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7.5.2012

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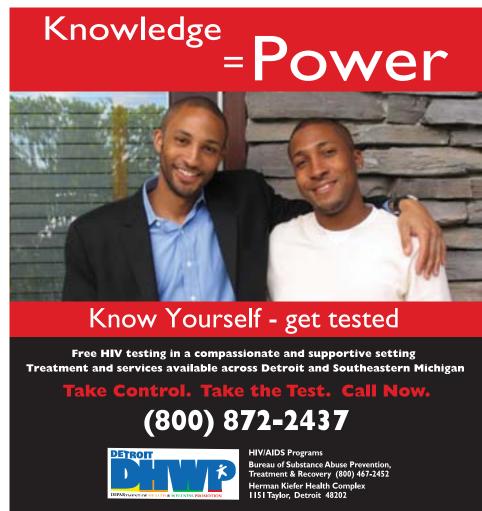


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#### BY KATE OPALEWSKI

When asked why gay couples should host exchange students, Ryan Carron-Smith said, "Why shouldn't they?" Together with Tom Carron-Smith, his partner of 13 years, they have hosted 11 exchange students at their home in Clawson over the last seven years through the International Student Exchange Program, ASSE.

"This year was very different for us as our Czech Republic student came out to us," said Tom, about Lukas Filippi, who came to the U.S. in early September last year – a day after their second student, Paolo Paganotto, arrived from Italy.

The couple decided to serve as hosts more than 25 years after Ryan's own exchange student experience. In 1986, he traveled to Germany, where he lived for a year with a local family, attending high school.

"Years have gone by and we've found it's something we do well together," said Ryan. And while there are many factors to consider when becoming a host parent, the one factor that should never be an issue, the couple insists, is being gay.

It was Filippi's father's idea for Lukas to participate in the program. "He always wanted to go to the U.S. and it was his dream for his sons to go there," said Filippi, who is now addicted to brownie mix as a result of his visit here. "Before coming, honestly, I was terrified because I hadn't told my parents at the time that I was gay. And this meant I had to go through the whole process that if I go - I didn't even know what to say. This stressed me."

Although hesitant, Filippi courageously came out to his vocal teacher first and then to his parents. "We went through the process of thinking if this was the right decision if I'm gay and I'm going to a gay family. Is that really awesome or is that a horrible thing? We weren't sure. Then we didn't know if we should write them that I'm gay, because we didn't know who they are going to be, so my father and I laughed at the time, but he came up with the idea. It's ridiculous now. If one of them fell in love with me," said Filippi. "My father had this whole process after I came out. He had to catch up.'

The funny thing for Ryan and Tom is that they can't help but fall in love with these students, but in a different way.

"With all of our kids, we've become such a family unit. Former exchange students have visited and I know it will be the same with these guys afterwards," said Tom, a circulation manager for the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers. Becoming



# An Exchange Opportunity Family, Students Live and Grow Together

a family happens at the dinner table, according to the couple, where they have a family meeting at the same time each night. That's where the "contract for life" was signed by both parties before Filippi and Paganotto started their year at Clawson High School.

## Family rules

"Our family rules are not as stringent as other host families, but we lay out the basics for them. No drinking, no smoking, no drugs, that kind of thing. We stress the rules of the organization, which informs them that they need to adjust to the family life when they come here. We pretty much let them go to do their own thing," said Tom adding that the students come with their own money to spend, but he and Ryan have made sporadic shopping trips to Sam's Club and Costco to buy groceries in bulk, especially chocolate milk for Paganotto. "If they need help though, we assume they are going to come to us," said Tom.

They were right to assume that as Filippi called them into his room three weeks after he arrived. Ryan and Tom were nervous about what to expect. When Filippi told them he was gay Ryan said, "Is that all?"

"We thank God that he came out to his parents before he came here. We did not want to appear to be the cause of his 'gay-ness,'" said Tom, who admits he isn't sure he handled it as well as he may have wanted to. Thinking back to how things were in the 70's and 80's, Tom remembers when people were cruel. "I was afraid that he would experience the same cruelty."

Ryan has experience parenting his own daughter Jenna Cashion-Smith who visits during the summer months. But he was afraid too. "I say bravo for you, but there are things you have to consider. I thought thank God he is doing it early, but what kind of support system is he going to have? He's in a foreign country living with two to three strangers. The first thing we decided as a group after retreating for a little bit is that Lukas would have to come out to Paolo as well," said Ryan, a local human resources administrator.

"We wanted to give Paolo the opportunity to say whether or not he wanted to live with three gay men. If he doesn't feel safe now, then he can change homes. Anytime we have these students here, we sit down at the table and have a talk to let them know they are safe," said Tom.

Due to rules set forth by the U.S.

State Department, all international students have to be OK with living with an LGBT couple, to ensure everyone feels comfortable, including the parents.

## The process

"My dad received a call from ASSE that a family chose me. He didn't want to tell me because he didn't approve of his son being placed with a gay couple," said Paganotto, who Ryan and Tom greatly appreciate for his culinary skills and the many pasta dishes they've enjoyed. "We don't really know any gay people. Nobody really comes out in Italy because we have the Pope and we have the church...that kind of stuff. It's kind of scary. I don't know anybody who is out. But my dad told my mom and my step-mom and they told him he has to tell me. I have to know and I have to decide. When I told my friends, they weren't really excited for me. They were making jokes, but that didn't stop me from coming. My friends count for me, but not for this decision. Then I told my dad I wanted to do this with them. It has been cool."

ASSE looks into each family before sending a student to stay with them

and a three-to-four page application is submitted by the host family with photos of their home. A volunteer visits the home to do a walk-through and conducts an informal interview to get to know the host family better. Once paperwork is processed and a successful background check is complete, host families are given access to the ASSE website (www. asse.com) to begin their search for an exchange student. Potential host families are able to Facebook, e-mail and Skype with the students so they can share their stories and experiences.

It's easy to make a connection when you have things in common, which is why Ryan and Tom prefer to host male students. But that wasn't the case when they first started hosting. "We just naturally assumed they wouldn't place boys with us. We began hosting only girls because we felt they would feel safer knowing that we would never be a threat to their sexuality," said Tom.

That changed four years ago when ASSE insisted they host a boy from France who has a gay father. "The organization felt it was the right placement. We hesitated, but after that experience, we realized we have more in common with boys, we get along better with boys, and obviously nothing was happening. It is easier and more fun. We could watch sports together, visit the theater together, and even help them through dating issues. We don't have to watch chick flicks and they're just more relatable," said Ryan.

According to Pat Juhl, the ASSE Michigan coordinator, Ryan and Tom have proved themselves time and time again. "They are really good parents and they absolutely love doing this. They are under the same scrutiny as other host families. It doesn't always work out for some host families, but their reports are always stellar," she said, adding that ASSE suggests nontraditional families host a minimum of two students so an individual student doesn't feel isolated. "In each case, the students have a wonderful year. Ryan and Tom have extended family all over the world now. The school has said nothing but good things to say about the students and about Ryan and Tom. I can't see that they would ever quit."

Filippi and Paganotto graduated in June and returned to their countries shortly after. It is the "greatest" and "hardest" thing to do according to Ryan and Tom, but they are already preparing for August when two more students – one from Germany and one from Hungary – will visit. "We always say we're never doing this again, but there are so many students and not enough host families out there," said Tom. "It's easy volunteerism and an opportunity to create relationships and memories you cannot replace."



While Elizabeth Spreitzer speaks at the Michigan Department of Civil Rights hearing in Holland, her wife and their daughter listen. BTL photo: Jim Larkin

# Holland Hearings Demonstrate Need for Protections

## Discrimination testimony moving

BY JIM LARKIN

HOLLAND – Those for and against discrimination against gay, lesbian and transgender people showed up in almost equal numbers to a June 26 Michigan Department of Civil Rights hearing in Holland, almost mirroring year-old hearings when the Holland City Council considered but rejected measures that would have provided local protections for LGBT people.

Only this time, discrimination opponents brought something they were criticized for not bringing a year ago: Specific examples of discrimination.

Steven Snider, who said he came out as a gay man when he was 15, said a Holland company that makes rear view mirrors fired three people, including himself, because he is gay, despite his being "a model employee."

"They said it was because I didn't get along with my co-workers," Snyder said. "It wasn't that I didn't get along with them – they didn't get along with me."

Emily West of Holland said she had a job in Holland where her boss regularly made discriminatory remarks, including tossing out the resume of a job-seeker she thought was gay and saying "I don't hire those people." West said when an apparently gay person walked by, her boss quipped to her, "I just wish those people would stay in Saugatuck."

Don Bergman, a teacher for 30 years, said he was fired from one job because he tried to stop harassment of gay students. And he said his own gay son left Holland because of the harassment he experienced here and continues to experience when he returns to visit, including nearly being shoved off a pier at Holland State Park.

Donald Martin, treasurer of Holland is Ready, which has led local efforts to make the area a better place to live for LGBT people, said he spoke for people who couldn't attend the meeting because of fear of retribution. He referred to transgender people who fear they could lose their jobs, a male couple that was denied a lease and a lesbian whose job was terminated because she brought her partner to a Christmas party.

Martin said it was "absurd" that LGBT people even had to debate whether they should be granted the same protections against discrimination as everyone else and called providing such protections the "fundamental truth of economic survival" for communities.

The Michigan Department of Civil Rights is conducting the hearings as part of a social research project objectively examining the impact anti-discrimination policies have on LGBT people, as well as the economy and social well-being of Michigan communities. It asked for personal narratives about discrimination and how changes would impact individuals, families, the community and businesses – not

See Holland, page 6





## **►** Holland

Continued from p. 5

whether someone supported or didn't support anti-discrimination measures.

But that's what many people provided, with most of those in favor of continuing discrimination against LGBT people doing so on moral grounds.

"I don't want to see this morally forced on myself and my children," said Michael Mabie, who said the next step would be to protect pedophiles and those practicing bestiality.

Jeff Johnston said if LGBT people were protected against discrimination, schools could be forced to teach their lifestyle is perfectly acceptable, "even if a parent has moral objections.

"If this passes, religious organizations will lose the right to hire people who agree with them and pastors will lose the right to preach what they believe," Johnston contended.

Jim Chiodo said Christians could be put in jail for speaking their beliefs and Angela Mabie said it would open a "Pandora's box" where pedophiles and transgender people could "get to the younger generation."

But H. Bin Lim, of Holland, called such comments unfounded fears and called fear "the big elephant in this room."

"They (LGBT people) just want to be happy and to have peace," said Lim, who noted that he once also opposed such measures until he educated himself on the topic. "They're not asking anyone to change the way they think."

That's exactly what Elizabeth Spreitzer, of Grand Rapids, said she wanted for herself, her wife, and her daughter.

"So our family wouldn't have to worry about health insurance, so we wouldn't have to worry about losing our home because someone didn't like having us as a neighbor," said Spreitzer, a fair housing specialist.

"Please take a look at our family," she continued, pointing to her daughter. "We hope she will never have to face the pain of discrimination and this would take us one step closer to realizing that hope."

"They (LGBT people) just want to be happy and to have peace," said Lim, who noted that he once also opposed such measures until he educated himself on the topic. "They're not asking anyone to change the way they think."

> H. Bin Lim, of Holland, called such (anti-gay) comments unfounded fears and called fear "the big elephant in this room."

# LGBT groups 'extremely pleased' with Supreme Court decision

BY LISA KEEN

In a dramatic move with significant political and economic implications, a majority of the U.S. Supreme Court on Thursday voted to uphold President Obama's landmark health care reform law. The vote, at least with regard to the key conflict, was 5 to 4, with Chief Justice John Roberts writing the opinion and joining the four justices on the liberal wing.

The decision is a big relief to people with costly illnesses, including people with HIV or breast cancer. It is an enormous political victory for the Obama administration, because health care reform was Obama's signature achievement in his first term. It also creates an awkward issue for Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney to negotiate. Romney worked for a similar plan in Massachusetts when he was governor, but has since joined the majority of Republicans in arguing vigorously against requiring citizens to buy coverage or pay a "tax" for not doing so.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) "individual mandate" requires every citizen, by 2014, to either buy health coverage or pay a penalty that helps mitigate the burden on the health care system when they seek medical care without insurance.

All three of the nation's major LGBT legal groups had signed onto a brief in support of the ACA, noting that 30 percent of people with HIV are not able to obtain health insurance.

Among other things, the ACA prohibits insurance companies from limiting or refusing coverage for a person with HIV, breast cancer, or any other disease. It also prohibits insurance companies from dropping a person's coverage after the person becomes ill.

Justice Anthony Kennedy, writing for the dissent, said he 6believes the entire law is unconstitutional. He was joined by the court's conservative wing, including Justices Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas and Sam Alito.

Lambda Legal, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the National Center for Transgender Equality and others submitted a joint brief in support of the ACA. They argued the law ensures health coverage for people with HIV

and, in doing so, stems the spread of the virus to others. That, they said, also helps contain the enormous burden that HIV infection puts on the health care system. The 30-page joint brief was one of more than 130 briefs filed in HHS v. Florida and several other lawsuits seeking to strike down the ACA, signed into law two years ago by President Obama.

The gay groups' brief, like most media

All three of the nation's major LGBT legal groups had signed onto a brief in support of the Affordable Care Act, noting that 30 percent of people with HIV are not able to obtain health insurance. Among other things, the ACA prohibits insurance companies from limiting or refusing coverage for a person with HIV, breast cancer, or any other disease. It also prohibits insurance companies from dropping a person's coverage after the person becomes ill.

reports, focused on the ACA individual mandate that everyone purchase health coverage. Under ACA, with some exceptions (including religious-based objections and poverty), everyone would have to obtain health coverage starting in 2014. Those who failed to do so would have to pay one percent of their income annually as a penalty. Over the years, the penalty rises, but there are limits to how high it can go.

