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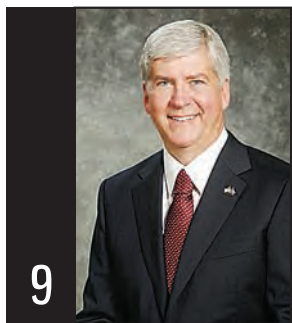
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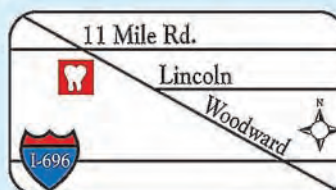
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# BTL Between Ourselves

**Holden Michael Alee**, 21, is a junior studying hospitality and tourism management at Grand Valley State University. He's also a staff member at Equality Michigan. When he's not helping organize this year's Motor City Pride, he volunteers at GVSU's LGBT Resource Center.

BY TARA CAVANAUGH

## 1 How are you helping with Motor City Pride this year?

I am the vendor coordinator. I'm in charge of getting all of our vendor applications, making sure they're all set to go and then laying out where they will be in Hart Plaza, making sure that the communication is there between the organization and vendors.

As of last Monday we confirmed 90 vendors. Which is about on par with what we had last year in Ferndale. There's still space, and we're still expecting applications.

Last year we topped out with 107 vendors, and we're expecting about the same number. People have been largely receptive to the move, and very happy.

I do anticipate after this year we will see what a success (Motor City Pride) can be.



our own experiences coming out as L, G, B or T and then offer resources or information specific to the course.

I'm also a part of a new program at the center called the Pipeline Leadership Academy, which helps train people to be active in social justice, and Change U., which connects students and faculty with community members to work on social justice issues together.

A group of us from the center are talking with administration and faculty and putting into place a plan of what gender-neutral housing would look like. We're seeing a great response from most of the administration on campus. We're really hopeful to have that in place for the fall. Fingers crossed.

## 4 What kind of reaction do you get from students when you speak in their classes about LGBT issues?

When I go into the classroom I have two things I focus on to break the ice. The first thing is my story. It helps if you can kind of humanize that aspect of coming out and what it's like to know you're different or realize you're gay or questioning or transgender. The other thing I use is humor. I really try to get them to laugh. I try and keep it light. I don't want it to be this heavy thing.

The reaction that I've gotten is tremendously positive. I've definitely seen students who were distant and disconnected but I have not had anybody come up and say anything to me personally, like "I don't believe in your lifestyle" or any of the things that you'd expect to hear when putting yourself out there like that.

There have been people who didn't realize that even certain things that they say, like "no homo," are offensive. A lot of times when I speak to people who are in the education program, they come up to me and say, "I never thought about what would happen if a student came out to me." It's something that's definitely real, that a teacher will experience at some point.

## 5 Next year you'll be a senior. What are your career goals?

I first thought I'd go into hotel management – and I realized that was just not for me. So I switched to event planning, thinking I'd plan million-dollar weddings, be on the Women's Entertainment Network and have my own show. (Laughs) And now after becoming so involved in the LGBT community and recognizing the amount of things that are going on in the world that people are overlooking or ignoring, I think I really want to go into event planning for nonprofits. Which works out great with Equality Michigan. I realized I could work here every day and be completely happy with myself and with my job.

## 2 Are you excited for the move to Detroit's Hart Plaza? What do you say about the controversy it's caused?

I thought that it was a brilliant idea. It makes more sense, when you say "Motor City Pride," for it to actually be in the Motor City and not in the suburbs. So we're very excited for that. I think it allows for such an expansion of the event, too. I know when we were organizing vendors last year, we were pretty tightly packed. And we probably could have used another block of 9 Mile, just for vendors, to get everybody placed. There wasn't much room to move. So that's one of the great things about moving to Hart Plaza.

I don't want to speak for the Pride Committee necessarily because I was not a part of that, but I think they anticipated that not everybody would hop on board right away. I have personally viewed it as being a transition year. This is the year we are moving from where it's been for a number of years into a new setting with two days, multiple stages, that sort of thing. I anticipate after this year we will see what a success this event can be. But I think some people need to see the event go off and be a success before they hop on board and commit to the change.

## 3 What do you do for the LGBT Resource Center at Grand Valley?

I'm on their Speakers Bureau. We receive calls throughout the semester from professors who would like us to come in and speak to their classes. We go into a really diverse number of classrooms – anything from education to biology and human sexuality courses. We basically speak about the coming out process,

*Between Ourselves is a bi-weekly feature that highlights those who work on behalf of Michigan's LGBT and allied community. To recommend someone for Between Ourselves, email our news editor Tara Cavanaugh at tara@pridesource.com.*





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# Obama '12: 'Leave no vote behind and take no vote for granted'

## Obama campaign hosts conference call with 100-plus Michigan LGBT activists

BY JAMES DAVID DICKSON

Announcing President Barack Obama's intention to "leave no vote behind and take no vote for granted" in his 2012 re-election campaign, Jamie Citron, director of the Obama For America 2012 LGBT Leadership Council, took a conference call with upwards of 100 LGBT activists in Michigan on April 28.

The conference call had two purposes: First, to detail Obama's service to the LGBT community, and secondly to hear what Michigan's most committed LGBT activists are doing, on the ground, to reach their communities, and to see how much of their approach could be tailored to the 2012 campaign.

Citron described the campaign as "still crawling, not walking quite yet," just four weeks in, but said new staffers were coming on this spring and summer and the campaign will soon be in full swing.

Citron began by outlining Obama's legislative victories and regulatory changes that benefited the LGBT community. He gave a reminder that in just over two years in office, President Obama had addressed two of the "big four" issues for the community by signing the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act in October 2009, and by repealing the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy last year in favor of allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly. Full repeal has yet to go into effect as the Department of Defense crafts new policies. The law is expected to be certified this year.

Obama has been criticized by community activists for not including gay and lesbian military families in the ceremony or in remarks when the White House rolled out its Military Family Initiative earlier this month. The White House responded by saying that gay and lesbian families would be included once the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" repeal is certified. But that incident did not come up during the conference call.

The other two items on the Big Four – an employment non-discrimination act, and a repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act (which Obama has ordered the Department of Justice to no longer defend in federal court) – have yet to be accomplished, but Citron said Obama is pushing for both, and that he will fight harder for the community than any of the Republicans who might run in 2012.

Outside of the banner accomplishments, though, Obama has done plenty of small things, "the unsexies," as Citron called them, that have benefited gays and lesbians of all walks of life.

For example: Under Obama, the State Department has issued transgender Americans passports that reflect their "true gender."

"Some of you might say, 'so what?'" Citron said, "but the passport is a one-stop shop employment document. This has prevented



The 2008 Obama campaign garnered well over 75 percent of the LGBT vote. Volunteers like those participating in the NYC Pride March worked all around the country to get out the LGBT vote for then candidate Obama. Photo from Flickr.

"The president is an ally. If we lose the White House, we lose a lot of these accomplishments. It's better to talk about them now than mourn their loss later."

—Jamie Citron, director of the Obama For America 2012 LGBT Leadership Council

further, unnecessary outings at the workplace."

The Department of Labor clarified the Family Medical Leave Act's definition of "son and daughter" to allow families of all sorts, including LGBT families, to take care of sick children in their families, regardless of legal status. This is important because in many states, children of a same-sex couple may have only one legal parent because second-parent adoption is not allowed.

Obama's Fiscal Year 2011-2012 budget increased money for teen suicide prevention, anti-bullying campaigns and HIV prevention and treatment. The president has also lifted the ban

on HIV-positive travelers from visiting the U.S.

And the president and First Lady Michelle Obama, as well as Vice President Joe Biden, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and others in the administration have filmed "It Gets Better" videos to support LGBT youth facing bullying and harassment at school and at home.

"The president is an ally," Citron said from Chicago. "If we lose the White House, we lose a lot of these accomplishments. It's better to talk about them now than mourn their loss later."

With that, Citron turned the call over to ask Michigan's activists how they go about reaching out to voters in their communities.

John Trumbull, of KICK, the Detroit-based agency for LGBT members of the black community, talked about KICK's outreach efforts in June, which include a youth summit in Detroit and a strong presence at the Pride Picnic. KICK will use both opportunities to register young people to vote.

Denise Brogan-Kator, interim executive director of Equality Michigan, said her organization will focus on the economic toll of discrimination by explaining the financial benefits of being perceived as friendly and welcoming to the LGBT community.

"If we aren't seen as a welcoming state, our economy won't recover," she said. Equality Michigan will roll out "community action teams" to make the economic argument in every corner of the Mitten.

Phil Volk, head of the Michigan Democratic Party's LGBT Caucus, mentioned, briefly, the organization's plans for a May 4 "Lobbying Day" in Lansing and closed by saying that the

Highlights of Obama administration accomplishments for the LGBT community since taking office:

- Appointed the largest number of LGBT people to major administration posts
- Ordered the Department of Justice to stop defending the Defense of Marriage Act
- The repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy
- Directed the Department of Health and Human Services to ensure hospital visitation and decision-making rights for LGBT individuals
- Funded studies on LGBT endangered youth
- Barred discrimination based on gender identity in federal employment
- Funding for LGBT seniors
- Reversing the U.S. position, supported LGBT issues at the United Nations and signed the U.N. Declaration on Gay Rights
- Lifted the ban on HIV-positive travelers to the U.S.
- Established foreign policy that will not accept antigay bigotry
- Supports the effort to pass ENDA in Congress

Source: Philadelphia Gay News, April, 2011

Caucus would "fully endorse" the president's re-election efforts.

Citron closed the 45-minute call by asking callers to declare "I'm in," by pressing 1 on their touchtone phones. This would help the campaign know who to keep in touch with in the months ahead.

He also announced that the campaign would host some 15-20 strategy sessions around the state, starting mid-May and running through June.

Much like the conference call, these sessions will be done in part to let people know what the president has accomplished and to see what tactics and techniques the campaign might adopt from grassroots activists.



# Snyder calls for anti-bullying legislation in education address

## Won't commit to a particular bill, but says action is required

BY TODD HEYWOOD

Republican Gov. Rick Snyder urged the state legislature on April 27 to pass anti-bullying legislation, but his office declined to disclose which pieces of legislation currently pending before the legislature he supported.

"We must ensure that Michigan students' opportunities are not diminished because we fail to provide them with a safe and secure learning environment. Forty-five states already have passed laws to address the problem of bullying in schools. It is time for Michigan to join them," Snyder said during his special address on education in Detroit. "I am asking the legislature to pass a comprehensive anti-bullying bill that will be in place for the next school year. The bill need not tell each school how to deal with bullying, but it must require that they have clear policies to do so. The State Board of Education already has developed a model policy that every district can look to as they develop their own."

The state legislature has been struggling to approve an anti-bullying bill for a decade. Advocates for the legislation have been clear that the law should mandate enumeration — or a clearly defined list of protected groups — while Gary Glenn and the American Family Association of Michigan have opposed enumeration, calling it part of a "homosexual agenda," because it would list sexual orientation and gender identity and expression as protected classes.

"Gov. Snyder's statement made clear his desire that any such legislation not dictate to local school districts how to handle the issue, but if he intended by his comments to actually endorse the state Department of Education's current model policy, he is as misguided in promoting homosexual activists' segregation language such as found in that policy as were the Democrats who for five years blocked passage of any anti-bullying legislation that didn't force that language on every school district in the state," said Glenn in an email to Michigan Messenger.

Legislation pending in both chambers of the legislature cater to either side of the debate.

And while Snyder's hat tip to the State Board of Education model policy could be seen as a support for enumerated legislation, his spokespeople were unwilling to reveal which versions of legislation he supports.

"The Governor's message very clearly outlines his language on this," said GERALYN Lasher, Snyder's communications director. "Every school must protect every student. Forty-five states already have these laws on the books and it is time for Michigan to join them. He fully intends to work with the legislature to provide a safe environment for all students."

Despite the non-commitment on a specific piece of legislation, Snyder was very clear that action to address the problem of bullying is a necessity.

The harm caused by bullying is not under



"Forty-five states already have passed laws to address the problem of bullying in schools. It is time for Michigan to join them."

—Gov. Snyder

debate. Studies have long shown that it leads to low self-esteem, depression, poor academic achievement, truancy, and even suicide. School is not a house of learning for a bullying victim; it is a house of pain. A bullied student is not only being tormented; he or she is being denied an

equal opportunity to a quality education.

Even the home is no longer a refuge for the bullying victim. Much of bullying today takes place on the Internet, via cell phone text services or by other electronic means. Such "cyber bullying" may not always take place on school property or during school hours, but when it is between students it must be recognized as a school issue. And because bullying is a school issue, it must be dealt with in school — before it becomes a law enforcement issue.

Many Michigan schools already have good anti-bullying policies in place and we need to ensure that every school has one. School policies cannot be designed to only cover some students — every school must protect every student. And, as adults, we need to be clear in both word and deed — bullying is always wrong.

The Republican leader in the state House took a similar position.

"While the Speaker has not taken a position on any pending legislation, he does believe protecting students from bullying in school is important," said Ari Adler, spokesman for the Republican Speaker of the House Jase Bolger of Marshall. "In the past, he has not supported bills that provided special classifications of students, preferring that the bills focus on bullying in general."

Advocates for enumerated anti-bullying legislation praised Snyder for his statement.

"I am now embarking on my eighth year of service on this issue, in some ways as long or longer than many elected officials. For any adult the old ideas of what bullying is, along with outdated thinking of special treatment, needs to be erased. The biggest problem in anti-bullying efforts are the adults, and I can only hope that when Governor Snyder says 'comprehensive,' he fully understands its meaning," said Kevin Epling, co-director of Bully Police USA. Epling's son, Matt, committed suicide following a series of bullying incidents in East Lansing. "I applaud Gov. Snyder's address on anti-bullying and his stance that it is wrong and the adults must act. His call for a comprehensive bill is long overdue."

Originally published on [michiganmessenger.com](http://michiganmessenger.com).

## Anti-bullying policy includes sexual orientation in Traverse City

TRAVERSE CITY— Traverse City Area Public Schools added "sexual orientation" to its anti-bullying policy on April 25, reported [upnorthlive.com](http://upnorthlive.com).

The TCAPS also added hazing and stalking as prohibited conduct and a rule that parents must be notified within 24 hours of a reported bullying incident.

Interlochen Public Radio reported on April 25 that the vote was causing controversy in the community, because "some religious groups say it is unnecessary to name particular groups of students in a bullying policy."

## Student activist relives 1961 Freedom Rides

### PBS selects MSU junior for 50th anniversary tour

BY TARA CAVANAUGH

Erica Shekell is about to go on the ride of a lifetime.

The Michigan State University junior was selected among 1,000 applicants to take part in the PBS American Experience 2011 Freedom Ride. The ride celebrates the 50th anniversary of the 1961 Freedom Rides, during which a diverse group of men and women peacefully



Photo of Erica Shekell by G.L. Kohuth for MSU

protested racism and segregation by riding together on busses through the Deep South. On their well-publicized journey, they faced violence, discrimination and even imprisonment. Their story is the subject of a PBS documentary, "Freedom Riders," that will air on PBS's American Experience program on May 16 at 9 p.m.

Shekell and 39 other students will travel along the same route as the original Freedom Riders from Washington, D.C. to New Orleans from May 6 to May 16. Shekell said she's particularly excited to meet some of the original riders who are making the trip with the students.

"I'm also really interested in getting to know the other students, because a lot of them have done absolutely incredible things on their campuses and in their communities," Shekell said.

Shekell, who first became interested in civil rights as a high school student in Howell, has an impressive resume like the rest of the students on the trip. The journalism and media arts major is enrolled in the Honor's College and is an active member of MSU's PRIDE — People Respecting Individuality, Diversity and Equality. She's also on MSU's planning committee for the 2011 Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender and Allies College Conference. Thanks to the committee, MSU will host the conference in 2013.

Shekell said what prompted an associate dean and a professor to recommend her to apply for the ride was her work with social media, which she uses as tools for activism.

"It can reach people who you would never be able to reach through word of mouth, mailing letters or phone calls," she said. "It gets the word out very fast — you can use Facebook to create an event for a protest or even create a Facebook group for contacting your representative in Congress."

Shekell, whose Twitter handle is @eshekell, will tweet about her experiences during her 10-day ride. PBS will also tweet about the trip @pbsamex and @FreedomRidePBS, and share updates at [www.facebook.com/ride](http://www.facebook.com/ride). The Twitter hashtag for the ride is #pbsbus.

