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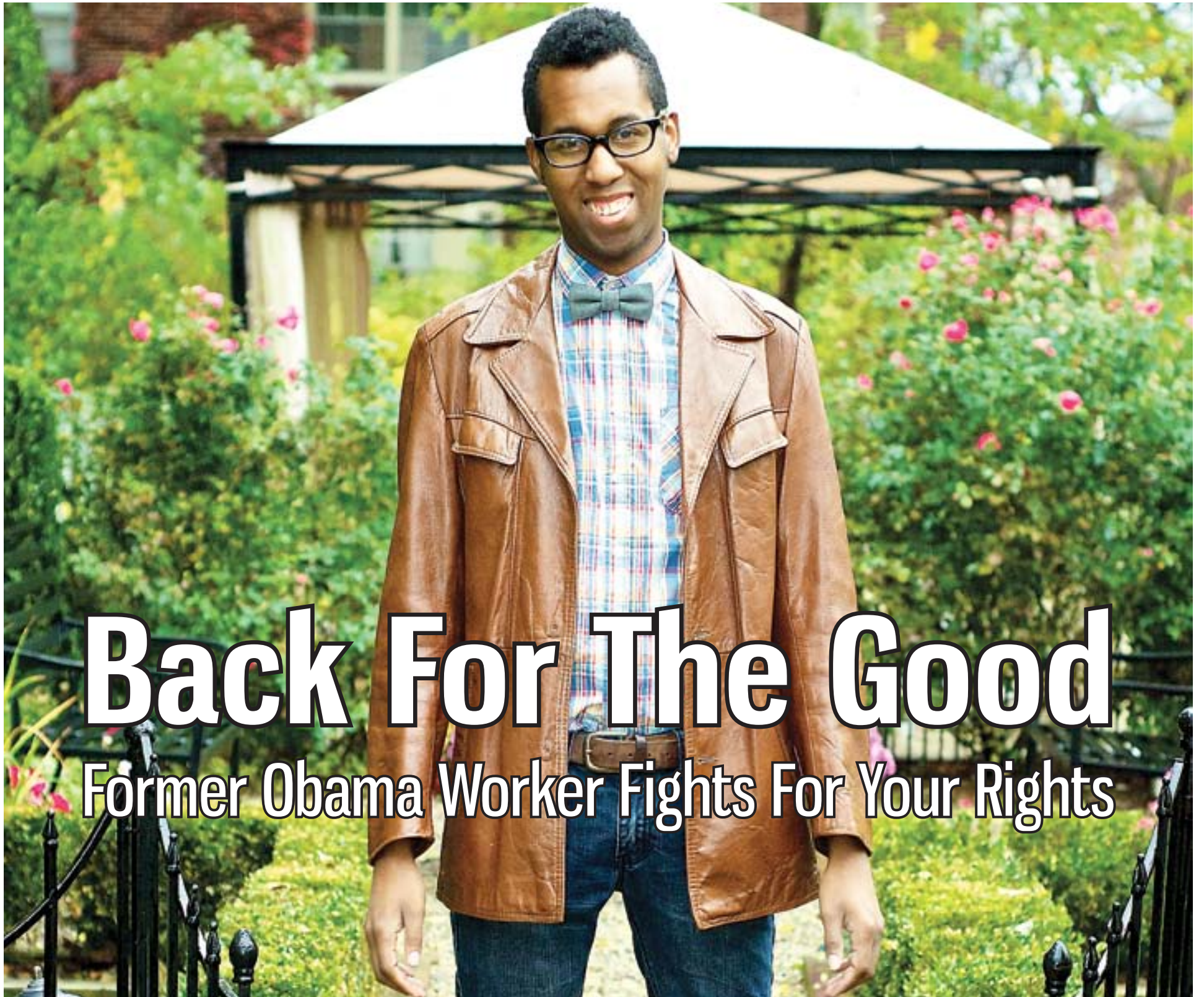


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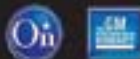
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BTL photo: Andrew Potter

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# 'Dedicated' To Making A Difference

## Helping Queer Teens Help Themselves and Others

BY JEROME STUART NICHOLS

**ANN ARBOR** - Just like everyone else - teenagers are capable of a great many positive things when given the right tools. With the all-inclusive L3C learning/community service organization Dedicated to Make a Change, Executive Director Gail Wolkoff is changing that perception and is giving teens the tools they need to make a better future.

DTMAC's next event is Hope & Change, a "FUNdraiser" to help with the costs of their 2013 community service trip to New Orleans' Lower 9th Ward. The event will be held at 6 p.m. Nov. 3 at MIX Marketplace in Ypsilanti. It will feature a silent auction, live entertainment by DTMAC members and special guest Lower 9th Ward Village Executive Director Ward "Mack" McClendon. Tickets are \$25 and will be available at the door.

DTMAC is a youth organization like many others. But it's the pro-teen ideology of Wolkoff that makes the difference to its members.

"I think Gail is one of those rare people who will openly say, 'I like adolescents,'" DTMAC member Max Bonilla said. "I think many people say (they dislike adolescents) without knowing any adolescents. Gail and a lot of the other adults that have worked with Dedicated to Make a Change are people who consider that somebody that is a teenager or an adolescent has ideas and has a mind and can think and be a human."

In a world where even the Muppets on Sesame Street aren't safe from bullies, DTMAC is a much needed organization. And even though its services are needed, trying to succinctly define exactly what they do is difficult.

The organization provides volunteer opportunities, GED support and after school program, among other things. The only difference is that instead of traditional outreach methods, Wolkoff focuses on creating spaces of safety for queer and non-queer teens to organize, learn, do and enjoy a few cookies along the way, all without judgment.

"My goal is to create safety and from that safety, plan out activities," Wolkoff said.

She is "helping to show how to organize and how to learn, how to create change. Learn that every person can make a difference and that because we can sit here and talk about it, we have that responsibility to make a difference, to have fun, to laugh a lot, to eat cookies. We eat a lot of cookies."

Based in Ypsilanti, DMATC was born in 2011 out of Wolkoff's desire to do better

for teens than parents, governments and schools are currently doing. As a former educator, she is more than familiar with the varied failings of all three.

"The schools have failed, more than 100 percent," she said. "People don't feel safe; people can't do things because you don't feel safe. You can't show up and say, 'I'm really interested in this' because if you do then someone's going to tease you or bully you or teachers won't let you do it. Then, if you're any kind of a different learner,

developed by the teens themselves and they only have to work on projects that they enjoy.

Although Wolkoff is the executive director, the teens are empowered to bring ideas of what they want to do. With the help of the Jim Toy Community Center, Status Sexy and the HIV/AIDS Resource Center and a few other forward-thinking adults, she works to help the teens help themselves and others.

"You come with your ideas and then



Left to right: Ayaka Oshiro, Megan Duncan, Max Bonilla, Chloe Gurin, and Executive Director Gail Wolkoff. BTL photo: Jerome Stuart Nichols

other than the type of learner that can sit at a desk for eight hours straight, paying attention and focusing and reading a book, then you're 'not learning anything.'"

One of the biggest problems Wolkoff saw was the lack of autonomy and free thinking teens were allowed to do. To remedy this, she made sure that DTMAC not only promoted free thinking, but also free doing, and most importantly, free choice.

"Dedicated to Make a Change is about learning, it's not about education," DTMAC member Allison Melcher said. "You go to school and get an education but you didn't necessarily have to learn a lot in order to get that. With Dedicated to Make a Change, you learn things and you actually get to pick what you want to learn."

In DTMAC, learning is about gaining experiences and skills. From Alternative Spring Break trips to New Orleans and providing maintenance services to Lotts Creek Community School in Hazard, KY, to open discussions about sex, sexuality, gender and sexual health, the experiences are plentiful and eye opening. Even more impressive, the activities and events are

they're made into a project," Bonilla said. I think that's when adolescents really get to shine, when they see ideas nobody else would take actually come true."

Planning and executing trips around town and around the country for a bunch of teens - no matter how well-behaved - is a task that most would fake their own death to avoid. But for Wolkoff, making the difference in the lives of the teens and the people they help, is something she feels she must do.

"I have to," she said, "I love youth. I love adolescents. I love that look of, 'what are you trying to make me do, Gail?' and wrestling with ideas. We reflect a lot... it's just that constant thinking, talking, that passion and excitement. I just have to do it, I have to make a change; I have to make the world a better place."

Dedicated to Make a Change is open to youth 12-18 years-old. Prevent and Prevail - their sexual health forum - is open to people up to age 26. Visit {URL [dedicatedtomakeachange.com](http://dedicatedtomakeachange.com)} for more information on the organization and their various programs.

# It Did, In Fact, Get Better

## Dexter High's Out Lesbian Homecoming Queen Speaks Out

BY JEROME STUART NICHOLS

**DEXTER** -When you're a gay teen in a midwestern village of a little more than 4,000, things can be tough. But in a post "It Gets Better" world, the experience for gay teens is getting better. So much better that in Dexter, one teen was able to beat the odds and walk away with a homecoming crown; all it took was surviving a suicide attempt and a truckload of courage.

According to every teen movie since the beginning of cinema, girls will do anything for a shiny crown or tiara. All Dexter High School senior Alicia Klocek had to do was be herself.

It was a difficult task but it paid off. By popular vote, she gained homecoming court candidacy and eventually won as an out and proud lesbian. With the victory, she made history and threw major shade at those campaign crazy movie "queens."

"It was definitely really exciting," Klocek said. "No other openly homosexual person has ever been on court in Dexter. It's good to see change."

Although she was safely apathetic to the possibility of winning, she now regards her win quite fondly.

"I would have been happy, even if I didn't win it, but it was a definitely a very special moment in my life," she said.

For Klocek, that appreciation is driven by the outpouring of support she received from her fellow students. This was a self-affirming experience for Klocek who'd experienced bullying after coming out and subsequently attempted to end her own life.

I like "just knowing there's support," she said. "A few years ago, I felt like I had no one to turn to. I felt like I was completely alone, no one accepted me and I tried to end my life."

"Just to come all this way and to know that there are people that support me and love me for who I am... it's spectacular..."

As the proud mother of a gay teen, the win meant a lot to Alicia's mom, Lori, as well.

"It was a good feeling to see my daughter accepted for who she is," she said. "I was happy for her. Not every child that struggles with their sexual identity gets the affirmation of, 'hey, you're a great person.'"

"As a mom, it's great to see her experience that."

Although many people felt it was deserved, the win still came as a surprise. Klocek admits, she hardly believed it when her name was called as homecoming queen.

"I didn't believe that it was my name, I thought it was a mistake," she said. "I thought, 'Oh, gosh. No, that's wrong.'"

Once the initial shock wore of excitement and a whole bushel of happiness set in. Though, it was somewhat bittersweet; she wished she was able to share that joy with her friends Sarah

“Just to come all this way and to know that there are people that support me and love me for who I am ... it's spectacular.”

- Dexter High School Senior Alicia Klocek

Keen and Susie Pilkerton, who were also running for homecoming court.

"I was very happy that I had won," Klocek said. "But at the same time... I wish that my two friends that were on court could've won it with me to share that feeling."

Although Keen and Pilkerton were who she thought of initially, Klocek also hopes her win will help other queer kids.

"I want this to be an example that you can be out, that you can be who you want to be and you'll be accepted," she said.

"I feel like a lot of kids in Dexter feel like they have to hide who they are."

A few weeks out from homecoming, things have gone mostly back to normal. But every now and then she still hears shouts of "America" in the hallways, in reference to a promotional motto Keen used in support of Klocek.



Alicia Klocek (right) on Homecoming day. Courtesy of Alicia.

Like all other high school seniors, Klocek is "absolutely" ready to graduate. After graduation, she hopes to attend Stony Brook University in New York to study pre-nursing. For now though, she's not done trying to break boundaries in her 1.9 square mile village.

Klocek's next mission is to start a gay/straight alliance through her high school. She hopes that with the example provided by her homecoming victory and a working GSA, she'll be able to affect real, long-lasting change in Dexter.

"I just want people who may be struggling with their sexuality in Dexter to know that it's okay and it's going to be okay," she said, her voice strained as if holding back tears. "As cliché as it sounds, it does get better."

# Right-Wing Anti-Bullying Model A Tool For Bullies

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

With school districts across the country grappling with demands for anti-bullying policies, one conservative activist group is doing all it can to make it easy and convenient for school officials, by handing it to them on a platter.

The Alliance Defending Freedom, in partnership with Focus on The Family, has created a Model Bullying Policy (<http://media.citizenlink.com/truetolerance/ModelAnti-BullyingPolicy.pdf>) and an accompanying Anti-Bullying Policy Yardstick (<http://media.citizenlink.com/truetolerance/AntiBullyingPolicyYardstick.pdf>) which it submitted to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, and plans to send to school districts and officials around the country.

The problem is, the ADF Model Policy actually enables bullies by giving them an exemption from the consequences of bullying if it is for "religious, political, philosophical or other protected student speech." It also emphasizes the "need" for "precise definitions," thereby limiting what could be considered as bullying

and giving students exemption from protection. It also states that schools should not get involved in bullying that occurs off of school property or via the internet, and bans any sort of counseling to address the root cause of the bullying.

Michigan passed its anti-bullying legislation in 2011 after removing a provision that gave exception to religious speech, which was not even as far reaching as the one in the ADF's model policy. While legislators did not include such language, it could still be implemented at the local school district level.

"As President of the State Board of Education, I can say the Focus on the Family anti-bullying position is not an anti-bullying policy at all," said Michigan Board of Education President John Austin. "All the central features that we know make an effective anti-bullying policy and school environment are absent from or opposed by their recommendations: Acknowledgement that not just violent acts, but emotional harassment and psychological torment ARE the key ways bullies, bully; clear enumeration of the groups of students (gay, obese, minority etc) who are most often the targets of bullies and calling that out clearly as

unacceptable; mandatory reporting of bullying episodes; required school staff and administrator training on creating an anti-bullying culture; extension of anti-bullying to cyber and social media communication - all are central features of an effective anti-bullying school program; all are discouraged by focus on the family. Further, under the guise of protecting First Amendment rights, their policy actually endorses bullying i.e. abusing someone who is gay if one's religion teaches you gay people are bad or evil."

