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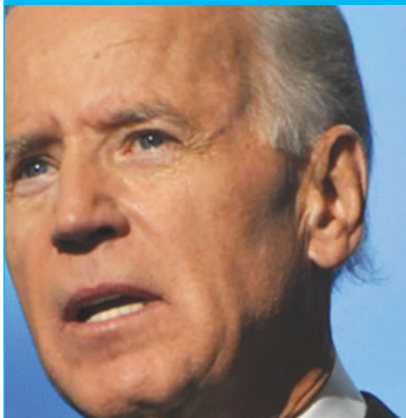


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THE '90S - 1997

February - Addressing Anti-Gay Violence in Schools

The Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Teachers Network of Detroit released their report assessing the climate for gay and lesbian youth in Southeastern Michigan schools. The report, titled "Bruised Bodies, Bruised Spirits," underscored the need to educate school staff about dealing with issues of sexual orientation.

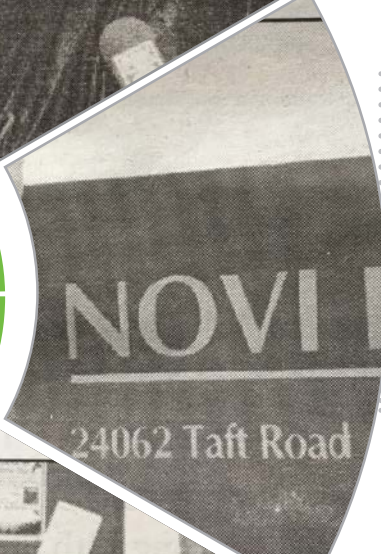


February - Some Justice

Sean McBride, who was shot and left for dead in a 1994 anti-gay attack in Detroit, was awarded a settlement of \$10 million for the refusal of a Pinkerton Guard to assist him, leaving him a paraplegic.

October - Serving LGBT Teens

Matthew Barton, 17, a senior from Novi High School, was appointed to serve on a national Gay/Straight Alliance panel with six other teens from around the country. Barton helped decide funding distribution of GSA's across the country. Tzabaco Catalog Safe School's Fund provided the money.

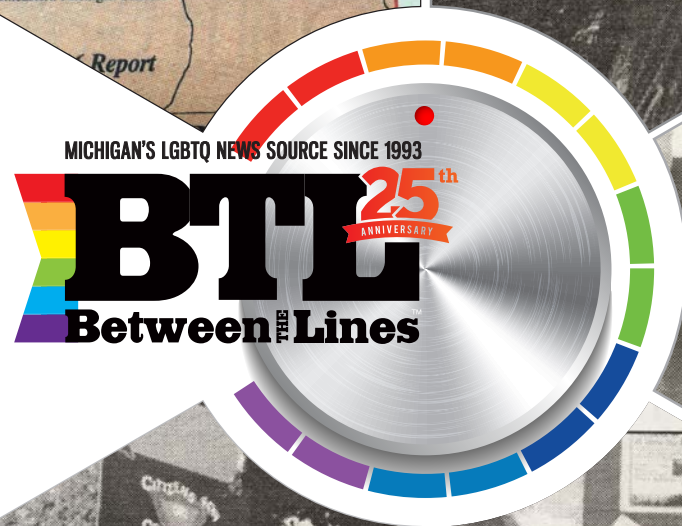


November - Believing Out Loud

PFLAG downriver chapter hosted guest speaker, Auxiliary Bishop Thomas Gumbleton at its Nov. 21 meeting. Gumbleton was key in generating support for the issuance earlier in the year of a tolerance statement for gay youth by U.S. bishops. Gumbleton has also been vocal in urging gay priests to come out.



FLASHING BACK TO THE PAST:



December - Equality in Ypsilanti

The landmark decision to extend equal rights to all in the city of Ypsilanti was made on Dec. 16. Following the passage of

MILESTONES IN THE TRANSGENDER MOVEMENT

1991: "Paris is Burning" is released. The documentary focuses on gay and transgender ball culture in New York City.

1993: Transgender Youth Brandon Teena is violently murdered in Nebraska. The film "Boys Don't Cry" later shares Teena's story with a national audience.

1995: The University of Michigan Medical Center announces their Comprehensive Gender Services Program, which serves the



transgender population, and is run by Dr. Sandra Cole, director of the program.

1996: Michigan hosts the National Transgender Conference where nearly 230 transgender people and allies joined together for five days in early June. The event was sponsored by Crossroads.

1997: Susan Crocker and Rachel Crandall-

Crocker founded Transgender Michigan, and dedicated the organization to improving the lives of transgender individuals in the state.

1999: The advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith organized the first Transgender Day of Remembrance, to honor the memory of Rita Hester and other transgender people like her who were lost to bigotry and anti-transgender violence.



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BTL Endorses Rakes and Carter

ELECTION 2018

LGBTQ Democrats have a chance to support two openly LGBTQ candidates for university leadership positions when their nominations are decided this Saturday at the Michigan Democratic convention in Lansing. BTL endorses both Wade Rakes for University of Michigan Board of Regents and Sue Carter for Wayne State University Board of Governors.

Both are solid candidates with good experience and commendable reasons for wanting to serve their alma maters. If nominated, they will join Attorney General candidate Dana Nessel as the first openly LGBTQ candidates to run for statewide offices in Michigan.

BTL interviewed Rakes and Carter and came away impressed with their qualifications and commitment to principled university governance. Here are highlights from those interviews.

Wade Rakes for U of M Board of Regents

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Running for a spot on the University of Michigan's Board of Regents was a natural step for Wade Rakes, who earned his MBA in 2011 after graduating from U of M's Stephen M. Ross School of Business. After earning his undergraduate degree at Princeton University, Rakes' career has spanned more than 15 years in a variety of positions that he said uniquely qualify him to take over one of the at-large seats currently held by Andrea Fischer Newman (R) and Andrew Richner (R). BTL caught up with Rakes to get a sense of some of his campaign goals before the decision is made at the Michigan Democratic Caucus on Saturday, Aug. 25. If Rakes gets a seat on the Board for an eight-year term, he said that his primary goal will be increasing the school's affordability.

"It will always be the number one issue because I think it is the signal for everything else that we do," Rakes said. "I live in Detroit and I hear from young people that they feel U of M is out of reach. It's not even a consideration

for them, and they are brilliant, amazing young people. So, for me, affordability is the most important thing."

Rakes said that the first thing he'll do to positively influence tuition costs is to implement a tuition freeze. Additionally, to increase the school's accessibility to a wider audience, he will strive to implement a grant-based tuition plan. Rakes said that a similar program worked very well at his other alma mater, Princeton.

"I believe the opportunity exists for the regents to build upon some of the programs already there, but to really push toward an affordable experience for students and their families and, for me, that means freezing tuition immediately," Rakes said. "And that means moving toward a debt-free financial aid program by 2022. My experience in debt-free financial aid programs comes from a program that Princeton launched 15 years ago that's been really successful in transforming the socioeconomic makeup of the university."

Rakes went on to say that as an undergrad at Princeton, two-thirds of the student body were able to pay full tuition while only a third were

reliant on financial aid. Rakes said that once the grant-based program began, there was a positive, "180-degree shift" in the students who were able to attend school, without a significant increase in class sizes.

"Now, two-thirds of our students at Princeton receive financial aid and 22 percent of our undergraduate students are Pell Grant recipients, meaning they are amongst the least economically advantaged, or poorest, students that go to college anywhere in the United States," Rakes said. "I've seen firsthand what affordability means so that colleges are places for wealthy minds and not just for wealthy wallets. So, when I look at the University of Michigan and its reputation and its opportunity, how can we take that idea around affordability and access and put it into the nation's top public university?"

Rakes also said that in his term he will prioritize the transparency of all Board decisions. Among others, one of his first proposed changes will be to schedule meetings at a time that is more "accessible for stakeholders – I mean students, faculty, staff,



alumni."

"So, we have to change two things relevant to transparency: One, we have to be accessible. We can leverage technology, but we have to ensure we are meeting at times that are available for people," Rakes said. "Two, to interact we shouldn't be restricting Q&A time when that time comes in a meeting. And we also need to have an office that is designated by the regents that has the ability to listen to stakeholders when we're not there every day, but also to give us unfiltered, unfettered information so that we can act on and have a much more direct lens as opposed to just a filter through an administrator through that perspective."

Lastly, Rakes said that his intersectional

See **Wade Rakes**, continued on p. 10

Sue Carter for WSU Board of Governors

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

As an openly lesbian candidate running for a spot on the Wayne State University Board of Governors, Aug. 25 is a big day for Sue Carter. That's when the Democratic party will host its state nominating convention for one of the two open spots on WSU's board, currently held by Diane Dunakiss (R) and appointed member David Nicholson. If nominated, Carter will become the second openly lesbian woman to run for statewide office in Michigan – the other being Dana Nessel who is running for Attorney General.

"I care a lot about universities," Carter said. "I have a deep knowledge and understanding of how they operate. I taught for two years at Wayne – for one year as a full time and one year as an adjunct – so I appreciate the challenges faced by lecturers and adjunct faculty. So in a lot of ways it's a really good fit and I am delighted to be able to go forward with those thoughts in mind."

Carter said that she is a prime candidate

because of her knowledge of the surrounding area and experience living and working within Detroit. And secondly, she said she is excited to be a part of a university that makes research a priority.

"I lived in Detroit and around Detroit for 22 years, and Detroit is a city that's on its ascendancy," she said. "The motto of the Spirit of Detroit about rising from ashes really does fit, and Wayne gets to be part of that in a very real sense. So, that's exciting. It's also a research university and part of a group called the Urban 13 and these are outstanding universities located right in the heart of metropolitan areas and have research at their core."

Carter also said that if elected, she'll come prepared with a multi-tiered plan that focuses on five priorities: accessibility, affordability, accountability, achievement and success. Carter said that both accessibility and affordability tie back to the state legislature.

"This, even though the state legislature, sadly, has continued to defund education and higher education in the state, still is a university for



people of Michigan as well. It's highly central to who we are," Carter said. "We need to find ways to make sure that we hold responsibly the line on costs. There are going to be increases – much of our life our auto insurance goes up – but to make sure that those are responsible increases. And that we provide the means for those students who have less means and less opportunity financially to assist them."

In terms of accountability, Carter said that her experiences at MSU really imprinted the importance of that value. She said that especially at the administrative level, accountability is

something that Carter said she will work to maintain.

"It needs to be accountable to the people of Michigan. I look at something like the event with Larry Nassar and that concerns me. That concerns me a great deal," Carter said. "So, how can we do better? Where did we go wrong? Because something clearly failed. That's not OK. So, working on those."

Carter also hopes to be accountable when it comes to maintaining a diversity-oriented campus.

"As a lesbian, I want to make sure that in an era of seeming less tolerance that everyone's protected, and everyone has a right to thrive and grow," Carter said. "That my orientation isn't a barrier and isn't a bludgeon to be used against us. Making sure that there's room for all voices and respect for all voices and that (the board) functions as a team because, essentially, as with any board of directors, it's primarily a policy and fiduciary responsibility."