**As President Obama addressed the country about Osama bin Laden's death, people gathered outside the White House, celebrating and singing the national anthem. What are your thoughts?**

Great day for America, great day for the world.  
**-Holly Weasel**

I can care less.  
**-Geronimo Larson**

Not really sure what to think...violence is violence is violence. Is this truly something to be celebrated? Or could our energy be better spent finding peaceful, global solutions to terrorism?  
**-Lisa Ross**

This is a huge moment for Americans, especially those who have lost loved ones through 9/11, terrorism (and) war. Will it end, more than likely not, but it is a hope that we can all wish for and a proud moment for Americans to know that Bin Laden will not be the cause of hurt and pain on U.S. soil again.  
**-Jenina 'Sutton' Halitsky**

This person has caused so much death and destruction and conflict that I understand why people celebrate his killing, but I cannot revel with them. Killing a human being is a terrible thing...even if it is necessary. But I'm not going to mourn his passing for a moment.  
**-Alex Hardesty**

Wish I could have been there - what a moment in history.  
**-Jack Miller**

*Comments may be edited for grammar and length.*

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# Transgender safety and rights



**Rachel Maddow**

*"I believe that coming out makes for a happier life, but that's not a matter of ethics, that's just corny advice."*

-Rachel Maddow, about a criticism she supposedly made towards Anderson Copper in an interview, maddowblog.msnbc.msn.com, April 25.



**Liz Owen**

*"In addition to working to pass inclusive legal protections for the most vulnerable transgender Marylanders, we at PFLAG must continue to dismantle the fears and prejudices of our society by continuing to support those coping with hostile communities, along with enlightening an ill-informed public about the very real and pervasive violence far too many trans people endure on a daily basis."*

-Liz Owen, writing for the PFLAG National Blog in response to the April 18 beating of a transgender woman in a Baltimore McDonald's, blog.pflag.org, April 25.



**Julie H. Lynch**

*"McDonald's needs to publicly apologize to Chrissy. They need to offer adequate compensation before they are sued. They need to fire each and every one of their employees at that Baltimore store who stood back and allowed the beating. They need to start publicly supporting efforts to advance awareness and acceptance of transgender people so things like this don't happen again."*

-Julie H. Lynch, author of the blog Gendersense: Thoughts for Trans Liberation, in a post titled "When bathroom access is a life or death issue," about the beating of Chrissy Lee Polis, a transgender woman, in a Baltimore McDonald's, gendersense.com, April 29.



**Selisse Berry**

*"Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in this country continue to be fired daily simply because of who they are. Think of it - a single manager, acting out of nothing more than personal prejudice, can rob a company of a skilled employee and deprive that person of the means to support themselves and their family. Our country can't afford to have more people out of work and our businesses can't afford to be short on good employees. Discrimination should never be the deciding factor in an employee's career - people should be judged on their skills, contributions, and dedication to the job."*

-Selisse Berry, executive director of Out & Equal Workplace Advocates, in a press release, applauding the reintroduction of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would ban discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in the workplace, outandequal.org, March 31.

# What you don't know can hurt you

## Townhall tour educates LGBTs about lack of legal rights

BY TARA CAVANAUGH

**LIVONIA**— Many LGBTs don't know that they can be fired or denied housing simply because of their sexuality or gender identity, and that there are no federal or state laws to protect them.

Equality Michigan, a nonprofit that lobbies for LGBT rights, is on a mission to educate people about the discriminatory laws in Michigan, in hopes of spurring the community to action.

In a townhall meeting in Livonia on April 27, a panel of speakers addressed the legal hurdles for LGBTs. Denise Brogan-Kator, interim executive director of Equality Michigan, said the goal is to have such meetings in every district in the state during the next three years.

"Michigan, I argue, is one of the most discriminatory states in the country from a legal standpoint," said Brogan-Kator, who is also a licensed attorney.

She highlighted the problem with Proposition 2, passed by voters in 2004. It defines marriage as only between a man and a woman, and it also denies health care for same-sex partners and has helped limit second-parent adoption rights — which means that thousands of children with same-sex parents are only allowed one legal parent.

Laura Hughes, another panelist at the meeting, highlighted the dangers for



Katie Strickfaden, legal director of Wayne County's new Domestic Violence Court; Denise Brogan-Kator, interim executive director of Equality Michigan; Emily Dievendorf, director of policy at Equality Michigan; and Laura Hughes, executive director of the Ruth Ellis Center were panelists at the townhall meeting. BTL photo: Tara Cavanaugh

violence situations," she said, "which is probably because if you're outed, and it gets back to work, you can be fired."

Amending the Eliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act was another issue discussed at the townhall meeting. The act, passed in 1976, provides protections against discrimination in employment, housing

and the benefits take effect in October.

August Gitschlag, field director at Unity Michigan (which is a collaborative effort of Equality Michigan, the Michigan ACLU and Affirmations), also pointed out that some cities across the state are talking with the agency about creating non-discrimination ordinances, which could protect LGBTs from housing discrimination or job discrimination — or even both.

Strickfaden, who is from Holland, Mich., said some people in more conservative areas of the state "don't really know" what LGBT equality means. "They mostly think gay marriage," she said. "If you separate these things, explain to them that discrimination is rampant, they usually get on board."

### Lack of legal protections for Michigan LGBTs

- No protection against housing discrimination
- No protection against job discrimination
- No specific protection against bullying in schools
- No same-sex marriage
- No same-sex parent adoptions or parental rights for both same-sex parents

Equality Michigan can be found online at <http://equalitymi.org> and on Facebook and Twitter.

**"Michigan is one of the most discriminatory states in the country from a legal standpoint."**

—Denise Brogan-Kator, interim executive director of Equality Michigan

LGBT youth in the foster care system. Hughes is the director of the Ruth Ellis Center, a shelter that offers services specifically for LGBTQ youth, many of whom are kicked out of home because of their sexuality.

Studies show that few foster families want to accept LGBTQ foster children, Hughes said, and many of those who work in shelters don't want to deal with sexuality either. "It's easy for workers to assume all runaways or foster youth are the same," she said. It's also difficult to encourage children to return home if their parents are violent or not accepting.

Panelist Katie Strickfaden, the legal director for the new Domestic Violence Court in Wayne County, discussed domestic violence in LGBT relationships. "Domestic violence between LGBT couples is the least reported in domestic

and other areas. The classes that are protected include race, religion, age, sex, height, weight and familial or marital status. Activists have tried for more than a decade to amend the act to include sexuality, gender identity and gender expression as protected classes on that list.

Equality Michigan Policy Director Emily Dievendorf, who also actively lobbies in Lansing, said that the current legislature, which is dominated by conservative lawmakers, does not want to touch social issues. But "it's not as if social justice issues died in the last election," she said. "Progressives did not vote. They stayed home."

Dievendorf noted that there have been some successes worth celebrating. State Republicans recently tried to take away health benefits for domestic partners of state employees, but their efforts failed,



Last year's Motor City Pride took place in Ferndale. BTL photo: Andrew Potter

## Motor City Pride parade to show 'Hart of the Movement'

BY TARA CAVANAUGH

**DETROIT**— The parade at this year's Motor City Pride festival will take place on Sunday, June 5 at 11 a.m. Pride organizers are asking that all floats demonstrate the theme, "Hart of the Movement," a nod to the festival's new location at Hart Plaza in Detroit.

"We think it's going to be one of the best ways to bring all the different supporters and different groups together so you can really see how big and diverse our movement is," Motor City Pride Chair Dave Wait said.

The parade will travel from Lafayette down Griswold Street to Hart Plaza. Parade participants may walk,

drive cars, ride on floats, or drive motorcycles or ATVs. Organizations that already have a booth at the festival will be able to participate in the parade for no extra charge. Otherwise, nonprofits and businesses that want to participate in the parade will pay \$50 and \$100. Application materials, which can be found at [motorcitypride.org](http://motorcitypride.org), are due by May 25. Wait said there's no limit to how many can be in the parade: "We'll be able to accommodate everyone."

Motor City Pride runs from June 4-5 this year. More information can be found on its website or on its Facebook page — just search for "Motor City Pride."

## SE Dyke March June 4

**FERNDALE**— The second annual Southeast Michigan Dyke March and Rally will be held Saturday, June 4 at 2 p.m. in downtown Ferndale. Organizers encourage all to attend the family-friendly event. Lineup takes place in the Withington lot at 1 p.m. A rally at 3 p.m. in Geary Park will feature LGBTQ entertainment.

## Symposium addresses bullying May 15

FARMINGTON HILLS— The Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus will host its 7th Annual International Symposium on Sunday, May 15 from 1 to 6 p.m. The Center is located at 28123 Orchard Lake Road. Co-sponsored by the Michigan Council for Social Studies, this year's forum's topic is "Much Ado About Bullying: Signs, Symptoms, and Solutions."

The symposium is open to the public. Normal museum admission rates will apply for participation in the symposium. Continuing education units (SB-CEUs) are available for educators for a small additional fee.

The event will feature three guest presenters. One is Tara Michener, entrepreneur, author and advocate for diversity in southeast Michigan, who has been featured on PBS and WDET Detroit. Also presenting is Elizabeth Barton, associate director of the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies at Wayne State University. Barton is a developmental psychologist whose work in socio-emotional development and school-based violence has appeared on the Today Show. The third presenter is Glenn Stutzky of the School of Social Work at Michigan State University, whose research focuses on bullying, cyberbullying and workplace bullying. He has been featured on ABC's 20/20 and Good Morning America.

"Bullying, whether it occurs in the playground, on the Internet or at work, unfortunately is all too prevalent in our society today," said Anthony Salciccioli, President of the Michigan Council for Social Studies. "It is vital that we learn as much as we can, discuss the issues collaboratively and devise effective strategies to overcome them. Bullying harms so many lives. As a society, we must do all we can to address this growing problem."

## First Tri City Michigan Pride June 25

SAGINAW— Those living in Bay City, Midland and Saginaw will be able to celebrate their own first-ever Tri City Pride on June 25 this year at Ojibway Island from 1 to 7 p.m. The Rev. Kathy VanBuskirk of Divine Light Interfaith Ministry is chair of Tri City Michigan LGBT Pride and is helping organize the activities. She said the day's events include children's games, guest speakers about LGBT rights, music, food and a drag show lead by Holly Hood Kardashion.

"There's not a lot around this area for the LGBT community," VanBuskirk said. With so much going on in the news about gay marriage and gay rights, "it just feels like it's time," she said. "We need to do something to help bring the community together as a whole."

VanBuskirk anticipates 800 attendees. The organizers are still signing up vendors and booths – if interested, contact VanBuskirk for more information at 989-755-2618.

# Experts: Judge's sexual orientation is non-issue

## Prop 8 supporters want gay judge ruling overturned

BY LISA LEFF

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)— The sponsors of California's same-sex marriage ban insist they are not trying to disqualify the federal judge who struck down Proposition 8 because he is gay.

Instead, they argue the judge's decade-long relationship with another man poses a potential conflict because they might want to get hitched themselves.

Experts in judicial ethics said April 26 that carefully parsed line of reasoning is unlikely to prevail.

They pointed out that while courts have not yet had to wrestle with sexual orientation as grounds for judicial recusal, judges typically have rejected efforts to remove jurists based on personal characteristics such as race, gender, religion or even the contents of their investment portfolios.

"I don't think this judge had any more duty to disclose his sexual orientation than a Christian or Jewish or Muslim judge has a duty to discuss their religion or a heterosexual judge has his duty to discuss their sexual orientation," retired Illinois state Judge Raymond McKoski said.

At the center of the dispute is Chief U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker, who issued the ruling last August declaring Proposition 8 to be an unconstitutional violation of gay Californians' civil rights.

"We are not suggesting that a gay or lesbian judge could not sit on this case," attorneys for the backers of Proposition 8 wrote in their motion filed Monday to overturn the landmark ruling. "Simply stated, under governing California law, Chief Judge Walker currently cannot marry his partner, but his decision in this case ... would give him a right to do so."

They claim Walker should have disclosed the relationship while presiding over the case and said if he had any interest in marrying his partner.

DePaul University College of Law professor Jeffrey Shaman, co-author of a widely used textbook on judicial conduct, said the fact that Walker was rumored to be gay from the moment he randomly drew the Proposition 8 case "somewhat undercuts the argument that he should have disclosed he was in a long-term relationship."

Lawyers for backers of the ban seem to be grasping at straws in making their argument against the now-retired Walker, Shaman said.

"But it's their prerogative to do this as lawyers," Shaman said. "It might indicate they are worried about the judge's opinion, which was such a strong opinion, and they are trying to make an end run around it."

The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, a political action committee and recruitment organization for gay politicians, said there are now 102 openly gay, lesbian, bisexual or

transgender judges in the U.S.

Only one, U.S. District Judge Deborah Batts in New York, serves at the federal level, although President Barack Obama has nominated two gay men for federal judgeships but they have not been confirmed.

Rumors that Walker was gay and had a long-term partner who accompanied him to social functions circulated during the 13-day trial that preceded his decision and after he handed it down. The judge declined to comment at the time.

Members of the Proposition 8 team openly complained about Walker's handling of the

which had a reporter at the gathering.

The judge also revealed that he'd been in a relationship with a man he identified only as a physician for a decade.

"If you thought a judge's sexuality, ethnicity, national origin (or) gender would prevent the judge from handling a case, that's a very slippery slope," Walker said. "I don't think it's relevant."

The lawyers who filed the motion to wipe out the judge's ruling declined to elaborate outside their written arguments about why they concluded that Walker's comment about his partner caused them to change course.



"If you thought a judge's sexuality, ethnicity, national origin (or) gender would prevent the judge from handling a case, that's a very slippery slope. I don't think it's relevant."

—Judge Vaughn Walker, who ruled that California's ban on gay marriage was unconstitutional

case and accused him of favoring the same-sex couples who had sued in his court for the right to marry. But they refrained from raising the specter of the judge's sexual orientation, saying media reports and gossip were an unsound basis for legal strategy.

"The bottom line is this case, from our perspective, is and always will be about the law and not about the judge who decides it," Jim Campbell, a lawyer with the Christian legal defense group Alliance Defense Fund, told The Associated Press in August.

That might have remained their position if Walker, who retired in late February after two decades on the federal bench, had not decided to end the speculation himself.

Earlier this month, Walker had a farewell meeting with a select group of courthouse reporters. When the topic came up, Walker said he never thought about recusing himself because he was gay and noted that no one had asked him to, according to the San Francisco Chronicle,

In their filing, they stated in a lengthy footnote that the burden for "maintaining impartiality and the appearance of impartiality" lies with judges, and that it was not the place of the lawyers to investigate Walker's private affairs.

Retired California state Judge Jeffrey Rothman said bias claims have arisen in the past surrounding judges with strong religious views. But he noted that the bar for disqualification is purposefully set high. Lawyers representing a clinic that performed abortions, for example, would not be able to challenge a devoutly Catholic judge, he said.

"They would get absolutely nowhere with such a challenge unless that judge had gone out and made statements or speeches saying he believed that Roe v. Wade ought to be overturned if that case ever came before them," Rothman said. "The question is, can the beliefs be set aside and the judge decide the case on its merits and be fair."

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## RTM Editorial

# Show me your teeth

Gov. Rick Snyder announced last week that he fully supports an anti-bullying bill, and that our state should pass one as soon as possible.

This is good news. An anti-bullying bill, nicknamed “Matt’s Law” – after Matthew Epling, a Michigan teen who committed suicide due to bullying – has been stuck in our state legislature since 2006. But there’s two versions of the bill, one general version and another one that specifically protects all students from bullying, and we have to make sure the right one passes. The enumerated version of the bill lists out the students it will protect, and LGBT students are on that list. Supporters say this version has “teeth.” The non-enumerated version of the bill does not offer specific protections. (So we guess it just has gums.)

Interestingly, Snyder said he supports the version that the State Board of Education backs, which happens to be the enumerated one. This earned him some tepid applause from the LGBT community – because now the struggle comes in making sure Republican lawmakers follow Snyder’s lead in approving the enumerated version.

While some may say that a general anti-bullying bill is enough, they fail to understand that the most vulnerable students need to be specifically protected. Increasingly, LGBT students are standing up and saying their school environments are not conducive to learning – and are even sometimes unsafe. And they’re not just talking about being hassled by other students. They’re talking about the lack of support from teachers and administrators who see bullying and let it slide, or who refuse to believe the

students who have the guts to report incidents of harassment and violence.

Snyder said that he wants to make sure that each school can figure out how it wants to protect students from bullying, but schools need to have some guidance that will show them who to protect and how to do so. An enumerated anti-bullying bill with teeth will provide that necessary framework, and will force faculty and staff to get on board once and for all.

Matt’s Law has lingered in the legislature for too long. Our state is one of the five (five!) that don’t have any sort of anti-bullying law, and it’s about time Michigan gets on board with the rest of the country. A school that isn’t safe for everyone is a school that’s not safe for anyone. Tell your lawmakers that they should have the guts to show support for the right version of this bill – and finally, some teeth.

A school that isn’t safe for everyone is a school that’s not safe for anyone. Tell your lawmakers that they should have the guts to show support for this bill – and finally, some teeth.



## RTM Transmissions

BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

# Give it a rest

Chrissy Lee Polis, a 22-year-old, post-operative transsexual was at a Baltimore County McDonald’s recently. While there, she opted to use the bathroom. Two other women – 18-year-old Teonna Monae Brown and a 14-year-old whose name has not been released – were also there. A now-former employee of the fast food restaurant recorded what followed.

Ms. Polis is beaten and kicked by the pair, eventually dragged by her hair and even suffered a head blow that appeared to trigger a seizure. She’s been afraid to be seen in public since the attack. She’s further concerned that the video – which has since “gone viral” on the Internet – would affect her chances for employment, or be the root of further violence against her.

