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Homeless teen center starts LGBT group

**Deborah Cox makes** Detroit gay club debut





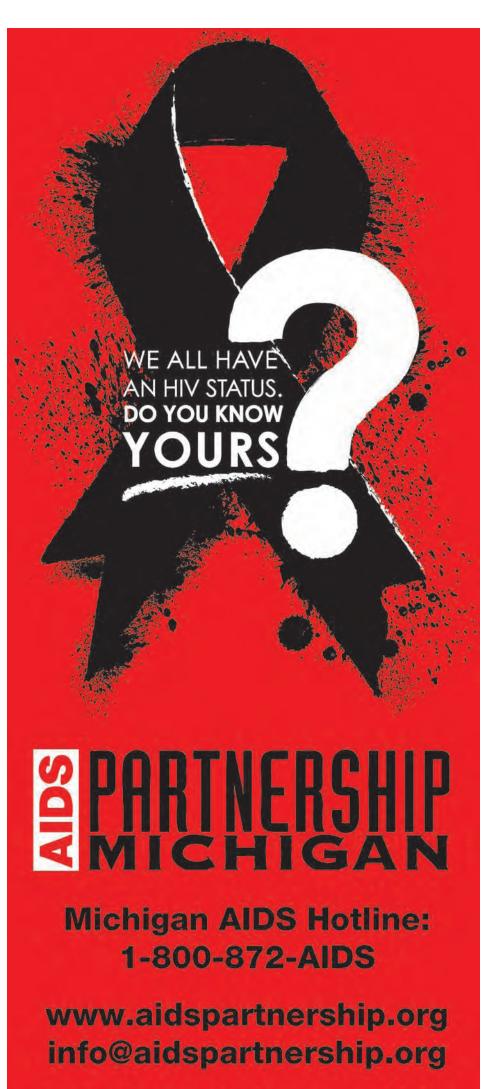








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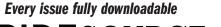
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#### by Jessica Carreras

**Benjamin Jenkins** is gearing up to begin running the University of Michigan-Dearborn's Gender & Sexuality Alliance. The 20-year-old college junior and Garden City resident hopes to carry the relatively new student organization forward with a revamped name and plenty of upcoming events as the fall semester gets underway.

# How did you get involved with UM-Dearborn's Gay-Straight Alliance?

We actually just recently renamed the organization UM-Dearborn's Gender & Sexuality Alliance. It was a decision we made together to sort of change our focus as well allow the name of our organization actually express the organization itself. We are an organization for not just straight people and gay people, but for everyone, be they lesbian, bisexual, asexual, gay, transgender, gender neutral, queer - anyone. It's a much more all-encompassing name that allows more discussion

of identity. Luckily the initials remain the same, so we sometimes refer to it as the "GSA formerly known as the GSA."

I got involved a little over a year ago. Thomas Wesley was president at the time and we had talked on campus and through Facebook, and I finally had the opportunity to step in the office. I talked a bit with a couple of members and everyone seemed really friendly. About a month later, Tom asked me if I would be interested in running for one of the co-president positions, as he was graduating.

I can honestly say that I have never been much involved in student organizations, and with only a month's experience with the GSA, I was more than hesitant. However, between the great support of the current executive board and Tom, I was convinced. You'd be surprised how quickly you pick up the leadership skills and understanding of a university's bureaucracy.

### Have you always seen yourself as a leader in LGBT issues?

Honestly, not at all. When I first came to the GSA meetings, I had no intention of getting this involved. I was out about my sexuality to everyone, and I always followed LGBT issues in the news, but this was something I never expected. It is kind of funny to think about how I spent my free time a year ago and how I spend it now. I'm always e-mailing students, trying to co-sponsor events with other organizations, or planning social outings for members. So while I hadn't seen myself in this kind of a position prior, I definitely enjoy every minute of it now.

### What are your hopes for growing the organization?

With every incoming wave of freshmen, we hope to grow a sizable amount. Participation from students sometimes is difficult to retain at Dearborn's campus, as we are commuter. It's a lot easier to stay uninvolved when you aren't staying on campus the entire semester, so one goal is to work on including new members while retaining our others.

Another goal is to successfully create a plan for transition. Students organizations will always have to struggle with keeping an orga-



The only cure I can think of for ignorance and intolerance is education. nization running smoothly, because generally speaking the executive board consists of juniors and seniors, about ready to graduate and get out of here. We as an organization are making it a goal to prepare our younger members to take the reins when the time comes.

Lastly, this year we are hoping to make more ties with other organizations, both on and off our campus. It would be great to see more connections between LGBTQ related organizations at Ann Arbor, EMU, Wayne State,

# What events do you have coming up soon? We have a lot of

very exciting programming coming up this year. October is often known for an LGBTQ History Month at some universities. This year the GSA and the LGBTQ History Month Planning Committee are working together to create six or seven events for students, faculty and members of the community.

We have guest speakers coming such as Tim Retzloff (a local LGBTQ scholar focused on the history of Detroit), Holly Hughes (a U of M professor) as well as our very own LGBTQ Provost, Catherine Davy, who has just recently published her newest book, "Lady Dicks and Lesbian Brothers: Staging the Unimaginable at the WOW Cafe Theatre."

We'll also be showing a screening of "The Times of Harvey Milk" followed by a discussion led by myself, and a screening of "Screaming Queens" followed by a panel of local LGBTQ citizens of the metro Detroit area. Last but not least mayor of Ferndale, Craig Covey, will be coming down to speak as well. It's definitely one of the largest student-run series of events the university has seen in a very long time.

We also plan to be hosting Free HIV/AIDS Testing on Dec. 1 and 2, and have been discussing a few other events, such as a safe sex awareness week, and something for Coming Out Day. It's a busy year!

### How do you hope to continue your work on LGBT issues after you graduate?

I'm not entirely sure. Come the end of fall I will have completed the requirements for my history degree, but I am looking into journalism and writing as well. The only cure I can think of for ignorance and intolerance is education. I'd like to think that eventually, after a few years of graduate school, I will be able to pair my fondness for history with my passion for LGBTQ equality and begin to research and publish American LGBTQ history.

Are you a new LGBTQA student at UM-Dearborn? Get involved with the GSA by visiting http://gsa.umd.umich.edu.

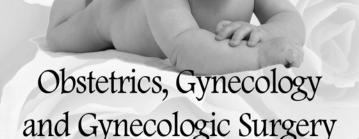
Between Ourselves is a weekly feature that highlights members of Michigan's LGBT and allied community. To recommend someone for Between Ourselves, e-mail Jessica at jessica@ pridesource.com

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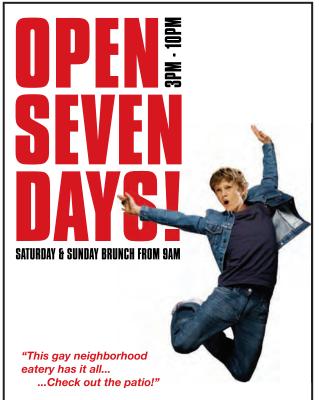


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# A new Gateway for gay mid-Michigan youth

# Lansing-based teen homeless shelter to begin support group for LGBTQ teens

BY JESSICA CARRERAS

LANSING – In a field of LGBT support where it seems that all the efforts are still never enough to meet the demand, another group, resource, grant or volunteer effort is always welcome for youth. As such, when Gateway Community Services Licensed Master Social Worker and therapist Amanda Dubey brought up the idea to form a support group for LGBTQ teens in the area, everyone was on board.

Tentatively set to start on Sept. 21, Gateway – a well-known mid-Michigan resource for homeless and at-risk youth – is branching out to offer a support group specifically geared toward helping local LGBTQ teens sift through the issues they face every day. Whether it's struggling to find one's identity, dating, family conflicts or simply social interaction that teens need, Dubey hopes to provide a new venue to help Lansing youth sort it all out.

"When I started working (at Gateway), I just really saw a need," Dubey explains. "I mean, we have a lot of kids who come through the home who identify as lesbian, gay, transgender and are really lacking in support, so I was making a lot of phone calls trying to find resources for them and found nothing except for a few GSAs around Lansing in the schools, but primarily that's only for the students in their

schools. So I thought it'd be really great if Gateway could provide a group."

Indeed, Gateway is no stranger to the realities LGBT youth in particular face. The survey numbers sum up the stories that all gay youth and their allies know: According to the Report of the Secretary's Task Force on Youth Suicide from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, almost all public high school students regularly hear homophobic remarks, and 53 percent report hearing them from staff. Thirty percent of all youth suicides are committed by LG-BTQ youth, while 40 percent of homeless youth identify as gay, lesbian or bisexual. An astounding 44 percent of LGBTQ youth reported anti-gay abuse, discrimination or harassment by their own families.

It's no wonder then, says Dubey, that Gateway saw the need to put specific efforts forward to help LGBTQ teens.

Since 1970, Gateway has served runaway, homeless and struggling youth and their families in the counties of Ingham, Eaton and Clinton. Their website states, "Our mission is to provide essential services to youth and families that both strengthen and empower them to become stable, self-sustaining members of our community. We do this through effective teamwork, leadership, accountability, mutual respect and compassion."

Similarly to metro Detroit's Ruth Ellis



Gateway Community Services Licensed Master Social Worker and therapist Amanda Dubey will be running the new LGBTQ support group.

Center, Gateway offers transitional living to homeless youth, as well as an emergency shelter. Up to 11 youth at a time call Gateway's Kevin J. Moody house their home through the organization's Crossroads program. Their Higher Ground program offers individual and family counseling, an emergency shelter and crisis intervention.

In addition, Gateway also hosts a Street Outreach team, which finds homeless

See Gateway, page 7

# River cruise to benefit two area nonprofits

River will soon provide 175 guests with a panoramic view of Detroit and Windsor while supporting two local organizations. The Motown Moonlight River Cruise sets sail from 8-11 p.m. Aug. 28 with proceeds benefiting the Motown Invitational Classic and Steppin' Out.

The Motown Invitational Classic is the oldest and largest LGBT bowling tournament in Michigan and will celebrate its 25th anniversary from Oct. 8-10 in metro Detroit. Steppin' Out is a grassroots HIV/AIDS organization that raises funds to disseminate to Michigan service agencies. Every year, they produce AIDS Walk Detroit, which is scheduled to take place Sept. 19 in downtown Royal Oak.

The two groups started working together when they produced their first Motown River Cruise and Tea Dance, which has taken place every June since 2007. Over the years, the Tea Dance has grown in popularity and eventually prompted organizers to coordinate a moonlight cruise.

"The riverboat cruises present a wonderful opportunity to raise awareness and funds for both organizations," said



Steppin' Out and the Motown Invitational Classic have been teaming up for years to host fundraising events such as their annual Motown River Cruise and Tea Dance, which takes place every June. Photo courtesy of Motown Invitational Classic.

Michael Odom, co-director for the Motown Invitational Classic. "Our guests are always diverse and come back year after year to enjoy our annual summer party on the Detroit River. It was very clear from the success of our Tea Dance that we needed to grow our partnership to include an evening cruise."

The Motown Moonlight River Cruise is a three-hour event that offers guests two levels of fun aboard the Diamond Queen, a

mini-ship that was built in 1956 and once operated as a Mackinac Island Ferry.

Tickets are \$35 per person and include a covered dance floor with dj, glow necklaces, cash bar, 50/50 raffles and special surprises along the way. Tickets will be available for purchase at Five15 Media, Mojo and More or ZMC Pharmacy in Royal Oak until 3 p.m. Aug. 28. Afterwards, any remaining tickets can be purchased at the dock, which is located at Rivard Plaza on the corner of Atwater St. and Rivard St. on the riverfront. Boarding begins at 7:30 p.m. with the boat leaving promptly at 8 p.m.

"We are receiving calls daily from people who are interested in purchasing tickets and want more information about the moonlight cruise," adds Odom. "It's an affordable, fun event that provides another entertainment opportunity for metro Detroit's LGBT and allied communities."

For more information call 734-259-9060 or visit www.mictournament.org. Information about Steppin' Out and AIDS Walk Detroit can be found by calling 248-399-9255 or visiting www.aidswalkdetroit.org.

#### **►** Gateway

Continued from p. 6

youth and brings them necessary items, such as blankets, food and clothing. Currently, they have no drop-in center or "hang out" for area youth.

And never before has Gateway hosted a group specifically for LGBTQ youth, and Dubey hopes that the effort – which is currently funded for one year by the Lansing Association for Human Rights – will pay off big-time for teens.

The group, says Dubey, will also feature guest speakers and social outings, in addition to support and discussion sessions.

"We might have some people come in and talk about healthy relationships, bullying, a bunch of different topics," she elaborates. "Then ... hopefully monthly, we can take the group to some type of positive social outing in the community so we can do a field trip-type thing, whether it's just going to a local coffee shop to hang out or take them to a movie or to some kind of art festival. A lot of the youth that we serve are very low-income and aren't able to do those kinds of things."

The support group currently has no teens signed up, but Dubey believes that as word gets out, the kids will come. "This is all new, but I don't think we'll have a hard time getting youth," she insists. "We're trying to find youth who really don't have any support. We sent letters and fliers to the schools in Lansing, and we sent information to all of our Safe Zones in the community."

# Thirty percent of all youth suicides are committed by LGBTQ youth, while 40 percent of homeless youth identify as gay, lesbian or bisexual.

Dubey and her intern, who is helping to set up the group, are also communicating with a local teen clinic, asking around in the Lansing gay community and posting information about the group in local teen hang-outs.

Teens will be required to go through an intake process with Dubey, where she will determine if the support group is a good fit for their needs. But that doesn't mean that youth who don't qualify will have the door shut in their face. "I've been working really hard to find people in the community to refer youth to who aren't appropriate for our group to still get them services," she explains. "My intern and I have been in touch with a lot of local therapists willing to work with youth and a couple other groups we can refer youth to."

And hopefully in the future, Gateway will also be able to expand its services and options for LGBTQ youth. The desire to do so is there, says Dubey, who notes that all Gateway staff are incredible allies. As always, it's a matter of time – and funding – before the center can grow its efforts in that arena. As Dubey knows, there will always be more that needs to be done.

"I think this is a good start for us to expand these services to our youth," she says. "I mean, because we have limited funds and we're just getting this started again, we'll only be able to serve about 10 youth initially. It's definitely not enough. There's a lot more than 10 youth out there who need support, so I am hoping we can expand this."

# Aging coalition grapples with next feat: nursing homes

# Community members work to address challenges of identifying, training LGBT-affirming facilities

**BY JESSICA CARRERAS** 

deas are flying and opportunities for education and involvement are extensive when it comes to addressing the needs of Michigan's LGBT aging population.

At the Aug. 11 meeting for the informal but energy-filled and growing LGBT aging coalition, a varied number of community members from across the state met to discuss moving forward with creating a resource guide for Michigan's LGBT senior population.

The growth of the coalition is, in itself, a mirror for the growing concern of the community that many gay people will reach old age and find themselves isolated, without resources and mistreated by a government that favors "traditional" couples and families – those with opposite-sex, legally married partners, usually with children and supportive families. For many LGBT people, legal unions and children simply aren't an option. Thus, the coalition is looking to provide the support that aging and elderly gay seniors need.

Participating members now include representation from the Jewish Gay Network of Michigan, the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan, the Michigan Department of Community Health, Adult Well-Being Services, the Lansing Association for Human Rights, Affirmations, SPICE, the Michigan Project for Informed Public Policy, Cooley Law School, the University of Michigan, Equality Michigan and the Area Agencies on Aging. Efforts are crossing racial, religious and geographic boundaries, and real results are expected to materialize within the next month or so.

The first effort of the coalition is planned

to be an online and printed resource booklet and brochure for LGBT seniors, to be distributed at such places as libraries, community centers and assisted living and nursing homes. It will include lists of LGBT-affirming and-accepting congregations in all faiths, doctors, support groups, legal services and, hopefully, assisted living facilities and nursing homes.

The latter is proving to be the biggest challenge for the coalition, which is struggling to find ways to identify LGBT-supportive facilities for seniors. There is no guidebook, nor any guidelines. It can't be found on a website or brochure, nor is there a current list in existence. But the need to identify such facilities is one of the most crucial.

"We get a lot of calls from people asking if we know of any places," said Affirmations Chief Administrative Officer Kathleen LaTosch. "Even if it wasn't extensive, I think just a beginning list would be helpful. But where would you even start?"

Indeed, even coalition members are concerned that no resources exist. "That is my personal worst fear – not so much on home care, but if my partner should precede me in death," said Michael Bartus. "And having gone through – with no LGBT label – being my mother's long-term care facility, I just cannot imagine – your radar is always up, unless you're severely cognitively impaired, to make sure you are not alienating the aides you're depending on."

Though many nursing homes and facilities do carry certifications that say they meet national standards that include diversity and inclusion, what happens inside the buildings can oftentimes be a completely different story. Facilities have

The growth of the coalition is, in itself, a mirror for the growing concern of the community that many gay people will reach old age and find themselves isolated.

policies so that "you cannot discriminate outwardly against an individual," explained Wayne State law student Kimberly Adams, "But you can make life pretty damn hard in a place. You can't turn someone away, but you can make it so hard for them that they want to leave."

Options for identifying LGBT-accepting nursing and assisted living facilities are numerous: calling around to various facilities. Holding educational training sessions to make them more aware and accepting of LGBT needs.

Or, suggested Bartus, enlisting members of the community to help seniors sort out the mess of finding an appropriate facility. "I think there's a wealth of talent out there in our own community where you do the same thing that you did for your mother or father, but you do it for a single LGBT individual," he said. "Part of it is just smart consumer shopping. There are plenty of checklists, and all you have to do is add a few observations."

The LGBT aging coalition will be meeting again at 9:30 a.m. Sept. 15 at the ACLU of Michigan's Detroit office. To get involved, contact ACLU LGBT Project Staff Attorney Jay Kaplan at Kaplan@aclumich.org, or by phone at 313-578-6812.

# **MDOC** ends **HIV-positive** prisoner food service ban

#### Policy change discussed, implemented after 2009 inquiry

BY TODD A. HEYWOOD

ince July 19, the Michigan Department of Corrections no longer bars HIV-positive inmates from working in food service positions. HIV-positive prisoners had been barred from such jobs, considered some of the most desirable – as well as the highest-paying – jobs in the prison system, for years by departmental policy.

The policy first came to light in April of 2009. At the time, a spokesman for MDOC explained their thinking behind the ban. "A prison holds about 1,000, 1,200 people and as those 1,000 prisoners go through for breakfast, lunch and dinner, prisoners are scooping that food onto their trays," said MDOC spokesman Russ Marlan. "So if a prisoner was HIV-positive and sneezed onto a food item and then a prisoner ate that food item and that prisoner had a lesion in their mouth they could contract the disease."

That reasoning, officials from the Michigan

Department of Civil Rights said, would violate state and federal laws

Corrections officials eventually settled on a reason for the policy as safety and security in the facilities. Arguing that other inmates might cause issues if they knew a person feeding them in the chow line was HIV-positive. That reasoning was deemed legal by MDCR.

But in November of last year, corrections officials said they were moving to change the policy. And while the policy change took longer than originally planned, it is now complete.

The new policy was released to Michigan Messenger Aug. 20 in an eight-page document dealing with communicable disease in the prison system. The new policy language reads: "Offenders with a communicable bloodborne infection are eligible for any housing, work, or school assignment or other program which their behavior and health allows, except that a prisoner shall not be assigned to work in a health service area. For example, a prisoner with a communi-

cable bloodborne infection may work in a food service area unless s/he also has a condition which should disqualify anyone from working with food or food contact surfaces, such as cuts, sores, and dermatitis (above the torso), diarrhea, uncontrolled cough, runny nose, and poor general hygiene."

People with HIV and advocates for the community are hailing the policy change.

"It is good to see that this policy now reflects science instead of fear. People living with HIV already have to deal with a myriad of issues related to their health as they face life with a terminal illness," said Mark Peterson, spokesperson for the Michigan Positive Action Coalition. "Stigmatizing them solely based on the fact that they have this illness is uninformed and cruel. There is no known transmission risk for HIV in this instance and the policy was created out of ignorance and fear."

This article ran in full on www.MichiganMessenger.com.



NEWS ITEM: ANN COULTER PLANS TO ADDRESS GAY REPUBLICAN GROUP OVER OBJECTIONS OF OTHER CONSERVATIVES.