See **Sue Carter**, continued on p. 10

New Trump Administration Memo on Obama Order Alarms LGBT Advocates

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

In the aftermath of the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling the Masterpiece Cakeshop case, the Trump administration has issued new guidance that seeks to uphold "religious freedom" in the implementation of former President Obama's executive order against anti-LGBT workplace discrimination among federal contractors — a move troubling to LGBT rights supporters.

The Aug. 10 guidance from the Labor Department purports to "incorporate recent developments in the law regarding religion-exercising organizations and individuals" with the enforcement of the executive order, taking note of the narrow ruling in decision of Colorado baker Jack Phillips as well as other recent rulings in favor of religious freedom, such as the Supreme Court decision in the Hobby Lobby case.

The guidance also takes into account recent executive orders signed by President Trump in favor of "religious freedom," saying they "have similarly reminded the federal government of its duty to protect religious exercise — and not to impede it." Trump signed a directive last year with the stated purpose of bolstering religious freedom under federal law and his order ensuring faith-based organizations have access to federal grants.

"In line with the longstanding constitutional requirement that government must permit individuals and organizations, in all but the most narrow circumstances, to participate in a government program 'without having to disavow [their] religious character,' OFCCP staff are instructed to take these legal developments into account in all their relevant activities, including when providing compliance assistance, processing complaints, and enforcing the requirements of EO 11246," the guidance says.

As a result, the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs under the Labor Department is instructed to take into account "religious freedom" when enforcing Executive Order 11246 in numerous ways, barring the agency making a "condition the availability of [opportunities] upon a recipient's willingness to surrender his [or her] religiously impelled status."

Signed by Obama in 2014, EO 11246 prohibits anti-LGBT discrimination among companies that do \$10,000 a year or more in business with the U.S. government in addition and bars discrimination against federal workers who are transgender.

The instructions seem aimed at allowing religiously-affiliated non-profits to discriminate against workers for being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender despite the executive order. Heretofore, religiously non-profits, including religious schools and universities, were required



PHOTO CAP: Former President Obama signed an executive order barring anti-LGBT workplace discrimination among federal contractors (Blade file photo by Michael Key)

to abide by the executive order and received no religious exemption.

The latest directive is one of two issued by the Labor Department on Aug. 10 related to the Executive Order 11246. But the other directive doesn't seem aimed at non-discrimination protections or "religious freedom." It calls for "a portion of future scheduling lists" to include focused reviews on three authorities OFCCP enforces: EO 11246, Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974.

LGBT rights groups said the "religious freedom" directive is an attempt by the Trump administration to gut the non-discrimination protections in the executive order — which covers an estimated 34 million workers, or about 22 percent of the Americans workforce — and demonstrates the negative impact of the Masterpiece Cakeshop decision.

Sharon McGowan, legal director for Lambda Legal, said her organization has "serious cause for concern" the OFCCP will interpret the mandate with broad view and allow for exemptions to discriminate under the executive order.

"Apparently, this Administration believes — correctly — that rescinding the EO outright would cause a huge public and politically damaging outcry," McGowan said. "So instead, they are trying to accomplish the same end through different means."

The directive comes down from the Labor Department about a year-and-a-half after the White House announced in a statement Trump would keep the executive order in place and is "respectful and supportive of LGBTQ rights," a statement contradicted by subsequent anti-LGBT actions from the Trump administration.

McGowan said nothing in the Masterpiece

Cakeshop decision compelled the Labor Department to issue the directive, but Lambda is "not surprised to see this administration seize on the decision as a way to justify its ongoing assault on the civil rights of the LGBT community."

"We hope that non-discrimination has become part of the standard operating procedures for the overwhelming majority of federal contractors, and they will continue to recognize that a workplace open to all is not only the right thing to do, but also makes smart business sense," McGowan said. "But in the same way that the Masterpiece Cakeshop decision has embolden anti-LGBT forces to paint themselves as the victims of LGBT equality, these directives from OFCCP sends an encouraging signal to those individual employees within these larger entities who want to insist on a license to discriminate."

Harper Jean Tobin, director of policy at the National Center for Transgender Equality, said in a statement "is an attempt to encourage businesses to take taxpayer dollars and then fire people for being transgender."

"Religious organizations have ample protections under federal law, but they are not allowed to use federal money to discriminate against people," Tobin said. "The language of this directive is so broad and so vague because it is part of a long line of attempts by this administration to sow confusion and encourage any employer to act on their worst prejudices. No employer should be allowed to use taxpayer dollars to fire someone because of who they are."

A Labor Department spokesperson said in response to the Washington Blade's inquiry about the directive OFCCP "will follow the law" and non-discrimination provisions in the

executive order remain in place.

"FCCP remains committed to enforcing compliance with all of the protections in EO 11246, Section 503 and VEVRAA," the spokesperson said. "Collectively, these laws prohibit federal contractors and subcontractors from discriminating on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability or status as a protected veteran."

The Masterpiece Cakeshop decision was in favor of Phillips, but was based on the facts of his case and didn't find a First Amendment right to refuse to make custom-made wedding cakes for same-sex couples as he was seeking. As a result, LGBT non-discrimination protections remain in effect in the aftermath of the decision regardless and any instructions to take the ruling into account when enforcing them shouldn't be enough to change their outcome.

Dale Carpenter, a conservative law professor at the SMU Dedman School of Law who's written about LGBT rights, echoed those views and said nothing in the guidance is cause for alarm.

"Indeed, on its face, that guidance purports only to require what is already mandated by the Constitution, federal statute, or executive branch policy," Carpenter said. "I don't foresee any significant erosion of EO 11246 protections."

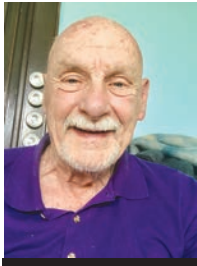
Embedded in the directive is a sign more is to come. The instructions conclude with a line saying they remain in force "in anticipation of an addition to the department's regulatory agenda followed by rule-making informed by public comment," suggesting future changes to the executive order — a religious exemption or a revocation — are forthcoming.

Asked the about those words and the nature of any new rule, the Labor Department spokesperson said, "The Department cannot comment on a future rule-making."

David Stacy, government affairs director for the Human Rights Campaign, said the directive is the latest attempt by the Trump administration "to implement a license to discriminate against LGBTQ people by providing unsound guidance in implementing Obama-era regulations."

"The erroneous application of the Supreme Court's narrow ruling in Masterpiece and recent Trump executive orders is meant to aggressively marginalize hardworking Americans because of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity," Stacy said. "The American people will not tolerate discrimination, and LGBTQ people will not be erased."

This article originally appeared in the Washington Blade and is made available in partnership with the National LGBT Media Association.



Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

To Pee or Not to Pee ...

I can be thinking contentedly of a dozen things — of sealing wax, cabbages and queens — but let me get 100 yards near my studio and without the slightest conscientious intent on my part, I suddenly, urgently, desperately, have to pe-E-E-E!

I'm convinced my bladder has a mind of its own, and takes a perverse delight in reminding me at inconvenient moments just who really runs my waterpark and schedules my Old Faithful spoutings.

"Whoa! Hold on there!" I urge the little guy who works the switch, bargaining for a few more seconds 'til I get my key in the lock and make an unscheduled dash to the loo, there to discharge another distillation of my allotted 40,515 lifetime quarts.

**"Whoa! Hold on there!"
I urge the little guy
who works the switch,
bargaining for a few more
seconds 'til I get my key
in the lock and make an
unscheduled dash to the
loo, there to discharge
another distillation of my
allotted 40,515 lifetime**

I'm not alone in being ambushed by this most insistent of Pavlovian reflexes. It happens to everybody, and to some with five-alarm frequency (Test: See how soon you have to go after — or during — the reading of this Pee Glances).

I wouldn't have brought the topic up in mixed company (tiny vs. big tankers), but I chanced upon a Cosmopolitan magazine article, "Do You Always Have to Pee? (Find

Out Why Your Tank Seems So Tiny — and the Surprising Ways to Fix It)"

According to the article, some hapless glamour gals pee as many as 15 times a day.

"My boyfriend calls me the pee queen," opines Vanessa, 25, "because I'm at mercy of a bladder that won't quit, while he can hold it in all night."

(I wish I could find someone with that holding-it-in-all-night expertise. Even an amateur's half hour would suit me just dandy. Pee queen indeed.)

You'll be pleased to know that bladder size has nothing to do with frequency of voiding (or, avoiding voiding). Nor is male or female a factor, says urogynecologist Dr. Ingrid Nygaard.

"No matter what gender you are or your overall physical size, all bladders are capable of expanding to about the same amount: able to hold up to 18 ounces of liquid."

The problem is that we're drinking more liquids these days. "We've become a nation of chronic drinkers," says Lindsey Kerr, M.D., another pee-in-the-bottle, smile-for-me specialist. "And logically, the more a person drinks, the more she's going to need a bathroom break."

As for Cosmopolitan's "surprising" ways to curb an insistent urge to go on bladder patrol — say, beyond a reasonable truck stop call of duty — desensitization heads the list.

See **Parting Glances**, next page



Viewpoint



BY JAY KAPLAN

Faith-Based Service Refusals in State-Sponsored Foster, Adoptive Care is Illegal

There are more than 13,000 children in Michigan's foster care system who are need of permanent loving and supportive homes. The State of Michigan through the Department of Health and Human Services and the Children's Services Agency is tasked with providing both foster care and adoption placement services for children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse and neglect. Some adoptive Michigan delegates contract with private foster care and adoption agencies, and pay them taxpayer dollars to perform this government function; some of these agencies are faith-based agencies. Even those that are faith-based, however, receive their funding and sign contracts that state they will not discriminate in providing services on the basis of various categories that include race, religion and sexual orientation.

But, contract or not, there are still some faith based agencies

that refuse to work with prospective families that are headed by same-sex couples or to place children with same-sex families due the agencies' religious beliefs. That is fine when these agencies are not being paid by the State to act on its behalf. However, when they voluntarily choose to become state actors they legally cannot single out same-sex couples — or any other protected group — for discriminatory treatment. And yet that is what Bethany Christian Services and St. Vincent Catholic Charities are doing. I am the ACLU of Michigan's staff attorney for the LGBT project and witnessed just such a service refusal with our plaintiff couples Kristy and Dana Dumont and Erin and Rebecca Busk-Sutton; when both of these couples contacted these agencies they were turned away

See **Adoptive Care**, continued on next page

► Adoptive Care

Continued from p. 9

because of their sexual orientation.

When we contacted the State of Michigan to let them know these agencies were discriminating against same-sex couples, in violation of the contracts they had signed with the State, the Attorney General's office refused to meet with us, suggesting that we would probably end up suing the State. So, that's what we did. We sued the State of Michigan for the practice of permitting state-contracted agencies to refuse to work with same-sex couples. Same-sex couples in Michigan are not being provided the same menu of foster care and adoption services provided to other families, and the state is permitting this type of discrimination in the name of religion — despite the fact that our constitution provides for separation of church and state.

Even more damaging is that by permitting state contracted agencies to turn away same-sex couples who are ready, willing and able to provide warm, loving and supportive homes, Michigan is reducing the pool of prospective foster and adoptive homes for those children who are wards of the state. This practice has nothing to do with what is in the best interests of children, but all about accommodating the religious beliefs of agencies receiving taxpayer funds to do work on behalf of the state.