While the attack itself is appalling, and the actions of Ms. Brown and her 14-year-old friend are reprehensible, it’s also worth noting the reaction of McDonald’s co-workers. Some are seen on the video, standing idly by, watching the melee.

The employee who filmed the assault did not do it to provide it to the police, mind you. He shared it on YouTube, adding from his Twitter page, “That Was A Man...He Was Dressed Lik (sic.) A Woman...And He Was In The Females Bathroom Knowing He Was A Man...And When Told To Get Out The (sic.) ladies Bathroom He Go Smart With Everybody So Tha (sic.) Two Girls Beat Him Up.” The misgendering of Polis is presented as it was written.

The aforementioned employee with the camera has been terminated, and other actions are being taken at the restaurant in question. McDonald’s itself has released a corporate statement on the incident, stating, “There’s no room for violence under the golden arches.” Both her attackers will face their day in front of a judge, and she may eventually see justice.

It wasn’t very long ago at all that House Bill 235 – a transgender rights bill – was killed in Baltimore. The bill was widely criticized in transgender circles for its removal of public accommodation language. Even with the removal of such language – presumably to help in its passage – the bill was tossed back to committee, essentially ending it for the year.

This language would have, of course, included the ability for transgender people to use the restroom of choice in, say, a fast food restaurant. It would not, of course, have stopped this attack from happening – but it would have provided a lot more leverage for Ms. Polis’ case against the restaurant in question and, perhaps, may serve to make for a safer environment for transgender people in Maryland overall.

I’ve talked about the “bathroom bill” meme a lot lately. It is a fabrication of many so-called “family” groups, professing that allowing transwomen will allow mustache-twirling villains access to women’s rooms, where they’ll be free under the law to assault your wife and

children. Never mind that any such people would still be committing a crime by assaulting another human being, and they would still not be allowed in opposite gender restrooms. Logic need not apply in arguments based purely on emotional reactions.

Of course, such opposition may well be a thinly veiled way of saying “we don’t like their kind,” as we saw with Maryland Senate President Mike Miller, on Maryland Public Television’s State Circle program: “I have senators that are not going to hire ... people with male sexual organs who wear a dress to serve as receptionists, okay? Umm, and so if they’re not going to do it, so if the senators and house members themselves wouldn’t hire someone in that category, how can we say to constituents that you’ve got to do this?”

Miller focused on the genitals present under one’s dress, and expects that his constituents will as well. Even if, like Polis, those genitals have been surgically reconstructed to best resemble those of other women – not, of course, that one needs reconstruction to be a woman or a man in the first place.

For this, HB 235 was defeated.

Meanwhile the fight over transgender rights is heating up in Connecticut over yet another bill smeared as a “bathroom bill” by the right, claiming that it will somehow allow predators access to our families. The same tired arguments seem to apply.

In Maine, a fight is brewing over LD 1046, which would remove the state’s already-existing transgender public accommodation rights – again citing bathroom use. The bill would limit access to sex-segregated public facilities based solely on “biological sex.”

For Polis, the assault was not at the hand of some male assailant somehow emboldened by transgender people being given the right to use gender- presentation-appropriate facilities, but was from those amongst her own gender. While she was attacked, those whose job it was to provide a safe, friendly place to consume Big Macs and Filet-O-Fish sandwiches stood back and let it happen, or focused their camera phone on the action while tweeting ill-informed, transphobic slurs.

If the opposition to so-called “bathroom bills” is truly focused on protecting people from assaults, then there is no example better than Chrissy Lee Polis to point out why transgender people also need to be protected from assaults and other discrimination while using a restroom or other public accommodations. If you are looking for people to protect, you need not look any farther than her.

People like Ms. Polis and myself simply want a safe place to go to the bathroom. It really should not be that difficult to understand.

*Gwen Smith deserves a break today. You can find her on the web at [www.gwensmith.com](http://www.gwensmith.com)*



## Parting Glances Then and Now

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

### Straights(!) in da military

According to a recent Newsweek magazine's shocking headliner expose – "The Military's Male-Rape Secret" – the DADT policy in place since 1993 has included not only gays but, it would seem, an alarming number of straight males.

Hey, Sarge! Hey, Cap! Hup two! Don't ask. Don't tell which Alpha Male screwed which new recruit, boot-camp trainee, shy foreign-born enlistee, for reasons of pulling rank, brute power, ethnic dislike, mean-spiritedness, macho perversity. Whatevuh!

Tell it to the Marines. Who'd believe you any way? 100% percent straight male! (Don't bottom, ever! That's what women do. If you're a top it's OK. You're still straight. Get that! Still straight. Wipe that smile off your face, Pvt. Ivanovbitch. Bend over. This is A-mare-ree-cah!)

Newsweek's heretofore hush hush report – shades of Sodom & Gomorrh revisited – is all about straight male on straight male rape. (Time for fundamentalist Bible thumpers to take another look at Genesis 19. Homos to blame? More than likely OT straights bent on showing Lot who the hell's boss around Old Sodom City. Lot's daughters' bootie or no. Power, Yahweh, baby! Power!)

Setting the record straight, so to speak, I can remember a time when guys – rough trade, straight men, horny types whose girlfriends or wives wouldn't perform oral or anal sex – not then a Cosmopolitan mag topic – believed they weren't the least bit gay, even if they had homo sex, as long as they were the active not passive partner. In some cultures it's still the norm today. Insertee, yes. Deep throater, no.

How serious is the U.S. military problem probes Newsweek? Very. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, "last year nearly 50,000 male veterans screened positive for 'military sexual trauma,' up from just over 30,000 in 2003."

The article doesn't report on what DVA defines as 'military sexual trauma,' but adds, "last year more than 110 men made confidential reports (to the Defense Department) of sexual assault by other men, nearly three times as many in 2007."

It wasn't until 1992 – one year before implementation by President Clinton's troubling DADT policy – that the Defense Department even acknowledged sexual assault as an egregious offense, and then only for female soldiers as victims.

Of these female victims, by the way, Newsweek comments, "In fact, it is the high victimization rate of female soldiers – women in the armed forces are now more likely to be assaulted by a fellow soldier than killed in combat – that has helped casting light on men assaulting men."

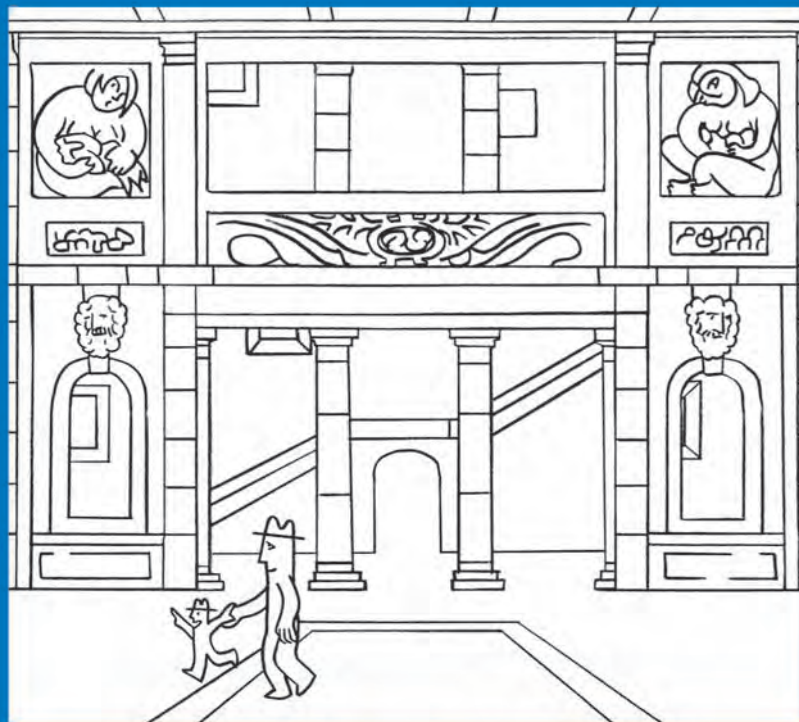
Military experts and outside researchers cited are clear that the perpetrators of male-on-male rape are not gay or 'closeted' soldiers but straights. "Like in prisons and in other predominantly male environments, male-on-male assault is motivated not by homosexuality, but power, intimidation, and domination."

Mic Hunter, author of "Honor Betrayed: Sexual Abuse in America's Military," is quoted. "One of the reason people commit sexual assault is to put people in their place, to drive them out. Sexual assault isn't about sex. It's about violence." Typical victims are young, low ranking, targeted for vulnerability. Both men and women.

There's a possibility that history – as it unfortunately does, if lessons of the past are not learned – is here repeating itself. This time ancient history. The Genesis 19 tale of Sodom & Gomorrh. You know: Lot, offering hospitality to three guests – angels stopping by for tea and crumpets – finding his suburban condo besieged by butch males who want to 'know' the angels.

Lot instead offers his – pardon the pun, buddy boy – comely daughters. "Not good enough. No deal, Lotto. We want to show these strangers who's boss around here. Show who's in charge. We gonna pluck a few feathers. Just a bit uh bunk house fun. Give da' wives a little break. A guy thing, Lottie! Screw thou."

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# Linda Harvey

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Calling all homos: do you live near anyone facing foreclosure? Well, the least you can do is help them move because it turns out that losing their home is all your fault.

Or at least that's where the twisted logic of Mission America's Linda Harvey leads.

In a recent article titled "The Sin-Based Family" published on the Mission America website, Harvey makes the case that tolerating homosexuality leads people to make bad financial decisions. Or, as she puts it, "The weak foundations of American homes guarantee disintegrating lives and a crumbling economy."

Harvey takes issue with the GOP's supposed preference for fiscal matters over social ones (though, seriously, I have to wonder if she's been paying attention to things like, oh, the whole defense of DOMA fiasco) and thus seeks a connection between the two. And by "seeks" I mean "invents."

She writes, "The GOP can claim all day long that they need to stick to the 'pressing' issue of the economy in preference to the 'divisive' issues of abortion and homosexuality. But such cowardice ends up treating the symptoms and not the disease, and mis-understands that these weakened structures need the repairs first and foremost."

Got that GOP? Family is the basis of any solid foundation and the gays are destroying family.

As Harvey explains, when the "(family) structure is sin-based, other sins are more likely to scurry in through the cracks. Substance abuse and self-destruction accompany sexual deviance. And some of this means poor decisions about finances."

She adds, "Sexual and material covetousness are usually sin siblings." In other words, butt sex and bad checks go hand in hand.

Harvey then goes on to make some rather sweeping and insulting generalizations about people who are losing their homes to foreclosure.

"It would be interesting to study the families who have defaulted on mortgages for the correlations between structural and/or functional weaknesses like infidelity, divorce, gambling or porn addictions, job instability, credit card default, domestic abuse, sexual deviance, and criminality," she writes. "There is also a high likelihood that poor or no church attendance would show up as a factor as well."

Well gosh, that would be interesting. In fact, we should mandate that intensive background

checks be run on all of the deadbeat families being kicked to the curb right now and make public what God already knows about how much they suck. I especially appreciate how Harvey includes "job instability" in her list of "weaknesses" because it's about time people started treating unemployment as a sin and making clear that if you've lost your job it's because you don't love Jesus enough.

To be clear, the foreclosure families aren't even the worst of the worst. Harvey explains that "probably few such households are homosexually-headed, because few homosexuals want to settle down to any kind of permanence,

---

Maybe if more Americans stopped tolerating their gay neighbors and chose to stone them instead we could stem the tide of foreclosures.

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despite the plea for the honor of the marital designation. Many unmarried mothers of children born out of wedlock are on public assistance, which means they are unlikely to have had a mortgage. So when we look at the mortgage crisis, we could analyze it as a shift in the American family, but these families would not begin to reflect where the greatest structural weaknesses already exist."

Yeah, you know how there aren't any gays or lesbians losing their homes right now, or any single moms. Because they're all too busy sinning in their apartments or something.

"Like the home inspector who focuses on a leaky faucet and ignores termites, we need to see the reality before us," Harvey writes, with unintended irony.

"Reality" is clearly a very subjective term and to say that gay people are the problem here demonstrates a pretty deep disconnect on Harvey's part. But then again, maybe if more Americans stopped tolerating their gay neighbors and chose to stone them instead we could stem the tide of foreclosures. And then we could give those homes to people who actually go to church. So long as Harvey approves of the way they live the rest of their lives, too.

# Firm hired by GOP ends work on gay marriage ban

## King & Spalding was supposed to defend the Defense of Marriage Act

BY GREG BLUESTEIN

ATLANTA (AP)— A prominent law firm hired by Republican lawmakers to defend the federal ban on gay marriage said Monday it was withdrawing from the case amid criticism by advocacy groups, prompting the partner leading the work to quit his job there.

King & Spalding chairman Robert Hays Jr. said in a statement that he decided to withdraw the Atlanta-based firm from work representing the Defense of Marriage Act after determining the decision to take the case wasn't vetted properly.

The decision was quickly followed by the resignation of Paul Clement, an attorney with the firm who was retained by House Republican leaders after President Barack Obama's administration directed the Justice Department to stop defending the law in court.

Clement, a former U.S. solicitor general, said his personal views on the law are irrelevant. But he argued that a law firm shouldn't abandon a client in the face of criticism, saying that "defending unpopular positions is what lawyers do."

"Much has been said about being on the wrong side of history. But being on the right or wrong side of history on the merits is a question for the clients," said Clement, who is based in Washington. "When it comes to the lawyers, the surest way to be on the wrong side of history is to abandon a client in the face of hostile criticism."

Clement said in the letter that he is moving to a different firm, Bancroft PLLC, and will keep working on the case for House leaders. House Speaker John Boehner's spokesman said the move will "ensure the constitutionality of this law is appropriately determined by the courts, rather than by the President unilaterally."

The law firm's decision to drop the case came a day before advocacy groups planned a rally at the firm's Atlanta headquarters to protest its involvement. Those groups said they were particularly stung that the firm, known for supporting gay rights and recruiting gay employees, was involved in defending the ban.

"Many of us were stunned, shocked and angered when it became known that King & Spalding had taken on this case, and we are gratefully relieved to find out they had withdrawn," said Jeff Graham, the executive director of the gay rights group Georgia Equality. "The legal case is something that is really a thinly veiled political attack on gay and lesbian couples and families."

Jon Davidson, the legal director of the gay-rights group Lambda Legal, said King & Spalding's "sense of justice got the better of them - and that's good news for all of us."

In a nod to Clement's statement, he said: "We welcome the firm back to the right side of history."

# Liechtenstein to hold voter referendum on partnership law

The same-sex registered-partnership law that passed Liechtenstein's Parliament in March will be subjected to a voter referendum in June.

Anti-gay forces turned in enough signatures on April 21 to mandate a vote, gay activists reported.

The tiny nation, located between Switzerland and Austria, has about 18,500 voters.

The Liechtenstein lesbian and gay organization, FLaY, says it needs financial support to mount a campaign to save the law, which is scheduled to come into force in September.

Same-sex couples registered under the law would have the same rights as married people except in areas such as second-parent adoption, artificial insemination and surrogacy.

For more information or to donate, see [www.flay.li](http://www.flay.li). To translate the site, paste the URL into [translate.google.com](http://translate.google.com).

# Group targets 'sissy boot camps'

International LGBT activist group All Out has launched a campaign to convince Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak to ban what the group called "sissy boot camps."

According to activist groups, 66 teenage male students whom teachers deemed effeminate recently were sent to a state-government-sponsored camp in the state of Terengganu to unlearn such behavior and not end up gay.

All Out said Malaysian activists will deliver a petition to Razak at the 18th Association of Southeast Asian Nations Summit, which takes place May 7-8 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The group is collecting signatures at [allout.org/en/petition/malaysia](http://allout.org/en/petition/malaysia).

Sodomy and "unnatural carnal intercourse" are illegal in Malaysia.

# Poland to stop blocking foreign same-sex marriages

Poland will change a form that Poles must obtain before getting married abroad so that it no longer asks the name of the future spouse, the nation's Campaign Against Homophobia said April 27.

The group said some registry offices had refused to issue the required form when both future spouses appeared to be of the same sex. The form also is needed if a Pole wants to enter a civil union in another nation.





Same-sex marriage activists presented a giant wedding card for Prince William and Kate Middleton outside the gates of Buckingham Palace on April 25. Photo: Peter Tatchell Foundation.

## Gay activists rally for royal wedding

Same-sex marriage activists presented a giant wedding card for Prince William and Kate Middleton outside the gates of Buckingham Palace on April 25.

The card congratulated the royal couple on their wedding, which took place four days later, and urged them to support legalization of same-sex marriage. The United Kingdom currently offers same-sex couples civil partnerships that carry the same rights as marriage.

The card said: "We wish you a happy life together. You can get married, gay people can't. We are banned by law. We ask you to support marriage equality."

Organizer Peter Tatchell said the action was well-received.

"Everyone outside the palace expressed support for marriage equality. We didn't get a single negative reaction," he said. "We are urging the royal couple to find a way, within official protocol, to indicate their support for marriage equality."

Tatchell is involved in a case before the European Court of Human Rights that seeks to overturn Britain's ban on same-sex marriage and its ban on opposite-sex civil partnerships. The case, sponsored by the Equal Love campaign, was filed by four gay and four straight couples.

