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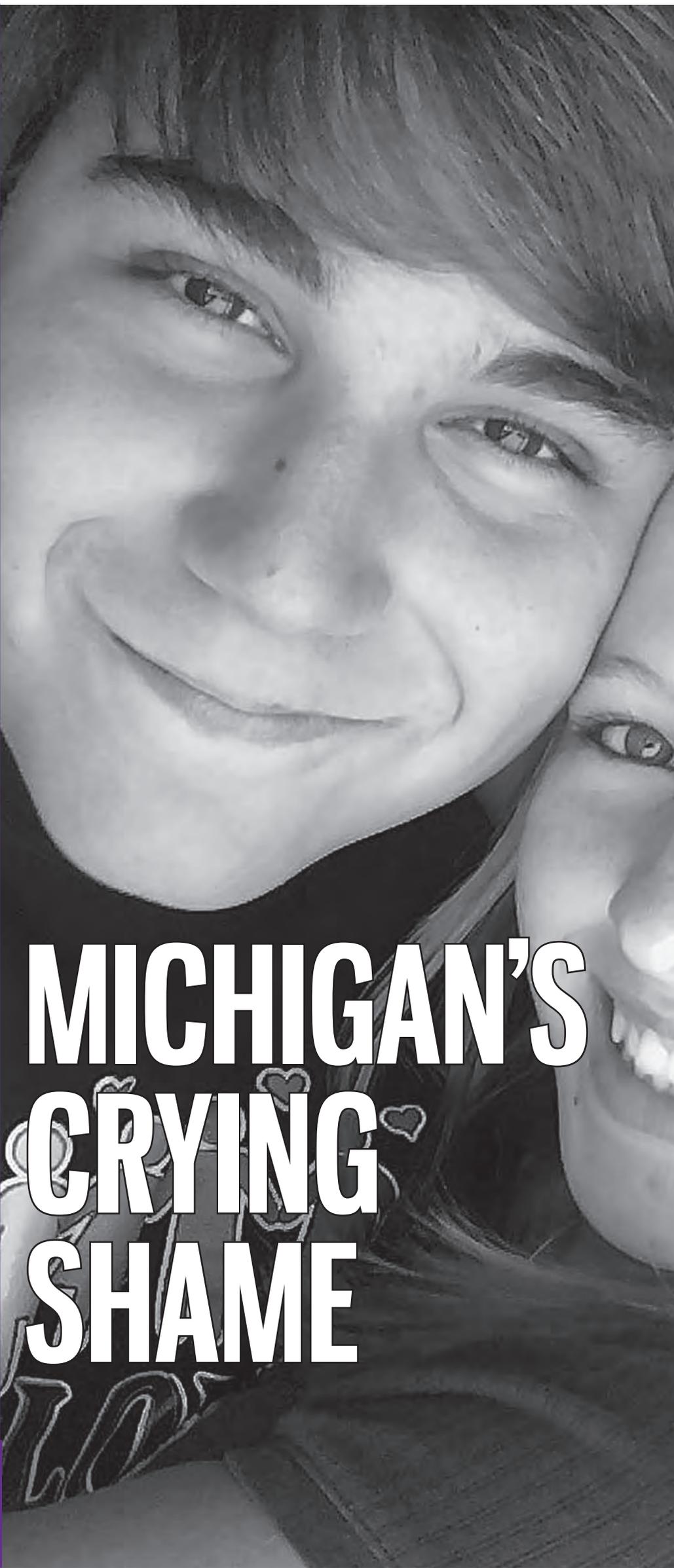
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## Cover

Branden Tripp with friend Samantha. Both are Chesaning High students. Branden transferred to Chesaning where he eventually came out. Photo courtesy of Tripp family.



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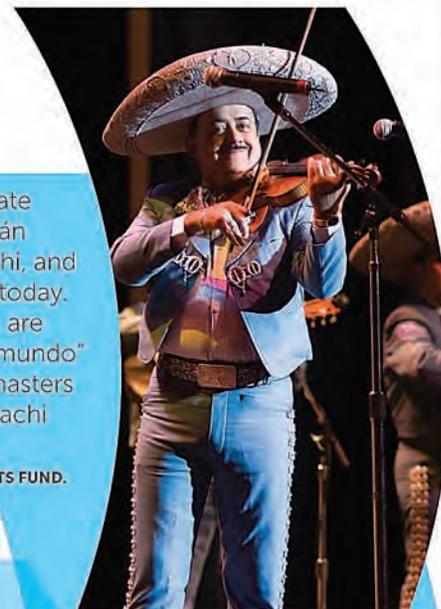
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**Mariachi Vargas  
de Tecalitlán**

Friday, November 5 | 8 PM  
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**Vladimir Feltsman** piano

Wednesday, November 10 | 8 PM  
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A Russian pianist whose career was thwarted in the Soviet Union when he signaled his intention to emigrate in 1979, Vladimir Feltsman moved to the US in 1987, where he was warmly received at the White House and Carnegie Hall and re-launched his professional career. Feltsman last appeared in Ann Arbor in 1992 as soloist with Valery Gergiev and the Kirov Orchestra; he also stepped in when Maurizio Pollini canceled his UMS recital in March, 1990. He will perform Mozart's Fantasia in d minor; Schubert's Four Impromptus, Op. 90, D. 899; and Chopin's Four Ballades.

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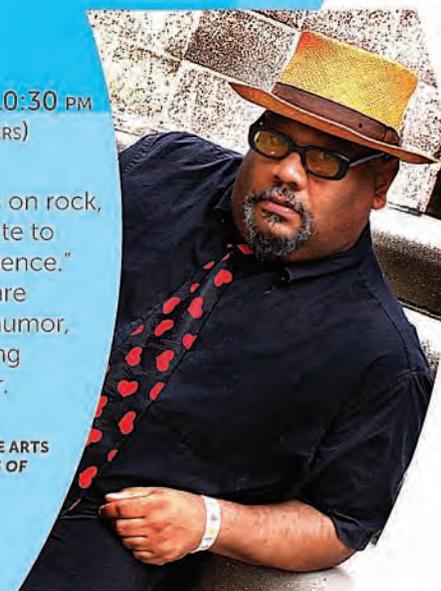
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**Heidi Lovy** is doing communications work for Equality Michigan out of Traverse City. She is passionate about her work and loves “being the straight girl” advocating for LGBT full equality. She expects Traverse City will be a little less laid back with Equality Michigan in town.

**1 What will your new role for Equality Michigan be?**

Since my family and I relocated up north, Equality Michigan has retained me to do communications work. I’m handing community outreach, social media and public and media relations for the entire state. I can’t tell you how excited I am to be able to continue this work. I’m passionate about the mission of Equality Michigan, and I absolutely love being the straight girl running my mouth about gay rights. I hope they’re ready for me.

No one should be satisfied until there are equal rights for everyone. I get so angry when I hear the opposition contend that we’re asking for “special” rights. It just isn’t the case. Ultimately, I want to help create a world where my kids can look back in amazement and say, “Wow, there was a time when women couldn’t vote? When African Americans had separate schools? When gay people couldn’t get married? How bizarre is that?”

**2 What are you starting to see as the differences in LGBT issues in Traverse City versus southeast Michigan?**

I’m still acclimating myself here, but it seems to me that the Traverse City area might need a little shot of adrenalin. There are folks doing some fantastic work here, but we need to re-energize people. I’d like to see more activism and education in the schools. There is an incredible movement going on here artistically with the Traverse City Film Fest, Interlochen and an insurgence in creative people. That’s a good sign for progressive issues. In Metro Detroit, we see lots more “in your face” type activism and I think that it’s a tad more laid back in Northern Michigan. We certainly don’t want to step on any toes, but I do believe Equality Michigan’s presence here will help motivate some people who may have taken a backseat to LGBT issues, and it will hopefully inspire some folks who haven’t been involved previously.

**3 Why do you think it’s crucial to have LGBT and allied forces at work in more remote parts of the state?**

People tend to feel more isolated in remote areas – and there’s really nothing worse than feeling alone when you’re having difficulties. By having a presence in northern Michigan,



**We are a state-wide agency and it’s crucial that we stay connected with all of the residents of Michigan – urban, suburban, rural ... You name it.**

Equality Michigan plans to be a resource for individuals, schools, businesses, institutions, social workers ... Just about anyone who may not know where to begin when it comes to dealing with discrimination. We are a state-wide agency and it’s crucial that we stay connected with all of the residents of Michigan – urban, suburban, rural ... You name it.

**4 How will the work you do now connect with what’s being done at Equality Michigan’s main offices?**

The work I’m doing here connects perfectly with what’s being done at the main office. Everything we do is mission-driven. Our mission is:

“Equality Michigan works to achieve full equality and respect for all people in the state of Michigan regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.”

That’s pretty applicable anywhere in the state. And honestly, how anyone could be opposed to this mission is beyond me. The core of our mission is equality – the end. This is not a debatable topic for me.

Equality Michigan plans to host some town hall meetings here and in the Upper Peninsula so we’re able to connect directly with folks.

**5 What do you see as the biggest LGBT issue to tackle in Traverse City right now?**

Again, I’m still learning about my new environment, but it seems that the focus here right now is the recent passing of the Human Rights Ordinance. While this is definitely a great victory for the Traverse City LGBT community, it appears that the opposition will succeed in getting this issue on the ballot. I met recently with Jim Carruthers, an openly gay Traverse City commissioner, and he believes that the community will support the ordinance no matter what. Jim is amazing and enthusiastic and I’m thrilled that Equality Michigan is here to lend a hand.

When everything is said and done, and the human rights ordinance is safely in place, Equality Michigan can help ensure it’s being properly observed and educate the community on what it means in practical application. Stay tuned!

To learn more visit [www.equalitymichigan.org](http://www.equalitymichigan.org)

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MICHIGAN’S WEEKLY NEWS FOR LESBIANS, GAYS, BISEXUALS, TRANSGENDERS AND FRIENDS

## Bullying legislation Lameduck? 2011?

Election results likely to have an impact

BY JIM LARKIN

Whether or not Michigan joins 45 other states in adopting an anti-bullying law next year may well depend on how state residents voted on Nov. 2.

State Sen. Alan Cropsey, R-Dewitt, who as senate majority floor leader has blocked an anti-bullying law from being voted on, is term limited and could not run for re-election. The person who replaces him as senate majority floor leader, and how he or she stands on the anti-bullying law, will be critical.

And he or she will probably be Republican, who are more divided on the issue. Republicans, who have a current 22-16 edge in the senate, were expected to keep their majority in Tuesday's election. Seventeen of the 38 seats are considered safe Republican, 11 safe Democratic, three leaning Democrat and one leaning Republican. The crucial six tossup districts included:

- The 7th District in western and southern Wayne County, now held by term-limited Republican Bruce Patterson. Democratic candidate Kathleen Law was endorsed by gay advocate groups.

- The 10th District in central Macomb County, now held by term-limited Democrat Michael Switalski. Democratic candidate Paul Gielegem was endorsed by gay advocate groups.

- The 26th District in eastern Genesee County and northwestern Oakland County, now held by term-limited Democrat Deborah Cherry. Democratic candidate Paula Zelenko was endorsed by gay advocate groups over far-right Republican David Robertson.

- The 29th District in western Kent County, now held by term-limited Republican Bill Hardiman. Democrat David LeGrand was endorsed by gay advocate groups.

- The 34th District in Muskegon County, now held by term-limited Republican Gerald VanWoerkom. Gay advocate groups endorsed Democrat Mary Valentine.

Outgoing Lt. Gov. John Cherry said he thinks lawmakers in 2011 will be pressured to adopt a new law by a public that is growing more and more concerned about bullying.

"I think you will see next year that there are a number of factors that will make it (passage) more likely," Cherry said. "I'm getting the sense there is more citizen activity, more advocacy on the topic that make it more likely to be addressed next year - if not in the legislature than by ballot proposal."

*Editor's Note: BTL goes to press as Michigan voters go to the polls. We will be analysing the vote and will use our online website [www.pridesource.com](http://www.pridesource.com) to inform readers of the impact the outcome of this election may have on the LGBT legislative agenda in the state and across the country.*

# State 'not listening' to bullied kids

## Senate provides no leadership, grassroots steps up work

BY JIM LARKIN

In Plymouth-Canton schools, Brenden Tripp said the bullying started at about age 10 and became so frequent he ended up in the school counselor's office almost every day. The bullying was so intense that the daily tension led him to vomit at school.

In Ogemaw Heights schools, 17-year-old Cassandra Morris said she got called a dyke and endured constant harassment after she came out as a lesbian.

In Holland, Nate Harder was just 8 years old when he was bullied three different times on his school bus by a fellow student, who ended up punching him at least 12 times.

But they survived. In Cadillac, Alex Harrison didn't. The "quiet, brainy kid" committed suicide at age 16 after being bullied for being different. In Ontonagon in the Upper Peninsula, 12-year-old Kimberly Linczeski was hurting so bad from being bullied she also committed suicide.

And in Lansing, our state's capitol, it appears our state legislature will go one more year without passing anti-bullying legislation, say legislative insiders. It likely will not be until the new legislature takes over, that the issue will be put to a vote again and even that will depend on the outcome of the high stakes Nov. 2 election.

Not the stories of bullies, the news of the deaths, nor this past week's federal guidelines by the Obama administration - urging schools to either do a better job of addressing bullying, including against gay, lesbian and transgender people, or lose federal dollars - will likely shake up legislators enough to take action on anti-bullying bills languishing in various shapes.

"I refuse to be stampeded on this," said Sen. Alan Cropsey, R-Dewitt, the majority floor leader who blocked a vote on an anti-bullying bill two years ago and said it's very unlikely a revised version will be voted on this year.

Michigan remains just one of five states without an anti-bullying law and more students are left without state legislative remedy here than in any other state. Michigan's population is more than seven times larger than the next most populous state without an anti-bullying law - Hawaii - and the population of the other three (Montana, South Dakota and North Dakota) are more comparable to the city of Detroit than Michigan.

Embarrassing? State Sen. Deborah L. Cherry, D-Burton, who is a sponsor of several of the bills stuck in the senate, thinks so.

"I just find it to be outrageous," said Cherry, who is wrapping up her final year in the Senate. "It's hard to understand why we don't have it."

The quickest answer is politics. It can't get to a floor vote because of Cropsey's objections, which have multiplied during the eight years an anti-bullying law has been proposed. But the most consistent complaint and largest roadblock has been objections to the protections it would give to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students. Sue Harder, Nate's mother, discovered that nearly four years ago, when she joined the fight for a state law.

"I was told point blank that they don't want to give any sort of equal rights to gay people," said Harder, who has since given up the fight because she doesn't want her son to have to keep



The parents of some of the Michigan children whose lives were claimed by bullycide attended the first performance of "The Bullycide Project." From left to right are Tom and P.K. Harrison, parents of Alex Harrison; Kevin and Tammy Epling, parents of Matt Epling; Cynthia Logan, mother of Jessica Logan; and Karen Linczeski, mother of Kimberly Linczeski. BTL photo by Jim Larkin.

reliving the bullying.

Meanwhile, five bullying-related teen suicides - bullycides - have taken place in Michigan since 2001. And if national percentages from the National Youth Violence Prevention Center can be applied to Michigan, as many as 500,000 youth here have either been bullied, bullied someone, or both.

Their stories keep multiplying as legislative silence becomes more deafening.

## Perceptions can hurt

Branden Tripp said students started calling him a girl when he was about 10 years old. He didn't know why.

"I guess it was because I have a more feminine voice than most," he said.

The bullying only got worse: "Calling me 'fag' and 'gay wad' started in sixth or seventh grade," Branden recalled.

Worst yet, Branden hadn't even come to terms with his own sexuality at that young age. He didn't consider himself gay. But classmates perceived he was and the name calling became louder and more frequent.

"It was very degrading. I just wanted to be treated like everyone else," Branden said. "I didn't know how to deal with it. I was in the counseling office almost every single day."

Then came the vomiting and the feeling of helplessness and hopelessness. His mother, Toni A. Tripp, said school officials at Plymouth-Canton made her feel she was bothering them when she tried to have her concerns addressed.

"It went from bad to worse," Toni said. "And every time I walked into the office it was like, 'yeah, yeah, it's her again.'"

The Tripps finally moved to Chesaning, where Branden came out. His mother made him promise to tell one teacher or supervisor about his sexual orientation so he would have someone at school to turn to if problems arose. Now a sophomore, Branden said although there is still

bullying at Chesaning, for him the difference in atmosphere is dramatic.

"It's been a really different experience here because the teachers are very supportive and the principal, if you have a problem, addresses it," Branden said.

Just as Branden couldn't stand school in Plymouth Salem, Cassandra finally gave up and dropped out of school in Ogemaw Heights. Nate Harder stuck it out after being bullied three years ago in Holland. Sue Harder said the district formed a committee after Nate was bullied, did a survey, "and determined they didn't have a problem."

"Things fell apart as far as communicating," she recalled. "We have anti-drug campaigns and anti-gang programs but do little about bullying. In order for anything to happen, people have to contact their legislature and say, 'This is a priority.'"

## No priority in Senate

It clearly isn't a priority in the state Senate, despite a call 10 years ago for it to be exactly that. In that body it remains trapped in a dark legislative limbo, not being reported out of the Senate Education Committee and unlikely to be voted on even if it did see the light of day.

Cropsey and other senate Republicans listed their objections to the anti-bullying bill on grounds that it would give "special protections" to gay and lesbian students. Backers of the bill - including gay rights advocate Equality Michigan - relented and agreed to take out references to sexual orientation in the bill that has made it closest to being approved.

Then Cropsey and others said they objected to a clause that prohibits bullying due to a "perceived characteristic." This time, Equality Michigan said it does not want to budge.

"I think it's pretty widely accepted that gay kids suffer a disproportionate amount of bullying and that kids are being bullied not just

See BULLYING, page 10

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# Affirmations takes a step back

## Community center cuts staff, hours to save \$300M

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

**FERNDALE** – An era of growth and expansion has come to a halt at Affirmations Community Center, where new leadership has taken a look at the organization's books and greatly reduced the hours and the scope of services they will be able to provide the public, for at least the next year while the organization regroups.

"We've basically cut everything that didn't have grant funding," said Affirmations Communications Director Cass Varner. Many of the programs will remain intact, but the staff size, hours and programs without specified funding, have been cut in an effort to balance the budget.

Programming that supports youth, seniors, HIV/AIDS prevention and education, multicultural issues and LGBTQ family issues will continue, however social activities and recreational

activities will no longer be offered, with youth and social departments being "streamlined," Varner said. The Aff. Cafe has been shut down, and the Center will now only be open from 4 p.m. - 9 p.m., Tuesday through Friday and from 1 p.m. - 9 p.m. on Saturdays.

Three full-time employees and several part-time employees were notified on Oct. 28 that their jobs were eliminated, some effective as soon as Nov. 1. Remaining members of management have taken pay cuts and less hours of work.

"The objective of the budget reductions was to trim our expenses by \$300,000 a year. This plan does that," says new Affirmations Interim CEO Kevin Howley.