We filed our legal challenge in federal court in September 2017, and the state's response — in addition to filing a motion to dismiss — has been that there are other state contracted agencies that will serve same-sex couples and that if agencies such as Bethany Christian and St. Vincent Catholic Charities are not permitted to discriminate that they will go out of business and then there will be less foster care and adoption services available to prospective families and children. This argument is echoed by St. Vincent Catholic Charities which was permitted to intervene in the lawsuit as a defendant. St. Vincent Catholic Charities also argues in its motion to dismiss that it provides a unique service that cannot be duplicated by the six dozen other foster and adoption agencies across the state, and that if St. Vincent's shuts down its

Same-sex couples in Michigan are not being provided the same menu of foster care and adoption services provided to other families, and the state is permitting this type of discrimination in the name of religion — despite the fact that our constitution provides for separation of church and state

operations, that foster and adoption services in Michigan will significantly suffer. At the same time, St. Vincent also states that same-sex couples could and should go to other agencies that will work with them.

This “going some place else” argument has been historically used to justify discrimination on the basis of race. If a restaurant refuses to serve African-Americans, they can simply find another restaurant that will. What we are seeing in our state is an attempt to use religion to justify discrimination, discrimination by agencies that are essentially state actors. This should be highly disturbing not only because we have Michigan giving its tacit approval to this discrimination, but is also harming the children it purports to serve.

Jay Kaplan has been the staff attorney for the ACLU of Michigan's LGBT Project since its founding in 2001. He can be reached at jkaplan@aclumich.org

► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 8

“As soon as you feel the need to go to the bathroom, take a few deep breaths, relax and hold it for half an hour,” the advice reads.

You may get a little red in the face or find yourself doing a few spontaneously choreographed dance routines, but don't worry your pretty little unzipped head. In time, your feisty bladder will learn who's boss and come around to behaving itself like a lady

or a gentleman (or both) in public.

To pee or not to pee. That is the question. The answer: Let it all hang out. Just don't get caught with your pants down.

Charles Alexander is prolific both as a BTL columnist (700-plus columns) and as a well-known LGBT community artist (1000 Face Book images). He is a Spirit of Detroit Award recipient and an Affirmations LGBT CENTER Jan Stevenson awardee. Connect with him at Charles@pridesource.com.

Creep Of The Week

Cardinal Raymond Burke

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Welp, child sex abuse in the Catholic Church is in the news again and, gosh, wouldn't you know it, the Catholic Church is trying to blame it on the gays. Again.



A recent Pennsylvania grand jury report found sex abuse rampant in the

church, something everyone who has ever delved into it has also found to be true. According to the report some 300 priests preyed on children for decades while church leaders turned a blind eye to the literal hell on earth they were letting fester.

There's a reason why in every Hollywood depiction of prison there's a child abuser, usually a sexual abuser, who gets shanked in the showers. After all, it's easy to hate that guy. I'm not condoning violence, just pointing out that as a society we pretty much agree that child abusers are THE WORST.

Unless they wear a black robe and a white collar. Then instead of going to prison, you just get transferred to a new parish with brand-new parishioners to terrorize.

There are many reasons why this is such a bad practice, but I would like to point out that by moving the priest away from his victim(s) the church is essentially saying that the victims are the problem. The priest is the innocent here, seduced by the tender flesh of wicked children, as opposed to a very sick person guilty of the worst kind of abuse.

And if you feel like you're experiencing déjà vu, well, you are in the sense that, yes, this has happened before. And it keeps happening. All over the world. But the Catholic Church knows just who to blame.

In an Aug. 16 interview with Thomas McKenna, the president of Catholic Action for Faith and Family, Cardinal Raymond Burke says, “It seems clear in light of these recent terrible scandals that indeed there is a homosexual culture, not only among the clergy but even within the hierarchy, which needs to be purified at the root.”

Now, it may sound like Burke is shining a spotlight on problems within the church itself, something that really

“If we just get rid of all the gays who are mucking up each level of the hierarchy everything will be just fine.”

needs to be examined more closely and would be examined more closely if the church stopped trying to cover up its sexual abuse epidemic. But, of course, that's not what Burke is doing here. He's basically saying, “If we just get rid of all the gays who are mucking up each level of the hierarchy everything will be just fine.”

But, of course, it won't. Rather than spend a second examining the institution to stop abuse, the church once again seeks to change the subject.

Look, all organized religion requires a great deal of suspended disbelief and magical thinking, a.k.a. “faith,” in order to work. Critical thinking is pretty much the antithesis to religious doctrine. Which is why the church is seeking to capitalize on the gross mischaracterization that gay people are pedophiles in order to absolve its own sins.

“I think it has been considerably aggravated by the anti-life culture in which we live, namely the contraceptive culture that separates the sexual act from the conjugal union,” Burke tells McKenna. “The sexual act has no meaning whatsoever except between a man and a woman in marriage since the conjugal act is by its very nature for procreation.”

Got that? Gays are a problem, but the whole thing has been made even worse by all of these whores on birth control having sex without making babies. Thank you for attending this TED Talk about sex by a man who supposedly has never had sex.

Burke calls homosexuality “disordered” and he's not the only conservative Catholic calling for a purge of gays from the priesthood. However, Burke and the others are not making any distinction between “gay” and “pedophile,” a distinction that is, uh, really important because they are not one in the same. Unless, of course, your goal isn't to keep kids safe from abuse, but is actually to CYF (cover your frock).

► **Wade Rekes**

Continued from p. 10

background as both a black man and an openly gay candidate will help to inform his decisions when tasked with making decisions about diversity.

“As I say when I’m talking to people, I’m openly gay and openly black,” Rakes said. “We have to understand that we benefit from inclusion and inclusion and diversity from a variety of different dimensions. So, for me, I live diversity and inclusion every day. Not just because of who I am, but because I believe it is the responsibility of a leader to create an environment and a space that values everyone. I think the university is doing beyond a good job, a great job, relative to inclusion from an LGBTQ+ perspective, but we have a lot more room to grow as we look at what we’re doing for trans stakeholders. What we’re doing relative to that, what services are we providing through university of Michigan medicine. What are we doing for folks that are non-binary? How are we ensuring that we are being as inclusive as possible? We have to keep (looking at) that.”

Read the full story online @ pridesource.com.

► **Sue Carter**

Continued from p. 10

Carter said that this push for inclusion will be a great way to ensure the last two elements of her plan follow through.

“Wayne State has a different character in some ways (than MSU) of undergraduate students. That is that they are first generation and achievement becomes important,” she said. “Making sure that young men and women coming from families that don’t necessarily have college in their background have the tools to ultimately succeed. Those parts really excite me.”

For now, however, Carter is looking forward to the end of August. She said that if appointed to the WSU Board of Governors, above all else her priority will be upholding WSU’s dedication to knowledge.

“Knowledge is critical, how we disseminate it, how we treat it, and how we to go forward is really important,” Carter said. “I’m looking forward to that.”

To read the full story go online to pridesource.com. For more information about the upcoming nominating convention, visit michigandems.com.

Trans Candidate Wins Major Party Nomination for Governor’s Race

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

In a historic moment, Christine Hallquist won the Democratic nomination Tuesday to run to become the next Vermont governor, making her the first transgender candidate ever to obtain a major party nomination in a gubernatorial race.

The Associated Press declared Hallquist, former CEO of the Vermont Electric Cooperative, won the Democratic Party in Vermont at 9:14 p.m. shortly after polls closed at 7 p.m. With 97 percent of precincts reporting, Hallquist obtained 48 percent of the vote, compared to 22 percent for environmental activist James Ehlers, 21 percent for progressive activist Brenda Siegel and 8 percent high school student Ethan Sonneborn. (Vermont has no age requirement for candidates.)

Should Hallquist succeed in the general election in November, she’d be the first openly transgender person elected as governor in the United States.

In a statement to the Washington Blade in May, Hallquist said her win in November would be a “positive signal for all LGBTQ people” because she would be the first transgender governor and represent a rural state.

“Typically, rural communities have been viewed as less affirming,” Hallquist said. “Marginalized communities have historically had problems with winning executive positions. For too long leadership has been associated with masculinity and the dominant culture. Vermonters choosing me, a trans woman, as their governor, would expand the realm of possibility for generations to come. My success would mark a new milestone in acceptance.”

Hallquist was endorsed by LGBT rights groups, including the LGBTQ Victory Fund and the National Center for Transgender Equality Action Fund.

Annise Parker, CEO of the Victory Fund, said in a statement Hallquist’s victory is “a defining moment in the movement for trans equality” at a time when few transgender officials are in government.

“Many thought it unthinkable a viable trans gubernatorial candidate like Christine would emerge so soon,” Parker said. “Yet Vermont voters chose Christine not because of her gender identity, but because she is an open and authentic candidate with a long history of service to the state, and who speaks to the issues most important to voters.”

According to the Victory Fund, 13 openly trans people are serving in elected office in the U.S. The Victory Fund has endorsed seven transgender candidates this election cycle.

Another transgender candidate seeking

statewide office this year was Kim Coco Iwamoto in Hawaii. A former member of the Hawaii Board of Education, Iwamoto sought the Democratic nomination to run for lieutenant governor, but came up short in the primary on Saturday.

Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality Action Fund, said in Hallquist’s victory “cannot be overstated.”

“Our mission as an organization is deeply rooted in bringing transgender people into the

uphill battle in the general election against the incumbent Republican. The Cook Political Report, Inside Elections Nathan L. Gonzales and have each rated the race either solid or safe Republican.

Larry Sabato, a political scientist at the University of Virginia, called Hallquist’s win “a historic breakthrough” and predicted she’ll be the focus of tremendous media attention, but said the road ahead is difficult.

“On the one hand, Vermont is clearly liberal, except on guns,” Sabato said. “On the other, it’s



Christine Hallquist has become the first transgender candidate to win a major party nomination to run for

center of society, and Christine’s nomination is a massive step forward in that fight,” Keisling said.

Democratic National Committee Chair Tom Perez also commended Hallquist in a statement, calling her win an “inspiration to LGBTQ people everywhere.”

“We are excited to stand behind her and the entire slate of fantastic Democratic nominees in Vermont,” Hallquist said. “There’s no doubt that Christine and her fellow nominees will join a strong ticket this November that will fight for our values and serve as dedicated advocates for Vermont’s working families. Vermont voters know that Democrats have their backs and share their values, and they’re ready to organize to turn more seats blue this November.”

Hallquist’s Republican opponent in the general election will be incumbent Gov. Phil Scott. A moderate who signed into law gun control legislation, Scott faced a challenge from conservative candidate, but came out on top in the primary.

Political observers say Hallquist faces an

going to be very tough to beat Gov. Phil Scott, who is one of three moderate GOP governors leading in blue states this year (Massachusetts and Maryland are the other two). For Hallquist to win, Scott will have to make some big mistakes, or there would have to be the ‘blue’ wave tsunami that Democrats hope is coming.”

Despite the challenge Hallquist faces in the general election, it should be noted she obtained more voters in the Vermont primary than her Republican opponent. With 97 percent of precincts reporting, Hallquist obtained 27,381 votes compared to the 23,857 votes Scott won.