The gay groups' brief argued that with the individual mandates, "thousands of lives - and billions of dollars - could be saved each

year and the HIV/AIDS epidemic could be dramatically curbed."

Carl Schmid, deputy executive director of The AIDS Institute, said his group was "extremely pleased" with the upholding of the ACA.

The court upheld other points of contention in the law, including whether states can be required to cover the expanded number of people qualifying for Medicaid under the ACA. Some states opposed that expansion, saying it unfairly increases the state's obligation to share the Medicaid costs. The majority opinion said the federal government could not withdraw existing Medicaid funding from states that were unable to fund the expanded pool.

## **Immigration ruling**

In other Supreme Court news this week, the high court voted 5 to 3 (with Justice Elena Kagan recusing herself) to strike down three provisions and at least temporarily sustain one provision of Arizona's controversial immigration law. Lambda Legal said the one provision retained --allowing law enforcement officers to stop any person they suspect is in the United States without the federal government's permission-- is especially harmful to LGBT people.

"LGBT immigrants and LGBT people of color remain particularly vulnerable because this provision... requires police to stop and question people based on their appearance," said Lambda, in a statement released about the decision. "The LGBT community knows all too well how easily people who are perceived to 'look different' or 'act different' can be singled out for harassment and persecution."

Lambda said it would join other groups in staging a constitutional challenge to the provision. The Supreme Court did not declare the provision to be constitutional but said it could be enforced until such time as a court does rule it to be unconstitutional.

The majority struck down three other controversial provisions of the Arizona law as overstepping state authority and encroaching on the purview of federal authority.

Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote the majority opinion, which was joined by Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, and Sonia Sotomayor.

## Group resigns en masse from Mormon church

**SALT LAKE CITY (AP)** - A group of people climbed a Salt Lake City peak to resign en masse from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The Salt Lake Tribune reports (http://bit.ly/LNc8QW) the group hiked Ensign Peak near downtown Saturday to carry out their resignations.

Co-organizer John Larsen told a crowd of about 120 before the hike that there is peace and happiness after leaving.

The paper says many of them addressed formal "letters of resignation" to the Utah-based church.

Alicia Pierson says she never agreed with the

teachings as a child and when she came out as gay seven years ago, she knew she couldn't remain.

Church spokesman Michael Purdy said in a statement: "While there are very few who take this action, it is sad to see someone choose to leave. We wish them well."



# **Tough Fight Ahead for Openly Gay Candidate Trevor Thomas**

## West Michigan Congressional Primary Battle Heats Up

BY JIM LARKIN

It could well be "do or lose" time for Michigan residents wanting to see an openly gay congressman representing their interests in Washington, D.C.

Trevor Thomas, who is seeking the Democratic nod in West Michigan's 3rd Congressional District, sure made it sound that way as he looked ahead to the upcoming July 15 deadline for filing campaign finance reports. He is almost certain to trail his well-established Democratic opponent, Steve Pestka, and recent polls show he must have the money to get his word out if he is to beat the former judge and state lawmaker.

"People need to get involved now. In a week or two it might be too late," Thomas said, as the Aug. 7 primary loomed just over one month away. "The reality is we know we're going to be outspent and we need all the help we can get now."

It's not that Thomas doesn't think he can win. A poll he commissioned showed although Pestka has higher name recognition and favorability ratings, Thomas surges to a 22-point lead when those polled are presented with what Thomas called fairly-worded descriptions of both men.

"I really think I'm in this battle," Thomas said.
"We knew it was going to be tough and it is."

But in order to win, he knows he has to have the money and volunteers needed to reach voters so they understand the choices in the race. He points to himself as the only strong pro-choice candidate - the Democratic victor will face incumbent Republican Tea Party candidate Justin Amash in November - in the race and also stresses his fiscally responsible and socially progressive stances that he said are akin to former seat-holder Gerald Ford

"We need to make sure I'm aggressive and successful in fundraising and the field work is critical because there is such a small number of voters in a primary," he said, when asked what he had to do to win. "If we can be competitive on the dollars we can win this."

He also noted that gay, lesbian and transgender people across the state, not just in his district, have a stake in the race. With the state's banning of domestic partner benefits, and gay stalwart Barney Franks leaving the U.S. House, the LGBT community needs a friend in Congress, he said. But in order to get one, it's going to have to lend a helping hand, he added.

"I'm asking for help," he said. "This is a strong opportunity to make a stand for what we stand for and what we believe in."

A recent poll commissioned by the Pestka campaign had Pestka with a 39-15 percent margin over Thomas, which shows 46 percent of likely voters are still undecided and leaves the door open for either candidate to win.

Thomas' most clear advantage in the race is his strong pro-choice stance during a heated national and state debate on women's health care and Pestka's shaky record on the issue. Pestka had a

zero percent rating from Planned Parenthood in back-to-back scorecards from the group during his term in the state House, and cast a vote in 2001 that could have defunded Planned Parenthood.

Pestka told the Grand Rapids Press he would not make the same choice today if given the opportunity to vote on the same legislation. He added that he is personally opposed to abortion but does not support making abortion illegal. A month earlier, when interviewed by Between The Lines, Pestka wouldn't fully explain his stance on abortion, saying only that his voting record while in office was pro-life and that it would not be an issue in the race.

But it has become one because Thomas has consistently made it one and the national focus on women's health care.

"If he wants to stand up and be a Democrat standing with President Obama and (U.S. Sen.) Debbie Stabenow, then he needs to take positions that are the hallmark of the Democratic Party," Thomas said.

## How to help

- You can find out more about Trevor Thomas and either volunteer or donate to his campaign by going to www.trevorforcongress.com.

- You can find out more about Steven Pestka and either volunteer or donate to his campaign by going to www.votepestka.com..

## Palmer Park to Host Hotter Than July

**DETROIT**— The 17th Annual Hotter Than July Picnic comes to Palmer Park in Detroit on Saturday July 28. Bringing in over 20,000 attendees through food, live entertainment and music, this picnic celebrates Detroit's LGBT community.

During the 50s through the mid-80s, the Palmer Park neighborhood was largely filled with LGBT residents. Though this concentration has diffused throughout the metro area, the neighborhood's businesses remain LGBT friendly and

"the Palmer Park residents are now overwhelmingly allied African Americans," says Walter J. Houston, picnic committee chair.

Hotter Than July is a program of KICK and serves as both a social barometer for community development, while providing a multidimensional forum to advocate for equality and social justice. The program is comprised of numerous events throughout the week; however the July 28 picnic is the premier HTJ event. This is the 17th annual pride celebration and the third oldest of its kind in the United States.

KICK's mission is to increase awareness of and support to Detroit's dynamic LGBT culture through education and advocacy with integrity and pride.

The picnic is free to the public, beginning at 11 am July 28. For sponsorship, vending, volunteer opportunities or additional information, contact Houston at 313-828-8723 or go to www.e-Kick.org.

## Lawmaker Backs Spousal Benefits for Military Gays

**WASHINGTON (AP)** – A Democratic congressman wants same-sex benefits for spouses of veterans and service members.

Rep. Adam Smith of Washington is top Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee. Smith is introducing legislation to make the Defense and Veterans Affairs departments recognize any marriage that has been recognized by a state, the District of Columbia, commonwealths or territories.

His bill would change the definition of spouse in the U.S. code to include same-sex marriages.

Gay marriage is now legal in the District of Columbia and six states - Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York and Vermont.

Smith says spouses of service members should not be barred from receiving benefits because they are in same-sex marriages.

Gays now serve openly in the military.

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# Viewpoint

## Message from a Month of PRIDE: The Five Things



BY MICHELLE E. BROWN

I hroughout June I made the Pride Circuit. Every weekend, sometimes at a banquet mid-week, in Michigan and beyond I have been talking to audiences large and small about how we the LGBTO community

- are going to get from here to there.

What's here – fear, bias, hate speech, economic disparity, political gridlock, bullying, homophobia and the constant threat on our freedom, our lives and our families?

Where's there – that more perfect union laid out in the Constitution's preamble; that nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that we all, each and every one of us, is created equal?

How are we going to get from here to there? We've been talking about getting there for a mighty long time.

In 1963, one hundred years after Lincoln's address at Gettysburg, Martin Luther King Jr. spoke of the promise of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence – "a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir."

Almost fifty years after King's historic speech that promissory note – that "promise that all men would be guaranteed the inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" remains unfulfilled.

Today not only African Americans, but other people of color, the poor, immigrants as well as gay and transgender are bound by the chains of discrimination, economic disparity and homophobia.

And the harsh rhetoric and politics of extremist at the far end of the conservative spectrum forces us – Black, Brown, immigrant, poor, female and LGBTQ to 'languish in the corners of American society and find ourselves an exile in our own land.'

So how are we going to get from here to there – to the day when we no longer have to say "It gets better" because it is better?

It's going to take more than just talking about it. So here are five things I believe, if we each do, again and again over the next five years will get us to that mountain top.

## My Five Steps to Equality

1. Be OUT – not just at the clubs or in the safe places like at PRIDE but over the fence in your back yard talking to your neighbors, at community meetings, in church, at work. When you here a mis-speak about our community set the record straight. Be OUT about things other than LGBT issues. Don't let politicians pigeon hole you to only LGBT debates. Yes we want

marriage equality, but we want good schools, paved streets, jobs, good government - the same thing as every citizen.

- 2. Touch five people it doesn't have to be strangers. Go for the low hanging fruit those friends and family who say they love and support you and ask them to be warriors for YOUR equality. To not laugh when they hear the "gay" joke or sit silently when someone makes a homophobic or ignorant remark about our lives. Ask them to be a "Warrior for Your Equality" and shut the bigotry down.
- **3. VOTE** Vote in every election. We have not been turning out to vote and look at what

Today not only African
Americans, but other people
of color, the poor, immigrants
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discrimination, economic
disparity and homophobia.

has happened. Those who want to take away our rights show up at each and every election. Look at North Carolina. We are waiting for the big dance in November and/or every four years, while they show up each and every time, and are filling up the legislative dance card. If we don't

start coming out to the polls when the big dance gets here only the ugly dancers like Mitt will be left on the dance floor.

- **4. Be self- sufficient** We have entrepreneurs, artists and money in our community. Support our businesses. Support our organizations. If they don't want to hire us or are ready to fire us for being gay then it's time we start taking our time, talent and treasures and investing it in our own.
- 5. Teach the children! Teach the children! Teach the children! Children aren't born with hate. Teach the children the value of each and every person. Teach the children the beauty of diversity. When the daughter of a lesbian couple I know started school she talked about her family. A little boy commented that she couldn't have a family because she needed a father and that two mommies couldn't make a baby because "you need sperm." She looked at him and said "you can buy that." And from that day on the entire schools perspective on family changed. Six years later – a family is a family. Teach the children our lives, our loves, our families are just that our lives, our loves, our families - nothing more nothing less

I have a dream this and every day that we will all one day live in a nation where we will not be judged by what makes us different or who we love but by the content of our character and what ultimately makes us all the same – our humanity.

In Pride!

Michelle E. Brown is a Public Speaker, Activist and Author follow her activities at www.mychangeiam. com, www.facebook.com/mychangeiam and www. twitter.com/mychangeiam.



## **General Gayety**

## **Auf Wiedersehen Little Hero**



## BY LESLIE ROBINSON

I'm appalled that I'd never heard of Gad Beck. Not only was he an important figure in LGBT history, he was a hoot.

Until his recent death just shy of his 89th birthday, Beck was the last known gay Jewish survivor of the Holocaust. Also a resistance fighter, Beck's experiences during World War II

were such that he quipped, "Only Steven Spielberg can film my life—forgive me, forgive me."

He's forgiven. Because he's right.

Consider his attempt to rescue his Jewish boyfriend. According to Wikipedia, Beck donned a Hitler Youth uniform and entered a deportation center to free Manfred Lewin.

Thereby setting a ridiculously high bar for standing by your man. Beck asked the commanding officer to release Lewin for use in a construction project, and he must've been convincing, because the officer agreed.

When they got outside, though, Lewin said, "Gad, I can't go with you. My family needs me. If I abandon them now, I could never be free."

The two parted, not saying goodbye. "In those seconds, watching him go, I grew up," recalled Beck.

If you're weepy already, don't read the next sentence. Lewin and his whole family perished at Auschwitz. I warned you.

Beck's father was Jewish, and his mother converted to Judaism. Under the Nazi racial laws, Beck was a half-breed, and he and his father landed in a holding compound on the Rosenstrasse in Berlin. He was released after the non-Jewish wives of inmates protested in the street.

They set a pretty high bar, too.

Beck learned from those women. He said, reported The Jerusalem Post, "The Rosenstrasse event made one thing absolutely clear to me: I won't wait until we get deported."

He joined a resistance youth group, and helped Jews in Berlin survive. Beck noted that "as a homosexual, I was able to turn to my trusted non-Jewish, homosexual acquaintances to help supply food and hiding places."

It helps to have friends in homo places.

A Jewish spy working for the Gestapo betrayed Beck shortly before the war ended, and he was held at a Jewish transit camp. After the war, he assisted Jews emigrating to Palestine, and he himself lived in Israel from 1947 until 1979, when he returned to Germany.

I don't know why he returned. But at his death he was survived by Julius Laufer, his partner of 35 years, which means the two men got together in 1977, two years before Beck went back to Europe. It would be gratifying to think he returned to Germany for love, considering he left it for the opposite reason.

But if he returned just because he missed the beer, that's okay, too. As the director of the Jewish Adult Education Center in Berlin, Beck organized gatherings of gay singles at the center. "He was open, sweet and would speak with everybody," said the editor of Berlin's Jewish magazine, who also recalled Beck's fondness for waving the Israeli flag at Berlin's annual Pride parade.

He sounds like the kind of guy you'd want to have at a party. If he could keep the flag-waving to a minimum.