#### **BTL E**DITORIAL

### **Alternative health**

Then we are sick, we go to see a doctor. When we want to get in shape, we lace up our sneakers and hit the gym. When we have a chronic or acute illness, we stock up on medications to ease our ailments.

Not always.

For a growing number of people, the steps for maintaining good health that many Americans take for granted are not an option. Barriers like a lack of health insurance, no money to join a gym or buy organic health foods, the stigma faced when going to the doctors office, or symptoms that cannot be cured by simply taking another pill keep millions of people in chronic pain and constant fear. What happens when you get sick and you can't afford to go see a doctor? What happens when you are too scared of being ridiculed for being transgender to join a gym or take a fitness class? What happens when you have HIV and even your cocktail cannot keep your nausea down and your appetite up?

In this issue of Between The Lines, we feature alternatives – to health insurance, to gym memberships, to medications. Though the articles in our Fall 2010 Health Special Section certainly don't cover the gamut of options available, they're meant to get you thinking.

As Americans, we are brought up to believe that there is a set process to follow for good health. Eat this food, do that workout, visit the doctor for this, take that medication. But there are other paths to try to good health, and the answer is different for every person. Holistic medicine. Massage therapy. Chiropractic care. Acupuncture. Herbs and supplements. They may not be just what the doctor ordered, but that doesn't mean they should be disregarded.

In the pages of this issue of BTL, we introduce you to FernCare, a free clinic where adults can go when they have no insurance to see a doctor or get the medications they need. We discuss

Holistic medicine. Massage therapy. Chiropractic care. Acupuncture. Herbs and supplements. They may not be just what the doctor ordered, but that doesn't mean they should be disregarded.

the barriers to and benefits of medical marijuana use and sale, and how our government's stress over this drug may cause more harm than good. We highlight Affirmations' newest exercise class - aerial fitness, which offers a welcoming atmosphere for those looking to burn some calories and try something new. And we feature vitamin and supplement advice from our very own Parting Glances columnist, Charles Alexander. We give you a taste of the healthy life that you may not have considered.

So drink it up. And eat up. And pump it up. Because whether you're facing life with a chronic illness, stigma at your local gym, the loss of health insurance, or just the hope of aging gracefully and staying healthy, there are options.

You can be healthy and happy. You can enjoy new activities without being discriminated against. You can be active well into older age. You can explore options beyond what your doctor says. And you don't have to live in constant pain or sickness, even if you don't have the insurance or money to visit a doctor's office.

Explore your options, both by reading our Health issue and by doing some digging of your own. You never know what you may find if you be your own health care provider.

#### Voices from an Urban Bush Sistah



# Loving me some me!

#### BY C. IMANI WILLIAMS

ello, Queens and Kings. I greet you with love in the midst of everythaaang! This more-than-totally-amazing and life-changing graduate program I keep going on about is kicking my butt. Know that I'm claiming the victory. However, this month's column will be a straight up Imani Sistah Girl rant. If you aren't in the mood, I still love you and I totally understand if you check out now.

If you're still reading, thank you. Sometimes we just have to sit back and breathe. The thing is, I can't really do that with 11 looming deadlines hanging overhead.

Consequently, my flow has been off the last few days. I have been a bit off creatively and decided to visit local coffee house that thankfully offers open mic on Thursdays. I needed to be around creative energy and the space had a nice vibe. Not the 'D' home vibe, but it did the job.

With nothing new to share, I read a piece on the Jena 6 in the spirit of organizing for justice and loving black young men in these crazy times.

I want to say as part of my testimony

that emotional issues need to be dealt

with, or else they will deal with you.

I finished with True Lies, a piece referencing the overt daily oppression that was in my face often when I lived in in Arizona. They were two very hard pieces for me that are reflective of my

time there and, in some ways, they speak to my growth as a black woman and a revolutionary.

Following my less-than-stellar read that night, a conscious sistah read. I complimented her before I left for the night, and I returned home energized from all the talent and shared energy ready to tackle my work load, with God at the helm and taking one day at a time.

Being away from Michigan and specifically my beloved Detroit has been challenging and full

of self-awareness and deeper sense of purpose. I want to see more of the world and how I fit in. Living overseas is no longer a farfetched notion.

With newfound awareness, I am learning to appreciate the little things. For me, there is absolutely nothing more peaceful than riding my cruiser on the bike path along the beach. The ocean calls me and the brilliance and the sun blesses me by splashing my face with rays. When I ride I gain clarity and insight and it's a beautiful thing.

I'm becoming more comfortable with the weight that was lost due in large part to emotional stress. I am tickled pink now that I'm over the bulk of whatever stopped me from eating like a healthy person. In this process, I'm back to single-digit clothing. I'm 46 and this was totally unexpected. Now that the scare is over, I'm enjoying moving with a lighter and healthier step. I want to say as part of my testimony that emotional issues need to be dealt with, or else they will deal with you.

Mother Nature has a sense of humor – don't ever doubt it. I'm completely off HRT for meno-

pause symptoms, so I have guaranteed nightly hot flashes. Black Cohosh needs a boost! They also come during the day, and at random moments I break out in a sweat from the top of my head down to

my chest. But I don't have a period and I get to ditch my bra. I'm quite giddy at being able to get a hanger of three exercise bras for ten bucks.

I love it! I feel good in my skin and about my body for the first time in a long time. My breasts and butt are proportioned and I no longer mind being President of the Itty Bitty Titty Comittee. And as my sista friend always says, 'I'm loving me some me!'

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### **Still off Target**

Here we go again! A large business contributing to the conservative agenda – one that discriminates against a group of people ("Target struggles with donation backlash, BTL Issue 1833). As a homosexual who promotes equality and fairness, how should I react to Target's monetary contribution to an organization that is against who and what I am? I will boycott any company or organization that continues to promote inequality and discrimination on any level, and I would hope other intelligent and

fair-minded people would do the same. Target will not get another penny of my hard-earned money until it turns from its wicked ways. Even then, it might take me years to begin shopping there again.

DeWitt Green Detroit, Mich.

Target will not get another penny of my hard-earned money until it turns from its wicked ways. Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

— First Amendment, U.S. Constitution

# S/he said

### LGBT Arabs, APA support and the big gay sandwich

#### **COMPILED BY HOWARD ISRAEL**

"We're not afraid. We think we're doing God's work. We're trying to prevail over the hypocrisy of the underdog hung up on human rights while he himself doesn't uphold them in his own society. Women, children, gays and lesbians – they're all weak in a society that is, generally speaking, strict and patriarchal. That needs to be changed. In order not to be hypocritical, you can't fly the flag of human rights when you yourself don't protect them. This will be another crack in the wall behind which Arab society has barricaded itself for many years."

- Ala Hlehel, Israeli-Arab author, in an article titled "New Arabic-language website to tackle 'taboo' gay issues," ask whether he is apprehensive over the site's reception across the Arab world, www.haaretz.com, Aug. 16.



Stephen Colbert

"Same-sex marriage is legal in Mexico and Canada, which makes America the straight meat in a big gay sandwich."

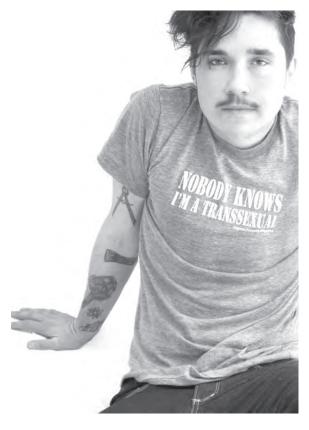
- Stephen Colbert, in an episode of the "Colbert Report" titled "Invasion of the Country Snatchers," about the legalization of same-sex marriage in Mexico City and recognition throughout the country, www.colbertnation. com, Aug. 16.

"As the world's largest organization of psychologists, we felt it was important to make a statement here and now to demonstrate APA's unwavering support of marriage equality. With the issue playing out so prominently in California, we are using the opportunity presented by our annual convention to present the growing body of science that is the foundation for our position, and that has influenced many of the legislators, judges and other public officials who are working to achieve this goal."

 Carol D. Goodheart, American Psychological Association president, in a article titled "APA Reaffirms Support for Same-Sex Marriage," www.healthnewsdigest.com, Aug. 11.

"Although women comprise only 14 percent of the Army, the new data show that lesbians received 48 percent of the Army's 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' discharges last year. In the Marines, women comprise just 6 percent of the force, but received 23 percent of discharges under the policy. In the Air Force, women comprise 20 percent of the service but received 51 percent of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' discharges last year."

- Aaron Belkin, in his column titled "It's Do-or-Die for 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'," about new Pentagon data demonstrating the ever-mounting costs of the military's failed policy, especially the heavy burden it places on women, www.huffingtonpost.com, Aug. 17.



"The No. 1 thing that I find from my experience is that there's no set way to be a transman. Identity is pretty fluid."

- Amos Mac, freelance photographer and cofounder – with poet and rapper Rocco Kayiatos – of Original Plumbing, the premier magazine dedicated to the sexuality and culture of FTM trans guys, in an article titled "Giving Voice to the Once-Silent," www.nytimes.com, Aug. 11.



Tara Lohan

"For all those people out there who have spent so much time and energy and money defending Prop. 8 – not only are you on the wrong side of history but you're on the wrong side of life. Enough of the hate – your 'morality' has nothing to do with my marriage."

- Tara Lohan, in her blog titled "Why I Have to Postpone My Marriage (Again!)," about the federal appeals court decision to

extend the ban on same-sex marriages in California until it decides whether the ban is constitutional, http://blogs.alternet.org/speakeasy, Aug. 16.



### Parting Glances Then & Now

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

"I loved the sinner and hated the sin in a very special way – I organized block-party gaybash stonings. Just a few guys after brewskis. No big rocks. ..At first it was alota laughs.

# My name's Spud, buster!

"... and I'm a gay basher ..."

PG Friends: I'm sitting in on a meeting of Gay Basher's Anonymous with – unknown to the bashers gathered – my pocket-size recording device surreptitiously "taking notes."

I'm disguised as a Gay Basher: sporting a pair of \$350 sunglasses (sorry, I can't resist a touch of glamour), wearing polyester aqua-blue slacks with a forest green God Hates Fags wife-beater. Oh, yes: sandals with red-white-blue argyle socks. (I'm probably the best dressed bashee here. I hope it doesn't blow my cool.)

Note: For readers who don't know about Fundygelical outreach programs, GBA is designed 1) to alleviate guilt of those who by word, deed, or half-thought have been caught red-handed "casting the first stone," and 2) to reorient such red-faced holy hurlers in more effective ways (less antithetical to passive/aggressive evangelism) to win homospecials-by-choice to the redeeming message of heterosuperiors-by-circumstance faith.

We're sitting in the basement of the Greater New Faith Temple-Church-Cathedral-Tabernacle of God's Last Days Rapture. There are 60 heterosuperiors huddled at ten tables, decorated with lilies of the valley, a Scofield Bible with Holy Land Gift Shop picture maps, and a bowl of chocolate-covered Grabass-A-Gay Goobers.

Nearly all participants are guys, tho' "Spud" – occasionally deep-kneeing me to my immediate right – beer-breaths there are two roller derby "big namer" bimbos at the Step Four Table. (If I may vouchsafe an opinion to the tape recorder: I estimate the collective intelligence at each table is in the ballpark figure of, bottom-of-the-ninth, IQ 89.5. My participant-observer presence at Step One Table ups that count by 30 points.) Private transcription ...

SPUD: "I knew I had a problem when I became aware that the first thing I wanted to do after church was beat up a fag. The urge just took over my whole life. I found myself spending all my evenings going to gay bars, all my days going to steam baths. I had one thing on my mind. Are you ready for the Second Coming? I'd ask. I wouldn't take no for an answer. I twisted a few arms to get what I wanted. But, it was too damn time consuming. Honestly, I suppose I'm getting too old for bar ministry."

BIG RED: "I hate to admit it, but six of my seven kids are, well, gay. The seventh is a married cross dresser. I gay bashed by kicking them all out onto the street – which, now that the cost of suburban living has skyrocketed, turns out was a big theological mistake.

"With my reduced income I can't tithe to my mega-church like I used to. My better half tells me to call our kickouts back home. What in hell does she know? She's a goddamned feminist Wiccan. Oh, well. Live and learn."

BRUNO: "I loved the sinner and hated the sin in a very special way – I organized block-party gay-bash stonings. Just a few guys after brewskis. No big rocks. Just pebbles, marbles, vegetables, day-old hotcross buns. At first it was alota laughs.

"We 'stoned' about a — hahahahaha — 'baker's dozen' of fruit-loopers. Unfortunately — and that's why I'm here — we pelted a pastor's son by mistake (God, who would have thought ... You know ... Come on, who knows they're gay at 14? He was, well, cute. Too damned cute for his own bubble-butt good.)"

ZEL DIPSON: "I swear I'll never, NEVER Gay Bash again! Criss-cross my heart. I made the mistake of pinching a drag queen in the unisex john at Pronto. She was a holy terror in high heels. See, I got two black eyes. What's worse, my Viagra ain't workin'. No siree, guys. Those bitches cain't fight fair. No how. Nooo way. I've had it."

Charles@pridesource.com. Facebook, too.

# Creep !!! Week **Jeremy Walters**

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

ear Internet Citizens: Facebook is not private. I don't care how many privacy-setting loops you jump through. The more "friends" you have, the more public your page. Facebook is not a lockbox for your most private feelings and random musings. Especially if you're a public figure.



**Jeremy Walters** 

Jeremy Walters, an Iowan Republican running for Congress, learned this the hard way when anti-gay posts he made on his Facebook wall were exposed. Not only do his posts show that he has serious issues regarding gays, also evident is a desperate cry for help in the punctuation and grammar department.

At 9:33 p.m. Aug. 12 Walters wrote, "Homosexual 'GAY' is not of God!!!! In the Bible it reads; Leviticus 20:13 -King James Bible If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination:

they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.'

"The statement regarding gay homosexuality was not meant to be offensive and I deeply appologize. As far as the quote from the Bible; I was replying to someone elses post. It should have been posted as a comment on their page, not my Facebook wall."

OK, so he gives a little shout out to Leviticus on a Thursday

Well, at 9:45 p.m., having thought things over for a good 12 minutes, Walters posted, "The Holy Bible say if your 'GAY' homosexual they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them. This tells me alot so should we kill them NO. They Need to ask God to forgive them of their sins and mean it turn away from it. They also need to know that when it says that their blood shall be upon them that tells me it is AIDS. Thats how I feel.

First of all, Walters needs to decide: is it "homosexual 'GAY" "GAY' homosexual?" He uses them interchangeably, as if they're even close to the same thing.

Secondly, holy bat-shit crazy AIDS blood, Batman. So AIDS is God's punishment for being homosexual "GAYS" and/or "GAY' homosexuals (but not, apparently, homo "GAY" sexuals. Yet). And although "this tells (him) alot" (though apparently it doesn't tell him that "a lot" is two words, not one), he's not planning a gay killing spree (at least that's how I interpret "so should we kill them NO"). He's just waiting for AIDS to do the job for him.

Gay rights groups and the Iowa GOP quickly denounced Walters.

"Mr. Walters' comments are inappropriate and in no way represent the beliefs of the Republican Party of Iowa," Republican Party of Iowa Chairman Matt Strawn told the Iowa Independent.

I think my favorite thing about Walters' post is how he ends with, "Thats how I feel," as if it's simply a response to one of his friends posting, "Hey, Jeremy. How are you?" on his wall.

Actually, according to Walters' apology, that's pretty much what happened.

"I am not against people having a gay lifestyle, and the statements made on Facebook have been taken the wrong way,' Walters told The Iowa Independent. "The statement regarding gay homosexuality was not meant to be offensive and I deeply appologize. As far as the quote from the Bible; I was replying to someone elses post. It should have been posted as a comment on their page, not my Facebook wall."

As far as apologies go, it's a little weak ("I'm just bad at Facebook!"). It does, however, strengthen the appearance that the man running for Congress in Iowa on the GOP ticket is not only a heart-on-his-sleeve bigot, but that he is also functionally illiterate. I'm honestly not sure which one is sadder.

News MICHIGAN

# Transgender expert to speak at Calif. gender conference

# Lifelong interest in trans issues and autism led psychologist to pursue work with youth

CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Then Dr. Antonia Caretto, Ph.D, was just a teenage tomboy, she met a lesbian who transitioned to becoming a male. Recalls Caretto: "This sparked my interest in the similarities and differences between gender non-conformity and sexual orientation."

She went on to study psychology and did her dissertation on transgender issues, titled Familial Homosexuality Among Women and Its Relationship to Gender Role Non-Conformity in Childhood and Adult Sex Role. Now, the Farmington Hills resident is a licensed clinical psychologist specializing in autism and gender issues, and is preparing to fly to Berkeley, Calif., to present her work with autistic, transgender youth at the fourth annual Gender Spectrum Family Conference, which takes place Sept. 3-6.

The conference was started by Stephanie Brill, co-author of "The Transgender Child: A Handbook for Families and Professionals," to educate families with transgender children and the professionals and therapists who work with them. In addition to many informative classes, there will be activities for the kids like a pool party, daycare and camp.

The theme of this year's conference is Empowering Advocacy. There are traditionally programs like "Medical Issues 101," "Dad's Group" and "Legal Rights."

Caretto's involvement will cover both of her specialties: autism and gender identity. "I will be doing a 90-minute workshop on Gender Incongruence in Children and Adolescents on the Autism Spectrum." she explains. "Autism spectrum includes things like Asperger's Disorder, which is a condition in which an individual has great difficulty with social skills and communication with others. They have very specific topics that they are interested in and can talk endlessly or engage in that behavior for hours and hours, perhaps never noticing that the other person is bored. They are not mentally retarded and may have a huge vocabulary, but no clue how to have a conversation or take turns. They are rigid about having routines and hate change."

Caretto adds that while her workshop seems to have a narrow topic, it's not as uncommon as it may seem for children to be both autistic and transgender.

"There have been many anecdotal reports of people with gender identity disorder also having Asperger's, but until recently there has been no research to support or refute that belief.'

She shares that a study published this month reported that the rate of autism spectrum disorders among children and adolescents with gender identity disorders was eight times what would be expected

by in the general population.

"In my workshop I will summarize the research findings and lead a discussion about 'what does this mean?" she adds. "I suspect I may meet families with horror stories about their child being misdiagnosed or denied services and rights based on a diagnosis. I hope to find out from them and other professionals in attendance what we need to do in light of this huge co-occurrence. This has major implications when we think about helping a teen transition and fit in socially as their affirmed gender.'

Caretto is one of a few therapists locally who works with children with gender identity disorders. She has attended conferences on the topic in London and Chicago, and has spoken about the topic for a number of groups, including Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, and the Michigan Sexual Health Certificate Program. She is also a member of World Professional Association for Transgender Health, and spends much of her time networking to find physicians who are willing to provide hormone blockers and contragender hormones to children with GID.

For more information on Dr. Caretto's services, visit www.BeTreatedWell. com. For more information on the Gender Spectrum Family Conference, visit www. genderspectrum.org.

# Fire destroys center for young gay men HIV prevention program R.E.C. Boyz without home, supplies

BY JAN STEVENSON

**DETROIT** – For many young, gay black men there are few places they can call home, and it just got a little worse for them last week when the R.E.C. Boyz Center, a home-away-from-home for so many, was destroyed by a fire.

'Our program associates are very young men who are mostly from our client base," said Barbara Murray, executive director of AIDS Partnership Michigan. "They all looked just stunned. This had

The apparent electrical fire ignited sometime during the night of Aug. 17 and ravaged the R.E.C. Boyz Center, located at 1959 E. Jefferson in about 4,000 square feet of loft space. The center was located in a building about a block and a half from its parent organization, APM. No one was in the building at the time of the fire. The building is owned by an investor in New York and managed by Exclusive Realty

Help is needed for R.E.C. Boyz Center to recover from this fire. Go to www. aidspartnership.org and click on the red ribbon icon that says"I want to help the R.E.C. Boyz."

Although insurance will cover much of the tangible losses, Murray said it's the intangibles that will be the hardest to replace. All the HIV/AIDS counseling and testing supplies were destroyed, as were all office supplies, paper and R.E.C. Boyz organizational sweatshirts, book bags and T-shirts. The collection of used clothing available for young people is gone, as are

the office computers and their files

The three full-time R.E.C. Boyz staffers are being temporarily housed at APM's offices, and Murray said she is trying to secure a meeting space in the area so the programs can resume as soon as possible.