"Although Kevin Howley does not officially come on board until Nov. 1, he has been working with the board over the last several weeks to identify the scope of the adjustments in the budget that need to be made," noted Mary Rose MacMillan, Affirmations Board President.

The Board of Directors of Affirmations met on Oct. 27 to evaluate a financial review of the organization. "The results of that review provided the board with a clear indication that immediate action is required to realign the business model to bring program expenses in line with operating revenue. Furthermore, the board initiated discussions around action that would need to be taken to strengthen the organization's capital structure and address accumulated deficits," said a recent press release.

MacMillan, "but we have an obligation to our donors and stakeholders to make sure that we are operating in a sustainable fashion. We will be reaching out to the community over the next 60 days to garner support around strengthening our balance sheet, to ensure that we are able to continue the important work we do to serve the needs of the LGBT community".

Affirmations has seen a shift in leadership over the past three years since opening up in an 18,000 square foot, state of the art "green" building at 290 W. 9 Mile. CEO Leslie Thompson resigned due to health issues and Howley has stepped in to help the organization transition. A search committee is looking for a CEO to carry the organization forward, while at the same time the board and Howley work out a plan. "We don't have that completely mapped out yet," Howley said, noting that for any organization to be sustainable it must have a sound balance sheet, and funds available to handle fluctuating levels of donor contributions.

Aff. Cafe Manager Julie Marcos was among the part-time employees laid off last week. "It's really sad," Marcos said. "There are so many people who want this place to succeed. We're here to help people and I don't know what those people who depend on us are going to do. I know that the need is still here. But maybe there's a perception that its not. LGBT centers all over are facing cutbacks. But if the community isn't supporting us then maybe they think it's not that important. All day long people go out and drop \$15 or \$20 on a meal and not think anything of it. But what about giving to organizations that can do a lot more with that money? I just don't get it. But I hope this will be a wake up call, and make people think about what is really important. If the community wants Affirmations to be there to help young people deal with bullying, to help kids who aren't safe going home, to help trans people find support and information, to let isolated lesbians and recovery LGBT along with everyone else know they are not alone - then somehow the community will come together and make having a thriving community center a priority."

For more information on Affirmations Community Center, go to [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org). To read more about the changes in the organization, see our previous article at [www.pridesource.com/article](http://www.pridesource.com/article).

## LGBTs in the church subject of new film

**DETROIT** – The LGBT Faith Project of the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion in conjunction with the Arcus Foundation announced the release and premiere of the DVD "Embracing Inclusion in Communities of Faith." The event and reception will be at the Ecumenical Theological Seminary, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Nov. 11.

The evening presentation will examine how individuals, congregation members and leaders of faith-based communities confront the challenge of full inclusion for LGBT people. The program format will include a special musical performance by the Sing Out Detroit LGBT Community Chorus as well as an opportunity to interact with the film producer and many of the individuals who participated in the DVD project. The DVD was produced by two-time Emmy Award winning Detroit based independent film producer Alexander Wright.

Program attendees will receive a complimentary copy of the DVD and learn how they can impact inclusion at their place of worship. Individuals can register for this FREE event by visiting [www.miroundtable.org](http://www.miroundtable.org) or call 313-870-1500 x109. The seminary is located at 2930 Woodward Ave. Detroit, MI 48201. Light refreshments will be served.

## Retreats to build LGBT Afro-Amer. community

**DETROIT** - Healing Detroit, a series of retreats for Detroit area LGBT African-Americans, is set to launch its fourth round of retreats in Feb., April and June 2011. This next series is supported by a \$15,000 grant from The Arcus Foundation.

"Detroit's African-American LGBT community aims to have improved communication to decrease duplication of services and therefore improve our ability to impact more with limited resources," said Curtis Lipscomb, executive director of KICK - The Agency for LGBT African-Americans. "Through strategic collaborating partnerships, we will formulate viable plans of action to address those issues that impact our community such as ageism, mental and physical health disparities, our spiritual/religious well-being, and making unique connections with our youth."

To participate in a Healing Detroit retreat, email [healingdetroit@yahoo.com](mailto:healingdetroit@yahoo.com), or call KICK at 313-285-9733.



Aff. Cafe Manager Julie Marcos was among the part-time employees laid off last week. "It's really sad. There are so many people who want this place to succeed."

had anything to say. Most who sat in the rows of brown, velvety chairs had not known the 19-year-old Oakland University student. Many heard about the memorial through the media, and only knew that Jackson was one more in a series of young gay people who had taken their own lives. His suicide was the ninth reported nationally in a string of young, gay suicides since September.

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had anything to say. Most who sat in the rows of brown, velvety chairs had not known the 19-year-old Oakland University student. Many heard about the memorial through the media, and only knew that Jackson was one more in a series of young gay people who had taken their own lives. His suicide was the ninth reported nationally in a string of young, gay suicides since September.

In the front row, a handful of women from Jackson's family wiped tears off their faces and

said nothing. Three friends, whose pictures could be seen rotating on two large screens posing with the deceased at clubs and on campus, fidgeted and remained silent.

Two young girls in the front row nudged one of Jackson's aunts. "Go," said Abbey. "Go talk about Corey. Someone needs to say something about him!" The woman shook her head, and buried her face in her hands to cry.

Rev. Dysert looked around the room once more and began to speak, when the younger of the two girls jumped down from her chair and darted forward. Using a bold little-girl voice, she spoke from behind a mess of blond hair, shifting her weight from one foot to another and playing with the cuffs of her tiny pink jacket. "I wanna say something about Corey," she said.

See BULLYING, page 12

## Breaking the silence

### 'God we just don't get it'

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

**FERNDALE** – The Metropolitan Community Church congregation was silent when Rev. Deb Dysert asked if anyone from Corey Jackson's family or circle of friends wanted to share anything about the young man who took his own life on Oct. 18.

Nearly fifty people, there for a memorial service in Jackson's honor, diverted their eyes. Some looked around, waiting to see if anyone



**BTL EDITORIAL**

## Maybe this time...

Maybe it will happen this time. Maybe the new state government installed in Lansing in January 2011 will pass anti-bullying legislation. Maybe they will listen this time to the young people who have endured bullying at their schools, the ones who quit school to get away from the pressure, and the parents and friends of young people who could not take it any more and ended their young lives.

Michigan is only one of five states with no anti-bullying legislation of some sort - a dismal reflection of the anti-LGBT environment that has dominated Lansing for years. The four other states - Hawaii, North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana - have a combined population of under 3.8 million, which means that Michigan accounts for over two-thirds of all the young people in the country who are not protected by anti-bullying laws.

Some leaders in the Republican majority of the Michigan Senate consider it a badge of honor that our state is unique in its tolerance of bullying. Term-limited Senate majority leader Alan Cropsey has stymied every attempt to pass anti-bullying legislation, and he has indicated he will continue blocking any and all such bills in the lame duck session this fall. His reason for blocking passage? He doesn't want any state legislation that includes LGBT people - for any reason.

We consider it shameful and embarrassing that Michigan students can't turn to their adult political leaders for protection. Everyone agrees that bullying is real, that some students - and especially LGBT students - are targeted by bullies and tormented at school; that some teachers and administrators are unwilling and/or unable to intervene and protect bullied students. But not everyone agrees that bullying should be stopped, and we think that is fundamentally wrong.

We call on Michigan's new Governor and Legislature to champion anti-bullying legislation in the next session. Cropsey will be gone, and although there are plenty of other anti-LGBT zealots in Lansing, there are few who have made it such a high priority to beat down the LGBT citizenry of Michigan. We believe young people deserve protection, education and nurturing and

**Michigan accounts for over two-thirds of all the young people in the country who are not protected by anti-bullying laws.**

that LGBT students deserve a safe and productive educational experience, just like every other child. We call on our leadership to bring Michigan into the mainstream on this issue, and not continue to leave our state out on the bigoted fringe.

It will take leadership and loud voices from lots of people to make this change occur. Educators, parents, young people, activists and people of good faith who believe in fairness will have to make their voices heard - again. We will go to Lansing - again - and testify that bullying is bad, that students should be protected and that the anti-bullying legislation is needed. Again we will hear inane arguments about how such legislation will infringe on freedom of speech and thought and that bullying is a natural fact of adolescence that toughens kids up.

Again we will have to look into the faces of battered students, of broken-hearted parents of suicide victims and commit to them that we will not give up the fight.

We will also need our organizations to speak collectively for the LGBT community, organizations like the Ruth Ellis Center and Affirmations. Those two organizations are committed to helping LGBT youth. We report in this issue that Affirmations is retracting its services and hours due to budget pressures. We understand the economic realities of our times, but we also recognize the critical nature of that organization's role in our community and the beacon of light and hope it provides to young people all over Michigan. We're approaching the holiday season. Maybe this year LGBT people all over Michigan will give the gift of hope and security to young people and support these two important organizations.

**GAY MORALIST**



## All or nothing?

BY JOHN CORVINO

I've been engaging in quite a bit of dialogue lately with conservative Christians. It usually involves their asking me a question along the following lines:

"Look, we feel awful about the recent reports of gay teen suicides. We believe each of these kids is a child of God, deserving of love and respect, and we unequivocally condemn hateful speech and action against them.

"But we feel that gay-rights advocates are engaging in a kind of moral blackmail, telling us that either we give up our traditional Christian convictions about sex and marriage, or else we have these kids' blood on our hands.

"Is it possible for us to join you in the fight for these kids' welfare, even though we're not prepared to renounce our traditional beliefs? Is it all or nothing?"

I wish this were an easy question. It's worth reflecting on why it's not.

On the one hand, I applaud anyone who truly wants to help LGBT kids. I'm not talking about the "Let's cover our asses by making a suitable show of concern before we go right back to our usual attack" Christians, but about those who are sincerely empathetic. We need them as allies. (Remember, conservative Christians can have LGBT kids, too.)

On the other hand, we're talking here about people who believe that gay physical affection is morally wrong, that dispositions toward it are disordered, and that God detests it as he detests all sin. Please let's not sugarcoat it.

Thus there's a point where these potential allies and I must part ways. I want to tell LGBT teens (and adults), THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH YOU. That's my message. And these folks can't join it.

For over eighteen years I've been giving my talk "What's Morally Wrong with Homosexuality?" in which I counter common arguments against same-sex relationships. [<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SutThFi24w>] Some balk at the title, but I keep it for a simple reason: Gay people STILL grow up being taught that there's something wrong with them. Many internalize this message, sometimes with tragic results. We need to question it, expose its falsehood, and ultimately demolish it.

"Whoa," my conservative Christian acquaintances will interrupt. "You're talking about 'demolishing' something that we believe is revealed by God." Yeah, I know. If that's hard to hear, imagine hearing that your innermost romantic longings are fundamentally disordered.

At this point some object, "But I don't think that these kids are 'disordered.' I don't think there's anything more wrong with these kids than with straight kids. We're all sinners."

Um, I thought we agreed not to sugarcoat. Look, I understand that Christians think that we're all sinners, that humanity is fallen, that straight people have a lot of disordered desires too.

But it doesn't follow that certain orientations aren't disordered relative to others. And any view that insists that all homosexual conduct is sinful logically entails that homosexual desires are (morally) disordered relative to heterosexual desires--and thus that there's something wrong with gay people.

The Roman Catholic Church's position is helpfully coherent (and characteristically un-sugarcoated) on this point: "Although the particular inclination of the homosexual person is not a sin, it is a more or less strong tendency ordered toward an intrinsic moral evil; and thus the inclination itself must be seen as an objective disorder."

That view is harmful and wrong--indeed, it's precisely the position I've spent the last two decades fighting--but it's coherent.

So where does this leave us on the "all or nothing?" question? Is there NO sense in which conservative Christians and I can be allied in the fight for these kids?

I wouldn't go that far. While I think that it's important to acknowledge where we part ways, I also think there's a good deal of collaborative work that can be done before we get to that point.

So when conservative Christians sincerely ask me what they can do to help, short of renouncing their convictions, here's what I tell them.

I tell them not to expect me to stop critiquing those convictions, because I (like they) value truth and justice.

I tell them that they should turn up the volume on the "equal dignity" message and turn down the volume on the "no gay marriage" message. That doesn't mean giving up what they believe. It does mean a change of emphasis (and one, incidentally, more consonant with the Gospel).

I tell them that if they really believe that homosexual conduct is no worse than heterosexual sins like premarital sex or divorce, they should behave accordingly in their relative reactions.

I tell them they should acknowledge openly the dissonance they feel in the face of love-filled same-sex romantic relationships, and to consider that God might be trying to teach them something in this dissonance.

I tell them to teach their kids why bullying is wrong, and to remind them in word and deed that they love them--no matter what.

I tell them to put their concern for LGBT people into action.

And when they do these things, I tell them thank you. Because when it comes to saving kids' lives, I'll work with what allies I can get.

*John Corvino, Ph.D. is an author, speaker, and philosophy professor at Wayne State University in Detroit. His column "The Gay Moralists" appears Fridays. For more about John Corvino, or to see clips from his "What's Morally Wrong with Homosexuality?" DVD, visit [www.johncorvino.com](http://www.johncorvino.com).*

# S/he said Kids, worship and Betty on gay marriage

BY HOWARD ISRAEL



Miss Coco Peru

*"One of the reasons I wanted to create Coco was so that I could celebrate the very things I was taught to hate about myself so that future generations of gay kids wouldn't have to go through what I went through. In fact, my heart has soared more than a few times when I've gotten emails from teenagers, and one eleven-year-old boy, who have thanked me for being 'out' and inspiring them to be themselves. However, today my heart sinks that these young people who fell through the cracks."*

- Miss Coco Peru; in her blog about the bullying she experienced in her youth, [www.misscocoperu.com](http://www.misscocoperu.com), Sept. 30.

*"Forty-three percent of Americans say the messages coming from places of worship are negative, and 4-in-10 Americans believe that these messages contribute 'a lot' to negative perceptions of gay and lesbian people. One-third (33%) of the public also believe that messages from religious bodies are contributing 'a lot' to higher rates of suicide among gay and lesbian youth, and another third (32%) say these message contribute 'a little;' only 21% say they do not contribute at all."*

- Dr. Robert P. Jones, CEO, Public Religion Research Institute about a survey conducted by PRRI and Religion News Service, in a press release, based on telephone interviews conducted between Oct. 14-17, 2010 by professional interviewers among a random sample of 1,010 adults 18 years or older, [www.publicreligion.org](http://www.publicreligion.org), Oct. 21.

*"There are two myths: one, that all LGBTQ youth are on the verge of committing suicide or taking drugs, which isn't the case, or the other that we've come so far in creating a better environment for LGBT youth that everything is OK now. The reality is that teen suicides affect LGBT youth disproportionately, and we can't remain silent. And yes, things are better, but it's still hard to be a sexual minority young person in a high school or college setting."*

- Cindy Crane, executive director, Madison, WI-based statewide organization "GSA for Safe Schools," in an article titled "Suicides prompt activism," [www.wisconsinjournal.com](http://www.wisconsinjournal.com), Oct. 20.



Joseph Jefferson

*"I could not bear the burden of living as a gay man of color in a world grown cold and hateful towards those of us who live and love differently than the so-called 'social mainstream' "*

- Joseph Jefferson, 26-year-old gay youth activist in the people of color community, and HIV/AIDS educator, in a message on Facebook, before hanging himself, [www.autostraddle.com](http://www.autostraddle.com), Oct. 25. Jefferson is reportedly the third Black LGBT youth to commit suicide in a three week period.



*"I don't care who anybody sleeps with. If a couple has been together all that time - and there are gay relationships that are more solid than some heterosexual ones - I think it's fine if they want to get married. I don't know how people can get so anti-something. Mind your own business, take care of your affairs, and don't worry about other people so much."*

- Betty White, 88 year-old actress, in an interview, commenting on same-sex marriage, Parade magazine [www.parade.com](http://www.parade.com), Oct. 31.



## Parting Glances Then & Now

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

### Holy douchebags.com!

A century ago Mark Twain popularized the saying, "There are three kinds of falsehoods: lies, damned lies, and statistics." As far as LGBTs are concerned - and often persons of non-Christian faiths - these categories are a sinister trinity of invective that fundygelicals, Southern Baptists, Right Wing "Plutocrats" (as in Walt Disney's Pluto and Goofy dimwits) use to denigrate us and others.

Their strategy is the bigger the lie that's told, the more likely it is to be believed by those who don't bother to think. (Bumper sticker: "The Bible says it. I believe it. Up yours!")

One has to be cautious of media surveys. Goes without saying. Yet, perhaps there's a mustard grain of truth in this item appearing last week in The Denver Post, attributed to Electa Draper, whoever she may be. I quote with just a modicum of relish.

"One in four Americans said they couldn't think of a single positive societal contribution made by Christians in recent years, according to a nationwide survey released Monday. Also, one in 10 adults said they couldn't think of a recent positive contribution because Christians hadn't made one, the Barna Group reported."

In all fairness to born-againers, let's be charitable. Just maybe the Barna Group - but surely not The Denver Post - has its own bias in presenting its findings. (Is it a lie? A damn lie? Or just a statistic, loaded or not? Gentle PG reader, you be the judge.)

What's encouraging of late (at least to a cynic like myself) is that several internet blogs are exposing the egregious and shocking abuse of religious power and authority that a number ministers, priests, fundygelical politicians are engaging in. And, one might emphatically add, punished for. Jail bait. Jail time.

Yea, verily! There's no turning the other cheek these days, especially if the cheek that's being turned is somebody else's, and that somebody else happens to be under age. In some instances not only is the dirt blogged local and national, it's worldwide in scope. Here's recent local. Court trial this month.

In Warren, MI, former Antioch Baptist pastor and Antioch Baptist Academy principal Christopher Settlemoir, 27, is likely repenting in Macomb County Jail, charged with two first and two second degree counts for sexual misconduct with underage male teens.

In jail since June, his bond is \$1 million. Married last year, he has a daughter several months old. (His 2009 blogspot - "My Final Thoughts" - features a scrapbook of pictures, including an uncharacteristically angry First Lady Michelle Obama, immediately followed by that of a grimacing chimpanzee. The juxtaposition obviously intended as a vicious political satire.)

Settlemoir's fall from grace is one of dozens among daily news clips, TV excerpts, live reportage items and follow through presented for viewing on the aptly named - I'm not making this up - [www.religiousdouchebags.com](http://www.religiousdouchebags.com).

Past douchebags include: Janet Porter Prays for a Christian Government; Pastor Uses Hearse for Molestation; Priest to Face Abuse Trial in Windsor; "Wanted" Posters for Abortion Providers; Sharron Angle Tells Hispanic Kids They Look Asian; Pastor Arrested On Theft Charges, and Where In The Constitution Is Separation of Church And State? ("Plutocrat", let's-nobody-wank-off-any-more, Christine O'Donnell)

For those curiosity seekers intent on monitoring what's going on worldwide with the Roman Catholic Church and its mostly questionable handling of the hundreds of priests accused of abuse of underage youths, [www.bishopaccountability.org](http://www.bishopaccountability.org) is a major resource with collected articles in five languages.