In several states, the ADF's Model Policy would not be legal at all. Washington DC and 15 states require that anti-bullying policies include protections against bullying on the basis of traits such as race, gender, religion, disability or sexual orientation.

The American Family Association is helping to disseminate the ADF's policy, stating on their website that "Alliance Defending Freedom is committed to protecting the rights of students and their parents. In many cases, issues can be resolved when Alliance Defending Freedom sends letters or contacts the appropriate school officials and explains the correct interpretation

of the law. However, when necessary, Alliance Defending Freedom and its more than 2,200 Allied Attorneys may take legal action to ensure that students' rights are protected so they can freely live out and share their faith at school. <http://www.alliancedefendingfreedom.org/issues/school>."

"Bullying can be widespread and horrific in its consequences, driving kids out of schools, and sometimes to suicide," said Austin. "A culture can be created in every school that ends bullying, and creates a safe and supportive learning environment for all students. There is no excuse for every school not to create such a culture. State Board of Education's model anti-bullying policy helps districts accomplish that goal. Focus on The Family undermines the creation of a 'zero-tolerance' for bullying environment," Austin said.

The State of Michigan Board of Education Model Anti-Bullying Policy is much more inclusive and offers a variety of tools through which school administrators can protect students. It's definition of bullying is broad, and it makes clear what some specific prohibited acts are.



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# Back For The Good

## Former Obama Worker Fights for Your Rights

BY ANDREA POTEET

**DETROIT** - A well-worn saying reminds us that time away from something we love can help strengthen our love for it.

For Roland Leggett, absence from Michigan not only made him fonder of his home state, it made him roll up his sleeves and start fighting to change it.

In 2009, Leggett had just moved back to Michigan after working for Obama for America in Chicago. He said moving from progressive Chicago back to a state with so much anti-LGBT legislation was a shock.

“I had really grown accustomed frankly to the reality of being a gay man of color in the city of Chicago and in the state of Illinois and so I was shocked when I came home, about the really difficult legislative reality that there is here,” he says. “There’s a big, big difference. Illinois just recently got same-sex partner benefits and civil unions and to think that I moved from a state that has civil unions to a state that doesn’t even have domestic partner benefits for employees underlines the importance of those issues.”

So he got started trying to change it,

working for ACLU of Michigan for two years before landing in his current job as a field organizer at Equality Michigan.

“It’s funny because when you’re a little kid, you don’t think ‘I want to be a field organizer when I grow up,’ or anything,” Leggett says.

Though most of what Leggett does now – registering and educating new voters for a nonpartisan voter activation initiative and lobbying for anti-discrimination ordinances and other pro-LGBT legislation all over the state – eventually ends up in the news, he began his career literally making the news, as a production intern at WDET a decade ago.

“Initially, I wanted to work for NPR or PBS,” Leggett, 31, says. “But I got more interested in affecting the story instead of just telling it.”

While working for WDET’s subcarrier, the Detroit Radio Information Service, he began studying under its communication director and his workload began to include less production responsibilities and more advocacy, as he accompanied her to panel events and meetings.

“I’d see how she would bring people into the work she was doing and be able to expand the scope of the work she was

doing and seeing her do that was really when something switched in my mind,” he says. “I thought ‘that’s something I would like to do is combine that communications piece with empowering and lifting up folks in the community.’”

A self-professed “total nerd,” decked out in dark-framed glasses and a preppy-staple alligator sweater during a recent day at Equality Michigan’s Detroit office, Leggett said he is already working in his dream job, which incorporates his love of politics and involves anything from helping register voters and identifying potential leaders with whom the organization may work to helping to craft communications strategies. He balances work with Equality Michigan with his class load at Eastern Michigan University where he is “on the 13-year plan” finishing a bachelor’s degree in political science.

“I love the fact that it’s not a 9-to-5 job but I really get to get my hands in pretty much every component of the work the organization does,” he says.

He most loves the work he does in small towns, where he’s still surprised and overjoyed to find people working to make equality for every A well-



worn saying reminds us that time away from something we love can help strengthen our love for it. For Roland Leggett, absence from Michigan not only made him fonder of his home state, it made him roll up his sleeves and start fighting to change it. > one a reality.

"I think it's really cool to be able to go to small towns in the state of Michigan and meet really progressive people, meet folks who are committed to gay and transgender issues," he says. "I had the privilege over the last year or so to travel to Mt. Pleasant several times and see the great work they are doing there; that work led to the passage of a nondiscrimination ordinance, and I think if we had that conversation a year and a half ago, if I had told you we would have passed a non discrimination ordinance in Mt. Pleasant or in Muskegon...you would have thought I was crazy. I think it's obvious that there's a thirst in Michigan for this work and a thirst for us to move the ball forward. That's what I love, is to be able to go to places that aren't obvious and still find allies, still find people who are ready to get the work done."

And there's much more to be done, Leggett says, and frankly, he and the rest of the organization's staff could use some help. He urges those who believe in the cause of LGBT rights to find a way to help - be it at Equality Michigan or any other LGBT organization - that works best for them, from a few hours answering phones to a day setting up and breaking down an event.

"I would encourage folks to not be daunted by the work that needs, to be done in Michigan," Leggett says. "It can be overwhelming when you think 'oh, we need to get some new legislatives in office that are focused on pro-equality issues,' or 'wow, what's happening in my job now is really challenging for me to find a way to find healthcare for my family,' all those things can be daunting. We would love it if we had 1,000 volunteers in here that could volunteer 40 hours a week. Most folks can't do that, but if you can volunteer for two hours a month, that makes a tremendous difference. I would really encourage folks to take a deep breath and get involved in any way they can. Something you might think is the smallest most insignificant thing can make all the difference."

Back before he was helping to shape the political climate for LGBT people all over the state, Leggett was growing up in Auburn Hills. He came out when he was in high school and said he was surprised at how supportive his environment was.

"I was fortunate enough to come out at a high school where being gay wasn't that much of an issue," he says. "I took my boyfriend to Homecoming, the staff was supportive, and I had a lot of friends. I think coming out in

the late '90s in the suburbs, my experience was unusual, because it didn't really matter that much."

But, it may not be over in a state where one can be fired or face other legalized discrimination for being gay. Now planning a wedding with his partner of several years, Leggett says he anticipates a second "coming out," similar to that facing many gay or lesbian couples who plan to adopt children.

"The process of coming out and the process of starting a family with someone, there's a bit of a coming out process in that too," he says. "There's a potential you have to do it several times in your life; you might have to come out when you get a new job because you want your partner to have healthcare benefits or you want your child to have healthcare benefits and you don't have a family structure that your boss is used to seeing. What's

interesting for me is the coming out process for me was not challenging, but I'm nervous about meeting that social worker and having a conversation about adoption."

A lover of politics and a news junkie, Leggett is adjusting to a more indirect role in this year's presidential election, but he said having a different seat for the process has allowed him to see the effect 2008's Obama for America campaign had on the young people with whom he interacts.

"I think what was really great about that campaign is a lot of folks roughly my age really felt invited into the process," he says. "So while I had always been interested in progressive politics, I've always been interested in working in that capacity, I think it became obvious to me and a lot of folks that we have a responsibility to step up to the plate."

He said he's also seeing another byproduct of the last campaign: the activated young voters of four years ago are becoming the candidates of tomorrow.

"In addition to folks coming into the fray as far as progressive politics, you're seeing a lot of people our age taking it a step further and thinking 'we need to start running for office,'" he says. "So I'm excited to see in the next couple of years that crop of political activists that the Obama administration helped activate, I'm excited to see them enter into politics in the state."

And until then, Leggett will continue enrolling voters, working for LGBT rights and watching the election from an observer's seat.

"It's like being in an amusement park on a roller coaster," he says. "You get in line, you get on the roller coaster and you're like 'why am I on this ride?' Its nerve racking; there's a lot of excitement and a lot of energy. And at the end of the ride it's so much fun."

**A well-worn saying reminds us that time away from something we love can help strengthen our love for it. For Roland Leggett, absence from Michigan not only made him fonder of his home state, it made him roll up his sleeves and start fighting to change it.**

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NATIONAL GAY  
NEWSPAPER GUILD  
Nothing average about it

# Down-Ballot



## Viewpoint

OPINION BY AMY HUNTER

“The Romney & Co. strategy is crystal clear: Make it up as you go along. Take advantage of any opportunity to sell yourself in any way necessary simply to seem acceptable. When these public positions become problematic for your donors or base, quietly reassure them in Friday afternoon media dumps and late night retractions that you really ARE, (or, aren't) as extreme as you said you were three, five, six months or more disturbingly, two weeks ago. The public, will not be paying attention ...”

I wrote that opening paragraph nearly six months ago. I repeat it here because I was thinking this morning, trying to articulate - again - what truly bothers me about this year's election. I think I finally put my finger on why I feel so ... so, passionate.

Twenty years ago, Bill Clinton said, “It's the economy, stupid.”

My 2012 version, “It's the down-ballot, dummy.”

Certainly, a Romney-Ryan administration would be a very, very bad thing for the economy and the country as a whole. A Romney presidency and a GOP controlled legislature would be distressingly bad, especially for LGBT people, women, minorities, the poor, and a whole list of other people, places and things. But perhaps as bad, if not worse, is what could happen if we lose the races below the top of the ticket: the down-ballot.

My presidential pick is a no-brainer. I don't need many neurons firing to look at Barack Obama and Mitt Romney and contrast them on the issues that matter to me and the progressive community in general. But as important as it is to re-elect Barack Obama as our president, we need to be aware of how our lives will be affected in immediate and very direct ways by who we send to Congress, the Senate and closer to home - our state legislature, courts and countywide offices.

In 2010, a bunch of people stayed home from the polls. As a consequence across the state, those who did vote elected a bunch of folks based solely on the idea that they were “fiscally responsible.” They lied. It was the perfect bait and switch that described the Romney campaign in the first paragraph. That Mitt Romney and his cohorts are lying now seems, like I said, a no-brainer.

Unfortunately, in Michigan in 2010, enough people bought the falsehoods, and what we got bore little resemblance to their self-proclaimed fiscal conservancy. Indeed, we brought to power a cadre of extreme-right justices, legislators and statewide officials whose real agenda was limiting economic opportunity, proscribing even more rights for the already marginalized, killing public education and giving away our tax dollars to corporate interests. We can and must begin to fix what happened to our state in 2010.

As chairperson of Kalamazoo Alliance for Equality, I wrote the following in a recent op-ed for the Kalamazoo Gazette; “Michigan needs balance

restored to our state and local government. It is clear from the legislation and rhetoric coming out of Lansing since 2010 that our elected government has become dominated by individuals and an agenda that serves only a narrow constituency.

“In the America of 2012, this is unacceptable, particularly in a state with as diverse an electorate as ours. Michigan history is storied and rich with ideals that enable an ever-diversifying population to contribute to and share in the promise of safe, secure and productive lives for themselves and their families. And yet, some lawmakers appear bent on limiting the promise of a better future for Michigan's citizens and residents. Indeed, to some in whom we have entrusted our future, that promise is seemingly reserved for a narrowly defined and largely fictional majority equating roughly to those ‘like us.’”

President Obama's administration has ushered in a new respect for LGBT Americans at the federal

level. The list of accomplishments is long but we know - and he knows - that his work isn't done. He must be given a chance to continue that work.

Unfortunately, even when we return him to the White House for another four years, those who control our state courts and legislative bodies can and will make our lives increasingly hard if we choose unwisely. The next two years in this state may well prove decisive for the future of equality for us all; not just for LGBT persons and their families, but so, too, for collective bargaining, affordable healthcare, a woman's right to choose and access to quality education. All of these and more hang in the balance depending on who we send to office in this election.

We have an historic opportunity on Nov. 6 to correct the ideological tilt of both the nation and our state. To make that correction, we must vote in record numbers and we must vote wisely, all the way down-ballot too.

## Letter

As Oakland County residents prepare to make their choices and cast ballots for the upcoming elections, they would do well to remember how certain county elected officials reacted these past couple of years to the decriminalization of medical marijuana which was passed by overwhelming majorities of Michigan voters. Instead of a mindful and accommodating attempt to follow the wishes of residents, Oakland County Sheriff Mike Bouchard decided to devote huge amounts of effort and resources into investigations, entrapments, raids, and arrests of local residents who attempted to follow the newly passed laws in open and law-abiding manners.

Mayors, councilmembers, city commissioners, local police, and planning and zoning officials in several cities, including right here in our own city, painstakingly developed methods to enable patients and caregivers to begin to provide for the use of marijuana as medicine. But our sheriff decided to use his office, time, and efforts to use every known force of law to shut down these efforts. He used helicopters,

undercover narcotics agents, snarling dogs, and swat officers in full riot gear and facemasks, carrying automatic weapons to make raids. They arrested owners, nurses, receptionists, and even grandmothers who were trying to follow the new medical marijuana laws.

Lest anyone believe this criticism is partisan, Republican Sheriff Bouchard could not have carried out such raids without support from our Democratic Oakland County Prosecutor. Her 1970's era “Nixonian” beliefs about marijuana enabled this huge waste of law and order resources, against the wishes of people who live in our city.

Thousands of hours of law enforcement, prosecutorial, and court system hours, costing Oakland County taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars, have been wasted these past couple of years, while thousands of burglaries, assaults, and car thefts go unsolved. Voters should remember this when they get their ballots in the coming election and vote accordingly.

*Craig Covey  
Oakland County Commissioner 25th District*



# Creep of the Week

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

## Mitt Romney



Election Day is fast approaching and for lesbian and gay Americans the choice for president is stark.

Now, I know that there are gays and lesbians who are going to vote for Mitt Romney. They are likely to claim that they aren't "single issue voters" and that there are more important things in the world than "gay marriage." To them I say, no shit. I don't think any gay or lesbian voter is a single issue voter since gays and lesbians come from all socio-economic

backgrounds, all races and ethnicities, all religions, all... well, you get the picture. But I'd also like to point out that this isn't just about marriage, this is about whether or not the next President of the United States considers gays and lesbians as equal citizens deserving of respect or whether he considers them as less than human.

