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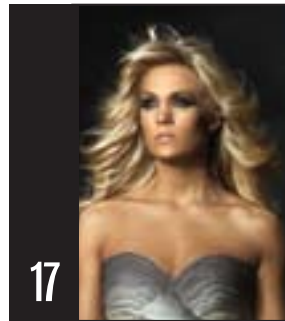
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Cash mob steps in to offer hope

Loss of partner, threatens loss of home, business

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

EASTPOINTE - Last Saturday a local cash mob event at Ariel's Enchanted Garden was meant to help the owner Mark Dikowski raise additional money to buy his own house back. It also drew attention to the issue of estate planning, which is often put on hold or overlooked by LGBT couples.

The independent floral shop was established 15 years ago by Dikowski with his life and business partner Gary Anders. In a relationship for 17 years, it was a good time for the couple to leave their Detroit property two years ago to settle into their dream home in Grosse Pointe with their dogs Aurora and Princess Tiger Lily. As a token of their commitment to each other, they photographed themselves in front of the sold sign after their realtor posted it on the front lawn. It was official.

"We were elated. Everything was coming together. Every domino was perfectly aligned," said Dikowski. But he was concerned about the fact that his name was kept off of crucial documents during the purchase process. As a sole proprietor, this was to avoid anyone coming after his personal assets if anything happened to the business.

"Gary was constantly reassuring me that everything will be fine," said Dikowski, who put his worries aside to move forward. He supervised the refurbishment of their English Tudor-style home while Anders continued to work as a certified public accountant and cared for his parents.

"His mother is in a nursing home and he would frequently stay the night to take care of his daddy who is wheelchair bound," said Dikowski. He remembers the conversation he had with Anders on the night of July 26, 2010. "I called him. He told me daddy's in bed. He was sitting on the couch reading the paper and eating a half gallon of ice cream, two of his favorite things to do to relax," he said.

That was the last time he would hear his partner's voice. At age 55, Anders died suddenly of a heart attack.

Although their families didn't acknowledge their relationship or fully approve of their



Mark Dikowski with his dogs Aurora and Princess Tiger Lily, lost his partner in 2010 and is battling with his former brother-in-law to buy his house back. BTL photo: Kate Opaleski.

lifestyle, Dikowski was permitted by Anders' brother to make funeral arrangements. Beyond that, Dikowski has endured a long and grueling legal battle. Because of estate issues and resistance from Anders' brother, Dikowski is being forced to buy his own house back and at this point will not benefit from Anders' life insurance policy.

"Gary kept telling me this would never happen to me. We've seen what our friends have gone through. Gary was constantly saying his family would never do this to me," he said. But his worst nightmare has come true and now Dikowski is trying to recover. "I lost the man I love. I lost support of mine and Gary's family and

"Gary kept telling me this would never happen to me. We've seen what our friends have gone through. Gary was constantly saying his family would never do this to me."

- Mark Dikowski, whose partner Gary Anders died suddenly of a heart attack two years ago.

I almost lost our dream house," he said.

A handful of friends and volunteers stepped up to help Dikowski pull his life back together.

"This is a horrible example of the need for equality in non-traditional marriage. If Mark and Gary were legally married, this wouldn't be an issue," said Arthur Mullen, executive director of the Mount Clemens Downtown Development Authority, who helped to organize and promote the event. "I'm happy with what we've done to support a local business owner and my friend going through a difficult time. The closer we can help Mark get to what the bank needs the better."

Gay couples need documentation

The general idea of the cash mob is to encourage people to go into small, local businesses and spend their money, en masse, to give the business owner a little bit of economic stimulus. The donation cup filled up quickly at Ariel's, known for a wide selection of lawn and garden art, Walt Disney classic art collection and collectibles, art glass, handmade tiles, and unique gifts. Local Detroit artist Tom Crimboli of TJ's Customs, Inc. (www.metalsculpturesbycrimboli.com) displayed his work in support of Dikowski's efforts.

"Gary would have done the same for Mark. This story broke our hearts and we would do anything to help him. We support Mark 100 percent," said Renee Miller of Allen Park, who

It's very common for bad things to happen to gay and lesbian couples who don't have the right documents in place. We can't be married in our state, so the only protections we have are the ones we put in place."

- Attorney Amanda Shelton

has known the couple for 12 years.

"Mark and Gary are the most caring and gentle people in the world," said Pat Bugay of Sterling Heights, another longtime friend. "It's just not fair what Mark has been through."

According to attorney Amanda Shelton of the Shelton and Deon Law Group (www.sheltondeonlawgroup.com), "It's very common for bad things to happen to gay and lesbian couples who don't have the right documents in place. We can't be married in our state, so the only protections we have are the ones we put in place."

Shelton discussed three to four critical documents that LGBT couples need once they have decided to commit to each other and want their loved one to receive their money and their things, among other benefits and protections. These documents, which cannot be completed post-mortem, are effective until revoked and can be amended if necessary.

First is the Medical Power of Attorney and Patient Advocate Designation. "This document gives partners the ability to make all medical decisions for each other. This also allows your partner to visit you in the hospital," said Shelton. "And God forbid you should die, but this form gives your partner the ability to receive your body. It's a sad, unfortunate situation. It can be difficult, if not impossible, for gay and lesbian people to prepare for funeral and burial or cremation arrangements for their partner without this document so it's very important."

Second is the Financial Durable Power of Attorney. "This gives your partner the ability to act on your behalf financially. There are two ways this is typically done and this is an individualized decision. The document can be drafted so that it is effective on execution which means you're giving you're partner this power immediately. Or it can be specified that the power of attorney is effective on disability once you are certified

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Brogan-Kator leaves Equality Michigan, Motor City Pride will go on

BTL STAFF REPORT

DETROIT - Equality Michigan's Board of Directors announced that its executive director, Denise Brogan-Kator, has decided to step down from that position effective May 4. She was appointed by the board just 10 months ago after serving six months as the interim executive director.

Dave Wait, a board member and the main organizer of the Motor City Pride festival scheduled for June 2 and 3 at Hart Plaza in Detroit, said that the upcoming festival is not in any jeopardy and that plans are moving forward. "Motor City Pride has its own revenue stream. We are looking forward to a record Motor City Pride next month," said Wait.

Equality Michigan was formed in 2010 from a merger of the Triangle Foundation and Michigan Equality, two advocacy groups that had significant programmatic redundancy. The departure of Brogan-Kator marks the fourth executive director to leave the organization since 2007; Jeff Montgomery resigned from Triangle in 2007, Kate Runyon from Triangle in 2008, Alicia Skillman from Equality Michigan in 2010 and Brogan-Kator in 2012.

In 2009, the then-Triangle Foundation received a \$500,000 grant from the Arcus Foundation that funded capacity and, in part, to encourage a merger of the two groups. The combined organization received another \$160,000 in 2011 from Arcus. However, fundraising at the new Equality Michigan has apparently not been sufficient since then to sustain the organization at its current size.

The press release stated that the board plans to do an in-depth assessment of the organization

including strategic focus, structure and scope of work.

"There is no doubt that to serve Michigan's gay and transgender communities effectively, we need to be more efficient and creative at leveraging our resources," said Patrick Schuh, Equality Michigan board chair. "We need to maximize our efforts; unfortunately,

there are policy makers in Lansing who would rather engage in divisive fights than focus on ensuring all Michiganders have access to good jobs, affordable housing, access to healthcare, and safe communities where they can live without fear of discrimination. This time of transition is a valuable chance to step back, examine our organization and reinvigorate how we engage Michigan's citizens in the fight to achieve equality for all."

There are five remaining staff person's at Equality Michigan; Emily Dievendorf, director of policy, Roland Leggett, the director of field organization, Nusrat Vertimiglia and Sara Spurgeon of the victim services advocate program, and Roshanda Mitchell, the office manager.

The development director, Guy Barast, and the communications director, Michael Gregor, left the organization earlier this year.

**Please See
Related Editorial
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► Cash mob

Continued from p. 4

incapacitated," said Shelton.

Third is the Will, a document that transfers a person's property at their death to a designated person.

"The Partnership Agreement is a good idea to have, but it has to be crafted carefully," said Shelton about the fourth document which serves to clarify the financial terms of the relationship and the disposition of areas of concern, such as joint property ownership and shared responsibilities. "Because of the 2004 marriage amendment, if this document is worded so that the court could compare the relationship to a marriage or any similar union, it can be deemed not enforceable."

Traditional estate planning vehicles can

be cost prohibitive for some, but according to Shelton, if LGBT couples really want to cover their bases, they have to go the extra mile. "Start with an attorney who understands the intricacies of Michigan law as it applies to LGBT people. For all four documents, it costs between \$1,500 and \$3,000 depending on the work involved and how extensive the documents are."

Dikowski shares some advice for LGBT couples who may not know estate planning is an issue. "People don't hear these stories and the story never ends well if there is no protection for the other person if someone dies. If you love this person so much, you have to protect each other. A lot of people are very complacent in the fact that the laws are going to be changing in the next few years. Don't wait until they change. Drag each other to the lawyer's office and fill out the paperwork now."

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Counseling changes lives at Ruth Ellis

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

A 14 year old kid from Detroit got busted for stealing. The judge put him on probation and he got caught stealing again. So what? Another bad kid, doing bad things, going through the system, right?

To a lot of people it can seem that way. With courtrooms and detention centers full of young people, probation officers overwhelmed with cases, schools that lack funding and sometimes safety, and parents who lack education, the problems of one petty thief may seem minuscule.

But when such a youth comes to Ruth Ellis Center for counseling, the pyramid of those factors reverses and the teen's needs are placed back on top. This is how lives can be changed.

Jessie Fullenkamp is one of four counselors at the center, which focuses on serving homeless and runaway LGBT youth. When the teen's file came across her desk, she immediately spotted the questions that others hadn't seemed to consider. She wanted to learn what the teen was stealing and why.

"A 14 year old can't always articulate what they are going through, and especially with LGBT youth, the language of what they're experiencing is all new to them," Fullenkamp said. "It takes a while for them to open up. No one had ever asked what they were stealing, which was nailpolish and feminine clothing items.

"It wasn't that they were compulsive, and the family is not in need. The reason they were stealing is because their family would not let them buy clothing that they considered too feminine."

Fullenkamp said the teen hid their feelings about questioning their gender identity. "All they've been told is they are deviant," she said. "How could they understand their desire, let alone explain it to a parent or probation officer?"

As counseling sessions progressed, Fullenkamp was able to help the family understand the youth's behavior. While acceptance is an on-going process, the parents were able to see how openness, communication and unconditional parental love can help the teen avoid further trouble with the law. According to the counselor, the family is taking small steps, and the youth is able to take feminine items from the clothes closet at the drop-in center.

"This young person could have avoided the criminal justice system," Fullenkamp said. "When you think of how much time, money and resources were spent on this young person, it's incredibly frustrating."

Rainbow stickers

Counseling can play an integral role in helping people on all sides of a situation, such as a family striving to understand their gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or questioning child. Cultural competency training for case workers, probation officers, judges, police, and even other counselors working on LGBT issues can go a



Ruth Ellis Center counselor Jessie Fullenkamp. BTL photo: Cyrsal Proxmire

"All they've been told is they are deviant. How could they understand their desire, let alone explain it to a parent or probation officer?"

- Ruth Ellis Center counselor Jessie Fullenkamp

long way in giving those in the criminal justice system tools to understand and prevent crime.

Fullenkamp wants to see more LGBT affirming counselors and allies, and said that something as small as having a rainbow sticker on an office door can let teens and others know that it is a safe space to open up. Asking clients about their sexual orientation and gender expression as part of early meetings can also give people the opportunity to open up.

"There was one young person who had been seeing another counselor for about two years, and I was asking them about the counselor and their experience. They seemed like a good counselor, and they helped the young person get their GED and a job. But there were times they missed their appointments. And they said 'Well, sometimes I forget to bring my boy clothes so I would skip.' This person wouldn't go to the appointment because the counselor didn't know she was presenting as a woman, living as a woman, and she made the assumption that the counselor would not accept her, so she'd change into boy

clothes just for her appointment.

"That counselor never did anything to indicate they would not be supportive, in fact, they could very well have been. But because the youth did not ever see any sign that they would be affirming, they were not wrong in assuming that they may not be safe."

At Ruth Ellis Center, most of the counseling is individual, and about a third is family counseling. "When you're working with youth it's important for parents to come in and be part of the process. Most parents aren't completely affirming, but we provide a space where they can come ask questions and recognize what is really helpful."

Mark B. Erwin, director of programs for Ruth Ellis, has noticed the effects of counseling. "There is a young person, 14 years old, who has been coming in for several months now. He has expressed concern about coming out to his father because he has heard mixed messages from him. The young person shared that he would hear his father say that he loved him no matter what one day, and the next day he would hear his father

say that he has to stop acting like a girl.

"So, we mapped out what feeling loved and supported looks like to him so that he can articulate that to his father. We also did a cost-benefit analysis of what coming out vs. not coming out to his father looked like.

"Finally, we role played coming out. I asked the young person, 'How would you share that you identify as gay with your father?' The young person smiled and explained that he had practiced many times out loud when he is alone. So, he practiced coming out during counseling sessions and how he would respond to a variety of responses. One must be ready for the best possible response and the worst possible response while understanding that most likely the response will be somewhere in the middle."

"The young person expressed feeling more confident and ready to talk with their father. This is significant for many reasons; they are increasing their communication skills in ways that permeate all areas of their lives while also creating a space for self-determination around their identity and relationships," Erwin said.

The mental health program at Ruth Ellis Center is made possible by a contract with Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency. The contract allows the organization to provide individual and family counseling for youth between the ages of 7-17 who are Medicaid eligible and Wayne County residents.

For more information on the Ruth Ellis Center, visit www.ruthelliscenter.org

News analysis

Why aren't all crimes hate crimes?