Hallquist is one of four LGBT candidates who’ve obtained the Democratic nomination to run for governor in Election 2018. The other three are Rep. Jared Polis in Colorado and former Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez in Texas, who could be the first openly gay person elected governor in the United States, as well as Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, who’s bisexual and seeking re-election.

Biden Launches Campaign Promoting LGBTQ Acceptance

BY BLAKE CHAMBERS

The Biden Foundation on Aug. 16 introduced “As You Are: A Family and Community Acceptance Campaign,” aimed at boosting the acceptance of LGBTQ youth by their families. The family and community acceptance campaign will collect personal stories from LGBTQ young people, siblings, parents, educators and social service providers among others to educate and inform about the potential harms associated with family and community rejection along with the importance of accepting, affirming and supporting of LGBTQ youth.

“While we must continue working to pass laws and implement policies that protect LGBTQ youth across the spectrum of their lives, laws and policies are not enough,” said Emily Hecht-McGowan, the Biden Foundation’s director of LGBTQ Equality. “We must also change hearts and minds, and we know that personal stories are the single best tool we have to do that.”

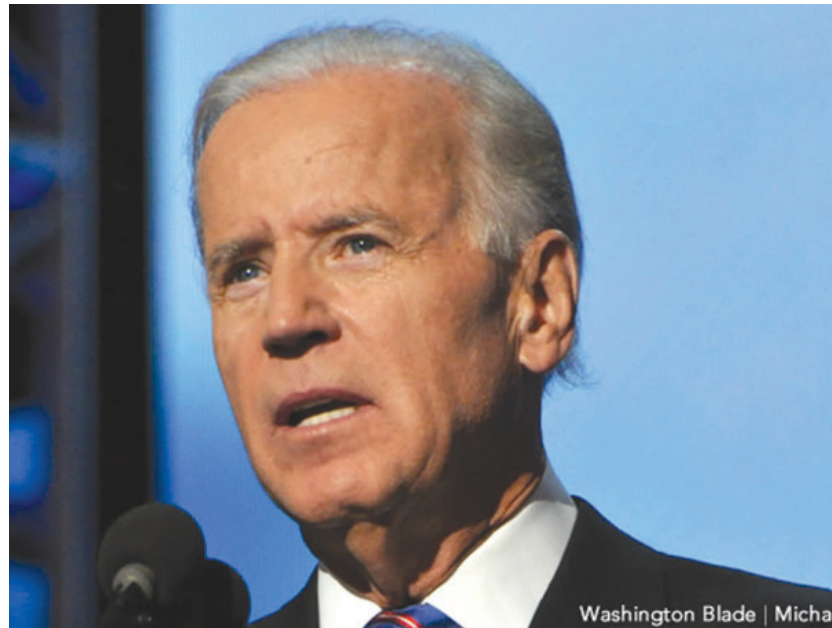
On the “As You Are” page on the Biden Foundation’s website, a YouTube video can be viewed featuring Vice President Biden, Amit Paley, Shéar Avory, Cyndi Lauper, Sarah Mikhail, Clara Yoon, Wade Davis, Geena Rocero and Hecht-McGowan speaking out on the importance of the campaign and issuing a call to action for people to share their stories. An online questionnaire is on the page

“The Foundation was established in early 2017, to build upon Vice President and Dr. Biden’s lifelong commitment to the fundamental principle that everyone deserves to be treated equally and to live with dignity.”

Hecht-McGowan

can save lives. Gay, lesbian, and bisexual youth are more than four times more likely than their straight peers to attempt suicide. And 40 percent of transgender and gender nonconforming adults report having attempted suicide at some point in their lives, most of them before the age of 25,” said Paley, the CEO and executive director of The Trevor Project, in a statement. “That’s why it is so important to support LGBTQ youth and let them know that they are not alone.”

In a tweet from the Human Rights Campaign calling on people to share their story with the “As You Are” campaign, the organization noted that only 13 percent of LGBTQ teens



The Biden Foundation, founded by former Vice President Joe Biden, launched the As You Are campaign this week. (Washington Blade file photo by Michael Key.)

reported hearing positive messages in school and that no one should be made to feel ashamed and afraid of who they are. The “As You Are” campaign’s website has been shared by Vice President Biden’s official Twitter as well, using the hashtag #AsYouAre and saying that LGBTQ youth should never have to face being rejected by those who love them.

Biden has been a notable advocate of LGBTQ issues, saying that transgender equality is “the civil rights issue of our time” in the foreword of Human Rights Campaign National Press Secretary Sarah McBride’s memoir and saying the government would continue to fight for the rights of the LGBT community after the Supreme Court’s ruling on same-sex marriage in 2015.

“The Foundation was established in early 2017, to build upon Vice President and Dr. Biden’s lifelong commitment to the fundamental principle that everyone deserves to be treated equally and to live with dignity,” Hecht-McGowan told the Blade. “Now more than ever is a time to stand up and fight for these ideals and to make sure that LGBTQ young people know that they are supported and valued and that they too have a fair shot at the American dream.”

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Photo courtesy of Dion Degennaro

Promoting Pride

BY EMELL DERRA ADOLPHUS

Soccer fans can now help their favorite semi-professional teams score goals in the name of LGBTQ equality during Pride Month. Each June, Prideraiser, a web-based fundraising channel, invites soccer enthusiasts to start a fundraising campaign to benefit a local LGBTQ organization.

The process is simple: fans start a campaign and pledge to give a dollar amount based on how many goals their team scores in a game or in a season. The more fans to sign on and pledge their support for that team, the more money that team will raise for the organization.

Detroit City FC fans Dean Simmer and Jackie Carline co-founded the venture with Chattanooga (Tennessee) FC fan Galen Riley last year after Riley expressed a want to share a love for his favorite soccer team and their allyship with the LGBTQ community.

“And then it very quickly snowballed in the best possible way,” said Simmer. This year, fans for the Detroit City FC raised \$12,000 for the Ruth Ellis Center in Detroit.

“This is a great example of how creative giving can engage new communities. As a DCFC fan who is also LGBTQ, it makes me feel welcome and safe in spaces (such as sports stadiums) that historically have not been as welcoming to LGBTQ people,” said Jessie Fullenkamp, LMSW Education and Evaluation Director at REC.

She said, “It isn’t just about donating, it is about people utilizing their gifts and passion to give to others.”

Nationally, fans of semi-professional created 30 campaigns to raise more than \$50,000 through Prideraiser for organizations across the country that benefit the LGBTQ community.

The campaigns are all supporter led and supporter driven, Simmer explained. Prideraiser does not take any commission from money raised. The Prideraiser platform simply exists so fans can share the details of their campaign and get other fans to sign on and show their support while taking a stand against the homophobia that can plague sports.

“We are trying to provide the overarching umbrella, the big universal resources that people can tap into,” said Simmer. “For us it’s all about making sure that the fans of the team in the community can positively impact their own community where they are. I love my club, and I want everybody to be able to have that experience. We want to break those walls and make sure everyone can be part of the community.”

It’s the type of initiative where everyone wins.

For more information, visit Prideraiser.org.



Captain of Detroit Drive Soccer League, Shawn Conner. Photos courtesy of Adam Sparkes

Team-WERK LGBTQ Bonds Over Scoring Goals in the Detroit Drive Soccer League

BY EMELL DERRA ADOLPHUS

Considering the number of LGBTQ athletes who have taken center stage in the last five years – Caitlin Jenner, footballer Michael Sam, ice skater Adam Rippon and freestyle skier Gus Kenworthy, to name a few – the stereotype that gay people are not interested in sports is practically obsolete.

Every Thursday night at the Catalpa Oaks County Park in Southfield, the team members of the Detroit Drive LGBTQ soccer league meet to further kick that stereotype to the curb.

“Of course that’s absurd,” said Shawn Conner, captain of the league. “Gay men and women are involved in every aspect of

society. That includes sports. I mean, figure skating anyone?”

Detroit Drive is described as a casual “pick-up” soccer league for recreational skill development. Players come with varied skill levels and from a wide range of professional backgrounds – which makes joining the team a great opportunity to hone one’s skills in the sport and network.

“But mostly to have fun,” explained Connor, who is a doctor by day. He started the team six years ago with a friend.

“The majority of our players are gay men, but we also have gay women, a few trans players and even a few LGBT-friendly straight men and women,” he said. “We are open to all regardless of age, gender, orientation or experience.”



Before the start of each season, Detroit Drive holds a registration event at Pronto! Video Bar in Royal Oak where people interested in joining the team can meet the players and learn more about the league.

After coming to a few Detroit Drive practices, William Lindsay, now a retired championship figure skater, got involved with the team and has been a regular since 2014.

"I spent most of my life participating in a very individualized, indoor, cold sport. I would never give that up, but as an adult, I enjoyed the team aspect of soccer. I had to completely change my thought process and learn to rely on my teammates," said Lindsay, who said the camaraderie keeps him coming back. "It is definitely the friendships with the players. In fact, I count many of the soccer boys as some of my best friends. It is fantastic seeing them on the pitch as well as 'out and about' around town."

Although Detroit Drive is a casual league they still compete in tournaments. This year at the annual Pride on the Pitch tournament held in Chicago, Detroit Drive sent three teams to play: a competitive team that placed fifth out of eight, and two recreational teams that placed second and third out of four.

"Organized gay sports leagues are a powerful statement that we are not ashamed of who we are. In fact, we embrace who we are as gay athletes. Many of our players are young and recently out. Some have gone through great sacrifice and have lost their families and their friends," Connor said. "I've had players who have later told me that they were on the verge of suicide, but joining our soccer club made all the difference for them. It has been such a positive experience for everyone involved that I would always recommend an organized gay sport to anyone."

Alvaro Lozano would describe himself as a "shy kid" growing up and "a little on the heavy side." After joining the team this year, he found it was the empowerment he needed to open up and be himself.

"It wasn't my first time playing soccer but it was my first time playing for a team like this," he said. "I've never felt so welcomed and or felt so fitting. I could be myself in front of all these guys. As I've gotten to know them I've made some great friends. I couldn't ask for a better team."

And then there are the physical benefits of playing soccer, said Lozano.

"It's a great stress reliever when you've had a long week, and you just want to do something to get some of that energy out," he said. "I've lost a few pounds, which is really nice. My legs and butt look great."

For more information on joining Detroit Drive visit outforkicksdetroit.com/ or [facebook.com/groups/OutForKicksDetroit](https://www.facebook.com/groups/OutForKicksDetroit).





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RAINBOW



A Local Designer's Breathable, Butt-Hugging Underwear Line for Men Who Want to Feel Comfortable While Feeling Sexy

BY EMELL DERRA ADOLPHUS

Designer Perry Wayne taught himself how to sew and used that skill to start creating the type of fashionable clothes he dreamed to one day produce for the world. "Being a designer has always been a dream of mine," Wayne said, and his creative process feels "like clean energy flowing through my bones breathing."

Most recently, he focused this energy into the launch of his new self-titled underwear line, Wayne.

Somehow, the line manages to be a breath of fresh air in an increasingly flooded market, mostly because of Wayne's "buy local" spin. In place of obscure abdomens, Wayne uses real people plucked from our community to market the brand as models.

I know them. If they look good, I'll look good is what you'll begin to wonder, which makes the brand's overall aura that much more attainable and close to home.

Wayne received a head-to-toe breakdown of the fashion businesses during his time at the Art Institute of Novi. But he gets his sense of glamour from his mother.