Beck's heart-centeredness combined with a notable wit. On a German talk show, he said, "The Americans in New York called me a great hero. I said no . . . I'm really a little hero."

Of his life as a homosexual Jew, Beck averred, "God doesn't punish for a life of love." He wasn't the first to say that, and he won't be the last, but it's tough to imagine the line suiting anyone better.

# **Still Coming Out After All These Years**

## BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

**FERNDALE** – When Affirmations began in 1989 it started with a group of lesbians and gays that wanted to create a safe space for people to be themselves. It became clear early on that LGBT people who wanted to come out did not have the tools to know how to do so.

Coming Out Over Coffee was one of the first programs developed at the Center, and it remains an important first step for many who don't know where to begin. Seventy-five year old Dave Ferger is the Tuesday evening co-facilitator along with Rachel Crandall. For years they have helped questioning gays and lesbians as they take the first steps to understanding themselves and how to share themselves with others.

"Sometimes people come in and they are so scared they just sit there trembling," Ferger said. Nobody has to speak, but the facilitators do all they can to let people know that it's a safe place to.

"Confidentiality is essential," Ferger said. "Without confidentiality our group would never get off the ground."

Crandall, who has been facilitating since 2005, remembers the fear she felt when she started going to a similar coming out program in 1994. "I remember the tremble myself," she said. "There is a lot of fear. Fear of how people will react. Is there a life for me as a gay, lesbian or trans person and how do I find that? Plus we get a lot of married people who are afraid of what might happen in their families. When I came to Crossroads [a transgender support group in Livonia] I was married. I know that fear. It's like, what the fuck do I do?"

Now well past the coming out stage, Crandall is the co-founder of Transgender Michigan, a counselor and the coordinator for Affirmation's Helpline. She and Ferger can't help but chuckle at the ways people will tip toe around before fully embracing the process. "We get some people who will show up, then we won't see them for a few weeks, then they show up again. Off and on until they are ready to talk," Ferger said.

"I get people coming up to me saying they've been coming here and sitting in their car in the parking lot during the meeting time because they were too scared to come in." Crandall said.

"Oh, and the guys that tell their wives they're going bowling. We get that a lot," Ferger added, making the point that for a lot of people coming out is a sometimes long and challenging process that most people have fears about in the beginning.

Ernie Kalina is one of dozens of Coming Out Over Coffee success stories.

"I began attending Coming Out over Coffee when I was 46 years old. This



caption

was when Affirmations was located in the 'old' building across the street on Nine Mile Road in Ferndale," said Kalina. "I felt vulnerable, scared and isolated after spending an entire lifetime ashamed of who I was...It was eight years ago that I first called the center's help line. Answering on the other end of the line was Dave Ferger. This one phone call would send my life into a totally different trajectory. Dave Ferger and Rachel Crandal have been instrumental in the transformation that has occurred in my life. Dave's calm and reassuring manner on the phone gave me enough confidence to attend my very first meeting at the center. Many of the people who come to the meetings have never told a single person they are gay. They share this for the very first time in group."

Kalina said the experience helped him to be free. "Once free you find out all the possibilities that are out there in life because your energy is no longer consumed with hiding. With coming out much of the fear that you carry around with you also lifts. I also found that much of the anger I carried around with me toward the world in general lessened. It seems the more you accept and love yourself in life the more you are able to love and accept those around you. Most of all the relationships I have today are more numerous and are much more significant because I am free to be my authentic self."

He has gone from a closeted, bitter person to being an out-going, involved community member. In addition to finding true love with a partner he's been with for over five years, Kalina also serves on the board of South Eastern Michigan Gay Lesbian Straight Educators Network (SEGLSEN) and with Affirmations as a volunteer group co facilitator. "I have found both experiences a way of helping others which in turn has helped me heal from some of the pain of being in the closet all those years," he said.

Jonathan Werner first attended Coming Out Over Coffee in 2008. "It's a great place to meet people and a great place to seek advice, wisdom, and counsel from others who are going through or who went through the coming out process," he said. He came out after years of "reparative therapy," and found an unexpected peace. He's since moved to Philadelphia and taken a job with a pipe organ builder. "I make a point of returning to the COOC groups every time I'm back in Michigan," he said. "I'm out to almost everyone now, and I'm dating a great guy who lives in Jersey, just a few miles from my home." He is sad that while Philadelphia has a thriving Gayborhood, there are no groups like Coming Out Over Coffee in Philly.

Ferger and Crandall facilitate the group every Tuesday night from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Affirmations. Another Coming Out Over Coffee group meets on Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Find out more about this long-standing group as well as many other programs, events and services at www.goaffirmations.org.

9ww.Pstele\$outress.com/2

# Heard on Facebook

# Anderson Cooper comes out of the closet as gay. Your reaction?

God, it's about freakin' time.

-Stevo Schizometric

Good for him!

-Mary Rockwell

I can respect Mr. Cooper's desire to maintain his professional persona given that he does go into some dicey places that are not by any means 'gay-friendly' and I hope that they don't pigeon-hole him into reporting specifically gay/lesbian issues from now on, because that simply is not who he is. He's a reporter who strives to give us the 'real view' of what happens in this world and he has worked hard to maintain the persona of 'reporter,' not 'gay' icon. However, I'm very glad to see that a person in such a status as his finally has the courage and desire to stand up and be counted. I'm glad that Mr. Cooper is now among the counted of those struggling to live life like we deserve: free and free from discrimination of all kinds.

-Andrea Navar

Such an extremely well written email from our dear Anderson. LOVE HIM.

-Holden Alee

This is really eye opening. I totally respect the way he went about this.

-Karly A Stanislovaitis

Comments may be edited for grammar and length.



Join the conversation ...

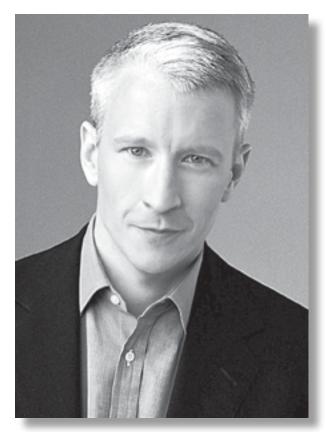


Search: "Between The Lines Newspaper"

## S/he Said

## Celebrities, Journalists Oreos

**COMPILED BY HOWARD ISRAEL** 



## **Anderson Cooper**

"For my safety and the safety of those I work with, I try to blend in as much as possible, and prefer to stick to my job of telling other people's stories, and not my own. ... Recently, however, I've begun to consider whether the unintended outcomes of maintaining my privacy outweigh personal and professional principle. ... The fact is, I'm gay, always have been, always will be, and I couldn't be any more happy, comfortable with myself, and proud."

-Anderson Cooper, in an email to Andrew Sullivan which he gave permission to publish, andrewsullivan.thedailybeast.com, July 2.



Dan Wakeford

"(I understand) the pressures to stay in the closet. An actor's role is to portray someone else on screen, so many actors like to hide as many elements of their lives and real identity from their audience so they can do their craft to their best ability. Gay actors often feel if the audience knows they are gay they won't portray heterosexual roles as effectively. All actors struggle with the same issue.

Being gay is just another element of this."

-Dan Wakeford, editor-in-chief, In Touch and Life & Style, two weekly entertainment magazines, in an article titled "Gay Pride 2012: Hollywood Insiders Talk Celebrity Coming-Out Fears," www.huffingtonpost.com, June 25.



**Chuck Norris** 

"A Boy Scouts of America national board member, James Turley, recently said he 'will work from within to seek a change' to overturn the BSA policy that bans gay Scouts and leaders. But is Turley working on his own initiative, or has the White House prodded him with perks and favors? Is it a coincidence that when Turley turned on the BSA with his pro-gay stance, Obama turned on the U.S. military and

sent down a decree that the service branches must celebrate 'LGBT Pride Month'? Is it a coincidence that as the honorary BSA president, Obama hasn't had one minute to defend or say anything about the series of lawsuits that have been levied against the BSA because of its First Amendment rights to stand against atheists, agnostics and homosexuals?"

-Chuck Norris, former action hero, in his column titled "Is Obama Creating a Pro-Gay Boy Scouts of America?," taking an anti-Obama, anti-gay stand against allowing gay leaders and scouts in the Boy Scouts of America, www.ammoland.com, June 26.



"Hey bigots, don't stop at Oreo. Google companies that support gay rights and lets see you boycott all of them. If you have an iPod, iPad, or iPhone, time to get rid of them. And if you have a droid? Well, Google owns them and they are also pro-gay rights. I

guess you're going to have to find a new search engine too. Don't stop at the cookies. I want to see you really take a stand for your bigotry and hate. I want to see you live without favorite products and websites because of it, while I enjoy the hell out of all of them. Please go for it. Love, a bisexual woman."

-A posting by a rainbow Oreo cookie supporter, in an article titled "Oreo Supports Gay Rights, Pride, With Rainbow Filling," about the image of an Oreo cookie filled with rainbow-colored cream layers on Oreo's official Facebook page with the caption "Proudly support love!," www.inquisitr.com, June 26

www.PrideSource.com

## **Parting Glances**



## Pages past **tense #15**

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

There's a gay/lesbian history story told about former U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower when he was

Commander-in-Chief of the European Theater during World War II. It was brought to Ike's attention that dykes were serving in the Women's Army Corps. These butch WACS weren't that many in number – or, just maybe they were – but Eisenhower felt they should be discharged from service as distracting to men in the war effort.

One of Eisenhower's staff sergeants - his closeted lesbian jeep driver or staff secretary - heard about his across-the-board intention, and spoke up to the five-star general, "Sir, in all due respect, may I tell you: if you dismiss these women, you'll have to start with me." Eisenhower abruptly changed his mind.

Now that gays and lesbians may serve openly in the armed services, the light at the end of the military recruitment tunnel has day-glo'd a rainbow hue. (The Air Force was present at the Affirmation's Job Opportunities last month.)

Gone are the days of the option of checking the Homosexual Tendencies box for U.S. government mandated examination of 18 and 19 years olds for Selective Service duty of four years. At 19, I nervously reported, as thousands of other males had done, to the draft induction center at down river historic Fort Wayne.

I stripped, stood in line, had my heart checked, my eyes charted, my arches tapped to see if I were flatfooted (I wasn't), my respiration monitored (yes, I was a living, breathing body), answered overall health questions, and then quizzically passed

"Mr. Alexander," says he, looking psychoanalytically intent at introverted me, "you've checked the Homosexual Tendencies box. Question One: Does seeing all these guys here today prove sexually stimulating for you?"

"No, sir," I hesitate (for standing in front of a battery of induction staff doctors, is hardly – no pun intended – conducive to erotic flights of fancy, air force, or otherwise). "Simply put, sir; I'm not at all turned on."

"I see, Charles. Question Two. Can you prove you're homosexual?" Looking as sensitively thoughtful as I possibly can at the long-awaited psychological moment, I reply. "No sir, I can't prove it by personal references or by court record, but I can talk about some of my, er, guy-guy experiences in the past, say perhaps five years."

I then share about early contacts with same-age friends in the neighborhood where I grew up. I end by telling him about my new, happily committed relationship with Ernie. The psychiatrist abruptly says thank you, get dressed, and two weeks later I received my draft card. I'm classified 4F. Unacceptable for military service.

When I share my 4F status with my folks, my mom seems pleased. My father, who never served during World War II, doesn't care one way or the other. As for myself, I'm happy to be able to stay uninterruptedly with Ernie. (Looking back now, as a former OR Tech I probably would have had it made in service then. An occasional regret.)

My draft status changed from 4F to 1Y in 1961, during the Cuban Crisis when John F. Kennedy was president. In the event that America went to war with Soviet Russia over A-bombs in Cuba, I will be called up to serve.

("When it comes down to it Mr. Homo Tendencies Checker: Now here this! Don't ask. We tell.)

Charles@pridesource.com





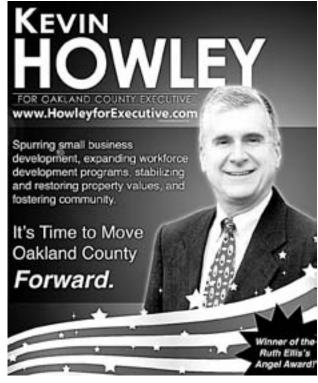




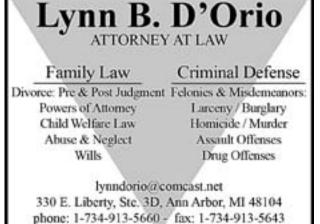


Dr. John Tsakos, Chiropractor











## **Creep of the Week**

## **Chuck Norris**

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

ave you heard the news? President Obama hates the Boy Scouts of America and wants to make all of the boys involved into a bunch of pansy liberal gay homos.



**Chuck Norris** 

And oh say can you see who made such a claim? Why, America's Ultimate Man Scout Chuck Norris.

In a June 26 piece on AmmoLand.

com, a sports shooting website (because anti-gay screeds and guns go hand in hand?), Norris lays out an intricate conspiracy between Obama and James Turley, a member of the Boy Scouts of America's board.

Turley, you may remember, recently expressed that he was not A-Okay with BSA's practice

Is it possible that Obama and Turley just happen to not be homophobic jerks like Norris?

of nailing a No Homos Allowed sign above their tree fort. "I support the meaningful work of the Boy Scouts in preparing young people for adventure, leadership, learning and service, however the membership policy is not one I would personally endorse," Turley said. "As I have done in leading Ernst & Young to being a most inclusive organization, I intend to continue to work from within the BSA Board to actively encourage dialogue and sustainable progress."

Obviously Obama gay-forced Turley to gay-say such a thing. At least that's what Norris seems to think, claiming that the "White House prodded (Turley) with perks and favors."

"Is it a coincidence that Turley came out swinging against the BSA's century-old policy to ban gays from leadership and that he has such close affiliations with the pro-gay Obama administration?" Norris asks.

