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*“Really the prejudice that happens in the film happens today. You're so sad this family can't be together and yet you're so complicit because we are part of the society that allows that to happen.”*

– Alan Cumming, actor on new film, “Any Day Now.” Pg. 14



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## Thousands Protest ‘Right To Work’

Thousands of protesters marched in freezing temperatures outside Michigan's Capitol this week in response to the “right to work” legislation pushed through the House. Read BTL's coverage of the protests at [Pridesource.com](http://Pridesource.com).

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“We did not expect to see this kind of hurtful language used almost every second of every day!”

– Dr. Kristoper Wells

# NoHomophobes.com

## Tracking Homophobic Language On Twitter

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

When Dr. Kristoper Wells was growing up he learned that the rhyme about “sticks and stones can break my bones, but names can never hurt me,” is not true.

“Words do hurt. Words have the power to shape identities, realities, and in turn possibilities for our young people. All we need to do is pay attention to the increasing prevalence of cyber bullying. It used to be that if you could just run fast enough you could escape your bullies by running home and locking your bedroom door. Now the bullies can follow youth via the Internet and social media right into that locked bedroom. There is no safe space left to escape the daily onslaught of bullying and the impact of casual slurs, prejudice, and discrimination.”

Working with Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services, University of Alberta, Canada, Wells has created a website called [www.NoHomophobes.com](http://www.NoHomophobes.com), which tracks the use of anti-gay language on Twitter, just one of several places where a youth may face online belittling language from their peers.

Often with tens of thousands of tweets a day, the numbers were shocking to Dr. Wells. “In our initial planning, we expected a few hundred a day, not tens of thousands,” Wells said. “We did not expect to see this kind of hurtful language used almost every second of every day!”

“We were also astounded at the frequency in which the word ‘faggot’ is being used. That word has a painful history and is not used in very many positive contexts,” Wells added. The hope is that [www.nohomophobes.com](http://www.nohomophobes.com) will work like a mirror for society and that once people realize the pervasiveness of the language they will be conscious to change it.”

He explained that the idea for the website came from looking at research over the past decade. “Studies done in the United States (GLSEN), Canada (Egale), and the UK (Stonewall) clearly demonstrate that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) youth commonly hear phrases like “that’s so gay” every day in their schools. In some cases, these

comments come directly from the teachers themselves. It’s often been said that homophobic language is the mostly commonly heard derogatory language heard in schools today, but the least responded to. The question is why?”

For Wells finding answers is personal. “My own experiences of silence and invisibility growing up as a gay youth and then becoming a closeted gay public school teacher serve as the foundation for me to advocate for change. We must believe in the possibility for a more inclusive, humane, and just society. If we don’t do the work to build that society, who will?”

simply become desensitized to these words and the devastating impact they have in our society. We are particularly concerned about the negative environment or climate these words have on youth who may be coming to terms with or questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity,” Wells said. “By naming and calling attention to these words, we draw attention to their power to shape identities, foreclose possibilities, and further perpetuate violence and stereotypes.”

The tally has no definite end date, and Wells is unsure what possibilities the research could bring about. For now he is just amazed at the numbers.

“It’s striking to see the totals increase on a daily basis. I wonder what the totals will be after one year,” he said. “Perhaps, what this website does best, and why it has received so much international attention, is how the site serves as a form of collective social conscience, which reminds us about the power of our words and how we have to take responsibility for our actions.

“We hope that people will see this website as an innovative way to interweave the use of social media and public education together to facilitate conversation on the impact of discrimination, prejudice, and hate. Ultimately, we hope that the website will engender conversation about the power of words and will encourage people to think critically before they speak or tweet! After all, words have the power to hurt, or to help.

“Perhaps, one youth who tweeted about the website summed it up the best when he said, “Now you know what my daily reality is like.”

Besides [www.nohomophobes.com](http://www.nohomophobes.com), The Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services, University of Alberta is best known for their award-winning national youth leadership program, Camp fYrefly. Camp fYrefly is now in its 10th year and focuses on helping LGBTQ youth move from feeling at risk to becoming resilient leaders for social justice in their schools, families and communities.

Learn more at [www.ismss.ualberta.ca](http://www.ismss.ualberta.ca).



The site counts “tweets” that contain “faggot,” “so gay,” “no homo,” and “dyke.” The experiment began on July 5. From then to Nov. 14 there were:

- 1,505,891 “No Homo” tweets
- 1,435,585 “So Gay” tweets
- 4,128,674 “Faggot” tweets
- 563,912 “Dyke” tweets

The website has now attracted over 400,000 unique visitors and has received international media attention from such diverse countries as Australia, Cambodia, India, Germany, UK, USA and Canada. The tracking does not place any value judgment on the tweets or the Twitter users, nor does it discern which ones may actually be supportive of LGBT people. It simply runs the tweets and tracks the number of times a trigger word or phrase is used.

“While not all people tweeting are homophobic, their use of derogatory language hurts, stereotypes, and further isolates sexual and gender minorities, their friends, and families. We believe that many people have

# Equality Michigan Petition Hopes To Stop Proposed Discrimination In Adoption Laws

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

On Dec. 4 the Michigan House Committee on Families, Children, and Seniors passed two bills out of committee, House Bills 5763 and 5764, which would allow adoption agencies the ability to deny an adoption placement based on that agency's moral or religious beliefs.

In Michigan there are 14,000 children in foster care at any time - 5,000 of them with parents whose rights have been terminated and are awaiting permanent homes. The bills add a barrier between those children and potential foster parents who would give them a loving home, just because those potential foster parents might be gay. Additionally, the bills protect public funding for agencies choosing to discriminate.

The committee heard testimony about the proposed bills, including a speech from a family that adopted a son and is in the process of adopting their second child.