"My mother was a huge influence when I was a little boy," he said. "She would always dress up in beautiful outfits and coats that would stop a runway."

When it comes to his work ethic, Wayne calls himself "moody."

"Which means, I design my garments based on what mood I am in," he said. "They're extremely fitted and hit in all the right places. They also make me feel extremely confident,

and that's always been in issue for me wearing underwear. But now, thanks to my creative design work and precise cuts, I feel amazing in my own underwear."

In the right pair, you could, too. The line's highlights include neon blues, electric blacks and mesh in brief, jockstrap and trunk styles that are breathable and butt-hugging.

"The reason I came up with these particular designs is because they express who I am as a person," he said. "Also, making men feel sexy and comfortable is the key to building confidence."

Wayne admits he only recently started experimenting with jockstraps – one of the most popular underwear garments for gay waistlines.

"Never have I thought I would wear a jock,

but now I wear my Wayne jocks almost every day," he said, explaining, "(It) might look intimidating at first, but, when it's on, it makes you feel extremely confident. My goal is to make everyone feel good about themselves."

By no means is that goal limited to gay men only. Wayne has plans to eventually launch a brick and mortar space welcoming men of all shapes, sizes and sexualities who want to feel good about what they are wearing underneath their pants.

"Men in general like to feel comfortable and sexy at the same time," Wayne said. "Having underwear that is stylish and gives you that versatility is important to a guy's taste."

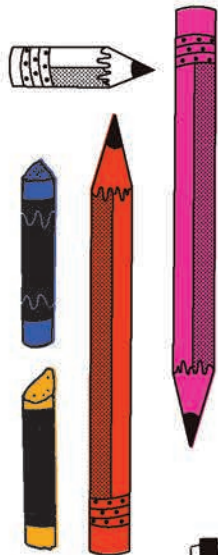
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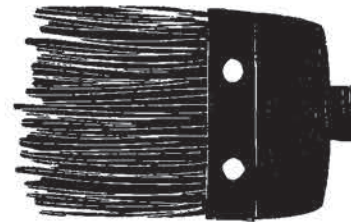
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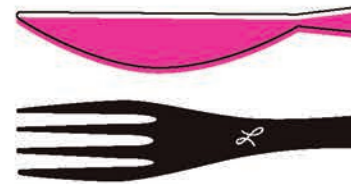
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Photo: Ira Chernova

Trans Singer Shea Diamond Moved Inmates With Her Music While In Jail. Now, the World.

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Even in prison, Shea Diamond was a star. The concrete floor her stage, the men her audience. And the acoustics? “The best,” Diamond says.

The 40-year-old soul songstress stretched her body over the hard ground, beating it while singing a song she wrote in her cell called “I Am Her.” She was serving a 10-year jail sentence at various men’s correctional facilities in Flint for committing armed robbery, a desperate attempt to fund her transition, and “instead of just counting the days and wondering what day it is, I put all the energy into music.” The men were transfixed, moved. “These guys were singing it,” she says, “and asking me to sing it again.”

Diamond was released from prison in 2009 with a passel of songs she’d written, moved to New York City, and devoted her new life beyond bars to being on the front lines of transgender activism. In early 2016, out big-name producer Justin Tranter, whom she calls her “fairy godmother,” was blown away by an a cappella performance she gave at a Trans Lives Matter event. Now, Diamond’s empowered jail musings are free at last on her Tranter-produced debut EP, “Seen It All,” and a forthcoming full-length.

Do you think the world is ready for a major trans artist?

Definitely not, but the world wasn’t ready for Einstein and his theories either. The world wasn’t ready for equality and wasn’t ready for slaves to be free. So, the world isn’t always ready for change, but change is always going to happen.

How does it feel to know that you are a part of the change?

It feels absolutely amazing to be a part of the change. In this climate, it’s especially important to be a part of the solution and not a part of the problem, so music is able to tap into the areas that we weren’t able to tap into. We were definitely on the front lines protesting, marching and community organizing, and at the end of the day, if people are jamming to a tune, then we will be able

to effect more change.

When did you first become interested in music?

I grew up with a lot of music. My aunts all sang, my mother sings. I grew up with someone always singing.

What role has music played in helping you overcome your hardships?

Music was able to heal me in every moment, including my confinement. That’s when it was the roughest for me, because I didn’t have any support. So the family and friends that didn’t turn their back on me because of my gender identity, they turned their backs on me because I was a criminal in their eyes. I had to really reflect and deal with myself. I was left to myself and there was nobody else. I had to reflect and be able to internalize a lot, and so I projected a lot of that energy, both negative and positive, into music and created what at the time seemed to be like poems or just words that started with a story.

With “I Am Her,” I said, “I want to be able to express all my feelings about the church, the rejection from the church, how nobody wanted to accept me for being her,” and it talks about how, at the end of the day, I was by myself and I was all right by myself. Being trans, they wanted to punish me extra, they wanted to discard me of yard or telephone privileges for just being me.

What did your activism entail?

It entailed a lot at different times. Because there were different roles I played within activism, like survival sex worker activism – a lot of work around that. Because a lot of people wouldn’t care if (trans sex workers) got murdered because nobody would question, and so that was affecting a large part of our community. Our most marginalized part of the community is the part of our community that is deprived of job opportunities, of other resources, and have to engage in survival sex work, because sometimes it’s our only option. Survival looks different for different people, and through my journey I’ve learned that.

We were trying to gather clothing for

www.PrideSource.com

someone who was trapped in another state, so we would have to raise money in order to get a ticket for them to get back to a safe place because they were deprived food and their clothes were taken. So these things were established within a place that was supposed to do it, but it was us doing it. That's what our activism looked like a lot of the times, doing a lot of things that people don't wanna do. Our activism was protesting, was going to rallies, was going to march, was going to Washington, was going to all of these places trying to change policies. Our activism just looked completely different throughout the years.

Do you consider your music activism?

I do. In my music I believe that I touch things that people don't really touch. I talk about what's happening in our climate, and I believe that the great artists that weren't so popular were the artists that were talking about what was happening in their times and speaking against those things. So everything from "I Am Her," which became an anthem, to "Keisha Complexion," that is reclaiming beauty for the dark-complected woman or person. It's dealing with sexism, it's dealing with activism, it's dealing with self-care. There's a part of my song that talks about, yes, we're fighting all these things in life, there will always be oppression, but we have to have one day to just do us. Every element of my music is speaking to your spirit.

Recently, the people (told me they) wanna dance, so I said, "OK, OK. I'm gonna give you good music but something you'll be able to dance to too." So I'm making music now. One song is still in the activism world, but you're still dancing on it. But the latest one I just worked on has nothing to do with activism. It's just about you literally dancing.

Are you still working with Justin on those songs?

I am working with Justin. I am able to work with other writers and producers as well, so we've got a mixture of some really good stuff. We've been in the kitchen cookin', and the result is gonna be really delicious.

How does working with another queer person, like Justin, affect the collaborative process?

What's so special about the relationship is, well, I'm working with a friend now. Literally, he's a person I can confide in, a person I can trust, a person I can call on, a person I do call

on a lot, probably to the point that it's driving him crazy. (Laughs) But he answers every call. Navigating this already tough music industry, you know, it's sharks, so to have someone who is legit, to have someone who remotely cares about you, not only you as an artist – the money that you can make or what you can do – but who cares about you as a person and your well being and how you're gonna endure this.

What was going through your mind when Justin first contacted you after hearing "I Am Her"?

I completely thought it was a joke. I've been having people offer to sign me and to buy my song "I Am Her" since I was incarcerated.

And why did you say no?

Because for me there were other songs that were on the shopping block! (Laughs) But some songs really were near and dear to me. "I Am Her" was one of them, and the album ones; I wanted to hold onto those. So getting this email from Justin talking about, "Yeah, I wanna fly you on out to LA," I was like, "Yeah, suuuure." (Laughs) I just thought this is one more person that is gonna take me along for the ride. I definitely didn't take it

serious. I told him, "Look, I can't afford to go out to California and to the studio," and he said, "No, I'm gonna pay for your hotel. I'm gonna pay for your flight, I'm gonna pay for your food." So, because we're in the age of Google, I go on Google and turns out he's a person.

Our first meeting was at a Cyndi Lauper performance. That was the first meeting and I was already impressed. Then he flew me and my friend out to California. We were just like queens there. And then going into the studio for the first time – you know, a real studio – to me it was just like magic. Just being able to record "Seen It All" and just the magic of being in that space and in that moment knowing where I came from and knowing where I was in that moment and what I had accomplished despite all those odds. And that song was just perfect, of how I thought I'd seen it all, and I really hadn't.

Chris Azzopardi is the editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service. Reach him via his website at www.chris-azzopardi.com and on Twitter (@chrisazzopardi).

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f t i y

Sarah Shook & the Disarmers at OTUS Supply in Ferndale

Sarah Shook & the Disarmers does country music differently. A staunch LGBTQ rights activist, lead singer Shook blends her distinct lyrics into the band's mix of twangy, punk-influenced sounds. The group's latest album, "Years," was released last April and has already caught the attention of publications like the New York Times, Chicago Tribune and Rolling Stone Country. The group will make its way to Ferndale's OTUS Supply on Thursday, Aug. 23 at 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$12. More information about the group can be found online at otussupply.ticketfly.com.



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OUTINGS

Thursday, August 23

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Farmington Hills – Oakland County 7:00 p.m. All youth are welcome to attend this FREE group. This group meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington, 248-626-3620 www.oaklandumc.org www.standwithtrans.org

Toastmasters International SpeakOUT! LGBTQ Meeting 7:00 p.m. Professional & personal communication skills development. With better communications skills, you'll better your leadership style as well as your relationships. Warm & welcoming members. Find out what Toastmasters can do for you. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867 lawrencemoeb@gmail.com <https://speakout.toastmastersclubs.org/>

Saturday, August 25

Golden Girls Trivia Night at Affirmations! 3:00 p.m. Test your knowledge on the hilarious hit show, win fun prizes and support your LGBTQ Community Center. Teams should consist of 2 to 5 people. Contact Kyle Taylor at Affirmations for more information. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale, 248-398-7105 www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/community-events-activities

Tuesday, August 28

Stand with Trans Support Groups – Ann Arbor – Washtenaw 6:30 p.m. Trans Support Group meeting the 4th Tuesday of each month @ Journey of Faith Christian Church. Parent Support Group Facilitator – Yma Johnson, ymaj1968@gmail.com

or 734-780-4092. Trans Youth Support Group Facilitator – Joy Cavanaugh, LPC. Journey of Faith Christian Church, 1900 Manchester Road, Ann Arbor. www.standwithtrans.org

Thursday, August 30

Life Tour – Boy George and Culture Club and The B-52s @ DTE Energy Music Theatre 7:00 p.m. HUGE news, 80s music fans!! Boy George and Culture Club are reuniting in 2018 for a huge North American tour with "The World's Greatest Party Band," The B-52s, with support from Tom Bailey of the DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. 248-377-0100 www.dteenergymusictheatre.org/events/boy-george-culture-club/#.Wyqus6dKiUk