In his article, Norris lays out

a slew of things that Obama and Turley either agree on and/or areas they have worked together in an attempt to show that Turley is just Obama's gay-loving puppet. It's all a bit silly, really, as there is clearly no conspiracy to be had.

Is it possible that Obama and Turley just happen to not be homophobic jerks like Norris? I'm going to go with yes.

Norris has no love for Obama, clearly, and all but says that Obama loves gays more than he loves the Boy Scouts (as if the two things were mutually exclusive).

Norris complains that "as the honorary BSA president and a 'constitutional lawyer,' Obama hasn't had one minute in his schedule over the past years to defend or say anything about the series of lawsuits that have been levied against the BSA because of its First Amendment rights to stand against atheists, agnostics and homosexuals."

Apparently Norris expects that just because Obama was made an honorary head of the Boy Scouts, just like the presidents who came before him, that Obama has some kind of obligation to support BSA's exclusionary policies. Well, he doesn't.

Norris also throws a little bit of anti-immigration sentiment in for good measure: "It is a coincidence that Obama will stand up repeatedly for the children of illegal immigrants (and grant them amnesty and taxpayer money) but that he will not once stand up for children in the BSA and the organization's rights and freedoms to hold their own core values and beliefs?"

In other words, Obama doesn't care about real American kids who just want to hate gays in the name of Jesus or he'd fight for their right to do just that.

Norris writes, "For years, I've signed and sent out hundreds of Eagle Scout recognition letters. And I personally have known a host of Boy Scouts, Eagle Scouts and BSA leaders. These individuals epitomize the best of America."

I have no doubt that there are, indeed, individual Boy Scouts, Eagle Scouts, and BSA leaders who represent some of the best America has to offer. But the organization as a whole? No way. A group that blatantly discriminates against gays and lesbians represents the worst of America. And it's about time we had a president who understood that.

# CDC trying out free AIDS tests at drugstores

BY MIKE STOBBE

ATLANTA (AP) – Getting an AIDS test at the drugstore could become as common as a flu shot or blood pressure check, if a new pilot program takes off.

The \$1.2 million program will offer the free rapid HIV tests at pharmacies and in-store clinics in 24 cities and rural communities, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced June 26.

"We believe we can reach more people by making testing more accessible and reduce the stigma associated with HIV," Dr. Kevin Fenton, who oversees the agency's HIV prevention programs, said in a statement.

The tests are already available at seven places, including Washington, D.C., Oakland, California, and an Indian health service clinic in Montana. The CDC will soon pick 17 more locations.

The HIV test is a swab inside the mouth; it takes about 20 minutes for a preliminary result. The test maker says it's correct 99 percent of the time. If the test is positive for the AIDS virus, pharmacy employees will refer customers to a local health department or other health care providers for a lab blood test to confirm the results, counseling and treatment. The workers are expected to deliver the news face-to-face and give customers privacy, the CDC said.

An estimated 1.1 million Americans are infected with HIV, but as many as 20 percent of them don't know they carry the virus, according to the CDC. It can take a decade or more for an infection to cause symptoms and illness.

Since 2006, the CDC has recommended that all Americans ages 13 to 64 get tested at least once, not just those considered at highest risk: gay men and intravenous drug users. But fewer than half of adults younger than 65 have been tested, according to the agency's most recent statistics.

It's important to know about infection not only for treating the condition but also to take steps to prevent spreading it to others. An HIV diagnosis used to be a death sentence, but medications now allow those infected to live longer and healthier lives.

On special occasions, health organizations have sent workers

to some drugstores to offer HIV testing. This week, Walgreens - the nation's largest chain of pharmacies - is teaming with health departments and AIDS groups to offer free tests in 20 cities.

But in that program, health professionals conduct the tests and deliver the news. The CDC program

Since 2006, the CDC has recommended that all Americans ages 13 to 64 get tested at least once, not just those considered at highest risk: gay men and intravenous drug users. But fewer than half of adults younger than 65 have been tested, according to the agency's most recent statistics.

aims to train pharmacy staff to test and deliver the results themselves.

"I'm excited. It's such a new and novel thing for us," said Sarah Freedman, who manages a Walgreens in Washington, D.C., that is participating in the pilot program.

At her pharmacy, prominent signs advertise the test, which is then done in a private room. The pharmacy has also taken steps to let a customer discreetly request the test, putting out stacks of special test request cards - they look like business cards - at George Washington University and nearby businesses. Anyone seeking a test can simply hand the card to the clerk, she said.

Only three or four customers have gone through with a test in the first few weeks.

"We get a lot of questions," she said. "Usually they get the information and they go and sit on it and think about it."

The drugstores are expected to

keep the test confidential. Pharmacy workers are to refer customers with positive tests to counseling and other services.

When the project ends next summer, CDC officials will analyze what worked well and what didn't, said Paul Weidle, the epidemiologist who is heading up the project.

The program carries both promise and potential pitfalls, said Julie Davids, a longtime advocate who now works for the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.

More testing is a plus, she said. And even if they don't get a free test, signs in the drugstores may prompt people to get tested at a doctor's office or clinic where they feel more comfortable, said Davids.

But Davids said pharmacies more used to handling cholesterol screenings might have difficulty responding to patients who learn in a drugstore they're HIV-positive.

"A person may freeze up and fall apart later," or get emotional on the spot and even talk about suicide, she said

In addition to Freedman's store, a second Walgreens in Washington is offering the test, as well as branches in Chicago and Lithonia, Georgia. The other sites are East Pines Pharmacy in Riverdale, Maryland, Mike's Pharmacy in Oakland, California and a federal Indian Health Service location in Billings, Montana.

Each location will get enough tests to check 200 to 300 people. Made by OraSure Technologies Inc., the \$17.50 test is the only government-approved rapid HIV test that uses saliva. Other rapid tests on the market analyze a finger-prick blood sample. The tests are used routinely in doctor's offices, hospitals and clinics.

The OraSure swab test's stick-like testing device is used to wipe the inside of the mouth, then it is put in a solution, said company spokesman Ron Ticho. If two lines appear, that indicates a positive test.

The company is seeking government approval to sell it over-the-counter for home testing. A decision is expected later this year.

The test is sold in about 40 countries, including Mexico, Italy, South Korea and South Africa. Ticho said he is not aware of another country where pharmacies routinely offer the testing.

# Parents of webcam spying victim learned from trial

BY GFOFF MUIVIHILI

**RIDGEWOOD, N.J. (AP)** – The parents of Tyler Clementi were ready to accept a plea deal calling for no jail time for their son's Rutgers University roommate, who used a webcam to see their son and another man kissing.

But what they learned at trial made them more convinced that the roommate, Dharun Ravi, deserved to be sent to prison.

Tyler's mother, Jane Clementi, said it was only during the trial in March that she learned her son had viewed Ravi's Twitter posts about the webcam dozens of times in the hours before Tyler killed himself in September 2010.

"I did not realize he was in on the joke," Jane Clementi said Friday in an interview with The Associated Press and two other news outlets.

She said that detail made her understand her son's pain more.

The case drew worldwide attention after Clementi's suicide in September 2010, just days after the spying, and made her late son into a symbol of the perils of mistreating young gays.

Jane Clementi, her husband Joe and a son, James, have resumed talking to the media this week to promote the foundation they formed in Tyler's honor. Except for some brief written statements through their lawyer, they had not talked with the media since before Ravi's trial.

He was convicted in March of all 15 criminal counts he faced, including bias

intimidation and invasion of privacy.

He was released from jail June 19 after serving 20 days of a 30-day sentence imposed by a judge who could have given him up to 10

His parents say that jumping off the George Washington Bridge was ultimately their son's own decision - and a bad one...The family is trying to figure out how to use the Tyler Clementi Foundation to teach responsible use of social media and increase acceptance of gays in schools, communities and even churches.

years in prison

Ravi was not charged with causing Tyler Clementi's death, but Clementi's family believes his behavior was a factor, especially in light of the tweets.

One of them read, in part: "I saw him

making out with a dude. Yay."

Clementi's parents say he told them he was gay just before leaving for college, three weeks before his death, and that he was ready to be out on campus.

They believe that learning about the webcam humiliated him and made him realize that being out as gay on campus would not be so easy.

His parents say that jumping off the George Washington Bridge was ultimately their son's own decision - and a bad one.

In May, Ravi issued a statement in which he said he was sorry and was ready to serve his sentence. The Clementi's said they didn't see it as an apology, in part because it was not made directly to them. Still, Joe Clementi said, he expects to forgive Ravi, eventually.

The family is trying to figure out how to use the Tyler Clementi Foundation to teach responsible use of social media and increase acceptance of gays in schools, communities and even churches.

Jane Clementi said that until several years ago, when she realized her son James, now 26, was gay, she believed that homosexuality was a sin.

And she says that while she told Tyler she loved him after he came out to her, she believes she should have embraced that about him, not just tried to accept it.

"That needs to come off the sin list," Joe Clementi said.

## Police Protect Gay Pride rally in Bulgaria

**SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP)** - About 2,000 people held a gay pride rally in Bulgaria's capital on Saturday, protected by riot police after extremist groups urged their members to stop the event.

Such rallies have been attacked in the past by groups that oppose the call to legalize gay marriage in Bulgaria.

Guarded by hundreds of police and private security, the mostly young marchers walked peacefully through downtown Sofia on Saturday, displaying colorful banners calling for love, equality and sexual diversity.

Ahead of the event, diplomats from many countries issued a joint statement supporting the Sofia Pride March. The ambassadors of Argentina, Austria, Great Britain, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Serbia and the United States called the event "an opportunity to promote human rights and tolerance, celebrate diversity, and denounce homophobia."

This Balkan country of 7.3 million joined the European Union in 2007, but gays and lesbians still face widespread hostility in the country's machodominated society and opposition to their public events has been fierce.

The influential Orthodox Church had urged authorities to ban Saturday's rally, saying it would undermine Christian traditions. In a statement, the Holy Synod of the Church said it was "categorically opposed to the organization of such an immoral manifestation."

In 2004, Bulgaria adopted an anti-discrimination law that protects gay rights, but it has proved ineffective.

Human rights groups such as Amnesty International have called for an urgent overhaul of Bulgarian law to ensure that hate crimes, which often target gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people, are properly investigated and prosecuted.

## Minnesota Sets New Marriage Amendment Ballot Title

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) – Secretary of State Mark Ritchie abandoned the original title of the proposed gay marriage amendment that voters will see on the November ballot and replaced it with one of his own, his office announced Thursday.

The Democrat's office said the title, which will be directly above the ballot question, will read: "Limiting the Status of Marriage to Opposite Sex Couples." Republicans who backed the amendment effort wanted wording that focused on the traditional definition of marriage, "Recognition of Marriage Solely Between One Man and One Woman."

The question on the ballot will remain the same

Chuck Darrell, spokesman for the proamendment Minnesota for Marriage, suggested that Ritchie was "meddling" with the amendment. Ritchie's action " is a perfect example of why we need the marriage amendment," Darrell said. "You can't trust politicians to follow the law."

Ritchie's spokeswoman Patricia Turgeon

said he wasn't available for comment.

"The secretary's only concern when choosing the title was that it be fair and accurate," Turgeon said.

Richard Carlbom, campaign manager for the anti-amendment group Minnesotans United for All Families, said the new title looked accurate to him, noting that "voters are going to vote on the question, and the question remains the same."

The question to voters will remain the same. It will read: "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to provide that only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in Minnesota?"

Ritchie's title language was approved earlier this month by Attorney General Lori Swanson, a fellow Democrat.

## Maine gay marriage coalition fundraising tops \$1M

**AUGUSTA, Maine (AP)** – The coalition spearheading a campaign to legalize gay marriage in Maine says it has raised more than \$1 million and has had one-on-one discussions about November's referendum with more than 100,000 residents.

Mainers United for Marriage held a press conference at the State House in Augusta on Thursday to mark the one-year anniversary on when it took out papers to launch its citizen's initiative to force a statewide vote on whether to allow same-sex marriage.

Campaign officials say they've now collected more than \$1 million in donations and pledges, with 64 percent of the contributions coming from Mainers.

Campaign manager Matt McTighe said the campaign has had face-to-face or phone conversations with more than 100,000 people in 565 towns and townships.

## Madrid March Aims to Uphold Gay Marriage Rights

**MADRID (AP)** - Thousands of people have joined an annual Gay Pride march through central Madrid amid fears Spain's conservative government may try to scrap a law allowing same-sex marriages.

Spain adopted its gay marriage law when the country was governed by the center-left Socialist Party.

Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, leader of the center-right Popular Party elected late last year, has said he prefers civil unions instead of marriages. His party has challenged the law in the Constitutional Court.

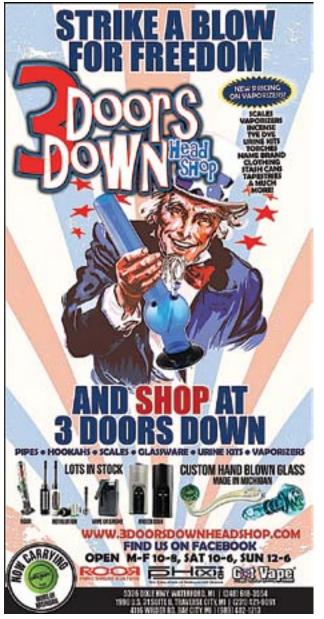
The rally headed through some of the city's main squares and avenues Saturday under the slogan, "Equal marriage rights. No tampering with equality."

Organizers expected hundreds of thousands of people to line the route of the march which featured colorful floats and music.

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# **Ruth Ellis Center Youth Exhibition at MOCAD**

On June 28 the Ruth Ellis Center celebrated the opening of its youth photography exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD). Five young people from the Ruth Ellis Center participated in a month-long training with MOCAD staff members to create photographs and labels that explore LGBTQ youth homelessness, sexual identity and love.