Now in its fourth year, The R.E.C. Boyz Project (R.E.C. is an acronym for Real Enough to Change) is an awardwinning program, federally funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It is considered to be one of the top-five HIV prevention programs in the country, targeting young black men between the ages of 13 and 24 who have sex with other men. It is based on a peer-driven model with about 150 youth participating at any given time. The focus is on HIV testing and counseling, both to educate and prevent HIV infection and to get any youth who test positive into treatment as quickly as possible.



# Name changing for couples not a straight line

BY LEANNE ITALIE

In October 2008, racing against California's gay marriage ban, Chloe and Frankie Frankeny wed legally in San Francisco with one chore already done: Chloe had taken her wife's name two years before.

"It was the only way we had to fit into a mainstream role that was understandable to anybody," said Chloe, managing editor of a fashion website. "When I told my father I was taking Frankie's name he was sort of blown away because I definitely consider myself a feminist."

With a battle over the state's ban on gay marriage possibly headed to the U.S. Supreme Court, it's likely more same-sex couples will do the same. For the Frankenys, the name switch couldn't magically grant all the marriage benefits denied same-sex couples when compared to one man, one wife, but it was one more way to express their union. It's a symbol rendered even stronger now that legal gay marriages are on hold in California, and for partners who've never had the option.

Logistically, a name-change for gay couples isn't always as simple as trotting out a marriage certificate, the proof most required in heterosexual marriage. Emotionally, the journey is about love, commitment – and a way to ease anxiety over being misunderstood as non-relatives in emergencies or considered less-than as parents.

Kirsten Palladino, who runs the online gay wedding 'zine Equally Wed, shed Ott for the surname of her partner, Maria, last year without benefit of a state-sanctioned union in Georgia. She's seeing more couples go to court for name changes, settling on hyphenation or one partner's surname over the other.

"We have grown stronger and are speaking out for ourselves in this way," said Palladino, 32. "There's nothing stopping us from taking each other's names, even if we can't get a marriage certificate."

After a five-year courtship, the Palladinos had a wedding at an antebellum mansion in Decatur, Ga. Kirsten became a Palladino after running a newspaper announcement of her intentions once a week for four weeks and appearing before a judge, just as people going through a formal name change for reasons other than marriage must do.

"I was nervous. I didn't know how the judge would feel, but he was great. Personally, I had to deal with some identity issues after, but becoming a family unit with my wife trumped anything else for me," she said.

College sweethearts Kathryn and Heather Kraft of Newton, Mass., just celebrated 12 years together and have a new baby. They had a church wedding five years ago in white gowns with 10 bridesmaids after obtaining a marriage license under their state's gay marriage law.

Whose name did they choose? Kathryn said her Kraft over Heather's Cole "because we're very close to my family and wanted to add to that family in a noticeable way." They had considered combining names into a new one that "represented both of our ancestry, but in the

a small thing that isn't noticeable when you look at her passport, but the process was long and an unnecessary reminder that things aren't exactly equal," Kathryn said.

Jason and Anthony Cline committed to each other in 2001 during a hotel ceremony in their native Indiana, where gay marriage is outlawed. They thought about heading to a state where their union would be legal but decided not to bother knowing they'd return home to suburban Indianapolis without that recognition.

Jason, 33, legally changed his name, going through a newspaper notification process and enduring questions from a judge as Palladino did.

Actor and writer Marcos Mateo Ochoa, 29, of Los Angeles chose to hyphenate instead. He goes by Cermak-Ochoa after marrying partner Frank Cermak on Oct. 4, 2008, a union legally recognized in California with 18,000 other same-sex marriages there before voters approved Proposition 8 and ended the practice. He plans to make the name switch legal once the court case is resolved.



end we're very traditional people." Cole is now a middle name for the entire family, including baby Esther.

Making the switch with a legal marriage certificate was no trouble for Heather, until she tried to get a U.S. passport ahead of a trip to Europe. "We were shocked when Heather's application was denied," said her 32-year-old partner, a family therapist. "The passport office would not recognize our marriage certificate as proof and insisted that she had to go in front of a judge to have a court-ordered name change."

After six months, she was issued a "known as" passport identifying her by both names. "It's

"The process seemed cold but it helped prove our relationship to our friends and family that maybe weren't as advanced in their thinking on the topic. It helped solidify our relationship to the people that we knew and to the world," he said. "It starts a conversation. It tells a story."

Chloe Frankeny sees other practical outcomes to changing her name, including proof of family status in case of a medical crisis.

"With the same last name we could say we were sisters," she said. "We've all heard stories of partners kept apart in emergency rooms. That was a precaution we wanted to take."

From nearly 80 percent to 95 percent of

heterosexual couples marrying for the first time legally adjust their names as the age of the average bride has risen to about 27 over the last 20 years, according to research. Professional identity before marriage motivates others – in same-sex and hetero couples alike – to keep their original names informally or incorporate them as middle names.

Elisa Hebert, 32, wasn't attached to her surname before she traveled with partner Megan from their home outside Denver, Colo., to Rehoboth, Mass., a plus since most of their friends and family are from New England. Back home, Elisa appeared in court to complete her legal name change before a judge managing a roomful of ticked-off parents and their kids hauled in for truancy. "I felt like a 12-year-old who was in trouble," she said.

Actor and writer Marcos Mateo Ochoa, 29, of Los Angeles chose to hyphenate instead. He goes by Cermak-Ochoa after marrying partner Frank Cermak on Oct. 4, 2008, a union legally recognized in California with 18,000 other samesex marriages there before voters approved Proposition 8 and ended the practice. He plans to make the name switch legal once the court case is resolved.

"We want to identify ourselves as being united, but with California being so flip-floppy on this, it's just a matter of when we go about the process," Ochoa said. "Is this going to be another obstacle, another hurdle for us to go through?"



# **GetEQUAL launches ENDA Summer campaign**

## **Group hopes to pressure Congress into keeping 2010 vote promise**

WASHINGTON – National direct-action LGBT civil rights organization GetEQUAL on Aug. 20 announced the launch of its grassroots "ENDA Summer" campaign. Designed to target representatives and senators from several key states, the campaign will focus on passing the Employment Non-Discrimination Act by the end of th year. The 2010 target date for passage comes from repeated promises by Democratic House and Senate leadership that a vote on ENDA would be scheduled this year.

Recently, GetEQUAL released a timeline showing decades of broken promises and excuses from elected officials that have led to the stalling of any federal protections being in place for LGBT workers. The timeline can be viewed in its entirety at: www.getequal.org/endatimeline.

In an e-mail sent out launching ENDA Summer, GetEQUAL co-founder and Director Robin McGehee wrote, "We're heading into the end of summer, and there has been both an eerie silence from Congress and whispers of surrender from the White House about the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. Despite these challenges from our elected leaders, GetEQUAL is determined to pull out all the stops to get ENDA passed in 2010."

"This isn't a legislative issue – this is a moral issue," McGehee continued, "and we're targeting legislators in specific states who have not yet shown the moral courage to support this



GetEQUAL held a protest July 20 in Las Vegas, during which they stropped traffic on the strip, calling on U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid to work to pass the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act. Photo by Steve Friess

legislation. We're tired of legislators telling us that basic job protections for LGBTQ Americans are politically inconvenient—that some are more concerned with securing their own jobs than those of their constituents. We're tired of being asked to wait. We've been waiting for 40 years."

GetEQUAL has identified local organizers in each state who will spearhead this campaign. Those who sign up to join the "ENDA Summer" campaign will submit their contact information and will be paired with a local organizer in their particular state in order to obtain more informa-

tion about actions planned in that state and how they can get involved.

The 15 targeted states include Arkansas, California, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Tennessee.

In addition to this latest national ENDA Summer campaign, GetEQUAL has continued to make the passage of ENDA a cornerstone piece of its legislative priorities by pushing federal lawmakers to make good on their promises to the LGBT community that this 40-year-old piece of legislation would be scheduled for a vote in 2010.

GetEQUAL has staged sit-ins in House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's Washington, D.C., office, inside the U.S. Capitol Rotunda, and across Las Vegas Boulevard – all calling for the passage of ENDA in 2010. Those actions, along with two GetEQUAL-sponsored protests at Speaker Pelosi's San Francisco district office, were designed to draw attention to the unfulfilled promises of both the Democratic House speaker's and Senate majority leader's promises to the LGBT community that ENDA would receive a vote before the legislative session ends in 2010. To view footage from the U.S. Capitol Rotunda protest, Las Vegas Boulevard protest, and others, go to www.youtube.com/getequal.

To get involved with the ENDA Summer campaign, visit www.getequal.org/endasummer.

# Lawsuit challenges Wisc. domestic partner registry

**MADISON, Wisc. (AP)** – A social conservative group has filed a lawsuit challenging Wisconsin's domestic partner registry.

Members of Wisconsin Family Action filed a lawsuit Aug. 18 in Dane County circuit court arguing that the year-old registry violates the state's constitutional ban on same-sex marriage approved by voters in 2006

The group tried to bring their lawsuit directly to the state Supreme Court in November but were rebuffed.

In June the state Supreme Court did uphold the state's constitutional ban on gay marriage and civil unions but the ruling did not affect the registry.

Under the registry, same-sex couples who sign up receive a limited number of the same legal rights as spouses, including hospital visitation, inheritance and medical leave rights.

# Investors urge Target to look at political giving, use 'core values'

**BY MARTIGA LOHN** 

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) – A few Target Corp. and Best Buy Co. institutional shareholders weighed in Aug. 19 on the flap over the companies' political donations in Minnesota, urging the boards of both retailers to increase their oversight of campaign contributions.

Walden Asset Management and Trillium Asset Management Corp., both of Boston, and Bethesda, Md.-based Calvert Asset Management Co. filed shareholder resolutions with both companies. Together, the three firms control less than 1 percent of each company's outstanding shares – 1.1 million Target shares worth \$57.5 million and 344,000 Best Buy shares worth \$11.3 million – but they are moving the debate over the political giving to a new arena.

Target gave \$150,000 and Best Buy \$100,000 to a business-focused political fund helping a conservative Republican gubernatorial candidate in Minnesota, triggering a national backlash from gay rights groups and liberals. The companies made the donations after a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling freed them to spend corporate funds on elections. The candidate,

The shareholders said the donations don't mesh with (Target) corporate values that include workplace protections for gay employees and risk harming the companies' brands.

state legislator Tom Emmer, opposes same-sex marriage and other rights for same-sex couples.

"A good corporate political contribution policy should prevent the kind of debacle Target and Best Buy walked into," said Trillium vice president Shelley Alpern. "We expect companies to evaluate candidates based upon the range of their positions - not simply one area - and assess whether they are in alignment with their core values. But these companies' policies are clearly lacking that."

The shareholders said the donations don't

mesh with corporate values that include workplace protections for gay employees and risk harming the companies' brands. Walden senior vice president Tim Smith said such giving can have "a major negative impact on company reputations and business."

The Target resolution urges the board to review the effect of future political contributions on the company's public image, sales and profitability and to consider the cost of backing a candidate whose politics conflict with the company's public stances.

Spokeswoman Amy Reilly said Minneapolis-based Target had nothing to add to previous statements on the matter, including an apology from Chief Executive Officer Gregg Steinhafel.

A spokeswoman for Richfield, Minn.based Best Buy didn't immediately respond to a message.

The three investment companies together submitted the resolution to Target, while Calvert and Trillium filed the Best Buy shareholder proposal. One of Trillium's clients, the Portland, Ore.-based Equity Foundation, divested a small Target holding of 170 shares on Aug. 18.

# **Mexican Supreme Court OKs gay adoption**

n a 9-2 vote Aug. 16, Mexico's Supreme Court upheld the portion of Mexico City's same-sex marriage law that lets married gay and lesbian couples adopt.

In two other August rulings, the court had upheld the main part of the marriage law and ruled that same-sex couples who marry in Mexico City are validly married everywhere in the nation, in all 31 states.

Human Rights Watch said the trio of rulings confirmed "that the state cannot withhold any legal rights on the grounds of a person's sexual orientation and gender identity."

"This decision will have resonance for courts throughout the continent for protecting the basic human rights of LGBT people," said the group's Juliana Cano Nieto.

Mexico City's legalization of same-sex marriage and adoption had been targeted by the federal attorney general, whose office said the moves undermined "family" and the interests of children.

The court decided, however, that married heterosexuals are just one kind of "family" and that children's interests are served by having a loving family regardless of their parents' sex.

Same-sex marriage is legal in Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Mexico City, Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and Washington, D.C. Mexico City same-sex marriages are recognized throughout the nation. Two other U.S. states – New York and Maryland – recognize, as full marriages, same-sex marriages that were entered into elsewhere. California recognizes both same-sex marriages from elsewhere and same-sex marriages that took place in California – if the marriage in question occurred before the November 2008 passage of Proposition 8.

Same-sex couples can adopt in Belgium, Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Uruguay, Mexico City and 16 U.S. states and Washington, D.C. In addition, a gay or lesbian partner can adopt his or her partner's child in Denmark, Finland, Germany, Norway and 25 U.S. states and Washington, D.C.

### Mexico City mayor sues Guadalajara bishop for defamation

he mayor of Mexico City, Marcelo Ebrard, has sued the Roman Catholic bishop of Guadalajara, Juan Sandoval Íñiguez, for saying that the Mexican Supreme Court was bribed by Ebrard and others to approve Mexico City's law that legalized gay marriage and adoption. The court also ruled that Mexico City same-sex marriages are valid nationwide.

"I don't think the judges would arrive at such absurd conclusions, against the sentiment of the Mexican public, without there being very big motives, and the very big motive may be the money that they are given," Sandoval said.

Ebrard filed a civil suit in the Supreme Court claiming defamation. The archdiocese responded that it has proof to back up Sandoval's claim.

"When the cardinal was talking, he didn't do it just to hear himself speak," said a spokesman.

"Check their bank accounts," Sandoval himself said later. In the original outburst, Sandoval reportedly also called homosexuality an aberration and said, "Would you want to be adopted by a pair of faggots or lesbians?"

# German gay couples get equal inheritance rights

ay couples in registered partnerships have the same inheritance rights as married couples, Germany's Federal Constitutional Court ruled Aug. 17.

The decision reduces the maximum inheritance tax rate for a surviving gay partner from 50 percent to 30 percent, and lowers the minimum inheritance tax rate for a surviving gay partner from 17 percent to 7 percent. It also equalizes the portion of an estate that is free from inheritance tax.

Because the setup was unconstitutional, the government must go back and recalculate inheritance taxes in registered gay partnerships from the point that Germany established same-sex partnerships in February 2001.

# Discriminatory Catholic adoption service slapped down in England

Roman Catholic adoption service in Leeds, England, was denied an exemption to the United Kingdom's ban on discrimination against gay people Aug. 18. In a final determination, the Charities Commission said that Catholic Care has to follow the law like everyone else.

The service had wanted to limit its services to married straight people in order to remain faithful to Roman Catholicism's heterosexist teachings.

# **U.N. tells Cameroon to legalize gays**

he United Nations Human Rights Committee has told Cameroon to decriminalize gay sex, end anti-LGBT prejudice and stigmatization, and assure that HIV-positive people receive adequate care. The July 29 move followed a presentation to the committee by Human Rights Watch and the LGBT group Alternatives-Cameroun.

"Since 2005, Alternatives-Cameroun, Human Rights Watch and other Cameronian and international organizations have documented abuses and violence against LGBT people in Cameroon," Human Rights Watch said in an Aug. 19 media release. "Suspected homosexual men have been arrested and beaten on their bodies, heads and even the soles of their feet while in custody. Women suffer violence in their families if they are suspected of being lesbians. In some cases, they have been forced to leave their homes or their children have been taken away from them."

Alternatives-Cameroun head Steve Nemande said that implementation of the UN recommendations would result in Cameroon's doing "the bare minimum to realize the fundamental human rights enshrined in its national constitution."

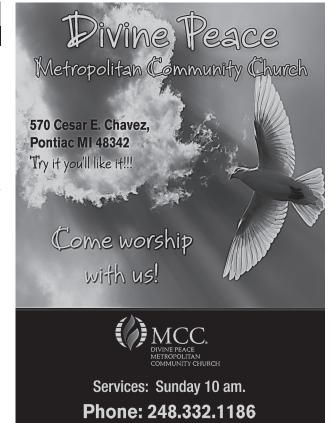
### Gay divorce up in Britain

issolution of civil partnerships in England, Scotland and Wales almost doubled in 2009 compared with 2008, The Independent reported Aug. 20. The figure jumped from 180 to 351

At the same time, the number of people entering same-sex civil partnerships dropped, from 7,169 to 6,281.

Female couplings were less successful in 2009 than male unions. Sixty-three percent of English and Welsh dissolutions and 71 percent of Scottish dissolutions were between women.

More than 40,000 couples have entered civil partnerships since they became legal at the end of 2005. The partnerships include all the rights and obligations of marriage, except use of the word "marriage."









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#### **INSIDE**

- Project Healthy Living
- Culinary Corner
- Up in the Air
- Sifting Through the Smoke

# SERVING A VITAL NEED

FernCare finally opens – and for uninsured locals, it couldn't have come soon enough



Top: Henry Ford Hospital Registered Nurse Lynn Rimer takes FernCare client Sara Martin's blood pressure. Martin was one of the first recipients of the free clinic's services. Below: FernCare Board President Ann Heler works with volunteers to get paperwork ready for the clinic's second day of service to uninsured residents. BTL photos by Emily Locklear

#### **BY JESSICA CARRERAS**

FERNDALE – It's 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 21. Many Michiganders are still asleep after a long workweek, or just beginning to leisurely sip their morning coffee. But already, Ferndale's Kulick Community Center is abuzz with action. Medical equipment, files and clipboards are shuffled inside. At least 20 people – some in civilian clothes, others in scrubs with stethoscopes hanging from their necks – rush around each other in a crowded hallway. Some have questions, while others have the answers. All are visibly busy.

No, this isn't the scene of a medical emergency. But it's just as urgent. Quietly toiling, fundraising, spreading the word, gathering volunteers and equipment and knowledge, the FernCare free clinic – now two and a half years in the making – is finally open for business.

#### **Continuing a lifelong commitment**

For Board President Ann Heler, FernCare is the newest project in a series of commitments she has made to changing her hometown of Ferndale for the better. The 30-year resident and passionate supporter of LGBT rights began Friends and Neighbors of Ferndale with now Mayor Craig Covey in order to build relationships between the city's gay residents and the greater community. She chaired the Hate Crimes Watch committee. She worked diligently to help pass the city's non-discrimination ordinance.

Heler is, to put it simply, one of the founders of Ferndale's gay community.

And now, she's putting her well-known status and unrelenting do-gooder drive to yet another critical cause: providing health care to those who have none.

It was a logic next step, Heler insists.

"A group of us in Ferndale – the eight founding members of Fern-Care – are all pretty active and we were sitting around and wondering what else we could do to help in the city," she shares. "We passed the human rights ordinance, ... another group got the library updated. A lot of things happened here and so we asked, 'What does it look like we need?' Not two seconds later, out came 'health.' People are losing their health care. People don't know where to go. And we looked at each other and said, 'Let's start a clinic.'"

Heler adds with a laugh, "And that was it!"

It wasn't easy, Heler admits, especially since not one of the founding board members had any background in health care or the medical field. But somehow, they made it happen.

"Not one of us had experience in health care. This is truly a grass-

See FernCare, page 20



# **Project Healthy Living returns to metro Detroit**

# Free events with low-cost health services kick off Sept. 14 in Southfield

# PROJECT HEALTH LIVING FALL 2010 SCHEDULE

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sept. 14, Southfield Civic Center., 26000 Evergreen, Southfield
12-6 p.m. Sept. 15, Southfield Civic Center., 26000 Evergreen, Southfield
12-6 p.m. Sept. 16, Macomb Mall, 32233 Gratiot Ave., Roseville
10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sept. 17-18, Macomb Mall, 32233 Gratiot Ave., Roseville
10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sept. 22-23, Eastland Mall, 18000 Vernier, Harper Woods
12-6 p.m. Sept. 24-25, Eastland Mall, 18000 Vernier, Harper Woods
6 a.m.-2 p.m. Sept. 28, Northwest Activities Center., 18100 Meyers Road, Detroit
10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sept. 30, Westland Mall, 35000 W. Warren, Westland
10 a.m.-4 p.m. Oct. 1, Westland Mall, 35000 W. Warren, Westland
11-6 p.m. Oct. 2, Westland Mall 35000 W. Warren, Westland
11 a.m.-4 p.m. Oct. 13-15, Macomb Mall, 32233 Gratiot Ave., Roseville
12-6 p.m. Oct. 16, Macomb Mall, 32233 Gratiot Ave., Roseville

For more information about the new fee schedule and the availability of specific free and low-cost tests, call the project's hotline at 313-531-9108. To learn how to support United Health Organization and Project Healthy Living, call the hotline or visit www.projecthealthyliving.net.