Sunday, September 2

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Adrian-Lenawee County 6:30 p.m. FREE and OPEN to the community. For parents of transgender kids, this group meets the 1st Sunday of each month @ Hilltop Counseling For Trans Youth Support Group information, contact facilitator Socorro Sevilla, MSW: socorro@hilltopcounseling.org. Hilltop Counseling, 115 W. Maumee Street, Adrian. 313-909-5408 www.standwithtrans.org www.hilltopcounseling.org

Tuesday, September 4

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Lake Orion / Oakland County 7:00 p.m. FREE and OPEN to the community. For parents of transgender kids, this group meets the 1st Tuesday of each month @ St. Mary's In-the-Hills Episcopal Church, 2512 Joslyn Court, Lake Orion. 248-391-0663 www.stmarysinthehills.org www.standwithtrans.org

Monday, September 10

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Macomb County 6:30 p.m. Macomb Teen/Youth Support Group: All youth are welcome to attend this FREE group. Come and meet other trans* youth and teens and support each other through your journeys. Dakota High School, 21051 21 Mile Road, Macomb. 586-723-2700 www.chippewavalleyhighschools.org/schools/high-schools/dhs/

Wednesday, September 12

Stand with Trans Youth Support Group – Flint – Genesee 6:30 p.m. Free to all, Trans Youth Support Group meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month @ Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint. Facilitator Sara Griffin, MA, LPC is a psychotherapist and a parent of a transgender son, eiregriff@aol.com. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint, 2474 S. Ballenger Hwy, Flint. 810-232-4023 uflint.org www.standwithtrans.org

Thursday, September 13

Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce Merge & Mixer 6:30 p.m. Michigan Employee Resource Groups for Equality (MERGE) Monthly Networking Event. All are welcomed to network. Host by: Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce. Check website for monthly location, RSVP is Required. Soho, 205 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-542-7646 info@detroitlgbtchamber.com www.ferndalesoho.com www.detroitlgbtchamber.com

Wednesday, September 19

Stand with Trans Support Groups – Livonia – Wayne County 6:30 p.m. Free

to all, group meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month @ Emmanuel Lutheran Church. Parent Support Group Facilitators Karen Sessler, kssesse@yahoo.com or 734-673-3590 and Scott Sessler, pastorscott@emmanuel-livonia.org or 734-673-2485 Trans Youth Support Group (12+) Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 7 Mile Road, Livonia. www.standwithtrans.org

MUSIC & MORE

GEORGE BEDARD'S "FROM SWING TO SURF" August 25, 8:00 p.m. Bedard will be joined by two longtime friends and former bandmates, Pianist Mark "Mr. B" Braun and guitarist Steve Nardella. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 734-763-TKTS www.theark.org

Satori Circus presents "The Choir" August 25, 8:00 p.m. SATORI CIRCUS will present almost 30 years of original music with a new twist-by performing them with a choir! SATORI CIRCUS, accompanied by a slew of Detroit and Port Huron friends, will reinterpret original tunes for you. st.albertus, 4231 St. Aubin, Detroit. 313-831-9727 www.stalbertus.org <https://www.facebook.com/events/418413538678610/>

Metro Detroit Autoimmune Walk August 26, 1:00 p.m. We walk to raise awareness, to honor and support loved ones dealing with autoimmune diseases and to help fund services and research. The day includes speakers, exhibitors, giveaways, music, and a Warriors Walk around the Milliken State Park & Harbor, 1900 Atwater Street, Detroit. walk@aarda.org

2018 Voices – A Detroit Legacy September 27, 6:00 p.m. Save the date for 2018 Voices, VIP Reception at 6pm, Main Event at 7pm. Tickets available

Editor's Pick

16th Annual Michigan Renaissance Festival

Now through the end of September, fans of all things Elizabethan can take a leap back in time to visit the annual Michigan Renaissance Festival. Visitors can explore a 17-acre village and explore everything from period-appropriate games, music, shows, rides and much more. Full information on tickets, festival hours and more can be found online at michrenfest.com.



▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 18

at www.ruthelliscenter.org Motor City Casino Sound Board, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 313-309-4700 www.motorcitycasino.com/soundboard.aspx www.ruthelliscenter.org/get-involved/attend-an-event/

ART 'N' AROUND

21st Annual Ford Arts, Beats & Eats Returns to Royal Oak! August 31, 11:00 a.m. The festival offers more than 200 performances on nine stages, a highly ranked Juried Fine Arts Show, and local restaurants with some of the finest

cuisine in Metro-Detroit. Downtown Royal Oak, Main St/Washington/Lafayette, Royal Oak. artsbeatseats.com/

Saline Antiques Market September 9, 9:00 a.m. Since the Saline Antiques & Vintage Market debuted a few years ago, it has been our goal to offer a quality monthly market for your buying enjoyment. Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, Ann Arbor. 734-761-2796 salinemarket@gmail.com www.foodgatherers.org www.salineantiquesmarket.com

olds, a quiet Canadian boy and a spirited Arab girl, on a Canadian playground. Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St, Ypsilanti. 734-480-2787 jkoppera@spinningdot.org <https://www.riversidearts.org/> www.spinningdot.org

The Totalitarians by Pete Sinn Nachtrieb September 7, 8:00 p.m. Politician Penelope Easter is a disaster of a candidate: impulsive and crass, with a closet full of skeletons. When she enlists the help of Francine, a silver-tongued political operative, the two embark on a madcap. Theatre NOVA, 410 w Huron, Ann Arbor. 734-635-8450 A2TheatreNOVA@gmail.com www.theatrenova.org

THEATER

Spinning Dot Theatre presents "The Mountain" August 25-26, 7:00 p.m. The Mountain deals with anti-immigrant feelings from the lens of two eight-year-



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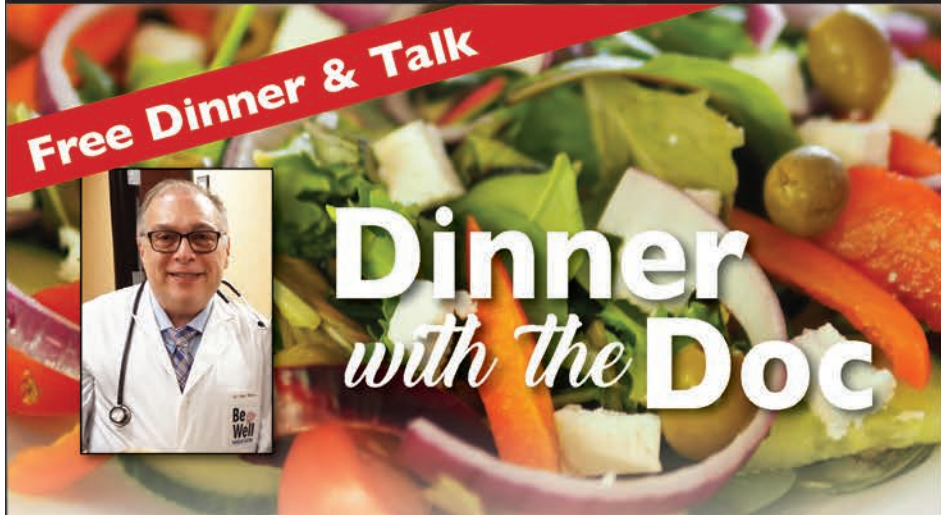
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Learn more about Dr. Benson: doctorbewell.com





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The Frivolist: 7 Gay Tips For Throwing the Perfect Labor Day Party

BY MIKEY ROX

For many of us, Labor Day is summer's last hurrah. It's the weekend when we put away the beach chairs, condition the twinks to go to bed earlier, and mentally prepare ourselves for the colder seasons ahead.

Considering the depressing nature of all that Labor Day symbolically signifies, it's more than enough reason to throw one last shindig. To make your final fun-in-the-sun party a success, here are a few things you can do to help your guests remember you fondly as they head into fall.

1 Limit the guest list
This won't be as hard as it seems since a lot of people head out of town to get in that one last trip to the beach, woods, or wherever else it is they wanna fuck to spice up their relationship after dark.

Evite is the eco-friendly alternative I live by when sending out invitations – and perfectly appropriate for a Labor Day fete – but more thoughtful DIY invitations can be made with just a few steps. By keeping the list short, you'll reduce the amount of prep and clean-up work you'll have to do, and you'll have more quality time to spend with individual guests.

2 Decorate but don't overdo it
The old idiom "less is more" is in our collective lexicon for a reason – a little bit goes a long way. A few well-placed votive candles and brightly colored lanterns can make your patio pop while a simple yet well-dressed table can create an upscale aesthetic. Use real plates and silverware instead of paper and plastic products, and keep cloth napkins together with personalized party favors you made yourself.

3 Keep the menu simple but surprising
Come August, most of us are sick of hamburgers and hot dogs – or at least the gut-busting buns (why are we even working out, kweens?!).

Sure, they're an American staple, but how

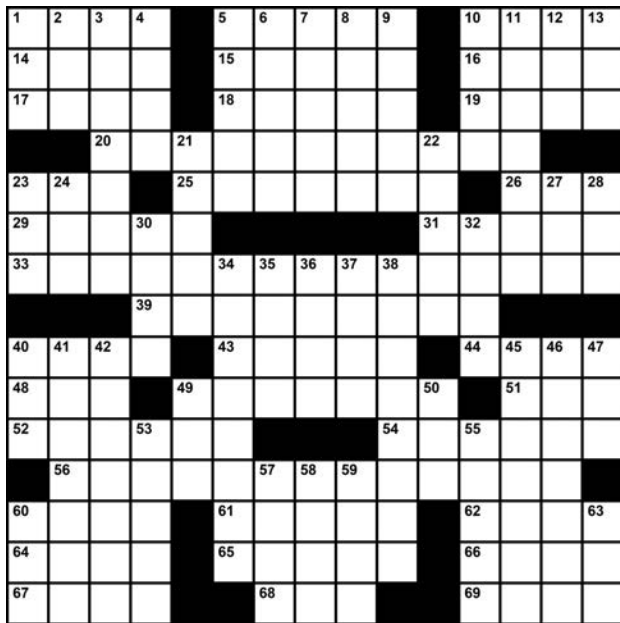
much processed meat can one eat over the course of a few months? (I once attended a party where the box of frozen burgers said grade-A meat, not beef. No thank you!) Instead, treat your guests to grilled salmon, mushroom bruschetta, shrimp shish kebab, BBQ pizza, and light-and-refreshing pasta salads that leave them satisfied but not stuffed.

4 Create a signature cocktail
Rather than buying umpteen bottles of liquor to accommodate every drinker's preference, choose one spirit to serve as the main ingredient in a signature drink.

An easy-breezy crowd pleaser is the adult Arnold Palmer with one part sweet-tea vodka and two parts lemonade poured into a pitcher of ice. So the kids (and your alcohol-free guests) don't feel left out, create the same cocktail in a virgin version. Add lemon wedges and fresh mint and serve. If you're serving beer as well, choose one full flavor and one light beer selection – Corona and Amstel Light, for example.

Like the liquor, you don't have to feel obligated to pick up a six-pack of everyone's favorite brew. E-mail your menu ahead of time and inform guests that they're welcome to bring anything that's not on the list.