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

When a transgender woman was murdered last year after assisting Madison Heights police with a drug bust, some wondered why the killer was not charged with a hate crime, though her body had been badly mutilated and burned.

In January, Channel 7 News reported on a distraught mother crying out for murder prosecution after her gay, developmentally challenged son was beaten and stabbed to death in a fight after accidentally breaking someone's sunglasses in the stairway of an apartment building.

In the past few weeks the media has been abuzz over the Trayvon Martin shooting, an incident where an Hispanic man followed a black teenager he thought "looked suspicious" coming out of a 7-11 store wearing a hoodie and carrying snacks.

Last week reports that Detroit Tiger Delmon Young was charged in New York with a hate crime for using anti-semitic remarks and tackling a tourist while drunk, have sports fans thinking about what it means to be a bigot.

"This discrepancy between what our state considers a hate crime and what our nation defines as a hate crime is denying too many Michigan residents the right to a fairly prosecuted trial. Crimes should be prosecuted on the bases of both the motive behind the crime and the criminal act."

- Equality Michigan website

And in donut shops and diners across the country, people make the seemingly logical argument that anytime someone beats, burns, mutilates, or murders another human being, it is a crime done in hate and should be punished the same.

But not all crimes are hate crimes. Not all crimes with a victim that is a part of a protected class are hate crimes, and not all states handle hate crimes the same way. It can get pretty

complicated. But knowing the essential aspect of a hate crime can clear up some of the confusion.

In the case of the transgender woman, police determined that the motive for the murder was revenge, since it happened just days after learning that the victim had assisted police in busting a suspect for drugs. In the stabbing death, the killer was charged with manslaughter because police assessed the death was the result of an un-planned fight. The facts are not completely in yet on the Trayvon Martin death, and the number of conversations on the subject will continue to grow as we move toward a trial.

BTL asked Michigan ACLU attorney Jay Kaplan to help explain what makes a crime a hate crime, and what the significance of the designation is.

"I think we first need to have the understanding of what a hate crime is. I think that term often is used to describe anything that might be offensive to particular group of people and/or to include statements that are against a particular group of people. That would not be a hate crime and certainly speech disapproving of a particular group is protected by the First Amendment. A hate crime is a crime of violence against a person and it's the hate towards that person's membership in a particular group. We see bias crimes against particular groups of people because of their race, their religion, their sexual orientation and their gender expression, and we want to make sure that they are addressed as such, because once again, this type of crime victimizes not only the person who was attacked, but the whole membership of people that this person belongs to. It's very clear from crime statistics that certain populations are disproportionately victims of crime motivated by animus towards their groups. You can't say that every crime is a hate crime. A random burglary of someone's house is not a crime of violence towards that person nor was it motivated by animus because of that person's race, religion, etc."

History of hate crimes

The FBI website gives an ongoing list of hate crime news and prevention resources. It explains the origins of hate crimes legislation. "Crimes of hatred and prejudice — from lynchings to cross burnings to vandalism of synagogues — are a sad fact of American history, but the term 'hate crime' did not enter the nation's vocabulary until the 1980s, when emerging hate groups like the skinheads launched a wave of bias-related crime. The FBI began investigating

See Hate crimes, page 9



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BTL Editorial

When crisis calls, time to unite as one

BY JAN STEVENSON AND SUSAN HOROWITZ

BTL has learned that Equality Michigan's Executive Director, Denise Brogan-Kator, has resigned effective May 4 and that the organization is in serious financial trouble. Given the importance of the upcoming 2012 election cycle, we are particularly dismayed and disappointed that our statewide political organization has run into such a desperate situation, that the executive director has left and the viability of the organization is in doubt.

Gays and transgendered people are in deep trouble in Michigan. The Republicans control all three branches of state government and the radical right-wing of the GOP has hijacked the agenda. Since Republicans seized control last year, gays and transgender people have experienced an onslaught of repressive, heinous legislative attacks – from stripping health benefits from same-sex partners of public employees to an effort to invalidate local ordinances that protect LGBT people in about a dozen Michigan cities.

We could invest ink and column inches on how angry, unhappy and frustrated we are, pointing fingers at the board and management team for incompetence. Suffice it to say, in the last five years Equality Michigan has gone through a merger, four executive directors and hundreds of thousands of dollars from the Arcus Foundation - and now finds itself incapacitated by a financial crisis when we need them most for a critical political season.

"When written in Chinese the word 'crisis' is composed of two characters – one represents danger the other represents opportunity,"

wrote John F. Kennedy in 1959. So let's step back and explore what good can come from this crisis.

We ask that all the stakeholders use this current situation as an opportunity to rethink the structure of our Michigan LGBT movement and its organizations. We call on them to consider a plan that would incorporate most of the LGBT movement in Michigan under one umbrella, thereby reducing overhead and management costs, maximizing return on our collective money and talent investments and increasing accountability, stability and transparency.

The work at Equality Michigan needs to continue. It operates in three key program areas – lobbying, field organizing and victim services.

We think it makes sense for Equality Michigan's political programs – the lobbying and the field work – to transfer into the political non-profit part of Affirmations (the 501(c)(4) arm) which was set up a few years ago to do a voter engagement project, but that is now dormant. The boards of Affirmations and Equality Michigan can combine their resources and skill sets to

raise money for both the social services side and the political advocacy side, and the staffs of both can collaborate closely on mobilization and volunteerism. One organization – one voice – one machine with several moving parts that focuses on meeting the social service and political needs of the whole LGBT community.

Affirmations recently led an effort to organize all the community centers across Michigan into a statewide coalition. A statewide political lobbying and field organizing project, housed within the organizational structure of an umbrella coalition, could tap into that community center network. Political engagement, volunteerism and direct action would increase, our lobbyists would have a stronger base from which to speak to legislators, and more resources would be devoted to the actual work instead of the organizational overhead that comes with multiple management teams and boards of directors.

The victim advocacy project at Equality Michigan is a social service project that we think would be best housed within a social service agency (501(c)(3) organization), such as the Ruth Ellis Center, Affirmations or Kick! The project could continue to report hate crime statistics so our lobbyists have the data to argue for better legislation.

Last year BTL reported on an organizational and financial crisis at Affirmations. This year it is Equality Michigan. We say enough. If these tough economic times have taught us anything it is that we must pool resources. Let's have one strong organization rather than several

Let's have one strong organization rather than several fragmented groups that swing in and out of crisis mode. Get all the paid staffs working together towards common goals and have a united board of directors that understands that their job is to garner financial resources for sustained, effective, collaborative work.

fragmented groups that swing in and out of crisis mode. Get all the paid staffs working together towards common goals and have a united board of directors that understands that their job is to garner financial resources for sustained, effective, collaborative work.

We are not naïve enough to think this would be easy. It will require talent, leadership, compassion, intelligence, grit and patience to unite under one umbrella. But it is time that we do just that, and we should do it quickly. Equality Michigan's talented program staff – the lobbyist, field organizer and victim advocates – must continue their work and build on the meaningful progress they have made over the past two years.

The stakes are too high, the needs too great and the consequences too dire if we allow ourselves to continue in the current mode of operation. Let's all rise to this occasion, build something great together and make Michigan a better place to live.



HIS MASTER'S VOICE

► Hate crimes

Continued from p. 7

what we now call hate crimes as far back as World War I, when the Ku Klux Klan first attracted our attention. Today, we remain dedicated to working with state and local partners to prevent these crimes and to bring to justice those who commit them.”

The site also explains the 2009 legislation, which gives the Federal government the right to prosecute hate crimes when states fail to do so. “The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009 gives the FBI authority to investigate violent hate crimes, including violence directed at the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community.

This new federal civil rights law criminalizes willfully causing bodily injury (or attempting to do so with fire, a firearm, or other dangerous weapon) when:

(1) the crime was committed because of the actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, of any person, or;

(2) the crime was committed because of the actual or perceived religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability of any person, and the crime affected interstate or foreign commerce, or occurred on federal property.

Kaplan explained that this legislation is particularly important in states like Michigan where there is no state-level protection against bias crimes against people based on their sexual orientation. That doesn’t mean the work is done though.

“Even when the case is clear, there is no guarantee that the federal government will step in. “The reality is that most crimes are handled by the state criminal justice system, and our state criminal justice system should recognize that LGBT people are disproportionately targets of violence because of their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression. Our state has a hate crimes law that

“We encourage Michigan to adopt an LGBT inclusive hate crimes law because LGBT people are disproportionately victims of hate crimes. We support hate crimes legislation that makes it clear that speech protected by the First Amendment is not prohibited or classified as a hate crime.”

- ACLU Attorney Jay Kaplan

recognizes other categories that have been targeted, such as race and religion. Because of the history of discrimination and violence against LGBT people, they should be included in our state laws.”

Equality Michigan tracks incidents of violence. Their website states, “During the first half of 2011 alone, Equality Michigan received reports of 83 incidents of violence or intimidation targeting gay and transgender residents that are considered hate crimes under the Shepard-Byrd Act. However, because the statewide hate crime law is not comprehensive, incidents against gay and transgender Michiganders that are clearly motivated by anti-gay or anti-transgender bias are ignored as hate crimes. ... This discrepancy between what our state considers a hate crime and what our nation defines as a hate crime is denying too many Michigan residents the right to a fairly prosecuted trial. Crimes should be prosecuted on the bases of both the motive behind the crime and the criminal act.”

NPR’s Carrie Johnson recently explored the limited use of the Shepard-Byrd Act, reporting that in the three years since it was enacted it has only been used nine times. In an interview with Johnson, Law Professor Sam Bagenstos explained that federal prosecutors have strict limitations. “This is not a statute that prohibits speech at all. It prohibits only violent conduct. And it’s not a statute that

prohibits violent conduct where there happens to be some racial epithet spoken. I mean, there has to be enough evidence that the victim was targeted because of the victim’s race or other protected status,” said Bagenstos.

Another issue is that the Federal government can only step in when there is a compelling reason to do so, such as lax prosecution at the local or state level, when interstate commerce is affected or when the crime occurs on Federal land.

Freedom from societal intimidation, prejudice, and hate-driven violence is one of many issues that equal rights groups in Michigan are striving for. “We encourage Michigan to adopt an LGBT inclusive hate crimes law because LGBT people are disproportionately victims of hate crimes. We support hate crimes legislation that makes it clear that speech protected by the First Amendment is not prohibited or classified as a hate crime,” Kaplan said.

If you or someone you know has experienced discrimination, intimidation, harassment or violence because of sexual orientation, gender expression or gender identity, contact Equality Michigan’s Department of Victim Services at report@equalitymi.org or 1-866-962-1147.

For more information go to <http://equalitymi.org>, or www.aclumich.org/courts/lgbt-project.

LGBT teen suicide to be focus of ‘conversation’

FARMINGTON - In response to an alarming increase in Oakland County teen suicides, the Farmington Area Suicide Prevention Task Force is hosting a community conversation on suicide prevention in LGBT youth May 23. The event is targeted at parents, youth (ages 12 to 18), teachers, the faith community, service club members, and others who have regular contact with young people.

Featured speakers will include Affirmations Executive Director Dave Garcia, Mike Neubecker of

PFLAG Downriver, psychologist Fran Brown and Naomi Khalil, director of instructional equity for Farmington Public Schools.

Suicides have increased by 21 percent in Oakland County since 2008, and Farmington Hills had 10 suicides in 2011, according to Police Chief Chuck Nebus. With a theme of “Let’s Talk About It,” the Farmington Area Suicide Prevention Task Force is bringing community leaders together to reach out to troubled youth and counteract alarming trends in suicide and suicide

attempts.

Farmington Hills City Councilman Dr. Ken Massey has spearheaded efforts to remove the stigma of suicide. “We want to bring the topics of depression and suicide out into the open so that all people will seek the help they need,” said Dr. Massey, who lost his son, Graham E. Smith, to suicide last year.

The meeting will be at Farmington Hills City Hall from 7 to 8:30 p.m. For more information, call the City Manager’s Office at 248-871-2500.

Creep of the Week

BY D’ANNE WITKOWSKI

Pastor Sean Harris

Pop quiz time: Your son, barely out of diapers, starts acting a little, well, “girly.” What do you do?

If you answered, “Punch him in the face” you just might be North Carolina pastor Sean Harris or one of his congregants. Because that’s what he said to do during an April 29 sermon.



Sean Harris

“So your little son starts to act a little girlish when he is four years old and instead of squashing that like a cockroach and saying, ‘Man up, son, get that dress off you and get outside and dig a ditch, because that is what boys do,’” Harris says. “Dads, the second you see your son dropping the limp wrist, you walk over there and crack that wrist. Man up. Give him a good punch.”

That’s right. Punch a four-year-old for Jesus. Even more horrifying is that this suggestion elicits laughter from the audience. Like a small “girly”

child getting his clock cleaned is just the most hilarious image.

Harris then advises that after the punch you tell your son, “You are not going to act like that. You were made by God to be a male and you

Harris then advises that after the punch you tell your son, “You are not going to act like that. You were made by God to be a male and you are going to be a male.”

are going to be a male.”

I hate to quibble, but gay males are, well, males. By definition.

But not to Harris. This is a man who believes in rigid gender roles (do I need mention his disdain for trans folk? It’s intense to say the least) for boys and girls.

He continues his rant, saying, “And when your daughter starts acting too butch you reign her in. And you say, ‘Oh, no, sweetheart. You can play sports. Play them, play them to the glory of God. But sometimes you are going to act like a girl and walk like a girl and talk like a girl and smell like a girl and that means you are going to be beautiful. You are going to be attractive. You are going to dress yourself up.’”

Sexism much? Harris clearly has lots of respect for girls with his clear directive that they be “attractive” – to men, obviously. Even if they play sports. But no dykes in the house of God, no way. Spray those bitches with Love’s Baby Soft and pull a dress over their heads. Problem solved.

Just in case anyone in his congregation was doubting his wisdom, Harris beats them to the punch. “Can I take charge like that as a parent? Yeah, you can. You are authorized,” he says. “I just gave you a special dispensation this morning to do that.”