## Conflicting reports on OK to hold Moscow Pride

Several recent reports from Moscow said that officials had greenlighted this year's May 28 gay pride parade, which would have marked the first time in its six years of existence that the parade wasn't officially banned.

But on April 27, City Hall said those reports were incorrect and that organizers' application is still being studied.

Pride co-organizer Nikolai Alekseev said it would not be surprising if the initial reports had been floated to gauge public opinion.

On April 11, Moscow Pride got a final ruling from the European Court of Human Rights that previous years' pride bans by the city's ex-mayor were illegal. The ECHR determined that the bans placed Russia in violation of the European Convention on Human Rights in the areas of freedom of assembly and association, right to an effective remedy and prohibition of discrimination.

Pride organizers now are asking the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to help make sure the ECHR ruling is implemented.

"After this court decision ... the Council of

Europe must stand firm on our side," said pride co-organizer Nikolai Baev. "We feel lonely."

In previous years, when gays tried to hold pride events despite the city bans, the gatherings were attacked by anti-gay hooligans, picketed by religious protesters and broken up by riot police.

In related news, a recent poll commissioned by Moscow Pride and GayRussia.ru found that 56 percent of Muscovites have heard about the attempts to stage a pride parade in the city over the past six years.

Nationally, 33 percent of Russians have heard of the pride efforts.

Young people, people with more education, and people who live in midsize cities were more likely to have heard about Moscow Pride.

The Public Opinion Foundation poll, conducted April 20-24, quizzed a representative sample of 1,500 Russians from more than 100 cities in 44 regions of the nation. The margin of error is 3.6 percent.

Alekseev said it was "amazing" that so many people had heard of the efforts of "a small group of people like us without funding and without any institutional support."

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# Stevie Nicks: A Fairy Tale

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Ten years have passed since Stevie Nicks released her last solo album, but she's still the same gay-loved goddess of earthy rock she built her legend on. The new release, "In Your Dreams," is exactly how the gypsy queen left us – with that uniform sense of mystical otherworldliness that's made Nicks a go-her-own-way virtuoso since her days with Fleetwood Mac. White horses, vampire tales and ethereal love parables all seep into this set, Nick's first all-new studio project after reuniting with Fleetwood Mac for 2003's "Say You Will."

Nicks recently spoke with us about taking a trip to "the magical world of fairies and angels," the dress drag queens love, and how her own music motivated her to lose a dozen pounds.

## Why did it take so long to release another solo album?

Even though I haven't made another solo record in 10 years ago, I've been making music solid since "Trouble in Shangri-La." I came off the road from 135 shows in 2005 with Fleetwood Mac and was going to make a record, and the business people around me said, "We don't think you should do it because the music business is in chaos" – you know, with Internet piracy, which was really hitting us in the face in 2005 – "and it's just going to be a really emotional pull on you. We don't think you should do it. Tour while you can, do big shows and sell lots of tickets, that's what you can do." And I just was stupid enough to kind of go, "OK."

## When did you wise up?

At the end of the Fleetwood Mac tour in 2009. We were in Australia, and I wrote the "Moonlight" song (from "In Your Dreams") there, and when I got done with that song – I started it in Melbourne and I finished it in Brisbane – there was a piano. I stood up and I said to my assistant, "I'm ready to make a record now."

## What was it like recording "In Your Dreams"?

The whole year of recording this record was like this magical mystery tour that we did at my house. We recorded the whole thing at my house and (the Eurythmics') Dave Stewart, and his entourage were there every day, and my girls and everybody were there every day. It was just a fantastic experience. We started in February and ended in December, and when it was over I was heartbroken. I didn't want it to ever end.

## The concept of the video for the first single, "Secret Love," is intriguing – it merges your older self with your younger self. How do you feel now versus then?

That's why the little girl that's in the video, Kelly, is wearing the green outfit that was my first colored outfit made in 1976, 1977 – that's when my designer, Margi Kent, started making my clothes. But my outfits were black, and that's one of the only colored ones she made; it's a kind of tie-dyed green outfit. The little girl that's playing me, she's 15 and she's one of my goddaughters, she, like, fits into this and we're looking at her going, "Oh my god, we were that tiny!"

But anyway, that's what I wanted. I wanted Kelly to be the 25-year-old Stevie, and then there's the older Stevie. That song was written in 1975, so I wanted the spirits to blend. That's why you see her leaving the white horse and then you see me leaving the white horse and then we're both together, because in my dreams as a little girl that white horse was very important.

See Stevie Nicks, page 24



Photo:  
Kristin Burns

1



"I hope that this is the first of many wedding expos!"  
- Jackie Walker

## A big day indeed!

More than 300 guests enjoyed Michigan's first-ever Same-Sex Wedding Expo, sponsored by the Detroit Marriot Livonia and BTL on Sunday, May 1. Guests won prizes, sampled everything from vodka to chocolate, and chatted with affirming vendors. Local LGBT activists modeled formal wear and mingled with the excited crowd. BTL publishers Jan Stevenson and Susan Horowitz are already looking forward to planning another expo next year.

2



4



**BTL photographer Andrew Potter captured the five-hour event. More of his photos can be found online at <http://andrewpotterphoto.zenfolio.com/samesexweddingexpo>.**

1. Cho-zen owner B.C. Cabangbang, KICK Executive Director Curtis Lipscomb, BTL Calendar Editor Benjamin Jenkins and BTL Entertainment Editor Chris Azzopardi look hot in formal wear from President Tuxedo while posing in front of a hot pink stretch Hummer provided by Satisfaction Limousines.
2. Affirmations Chief Operating Officer Kat LaTosch and her partner Jennifer looked lovely in dresses from B. Ella Bridal – while getting their sons to don tuxes from President Tuxedo for a whole 20 minutes.
3. BTL Entertainment Editor Chris Azzopardi, News Editor Tara Cavanaugh and Calendar Editor Benjamin Jenkins horse around in the photo booth provided by Quik Picz Photo Booth.
4. Jim Ankofski, right, owner of the Pastry Palace in Wixom and David Landis show off their cake creations.
5. Equality Michigan Policy Director Emily Dievendorf and BTL News Editor Tara Cavanaugh model lovely gowns from B. Ella Bridal.
6. Ruth Ellis Center Executive Director Laura Hughes shows off her glamorous looks in a gown from B. Ella Bridal.
7. Each guest received a special goodie bag full of prizes.
8. Abracadabra Jewelry & Gem Gallery help guests try on original jewel and metal creations.
9. Wedding photographer Eileen Koprowski shows off her 20 years of experience.
10. Harpist Onita Sanders serenades guests with dreamy melodies on her harp.
11. Many Metro Detroit couples enjoyed food, drinks, prizes and vendors at the expo.
12. Dan Miller from Elite Sweets in Livonia provides delicious cake samples for guests to enjoy.

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"It was phenomenal to see which vendors are in our community and other couples are so delicious!"



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12

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opportunity  
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are supportive of  
y, to interact with  
es, and to sample  
s food and drinks!  
Roland Smith



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11

"When my fiancé and I attended the straight expo in January we were snubbed and ignored by many vendors. They actually walked away from us as we were talking when they realized it was two guys planning a ceremony. This show has far exceeded my hopes and met many of the needs that were left unfilled."  
- Larry Iddins Jr.

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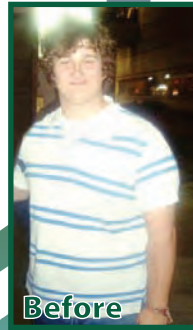
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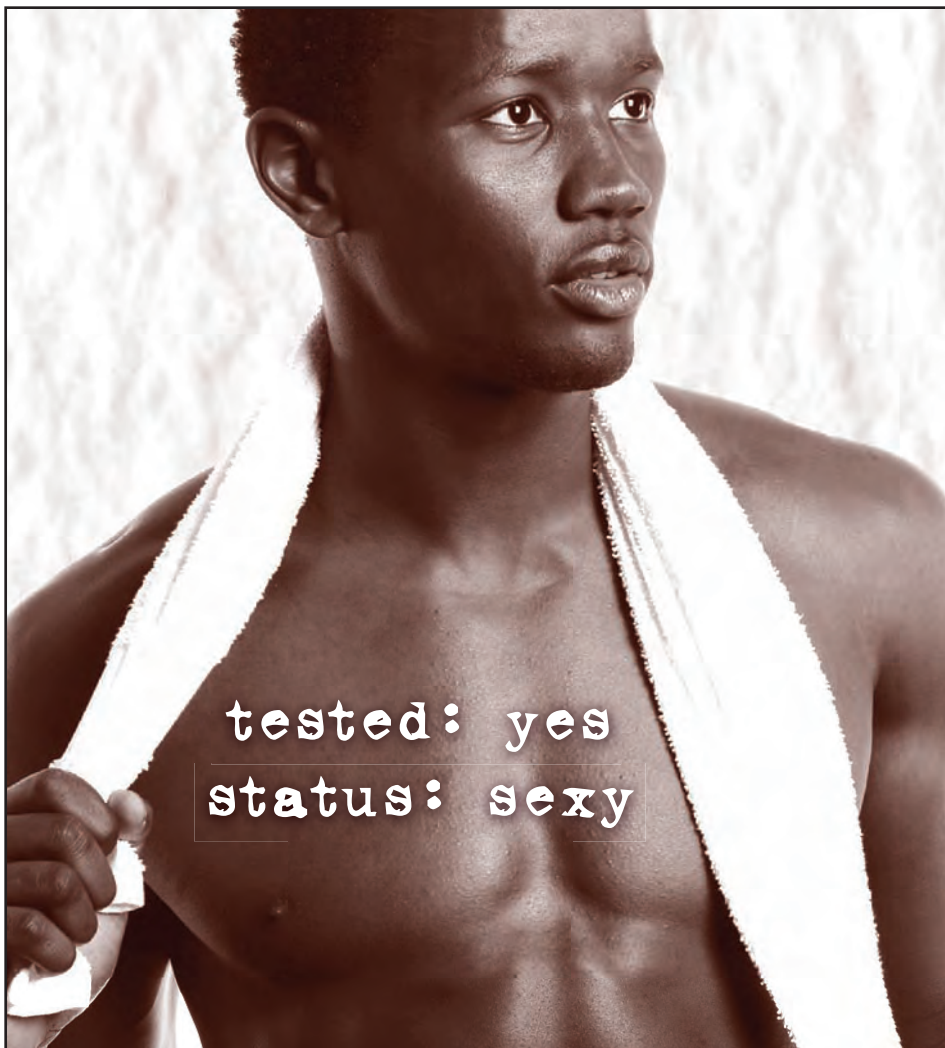
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## Life

### ► Stevie Nicks

Continued from p. 19

That horse was so beautiful. (While shooting the video) we looked down out of my bedroom window and saw this horse – and there was a fog machine on and the actual sun was coming through all the evergreens in my backyard – and I was like, “That can’t possibly be real.” If that horse had a horn you would’ve thought, “OK, I’ve died and gone to fairyland,” because it was so, so mystical and so real in its magicness. This horse was like Guinevere.

#### Let’s talk about those fairies, because you know a lot of gays adore you.

I know. I’m glad. All these visions that I see, I love when people get them. Sometimes people don’t get it, you know, and I love when people do, because I think that everybody needs to move into that magical world sometimes. A lot of people do not ever move into the magical land of fairies and angels and they just live in the hardcore miserable world that this world is right now. It’s chaotic, horrible, there’s nothing we can do – it’s such a bummer.

I can do benefits and go to Africa, but the reason I make music – the reason I’ve always made music – was to try to just make a record of songs that makes everybody, for an hour a day, feel better. We can all stay friends and we can all be in this world and we can rise above everything else for a minute. And that’s really the only reason I wanted to make music.

#### When did you know you were a gay icon?

When “Night of a Thousand Stevies” (a New York City-based salute to Stevie Nicks featuring impersonators) started happening 20 years ago, it was a clue. And you know, I always felt it was because I was not a fashion statement like Madonna was. I’m very different than her; she’s very chameleon-esque. That little outfit that Kelly is wearing is exactly the same as the black outfit I have on in the video. The eye makeup she has on is the makeup that I’ve been wearing since high school. I don’t change much.

#### Right. You stay very true to yourself, and I think a lot of gay people can admire that because we strive for that, too.

I do, and I think that brings a little bit of comfort to my audience. I still have the two girls singing with me, because I love them and they’re my dear friends. But I could’ve been changing background singers every year, and I chose to stay with Sharon (Celani) and Lori (Nicks) because the sound of the three of us is comforting to my audience. And those clothes are comforting to my audience.

#### Any impersonators stand out to you?

Well, I just think it’s very fun to see. When I was wearing my beautiful white Morgane Le Fay dress and my black velvet jacket, that dress just took off. I noticed how popular that dress was from the impersonators. (Laughs) I was laughing, and Morgane Le Fay was just tickled pink. So every time I’d do a little change, like in the “Secret Love” video with the long floor-length, we’re laughing – Lori and Sharon and I are laughing going, “We’re single-handedly going to bring back the Victorian ball gown.” There’s a whole new fashion statement coming out of the three or four or more videos that will come from this record, where we really stayed very Victorian.

#### Drag queens will be all about that, you know.

Yeah – I love it!

“We can all stay friends and we can all be in this world and we can rise above everything else for a minute. And that’s really the only reason I wanted to make music.”

#### “Glee” recently dedicated an entire episode to Fleetwood Mac’s “Rumours” album. How do you feel about having your work on a show that’s been so controversial regarding using other artists’ songs?

You know, I went down there when they were doing “Landslide” and I stayed there for six hours and watched them film the whole thing. I watched Gwyneth (Paltrow) and Brittany (Heather Morris) and Santana (Naya Rivera) sing the song 50 times, and I had such a good time. What I was very touched by was that Lea Michele, who plays Rachel, said to me, “You know, in all the big songs that we’ve done, which is many, nobody’s ever called us or come down or even written a note thanking us for doing ‘Jessie’s Girl’ or a Journey song.” They do such great versions of all these songs; the original writers cannot fault them. They’re magnificent – every one of them. And she goes, “Nobody except you has ever come down and told us that they thought we were doing a good job.” And I thought that was so sad. Very, very disrespectful.

#### As someone whose music has spanned many generations, how does it feel working with a new generation of performers – like the “Glee” cast or, for instance, Taylor Swift at the Grammys?

I love that. A lot of the songs they love are songs that I wrote when I was really young. “Landslide” was written in 1973; I was 27. I may sing it now at 62, but I was 27 when I wrote that song. It’s not like they love a song that was written by a 62-year-old woman. They love a song that was written by a 27-year-old girl.

So I’m thrilled, and I don’t write any differently now than I did when I was 27. I just go to the piano – inspired by something that happens to me – with a cup of tea, incense burning and the fire in the fireplace.

#### Was your muse for “Moonlight (A Vampire’s Dream),” which was “Twilight”-inspired, Taylor Lautner’s abs?

No. It’s nothing about him at all. The first and third verse were written about me and Lindsey (Buckingham, of Fleetwood Mac) in 1976; the second verse and the chorus were written about Bella and Edward. It really is an amazing blend – an ancient story blending Lindsey, Stevie, Bella and Edward, and everything in between. It’s my favorite. And by the way, I have listened to “Secret Love” and “A Vampire’s Dream” for the last two-and-a-half months and I’ve lost 12-and-a-half pounds just from treadmilling to “Secret Love” and “A Vampire’s Dream.”

#### No way. You treadmill to your own music?

Way! And I have never gotten tired of either of those songs. I’ve just been listening to those two songs for two-and-a-half solid months, and I am thinner than I’ve been since 1989. I really attribute it all to those two songs.



# 'Celluloid Activist' offers thrilling history of gay liberation



**CELLULOID ACTIVIST**  
THE LIFE AND TIMES  
OF  
**VITO RUSSO**  
MICHAEL SCHIAVI

**"Celluloid Activist: The Life and Times of Vito Russo," by Michael Schiavi. University of Wisconsin Press, 366 pages, \$29.95 hardcover.**

Last year erotic pioneer Samuel Steward, this year film enthusiast and AIDS activist Vito Russo – the queer biographies get better and better. Thirty years after its first edition (it was revised in 1987) and two decades after Russo died, "The Celluloid Closet" remains in print, chronicling how lesbians and gay men were for so long rendered invisible – or demonized – by Hollywood. This impressively researched biography, based on in-depth interviews with intimates and drawn from Russo's exhaustive archives, is both a thrilling history of early gay liberation days – Vito witnessed the Stonewall riots – and an overdue reminder of one man's outsize impact on gay culture and AIDS politics. Schiavi's admiration for his subject's life infuses the book, but the author doesn't overlook the warts – Russo was often unlucky in love and was sometimes quick to anger. He was also beloved by his community: not long before he died, Russo "waved "like Evita" from Larry Kramer's balcony as Gay Pride marchers below shouted out their love for him. This knockout biography honors, in Lily Tomlin's words, a darling and daring man.