Subtitled, Abuse Tracker, and carefully monitored since 2002 by Kathy Shaw, a retired newspaper religion reporter, her highly professional blog is described as, "A digest of links to media coverage of clergy abuse." Samples: Did Catholic Church Deliberately Withhold Priest Sexual Abuse Data?; Priest Abuse Victims Protest at Vatican.

Bumper suggestion. Does God know what - or who - your pastor's blogging?

[Charles@pridesource.com](mailto:Charles@pridesource.com)

## Clint McCance

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

You know the old saying, “If you don’t have anything nice to say, say it on Facebook?” Well, Arkansas Midland School District vice president Clint McCance took it to



Clint McCance

heart recently when he posted some vile anti-gay hate speech to rival Fred Phelps and his band of “God Hates Fags” loonies.

What set McCance off was a call for supporters of LGBT youth to wear purple in memory of the young people who recently committed suicide after being bullied.

“Seriously they want me to wear purple because five queers committed suicide,” he posted. “The only way im wearin it for them is if they all commit suicide. I cant believe the people of this world have gotten this stupid. We are honoring the

fact that they sinned and killed themselves because of their sin. REALLY PEOPLE.”

Yes, really. Did I mention he was a school board member? Oh, to be a gay kid in Midland. Those lucky devils.

One of McCance’s friends commented, “Because hatred is always right...”

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**I’m not sure that there’s an honorable way to wish all gay people dead even if he had used different words to do it.**

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To which he responds, “No because being a fag doesnt give you the right to ruin the rest of our lives. If you get easily offended by being called a fag then dont tell anyone you are a fag. Keep that shit to yourself. I dont care how people decide to live their lives. They dont bother me if they keep it to thereselves. It pisses me off though that we make a special purple fag day for them. I like that fags cant procreate. I also enjoy the fact that they often give each other aids and die.”

Did you catch that last part? He “enjoys” when gays get AIDS and die. Ha ha. You know, typical LOL stuff.

Another friend commented, “You know this is somebodys kids here how would you feel if they were talkin about your kids like this. It would make you feel like SHIT.”

No worries, McCance knows exactly how he’d feel. “I would disown my kids if they were gay,” he posts. “They will not be welcome at my home or in my vicinity. I will absolutely run them off. Of course my kids will know better. My kids will have solid christian beliefs.”

Where these “solid Christian beliefs” will come from I don’t know. Certainly not from their father.

Needless to say, McCance’s comments caused quite a stir with many people calling for his firing.

A visibly uncomfortable and maybe even contrite McCance appeared on CNN with Anderson Cooper and apologized for his comments saying they were “too emotional” and “went too far.”

As for the terms “fag” and “queer” he told Cooper, “I know those are hurtful words and like I said, I picked the wrong words to use. And used them poorly. I didn’t bring honor to what I was about.”

I’m not sure that there’s an honorable way to wish all gay people dead even if he had used different words to do it.

He also stated that he doesn’t “wish death on anyone” and that “it does look like I’m a hatemonger or a horrible person and that’s not me at all.”

Um, yes. It does look like that. Very much like that, in fact. It’s kind of hard to accept that a person who thinks, “Hey I have a minute to post on Facebook before I head off to this school board meeting and here’s something totally appropriate to say” isn’t a hatemonger. No matter how much they apologize or resign from the school board on Anderson Cooper 360.

So, yeah. He resigned. And he’s sorry. But the boot print of mistrust and fear on the backs of LGBT school kids, especially those in the Midland school system, isn’t going to wash out so easily.

### ► Bullying

Continued from p. 6

because they are gay but also because they’re perceived to be gay,” said Emily Dievendorf, director of policy at Equality Michigan. “So to not address that is not really addressing the problem.”

But Cropsey said the bill will not come to a floor vote during the upcoming lame duck session unless there is no enumeration (defining in the bill specific students protected). And he has tacked on two other necessities: A list of how many school districts do and do not have anti-bullying policies, and an estimate of the state’s liability should a school district be sued after following the state directive of having a policy. He admits addressing those issues within the confines of a lame duck session is unlikely.

Kevin Epling, co-director of Bully Police USA, whose website states it also opposes enumeration, said no one has ever been able to determine how many districts have anti-bullying policies. He has been pushing an anti-discrimination law since his son committed suicide in 2002 after being bullied in a hazing.

“Once we get close to the goal line it’s always, we need to take this out or take that out,” Epling said. “No one has ever said, we need to put something back in it. We need to make it stronger.”

“He (Cropsey) becomes the linchpin of the safety of our kids.”

Lt. Governor John Cherry said the failure of the legislature to address the issue is especially disappointing for him. In 2000 he chaired a Senate subcommittee formed after six-year-old Kayla Rolland of Beecher was killed by a six-year-old classmate who brought a gun to school because he was being bullied.

“One of the major recommendations we made then was that the legislature needed to focus on bullying,” said Cherry, who now presides over the Senate. “It’s not just a question of someone being victimized but also the educational opportunities they miss out on because they’re being traumatized. And educational experiences are so much more critical today.”

So to reduce the crucial bullying debate to sexual orientation concerns, Cherry added, is clearly wrong.

“He (Cropsey) is politicizing an issue inappropriately,” Cherry said.

### The people respond

If the legislature is unwilling to do anything about bullying, the people who voted them into office certainly seem to be. After the recent rush of national publicity over suicides by bullying victims, residents reacted strongly across the state.

In Grand Rapids, Grand Valley State University students held a candlelight vigil on campus in support of their gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender classmates. In East Lansing, Michigan State University students did the same.

Workshops and programs on anti-bullying were held across the state. In Flint, a discussion on “homophobia, bullying and suicide” was held at the University of Michigan branch. Psychologist Mat-



Branden Tripp with friend Samantha. Both are Chesaning High students. Branden transferred to Chesaning where he eventually came out. Photo courtesy of Tripp family.

thew Clark went on a Grand Rapids radio program and listed local resources for gay teens to turn to, including local PFLAG chapters, the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network, which tries to affect positive change in schools, and the Trevor Project, an around-the-clock online crisis and suicide prevention program.

The Michigan Department of Education scheduled two training workshops designed to help teachers and administrators understand and improve school climate for all youth, especially those who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or questioning. One will be held at the Genesee Intermediate School District in Flint on Nov. 18 and the other at the Muskegon Intermediate School District on Dec. 13.

And those involved for years in educating others about bullying ramped up efforts. Fenton High School theater teacher Lorie Thompson, who three years ago presented a high school play about bullying called “Ticking” that also was performed before the state legislature, put together a new play called “Bullycide in America” produced by her own theater company, Trust Theatre Ensemble.

“Bullycide in America” was inspired by the book by the same name written by Brenda Hide, founder of Bully Police USA. It is a series of vignettes that tell the bullycide stories of Matt Epling, Alex Harrison, Carl Walker Hoover and others, both through their eyes and the eyes of their parents. It was performed Oct. 28 at the Mott Children Health Center in Flint and Oct. 29 at the Masonic Temple in Flint. Those interested in booking a performance can call (810) 691-1076.

“When I read ‘Bullycide in America’ I could hear the voices of the mothers and the fathers, but could also hear the children. I thought it would make a very good performance piece,” Thompson said. “I just feel theater is the best vehicle for creating awareness.”

Through her work, Thompson has seen and heard plenty of stories of bullying in school, from teens who put fecal matter in another girl’s purse to those spitting on a girl’s prom dress and boys who tricked a fellow student into drinking urine and then tormented him about it. She has a realistic view of bullying.

“It happens anywhere and everywhere there isn’t supervision, in the hall-

ways, in the locker room, on the wrestling team. Kids are very good at it and very manipulative about it,” she said.

“I think every school has their level and share of bullying and we have to admit that no school is perfect. We have to go there to get there. There’s no need to cover it up to try to make your school look better because I actually think the schools that admit to it and take steps actually end up looking better.”

Yet she understands how it can be buried under the weight of other pressing issues.

“There is so much emphasis on test scores that we get buried and we’re neglecting the kid who can’t concentrate on those tests because he’s being pushed into a locker whenever our backs are turned.

“I think kids want our help but we’re just not listening.”

### Getting help

A variety of organizations are reaching out to try to help LGBT youth facing crisis, including:

**The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network** launched a campaign aimed at creating a safe space for LGBT youth. The 42-page Safe Space Kit informs educators on the best ways to provide a “safe place” in schools for LGBT youth. The kit costs \$20 and includes a poster and sticker to help students identify supportive educators. The network will also encourage people through its social media channels, including its 80,000-plus fans on Facebook, to let educators know about the kits. [www.glsen.org](http://www.glsen.org).

**The Trevor Project** got behind syndicated sex columnist Dan Savage’s It Gets Better project, which features celebrities sharing their challenges growing up gay and how their lives did improve. [www.thetrevorproject.org](http://www.thetrevorproject.org). You can reach the Trevor lifeline by calling 1-866-488-7386.

**The National Youth Advocacy Coalition** has stressed the need to focus on LGBTQ youth not only as victims, but also as people who are changing the world. They are spotlighting “Fierce Queers,” five young people dedicated toward empowering their communities at [www.nyacyouth.org](http://www.nyacyouth.org).

**Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays** have chapters in 16 communities in Michigan, many which man lifelines gay youth can call. For a listing of chapters, go to [www.community.pflag.org](http://www.community.pflag.org).

**Resources** and advice for gay and lesbian youth in crisis is also available at [www.suicide.org/gay-and-lesbian-suicide.html](http://www.suicide.org/gay-and-lesbian-suicide.html)

# Aiming to eradicate homophobia EMU to receive \$1.5 million bequest

BY TARA CAVANAUGH

**YPSILANTI** – Dr. Timothy Dyer, former regent and alumnus of Eastern Michigan University, hopes to eradicate homophobia with education. Dyer has pledged a \$1.5 million gift to EMU to establish a Chair in Forensics/Debate and Human Rights. The Chair will work to establish a Center for the Study and Research of Equality and Human Rights. EMU will receive the money upon Dyer's death.

"I would just like someday to see that discrimination is not a big issue anymore, and bullying is not a big issue anymore," Dyer said. "Education is the only way to eliminate ignorance. It will take time, and a lot of conversation."

To encourage conversation, Dyer sponsored two campus-wide events on eliminating homophobia. One of the events on Oct. 26 was a panel discussion on "Race and Sexuality." The panel included Dyer, Detroit City Council President Charles Pugh, Jay Kaplan of the ACLU of Michigan, Dr. Dwight A. McBride, the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago and Dyann Logwood, an instructor in EMU's Department of Women and Gender Studies. The panelists talked about problems they encountered with race and sexuality in their opening remarks, and they also took questions from the audience.

Kaplan talked about the need to recognize different groups within the LGBT community. "It is a diverse community," Kaplan said to the auditorium packed with more than 250 students. "I think sometimes you will find there are communities that feel disenfranchised from the LGBT community. They look at the face of the community, and it is predominantly white, predominantly male."

Kaplan said he hoped that different groups in the LGBT community could learn to be sensitive to each other's differences and work together.

McBride told the audience he wasn't comfortable coming out until he went to graduate school. He said he's been comfortable with his sexuality as an adult, except for certain times during his career. "As a dean, you are part of the symbolism of the institution. People start to assess whether your gayness might be a distraction," he said.

"There is a reason we only have, to date, about 22 people who are openly gay university presidents in the country. The pathway for gays and lesbians at that level of work in higher education is still not clear," said McBride.

Pugh acknowledged the dif-



Dr. Timothy Dyer

iculties being the first openly gay member of the Detroit City Council. He also said that he has hope for the future. "I got endorsed by the Council of Baptist Pastors in Detroit" during his campaign, he said. "As a gay man that's a milestone. It's a new day. It's not as difficult as some stories would have you believe."

## Bullying

During the Q&A session, Diviun Huff, a graduate student at EMU who also teaches high school in Detroit, asked the panelists how teachers could be better prepared to deal with LGBT student bullying.

"Part of that is they don't know how to address it," Kaplan answered. "I can tell you, a lot of districts who do have anti-bullying policies that are LGBT inclusive still have this problem because you also need to train staff and students to recognize the bullying and realize that this is wrong."

At the reception after the discussion, Huff said she doesn't feel that teachers and staff talk about LGBT bullying enough. "It seems like it would help if the staff were trained in conversations like those, so when they see it really happen, they know how to address it directly."

Huff worries that LGBT students can feel unaccepted at home, school and church. "Children that grow up in the LGBT skin need a safe place to go to, and an adult that they can have as an advocate in their corner," she said. "The biggest thing is to fight isolation

and promote acceptance."

At the reception, Dyer said he was pleased with the conversation at the panel discussion, although he acknowledged it was only the beginning of eradicating homophobia.

"An institute of higher learning is the ideal place for a center that is hopefully going to help enlighten ignorance," he said. "We want to point out that one thing does not identify you."

Dyer's hope that education is the way to eradicate homophobia, stems from his experience as an educator. Dyer has worked as a teacher, debate/forensic coach, principal, mayor of Ypsilanti, superintendent of the Wayne-Westland school district, superintendent of the nation's largest school district in Phoenix, Ariz., and executive director of the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

**"An institute of higher learning is the ideal place for a center that is hopefully going to help enlighten ignorance."**

**- Dr. Timothy Dyer,  
former regent and  
alumnus of Eastern  
Michigan University**

# Obituary: Longtime activist and bookstore owner dies

**Frank G. Martin**

**April 5, 1938 - Oct. 23, 2010**

BY JAN STEVENSON

**HUNTINGTON WOODS** – Frank G. Martin, 72, spent 54 years living with and loving Al Vezza.



Frank G. Martin

For friends and LGBT community members, Frank and Al were role models, shining examples of how love and commitment bound two men together for more than a

half century.

Martin died Oct. 23 after a prolonged respiratory illness, ending over a half century of partnership with his beloved Al, who described Martin as the kindest and most generous person he knew.

"He was non-judgmental, of anything or anyone in his life," said Vezza. "Anyone who knew him saw and felt his compassion. He never said a mean word about anybody."

In April 2006, Martin and Vezza were featured in BTL's Special Commitment Ceremony issue. They had just celebrated their 50th anniversary, and they told BTL how they first met all those years ago.

It was April 5, 1956, one week before Martin's 18th birthday, when he hopped onto a streetcar after school to go to his job at the Fisher Building. He noticed a man who resembled a young Frank Sinatra stepping on board, and instead of riding to his regular stop, Martin got off early and followed the handsome former Navy man.

"He stopped and looked in a window, over his shoulder," Martin told BTL. "I did the same. Then he asked me, would I like a cup of coffee? Fifty years later, we're still together. We were going steady from that first day."

In their Huntington Woods home there is a photo of that streetcar, the #235 Log Cabin Trolley, along with a copy of a ticket dated April 8, 1956, the last day the streetcar operated, just three days after they set eyes on each other.

"We might not have ever met," Martin told BTL wistfully in 2006.

Martin, born in Detroit April 12, 1938, graduated from Pershing High School and later attended Wayne State University. An avid reader and book lover, in high school he got a job as a stock boy at the Doubleday Book

Store in the Fisher Building, and after several years he became the store manager. He continued his rise up the bookstore chain's ranks and eventually became a district manager, overseeing all the stores in greater Detroit.

After the Doubleday retail chain left Detroit, Martin was recruited to manage a new store for legal and medical textbooks on the campus of Wayne State University. He and Vezza ended up buying that business in the early 1970s. They discontinued the legal textbook part of the business, and went on to operate the Laco-Wayne Medical Book Store for over 25 years, right across the street from Hutzel Hospital.

"Frank was a great, great reader. He would often read a couple of books a day. He was very knowledgeable," said Vezza, who said he helped a little with the bookstore, but it was really Martin who ran the store. Vezza spent 35 years in industrial relations at Ford Motor Company.

Martin was an active supporter of the LGBT community. He served as both president and later secretary of the Association of Suburban People, a LGBT group in the 1980s that provided social support. ASP also helped to raise funds for HIV/AIDS organizations that were rapidly forming to combat the new disease. On behalf of ASP, Martin was tireless in hosting shows, guest bartending and helping to coordinate support for AIDS groups. Later with Vezza, Martin was a contributor to the HOPE Fund at the Community Foundation for SE Michigan, Affirmations and numerous AIDS service organizations.

Martin's health quickly declined over the summer, and finally hospice came into their home to help in the last weeks. Yet Martin wanted to be part of Vezza's life right to the end. He organized a surprise party, complete with a custom-made cake, to celebrate Vezza's 81st birthday Oct. 13.

"I guess I could say I was the luckiest person to have him. I shall miss him," said Vezza.

Per Martin's wishes, his body was cremated and Vezza will distribute the ashes at a later date. Vezza said a memorial service and dinner is planned for Jan. 8, 2011 at Farina's Banquet Hall in Berkley. Guests will be invited to come celebrate the life of Frank Martin.

Martin is preceded in death by parents, Elden and Wilma, and sister, Harriett May. He is survived by uncles Andrew May and Edward May. Memorials may be sent to William Beaumont Hospice.

## Lawyers dispute allegations in Rutgers suicide

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. (AP) – Lawyers for two former Rutgers University freshmen accused of webcasting a male classmate having sex with another man are disputing allegations against them.

Dharun Ravi and Molly Wei were charged with invasion of privacy after prosecutors say Ravi used a webcam Sept. 19 to capture his roommate, Tyler Clementi, having a gay sexual encounter. Clementi jumped to his death off the George Washington Bridge days later.

But Steven Altman and Ruben Sinins, who represent Ravi and Wei respectively, told The Star-Ledger of Newark that the webcam stream was only viewed on a single computer and did not show the men having sex.

Law enforcement officials wouldn't discuss the lawyers' claims, citing the ongoing investigation.

Ravi and Wei recently withdrew from Rutgers. Prosecutors are considering whether to charge them with a hate crime.

## Ark. school board member quits after anti-gay rant

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) – The Midland School Board held a special meeting Monday to accept the resignation of a member who said on Facebook that gay students should kill themselves "because of their sin."

Midland Superintendent Dean Stanley said the meeting lasted only long enough for the board to vote unanimously to accept Clint McCance's letter.

"There was no discussion," Stanley said.

McCance drew wide condemnation after his posts became public knowledge. He posted the comments in reaction to a national campaign asking people to wear purple on Oct. 20 to show solidarity after several gay and lesbian youths killed themselves after they were bullied.

"Seriously they want me to wear purple because five queers

killed themselves," McCance wrote. "The only way im wearin it for them is if they all commit suicide. I cant believe the people of this world have gotten this stupid. We are honoring the fact that they sinned and killed thereselves because of their sin."

After Facebook users posted criticism of McCance's writings, he replied that he was pleased that gay people "can't procreate (and) I also enjoy the fact that they often give each other AIDS and die."

Thursday night, McCance appeared on CNN's "Anderson Cooper 360" and said he'd leave the board "to help my school, my community." However, McCance said he would not rule out running again for the unpaid position in the district that's in Pleasant Plains, about 70 miles northeast of Little Rock.