Got it? Your pastor just gave you permission to beat up or doll up, depending on their gender, potentially gay but at least not gender role conforming children. Amen.

Unsurprisingly, Harris has received much attention for his “advice.” Now he says he’s sorry and that, hey, he was just kidding.

But listening to the audio of Harris’s sermon is chilling. He sounds so angry. He’s literally yelling these words, his voice hoarse. This doesn’t sound like a stand up routine, unless Harris was doing his best Sam Kinison impression.

“If I had to say it again, I would say it differently, no doubt,” Harris told the Fayetteville Observer. “Those weren’t planned words, but what I do stand by is that the word of God makes it clear that effeminate behavior is ungodly. I’m not going to compromise on that.”

Right. So it was just off-the-cuff hatred, not scripted hatred, which is somehow supposed to make a difference? Because he meant what he said regardless of the words he used.

Heard on Facebook

NBC orders a gay family comedy from Ryan Murphy. The plot: heartwarming comedy about a blended family of a gay couple and the woman who becomes a surrogate to help them have children. What do you think?

I shudder at the thought to see what this show is going to be like. Try as they might, TV just doesn't get "gay" right. I guess the problem is, in reality, most gay people are just living their lives like every other boring person (albeit with a bit more "flair") and to make it "work" for TV, they need to highlight some of the more extreme personality types. Sigh.

—George Kitchens

Love the idea!

—Nick Maniaci

Excellent. Now if NBC and Murphy can show some balls, this show can (among other things) reprise Archie Bunker, for much fun and some controversy.

—Steve Duerksen

Could be a winner; all depends on the dialogue.

—Jeanne Ruzzin

I like the idea as well, but why do we have to be portrayed as the perfect "family" with two kids, a dog and a white picket fence? Will & Grace didn't have any children until the final episode when they were all old and their children were grown. That was a great comedy show. Don't get me wrong – I love kids. My partner and I have three adult children and six grandkids and I love them all. However, we aren't on TV for the whole world to see. Thank god!

—John N. Gibbs III

Comments may be edited for grammar and length.



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S/he Said

Richard Grenell's resignation

COMPILED BY HOWARD ISRAEL



Richard Grenell

"I have decided to resign from the Romney campaign as the Foreign Policy and National Security Spokesman. While I welcomed the challenge to confront President Obama's foreign policy failures and weak leadership on the world stage, my ability to speak clearly and forcefully on the issues has been greatly diminished by the hyper-partisan discussion of personal issues that sometimes comes from a presidential campaign. I want to thank Governor Romney for his belief in me and my abilities and his clear message to me that being openly gay was a non-issue for him and his team."

—Richard Grenell in a statement obtained by Right Turn, regarding his resignation as Mitt Romney's openly gay foreign policy advisor, www.WashingtonPost.com, May 1.



Frank Schaeffer

"If you came to earth from another planet as the proverbial 'visitor from Mars' and tried to figure out what most religions all seem to agree on and care about most you'd conclude that it was about keeping women down and bashing gays. Between the Roman Catholic anti-contraception, anti-gay marriage bishops, the Islamic fundamentalists mutilating their daughters and the American evangelicals trying to force women to have children they don't want (and trying to force Romney to join the religious right) our visitor from Mars will fly home with the news that religion of the bishops, pope, Islamists, and evangelicals is really a misogyny/homophobic cult. He might also report that this cult of hate and fear is also a practitioner of politics masquerading as religion."

—Frank Schaeffer, author, in his column titled "Richard Grenell, Romney and the (Religious) Politics of Hate," connecting the Romney campaign's quietly appeasing anti-gay religious bigots with the concentrated efforts of religious leaders to oppress women, children and gay people, www.huffingtonpost.com, May 3



Joe Solmonese

"The fact that Grenell is gone so quickly after a right-wing uproar is a troubling harbinger of the kind of power that anti-gay forces would have in a Romney White House."

—Joe Solmonese, president, Human Rights Campaign, about the speedy resignation of Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney's openly gay foreign policy advisor, Richard Grenell, just two weeks after the campaign announced

his role, after the vicious reaction of anti-gay religious conservatives to the Romney campaign's hiring of an openly gay man, www.keennewservice.com, May 2.



Frank

"It seems pretty plain that, whatever fine record he compiled in the Bush administration, Grenell is more passionate about same-sex marriage than anything else. So here's a thought experiment. Suppose Barack Obama comes out — as Grenell wishes he would — in favor of same-sex marriage in his acceptance speech at the

Democratic National Convention. How fast and how publicly will Richard Grenell decamp from Romney to Obama?"

—Matthew J. Frank, Director of the William E. and Carol G. Simon Center on Religion, in a column titled "Re: By All Means, Let's Worry About Richard Grenell," www.NationalReview.com, April 27

Parting Glances



Pages past tense #9

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

At 19, I went to my first gay bar – the Silver Slipper, a dyke bar on Grand River, near downtown Detroit. I used borrowed ID, was escorted authoritatively by two regulars, Speedy and Draino.

Lesbians sat in an upstairs balcony space. Gays and “tourists,” downstairs. Tourists came to gawk at the queers.

Entertainer was porkulent Chi Chi LaTrine, aka Benjamin Ernest Franklin. He wore wide, be-ribboned picture hats, sang songs with lyrics of questionable OB-GYN soundness. (“Douche yourself with kerosene. Light it with a match. You will be the only queen with a blow torch for a snatch.”)

Chi Chi’s comedy routines closed with his trademark insertion of a champagne glass into his ample facial cheeks and mouth. (Sidebar: Franklin had a sociology M.A., and in the early 60s was the first gay person to speak to Wayne State University psych classes.)

Travel was a revelation. We gradually realized we weren’t alone.

With teenagers friends Gary and Richard, I also hit the Scenic Bar in Toledo, Ohio. Soon our little circle – “Claudia,” (Richard) “Margo,” (Gary) and (groan) “Crystal” – took our sing-along road show to Cleveland, staying at the Y-M-C-A!

I met Marcus, who took me home, played Maria Callas arias from Verdi’s La Traviata, fed me a wonderful breakfast. It was magic – until I learned to my over-stuffed chagrin that my gourmet cook was yet another crossdresser. Two that summer!

Next came Big Apple week. Our threesome took the New York Central train – playing gin rummy for 13 hours – and booked into the notorious Sloan House Y. It was mid-July. No air conditioning. Heat 90-plus. Sweat soaked outdoors in minutes. So, we slept at day; partied at night.

I had no sooner unpacked my things when the phone rang. “Hi! I’m Jerry. I saw you in the lobby. Can I take you to dinner?” He left two days later. Ever faithful at 19, I thought of Jerry for 36.5 hours, 36 seconds. (Jerry, who?)

Our trio went to a Greenwich Village downstairs bar, the Sans Souci. “Cry Me a River,” sung by Roberta Sherwood was the jukebox hit. Bar ambiance was intimate and discreet. I met a bona fide actor: Gunther Wilde. (Gunther, who?)

Richard reeled in two mid-30s Italians who invited us to Fire Island. We took the train to Babylon – three hours – and a ferry boat to Cherry Grove. “Truman Capote’s there,” they lied. I experienced a toothache, a sunburn, no sleep, a sore back. (It was worth it.)

In 1955, we had no role models. We suspected certain movie stars. (Tab Hunter, Barbara Stanwyck, newcomer James Dean). All wishful thinking. These Senator McCarthy witch-hunting years were terror for “known homosexuals.” We had no choice but the closet.

For those who could pass for straight, problems were few – vice cops, crabs, VD, job firing, shock therapy, excommunication, incarceration, media exposes – if you kept your “she this” and “she that” to yourself.

Travel was a revelation. We gradually realized we weren’t alone. We were everywhere: doctors, stevedores, actors, professors, cops, nurses, Indian chiefs, average Joes, exceptional Jills. Gaydar was a godsend. (Question: Who needs gaydar these days?)

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And finally, despite indisputable evidence that turns this into a story, some ending confessions, we have willing to take all summer long about how and why this could ever have happened.

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Openly gay advisor Grenell resigns Romney post, cites 'personal issues'

BY LISA KEEN

Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney's openly gay advisor on foreign policy resigned May 1, just two weeks after the campaign announced his role.

According to the Washington Post, which broke the story, Richard Grenell "resigned in the wake of a full-court press by anti-gay conservatives." But Grenell, in a statement to the Post, said only that his ability to "speak clearly and forcefully on the issues has been greatly diminished by the hyper-partisan discussion of personal issues that sometimes comes from a presidential campaign." Grenell's statement also thanked Romney for his confidence in Grenell's ability to serve the campaign on national security and foreign policy issues and for Romney's "clear message to me that being openly gay was a non-issue for him and his team."

The Post quoted Romney campaign manager Matt Rhoades as saying the campaign is "disappointed that Ric decided to resign from the campaign for his own personal reasons."

"We wanted him to stay," said Rhoades, "because he had superior qualifications for the position he was hired to fill."

Most gay activists see Grenell as a victim of the Republican Party's strong right-wing base.

R. Clarke Cooper, head of Log Cabin Republicans, echoing Grenell's statement, blamed Grenell's departure on "hyper-partisan discussion of issues unrelated to" Grenell's national security qualifications. Cooper said Grenell "was essentially hounded by the far right and far left."

Stonewall Democrats' national executive director Jerame Davis said Grenell was "mercilessly hounded by religious conservatives." To Davis, Romney's appointment of Grenell was never serious, but just a "crassly cynical political move by Romney to fool LGBT voters into believing he's not as anti-gay as his statements would have you believe."

Davis criticized Romney for "silently (letting) the bigoted wing of his party, control his personnel choices."

Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese also criticized Romney for his silence.

"The fact that Grenell is gone

Bryan Fischer, a policy official with the American Family Association, criticized Grenell's appointment... calling him a 'gay activist'

so quickly after a right-wing uproar," said Solmonese, "is a troubling harbinger of the kind of power that anti-gay forces would have in a Romney White House."

Jimmy LaSalvia, head of the national gay conservative group GOProud, said, "I still can't believe that in 2012 there are still people like Bryan Fischer and Tony Perkins, who would rather keep a gay person from having a job on a presidential campaign than have Mitt Romney assemble the best foreign policy team possible."

"On a day when foreign affairs and national security are at the forefront, it's too bad that Governor Romney doesn't have the best spokesman possible speaking on his behalf," said LaSalvia.

Bryan Fischer, a policy official with the American Family Association, criticized Grenell's appointment, characterizing Grenell as a "gay activist" and suggesting he would be trying to promote a "homosexual agenda." Tony Perkins, head of the Family Research Council, noted that Grenell publicly criticized President Bush for opposing the U.S. endorsement of a pro-gay statement by the United Nations.

Another right-wing anti-gay activist, Gary Bauer, criticized the appointment of Grenell, saying that it showed unwillingness by the Romney campaign to reassure conservatives in the Republican Party.

"Conservative pro-family leaders," said Bauer, in an April 25 email to supporters of his current organization, Campaign for Working Families, "are disappointed because Grenell has been an outspoken advocate of redefining normal marriage." He noted that Grenell "once caused a controversy by trying to have his partner listed as his spouse when he worked at the U.N." Grenell asked to have his partner listed, the same as the spouses of other U.S. delegation employees, in a United Nations directory.

But Bauer's criticism of Grenell's appointment was somewhat tempered by his acknowledgement that "homosexuals" worked in the

administrations of President Reagan and the two Bush presidents.

And Grenell's own cryptic explanation - citing "hyperpartisan discussion of personal issues that sometimes comes from a presidential campaign" - left room for uncertainty about what was really behind his abrupt resignation.

Grenell, 45, lives in Los Angeles and was due to start work at Romney's national headquarters in Boston on May 1. Such a move would enable Grenell to marry his longtime partner, Matthew Lashey.

Personal issues were also a focus of early criticism of Grenell's appointment, as media reports gave considerable attention to Grenell's Twitter posts making unflattering observations about GOP presidential long-shot Newt Gingrich's current wife, Callista, openly gay Pulitzer Prize winning commentator Jonathan Capehart, and MSNBC's openly gay political commentator Rachel Maddow, among others. Those posts came to light just as the clamor was subsiding over a remark from openly gay Democratic strategist Hilary Rosen that Romney's wife, Ann, had "never worked a day in her life."

Grenell's qualifications to serve as a national security and foreign policy advisor to Romney seemed unquestioned. Grenell served the administration of President George W. Bush, as a spokesman for the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. He was also appointed by Ambassador John Danforth in 2004 to serve as an alternative representative of the United States to the U.N. Security Council. And he served numerous other prominent Republicans, including New York Governor George Pataki, former South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford, and San Diego Mayor Susan Golding.

The Romney campaign's willingness to appoint an openly gay man to such a prominent position also seemed to indicate that the campaign was prepared to go after the one in four gay voters who tend to vote Republican. Grenell's departure could make that task more difficult.

Veep Biden OK with gay marriage

BY LISA KEEN

WASHINGTON D.C. - Responding earnestly to a question, Vice President Joe Biden has hoisted personal and legal support for same-sex marriages back into the presidential campaign.

Biden told a nationally televised news show May 6 that he is "absolutely comfortable" with the existence of same-sex marriage, adding that "men marrying men, women marrying women and heterosexual men and women marrying one another are entitled to the same exact rights, all the civil rights, all the civil liberties."

The comment drew quick praise from LGBT leaders, who uniformly also expressed their desire to hear President Obama make similar remarks. And it turned a metaphorical spotlight back on President Obama's tightrope walk between support for repealing the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and support for full legal marriage equality. While President Obama has vigorously supported the repeal of DOMA and has spoken in opposition to bans on same-sex marriage in California and North Carolina, he and his administration have not made any explicit statements in support of legal marriage equality in the states. And, the president has eschewed opportunities to share what his personal comfort level is with same-sex marriage. And his hesitancy on these latter two points has become a lingering rough spot between the president and the LGBT community, despite a record that clearly outshines all other presidents.