"MOCAD has been an exemplary community partner for the Ruth Ellis Center and our youth. They have spent time at the Center with our young people and worked closely with them at the museum for this enriching program," said Laura Hughes, Ruth Ellis Center Executive Director. "This exhibition gave these young people a platform for positive self expression and it is an experience that the youth and the Center will cherish."

Youth photographers Bernard Norris, Shorty VIXEN Trammel, Donnie Dawson, Curtis "Ms. C" Collins and Emani Tate, worked with adult photographers to learn the basics of photography and lighting. Both the youth and their mentor photographers valued

the time spent working together.

"Knowing the important work the Ruth Ellis Center does in this community and understanding that they are one of the few organizations in the country dedicated to this mission, the Center represents a perfect partner as we further establish ourselves as a community anchor," said MOCAD deputy director, Rebecca Mazzei. "We hope this pilot project is just the beginning of what will become a long-term collaboration featuring projects of varying scales."

The 25 powerful photographs taken by the youth will be on view at MOCAD until July 29. The opening reception included remarks from Katie McGowan, MOCAD curator of education who worked with the youth, Mark Erwin, Ruth Ellis Center director of programs, and Donnie Dawson, one of the youth photographers.

The Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD) is located at 4454 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, MI 48201. For more information, visit www.mocadetroit.org.



## Pop Star Talks New 3D Film, Kissing Gay Boys and Fighting Hate With 'Love Bullets'

## BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

ot exactly *last* Friday night, but it still happened: Katy Perry called us from London, where it was nearly 1 a.m. If life really does imitate art, she smelled like a mini-bar on a night that's soon to be a blacked-out blur, right?

"Not tonight," she insists. "I have to play and be professional tomorrow, but maybe after the show I'll be having a couple of Shirley Temples with some adult juice in them."

We spoke with Perry just after she made a surprise appearance in London for a screening of her new film, "Katy Perry: Part of Me 3D," a docu-concert chronicling the California girl's evolution from gospel-singing daughter of two pastors to international pop phenom ... with the most lethal boobs in the world.

During our interview, Perry told us what else they shoot besides whipped cream, how the gay community can relate to her movie and why Madonna doesn't scare her.

You go from pretending to kiss girls to wanting to have sex with girls, recently joking during a radio interview that you'd like to do Rihanna. What's up with all this faux lesbianism?

You know, everybody's been asking me about the duet with Rihanna and when it's going to happen. I get that question every time I get interviewed. Obviously, we really want to do it and we want to do it in a big way, naturally; this (journalist) was doing this rapid fire of inappropriate questions of sexual things, and I just decided to throw her a curve ball. I do not discriminate against any beauty no matter what form it comes in, and Rihanna is gorgeous. I think that everybody would tap it if they could.

## Have you ever kissed a gay boy and liked it?

Yes, I have. It's so funny. This boy I pseudo

dated in high school, a fantastic flamenco dancer, was in "Fiddler on the Roof" with me and we were dating during the production, and I had just a tiny part but I was his first kiss. Cut to 10 years later, or even more, and we're out at this place called Rasputin, this incredible gay club in Hollywood, and come to find out, he's making out with my stylist. He's still in it to win it, and he's just become a part of our crew.

You've been hanging out with your gay friends in West Hollywood a lot lately. What's been your

See Katy Perry, page 16

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## ► Katy Perry

Continued from p. 15

## most memorable gay night out?

I don't really decipher it as gay night or straight night; it's the same night continually. I came from a really interesting perspective interesting being the keyword, because it was obviously very suppressing and sheltering. I was set to think that gay people were an abomination, so I was not allowed to speak to anyone who was obviously fabulous and I was never allowed to associate with that type of people. Really, generally, I was never allowed to associate with anybody that wasn't Christian. So I was kind of trapped in a bubble, and then it finally burst years later. Now I think that 90 percent of everyone I work with, from my assistant to two out of three of my managers, is either gay or lesbian. It's been an incredible journey of acceptance and tolerance.

#### Where are your parents now on gay people?

My parents have actually become more accepting and tolerant now. We've all grown up and evolved and broadened our mindset. Sometimes people have a really picky way of eating, right? And they don't like certain foods, but a lot of times they haven't even tried those foods. Once they try or know or get educated and have the facts, they're more comfortable and there's no judgment on your shrimp cocktail. I know that sounds so strange, but it's this simple thing. A lot of people just aren't educated; they still have this 1950s mindset, unfortunately.

## Are you saying that you've tried the shrimp cocktail and gone lesbian?

I don't know if it would be appropriate for me to tell you what my straight or gay (experiences) have been in the past. (Laughs)

You've said Madonna had a lot of influence on this film, and her 1991 documentary "Truth or Dare" really resonated with the gay community.

Yes, and still continues to.

## Do you think "Katy Perry: Part of Me 3D" will have a similar effect on the gay community?

I hope that people see that they don't have to change themselves in order to achieve their goals or dreams, and they can accept the skin that they live in and overcome obstacles or judgments. The theme of this movie is me overcoming obstacles: where I came from, problems with my record label and my personal struggles. A lot of times, people wanted me to be like someone else or sing like someone else or write like someone else. I wanted to be the first Katy Perry, but they couldn't accept that. So hopefully people can come away from (the film) saying, "I don't have to change myself. I don't have to fit in. I don't have to be what someone else wants me to be in order to reach my goals in life."

After what happened with Gaga – where Madonna mashed up "Born This Way" with "Express Yourself" for her upcoming tour and called Gaga "reductive" – are you scared of being

#### too inspired by Madonna?

No. I'm inspired by everyone. And you know, I think that the queens love a little catfight every once in a while. It's good for the cocktails and the conversation, I'll tell you that.

# "Ur So Gay" and "I Kissed a Girl" didn't sit well with some of the gay community when they came out. You obviously have a huge gay following now, but did you feel like you needed to prove your authenticity after all the uproar over those songs?

I never really try and try hard. I like things to roll out naturally. People like to put me in a box. From the first official single, "I Kissed a Girl," they always said I was a one-trick pony, and I've always known what I was gonna do next in my play-by-play and how I was gonna roll out the moments – and "I Kissed a Girl" was the strongest song for me at the time.

It was also on the tip of everybody's tongue pop culturally, even on television shows like "Gossip Girl" people were talking about it, and it was becoming more of an accepted idea to be bi-curious and to be bisexual. The song just took it over the edge for the public in some ways, but I think that anybody who saw a confusing message in those songs was either looking for a fight or taking it completely out of context. Anyone that really understood the songs understood the songs for what they were.

# Now that more gay couples are able to legally marry, what would you tell them about marriage from your own experience?

It's everybody's individual experience. I think you can be in love without walking down the aisle, or you can walk down the aisle and be in love, but everybody deserves that choice and I think that equality is very important. People ask me questions about the whole Obama thing and him coming out and saying it publicly, and I'm like, "I hope soon enough we'll look back and say to ourselves how ridiculous it was to think this way, just like it was during the civil rights movement." We're embarrassed. And it is completely embarrassing. We're a young country and we're developing slowly; we're not as cultured as the Europeans. But that's OK. We're gonna get there, and hopefully there will be more tolerance in the world very soon and we won't make the same mistake twice.

## You've shot whipped cream and fireworks out of your boobs –

Actually, if you look at the placement of those fireworks, they come from my spirit. (Laughs) But I know people love going straight to the tits. They're a big target on me.

## If you could shot anything else out of your boobs, what would it be?

I'm gonna shoot down hate. I'm gonna shoot down all the people that hate, that sip on our haterade, that hate just to hate. I'm gonna shoot them down. But I'm gonna shoot them down with love bullets. And they're non-violent. They don't even hurt you. Like a Cupid's arrow, they just turn you into a more tolerant, loving person.

## Maroon 5's Latest Album Is 'Overexposed' and Overproduced. Plus: Justin Bieber Grows Up



## Maroon 5, 'Overexposed'

They might have the moves like Jagger, but Maroon 5 lacks the grooves on their fourth album in 10 years, "Overexposed." The title, a self-deprecating wink to the band's ubiquity (and maybe frontman Adam Levine's frequent and much-appreciated nakedness), demonstrates what happens to a band when they become as big as these boys: In pursuit of singing competitions and hot models, the music - this time with Max Martin and Ryan Tedder taking on production – falls through the cracks. "Payphone," the fine first single, is a quick rewind – not just to when you needed a dime to make a call, but to Maroon 5's neo-soul soft side that had gays and girls swooning. Pretty much the rest – as overproduced as it may be "Overexposed" will not be loved. "One More Night" does the funky-reggae thing, masking Levine's pained plea - an old trick the band can't let go of (see past singles: "Misery" and "Makes Me Wonder"). Worse, even, are the words themselves: "Here I am waiting, I'll have to leave soon" launches "Daylight"; "I know you wanna stay, but I think that you should go" is the poeticism of "Tickets"; and can we start a movement to stop the metaphorical use of "tattoo"? Please? "Sad," despite also ignoring subtlety in lyricism, is onto

something better than any of the perfunctory funk-pop: With just piano and Levine's raw vocals, he sings his heart out ... and we swoon. Grade: C

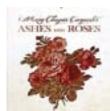


#### Justin Bieber, 'Believe'

With the Biebs' Tiger Beat days numbered, it's time to pull a Timberlake: His third studio LP,

"Believe," is a post-puberty breakthrough - the kind that moved his teen-idol contemporary into manhood (and he has tattoos to prove it!). But even if "Believe" doesn't eclipse Timberlake's "FutureSex/ LoveSounds" in innovation, or even in vocal awesomeness, it still establishes the little mister as more than a write-off. "As Long As You Love Me," irresistibly stretching his falsetto into a stuttery riff, works his matured voice (i.e. sexed-up) into a layered house throw-down that has him asserting love's power over money and food (he really is growing up). There's no denying the charm of Jackson 5 throwback "Die in Your Arms," or escaping the giddy energy that envelopes "Thought of You" (Usher comes to mind during the chorus); though spanning a gap that Bieber isn't too eager to bridge on this hopscotching effort, both are among the finer examples of pop this year. And the bad news? His Nicki Minaj pairing on disco-spun "Beauty and a Beat" - not only one of the worst playon-words ever but also a song that Minaj steals when she goes all cougar with "Buns out, wiener/But I gotta keep a eye out for Selener." The title track, a swamping gospel ballad with an emotional wallop, is more his style. Makes you believe he's got more up his sleeve. Grade: B

## Also Out



#### **Mary Chapin** Carpenter, 'Ashes and Roses'

Tough personal affairs - divorce, death and a serious illness of her own - are

brought into the fold of the folk-country queen's follow up to 2010's "The Age of Miracles." These woes don't translate to her best music, again finding the singersongwriter stuck in Starbucks mode (the throwaway duet with James Taylor among them), but there's thoughtfulness in her everyday musings: moving out is a liberating to-do on "What to Keep and What to Throw Away," "Another Home" finds life in death, and then there's "New Years Day" - a fresh start. Hopefully for her music, too.



## Meiko, 'The Bright Side'

If Lilith Fair were around this summer, guitargirl Meiko would undoubtedly have a place on the bill

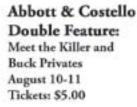
- right before Lisa Loeb. Her lo-fi sound a blend of acoustic folk and indie-pop, a pleasing-if-narrow brand that got the attention of "Grey's Anatomy" and "The Hills" – is tailored for alt-lovers, but her bedroom vibe wears thin on her second CD. Despite the limited musical scope of "The Bright Side," the "Crown and Sprite" line on "I'm Not Sorry" is adorable, as is the simple boy-crush song "Stuck on You." We'd be too if someone would shake up her sound.





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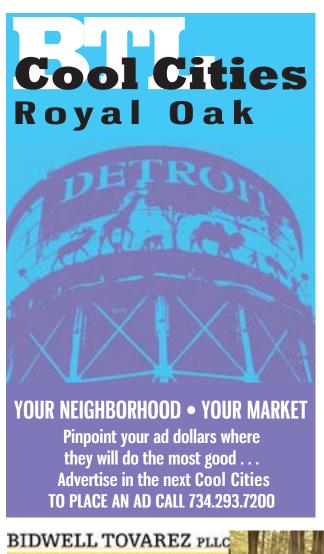
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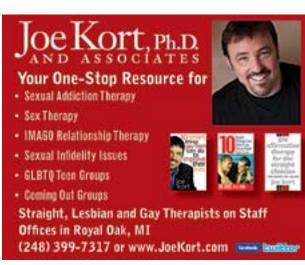
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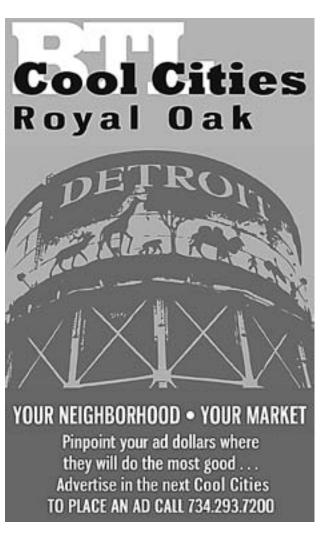


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## 'Jersey Boys' Vocal Group Performs Songbook

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Seasons and more. The quartet is composed of recent leading cast members of the smash hit "Jersey Boys": Michael Cunio, Michael Ingersoll, Christopher Kale Jones and Shonn Wiley. Exuding the

irresistible rapport of a modernday Rat Pack, Under the Streetlamp proves why retro never sounded so now. For more information, visit www. royaloakmusictheatre.com or www.underthestreetlamp.com.