Kent Love-Ramirez spoke about the love he



**Emily Dievendorf**  
Director of Policy,  
Equality Michigan

and partner Diego Love-Ramirez have for their two year old son Lucas. "By all accounts we were a committed, loving, stable family. Three years ago we began the process of adopting a child. We did our research and knew we were ideal candidates based on the state's criteria for determining eligibility of adoptive families. Our family was selected by Lucas' birth parents from among several prospective families. We have been attentive parents from the very beginning, attending pre-natal doctor's appointments and assisting in the delivery room when Lucas was born. Diego cut the umbilical

cord. I was the first person to hold Lucas and a day later we took Lucas to his new home with the blessing of the State of Michigan and Lucas' biological parents. By all accounts our story is a perfect example of how children in need should find their way to loving families. Yet these bills threaten to allow bigotry and individual subjectivity to trump the state's criteria for evaluating a family's eligibility for placement," Love-Ramirez said.

"The bottom line is that the state has established specific criteria for determining the eligibility of prospective parents and for protecting the best interest of the child in its care," continued Love-Ramirez. "Agencies and individuals must not be allowed to both accept government funding to perform a service and at the same time arbitrarily discriminate based on factors that the state says should have no bearing on such matters. I find it deplorable that members of this committee are trying to make it more difficult for families like ours to offer loving homes to children in need." Emily Dievendorf, director of policy for

Equality Michigan, testified against the bills each time it came up for committee vote, alongside parents and advocates from partner organizations.

"The ongoing effort by extremists serving in the Michigan Legislature to turn Michigan into a state which values intolerance over compassion is alarming and must be stopped. Equality Michigan is pleased to have our national partner, Democracy for America, join us in the effort to stand up in opposition to these bills. We are committed to making sure the voice of people in Michigan are heard, that efforts to legalize discrimination will not be tolerated," she said. An online action to send emails to members of the committee which passed the bill resulted in over 10,000 emails being sent to elected officials. Now they are doing an online petition urging legislators to vote down the bills.

The petition can be found at: <http://democracyforamerica.com/petitions/25-stop-extremist-legislators-in-michigan-from-denying-homes-to-kids>.

## Conscience Clause Bill Passes Senate Committee

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Senate Bill 975, which seeks to legalize discrimination in health care based on "moral" objections, has been approved by committee and has been sent back to the Senate for a vote. The Senate Committee on Health Policy recommended that the bill be passed with immediate effect, and if that happens, healthcare providers would have six months to implement a procedure through which employees could opt out of providing morally-compromising services.

The Religious Liberty and Conscience Protection Act addresses three levels of care. It allows any health facility to decline providing services if they have "a moral or religiously-based desire not to." It gives employers the right to exclude objectionable procedures from employee's health care benefits. And it gives doctors, nurses and pharmacists the right to refuse to participate in health care services they object to based on "sincerely held religious beliefs."

Marry Pollock, legislative vice president of the National Organization for Women, gave testimony about the potential effects of this bill back in June:

"SB 975's apparent intent is to reduce the number of insurers, facilities and providers who provide comprehensive reproductive health care, or health care services to homosexuals based on the religious tenets of the Catholic Bishops.

According to the Guttmacher Institute, one of three women will have an abortion in her lifetime. Ninety - nine percent of American women have used birth control. Catholics themselves reflect these same percentages. The bill provides no religious liberty protection to these women and homosexuals but instead permits and promotes denial of services to them.

"Some examples of what SB 975 would permit: An insurer or employer could refuse to cover pregnancy costs associated with an out-of-wedlock pregnancy; An insurance company could refuse all coverage for gays or lesbians based on the religious objection of the insurance company; A doctor could refuse to provide services to a woman, a minority, or an HIV-positive person and a hospital could block doctors from treating miscarriages and late ectopic pregnancies. Women who need a life-saving abortion could quite literally be left to die, all in the name of 'conscience.'"

In addition to the medical harm that this bill would cause, it stomps on true religious freedom by bringing attention to divisions between religions in the workplace. The bill is a religious favoritism bill and violative of the most basic religious freedom doctrines on which this country was founded," Pollock said. "It is a shocking bill in light of what we know about where religious intolerance leads."

The bill, whose primary sponsor is Senator John Moolenaar (R - Midland), is the latest in a

series of bills aimed at legalizing discrimination in Michigan on religious or moral grounds.

Equality Michigan, the statewide anti-violence and advocacy organization specifically serving the LGBT communities, has called on Michigan's State Senators to reject this latest attempt to provide licenses to discriminate in Michigan. The organization has also spoken against Michigan House Bills 5763 and 5764, which would provide adoption agencies with a similar license to discriminate based on religious or moral convictions.

Emily Dievendorf, director of policy at Equality Michigan, said "At a time when our nation is having a conversation about providing better health care and access to it, extremists in Michigan are choosing to waste our money by doing the opposite and finding ways to keep people from potentially life-saving health care. In complete contrast with the Hippocratic Oath, Senator Moolenaar is suggesting that we empower health professionals to first do harm by using a license to discriminate to turn away a patient based on any arbitrary criteria. Denying emergency room care to a Jewish patient care over disagreements on religious text is not what they had in mind when asking professionals to pledge to the Hippocratic Oath. This reprehensible bill must be stopped before it becomes embarrassingly clear that Michigan is a state which prefers hate over compassion."

Jay Kaplan of the ACLU's LGBT Project

also has concerns. "Institutions that operate in the public world should play by the public rules. They shouldn't be able to discriminate. Everyone deserves to be treated fairly. We must hold all medical centers and institutions serving the public, whether they are religiously affiliated or not- to the same standards," Kaplan said. "A patient's health should be the health care facility's first priority, regardless of its affiliation. Individual, personal health care decisions should not be overridden by an institution's religious objections."