By the next morning, many political talking heads were weighing in on when they thought President Obama would make a statement of comfort with the idea of same-sex partners marrying, most speculating it would not come until after the November presidential election.

On one of those Monday morning news shows, Obama's Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, was asked, not whether he was comfortable with same-sex marriages, but whether he thinks same-sex couples should be able to marry as a matter of law. Duncan responded, "Yes, I do," taking essentially the same position as Biden.

Joe Scarborough, host of MSNBC's Morning Joe, and Mark

Halperin, a frequent commentator, speculated the president is hesitating to announce support for marriage equality or comfort with same-sex marriage. They, and others, think Obama needs to stay silent on those matters in order to hold onto his tenuous support in some important southern states, such as Virginia and North Carolina, as well as big electoral states, such as Ohio.

Following Biden's remarks in response to a question on NBC's Meet the Press program, the mainstream media immediately began trying to determine whether Biden was paving the way for more supportive statements on marriage from President Obama or whether Biden was simply "veering off script" (as NBC speculated).

CNN media commentator Howard Kurtz wrote in a DailyBeast.com blog, "There is absolutely no question that Biden's response was cleared by the White House. Vice presidents are not allowed to freelance on talk shows, especially on such a sensitive issue. So Obama was sending out Biden to further mollify the gay community without having to actually take a stand himself."

But the New York Daily News suggested that, "Gaffe-prone Vice President Joe Biden may have struck again by saying he was 'absolutely comfortable' with gay marriage, a position his boss has not publicly supported."

The New York Times pointed out that the White House scrambled "to clarify that Mr. Biden was not articulating an official change in policy, a reaction that highlighted the administration's unease over the subject." But it also noted that Secretary of State Hillary Clinton had called the rights of gays "human rights" and that President Obama then later "enthusiastically endorsed" that idea. Biden's statement, said the Times, is "raising the possibility that Mr. Obama is relying on aides to telegraph his intentions to avoid the political consequences of articulating them himself."

The Times noted that "The White House denied that Mr. Biden was acting as a surrogate for the president, saying that Mr. Biden's views, influenced by gay friends and fund-raisers, had changed and that, with characteristic candor, he was willing to volunteer

► **Biden**

Continued from p. 12

them at length.”

The vice president’s office issued a statement following Biden’s remarks Sunday that did almost nothing to clear the confusion.

“The vice president was saying what the president has said previously; that committed and loving same-sex couples deserve the same rights and protections enjoyed by all Americans, and that we oppose any effort to roll back those rights,” said the statement.

But in fact, President Obama has not previously expressed proactive legal support for same-sex marriage equality. Gay legal experts Mary Bonauto, Kate Kendall, and Jon Davidson said he and his administration have made no such statements in person or in court documents. Evan Wolfson of the Freedom to Marry group said Obama and his administration have made “not explicitly” stated support for marriage equality. But Wolfson said the administration’s “refutation of the opposition’s proffered rationales for DOMA; acknowledging the existence, strengths, and needs of same-sex couples and their families, etc., certainly also makes the case for the freedom to marry.”

And it’s worth noting that, although President Obama has famously held that his personal feelings on same-sex marriage were “evolving,” he has stood up for equal treatment of LGBT people under the law.

The latest political dust up began on Meet the Press, when host David Gregory noted the

President Obama “has said his views on gay marriage, on same-sex marriage, have evolved, but he’s opposed to it. You’re opposed to it. Have your views evolved?”

Biden voted for DOMA when he was in the U.S. Senate in 1996, but during his brief presidential campaign in 2008, his website indicated he supported same-sex marriages.

“Look,” said Biden, “I just think that the good news is that, as more and more Americans have come to understand, that what this is is a simple proposition: Who do you love? Who do you love? And will you be loyal to the person you love? And that’s what people are finding out that all marriages at their root are all about. Whether they are marriages of lesbians, or gay men, or heterosexuals.”

“Is that what you believe now?” asked Gregory.

“That’s what I believe.”

“And you’re comfortable with same-sex marriage now?”

“Look, I am vice president of the United States of America. The president sets the policy. I am absolutely comfortable with the fact that men marrying men, women marrying women, and heterosexual men and women marrying another are entitled to the same exact rights, all the civil rights, all the civil liberties. And quite frankly, I don’t see much of a distinction beyond that.”

“In a second term, will this administration come out behind same-sex marriage - the institution of marriage?” asked Gregory.

“Well, I can’t speak to that,” said Biden. “I don’t know the answer to that. But I can tell

you...”

Gregory interrupted, “It sounds like you’d like to see it happen if the president gets—”

“The president continues to fight,” interrupted Biden, “whether it’s Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell or whether it is making sure across the board that you cannot discriminate. Look at the executive orders he’s put in place. Any hospital that gets federal funding, which is almost all of them, they can’t deny a partner from being able to have access to their partner’s who’s ill, or making a call on whether or not they, you know—this is evolving.

(Biden mischaracterized a memorandum President Obama signed to prohibit federally funded hospitals from denying visitation to gay partners. It was not an executive order.)

“And by the way,” continued Biden, “my measure, David, and I take a look at when things really begin to change, is when the social culture changes. I think Will & Grace probably did more to educate the American public than almost anything anybody’s ever done so far. And I think people fear that which is different. Now, they’re beginning to understand, they’re beginning to understand that this, at it’s base....

Biden then jumped to an anecdote.

“I was speaking to a group of gay leaders in Los Angeles two weeks ago and one gentleman looked at me in the question period, and said, ‘Let me ask you: How do you feel about us?’ And I had just walked in the back door of this gay couple and their two adopted children. And I turned to the man who owned the house, and I said, ‘What did I do when I walked in?’ He

said, ‘You walked right to my children, they were seven and five, giving you flowers... And I said I wish every American could see the look in those eyes and they wouldn’t have any doubt what this is about.’”

Chad Griffin, who becomes president of the Human Rights Campaign next month, told the Washington Post that it was he who posed the question to Biden in Los Angeles.

Current HRC President Joe Solmonese said his group is encouraged by Biden’s remarks, but added, “Now is the time for President Obama to speak out for full marriage equality for same-sex couples.”

Jerame Davis, head of National Stonewall Democrats, suggested Biden’s remarks were “not a direct endorsement of marriage equality” but said they were “promising.”

“What we really need now,” said Davis, “is for President Obama to take a stand in support of the freedom to marry and bring to bear the full weight of his Administration to make it reality.”

Freedom to Marry’s Wolfson, who interned for Biden in the Senate in 1976, said, “The personal and thoughtful way he has spoken about his coming to support the freedom to marry reflects the same journey that a majority of Americans have now made as they’ve gotten to know gay families, opened their hearts and changed their minds.”

“President Obama,” said Wolfson, “should join the Vice President, former Presidents Clinton and Carter, former Vice Presidents Gore and Cheney, Laura Bush, and so many others in forthright support for the freedom to marry.”

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Photo courtesy of N. Caramagno

Dancing in the D

Journey brings New York artist to Wayne State

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

Dance can take people on many unexpected journeys, whether on the stages of the world in performance or the more personal journey of self-discovery.

Jeff Rebudal has done both, and as a professor of dance at Wayne State University and a professional choreographer of modern dance, he leads his students on similar journeys. He began his professional dance career in his home state of Hawaii and went on to be a founding member of two dance companies in New York, the Rebudal Dance and the Sean Curran Company, with which he toured around the world from 1995 to 2003. As a professor, he's taught in Connecticut, Oklahoma, Arizona and Manoa, Hawaii.

"There is something about touring. You learn so much going from one town to the other, sharing the art with them, and in this case, dance. You see the response people get from the work – it is gratifying," Rebudal says.

Rebudal hailed from a working-class family that encouraged its children to enter the professional careers. Dance was never thought of as an option, even though movement was a big part of their lives.

"Going to the theater or live art was not a high priority. It was movies and television in the '70s. I would watch Cher and Saturday night spectaculars. I loved it when they danced. With the kids in the neighborhood, we would spend hours making up routines. We were just playing, enjoying ourselves."

Dance wasn't about to let go of Rebudal, and when he changed his major from journalism to dance a few credits short of graduating, his family acknowledged it made sense.

"Even when I say I'm going to quit this profession, dance doesn't want me to leave," Rebudal says. "This is a profession. You have to go with it until you are done with it."

Now in Michigan, Rebudal loves exploring the urban setting of Detroit and helping his students make the same discoveries he made as a young man coming out with both his art and his sexuality.

"I have been here for seven years, and I drank the Kool-Aid," Rebudal says of his transition from New York to Detroit. "The area really spoke to me. You have to like Detroit for what it is."

Even the empty buildings appealed to him on an artistic level and led to an ongoing project that he will be turning his full-time attention to now that the school year is coming to a close: Spero Meliora. The project, which premiered at the Detroit Institute of Arts in 2010, combines

dance, multimedia projections and live music in an exploration of urban revitalization. The premiere was 30 minutes long, and Rebudal plans to make it a two-hour show that never performs in the same place twice.

"I can now go back and reassess and think about what has happened in the past two years and integrate it and update it. I can bring it back and recollaborate with my collaborators. I'm going to go to the studio and make new movement for it."

Two of his most recent choreographic works were Wayne State's "Hairspray" and a spring dance concert that started out as something fun and took on a more introspective turn.

"'Hairspray' sort of writes itself. There's a definite time period. The challenge was more (about) not repeating the movie but being inspired

by the movement in it," Rebudal says. "My job is always to make the singers look good and effortlessly joining the music."

The spring dance concert collected '80s music and led the students in exploring the process of contemplating your past and using it to help deal with your future. Rebudal recalled that as a young man just coming out, he did a lot of dance work early

on about sexual identity as his way of helping to understand being gay. As he got older, he tended toward increasingly universal themes. As a teacher, though, he teaches and nurtures students who are at the beginning part of that journey.


"There was an individual in my cast who was beginning to struggle with his sexuality. I sensed he was not sure," Rebudal says. He assigned everyone journal work asking them to think about their past and how they dealt with it. "He sort of took this idea and used it to his advantage to articulate what he was feeling as this young gay boy. As the piece progressed, he became much more sure of himself and about coming out to his friends. Through this work, he was able to evaluate and synthesize and become much more sure about himself. I eventually gave him a solo so he could get into this whole thing of understanding his past and moving on."

Meanwhile, Rebudal is continuing his own journey here in Metro Detroit. In addition to his urban renewal project, he is hoping to produce emerging dance artists as he said small companies struggle to find performing venues.

"I'm in the profession of training dancers; why would you train them if there are no viable opportunities?" he says. "I am captivated by the choices (found here in the) dance scene. I would be a huge proponent of trying to create a more viable and exposed venue for the future."

"I have been here for seven years, and I drank the Kool-Aid. The area really spoke to me. You have to like Detroit for what it is."

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Carrie Underwood, 'Blown Away'

Whatever happened to Jesus taking the wheel? The drama that Carrie Underwood stirs on two songs that launch the mature evolution as heard on her best-album-to-date could use a little divine intervention. "There's not enough rain in Oklahoma to wash the sins out of that house," she belts furiously on a dramatic country-rocker about literally burying the past, a girl letting her no-good father get swept up in a twister. The orchestration picks up like a windstorm as Underwood, as narrator, tears it up with her full-throttle delivery. There's also "Two Black Cadillacs," another grim story-song—a man dies, and his wife meets the mistress at the funeral. Underwood channels the deception of such a soap opera setup with chilling results. Those change-ups, where the country diva steps outside her squeaky-cleaness, stand out most; "Good

no, not the whistling!—but Underwood sells it like the cutest puppy at the pound. And if power ballads "Good in Goodbye" and "Wine After Whiskey" are any indication, she also might blow you away. *Grade: B*



Rufus Wainwright, 'Out of the Game'

Rufus Wainwright needed his last album more than we did. "All Days Are Nights: Songs For Lulu," 2010's emotional response to his late mother Kate McGarrigle, was him working through his grief—a personal catharsis that wasn't his most musically fulfilling. Not this time. On "Out of the Game," Wainwright's greatest set since 2001's career-opus "Poses,"

Hear Me Out

Carrie Underwood's dramatic career-best Plus: Rufus Wainwright goes pop

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Girl," though, has strong appeal, setting a new bar for crossover country. The album missteps when it goes back to Underwood's usual deal, especially on fan-base-baiting "Forever Changed," the old-people mush she's worn out. "Who Are You" is purely a showpiece for that big voice, and the near-embarrassing "One Way Ticket" should

suck in theory—oh

he hooks up with retro-pop innovator Mark Ronson (Amy Winehouse, Robbie Williams) for an exquisite 12-track run that's as easy-sounding as a summer day. And from the get-go, with the sarcastic tone and gospel touches of "Out of the Game," it's all richly mind-hugging, the antithesis of melody-lacking "Lulu." Everything here is flamboyantly handled: the harmonies swirled in '70s-rock nostalgia (think Elton John), lines referring to "your dad wearing a kimono... and your other dad pruning roses" and that glorious high note his background singer kills during the climax of "Rashida." Sweet and poignant without indulging in theatrics, "Sometimes You Need" is laced with guitars and lovely string flourishes, finding escapism in the midst of woe—proof that sadness can, indeed, sound beautiful, and stay with you. Same goes for "Candles," a classy eulogy that honors his mother for over seven mellifluous minutes. Out of the game? More like back in it. *Grade: A-*

Also Out



Norah Jones, 'Little Broken Hearts'

Norah Jones piggybacks off 2009's "The Fall" by expanding on the low-key rockers that continued her musical meanderings, working them into her sad and bitter truth-tellings on a busted relationship. The end-result? Her best in years. "Good Morning" is a simple ditty of

letting go, but as she comes to terms with her new reality, feelings of longing, regret and revenge set in. "Miriam," despite its deceptively sweet melody, is about getting her man's mistress back by beating the crap out of her. Via crunchy guitars and subtle synths—and Jones' often moody singing—producer Brian Burton's (aka Danger Mouse) contributions to "Little Broken Hearts" make the former pianist-in-love sound all sorts of things: wicked, vulnerable and destroyed. Jones should be pissy more often.