**If you keep voting for these creeps then you're not only part of the problem, you're actively working against the solution.**

Look, on the one hand you've got President Barack Obama, a guy who believes that same-sex couples should be allowed to get legally married, wants to repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act, got rid of Don't Ask Don't Tell, supports the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, extended rights to LGBT people and their partners that allow them to visit each other in the hospital and make medical decisions for each other, and made an "It Gets Better" video in which he said to LGBT youth being bullied, "You are not alone.... There are people out there who love you and care about you just the way you are." And that's only a partial list. All of these things show that Obama thinks LGBT people are, you know, human and stuff.

And then you've got Mitt Romney who wants to write discrimination against gay and lesbian couples into the United States Constitution, thinks DOMA is just peachy, believes federal employment discrimination protections are just for straight people, mourns the loss of DADT, would no doubt love to appoint Supreme Court Justices to set equality back decades, and thinks that gays and lesbians have no business having or raising children. Positions that don't coincide with respecting LGBT people as, well, people.

Again, this isn't going to stop some LGBT people for voting for Romney. And it's a free country (granted, it's not as free for LGBT people, but hey, these aren't "single issue voters" here) and you can vote for anybody you want. But I propose that these folks should wear an "I hate my LGBT self" shirt to the polls. Or at least a button.

Because pulling the lever/filling in the dot/connecting the lines/doing the Hokey Pokey and turning yourself around (or whatever the ballot method at your polling place) for Romney is more than just a vote for president (and vice president if you count the also terrible for LGBT people Ryan), it's a vote for a party with a platform that fundamentally devalues LGBT people.

Just take a look at the Republican Party platform: reinstate DADT, amend the constitution to ban marriage equality, keep gays and lesbians from adopting children, keep and strengthen DOMA forever and ever amen, protect the "civil rights" of anti-gay "religious believers." All while claiming that the GOP is all about "respect and dignity" for all.

Bullshit. You need look no further than the parade of lunacy in the form of anti-gay Republican candidate after candidate in this election, in the last election, in the election before that. If you keep voting for these creeps then you're not only part of the problem, you're actively working against the solution.

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# A Call To Action Part of Equality Celebration

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

**DETROIT** - Former NFL Player Wade Davis was among the winners of the Equality Michigan Catalyst Awards for 2012, which were presented at the organization's annual State Equality Celebration Oct. 27. His acceptance speech moved many in the 75-person audience, reminding them of why organizations like Equality Michigan are important in the fight for fairness for all people.

"I know what moves Equality Michigan, and I know what moves me," Davis said. "What moves you? What social and communal issues pull at your heart? What injustices, forms of oppression, human triumphs and past atrocities or contemporary social movements awaken you from the type of sleep that those who are now awake succumb to, otherwise known as apathy?"

"What moves you? When was the last time something happened in the world to disturb your comfort zone? When was the last time you decided to take a stand against wrong doing, or celebrate heroes and she-roes attempting to make our world right? When was the last time you celebrated yourself for doing good in a world that often sensationalize bad? What moves you? Or better yet, what keeps you from moving?"

Davis was in the closet as a pro-football player. But after retirement he went on to work with LGBT youth in New York City, and is now a national advocate for equal rights. He urged people to support Equality Michigan, and called for more allies to step up and fight for everyone.

Carson Borbely and Katy Butler received the Henry Messer Youth Activist Awards. The young women stood up against bullying this year when Equality Michigan Policy Director Emily Dievendorf reached out to Ann Arbor-



Upper Left: Equality Michigan's staff welcomed U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow to the Detroit Club Oct. 27. From left to right, Policy Director Emily Dievendorf, Victim's Service Director Sarah Spurgeon, Sen. Stabenow, Manager Greg Varnum and Field Organizer Roland Leggett. Upper Right: Emily Dievendorf, left, present the Henry Messer Youth Activist Award to Katy Butler, joined in this picture by her younger sister and mother, Anne Butler. Right: Former NFL player Wade Davis received the Catalyst Award. He is now working with LGBT youth at the Hetrick Martin Institute in New York City. Bottom Right: U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow and Kevin Howley, candidate for Oakland County Executive, at the Detroit Club. Behind them, left, is Carson Borbely, a recipient of the Henry Messer Youth Activist Award. BTL photos by Crystal Proxmire.

based Riot Youth for assistance with an anti-bullying campaign. They travelled to Lansing with Equality Michigan when the legislature was considering adding a religious exemption to the state's anti-bullying bill, standing out in the rain for hours to share their stories with lawmakers and lobbyists passing by. Dievendorf said that despite "monsoon-like" conditions, House Republicans banned the youth from coming inside the building to speak, despite allowing other groups to do so in the past. She praised the youth for their resiliency, and credited them with helping to get the religious exemption removed.

The bullying exemption is one of the issues that Equality Michigan was able to address by having a Policy Director on the ground in Lansing to respond when the government takes on issues important to the community. In addition to recruiting Borbely and Butler, Dievendorf was able to disseminate information about the flawed bill to the media, to other activists, and to those on the Equality Michigan mailing lists who were ready to stand up and be vocal at a time when the LGBT community's position needed to be heard.

Dievendorf teared up when she presented the award, and said that she knew the youth would now be "activists for the rest of their lives."

State Senator Gretchen Whitmer was also honored with a Catalyst Award for her work in making sure Michigan's anti-bullying law did not provide a "license to bully" exemption. Though she could not make it to the awards ceremony, Whitmer did record a video message for the group, thanking them for their efforts as well.

U.S. Senator Carl Levin was honored for his role in repealing Don't Ask Don't Tell, the longstanding policy of keeping LGBT servicepeople in the closet. "Our argument was that this is the kind of value, to be able to serve honestly with people and to treat people as equals regardless of what their sexual orientation is. That's the kind of value that men and women are fighting for."

In addition to honoring those who have stood with Equality Michigan, the group also talked about their work and their needs in order to keep up the fight. Dievendorf explained that it was lack of voter turnout and lack of engagement with leaders once they were elected, that allowed the legislature and courts to become less progressive than the people in the state they are supposed to represent. She talked about the importance of people voting and getting their friends to vote too. She also talked about Equality Michigan's mission.

"So we've done a couple things at Equality Michigan the last couple of years. We've decided



that we need to educate the state. Because maybe we don't know that in Michigan you can still be fired for being gay or somebody even perceiving you to be gay, or expressing your gender in a way your employer doesn't like," Dievendorf said. "Across the board we are lacking civil rights protections that the rest of the country does have. And Michigan needs to know about these things. We need a hate crimes law. We need second parent adoption. We need to repeal an amendment to our constitution that keeps marriage between a man and a woman, but also provides an excuse for legislators to give us nothing."

Several new board members were also introduced, and although Equality Michigan Development Director Greg Varnum did not speak at the event, he told BTL that the group is focusing on re-building the board and coming up with a vision for moving forward before beginning the search for a new executive director.

To learn more about Equality Michigan visit their website [www.equalitymi.org](http://www.equalitymi.org).

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Affirmations Executive Director Dave Garcia discussing the multicultural report Oct. 25. BTL photo: Crystal Proxmire

# Working It Through

## Affirmations Releases Multi-Cultural Advisory Committee Report

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

**FERNDALE** - After listening to the Oct. 25 presentation from the Affirmations Multi-Cultural Advisory Committee, Kofi Adoma had to speak.

With tears in her eyes, the 56-year-old black, lesbian activist said thank you to those who had spent the past four years sorting out the complexities of racial tensions that occurred as various groups struggled to form in the 80s and 90s, and challenges that have taken place over the years as diverse people come together at the community center.

"As one of the people at the table as Affirmations was forming, I was there to make sure it was going to be racially inclusive. When we found out it would not be in Detroit, it caused tension. To hear that history acknowledged, it means so much. I've been around a long time, I never thought I'd see this," Adoma said. "I'm speaking on behalf of a lot of people who didn't make it. There's something about validation. I feel good about all of this. All the work you've put into this, really sends a strong, powerful message, especially to someone like me who has seen all of this."

The Multi-Cultural Advisory Committee (MAC) was formed in May 2008, in response to protests that were being held after an African American employee was let go. The employee claimed it was discrimination and soon the conversation exploded. People spoke about the lack of staff members of color, and questioned the organization locating in Ferndale rather than Detroit. People pointed to the Affirmations Board of Directors and questioned why there were not more minorities represented. Other volunteers

and center visitors spoke up about how they too thought Affirmations could be more welcoming and affirming to all, and the MAC was formed to explore these complaints and move the center forward.

The report is the result of seven surveys reaching over 600 community center users, employees, former employees, volunteers, and former volunteers, six focus groups, records gathering from employee records and the Census, plus meetings of the committee over a four year period of time. Kat Latosch, who presented the report, explained that they wanted to be thorough. "Not just for those of us here at Affirmations, but so that this can be a model for other community centers to use."

There is also a plan, which should take three years to fully implement. The plan has goals are for the board, staff and programming which emphasizes greater representation in all areas of people of color (see full plan online).

Affirmations Executive Director Dave Garcia was excited about the future goals, and he also shared some accomplishments Affirmations has achieved so far. "Much of this is personal to me," Garcia said. "I was raised in a Mexican family, from the language and the food and the Catholic religion and all that comes with it. I am very committed to seeing Affirmations grow. Not only is your executive director a Mexican American, Johnny Jenkins is our director of programs. We've already reached out to community organizations." He stated that the center is open for diverse groups to use, and that Detroit Latinos and Transgender Detroit are already using office space there.

More implementation is needed. That's why Affirmations is currently organizing the MAC II, a committee to work for the next three years on making sure the steps are taken towards more inclusiveness. Those who are interested in serving on MAC II can contact Kat LaTosch for more information at [klatosch@goaffirmations.org](mailto:klatosch@goaffirmations.org).

*For more information on Affirmations and to download the entire report, go to [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org).*

# Hungry4Equality: Week 12

[www.Hungry4Equality.com](http://www.Hungry4Equality.com)

**Day 88** The larger reason behind this work is to make sure that everyone is being treated equally. We're not there yet in Michigan, but we can make it happen."



- David Topping

**Day 85**



"My idea of equality is simply the quality of being the same. A state of being essentially and equally balanced to the relative position and standing of all people

in society who should have the right to live without fear. To love and marry no matter what color, creed or sexual orientation we may be. Because we are all of God's children and God wants his children to be happy."

- Gregory Lardau & Deb Douglas

**Day 89** My world is a better place to live because of the efforts of those who came before me in the LGBT community and I feel a solemn obligation to do my small yet important part to make our world an even better place for those who come after me."



- Jodi Allen

**Day 86**



"Living in Michigan, a state where people who identify as LGBTQ face legal discrimination has made me hungry for equality and justice.

Participating in a 24 hour shift in a 100 day hunger strike that called attention to the inequities our community faces felt like a civic duty. I only hope that people are paying attention and consider human rights when voting at the polls November 6."

- Jay Maddock

"I have been uniquely blessed with a fairly supportive family and an incredibly supportive peer group that has allowed me to

be me without batting an eyelash. I want this for everybody. It's time Michigan. It's time to take off the blinders and realize that everyone deserves an equal chance, and equal rights, no matter who they are."



- Kiley Deason

**Day 87**



"Yes, friends, I am hungry for equality. And I hope all the queers out there, especially all the queers that have the privilege to be out, are hungry for equality, too. I hope they are

so hungry that they don't stop fighting for equality until everyone in this great nation has more than just equal opportunity, but also equal standards of living, regardless of their identity or socio-economic standing."

-Megan Bauer

"I'm happy to represent my social work students at Marygrove College in this hunger strike for equality. Michigan has been

an anti-gay state for quite some time so it's going to take all of us working together to make these important changes."



- Kalimah Johnson

# The LGBT Guide To Election Night 2012

## ELECTION 2012

BY LISA KEEN

It's a close race for the White House, a close race for Tammy Baldwin's bid to the U.S. Senate, five unpredictable outcomes on marriage related votes, and an openly gay caucus in Congress that could total either three or six by the end of the evening.

The stakes and the consequences of the results are so high that many LGBT people will be staying up late Nov. 6 to watch it all unfold.

The National Election Pool, a coalition of mainstream media organizations who conduct exit polling in order to project results, is doing things differently this year to accommodate the increase in early voting. They predict, as a result of their modifications, projections may trickle out more slowly this year than in the past. But this guide will give political enthusiasts some idea of when the most important results will start becoming apparent.

### 7 p.m. Eastern: Virginia

Polls close in the first six states, including the crucial swing state of Virginia. All six states hold a total of 60 electoral votes and, chances are, 44 will go to Romney and 3 to Obama. The wild card is Virginia, with 13 electoral votes that have been hard to predict for weeks. If they go to Romney, Democrats will need to get a drink. But if they go to Obama, Republicans might start pacing. Another important race in Virginia will be the outcome of the race for Virginia's open U.S. Senate seat: If pro-gay Democrat Tim Kaine wins, another sigh of relief, but if anti-gay George Allen wins, Democrats will have to start worrying about the majority in the Senate.