### Examples of what SB 975 would permit:

- An insurer or employer could refuse to cover pregnancy costs associated with an out-of-wedlock pregnancy
- An insurance company could refuse all coverage for gays or lesbians based on the religious objection of the insurance company
- A doctor could refuse to provide services to a woman, a minority, or an HIV-positive person
- A hospital could block doctors from treating miscarriages and late ectopic pregnancies. Women who need a life-saving abortion could quite literally be left to die, all in the name of "conscience."

## BRIEFS

WASHINGTON, D.C.

### New FBI Data Shows Hate Crimes Based on Sexual Orientation On Rise

For the first time, crimes directed against individuals on the basis of sexual orientation are the second most frequent hate crime committed after crimes based on race, according to the 2011 Hate Crimes statistics released Dec. 10 by the FBI as part of the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. Surpassing crimes committed on the basis of religion, the number of reported hate crimes committed against gay men and lesbians increased from 1,277 in 2010 to 1,293 in 2011.

"The 2011 FBI hate crimes data is a sad reminder that even as we make great strides toward equality under the law, LGBT people in face dangers in America," said HRC President Chad Griffin. "We must rid our country of the violence that has devastated our community for far too long."

Hate crimes statistics are submitted to the FBI by law enforcement agencies across the country on a voluntary basis - there is no requirement under the law for agencies to submit the data. In 2011, the number of agencies reporting this data dropped to 14,575, a decrease from 14,977 the previous year. Of these data-submitting agencies, only 1,944 reported even a single hate crime to the FBI, the lowest number of agencies reporting one or more hate crimes since 2002.

Crimes reported to the FBI involve those motivated by biases based on race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity/national origin, and disability. Currently, the FBI does not collect data on hate crimes committed on the basis of gender identity. Under the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, the FBI will begin collecting this data in 2013 and will report these statistics beginning in 2014. HRC and partner organizations have worked with the FBI to implement changes to hate crimes data collection since the passage of the Act in 2009, assisting in updating the agency's crime reporting form and training materials to include gender identity.

"We commend the FBI for recognizing the needs of transgender Americans, who face violence at alarming and disproportionate rates," added Griffin. Hate crime data will help law enforcement agencies better understand how to serve and protect the LGBT community."

Reporting hate crimes to the FBI is a criterion in HRC's new Municipal Equality Index (MEI), the first ever rating system of LGBT inclusion in municipal law, which was released in November. Such reporting demonstrates law enforcement's attention to such crimes and ensures that the larger law enforcement community is able to accurately gauge the scope of and responses to hate crimes.

FBI Hate Crimes Statistics can be viewed at [www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/hate-crime/2011](http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/hate-crime/2011).

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

### About 140 Gay Couples Getting Married In Seattle

(AP) - About 140 same-sex couples are getting married at Seattle's City Hall on Dec. 16 - the first day weddings can take place.

City officials opened City Hall on Sunday at 10 a.m. and 16 local judges volunteered to conduct the weddings. There were five separate chapels to accommodate the couples.

Washington voters approved Referendum 74 in November with 54 percent of the vote. The measure asked voters to either approve or reject the state law legalizing same-sex marriage that legislators passed earlier this year.

The law took effect on Thursday, but state law says couples have wait three days to marry after picking their marriage licenses.

Mayor Mike McGinn says opening city hall on Sunday underlines that the city stands behind the partnership of same-sex couples.

Extended briefs are available online at:

>> [www.PrideSource.com](http://www.PrideSource.com)



U of M's Out In Public group brought, from left, Naomi Goldberg of the Movement Advancement Project, attorney Denise Brogan-Kator of the Family Acceptance Project, Wayne State University Associate Prof. John Corvino and U of M Law School visiting professor Steve Sanders to campus Dec. 4. The speakers addressed the upcoming legal and social challenges that the marriage equality battle would likely see in 2013 and beyond. BTL photo: Jerome Stuart Nichols.

# DOMA Isn't The End In Fight For Marriage Equality

## UM Panel Discusses Long Range Equality Issues

BY JEROME STUART NICHOLS

ANN ARBOR - Enacted in 1996, the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) has long been a titan-sized barrier to accomplishing same-sex marriage equality. As such, repealing the law has become a major priority for those in the fight. While often treated as the ultimate goal, repealing DOMA might not be the end of the battle. Last week, the University of Michigan's Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy examined that idea with a panel "DOMA and Beyond: Strategies for Achieving Marriage Equality."

Hosted by U of M LGBTQ resource and support organization Out In Public, the panel was a part of GRFSPP's student/alumni connection program Fordies under

Forty. This program supports student organizations in bringing exemplary alumni back to campus to share their experiences.

DOMA and Beyond explored the complex legal and social issues surrounding DOMA and the fight for marriage equality. Panelists included U of M Law School Visiting Assistant Professor Steve Sanders, Wayne State University Associate Professor and Chair of Philosophy John Corvino and Family Equality Council Senior Legislative Council Denise Brogan-Kator. The panel's requisite "Fordie" under forty was 2008 U of M Masters in Public Policy Naomi Goldberg.

Each of the four panelists brought a different perspective on the topic. For Out In Public, it was imperative for DOMA

and Beyond to take a wider look at the issue of same-sex marriage equality.

"I think it's important that you have people from different disciplines talking and in a dialog," Jeff Kessner, chair of Out In Public said. "In other things I've been involved in, people get so siloed into whatever their particular area of expertise may be ... and it's very easy to say that 'this' is sort of the silver bullet that the legal approach will accomplish marriage equality."