Florence + the Machine, 'MTV Unplugged'

With a wail that could tear down skyscrapers, Florence Welch was made for this: She doesn't need much more than her voice. "No Light, No Light," a swelling behemoth as presented on her sophomore album "Ceremonials," gets a simple redo over a minimalistic piano line. "Never Let Me Go" is another delight—pure and delicate, it pulls you down with it. The scaled-back melody of "Shake It Out" calls for understated vocals from Flo, who doesn't quite deliver them. She does so, however, on a barely recognizable "Try a Little Tenderness," one of two covers. For the encore: "Dog Days are Over"—and there goes everything in its path.

Chris Azzopardi is the editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service. Reach him via his website at chris-azzopardi.com.

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'M. Butterfly' layers on levels of self-delusion

JET production explores gender identity in play based on real events

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

WEST BLOOMFIELD – When a fantasy is strong enough, our minds can convince us of just about anything.

In "M. Butterfly," a play running at the Jewish Ensemble Theatre that is based on a real event, Gallimard convinces himself for 20 years that he's having sex with a beautiful, submissive Asian woman when "she" is really a male Chinese spy, Song Liling, running a honey pot scheme.

Director Arthur Beer said the playwright, David Henry Hwang, spends a good deal of the script talking about self-delusion and how "the mind is capable of flip flopping to defend its fantasies."

"Like one of Aesop's fables, the characters are busily playing out the moral," Beer said, "and the moral is about tolerance – about the damage done by racial, national, religious, or sexual prejudices – about the importance of understanding others and trying to see things from their point of view."

"M. Butterfly" is not merely a docudrama recounting the story of a French diplomat who had a decades-long affair with a male opera

P R E V I E W

M. Butterfly

The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company at Aaron DeRoy Theatre on the campus of the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday now through May 27. \$36-43. 248-788-2900.

singer/spy. It explores issues of gender identity and how we view others through the veil of fantasy and self-delusion. The story makes full use of theatrical tools to communicate its themes.

"Hwang could have gone in any direction and instead he went in all of them – it's got pathos, comedy, tragedy, political commentary and gender identity," Beer said. "(It's) like a huge stew, it is so heavily spiced. The language is gorgeous. The characters are so memorable – you don't find them in everyday life. Hwang has a brilliant sense of humor."

Gallimard spends much of the play trying to explain how he didn't realize his lover of 20 years was a man. The actor playing him, Glen Allen



Song and Kurogo perform at the Peking Opera. From left: Chin Yang, Tae Hoon Yoo, AeJay Mitchell. Photo: Jan Cartwright

See M. Butterfly, page 27

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Royal Oak is in bloom for Mother's Day

Spring is in the air and Royal Oak citizens will soon celebrate the changing season – not to mention Mother's Day – in front of City Hall and the public library with the 19th Annual Royal Oak in Bloom market at 7 a.m. on May 13.

Organized by the Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce, over 70 vendors from across the state will offer flowers, landscaping, lawn ornaments, gardening equipment and a variety of other spring-themed goods to sell.

The Royal Oak in Bloom outdoor market is the perfect opportunity to plant and prepare for this year's garden. Local farmers such as the VanHouttes, Gaiers and Uhlianuk families, as well as farmers from West Michigan and Canada, bring an impressive array of annuals, perennials, herbs, hanging baskets, vegetables and more for local gardeners to plant. In addition to the wonderful selection of plants, there will be an abundance of other outdoor items available, including hand-made wind chimes, stepping stones, beaded basket hangers, iron works, stone pavers, statues, bird feeders and even rain barrels.

This year, Royal Oak in Bloom organizers will again include a "Plant Pick-Up Area" to make shopping and carting gardener's purchases easier. Jones



Royal Oak in Bloom 2011. Photo: Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce

Lang LaSalle at Beaumont Hospitals will again provide golf carts to help shoppers get their purchases back to their vehicles while Chamber member volunteers are on hand to do everything from monitoring traffic to assisting shoppers. Visitors will be able to purchase refreshments and pick up information on other events in Royal Oak

at the centrally located Information Booth.

This event is 7 a.m.-2 p.m. May 13 in the Williams Street Parking lot along 11 Mile Road, in front of the Royal Oak City Hall and public library. Royal Oak in Bloom is free and open to the public. For more information, call 248-547-4000 or go to royaloakchamber.com.

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Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company's "The Altruists" continues at The Furniture Factory through May 26. Photo: Chuk Nowak.

Morals, morals, who's got the morals?

BY DONALD V. CALAMIA

According to the Oxford American Dictionary, an altruist is one who has an "unselfish concern for the needs and well-being of other people." In Nicky Silver's razor-sharp satire "The Altruists," a passionate band of idealistic, young protesters are indeed concerned about the welfare of others; it's the "unselfish" part they have problems with – as seen in Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company's very fine production at The Furniture Factory in Midtown Detroit.

Written more than a decade ago but reminiscent of today's Occupiers, "The Altruists" unfolds in three bedrooms scattered across New York City. It's Sunday, and yet another protest is on the agenda – although no one is quite sure what the subject-du-jour might be. Although each member of this motley bunch is dedicated and fully committed to a seemingly endless list of leftist causes – and will eagerly raise a picket sign or toss a fire bomb to show their solidarity with them – their moral centers are, shall we say, a bit squishy.

Ringleader Ronald (Cal M. Schwartz) is a gay social worker who falls instantly in love with whatever "fix-em-upper" comes into his life. Today it's a drug-fueled, mostly monosyllabic male prostitute, Lance (Richard Payton), who he picked up the night before. (He's already making their wedding plans.) His co-conspirators are the hunky, self-centered Ethan (Jonathan Davidson),

REVIEW

The Altruists

Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company at The Furniture Factory, 4126 Third St., Detroit. Friday-Saturday through May 26, plus Sunday, May 20. 90 minutes without intermission. \$15-18. 313-408-7269.

www.Magentagiraffe.org

who – despite his live-in arrangements with Ronald's sister, Sydney (Alysia Kolasz) – finds himself bedding many of the movement's female participants, including Cybil (Jill Dion), a not-very-committed lesbian in a rocky relationship with the much-feared (but never seen) Audrey.

Passions come to a head this particular morning when Sydney – an equally self-absorbed soap opera star – suffers an emotional meltdown over her relationship with Ethan. With Ronald's encouragement, Ethan and the other protesters have been using Sydney to fund their activities – by running up her credit card and stealing her precious belongings (and then selling them) – and Ethan's recent philandering is too much for her to accept. So in the midst of a heated, one-sided argument – Ethan is apparently sound asleep under the covers – Sydney pulls out a handgun and pops three bullets into her lover's backside.

And that's when the truth behind their morals comes squarely into play!

Without giving too much away,

Director Molly McMahon has found all of the script's humor and pathos and balances the laughs and anguish with great skill. And she has also assembled a fine on-stage and behind-the-scenes ensemble who delivered a near-flawless performance on opening night.

Each of her actors creates a fully developed, passionate character. Schwartz's over-the-top, desperate-for-love performance is a scream, while the furry, tight-torsoed Davidson has all sorts of fun dancing around his character's moral compass. And Kolasz and Dion are both superb in delivering monologues that cover a wide range of human emotions. But by the end of the play, you can't help but feel sorry for Payton's Lance, the only character who makes a positive, life-affirming decision – and through no fault of his own, doesn't get to fulfill it.

All technical aspects serve the show quite well. Special recognition goes to Scenic Designer Adam Crinson for a set that was so realistically messy that my guest at the performance – a neat freak – was dying to walk onstage and tidy up a bit. (OK, a LOT, actually.)

So trust me: If there's a moral to Silver's story – and there is – the show's closing moments will make it totally clear. And that's the best compliment one can give to this very fine – and highly engaging – production.

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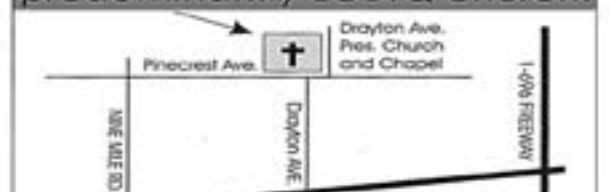


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Editor's Picks

Outings

Southeast Michigan's GLSEN youth board, the GSA Alliance of SEMI, is hosting its third daylong youth summit at 10 a.m. May 12 at Ernest Seaholm High School in Birmingham.

The summit is aimed at increasing awareness regarding interpersonal relationships, power, privilege, oppression, creative expression and more. The day will consist of large group icebreakers, three educational workshops, lunch and extensive networking opportunities. The event is aimed at high school-age youth, but parents, teachers, GSA advisors, counselors, school staff and all adults are invited to attend as well.

The summit is 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Earnest Seaholm High School, 2436 W. Lincoln, in Birmingham. Registration begins at 9 a.m. For more information, e-mail gsa.alliance.sem@gmail.com

Art 'N' Around



Grand Rapids' Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts celebrates its 35th anniversary with "Urbanity," a multidisciplinary series exhibition investigating the complex dynamics of living peaceably and sustainably together in urban society. The exhibit runs until July 5.

With the advent of suburban sprawl through the middle and latter parts of the 20th century, many cities have lost the ability to healthily cohabitate. Urbanity reflects on the question asked throughout urban civilizations today: What does it mean to be a city-dwelling species?

The exhibit contains work from over 15 contemporary artists, using a variety of materials and media to portray the theme of Urbanity. A variety of workshops, films and discussions surrounding the exhibit's topic will be offered throughout May and June. The UICA is located at 2 W. Fulton St. in Grand Rapids. For more information, go to UICA.org.

Theater

On Friday, May 11, Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit will wrap up its 20 season with a revival of the hit musical production "Now That I Can Dance – Motown 1962." The show will run for two consecutive weekends at the Detroit Film Theatre inside the Detroit Institute of Arts.

"Now That I Can Dance" recounts the early days of Motown, before Diana Ross reigned supreme, Little Stevie became a legend, and five young girls from Inkster were destined to make musical history. When the Marvelettes recorded Motown's first No. 1 hit, "Please Mr. Postman," in 1962, most of its artists – The Supremes, The Marvelettes, Marvin Gaye, Smokey Robinson and the Miracles, The Contours and Stevie Wonder – were between the ages of 12 and 21, the same age as Mosaic's young artists.

Performances take place at 8 p.m. Friday, May 11 and 18 and Saturday, May 12 and 19, and at 4 p.m. Sunday, May 13 and 20. Tickets are \$12-20. For tickets, call the DIA box office at 313-833-4005.



OUTINGS

Thursday, May 10

Statewide Preservation Conference 9 a.m. Each spring, the Network sponsors the states largest annual statewide preservation conference to provide training and networking opportunities geared to both beginners and seasoned preservationists. In addition to offering sessions crammed with the latest news and information from around the state, the conference is known for its keynote speakers, festive evening activities, and annual auction of Michigan items ranging from overnights at historic bed-and-breakfasts, to antiques, books, and gourmet delights. Michigan Historic Preservation Network, 755 S. Saginaw St., Flint. Mhpn.org/annualconference.html

Legal Referral Services 4 p.m. Weekly advocacy program and referral services provided by AJ Skillman. AJ Skillman P.C., 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

KGLRC Youth Group 7 p.m. The Resource Center Youth Group helps young people, ages 13 to 18, who are trying to come to terms with their sexuality in a sometimes-unaccepting society. Meets every Thursday from 7-9 p.m. at a confidential location. To attend, call or e-mail the resource center. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer, Kalamazoo. 269-349-4234. Kglrc.org

Meet 'N' Greet 7 p.m. Meet new people, socialize and discuss age-relevant issues. Dinner at local restaurant afterwards. Ages 18-33. Metro Detroit LGBT 20Somethings, 222 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 734-686-1317. Det20somethings@gmail.com Facebook.com/LGBT20Somethings

Friday, May 11

Black Lesbians Fifty and Over 6 p.m. The new support/discussion group for Black lesbians who are gracefully transitioning into their 50s and beyond. Meetings cover topics relevant to the aging process and include issues around self-care, family, romantic relationships, travel, retirement, eldership in the Black community, etc. and are potluck. Contact Fela Smith for location and information at 313-978-7918. Black Lesbians Fifty and Over, RSVP to receive address, Detroit. 313-978-7918.

Love Free or Die 7 p.m. Join the OutCenter for a screening of the new film Love Free or Die, which is about Gene Robinson, the first openly gay person to become a bishop in a major denomination. Suggested donation of \$5. OutCenter, 1468 Cinema Way, Benton Harbor.