"The only thing I can do is extend my apologies for my poor speech," he said on the show. "I don't wish death on anyone."

McCance did not return a phone message left by the AP at his carpet cleaning business, and a home phone listed in his name rang unanswered Monday.

Stanley said he heard a lot more from complaints outside the district than from his constituents, who he said discussed good work done at the schools.

"It's been a learning experience for all of us, an opportunity for us to grow," Stanley said.

Jowharah Sanders, founder and executive director of the anti-bullying group National Voices for Equality, Education, and Enlightenment, said the harm of McCance's statements was not countered by his resignation.

Sanders said the media attention could lead to some adults moderating their views on how homosexual young people should be treated, but gay teens themselves may believe McCance's comments revealed how most people think.

"How many kids were just on the edge that he may have affected, how many lives has he touched with his hate?" Sanders said.

Stanley said the storm McCance created drove home a lesson about the power a statement can carry.

"We do we try and educate our kids and our staff and faculty about the danger of the printed word and, especially, social networking sites," Stanley said.

## Custody upheld for non-biological mom

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) – The Vermont Supreme Court says a family court was right to award custody of an 8-year-old girl to her non-biological mother in a lesbian custody case.

In a ruling released Monday, the court upheld a 2009 order giving Janet Jenkins sole custody of Isabella Miller-Jenkins. It

rejected an appeal by attorneys for biological mother Lisa Miller.

Jenkins is from Fair Haven, Vt. Miller is from Forest, Va. They were joined in a civil union in Vermont in 2000. Their daughter has been the subject of a long-running legal fight.

The custody ruling may be a moot point: Miller has renounced her homosexuality, and she and her daughter failed to appear for a court-ordered custody swap in January. Their whereabouts are now unknown.

## Gays push for anti-discrimination ban

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) – Jacksonville gay rights activists are meeting with business leaders to get their support for a measure that would ban discrimination based on sexual preference.

Jacksonville is the state's only major metropolitan area that doesn't ban discrimination against gay people.

The city's current ordinance prohibits discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations on the basis of race, religion, disability, sex, marital status, national origin, color and age.

Proponents say the measure would help the local economy.

If the measure goes before Jacksonville's commission, opposition would be expected from religious groups and social conservatives. They would see the change as an affront to traditional moral values.

## Communion denied to gay marriage supporters

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) – A small group of Catholics were denied communion Sunday because they wore rainbow sashes in support of same-sex marriage to Mass at the St. Paul Cathedral.

Minnesota Public Radio News reports the protest has been an annual event for a decade.

Each year organizers ask the archbishop for permission to receive communion while wearing the sash, but a St. Paul-Minneapolis Archdiocese spokesman says that would be sacrilege.

Archdiocese spokesman Dennis McGrath says communion simply must not be used for a political statement.

Brendt Vanderlinden wore a rainbow sash. He says church officials politicized the Eucharist with a recent mailing of anti-same-sex marriage DVDs to church members.

Vanderlinden says he and his wife wore sashes to show support for their son, who is gay.

### ► Jackson

Continued from p. 7

Dysert shared the microphone with Abbey. "I want to remember when Corey went swimming with us," she said. "Me, Corey, Kate and Diane came and we all went swimming." Smiles cracked throughout the room, and eyes filled with tears. Abbey's older sister

Diana called from the second row, "He was on the swim team."

The little girls had stirred the room. Another relative stood up and talked more about Corey's involvement in sports. She said that the night before, her four-year-old daughter was asking about him, and saying how handsome he looked laying in the coffin. "Corey had a little bit of a vain streak, and he would have liked that," she said.

Another man, an artist active in the gay community who

had not met Jackson before, said he was in awe of the turnout at a previous vigil held on the OU campus. "There was a time when people wouldn't have come out to show their support," noting several hundred had attended.

Someone else spoke about being at the club with Corey dancing the weekend before. "I remember when he announced that he and Mario were a couple, and we all looked at him and you could tell in his eyes that they were a couple, long before they knew they were a couple."

But the service could not answer the most common question: why?

"God we just don't get it. We don't understand. Our hearts are heavy. Please open our hearts so we can understand. Open our hearts with the message he would have us have," Dysert said.

Dysert did not know Corey, but she said his Facebook page was like a recipe that those who cared about him could use to move forward with life. "On his Facebook page he wrote, 'Saying I'm complicated is an understatement.' This is not the moment in our lives when things are going to make sense. I believe the way that we take our next breath is to find some place where we can put our trust, where we can put our hope. Corey's words were a place where I can find some solace."

And Dysert had helped the community move forward with Jackson's own words.

Mourners came to the memorial service with a flower to be added to a large vase, creating an eclectic bouquet of love. "Like this bouquet, God loves every different petal, every different color, every size, every weight," she said. "The bouquet represents the diversity that Corey would have wanted to see in the world."

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## Lithuania may ban public promotion of homosexual relations

Lithuania's parliament, the Seimas, is considering legislation to criminalize "promotion of homosexual relations in public places," says the Lithuanian Gay League.

One bill says that "a person promoting homosexual relations in public places is committing a criminal offense which is punishable with community work or a fine or imprisonment." Another says that "the promotion of homosexual relations or financing of the promotion in public places is to be punished by a fine from 1,000 (\$400) to 5,000 litas."

"If these amendments are ultimately adopted, the Lithuanian government will have the authority to prosecute on an extremely wide variety of actions and activities," LGL said. "These actions include, but are not limited to, campaigning on human rights issues relating to sexual orientation and gender identity, providing sexual health information to LGBT people, the organization of gay film festivals, and organizing and/or attending pride events."

Amnesty International's European program director, Nicola Duckworth, said, "It is hard to believe that a member of the European Union should even be considering the adoption of such legislation."

Last year, the Seimas enacted the "Law on the Protection of Minors Against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information." It bans information that promotes sexual relationships, "denigrates family values" or encourages a nonheterosexual concept of marriage and family in any location where such information could be accessed by a minor.

LGL said the newest move "exemplifies the continuous process of the institutionalization of homophobia in Lithuania."

## Hong Kong judge rules against trans marriage

A trial court judge in Hong Kong ruled against letting a postoperative male-to-female transsexual get married Oct. 5.

Judge Andrew Cheung expressed worry about the consequences of recognizing sexual-reassignment surgery for marriage purposes, saying it would have implications for preoperative transsexuals and same-sex couples, and for family,

social-welfare, criminal and immigration law.

He further expressed concern about the possibility of surgical sex-change reversals, about whether people who had sex-reassignment surgery should be required to inform a future spouse of that fact, and whether such occurrences could lead to annulments.

Cheung said that unless procreation is seen as a fundamental theme of marriage, then there's no reason to oppose transsexual marriage, same-sex marriage or polygamy.

He made reference to the United Kingdom's civil-partnership law, which grants same-sex couples all rights of marriage under a different name, and hinted that such a scheme would be preferable to allowing transgender or same-sex marriages in Hong Kong.

## Australians support free vote on gay marriage

Nearly 80 percent of Australians support letting legislators vote their consciences rather than their party's position on same-sex marriage, an Oct. 22 poll found.

The Galaxy poll was commissioned by Australian Marriage Equality and Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

It found that 62 percent of Australians support letting same-sex couples marry and 80 percent of people between 18 and 24 support gay marriage.

"(Prime Minister) Julia Gillard and (Opposition Leader) Tony Abbott cannot ignore the majority of Australians who believe same-sex couples should be able to marry and the even greater majority who want a conscience vote on the issue," said AME spokesman Alex Greenwich.

PFLAG's Shelley Argent added, "If Catholic countries like Spain, Argentina and Portugal can right this wrong, then why can't Australia?"

For more information, see [freevote.org.au](http://freevote.org.au).

## Gays march in Tecate

About 150 LGBT people staged a pride march and protest in Tecate, Mexico, Oct. 24. The city, famous for its beer, sits on the California border about 40 miles southeast of San Diego.

The march, the city's first, went down the busiest street and ended at the central plaza. It also was a protest against a state constitutional amendment that would ban same-sex marriages in Baja California

state and seemingly also ban recognition of same-sex marriages from Mexico City, where they are legal.

The amendment passed the state legislature in late September but has been stalled since then. Two days after it passed, control of the legislature switched from one political party to another, in accord with elections that had been held this past summer -- and the new ruling party has delayed sending the amendment to the state's five political subdivisions for ratification.

The new party, the Institutional Revolutionary Party, is considered more gay-friendly than the party that lost power, the National Action Party.

A statement from the Baja California State Council on Sexual Diversity suggested that local police were not on their best behavior during the march.

"It is worth mentioning that discrimination and homophobia were clearly visible from the ranks of the city's public-security bureau since they did not heed the call made earlier to safeguard the physical integrity of the participants and traffic control for the full completion of the march," the council said.

## Intersex Awareness Day

Oct. 26 was International Intersex Awareness Day. That's the 'I' in LGBTI.

ILGA-Europe - the European Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association - said the day aims "to raise awareness on intersex issues, generate greater understanding and challenge the prevailing medical pathological approach to the bodies of intersex people."

"Across Europe, hundreds of babies who are born intersex, or those children who are identified as intersex later in their lives, are being subjected to inhumane 'corrective gender surgical operations' in order to align them with the binary male or female sexes," ILGA said. "Such intrusive and unnecessary surgeries have devastating effects on intersex people who very frequently report to be tormented mentally, sexually, physically and psychologically by such 'treatment.'"

ILGA-Europe incorporated intersex issues into its mandate in 2009 and is building linkages with European and international intersex organizations.

"We are fully committed to bring the concerns of intersex people to the European institutions with a view to challenge existing human rights breaches in practices of 'gender correction surgeries' and the long-term physical and psychological effects that they have on intersex people," said Executive Director Evelyne Paradis. "We are very pleased with our fruitful cooperation with Organisation Intersex International's European members and hope that together we can bring an end to the inhumane gender-correction surgeries of intersex babies, prejudice and discrimination intersex people face in Europe."

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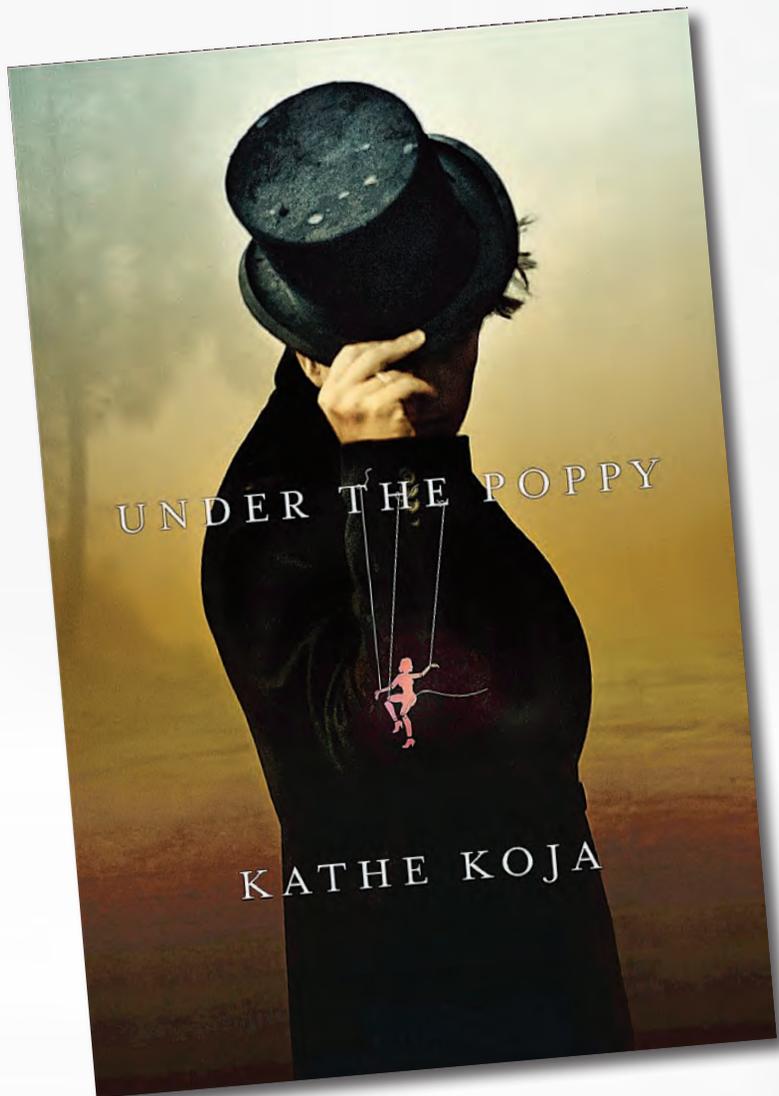
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# Chatty Kathe



## Kathe Koja

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[www.kathekoja.com](http://www.kathekoja.com)

Kathe Koja will read from her latest book, "Under the Poppy," at two area locations. Photo: © Rick Lieder / Dreampool.com

## Detroit author – and ally – reads new novel at local bookstores

BY SAMANTHA WHITE

"You have to show up for love" is one of the themes of Kathe Koja's latest novel, "Under the Poppy." The story centers around childhood friends and lovers Istvan, a puppeteer, and Rupert, the owner of the brothel in which the story is set. Throw in a bit of spice that includes a love-triangle between the two main characters and Rupert's sister, Decca, who also happens to be in love with Istvan – along with an approaching war – and you have the perfect recipe for a sexy and delightful historical drama.

"The love of craft and profession are kin to their relationship," Koja says. "Istvan and Rupert are to be reunited on and off stage, and the love they have for what they do and each other takes passion, humor and dedication."

Passion and dedication both describe Koja's relationship to her work. She speaks of her 14th

novel with such adoration one can undoubtedly acknowledge her love for "Under the Poppy."

Koja says, "It's the most sustained effort I've ever had as a writer."

It took the author two years to write the story, which is also her longest book. "So much love went into writing this," she adds. "This one was from the heart, and I hope people respond it."

From 7-9 p.m. Nov. 10 Koja will read and perform from "Under the Poppy," an event sponsored by Common Language Bookstore, at Blackbird Theatre in Ann Arbor. Puppeteer Al Bogdan will on hand working with some of the puppets from the book's trailer – yes, a trailer. Koja will also appear on Nov. 11 at Five15 Media, Mojo and More in Royal Oak.

"Under the Poppy" takes places in the 1870s in Brussels with a Victorian backdrop and characters like the muted piano player who expresses himself through miming. Koja's vision

is to bring the world of "Under the Poppy" to life for audiences.

"It's going to be an immersive experience," she says. The story is currently in the works to be a full onstage production.

"When you walk into the theater you aren't just going to be watching a show," Koja adds. "From the minute you step into the theater you will be experiencing the world around you."

The "3D" project is ready to go once it finds the funding. Readers and supporters can visit the "Under the Poppy" website ([www.underthepoppy.com](http://www.underthepoppy.com)) to donate to the author's stage production of the story.

Koja's love for her work is kin to her love for her city. Some artists leave and move East or West in pursuit of their creative endeavors – not Koja, a Detroit native, who still resides in the area and has no intention of leaving.

"I wouldn't leave for anything. There is

no American city like it," she says. "You can compare it to New Orleans or Berlin. You stay and see what happens."

In addition to being committed to her city and her art, the author is also an ally to the LGBT community. She is contributing the foreword to the young adult anthology "Awake," which will be released by independent publishing house Cheyenne Publishing with all proceeds benefiting The Trevor Project.

Koja is the proud mother of a gay son, Aaron, who developed the motion graphics for the trailer to "Under the Poppy," and an advocate for ending the intolerable suicide rates amongst youth in the LGBT community.

Who she is, and her Detroit roots and the essence of her city, finds its way into "Under the Poppy." Koja says, "We take nothing for granted here, and Istvan and Rupert are the same way."



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## Life

# Women in the Arts Festival celebrates 25 years

## Event to feature live music, food and workshops

LANSING – The 25th Annual Women in the Arts Festival, a celebration of regional women artists, runs Nov. 12-13 at Edge-wood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn, in East Lansing. The festival features artists, musicians, poets and other creative arts.

There will be over 30 booths of women-created and -inspired art, photography, jewelry, clothing, pottery, gifts, sculpture, cards, edible treats, books, music and more. The evening concerts will take place in the kiva-like sanctuary in the church. Workshops will be offered as well.

SISTRUM (the Lansing Women's Chorus) will have food for sale for dinner on Friday night and all day Saturday until the evening concert. There will be a Silent Auction immediately preceding the evening concert on both Friday and Saturday evenings.

The Artist Market will be open Friday 5:30-8:30 p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m.-8:30 p.m. The evening concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. both nights.

There will be two workshops offered on Saturday too. Rosanna Barberio, owner of Old Town Pilates, will teach a Beginners Mat Class to introduce the therapeutic movements of Pilates at 1 p.m. At 3 p.m., a workshop hosted by Heather Spotts will address the question, "Are you waiting for your Life to Start?" Spend an hour learning about "mindfulness," a way to live fully in the present moment.

WITA is a volunteer-run organization with the goal of creating space for creative women to showcase their talents. Tickets are available online at [www.witafestival.com](http://www.witafestival.com) or at the door. Individual day passes are \$15 each (\$25 for a two-day pass). The Artist Market is \$3.

For more information about the festival and the individual artists and performers, visit [www.witafestival.com](http://www.witafestival.com).



Sometimes Y will play Nov. 13 during the Women in the Arts Festival in Lansing.

## Getting to know Pamela Means

### Women in the Arts Festival performer on music, politics and how Janis Ian changed her life

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Curve Magazine has praised Pamela Means as "one of the fiercest guitar players and politically-rooted songwriters in the music industry today" – and ain't that the truth. The Brooklyn-based, internationally touring musician performs in East Lansing on Saturday, Nov. 13 during the Women in the Arts Festival.

We caught up with Means, who's performed several times previously in the area, about merging music with politics, growing up queer in a segregated city, and what she learned from Janis Ian.

**You're known for integrating the fight for social justice into your performances. Why are you so passionate about these social issues?**

My first girlfriend in Boston gave me

bell hooks and Audre Lorde books, which brought into severe focus the pain and rage I had held inside growing up a biracial, queer kid in hyper-segregated greater Milwaukee. I began to write honestly about my own world, my true feelings and experiences, and about the world as I saw it. From then on, I committed myself to being honest and outspoken throughout my work, whether (it be) a song about governmental corruption or a love song to a woman. My life and identity is, by default, on the periphery, and so follows my work.

**How does music play into social justice?**

Music is a seductive way to introduce and inspire thought and action concerning myriad political topics. One can address serious subjects without climbing onto a monotonous soapbox.

See Pamela Means, page 17

### Performance Line-Up

Friday, Nov. 12

C.A.T.: A trio combining original compositions, rearranged covers and energetic improvisation.

Allie Merrick: Speaker, poet, designer, explorer and photographer.