"Even in the unlikely event that the Supreme Court were to declare that every U.S. citizen had an equal right to marry, there would still be work to be done," said Corvino who stressed that legally equal doesn't necessarily mean socially equal.

See [Fight For Marriage Equality](#), page 12

# US Supreme Court Will Hear Gay Marriage Cases

BY MARK SHERMAN

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Supreme Court will take up California's ban on same-sex marriage, a case that could give the justices the chance to rule on whether gay Americans have the same constitutional right to marry as heterosexuals.

The justices said Dec. 7 they will review a federal appeals court ruling that struck down the state's gay marriage ban, though on narrow grounds. The San Francisco-based appeals court said the state could not take away the same-sex marriage right that had been granted by California's Supreme Court.

The court also will decide whether Congress can deprive legally married gay couples of federal benefits otherwise available to married people. A provision of the federal Defense of Marriage Act limits a range of health and pension benefits, as well as favorable tax treatment, to heterosexual couples.

The cases probably will be argued in March, with decisions expected by late June.

Gay marriage is legal, or will be soon, in nine states - Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Vermont, Washington - and the District of Columbia. Federal courts in California have struck down the state's constitutional ban on same-sex marriage, but that ruling has not taken effect while the issue is being appealed.

Voters in Maine, Maryland and



The two cases will likely be argued in March, with the Supreme Court's decisions expected by late June.

Washington approved gay marriage earlier this month.

But 30 states have amended their constitutions to prohibit same-sex marriage. North Carolina was the most recent example in May. In Minnesota earlier this month, voters defeated a proposal to enshrine a ban on gay marriage in that state's constitution.

The biggest potential issue before the justices comes in the dispute over

California's Proposition 8, the state constitutional ban on gay marriage that voters adopted in 2008 after the state Supreme Court ruled that gay Californians could marry. The case could allow the justices to decide whether the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of equal protection means that the right to marriage cannot be limited to heterosexuals.

A decision in favor of gay marriage

could set a national rule and overturn every state constitutional provision and law banning same-sex marriages. A ruling that upheld California's ban would be a setback for gay marriage proponents in the nation's largest state, although it would leave open the state-by-state effort to allow gays and lesbians to marry.

In striking down Proposition 8, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals

crafted a narrow ruling that said because gay Californians already had been given the right to marry, the state could not later take it away. The ruling studiously avoided any sweeping pronouncements.

The larger constitutional issue almost certainly will be presented to the court, but the justices would not necessarily have to rule on it.

The other issue the high court will take on involves a provision of the Defense of Marriage Act, known by its acronym DOMA, which defines marriage as between a man and a woman for the purpose of deciding who can receive a range of federal benefits.

Four federal district courts and two appeals courts struck down the provision.

The justices chose for their review the case of 83-year-old Edith Windsor, who sued to challenge a \$363,000 federal estate tax bill after her partner of 44 years died in 2009.

Windsor, who goes by Edie, married Thea Spyer in 2007 after doctors told them that Spyer would not live much longer. She suffered from multiple sclerosis for many years. Spyer left everything she had to Windsor.

There is no dispute that if Windsor had been married to a man, her estate tax bill would have been \$0.

The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New York agreed with a district judge that the provision of DOMA deprived Windsor of the constitutional guarantee of equal protection.

## Hope And Fear In Gay Marriage Cases At High Court

BY MARK SHERMAN

WASHINGTON (AP) - Gay marriage supporters see 41 reasons to fret over the Supreme Court's decision to take up the case of California's ban on same-sex unions.

While nine states allow same-sex partners to marry, or will soon, 41 states do not. Of those, 30 have written gay marriage bans into their state constitutions.

That fact is worrisome to those who firmly believe there is a constitutional right to marry, regardless of sexual orientation, but who also know that the Supreme Court does not often get too far ahead of the country on hot-button social issues.

"Mindful of history, I can't help but be concerned," said Mary Bonauto, director of the Civil Rights Project at Gay and Lesbian Advocates and

**“There is a commonly held but inaccurate view that what the Supreme Court does is to impose its views on the country. It very rarely does that. Much more frequently, it will take a view that is either a majority in some place or a majority of elite opinion, and speed up acceptancee.”**

- Michael Dorf

Defenders and a leader in the state-by-state push for marriage equality.

Bonauto was speaking before the court decided on Dec. 7 to take up cases on California's constitutional ban on gay marriage and a federal law that denies to gay Americans who are legally married the favorable

tax treatment and a range of health and pension benefits otherwise available to married couples.

In 2008, California voters approved the ban, Proposition 8, after the state Supreme Court ruled that gay Californians could marry. Since then, a federal appeals court

struck down the constitutional provision, but did not authorize the resumption of same-sex marriages pending appeal.

Bonauto identified three earlier seminal rulings that once and for all outlawed state-backed discrimination, and observed that in

each case the number of states that still had the discrimination on the books was far smaller.

Thirteen states still had laws against sodomy when the court said in 2003 that states have no right to intrude on the private, personal conduct of people, regardless of sexual orientation.

Interracial marriage still was illegal in 16 states in 1967 before the high court outlawed race-based state marriage bans.

In 1954, when the court issued its landmark decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, 17 states had formally segregated school systems.

Cornell University law professor Michael Dorf said those cases illustrate a widespread misperception about the justices.

"There is a commonly held

See Hope and Fear, page 8

# Fenton Gay Teen Takes Own Life

BY BTL STAFF

Just two months after telling his mom he was gay, a 17-year-old Fenton boy has taken his own life, according to a Flint Journal report. His mother told the paper that bullying is to blame.

According to the report, on Nov. 27 Josh Pacheco was found in the family's garage where he had parked his truck and left it running. A note in the truck said "I'm sorry I wasn't able to be strong enough."