Older Lesbians Organizing 7 p.m. Provides older Lesbians with the chance to meet like minded women in their common struggles, to share mutual interests and to play and work together. Meets the 2nd Friday of every month. Older Lesbians Organizing, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-678-2478. jasmithers@sbcglobal.net

Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: "Ghosted" A mysterious love story between Hamburg and Taipei. The unsolved murder of her young Taiwanese lover Ai-ling leaves the Hamburg artist Sophie Schmitt completely disoriented. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.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

Saturday, May 12

Multi-Party LGBT Garage Saturday 9 a.m. Sponsored by Trillium Real Estate, Jim Toy Center, and Wild Wednesdays Youth. "Gently used items" may be donated to benefit the Jim Toy Center (no TVs or computer components, please). Drop off hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. May 5 and 6. Donations also accepted during open hours at Common Language Books, Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-678-2478. Jimtoycenter.org

Out of the Closet Into the Light 10 a.m. Enthusiastic community members will have the opportunity to engage in workshop sessions to equip and mobilize local communities to "speak out and speak now" for LGBT-inclusion. OutCenter, 490 S. Paw Paw St., Lawrence. 269-925-8330. David@KGLRC.org

SEMI GLSEN Youth Summit 10 a.m. An LGBT Interpersonal Issues Summit aimed at increasing awareness regarding interpersonal relationships, Power/Privilege and Oppression, creative expression, and more. The event is aimed at high school-age youth, but all youth are welcome. Parents, teachers, GSA Advisors, counselors, school staff, and all adults are also invited but some workshops may be closed to adults. GLSEN SEMI, 2436 W. Lincoln, Birmingham. GSA.Alliance.Sem@gmail.com LGBTsummit.weebly.com

Spring Into Health Festival 10 a.m. A safe and fun event for our community with all the proceeds going to American Cancer Society via Relay for Life. Relay for Life, 641 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-298-3100. Claddaghchiropractic.com

Crossroads 6 p.m. The Detroit areas premier social group for the transgendered and their friends will hold its monthly gathering. Program will be announced online. Crossroads, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 586-738-4660. CrossroadsMi.com

Motor City Bears 7 p.m. Monthly meeting for an every second Saturday. Motor City Bears, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Gay Pride Cosmo Bowl 8:30 p.m. Flint Gay Pride hosts a bowling fundraiser at B's. Tickets cost \$20 for games, shoes and pizza. Wellness AIDS Services Inc., 750 S. Center Road, Flint. 810-232-0888 ext. 20. Djackson@wellnessaids.org Facebook.com/events/325827780814764/

Sunday, May 13

Agape Spirit Life Ministry Service 1 p.m. Potluck style event. Bring "The 12 steps of Forgiveness by Paul Ferrini" and a Bible to worship in a diverse, welcoming community. Participants will use various books along with the Bible to gain practical tools for daily living as we worship. Every second and fourth Sunday. Agape Spirit Life Ministries, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

PFLAG St. Joseph/Berrien County Meeting 2 p.m. Meets the second Sunday of every month. PFLAG St. Joseph/Berrien County, 4340 Lincoln Ave., St. Joseph. PFLAGBerrienCounty@yahoo.com

Rainbow Book Club 4:30 p.m. Book club dedicated to reading and discussing classic and contemporary lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer literature. Meeting since before 1998, every second Sunday of the month. Rainbow Book Club, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-678-2478. Catherine.herne@gmail.com

Conversation Station 5 p.m. LGBTQI and allies 25 and over. Join GOAL each week for discussion, food and fun. New topic each week. This week's topic: What has been your greatest challenge in life? Get Out And Live!, 714 S. Washington St., Royal Oak. 248-981-4227. MarciLWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

Monday, May 14

Reaching the Moveable Middle 1 p.m. Led by Macky Alston, the Media Director at Auburn Theological Seminary. Their research suggests that there are many religious people who are torn between their empathy for people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender and the teachings of their religious traditions. Macky will share research about what helps people move to a more affirming place. The keynote is followed by breakout session. Pilgrim United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. InclusiveJustice.org

Sexual Compulsives Anonymous 7 p.m. A weekly anonymous 12-step group for those who are facing sexually compulsive behaviors. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

Tuesday, May 15

Men's Discussion Group 6 p.m. Details: This gathering is intended as a discussion and informal support group for gay and bisexual men. Thomas Brubaker will facilitate the group. Contact Thomas@PerceptionsSV.org for additional information or to RSVP. Light snacks will be provided. Perceptions Saginaw Valley, 301 Cass St., Saginaw. 989-891-1429. Thomas@PerceptionsSV.org Events. PerceptionsSV.org

PFLAG Family Reunion Meeting 6:30 p.m. Third Tuesday of every month at the Fellowship Chapel. All LGBTA and parents of LGBTA invited to attend and share support. PFLAG Family Reunion, 7707 W. Outer Dr., Detroit. 313-286-8572.

Gay-Straight Alliance in Faith 7 p.m. A group of LGBTQI and allied young adults ages 14-23 welcoming those of all faith backgrounds or no faith background, honoring and respecting each person's faith and spirituality. Alternate between topical discussions and guest speakers on relevant topics for LGBTQI youth. Meets the first and third Tuesday of every month. G-SAIF, 207 E. Fulton St., Grand Rapids. GaysinFaithTogether.org

Transgender Life Support 7 p.m. Offering support, education, resources and a social structure for Transgender individuals. Facilitated by Arlene Kish, Lorraine Brown, Jessica Manko, Tracy Hoover, Helena Blakemore, Marty Howland and Colt Stacer. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Transgenderlifesupport.org

A2 TNG (Next Generation of Kinkster) 7:45 p.m. A kink and fetish oriented group for younger kinksters. The group focuses on support, the sharing of information in the form of demonstrations or discussion groups and socializing. Open to all. A2 TNG, 319 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-678-2478. Jimtoycenter.org

Wednesday, May 16

LGBT Older Adult Coalition 9:30 a.m. Collaboration of people and organizations in Southeastern Michigan who are working to establish effective programs and services for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender older adults, hosted by the ACLU of Michigan and is supported by a grant from the HOPE Fund. Meets third Wednesday of every month. ACLU of Michigan, 2966 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-578-6812. jkaplan@aclumich.org

Ladies Who Lunch 11:30 a.m. Ladies meet at Nina's Cafe for food and conversation. Contact Angie to make a reservation. The Resource Center, 1710 W. Main St., Kalamazoo. Angiehoosewillard@yahoo.com Kglrc.org

Wild Wednesday 5 p.m. A supportive LGBT youth group that meets every Wednesday. All youth are welcome. Dedicated to Make a Change, L3C, 319

Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-657-1792. Gailvolkoff@gmail.com

Network Men's Group 7 p.m. A support group for bisexual, gay, and coming out men, 21 and up. Single or partnered are invited to join the group. Weekly discussion topics and issues. The Network, 345 Atlas Ave., **Grand Rapids**. 616-458-3511. Grlgbt.org

Friday, May 18

2012 Season Grudge Match 6 p.m. See one of the final games of the Detroit Derby Girls 2012 Season. The Grudge Match pits the current third and fourth place teams against each other for what promises to be an exciting bout. Detroit Derby Girls, 500 Temple St., **Detroit**. 313-832-7100. Events@detroitderbygirls.com Brownpapertickets.com/event/222093

Bisexual Peer Group 7 p.m. Meets monthly on the third Friday of each month. Discuss relating to bisexuality, pansexuality, and/or omnisexuality. Allies are encouraged and welcomed to attend. Meeting usually followed by dinner at Aut Bar, two doors down. Bisexual Peer Group, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-678-2478. Biprideannarbor@gmail.com Facebook.com/groups/110918256984/

OutGirls 7 p.m. An offshoot of OutCenter's women's support group, designed to be a relaxed and supportive dinner gathering for the LBT and allied community. E-mail to RSVP. OutGirls, 190 Territorial Road, Benton Harbor. Glosunhine1751@comcast.net

Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: "Tipping the Velvet - Part 1 and 2" An unusual love story told in three episodes charts the course of Nan, who discovers a sexually charged world of male impersonators, actors and affluent women looking for female companionship in the usually controlled and censored 1890s. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

MDFFL Mixer 9 p.m. Meet the MDFFL football players the night before our football camp begins. Come join and support Metro Detroit Flag Football. Metro Detroit Flag Football League, 8070 Greenfield Road, **Detroit**. 313-581-8913. Info@MDFFL.org MDFFL.org

MUSIC & MORE

CONCERTS

Detroit Chamber Wind & Strings "Voices of the Baroque" The concert will feature DCWS string musicians as well as guest artists soprano Jennifer Ellis Kampani, Kiri Tollaksen on cornetto, and Glenn Miller on harpsichord. Kirk in the Hills Presbyterian Church, 1340 West Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills. 7:30 p.m. May 12. 248-559-2095. DetroitChamberWinds.org

Fox Theatre "Kid Rock & The Detroit Symphony" Detroit Symphony Orchestra performs with Kid Rock in a unique concert sure to sell out. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. May 12. 313-471-6611. Dso.org

Kerrytown Concert House "Dave Sharp's Secret Seven" After taking a musical journey to Africa on the KCH stage in the fall, Dave Sharp and the Secret Seven return to explore the music of the Middle East. Dave Sharp's Secret Seven is world jazz for the jazz world, transcending musical, national and ethnic boundaries by re-interpreting, not fusing, influences from Africa, Asia, the Latin world, Blue Note Jazz and that other planet, New Orleans. Tickets: \$5-25. Kerrytown

Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. May 11. 734-769-2999. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Kerrytown Concert House "All About the Trio: Jazz with the Ellen Rowe Trio" Take a behind-the-scenes look at the foundations of jazz with insight from the Ellen Rowe Trio as they present a special Mother's Day-themed concert celebrating Mary Lou Williams and Marian McPartland. Tickets: \$5-25. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 2 p.m. May 13. 734-769-2999. KerryTownConcertHouse.com

Kerrytown Concert House "Dobbins/Krahmke/Weed Trio Jazz Masters Series" The trio welcomes jazz master and celebrated bassist Rodney Whitaker for the annual Jazz Masters Series. Guests will enjoy an evening of jazz accompanied by informal dialogue with the artists, receiving a rare glimpse into the artists' musical lives in jazz. Tickets: \$5-30. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. May 18. 734-769-2999. KerryTownConcertHouse.com

Lansing Symphony Orchestra

"MasterWorks 6: Fantasies and Fairy Tales" Ravel wrote his Mother Goose Suite as a piano duet and later set the work for strings, winds, and percussion. Stravinsky's Petrouchka is also a fairy tale but of the Russian variety. Originally a ballet, this piece colorfully tells the story of a puppet that comes to life. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts at Michigan State University, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 8 p.m. May 10. 517-353-1982 ext. 14. LansingSymphony.org

Michigan Philharmonic, Indian Singers, Musicians and Percussionists "Bollywood in the D" Celebrate the vibrant music of Bollywood cinema with a multi-cultural multi-media fusion festival of Indian song and classical music. Music Hall, 350 Madison St., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. May 19. 734-451-2112. MichiganPhil.org

Olympia Entertainment "The Super 70's Soul Jam" Bringing together a classic lineup of R&B, soul and romantic hit-makers, the evening will include performances by The Whispers, The Stylistics, The Emotions, The Chi-Lites, Harold Melvin's Blue Notes and The Delfonics. Tickets: \$59-89. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. May 13. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

Olympia Entertainment "An Evening with Jeffrey Osborne" Tickets: \$39-41. Sound Board Theater, 2901 Grand River Ave, Detroit. 8 p.m. May 10. 866-752-9622. Olympiaentertainment.com

The Ark Jonathan Edwards, Tickets: \$25. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. May 17. 734-761-1818. Theark.org

The Ark Abigail Stauffer, local singer-songwriter and linguist of University of Michigan performs at The Ark. Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. May 13. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

OTHER

Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase Maria Bamford, what comedian starred in the Comedy Central series, "The Comedians of Comedy Tour" is in Variety's top ten comics to watch, has been the talk of Montreal, Edinburgh, Aspen, Kilkenny and Melbourne Comedy Festivals and was voted by Comedy Central viewers as one of their Top Ten Favorite Comics? Maria Bamford. Tickets: \$15-20. Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. May 10 - May 12. 734-996-9080. AnnArborComedyShowcase.com

Penn Theatre "Harvey" 1950 film for Penn Theatre's May classics. Tickets: \$3. Penn Theatre, 760 Pennington Ave., Plymouth. 6:30 p.m. May 17. 734-453-0870. PennTheatre.com

University Musical Society "Breakin'

Curfew" Ann Arbor area youth raise the curtain of the Power Center to offer a rare glimpse into the performance art they create in their basements, garages, and schools, and at Ann Arbor's teen center, the Neutral Zone. Curated, produced, and marketed by local high school students, this annual event allows entrance into the lively and innovative minds of talented young performers. Tickets: \$12-18. Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 N. Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. May 11. 734-763-3333. Ums.org

Zumba Fitness with Chandra Floyd "Zumba Fitness in Midtown Detroit" De-stress and party yourself into shape with this calorie scorching, exhilarating, and easy to follow workout with Latin and international music. Admission: \$8 per class. International Institute, 111 E. Kirby, Detroit. April 25 - Sep. 26. 313-587-6203. Facebook.com/ZumbaWithChandraMI

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

A Little Work \$10-12. SRO Productions at The Burgh, 26060 Berg Road, Southfield. Through May 20. 248-796-4645. www.SROTheater.org

Avenue Q Due to adult situations, including sexual content and explicit language, the show is considered PG-13. \$25-28. The Crowell, 129 E. Maumee St., Adrian. May 11 - 20. 517-264-SHOW. www.crowell.org

Copenhagen \$10-12. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. Through May 13. 517-482-5700. www.Riverwalktheatre.com

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels \$12-19. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. May 11 - 27. 69-343-1313. www.Kazoocivic.com

Honus and Me \$12-23. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Parish Theatre, 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. May 18 - 26. 269-343-1313. www.kazoocivic.com

Little Shop of Horrors \$16-18. Farmington Players, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Through May 19. 248-553-2955. www.farmingtonplayers.org

Palmer Park A 2nd Stage production. \$14-\$16. Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak. May 11 - 20. 248-541-6430. www.stagecrafters.org

The Odd Couple \$23; \$12 show only. Thebes Players at Larkin's, 301 W. Main St., Lowell. Through May 12. 616-897-8545. www.lowellartsCouncil.org

The Phantom Tollbooth \$5. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre's Junior Theatre at Washtenaw College Theatre, Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor. May 17 - 20. 734-971-2228. www.a2ct.org

The Producers \$18. The Players Guild of Dearborn, 21730 Madison, Dearborn. Through May 20. 313-561-TKTS. www.PlayersGuildofDearborn.org

The Red Velvet Cake War Dinner served one hour before showtime. \$20-33. Starlight Dinner Theatre at Waverly East Cafeteria, 3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. May 11 - 19. 517-243-6040. www.starlightdinnertheatre.com