Saturday, Nov. 13

Pamela Means (see more in sidebar Q&A)

Sometimes Y: Cindy Lehmkuhle, Stephanie Hasley and Lisa Sarno make up Lansing's own women's folk-rock band, gracefully infused with honesty, heart and a generous slathering of homemade hot-pepper jelly.

► **Pamela Means**

Continued from p. 16

Clever lyrics can put a pointed sentiment behind a delicious groove that makes the medicine go down.

**Which songs of yours, inspired by these issues, is especially important to you? And why?**

“Two Halves” from the album “Single Bullet Theory” addresses sanctioned racial profiling, and “Amen,” also from “Single Bullet Theory,” personalizes the USA Patriot Act. My newest album, “Precedent,” features a snapshot of Hurricane Katrina aftermath and a few love songs, including “Virago Plains” – with the proper pronouns intact.

**You’ve shared the stage with lots of generation-spanning, queer female musicians, from Melissa Ferrick to Janis Ian. What have you learned from them?**

I’ve learned a lot about engaging with the audience – especially touring for two years with Alix Olson! I used to be really shy and stare at the floor, but now I enjoy myself a lot more and I’m not afraid to speak up and tell stories and corny jokes. I was also particularly inspired by a Janis Ian workshop where she introduced using effects pedals with the acoustic guitar. I’ve never been the same since!



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## A nutty holiday at Ringwald

### Who Wants Cake? presents Harry Kondoleon's 'Christmas on Mars' this winter

**FERNDALE** – Things are always a little kooky around The Ringwald, and this holiday season is no exception! Opening Nov. 19 at Ferndale's Ringwald Theatre for an exclusive four-week engagement is Harry Kondoleon's wacky comedy, "Christmas on Mars." Performances for "Christmas on Mars" are at 8 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Monday nights with 3 p.m. Sunday matinees.

In "Christmas on Mars," Bruno and Audrey are investigating a potential apartment, with a swift marriage proposal and surprise pregnancy marshaling them along. When Bruno's obsessed roommate and Audrey's estranged mother arrive, careful plans for the future give way to head-shaking comedy and hilariously off-kilter dialogue. This strange, twisted and self-serving assortment of characters tries to live together as their overt and hidden agendas collide.

Considered one of the leading playwrights of his generation, Harry Kondoleon died in 1994 of complications from AIDS. He is known for his comedies "Anteroom," "The Vampires" and "Love Diatribe," as well as his play about AIDS, "Zero Positive."

A graduate of Yale Drama School, Kondoleon developed an early appreciation of the absurd. He wrote 17 plays, all full of savage humor, twisted relationships and a deep ap-

preciation of those who do not quite fit into traditional society.

Who Wants Cake? opened the doors to their resident home, The Ringwald, in May 2007 with "Fatal Attraction: A Greek Tragedy." Quickly, The Ringwald became a mainstay of Detroit's theater community. Since opening their doors, Who Wants Cake? has been offering up slice after slice of successful shows, including "Southern Baptist Sissies," "Debbie Does Dallas: The Musical," "Killer Joe," "The Bad Seed," "The Book of Liz," "Rent," "Die! Mommie! Die," "[title of show]" and "Evil Dead: The Musical." Who Wants Cake? was named the 2008 and 2009 Best Theater Group in Channel 4's Vote 4 The Best contest and the 2009 Best Theatrical Troupe by Real Detroit.

Tickets for "Christmas on Mars" are \$20 for 8 p.m. performances on Friday and Saturday nights, \$15 for 3 p.m. Sunday matinees and Monday 8 p.m. performances are half-off normal ticket price at \$10 a ticket.

The first Sunday performance at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 21 is pay-what-you-can. Reservations may be made by phone at 248-545-5545 or online at [www.WhoWantsCakeTheatre.com](http://www.WhoWantsCakeTheatre.com). The box office opens 45 minutes before performances and is located at 22742 Woodward Ave. in Ferndale.

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## Miller classic closes Stages of the Law

Lansing Community College Performing Arts Department presents "A View From the Bridge" by Arthur Miller at Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave, Lansing, beginning Nov. 5.

"A View From the Bridge" is Arthur Miller's taut and compelling drama about Eddie Carbone, a Brooklyn longshoreman who has raised his niece Catherine. He agrees to house two illegal immigrants from Italy; when his niece falls in love with one of them, Eddie's life erupts into jealous passion, bringing tragedy to his world.

"This play has so much to admire: the intensity of the relationships, the beauty of its plainspoken language, the vulnerability of characters caught in conflicts that they can only dimly understand, and the overall tone of compassion and understanding for the choices they make," said director Andy Callis.

The cast includes Dave Dunckel as Eddie Carbone, Kathryn Renaldi-Smith as niece Catherine, Rebecca Lane as wife Beatrice, Ben English as Rodolpho who Catherine loves, and Alec Nagy as Marco, friend of Rodolpho and the other illegal immigrant. Jack Dowd plays Alfieri, the lawyer who functions as a Greek chorus throughout.



LCC's fall mainstage theatre production, "A View From the Bridge" by Arthur Miller, opens Nov. 5 as part of the fifth Stages of the Law Theatre Festival sponsored by Cooley Law School. Photo: Kevin Fowler

"A View From the Bridge" is the final production of this year's Stages of the Law Theatre Festival sponsored by the Thomas M. Cooley Law School. Now in its fifth year, the festival includes law-themed plays presented by Mid Michigan Family Theatre, Lansing Civic Players, Stormfield Theatre, Riverwalk Theatre and LCC Theatre. LCC has been part of Stages of the Law since its inception in 2006, and its plays have included a stage

adaptation of the film "Adam's Rib," as well as "An Experiment With an Air Pump," "Jane Eyre" and "Much Ado About Nothing."

"Lansing has a rich tradition connected to the arts," said Don LeDuc, Cooley Law School's president and dean. "We're excited to bring our many theater groups together for this stage play festival that highlights some of the culturally enriching entertainment options in our community."

Performances of "A View From the Bridge" will take place at 8 p.m. Nov. 5, 6, 12 and 13, and 2 p.m. Nov. 7.

A special Cooley performance is being offered on select Fridays throughout the festival with two-for-one tickets, a reception and a talkback featuring a Cooley professor. Speaking at LCC on Friday, Nov. 12 will be Professor Charles P. Cercone, associate dean of faculty. Patrons who attend three or more Cooley performances throughout the festival receive a stamp card and are eligible for special prizes.

Tickets are \$10 general public and \$5 students, seniors, LCC faculty, staff and alumni. Tickets are available at [www.artslansing.org](http://www.artslansing.org), 517-372-0945 or at the door beginning one hour prior to curtain.

## Judy Gold explores Jewish motherhood at JET

The Jewish Ensemble Theatre is excited to host nationally known comedienne Judy Gold as their first of two limited engagement guest artists for the 2010-2011 season. "25 Questions for a Jewish Mother" by Kate Moira Ryan and Judy Gold will play at 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13 and 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 14 in the Marion and David Handleman Hall at the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield.

Emmy-winning actress/comedienne Judy Gold and award-winning playwright Kate Moira Ryan embarked on a five-year journey across the United States, interviewing over 50 Jewish women of different ages, ethnicities and occupations. The end result – which includes Gold's personal journey during which she becomes a parent, while simultaneously learning to be a daughter to a Jewish mother of her own



The Jewish Ensemble Theatre presents comedienne Judy Gold in "25 Questions for a Jewish Mother" Nov. 13-14. Photo: Courtesy, JET

– is a moving, humorous and astonishing portrait of what makes a Jewish mother.

Gold received a 2006 Drama Desk nomination for outstanding solo performance for "25 Questions for a Jewish Mother." The show also won the 2007 GLAAD award for "Outstanding New York Theater." The New York Times called this one-woman show "fiercely funny, honest and moving."

Tickets range from \$38 to \$41 with discounts for seniors and students. Tickets have been selling at a rapid pace and the show is well on its way to selling out.

The Jewish Community Center is located at 6600 West Maple Road (corner of Maple & Drake) in West Bloomfield. There is ample free parking and handicap accessibility.

For more information or to purchase tickets call 248-788-2900.

## Student Rush Tickets for 'Plaid Tidings'

In true big-city fashion, Detroit's Gem Theatre will offer Student Rush Tickets to all performances of "Plaid Tidings," the holiday sequel to the monumentally successful off-Broadway musical "Forever Plaid."

In this holiday treat, The Four Plaids (Frankie, Sparky, Jinx and Smudge) are back – again – from the great beyond! The quartet continues its supernatural journey, which began February 1964 when the Plaids, a semi-professional harmony group, was killed on their way to their first big gig. In 2010, the boys return, and with help from friends like Rosemary Clooney, the Plaids unearth long forgotten dreams that bring holiday harmony to a discordant world. Featuring a host of holiday music, including a new holiday classic written for the show, the Plaids deliver a hilarious and heartwarm-



"Plaid Tidings" opens Nov. 10 at Detroit's Gem Theatre. Photo: Courtesy, The Gem Theatre

ing performance that's truly heaven-sent. Student Rush Tickets are available to

students with student identification starting 90 minutes before each performance of "Plaid Tidings." Current, valid student ID must be presented at the time of purchase. Only one ticket may be purchased per student, per performance. Student Rush Tickets are not transferable or exchangeable, and based on availability.

Tickets for students will be discounted to \$15 for Wednesday and Thursday performances and \$17.50 for Friday through Sunday performances for students with current, valid student ID.

Detroit's Gem Theatre presents "Plaid Tidings" Nov. 10-Dec. 31. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster and in person at 333 Madison St. in Downtown Detroit or by calling the Gem Theatre box office at 313-963-9800.

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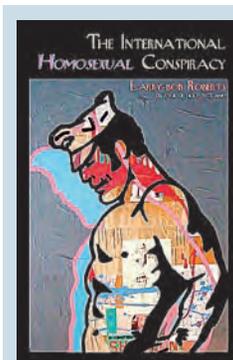
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**"Parallel Lies,"** by Stella Duffy. Bywater Books, 198 pages, \$14.95 paper.

Yana Ivanova is Hollywood royalty, the best actress of her generation, with both a mysteriously vague past and a secret life that could shatter her hold on stardom. Jimmy is a chiseled hunk with a middling TV career whose primary occupation is pretending to be Yana's partner. And Penny, polished personal assistant as far as the world at large knows, is Yana's passionate – and increasingly needy – secret paramour. Jimmy sates his sexual needs through occasional frenzied flings with willing women; Penny screws a bar-pickup guy every six months or so to keep gossip at bay; Yana dines out with Jimmy once in a while to keep up appearances. Nonetheless, the paparazzi are curious, the studios are nervous, the threat of blackmail is inevitable, and someone is going to die. Duffy's delicious-dish novel about glamorous celebrities and the tragic closets they force themselves into is partly a Sapphic Jackie Collins-style romp and – somewhat poignantly – partly a powerful meditation on the corruptive power of living a physical and emotional lie.

**"Toss and Whirl and Pass,"** by Shawn Stewart Ruff. Quote "Editions", 198 pages, \$19.90 paper.

The good life is gone for HIV-positive poet and would-be novelist Yale Battle. He's gripped by a crystal meth addiction, most of his neighbors have fled New York in the wake of the Twin Towers tragedy, he's still mourning the AIDS death of his dance-choreographer boyfriend,



**Featured Excerpt**

*Putting up with the way people look is one of the most unbearable burdens of being involved with subcultural scenes... Let's start from the top. Nobody wants to see another bundle of white person dreadlocks or another eye-straining multicolor mullet dye job. Faux-hawks should have been made illegal years ago. Facial hairstyles are even more farcical. Sideburns, soul patches, and even ironic moustaches will never change the world. Nobody wants to look at your infected facial piercings. Stop fiddling with your tongue-stud; it's as "alternative" as an old man clacking his dentures. The distraction is too much to bear. And guess what? An eyebrow is not an erogenous zone.*

*multicolor mullet dye job. Faux-hawks should have been made illegal years ago. Facial hairstyles are even more farcical. Sideburns, soul patches, and even ironic moustaches will never change the world. Nobody wants to look at your infected facial piercings. Stop fiddling with your tongue-stud; it's as "alternative" as an old man clacking his dentures. The distraction is too much to bear. And guess what? An eyebrow is not an erogenous zone.*

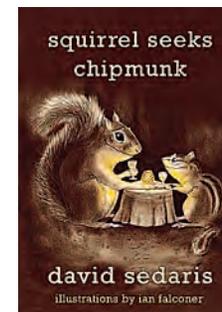
-from "The International Homosexual Conspiracy," by Larry-bob Roberts

a surprise visit from a boyhood companion triggers unsettling family memories, and he's trolling city parks for sexual release – until he lands in jail for a week on a perversion conviction. And, adding to his emotional angst, his cat, Zsa Zsa Gabor, is dying of cancer. In a city traumatized by terrorism, and for a man shell-shocked by life, the future seems bleak – though the outdoor tryst that lands Yale in jail hints, in

the last chapter, at salvation. This roller-coaster novel about a grieving man's out-of-control personal spiral, with vivid flashbacks fleshing out the nightmarish narrative, is packed with enough percussive plot and memorable characters for several books. But Ruff's dynamic prose pulls everything together with an eloquence that makes for easy reading.

**"The International Homosexual Conspiracy,"** by Larry-bob Roberts. Manic D Press, 160 pages, \$14.95 paper.

Roberts disdains "astrology fanatics," suggests open mic events as an alternative to religion, knocks "self-righteous" meat-eaters, hates scooters on sidewalks, fears nothing more than "a cruise ship full of gay men," frets that rock and even more annoying forms of music aren't going away, is saddened at how little gay men know about dyke culture, believes the only thing stupider than a body tattoo is a facial tattoo, considers the Castro a strip mall – and relishes being an arrogant know-it-all. In short, he's a cantankerous crank. A raging contrarian. And a breath of fresh air in his views of both queer culture and the world at large. This book of mini-essays – 88 observations that range from candid to scathing, mixing off-the-wall satire with smart social observations – considers, among other topics, community and communication (he wants more of both), popular culture (much of which he dismisses) and homosexuality – the longest section, where Roberts reveals himself to be well out of the homo mainstream yet completely content with his own queer life.



**"Squirrel Seeks Chipmunk: A Modest Bestiary,"** by David Sedaris, illustrations by Ian Falconer. Little, Brown, 176 pages, \$21.99.

After six essay collections, Sedaris seemed to be running out of a life – his own – to mine for caustic commentary and quirky incidents. So it's apt that he has transferred his sardonic style to this sharp-toothed collection, skewering human characteristics in the guise of beasts and birds. Be warned: despite the illustrations, this is not a book for the kiddies. Bad behavior is the norm, and gleeful tastelessness abounds: leeches plucked from a hippo's feces-smear butt burst into song, for example, and a cat presses on her baboon hairdresser the importance of a well-licked anus. The stories, most just a few pages long, are rife with oddball moments: storks wonder whether it's best to tell their chicks that the mice brought them, a mink confesses at an AA meeting of selling her pelt for Kahlua, and a vindictive rabbit stands in for every militant border guard ever encountered. The closest the collection comes to queer is the title tale, in which Chipmunk allows prejudice to color the possibility of happiness with Squirrel – the kind of cutting resonance that marks these amoral fables.

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## OUTINGS

### Thu, Nov. 4

**LGBT Michigan Artists Invitational Exhibition** 9 a.m. Held in honor of Joann A. Downing, wish works by local LGBT artists. Greater Flint Arts Council, 816 S. Saginaw, Flint. 810-238-ARTS. www.greaterflintartscouncil.org

### Fri, Nov. 5

**Big Eden** 7:30 p.m. Part of the group's 2010-11 film series. Free. Holland is Ready, 248 S. River Ave., Holland. 616-990-5669.

### Sat, Nov. 6

**Rachel's Birthday/Bat Mitzvah Party** 7 p.m. Come help Rachel celebrate thirteen years as "Rachel". Thirteen years ago this November Rachel completed her journey to become herself. All presents will be joyfully accepted. No cover charge, but donations to Transgender Michigan encouraged. Transgender Michigan, 249 W Nine Mile, Ferndale. http://www.transgendermichigan.org/

### Wed, Nov. 10

**Anger Management Group Workshop** 3 p.m. A 10-week course for men only to learn about anger and their relationship with it. Cost: \$15 per session. Lansing Association for Human Rights, 1712 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-410-9494. www.lahronline.org

**Under the Poppy Launch** 7 p.m. A reading and signing by author Kathe Koja. Common Language Bookstore, 317 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. www.lgbtbooks.com

### Thu, Nov. 11

**Embracing Inclusion in Communities of Faith** 7 p.m. A discussion of how faith-based communities confront the challenge of full LGBT inclusion, with performance by Sing Out Detroit. Free. Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, 2930 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-870-1500. www.miroundtable.org

**Meet 'n Greet** 7 p.m. Welcoming LGBT people and allies ages 18-33. A meeting with light snacks and dinner to follow. 20 Somethings, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. www.the20somethings.org

**Under the Poppy Launch** 7 p.m. A reading and signing by author Kathe Koja. Five15, 515 S. Washington, Royal Oak. 248-515-2551. www.five15.net

### Fri, Nov. 12

**Out & Greek National LGBT & Ally Fraternity & Sorority Leadership Conference** The third annual Out & GREEK National Leadership Conference is the only conference of its kind for LGBT and ally fraternity and sorority leaders to share, network and learn strategies to create safer, more LGBT inclusive fraternity and sorority communities. Campus Pride, Bloomington, Indiana. 704-277-6710. info@lambda10.org www.lambda10.org/outandgreek

**Womyn's Film Night** 7 p.m. Film: Kathy Griffin: Allegedly - Comedian Kathy Griffin, whose trade consists of stories about wacky encounters with celebrities, dishes the dirt in this no-holds-barred laughfest. The redhead spitfire spills the beans about what happened at Brooke Shields' wedding. Other luminaries in Griffin 's comic crosshairs include actresses Gwyneth Paltrow, RenXe Zellweger and Sandra Bullock, as well as Barbara Walters. No one is ever spared. (Standup Comedy, 2004, 86 minutes) Affirmations, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

### Sun, Nov. 14

**Cabaret Night** 6:30 p.m. You're in for a night of great entertainment and music provided by Jay Kaplan and Jeff Willets. Feel free to bring your own bottle of wine! Light refreshments will be served. Tickets are \$10 each and available on our website or at the door. 21 and above only please. Affirmations, 290 W Nine Mile, Ferndale. 248-398-GAYS. info@goaffirmations.org http://www.goaffirmations.org

### Fri, Nov. 19

**Womyn's Film Night** 7 p.m. Film: Hide and Seek - HIDE AND SEEK is a daring exploration into wild, uncharted territory-lessian adolescence in the 1960's. HIDE AND SEEK is for every woman who's been to a slumber party and every man who wonders what went on at one. (Drama, 1996, 57 minutes) Affirmations, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/

### Sat, Nov. 20

**Standing on the Side of Love** 8:30 a.m. An event for immigration reform and LGBT justice fighting oppression. Registration: \$40, or \$20 for students and those on a low income. Unitarian Universalists, 23925 Northwestern Highway, Southfield. www.uujustice.org