**"My Brother and His Brother," by Hakan Lindquist. Bruno Gmunder, 160 pages, \$15.99 paper.**

Teenager Jonas, 18 when this slim but emotionally complex novel ends, never

**Featured Excerpt**

*Then I found the first note about Petr...: "Thursday 13 March, 1969. What an incredible day! The last period was a double lesson in Art. Hakansson told us we'd do something we had never done before. We'd draw from a model. And I thought we were to draw each other. But as we entered the room there was a guy waiting for us. He looked so fine I just blushed. He was wearing a thick dressing gown, and when Hakansson was through talking, he took off the gown and sat on the desk. And he was completely nude. I just stared. He seemed in a way even more naked than the guys do in the locker-room. I had a hard-on."*

*– from "My Brother and His Brother," by Hakan Lindquist*

knew his older brother Paul, just 15 when he died, two years before Jonas was born. For years, a picture of Paul has stood on top of the family TV. Even as a toddler, Jonas sees "a secret smile" on the lips of the boy in the photograph. As the years pass in Lindquist's impeccably profound, lyrically gripping story, Jonas focuses more intently on Paul's life, first after gazing at a cache of faded family photos, next when he discovers a creased letter in the pocket of the jacket Paul was wearing when he died, then by talking with family friend Daniel, a middle-aged man who knew Paul – was, in fact, his confidante – before he died. Finally, Jonas comes across a diary his brother secreted in the bedroom he inherited that unravels both the mystery of Paul's death and the joy the boy found, before tragedy struck, in his relationship with another young man. Translated from Swedish by the author, this is a romantic gem.

**"Fall Asleep Forgetting," by Georgeann Packard. Permanent Press, 264 pages, \$28 hardcover.**

A trailer park on Long Island Sound circa 2001 is the odd-character setting for Packard's haunting novel about fearless dying, bitter bigotry, religious fervor, sexual intimacy, rocky marriage and really luscious food. Restaurant owner Paul is dying of cancer, and worries that his withdrawn wife, Sloan, will be emotionally and erotically adrift after he's gone. So when park ranger Claude (a woman) becomes entangled in their lives, Paul – planning his suicide – is content to nurture her relationship with his wife. Packard adds a slew of colorful characters to the mix, most notably transvestite Cherry Pickens, who lords over the ramshackle trailer park with muscular mate Barton; Saugerties, a homophobic Korean war vet; flirtatious Rae, who has goo-goo eyes for Cherry's hunky man; and precocious nine-year-old Six, Rae's daughter, a mini-seer whose

independent ways link all the characters. Packard's prose, lush and mystical, is also sometimes challenging; shifting points of view invite a close reading. This isn't a book to skim, it's a read to savor.



**"Torn Apart: United by Love, Divided by Law," by Judy Rickard. Findhorn Press, 272 pages, \$20 paper.**

Part memoir of anguish and part call to action, this timely book tackles

an issue that incorporates two contemporary LGBT concerns – same-sex marriage and immigration rights. Rickard, an American, and her British partner, Karin, met online several years ago, were soon committed life partners, and to stay together have become domestic vagabonds; Karin's stays in the U.S. are limited by visitor visas, and she never knows whether she'll be granted the next one. Rickard chronicles their travels, their border-crossing traumas and their determination to stay together in the book's first third; the heart-wrenching stories of more than a dozen lesbian and gay couples denied the right to live together in America follow. Some couples, like Judy and Karin, bounce from country to country; others live with student or work visa expirations looming; one man has opted to live in the country illegally, but faces deportation if he's caught. Adding the political to the emotional, the last third of this poignant and powerful book offers a wealth of information on how queers fit into comprehensive immigration reform.

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

## Footnotes

"AND TANGO MAKES THREE," a 2005 pre-school picture book by gay fathers Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson, is number one on the American Library Association's list of the top 10 books challenged in 2010 by conservative parents and right wing organizations, drawing more attacks than the likes of "Brave New World," by Aldous Huxley, "Nickel and Dime: On (Not) Getting By In America," by Barbara Ehrenreich, and, last on the list, "Twilight," by Stephenie Meyer. "Christopher, the Hugging

Lion" by the same authors is a finalist this year for a Lambda Literary Award in the Children's/YA category... THE PUBLISHING TRIANGLE honored British novelist Alan Hollinghurst ("The Swimming Pool Library," "The Line of Beauty" and the forthcoming "The Stranger's Child") with the Bill Whitehead Award for Lifetime Achievement at its April 28 ceremony in New York; the organization's Leadership Award went to "The Gay & Lesbian Review/Worldwide," and a judges' Special Award in Nonfiction went to

"Gender Outlaws," edited by Kate Bornstein & S. Bear Bergman. For winners in the fiction, poetry, and nonfiction categories: publishingtriangle.org... PLAYWRIGHT EDWARD ALBEE and British mystery writer Val McDermid will receive Pioneer Awards at the Lambda Literary Foundation's 23rd Annual Lambda Literary Awards ceremony in New York on May 26, hosted by comic Lea DeLaria, where winners will be announced in 24 literary and genre categories. For ticket information: lambdaliterary.org.

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# Local 'Love'

## Wayne State professor releases collection of short stories

BY HANNAH SCHWAB

Torrid love affairs, heartfelt father-son moments, slightly erotic scenes – Christopher T. Leland’s new book, “Love/Imperfect,” has it all.

The recently released work is the first collection of short stories from Leland, a veteran writer and doctorate professor of creative writing at Wayne State University. For Leland, this collection is 40 years in the making, with stories that date back to his college days in Los Angeles and new ones from the past few years.

The local author has produced novels and non-fiction about the writing process, but when the university encouraged him to release this collection he figured, as he approaches 60, “maybe I better get them out now while I still can.”

The book is part of the “Made in Michigan Writers Series,” which began in 2006 and currently contains 18 titles of fiction, poetry and essays, all written by authors who live in Michigan or have some strong connection to the state. Leland’s stories in “Love/Imperfect” bounce around in content and setting, but all come back to love. How the “Coe Boys Got Their Names” showcases love in the time of war, “Reprise” reunites former lovers, and “Fellatio” features a gay couple and their open conversations about sex.

“Whether you are gay or straight, man or woman, we can all relate to imperfect love,” Leland says. “Many times, imperfect love is a series of regrets or near misses, and I think these stories show that.”

Leland credits his desire to tell stories from his family. His maternal grandmother and mother’s cousin were both storytellers and eccentric characters in the family. Both women had exciting lives and many stories to share. In fact, “Wonderful Town” was a true story passed down from Leland’s mother.

“We have a generational tradition of unconventional characters in my family, and I also fit that mold,” Leland says.

Leland pulls inspiration from a variety of places. Stories like “In Conclusion” and “Memento Mori” are somewhat autobiographical. “A Mother’s Love” was indirectly based on an acquaintance and “Swim” was an actual event that happened in St. Clair Shores, Mich., in the 1950s.

Leland’s main inspiration comes from his life experiences. Although he is originally from Tulsa, Okla., Leland spent his childhood in North Carolina, Boston, California, Madrid and Buenos Aires. Living in different areas and experiencing different cultures helps him create his characters.

“Over the years I have met many amazing people who share their stories and their histories with me,” Leland says. “In ‘The Woman Who Loved Claude Rains,’ I based those characters on people I knew and people I indirectly knew of. Other people’s stories helped me become a part of different worlds that I was never a part of and will never be a part of again.”

Leland said his unconventional process of writing comes from within

friends never admit to themselves or each other that they have feelings that go beyond a platonic relationship.

While many of his characters are gay, Leland does not think of himself as



“I prefer to think of myself as a writer who happens to be gay. I create a wide range of characters, and sometimes they happen to be gay and sometimes they happen to be straight. It’s never a conscious thought when I write them.”

– Christopher Leland

himself. The stories “just show up and they say to me, ‘This is how you are going to write me.’”

“The story knows itself better than I do, so I just go with it,” Leland says. “The characters tell me where they want to go and I let them. I tell my students, ‘The story pulls the writer in a specific direction and they should follow that pull. A story wants to be told and we shouldn’t fight it.’”

Leland’s growing interest in poetry during the past 10 years helped him become a concise writer and create short stories. “Traveler” could have easily been a 250-page novel, Leland says, but it has a different affect on the reader in short story form.

An ongoing detail in Leland’s stories is the hardships that men deal with when they are in love. Leland believes, in general, that men love more imperfectly. He said men don’t realize how profoundly they love until it is gone, and because they don’t know how to show it, they react with fear or aggression. In “Memento Mori,” the

gay writer. “I prefer to think of myself as a writer who happens to be gay,” Leland says. “I create a wide range of characters, and sometimes they happen to be gay and sometimes they happen to be straight. It’s never a conscious thought when I write them.”

Leland said the world calls for standards and expectations, even in the creative world of writing. The default race is white. The default character gender is male. The default orientation is straight. He said some publications pass on a story because of its gay element, saying, “That might be interesting, but who wants to read about gay people?” Leland’s response: “That might be interesting, but who wants to read about straight people?”

“Homosexuals read about heterosexual couples the same way that heterosexuals read about heterosexual couples,” Leland says. “I hope to see heterosexuals read stories about homosexuals with the same amount of involvement in the characters that homosexuals have when they read about heterosexual relationships.”

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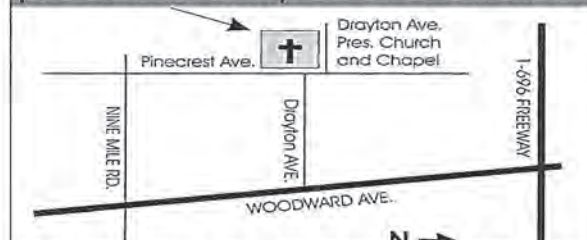
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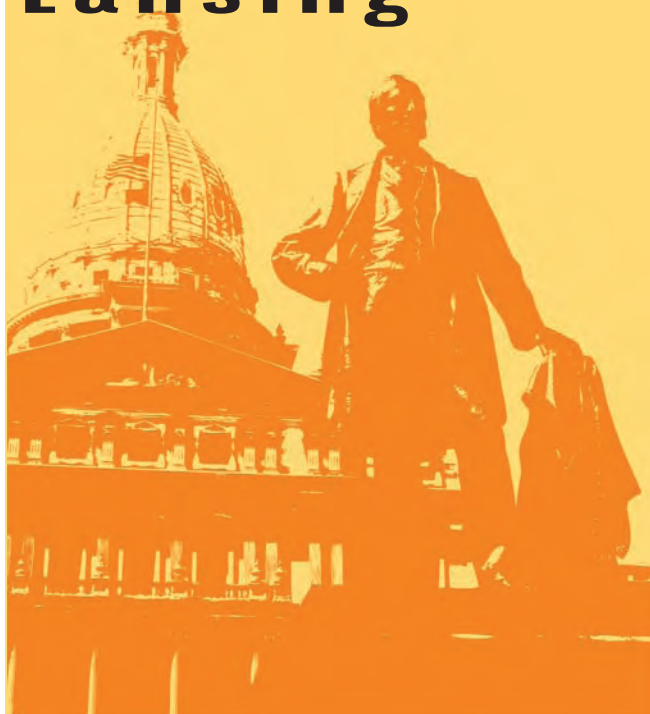
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## Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose, sometimes it rains

BY JOHN QUINN

It is unfortunate the weather dried up Thursday in time for the Tigers' game to proceed. The 10 to 1 drubbing by the Seattle Mariners sent streams of fans out of the stadium early. Wimps! Summer soldiers! While it's hard to continue referring to baseball as "America's Pastime" (that seems to be texting on Facebook now), it's comforting to know that respect for the traditional still exists in Detroit.

Thus we come to Detroit Free Press columnist Mitch Albom's fond tribute to a local legend; "Ernie," a play in nine innings, commemorates the life and career of Ernie Harwell. Long known and beloved as the "Voice of the Tigers," Mr. Harwell gave America 60 years of distinguished service in broadcasting. Not only are we served a generous portion of baseball history, we learn why the gentle,

REVIEW

### Ernie

City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Thursday-Sunday through June 26. \$20-\$25. 313-471-6611. [www.olympiaentertainment.com](http://www.olympiaentertainment.com)



Will David Young and TJ Corbett in "Ernie" at Detroit's City Theatre. Photo: David Reed-Ernie the Play LLC

unassuming man behind the microphone deserves such revered status.

The time is evening, Sept. 16, 2009. The place is an access tunnel inside Comerica Park. A reluctant Ernie Harwell has come to the stadium for one last thank you from a grateful city – Ernie is dying of cancer. His backstage pacing is interrupted by a boy inexplicably clothed in knickers and po'boy hat who is more than just a routine fan. The exuberant pest coaxes Harwell to "make one last broadcast" and tell his life story.

Aeschylus is credited with adding the second actor to drama, thus turning the monotony of monologue into dialogue. Yet dialogue, too, is a fairly static form, but there's nothing static in "Ernie."

To read the complete review, log on to ... [www.EncoreMichigan.com](http://www.EncoreMichigan.com) or [PrideSource.com](http://PrideSource.com)

## Everyman spins tale of loss and lamenting

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

It is obvious from the moment one walks into The New Theatre Project's space that the experience won't be a conventional one, but rather taste of the bohemian flavor that mixes well with Ann Arbor's reputation. Taro tea and coffee is available from borrowed mugs, the chairs are an eclectic collection of donated folding chairs, armchairs and a few theater-style connected seats. Incense burns in the dimly lit space and actors are stretching and practicing yoga-like moves in the circular stage surrounded by the 40-some seats.

This is the setting for "The Everyman Project," with the props of daily life hanging from the ceiling and people pleasantly socializing before the show. Playwright Jason Sebacher, who flew in for the premiere of his show, introduces himself to actors, who in turn introduce him to audience members. There is no fourth wall in this production,

REVIEW

### The Everyman Project

The New Theatre Project, 220 Felch St., Unit 5, Ann Arbor. Friday-Sunday through May 15; no performance May 6. \$15. 734-645-9886. [www.thenewtheatreproject.org](http://www.thenewtheatreproject.org)



Ben Berg, Luna Alexander, Elise Randall, Analea Lessenberry and Andy England star in "The Everyman Project." Photo: Ben Stange

though once the show begins, the performers are too intense in the story they are telling to notice there is an audience watching – except for Death, who is always aware of everyone, in a creepy omniscient way that underscores her assertion that even if you can't believe in God, you must believe in Death.

The play is a modern interpretation of the medieval morality play, a look at the contemporary Everyman and the emotions and heartbreak that she experiences. There is a beautiful mix of elevated poetic language and the intense exchanges of everyday speech.

To read the complete review, log on to ... [www.EncoreMichigan.com](http://www.EncoreMichigan.com) or [PrideSource.com](http://PrideSource.com)

## Finding connections through ackmack and goulash

BY MARTIN F. KOHN

With at least 15 productions, according to American Theatre magazine, Annie Baker's "Circle Mirror Transformation" is one of the country's most-produced plays this season. It's easy to see why theaters like it. Set in an acting class at a civic center, it affirms the value of theater itself as a provider of insight, comfort, laughter and a sense of community.

It's easy to see why audiences like it, too: It provides insight, comfort, laughter and a sense of community.

Actors, directors, any artists associated with such a venture "get it" from the get-go, so any staging runs the risk of drowning in too much love. Happily, that doesn't happen in John Seibert's production at Performance Network; neither overstated nor understated it's just, well, stated. Audiences come away with a sense of

REVIEW

### Circle Mirror Transformation

Meadow Brook Theatre, 207 Wilson Hall, Rochester. Wednesday-Sunday through May 15. \$30-\$39. 248-377-3300. [www.mbttheatre.com](http://www.mbttheatre.com)



Terry Heck and Eva Rosenwald in "Circle Mirror Transformation" at Performance Network Theatre. Photo: Jude Walton

having eavesdropped on real people they wouldn't mind meeting after the show.

Over many short scenes, the play takes place in the fictional town of Shirley, Vermont (I had to look for it in an atlas just to make sure it wasn't real), but it could be almost anywhere. I would say anywhere, but there's something about the place that's characteristically New England: Except for the youngest one in the class, a 16-year-old girl, every character is originally from somewhere else. In one part of New England (Maine), they even have a special name for this: If you're

not a native, you're "from away."

Neither Baker (a New Englander) nor her characters make a big deal about it, but the unspoken implication is that nobody feels quite at home, not even in his or her own skin; everyone in the class, even the teacher, is seeking some kind of inclusion.

To read the complete review, log on to ... [www.EncoreMichigan.com](http://www.EncoreMichigan.com) or [PrideSource.com](http://PrideSource.com)

**GREY GARDENS**  
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**CIRCLE MIRROR TRANSFORMATION** BY ANNIE BAKER

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# RTM Happenings

## Editor's Picks

### Outings

The Jewish Gay Network of Michigan presents a new four-part series of sessions focused on enlightening the gay and straight community of human rights injustices in medical, financial and legal issues.

The series begins on May 4 with a session guided by Jay Kaplan (pictured), staff attorney for the ACLU-LGBT Project, and Mary Kator, Chief Council of the Rainbow Law Center, discussing how various federal and state laws and policies fail to protect LGBT people from discrimination and deny recognition of same-sex relationships.

The first event of the series begins at 7 p.m. May 4 in the Handleman Hall of Kahn Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield. One day passes are \$10, and full-series passes are \$35. For information, go to [jgnmi.org](http://jgnmi.org) or call 248-432-5661.