The Secret Garden \$19. Village Players, 34660 Woodward Ave., Birmingham. May 11 - 27. 248-644-2075. www.birminghamvillageplayers.com

PROFESSIONAL

A Few Good Men \$20. What A Do Theatre, 4071 W. Dickman Road, Springfield. Through May 19. 269-282-1953. www.WhatADo.org

Avenue Q \$25. The Box Theater, 51 N. Walnut, Mount Clemens. Through May 19. 586-954-2311. www.theboxtheater.com

Beyond Therapy \$18. The Detroit Ensemble Theatre at Michigan Actors Studio, 648 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. May 18 - June 3. 877-636-3320. www.detroitensembletheatre.org

Blue Man Group \$39-89. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Through May 13. 313-872-1000. www.BroadwayInDetroit.com

Boogie Stomp! \$25. Stormfield Theatre, 201 Morgan Lane, Lansing. May 10 - 20. 517-351-6555. www.stormfieldtheatre.org

Dead and Buried \$17-20. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Through May 20. 313-868-1347. www.detroitreptheatre.com

Detroit Legends Challenge \$15 per show or \$25 for both. Detroit Dizzy Dames at Elizabeth Theater, 2040 Park Ave., Detroit. May 12. www.detroitdizzydames.com

Ernie \$20-25. City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Through July 29. 1-800-745-3000. www.olympiaentertainment.com

Fridays and Saturdays at Go Comedy! Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. www.gocomedy.net

From My Hometown \$30-39. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. Through May 13. 248-370-3300. www.mbtheatre.com

I Pagliacci \$29-121. Michigan Opera Theatre at Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. May 12 - 20. 313-237-3737. www.michiganopera.org

M. Butterfly \$36-43. The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company at Aaron DeRoy Theatre, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Through May 27. 248-788-2900. www.JETTheatre.org

Mahogany Dreams \$15. Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, 315 E. Warren Ave., Detroit. May 10 - 12. 202-480-9469. mahoganydreamsstageplay.eventbrite.com

Mamma Mia! \$27-67. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint. May 18 - 19. 810-237-7333. www.thewhiting.com

May Festival of Readings Every Tuesday evening. \$7 for most readings; "8" is free, \$15 for "A Connemara Celi." Flint Youth Theatre, 1220 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Through May 29. 810-237-1530. www.FlintYouthTheatre.org

Merman's Apprentice \$25. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. May 11 - 13. 269-756-3879. www.acorntheater.com

Mother Superior's Habits \$14-16. Broadway Onstage, 21517 Kelly Road, Eastpointe. Through May 12. 586-771-6333. www.broadwayonstage.com

Now That I Can Dance - Motown 1962 \$20. Mosaic Youth Theatre at Detroit Film Theatre, 5200 Woodward Ave. (John R. entrance), Detroit. May 11 - 20. 313-872-6910. www.mosaicdetroit.org

Nonsense \$18. The Encore Musical Theatre Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. May 17 - June 10. 734-268-6200. www.theencoretheatre.org

Other Side of the Rainbow Paul Robeson Ensemble Theatre Company at Northwest Activities Center's Paul Robeson Theatre, 18100 Meyers Road, Detroit. May 18 - 20. 313-578-7500. www.Facebook.com/PaulRobesonTheater

Raven's Seed \$20. Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley, Detroit. Through May 20. 313-967-0599. www.MatrixTheatre.org

Red \$22-41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through May 26. 734-663-0681. www.PerformanceNetwork.org

The 4th Annual Kalamazoo Improv Festival \$25. Crawlspace Theatre Productions at Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. May 10 - 12. 269-599-7390. www.crawlspace theatre.com

The Altruists \$15-18. Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company, The Furniture Factory, 4126 Third St., Detroit. Through May 26. 313-408-7269. www.Magentagiraffe.org

The Cemetery Club Previews May 10-11. \$26-30. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. May 10 - June 17. 248-347-0003. www.tippingpointtheatre.com

The Divine Sister \$10-15. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. May 11 - June 4. 248-556-8581. www.theringwald.com

The Rise and Fall of Little Voice \$20. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff St., Hamtramck. Through May 19. 313-365-4948. www.PlanetAnt.com

The Understudy Previews May 17-20 & 24 (\$15). \$20-25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. May 17 - June 17. 517-655-7469. www.williamstontheatre.org

Thursdays at Go Comedy! \$15. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. Through May 31. 248-327-0575. www.gocomedy.net

White Buffalo \$17.50-40. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through June 2. 734-433-7673. www.purplerosetheatre.org

ART 'N' AROUND

Ann Arbor Art Center "Paint the Town 2012" The evening will begin with a tour of the Ann Arbor Art Center's galleries, shop and studios. See artists in action and enjoy live music while you feast on fabulous hors d'oeuvres and an eclectic selection of wines, spirits and crafted beers. Purchase tickets online. Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 6 p.m. May 12. 734-995-8004. AnnArborArtCenter.org

Flint Institute of Arts "The Golden Age of Painting, 1600-1800 from the Speed Art Museum" The treasures on loan from the permanent collection of the Speed Art Museum of Louisville, Kentucky, include works by artists from all around Europe. Highlighted in the show are paintings that illustrate the popular subjects of that age, such as: landscapes, portraits, still lifes, religious paintings, interpretations of classical antiquity and scenes from every day life. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley, Flint. May 5 - Aug. 19. 810-234-1695. Flintarts.org

Flint Institute of Arts "Picturing America" Educator's workshop in creativity and ingenuity. Starting with Joseph Stella's Brooklyn Bridge, FIA staff will discuss how artists celebrate industry and the machine in their work. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley, Flint. 9:45 a.m. May 12. 810-234-1695. Flintarts.org

Greenfield Village "Day Out with Thomas: Mystery on the Rails Tour 2012" Help Thomas the Tank Engine find the clues and solve the mystery! Our favorite No. 1 engine is set to roll into Greenfield Village for the Day Out with Thomas: Mystery On The Rails Tour 2012. All little engineers and their families are invited to take a ride on Thomas and participate in fun Thomas-themed activities. Admission: \$11.75. Greenfield Village, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. April 28 - May 13. 800-835-5237. TheHenryFord.org

Michigan State University Museum "On Equal Terms" A new exhibit at the Michigan State University Museum takes a look at tradeswomen's 30-year struggle for access and equality in the construction industry. Michigan State University Museum, West Circle Drive, East Lansing. Feb. 5 - May 13. Facebook.com/MSUMuseum

Motor City Comic Con "Motor City Comic Con" Novi, MI: Motor City Comic Con, Michigan's original Comic Convention, celebrates its 23rd Anniversary. The 2012 event brings together a stellar roster of Comic world luminaries, as well as a glittering array of iconic TV, film stars and fan favorites. Admission: \$22-55. Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., Novi. May 18 - May 20. MotorCityComicCon.com

Riverside Arts Center "Through Women's Eyes" This exhibition features the collected works of the Painting Section of the University of Michigan's Faculty Women's Club, covering a large variety of styles and media. Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. May 3 - May 26. 734-483-7345. Riversidearts.org

The Detroit Institute of Arts "Once Upon a Time: Prints and Drawings that Tell Stories" Telling stories through prints and drawings. Includes selections from familiar series, portfolios and books, as well as several examples that have rarely or never been seen. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward, Detroit. Dec. 18 - May 13. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

The Detroit Institute of Arts "Gift of a Lifetime: The James Pearson Duffy Collection" The DIA received the rich art collection from James Pearson Duffy, Detroit's most unorthodox collectors. Showcases drawings, paintings, prints, sculptures and photographs. Free with museum admission. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward, Detroit. Sep. 15 - May 13. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Peter Campus: Kiva" Pioneer of video art who experimented with the medium in the 1970s alongside other notable artists Bill Viola, Bruce Nauman, and Joan Jonas. Campus created both large-scale projections and a series of little-seen installation works that employ live video feeds, of which Kiva (1971) is one. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. May 5 - Aug. 12. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts "Urbanity" A multidisciplinary series investigating the complex dynamics of living peaceably and sustainably together. In celebration of UICA's 35th anniversary, the Urbanity exhibition is inspired by the fact that nearly 80 percent of Americans now live in urban areas. Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts, 2 West Fulton, Grand Rapids. May 3 - July 5. 616-454-7000. UICA.org

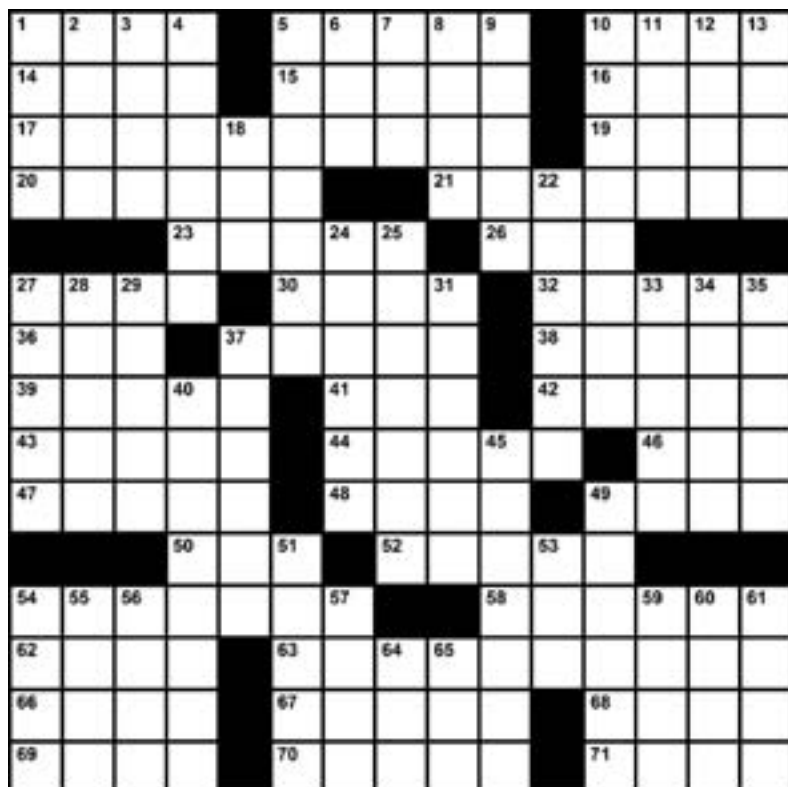
Add your events to next week's issue!

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Kopaid in Full



Across

- 1 Amount of AZT, e.g.
- 5 "Sands ___ Jima"
- 10 Where pool players put their balls
- 14 Out partner
- 15 Mapplethorpe models, often
- 16 Woods of "Legally Blonde"
- 17 Teammate that Dave Kopay dated
- 19 "Saving Private Ryan" event
- 20 Walking
- 21 Goes up and down with a partner
- 23 Unwanted roommate
- 26 Where to find a bear pair
- 27 Track postings
- 30 Take back a blow job?
- 32 One with a holey bottom
- 36 Egypt and Syr., once
- 37 German author Hermann
- 38 Pays to play
- 39 Log Cabin list, e.g.
- 41 W in the WBA
- 42 Bygone rulers
- 43 Jaguar's prey
- 44 Journalist Richard
- 46 Life-beach connector
- 47 Prolonged attack
- 48 "Lesbians ignite!" e.g.
- 49 Severely scold

- 50 Went to bed with
- 52 Old def. pact
- 54 Bygone coif
- 58 Weatherspoon of the WNBA
- 62 Like a poor excuse
- 63 University where Kopay played, or city of his pro team
- 66 Divine sign
- 67 Replay feature, briefly
- 68 Thames college
- 69 Fairy godmother's stick
- 70 John of "Aida" fame
- 71 Hump on the beach

- 18 "___-hoo! Fellas!"
- 22 Like a drag queen's bosom
- 24 High-priced
- 25 Kopay's college team
- 27 Gives the boot
- 28 "Hello, ___" (Tibetan musical?)
- 29 Cover with cloth
- 31 Streisand classic from "Funny Girl"
- 33 Online prostitution?
- 34 First lesbian magazine Vice ___
- 35 Written test type
- 37 Contract adverb
- 40 Position of -Across
- 45 Being tickled pink
- 49 Faked a da Vinci, e.g.
- 51 Look for water
- 53 Number of gay men under a centurian?
- 54 Go smoothly
- 55 Tibetan holy man
- 56 Pious ejaculation
- 57 Become wearisome
- 59 Penetrating question?
- 60 Any minute now
- 61 Hathaway of "The Devil Wears Prada"
- 64 Elbow bender
- 65 Med. insurance plan

Down

- 1 School for martial arts
- 2 Where to find hot buns
- 3 One in bondage
- 4 Shakespeare wrote a comedy of these
- 5 Performing in the Globe, e.g.
- 6 "Fe fi fo ___!"
- 7 "Big Daddy" Amin
- 8 Licks, for example
- 9 Actor Milo of "Oz"
- 10 Kopay's pro team
- 11 Alan of "And the Band Played On"
- 12 Leave marks on the back
- 13 What typists tap

Solution on pg 28



Meet Jackie!

Mmeet Jackie! This 4-year-old Labrador retriever mix is fully grown at 59 pounds. She is a sweet girl who would love to play outside with you this summer. She would do best with an active family who can keep up with her boundless energy. The adoption fee includes sterilization, age-appropriate vaccinations, the MHS Adoption Guarantee and much more!

For more information, please visit or call the MHS Rochester Hills Center for Animal Care at (248) 852-7420 and provide the pet ID number, 716401. Photo by Heidi Waeschle-Gabel.

Pet of the Week made possible by
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Horoscopes

Be very careful, Aquarius!

BY JACK FERTIG

The Sun conjoins Jupiter in Taurus offering a bright spot in the economy, both global and your own. Venus is in close aspect boosting that optimism, but Eris is also in aspect so real gains require hard work.

ARIES (March 20 – April 19): Your efforts at solving problems at work will be mired in obstruction for a while yet. Work off the frustration with {ITAL moderate} exercise. Remember you're the one being edgy and impatient; be nice to colleagues! The good news: Money is coming your way!