On Sept. 14 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., the Southfield Civic Center will play host to the kick-off event marking the return of Project Healthy Living. The event is free and open to the public.

United Health Organization, a nonprofit group that coordinates body wellness checks and community-wide health screenings, is slated to hold its 2010 season of events featuring low-cost health services and screenings at a host of megasites around metro Detroit throughout September and October.

Though traditionally held in the spring, UHO made the switch to fall this year. "Participants will find a wide range of community and health related resources at Project Healthy Living this year," said Ifetayo B. Johnson, executive director of UHO. "(Holding fall dates) will provide an opportunity for our participants to get flu and pneumonia shots at some of our sites"

Also new this year, the fee schedule has been changed for the first time in six years. For \$50, a new blood screening service will be offered. The 26-profile blood analysis screens for asymptomatic diseases that effect kidney and liver function. It has an estimated retail value of over \$700.

All Project Healthy Living events

For \$50, a new blood screening service will be offered. The 26-profile blood analysis screens for asymptomatic diseases that effect kidney and liver function. It has an estimated retail value of over \$700.

are free and open to the public. Many of the basic screenings for obesity, hypertension, body composition, vision and hearing are free. For a nominal cost, new blood screenings for vitamin D deficiency, glucose levels, and comprehensive blood screening will also be offered. Other low-cost health screenings measure participant's risk for H. Pylori, stroke, heart attack and low bone density. Lab services are provided by Quest Diagnostic Laboratories. Persons must be at least 18 years of age to participate, or be accompanied by a guardian.

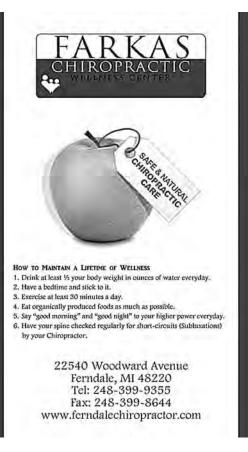
When the bottom fell out of the

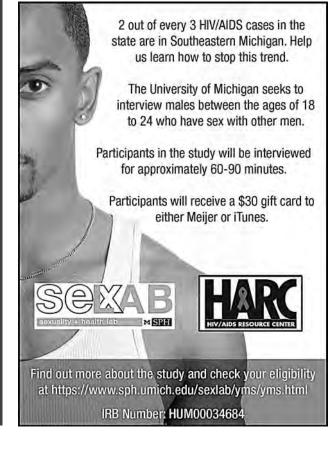
economy, UHO instituted a price freeze because we realized that wages were stagnant during this time of economic stress. In fact, last year we rolled several more tests into the blood analysis service at no additional cost," Johnson explained of the raised costs, adding that UHO's fees for services typically cost a fraction of the retail value. "It's like getting 80 to 95-percent off for nearly all our blood work. You can't beat the savings."

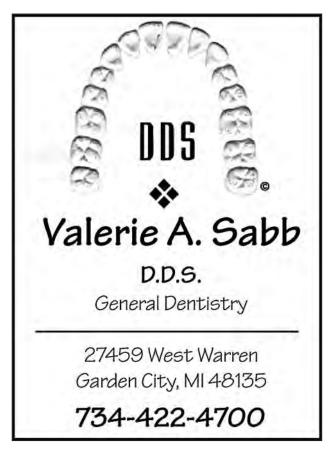
She added that exhibitors will be on hand to answer questions about nutrition and offer tips on physical and emotional fitness. Attendees are encouraged to pursue healthy lifestyles. "Project Healthy Living is not a replacement for medical treatment," Johnson stressed. "That's why we always encourage participants to follow-up with their family physician."

The 2010 Project Healthy Living season extends Sept. 14 through Oct. 16. Beginning Sept. 8, the project hotline will operate Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

For more information about the new fee schedule and the availability of specific free and low-cost tests, call the project's hotline at 313-531-9108. To learn how to support United Health Organization and Project Healthy Living, call the hotline or visit www.projecthealthyliving.net.







#### **►** FernCare

Continued from p. 15

roots effort based on people seeing a need," she says. "We do now, of course. We have a whole clinic team and people who sit on our board who are medical-based. But not when we started. We just decided we were going to do this."

#### **Opening a free clinic 101**

With only their dream of helping in mind, Heler and her team wasted no time, starting by putting a call out to their connections and holding a public forum on the issue in late 2007. The support was palpable, says Heler. April 2008 marked their first official board meeting. Their first fundraiser, FernCare Makes Music, was held Nov. 13-15 of that year. In 2009, the board worked to secure a \$150,000 federal grant to create their future home in an old Credit Union One warehouse.

And by this summer, with plans for the permanent clinic on hold as they awaited their promised federal funding, the FernCare Free Clinic could wait no longer.

Conditions at the Kulick Center aren't ideal, but FernCare volunteers are making it work. Every first and third Saturday of the month – which began Aug. 7 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and the first 12 patients – FernCare literally sets up, doles out health advice, tests and prescriptions and disappears by lunchtime.

Currently, they accept only non-emergency patients without insurance between the ages of 19 and 64. They provide maintenance care of chronic illnesses, to check-ups, diagnose and treat illnesses, dispense generic medications and make referrals for the services they cannot handle, such as dentistry or obstetrics.

It's not all they'd like to do, and it's certainly not enough to meet the need says Heler, adding that their appointments are completely booked through October.

"When we opened, there's a southeast Michigan free clinic organization and they told us, 'You're going to be full in five weeks,'" recalls Heler. "We were full in 11 days. There were 12 people (at the first clinic) and not one of them was frivolous. Not one of them. Everybody agreed that the 12 that came in absolutely needed to come in."

The very first of those clients was Waterford resident Sara Martin. Unemployed for over a year and uninsured, Martin "was thrilled to death" to hear that FernCare was opening.

"There's a huge need – especially when it comes to LGBT people here in the Ferndale area," Martin says. "A lot of them face a lot of discrimination in all methods. In order for us to have anything, FernCare is very welcome in the neighborhood."

And as an openly transgender woman, Martin was thrilled to meet doctors and staff who treated her with dignity and respect. "It was wonderful," she says of her first visit. "Everybody had a smile, everybody was happy to see me. The bedside manner here far exceeds a traditional doctor's office. It's really something."

The positive attitudes and willingness of so many doctors, nurses and local residents to help make FernCare happen, says Heler, is due mostly to the fact that they all understand the dire need for such a service. "(A lack of health care) is something that affects a lot of people," she says. "It's not correct, what's happening now, and maybe we can do a little bit. And I think we can. And I think we are."

Lynn Rimer, a registered nurse from Henry

"When we opened, there's a southeast Michigan free clinic organization and they told us, 'You're going to be full in five weeks. We were full in 11 days. There were 12 people (at the first clinic) and not one of them was frivolous. Not one of them."

-Ann Heler, FernCare
Board President

Ford Hospital, understands completely.

Years ago, Rimer found herself raising four children with no health care for herself or her kids. She lived her life in fear. "I know the terror I woke up with every morning that something would happen – to me or one of my kids – and I would not be able to address it," she explains. "Of course, you're going to do what you need to do and mop up the mess later, but that's really just a horrible way to have to live your life."

And Rimer doesn't want anyone else to have to go through the same experience. So when she heard about FernCare and found herself able to help, she jumped at the chance. "I've gotten a lot and I have the ability to give back and the time to give back," Rimer says. "I hope it's a relief for (the clients), and I know it will be because I stood in their shoes."

#### The future of FernCare

As Heler and her team wait to receive the federal funding to complete construction of the permanent FernCare Free Clinic, plans will move forward to keep those in need coming in to the clinic at the Kulick Center – and hopefully, to keep expanding to include more days of service, more programming and enough fundraising to carry them beyond the funds they have now, which should keep the clinic open for one year.

From December 2009-April 2010, FernCare also offered a once-monthly series of educational seminars called Let's Talk Health, where medical professionals would cover a variety of topics, including asthma, diabetes, massage, the health benefits of gardening and more. Heler hopes to start that series up again in October.

And, because she knows all too well that the few existing free clinics cannot begin to cover all those in need, she hopes that seeing how Fern-Care came together will inspire others to start free clinics in their own hometowns.

"It's just been one of those things that people should hear 100 times: You can do things," she insists. "It's not that it didn't require a lot, because it did, but it can be done."

"How we did this is not complicated," Heler continues. "I'm sure anyone (starting a free clinic) would get a lot of support because people understand – there are people who have nothing, people who don't have their meds, people who live in pain because they don't have any money and they can't go anywhere because they can't take on anymore debt. So they live with it."

But with the help of free clinics like Fern-Care, hopefully they won't have to.

FernCare is still in need of medical and nonmedical volunteers, as well as donations. To learn more about how you can help, or to make an appointment, visit www.FernCare.org, or call 248-677-2273.

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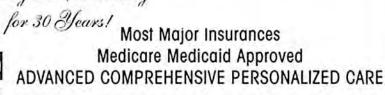
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#### VIEWPOINT



### The Gentle Art of Vitamin Supplements

**CHARLES** ALEXANDER

I haven't had a cold in over 15 years. For my age (I could be somebody's grandfather or gay great, great uncle), my muscles, joints, heart, lungs are ship-shape.

I walk everywhere. In warm weather I bike a dozen miles a day. I lift weights. My energy level's about the same it was when I was a knockout 37 (unfortunately then a heavy drinker; but fortunately, a nonsmoker).

It was during my alcohol addiction recovery that I learned the importance of taking vitamin supplements. As to that art, may I ever so gently recommend the following as health-supporting, energy-enhancing, stress-reducing, and economically available (for the most part) for purchase in better health stores.

Cod Liver Oil: Years ago a teacher came into my curriculum lab work area. Her complaint was arthritis and rheumatism. I suggested she take a daily tablespoon of cod liver oil. "You'll notice a difference in two months," I said. She told me a year later that her arthritis/rheumatism no longer bothered her.

Omega-3 or flaxseed oil also does the trick. Great for cutting down on cholesterol.

I attribute the fact that I haven't had a cold in years to taking a daily tablespoon cod liver oil. The oil gets into the blood stream and coats any 'bugs' that might be floating through, keeping them from replicating. Cod liver oil's also excellent for heart, lungs and skin. A month's supply runs about \$10 a bottle. Our moms knew a thing or two in their day.

Vitamins: Most people who take supplements take the one-a-day brands. Minimum daily requirements, as determined by so-called health experts. Yet, from my experience, for vitamin supplements to be really effective, higher milligram dosages are required.

One of the best all-purpose packages is offered by Enzymatic Therapy, and developed by a clinical research physician. In addition to vitamins C, D and E, the Bs are comprehensive. Included also are full-spectrum bodybuilding amino acids. Price is a bit high. (\$15 to \$19, for a week's supplements.)

For those in the market for more a more affordable daily regimen, there's Twin Labs Two-A-Day, one at breakfast. one at dinner. A 90-capsule bottle (with or without iron) is \$20.

My own daily supplement program includes two ginger, two cinnamon and one cayenne pepper capsule. The special benefits of this health-enhancing mixture can be researched in a number of supplement health guides.

If you're a senior and want to look and act 10 years younger, you might consider the human growth replacement formula developed by Dr. Vincent G. Giampapa, M.D. He's a founding member of the American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine.

I've been using his Secretagogue Gold for about two years now and it's made a very big difference in how I think, feel and act. Emotionally. Energetically. Intellectually. However! It's not cheap. A month's supply runs between \$70 and \$90. It's worth every penny.

May I wish you good health in your physical journey through life with a requisite disclaimer: "Advice therewith contained above, given from one LGBT person of advanced age to another of undetermined age, is not meant to be a substitute for medical intervention, treatment, unforeseen hospitalization, or health-carrier six-digit billing, the result of living in the fast lane, or burning one's Roman candle at both ends.

Charles@pridesource.com. Facebook, too.



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# **Chef Stef's Culinary Corner**

### Healthy eating protects your skin, too



BY EXECUTIVE CHEF STEF

ummer's not over yet, so grab some sunblock, a straw hat and your protective clothing, then also think about the food you eat to help guard against skin cancer.

That's my advice, as many common foods can help protect skin against damage caused by normal exposure to the sun. My recommendation for healthy skin is definitely to use the sunscreen. But in addition, eat a healthful, well-balanced diet so that you get more of the nutrients you need.

When we eat, we're not only nourishing the inside of our bodies, but also keeping our skin healthy.

In addition to helping prevent skin cancer, good nutrition can help reduce wrinkles later in life. When the body gets the nutrients it needs, it is better able to replenish damaged skin and other cells

The sun is the biggest culprit for causing skin damage. Studies using special photography

have shown skin damage from the sun in children as young as 4 years old. Freckles and liver spots, for example, can be a sign of sun damage. But a healthy diet can partially offset the effects of being out in the sun, because the food you eat on a regular basis influences the amount of damage the sun has on the skin.

There's a variety of ways that nutrients work to protect skin. Some foods have antioxidants – such as vitamins A, E and C; and selenium – that help skin repair damaged cells. Some of the best food sources for this include fruits and vegetables, whole-grain products, nuts, seeds, legumes and green tea.

The antioxidants in foods are good for the skin because when oxygen is loose – that is, when the molecule is not attached to anything – it causes damage to cells. Aging of the skin is speeded up in the presence of these molecules. Also, cancer cells can form as a result of the oxidation process. Thus, we need to nourish the body's cells with antioxidants.

If you have lots of antioxidants in your diet, they reduce cell damage, and the cell is better able to repair itself and be healthy.

Some foods contain nucleic acids called RNA, which is a nutrient that is important, but not crucial for daily intake. Nucleic acids help restore a cell's energy and help replenish the wear

and tear that happens to a cell.

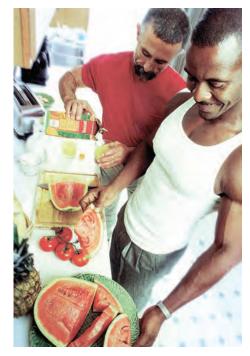
Some of the best foods for nucleic acids are tuna, salmon, cod, shellfish, liver, plus other meats, poultry, lentils and beans. Eating fatty fish, including salmon, is especially recommended because it contributes beneficial fatty acids to the diet that help protect the skin from sun damage.

It is also important to drink plenty of fluids: water, juices, milk, soups and more. When skin is dehydrated, it loses much of its ability to protect us from the environment.

Nutrition studies have supported the importance of healthful eating practices in protecting skin. Accordingly, one study looked at people of varying ethnic backgrounds. Those who had less wrinkling of skin later in life had a diet high in vegetables, olive oil, legumes and fish; and had eaten less butter, margarine, milk products and sugary foods.

In general, we know that a healthy body relies on good nutrition and good exercise habits. Eating according to the Food Guide Pyramid is an excellent way to ensure a balanced diet. The skin is one of the largest organs in our body. In order to keep our skin healthy, we need to take in the nutrients that will help us do that.

Bon Appetit!



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# Up in the air

# Aerial fitness instructor brings lifelong love of acrobatics to Affirmations

**BY JESSICA CARRERAS** 

hen Chantal Dixon was a teenager growing up in southeast Michigan, Affirmations LGBT community center was her home away from home. So now, she gives back to the center – but not in the way you'd expect.

Some philanthropists give money, while others donate goods or man the front desk and helpline. Dixon teaches LGBT Michiganders how to dance, shape up and even fly. And starting Aug. 28, she'll be teaching the center's first-ever Aerial Fitness class.

Dixon began her lifelong love affair with acrobatics while traveling with her parents, both of whom were in the Air Force. Time abroad meant exposure to many different cultures – including ones that valued street performance, mimes and dance

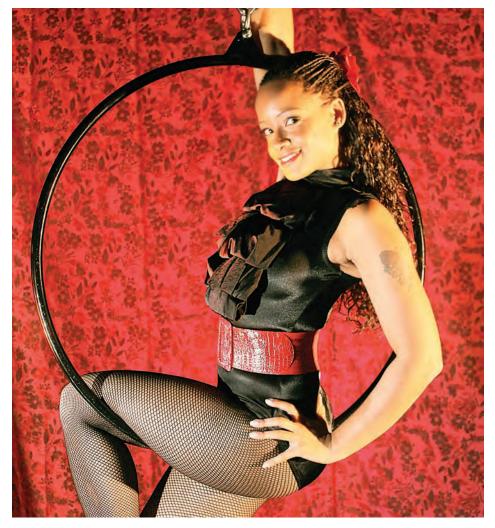
Dixon took many classes in dance, and eventually decided that she wanted to try out for the circus. However, her dreams were dashed when they informed her that her son was too young to go on tour with her. "So I just decided to do as much as I could around home, and that pretty much consisted of me traveling and coming back," she explains of her alternate path. "I would go to Mexico for a month and a half and come back, or I'd go to New York for two weeks and come back. And now my son's older so I'm traveling more.

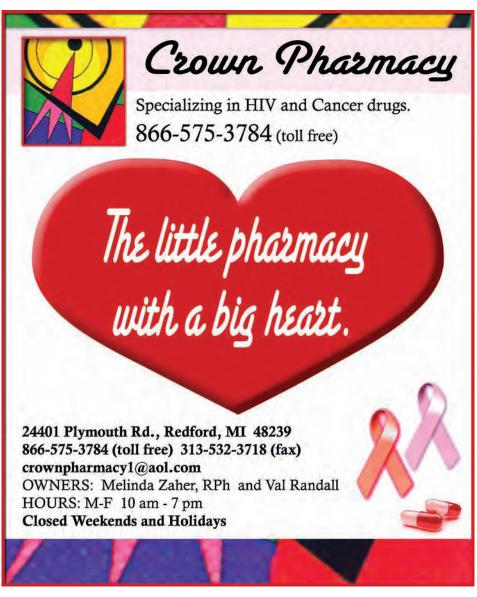
"(Performance has) always been a passion of mine, but I wasn't able to do it full-time until just recently."

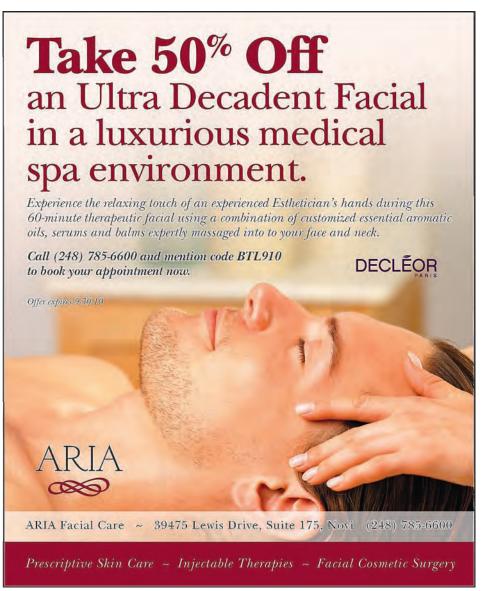
Her desire to spread her love of acrobatics to the LGBT community comes from her own experiences at Affirmations, where she found there were some activities to participate in, but not nearly enough.

"There was not a lot available to kids my age as far as things to do. We had our community room and we'd have little functions and stuff like that, but as far as dance classes or skateboarding groups – all these things I was interested in – I had to go outside the community to do them," she recalls. "I felt more comfortable and I felt

See Up, page 22







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#### **FALL HEALTH & WELLNESS**

#### **▶** Up

Continued from p. 21

way more free within the community, and there wasn't anything available. So once I started teaching classes, the first place I thought of was Affirmations, because there isn't anything like this offered specifically to the community.'

Never heard of aerial fitness? You still may have seen it – at the latest production of Cirque du Soleil. At Detroit's annual Dirty Show. And at the 2010 Motor City Pride festival, in Affirmations' community room, performed by Dixon. Aerial acrobatics can feature a range of activities, all of which are performed from a hanging structure such as a hoop, trapeze or pieces of aerial silk used to wrap around the performer's arms and legs and allow them to "dance" in the air. Dixon will be instructing participants of her class on all three, teaching them stretches and eventually hoisting them up from the silk or aerial hoops that hang from her 13-foot portable rig.

If it sounds difficult, that's because it is. But still possible to learn, Dixon insists - especially if attendees of her six-week class at Affirmations stick with it.