**Hepatitis A and B Vaccinations** 11 a.m. In partnership with ACCESS. Free, with HIV testing also available. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

**A2's Got Talent** 7 p.m. A talent show to benefit Together We Can. Begins with an AA Open Talk. \$5 suggested donation. Doors open at 6 pm. Together We Can, 306 N. Division, Ann Arbor. twc@detroit.com twcdetroit.com

## MUSIC & MORE

### BENEFITS/SOCIAL EVENTS

**Kerrytown Concert House** "It's a Woman's World" A fundraiser for the SafeHouse Women's Shelter with contemporary songs sung by U of M's Musical Theatre Department. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$5 students. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. Nov. 6, 9 p.m. Nov. 6. 734-769-2999. www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com

**Overture Society of the Southern Great Lakes Symphony** "Symphony in Fashion XXXV" A luncheon and fashion show. Tickets: \$35. Grecian Center, 16300 Dix-Toledo Road, Southgate. 11 a.m. Nov. 13. 313-382-0408. www.downriverarts.org

**St. Joseph Mercy Oakland** "An Evening with Tracy Reese" A fundraiser for the hospital's Cancer Resource and Support Center. Tickets: \$75 patrons, \$150 benefactors. Townsend Hotel, 100 Townsend, Birmingham. 6 p.m. Nov. 12. www.sjmercyhealth.org

**UM School of Music, Theatre and Dance** "UM Center for Performing Arts Technology 25th Anniversary Celebration" A day of free workshops and performances. Duderstadt Center, 2281 Bonisteel Boulevard, Ann Arbor. 11 a.m. Nov. 5. www.ums.org

### CLASSICAL

**Chamber Music Society of Detroit** "Chamber Music Society presents Simone Dinnerstein" Simone Dinnerstein, Piano Artist Repertoire: J.S. Bach, The Goldberg Variations, BWV 988 Seligman Performing Arts Center Located on the campus of Detroit Country Day School, 22305 West 13 Mile Road, Beverly Hills. 7 p.m. Dec. 4. 248-855-6070. http://www.comehearcmsd.org/

**Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings** "Purely Romantic" With cellist Debra Fayroian and pianist Maria Meirelles. Tickets: \$22 adults, \$10 students. Hagopian World of Rugs, 850 S. Old Woodward, Birmingham. 8:30 p.m. Nov. 5. 248-559-2095. www.detroitchamberwinds.org

**Flint Symphony Orchestra** "From the Eternal City" Performing works by Berlioz, Corigliano, Cound and Ibert. Tickets: \$8-55. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley, Flint. 8 p.m. Nov. 13. 810-238-1350. www.thefim.org

**Kalamazoo Bach Festival** "Vienna Boys Choir" A performance by the renowned child musicians. Tickets: \$25 adults, \$8 students. First United Methodist Church, 212 S. Park, Kalamazoo. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 18. 269-337-7407. www.kalamazoobachfestival.org

**Lansing Symphony Orchestra** "Bundle of Sticks" With bassoonist Michael Kroth. Tickets: \$15 adults, \$10 students. Plymouth Congregational Church, 2001 Grand River Ave., Lansing. 3 p.m. Nov. 7. 517-487-5001. www.lansingsymphony.org

**MSU College of Music** "Faculty Concert" Suren Bagratuni on cello. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, free for students. Music Building Auditorium, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 8. 517-353-5340. www.music.msu.edu

**MSU College of Music** "Faculty Concert" Minsoo Sohn on piano. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, free for students. Music Building Auditorium, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 10. 517-353-5340. www.music.msu.edu

**MSU College of Music** "Schumann Celebration" A 200th anniversary tribute to Schumann. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, free for students. Music Building Auditorium, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 11. 517-353-5340. www.music.msu.edu

**MSU College of Music** "MSU Symphony Orchestra Concert" Performing works by Schumann, Brahms and Dvorak. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, free for students. St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 955 Alton Road, East Lansing. 8 p.m. Nov. 13. 517-353-5340. www.music.msu.edu

**Plymouth Canton Symphony Orchestra** "Piano Prodigy" With 11-year-old pianist Anastasia Rizikov playing Chopin Piano Concerto No. 2. Tickets: \$25 adults, \$20 seniors, \$10 students. First United Methodist Church, 45201 North Territorial, Plymouth. 2 p.m. Nov. 7. 734-451-2112. www.plymouthsymphony.org

**Plymouth Canton Symphony Orchestra** "Prodigious Piano" A performance by prodigy Anastasia Rizikov. Tickets: \$25 adults, \$20 seniors, \$10 students. First United Methodist Church, 45201 North Territorial, Plymouth. 2 p.m. Nov. 7. 734-451-2112. www.plymouthsymphony.org

**University Musical Society** "Murray Perahia" A performance by the piano virtuoso of works by Bach, Beethoven and Brahms. Tickets start at \$10. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Nov. 10. www.ums.org

### CONCERTS

**Arab American National Museum** "Sean Blackman" A performance by the accomplished acoustic guitarist. Tickets: \$10, \$9 for museum members. Arab American National Museum, 13624 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. 6:30 p.m. Nov. 4. www.arabamericanmuseum.org

**Central United Methodist Church** "Janis Ian" Part of the church's bicentennial celebration. Tickets: \$25 adults, \$20 students and seniors. Central United Methodist Church, 23 E. Adams, Detroit. 8 p.m. Nov. 12. 734-753-9455. www.centralumchurch.com

**Chamber Music Society of Detroit** "The Pacifica Quartet" With guest artist John Bruce Yeh. Tickets: \$25-75. Seligman Performing Arts Center, 22305 W. 13 Mile Road, Beverly Hills. 7 p.m. Nov. 13. 248-855-6070. www.comehearcmsd.org

**Corner Brewery** "Tret Fure" The artist's CD release tour. Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door. Corner Brewery, 720 Norris Street, Ypsilanti. 8 p.m. Nov. 20. www.tomboygirl.com

**Detroit Symphony Orchestra** "Dee Dee Bridgewater" A performance by the Grammy Award-winning jazz vocalist. Tickets: \$19-63. Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Nov. 5. 313-576-5111. www.detroitssymphony.com

**Everybody Reads** "Carrie Newcomer" A concert by the Grammy Award-winning singer/songwriter. Everybody Reads Bookstore, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 11 a.m. Nov. 19. 517-346-9900. www.becauseeverybodyreads.com

**Friends of the Penn** "Blue Steel Jazz Band" A concert of old and new ballads and swing tunes. Admission: \$3. Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 8. 734-453-0870. www.penntheatre.com

**Kerrytown Concert House** "Afternoon Art Songs" A performance of art songs from Mozart to Marx to cabaret. Tickets: \$5-10. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 4 p.m. Nov. 7. 734-769-2999. www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com

**Kerrytown Concert House** "Mark Helias" A performance on bass. Tickets: \$5-25. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Nov. 8. 734-769-2999. www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com

**Kerrytown Concert House** "Christian Howes Quartet" A jazz concert; part of the Kerrytown Club Series. Tickets: \$10-30. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Nov. 13. 734-769-2999. www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com

**Kerrytown Concert House** "All About the Trio" Jazz with the Ellen Rowe Trio. Tickets: \$5-25. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 2 p.m. Nov. 14. 734-769-2999. www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com

**Kerrytown Concert House** "David Sharp and the Secret Seven" Part 1: Journey to Africa. Tickets: \$5-25. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Nov. 19. 734-769-2999. www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com

**Lager House** "Turbo Fruits" With special guest Pujol. P.J.'s Lager House, 1254 Michigan Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Nov. 16. www.pjslagerhouse.com

**Live Nation** "The Rockets" With special guests Salem Witchcraft. Tickets: \$10. The Fillmore, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Nov. 27. www.livenation.com

**Motor City Casino** "Disco Party 2010" Featuring the Village People and The Tramp. Tickets: \$32-35. Sound Board, 2901 Grand River Avenue, Detroit. 7 p.m. Nov. 19. www.motorcitycasino.com

**MotorCity Casino** "Michael Bolton" A performance by the Grammy Award-winning singer/songwriter. Tickets: \$45-60. Sound Board Theater, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Nov. 5. www.motorcitycasino.com

**MSU College of Music** "An Evening of French Music" A faculty recital. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, free for students. Music Building Auditorium, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 7 p.m. Nov. 7. 517-353-5340. www.music.msu.edu

**MSU College of Music** "Musique 21" A free concert with music by Bates and Ruggiero. Music Building Auditorium, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 18. 517-353-5340. www.music.msu.edu

**Olympia Entertainment** "Katherine Jenkins" A performance by the opera superstar. Tickets: \$28. City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Nov. 6. www.ticketmaster.com

**Olympia Entertainment** "Gary Hoey" The Rockin' Holiday Tour 2010. Tickets: \$27. City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Nov. 26. www.ticketmaster.com

**Olympia Entertainment** "John Mellencamp" The No Better Than This Tour. Tickets: \$42.50-125. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 6:45 p.m. Nov. 19. www.ticketmaster.com

**Olympia Entertainment** "Experience Hendrix Tour" The music of Jimi Hendrix, performed by an all-star lineup. Tickets: \$25-115. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Nov. 18. www.ticketmaster.com

**Sky Production** "Wednesday Night Concert & Jam ft. Sky Covington" Harbor House, 440 Clinton St., Detroit. Sep. 29 - Dec. 29. 313 424 3458. skycovington.com

**University Musical Society** "Stew & The Negro Problem" A performance by the blues-rock band. Tickets start at \$45. Former Leopold Brothers, 523 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Nov. 18, 8 p.m. Nov. 19. www.ums.org

**University Musical Society** "Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlan" A performance by the classic Mariachi band. Tickets start at \$10. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Nov. 5. www.ums.org

**University Musical Society** "Assi El Helani" A performance by the famous Middle Eastern musician. Tickets start at \$10. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Nov. 6. www.ums.org

**University Musical Society** "The Tallis Scholars" A performance by the ensemble of Renaissance sacred music. Tickets start at \$35. St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 2250 E. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Nov. 4. www.ums.org

**University of Michigan Museum of Art** "Robert Hurst" Part of the monthly jazz series. Held in the forum. Free. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Nov. 17. 734-763-UMMA. www.umma.umich.edu

**Wharton Center** "ABBA Mania" A performance by the premiere ABBA cover band. Tickets: \$32-42. Wharton Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 3 p.m. Nov. 28. 517-353-1982. www.whartoncenter.com

### DANCE

**Grand Rapids Bailey Company** "The Nutcracker" A performance of the holiday favorite. Tickets: \$25-72. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit. Nov. 26 - Nov. 28. www.motopera.org

**The Bellydance Superstars** "Bombay Bellywood" A mystical, rhythmic and innovative dance and visual experience of belly dancing. Tickets: \$30-50. Music Hall, 350 Madison, Detroit. 8 p.m. Nov. 6. 313-887-8500. www.musicall.org

**Wharton Center** "Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company" A performance by the world-renowned dance troupe. Tickets: \$25. Wharton Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 4. 517-432-2000. www.whartoncenter.com

### FESTIVALS

**Community House** "Elmore Leonard Literary Arts and Film Festival" A series of events celebrating Birmingham native and famous author Elmore Leonard. Prices and times vary. Community House, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham. 7 p.m. Nov. 11, 7 p.m. Nov. 12, 6 p.m. Nov. 13. 248-644-5832. www.communityhouse.com

**Detroit Film Club** "Ferndale Film Festival" The annual showing of independent films in Ferndale. Dino's Lounge, 22740 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 5 p.m. Nov. 6. 248-591-3466. www.dinoslounge.com

**Fair Food Matters** "Fair Food Food Fair" An evening of food-related fun, silent auction, live music and more. Tickets: \$35 in advance, \$40 at the door. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. 6 p.m. Nov. 20. 269-492-1270. www.fairfoodmatters.org

**Metro Detroit Chevy Dealers** "Cruze In Rock Out" A free concert with Detroit bands The Strange, The Hentchmen and The Hard Lessons. Ages 18 and older only. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 6 p.m. Nov. 9. 248-544-3030. www.themagicbag.com

**Women in the Arts** "Women in the Arts Festival" The 25th anniversary event, with a series of performances, art and workshops. Tickets: \$25 all-inclusive, \$15 per night. Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn, East Lansing. 5:30 p.m. Nov. 12, 11 a.m. Nov. 13. www.witafestival.com

**Ypsilanti Area Convention and Visitors Bureau** "Saline Craft Show" With works from over 200 crafters. Admission: \$3. Saline Middle School, 7190 N. Maple Road, Saline. 8 a.m. Nov. 13. 734-429-5922. www.salineshow.com

### FILM & VIDEO

**Michigan Theater** "The Princess Bride" Part of the Family-Friendly Film Series. Tickets: \$9 adults, free for kids 12 and under. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. 1:30 p.m. Nov. 7. www.michtheater.org

**Michigan Theater** "A Christmas Story" Part of the Family-Friendly Film Series. Tickets: \$9 adults, free for kids 12 and under. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. 1:30 p.m. Dec. 5. www.michtheater.org

**Michigan Theater** "White Christmas Sing-Along" Free props bag and on-screen lyrics, plus costume parade. Tickets: \$12 adults, \$10 students, seniors and veterans. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. 4 p.m. Nov. 28. www.michtheater.org

**Mitten Movie Project** "Zombie Night" A night of mostly Michigan-made zombie shorts. Tickets: \$10. Main Art Theatre, 118 N. Main, Royal Oak. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 9. 248-892-1495. www.facebook.com/mittenmovieproject

**University Musical Society** "Passing Strange" A free screening of the film, which features the music of Stew & The Negro Problem. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State, Ann Arbor. 5:30 p.m. Nov. 14. www.umma.umich.edu

### OTHER

**Dawn Farm** "Intervention" A free presentation on when and how to have an intervention with experts Jeff and Debra Jay. Free. St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 16. 734-485-8725. www.dawnfarm.org

**Dawn Farm** "The Doctor's Opinion on Alcoholism" A presentation by Dr. Herbert Malinoff, an addictionologist. Free. St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 23. 734-485-8725. www.dawnfarm.org

**Dawn Farm** "Suicide and Recovery from Addiction" A presentation on suicidal thinking and its connection to recovery. Free. St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 30. 734-485-8725. www.dawnfarm.org

**Detroit Science Center** "Coats for Kids" A day of performers, music and raising funds for Detroit area kids to get coats. Part of Ford Free Fundays. Detroit Science Center, 5020 John R Street, Detroit. 10 a.m. Nov. 6. 313-577-8400. www.detroitsciencecenter.org

**Detroit Science Center** "Noel, Noel" Explore the wonders of winter as part of Ford Free Fundays. Detroit Science Center, 5020 John R Street, Detroit. 10 a.m. Dec. 4. 313-577-8400. www.detroitsciencecenter.org

**Michigan Depression Glass Society** "Depression Glass Show" The 38th annual show, with an emphasis on vintage glassware. Admission: \$5. Ford Community and Performing Arts Center, 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. 9 a.m. Nov. 6, 9 a.m. Nov. 7. www.michigandepressionglass.com

**Michigan Global Entrepreneurship Week** "Michigan Emerging" A conference to connect and illuminate innovators and entrepreneurs in Michigan. Tickets: \$20 in advance, \$40 at the door. Ford Community and Performing Arts Center, 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. 9 a.m. Nov. 17. 248-275-1337. www.michiganemerging.com

**Mystery School of the Temple Arts** "Improving Intimacy and Connection" A workshop to learn techniques for deeper connections with yourself and others, improving your health, intimacy and capacity for loving relationships. Detroit Flyhouse, 3434 Russell, Detroit. 5 p.m. Nov. 21. 313-269-6719. www.mysteryschoolofthetemplearts.com

**UM Women's Studies** "Drop The Knife: A Memoir in Song" Activist and singer/songwriter Jeanne Mackey marks her 60th birthday with a disarmingly honest and wryly funny musical chronicle of her search for personal and ancestral healing, from the high desert of the Eastern Sierras to the verdant Irish countryside. Free admission, donations benefit Peace Neighborhood Center's Performance Arts Academy. Keene Theatre, University of Michigan's Residential College, 701 E. University St., Ann Arbor. 2 p.m. Nov. 21. http://www-personal.umich.edu/~mackeyj/

**Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington** "Lifelong Learning Forum" A series of free adult education classes on such topics as hypnosis, illumination, aging and more. Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington, 25301 Halsted, Farmington Hills. Oct. 14 - Nov. 18. 248-478-7272. [www.uufarmington.org](http://www.uufarmington.org)

## SHOWS

**AEG Live** "Norm MacDonald" A performance by the actor and stand-up comedian. Tickets: \$29.50 in advance, \$35 day of show. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth Street, Royal Oak. 7 p.m. Nov. 20. 248-399-2980. [www.royaloakmusictheatre.com](http://www.royaloakmusictheatre.com)

**MotorCity Casino** "George Wallace" A performance by the stand-up comedian. Tickets: \$35-55. Sound Board Theater, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Nov. 24. [www.motorcitycasino.com](http://www.motorcitycasino.com)

**Olympia Entertainment** "Mike Epps" A stand-up comedy performance, with special guest Bruce Bruce. Tickets: \$48-78. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Nov. 27. [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

**Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey** "Zing, Zang, Zoom" A mind-blowing circus spectacular with gravity-defying stunts. Tickets start at \$12.50. The Palace, 5 Championship Drive, Auburn Hills. Nov. 10 - Nov. 14. [www.palacenet.com](http://www.palacenet.com)

**The Whiting** "Last Comic Standing" An evening of stand up with Mike Destefano, Tommy Johnagin, Myq Kaplan and more. Tickets: \$15-39. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley, Flint. 8 p.m. Nov. 4. 810-237-7333. [www.thewhiting.com](http://www.thewhiting.com)

**University Musical Society** "Once. More.: Once Now" Featuring faculty from the UM School of Music, Theatre & Dance; Ann Arbor Improvisation Collective; Phoenix String Quartet. Tickets: \$2. Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Nov. 4. [www.ums.org](http://www.ums.org)

**University Musical Society** "Once. More.: Finale" A free concert featuring faculty and students. Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Nov. 6. [www.ums.org](http://www.ums.org)

# THEATER

## BENEFITS AND FUNDRAISERS

**Riverwalk Saturday Night** A night of old tunes, new tunes, classical music, and poetry. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. 8 p.m. Nov. 13. 517-482-5700. [www.riverwalktheatre.com](http://www.riverwalktheatre.com)

## CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

**Escanaba in Love** Dinner (pasties, vegetarian chili, salad bar, dessert and coffee, tea or soda) served one hour prior to show time; advance reservations required. \$23 dinner & theater; \$10-\$12 show only. Thebes Players at Larkins Restaurant, 301 W. Main St., Lowell. Nov. 5 - 20. 616-897-8545. [www.lowellartscouncil.org](http://www.lowellartscouncil.org)

**I Hate Serving Cats** The first of five staged play readings this season. Donations are gratefully accepted. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. 7 p.m. Nov. 7. 517-482-5700. [www.riverwalktheatre.com](http://www.riverwalktheatre.com)

**Living the Dreams of My Ancestors** \$20. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. Nov. 4 - 6. 517-482-5700. [www.riverwalktheatre.com](http://www.riverwalktheatre.com)

**Palmer Park** \$14; benefit performances on Nov. 13 & 19 are \$25, and opening night Dinner Performance is \$26. The Park Players, North Rosedale Park Community House, 18445 Scarsdale, Detroit. Nov. 12 - 21. 313-835-1103. <http://parkplayers.wordpress.com>

**Proposals** \$15. Spotlight Players at The Village Theatre at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Rd., Canton. Nov. 12 - 21. 734-394-5300. [www.spotlightplayersmi.org](http://www.spotlightplayersmi.org)

**Reasons to be Pretty** \$15. Peppermint Creek Theatre Company at Creole Gallery, 1218 Turner Street, Lansing. Through Nov. 6. 517-927-3016. [www.peppermintcreek.org](http://www.peppermintcreek.org)

**Some Enchanted Music, a Tribute to Rodgers and Hammerstein** \$5. The Kalamazoo Civic Senior Class Reader Theatre at Carver Center Studio, 426 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Nov. 12 - 20. 269-343-1313. [www.kazooocivic.com](http://www.kazooocivic.com)

**Steel Magnolias** \$15. Village Players, 34660 Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Nov. 5 - 14. 248-644-2075. [www.birminghamvillageplayers.com](http://www.birminghamvillageplayers.com)

**The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee** \$18. The Players Guild of Dearborn, 21730 Madison St., Dearborn. Nov. 12 - Dec. 5. 313-561-8587. [www.playersguildofdearborn.org](http://www.playersguildofdearborn.org)

**The Foreigner** \$18. MorrisCo Art Theatre at The Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. Nov. 11 - 13. 734-996-2549.

