious activity on the internet**.

This garbage article is just an endless series of false associations

The joking surface nature of the group’s outreach made it seem nonthreatening while attracting a broad range of supporters, according to

Lorber, from those frustrated by “political correctness” to straight-up white supremacists.

How many times is this insane article going to claim we are white supremacists without any evidence?



A marcher (left) confronted a counterprotester during the Straight Pride Parade in Boston on Aug. 31, 2019. (Craig F. Walker/Globe Staff)

Having successfully used perceived grievances to attract attention and broaden its audience in the past, the group now actively sought out rejection and capitalized on it. The group submitted an application to fly a straight pride flag at Boston City Hall and then filed a complaint with the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination when the city declined. Super Happy Fun America’s organizers soon announced plans for a Straight Pride Parade in a manifesto that cited the city’s rejection. The parade plans

went viral and generated intense controversy and, ultimately, international media attention. And the people rejoiced

With a spotlight on, the group painted its opponents as people who couldn't take a joke.

The Boston Globe wouldn't know a joke if it slapped them in the face

“These extremely grumpy bigots collectively call themselves Antifa, which stands for Anti-fun, as they despise all fun and happiness,” Super Happy Fun America wrote on its website. “This serves as further proof of our sincerely held belief that Straight people are an oppressed majority.”

Finally a bit of truth in this train wreck of an article

Once again, organizers got the spectacle they craved. At the August 2019 parade that wound from the Back Bay to downtown, thousands of protesters turned out in opposition.

The Globe is being heterophobic. Their hate and bigotry against straights has no place in a tolerant society.

If the notion of straight pride served as an effective way to hook the media and alienate outsiders at the same time, Super Happy Fun America organizers stumbled across a potentially even more potent lightning rod in the spring of 2020: coronavirus restrictions.

Such restrictions had struck a nerve with **Ianni**, a Natick Town Meeting member who occasionally wrote an opinion column in her local newspaper. She had been agitated for years about hot-button issues that also motivated Super Happy Fun America, writing in a 2019 letter to the editor that those who would benefit from gender-neutral driver's licenses are “a subset of mentally ill people.”

But last spring, Ianni's focus shifted to coronavirus restrictions. She wanted Governor Charlie Baker to let dog groomers resume work, she wrote in a

The Globe is anti-dog

letter, and she demonstrated in favor of churches continuing to gather large crowds.

plandemic

The commie Globe hates God

As tensions over the ~~pandemic~~ restrictions grew, Super Happy Fun America offered an outlet for the grievances of Ianni and others like her. In May, a large crowd gathered outside the State House for a rally against such restrictions that featured **Hugo**. Ianni filmed the scene on her cellphone as **Sahady**, **Racioppi**, and **Navom** stood nearby.



Supporters and counter demonstrators gathered at the Massachusetts State House for a rally sponsored by Super Happy Fun America against restrictions during the pandemic last May. John Hugo (center in tricorn hat) addressed the crowd, saying, "It is time for insurrection." (Barry Chin/Globe Staff)

"My fellow Americans, it is time to rise up. It is time for insurrection," Hugo, wearing his signature tricorn hat, told the crowd. "All around our country we've seen governors ignoring legislatures, and even the Constitution of the United States, and ruling by decree."

Minutes later, a man in the crowd yelled, "Storm the State House!"

Oh come on. They really are just making things up.

Like the orgy of violence from BLM / Antifa that the Globe so conveniently ignores

Nothing like that happened, but the rhetoric was a harbinger of the unrest to come.

5th Nazi Reference

6th Nazi Reference

Despite leaders' repeated claims that they had nothing to do with the far right, local neo-Nazis kept showing up to the group's events. Neo-Nazis have been photographed at Super Happy Fun America events in 2019 and 2020, though the group's leaders said they are not welcome.

Despite the Globe's obsession with Nazis, they aren't welcome at our events. Since the Globe can't produce any evidence of their claims against us, they focus on other groups in an attempt to tar us with people we have nothing to do with.

"We get held responsible for every single person who we've ever taken a picture with, who's ever come to our event," said Navom in an interview. "We don't ask that every person submit a full resume or bio before they come to our rally ... if anyone displays any hate symbols at our rally, they will be kicked out and forever banned."

The State House is a public place where anyone can come

The Globe reported in July that Anthony Petruccelli, a Lynn man with a swastika tattooed on his calf, was at a June Super Happy Fun America rally at the State House, where a small group of men wore "Nationalist Social Club" T-shirts representing a neo-Nazi group. (Petruccelli now denies that he is the man photographed at that rally and says he does not remember if he attended.) Some flew a flag with a Nazi symbol; one wore a Confederate flag T-shirt. Super Happy Fun America called the event a "Restore Sanity"

Nazi references 7 and 8. This article is awash in Nazi references.

It's true. We at SHFA are opposed to burning, looting, and murder.

rally to support law enforcement and criticize Black Lives Matter demonstrations.

Yes, we denounced them. So why keep bringing them up?

At that rally, organizers publicly denounced the white supremacists. It remains an uneasy relationship.

Sort of like how the Globe has an uneasy relationship with the truth

“They don’t want that negative attention that’s going to be associated with white supremacists,” said Magyarics of the ADL.

See Kevin Bacon comment above. Does the Globe ever get tired of lying?

But all along, the group had offered a big tent, allowing far-right white supremacists and more mainstream conservatives to mingle at large public rallies. The Trump rally in Washington held a similar promise.

They can't name one person in our group that this applies to but say it over and over again. Lies, Lies, Lies!



Suzanne Ianni and Mark Sahady, along with other Donald Trump supporters, marched toward the Capitol Building on Jan. 6. (Joseph Prezioso/AFP via Getty Images)

On Jan. 4, Sahady posted a tweet: “Jan 6- Washington DC- it begins.”

Two days later, Sahady and **Ianni** joined hundreds of others who broke into the Capitol building. The Super Happy Fun America buses returned to Newton that night. Both Sahady and Ianni are facing federal trespassing and disorderly conduct charges stemming from the Capitol riot.

misdemeanors

Even with two prominent figures being prosecuted, Super Happy Fun America seems unlikely to disappear. The group never measured its success by the crowd size of its supporters; any audience, even an unfriendly one, could keep it going.

Does the Globe want us to go away? Why are they so opposed to happiness and fun?

“It changes nothing. We move forward as an organization,” Super Happy Fun America tweeted on Inauguration Day. “You don’t get rid of us that easily. Have a nice day.”

We believe that through hard work and determination, a Super Happy Fun America can be achieved in our lifetimes!

<https://superhappyfunamerica.org>

## **Natick Select Board says it can't remove Town Meeting member who entered the Capitol**

**'Straight Pride' organizer jailed for alleged role in US Capitol attack freed but banned from protests, travel**

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