### Music



When it comes to folk music, few musicians know how to crank it out as quickly and soulfully as Greg Brown. His music has been performed by musicians such as Jack Johnson, Ani DiFranco, Mary Chapin Carpenter and Willie Nelson. His 24th album, "Freak Flag", drops May 10, but Brown has already hit the road for his countrywide tour.

Founder of the influential indie roots label Red House and former musical director for Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion" radio program,

Brown is renowned for his live performance's intimacy and emotion.

Brown performs 8 p.m., May 6 at The Ark in Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$32.50 and available online at [theark.org](http://theark.org) or by calling 734-761-1800.

### Theater



When you are feeling blue, what do you turn to for comfort? Music? Friends? Books? TV? Food? Family? For the die-hard musical fan known only as The Man in the Chair, it's his favorite musical. Who is this mysterious Man? He is the narrator in the Tony Award-winning musical within a comedy "The Drowsy Chaperone," opening at the Players Guild of Dearborn May 6.

As the turntable spins in The Man's apartment, the musical comes to life in his living room. Played by Brian Townsend, The Man offers the audience a unique perspective of his favorite musical as he stops and starts the show, narrating the story and giving his opinions.

Performances are May 6, 13, 20 and 27, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2:30 p.m. Sundays. For tickets, call 313-561-TKTS. The theater is located at 21730 Madison, Dearborn.

## OUTINGS

### Wednesday, May 4

**Twice Blessed: Modern Family-You and Your Loved Ones**, 7 p.m. Effort to bring the issues of social justice and human rights to the public. Series will be of importance to people from the gay and straight community who are interested in medical, financial and legal issues. It is presented in four informative sessions. Event Tickets: \$10. Series Passes: \$35. The Jewish Gay Network, Kahn Jewish Community Center, **West Bloomfield**. 248-432-5661. [jgnmi.org](http://jgnmi.org)

### Thursday, May 5

**Euchre Tournament**, 7 p.m. Euchre tournament fundraiser to benefit Out Loud Chorus, Washtenaw county's original GLBT chorus. \$10 entry, cash prizes. Out Loud Chorus, 1950 South Industrial Hwy., **Ann Arbor**. 734-973-6084. [olconline.org](http://olconline.org)

**Jewish Gay Network Family & Friends**, 7 p.m. LGBT group discussing issues impacting the LGBT and allied community. Meets 1st Thursday of every month. The Jewish Gay Network, 6600 West Maple Road, **West Bloomfield**. 248-432-5661. [jgnmi.org](http://jgnmi.org)

### Friday, May 6

**2nd Annual Cheers to HELP Wine Tasting**, 6:30 p.m. Directly benefits the clients HELP serves and improves ability to assist HIV positive individuals living in Michigan access medical care and other essential resources. Tickets: \$50 available online. HELP, 222 Sherman Dr., **Royal Oak**. 313-832-3300. [helpoffice.org](http://helpoffice.org)

**Gender Variance Expression in Children**, 6:30 p.m. Kim Pearson, Executive Director of Trans Youth Family Allies (TYFA) will speak. No cost, however donations for TYFA will be accepted. GSA Alliance of Southeast Michigan, Affirmations, GLSEN, Transgender Michigan, Transgender Detroit, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-716-0106. [glsensemi@gmail.com](mailto:glsensemi@gmail.com)

**Womyn's Film Night**, 6:30 p.m. Film: Henry and June. Based on real events, Anas Nin embarks on a professional relationship with famed American author Henry Miller. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [goaffirmations.org](http://goaffirmations.org)

**Bisexual Peer Group**, 7 p.m. Social group. All are welcome. 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-678-2478. [groups.google.com/group/semibi](http://groups.google.com/group/semibi)

### Saturday, May 7

**Healing Detroit**, 9 a.m. African American LGBT initiative developed to address barriers and social constraints that have impacted the growth and development of Detroit's black LGBT community. KICK-The Agency for LGBT African-Americans, 2930 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 313-285-9733. [healingdetroit@yahoo.com](mailto:healingdetroit@yahoo.com)

**Detroit Derby Girls**, 6:30 p.m. Tickets \$15-20. 1 Washington Blvd, **Detroit**. 313-877-8777. [olympiaentertainment.com](http://olympiaentertainment.com)

### Sunday, May 8

**PFLAG Detroit Meeting**, 2 p.m. Support groups, social gathering, community announcements, program presentations, guest speakers, and dinner. Every 2nd Sunday of the month. PFLAG, 3333 Coolidge Hwy., **Troy**. 248-656-2875. [pflagdetroit.org](http://pflagdetroit.org)

### Tuesday, May 10

**Yoga in the Apse**, 5 p.m. Based in the Hatha style, this one-hour class encourages relaxation, strength, flexibility and balance with an emphasis on integrated breathing techniques in standing, sitting and supine yoga postures. All levels welcome. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State St., **Ann Arbor**. 734-647-7888. [umma.umich.edu](http://umma.umich.edu)

### Wednesday, May 11

**Game Day**, 5:15 p.m. LGBT in the park is a social network for the entire LGBT community. LGBT in the Park, Woodward Heights, **Hazel Park**. [jffryoliver@yahoo.com](mailto:jffryoliver@yahoo.com)

**TransCend**, 6:30 p.m. Open to persons 18 and older. Younger are welcome with parent or guardian permission. Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer Street, **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. [kgirc.org](http://kgirc.org)

**LGBTIQ Support Group**, 7 p.m. An inclusive environment for all gender who are healing from domestic and/or sexual assault. YWCA of KGLRC, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234.

### Thursday, May 12

**The Caregiver Support Group**, 6 p.m. For more information please call or E-mail. Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer Street, **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. [kgirc.org](http://kgirc.org)

### Friday, May 13

**I Remember**, 7 p.m. Spring Concert. Familiar show tunes and songs. Tickets online and at box-office. West Michigan Gay Men's Chorus, 2211 Lake Dr. SE, **East Grand Rapids**. 616-438-0303. [wmgmc.org](http://wmgmc.org)

**Womyn's Film Night**, 7 p.m. Film: Elena Undone. Peyton and Elena are, on the surface, diametrically opposed. A well-known lesbian writer and a mother and wife of a pastor but when their paths cross, what begins as friendship quickly blossoms into something deeper. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [goaffirmations.org](http://goaffirmations.org)

### Saturday, May 14

**Together In Faith Conference**, 8 a.m. This conference will include talks and workshops highlighting ways people of faith can be effective in working for equality within their faith communities and in the broader community, particularly for gender and sexual orientation minorities, inclusive of all faith traditions, all races and all ages. Inclusive Justice, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., **Lansing**. 734-769-9939. [inclusive-justice-together-in-faith.org](http://inclusive-justice-together-in-faith.org)

**Strike Out AIDS**, 12:30 p.m. Fairlanes Bowl fund raising for Aids Walk Detroit. \$25 for three games, shoes and two slices of pizza. Sign up available for teams or individuals online. Aids Walk Detroit, 29600 Stephenson Highway, **Madison Heights**. 248-3999-9255. [aidswalkdetroit.org](http://aidswalkdetroit.org)

**PFLAG Detroit 25th Anniversary Dinner**, 6:30 p.m. Tickets: \$60 per person available online. Key note speaker Nancy M. Schlichting, president and chief executive of Henry Ford Health System. Celebrating 25 years of keeping families together. PFLAG Detroit, 26601 Ryan Road, **Warren**. [pflagdetroit.org](http://pflagdetroit.org)

**Drag Queen Bingo**, 8 p.m. "This ain't your grandma's bingo." Hosts Sabin, Trixie Deluxe or September Murphy. Open to all 18+. Refreshments and bingo food fare. Reservations available by phone. Five15, 515 S. Washington, **Royal Oak**. 248-515-2551. [five15.net](http://five15.net)

### Sunday, May 15

**PFLAG Ann Arbor Meeting**, 1 a.m. 3rd Sunday of every month. Support group and monthly speaker at each meeting. PFLAG Ann Arbor, 306 N. Division St., **Ann Arbor**. [pflagaa.org](http://pflagaa.org)

**Metro Detroit LGBT Softball League Game**, 10:30 a.m. Free parking and entry. Leashed pets are welcome, as well as refreshments, however no alcohol is permitted. MDSL, 1000 E. Hamlin Road, **Rochester Hills**. 586-945-4029. [cchwarren@aol.com](mailto:cchwarren@aol.com)

**PFLAG Tri-Cities Meeting**, 2 p.m. Every 3rd Sunday of the month. Support groups including monthly speakers. PFLAG Tri-Cities, 2525 Hemmeter, **Saginaw**. 989-941-1458. [pflag@pflag-mbs.org](mailto:pflag@pflag-mbs.org)

## MUSIC & MORE

### BENEFITS/SOCIAL EVENTS

**Kalamazoo Valley Community College** "Opportunities for Education Scholarship Fund-Raising Dinner" With special speaker Chef Jeff Henderson an award-winning chef, motivational speaker, New York Times best-selling author, and Food Network television personality. Tickets: \$75+. Kalamazoo Valley Community College, 6767 West "O" Avenue, Kalamazoo. 5:30 p.m. May 12. [foundation.kvcc.edu](http://foundation.kvcc.edu)

**Kerrytown Concert House** "An Afternoon of Classical & Jazz" Area performing artists present a concert to raise money for the 2nd Annual Burning Bush International Ministries Fine Arts Camp for youth in the arts. Tickets: \$25-15, \$10 students. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 4:30 p.m. May 14. 734-769-2999. [kerrytownconcerthouse.com](http://kerrytownconcerthouse.com)

**PeaceSpeakers Art Collective** "Honoring Our Mothers" Celebrating mothers of all types: birth mothers, Earth mothers, soul mamas, and Mothers of the Movement (e.g., Harriet Tubman, Emma Goldman, Rosa Parks and Audre Lorde). All are invited to bring personal stories, songs, poetry, photos or selected readings to share. Discussing new ways to define mothering through love and loss as a means of healing. Light refreshments served afterward. This event is free and open to the public. Friends Meeting House, 1420 Hill St., Ann Arbor. 3 p.m. May 14. 734-780-6523.

### CLASSICAL

**Detroit Opera House** "Rigoletto" Opera in three parts by Giuseppe Verdi. Tickets: \$22-117. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit. May 14-May 22. 313-961-3500. [michiganopera.org](http://michiganopera.org)

**Fort Street Chorale and Chamber Orchestra** "Symphonic Psalm King David" Arthur Honeggers symphonic psalm King David, at historic Fort Street Presbyterian Church. Tickets: \$20, students \$10. Wheelchair accessible. Free, secure parking. Fort Street Presbyterian Church, 631 W. Fort St., Detroit. 2 p.m. May 15. 313-963-4533. [fortstreet.org](http://fortstreet.org)

### CONCERTS

**Cabaret Detroit** "Caren Kapson and Roy Sexton" Stories told in song, featuring selections from the American songbook, musical theater and contemporary song writers. Cocktails served during the show. Dine at Bastone before or after. For dinner reservations, call 248-544-6250. Bastone, 419 S. Main St., Royal Oak. April 7-May 8. 248-383-5460. [cabaretdetroit.com](http://cabaretdetroit.com)

**Detroit Fox Theatre** "Neil Young" Spring Solo Tour. Tickets: \$45-85. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. May 4. 313-471-6611. [olympiaentertainment.com](http://olympiaentertainment.com)

**Ferndale Public Library** "First Stop Friday" Local bands "Computer Perfection" and "Electric Lion Soundwave Experiment". Free and all ages are welcome. Ferndale Public Library, 222 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 5:30 p.m. May 6. 248-547-6008.

**Kerrytown Concert House** "Jackie Ryan" Area jazz favorites Ellen Rowe and Kurt Krahnke join Jackie Ryan for this special Kerrytown Club Series event. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. May 7. 734-769-2999. [kerrytownconcerthouse.com](http://kerrytownconcerthouse.com)

**Kerrytown Concert House** "Sharon Sparrow & Jeff Zook" Longtime friends and collaborators Sharon Sparrow and Jeff Zook celebrate Mother's Day with musical selections devoted to moms. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 4 p.m. May 8. 734-769-2999. [kerrytownconcerthouse.com](http://kerrytownconcerthouse.com)

**Kerrytown Concert House** “Trio Tarana” Features the unique instrumentation of violin, cello and percussion, and primarily utilizes East Asian, Middle Eastern and North African rhythms as the foundation for a new creative musical experience. Tickets: \$10-25, \$5 students. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. May 11. 734-769-2999. [kerrytownconcerthouse.com](http://kerrytownconcerthouse.com)

**Kerrytown Concert House** “Melissa Morgan” Newcomer with an old-school pedigree. Tickets: \$30-15, \$10 students. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. May 14. 734-769-2999. [kerrytownconcerthouse.com](http://kerrytownconcerthouse.com)

**Michigan Theater** “John Prine” With special guest Sara Watkins. Tickets: \$55.50-72.50. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. May 7. 734-668-TIME. [johnprine.net](http://johnprine.net)

**Olympia Entertainment** “Billy Ocean” Tickets: \$30-\$35 Motor City Casino Soundboard, 2901 Grand River Ave, Detroit. 8 p.m. May 6. 313-471-3200. [olympiaentertainment.com](http://olympiaentertainment.com)

**Olympia Entertainment** “Gladys Knight” Tickets: \$69-99 The Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. May 14. 313-471-6611. [olympiaentertainment.com](http://olympiaentertainment.com)

**The Ark** “Open Stage Showcase” Tickets: \$10. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. May 11. 734-761-1800. [theark.org](http://theark.org)

**The Ark** “Marshall Crenshaw & Freedy Johnston” Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. May 4. 734-761-1800. [theark.org](http://theark.org)

**The Detroit Symphony Orchestra** “Abba The Concert” Pop music masterpieces from Dancing Queen to Mamma Mia. Tickets: \$15+. The DSO, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. May 4. 313-576-5111. [dso.org](http://dso.org)

**The Seaway Chorale & Orchestra** “The Best of Seaway” 35th annual Spring concert. Medleys from “The Wizard of Oz,” “Porgy & Bess” and “Les Miserables.” There also will be songs such as “Chattanooga Choo Choo,” “Singin’ in the Rain,” “All I Ask of You,” “Route 66,” and “Bohemian Rhapsody.” Tickets: \$15 adults, \$9 students. Flat Rock High School Community Auditorium, 25600 Seneca Street, Flat Rock. 7:30 p.m. May 13, 7:30 p.m. May 14. 734-676-9504.

**DANCE**

**Ruhala Dance Theatre Ensemble** “Boogie Dance Jam!” Ruhala Dance Theatre Ensemble presents a Boogie Woogie dance to the music of world-renown Bob Baldori and Bob Seeley’s “Boogie Stomp!” with original choreography by Broadway Veteran and award winning choreographer Mark Ruhala. Tickets: \$12 Adults, \$8 Children. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 7 p.m. May 7. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com)

**Wellspring Dancers** “Spring Concert of Dance” Southwest Michigan’s only professional modern dance company. Admission: \$22 general, \$12 students. Free for children 5 and under. Miller Auditorium, 2200 Auditorium Dr., Kalamazoo. May 12-May 15. 269-387-2300. [millerauditorium.com](http://millerauditorium.com)

**FILM & VIDEO**

**Oprah Winfrey Network** “Becoming Chaz” The world television premiere of the highly anticipated Chaz Bono documentary “Becoming Chaz,” the story of Chaz Bono’s transformation from a woman to a man. Oprah Winfrey Network, Channel OWN, Television Event. 8 p.m. May 10. [oprah.com/own](http://oprah.com/own)

**Penn Theatre** “The Bachelor and the Bobby-Soxer” Tickets: \$3. Cary Grant Month. Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth. 6:30 p.m. May 5. 734-453-0870. [penntheatre.com](http://penntheatre.com)

**Penn Theatre** “The Philadelphia Story” Tickets: \$3. Cary Grant Month. Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth. 6:30 p.m. May 12. 734-453-0870. [penntheatre.com](http://penntheatre.com)

**OTHER**

**Spirit of Hope: Detroit** “Sunday Worship” Seeks to empower people of all races, genders and gender expressions, sexual orientations, physical abilities, denominational or religious backgrounds, to serve one another as God has gifted us to do. From all over Metro Detroit to enjoy upbeat worship, preaching, community outreach, and fellowship. Spirit of Hope Church, 1519 Martin Luther King Dr, Detroit. March 6-Aug. 28. 313-964-3113. [spiritofhopedetroit.org](http://spiritofhopedetroit.org)

**The Henry Ford** “Day Out With Thomas: Leader of the Track Tour 2011” Thomas the Tank Engine rolls into Greenfield Village. 20-minute ride through Henry Ford. Tickets: \$11.75-32.75. The Henry Ford, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. April 30-May 15. 313-982-6001. [thehenryford.org](http://thehenryford.org)

**THEATER**

**CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER**

**Dirty Rotten Scoundrels** \$17. Village Players, 34660 Woodward Ave., Birmingham. May 13-28. 248-644-2075. [birminghamvillageplayers.com](http://birminghamvillageplayers.com)