**White Christmas** \$12. Downriver Youth Performing Arts Center, Trenton Village Theatre, 2447 W. Jefferson, Trenton. Nov. 12 - 20. 734-362-8153. [www.dypac.com](http://www.dypac.com)

## COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

**A View From the Bridge** \$10. Lansing Community College Performing Arts Department at Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. Nov. 5 - 13. 517-372-0945. [www.artslansing.org](http://www.artslansing.org)

**My One and Only** \$20. Western Michigan University at Shaw Theatre at the Gilmore Theatre Complex, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. Nov. 11 - 21. 269-387-6222. [www.wmutheatre.com](http://www.wmutheatre.com)

**She Stoops to Conquer** \$20. University Theatre at Gilmore Theatre Complex's Williams Theatre, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. Through Nov. 7. 269-387-6222. [www.wmutheatre.com](http://www.wmutheatre.com)

**The Elixir of Love** \$18-\$24. The University of Michigan University Opera Theatre at The Power Center, 121 N. Fletcher, Ann Arbor. Nov. 11 - 14. 734-764-2538. [www.music.umich.edu](http://www.music.umich.edu)

## PROFESSIONAL THEATER

**'S Wonderful** \$37-\$52. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44757 Garfield Rd., Clinton Township. 3 p.m. Nov. 7. 586-286-2222. [www.macombcenter.com](http://www.macombcenter.com)

**25 Questions for a Jewish Mother** \$38-\$41. Jewish Ensemble Theatre at David Handleman Hall at the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W Maple Rd., West Bloomfield. Nov. 13 - 14. 248-788-2900. [www.jetttheatre.org](http://www.jetttheatre.org)

**A Strange Disappearance of Bees** \$17, \$20 at the door; \$70 New Year's Eve. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodward Wilson St., Detroit. Nov. 4 - Dec. 26. 313-868-1347. [www.detroitreptheatre.com](http://www.detroitreptheatre.com)

**Best of Friends** \$25-\$40. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through Dec. 18. 734-433-7673. [www.purplerosetheatre.org](http://www.purplerosetheatre.org)

**Cabaret** \$25. UDM Theater Company & Marygrove College Music and Dance at Marygrove College Theatre, 8425 W. McNichols Rd., Detroit. Nov. 12 - 21. 313-993-3270. <http://theatre.udmercy.edu>

**Cat on a Hot Tin Roof** \$15. Matrix Theatre Company at YMCA BOLL Family Theatre, 1401 Broadway, Detroit. Through Nov. 14. 313-967-0599. [www.matrixtheatre.org](http://www.matrixtheatre.org)

**Chris And The Wonderful Lamp** \$15. Comic Opera Guild at Northside Community Church, 929 Barton Drive, Ann Arbor. Nov. 6. 734-973-3264. [www.comicoperaguild.org](http://www.comicoperaguild.org)

**Cloud Tectonics** Previews Nov. 3-4 (pay-what-you-can). \$15. The New Theatre Project at Pot & Box, 220 Felch St., Ann Arbor. Nov. 3 - 15. 810-623-0909. [www.thenewtheatreproject.org](http://www.thenewtheatreproject.org)

**Don't Be Cruel - The Life and Times of the King** \$25-\$35; Dinner and show packages available Wednesday, Thursday & Sunday for \$69.95 per couple. Andiamo Novi Theatre, 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi. Through Nov. 28. 248-348-4448.

**Driving Miss Daisy** \$23-\$25. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Nov. 5 - 21. 269-343-2727. [www.farmersalleytheatre.com](http://www.farmersalleytheatre.com)

**Everything I Ever Needed to Know, I Learned Being Mentally Ill...and everyone is, at least a little** \$20. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. Nov. 12 - Nov. 14. 269-756-3879. [www.acorntheatre.com](http://www.acorntheatre.com)

**Forever Plaid:** Plaid Tidings Previews Nov. 10-11 (\$20). \$27.50 - \$32.50. Gem Theatre, 333 Madison St., Detroit. Nov. 10 - Dec. 31. 313-963-9800. [www.gemtheatre.com](http://www.gemtheatre.com)

**Hay Fever** \$20-\$30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Plays in rotating repertory through Dec. 4. 313-577-2972. [www.wsushows.com](http://www.wsushows.com)

**Hot Mess Chronicles II** Free; by donation. The Abreact Performance Space, 1301 W. Lafayette, #113, Detroit. Through Nov. 6. 313-485-0217. [www.theabreact.com](http://www.theabreact.com)

**La Boheme** \$29-\$121. Michigan Opera Theatre at the Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. Nov. 13 - 21. 313-237-SING. [www.MichiganOpera.org](http://www.MichiganOpera.org)

**Mary Poppins** \$17.50 and above. Wharton Center, Cobb Great Hall, Michigan State University, East Lansing. Nov. 4 - 21. 1-800-942-7866. [www.whartoncenter.com](http://www.whartoncenter.com)

**Monty Python's Spamalot** \$45-\$50. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44757 Garfield Rd., Clinton Township. Nov. 13. 586-286-2222. [www.macombcenter.com](http://www.macombcenter.com)

**Nightmare Box** \$20. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff St., Hamtramck. Through Nov. 6. 313-365-4948. [www.planetant.com](http://www.planetant.com)

**Of Mice and Men** \$25 - \$30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Plays in rotating repertory through Feb. 5. 313-577-2972. [www.wsushows.com](http://www.wsushows.com)

**Rock of Ages** \$29-\$79. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Nov. 9 - 21. 313-872-1000. [www.broadwayindetroit.com](http://www.broadwayindetroit.com)

**Sherlock Holmes Is Coming To Dinner** \$16. Dennis Wickline Productions, Inc. at Broadway Onstage Live Theatre, 21517 Kelly Rd., Eastpointe. Through Nov. 20. 586-771-6333. [www.broadwayonstage.com](http://www.broadwayonstage.com)

**Spring Awakening** \$25-\$50. Miller Auditorium, 2200 Auditorium Dr., Kalamazoo. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 4. 269-387-2300. [at www.millerauditorium.com](http://www.millerauditorium.com)

**The Current** \$18. Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company at 1515 Broadway, 1515 Broadway St., Detroit. Nov. 12 - Dec. 4. 313-408-7269. [www.magentagiraffe.org](http://www.magentagiraffe.org)

**The Drowsy Chaperone** Previews Nov. 11-14 & 18 (\$10-\$37). \$30-\$46. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Nov. 11 - Dec. 26. 734-663-0681. [www.performancenetwork.org](http://www.performancenetwork.org)

**The Rose Of Castile** Suggested donation: \$15. Comic Opera Guild, Northside Community Church, 929 Barton Drive, Ann Arbor. Nov. 3 - 5. 734-973-3264. [www.comicoperaguild.org](http://www.comicoperaguild.org)

**Thursdays at Go Comedy!** \$10 for the evening. Go Comedy! Improv Theatre, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. [www.gocomedy.net](http://www.gocomedy.net)

**Topdog/Underdog** \$15-\$25. The Blackbird Theatre, 325 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. Through Nov. 20. 734-332-3848. [www.blackbirdtheatre.org](http://www.blackbirdtheatre.org)

## THEATER FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

**Cinderella** \$10 for students, adults, and seniors and \$5 for those aged 12 and younger. Center Stage Jackson at Grass Lake Center for the Performing Arts, 11500 Warrior Trail, Grass Lake. Nov. 5 - 14. 517-522-5695. [www.centerstagejackson.org](http://www.centerstagejackson.org)

**Curious George Live!** \$12-\$25. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave, Detroit. Nov. 5 - 7. 1-800-745-3000. [www.OlympiaEntertainment.com](http://www.OlympiaEntertainment.com)

**Darwin The Dinosaur** \$20 adults, \$10 children; DPS students are free. Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison St., Detroit. 4 p.m. Nov. 7. 313-887-8500. [www.musichall.org](http://www.musichall.org)



**EDITOR'S PICK**

The Village Players presents "Steel Magnolias," the warm comedy/drama about the human condition, with all of its laughs and all of its tears. "It's laugh-out-loud funny on one hand, and heart achingly moving on the other," said director Bill Haycock.

Unlike the movie of the same name, the play intensifies the relationship of the six female characters – clients and staff of a Southern small-town beauty parlor – by eliminating the appearance of the men. The women reveal warm affection for one another as they exchange biting but affectionate, humorous retorts or offer soft words of consolation.

Performances are at 8 p.m. Nov. 5, 6, 12 and 13, and 2 p.m. Nov. 7 and 14 at the Village Players Playhouse, 34660 Woodward, Birmingham.

Tickets are \$15. For more information, call 248-644-2075.

**Looking Glass Land** \$5. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre's Junior Theatre at WCC's College Theater, 4800 E Huron River Dr, Ann Arbor. Nov. 4 - 7. 734-971-2228. [www.a2ct.org](http://www.a2ct.org)

**Mickey's Magic Show** \$19-\$40. The Palace of Auburn Hills, 6 Championship Drive, Auburn Hills. Nov. 6. 1-800-745-3000. [www.Palacenet.com](http://www.Palacenet.com)

**Oh, Ananse!** \$10 adults, \$5 children. PuppetART, 25 East Grand River, Detroit. Saturdays through Nov. 27. 313-961-7777. [www.puppetart.org](http://www.puppetart.org)

**Sleepy Hollow, A Musical Tale** \$7. Kalamazoo Civic Youth Theatre at the Civic Theatre, 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Through Nov. 6. 269-343-1313. [www.kazooocivic.com](http://www.kazooocivic.com)

**The Jack Sprat Low-Fat World Tour** \$10 adult, \$5 ages 12 and under. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44757 Garfield Rd., Clinton Township. 10 a.m. Nov. 9. 586-286-2222. [www.macombcenter.com](http://www.macombcenter.com)

**Time Machine** \$7 adult, \$5 ages 17 and under. All-of-us Express Children's Theatre at Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. Nov. 5 - 13. 517-333-2580, ext. 0. [www.cityofeastlansing.com/allotus](http://www.cityofeastlansing.com/allotus)

**Zing, Zang, Zoom** \$12.50. Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey at The Palace of Auburn Hills, 6 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. Nov. 10 - 14. 1-800-745-3000. [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

## AUDITIONS

**CENTER STAGE JACKSON** – auditions for CSJ's second season of staged readings, Nov. 10, 517-529-4932.

# ART 'N' AROUND

**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 E. Warren Ave., Detroit. Aug. 27 - Dec. 12. 313-494-5800. [www.charleshwrightmuseum.org](http://www.charleshwrightmuseum.org)

**Detroit Institute of Arts** "In Your Dreams" 500 years of imaginary prints from Europe and America. Museum admission: \$8 adults, \$6 seniors, \$4 youth. Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Sep. 8 - Jan. 2. 313-833-7900. [www.dia.org](http://www.dia.org)

**Downriver Council for the Arts** "Emerging Artists Exhibition" This year's show features the work of Gail Bell, Roberta Harris, Kim Hildebrandt and Jennifer Mizak. Wyandotte. Oct. 15 - Nov. 12. 734-720-0671. [www.downriverarts.org](http://www.downriverarts.org)

**Downriver Council for the Arts** "Day of the Dead" A painting exhibit depicting and illustrating Day of the Dead. Wyandotte Arts Center, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. Oct. 20 - Nov. 12. 734-720-0671. [www.downriverarts.org](http://www.downriverarts.org)

**Flint Institute of Arts** "Unbroken Ties" Dialogues in Cuban Art, presenting works of artists who have remained in Cuba alongside works by those who have left the country. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley, Flint. Sep. 9 - Dec. 7. 810-234-1695. [www.flintarts.org](http://www.flintarts.org)

**Flint Institute of Arts** "First Frost Art and Rine Crafts Fair" With works for sale by 43 hand-selected artists. Admission: \$5 adults, \$4 seniors, free for children. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley, Flint. 10 a.m. Nov. 6. 11 a.m. Nov. 7. 810-234-1695. [www.flintarts.org](http://www.flintarts.org)

**Gallery Project** "What's So Funny?" A show of humorous works by various artists. Opening reception held 6-9 p.m. Oct. 22. The Gallery Project, 215 S. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Oct. 20 - Nov. 28. 734-997-7012. [www.thegalleryproject.com](http://www.thegalleryproject.com)

**Grand Rapids Art Museum** "Diana, A Celebration" An exhibit with personal objects of Princess Diana, including dresses, home movies and more. Tickets: \$20 adults, \$18 seniors and college students, \$15 youth. Grand Rapids Art Museum, 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. Nov. 9 - Feb. 16. [www.artmuseumgr.org](http://www.artmuseumgr.org)

**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 Memorial Center, 28123 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. Aug. 29 - Nov. 29. 248-553-2400. [www.holocaustcenter.org](http://www.holocaustcenter.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](http://www.kiarts.org)

**Kalamazoo Institute of Arts** "In Focus: National Geographic Greatest Portraits" A traveling exhibition created by National Geographic and the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. Free. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. Oct. 30 - Jan. 2. 269-349-7775. [www.kiarts.org](http://www.kiarts.org)

**Kalamazoo Institute of Arts** "In Focus: National Geographic Greatest Portraits" A traveling exhibition created by National Geographic and the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. Free. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. Oct. 30 - Jan. 2. 269-349-7775. [www.kiarts.org](http://www.kiarts.org)

**Kerrytown Concert House** "Finding My Way" Acrylic and mixed-media works by artist Rita Malone. Reception held 5-7 p.m. Nov. 7. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Oct. 26 - Nov. 29. 734-769-2999. [www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com](http://www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com)

**Kresge Art Museum** "The Power of Design" An exhibition of Chinese textiles, costumes and accessories. Free. Kresge Art Museum, Michigan State University, East Lansing. Oct. 9 - Dec. 17. 517-884-0659. [www.artmuseum.msu.edu](http://www.artmuseum.msu.edu)

**Kresge Art Museum** "Designing Women of Postwar Britain" Their art and the modern interior. Free. Kresge Art Museum, Michigan State University, East Lansing. Oct. 16 - Dec. 17. 517-884-0659. [www.artmuseum.msu.edu](http://www.artmuseum.msu.edu)

**Lawrence Street Gallery** "Nature 2 Nature" Works by artist Tim Marsh. Opening reception held 6-9 p.m. Nov. 5. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Nov. 3 - Nov. 27. 248-544-0394. [www.lawrencestreetgallery.com](http://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, 11 a.m. Nov. 28, 3 p.m. Nov. 30. [www.leonandlulu.com](http://www.leonandlulu.com)

**Macomb Center for the Performing Arts** "BASEDONATRUESTORY! Pt. 1" Works by Joseph Bernard. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts Gallery, 44757 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. Oct. 11 - Nov. 10. 586-286-2089. [www.macombcenter.com](http://www.macombcenter.com)

**Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum** "Artists Portray Artists" An exhibition of 35 portraits and self-portraits. Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum, 7400 Bay Road, Saginaw. Oct. 1 - Jan. 29. 989-964-7096. [www.marshallfredericks.org](http://www.marshallfredericks.org)

**Riverside Arts Center** "Live Inspired Art" Works by Ypsilanti artist Steve Allen. Reception held 5-7 p.m. Nov. 6. Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Nov. 4 - Nov. 21. 734-480-2787. [riversidearts.org](http://riversidearts.org)

**Swords Into Plowshares Peace Center and Gallery** "Picking Up the Pieces" With works from the Mariner's Inn and N.O.A.H./Art & Soul participants. Opening reception held 1-4 p.m. Oct. 23. Swords Into Plowshares Peace Center and Gallery, 33 E. Adams, Detroit. Oct. 23 - Dec. 4. 313-963-7575.

**The Henry Ford** "George Washington Carver" An exhibit celebrating the work and life of the extraordinary American. Admission: \$15 adults, \$14 seniors, \$11 youth. The Henry Ford Museum, 20900 Oakwood, Dearborn. Nov. 1 - Feb. 27. 313-982-6001. [www.thehenryford.org](http://www.thehenryford.org)

**Toledo Museum of Art** "Voices That Taught Me How to Sing" Two- and three-dimensional works by Ohio artist Aminah Robinson. Toledo Museum of Art, 2445 Monroe Street, Toledo. Nov. 19 - Feb. 27. 419-255-8000. [www.toledomuseum.org](http://www.toledomuseum.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](http://www.umma.umich.edu)

**University of Michigan Museum of Art** "Simon Dybbroe Moller" Sculptures and other works by the Danish-born artist. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State, Ann Arbor. Nov. 6 - Jan. 30. 734-763-UMMA. [www.umma.umich.edu](http://www.umma.umich.edu)

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## Why can't I be perfect?

**Q.** My girlfriend "Tami" and I have been dating for almost a year. She is a fabulous person – cute as a bug and smart. We love the same kind of things. We think alike when it comes to politics and religion, so nothing to upset each other in those areas. I feel lucky that I found her.

OK, to the problem: Tami is a one of those people who just has good habits. I admire that about her. She does so many things well: all A's in school, neat and tidy, and she doesn't procrastinate. I could go on and on about her other good habits. I, on the other hand, am not so perfect and I do have some bad habits, like I chew my nails when I get nervous and I don't pick up my clothes right away, though I always come back and get them and put them away. It's not like I leave them in the bathroom; I dress and get ready, then I go around and pick things up. I smoke even though I have tried to quit. I never made all A's in college, but I did graduate.