**Best case scenario: Romney wins Indiana, Kentucky, Georgia, South Carolina and Obama wins Vermont and Virginia.**

**Electoral count: Romney 44, Obama 16**

**Senate marker: Good news if Kaine beats Allen**

### 7:30 p.m. Eastern: Ohio

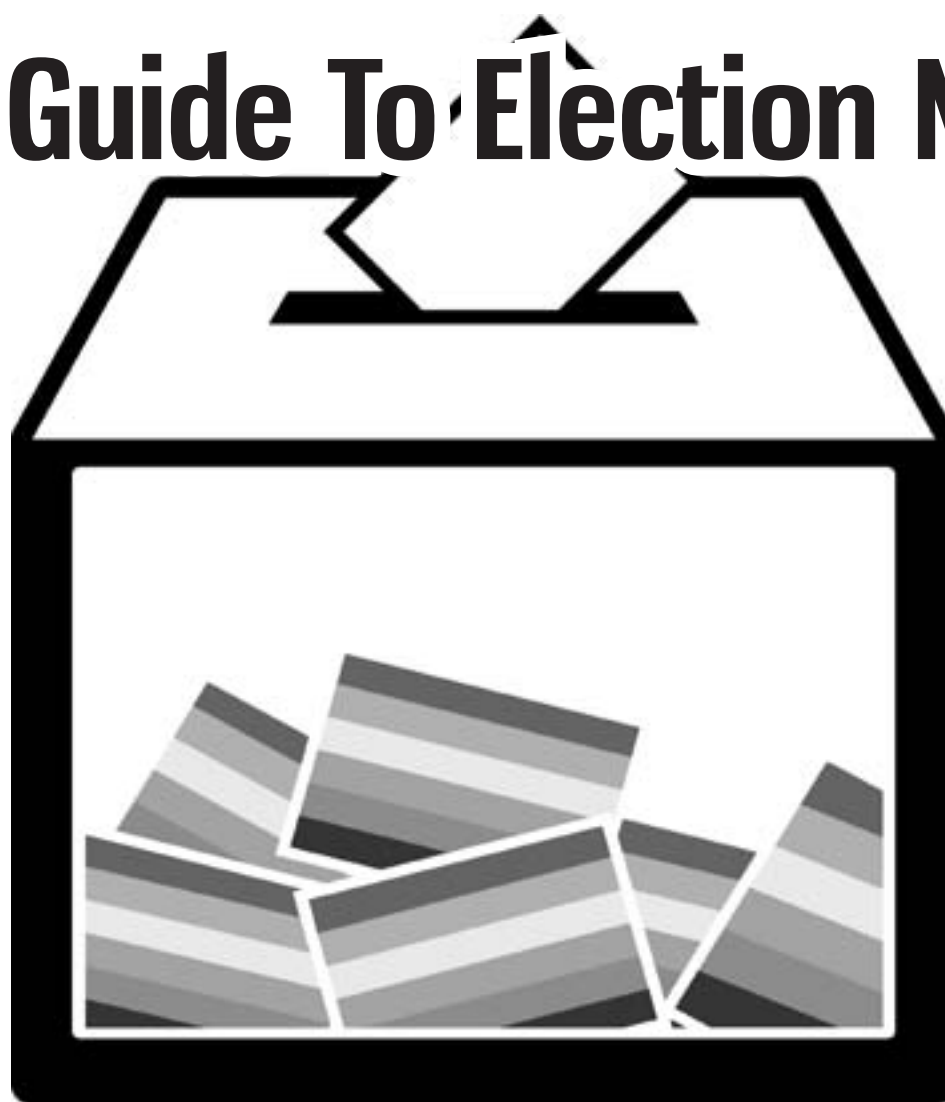
The most important news to listen for at 7:30 is who's winning Ohio. This has become perhaps the most important of the battleground states and its 18 electoral votes are seen as absolutely critical to Romney's chances of counting up to 270, the total electoral votes needed to win the White House.

**Best case scenario: Romney wins North Carolina and West Virginia, Obama wins Ohio**

**Electoral count: Romney 64, Obama 34**

### 8 p.m. Eastern: U.S. Senate?

Eight o'clock is when the Big Kahuna of



electoral votes comes flooding in, 210 in all. Of those, 96 are expected to go to Obama, including 20 from Illinois. Romney is likely to pick up 81, including 38 from Texas. The big question is who will pick up Florida's 29 and New Hampshire's 4.

Also at 8 p.m., polls close in Maine and Maryland, where voters are being asked to determine whether the state can begin issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples. LGBT supporters want a "Yes" vote on Question 1 in Maine and a "Yes" for Question 6 in Maryland.

And the Senate race between incumbent Republican Scott Brown and Democratic challenger Elizabeth Warren has been seen as a very important factor in determining who will control the Senate.

**Likely scenario: Romney 174, Obama 134**

**Best case scenario: Maine votes "Yes" on Question 1 and Maryland votes "Yes" on Question 6**

**Best Senate scenario: Warren beats Brown**

**Best House scenario: Openly gay U.S. Rep. David Cicilline wins re-election from Rhode Island and openly gay Richard Tisei wins his bid for a U.S. House seat from Massachusetts' 6th Congressional district, becoming the only openly gay Republican in Congress.**

### 8:30 p.m. Eastern:

Arkansas' six electoral votes will almost certainly go to Romney.

**Likely scenario: Romney 180, Obama 134**

### 9 p.m. Eastern: Tammy Baldwin

At 9 p.m. is when the second largest number of electoral votes come online. Romney will likely pick up 30, Obama will pick up 60. The question marks are Wisconsin and Colorado, with 10 and nine respectively.

Add to Wisconsin this twist: Liberal openly gay U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin has a real chance of becoming the first openly gay person to be elected to the U.S. Senate. She's in a very tight race against popular former Gov. Tommy Thompson.

And add to Minnesota, with 10 electoral votes, hosting a vote on a ballot measure, Proposed Amendment No. 1, to amend the state's constitution to ban same-sex marriage. Except for the ballot measure, which can attract a large turnout from conservatives, Minnesota can lean Obama.

**Best case scenario: Romney 210, Obama 213**

**Best Senate scenario: Baldwin wins**

**Likely scenario: Minnesota votes "Yes" for Proposed Amendment 1**

**Best case scenario: Openly gay State Rep. Marc Pacon wins Baldwin's old seat, openly gay U.S. Rep. Jared Polis wins re-election from Colorado, newcomer Sean Maloney wins a U.S. House seat from New York's 18th District, and newcomer Kyrsten Sinema wins the U.S. House seat from Arizona's 9th.**

### 10 p.m. Eastern: Iowa, Nevada

Only 27 electoral votes are up on the boards after 10 p.m. and Romney has a good hold on 15 of them. Up for grabs are six electoral votes in Iowa and six in Nevada. Obama has campaigned heavily in both states and has a good chance to pull those to his column.

Also of interest is the vote on Iowa Supreme Court Justice David Wiggins who, like three colleagues before him, must survive a retention vote but one in which anti-gay forces are determined to oust him.

**Best case scenario: Romney 225, Obama 235**

**Best case scenario: Wiggins wins**

### 11 p.m. Eastern: Obama Wins?

This is the hour when, if all goes well in the first three hours, President Obama takes the White House with the electoral escort of California's 55 electoral votes, putting him well over the 270 needed. In fact, at 10 p.m., Obama will likely rake in 78 electoral votes from California, Washington, Oregon, and Hawaii. Romney will pick up a total of only seven from North Dakota and Idaho.

Also of interest in this hour will be the vote in Washington State on Referendum 74. A Yes vote will preserve a marriage equality law the legislature passed earlier this year.

**Best case scenario: Romney 232, Obama 313 and secures the White House**

**Best case scenario: Washington votes "Yes" for Referendum 74**

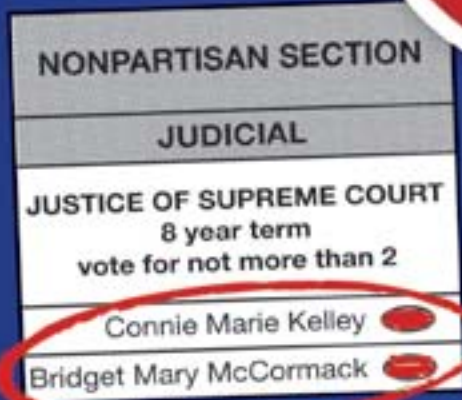
**Best case scenario: Openly gay Democrat Mark Takano wins the U.S. House seat for California District 41, representing southern California. His victory could, if Mark Pacon wins Baldwin's seat, bring the openly gay caucus in Congress back up to four (with the loss of retiring Rep. Barney Frank and Senate hopeful Tammy Baldwin)**

### Midnight

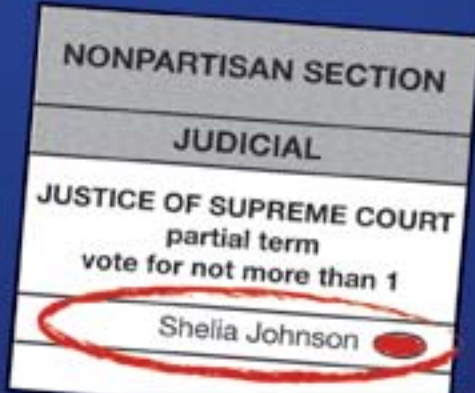
Alaska's three electoral votes will come in for Romney, but the party will be over.

**Best case scenario: Romney 235, Obama 313**

# THESE 3 PROTECT FAMILIES



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BTL strongly encourages voters to vote for Bridget McCormack (left), Connie Marie Kelley (center) and Shelia Johnson (right).

## 'Three Supremes' Strongly Endorsed By BTL

### ELECTION 2012

Michigan's current Supreme Court is the most LGBT Un-friendly in the nation. On Nov. 6 voters can change the composition of the court to make it more fair, more accountable and one which all Michiganders can be proud.

The current court ruled to strip same-sex partners of public employees of health insurance, making Michigan the most restrictive state in the nation in its definition of the same-sex marriage ban. This court has consistently ruled against workers' rights, women's right and educational fairness, to the detriment of the state and its citizens. We strongly encourage voters to vote for these three candidates for Michigan Supreme Court in the non-partisan section of your ballot:

### Bridget McCormack

"I'm optimistic and also I believe in myself enough to know that I will be a breath of fresh air and a force for good," said Bridget McCormack, the Dean of Clinical Affairs at the University of Michigan Law School, and candidate for Michigan Supreme Court Justice.

In 1998, she joined the faculty at University of Michigan Law School where she created the school's practical education curriculum that gives law students "hands-on" experience helping clients in a courtroom. Under her leadership, the program has expanded to include clinics dedicated to children's health, low-income taxpayers, the wrongfully accused and business entrepreneurs.

"These experiences have taught me what works in our legal system and what doesn't," said McCormack. "In my work,

I've been representing different groups of people that otherwise don't have access to lawyers. I have yet to represent a client who has paid me. What they all have in common is a hard time and access to justice."

Court in 2008, Kelley represented a vast array of clients including victims of domestic violence, those who experienced discrimination and workers who were treated unfairly by their employers. She shared with BTL her experience with LGBT people includes watching her cousin die from AIDS in the 1990's when the public attitude was a lot different. She also proudly hired Stonewall Bar Association Member Katie Strickfaden as the Court Administrator for the Domestic Violence Court.

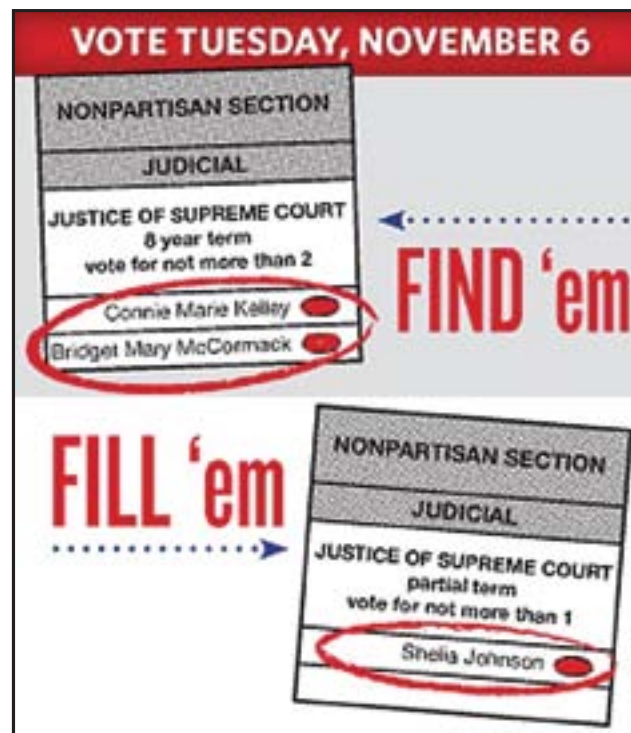
### Shelia Johnson

Michigan citizens have the opportunity to do something monumental in Nov. by electing the first African-American woman to the Supreme Court. Judge Shelia Johnson has made history before, when she was elected in 2002 to serve as the first African-American female judge in Oakland County's 46th District Court.

"I appreciate the opportunity to serve the community and the degree of confidence that people put in me. I make a big impact on people's lives and it's fulfilling," said Johnson, who is running to fill the partial two

year term of former Justice Maura Corrigan, who left the bench to lead the Michigan Department of Human Services.

Johnson spearheaded the establishment of a "Court In Schools" program where she holds actual court sessions at local high schools and middle schools with the goal of deterring youth from criminal behavior and inspiring them toward positive career choices.



### Connie Marie Kelley

"I think the courts should be above the politics of the day. The public has a lack of confidence that the court is deciding cases based on the law. I think it's really important for judges to hear both sides of the case, to have a good understanding of the law, and to apply the law to the facts that they hear. We have to follow the law and do what's right. It takes the right people to do it," said Connie Kelly, a candidate for Michigan Supreme Court Justice.

As a lawyer for 27 years prior to becoming a family law judge in the 3rd Circuit

Read the full articles on each of the 'The Supremes' at >> [Pridesource.com](http://Pridesource.com)





**ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>**

**POLLS ARE OPEN 7:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M.**

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**► President Obama is proud to stand with the LGBT community—will you stand with him by committing to vote?**

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# President Obama's Accomplishments For LGBT Americans

## How President Obama Is Fighting For The LGBT Community

### ELECTION 2012

President Obama has supported the LGBT community more than any other president in history. We should support him now and vote for his reelection Nov. 6

from various government agencies on how kids, teens, young adults, parents, educators, and others in the community can prevent or stop bullying

Created the Inter-Agency Task Force on Bullying to tackle bullying in our schools, including bullying of LGBT youth

Recorded an "It Gets Better" video in support of LGBT youth facing bullying at school

### Marriage Equality



Affirmed his personal support for same-sex marriage

Opposed the discriminatory Defense of Marriage Act and endorsed the Respect for Marriage Act, a legislative effort to repeal DOMA

### Health Care



Signed the Affordable Care Act into law, expanding access to health care and critical preventive services

### Education and Youth



Hosted the first-ever White House conference on bullying in schools to provide information

Extended hospital visitation and medical decision-making rights to LGBT patients and their partners

Awarded the Presidential Citizens Medal to Janice Langbehn, a lesbian mother and activist

whose story paved the way for the extending hospital visitation rights

Affirmed the administration's commitment to creating an AIDS-free generation

Included specific data on health needs of lesbian and bisexual women in the Health Resources and Services Administration's "Women's Health USA 2011" report for the first time

Promoted equal access to quality health care by enabling searches for health plans with same-sex partner benefits on Healthcare.gov

Included proposals to improve LGBT Americans' access to health care and provisions to continue the fight against HIV/AIDS in the administration's 2013 federal budget proposal

Created a National Resource Center for LGBT seniors and awarded a grant to SAGE (Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Elders), supporting the first community center for LGBT seniors

## Jobs and the Economy



The administration worked to protect federal LGBT employees from workplace discrimination by adopting an equal-opportunity employment policy that includes both sexual orientation and gender identity

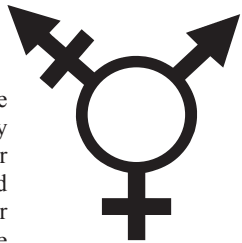
Ordered the federal government to extend key benefits to same-sex partners of federal employees

Clarified the Family and Medical Leave Act to ensure family leave for LGBT employees who need to care for their children.