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): Be very careful of sports injuries! Otherwise, be daring. Say what's on your mind. Personally and professionally you're looking fabulous. Hard work is sure to be rewarded. You could even luck out on the lotto on the 13th.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): The less you say, the more people will listen. Busy as your brain is, the stars promise a closed trap and an open mind will bring you lots of new information, insight and respect from others.

CANCER (June 21- July 22): Your energy and ambition are cranking up, maybe a little too hard. Keep your eyes open for opportunities, but look ahead and exercise judgment. Gossip and friendly chatter are tempting distractions. Keep your mind focused on the prize.

LEO (July 23 – August 22): All eyes and ears are focused on you. Make the most of this opportunity. How you turn a sudden (financial?) shock into an opportunity could impress everyone around. Think quickly, show spontaneous foresight, and recruit help as you need it.

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): You're the queen of exacting details, but let that go and look at the larger picture. You'll get a clearer overview of where and how those details work best. Explore new ideas, tastes and feelings. Celebrating the sensual will prove practical.

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

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): Your ruler Venus usually confers graceful manners. Now she's pushing you to get slutty. You'll have time to explore your sensual, adventurous side. Consider ground rules, good sense and protection. If partnered, talk with your mate about how to focus that passion.

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): Brutal honesty with your friends will not only clear away lugs you're better off without, but it can also alienate folks you should value personally or professionally. If you want brutal honesty, start on yourself and your current direction in life.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): Your own charms and good work will get you ahead at work, but your partner could prove the secret weapon in helping you cement connections that will help promote you. Your competitive streak is coming out. Keep it light and playful.

CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19): A critique of your work may feel devastating. Set your feelings aside and learn what you can from that. There's always room for improvement and the lessons here can be just what you need to push forward.

AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18): Family arguments can reveal a lot and might even prove to be blessings in disguise. Sexual adventures – or otherwise acting like a teenage boy – can go wrong. Be very careful. Remember you have nothing to prove!

PISCES (February 19 – March 19): Open communications with those close to you can prove very lucrative, or at least help you focus on what really matters. Keep your ears open and let family and friends know what you want.

► M. Butterfly

Continued from p. 21

Pruett, said Gallimard became fixated on the character of Madame Butterfly in Puccini's opera.

"He's always had difficulty speaking with women and treating them on an equal level," Pruett explained. "He thinks if he can find a submissive, Eastern woman, he can become the man he's always dreamed he could be. What happens in the course of the play is that he thinks he's found his version of a Madame Butterfly. Then he finds that he is the Madam Butterfly and has been compromised by love."

It's a production that has undergone several changes since it was first chosen by the JET. The original director became ill and Beer was brought in just five weeks before the performance was to open.

Beer cast the show a week after agreeing to take the job, and said he's been thrilled with the cast that, in addition to Pruett, includes Tae Hoon Yoo as Song, Andy Huff, Phil Powers, Linda Hammell, Cara Ann-Marie, Karen Minard, Chin Yag and AeJay Mitchell.

"I really am enjoying the rehearsal process a great deal because I'm watching these brilliant actors," Beer said.

He especially sung the praises of Yoo, who also goes by Big Fire. While Yoo did not have Chinese opera training, he has a degree in theater from NYU and was familiar with the tradition.

"When I asked him to walk like a geisha, he knew what I was talking about, where no one else did," Beer said. "He does a lot of research on his own. I'll suggest something to him and he'll come in with it the next day. Song is supposed to sing... (and Yoo) is singing Puccini in Italian now."

Pruett agrees that the cast is fabulous and adds that the audience becomes another character.

"I need to have a relationship with this particular audience in terms of spilling the events that led up to this incarceration and

imprisonment. It's important to me to indict them as well," Pruett said. "They are in on the secret early and they're just watching the whole thing, being the person who sees life as it really is, but doesn't say anything. You just sit there snickering and thinking, 'what an idiot.'"

Beer points out that when Song strips in front of the audience it further implicates them and can leave them feeling the uncomfortable pleasure of voyeurism.

"Hwang makes you feel and then says 'caught you doing a naughty thing!'" Beer said. "The whole issue of body politics is brought up. What is it you want out of a partner? Are you content to watch or do you want to have it done for you?"

While the audience may know that Song is male, both Pruett and Beer say that Hwang handles the issue with a great deal of complexity. Gallimard is a man who thinks he is heterosexual, but is in fact a practicing homosexual for 20 years. Song takes on the role of a woman, but always self-identifies as a gay man, not a transgendered person.

Song, as a Chinese communist spy, gets punished and sent to a commune to work on a farm for having homosexual sex, even when the party sends him to do it. And even though he conducted the affair as part of a spy ring, Song still wants what Gallimard has to give him.

"He is honestly his lover. He feels betrayed when Gallimard comes to see him once he has unmasked himself. He wants Gallimard to still love him," Beer explained. "It is a very twisted, complex, interesting relationship. It is not only gender identity, but there is this whole thing about men who want women who are submissive."

It is the complexity of these issues that makes a play from 1988 still ring with relevance.

"People will go away talking about and thinking about all the different levels that David Hwang has captured in this play," Pruett said. "It still has some echoes of these issues we're struggling with today."

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YOGA

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http://groups.yahoo.com/group/michigan_mens_clothing_optional_yoga

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LGBT AA MEETINGS**

Ann Arbor-Friday
7:30 pm, St. Andrews Episcopal Church Gay AA, 306 N. Division St. Closed/Discussion.

Bloomfield Hills-Thursday
7:00 pm „Sobriety in The Hills Gay AA, Kirk in The Hills Church, 1340 W. Long Lake Rd. Closed/Discussion.

Detroit-Tuesday / Friday
8:00 pm, Downtown Gay AA, Fort Street Presbyterian Church, 631 West Fort St. Closed/Discussion (Open 1st Friday of every month).

Farmington Hills-Monday
8:00 pm, Suburban West Gay AA, Universalist Unitarian Church, 25301 Halstead (Between 10 & 11 Mile Roads) Closed / Discussion.

Ferndale-Monday / Wednesday / Friday
11:30 a.m., Brown Baggers Gay AA, Affirmations, 290 West 9 Mile Rd. Closed/Discussion.

Ferndale-Wednesday
8 p.m., Diversity Wednesday Gay AA, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 540 W. Lewiston @ Livernois. Closed/Discussion.

Ferndale-Saturday
1 p.m. Brown Baggers Gay AA, Affirmations, 290 West 9 Mile Rd. Closed/Discussion.

8 p.m. Go After Your Sobriety Gay AA, Drayton Ave Presbyterian Church, 2441 Pinecrest. Closed/Discussion.

Livonia-Friday
8 p.m., West Side Story's Gay AA, Providence Medical Center, 7 Mile & Newburgh. Closed/Discussion.

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Solution to puzzle from page 26

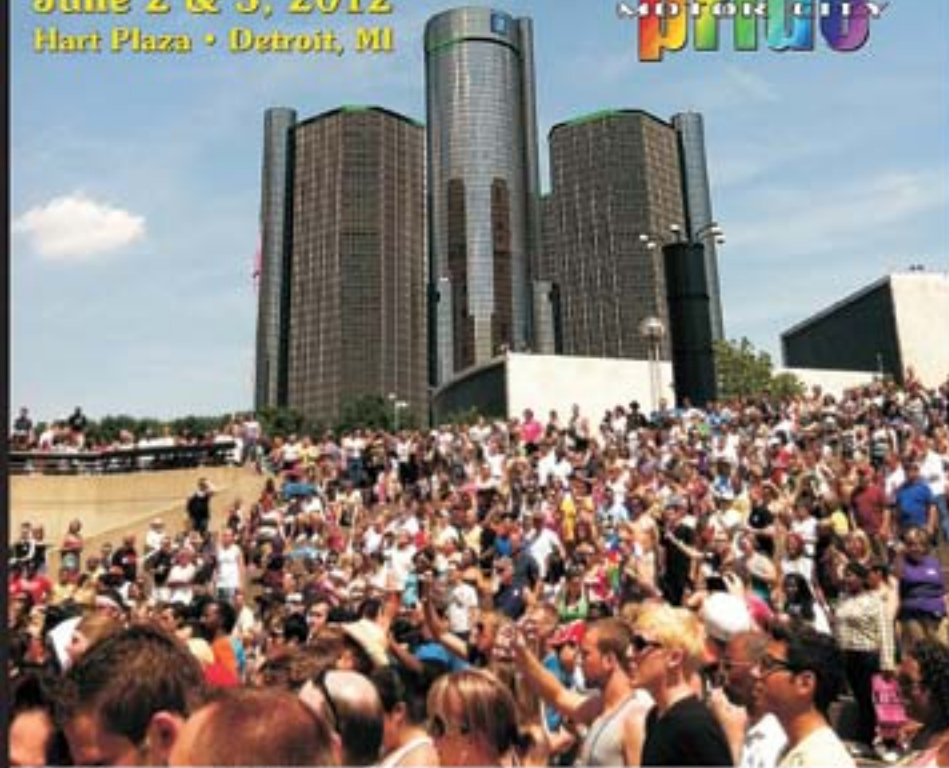
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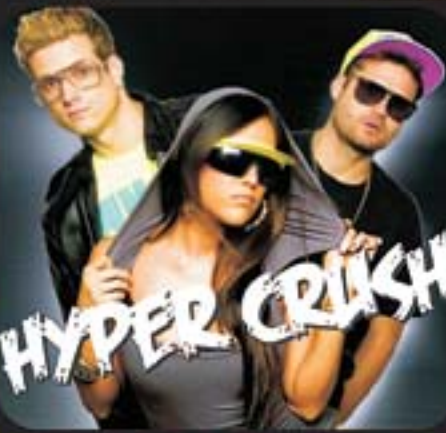
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Dating Diet



Love to Love You Baby

BY ANTHONY PAULL

I'm over Facebook even though I'm that pathetic person who needs to check his page once, twice, or 10 times a day. I guess one could say I have a love/hate relationship with social media. I want to shoot my load all over it but don't want to stick around to see the ugly afterbirth. Thank god I'm on the pill. It keeps me childfree. Still, my rambunctious friend Gabe insists that I use condoms. Just to be safe.

"You don't want a baby or an STD," he tells me. "They take up so much time. Believe me, I should know. Once you have an STD, the STD has to come first. Your life takes a backseat."

"True. But I don't think it's fair to compare babies to STDs."

"Why not? They're both so 'me, me, me.'"

Poor Gabe. He's upset because he has a new strain of some designer STD he's too busy to learn about or pronounce.

The scientific name escapes him. He says it's the toothy step cousin of the clap. It's a bitch to cure but he's on an antibiotic strong enough to kill Cher's career so that should get rid of it at some point. "I'm not having sex until it's gone," he tells me. Still, that hasn't stopped him from living in a hi-tech world, chatting it up with men from across the U.S. His latest conquest is some guy named Jackson he met on a phone app. In a matter of two weeks, their relationship has gone from zero to "crazy Lifetime TV shit." Gabe says Jackson is perfect. He's not going to mess this up, no sir, not even if Jackson lives on the other side of the state and is going through a divorce. Gabe thinks the divorce makes Jackson seem "hard" and "rugged." Next month, Gabe hopes Jackson will move in with him.

"Isn't it a bit soon?" I ask.

"Not really. My rash should clear up by then."

Silence. Silence. "But do you really know this guy?"

"Sure. I've known him two weeks," he says. "Isn't that enough? What is time anyway? Time is but a cloud, causing us distance."

His lame attempt at poetry pokes my brain. "Is that you or the antibiotic talking?"

"It's me."

"The real you? Or the romanticized version that you project to Jackson over the phone?"

Perturbed, he ends the conversation, refusing to talk to me for the next two days. He thinks I'm trivializing his desire to fall in love.

What's wrong with going out there and taking a chance? I should be supportive seeing as he's dealing with an STD that's turned his balls red.

"For your information, I showed the little cocktail cherries to Jackson," he says, phoning me.

"You what???"

"I put my ball sac on Skype. I don't want to keep secrets from Jackson. That way he'll know the real me."

"O...kay."

"Sometimes love's ugly," he says. "I need my boyfriend to see that."

"He's your boyfriend now?"

"If he passes the test."

The test comes in the form of Gabe presenting his baggage before the relationship has a chance to fly. He thinks it's for the best. That way there will be no surprises when Jackson arrives. Gabe begins by opening up about his "mommy" issues. He tells Jackson she comes to his condo once a week to help him clean because he can't stand the sight of a mop or a broom, not

since he slept with a janitor in high school. It brings up too many issues of his first love.

In a matter of two weeks, their relationship has gone from zero to "crazy Lifetime TV shit." Gabe says Jackson is perfect. He's not going to mess this up, no sir, not even if Jackson lives on the other side of the state and is going through a divorce.

"I mean, sure, technically it was statutory rape, but it was hot," he tells Jackson. He also informs him that he was bulimic last month but he beat that habit when he stopped eating. Well, he still eats sometimes. He's vegan or whatever you call it when you mask an eating disorder. His diet consists of tomato-based products. Oh, and he has an ingrown hair on his ass. He thinks Jackson needs to know that

so he'll understand why there will be no sex until he gets it sorted out along with the STD thing.

Jackson takes the news with a smile until the topic of bulimia triggers his own issues. It appears Jackson has a history of bulimia too. Oh, and since we're being honest, he's also a recovering alcoholic who started drinking again due to his divorce. That triggers more problems because Gabe is a total lush who's trying to give up the bar scene so he can spend more time at Whole Foods to find new friends who eat organic tomatoes. The trouble is Jackson doesn't think he can afford to eat organic because he has a baby and has to pay child support. So they break up before Jackson moves here.

"Because you eat organic?" I question.

"No, because he has a baby. And he says that has to come first."

"So?"

"So. Hello! I have an STD. That comes first! Get your priorities right."

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