5 Don't forget the desserts
Summer's ending – and that calls for comfort food. You don't have to gorge your guests, but you should have a selection of sweets on hand to make your meal complete. For me, cake, cookies and pies are out this time of year. Basically anything that requires baking, I'm not making – at least not in August. Root beer floats are easy to assemble and enjoyed by many. Fill frosty mugs with a couple scoops of vanilla ice cream and top with root beer until a frothy head forms (you know what that looks like). A fruity trifle is also an inspired choice (and it goes a long way), particularly if you layer it with store-bought pound cake, lemon curd, whipped cream, and fresh raspberries.



- 39 North and South states
 40 One who says, "Let us prey"
 43 In the hole
 44 Gets ready to shoot off
 48 Plug attachment
 49 Begged for it on one's knees
 51 Merry or like Mary, to Mimi
 52 Art of dwarfing plants
 54 Get it while you're being serviced
 56 1972 John Waters comedy starring Divine
 60 Pasolini's well
 61 Dubuque denizen
 62 "Here ___ go?"
 64 Family diagram
 65 "Bewitched" aunt
 66 "Shall We Dance" star
 67 R. Nureyev's land, once
 68 "Yes" in the navy
 69 Febreze target
- 12 "Hairspray" actress Zadora
 13 Underhanded
 21 "American Pie" vixen
 22 Where to meet sweaty people
 23 USN officer
 24 Broadway bio
 27 Middle X or O
 28 Inflated doll leak sound
 30 Engrave with acid
 32 Bart Simpson's sis
 34 Fruitful
 35 Rob of "The West Wing"
 36 "East of Eden" director Kazan
 37 Object to
 38 She played tomb raider Lara
 40 Soft toss
 41 Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, e.g.
 42 Some are bitches
 45 Paid no mind to a gay bar hottie
 46 Copland, for example
 47 Title for John Gielgud
 49 Karachi's country (abbr.)
 50 "The Opposite of Sex" director Roos
 53 Look from Rupert Everett in "Inspector Gadget"
 55 Disco phrase
 57 "Damn Yankees" girl
 58 Out
 59 Horse that isn't hung like a horse
 60 AC unit
 63 Above, to Byron

Divine Comedy

QPuzzle Down

Across

- 1 Nutty as a fruitcake
 5 Prevents from scoring, with "out"
 10 They call balls
 14 Barbra's "Funny Girl" guy
 15 Vietnam capital
 16 Type of Mary pass
 17 Collette of "Connie and Carla"
 18 Straight, to PlanetOut?
 19 Jazz singer Anita
 20 1969 John Waters comedy starring Divine
 23 ___ loss for words
 25 Land whose front is a bottom?
 26 Some Bible versions: abbr.
 29 How some fruits are sold
 31 Bones below elbows
 33 1970 John Waters comedy starring Divine

- 1 Gay-com bridge
 2 Latin I verb
 3 Letters to Troye Sivan, e.g.
 4 Foursome after a desertion
 5 Herring varieties
 6 Circles over Mary and Peter
 7 Type of wedding candle
 8 Saw opening about being human
 9 Triangle-shaped peninsula
 10 Oops!
 11 "A League of Their Own" actress

6 Plan to play games

A deck of cards is great to have on hand, but those games can last well into the night – or morning. If you're not a fan of cards, plan more active activities, like a water-balloon toss, egg races and a horseshoe tournament. You may wince, but everyone secretly still loves that stuff – so don't let me hear your queer ass deny it.

In addition, set up a slip-and-slide for the otters (if you don't have a pool, that is – they need to show off young and wet somehow), and fill a festive piñata with candy and small "toys" for added enjoyment.

7 Set a budget and start/end times

If the party is scheduled to end at 11 p.m., start winding it down around 9:30. Slyly clear the table or whatever setup you've erected, offer your guests coffee, ask them what their day looks like tomorrow, and thank them for joining you. Except for the really hot ones; offer them a place to sleep, obvi. If your guests have had too much to drink, allow them to stay longer or overnight – even the unfortunate-in-the-face ones (you're doing God's work tonight).

If it's a lingering twink, call their mom and an Uber. You'll both be better for it in the morning.



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Location: Ferndale Department of Public Works **Salary Range:** \$23.98 to \$29.15
FLSA: Non-exempt/Union **Employment Type:** Full Time


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Detroit Repertory Theatre Hosts Second Arts & Culture Festival

BY BTL STAFF

On Saturday, Aug. 25 aficionados of local artists can come together for the second official Detroit Repertory Theatre Arts & Culture Festival and Dream of Detroit Street Fair. From 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., attendees can look forward to a variety of local artists, vendors, food, drinks, live music, theatre and much more. The free event is made possible because of a grant from ART Ops – a group that focuses on encouraging local arts organizations – and Community HeART – an organization that works to help children cope with sterile environments like hospitals or some school settings.

“The early part of the day is dedicated to kids, with Detroit Imagination Works’ interactive arts activities, face painting, balloon animals and puppetry plus a bounce house, basketball tournament, video game trailer and a writing and acting workshop,” say event organizers. “WRENCH DETROIT will hold a bike repair workshop. (Attendees can) bring in bikes for repair or to donate.”

For those interested in the musical portion of the day, they can look forward to Roar and Thunder, a youth drum line that will launch the festival this year.

“(There will be a) procession from Avalon Village in Highland Park to the Theatre. Two outdoor stages will present multidisciplinary performances; children’s theatre, dance, a sneak peek of the upcoming DRT Season, spoken word, live classical music, hip-hop, a Mardi Gras Second Line, Swing, Jazz, Reggae and Funk,” write event organizers. “Over 50 artists and vendors will be selling a variety of wares.”

For more information about the day and a list of some of the scheduled performers, go online to detroitreptheatre.com.

Queering Racial Justice Heads to Detroit

Hosted by the National LGBTQ Task Force, the annual Creating Change Conference has been visiting cities across the U.S. for over 30 years now. It’s an event with a focus on leadership and skills-building for the LGBTQ community, presenting a variety of programs, presentations, speakers and more over the course of several days each year. And though the 31st annual event is scheduled to visit Detroit in late January of 2019, those who are eager to attend Creating Change next year can look forward to a smaller preview event called Queering Racial Justice.

“This event emerged for us as a way of holding space for the conversations that are needed in the LGBTQ space, as well as in (a) POC (people of color) space,” said Evangeline Weiss, the Leadership Programs Director for the Task Force. “In racial justice work, we often talk about de-centering whiteness and one way to do that is for white people to show up, listen and learn. Everyone is welcome to attend the event. The 16 or so breakout sessions will be led for the most part by queer and trans folks of color, lifting up the wisdom and the concerns that are presently holding space in queer

and people of color spaces.”

Weiss said that event will be not unlike Creating Change in terms of the variety of programming available to attendees.

“Workshop topics range from sex work, healing, facilitation, HIV and respectability politics, to storytelling and masculine of center women,” she said.

The Task Force’s Leadership Programs Manager Daniel Moberg added that the event, in addition to highlighting the experience of LGBTQ people of color, will also serve to clear up misconceptions

means one is oppressed in the same way as people of color — LGBTQ people of color and otherwise,” Moberg said. “In other words, somehow being white and LGBTQ exempts one from racism. Think: ‘My struggle is your struggle,’ or recall T-shirts and stickers and slogans that gained popularity at the height of the movement for marriage rights: ‘Gay is the new Black.’”

This year, Moberg said that he is especially excited to expand on the success of the last two QRJ events.

“QRJ really sets out to be a space in which members of the local community are able to come together, share stories and learn from one another,” he said. “In particular, we’ll learn what it looks like for you, your neighbors,



about racism and existing biases within the LGBTQ community itself, too. For instance, the concept that the struggle of someone who is LGBTQ is exactly the same as that of a person of color.

“As a biracial, light-skinned Latino/white person — and gay, cisgender ally — one of the dynamics I’ve seen perpetuated in predominantly white, gay communities is this idea that somehow being gay

friends and colleagues to confront racism in daily life. As well, how that experience intersects with what it means to also be lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and/or queer. We are hopeful September’s event will reflect this vision even more deeply than before.”

Visit www.pridesource.com to see a list of all the events.



Affirmations Hosts Golden Girls Trivia Party

Fans of Blanche, Rose, Dorothy and Sophia now have a chance to test their trivia skills against other hopefuls for prizes at Affirmations’ Golden Girls Trivia Party. For \$25, guests can create teams of two to five people and show off their knowledge of the TV show that ran from 1985 to 1992 for seven seasons. In its run, the show won a variety of awards including a Primetime Emmy and three Golden Globes and accrued many trivia-worthy episodes.

Those interested in attending should go online to gaybe.am/WW for more information. Questions can be directed to Kyle Taylor at ktaylor@goaffirmations.org or by calling 248-398-7105.

Mom to Mom Sale in Ferndale on Aug. 25

When a child hits a growth spurt it’s likely that an outfit that fit just weeks before is no longer the right fit. However, Ferndale Parks and Recreation is hosting



a day of bargain hunting with its very own Mom to Mom sale on Saturday Aug. 25 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Kulick Community Center.

“Mom to Mom Sales can be an inexpensive way to stock up on children’s clothing, and a convenient way to make money by selling items your children have outgrown,” write event organizers. “Come join Ferndale Parks and Recreation for a fun day of light refreshments and bargain-hunting.”

Attendees are welcome to bring strollers, toy donations and as many gently used items as possible. Admission is \$2 and children under 12 years old are free to enter. This event is cash only and no pre-registration is necessary.

The Kulick Community Center is located at 1201 Livernois in Ferndale. Visit the event page at oaklandcounty115.com/events

AIDS/HIV

There are dozens of AIDS/HIV organizations and resources listed at www.PrideSource.com. Here are just three of them:

AIDS Walk Detroit

Contact info@aidswalkdetroit.org or 248-399-9255 for more information. The walk takes place this year on Sunday, Sept. 15, 8:30 a.m. at the Royal Oak Farmers Market

Macomb County STD Clinic

27690 Van Dyke
Warren, MI 48093
586-465-9217
<http://health.macombgov.org/Health-Programs-HPDC-HIVAIDSCounselingTesting>

Matrix Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

120 Parsons Street
Detroit, MI 48201
888-226-6366
248-545-1435
www.matrixhumanservices.org/programs/ryanwhite/

UNIFIED - HIV Health and Beyond

3011 W. Grand Blvd. Suite 230
Detroit, MI 48202
313-446-9800
www.miunified.org
Michigan HIV/STD Hotline
800-872-2437

Advocacy

Equality Michigan

19641 W. 7 Mile, Detroit, MI
313-537-7000
equalitymi.org
[Facebook.com/equalitymichigan](https://www.facebook.com/equalitymichigan)

Campus

Currently there are 19 organizations listed as active online at www.pridesource.com/yellowpages. The following are some in the southeast Michigan area:

U-M Ann Arbor

Spectrum Center
Spectrumcenter@umich.edu
<http://spectrumcenter.umich.edu>
734-763-4186

Oakland University Gender & Sexuality Center

gsc@oakland.edu
www.oakland.edu/gsc
248-370-4336

Eastern Michigan University

LGBT Resource Center
emich.edu/lgbtrc
734-487-4149

The Lawrence Tech LGBT Resource Center

ltu.edu/student_affairs/lgbt.asp
Wayne State JIGSAW
[Facebook.com/groups/WayneStateJIGSAW](https://www.facebook.com/groups/WayneStateJIGSAW)
wsujigsaw@gmail.com

Community Centers

Michigan has nine active LGBTQ community centers, with a tenth planned in Lansing. Here are three of them.