Set a precedent in hiring LGBT employees by appointing more openly LGBT administration officials than any other president in U.S. history

Continues to support the Employment Non-Discrimination Act

## Trans Equality



Ended the Social Security Administration's gender "no-match" letters and ensured that transgender Americans can receive passports that accurately reflect their gender identity

Established guidelines to help protect transgender federal employees from discrimination in the workplace

Established policy regarding the respectful delivery of health care to transgender veterans

## Housing



Announced HUD's new rule protecting against housing discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity

Released America's first comprehensive plan to prevent homelessness, including homelessness among LGBT youth

Awarded a grant to the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Community Center to work with LGBT foster youth

## National Security



Ended "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" so gay and lesbian Americans can serve the country they love without hiding who they are

Permitted military chaplains to officiate same-sex marriages where legal

## International and LGBT Citizens Abroad



Ended the ban that prohibited people with HIV/AIDS from entering the United States

Created the first-ever U.S. government strategy dedicated to combating human rights abuses against LGBT persons abroad

Made it clear the United States will use all the tools of American diplomacy to promote LGBT rights abroad

Fought for the rights of LGBT persons worldwide by co-sponsoring the first UN resolution focused solely on LGBT rights

Directed agencies working abroad to combat the criminalization of LGBT status

Directed the Departments of State and Homeland Security to ensure LGBT refugees and asylum-seekers have equal access to protection and assistance

Prevented the removal of sexual orientation from a United Nations resolution condemning extrajudicial killings

Implemented a U.S. Agency for International Development policy to encourage contractors to implement and enforce non-discrimination policies for sexual orientation and gender identity

# YES ON 2 PROTECTS COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

## When collective bargaining is protected, GLBT workers win.

Workers around the country have negotiated to ensure safe work places, to prohibit employment discrimination, and to include vital provisions such as domestic partner benefits, equal access to Family and Medical Leave Act, bereavement and sick leave.

But Michigan's constitution provides for little to no protections to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. Preserving collective bargaining rights allows GLBT workers to come together with employers to negotiate fair wages, benefits and working conditions.

Join the GLBT community supporting Proposal 2!

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# Unions And Gays Unite In Support Of Proposal 2

**ELECTION 2012**

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

**DETROIT** - "As a woman in skilled trades, I've had equal opportunity. I've had a living wage. I've got healthcare for my family and I don't have to worry about being let go for no reason. I appreciate what my union has done for me," said Becky Ervin, an engineer who builds prototypes for General Motors who also serves as the financial secretary of her UAW Local.

Ervin has stepped up this election season and spent her personal time campaigning in favor of Proposal 2. She's been knocking on doors around the metro Detroit area, and has been featured in a commercial which was produced by the Protect Working Families campaign. Ervin said she's "always been a union activist, but I see how it can help the GLBT community. The union has been at the forefront of the change - civil rights, women's rights."

Roland Leggett of Equality Michigan and Mayor Dave Coulter also appeared in the commercial.

Standing before the Equality Michigan banner in the commercial, Leggett said "In Michigan, our state constitution doesn't protect against being fired because you're gay or denied housing because you're gay or any of the issues that matter so much to Michigan families. However, 10 years ago

as a result of collective bargaining the auto industry extended same-sex benefits to all of its workers. Today same-sex benefits are the norm and that only happened because of collective bargaining."

Mayor Coulter shared how labor-based movements spread beyond the workplaces that start them. "When I was an Oakland County Commissioner we passed a non-discrimination policy and I'm convinced that one of the reasons it passed was because we were able to point to the major employers in Oakland County who already have these things in place. For Oakland County to be successful we need to be as progressive and inclusive as our workplaces."

Protect Working Families is reaching out to various communities, including Arab Americans, the Faith Community, LGBT, Jewish, and Latino people, seniors, Veterans, women and youth.

Christos Michalakis, president of the Metropolitan Detroit AFL-CIO, is working with members of the LGBT community to foster unity and cooperation. "The issues that matter to every family - jobs, schools, the economy - are issues that are important to the LGBT community, and to organized labor," Michalakis said. He praised the efforts of the LGBT community in collecting "stacks and stacks of signatures" at Pride events over the

summer to help get Proposal 2 on the ballot, and wanted to let the gay community know that "when you support a union business, you're supporting a service that is made in an environment that supports LGBT workers."

"I'm proud to represent a group of unions that are very progressive. One thing we say is that an injustice to workers anywhere is

**Protect Working Families is reaching out to various communities, including Arab Americans, the Faith Community, LGBT, Jewish, and Latino people, seniors, Veterans, women and youth.**

an injustice to workers everywhere," he said.

Once the votes are cast, the fight for equality and for worker's rights does not end. Ervin is among those who are working to start a Pride at Work chapter for the Detroit area. When asked why she is such an involved activist, she replied "I am the foster parent of young kids and I knew I had to stay active for them. It's my job to do what's best for them."

Watch Ervin, Leggett and Coulter in the video online at >> Pridesource.com

# Daniels Unfit To Serve, Recall Needed Nov. 6

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

**TROY** -With less than a week before election day, Tea Party Mayor of Troy Janice Daniels has given the public another reason to recall her from office, adding to the list of multiple reasons Between The Lines has previously reported on.

During a Proclamation of Recognition presentation at the Troy City Council meeting Oct. 22, Mayor Daniels argued with former council member Mary Kerwin about the origin of Kerwin's recent 2012 Distinguished Citizen Award. The award was given to Kerwin by Leadership Troy, a nonpartisan community service group that has been giving out this award to deserving members of the Troy community for more than 40 years.

According to the Troy Patch Online, (<http://troy.patch.com/articles/troy-mayor-speaks-out-about-argument-with-kerwin>) Mayor Daniels insisted that the award going to former council member Kerwin, a supporter of the effort to recall the mayor, was from the partisan Troy Democratic Club.

Kerwin interrupted Daniels to clarify the award was not from the Troy Democratic Club, to which Daniels replied, "Yes, this was given to you by the Democratic Club, my understanding is."

Kerwin, who is running for state legislator in the 41st State House District, said, "I have been involved in city government and civic matters for 24 years and have never seen a mayor be so dismissive of a city proclamation during a formal presentation."

Daniels has been married and divorced three times. The role of a public servant is not to be a hypocrite, which is why Mayor Daniels came under fire when she recently considered putting restrictions on marriage and divorce in the city of Troy with a Community Marriage Policy.

This would permit local clergy to sign a covenant agreeing not to marry any couple who has not had a specified, substantial amount of pre-marital counseling. They also agreed to create strong, lasting and satisfying marriages through the use of trained marriage mentor couples.

"I believe that marriage strengthens communities; therefore my involvement in setting the stage for a community marriage initiative is in keeping with the stated goal of mayor as a promoter and defender of the community," said Mayor Daniels in a post on her Facebook page. Yet, she does not practice in her personal life what she preaches when deciding what she thinks is best for the public.

At this point, any attempts made by Mayor Daniels to do good in the community

or to keep her political career alive have been overshadowed by the controversy she continues to create. Facebook is where her trouble began, yet she posted another comment in August justifying the behavior of Sterling Heights Councilman Paul Smith, who publicly announced his support for Mayor Daniels. A YouTube video (<http://youtu.be/oN1yPJLyr7c>) resurfaced showing Smith during a 2009 Tea Party rally in Troy holding signs depicting violent illustrations of the impaled head of President Barack Obama and then-Governor Jennifer Granholm with a noose around her neck.

These and other incidents, which have received national exposure, raise the questions of Mayor Daniels' character that need to be taken into consideration when voting. Can Mayor Daniels work effectively with the employees of the city? Can Mayor Daniels move forward into the future with sound leadership, integrity and prosperity? It is up to the voters to decide if Mayor Daniels is fit to serve the city of Troy, such a large and diverse community.

BTL strongly endorses a YES vote to recall Troy Mayor Daniels.

See all BTL coverage on Troy Mayor Janice Daniels >> Pridesource.com

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# Gurrrl Talk With KATHY GRIFFIN



## Comedy Queen Dishes On Her Favorite Divas And What She'd Do If She Were President

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

For a good chunk of Kathy Griffin's run, the spitfire comedian's touted herself as a washed-up celebrity who nobody really cares about.

Her career says otherwise.

Griffin's rips on the Hollywood elite – and Snooki – have opened up a world of opportunities: “My Life on the D-List,” her Bravo talk show, a book deal, sold-out concerts and a relationship with Anderson Cooper that we could only dream of.

Just before her Nov. 9 show at the Fox Theatre in Detroit, the woman who likes to take on everyone else takes on herself in our completely ridiculous interview. Griffin gives tips on making fun of *her*, presents her plan for running this country if she were president and admits that she sometimes forgets how funny she is.

**Who's your favorite person to make fun of at the moment?**

I'm gonna go with Demi Lovato because she seems to have no sense of humor about herself and she has a rather checkered past, and that is a great combination. And she changes the color of her ponytail almost daily. Sometimes it's blue, sometimes it's pink – I like that stuff.

**Who's in your ideal threesome?**

I'm like that straight girl that wants my gay friends to experiment with heterosexuality for the first time with me, so my threesome is gonna be two gay guys I know I could never have: Jonathan Knight from “New Kids” and Lance Bass.

**No Anderson Cooper? Would that be weird?**

Not for me!

**Which women are in your binder?**

My binder is chock-full of women. It's overflowing with women. My binder is filled with Gloria Steinem, Jane Fonda, Suze Orman, Marlo Thomas and lots of young, smart, aspiring chicks: Olivia Munn, Scarlett Johansson, Rosario Dawson, Kerry Washington – the girls that seem to have a few brain cells working. You know what's weird? Somehow I also found room for Oprah. She was in the final flap.



**Kathy Griffin**

8 p.m. Nov. 9  
Fox Theatre  
2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit  
www.kathygriffin.net

**Go-to karaoke song?**

“No Scrubs” by TLC. It’s always a crowd-pleaser. And “Waterfalls” can be so pensive.

**Say you have a magical power, what would it be and how would you use it?**

That’s easy. It would be to make people more open-minded, because of course, this being election year, I feel like we’re somehow turning back the clock. As far as LGBT rights are concerned, we’re sort of going forward, but as far as women’s rights and a lot of issues that are on the ticket, we’re kind of living out a bad episode of “Mad Men.” So, it would just be the power to say to the United States of America, “Calm down, girl.” And I would spell it g-u-r-r-l. Because I feel like when people get upset about whether gay people should be able to get married or women should make equal wages, they have these nonsensical and illogical reasons for why they are opposed to these things, so I would just like to collectively say, “Calm down, gurrll. We’re all gonna be fine. It’s OK to have a little progress.” Yes, I’m preaching it.

**We already know everyone in Hollywood is scared of you.**

Good.

**How could someone be successful at making fun of you?**

Oh god. It’s so easy. I mean, obviously things have rolled off my tongue and fallen out of my mouth that are cringe-worthy, so things I’ve said. You could make fun of me for – god, a myriad of things. I’m, like, neurotic. You can always make fun of my mom – that’s throwing her under the bus a bit, but I never get tired of it. You could make fun of my Catholic upbringing and how it went so horribly wrong. My love life is usually in shambles, too. It’s open season on my life.

**What’s your favorite cuss word?**

Fuck, for sure. I love fuck. I love everything about it. I love that it can be a noun or a verb. I love that you can be getting fucked and it can be a bad thing or a good thing. I love that “what the fuck?” is now a part of the lexicon, even on a news channel. I love everything about fucking, unless it leads to any physical discomfort or any chaffing.

**Or a baby?**

No thanks. I’m not in favor of that.

**How does your mother, Maggie, feel about your use of that word?**

My mother says this thing. This is so ridiculous. She says “feck,” and that’s an Irish thing. It’s an old Irish-Catholic thing where they think if you say “feck” it’s like a clean way of saying fuck. My mother also says “who-re” because

she thinks she’s fooling you, so if she’s going to call one of the Kardashians a whore, which she might if she has enough wine in her, she will say, “Look at those whoores,” and think she’s fooling you. And maybe if you’re from a suburb of Dublin you’ll get that reference; my mom is not afraid to make a reference from the turn of the century – the last one.

**If you were president, what would you promise the people of the United States?**

I would promise – well, actually, I don’t know how I would promise it because, good luck with Congress. But I would fire them. I would fire Congress and hire all Lady Gaga backup dancers; if they can get through that show, they can run a country.

I would run the country in a way that makes sense. I feel like we’re all waiting for that politician to say something that makes sense and they’re all so scared to say something like, “Yes, we should all have equal civil rights. Yes, men and women are equal. Yes, LGBT people are equal. We shouldn’t practice tolerance; we should practice actual kindness.” How about that, fuckers? That would be my campaign slogan: How about that, fuckers? It would be the Hey Gurrll campaign of 2016.

I would actually resign and I would appoint Suze Orman as president, which has never happened before. You’ve never actually had someone say, “Well, thank you for electing me,” but the more I think about it there is someone a little better for the job and her name is Suze Orman.

**Please describe, in detail, Anderson Cooper naked.**

He’s creamy and dreamy. He’s as pale as I am, muscular and his eyes are just as blue naked as they are with clothes on.

**What makes you cry?**

Honestly, I can cry at a fucking commercial. It takes almost nothing to make me cry. Like, if I see those frickin’ ASPCA PSA commercials for the dog shelters, I don’t even need to hear the Sarah McLachlan song; even if I just see the images, I will start sobbing and I will then grab my own rescue dogs, who, by the way, have zero appreciation for the fact that they are fucking rich.

I’ll cry at Olympic commercials, too. And I love a slow clap. I don’t even like sports, but I will cry if there’s a sports movie and the guy with one leg gets a touchdown or a basket.