"It takes a lot of courage for people to sign up because a lot of people are really intimidated by it, so that's why I really wanted to do the event at Pride – to give people a chance to see that it's not as hard as it looks," she insists. "It's something you develop; it's not something you just jump right on and start doing, and that's

"I have quite a few transgender friends that wanted to participate, and so they would more likely just come to my house because they felt more comfortable there, so I thought, Why not just offer that at Affirmations so they can have a place where they feel comfortable to participate?"

why the class is as long as it is. You have to build strength.'

Dixon has been practicing her aerial work for several years, and it wasn't until a friend asked her to perform at a show that she ever thought of teaching it. "She asked me if I could just show the people (who attended) some things," Dixon says. "From there I got another phone call and another phone call and another phone call and I thought to myself, 'Well, maybe I should get some additional training, since I'm getting so much work.'

Trips to Las Vegas, New York, Miami and beyond to learn more and perfect her ability led Dixon to one conclusion: She wanted to teach aerial fitness to the LGBT community. She began by inviting them to her classes, but quickly found that the environment was not right. "I have quite a few transgender friends that wanted to participate, and so they would more likely just come to my house because they felt more comfortable there," she explains. "So I thought, Why not just offer that at Affirmations so they can have a place where they feel comfortable to participate?"

Having already hosted her belly dancing class at the center, Affirmations was thrilled to have Dixon on board to provide another unique fitness experience to center users. And Dixon was happy to give back in the best way she knew how.

"Affirmations provided a place for me to live when I was younger and to grow, so I definitely wanted to give back," she says, adding that she's splitting the profits of the class with the center. "The whole point of me doing this is not necessarily so I can profit, it's really to help the community. I try to volunteer my time and I try to give my money, but there's only so much I can give, so if I can teach classes here and split the money, that's another way that I can give back to the people and also give back to Affirmations.

To learn more about the Aerial Fitness class, or to sign up, contact Affirmations at 248-398-7105, or visit www.goaffirmations.org. The class runs 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. every Saturday from Aug. 28-Oct. 2. The registration fee for all sessions is \$85. Participants may choose to attend individual sessions, though it is recommended that they attend all six classes.

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# Sifting through the smoke

Michigan cities and patients explore limits of state's medical marijuana law

**BY LUCY HOUGH** 

ichigan is one of 14 states, plus Washington, D.C., that permits the use of medical marijuana in some capacity. At the forefront of what appears to be a progressive push, Michigan city councils, caregivers and patients are finding their way through a sometimes unclear law.

The law passed as a way to "permit the use and cultivation of marijuana for specified medical conditions," the initiative stated. To help with conditions such as migraines, multiple sclerosis, HIV and the chronic pain that comes with a variety of illnesses, many people have sought licenses to purchase and use marijuana but also sell it.

According to Craig Covey, mayor of Ferndale and chief operating officer at the Michigan AIDS Coalition, marijuana has been used for a long time as a way to curb the symptoms of HIV/AIDS. Before it was ever remotely legal, marijuana was used as a way to reduce nausea and improve one's appetite – to prevent wasting syndrome, which often occurs in people with AIDS. With the new law, HIV/AIDS is included on the list of qualifying conditions for a medical marijuana license.

"Most importantly, (medical marijuana) has at least helped people understand that there

is an option available that was not legal before," Covey said. "Its use has been prevalent (in the past), but now the stigma around its use can be eliminated

"(Proposal 1, passed by voters in 2008,) took it from the dark alleys and underground and into the light."

Covey feels that marijuana should be legalized for adults entirely, making marijuana less of underground drug and more of a resource. Feeling that marijuana was criminalized in the first place as a way to stifle racial minorities, Covey hopes that people will start listening to experts about what marijuana really is.

"There are some various, dangerous drugs out there that society has an interest in prohibiting and eliminating: heroin, methamphetamine and similar types of highly addictive narcotics. And to include what most experts believe to be a pretty benign drug, it is pretty, what I think, dumb," Covey said.

As mayor of Ferndale, Covey has experienced the problems people are finding in interpreting this new law, especially in what sorts of businesses can benefit. Ferndale is one of many cities in the area, including Ann Arbor and Royal Oak, who have put a temporary moratorium on cannabis-based businesses in order to look into appropriate zoning laws.

At recent meetings, the Ferndale planning commission has discussed making it illegal for residents to smoke or use cannabis in any way outside of their private homes, including in compassion groups or other institutions. Greg Pawlowski, director of the Rainbow Compassion Club, which formerly met at Affirmations in Ferndale, was present at the meeting to speak up for the people who benefit from compassion clubs, or other places where they can smoke away from their homes.

One business, Clinical Relief, has already taken root in Ferndale as a resource for medical marijuana. Located on Hilton Road, Covey said this business was "grandfathered" in because it came along before the city council made a decision on how to handle such businesses.

Covey hopes that the Michigan legislature moves forward with looking at options for marijuana use, but because Proposal 1 was the efforts of grassroots organization, he said that he doubts Michigan will make any progress any time soon.

"If the legislature was able to get their

act together," Covey added, "it would develop policies that are cutting edge and smart and could actually use the marijuana issue for badly needed revenue across the state, much as we tax cigarettes, alcohol and other materials."

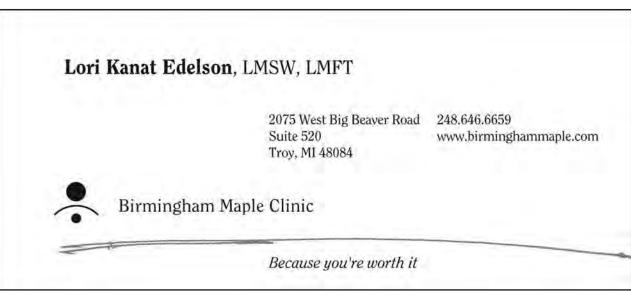
Pawlowski also feels that the legislature needs to reconsider where it stands with medical marijuana. He believes that city governments' interest in regulating medical marijuana is meddling too much in individuals' rights and he hopes the state will move toward legalizing marijuana entirely. This, he feels, will only benefit Michigan's poor economy.

"They could truly, truly save Michigan and I believe it could save Detroit," Pawlowski said.

Pawlowski encouraged anyone interested in promoting legalized medicinal and general marijuana to attend compassion clubs, which he said most cities have in some form or another. The Rainbow Compassion Club is no longer meeting at Affirmations, and is in the process of finding another location.











# New spa opens in Birmingham

A duo of small business entrepreneurs known as the Truth sisters – soul coach and esthetician Sandra Finkelstein and spa director Suzanne Briggs – are bringing a feeling of wellness and beauty to Birmingham's Rail District. Located in the district lofts, they recently opened Truth Beauty & Wellness, a spa with the intention of inspiring, nurturing and enhancing the health and beauty of its visitors.

The essence of the spa, say the sisters, is revealing inner and outer beauty. Thus, the spa features services such as natural and organic facials, massage, body therapies, energy balancing and vegan manicures and pedicures. In addition, the body-waxing product is derived from plants to promote well-being. For a holistic health approach, a naturopath doctor in the spa offers iridology.

Truth Beauty & Wellness also offers a certified S.O.U.L Coaching program, meaning Science of Understanding Life

for cultivating self-love. Most importantly, the sisters add, their team consists of professionals who are certified, licensed and highly educated in their fields and overflowing with an enthusiasm and passion for service.

At Truth, they utilize organic and natural skin care products coupled with non-ablative, non-invasive advanced technology for the healing of skin. Moreover, say Briggs and Finkelstein, their products for a wide range of skin issues – including anti-aging, acne, hyper-pigmentation and rosacea – are from an American, woman-owned green manufacturing company.

At Truth Beauty & Wellness, they use alkaline water systems, essential nutritional products, and offer infrared saunas for vital detoxification and health benefits. Truth also offers aromatherapy with their signature soy candles, personal and home accessories and creative cards and journals. Their own



jewelry designs from their Dragonfly Butterfly line complete the experience, made from natural minerals, rocks and crystals and inspired by the earth.

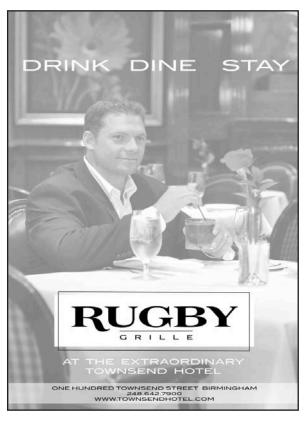
To learn more about Truth Beauty & Wellness, or to schedule an appointment, call 248-792-5102, or visit www. truthbeautyandwellness.com.



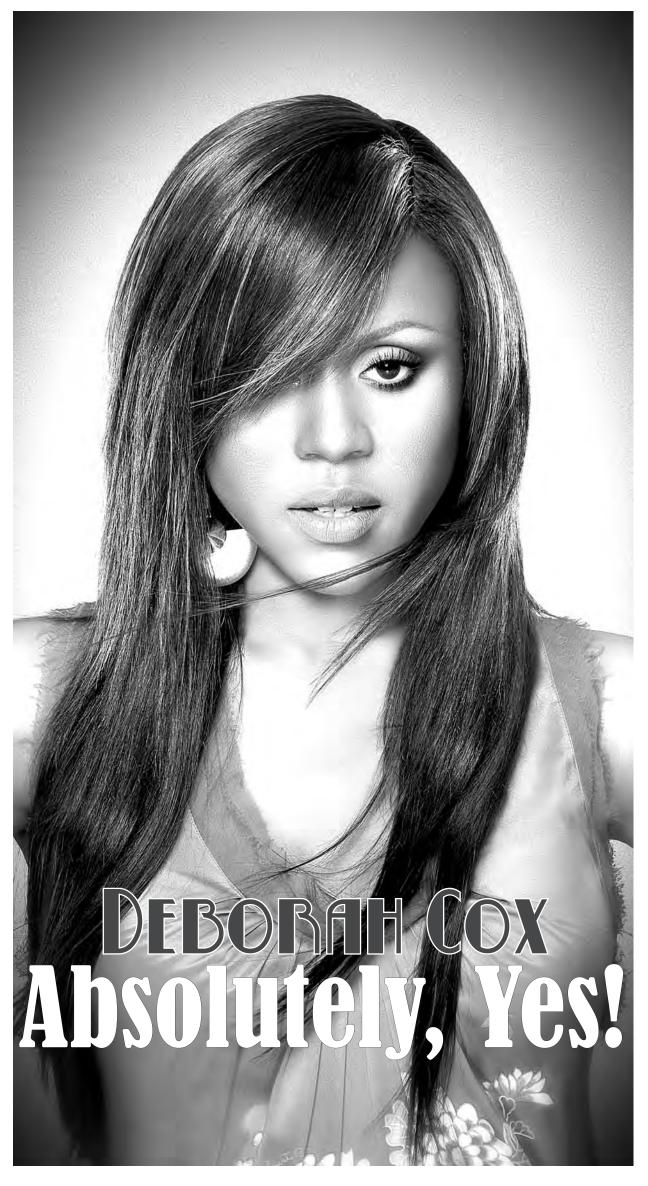












# **Singer makes Detroit** gay club debut - and chats with BTL about new music and being a gay 'auntie'

#### BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

eborah Cox knows what she wants out of life - and last week, it was Twizzlers. "I could eat a whole bag in one sitting!" the dance diva boasts, addressing the licorice craving she tweeted about just before our interview.

Cox's own sweet confections, particularly the gay-adopted anthem "Absolutely Not," carried the '90s R&B powerhouse's career through the new millenium, making her a queer mainstay on the club circuit. Now, for the first time in the history of her 15-year run, the singer's hitting Detroit with a performance (and presumably no ponytail, no Chanel) at 11:55 p.m. Aug. 28 at Menjo's. Expect a hits medley, dance mixes and a fierce female vocalist who knows that stage is just her pet. She's holding the leash.

"It's going to be cool because I really like intimate settings," the 36-year-old says. "I really like to be amidst the crowd, partying." With the "kids," of course.

Laughing, Cox says, "I'm like auntie. I feel like we're family." And before she had one of her own (Cox and her husband, who live in Florida, have three children), Aunt Deb raised us on R&B staples, songs like 1998's big ballad "Nobody's Supposed to be Here" that crossed over into dance triumphs, before freeing us with the fierce throw-your-hands-up "Absolutely Not," released originally on the "Dr. Doolittle 2" soundtrack in 2001. Live, there's no way Cox can cut that fan favorite – even if she's performed it more times than you've heard it.

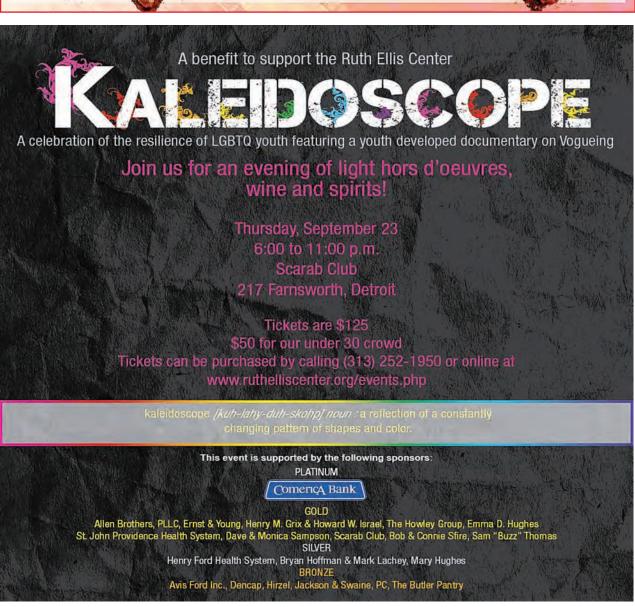
"What I love most about that song is just the message of it," she says. "It's great that that is a huge hit in the community because I'm always trying to find ways to get a good, positive message out about being confident and being who you are."

Who Deborah Cox is now hasn't changed drastically – even if she's matured as an artist, recording a tribute in 2007 to jazz singer Dinah Washington – but her audience has. She's not in denial, though, feeling flattered instead of peeved - the reaction of most celebrities when they turn up on gossip blogs – that Perez Hilton made mention of her fanbase fluctuation over the years. Besides her strong European pull, it's club kids and gays. And more gays.

"I don't want to go over numbers," she insists, after noting her 11 No. 1s, "but I understand Perez's perspective. It's interesting the way my career has gone, but I feel really blessed and thankful for it because I have so much more range than most artists do. I really pride myself in that. And actually, I'm really surprised and kind of tickled that he even blogged about it."

Cox, who cut an R&B comeback album "The Promise" two years ago, could certainly bait back those who fell off and landed in Lady Gaga's lap with oodles of forthcoming projects: a pop-urban album, a Christmas collection, a new remix CD and her return to Broadway in "Josephine" next summer (she first appeared in the Elton John-Tim Rice musical "Aida" in 2004). The title character, Josephine Baker, piqued Cox's interest in high school, when







#### ▶ Deborah Cox

Continued from p. 25

she read the French singer/dancer's bio.

Outside of both women's passion for equality, there's also Baker's riseto-fame Cinderella story: "She felt so strongly about leaving her really poor, decrepit past to go and make herself a huge celebrity in a completely different coun-

### Deborah Cox

11:55 p.m. Aug. 28 Menjo's, Detroit 928 W. McNichols Road Advance: \$25 / Door: \$35 www.menjoscomplex.com

try. And just with that story, I feel like we relate on many levels, because I had to leave Canada as well to find my way here."

And here she is, singing like it still matters – and to some, even among the provocative pop-art that puts crazy over crooning, it does.

"That's going to be what matters to the end of time," she insists. "There are lots of artists right now who might have great turntable records, and you might hear them played over and over again, but are you going to hear that song five years from now? Not even five years, two years?

"It's such a changing business that we're in now. I feel so gracious that I've come up in the time that I did because I at least have a foundation, whereas a lot of these artists today aren't able to build a foundation because everything is moving so quickly."

She points to indelible divas like Cher, Aretha and Madonna (coincidentally, Madge partied at Menjo's, where Cox will perform, back in the day), who withstood the ever-changing tides of stardom and, like Cox, found a huge following among the gays. After all these years, Cox still can't really pinpoint her success within that community.

"I don't know what it is," she says. "Maybe musically people have really connected with the songs, and the other thing that I've been told is that people really feel touched by my voice. And I think the audience knows that I'm nonjudgmental and I'm really there to cheer and spread the love and the gift that I have. If it can inspire somebody to do something great and positive with their life, then that's what I'm there for."

That, and to make you dance.



# Semi Precious Weapons singer Justin Tranter talks life with Lady Gaga, being 'gender fluid' and the band's sexy summer album

#### BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

sex – the dirty come-ons, reckless rebellion and, of course, groin grabbing – was as important to rock as the music itself. So they're bringing it back.

As those who've beheld Lady Gaga's Monster Ball spectacular know, they're taking this mission seriously – in pantyhose or whatever other girly garb singer Justin Tranter's feeling, the New York foursome make every glam-rock song, like the brazen, buzzed-about "Magnetic Baby," a climax.

While the modern priestess of pop rolls out another leg of the tour, stopping on Sept. 4 at the Palace of Auburn Hills, Semi Precious Weapons – which dropped its proper debut "You Love You" earlier this summer – will wield their sex shenanigans across the world. We caught up with Tranter to talk about being on tour with Gaga, how he sees himself sexually and his own precious weapon (or lack thereof).

#### Why is sex an important part of rock 'n' roll?

Because the whole reason rock 'n' roll became something different than pop music – and why rock 'n' roll became something different than every other genre out there – was that it was dangerous and rebellious and extremely sexual. Sex needs to exist in rock 'n' roll always, or it shouldn't be called rock 'n' roll.

#### Hence the crotch grabbing?

Sometimes I'll watch a video of myself and I don't really even realize how much I grab my crotch. It's a very natural thing for me even though maybe I'm fixing my pantyhose. Maybe I'm checking the dance belt. Maybe I'm just trying to grab my crotch. I don't even know myself!

#### It's not because you're obsessed with your junk then?

Oh god, no. I like to pretend I don't have genitalia. I like to think of myself as a "merperson" – genderless.

#### Your sexuality confuses me.

Well, it should (laughs).

#### How do you describe yourself sexually?

I don't really describe myself at all when it comes to gender and sexuality. There was a period of

time where I technically would've identified as gay, but then I started sleeping with lots of women so that confused everybody. And I feel like if I were to call myself bisexual, that's just so '90s/"Reality Bites," so I don't

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**Lady Gaga** 

with Semi Precious Weapons

really define myself at all. I'll say like, "gender fluid" – that's what I am. I've actually been on a kick lately where I really like to sleep with people who look just like me. So I don't really know what you'd call that either (laughs).

#### So why don't you make a name for it?

Once there's a name for it, I have to give it up.

# Why do you hate that Semi Precious Weapons is often labeled a "queer band"?

It's not that I hate when the band is labeled as a queer band. It's just that it's not true. I'm obviously some sort of something that's not typically heterosexual, but the rest of the band is 100-percent straight and there are four of us in the band, so to label us as a queer band would

just be wrong. Besides, a verse and a chorus can't decide whom it wants to fuck; it's just a verse and a chorus. So labeling music as "queer" or "black" or "Asian," it's not that I'm against it, I just think that it's incorrect.

#### You've licked tits on stage?

Oh yes. I've done lots of motor boating on stage. I've made out with lots of women on stage. Women have made out with each other on my stage. Lots of exciting things.

#### Not on the Lady Gaga tour, though, right?

When we play club shows they're much, much crazier. Not that Gaga shows aren't crazy, but as far as the audience interaction with me, it's much crazier at smaller venues because security wise it's actually a possibility.

#### Are you ever surprised at the fans that come out to your shows?

Our audience is so mixed, and that's how we love it. There are lots of cutesy gender-confused teens that come to see us play, which is amazing and an inspiration and they're cooler than I am. But then there are lots of dudes that come with their girlfriends, and there are lots of clubby hot girls that try to bang the other guys in the band, or I guess try to bang me. Most times they just want to pet me.

#### How has opening for Gaga changed your life?

We've got to travel the world with the biggest pop star in the whole world, which luckily is a friend of ours. It's such an amazing, surreal experience for her to love our band so much even though we're a filthy rock band and she's a cutting-edge pop star. It's a pretty ballsy move to have a rock band open for her, but she's obviously a ballsy girl.