His mother, Lynnette Capehart, told the Flint Journal that Pacheco was bullied at school and that the weekend after Thanksgiving he had told his sisters that he was questioning his life and his future. On Nov. 26 Capehart made an appointment for her son to talk to a counselor on Nov. 28, but he did not live long enough to make the appointment.

Pacheco was a junior at Linden High. He was part of the Kidz Theatre Kompany, worked at Tim Hortons, and enjoyed his advanced placement politics class, the report states.

Hundreds attended the funeral and on Dec. 5 there was a memorial at the Mill Pond gazebo for those who wanted to share stories and pay tribute.

Superintendent Ed Koledo was saddened by the incident and has been busy trying to provide support for the students in the District who may be hurting because of



Josh Pacheco was 17 when he ended his life last week. His family blames bullying.

Pacheco's death. "On Wednesday last week, we brought over all of our counselors and social workers to the high school. We also had ministers representing five local churches at the start of the day and into the second period. School social workers and counselors remained available throughout Wednesday and are still available if needed. We did have

some students seek out, individually and in groups, a chance to talk, and we had various conversations going on throughout the day.

"We also put together a parent letter that was mailed home to let parents of high school and middle school students know what was going on. ... We are looking for support from different groups in bringing

“On Wednesday last week, we brought over all of our counselors and social workers to the high school. We also had ministers representing five local churches at the start of the day and into the second period. School social workers and counselors remained available throughout Wednesday and are still available if needed. We did have some students seek out, individually and in groups, a chance to talk, and we had various conversations going on throughout the day.”

– Superintendent Ed Koledo

in a program to improve what we do for bully prevention and suicide awareness. Possibly something in the short term for grievance at the high school and something longer term at both the high school and middle school to improve programming, something that includes initiatives with students, staff, and community.”

Linden Schools had a detailed

bullying plan in place before this incident, which included regular talks in the classroom. "Bullying is always a problem almost everywhere in our society. I do not think the efforts to stop it are ever complete. While I do think we have good initiatives in place for bully awareness, we realize it is never enough. Annually we report to our Board the anti-bully programming planned for each school. We are looking to improve what we do by bringing in experts in the field that have established programs for improving success in curbing bullying by working with students, staff, and the community."

Linden Schools has information on their website about their bullying program [www.lindenschools.org/Anti-Bully%20Programming%202012-13.pdf](http://www.lindenschools.org/Anti-Bully%20Programming%202012-13.pdf), and about suicide prevention ([www.lindenschools.org/Suicide%20Prevention%20-%20Facts,%20Signs%20and%20Interventions.pdf](http://www.lindenschools.org/Suicide%20Prevention%20-%20Facts,%20Signs%20and%20Interventions.pdf)). According to the documentation, provided by KidPeace, suicide is the third leading cause of death among young people 15 to 24 years of age. From 1980-1996, the rate of suicide among all persons aged 10-14 years increased by 100 percent. The suicide rate for young white females has doubled, while for young white males it has tripled since 1950.

## ► Hope and Fear

Continued from p. 7

but inaccurate view that what the Supreme Court does is to impose its views on the country. It very rarely does that. Much more frequently, it will take a view that is either a majority in some place or a majority of elite opinion, and speed up acceptance," said Dorf, who was a Supreme Court law clerk to Justice Anthony Kennedy.

The forces that mounted the legal challenge to Proposition 8 have said all along that the right to marry is so fundamental that it should not depend on success at the ballot box or the votes of state legislatures. Washington lawyer Theodore Olson, representing gay Californians who wish to marry, said he will argue that there is a

"fundamental constitutional right to marry for all citizens."

But are there five justices, a majority of the court, willing to endorse that argument?

The fear among gay marriage proponents is that the court will refuse to declare that states can no longer define marriage as the union of a man and a woman, because to do so might provoke a backlash in public opinion and undermine acceptance of its authority.

A high court loss for gay marriage advocates would prevent same-sex marriages in the nation's largest state. It would not affect the District of Columbia and the nine states – Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Vermont and Washington – where gay couples can or soon will be able to marry.

But it could push back the day that

many in the gay rights movement, looking at strong support for gay marriage among younger Americans, see as inevitable: the Supreme Court's endorsement of full marriage equality nationwide.

Commenting after the court's action, Bonauto said she believes the court can uphold an appeals court ruling that struck down Proposition 8 in a way that applies to California only and "leave to a later day questions about broader bans on committed same-sex couples marrying."

Opponents of gay marriage look to another court case, *Roe v. Wade*, that they say should serve as a cautionary tale. In 1973, the court voted 7-2 to declare that the Constitution protects a woman's right to an abortion.

"Should the Supreme Court decide to overturn the marriage laws of 41 states, the ruling would become

even more divisive than the court's infamous *Roe v. Wade* decision," said Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council. "Marriage, unlike abortion laws in the 1970s, has been incorporated into the state constitutions of 30 states. Voters in these states will not accept an activist court redefining our most fundamental social institution."

To a degree, Perkins and Bonauto get some support from one of the nine people with a say in the matter, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

In February, Ginsburg questioned the timing of the abortion decision and suggested it may have contributed to the ongoing bitter debate about abortion.

"It's not that the judgment was wrong, but it moved too far too fast," Ginsburg said at Columbia University.

At the time of *Roe v. Wade*,

abortion was legal on request in four states, allowed under limited circumstances in about 16 others, and outlawed under nearly all circumstances in the other states, including Texas, where the *Roe* case originated.

The court could have put off dealing with abortion while the state-by-state process evolved, she said. Or her predecessors could have struck down just the Texas law, which allowed abortions only to save a mother's life, without declaring a right to privacy that legalized the procedure nationwide, Ginsburg said.