**If you could turn back time like Cher, what experience would you want to relive all over again?**

You know what’s funny, I was actually thinking of turning back time and going back to the ship with Cher and putting her back in the outfit from the “Turn Back Time” video.

There’s so many I would relive again. My great times with the divas: time I actually got to spend with Bette Midler, Joan Rivers, Cher, Jane Fonda, Gloria Steinem and Gloria Vanderbilt (Anderson Cooper’s mom). I just love those gals, and I know you guys do too, and you get them and you love them and you

See Kathy Griffin, page 30

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Michael A. Gravame directs Village Players' production of "Sunset Boulevard."

# 90 Years And Still Going Strong

## The Village Players Of Birmingham Continue Anniversary Season With 'Sunset Boulevard'

BY DANA CASADEI

**BIRMINGHAM** – In 1923 the first issue of Time magazine was published and Yankee stadium opened its doors. The roaring '20s were in full swing and an idea formed in 1922 became a reality. The Village Players of Birmingham was formed, with 16 charter members.

Now, in the present day of iPads and DVRs, that same company is celebrating its 90th season.

On Nov. 2 it will become the first Detroit area community theater to do the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical "Sunset Boulevard."

"It's pretty exciting," said director Michael A. Gravame.

Gravame, who's been involved on-and-off with the Village Players since 1989 – and who was honored with the 2012 Jim Posante Community Pride Award at this year's Wilde Awards – went on to say that when most think of the Tony Award-winning musical they go back to that Broadway production, which adds a little pressure to directing it. He is also the first to admit that no

**PREVIEW**

**'Sunset Boulevard'**

Village Players, 34660 Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Nov. 2-18. \$19. 248-644-2075.  
www.Birminghamvillageplayers.com

matter a theater's budget, there's no way to recreate it, even though not many from the area have seen it.

"A lot of people have never seen it and you kind of have your freedom to come up with your own interpretation," Gravame said. "If you concentrate on the characters and you have the elements people remember, like the staircase, then everything else can be done kind of abstractly."

Gravame's interpretation includes a "film noir essence" to the show and creating "pictures," which includes a lot of stage freezes. His directing style is a little different than others as well, starting with the little details and gluing them back together.

Having a company that fully supports your vision helps too.

"(The Village Players is) just a wonderful place to do shows because they have that support for you, they let you do what you love to do," said Gravame. "Village Players is a family."

That family aspect is one that the company has had since the beginning, even when it was a private theater club.

While playing piano at a children's center in Pontiac, Julie Bowes got to know a woman that was part of the Village Players, who invited her and her husband to the Christmas party.

"You had to have sponsors at that time," said Bowes, who joined in 1960. Even though none of their sponsors could go, Bowes and her husband decided to go anyway.

"We thought we'll just stay here for a few minutes and then leave," she said. "We came home at 3 a.m."

The rest, as they say, is history.

Bowes has since directed music for 25 Village Players shows and countless others after her first job as assistant musical director for "The Boyfriend."

"I've given hours of my life to Village

See *Sunset Boulevard*, page 28

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Patty Ward of Birmingham and Leo Babcock of Saline in Village Players' production of "Sunset Boulevard."

### ► Sunset Boulevard

Continued from p. 27

Players and loved absolutely every moment of it," Bowes said. "My happiest time was sitting at the piano."

Bowes isn't the only member that talks about The Village Players with the warmth of a blanket on a cold night.

When asked how they got involved, Ty Perkins and his wife Ann, who joined in 1962, simply laughed and said friends dragged them in.

Luckily they weren't kicking and screaming.

Both had wanted to make new friends and enjoyed theater and singing, making their years as much about the memories they had on the stage as well as off, including the countless birthday and Christmas parties. "It was swell," he said.

Some of his fondest memories include the night that he played Li'l Abner, where his name, Ann reminds him, was forgotten in the program; the first Christmas party in 1962, where they had to decorate with only \$10 and that they earned a plaque for doing so well when they ran concessions.

Out of all the stories, one of the best

happened during a night of one-act plays. He was told that they wanted him to be the male lead for "Family Album," one of the nine acts in "Tonight at 8:30," where he might have to sing a song; there were four.

"As I stood off-stage I couldn't have told you the name of the play much less my first line, but we got through it," he said. "Ever since then there's a toast in there that we still use in our family for every occasion."

Ty then sings it over the phone, without missing a beat, something that the Village Players seems to have been doing the last 90 years.

“(The Village Players is) just a wonderful place to do shows because they have that support for you, they let you do what you love to do. Village Players is a family.”

-Michael A. Gravame



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Lance Bass and Kathy Griffin on the set of her talk show. Photo: Bravo

## ► Kathy Griffin

Continued from p. 25

support them. It's something that's the most important thing to me.

### Big spoon, little spoon?

Little spoon.

### Author, TV host, singer, public pap smearing – what's left?

Look, I am so excited about the Kathy talk show on Bravo. We're coming back on Jan. 10. I hope we stay on; I think we'll stay on. I am so looking forward to the guests. Last year I did a show with Jimmy Kimmel and two gays; I did a show with Jane Fonda, Lisa Ling and Sharon Osbourne. I love the combinations of people and mixing them with the topics that we're talking about around the water cooler – that is really what I'm looking forward to most. I'm still kind of working on the "Kathy" show, seeing what works about it and what you respond to, so that's still a work in progress that I'm really excited about.

### Who do you most want on your talk show when it returns for a second season?

You know, it's not about most; it's more about who's going to have fun doing it. We're talking to everybody on the planet and all these unusual combos of people and

seeing who's going to be in Los Angeles. I joke that I am bored with anybody under 80, because my dream talk show would be my mom, Gloria Vanderbilt and, you know, Jackie Collins. (Laughs) I guess there are some people under 75 who are interesting; I'm just looking for them. Of course I'd love to have Cher on the show. I'd love to have Anderson again; he's so much fun. I've also been talking to (Kristin) Chenoweth and Megan Mullally and her husband Nick Offerman (who plays Ron Swanson on the NBC comedy "Parks and Recreation"). All these people are just great. The type of person who's just game for anything is my dream guest.

### Who should play you in your biopic?

The vain part of me wants Christina Hendricks, but it could end up being Andy Dick.

### Song you love most on Taylor Swift's new album?

“I would fire Congress and hire all Lady Gaga backup dancers; if they can get through that show, they can run a country.”

-Kathy Griffin

Well, obviously the break-up song ("We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together") because there's something so hilarious to me that she's writing a really silly, fun, insipid song about Jake Gyllenhaal while he's promoting his shaved-head, gritty, South-Central L.A. crime movie. There's something funny about a split screen of a clip from that movie and then a split screen of Taylor singing, "Never, ever, ever, like I am never going out with you, like never. Don't even call Jake Gyllenhaal. I'm serious this time. It's me, Taylor." Look, if she didn't get crabs from John Mayer, then she's gonna live a long, safe life.

### Finish this: When I see myself on TV, I...

I watch myself saying a joke that I forgot I said. There's so much material that sometimes when I watch the special later I'll say something and I'll think, "Oh, I forgot I said this. That's kind of a funny joke." So there: When I watch myself on TV, I think, "She's funny!"

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Edmund Alyn Jones (Othello) and Alec Barbour (Iago) in the Hilberry Theatre's production of "Othello." Photo: Kevin Replinger

# A Tale Of 'One That Loved Not Wisely But Too Well'

BY JOHN QUINN

There are those among you that feel some plays are so well known they need no introduction. Most of us, though, have less than passing acquaintance with William Shakespeare's 1603 tragedy "Othello." The MFAs can skip merrily ahead; the rest of you, follow me.

Although he is foreign born, General Othello is the military hero of Venice. Bowing to political pressure, he appoints as his second in command Michael Cassio, who is, as far as active duty is concerned, still wet behind the ears. This promotion passes over the more experienced Iago, who wrathfully plots the ruination of Cassio – the better to use him as a weapon against Othello. The chink in the general's armor is Desdemona, the impressionable young daughter of a prominent Venetian. They've eloped. In breaking the commandment "Honor thy father," Desdemona unwittingly begins a pathway of deception that Iago joyously employs to further his revenge.

In writing a forward to the Hilberry Theatre's production, Katherine Skoretz observes, "When asked what 'Othello' is about, many give the informed responses of jealousy or betrayal. But at a deeper look, the issue again and again is trust." Blair Anderson's direction is spot-on in illustrating this theme. Everyone trusts Iago; Iago trusts no one. Anderson's audience is increasingly attuned to

## REVIEW

### Othello

Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit.  
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the villain's deceptions, reacting with sympathetic murmurs when one clueless character after another refers to Iago as "honest."

Scenic designer Leazah Behrens and costumer Clare Hungate-Hawk have highly complementary, conceptual designs that designate no particular time or place. The set is a bi-level construct of white, open cubes; the costume colors range from soft grey to black, with occasional sparks of vibrancy. The effect is restrained and subdued. That description, for better or worse, can apply to the performances, too.

I may be looking for too much, "For I am nothing, if not critical." "Othello" is a script driven by unbridled emotions and the emotions here are played pretty close to the vest. Edmund Alyn Jones approaches the title role with all the swagger of a military hero, but his vibrant moments are not in Othello's wrath, but in his introspective soliloquies. Desdemona is a perplexing character, impetuous and naive enough to elope yet sophisticated enough to hold her own in racy word play with Iago. That contrast is not resolved here, but

Megan Dobbertin finds the essence of her character in a beautifully crafted scene with her confidant (and Iago's wife), Emilia, played by Danielle Cochrane. Desdemona prepares for bed, not knowing it is for the last time.

Alec Barbour faces the unenviable task of fleshing out what is arguably Shakespeare's most enigmatic character, Iago. What does one make of a man who claims, "I am not what I am?" Commentators have taken from that line and another, as Iago addresses us directly, "And what's he then that says I play the villain?" That, in this greatest of morality plays, Iago is the earthly embodiment of Satan. That's something of a stretch, but Barbour's Iago maintains a steely self-assurance and control from start to finish when textually the villain takes increasing delight with his villainy. The Renaissance priest might attribute that to the corrupting effects of mortal sin; the modern psychologist might tag Iago as a sociopath. Barbour goes out of his way (or at least down stage center) to let us know what he's up to in a series of soliloquies. Iago is self-congratulatory, but he doesn't seem to be having any fun.

By and large, the Hilberry's "Othello" is cogent and accessible, making it a fair introduction to William Shakespeare. In fact, it's a tribute to director and cast that a 21st-century audience is so attuned to the Bard's early 17th-century allusions and metaphors.

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**Pride Action Night** 6 p.m. Equality Michigan and Affirmations are looking for pro-equality volunteers to help mobilize the community as the upcoming election year approaches, building up momentum to ensure that LGBT rights are on Michigan's minds as they head out to the polls. Equality Michigan and Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. EqualityMI.org

**Gender Non-Conformists** 7 p.m. A social and discussion group for transgender, genderqueer, gender-neutral and gender-exploring individuals. Space also available to significant others. Meets every Thursday. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Jjenkins@GoAffirmations.org GoAffirmations.org

**Resource Center Health Group** 7 p.m. LGBTQ and allied teens 13-18. E-mail for more info. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 259-381-2437. Youth@KGLRC.org Kglrc.org

**Speak Out** 7 p.m. Offers a welcoming environment for LGBT people to improve their public speaking and leadership skills. Meets the first and fourth Thursday of every month. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. Crystallair@jimtoycenter.org

### Friday, Nov. 2

**50 and Better Friday Group** 7 p.m. Designed for those 50 and better looking for an excuse to get out of the house. Goes out every other week or so for miniature golf, a movie, or other activity, per vote. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. PhoenixChurch.org

**Womyn's Film Night** 7 p.m. Film: Divine Madness; Self-defined diva Bette Midler alternates between comedy and music in this wildly funny stage show filmed live in 1980. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

**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. 9 Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

### Saturday, Nov. 3

**March to Free Hugo** 12 p.m. Partner of Tim Hunter, Hugo has been detained at Monroe County Jail for the past year despite being a low-priority case of illegal immigration. Hugo left Mexico after being tortured for being gay; he is terrified of being sent back. Rally to free Hugo and hear Jim Toy speak. One Michigan, Dreamactivists.org, WICIR and the Ann Arbor community, Division and Liberty, **Ann Arbor**. 734-502-9679. TimDaleHunter@yahoo.com

**Learning Brings Change Brings Hope** 6 p.m. Join Dedicated to Make a Change for an evening fundraiser for NOLA 2013! All proceeds go to youth work experiences in New Orleans Lower 9th Ward. Special Guest Mack McLendon, beverages, hors d'oeuvres and silent auction. Live entertainment produced by youth. Dedicated to Make a Change, 200 Michigan Ave., **Ypsilanti**. 734-657-1792. Gail@dedicatedtomakeachange.com Dedicatedtomakeachange.com

**Lesbian Euchre** 6 p.m. No partner needed. For beginners to experienced. Come join the fun and meet new friends. Affirmations, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 586-303-5977. lsbndanii@aol.com

### Sunday, Nov. 4

**Know Us Project** 2 p.m. Informative and interactive training that shows how to help move LGBT equality forward by having conversations with people you already know. This training will help to identify who to talk to, how to have an effective conversation, and how to take good care of yourself in the process. There is no charge and participants will receive a free Know Us Project Guide to Conversations. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Central Michigan, 319 S. University St., **Mt. Pleasant**. Mpipp.org/kup-training-calendar.htm

**Conversation Station** 5 p.m. LGBTQI (and allies) 25 and over: join GOAL each week for discussion, food and a new topic each week. Topic: Where is the strangest place you have had sex? Get Out And

Live!, 714 S. Washington St., **Royal Oak**. 248-981-4227. MarciLWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

### Tuesday, Nov. 6

**Election Day Party** 7 p.m. Affirmations hosts an Election Day Party concluding the Hungry4Equality campaign. There will also be a small ceremony to award those who participated as a striker during the hunger strike. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

**LanSINGout Rehearsal** 7 p.m. LanSINGout Gay Men's Chorus is dedicated to enriching those around them through music, fellowship and community involvement. LanSINGout Gay Men's Chorus, 510 W. Ottawa St., **Lansing**. 517-490-1746. Info@lansingout.org Lansingout.org

### Wednesday, Nov. 7

**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

**Dykes on Bikes** 6:30 p.m. Meets the first Wednesday of every month. Dykes on Bikes, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