I could go on and on about the things that I don't do exactly right. I'm just not that good, that perfect. Tami really wants me to work on changing my bad habits. She says that she had to develop good habits, as they didn't come naturally, so I should be able to change mine as well. God knows my mother tried with me; she was always trying to better me too.

The truth is, I would like to change some things about myself – like stop biting my nails, quit smoking and a few other things, but I'm feeling like such a failure. I also have to say that it is hard having people always telling me I have to change something.

Why is it that when people harp on me to change, I feel less like I can do it?

*The Imperfect One*

**A.** First, let me say that "perfectionism" itself is a bad habit. It is even a worse habit when you go around trying to make others perfect.

Secondly, having people "harp" on us to change is an extremely ineffective plan for helping us to change any behavior that we would like to change.

In fact, harping actually promotes keeping us entrenched in the behavior because we feel judged, resentful, angry and not OK about ourselves.

In the case where we really do want to change something – it's our idea and desire – we need positive support, not harping and criticism, to help the change process.

When being harped at, we often end up feeling so resentful that even if we would like to change, we don't. Not because we don't want to, but because we, then, become oppositional. It's like, "You think you can control me? Well, just watch." The problem, when we get into this dynamic, is that we are still being controlled because we don't change the things we would really like to change.

I think you also need to deal with your being with someone who seems to need to find your flaws and make you perfect, according to her standards. It sounds like this dynamic started with your relationship with your Mom and is now being played out with Tami.

I suggest you and Tami get couple's counseling. If she won't participate, you go anyway. This situation will not get better; and even if things don't ultimately work out between you and Tami, you're likely to find yourself back in a similar situation if you don't get some help.

Most of us want to change something in life, but change can be difficult. It's more than just wanting to change, we have to have a plan and deal with the psychological factors that keep us from changing. For a helpful article on "The 10 Rules of Change," visit Facebook/Dear Jody Valley.

*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. The "Dear Jody" column appears weekly. Reach Jody at [DearJodyValley@hotmail.com](mailto:DearJodyValley@hotmail.com). Letters may be edited for clarity and length.*

### Here's how to play BTL's Fake Ad Contest

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by Jack Fertig

# Get sick and twisted, Leo!

*Mercury is trine to Jupiter, opening the mind to wonderful new ideas and observations. But both are in water signs, so those new "ideas" will be more artistic, intuitive and emotional than logical – and then Mercury trines Uranus, sending those novel notions into wild new directions. Avoid drugs and booze. They're just crutches for people with no insight or originality.*

**ARIES (March 20 – April 19):** Speak your mind! Granted, that often leads to trouble, but now it should work out well. You could start misunderstandings with your friends, but trust your instincts to clear up any trouble.

**TAURUS (April 20 – May 20):** Your partner wants the best for you, but taking his or her prods to your ambition too seriously can create more trouble than it will solve. Talk together about long-range goals beyond your work. A friend's advice can be very helpful.

**GEMINI (May 21 – June 20):** Impulsive actions on your own will likely cause arguments or accidents. Be very clear about your goals, and enlist help from your boss or the experts. They'll be glad to help you get ahead.

**CANCER (June 21 – July 22):** Small adventures, especially in sexual experimentation, are likely to get you into a terrible mess. Grander, more daring experiments are a lot safer. The real trick is to think ahead, be clear on safety issues, and trust your instincts.

**LEO (July 23 – August 22):** Old "tapes" from your upbringing can get in the way of a healthy partnership. OK, let go of "healthy" and get sick and twisted! A good erotic catharsis can be the best way to clear out the psychic junk.

**VIRGO (August 23 – September 22):** Advice from your partner will likely shock you, but all the more reason to at least consider it very carefully. Following that line of conversation with your sweetie will also help you avoid troublesome misstatements.

**LIBRA (September 23 – October 22):** Money problems can be dealt with, but not at the lottery or casino – and "retail therapy" is just a euphemism for "shopaholic." Analyze the situation and work it out. A serious approach will find inspired solutions.

**SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21):** Asserting your own integrity and truly speaking your mind is sure to shake up your family or tribe. As Mark Twain said, you have to make people laugh when you tell them the truth.

**SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20):** To unlock family secrets, ignore your siblings. They're probably confused or lying. Parents are more likely to reveal the truth, especially when they would prefer not to. The truth could be shocking; the fall-out even more so. Is it worth it to know?

**CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19):** As the world moves on, revising your ideas is sometimes necessary. Do old ideas still serve your core ideals? Philosophical and political arguments with your friends can prove very educational if you can approach them with an open mind.

**AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18):** Losing yourself in your work is a good way to screw up the job. Review your priorities and aims with your boss or a trusted expert. Getting clear on this issue is key to your advancement.

**PISCES (February 19 – March 19):** What comes out of your mouth may surprise you more than your friends, but pick your company carefully. Guarding secrets may be like "trying not to think about the elephant." Just keep your mind and the conversation elsewhere.

*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](http://www.starjack.com), and by e-mail at [QScopes@qsyndicate.com](mailto:QScopes@qsyndicate.com).*

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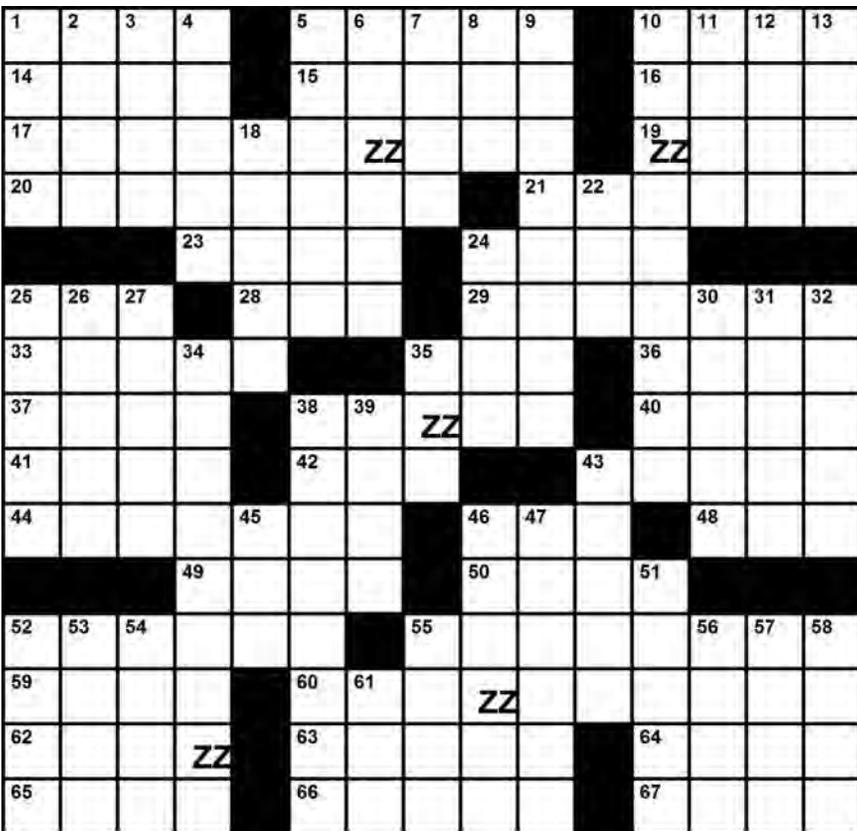
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**Solution to puzzle from page 26**

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L	A	R	A		S	T	A	Y	S		E	N	D	S	



Solution on 25

Q P U Z Z L E Short Nap

Across

- 1 "Femme's Guide to the Universe" author Rednour
- 5 Type of room at a bath-house
- 10 "West Side Story" gang
- 14 Cry of pride
- 15 The Scales, astrologically
- 16 Blade name
- 17 Cross-dressing comedian
- 19 "Legs" rock trio
- 20 Added to the scrapbook
- 21 David Sedaris' works
- 23 Family diagram
- 24 Morales of "Resurrection Blvd."
- 25 Some sex-toy batteries
- 28 Cause of Apr. angst
- 29 "The Naked Civil Servant" author Crisp
- 33 "I'm all ears"
- 35 "Don we now \_\_\_ gay apparel ..."
- 36 Literature Nobelist André
- 37 Collette of "United States of Tara"
- 38 "Working Girls" director Borden
- 40 "Vogue" competitor
- 41 Welcome response after a tumble
- 42 Access ending
- 43 Cut loose
- 44 Solo passage, to Copland
- 46 J. Edgar Hoover's org.
- 48 In need of a lube
- 49 Hammerhead part
- 50 Rimbaud's zip
- 52 Emulate Todd Oldham
- 55 Hearty hunk of meat
- 59 Melodious Fitzgerald
- 60 Gay guy with grayish hair?
- 62 Full of activity
- 63 Name of many a gay bar
- 64 Without a date
- 65 Angelina's tomb-raiding role
- 66 Chooses not to come
- 67 "All's Well That \_\_\_ Well"

Down

- 1 Type of father Robert Reed played
- 2 "If I Only \_\_\_ Brain"
- 3 Says further
- 4 Singer Bonnie
- 5 Pitch that isn't straight
- 6 Hissy fits
- 7 "My People" author Abba
- 8 JFK info
- 9 Left no doubt
- 10 Ethel Waters, for one
- 11 Katharine's "Butch Cassidy" role
- 12 Perry of Metropolitan Community Church
- 13 Suckers
- 18 Queer, to straights
- 22 Writer's enc.
- 24 Prefix with lateral
- 25 Top floor
- 26 It arouses two body openings
- 27 Where priests come together
- 30 Did some floor work
- 31 One who screws around
- 32 Hard up
- 34 Cathedral of Hope pastor
- 35 Osbourne of rock
- 38 Deep throat medications
- 39 Caspian Sea land
- 43 Hot-tempered
- 45 Photog's original
- 46 Tightly curled
- 47 Books about the will and grace of God
- 51 Lord Byron, for one
- 52 Stud poker demand
- 53 Napoleon's exile isle
- 54 The word "queer," e.g., before "Queer Eye"
- 55 Latvia's capital
- 56 Long, long time
- 57 Material from Sylvia Beach?
- 58 Quite, to Colette
- 61 Squealer

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# The Scarborough Fair

It's very loud in the city – much louder than any Fire Island sound system blasting the recent archaeological discovery, Barbra Streisand. But I've kept a bit of my summer garden in preserved form, and it's literally a tonic.

Just before we left the beach house, I was seized with an overwhelming need to take something with me – something to get me through the tough, cold northeast winter. Dan had already put his suitcase outside the gate when, stricken with this impulse, I dropped my stuff, sprinted to the container garden in the back, and ripped out bunches of herbs. “What *are* you doing?” said Dan when I reappeared carrying two fistfuls of aromatics. “What *are you* doing?” I replied as I stuffed them into my backpack. He answered on cue: “What *are you doing!*” It's a routine we do.

“I don't know,” I said as I picked up my backpack. “It's part of a Native-American harvest ritual.” “Don't be racist,” Dan scolded. We distracted ourselves by insulting each other as we walked to the ferry.

By the time we got home, the herbs looked pretty sad, so to refresh them I wrapped them in a wet towel and stuck them in the refrigerator. I decided to make an herbal infusion, so the next morning, I bought a fifth of Absolut.

After doing some cursory Internet research, I decided I knew better. (I'm obnoxious.) So I washed the ragged bouquets, dried them in a salad spinner, and laid them out on the counter. I hadn't planned this desperate harvest at all; the herbs I'd blindly grabbed at twilight consisted of sage, thyme, tarragon, lovage, parsley and rosemary. The infusion ingredients instantly chose themselves: parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme. Don't you just love that song? I put the iPod on its little donut and set it to my Paul Simon playlist, then gently bruised the herbs

to release their oils and juices, stuffed them in a large, clean, Mason-type glass jar, poured the Absolut in and sealed it.

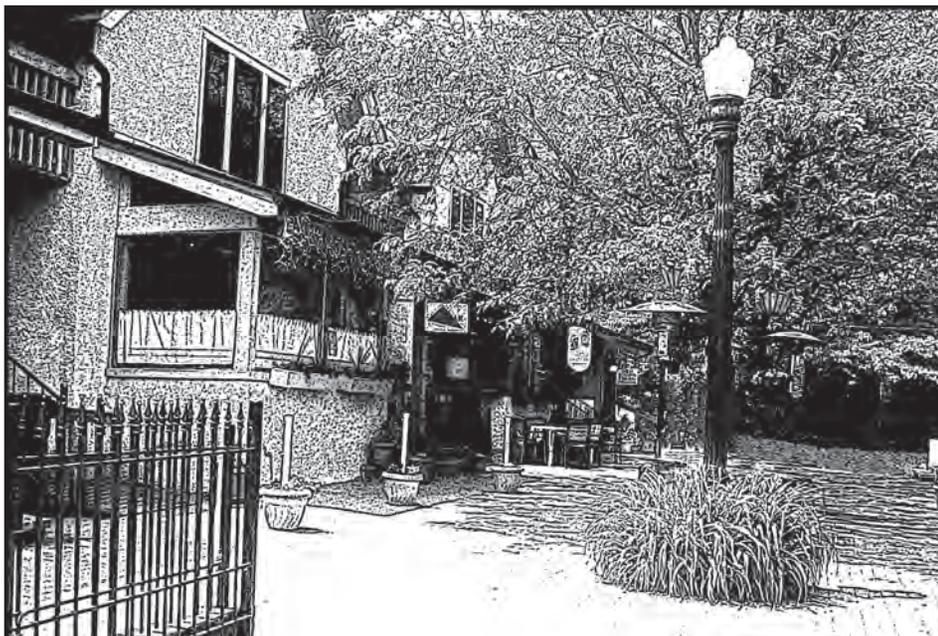
I waited one day too long. On the third day, the infusion was a gorgeous shade of bright green; the next day it starting browning, and I yanked the herbs out before the thing started to look like peat moss run-off.

The taste? Well, the Garfunkle herb mix tasted very good, though in the future I might just use rosemary (it's got the best flavor) and some parsley for color. Turning an herbal infusion into a cocktail is easy: you can have it straight up at room temperature, put it on the rocks, stick the bottle in the freezer or add some seltzer and a lime segment. Simple! And if a guest says your handcrafted infused vodka is not to her liking? Just tell her to go reap it in a sickle of leather. That should shut her up. (But what the hell does it mean?)

## The Scarborough Fair

Get some herbs. I'd try rosemary first, with some parsley for color. Measurements are useless here, since the whole point is to make it handcrafted “by you.” Wash and dry the herbs thoroughly, put them in a glass jar with a lid that seals tightly, pour in enough Absolut to cover the herbs, and seal the jar. Taste often. When it looks and tastes right to you, strain the infusion back into the Absolut bottle or the bottle or jar of your choice. Drink it straight, or mixed with some seltzer or a small splash of tomato juice.

*Ed Sikov is the author of “Dark Victory: The Life of Bette Davis” and other books about films and filmmakers.*





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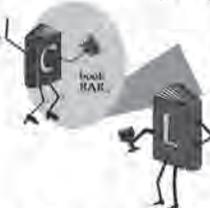
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2. Commander Ryker, The Hulk and Buddy the Mime @ The Hayloft
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Tilda Swinton. Photo: Magnolia Pictures

## Neil Patrick Harris, director?

Neil Patrick Harris has already done everything else in show business short of escaping Houdini-style from a locked trunk at the bottom of a lake (and don't count out that option yet, given his lifelong interest in magic tricks), including directing television and stage productions. So the next step on the ladder is feature films. His first project for Fox 2000 is "Aaron and Sarah," an indie comedy about a geeky guy and a popular girl who meet as freshmen in high school and become best friends. (Look, it could too happen.) Together they weather four proms

and a funeral before – can you guess? – finally realizing what was standing right in front of them the whole time. Emma Roberts and Josh Hutcherson will star in what could very well turn out to be the "(500) Days of Summer" that's allowed a happier ending. And starring people who aren't so old.

## 'Hobbit' ON

All that angst. All that negotiation. All that director drama. But now it's official: "The Hobbit" is happening and Peter Jackson ("Lord of the Rings" trilogy) will, indeed, direct. The bad news is that it's going to be in that annoying 3D, but

the good news is the potential for a powerhouse cast. Now here's where it all turns into speculation, but the word is that "Dr. Who" star David Tennant is up for a role, as is Michael Fassbender ("Inglourious Basterds"), and that Martin Freeman ("The Office," "Hot Fuzz" and the current BBC series "Sherlock") is being eyed as Bilbo Baggins. Obviously some, but not necessarily all, characters from the earlier films will appear, but there will be Gandalf. At the moment, Sir Ian McKellen is listed as merely "rumored" to play that part on his IMDB page, but who else could step into those robes? Name one person. See? It's impossible. And making this happen fast is definitely on the agenda since there's the possibility of a February 2011 start date.

## Tilda Swinton bathes in "Blood"

Ever heard of Erzsebeth Bathory, the 16th-century countess who is reported to have seduced, tortured and murdered over 600 young women because she believed that bathing in their blood would make her live forever? Isn't she already everyone's favorite historical lady-vampire/serial killer? Well, if you're not up to speed on her legend, then Tilda Swinton is going to fix that, when she stars in "The Blood Countess" ("Die Blutgräfin") as Bathory. German director Ulrike Ottinger will take on the strong personalities of Swinton, French star Isabelle Huppert and cult hero Udo Kier ("Suspiria"), and reports are that the film will lean toward the vampiric end of the story. Not to worry, though, because with

actors and subject matter like this, the "Twilight" crossover audience looking in vain for something approaching a love story will be a tiny sliver of a Venn Diagram. Meanwhile, there exists the promise of Tilda Swinton bathing in a blood-tub, which is something everyone can probably agree will be worth buying a ticket to see.

## Jane Lynch, Lea Michele of 'Glee' work the microphone

They're going to hide their faces but not their voices. The two "Glee" stars are each working on animated projects even as they continue to shoot the second demanding season of the elaborate musical TV show. Lynch is playing against type for hers, voicing the role of sweet, kind Aunt May Parker on the upcoming animated series "Ultimate Spider-Man." Lea Michele, on the other hand, is stepping right into diva-red slippers as Dorothy Gale in the feature film "Dorothy of Oz." The musical film features a mostly male voice cast, including Patrick Stewart, Dan Aykroyd, James Belushi, Hugh Dancy, Oliver Platt, Kelsey Grammer and Martin Short. And while some of those gentlemen can sing, none of them are most well-known for that talent, so this is definitely going to be a showcase for the young lady when it finally hits theaters sometime in 2012.

Romeo San Vicente's favorite "Oz" characters are those apple-pelting trees. He can be reached care of this publication or at [DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com](mailto:DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com).

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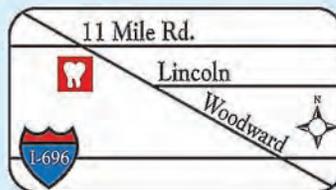


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