"The court made a decision that made every abortion law in the country invalid, even the most liberal," Ginsburg said. "We'll never know whether I'm right or wrong ... things might have turned out differently if the court had been more restrained."



# Gender Identity Is Not A Disorder



**Viewpoint**

OPINION BY KATHLEEN LATOSCH

On Dec. 3 the American Psychology Association announced that it is replacing "Gender Identity Disorder" with the more neutral and less-stigmatizing title, "gender dysphoria" in its Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, more commonly known as the DSM.

The DSM is the mental health professional's diagnostic book. Psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers and counselors all use this book to assign a diagnostic code to mental health disorders. These codes are then used to bill insurance for proper medical treatment and are often required to justify covering the cost of office visits, prescriptions, and needed medical procedures. It's critical in the healthcare of someone who is transgender. Perhaps at no other time in one's life is it more important to have quality healthcare than during a gender transition.

**“Having to cope with the societal stigma of gender transition drives many mental health concerns for transgender individuals. Layer hormone therapy and other medical issues on top of that and it's a difficult and uncommon territory to navigate.”**

The change comes after decades of advocacy to remove the more stigmatizing diagnosis which equates one's own gender identity with a mental health disorder – "Gender Identity Disorder". Being transgender is not a mental health condition and it's not abnormal. There is no normal – normalcy is only what one perceives as common in his/her own existence. If I grow up a white woman in a middle-class Catholic neighborhood, that's my normal. If a lot of women grow up the same way around me, it's common. But we're not normal for everyone, just for us. If I grow up Arab American in Dearborn and all my friends are bilingual and go to the same church and celebrate the same holidays, that's my normal.

Being transgender is not abnormal. It's just not as common and it's doesn't appear *en*

*masse* within families and communities. It can be a very isolated and isolating experience. And it's not a mental health disorder. It's like being born red-haired in a blonde, black and brown-haired world. Or at least it should be ... but it's not - red-haired people aren't kicked out of their homes, fired from their jobs, abused on the street, and denied basic human dignity.

Having to cope with the societal stigma of gender transition drives many mental health concerns for transgender individuals. Layer hormone therapy and other medical issues on top of that and it's a difficult and uncommon territory to navigate. Seeing a professional to sort through all that can help, but it comes with a cost – the cost of having that mental health diagnosis attached to your name, the cost of being "outed" to every other person who comes into contact with your medical record.

And how do you find a therapist who understands these same truths – that there's nothing abnormal about being transgender, that it's a personal characteristic. How do you find someone who understands that the anxiety you are dealing with is caused by societal stigma and not caused by your gender identity? It's not easy.

Last week Affirmations brought together leading Michigan experts on LGBT mental health in what's been called a queer mental

health "think tank." After months of work, The LGBT Mental Health Task Force led the first ever two-day training on Clinical Issues & Sexual Orientation for therapists. It was sold out with a waiting list for the next training. This March, they are forging even newer territory – putting together the first two-day training on Clinical Issues & Gender Identity for therapists and counselors. It will be the first such training offered in Michigan. On the heels of the APA's new announcement, there is no better time to be preparing mental health professionals to competently and knowledgeably provide services to our transgender community members.

*Kathleen LaTosch, MSW, works on special projects for Affirmations Community Center.*

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NATIONAL GAY  
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Nothing average about it

# We're Going to The Supreme Court!



## Viewpoint

BY JAMES ESSEK

This is it – the Supreme Court marriage moment that the ACLU has been working towards for years. The Court announced today that it has granted review of the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act in Edie Windsor's case. The Court also took review of California's Prop 8, so the full range of marriage issues will now be before the high court. These cases are poised not just to take down DOMA and Prop 8, but to be the next building blocks for LGBT equality more broadly. The Windsor and Perry rulings, expected in June 2013, will be a watershed moment if our side wins either one.

Here's why these cases are so important:

Ending explicit federal discrimination. DOMA requires the federal government to discriminate against married same-sex couples by treating them as legal strangers for purposes of all federal statutes and programs. There are approximately 120,000 married same-sex couples in the U.S. today, and DOMA treats all of them as single in each of the 1,100+ places in the federal code where being married makes a difference – from eligibility for family medical leave, to social security survivor's benefits, to access to health care for a spouse. It's the last explicit federal declaration that gay people are inferior, which is reason enough to get rid of it.

Heightened scrutiny in the balance. The Windsor ruling from the federal appeals court announced an important new protection for LGB people – "heightened scrutiny" by the courts. Under this standard, courts will presume that anti-gay discrimination by the government is unconstitutional and will require the government to have a good explanation for why it needs to treat us badly. Courts have usually applied a much less rigorous standard that often allows the government to discriminate against lesbians and gay men. While DOMA and Prop 8 should fail under any standard, if the Supreme Court adopts the heightened scrutiny standard, it would help eliminate anti-gay discrimination in many different contexts, from the workplace, to state parenting laws, to public schools across the country.

Showing the country that discrimination in marriage is wrong. Both Windsor and Perry make profound contributions to the public's understanding of the freedom to marry. Edie's story resonates because her relationship with Thea exemplifies what many people think marriage is all about – making a commitment to another person and sticking with it through difficult times. When two people make the

commitment that's at the heart of marriage, it's profoundly unfair for the government to treat them as though they're not a family. The evidence presented at the Prop 8 trial helped the country see how baseless are the many anti-gay stereotypes that are at the core of our opponents' arguments. And having prominent conservatives like Ted Olson champion this cause gets a big chunk of America to take another look. Once they do, many realize they don't really have a problem with same-sex couples tying the knot.