**Newly Single Support Group** 6:30 p.m. Group for all dealing with the end of a relationship and want to talk - or listen - to others who share similar experiences. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

**Goodie 2 Shoes** 7 p.m. A new social group dedicated to reaching out to the community and helping others. Meets every other Wednesday at MCC Detroit. Goodie 2 Shoes, 2441 Pinecrest St., **Ferndale**. 299-399-7741. AnnCox@Pridesource.com

### Friday, Nov. 9

**Youth Only HIV Testing** 6 p.m. Free anonymous testing for individuals 21 and under. Available the second and fourth Friday of every month. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

**Older Lesbians Organizing** 7 p.m. Provides older Lesbians with the chance to meet like minded women in their common struggles, to share mutual interests and to play and work together. Meets the 2nd Friday of every month. Older Lesbians Organizing, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. Jasmithers@sbcglobal.net

**Womyn's Film Night** 7 p.m. Film: Iron Jawed Angels; From 1912 to 1920, a group of fiery young suffragettes led by Alice Paul and Lucy Burns band together to wheedle the United States into adopting a Constitutional amendment guaranteeing women the right to vote. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

### Saturday, Nov. 10

**Crossroads** 7 p.m. Dedicated to serving the needs of transgender individuals. Meets the second Saturday of every month. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

### Sunday, Nov. 11

**Joy Ladin Meet & Greet** 4 p.m. JGN is sponsoring Joy and her book, *Through the Door of Life: A Jewish Journey Between Genders*, as part of the Annual Jewish Book Fair. With an \$18 donation, meet Joy and enjoy light refreshments, then attend her presentation. Jewish Gay Network of Michigan, 6600 W. Maple Road, **West Bloomfield**. 248-432-5661. MPhillips@JCCDet.org

**Rainbow Book Club** 4:30 p.m. Book club dedicated to reading and discussing classic and contemporary lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer literature. Meeting since before 1998, every second Sunday of the month. Rainbow Book Club, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. Catherine.herne@gmail.com

**Conversation Station** 5 p.m. LGBTQI (and allies) 25 and over: join GOAL each week for discussion, food and a new topic each week. Topic: What was the last movie that moved/disturbed/thrilled you and why? Get Out And Live!, 714 S. Washington St., **Royal Oak**. 248-981-4227. MarciLWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

## MUSIC & MORE

### CLASSICAL

**Kerrytown Concert House** "Songs of Sheldon Harnick" Brent Wagner and students of the University of Michigan Musical Theatre Department. Tickets: \$10-30. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N Fourth Ave., **Ann Arbor**. Nov. 8 - Nov. 10. 734-769-2999. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

**Lansing Symphony Orchestra** "MasterWorks 3: From London to Germany" Haydn's Symphony No. 104 "London", Brahms' A German Requiem. Tickets: \$15-50. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts at Michigan State University, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 8 p.m. Nov. 10. 517-353-1982 ext. 14. LansingSymphony.org

### CONCERTS

**Detroit Symphony Orchestra** Lerner & Loewe; A Broadway legend salutes Broadway legends! Marvin Hamlisch celebrates the elegance and enchantment that Lerner and Loewe brought to Broadway. Your favorite showstoppers from "Gigi," "Camelot," and "My Fair Lady." Won't it be lovely? Tickets: \$19. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. Nov. 2 - Nov. 3. 313-576-5111. DSO.org

**Detroit Symphony Orchestra** "Rodeo!" Copland's Rodeo, Williams' The Five Sacred Trees: Concerto for Bassoon and Orchestra, and Rachmaninoff's Symphony No. 1. Tickets: \$15+. Max M. Fisher Music

Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. Nov. 9 - Nov. 11. 313-576-5111. DSO.org

**Olympia Entertainment** John Legend; Nine-time Grammy award winning John Legend announces a North American tour to preview songs from forthcoming album "Love in the Future." Tickets: \$35-60. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 4. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

**Royal Oak Music Theatre** The Wallflowers; With guests Trapper Schoepf & The Shades. Tickets: \$25-55. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., **Royal Oak**. 8 p.m. Nov. 3. 248-399-2980. RoyalOakMusicTheatre.com

**Royal Oak Music Theatre** Sum 41; With special guest IAMDYNAMITE. Tickets: \$20-25. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., **Royal Oak**. 7 p.m. Nov. 4. 248-399-2980. RoyalOakMusicTheatre.com

**Royal Oak Music Theatre** Aimee Mann; With special guest Ted Leo. Tickets: \$40-50. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., **Royal Oak**. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 10. 248-399-2980. RoyalOakMusicTheatre.com

**Static Network** "A Night with Katie Grace" Spend the night with Detroit's best bad girl, Katie Grace, who will play a concert upstairs at The Park Bar. Grace will preview new songs and old favorites in both solo and band performances. Cover: \$8. The Park Bar, 2040 Park Ave., **Detroit**. 9:30 p.m. Nov. 9. 313-962-2933. Parkbardetroit.com

**The Ark** Bettye LaVette; Tickets: \$27.50. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. Nov. 7. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

**The Ark** Tom Chapin; Tickets: \$22.50. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. Nov. 9. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

**The Ark** "The Ryan Montbleau Band" With special guest Erin McKeown. Tickets: \$16. The Ark, 316 S. Main, **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. Nov. 2. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

**The Whiting** Kenny Wayne Shepherd; Multi-platinum recording artist Kenny Wayne Shepherd is back by popular demand after selling out his first ever appearance at The Whiting. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., **Flint**. Nov. 3 - Nov. 3. 810-237-7333. Thewhiting.com/tickets/production.aspx?performanceNumber=4692

### OTHER

**Tapper's Diamonds & Fine Jewelry** "Tapper's 21st Annual Coat Drive" Local residents can support less fortunate neighbors by dropping off warm winter items and making cash donations at all Tapper's locations. "Our goal is to donate more than 2,500 coats, new hats, gloves and blankets to those in need before winter arrives," says Steven Tapper, custom designer and vice president of Tapper's. Tapper's Diamonds & Fine Jewelry, Various Tapper's Locations, . Nov. 1 - Nov. 21. Tappers.com

## THEATER

### CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

**A Wrinkle in Time** \$12-23. Kalamazoo Civic Youth Theatre at The Kalamazoo Civic Theatre, 329 S. Park St., **Kalamazoo**. Nov. 9-17. 269-343-1313. KazooCivic.com

**Little Women** \$5-7. All-of-us Express Children's Theatre at East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, **Lansing**. Nov. 2-10. 517-333-2580, ext. 0. CityOfEastLansing.com/AllOfUs

**Meanwhile Back on the Couch** \$16-18. Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., **Royal Oak**. Nov. 2-Nov. 17. 248-541-6430. Stagecrafters.org

**Night Of The Living Dead LIVE On Stage** \$12-\$15. Dearborn Heights Civic Theatre at Grantland Street Playhouse,

27555 Grantland , **Livonia**. Through Nov. 3. dhctstage.org

**Seussical Jr** \$5-12. Warren Civic Theatre at Warren Community Center, 5460 Arden, **Warren**. Nov. 2-Nov. 4. 586-268-8400. WarrenCivic.org

**Songs for a New World** \$15. The Twin City Players at The Oak Room at The Citadel, 91 Hinkley St., **Benton Harbor**. Nov. 9-11. 269-429-0400. TwinCityPlayers.org

**Stuart Little** \$5-8. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at WCC College Theater , 4800 E. Huron River Dr., **Ann Arbor**. Nov. 8-11. 734-971-2228. A2ct.org

**Sunset Boulevard** \$19. Village Players, 34660 Woodward Ave., **Birmingham**. Nov. 2-18. 248-644-2075. Birminghamvillageplayers.com

**The King and I** \$12-15. Center Stage Jackson at Baughman Theatre at Jackson Community College, 2111 Emmons Road, **Jackson**. Nov. 2-11. 517-782-8473. CenterstageJackson.org

**Vintage Vegas** \$7. Kalamazoo Civic Senior Class Reader's Theatre at Carver Center Studio, 426 S. Park St., **Kalamazoo**. Through Nov. 3. 269-343-1313. KazooCivic.com

### COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

**Don Giovanni** \$10-26. UM School of Music Opera Theatre at Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 N. Fletcher St., **Ann Arbor**. Nov. 8-11. 734-764-2538. http://tickets.music.umich.edu

**Ruined** \$5-20. Western Michigan University Department of Theatre at The University Theatre, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., **Kalamazoo**. Nov. 8-18. 269-387-6222. WMUTheatre.com

**Spring Awakening** \$18-20. Western Michigan University Department of Theatre at Gilmore Theatre Complex, Western Michigan University, **Kalamazoo**. Through Nov. 4. 269-387-6222. Wmuththeatre.com

### PROFESSIONAL

**A Paradise of Fools** \$17 in advance, \$20 at the door; Nov. 10 is special Black Tie Event for \$75. . Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, **Detroit**. Nov. 1-Dec. 23. 313-868-1347. detroitreptheatre.com

**A Steady Rain** \$30. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., **Three Oaks**. Nov. 1-Nov. 2. 269-756-3879. AcornTheatre.com

**Antigone in New York** \$25. The Elizabeth Theatre, Park Bar, 2040 Park Ave., **Detroit**. Nov. 9-Jan. 12. 313-444-2294. ParkBarDetroit.com

**Cancer! The Musical** \$25. Planet Ant Theatre at Boll Family YMCA Theatre, 1401 Broadway St., **Detroit**. Nov. 9-Dec. 15. 313-365-4948. brownpaperickets.com

**Champions** \$10. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff St., **Hamtramck**. Through Nov. 10. 313-365-4948. planetant.com

**Dark Nights in Billtown** \$5 suggested donation each night/afternoon. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., **Williamston**. Nov. 2-4. 517-655-SHOW. WilliamstonTheatre.org

**Dial 'M' For Murder** \$15-18. Broadway OnStage, 21517 Kelly Road, **Eastpointe**. Through Nov. 17. 586-771-6333. BroadwayOnStage.com

**Dreamtigers** \$10 adult, \$5 children. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theatre, 25 E. Grand River, **Detroit**. Nov. 3-Nov. 24. 313-961-7777. puppetart.org

**Fully Charged** \$13-82. The Palace of Auburn Hills, 5 Championship Dr., **Auburn Hills**. Nov. 7-11. 800-745-3000. Ticketmaster.com

**Julius Caesar** \$25-125. Michigan Opera Theatre at Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., **Detroit**. Nov. 10-18. 313-237-SING. Motopera.org

**Laughter on the 23rd Floor** \$38-45.



## Editor's Pick

The official start of winter is just around the corner. While a joyous occasion for many, some metro-area residents go without basic necessities, such as a winter coat. For 20 years Tapper's Diamonds & Fine Jewelry has hosted a Coat Drive to help those in need enjoy a warmer winter.

This season's Tapper's 21st Annual Coat Drive will be Nov. 1-21, where local residents can support less fortunate neighbors by dropping off warm winter items and making

cash donations at all Tapper's locations.

"The gift of warmth and comfort has more meaning and value than we can imagine," says Ann Duke, director of marketing for Tapper's. "We urge everyone to share in an experience that will change lives."

Donations are accepted at all Tapper's locations. Tapper's is located in West Bloomfield, Novi and Troy. For more information, go to [www.Tappers.com](http://www.Tappers.com).



## Editor's Pick



At 7:30 p.m. Nov. 7, Emagine Royal Oak hosts the local premiere screening of "Code Breaker," which chronicles Alan Turing, a brilliant mathematician whose codebreaking skills helped Great Britain decipher the naval enigma code and turn the tide of World War II. For his pioneering work in developing the first algorithms and early computing functions, he is widely regarded as the father of computer science and artificial intelligence. But instead of being honored by his country, he was persecuted for his honesty, and prosecuted for being gay. This is the heartfelt and inspiring story of Turing's life and legacy. To purchase tickets, visit <http://tickets.todpix.com/codebreaker/detroit>. Proceeds from ticket sales benefit Affirmations.

**The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company** at DeRoy Theatre on the campus of the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Rd., West Bloomfield. Through Nov. 11. 248-788-2900. JETTheatre.org

**Macbeth** \$10 adult, \$5 student. The AKT Theatre Project at Woodhaven High School, 24787 Van Horn, Brownstown Township. Nov. 8-10. 734-258-8370. AKTtheatre.com

**Macbeth** \$10 adult, \$5 student. The AKT Theatre Project at Wyandotte Arts Center, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. Nov. 2-3. 734-258-8370. AKTtheatre.com

**Ordinary Days** Previews Nov. 1-2 (\$20). \$29-\$32. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Nov. 1-Dec. 9. 248-347-0003. tippingpointtheatre.com

**Othello** \$12-30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through Jan. 17. 313-577-2972. Hilberry.com

**Picking Palin** \$15-18. Magenta Giraffe Theatre at The Abreact Performance Space, 1301 Lafayette, #113, Detroit. Through Nov. 3. 313-408-7269. MagentaGiraffe.org

**Superior Donuts** \$18.50-42. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through Dec. 15. 734-433-7673. purplerosetheatre.org

**Sweeney Todd** \$18-20. What A Do Theatre, 4071 W. Dickman Road, Springfield. Through Nov. 17. 269-282-1953. WhatADo.org

**Thanksgiving** \$7-10. Crawspace Eviction at Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Nov. 9-10. 269-599-7390. Crawspacetheatre.com

**The Hundred Dresses** \$12-18. Flint Youth Theatre, 1220 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Through Nov. 4. 810-237-1530. FlintYouthTheatre.org

**The Kite Runner** \$12-30. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 7 p.m. Nov. 6. 810-237-7333. TheWhiting.com

**The Royal Drummers and Dancers of Burundi** \$30-50. Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison, Detroit. 8 p.m. Nov. 3. 313-887-8500. MusicHall.org

**The Spew** \$20. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. Nov. 3. 269-756-3879. acorntheater.com

## ART'N'AROUND

**Michigan State University Museum** "Cruisin' the Fossil Freeway" Brings together the best of the MSU Museum's fossil collection and the fossil-inspired artwork of celebrated artist Ray Troll to explore questions about evolution, extinction, and early life on Earth. Michigan State University Museum, 409 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. Oct. 6 - Dec. 30. Museum.msu.edu

**Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit** "Voice of the City" Directed by Qiu Zhijie and co-curated by Boris Groys, Jens

Hoffman and Johnson Chang Tsong-zung, the themed exhibition is composed of four parts, "Resources", "Revisit", "Reform" and "Republic", which focus on artists that can motivate the public, revisit or rewrite history, convert and transform energy and organize dialogues and communications respectively. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Oct. 2 - March 31. 313-832-6622. MOCADetroit.org

**The Gallery Project** "Grammar of the Elite" A multimedia exhibit in which 35 local, regional, and national artists focus on the language, networks, and power of the informal rulers of America: their obfuscation and mystique, ownership and control of institutions and power structures, and the determination of context in which we all function. The Gallery Project, 215 S. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Oct. 11 - Nov. 18. 734-997-7012. TheGalleryProject.com

**University of Michigan Museum of Art** "Benjamin West: General Wolfe and the Art of the Empire" Benjamin West's iconic painting The Death of General Wolfe (1776) depicts the death of James Wolfe, the British commander at the 1759 Battle of Quebec, one of Great Britain's most famous military victories, during what in this country is known as the French and Indian War. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Sep. 22 - Jan. 13. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

## Charles Alexander Demos Again At DIA

"If a certain culturally insensitive philistine and aesthetic dullard, who says he will cut spending to PBS and the arts, is elected president of this country, I may, out of protest, never, never create another art piece while he holds that high, elected to, but totally for him undeserved office," says well-known community artist and BTL "Parting Glances" columnist Charles Alexander.