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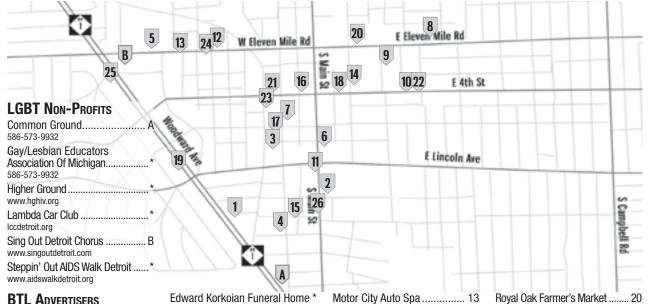
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# Singer On New Album and How 'Where You Stand Out Most Is Exactly Where You're Needed'

## BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Here's what we know about Brandi Carlile: Her lung power is a bigger threat to humanity than any nuclear war; she's cool enough to sing with Elton John, who recorded a track with the singer for her last studio album, 2009's "Give Up the Ghost"; and she's totally girl crazy. Carlile's fourth LP, "Bear Creek," named after the secluded studio outside of Seattle she and her twin collaborators recorded in, takes her further into the Americana genre she's gradually pursued since dropping her debut seven years ago.

## Of all your albums, "Bear Creek" feels most indicative of your musical influences as a child.

It doesn't surprise me. It's the first record we've made outside the boundaries of working at a

faraway studio with a major producer. It really did feel like the kind of record you make if you are a kid having a sleepover and the parents aren't there. We ended up doing things that we didn't expect.

## "Just Kids" sounds like nothing you've recorded before. Can you tell me about that song?

I call that my 3 o'clock in the morning song, because after the session would end and everybody would leave, I would work on this crazy song that I had been tossing around in my head that no one got. I couldn't get anybody to get it because it was too difficult for me to play.

## You always come back to songs about childhood. Why do you feel a connection to that time?

I probably always will. I'm super in touch with my inner 8-year-old. I have "The Neverending Story" tattooed on my shoulders, and that's just how I live my life – so I'll probably always write from that vantage point. I hope I don't ever lose that, because that's my compass.

## Are your twin collaborators, Phil and Tim Hanseroth, big kids too?

Oh yeah. We get together and catch frogs and things like that.

## Is that what you did at Bear Creek?

Quite a bit. We went down to the creek a lot, and the frogs were insane. What you hear at the end of the record was just a really great microphone that we ran out the back window and down to the creek to record the frogs, which is difficult, believe it or not.

## Why is Bear Creek significant?

That whole area of the northwest is significant to me. It's a rural northwestern recording studio built from a 100-year-old barn – more similar to my living situation. It's really near where the twins and I grew up; we all lived in the area, and

we'd all get up every morning and carpool or just stay overnight there.

# Many of your childhood influences were country artists, and you've gradually moved into that genre. Have you considered doing a country record?

Yeah, I've thought about it a lot. Someday I'd love to do a country duets record. Country is just full of duets and has the best duets there are. I'd love to do an album of duets with current country artists that I love – and then some of the older country artists that are hanging around Nashville that probably wouldn't give me the time of day. But I would beg them.

## Being a lesbian, do you think the country genre would welcome you with open arms?

I haven't made any strategic moves or decisions to move toward a more country-defined flavor in my music or in my lifestyle. I love country music so much because of the way it sounds and because of its traditions, but also because it really does speak to the way I live when I am in my truck and I'm going to get hay for the horse

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and I'm chasing chickens around the yard.

My sexual orientation has very little to do with that, so I expect the country music industry to catch up to that sentiment – that even lesbians have chickens and horses and problems finding work and all the things that they sing about, and they will catch up to that eventually. I am of the strong belief that where you stand out most is exactly where you're needed.

## Last time we spoke you mentioned that you didn't recognize a huge gay following despite you being out. Has that changed?

Yeah, the blinders have been removed from me a bit. I guess (gay fans) kind of always were there; I just didn't notice. I have total career mindedness and tunnel vision, and I get ultra focused. I've just been living on adrenaline and momentum for the last decade and singing and touring, singing and touring. I never notice what the venues are or who's calling or where they're from; I just have these discussions and they're great, and then I move on. But now I do see things - like, I look at my schedule and I go, "Chris is calling me; OK, this is a gay publication, this is exciting and I'm ready to dive into that conversation."

## What changed?

Well, I turned 30. (Laughs) I just woke up one day, and it happened to be on my birthday coincidentally, and realized that I cultivated a real career mindedness and was being neglectful. I plan to get a little more involved with activism in the coming years. I'm getting pretty excited about broadening my horizons.

## Activism within the gay community?

If it calls for it, then certainly. I tend to be more moved by humanitarian issues, issues that are less politically motivated. The gay community is one of the interesting situations where, politically, it does veer into humanitarian and human rights territory. It's one of the last civil rights situations and, to me, that is a humanitarian effort. So it definitely falls in the category of what I want to focus my charity on.

## What was your experience growing up gay in a small town?

It wasn't a difficult process for me. My parents were amazing about it, my siblings were great, they came around, and I had the support from my community. Again, the whole concept of where you stand out the most is where you're most needed. I think I had a good reputation and I had a lot of love and friends and family in my small hometown, in my small school. Just being and living openly in that area changed minds on its own.

I wouldn't say I made a big momentous occasion of coming out. I just was out, and there was really no hiding it. I mean, the way that it changed minds wasn't that I was standing outside the church with a protest sign; the guy at the grocery store would hear and go, "Oh, she's gay? But I really like her." And his mind would be changed.

## You know, I've always had a crush on the twins.

I believe you! One of them is married to my sister, though, so that disqualifies him. So there's only one left for you; that's Timmy. He's not married, and no, he's not gay. (Laughs)

## Having known each other for so long, and being around them as much as you have, you must have seen them naked once or twice.

More than once or twice. Once or twice a day. Look, all modesty goes out the door when you live on a tour bus – that thing is 45 feet long by 8 feet wide, and when you have 12 dudes on there at one time, there's just no privacy left, there's nothing sacred anymore.

### What have you learned from each other?

We've meshed and become a machine that moves in the same direction. And we've learned a lot from each other personally. It's been a crazy year. Phil married my sister, and I was the maid of honor and Tim was the best man. Just a couple of weeks ago, Tiffany and Phil had a baby, so me and Tim were in the hospital, the auntie and the uncle – a pretty strange way for a band to be in the same room.

## What happens five minutes before you hit the

I say a prayer, if I'm really nervous. A lot of times Phil goes off the rails and into some manic pep talk; he's like a football coach that's just taken cocaine. He gets really into it, jumps up and down and slaps high-fives. And he yells "Iron Maiden" all the time, which is really weird. Tim just kind of plays his guitar and I might do a shot of whiskey. We love to play, so we don't tend to ritualize it.

## Is the song "Josephine." from the album "The Story," about an ex-girlfriend?

No, just a county in Oregon. Now, though, Josephine is the name of my niece.

## For the longest time I thought it was about a lost love.

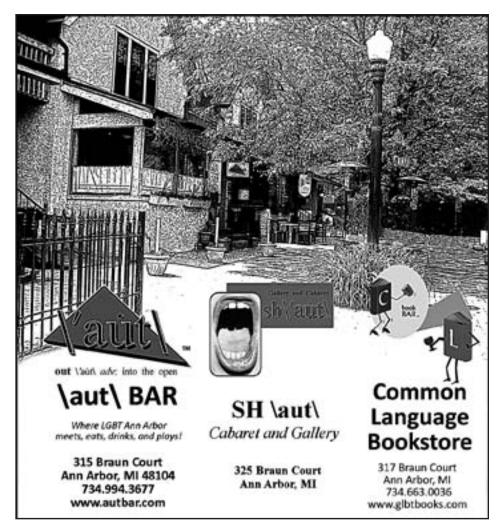
No, no. But you're very romantic.

## I'm not sure if you're still with your girlfriend, but how has she, or any other girlfriends, influenced your songwriting?

It's funny. I rarely write songs about a person that I'm in a relationship with at the time. It's always someone I've been in a relationship with or someone I want to be in a relationship with. So no, I would say not. And I'm not still with her, but she was such an influence on my life that I'm sure she's in there a little bit and probably always will be. In true gay fashion, she is, of course, one of my biggest friends.

## Those lesbians can't let go.

(Laughs) We cannot! If you made me a T-shirt that said, "Those lesbians can't let go," I would proudly wear it.







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# Happenings

## **OUTINGS**

#### Thursday, July 5

Jewish Gay Network Family & Friends 7 p.m. JGN Family & Friends group meets the first Thursday of every month. Topics vary from month to month. This is a gathering of people who have family or friends who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or who are questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity. Offering support, sharing experiences, and learning about the issues impacting the LGBTO and allied community. Jewish Gay Network, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. 248-432-5661. Jgnmi.org

#### Friday, July 6

S.P.I.C.E. 7:30 p.m. S.P.I.C.E. works to empower and enhance the lives of women of color in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Questioning community in Metropolitan Detroit, by eradicating the health, social and educational barriers facing them. Meetings are on the first Friday of every month. S.P.I.C.E., 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

#### Sunday, July 8

Eshel in Eden 9 a.m. Join Eshel in Eden at Ronora Lodge and Retreat Center in Southwestern Michigan. This retreat is for children and adults, partnered or single. More information online Eshel, 9325 Dwight Boyer Road, Watervliet. Eshelonline.org/eshel-in-eden

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@vahoo.com Conversation Station 5 p.m. Topic: If you could be God for a day, what would you do? Get Out And Live!, 714 S. Washington St., **Royal Oak**. 248-981-4227. Marcil.Williams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

#### Tuesday, July 10

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

### Wednesday, July 11

Foster Care & Adoption Informational/ Orientation Meeting 9 a.m. Family Service & Children's Aid invites you to come and learn more about foster care and/or adoption. Informational/ Orientation meetings are held the second Wednesday of every month. Family Service and Children's Aid, 330 W. Michigan Ave., Jackson. 517-787-7920 ext. 54. Facebook.com/ FamilyServiceChildrensAid

Coping with Disabilities 1 p.m. For anyone with a mental or physical illness that makes every-day life more challenging. Discussions about LGBT friendly doctors, counseling, health benefits, and activities. Every second and fourth Wednesday. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Senior Koffee Klatch 1 p.m. A lively, discussion and social group for LGBT adults over 45. Group covers topics pertaining to aging and outside speakers. Potluck dinners at members homes, lunches out and holiday parties. Meets ever Wednesday on the upper level of the Affirmations building. Senior Koffee Klatch, 290 W. Road Mile Road, Ferndale. 586-573-9932. GoAffirmations.org

LGBTQI Affirming Bible Study 6 p.m. Carefully considering Bible passages which are taken out of context and then used to discriminate based on sexual orientation. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 517-484-7434. Mike@pilgrimucc.com PilgrimUCC.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. Grlqbt.org

#### **Thursday, July 12**

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

Public Hearing on Discrimination
6:30 p.m. There will be a public hearing,
sponsored by the Ann Arbor Human
Rights Commission and the Michigan
Department of Civil Rights, to hear
testimony on discrimination based on
sexual orientation and gender identity.
MDCR is conducting research to examine
the impact of Michigan's laws and policies
on the LGBT community. The department
is specifically concerned with Elliot-Larsen
Civil Rights Act. Ann Arbor Human Rights
Commission and Michigan Department of
Civil Rights, 301 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor
AAHUmanRightsCommission@mail.com

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

#### Friday, July 13

Great Lakes Regional Rodeo 10 a.m. Part of the Intl. Gay Rodeo Association, an amateur rodeo with real rough stock, roping, horse and entertainment events like goat dressing, wild drag race and steer decorating. Featuring country music, beer tent, vendors, entertainers and lots of boots, jeans and western hats. Raising money for charities like The Ruth Ellis Center, The Trevor Project and the fight against Ovarian Cancer. Michigan Intl. Gay Rodeo Association & Central Canada Gay Rodeo Association, 18071 Quirk Road, Belleville. 616-735-4521. Dirwmireg@michiganrodeo.org Michiganrodeo.org

Lavendar Festival 12 p.m. Macomb County's only domestic violence and sexual abuse shelter, announces its inclusion in this year's 10th annual Lavender Festival. Festival celebrates all things Lavender, with themes of wellness playing into Turning Point's mission to stabilize broken homes and ensure the well being of children. Turning Point, 17985 Armada Center Road, Armada. www. DianeMartinenterprises.com



Diana Lawrence at The Ark

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.