**Distacted** A play reading. Contains adult language and themes. Free; donations welcome. Center Stage Jackson at Ella Sharp Museum, 3225 Fourth St., Jackson. May 7-8. 517-499-4086. [centerstagejackson.org](http://centerstagejackson.org)

**Doubt, A Parable** \$10-\$12. SRO Productions at The Historic Burgh, 26060 Berg Road, Southfield. Through May 15. 248-796-4645. [srotheater.org](http://srotheater.org)

**Grey Gardens** \$16-\$18. Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette St., Royal Oak. Through May 14. 248-541-6430. [stagecrafters.org](http://stagecrafters.org)

**Guys and Dolls** \$12. Holt Dimondale Community Players at Holt Jr. High School, 1784 Aurelius Road, Holt. May 12-21. 517-694-3411. [hdcptheater.com](http://hdcptheater.com)

**Hay Fever** \$20. Ann Arbor Civic Theater at Arthur Miller Theater, 1226 Murfin Ave, Ann Arbor. May 5-8. 734-971-2228. [a2ct.org](http://a2ct.org)

**Lips Together, Teeth Apart** \$16. Barefoot Productions, 240 N. Main St., Plymouth. May 6-22. 734-582-9688. [justgobarefoot.com](http://justgobarefoot.com)

**Murder by Indecision** \$15. Still Got It Players at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. May 11-14. 734-394-5460. [spotlightplayersmi.org](http://spotlightplayersmi.org)

**The Drowsy Chaperone** \$18-\$22. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. May 6-22. 269-343-1313. [kazoocivic.com](http://kazoocivic.com)

**The Drowsy Chaperone** \$18. The Players Guild of Dearborn, 21730 Madison St., Dearborn. May 6-29. 313-561-TKTS. [playersguildofdearborn.org](http://playersguildofdearborn.org)

**The Hallelujah Girls** Reservations required for dinner & show. Dinner served at 6:30 p.m. \$30; show only tickets are \$15. Starlight Dinner Theatre at Waverly East Intermediate School, 3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. May 6-14. 517-243-6040. [starlightdinnertheatre.com](http://starlightdinnertheatre.com)

**The Pride** \$15. Peppermint Creek Theatre Company at Creole Gallery, 1218 Turner St., Lansing. May 12-21. 517-927-3016. [peppermintcreek.org](http://peppermintcreek.org)

**The Producers** \$16-\$18. The Farmington Players, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Through May 21. 248-553-2955. [farmingtonplayers.org](http://farmingtonplayers.org)

**Vincent in Brixton** \$12-\$14; Thursdays only \$8-\$10. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. Through May 8. 517-482-5700. [RiverwalkTheatre.com](http://RiverwalkTheatre.com)

**PROFESSIONAL**

**A Musical Salute to Vaudeville and Burlesque** \$16. Broadway Onstage Live Theatre, 21517 Kelly Road, Eastpointe. Through May 14. 586-771-6333.

[broadwayonstage.com](http://broadwayonstage.com)

**A Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keillor** \$38.50-\$68.50. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 5:45 p.m. May 7. 313-471-6611. [olympiaentertainment.com](http://olympiaentertainment.com)

**Almost, Maine** \$15. Michigan Actors Studio, 648 E. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. May 6-21. [michiganactorsstudio.com/2011-theatre-season/](http://michiganactorsstudio.com/2011-theatre-season/)

**Cancer! The Musical** \$20. Park Bar, 2040 Park Ave., Detroit. May 6-21. 313-437-2040. [parkbardetroit.com](http://parkbardetroit.com)

**Chicago** \$30.50 and up. Broadway Grand Rapids at DeVos Performance Hall, 303 Monroe Ave. NW, Grand Rapids. May 10-11. 1-800-745-3000. [broadwaygrandrapids.com](http://broadwaygrandrapids.com)

**Chicago** \$25 and up. Wharton Center at Michigan State University, East Lansing. May 12-15. 1-800-Wharton. [whartoncenter.com](http://whartoncenter.com)

**Circle Mirror Transformation** \$22-\$41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through May 22. 734-663-0681. [performancenetwork.org](http://performancenetwork.org)

**Doubt, A Parable** Previews May 6-8. \$15-\$20. What A Do Theatre at First United Methodist Church, 111 E. Michigan Ave., Battle Creek. May 6-22. [whatado.org](http://whatado.org)

**Eleemosynary** Previews May 12-15 & 19 (\$15). \$18-\$24. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. May 12-June 12. 517-655-7469. [williamstontheatre.org](http://williamstontheatre.org)

**Ernie** \$20-\$25. City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Through June 26. 313-471-6611. [olympiaentertainment.com](http://olympiaentertainment.com)

**Forever Plaid** \$25-\$28. Encore Musical Theater Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Through May 15. 734-268-6200. [theencoretheatre.org](http://theencoretheatre.org)

**Forgiving John Lennon** Tickets \$17 in advance; \$20 at the door. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Through May 22. 313-868-1347. [detroitreptheatre.com](http://detroitreptheatre.com)

**I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change** \$30-\$35; Dinner and Show Packages are \$79.95-\$89.95 per couple. Andiamo Novi Theatre, 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi. Through May 22. 248-348-4448. [andiamonovitheatre.com](http://andiamonovitheatre.com)

**Jazz: Birth of the Cool** \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. Plowshares Theatre Company at Virgil H. Carr Cultural Arts Center, 311 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit. May 5-15. 313-506-2858. [plowshares.org](http://plowshares.org)

**Love! Valour! Compassion!** \$10-\$20. Who Wants Cake, The Ringwald, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. May 13-June 6. 248-545-5545. [whowantscaketheatre.com](http://whowantscaketheatre.com)

**Monty Python’s Spamalot** \$25-\$53. Miller Auditorium, 2200 Auditorium Dr., Kalamazoo. May 10-11. 269-387-2300. [millerauditorium.com](http://millerauditorium.com)

**Mother Church** \$15. Shawn P. Entertainment at International Institute, 111 E. Kirby St., Detroit. May 6-8. 313-433-8384.

**‘night, Mother** \$20. Breathe Art Theatre Project, Mackenzie Hall, 3277 Sandwich St., Windsor. May 5-May 7. 519-255-7600. [breathearttheatre.com](http://breathearttheatre.com)

**Northern Lights 1966** \$20; \$10 Fridays. Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit at Detroit Film Theatre, 5200 Woodward Ave. (John R. entrance), Detroit. May 13-22. 313-833-4005. [mosaicdetroit.com](http://mosaicdetroit.com)

**Salvage** \$20. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Through May 14. 313-365-4948. [planetant.com](http://planetant.com)

**Seascape** \$15-\$25. Blackbird Theatre, 325 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. Through May 28. 734-332-3848. [blackbirdtheatre.org](http://blackbirdtheatre.org)

**Shout! The Mod Musical** \$30-\$39. Meadow Brook Theatre, 207 Wilson Hall, Rochester. Through May 15. 248-377-3300. [mbtheatre.com](http://mbtheatre.com)

**Some Couples May...** \$25-\$40. The

Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through May 28. 734-433-7673. [purplerosetheatre.org](http://purplerosetheatre.org)

**Super Happy Funtime Burlesque** \$20. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. May 14. 269-756-3879. [acorntheatre.com](http://acorntheatre.com)

**The 3rd Annual Kalamazoo Improv Festival** \$10 per performance or \$25 fest pass. Crawspace Theatre Productions at Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. May 12-14. 269-599-7390. [crawspacetheatre.com](http://crawspacetheatre.com)

**The Cider House Rules, Part I: Here in St. Cloud’s** \$25-\$30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Plays in repertory through May 12. 313-577-2972. [hilberry.com](http://hilberry.com)

**The Cider House Rules, Part II: In Other Parts of the World** \$25-\$30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Plays in repertory through May 14. 313-577-2972. [hilberry.com](http://hilberry.com)

**The Everyman Project** \$15. The New Theatre Project, 220 Felch St., Unit 5, Ann Arbor. Through May 15. 734-645-9886. [thenewtheatreproject.org](http://thenewtheatreproject.org)

**Vicki Lawrence and Mama** \$33. Miller Auditorium, 2200 Auditorium Dr., Kalamazoo. 3 p.m. May 8. 269-387-2300. [millerauditorium.com](http://millerauditorium.com)

**Waiting for Godot** Admission by donation. The Abreact Performance Space, 1301 W. Lafayette Ave. #113, Detroit. Through May 7. 313-485-0217. [theabreact.com](http://theabreact.com)

**You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown** \$12. Spotlight on Youth at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. May 12-15. 734-394-5300. [spotlightplayersmi.org](http://spotlightplayersmi.org)

**ART ‘N’ AROUND**

**323 East** “BASK Solo Exhibition” Czech-born agent provocateur of countless “thought crimes” headlines new exhibition Saturday Night Special. 323 East, 323 E. Fourth St., Royal Oak. April 23-May 23. 866-756-6538. [323east.com](http://323east.com)

**Ann Arbor Art Center** “The PRINT” This exhibition aims to educate the community about the different techniques and styles of printmaking by displaying the works of a variety of talented artists. Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty St, Ann Arbor. May 9-June 26. 734-994-8004. [annarborartcenter.org](http://annarborartcenter.org)

**Cranbrook Art Museum** “Saarinen House and Garden” rare integration of art, architecture, design and natureXXa total work of art. Designed in the late 1920s, Saarinen House served as the home and studio of the Finnish-American designer Eiel Saarinen and Loja Saarinen from 1930 through 1950. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave, Bloomfield Hills. May 2-Sep. 30. 877-462-7262. [cranbrookart.edu](http://cranbrookart.edu)

**Detroit Artist’s Market** “Northern Michigan Artists” The Detroit Artists Market is now taking a voyage to bring to the DAM an exhibition of northern Michigan artists who express themselves in a variety of media and who have been touched by the Northern Lights. John F. Korachis, Curator Detroit Artist’s Market, 4719 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. April 28-May 28. 313-832-8540. [detroitartistsmarket.org](http://detroitartistsmarket.org)

**Detroit Institute of Arts** “Annual Detroit Public Schools Student Exhibition” Art by Detroit Public School students, from kindergartners to high school seniors, is showcased in this annual exhibition. Among the variety of objects on view are paintings, drawings, ceramics, collages, photographs, videos, and jewelry. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward, Detroit. May 1-July 16. 313-833-7900. [dia.org](http://dia.org)

**Detroit Institute of Arts** “It’s A Zoo In Here” Countless creatures of many

species fill the galleries in this exhibition of more than 150 prints and drawings drawn entirely from the museum’s holdings and designed with fun in mind for everyone. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward, Detroit. April 1-July 24. 313-833-7900. [dia.org](http://dia.org)

**Downriver Council for the Arts** “Cheryl Phillips and Betty Prudden” Exhibitions are free and open to the public. Downriver Council for the Arts, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. April 15-May 27. 734-720-0671. [downriverarts.org](http://downriverarts.org)

**Downriver Council for the Arts** “Jured Photography Exhibit” The DCA is accepting entries for a jured photography exhibit at the Wyandotte Arts Center. Professional and amateur photographers can submit up to four entries. A non-refundable \$15 entry fee is required for all entries. Exhibit begins Sept. 8. Wyandotte Arts Center, 2306 4th St., Wyandotte. May 1-Aug. 31. 734-324-7278.

**Gallery Project** “Unhooked From Time” Multimedia exhibit in which 28 local, regional and national artists examine how society has lost its sense of the cycles of nature, and how it has artificially hooked ourselves to linear digital time. Gallery Project, 215 S. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. April 3-May 5. 734-997-7012. [thegalleryproject.com](http://thegalleryproject.com)

**Kalamazoo Institute of Arts** “Portrait and Presence” Contemporary portraiture pursues a complex and personal approach to the genre’s traditional representation of the subject’s visage and social identity. Admission: Free. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. May 1-July 20. 269-349-7775. [kiarts.org](http://kiarts.org)

**Kalamazoo Institute of Arts** “2011 West Michigan Area Show” The WMAS celebrates contemporary work in all media, by artists working in a 14-county area. The 2011 exhibition will be shaped by this year’s juror, Michigan ceramicist John Glick. Working from his Farmington Hills studio since 1965, established just 3 years after graduating from Cranbrook Art Academy, Glick’s constant has been experimentation. Admission: Free. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. May 7-June 26. 269-349-7775. [kiarts.org](http://kiarts.org)

**Kalamazoo Institute of Arts** “The Chinese Scholar’s Brush” Works from the Albert and Betty Chang Collection. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. May 7-Aug. 27. 269-349-7775. [kiarts.org](http://kiarts.org)

**Kresge Art Museum** “Hiraki Sawa: Other Dwellings” Intimate, sometimes hermetic meditations on place and the wonderfully odd activities that can occur in imaginative dimensions. MSU, Auditorium & Physics Road, East Lansing. April 30-July 21. [artmuseum.msu.edu](http://artmuseum.msu.edu). 517-884-0659

**Lawrence Street Gallery** “US Route 66: The Death of an American Icon” Fascinating and hauntingly beautiful photo documentary on US Route 66 by Arnold Berkman. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward, Ferndale. May 5-May 28. 248-544-0294. [lawrencestreetgallery.com](http://lawrencestreetgallery.com)

**Mardigan Library at UM-Dearborn** “Toledo Studio Art Glass: New Generations” Participating in the 2011 Michigan Glass Month with an exhibition celebrating new generations of contemporary studio glass artists from Toledo. Alfred Berkowitz Gallery, 4901 Evergreen Road, Dearborn. April 1-May 12. 313-593-3592. [umd.umich.edu](http://umd.umich.edu)

**River’s Edge Gallery** “From Paris to Detroit” Etienne Yver captures mundane moments in the visual language of his art. River’s Edge Gallery, 3024 Biddle Ave., Wyandotte. April 15-May 20. 734-246-9880. [artattheedge.com](http://artattheedge.com)

**Riverside Arts Center** “Figuratively Speaking” Interpretations of the Human Form. A 2D and 3D exhibit. Reception May 7. Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. May 5-May 28. 734-480-2787. [riversidearts.org](http://riversidearts.org)

**Scarab Club Gallery** “Working Class Heroes” An all-media juried exhibition honoring the working class, inspired by ML Liebler’s book Working Words: Punching the Timeclock and Kicking Out the Jams, a compilation of writing from local, national and international poets and writers. Scarab Club Gallery, 217 Farnsworth St., Detroit. April 1-May 15. 313-831-1250. [scarabclub.org](http://scarabclub.org)

**The Ann Arbor Art Center** “Potential!” Annual all-media juried art exhibition that showcases and celebrates the talent of local teen visual artists. Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. April 26-May 8. 734-995-8004. [annarborcenter.org](http://annarborcenter.org)

**The Ann Arbor Art Center** “Paint the Town” Creative and eclectic fundraiser in support for the Ann Arbor Art Center. More information available online. The Ann Arbor Art Center, Warehouse 345, Metty Drive, Ann Arbor. 5 p.m. May 7. 734-995-8004. [annarborcenter.org/winefest](http://annarborcenter.org/winefest)

**University of Michigan Museum of Art** “Photoformance: An Empathic Environment” This new multimedia installation brings together the work of Ernestine Ruben, experimental photographer of the human form; Monica Ponce de Leon, architect of highly sensual, muscular, and poetic structures; and Peter Sparing, choreographer/video artist of new movement forms; with music by Erik Santos, composer of scores for a wide range of musical ensembles and Butoh performances. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State St, Ann Arbor. March 1-May 15. 734-647-0524. [umma.umich.edu](http://umma.umich.edu)

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*From Stork to Finish*



# BTL Dear Jody

BY JODY VALLEY

## Lying for a friend

**Q.** My friend, "Bill," has recently gotten involved with "Dave." Bill tells me that Dave is "The One" that he has been looking for all his life. They have been dating for seven months and it has become quite serious; it seems very mutual. I have to agree that they do seem made for each other.

Bill has some skeletons in his closet; skeletons that I know about because I have known Bill ever since we were in high school together. Bill and I moved here from another part of the country, so none of his current friends know about his skeletons. Bill has never asked me not to tell anyone about them, but there would be no reason for me to do that. It's not my business to talk about his life; if he wants to tell them, that's his prerogative.

My problem is that Bill came to me and asked me not to ever tell Dave about certain things in his past. One of the things that he wants to keep hidden is that he spent six months in jail for assault. Granted, he was defending himself from bullies who were harassing him because he's gay. Everyone who witnessed the incident knows that the wrong person went to jail – the two bullies should have been the ones in the slammer, but that's a long story. However, the fact is, he did serve a jail term and is now stuck with a record.

The second secret is: he has a 10-year-old daughter. He got a girl pregnant in high school, and though he doesn't see her (the mother doesn't really want him in her life), he does pay child support.

As I said, Bill doesn't want me to tell Dave about all this. And, I would never bring it up. However, Bill wants me to lie and say it's not true – if it ever comes out. Like, for instance, if someone in his past shows up and talks about his going to jail or about his daughter, I'm supposed to say that it isn't true.

I told Bill that I certainly would never bring it up, but telling a lie seems like a totally different thing. Now, Bill is really upset with me and says that if I don't lie, I will be the one that ruins his relationship with Dave. The fact that I won't lie is making him a nervous wreck.