Jim Toy Community Center

Ann Arbor
www.jimtoycenter.org
www.facebook.com/jimtoycenter
or follow them on Twitter @JimToyCenter.
319 Braun Court
Ann Arbor, MI
734-995-9867

LGBT Detroit

Detroit
www.lgbtdetroit.org
[@LGBTDetroit](http://www.facebook.com/lgbtdetroit)
20025 Greenfield Road
Detroit, MI
Phone: 313-397-2127

Affirmations

Ferndale
<http://goaffirmations.org>
www.facebook.com/Affirmations/
or follow them on Twitter @GoAffirmations.
290 W. Nine Mile Road
Ferndale, MI
248-398-7105

Legal

American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan

Jay Kaplan, Staff Attorney, LGBT Project
2966 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI
www.aclumich.org
313-578-6800

Fair Michigan

PO Box 6136
Plymouth, MI 48170
877-432-4764, 313-556-2300
fairmichigan.org
[Facebook.com/fairmichigan2016](https://www.facebook.com/fairmichigan2016)

Know Your Rights Project

Outlaws U-M student group
outlawslegal@gmail.com
734-995-9867

Older Adults

SAGE Metro Detroit

290 W. Nine Mile Rd. Ferndale, MI
313-578-6812
sagemetrodetroit.org
Facebook: SAGE Metro Detroit

Political

The LGBT and Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party

[Facebook.com/TheLGBTACaucusoftheMDP](https://www.facebook.com/TheLGBTACaucusoftheMDP)
Stonewall for Revolution
www.facebook.com/stonewall4reolution

Professional Groups

Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 32446
Detroit, MI 48232
detroitlgbtchamber.com
1-800-DET-LGBT

Ties Like Me

Professional networking events
third Weds. 5:30 - 8 p.m.
TiesLikeMe.org
Suits And The City
Lansing, MI
suitsandthecity@gmail.com
www.suitsandthecity.org

Transgender

FtM Detroit

<https://www.facebook.com/FtMDetroit/>
ftmdetroit@gmail.com

FtM A2 Ypsi

ftmannarborypsilanti@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/ftma2ypsi/>

Transgender Michigan

23211 Woodward Ave.
Ferndale, MI
info@transgendermichigan.org
www.transgendermichigan.org
800-842-2954

Get Listed, Promote Your Events

You can add or update any listing by going to www.PrideSource.com and clicking on Yellow Pages. Once you submit your listing, our staff will contact you to confirm your information. You can add your event to the Pride Source Calendar online and in print by going to www.PrideSource.com and clicking on Calendar, then "Add Event." Send any press releases and announcements to editor@pridesource.com



Find a digital version of PrideSource Magazine online under Our LGBTQ Yellow Pages

Find these resources online

Adoption Services
AIDS/HIV Hotlines
AIDS/HIV Organizations
Alzheimer's Association
Animal Shelter
Anti-Violence
Archives/Collections
Campus; Student and Alumni Groups
Cancer Support Groups
Choruses
Community Centers
Employee Resource Groups
Families and Parents
Foster Care
Foundations and Funders
Hotlines & Switchboards
Labor Union
Legal Organizations
Museums
Music Groups
National Organizations
Political Organizations
Professional Organizations
Religious & Spiritual
Senior Living
Seniors
Social/Community Organizations
Sports
Substance Abuse
Transgender Groups/Services
Women's Health
Youth Services

Third Annual Stand with Trans Family Picnic Draws Record Crowd

COMMUNITY CONNECTION



The third annual Stand with Trans Family picnic drew record crowds of almost 200 on Sunday, Aug. 12. Organizers said they are pleased with the increase and hope that it continues into the future. Photos by Jem Zero.

BY JEM ZERO

Around 160 people attended the third annual Stand with Trans Family Picnic on Sunday, Aug. 12 at Royal Oak Memorial Park. This is a significant increase in attendance by families, youth, young children and adults.

The first year Stand with Trans hosted the picnic, they had around 50 to 60 people attend. When asked to what she attributes this growth, founder of Stand with Trans Roz Gould Keith said, “We have a broader reach. Our voice is bigger and louder and more families are now working through their journey with their trans child. They are looking for resources and community as it becomes more and more okay to do that.”

Stand with Trans has been there since 2015 for young people and their parents to provide resources specifically for trans youth, including gender specialists and support groups with other families with trans members.

After her son, Hunter, came out as trans, Gould Keith said, “Little by little we cobbled together a plan. Five and a half years ago, nobody was talking about anything trans-related. We always knew we would support him, but we couldn’t find the resources. Once we started to tell our story, we discovered that there were so many other families out there who were in the same situation, and they needed community.”

Stand With Trans has grown to host

nine support group locations with 16 support groups since then.

Bill is the father of a transgender daughter named Bella, who transitioned when she was 6 years old.

“I find it affirming to be able to talk to other parents; find out they have gone through exactly the same steps we have in discovering that their child or infant is transgender,” he said.

Bill appreciates the event, partly because it also gives him connection with older trans people who can share hurdles they faced and how they overcame them.

He noted that Bella doesn’t want people to know that she is trans, and praised the school system she’s a part of for hand-picking the teacher and classmates most likely to be accepting of a trans student when she advanced to the next grade.

Matt, a parent of a trans child, said he too, finds Stand with Trans affirming.

“We started meeting and going through the parent group – it’s just nice to know that there are other people who are in this world with us,” he said.

Other parents of trans youth have expressed online what kind of impact Stand with Trans is having on their families.

“I am a mother of a transgender teen. I don’t know what I would do without the guidance and unwavering support of SWT, especially Roz Gould Keith. This group gives me hope and seems to be helping my teen feel less isolated and more hopeful,” wrote Julie G. on the Stand with Trans website.

“Stand with Trans has been a lifeline for our family,” wrote Jaye Lacerte. “The support and validation that we feel from other families, and from the leadership, has been tremendous. Our family has also participated in social events, like the summer picnic, and the last two yearly conferences. These have

been both informative and fun.”

In addition to Hunter, there are a number of other trans men who came out in middle and high school who received support from Stand With Trans early in the program. Charley, Nolan, Jayson, Cecil, and Jay paused their festivities to share with Between the Lines what that did for them.

“It’s good having a community to fall back on,” said Hunter. He explained that the organization brought them together as friends. Some of them had known each other before coming out, but they weren’t close until they began their transitioning process.

Jayson said that having a support system helps him feel secure about his future as a trans man in a society that is still largely transphobic. “I used to be very unsure of myself.”

“Job discrimination is a big thing,” added Hunter.

“People have misconceptions about trans people,” Nolan said. “They think we are all supposed to look and act a certain way.”

The event brought together trans people of all age groups, along with their family members, enjoying games and the spread of shared dishes. The crowd represented people of various demographics, including disabled participants and people of different racial and ethnic backgrounds.

“It was interesting for me to see all the new faces,” said Keith. “It always makes me feel great.”

The 4th Annual Trans Empowerment Workshop is on Oct. 6 at Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. Parents of trans individuals, trans youth (any and every identity) and young gender expansive children are invited for all day skill-building, learning and activities. Lunch and snacks are included. Registration link coming soon. For updates, visit facebook.com/standwithtrans or standwithtrans.org.





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Right: Tanya M. Vaughn, DNP, CNM, FNP-BC

Beth K. Mutch, MSN, FNP-BC

Corinne Sakyi, MSN, CNM, WHNP-BC

(Not pictured: Hina Javaid, MD)

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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Anna Kendrick takes over Santa's workshop in 'Noelle'

It's a sign of the times that films initially slated for theatrical release wind up moving to streaming platforms instead. It's been a winning model for Netflix, stripping films of the stigma of "going straight to video." And now that Disney is planning to launch its own streaming service, they're going to need fresh content and not simply rely on your urgent, middle-age desire to re-watch "The Boatniks." Welcome, then, the Christmas 2019 premiere of "Noelle" from Marc Lawrence ("Miss Congeniality"). Starring Anna Kendrick in the title role – last name "Claus" – it's the story of Santa's daughter taking over the toys-for-good-girls-and-boys operation in what we're sure will be the smart, sardonic manner that has made her a queer audience favorite. It co-stars Bill Hader, Shirley Maclaine, Billy Eichner, "Airplane!" star Julie Hagerty and "Family Ties" dad Michael Gross. Originally planned for theaters, "Noelle" will now be a part of that pending Mouse-stream, and we'll be home on our couch that December avoiding the multiplex for it.



Anna Kendrick. Photo: KathClick

few: Aaron Eckhart, Kathryn Hahn, Diane Lane, Radha Mitchell, Amanda Peet, Corey Stoll, Isabelle Huppert, as well as "Mad Men" alums Christina Hendricks, John Slattery and Jay R. Ferguson. But all we care about for now is the queer inclusive casting of "Veep's" Clea DuVall and "Girls" Andrew Rannells. DuVall's career assortment of characters have been all over the map, but Rannells tends to play funny gay men, which always makes us happy from a funny gay man representation standpoint. All of that to say we assume he'll play a funny gay man here, too, and even if we weren't already in because we're hardcore stans for "Mad Men," we'd make this appointment television. The show hits Amazon in October.

Fosse! Fosse! Fosse!

Brace yourselves, Broadway fans, because it's about to get serious on your television. You want musical-theater legends as interpreted by today's musical-theater A-listers? FX has what you need. They've given the greenlight to a limited series about legendary director and choreographer Bob Fosse and Gwen Verdon, his equally legendary dancer-actress spouse. Together, they shaped 20th-century musical-theater and created classic work that audiences love decades after the fact. The unnamed eight-episode series is from Lin-Manuel Miranda and Thomas Kail, who created and directed "Hamilton," and "Dear Evan Hansen" writer Steven Levenson, Tony Award winners all. Academy Award winner Sam Rockwell will star as Fosse and Oscar nominee Michelle Williams will take on Verdon's role. And, of course, the show will feature Fosse's choreography to sweeten the downside of making it huge in show business. And all that jazz.

Robin Roberts is having the Lifetime of her life

Robin Roberts is making movies for Lifetime now. The cable network is already known for their original movies (our favorite: "Baby Monitor: Sound of Fear," because seriously you guys) but now they're really planning to do battle with Hallmark, presumably improve the quality – hopefully not too much – pushing out 75 of them in 2019. Roberts has signed on to produce a series under the banner "Robin Roberts Presents," and they'll be a mix of narrative features and documentaries. The first two will feature singer-activist Mahalia Jackson and adult kidnap survivor Alexis Manigo, and both films will be accompanied by documentaries about their respective subjects. Now, Lifetime, please keep the prestige angle balanced and hand the producing reins over to someone like John Waters. We need more stuff like "Pregnancy Pact."

'The Romanoffs' cast Andrew Rannells and Clea DuVall

Matthew Weiner, creator of "Mad Men," has a new series in development, "The Romanoffs," and it has a huge cast. That's because it's an anthology series that will revolve around eight different stories of people who believe themselves to be descendants of the Russian royal family. Listing them all would take up every bit of room in this column, so here's a

Romeo San Vicente sleeps with danger just like *Tori Spelling*.

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