## Saturday, July 14

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

## Sunday, July 15

PFLAG Ann Arbor Meeting 2 p.m. 3rd Sunday of every month. Support group and monthly speaker at each meeting. PFLAG Ann Arbor, 306 N. Division St., Ann Arbor. Pflagaa.org

PFLAG Tri-Cities Meeting 2 p.m. PFLAG offers support, education and advocacy for equality. PFLAG Tri-Cities, 2525 Hemmeter Road, Saginaw. 989-941-1458. Pflag@pflag-mbs.org Pflag-mbs.org

Lezread 4 p.m. Ann Arbors book group for Lesbians. Meets the last Sunday of every month. Lezread, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-678-2478. lezread@ vahoo.com

Conversation Station 5 p.m. Topic: What would your Ideal Day look like? What would you do and who would be in it? Get Out And Live!, 714 S. Washington St., Royal Oak. 248-981-4227. MarcilWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

## Monday, July 16

Mysterious, Marvelous Monday 6 p.m. Mysterious, Marvelous Monday is the metamorphosis of Wild Wednesday. Youth group for ages 13-18. Fostering a kind and supportive environment. Dedicated to Make a Change, L3C, 319 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-657-1792. Gailwolkoff@gmail.com Dedicatedtomakeachange.com

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, July 17

PFLAG Kalamazoo 6 p.m. Meets the third Tuesday of January, April, July and October from 6 p.m. at the Kalamazoo Resource Center. PFLAG, 629 Pioneer St., Kalamazoo. 269-349-4234. Kqlrc.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 LGBTQ 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 LGBTQ youth. Meets the first and third Tuesday of ever month. G-SAIF, 207 E. Fulton St., Grand Rapids. GavsinFaithTooether.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. Jimytoycenter.org

## **MUSIC & MORE**

#### CONCERTS

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "DSO at Ford House" The Detroit Symphony Orchestra returns for two spectacular concerts at the Ford House. Celebrate summer with a magical evening of music on the lakeside of the enchanting estate. Tickets: \$20+ Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Shores, July 13-July 14. DSO.org

Farmington Hills Department Cultural Arts "Shout!" "Michigan's Premier Beatles Tribute Band!" a fantastic trip through a great time in the history of music, including all the "fab" music from the early years to the later Beatles. Free. Heritage Park Amphitheatre, Heritage Park, Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. 7 p.m. July 12. FHGov.com

Kerrytown Concert House "Louis Nagel After a memorable residency featuring the music of Schubert last summer, celebrated pianist Louis Nagel returns to Kerrytown Concert House to present his new concert and lecture series Bach and More, which will focus on the music of Bach and Liszt. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. July 12-July 15. 734-769-2999. KerrytownConcertHouse.com

Kerrytown Concert House "Stephen Rush Naked Dance" Steve Rush and Jeremy Edwards present their project Naked Dance!, with special guest Andrew Bishop. New compositions for piano, drums and clarinet, plus works written by Woody Guthrie. Tickets: \$5-25. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 4 p.m. July 8. 734-769-2999. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Magic Stick Lounge "The Henry Clay People / Futurebirds" Returning to their original lineup, the LP finds the Los Angeles quartet ditching the celebratory drunken honky-tonk anthems of 2010's Somewhere On The Golden Coast in favor of the punk rock that inspired them to pick up their instruments in the first place. Tickets: \$10. Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. July 11. 313-833-9700 MajesticDetroit com

Olympia Entertainment "Stevie Nicks" Multiple Grammy Award-winning and platinum recording icon, Stevie Nicks will bring her solo tour to the historic Fox Theatre. Tickets: \$45.40-125. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. July 6. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Under The Streetlamp" Under the Streetlamp's tour for their highly anticipated debut album. Retro never sounded so now. Tickets: \$30-40. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 7 p.m. July 12. 248-399-2980. RoyalOakMusicTheatre.com

**The Ark** "Good Lovelies" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. July 14. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Ark "Diana Lawrence and Phoebe Hunt" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. July 8. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Palace "Aerosmith with Cheap Trick" Aerosmith's "Global Warming Tour." Tickets: \$29.50-149.50. Palace of Auburn Hills, 5 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. 7:30 p.m. July 5. 248-377-0100. Palacenet com

**University Musical Society** "Summer Singers: Faure Requiem" All singers are invited to these popular choral reading sessions on Monday nights in July and August. Just come as you are to these no-audition, no-performance evenings of memorable music making. As many as 300 singers from Southeast Michigan, Northern Ohio, and Canada have joined each session in singing through great choral repertoire with some of the nation's most respected choral conductors and outstanding soloists. Tickets: \$5. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. July 9. 734-764-2538. UMS.org

Vans "Vans Warped Tour 2012" Main stage artists include Rise Against, All Time Low, Taking Back Sunday, Anti-Flag, Yellowcard, The Used, Four Year Strong, New Found Glory, Pierce The Veil, Falling In Reverse, Breathe Carolina and more. Tickets: \$34. Palace of Auburn Hills, 5 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. 11 a.m. July 6. 248-377-0100. Palacenet.com



Aerosmith with Cheap Trick at the Palace

## **OTHER**

Olympia Entertainment "American Idol Live!" American Idol Live!" American Idol Live! will return to Detroit's Joe Louis Arena to launch the 2012 tour. The hit tour is the first chance to see this season's talented top 10 finalists in concert to include DeAndre Brackensick, Hollie Cavanagh, Colton Dixon, Heejun Han, Skylar Laine, Joshua Ledet, Phillip Phillips, Jessica Sanchez, Elise Testone and Erika Van Pelt. Tickets: \$30-65. Joe Louis Arena, 19 Steve Yzerman Drive, Detroit. 7 p.m. July 6. 313-396-7000. Olympiaentertainment.com

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

Concert of Colors "Concert of Colors" Four-day festival celebrating ethnic and cultural diversity of metro Detroit through free live music. Various Venues, Various Venues, Detroit. July 12-July 15. ConcertofColors.com

Continued on page 26

## **Editor's Pick**

Join Eshel, an organization dedicated to building community and understanding in the Orthodox community for gay and lesbian Jews, in Eden at Ronora Lodge and Retreat Center, an oasis of tranquil beauty in Southwestern Michigan, July 5-8.

Eshel takes its name from the Eshel Avraham, the tamarisk tree under which Avraham Avinu would welcome wayfarers who came from all directions seeking respite.



This four-day program will include spirited learning, joyous dancing, leadership training and relaxation. Programs include "Constructing a Welcoming Tent," "Bring Trans as a Spiritual Opening," "Beginning Sofrut 101," "I'm alright with being gay...now what?" and more.

A variety of lodging options are available throughout the Ronora Lodge and Retreat Center. This retreat is for children and adults, partnered or single, and a perfect getaway this summer. Registration information is available online at Eshelonline.org.



Jan Radcliff and John Peakes in "On Golden Pond" at The Purple Rose Theatre. Photo: Sean Carter Photography

## Summertime Blues? 'Resort' to 'On Golden Pond'

BY JOHN QUINN

According to Ecclesiastes, "What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun." This doleful observation, applied to the narrative arts, leads to predictability in some plays, as their "creators" employ archetypes of character and theme. Hence there is nothing new in Ernest Thompson's 1979 play "On Golden Pond," which closes this season of The Purple Rose Theatre Company. Yet if the themes are old – seeking the joys of living while in the shadow of mortality; healing the generational breach between parent and child – the story nonetheless rings true.

"On Golden Pond" is a play in five scenes, relating the events at a summer cabin on a Maine resort lake. The Thayers, Norman (John Peakes) and Ethel (Jan Radcliff), once again make the family pilgrimage to Golden Pond. Norman is a retired professor and inveterate crank. The character is the typical brittle crust shielding a gooey sweet center, but at age 80, he is morbidly aware of death. Ethel, his long-suffering wife, is by contrast relentlessly upbeat and ready to "seize the day." What might have been a rather humdrum summer of books and board games is shaken by a visit from their estranged daughter, Chelsea (Rhiannon Ragland), who has in tow her new boyfriend, Bill (Tom

## REVIEW

## **On Golden Pond**

The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Wednesday-Sunday through Sep. 1. 133 minutes. \$17.50-40. 734-433-7673.

>> www.PurpleRoseTheatre.com

Whalen) and his son Bill, Jr. (played by Ian Bejster or Milo Tucker-Meyer, depending on the performance).

Chelsea and Bill are going to Europe and hope the folks will care for Billy while they're away. Norman resists, but is won over by the kid's infectious youth. His change of attitude allows Chelsea to see her father in a different light, and reconciliation begins. If this all sounds all according to formula – it is.

Rhiannon Ragland has the thankless task of finding motivations in a superficially written character. She succeeds in bringing some balance to Chelsea's repetitive rants. John Peakes, founding director of Lansing's BoarsHead Theater, has the look and the voice to pull off playing an 80-year-old, and the character has some of the best bon mots of the play. As written, though, Norman is too avuncular a curmudgeon to need much change of heart when inspired by a 13-year-old. (On a related note: After Aug. 5, Richard Henzel will finish the run in the role of

Norman.) Radcliff's impish reading makes for an endearing Ethel, even though she is much, MUCH younger than the character she portrays. A lady never tells; a theater critic never speculates.

The actors who make the best of the hands they are dealt are Whalen and David Daoust, who plays Charlie Martin, the lake's mailman. Although perturbed by bugs and bears, Bill sees through Norman's beastly behavior immediately and is man enough to beard the old goat. Whalen's underplayed turn is just right. Also just right is Charlie, the simple soul who might have married Chelsea. Considering the character is just here for his colorful "Down East" accent and as a motivation for reminiscing, Daoust finds unexpected depth in Charlie.

Patrons who enjoy the Purple Rose's high quality design and technical work will not be disappointed by the realistic scenic design by Bartley H. Bauer; who, by using the depth of the stage as a tool, manages to bring the great outdoors inside. Reid G. Johnson plays with mood and pattern in his complimentary lighting design.

Purple Rose Theatre Company resident artist Michelle Mountain directs "On Golden Pond." All in all, director and cast cope well with a somewhat problematic script. If a healthy dose of life, love and nostalgia is your antidote to the long, hot summer, sit back with a simple dose of "On Golden Pond."



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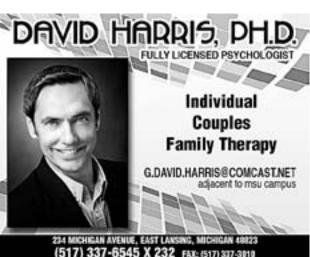
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## **►** Happenings

Continued from p. 26

## **THEATER**

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

Medea \$18. Heritage Theatre Group at Spectrum Theater, 160 Fountain St. NE, Grand Rapids. July 12 - 21. 616-951-4842. heritagetheatregr.org

The Last Five Years \$15. KW Productions and Ann Arbor Musical Theater Works at Jackson Symphony Orchestra, 215 W. Michigan Ave., Jackson. July 12 - July 15.

#### **PROFESSIONAL**

Avenue Q \$26-\$39.75. Mason Street Warehouse, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck Through July 15. 269-857-2399. masonstreetwarehouse.org

Chaps! \$12-28. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre, Knickerbocker Theatre, 86 E. 8th Street, Holland. Through Aug. 10. 616-395-7890. hope.edu/hsrt

DIA Moment: PuppetSlam Detroit! Free. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. July 13. 313-833-7900. DIA.org

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

Fiddler on the Roof Previews July 12 (\$18). \$26-32. The Encore Musical Theatre, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. July 12 - Aug. 12. 734-268-6200. TheEncoreTheatre.org

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

Hot Dog Mondays \$5. Planet Ant Theatre 2357 Caniff Ave., Hamtramck. Through Aug. 27. 313-365-4948. planetant.com

In the Next Room or the vibrator play \$25-\$41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through July 15. 734-663-0681. PerformanceNetwork.org

Junie B. Jones in jungle Bells Batman Smells! \$12. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre at The Studio Theatre in the DeWitt Cultural Center, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. July 9 - Aug. 10. 616-395-7890. hope.edu/hsrt

Kolobok \$10 adult, \$5. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit. July 7 - 28. 313-961-7777, puppetart.com

Legally Blonde - The Musical \$34. Barn Theatre, 13351 W. M-96, Augusta. Through July 15. 269-731-4121. barntheatre.com

Love's Labour's Lost \$32-\$39. Michigan Shakespeare Festival at Michael Baughman Theatre on the campus of Jackson Community College, 2111 Emmons Rd., Jackson July 13 - Aug. 11. 517-998-3673. michiganshakespearefestival.com

On Broadway 1956 \$24-\$27. Tibbits Summer Theatre, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. Through July 7. 517-278-6029. tibbits org

On Golden Pond \$17.50-40. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through Sep. 1. 734-433-7673. purplerosetheatre.org

One-Nun-Sense \$15. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. July 12 - 15. 248-377-3300. mbtheatre.com

Opera at The Acorn \$20. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. July 7. 269-756-3879.

Pride and Prejudice \$12-21. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre, Dewitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland, Through July 28. 616-395-7890. hope.edu/hsrt

Red, White and Tuna Previews July 12-15 & 19 (\$15). \$20-25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. July 12 - Aug. 19. 517-655-7469. WilliamstonTheatre.org

Richard III \$32-\$39. Michigan Shakespeare Festival at Michael Baughman Theatre on the campus of Jackson Community College, 2111 Emmons Rd., Jackson. July 12 - Aug. 12. 517-998-3673. michiganshakespearefestival.com

The Deal-Breaker \$15. Big Girl Ideas, Inc at The Lighthouse Theater, 8801 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 6:30 p.m. July 14. 313-727-1011. TheDealbreaker.eventbrite.com

The Facts of Life: The Lost Episode \$10-\$15. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. July 14 - Aug. 13. 248-556-8581. TheRingwald.com

The Frog Prince \$7, which includes popcorn. Tibbits Popcorn Theatre, Tibbits Opera House, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. July 6 - 14. 517-278-6029. tibbits.org

Cranbrook Art Museum "George Nelson: Architect / Writer/ Designer / Teacher"
The first comprehensive retrospective of Nelson's work. It has been touring in Europe and most recently in the United States at the Bellevue Art Museum in Seattle. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. June 16-Oct. 14. 877-462-7262. CranbrookArtMuseum.org

Epiphany Studios Epiphany studio opens its state of the art hot glass studio to the public the first Thursday of every month. See the working studio of glass artist April Wagner and her latest work. Glass blowing demonstrations throughout the evening by the artist and her assistants. Light refreshments will be served. Epiphany Glass Studio, 770 Orchard Lake Road, Pontiac. July 5-Nov. 1. 248-745-3786. Epiphanyglass.com

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 The Netherlands, Flanders, France, Spain, Italy, Germany

Carson, credited with launching the modern environmental movement. 409 W Circle Dr., East Lansing. June 1-Nov. 30. Museum.msu.edu/?q=node/527

**Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit** 

"Vertical Urban Factory" The innovative design of factory buildings that are both urban (located in cities or shaping cities) and vertical (multistoried and dense). Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. May 11-July 29. 313-832-6622. MOCADetroit.org

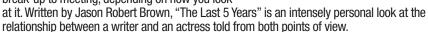
The Detroit Institute of Arts "Picasso and Matisse" Pablo Picasso (1881-1973) and Henri Matisse (1869-1954) were groundbreaking visionaries who constantly experimented with techniques and materials. Features almost all of the works by Picasso and Matisse in the museum's prints and drawings collections. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 11-Oct. 29. 313-833-7900. DlA.org

The Gallery Project "Nature As Spirit" A multimedia exhibit in which 30 local, regional, and national artists explore Nature as a source of spirituality in

## **Editor's Pick**

KW Productions and Ann Arbor Musical Theater Works' "The Last 5 Years" will be performed at 8 p.m. July 12-14 and 3 p.m. July 15 at the Jackson Symphony Orchestra, 215 W. Michigan Ave., Jackson.