The two cases both involve marriage for gay couples, but they actually present quite distinct issues. Edie Windsor is already married – she just wants to stop the federal government from treating her marriage different from everyone else's marriages. The plaintiffs in the Prop 8 case, on the other hand, want to get married. Their case presents the marriage issue to the Court full-on – Does California's ban on marriage for same-sex couples violate the federal constitution? Our side could get a big win – marriage in all 50 states – or we could get a smaller win – marriage in California. Either win would be spectacular progress for our movement. I'm betting that the smaller win is more likely, but public opinion on this issue is changing so quickly that it's becoming hard to predict what the Court will do in the end. The ACLU has filed supportive briefs in Perry all along, and we've been working for decades – in courts, in legislatures, in ballot campaigns, and with the public – to help get the country, and the court, ready for this moment.

As the Court moves forward, let's take a look back at Edie's story.

Edie Windsor and Thea Spyer's relationship is destined to be a classic among love affairs: The two New Yorkers became a couple in 1965 and had the courage to get engaged in 1967, when marriage for same-sex couples was just

a fantasy. In 1977, Thea was diagnosed with progressive multiple sclerosis, which gradually paralyzed her and ultimately left her unable to walk. Edie and Thea dealt together with the challenges of M.S. for the next 30-plus years.

The couple waited for years to be able to marry, and finally did so in 2007. In 2009, after 44 years together, Thea died.

Naturally Thea left her possessions, including the apartment they had shared for decades, to Edie. But while New York considered Edie and Thea married, DOMA required the federal government to treat them as legal strangers. So Edie was socked with a \$363,000 federal estate tax bill that would have been \$0 if she had been a straight widow. If you haven't seen the video about Edie, take a look, it's quite moving.

Heartbroken at the injustice, Edie challenged the constitutionality of DOMA. Two lower federal courts have struck down DOMA in her case, and now the Supreme Court will have the final word.

We're headed for another marriage moment in just six months. Edie's case will be a central part of that moment, and hers has all the right stuff – a compelling story, a perfect plaintiff, a top-notch legal team, and support from people across the country and around the globe. Importantly, Edie's bravery and the strength of her love could change the reality for tens of thousands of same-sex couples.

We could not do this work alone, many thanks to our wonderful co-counsel in Edie's case at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP and the Stanford Law School Supreme Court Litigation Clinic.

James Esseks is the Director of the ACLU LGBT & AIDS Project. Originally published on the American Civil Liberties Union's blog, [www.ACLU.org/Blog](http://www.ACLU.org/Blog).



WHAT A CHRISTMAS PRESENT!

# We're Not In Oz, Toto!



## Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

If stars are auspicious – and on this glorious, Night of Nights one star shown brightest of all – there are paths that magically switch in time, space, and crazy activation.

And so it happened once upon a whimsical time when five companions on one path, three on another, switched positions, directions, and somehow altered destinations.

The first group – names familiar to young and old alike – Dorothy, Toto, Tinman, Scarecrow, Cowardly Lion – were larking on the Yellow Brick Road to Oz, when the unexpected crisscrossing occurred.

Quite suddenly they were overwhelmed by a brilliant light that gently nudged them far beyond their make-believe journey. Giddy – very, very young – exuberantly naive at heart – they forgot all about Oz, which is not an easy thing to do. (Ask any adult.)

(The second regal sojourners – Gaspar, Balthasar, Melchior – bearing gifts for someone of noble birth – were baffled to find themselves getting heady in a poppy-infested countryside. A curious sign pointed them to MGM.)

“I hear music. Could it be choirs singing?” asked Tinman, eager to follow wherever the sounds led. “How marvelously wonderful,” thought Dorothy, knowing full well that tin men have tin ears; that perhaps this was an auspicious sign.

Along the way Dorothy and her rerouted friends found themselves waded to by shepherds keeping their flocks by night. “It seems we’re celebrities,” giggled Scarecrow, as Toto and Cowardly Lion busied themselves – bravely to be sure – chasing off wolves howling too close for comfort.

As the overhead kleig light in the sky got brighter. Scarecrow, with newfound mental acumen, ventured pompously, “This star is of 31.50 magnitude. A biggie.”

On cue, Dorothy, who possessed palatial talents (she hoped someday to perform in movies) began singing. Out of the blue she sang words she had never heard before, but somehow knew by heart, with Tinman, Cowardly Lion, Scarecrow crooning in.

The desolate miles quickly reeled by, and before they could finish the last chorus of “Meet Me in St. Louis, Louis” they found themselves among a small crowd gathered in front of a tiny, makeshift manger.

There were shepherds, seven dwarfs, a newly awakened Sleeping Beauty with her braveheart prince, and, in the center of it all, a mom, a carpenter dad, a small baby wrapped in hand-me-down clothes.

And most probably because there was an awe-inspired, opening-night crowd applauding, the little guy began to cry. Not too loudly. But authoritatively audible to be sure. And – in a moment of exquisite improv – Scarecrow pulled straw from his thump-thump-thumping heart and gently gave it to cradle the baby’s head.

Dorothy, with perfect on-stage presence, sang another heavenly lullaby just newly inspired. “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” she sang. The crying baby hushed, and gave the tinniest of technicolored smiles. (His own over-the-rainbow-time would come another day.)

Alas! In the 1939 twinkling of an eye, Dorothy, Tinman, Scarecrow, Cowardly Lion, Toto, were whisked suddenly back to their own make believe reality. “Well, whatever would Auntie Em say?” pondered Dorothy.

“And why in heaven’s name would a shepherd be wearing Ruby Red slippers and clicking his heels? Is he ‘funny’ that way?” camped the Cowardly Lion, with a wink and a swish and a swagger of his tale.

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## Bernard McGuirk



December is upon us, dear readers. The halls are getting decked, gay apparel is being donned, people are striking harps and joining choruses, and a certain jolly bear of a man is making a list and checking it twice. The weather outside is getting frightful and the fire inside is getting delightful.