Alexander has created thousands of art pieces – about 900 featured on his Facebook page – and written 650 weekly columns since he started writing them in 1999, to highlight outstanding

LGBT moments of the ending century. To say that he is prolific is perhaps a rainbow understatement.

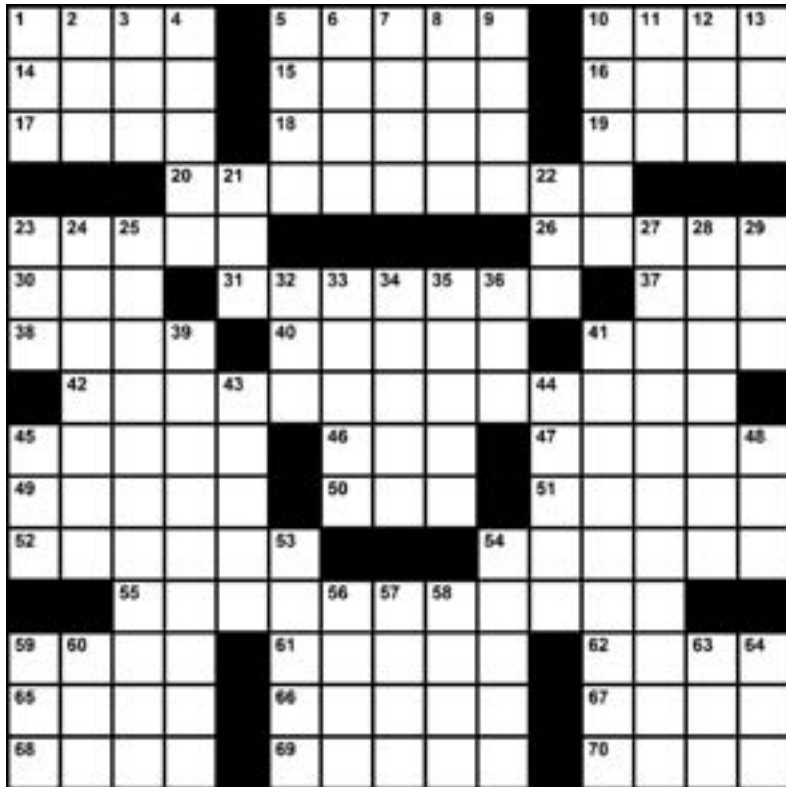
Just two days before he goes to the polls to vote for the best choice for president of the United States in his impeccable, tasteful opinion, Alexander will be the Sunday demonstrating artist at the Detroit Institute of Arts, from noon until four. It is his second appearance there, having been Pride Month's demonstrating artist five years ago.

Alexander is currently on the board of directors of the nearby Scarab Club, and for over six years has been volunteer

curator for the Affirmations Center Art Gallery. He is a Pride Lifetime Achievement recipient and a Spirit of Detroit awardee.

"To put my many, many discerning art savy LGBT and allied art fans at ease, I really don't intend to forsake my artistic calling for what would be a presidential misalliance of great magnitude," says Alexander. "I just thought in my fantastic imagination that the suggestion might induce last-minute, undecided voters to change their minds. In the interest of PBS, the arts, and of course my humble Democratic self."

# Another Day The Music Died



## Across

- 1 Pull out your shooter
- 5 Early sitcom star Desi
- 10 Tallulah Bankhead's home st.
- 14 Elton John Broadway musical
- 15 TĒa of "Fun with Dick and Jane"
- 16 Skater's feat
- 17 Nine inches
- 18 Hangout for Natalie Barney
- 19 Candace Gingrich's half-brother
- 20 With 31-Across, Barbra Streisand song written by 55-Across
- 23 Big name in beer
- 26 Actress Rene
- 30 Lubricant
- 31 See 20-Across
- 37 "Suzie Q" band
- 38 Pam Parsons and Patty Sheehan
- 40 Uncompromising
- 41 Thick carpet
- 42 June Christy song written by 55-Across
- 45 Hard to crack
- 46 Unlettered phone number
- 47 City on the RhŪne
- 49 Alexandre, who wrote about a male threesome
- 50 Letters on a Cardinal's cap
- 51 Denim pants
- 52 Barneys and others

- 54 1930's-40's villain
- 55 Late great composer and lyricist
- 59 Cheese in Ms. van de Kamp's cookbook?
- 61 Trump ex
- 62 Moby Dick chaser
- 65 Some have electric organs
- 66 The Divine Miss M, for one?
- 67 Type of straits for straights in a gay bar?
- 68 Russian's refusal
- 69 Rob on the screen
- 70 Zipped

## Down

- 1 Article of Marlene Dietrich
- 2 Saw with the grain
- 3 Canine care org.
- 4 Has the hots for
- 5 On top of that
- 6 Not made up
- 7 Publisher of same-sex couples' legal guide
- 8 Soon, to Shakespeare
- 9 Judy Garland's "\_\_\_! Went the Strings of My Heart"
- 10 Congo native
- 11 Tin Woodsman's tool
- 12 Copy cats?
- 13 A. Earhart concern
- 21 "Master Melvin"

- 22 JFK info
- 23 Old man
- 24 Clears of stale smells
- 25 Vehicle for those who say "Are you my type?"
- 27 Vessel for a smart first mate?
- 28 Type of triangle
- 29 Web site address ending
- 32 Pres. after Eleanor's husband
- 33 Gay cultural values, e.g.
- 34 Misleading maneuver
- 35 Textile trademark
- 36 Having one sharp, to Schubert
- 39 Most like a carbon copy
- 41 Results of too much intercourse?
- 43 Big name in flops
- 44 Bayou cooking style
- 45 Modern music media
- 48 Georgia once, but not O'Keeffe
- 53 Water park feature
- 54 Wears at the edges
- 56 Part of YSL
- 57 Attempt to seduce
- 58 Stud fee?
- 59 Big London clock
- 60 Wilder's "The Bridge of San Luis"
- 63 "We \_\_\_ Family"
- 64 Hit the sheets with

Solution on pg. 36



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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, 731848. Photo courtesy Heidi Waeschle-Gabel.

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# Classifieds

116 ANNOUNCEMENTS  
- EVENTS

225 REAL ESTATE -  
ASSISTED LIVING

## Call for Artists' Applications Being Accepted for 2013 Street Art Fair

The 54th Annual Ann Arbor Street Art Fair is now accepting applications for participation in the 2013 Art Fair. The Street Art Fair presents consistently high quality, all original work. The Art Fair draws more than 500,000 fairgoers from across the nation. Fair dates are Wednesday, July 18 through Saturday, July 20. Submissions are being accepted via ZAPApplication.org. Artists must register for a ZAPApplication account then complete the Street Art Fair's application no later than midnight January 15, 2013. artfair.org

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Solution to puzzle from page 34

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A	I	D	A	L	E	O	N	I	A	X	E	L											
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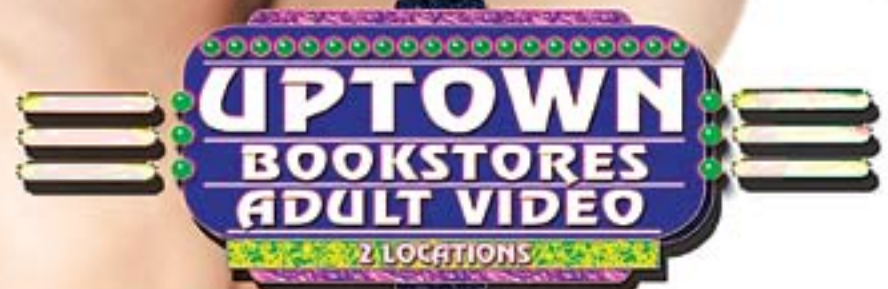
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# Cocktail Chatter

## The Watermelon

BY ED SIKOV

We were closing down the beach house for the winter. I was in a piss-poor mood and so was Dan, and neither of us was behaving with any degree of marital civility.

We'd already fought over such terribly important issues as what kind of garbage bag to buy (I favored the kind with built-in drawstrings; Dan immediately reached for Brand X to save a buck; I prevailed), whether or not it would be OK if I spiced up the day's dull tasks by puffing some herb (it would not be OK, Dan snapped, and I withdrew the suggestion), and whose iPod would reign on the sound system while we worked. Dan loves Mozart. I detest Mozart. "I won't play Twisted Sister if you won't play Mozart," I generously offered. "It's a deal," Dan said. Poor Dan. I don't have Twisted Sister on my iPod. I put on my favorite playlist, "Fountains of Wayne's Best," and we fell into an uneasy truce.

It didn't last long. Dan opened the liquor cabinet and began emptying it out. "This is going down the drain!" he stated, and before I had a chance to screech "no!" he'd dumped half a bottle of Midori into the sink. "Stop!" I yelled. "Why?" he calmly asked with an evil smile on his face as he kept pouring. "You're wasting perfectly good liquor!" I roared as I sped around the kitchen island and grabbed the bottle out of his hands before he emptied it entirely.

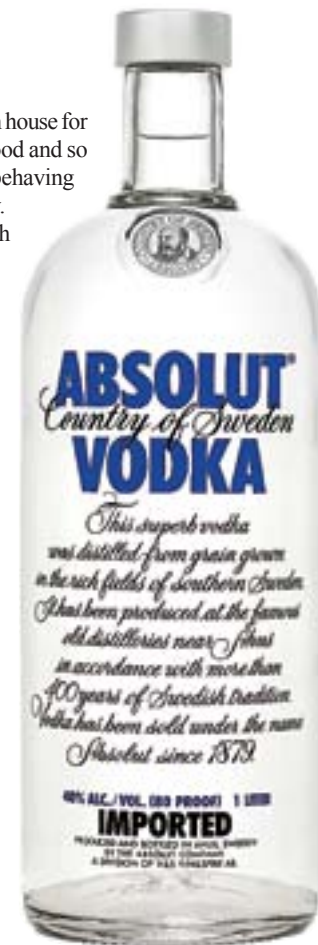
"This stuff bites," he said. "Nobody drinks it." "I do."

"You do not. It's been here for three years."

I couldn't argue with him. Truth be told, the violently green Japanese melon liqueur was one of those items that had sat untouched on the shelf for several seasons.

"OK, OK. I'll make you something good with it before dinner." He shot me one of those cockeyed looks of radical skepticism he produces at times like this, and I instantly knew all over again why I adored him.

I'd planned a simple meal: burgers and salad. There was a bottle of ketchup left in the refrigerator and not much more, except a half empty bottle of cranberry juice. I much prefer the 100-percent juice variety to the market leading cranberry, water and sweetener brand, but I didn't have a choice; we had to use up what a housemate had left in the fridge. Naturally, we had Absolut. We *always* have Absolut.



I mixed our cocktails and served them in the living room. Dan had finished his tasks and was reading *The Economist*. "Cheers!" I said brightly. Dan took his glass and examined it with the same wariness and vague distaste that a nurse practitioner would inspect an especially cloudy urine sample. "What's in this?" he interrogated. "Drink it," I said. "If I can taste that wretched Midori I'll spew," he threatened. "Drink it," I repeated. He took a sip, then a gulp. "This tastes just like watermelon! It's...!" Then he caught himself. "It's OK. But it's more of a summer drink."

"Put that glass down. Put it down *now*," I commanded. He did as he was told. Then I dove onto his welcoming belly, yanked his shirt up and began kissing his navel mercilessly. I didn't stop until he had apologized in several highly pleasurable ways.

### The Watermelon

1 part Absolut premium vodka  
1 part Midori  
Cranberry juice to taste.

Mix the vodka and the Midori in a tall glass filled with ice. Pour in cranberry juice to taste; stir; serve.

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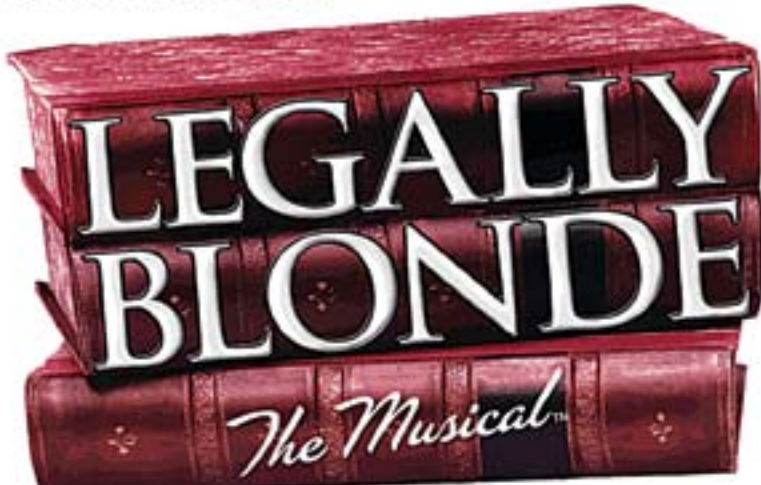
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