#### What have you learned from her?

Her advice deals with the beginning stages of our career, because we've been a band for three-and-a-half years, driving ourselves around in the van and playing every small, gross bar in America. We've done that for a long time. We were all teenagers, dealing with this first stage, as far as the world's concerned, of our real career on a major label and going to radio stations and doing interviews and meeting celebrities and all that. Her advice on how to deal with that – and our first trip around the world as an actual band that people pay attention to – has been amazing.

#### Does she ever let you borrow her clothes, like the Kermit the Frog get-up?

(Laughs) We do not share clothes. I'm 6-foot-4 and she's 5-foot-2, so I don't think it would work out. That would probably fit on one of my thighs. Maybe one day I'll wear it as a leg warmer.

See Weapons, page 28



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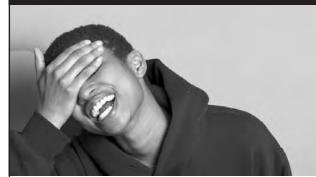
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### "Inseparable: Desire Between Women in Literature," by Emma Donoghue. Alfred A. Knopf, 271 pages, \$27.95 hardcover.

There's more to lesbian lit than Radclyffe Hall's "The Well of Loneliness" or Patricia Highsmith's "The Price of Salt" and novelist Donoghue ("Slammerkin" and the forthcoming "Room") has done the research to prove it. With completely accessible (and often witty) prose married to rigorous academic research, this is a treasure trove focused on writing about girl-girl relationships from the medieval to the modern. Donoghue's reach is broad, encompassing everything from Agatha Christie to the Marquis de Sade, H. Rider Haggard to Henry James, and Ovid to Ann Bannon, invoking the faintest of crushes as much as the most intense of lesbian gazes. Somewhat fancifully - though it does provide colorful structure – the book breaks lavender-hued prose into what the author calls "perennially popular" plots, including Travesties (cross-dressing that leads to accidental same-sex desire) and Monsters (wicked women). A chronological listing of book titles is useful for readers who want to graze the centuries of prose that Donoghue has uncovered, writing that ranges from the heights of Shakespeare and Jane Eyre to some truly horrific potboilers.

#### "Yield," by Lee Houck. Kensington Books, 288 pages, \$15 paper.

Simon, the moody yet affable narrator of this engaging debut, shuffles dusty and dated hospital records while augmenting his income by selling blow-jobs, golden showers and other sexual favors to an array of clients – some more kinky than others. Among his friends are Louis, a breathtakingly beautiful

LEE HOUCK
YIELD

A novel

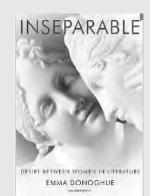
model who in the course of the story is gay-bashed; Farmer, described as "everything good about humanity rolled into a squat, wrestler-like package"; Jaron, an enigmatic and anorexic self-mutilator; and, eventually, Aidan, a quirky client Simon met in the neighborhood Laundromat and with whom he gradually falls in love. Houck writes about these 20-something queers with perfect emotional pitch as they scramble to make their way in contemporary Manhattan, negotiating friendships that nourish

them, embracing activism in reaction to the epidemic of gaybashing that felled Louis, and navigating uncertain years of youthful drift. Houck's novel, a brilliant beyond-coming-out

#### **Featured Excerpt**

Reading my way from medieval romance to Restoration comedy

to the modern novel, mostly in English (but often in French, and sometimes in translations from Latin, Italian, Spanish, or German), I uncover the most perennially popular plot motifs of attraction between women. Here they are, in a nutshell. TRAVESTIES: Cross-dressing (whether by a woman or a man) causes the "accident" of samesex desire. INSEPARABLES: Two passionate friends defy the forces trying to part them. RIVALS: A man and a woman compete for a woman's heart. MONSTERS: A wicked woman tries to seduce and destroy an innocent one.



DETECTION: The discovery of a crime turns out to be the discovery of same-sex desire. OUT: A woman's life is changed by the realization that she loves her own sex.

-from "Inseparable: Desire Between Women in Literature," by Emma Donoghue

story, captures big-city New York hustle with the values of small-town heart.

#### ""Where My Girls At?" Women in Blacklight 1979-1985," edited by Sidney Brinkley. Blacklight, 116 pages, \$18.95 paper.

Brinkley, who edited the D.C.-based magazine "Blacklight" from 1979 to 1986, culled his archives for this evocative history of Black lesbians and feminists. It's an eclectic collection: fiction and poetry by filmmaker Michelle Parkerson, poetry and a coming-out account by Chiquita "Joe" Bass, essays by S. Diane Bogus (on Black lesbian invisibility) and Rev. Renee McCoy (on the failure of the Black church), and two interviews by Joseph Beam, editor of the groundbreaking Black gay anthology "In the Life." The first is a "conversation" with musician Linda Tillery, who shared stages with the likes of Buddy Miles, Iron Butterfly and Janis Joplin before launching her Olivia Records career; the second – the only piece that didn't originally appear in the magazine, though Brinkley notes he has no idea why it wasn't published - records an insightful encounter with poet and essayist Audre Lorde. Reports on Black lesbian conferences in 1980 and 1981 are potent reminders that the queer community gains of recent years are the direct result of the early cultural and political activism showcased here.

Richard Labonte has been reading, editing, selling, and writing about queer literature since the mid-'70s. He can be reached in care of this publication or at BookMarks@qsyndicate.com.

#### **▶** Weapons

Continued from p. 27

#### When did you start dressing in feminine clothes?

I started dressing in genderless clothes on and off since I was 15. I thought I looked fantastic, but now when I look at pictures, I looked absolutely hideous. I had glasses and clear braces and blue eye shadow (laughs). But I've been wearing heels every single day since 2004, just after I had been in New York for two years, when I felt comfortable enough to look like that every day no matter what shit people said to me.

I just realized that's just how I see myself, as pretty, so that's what I'm going to look like every single day. It's a lot more fun to feel pretty, all day every day. I'd prefer to get a bottle to the back of the head and feel awesome as the blood drips down my neck.

Sounds like, from what I've read, you're a lot happier with this album than your actual debut, "We Love You."

It's true. With our new album, we bought back the record we made with (record label) Razor & Tie so that we could really make our first album, "You Love You." As far as most are concerned, this will be our first record. We made it at Ocean Way, which is one of the nicest recording studios in the world.

With the earlier record, we had played maybe 50 shows and then made it. With this record we played probably 350 shows, so we just really know what we want to sound like. The energy, excitement and filth of our live show have really transferred to this album, so we're beyond excited about it.

#### Why did you keep the album title similar?

We wanted to pay tribute to the first record, to the fans who loved it and what it meant to us. But since we made that record, I've realized that letting kids know that we love them is not nearly as important as letting them know that they should love themselves. Obviously, they should love me and worship me, but they should love and worship themselves just a teeny bit more.

For all the latest professional theater news, log on to www.EncoreMichigan.com

# **Coming Sept 1: The 2010 Wilde Awards**

**BY BTL STAFF** 

rofessional theaters from throughout Southeast and Mid Michigan will share the spotlight September 1 when the 2010 Wilde Awards are presented at Detroit's Gem Theatre. Sponsored by Between The Lines, Michigan's weekly newspaper serving the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and allied communities, EncoreMichigan.com and Comerica, the Wilde Awards were established in 2002 to honor the excellent work produced by Michigan's professional theaters.

The awards symbolize the close relationship that exists between the LGBT and theater communities, explained Susan Horowitz, the newspaper's co-publisher and editor-in-chief. "Gay people can be found at all levels of the theater community, from the executives to the performers, and from the designers to the customers in the seats. We're inseparably intertwined, and that's why Pride Source Media Group is the primary sponsor of this important event. It's our way of getting together once a year and celebrating our unique connection."

The awards also focus attention on a struggling industry that has been hit hard by the state's depressed economy. "Yet despite the loss in grants, donations and - in many cases - paying customers, our professional theaters continue to produce top-quality work, and we want to thank them for staying and working in Michigan," Horowitz said.

Nominations in 23 categories were based on reviews of 128 productions staged by 33 Southeast and Mid Michigan professional theater companies during the 2009-10 season, said BTL Theater and Arts Editor Donald V. Calamia. "My team of critics and I visited theaters from Detroit to Lansing and Jackson to Mount Clemens and many points in between, and what we found was a level of quality unsurpassed



anywhere. It was a great season overall. which made it difficult for us to narrow the work we observed to only a handful of

This year, 56 productions staged by 24 theaters are honored with at least one nomination. Top honorees include Ann Arbor's Performance Network Theatre (with 21 nominations), Ferndale's Who Wants Cake? Theatre at The Ringwald (14), West Bloomfield's The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company and Chelsea's The Purple Rose Theatre Company (tied with nine), and Detroit's Hilberry Theatre (eight).

One show dominates the nominations, Calamia noted. "Every year there seems to be one show that generates all 'the buzz' from both within the theater community itself and among its patrons, and this year it circled around Performance Network's 'Little Shop of Horrors.' And as predicted, it walked away with more than twice the number of nominations than its nearest

But also of importance, Calamia said, "Twenty-four shows received a single nomination, which proves, to me at least, that quality theater is happening in all of our theaters - not in just a select few or in those with the biggest budgets. And for theatergoers, that's great!"

In all, 96 performers, directors, designers and playwrights are competing in 23 categories. Plus Calamia, said, there are a handful of additional awards that have not been announced. "We always like to shake

## Wilde Awards

6:30 p.m. Tickets \$20 call 734-293-7200 x, 22 or go to www.pridesource.com

things up a bit, and this year is no different."

The awards show, Horowitz and Calamia promise, will once again be an unforgettable night. "The Wilde Awards is always a much-anticipated event, with good food, top-quality entertainment, special presenters and plenty of surprises. As always, attendees can expect it to be yet another Wilde Night!"

The doors of The Gem Theatre will open Sept. 1 at 6:30 p.m. with an hors d'oeuvre and cocktails reception. The awards show, hosted by Calamia with cohost Suzan M. Jacokes, will begin promptly at 8 p.m. and will be followed by a dessert

Tickets to the 2010 Wilde Awards are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Seating is limited, so Horowitz encourages interested attendees to reserve their tickets early. Tickets may be purchased online at http:// boxofficetickets.com or www.pridesource. com or by calling 888-615-7003, ext. 10. The Gem Theatre is located at 333 Madison.

#### PREVIEW

## **The Ninth Annual**

Sept. 1 at The Gem Theater, Detroit.

afterglow.

St. in Downtown Detroit.

# **Steve Solomon: a real stand-up guy**

BY D. A. BLACKBURN

"My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish & I'm In Therapy" is quite possibly the shortest plot synopsis in the history of theater. It's also the title of Steve Solomon's acclaimed one-man Broadway hit, which, now touring, has taken up residence at the Andiamo Novi Theatre through Aug. 29.

The production is really as simple as its title suggests. Audiences meet Solomon in the office of his current (fictional) therapist — he claims to have had several. The show proceeds as an autobiographical romp through Solomon's colorful family life, told as a series of anecdotes and oneliners — some well-worn, others wholly fresh. Though the play lacks significant movement of plot — it feels much more like highly polished stand-up, with a few props for good measure, than conventional comedic play — there's no denying that Solomon and his script are genuinely funny.

REVIEW

#### 'My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish & I'm In Therapy'

Andiamo Novi Theatre, 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi. Wednesday-Sunday through Aug. 29. \$30-\$35; dinner & show packages \$79.95-\$89.95. 248-348-4448. www.andiamoitalia.com/novi

Much of the show's humor stems from his talent for vocal impersonations and clever sound effects. Over the course of two acts, he meticulously crafts a sizable cast of characters with nothing more than his voice and physical presence. His ability to produce unique accents is prodigious, but it's his knack for crafting relatable witticisms that keep the work moving forward.

As suggested by his title, the production focuses heavily on the cultural implications of growing up and growing old in a family of mixed origins, but Solomon's characterizations and his stories could easily come from any family of any background. It's a quality that gives the show a very broad appeal.

Solomon's brand of humor is reasonably tasteful, but delves into the bluer realm occasionally enough to keep audiences off guard.

In the end, even the most serious shrink would be forced to admit that "My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish & I'm In Therapy" is a well-written comedy, delivered by a man who seems pretty welladjusted. And though it's a little light as theater goes, it makes for a very entertaining evening out.

To read the complete review, log on to ... www.EncoreMichigan.com or PrideSource.com





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# **OUTINGS**

#### Thursday, Aug. 26

Chorus Auditions, 6 p.m. Sing Out Detroit is looking for 15 new members. Must call to make appointment! Sing Out Detroit, Royal Oak 248-943-2411 linda@ singoutdetroit.com. www.singoutdetroit

A Night of Musique, 7 p.m. A cabaret fundraiser for the Greater Lansing Gay Men's Chorus. Tickets: \$25 per person, \$45 per couple. The Chrome Cat, 226 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. www.

Twisted Gay Speed Dating, 7:30 p.m. A new twist on speed dating. Under 35 Aug. 5, over 35 Aug. 12, all ages ug. 26. Lesbian and straight nights coming in September! Admission: \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. Five15, 515 S. Washington, Royal Oak. 248-515-2551. www.five15.net

#### Friday, Aug. 27

**Bullying Workshop,** 9 a.m. Addressing and Preventing Bullying with Effective School-Based Strategies. With speaker Rus Funk. Registration: \$10 Hosted by Child and Family Services of Saginaw SISD Transition Center, 3860 Fashion Square Blvd., Saginaw. 989-790-7500 http://sac-saginaw.org

UMD GSA Fall Semester BBQ, 4 p.m. An event to kick off the fall semest Hosted by the UM-Dearborn Gay Straight Alliance, Private Home, 27600 Marguette, Garden City. http://gsa.umd.umich.edu

Womyn's Film Night, 7 p.m. "XXY" The tale of a 15-year-old hermaphrodite living as a girl who begins to wonder if she's emotionally a boy. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

#### Saturday, Aug. 28

**Cedar Point Trip,** 9 a.m. A trip for Aff youth that leaves from the center. Contact Rvan Oliver for more information. Tickets: \$35. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www goaffirmations.org

#### Transgender Health Fair, 9 a.m. The first-ever health expo for the trans community. Free. Transgender Michigan,

The film by director Lisa Ray is set in 1950s South Africa,

where cafe owner and rule-breaker Anima meets soft-spoken

and oppressed housewife Miriam. The film, based on a novel

by Shamim Sarif, interweaves their forbidden romance with

the historic beginnings of apartheid as love struggles to over-

The film viewing is free, and all are welcome to attend. To

learn more about this and other upcoming film nights af Af-

firmations, call 248-398-7105 or visit www.goaffirmations.

Center. 411 Club, 411 Club View Drive, Kalamazoo. 269-349-4234. www. kglrc.org

#### rings and more. Cost: \$85. Affirmations 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. www. qoaffirmations.org

**End of Summer Mix & Mingle Dinner** Show, 6 p.m. A three-course dinner, live music, open mic and more. Tickets: \$25. Hosted by Chef Stef and Asiatic Acoustics. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-688-2464. asiaticacoustics@gmail.com

290 W. Nine Mile Road. Ferndale, www.

Aerial Fitness Program, 11:30 a.m.

stretching, trapeze, aerial hoop, circus

transgendermichigan.org

come societal boundaries.

Men's Discussion Group, 6 p.m. A group for adult gay, bi or trans men. Topics range from public displays of affection or LGBT images in advertising to movie nights and picnics. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

Summer Drag Queen Bingo, 8 p.m. A summer of bingo with guest hostesses, hilarious antics and more. Reservations welcome, Five15, 515 S. Washington Royal Oak. 248-515-2551. www.five15.

#### Sunday, Aug. 29

Cruise for Men, 11:30 a.m. A cruise aboard the Infinity Yacht to benefit Affirmations, with gourmet food selections, desserts, drinks and more. Tickets: \$99. Jefferson Marina, 24400 E. Jefferson Ave., St. Clair Shores, 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

Monthly Birthday Dinner, 6 p.m Celebrating all the Black and White Men Together birthdays of the month. Fishbone's, 29244 Northwestern Highway, Southfield. bwmtdetroit@ sbcglobal.net

#### Wednesday, Sep. 1

Resource Center Bingo, 7 p.m. Hosted by the Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource

#### Thursday, Sep. 2

Unnatural Causes, 11 a.m. A viewing of the documentary that explores whether inequality is making people sick. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale, 248-398-7105, www. nations.org

#### Friday, Sep. 3

Monthly Meeting, 7 p.m. Bisexual social group, All are welcome, Bisexual Peer Group, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-678-2478. BiPrideAnnArbor@ amail com

Womyn's Film Night, 7 p.m. "The World Unseen" In a world where boundaries are rigidly defined, two wildly different women cross them in this story that women cross term in all story that focuses on their budding romance in apartheid South Africa. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

#### Saturday, Sep. 4

Midwest Invitational Softball **Tournament,** 8 a.m. A weekend of softball games, social events and more. Metro Detroit Softball League, Metro Detroit. www.2010mistdetroit.com

# MUSIC&

#### **BENEFITS/SOCIAL EVENTS**

**Detroit International Jazz Festival** "Lights Actions Jazz" The opening night party for the Detroit Jazz Fest with performances by the Mulgrew Miller Trio and Tower of Power, Campus Martius Detroit. 5 p.m. Sep. 3. 313-447-1248. www.detroitjazzfest.com

Steppin' Out "River Cruise" The annual event on the Detroit River with the Motown Invitational Classic. Tickets: \$25. Rivard Plaza, Detroit. 1 p.m. June 26, 8 p.m. Aug. 28. 248-399-9255. www. aidswalkdetroit.org

#### **CLASSICAL**

Kerrytown Concert House "Marc Levine and Ling-Ju Lai" Performing the Complete Brahms Piano Sonatas. Tickets: \$5-25. Kerrytown Concert

House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Ann Arhor 8 p.m. Aug. 26. 734-769-2999. www. kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Kerrytown Concert House "duo parnas" With violinist Madalyn Parnas and cellist Cicely Parnas. Tickets: \$5-25. Kerrytown Concert House. 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 28. 734-769-2999. www. kerrytownconcerthouse.com

#### CONCERTS

Kerrytown Concert House "Crazy Songs for Crazy Times" Songs by Sondheim, sung by a quartet. Tickets: \$10 students, \$15 adults Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Aug. 29. 734-769-2999. www. kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Live Nation "Eminem and Jav-Z" A once-in-a-lifetime performance by the rap superstars. Tickets: \$49.50-99.50. Comerica Park, 2100 Woodward Ave Detroit. 7:30 p.m. Sep. 2, 7:30 p.m. Sep. 3. www.livenation.com

Live Nation "Anthony Hamilton and KEM" With special guests Jaheim and Raheem Devaughn. Tickets: \$49.50-89.75. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave. Detroit. 7 p.m. Aug. 28. www.livenation

**MotorCity Casino** "KC & The Sunshine Band" The 37th Anniversary Tour. Tickets: \$32-35 Sound Board Theater 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Aug. 27. www.motorcitycasino.com

#### Northville Chamber of Commerce 'The My Dols" Part of the free Tunes on Tuesdays series. Town Square, Northville 10:30 a.m. Aug. 31. www.northville.org

Olympia Entertainment "Stone Temple Pilots" With special guest Cage of the Elephant. Tickets: \$29.50-125. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Aug. 26. www.ticketmaster.com

Palace Sports and Entertainment "Blondie and Cheap Trick" A duel-headlining performance by the American rock legends. Tickets: \$10-45. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston, 7:30 p.m. Aug. 27, www. nalacenet com

Palace Sports and Entertainment "Anita Baker" The annual performance by Detroit's own Grammy Awardwinning singer. Tickets: \$15-65. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston, 8 p.m. Aug. 28, www. palacenet.com

Palace Sports and Entertainment Jonas Brothers" Part of their three continent tour with special guest Demi Lovato. Tickets: \$39-99. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston, 7 p.m. Sep. 1, www.palacenet

Palace Sports and Entertainment "'70s Soul Jam" Featuring The Stylistics, Harold MelvinXXs Blue Notes and Cuba Gooding Sr. of The Main Ingredient. Tickets: \$10-35.50. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston, 7:30 p.m. Aug. 26. www.palacenet.com

Palace Sports and Entertainment 'Heart" The Red Velvet Car Tour, with original rock sisters Ann and Nancy Wilson. Tickets: \$10-42. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. 7:30 p.m. Sep. 3. www.

palacenet.com

#### **Palace Sports and Entertainn** "David Gray" With special quest Ray LaMontagne. Tickets: \$30-65. Meadow

Brook Music Festival, 3554 E. Walton Blvd., Rochester Hills. 7 p.m. Aug. 26.