"The Last 5 Years" is a contemporary song-cycle musical that ingeniously chronicles the five-year life of a marriage, from meeting to break-up. Or from break-up to meeting, depending on how you look



The cast is composed of Adam Woolsey as Jamie Wellerstein and Jayna Katz as Catherine Hiatt. The director is Chip Mezo, with music conducted by Lora Spangler-Knight.

General admission is \$15. Reservations may be emailed to thelast5years.jso@gmail.com. Reservations are encouraged, as seating is limited.

To Save A City: \$10. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff Ave., Hamtramck. July 6 - 21. 313-365-4948. planetant.com

Wicked \$38 and up. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan State University, East Lansing. Through July 8. 800-WHARTON. WhartonCenter.com

## ART'N'AROUND

Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History "Great American Artists-Part II: The Branches" Exhibition of new figurative works by artists Christopher Batten, Endia Beal, Halima Cassells, Alonzo Edwards, Sydney James, Gregory Johnson, Richard Lewis, Mario Moore, Sabrina Nelson and Senghor Reid Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, 315 E. Warren, Detroit. May 3-Sep. 1. 313-494-5853. The Wright.org

College for Creative Studies "Maureen Bennett Chronicles: One Model, Infinite Expressions" This past May, students, faculty, staff, and alumni gathered in a studio for a four-hour session to draw or paint a live model. This eclectic group produced interpretations of one model, Maureen Bennett. This year's exhibit, for the first time, will also include work by Board of Trustees Member Molly Valade, '02 Fine Arts. A. Alfred Taubman Center for Design Education, 460 W. Baltimore, Detroit. July 1 - July 21. 313-664-7403. CollegeforCreativeStudies.edu

and England. 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

Grand Rapids Art Museum "Cities in Transition" This suite of interdisciplinary exhibitions and programs explores the many ways art, design, and history shapes our understanding and appreciation of the urban environment. A variety of vantage points provide insights into how the constant evolution of cities responding to shifts in population, industry, and land use brings both challenges and opportunities. Grand Rapids Art Museum, 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. June 1-Aug. 26. 616-831-2904. Artmuseumgr.org

Lawrence Street Gallery "Summer Invitational" This annual exhibition features the newest work by the local artists LGS most like and admire. The gallery will showcase over 50 works in two and three-dimensional media, as well as a new collection of work by member artists. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave. Suite A, Ferndale. July 4-July 27. 248-544-0394 Lawrencestreetgallery.com

Michigan State University Museum "Echoes of Silent Spring: 50 Years of Environmental Awareness" The MSU Museum revisits the publication of the landmark book, Silent Spring by Rachel contemporary life. The Gallery Project, 215 S. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. June 7-July 15. 734-997-7012. TheGalleryProject.com

The University of Michigan "Man Up! No Balls About It" The Michigan Chapter of the Women's Caucus for Art presents "Man Up!" a national multi-media exhibition that visualizes the essence of power and the notion of "besting" oneself, other artists or men in general. This exhibit features work of women artists including celebrity artist/juror and native Detroiter Suzy Lake. Gallery in the Duderstadt Center, 2281 Bonisteel Blvd, Ann Arbor. July 12-Aug. 9. 734-763-0606. Umich.edu

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Flip Your Field: Abstract Art from the Collection" Entitled Flip Your Field, this series asks these guest curators to consider artwork outside their field of specialization from UMMA's renowned collections to challenge their own thinking as well as that of UMMA's audiences. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State St, Ann Arbor. June 9-Sep. 2. 734-647-0524. 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

## Horoscopes

## **Use your power for good, Aquarius!**

#### BY JACK FERTIG

The planets are all conspiring to promote misguided charm offensives, codependency running amok and disastrous efforts at wit. Restraint, humility and foresight are important, rare commodities. If you can stay grounded, considerate and focused you'll be ahead of the game.

**ARIES** (March 20 – April 19): What looks like true love could just be co-dependency or the need for human contact. The only relationship you should be starting now is with a shrink, a 12-step group or a charity where you can be of service.

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): As new ideas challenge long-held values you need to make some adjustments in thought and attitude. Don't resist new thinking, but beware the zeal of the convert. Baby... bathwater... An independent mind can meld new ideas with the old.

**GEMINI** (May 21- June 20): Growing and expressing yourself in new ways could throw a challenge to your friends. Maybe you need new friends. Still, be gentle with the old ones. You might need to make some apologies along the way.

**CANCER (June 21- July 22):** Urges to protect your partner and your friends (or your partner from your friends) may be a projection of your own doubts and insecurities. In uncertain times your instinct is to protect hearth and home. Open alliances will serve you better than defensiveness

**LEO (July 23 – August 22):** Feeling moody and disconnected? Make time to hide out and take care of yourself. Perhaps the best way is to take care of others. Some local charity would be glad for your help.

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): Your work can inspire brilliant, provocative insights, but may not be the best place to share them – at least not at first. Think ahead and consider those inspirations carefully before presenting them to your boss or clients.

**LIBRA** (September 23 – October 22): Home and partnership are real-world enterprises, never matching the ideal. That gap can make you cranky, triggering upsets in your relationship. Mars entering your sign can feed your irritation. Moderate exercise (be careful not to overdo it!) will help you keep balance.

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): You can't avoid demands at work or niggling arguments, but you can stick to your principles and hold your head high. Scheduling time alone, preferably with the one you love, will keep you from burning out.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): A new found sense of clarity and ambition can make you a bit too critical and outspoken. Think carefully about repercussions; take the long view before speaking. You'd do better to welcome advice than to offer it.

**CAPRICORN** (December 21 – January 19): Make an extra effort to be nice to colleagues. Your own efforts to push ahead might make trouble for them. Remember you're all on the same team. Listen to their needs. The road to real success is slow, sure and cautious.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 – February 18): Precocious brilliance may win a date but could upset a more serious relationship. Your mouth is a powerful weapon; be careful where you aim it and resolve to use your power for good. That requires a bit of restraint and humility.

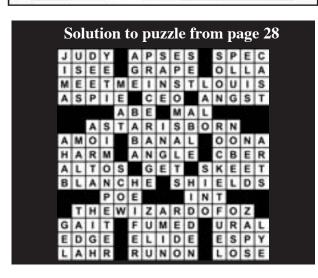
**PISCES (February 19 – March 19):** A surge of libido can open up erotic sensitivities you'd never considered but could also bring more trouble than fun. Pushing limits is one thing, tossing them away is another. Hold tight to your commitment to integrity and safety.

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.

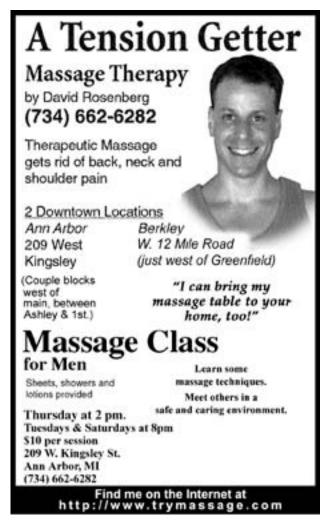












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July 5, 2012 | BTL 27

## **Friends of Dorothy Fight Back**

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## Across

- 1 Grief over her death may have helped inspire the Stonewall Riots
- 5 Recesses for Rev. Perry
- 10 Some writers work on it
- 14 Fortune-teller's opening
- 15 Vintner's fruit
- 16 Spicy stew
- 17 1-Across played Esther in this 1944 classic film
- 20 Easy \_\_\_\_ (simple)
- 21 Corporate VIP
- 22 Drama queen's emotion, perhaps
- 23 "Guys and Dolls" co-creator Burrows
- 25 It's in a grand seizure
- 27 1-Across played Vicki in this 1954 classic film
- 32 Mine, to Rimbaud
- 34 Well-worn
- 35 Wife of Charlie Chaplin
- 38 Do damage to
- 39 Avoid going straight
- 40 Good buddy on a radio
- 41 Chorus butches
- 43 Porter's "I \_\_\_\_ a Kick Out of You"
- 44 Shooting type
- 45 Rue's role on \_The Golden Girls\_
- 47 \_Spartacus\_ swordsmen's defenses

- 49 Mary Cheney's partner Heather
- 50 QB's misfire
- 51 1-Across played Dorothy in this 1939 classic film
- 58 Speed at which you come
- 59 Did a slow burn
- 60 Russian river
- 62 Beat barely
- 63 Write \_The Hot'l Baltimore\_
- 64 Catch sight of
- 65 Cowardly lion actor
- 66 Like some sentences
- 67 Give the slip to

### Down

- 1 Iwo
- 2 Objectifies, sexually
- 3 Bottomless
- 4 Himalayan legend
- 5 Improve wine or cheese
- 6 Spending span at Barneys
- 7 Right in the head
- 8 Brits that cruise together?
- 9 Get hard
- 10 Shakespeare's "anon" updated
- 11 Butt \_\_\_\_ (sex toy)
- 12 New Haven collegians
- 13 Playbill list

- 18 Sexual partners, to the insensitive
- 19 Composer Edouard
- 24 Small rum cake
- 26 Highly competent
- 27 Primary blood carrier
- 28 Early church member named for a member?
- 29 "Bus Stop" playwright
- 30 What you burn to get to Uranus
- 31 Dynamite inventor
- 32 Moby Dick chaser
- 33 Shopaholic's heaven
- 36 Cry out for
- 37 They're performing, in "Fame"
- 42 Flat-bottomed boat
- 44 Chinese (prefix)
- 46 Young one in the meat trade
- 48 In the closet
- 51 Cry of pride
- 52 Cole Porter's "Ridin' \_\_\_\_'
- 53 Communications Z
- 54 Ugandan tyrant
- 55 Decorate anew
- 56 Roughly
- 57 Cooks in a microwave
- 58 Come together
- ${\bf 61} \ {\bf Ingredient} \ {\bf in} \ {\bf some} \ {\bf cakes}$

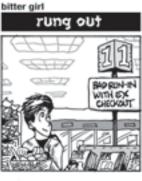
Solution on pg 27



This 2-year-old German Shepherd mix is fully grown at 42 pounds and is an intelligent and gentle girl who aims to please. She does very well on a leash and gets along well with some of her special dog friends here at the Michigan Humane Society. She would do best with a family that can give her lots of love and attention. 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, 721694. Photo courtesy Heidi Waeschle-Gabel.













THE COPS WITHOUT THE COMMITTION AND WHEN

ON A WANTE CITY OF CHARGES!

THEN FOUND OUT WHO TRENT WAS, HE WAS











## Classifieds

## 101-ANNOUNCEMNTS **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/

#### **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 St. Luke's Épiscopal Church 540 W. Lewiston @ Livernois

## **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/

#### Livonia-Friday

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

### Pontiac-Tuesday / **Thursday / Sunday**

8 p.m., Pontiac Gay AA, Shrine of St. Joseph, 400 West South Blvd. Closed/Discussion.

#### Warren-Monday

7:30 p.m., Eastside Serenity Gay AA, Faith-Trinity United Church o Christ, 12221 Martin Rd. East of Hoover. Closed/Discussion.

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## **Cocktail Chatter**

## London's Pub Culture Dies ... It's Starbucks Now

BY ED SIKOV

All I wanted was a good slab of shepherd's pie. Is that too much to have asked? Apparently so, because in one week in London I couldn't find a single pub that served it. There were bad burgers galore, some pretty damn good local beers, but no shepherd's pie. One pub even had an entirely Indian menu.

Dan had to go for, yes, a conference, but this time I successfully wheedled my way along. It's only been five years or so since I've been to London, one of my favorite cities on the planet, but the place has undergone a distinct change in the wrong direction. I have nothing against Starbucks, but please – not on every London corner. The number of chain stores, chain restaurants, chain supermarkets (there was a Whole Foods across the street from our hotel) was just a bummer.

As for English food, I've always had a taste for it – when it's well prepared, that is. A badly made dinner is a badly made dinner everywhere on earth, England included, but English food tends to have a terrible reputation that's quite unjustified. But recently, chefs all over London have gone locovore – menus spell out precisely what region of the country the lamb comes from, the sea that bears the cockles, and so on, and by and large it's all quite delicious.

But no shepherd's pie! I'll have to make my own.

In the meantime, I found myself in one dark pub sitting around with several men who appeared to be veterans of the Boer War, and I was considering simple things to do with the Guinness I was drinking other, of course, than drinking it.

The easiest of all is the delicious and delightfully messy Shrimp Boiled in Guinness. Here's the recipe, complete with some suggestions to keep your evening from turning into a laundry nightmare:



## **Shrimp Boiled in Guinness**

1 can Guinness

1 to 3 pounds of shrimp, unshelled (depending on the number of guests; figure 1/2 pound per person)

First, advise your guests that they will be making a mess at dinner and should wear T-shirts or, perhaps better, no shirts. When they arrive, ply them full of Absolut on the rocks while you dump a bag full of pre-mixed salad into a bowl and throw some bottled dressing on it. Then pour the Guinness into a very large pot and bring it to a boil. Watch it: you don't want a boil-over. Add the shrimp. Cook until the shrimp is pink - only two or three minutes. Drain. Serve. Make a big mess as everyone peels their shrimp. Then talk everyone into taking a group shower. Have a few lemons halved for this purpose; run the cut sides over every inch of your guests' bodies before you allow them into the shower, and then have a great time under the running water.