Am I wrong? I told Bill that I would write to you about it. We're waiting to hear from you.

*Living with Secrets*

**A.** It's one thing for Bill to decide to keep a secret about something, but quite another to ask you to lie for him. It's unfair for him to ask that of you. You could, however, agree that you will not discuss those topics with anyone.

To Bill: Going into a relationship with significant secrets from your past is a bad way to start a relationship. It also implies that you don't think Bill will understand or accept you if he knows about your past. If that's true, you need to decide if

---

Bill is really upset with me and says that if I don't lie, I will be the one that ruins his relationship with Dave.

---

you want to be in a relationship with someone who would not accept your past. (Is there some reason you feel that you can't tell Dave?) A criminal record, paying child support or having your daughter show up at your door someday are not easy things to keep under your hat. How do you think it would work out if you got into a relationship with Dave and one day the secrets came out? Don't you think he'd feel deceived, even if he were accepting of your past?

Certainly, not every detail of a person's life needs to be brought up and revealed, but these two events are pretty major. Relationships should be about, and built on, trust. Secrets like this have the possibility of bringing down a relationship.

**Are you thinking about revealing a secret? Should you? To find out, go to "Dear Jody Valley" on Facebook.**

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

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# BTL Horoscopes

## Think kink, Capricorn!

BY JACK FERTIG

*Uranus, newly in Aries, cranks up spontaneous individualism and assertion. The Sun is in Taurus, semi-square to Uranus provoking a lot of stubbornness. Don't challenge others with an uppity, obstinate attitude; look for creative new ways to show loyalty and resilience.*

**ARIES (March 20 – April 19):** The cost of living it up may force some choices in how you unwind. How you have fun is more serious than you may think. Look ahead 10 years and imagine what friendships, talents and skills you'd like to have developed through your hobbies.

**TAURUS (April 20 – May 20):** Life's tough blows have been piling up, but don't let it give you piles! Much as people depend on the solid, reliable Bull you need to be able to let it out and lean on someone else.

**GEMINI (May 21- June 20):** Your friends are only human. Don't take disappointments too much to heart. Cutting off communications is a big mistake, but so is over-talking the problem. A short break or limiting conversation for a while may be best.

**CANCER (June 21- July 22):** Your friends' ideas for promoting you are too much from the heart, not enough from the brains. Going along with their ideas could hurt your rep and your wallet. Don't argue. Thank them for their ideas and change the subject.

**LEO (July 23 – August 22):** In your ideal relationship you're the star married to your agent or manager. That means you can't always be the boss! Arguments are a normal part of a healthy partnership as long as listening remains more important than speaking.

**VIRGO (August 23 – September 22):** Novel sex techniques can be a blast but may require novel forms of safety. They can also open up a lot of suppressed feelings. How well do you know your partner? Just be sure that he or she can be trusted!

**LIBRA (September 23 – October 22):** You and your mate could have a great time exploring kinky new fun. Anything from silk scarf bondage to cattle prods is open to testing. Slow, careful

and easy is the best approach, at first anyway.

**SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21):** Whatever position you occupy you are still part of a team and everyone else is as important as you. As much as your special talents do contribute to the team, cultivate humility as one of those talents!

**SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20):** Argue about movie, art, sports, anything fun or creative; you're sure to find amazing new ideas. Keep your mind and ears open and respectful of other notions. Well, at least be polite with the idiots.

**CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19):** Livening up your home life should be a fun creative challenge, not a painful economic one. Think kink! Sexually or otherwise, unleash your dark side in planning any changes – but not in how you treat housemates in effecting them.

**AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18):** Criticism of family, housemates or your community could be surprising (even to you!) in its harshness. If you really can't be kind, give your loved ones a break and look for schmucks or dysfunctional organizations that deserve your wrath.

**PISCES (February 19 – March 19):** Financial surprises can work your nerves. You seriously need a break. A long walk, meditation, a hot soak... try something new and different even if it's just a quiet stroll in a park or country road you've never trod before.

*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 email at [QScopes@qsyndicate.com](mailto:QScopes@qsyndicate.com).*

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**Solution to puzzle from page 34**

S	A	N	T	A		A	M	P	L	E		P	U	S	H
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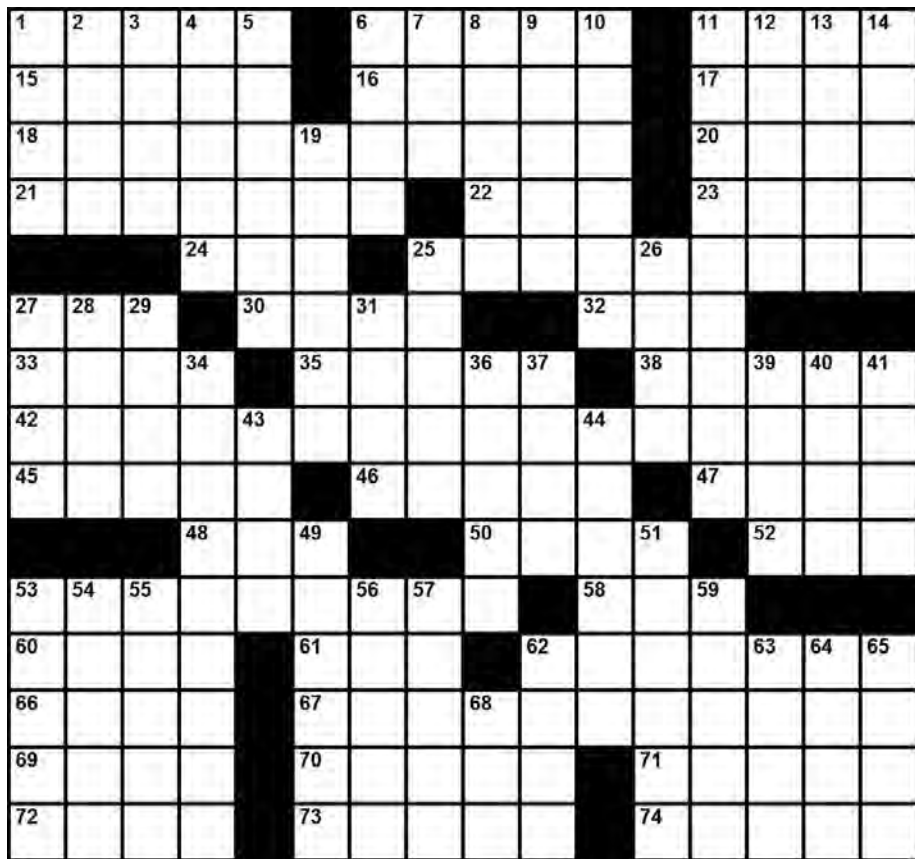
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# Dancing Sovereign

## Across

- 1 He comes once a year
- 6 Like bounteous breasts
- 11 Bear upon
- 15 Middle name in California
- 16 Romeo
- 17 Romain de Tiroff, familiarly
- 18 Costar with 53-Across
- 20 TV Guide info
- 21 Michelangelo's David and Moses
- 22 Uey from WSW
- 23 It gets spilled at wild parties
- 24 Mysore Mr.
- 25 With 42-Across, Broadway adaptation of an Aussie indie film
- 27 Lunch-counter order
- 30 Columnist Bombeck
- 32 Cap for James M. Barrie
- 33 "Star Trek" humanoid
- 35 Nickname of Ron Reagan's father
- 38 Nancy Botwin's older son

## Down

- 42 See 25-Across
- 45 Shorthand user
- 46 Rose, e.g., to Pasolini
- 47 Fey of "30 Rock"
- 48 Old preposition
- 50 Vegetable fuel
- 52 Wet area around bushes
- 53 Actor who plays the title role in 25-Across
- 58 Unwelcome ink color
- 60 "Spamalot" writer Eric
- 61 Give \_\_\_ go
- 62 Having a cool head
- 66 Oscar-winning Patricia
- 67 Costar with 53-Across
- 69 Lady's man
- 70 In a dominant position
- 71 Each's partner
- 72 Whack, off, or delight
- 73 Makes a hole bigger
- 74 "Bye"

- 4 Fouls, to the Pinball Wizard
- 5 Make certain
- 6 Blows away
- 7 Da. before Mardi Gras
- 8 Working model
- 9 T ea of "Fun with Dick and Jane"
- 10 Wilde man
- 11 Cock-eyed optimist's opposite
- 12 "Family Matters" nerd
- 13 Sword, poetically
- 14 Drag queen \_\_\_ Lettuce
- 19 Queer one, to straights
- 25 Evita portrayer on stage
- 26 Lambda Legal Defense suit, e.g.
- 27 Backyard parties, for short
- 28 Ill-mannered oaf
- 29 It can bear fruit
- 31 Diving area?
- 34 Dancer in many a musical
- 36 They may get a licking
- 37 Gay cable network

- 39 Son of Eric the Red
- 40 Composer Thomas
- 41 Hindu suffix meaning "country"
- 43 Mother of "Brothers & Sisters"
- 44 Serious lack
- 49 Susie Bright, to erotica
- 51 Native American erections
- 53 "A League of Their Own" teams
- 54 Best possible
- 55 "Bewitched" aunt
- 56 Show penitence
- 57 Big ray
- 59 Dig deep
- 62 Biter of Caesar's girlfriend
- 63 Presbyterian activist Michael
- 64 "Boy Meets World" boy
- 65 "Lord of the Rings" singer
- 68 Start of a holy day at Congregation Beth Simchat Torah?

Solution on 33

## Pet of the Week

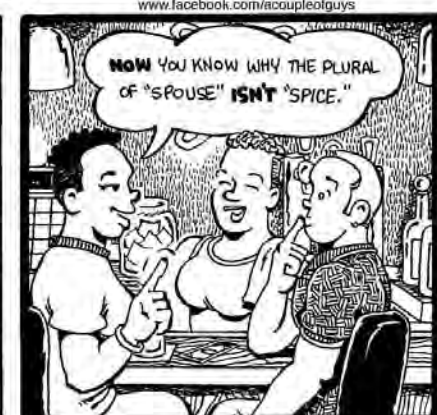
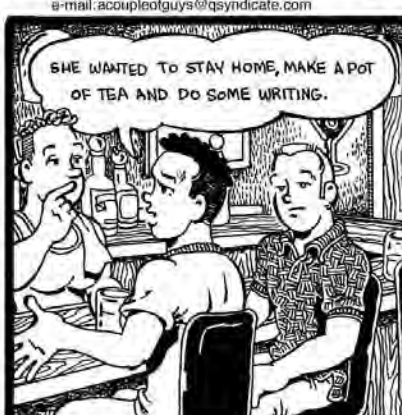


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## BTM Cocktail Chatter

# Stick Foot In Mouth, Shake, Serve

BY ED SIKOV

"There's something you should know about Phil Levine," Jack Fogg declared with that manly voice that made everything he said sound like a teaser for one of his popular exposes on CNN. He was bringing his old – where else? – Harvard bud Phil in as a housemate.

"He's a rice queen," Jack's delicious boyfriend, Sammy, blurted through a mouthful of Chipper's signature fruit salad.

"That be racist," I said off-handedly.

"No, *that* 'be racist,'" Shea said a little louder than strictly necessary and with an edge so sharp I could have cut my tongue out with it, which not coincidentally happened to be what I wanted to do. The room became a comedy routine as the boys all suddenly tried to look busy. Craig studied a plate of lox as if it miraculously formed the image of Stokely Carmichael. Chipper and Paolo scrutinized the rug. My playlist was set to "Doris! Doris! Doris!" The song: "There I Go."

Our preseason housemates brunch, at which we divvy up holiday weekend and say mean, funny things about people who aren't



I could see Dan's mind working: my sick sense of humor would finally send all our housemates packing, we'd have no rental income anymore.

there, had taken a wretched turn; I'd offended the only African-American in the group. Before my thoughtless faux pas everyone was high on thoughts of the new season, helped along by my new brunch cocktail, the Spring Splash. (So simple, so refreshing.... What would it feel like getting thrown in my face?) Even the evil Robbie kept his mouth shut. Kyle was still playing the impossibly gymnastic "Sonny" to Craig's all-grown-up-Baby-Huey "Daddy," but he couldn't be there. Just as well.

With the room seemingly frozen, I glanced over at Dan, who had a panicky look. A picture may be worth a thousand words, but the real sight of your partner having a nervous breakdown sparks many more. The words that first leapt to mind were "splatter picture," "Mau Mau" and (I couldn't help myself) "spooked." I could see

Dan's mind working: my sick sense of humor would finally send all our housemates packing, we'd have no rental income anymore, we'd have to take in laundry, and the whole dumb-to-begin-with beach house folly would bankrupt us.

Sean cut through it by launching into a guilt trip so pure that he'd had obviously perfected it through painful experience. Sentences began, "Do you have any idea of how sickening..." and ended with such personally damning touches as "...especially coming from someone I thought was my friend." I was sorer than a starving cat in the rain. "I'm ashamed, Sean," I began just as the front door opened and a hyper fireplug of a man stormed in brandishing a cell phone and booming, "I'm there I'll call you later I'm Phil Levine sorry I'm late did I miss anything?"

## The Spring Splash

2 parts premium orange juice  
1 part low-sodium tomato juice or V-8\*  
1 part Absolut

Mix all three ingredients in a pitcher without ice, chill in the fridge, then serve in tumblers over an ice cube or two. Do nothing to water it down. \*Note: The lower sodium juice is crucial. The incredibly high salt content of regular tomato juice gives this drink a funky, off taste that you will regret. At 1:30 a.m. a certain kind of man can get away with tasting a little funky. The drinks you serve at brunch cannot.

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# BTL Deep Inside Hollywood



Kate Hudson. Photo: Warner Bros./David Lee

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

## Evan Rachel Wood to 'March' with Clooney

Evan Rachel Wood, who recently talked to "Esquire" magazine about her bisexuality and how she likes to treat the women she dates (for the record, ladies, she will open the door for you and pay for dinner), has a new project to follow her well-received role in Todd Hayne's great HBO miniseries, "Mildred Pierce." She'll be appearing in the upcoming directorial effort from George Clooney, "The Ides of March." It's an idealism-meets-dirty-politics drama based on the play by Beau Willimon and co-stars some heavy hitters from the nomination-and-award-having acclaimed actor end of the Hollywood pool: Ryan Gosling, Marisa Tomei, Paul Giamatti, Jeffrey Wright, Philip Seymour Hoffman and Clooney himself. If she wasn't already considered part of the A-list, Wood certainly is now. Will the next stop be an equally famous girlfriend who's also ready to be her date to the Oscars and let Wood hold the door?

## Will Kate Hudson be open for 'Lovelace'?

The biopic that was going to star Lindsay Lohan as Linda Lovelace isn't happening anymore, but there's still a push to get the life of the legendary "Deep Throat" star on the big screen. Gay filmmakers Robert Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman, fresh off their triumph of turning James Franco into Allen Ginsberg in "Howl," are prepping "Lovelace," rumored to have Kate Hudson interested in the lead role. The real Lovelace, later in life, said that she was forced to participate in the film by her then-husband, leading her to become an outspoken feminist and porn critic, but it remains to be seen what direction the movie will take with her life. The filmmakers' previous credits include "The Times of Harvey Milk" and "The Celluloid Closet," so they're good at both biographies and pop-culture histories. "Lovelace" is still in pre-production, so no need to pick out a new raincoat just yet.

## Haley Joel Osment sees gay people in 'Sassy Pants'

Oscar nominee and former child star Haley Joel Osment seems to have gone underground since "Pay It Forward," but now he's 23 and apparently ready to get back in the game. And what's the best way for a former kid actor to firmly establish grown-up credibility? Playing a gay guy in an indie movie, of course, and that's exactly what Osment's doing in "Sassy Pants." Osment and Diedrich Bader ("The Drew Carey Show," "Office Space") play a gay couple in the comedy, which also features the hilarious Drew Droege. (If you haven't seen Droege's YouTube clips, where he impersonates a name-dropping Chloe Sevigny or an unhinged Tanya Roberts, you've been doing the Internet all wrong.) "Sassy Pants" is in post-production, so it could turn up in theaters by the end of the year. As for Osment, who's spent most of the last decade doing video-game voice-over work, kissing a man and getting "Sassy" might open up a whole new chapter to his career.

## The 'Horror' of Jessica Lange's latest career move

Jessica Lange's career-long fear of appearing on a weekly television series is coming to an end, thanks to horror – specifically, a new job on Ryan Murphy's upcoming pilot, "American Horror Story." And OK, yes, maybe "fear" is the wrong word for the Oscar-winner's lack of presence on the small screen; perhaps it's just been plain, old-fashioned disdain all these years. But Lange will now be co-starring opposite Connie Britton on the spooky drama about – and this is every shred of plot that's been made public to date – a therapist, his wife (Britton) and their nosy neighbor (Lange). After "Glee" wraps for the season later this month, production on "Horror" can begin and, with a potential series order, soon the scariest stuff we hear about a Ryan Murphy show won't be the rumors of diva antics among the cast on the set of his all-singing, all-dancing high school musical.

Romeo San Vicente always makes it worth his nosy neighbors' time. He can be reached care of this publication or at [DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com](mailto:DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com).

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