Palace Sports and Entertainment "Lady Gaga" The Monster Ball Tour with special quest Semi Precious Weapons, Tickets: \$52.50-178. The Palace, 5 Championship Drive, Auburn Hills. 8 p.m. Sep. 4. www. palacenet.com

#### **Palace Sports and Entertainment**

"Aerosmith" The Cocked, Locked, Ready to Rock Tour with special guest Sammy Hagar and the Wabos, Tickets: \$49.50-125. The Palace, 5 Championship Drive, Auburn Hills. 7:30 p.m. Aug. 31. www. nalacenet com

The Magic Bag "Leon Russell" A performance by the musical legend, whose collaborative album with Elton John will be released Oct. 19. Tickets: \$28. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 8 p.m. Aug. 28. 248-544-1991, www.themagicbag.com

#### **FESTIVALS**

Arts, Beats & Eats "Arts, Beats & Eats Festival" The annual Labor Day weekend celebration of metro Detroit's best foods, sounds and artwork. Admission: \$3. with VIP packages available, Downtown, Royal Oak. Sep. 3 - Sep. 6. www.artsbeatseats.

#### **Detroit International Jazz Festival**

"Detroit Jazz Fest" A weekend of concerts, jam sessions, shows and more on five stages from Hart Plaza to Campus Martius, Free, Downtown, Detroit, Sep 3 - Sep. 6. www.detroitjazzfest.com

**Jewish Community Center of Metro** Detroit "Stephen Gottlieb Festival of the Arts" A week of lectures, music, dance, fine arts and more. Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield Aug. 31 - Sep. 5. 248-432-5692. www. iccdet.org

Palace Sports and Entertainment "Wine and Food Festival" Tickets: \$18 in advance, \$25 at the door. Includes eight wine samples, one glass of wine and food seminars, exhibits and more Designated driver and under-21 tickets: \$10. Meadow Brook Music Festival, 3554



America's favorite rock 'n' roll sisters are back! Heart, led by Ann and Nancy Wilson, will bring their Red Velvet Car Tour to DTE Energy Music Theatre at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 3.

The Wilson sisters found fame repeatedly throughout the 1970s and '80s with hits like "These Dreams," "Alone" and "Barracuda" – the latter of which is now featured on the video game "Rock Band." And on Aug. 31, the duo will release their first studio album in six years, "Red Velvet Car," which features a mixture of old hits and new songs.

Tickets for the show praised by the St. Petersburg Times as "brilliant" are \$42 and \$25 for pavilion and \$10 for lawn. To purchase tickets, visit www.palacenet.com or visit any Ticketmaster location.

E. Walton Blvd., Rochester Hills, 1 p.m. Aug. 28, 1 p.m. Aug. 29. www.palacenet

Waltz Improvement Association "Art in the Park" Featuring works by local artists a concert and wine tasting. Joseph Waltz Park, Waltz. 10 a.m. Aug. 29. www. waltzimprovement com

#### **FILM & VIDEO**

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "LOUIS" A presentation of the classic silent film. set to orchestral and jazz music. Tickets \$19-60. Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Aug. 26. www. detroitsymphony.com

Friends of the Penn "Muppet Treasure Island" Part of the Summer Cinema Matinee series. Tickets: \$3. Penn Theatre 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth. 1 p.m. Aug. 26, 7 p.m. Aug. 26. 734-453-0870. www.penntheatre.com

Michigan Theater "Network" Part of the Summer Classic Movie Series. Tickets: \$9 adults, \$7 students, seniors and veterans. Michigan Theater 603 F Liberty Ann Arbor. 1:30 p.m. Aug. 29, 7 p.m. Aug. 31. www.michtheater.org

Michigan Theater "Living Downstream" Part of the Stonyfield Sustainability Film Series. Tickets: \$6 adults, \$5 members, students and seniors. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. Sep. 1.

#### **OTHER**

Charles H. Wright Museum "Hustle for History" Hustle lessons, taught by local instructors. Free for members, \$7 for non-members. Charles H. Wright Museum, 315 E. Warren Ave., Detroit. Aug. 1 - Aug. 29, 313-494-5800, www.

Robert Mondayi "Discover Wine" Learn about food, wine and entertaining from the authentic California authority on wine during Arts. Beats and Eats. Downtown. Royal Oak. 11 p.m. Sep. 3. 248-334-4600, www.robertmondavi.com/

# THEATER

#### **BENEFITS/FUNDRAISERS**

Playing Dead - Live! Actor and director Ted Raimi returns home to Detroit to screen his web series, a dark comedy written by and starring Suzanne Keilly, about a down on her luck actress that takes a part time job as Death to pay the bills. Proceeds benefit the Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit. \$12 performance only; \$50 patron ticket. Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit at the Detroit Film Theatre at the DIA. 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Aug. 28. 313-872-6910. www. mosaicdetroit org

#### **CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER**

Damn Yankees \$25. The Croswell, 129 E. Maumee St., Adrian, Through Aug. 29. 517-264-7469. www.croswell.org

Dog See God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead This production contains offensive language and adult subject matter and may not be suitable for persons under 18; viewer discretion is advised, \$10. Barefoot Productions at the Walker-Buzenberg Building, 240 N. Main St., Plymouth. Aug. 27-28. 734-582-9688. www.justgobarefoot.com

Hot Summer De(z)ire by Tennessee Williams Free; admission by donation. art4artillery Theatre Company at Russell Industrial Center 1600 Clay Street Bldg 4, 3rd Floor, Detroit. Through Aug. 29. 248-914-5327. http://www.kyleholton

Larceny and Old Lace \$15. Spotlight Still Got It Players at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Rd., Canton. Aug. 25-29. 734-394-5460. www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater

#### **COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY** THEATER

SubUrbia \$12. Henry Ford Community College Fine Arts and Fitness Division at Henry Ford Centennial Library, 16301 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. Through Aug. 28. 313-845-9817.

#### PROFESSIONAL THEATER

Boeing-Boeing \$25-\$38 The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St. Chelsea. Through Sep. 11. 734-433-7673. www.purplerosetheatre.org

Comedy Mondays \$5 for an all-night pass. Dog Story Theater, 1115 Taylor Ave. NW, Grand Rapids. Through Aug. 30. www.dogstorvtheater.com

Dying City Free. Capital TheaterWorks. The Ledges Playhouse, 133 Fitzgerald Park Dr., Grand Ledge. Sep. 3-12. 517-944-0221, www.capitaltheaterworks.org

Fridays and Saturdays at Go Comedy! \$15 per show; "Dark Matter" is free. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale, 248-327-0575, www.

GetBack! Cast of Beatlemania \$10-\$19. Meadow Brook Music Festival, 3554 Walton Blvd., Rochester. 8 p.m. Aug. 28. 1-800-745-3000. www

Last of the Red Hot Lovers Previews Sept. 2-3 (\$20). \$28-\$30. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E Cady St. Northville Sep. 2 - Oct. 16. 248-347-0003. www. tippingpointtheatre.com

My Mother's Italian, My Father's **Jewish & I'm in Therapy** \$30-\$35; dinner & show packages \$79.95-\$89.95 Andiamo Novi Theatre, 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi. Through Aug. 29. 248-348-4448. www.andiamoitalia.com/novi

Pop Scholars \$5. Dog Story Theater 1115 Taylor Ave. NW, Grand Rapids. Aug. 27-28, www.dogstorvtheater.com

Sundays at Go Comedy! \$7 for the evening. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. Through Aug. 29. 248-327-0575. www.gocomedy.net

The Little Dog Laughed \$10-\$20. Who Wants Cake, The Ringwald, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through Aug. 30. 248-545-5545. www.

The Nuclear Family \$26-\$36.50. Mason Street Warehouse, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. Aug. 25 - Aug. 29. 269-857-4898. www.masonstreetwarehouse.org

The Sound of Music \$28. The Encore Musical Theatre, 3126 Broad St., Dexter Through Aug. 29. 734-268-6200. http://

Thursdays at Go Comedy! \$10 for the evening. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. www.gocomedy.net

Woman Before a Glass \$25-\$41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through Sep. 5, 734-663-0681, www.

#### THEATER FOR YOUNG **AUDIENCES**

Wiggly Circus Live! \$15-\$75. The Palace of Auburn Hills, 6 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. Aug. 27. 1-800-745-3000. www.palacenet.com

#### **AUDITIONS/CLASSES**

ANN ARBOR CIVIC THEATRE'S JUNIOR THEATRE - auditions for "Looking Glass Land," Sept. 7-8, 734-971-2228; DOWNRIVER YOUTH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER - fall workshops for ages 5-8 begin Sept. 11, www.dypac.com; FARMINGTON PLAYERS - auditions for "A Christmas Story." Aug. 29, www farmingtonplayers.org.

HOW TO CONTACT 'THEATER EVENTS' AND 'CURTAIN CALLS' Please send all press releases and promotional materials at least three weeks prior to the scheduled event, and your story ideas, comments, brickbats and accolades - preferably via e-mail - to curtaincalls@pridesource.com or by snail-mail to Curtain Calls, Between The Lines, 11920 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan 48150. Unless otherwise noted, ticket prices shown above are for adult general admission tickets only; please contact the theater for questions regarding the availability of discount tickets for preview performances advance sales, groups, students, seniors and children Complete listings can be found online at www pridesource.com/happenings.phtml

# ART'N'

323East Gallery "Our Infinite Universe An exhibition of poster works by The Silent Giants. 323East Gallery, 323 E. Fourth Street, Royal Oak. Aug. 18 - Sep. 9. 248-246-9544. www.323east.com

Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art "The Art of the Brick" An exhibition with a range of sculptures created from LEGO blocks. Midland Center for the Arts, 1801 W. St. Andrews, Midland. June 12 - Sep. 2 989-631-8250. www.mcfta.org

Ann Arbor Art Center "Reveal!" The viewing of a new mural painted on the back of Grizzly Peak, with a continued celebration at the art center Grizzly Peak Brewing Company, 120 W. Washington, Ann Arbor, 6 p.m. Aug. 26, www.

Art & Ideas "Social Realism 2010" An exhibition of photographic work by Thomas McMillen-Oakley, Julia DeClerck and Shaqe Kalaj. Art & Ideas Contemporary Art Gallery & Studio, 15095 Northville, Plymouth, Aug. 7 - Sep. 18. 734-420-0775. www. artandideasgallery.com

Basement 414 "Unfathomable Reins/ Animalesque" A solo and group exhibition, featuring works connecting to animals and an installation of hybrid sculpture. Basement 414, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. Aug. 6 - Sep. 4. http://b414.org

Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center "Outer Nature and Inner Space" The opening of five new exhibits, including **Tattoo:** Off the skin, Cindi Ford – It Could Be You Chroma '10 BBAC Members of the independent Painters and Village of Redford Seniors. Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center, 1516 S. Cranbrook Road, Birmingham. 6 p.m. Aug. 27. 248-644-0866, www.bbartcenter.com

Cass Cafe "Detroit and Issues" Works by four Detroit-area artists. Cass Cafe, 4620 Cass Ave., Detroit. July 17 - Sep. 18. 313-831-1400. www.casscafe.com

Charles H. Wright Museum "Portraits of Life and Landscapes" The Art of Frank Kelley Jr. Opening reception held 6-9 p.m. Aug. 27. Charles H. Wright Museum 315 F Warren Ave Detroit Aug. 27 - Dec. 12. 313-494-5800. www charleshwrightmuseum.org

Community Arts @ Paramount Gallery "Custom Guitar Exhibit" Works by Steve Brook and Daniel Cascardo. Paramount Bank, 22635 Woodward Ave., Ferndale, Aug. 13 - Sep. 24. www.paramountbank

Gallery Project "Faux Real" Free. The Gallery Project, 215 S. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. July 28 - Sep. 5. 734-997-7012. www.thegalleryproject.com

#### Holocaust Memorial Center

'Synagogues in Germany: A Virtual Reconstruction" Computer aided design reconstructions of 14 synagogues destroyed during Kristallnacht, Opening reception held 7 p.m. Aug. 29. Holocaust In "Larceny and Old Lace," Harold Peabody's sweet aunts are gambling in Las Vegas, while Harold stays at their home to watch over his eccentric uncle, who thinks he is a pirate and is constantly "burying treasure" in the basement. Mix

This August, the Still Got It Players will present "Larceny

and Old Lace." Audiences of all ages will love this clever

and well-crafted spoof presented by the all-senior acting

multiplies. Tickets are \$15. Performances will be held Aug. 25-29 at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road,

Canton. For tickets or information, call 734-394-5460.

in Harold's jailbird cousin Mordred, and the pandemonium

Memorial Center, 28123 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. Aug. 29 - Nov. 29. 248-553-2400. www.holocaustcenter.org

ensemble.

**EDITOR'S PICK** 

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Flowers in Art" Selections from the KIA collection featuring the beauty of flowers. Free. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park Kalamazoo. May 29 - Sep. 12. 269-349-7775. www.kiarts.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Beauty amid Thunder" The past two centuries of Chinese art, in the new Joy Light Gallery of Asian Art. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. Aug. 28 - Oct. 17 269-349-7775. www.kiarts.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Wondrous ink" Selections from the Richard Fabian Collection, held in the new Joy Light Gallery of Asian Art. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. Aug. 28 Dec. 5. 269-349-7775. www.kiarts.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Strong Women, Beautiful Men" Japanese Portrait Prints from the Toledo Museum of Art. held in the new Joy Light Gallery of Asian Art. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts. 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. Aug. 28 - Oct. 31. 269-349-7775. www.kiarts.org

Kerrytown Concert House "In The Studio" Paintings and drawings by local artist Sarah Innes. Opening reception held 5:30-7:30 p.m. Sept. 9. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Aug. 26 - Sep. 27. 734-769-2999 www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Lawrence Street Gallery "The Sculptors Guild of Michigan" Recent work from select members of the guild, including works from wood, clay, bronze, found

objects, glass and more, Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Aug. 4 - Aug. 28. 248-544-0394. www. lawrencestreetgallery.com

Lawrence Street Gallery "Celebrate the Print" Works by 40 local printmakers Opening reception held 6-9 p.m. Sept. 3. Lawrence Street Gallery 22620 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Sep. 1 - Sep. 24. 248-544-0394. www. lawrencestreetgallery.com

Leon & Lulu "Artists' Market" Featuring hand-crafted items by local artisans. Free. Leon & Lulu, 96 W. 14 Mile Road, Clawson. 11 a.m. Aug. 29, 3 p.m. Aug. 31. www.leonandlulu.com

Macomb Center for the Performing Arts "In the Making of the Moment" Works by Steven Kuypers and Tyson Skross. Reception held 5-8 p.m. Sept. 16. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts Gallery, 44575 Garfield, Clinton Township Aug. 26 - Sep. 9. 586-286-2089. www. macombcenter.com

Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum "Regional Biennial Juried Sculpture Exhibition" A showing of 32 works by 24 local artists. Free. Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum July 3 - Sep. 18. 989-964-7096. www. marshallfredericks.org

MSII Museum "Sticks Strings and Shadows" A collection of puppets of Asia. Runs through Nov. 7. MSU Museum Michigan State University, East Lansing. 517-432-1472. http://museum.msu.edu

River's Edge Gallery "Layers" Works by Jeremy Hansen, Dennis Jacobs, Rudy Salazar III and Eddie Thiel River's Edge Gallery, 3024 Biddle, Wyandotte. Aug. 2

Aug. 31. www.artattheedge.com

Riverside Arts Center "Ypsi Project" Photos of Ypsilanti citizens by Erica Hampton. Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti, Aug. 5 - Aug. 27, 734-480-2787. www.riversidearts.org

Riverside Arts Center "Great Lakes Small Works" A 2D and 3D juried exhibit. Artist reception held 5-7 p.m. Sept. 11. Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Sep. 2 - Sep. 25. 734-480-2787, www.riversidearts.org

**Sherry Washington Gallery** "Summer Solstice X" An exhibition of ntings, drawings and sculpture by 13 artists, Free, Sherry Washington Gallery, 1274 Library, Detroit. July 17 - Sep. 25. 313-961-4500. www sherrywashingtongallery.com

The Butcher's Daughter Gallery "Paycheck to Paycheck, part one" A group exhibition in two parts, each running for the length of a worker's pay cycle. Opening reception held 6-9 p.m. Sept. 4. The Butcher's Daughter Gallery, 22747 Woodward Ave., Ferndale Sep. 18. 248-890-6536. www. thebutchersdaughtergallery.com

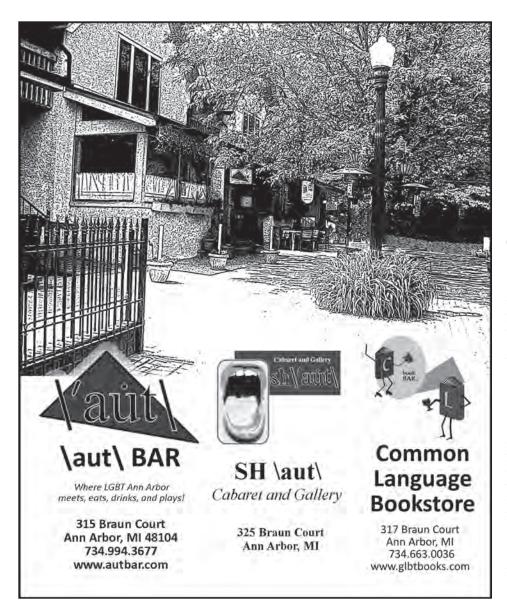
The Henry Ford "Play" An exhibit that explores how people interact with each other. Admission: \$15 adults, \$14 seniors, \$11 youth. The Henry Ford Museum, 20900 Oakwood, Dearborn June 19 - Sep. 19. 313-982-6001. www. thehenryford.org

University of Michigan Museum of Art "On Beauty and the Everyday" The prints of American artist James McNeill Whistler. University of Michigan Museum of Art. 525 S. State, Ann Arbor, Aug. 21 -Nov. 28. 734-763-UMMA. www.umma. umich.edu

**Wayne County Community College** "Haiku Middle Passage" A multimedia exhibition commemorating the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade. Brown and Juanita C. Ford Gallery, 1001 Fort Street, Detroit. July 29 - Sep. 17. www.wcccd.edu

Woods Gallery "Photographs by Jon Pickell" Reception held 6:30-8:30 p.m. Aug. 27. Free. Woods Gallery, 26415 Scotia, Huntington Woods. Aug. 1 - Aug. 30. www.woodsgallery.org









**Got problems?** Send letters to: "Dear Jody," C/O Between The Lines, 11920 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48150. E-mail her at DearJodyValley@hotmail.com

#### Terrified of trucks!

• I'm a 62-year-old woman and live in a small • town in eastern Michigan. I have recently been having panic attacks while driving on the highway. I am OK when I drive around town where the speed is slow, but when I get on the highway and see big trucks coming toward me or have to pass a truck, I'm likely to have a panic attack. So far when it happens I have been able to pull over, calm down and make it back home. I even have these when I am riding with someone else, but at least I don't fear putting my life or someone else's life in danger.

The other day my daughter called wanting to meet me halfway between our houses so we could have lunch together. She had some things she wanted me to bring that she left at our house last time we were together. I told her I couldn't drive on the highway and why. I suggested she wait until the weekend so my partner, Pam, could drive me. The other alternative I suggested to my daughter was that she just comes to my house. (The drive is about two and a half hours, which isn't too bad, but it is all on the highway.) My daughter got very upset with me, saying she thought I could drive if I wanted to; she believed that I just didn't want to "make the effort." She also said it wasn't fair for her to have to drive the whole way. She felt I was being selfish because her time is precious, and I am retired.

I ended up saying that I would drive because I know I need to get over my panic attacks. But I keep wondering if I am being just a chicken for not driving on the highway, or am just being selfish by not doing my part of the driving. (Pam is upset that I am giving in and driving.)

Selfish or A Chicken?

A • You didn't ask a direct question, but I do have some thoughts for you: I don't think you are being "selfish or a chicken" by not driving when you are having panic attacks. To take the wheel on the highway could endanger your life and the lives of others. In fact, It would be irresponsible for you to drive given what you are telling me. You did offer your daughter another time to meet so she wouldn't have to drive the whole way.

You didn't mention getting help with your panic attacks. I suggest you start by making an appointment with your physician to rule out any physical problems. The doctor might be able to prescribe some medication that would help with the panic attacks. If I were you, I would also seek

You didn't mention getting help with your panic attacks. I suggest you start by making an appointment with your physician to rule out any physical problems. The doctor might be able to prescribe some medication that

the help of a therapist to see if you can figure out if there are any issues in your life that is now causing this to happen. There are strategies you can use to

would help with the panic attacks.

#### Not hot enough for him?

help you deal with the attacks. Good luck.

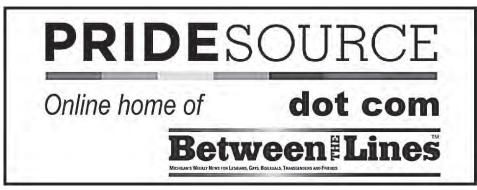
• I am interested in a guy (I'll call him Gary) • that I met the other night at a party. I want to ask him out, but I am afraid he won't remember who I am and turn me down. Or maybe I might not be good looking enough for him as he is really good looking. I am not a dog, but I am not in his league when it comes to looks.

My friend, Kevin, knows Gary pretty well and has his phone number, so I know how to get a hold of him. Do you think I should call and see if he will go out with me, or wait till I meet him again at a party or see him somewhere else? He is so hot I just don't want to do something wrong and scare him away.

To Call or Not To Call

. I see no problem with calling him and asking A him out. If that isn't comfortable, talk with Kevin and see if he would arrange a get-together of some type – just a friends meeting, not a date – so you could spend more time with Gary and see if there is a mutual attraction. Then, go from there.

Jody Valley spent 12 years as a clinical social worker. She worked with the LGBT community both as a counselor and a workshop leader in the areas of coming out, self-esteem and relationship issues. Reach Jody at DearJody Valley@hotmail.com. The "Dear Jody" column appears weekly.



by Jack Fertig

### Think carefully, Cancer!

Saturn squaring Pluto is a long-term aspect dragging us through cathartic transformations both social and personal. While the Sun entering Virgo aspects both, take a critical look at social institutions and your own ways of confronting them.

ARIES (March 20 – April 19): Getting along with colleagues can be a real challenge, but is the issue really their competency. or is it perhaps your own ego? Stepping back and slowing down a bit may be the best way to get with the program and be more productive.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): Fun, games, sports are the answers to worries about your health. If they seem to be the problem, you're just doing it wrong - either by taking the game too seriously or being in the wrong sport. A good coach or trainer could help.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): You've been facing some sexual challenges, perhaps needing to reassert some boundaries or to stretch some. Review early messages you picked up from your parents or otherwise in your childhood. That reflection can offer huge insight.

CANCER (June 21- July 22): Raise any problems you have with your partner or family. Think carefully first; be as critical of yourself as you are of anvone else. Even if you don't achieve resolution (and you probably won't!) a good principled discussion can make great progress

**LEO (July 23 – August 22):** You may be underappreciated, but it's up to you to make your labor more valuable and valued. Take up some new skills and check out classes that will help you take your work to a whole new level.

VIRGO (August 23 - September 22): Worries about money could precipitate sudden rash moves that will prove disastrous. Yes, change is needed, but anything that important deserves a good, long analysis with someone whose opinion you know you can trust.

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): For whatever problems you may face at home it may well be that the only thing you can really change is your at-

titude. Reflective time alone, much more than arguments, will help you clarify your perspective and see solutions.

SCORPIO (October 23 -November 21): Stay close to friends you can trust. You are too likely to blurt out secrets, both your own and others'. Rather than obsessing on secrets and slips, focus on your own inner challenges and blocks to push through those for profound personal insights.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 - December 20): How you handle challenges in teamwork and resources will surely be noticed and could get you a promotion. If you need help, don't be shy about asking your boss or another expert.

CAPRICORN (December 21 -January 19): A new promotion - or a chance to prove yourself worthy of one - will test you severely. Standing up to authority can work in your favor, but be very careful of having your facts right and to show respect where it is due.

AQUARIUS (January 20 -February 18): Ever searching for a higher truth, you could be looking in the wrong direction. The truth is not necessarily "higher" but could be down and dirty, in the darkest recesses of your soul, hidden beneath fears and prejudice. Yes, you! Dig!

PISCES (February 19 - March 19): Pursuing your erotic ideals is all well and good, but do remember there is another person involved. Or so one hopes. Your partner's criticism on this subject may be hard to take, but it will help you to better understanding.

Jack Fertig, a professional astrologer since 1977, is available for personal and business consultations in person in San Francisco, or online everywhere. He can be reached at 415-864-8302, through his website at www. starjack.com, and by e-mail at QScopes@qsyndicate.com.

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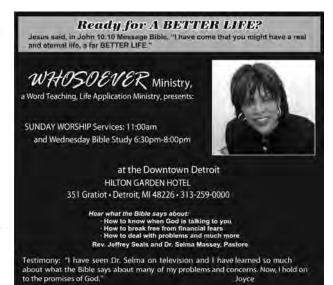
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- 3.Scroll down to the entry form for the fake ad contest and enter your name, etc. 4.In the notes field, put the date of the BTL issue, page number where you found the fake ad and the name of the fake advertiser.

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Have fun searching, and good luck!



#### by Steven Petrow

#### I'm not stalking him, but...

• I connected with this really nice guy on Facebook and have been perusing his profile ever since. We're actually going to meet for coffee – as our first date. So am I allowed to "know" as much as I do about him? I don't want to creep him out.

• Unless your new friend has signed up for an app that reveals • who's been reading his page, ignorance is bliss. But your instincts are good: People don't always like the idea of new friends or beaus knowing all about them. In fact, when the two of you get together, try to pretend you don't know what you do. Don't bring up out of the blue his entire work history (yes, that's creepy) and avoid comments like, "So, I saw you and Mike broke up on Facebook." But if you both love Lady Gaga or volunteer at the local LGBT center, it's fine – and actually very helpful – to talk about what you have in common to break the ice and discover what else you may share.

Online relationships are just like offline ones. Peeling back the layers of someone's life and personality should happen in a gradual way, as you build up trust. And hearing someone describe his life in his own words is a great way to get to know someone. It's entirely possible that your new friend would rather tell you himself about his beloved pets and what he wore for Halloween last year.

#### **Dressing for success or myself**

• Usually when I'm applying for a job I set aside the real me – the butch dyke, if you will – and dress up a little feminine (different hair, different suit, everything). As I get older, this makes me feel less and less comfortable, as though I'm not being the real me. How do you suggest I dress for interviews?

• That's a tough question. Ideally, it's essential not to disguise • yourself or to appear other than who you are. Still, there's something to be said for having your "interview suit" – and doing some extra grooming – especially because we all know how others' prejudices can work against us.

Think of it this way: The idea is to take appearances completely out of the equation so that you can explain your qualifications and sell yourself without distraction. Once you land the job, you can be freer in how you dress. You're not selling out to adopt a more mainstream look for the interviews; this is just another step to get you in the door.

In my experience, most people try to pick up a company's dress code once they start work. But if you don't think you can do that – or want to dress butch all the time – then go ahead and do it for the interview. If the company can't take it then, you're wasting your time considering this particular employer.

#### Too chicken to tell ex about my STD

• I need to tell my ex that I contracted a venereal disease and that I may have passed it on to her, but I can't bear the idea of talking to her. Is it rude to just e-mail her about this?

• One way or another, your ex needs to have this information, and • you have an obligation to get it to her. It's about being honest and respectful. While the medium you use is less important, receiving such news in a brief e-mail message could be pretty shocking. If you make the effort to actually talk with your ex, you're showing a modicum of respect for her feelings and saying that you're taking the matter seriously. This route also gives her a chance to ask questions, some of which you may be able to answer on the spot.

Nevertheless, if your animus toward your ex is too strong to pick up the phone, then go ahead and e-mail her. Ask her to let you know that she received your news – you wouldn't want information like this to wind up in a junk folder.

Another idea, although perhaps more appropriate for those who've had a casual sexual hook-up, is to send one of the ecards available through inSpot.org, an Internet service for sex partners and tricks. This site will deliver messages like, "I got diagnosed with an STD and you might have been exposed. Get checked out." You can either sign your e-card or send it anonymously.

OK, now you have no excuse.

Steven Petrow is the author of "The Essential Book of Gay Manners & Etiquette." Learn more at www.gaymanners.com.



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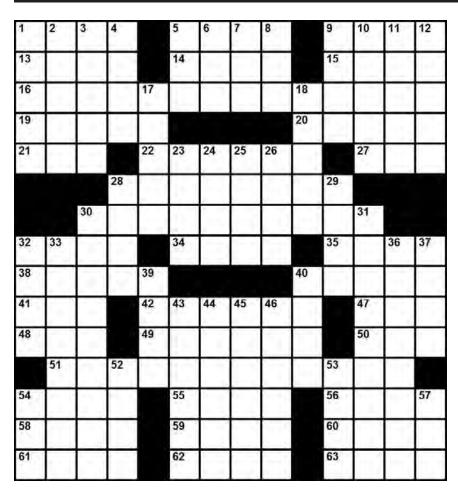
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Solution to puzzle from page 36







# Not Your Average Joe

#### Across

- 1 Auntie disestablishmentarian?
- 5 "Sweet \_\_\_\_ " (1998 film with a boy with AIDS)
- 9 Haul ass
- 13 Aid's partner
- 14 Lot measurement
- 15 Holiday season
- 16 2004 film with a gay hustler
- 19 Newton, who got hit on the heaed by a fruit
- 20 Make up
- 21 Double curve in a pipe
- 22 "Ed Wood" Best Supporting Actor
- 27 Eligible for soc. sec.
- 28 Shirley of "Sweet Charity"
- 30 2003 film with a Mormon homophobe
- 32 Singer Anita
- 34 Puts out
- 35 Allergic reaction
- 38 Baldwin and Frank
- 40 Brief tussle
- 41 Gaydar, for example
- 42 Beat up on
- 47 "Got a Rainbow" lyricist Gershwin
- 48 Opposite of swill
- 49 Marcos of the Philippines

- 50 "La Cage Folles'
- 51 Joseph, who played the parts in 5, 16, and 30-Across
- 54 Preceder of many words?
- 55 "Gay \_\_\_\_ Sutra"
- 56 Nick's time
- 58 Do-overs for Amelie Mauresmo
- 59 Series ender
- 60 Drag queen in a men's dorm?
- 61 Highland dialect
- 62 Lairs of hears
- 63 Common connections

#### Down

- 1 She came between Bess and Jackie
- 2 Immeasurably vast hole
- 3 High places with flat tops
- 4 Jazz singer James
- 5 Canning container
- 6 Sitcom actress Meyers 7 Keanu in "The Matrix"
- 8 What 50 million Frenchmen never
- drink
- 9 Part of SSS (abbr.)
- 10 "Dinner at Eight" director George
- 11 Garment with a flared bottom
- 12 Credo
- 17 Fame

- 18 Sweaty place
- 23 Beginning of "Hairspray"
- 24 NY Met or LA Dodger
- 25 Gloomy
- 26 "As Is" subject
- 28 Deli iarful
- 29 Charlotte Bronte's heroine
- 30 Stereotypical hookers' stations
- 31 Post-oray state
- 32 Poems of Sappho
- 33 Todd Oldham, for one
- 36 Marched cockily
- 37 Trick
- 39 Word after he and she
- 40 Pole, for example
- 43 Like many types of tasty meat
- 44 Caesar's milieu
- 45 Cher's ex-husband Gregg
- 46 A sexually enlightened society, and more
- 52 Pink shade
- 53 Peru native
- 54 Suffix with duct
- 57 Wood and more

See solution on page 35

#### Pet of the Week:



There's nothing quite like a best friend, and these two kitty companions are living proof! Winter and Zing are a dynamic duo hoping to find their forever home together. Winter is a Siamese mix and Zing is a Domestic Medium Hair. Both are just two years old and love getting petted and playing with people. If you're looking for a new best friend, two is twice as nice! Their adoption fee includes microchipping, sterilization, ageappropriate vaccinations and more. Visit or call the Michigan Humane Society's Detroit Center for Animal Care at 313-872-3400 and provide their pet ID numbers - Winter is 9062039 and Zing is 9062097.





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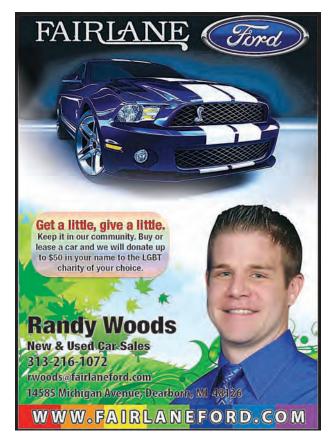
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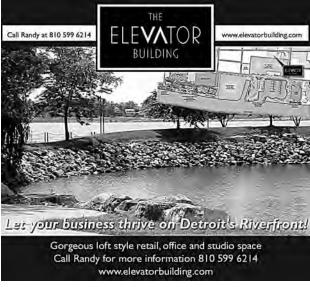
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## **Rosie's TV alliance** with Oprah

eep your friends close and your enemies closer. OK, maybe that's not what Oprah Winfrey's upstart cable network, OWN, has in mind by teaming with Rosie O'Donnell and picking up her new talk show for syndication. But it makes a lot of sense anyway. Back in the 1990s Rosie was Oprah's main competition for daytime ratings, so if she wants to come back to TV after leaving "The View" why "not" form an alliance where Oprah still gets to be the queen bee? Word is that the new show is all about being uplifting and that the angry political Rosie people have come to know and love/hate might take a backseat to her former "Queen of Nice" reputation. Can she go back? Do we want her to? Can't we have both at once, like the way you get with actual non-TV personality human beings? Find out when the show debuts in 2011.

# Gay marriage on **'It's Always Sunny** in Philadelphia'

t was time for the funny, under-appreciated and politically incorrect sitcom "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia" to attack the subject of marriage equality, so it's going to chew on both

sides of the issue in its upcoming season's first two episodes. Rob McElhenney's character, in love with a transgender woman named Carmen (played by Brittany Danke), finds out that she has not only finished her surgical transition but that she is also marrying another man. And because this is a sitcom about self-centered apolitical people, he goes ahead with a court battle about Carmen's "gay" marriage out of sheer jealousy. Meanwhile, straight characters marry on a whim and chaos ensues. And McElhenney personally knows the score on marriage equality: his own lesbian mother and her partner helped raise him. See the comedic skewering of this culture war when the new season premieres next month.

## **Justin Timberlake** to play gay - and booger

oes anyone have fond memories of the flop Lance Bass romantic-comedy "On the Line"? Does anyone even remember it? Well, if you do, you might also remember his fellow boy-band pal Justin Timberlake's cameo as a "flamboyant" makeup artist. It was a mercifully brief appearance and goes down the very road you think it does. Well, now Timberlake has a chance to play another gay character (and hit other notes besides the most generic sassy ones) on "The Cleveland Show." He'll lend his voice to the animated series as the boyfriend of Jason Sudeikis's ("30 Rock") character Terry.



Justin Timberlake, Photo: Universal Pictures

In the same episode, Timberlake will also play a singing booger belonging to Cleveland's stepson. As there is no precedent for the nasal mucus role, Romeo is sure that whatever approach the pop star takes will be just fine. The episode is scheduled for February 2011.

# Jane Wiedlin, **Daniela Sea join** 'Casserole Club'

☐ it traditional in casting his upcoming

☐ feature "The Casserole Club." Instead, for his period 1960s suburban dramedy about "desolation, unspoken desires" and the hosting of elaborate dinner parties, he's bringing together a group of actors that includes Jane Wiedlin of the Go-Go's and former "L Word" co-star Daniela Sea. Wiedlin's been exuberantly entertaining in a few films, like "Clue" and "Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure" but has usually chosen to focus more on being the rock star she is. Sea has been in several bands, but is known for playing male on "L Word." Wouldn't it be cool if they played a hetero couple here and Sea was the girly-girl and the pixie-ish, bisexual Wiedlin had five o'clock shadow? It would, but that's probably not how it's going to work out. In fact, there's no word at all on who their characters are, but shooting is scheduled to begin this fall. All will become clear soon enough. The film's website has some great cocktail and casserole recipes to distract you in the meantime.

Romeo San Vicente is hungry for turkey tetrazini. That's not a euphemism for anything either. He's really hungry for turkey tetrazini. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInside-Hollywood@asyndicate.com.

# **Between Lines**

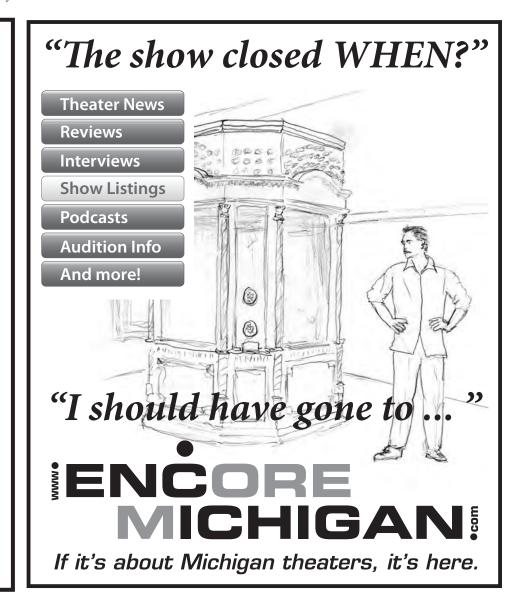
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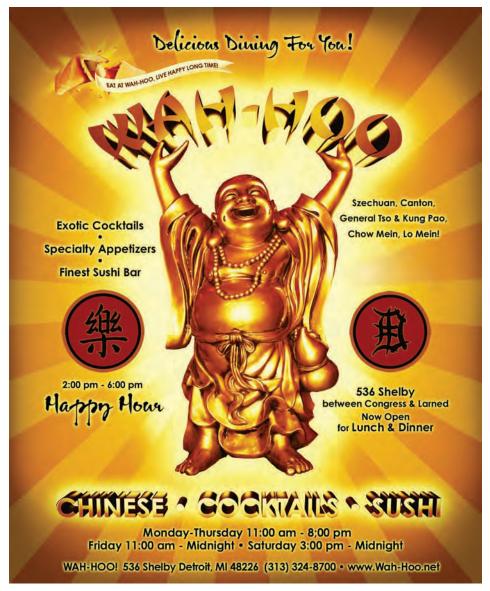


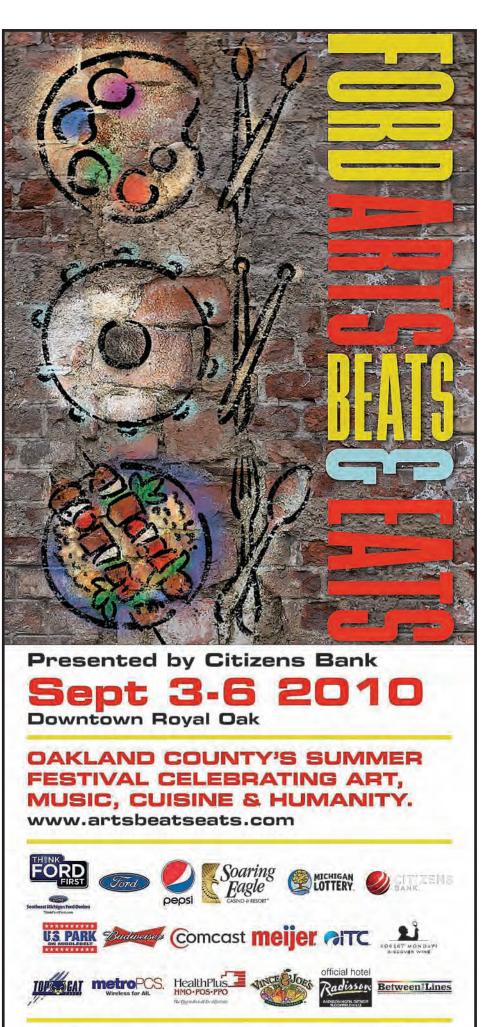


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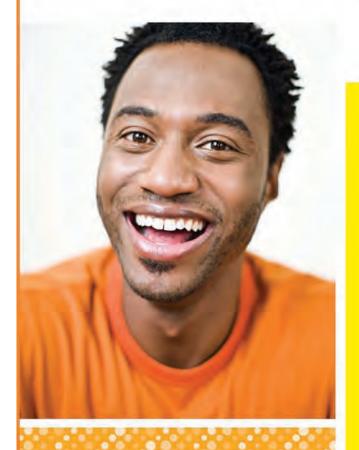
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