That's right, folks. It's beginning to look a lot like the War on Christmas(TM), everywhere you go. That is, if the only place you go is FOX News. Still. 'Tis the

season for battle.

Now, it is totally possible that you did not even know there was a war on Christmas in the first place, much like how it's easy for many of us to forget that there's a war in Afghanistan because we don't have to sacrifice a damn thing save tax money. But if you watch FOX News then you know that the War on Christmas(TM) is the more important of the two wars because it's happening on our own soil and is being waged by Americans.

At least, they claim to be Americans. Except they apparently hate Christmas, specifically the baby Jesus. I mean, He's a baby for God's sake! What kind of monsters are these people?

It's a good question, and one Bernard McGuirk, executive producer of Imus in the Morning, answered on a recent episode of The O'Reilly Factor. According to McGuirk, "The War on Christmas(TM) is very, very real, and if you ask me, in addition to some grouchy misanthropic heathen atheists it has to do – at the root of it – with two things – abortion and the gay rights agenda, because Christianity is against those things. It's subtle but that's why it's so pronounced in recent years."

To this nonsense, Bill O'Reilly enthusiastically responds, "Hundred percent agree. I absolutely agree 100 percent that the diminishment of Christianity is the target and Christmas is the vehicle because the secularists know the opposition to their agenda ... comes primarily from the Judeo-Christian traditionalist people."

Now, blaming the War on Christmas(TM) on atheists is nothing new. After all, atheists are known for being very outspoken about what they don't believe unlike Christians who known for being very timid about what they do believe. Christians in the United States are a persecuted majority, after all. They never know when they'll walk into a Home Depot and see a 7' artificial Dunhill Fir maliciously labeled a "Holiday tree" or have some Jesus-hating store clerk wish them "happy holidays," which is essentially the same thing as saying, "I wish Jesus had never been born."

But while "grouchy misanthropic heathen atheists" are foot soldiers on the frontlines, it's the homosexuals and abortionists who are more of the masterminds, sitting up in a control center somewhere having gay sex and/or aborting babies.

And definitely hatin' on Christmas.

According to one FOXNews.com opinion writer, "Atheists are combing every schoolhouse, statehouse and house of worship to destroy the spirit of Christmas." And do you know why they're doing this? They're just following orders from their homosexual abortionist commanders who use Nativity figures confiscated from City Hall lawns across the country to build life-size Abortionplex scenes and Gay Dance Party mangers across this great land.

Oh, and in case you're thinking, "But wait, I'm gay and I celebrate Christmas ..." "I have two words for you: undercover operative. Now hush and remember: loose lips sink sleighs.

# GOP Sen. Saland Paves Way For Quicker End To Count

BY MICHAEL GORMLEY

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) – Republican state Sen. Stephen Saland, who was praised by Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo for making a brave vote of conscience to legalize marriage in



Sen. Stephen Saland

New York last year, may soon be the latest casualty among Republicans who crossed the aisle for the landmark legislation.

Saland, a 20-year veteran of the Senate, said he's calling off his lawyer and further legal challenges to allow for a quick count of absentee ballots in the 41st Senate District. Democrat Terry Gipson has held a consistent lead so far in that Hudson Valley race.

If Saland loses, then two of four

veteran Republicans who cast critical votes for gay marriage last year will have lost their seats. The other is Sen. Roy McDonald of Saratoga County. A third, Sen. James Alesi of Monroe County, retired because of opposition back home to his vote, and a fourth, Sen. Mark Grisanti of Erie County, was re-elected.

"It has been a great honor for me to serve the good people of the Hudson Valley as their New York state senator," said Saland, who cast the historic and decisive 32nd vote legalizing same-sex marriage. "Despite these gains, it is becoming apparent that we may not gain enough in the end to ultimately be successful."

Gipson most recently had a 1,181-vote lead with just over 2,000 absentee ballots to count. More than 100,000 votes were cast in the race.

Conservative Neil DiCarlo challenged Saland in a September Republican primary. DiCarlo lost narrowly, but his challenge forced Saland to spend much of his campaign fund, which was bolstered by advocates of gay

marriage, including New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Even after the narrow primary loss, DiCarlo continued a Conservative Party

**If Saland loses, then two of four veteran Republicans who cast critical votes for gay marriage last year will have lost their seats.**

challenge in the November general election, drawing thousands of potential Republican votes from Saland.

"Upon the swift conclusion of this process, the certified winner of this election will be entitled to recognition and congratulations," Saland said.

If Gipson's lead holds, Democrats will have 32 seats in the chamber that requires 32 to pass legislation. But the traditional Democratic majority won't have a majority, because Republicans struck a deal with five break-away Democrats to form a majority.

The race in the 46th district that runs from Montgomery County to Ulster County is also in a long count of absentee and paper ballots.

### ► Fight for Marriage Equality

Continued from p. 6

"It's another thing for your parents to show up at your wedding and be happy for you." Covino, a native New Yorker and co-author with Maggie Gallagher of Debating Same-Sex Marriage, also said that he appreciates living in the Midwest because of the reality check he gets from grounded people in Detroit. "I was talking to a book publisher about my new book and he said, 'Same-sex marriage – what's left to argue?' OK – I guess if you live in New York you might feel that way, but it's a big country out there."

Much of the confusion surrounding DOMA is a general lack of understanding of the law. In simple terms DOMA does three things: Defines marriage as a legal union between one man and one woman, prohibits the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriages and makes it so that states are not required to recognize same-sex marriages.

Goldberg, who leads the LGBT research analysis at the Movement Advancement Project, understands the

negative impact that DOMA has had on families.

"The difficult thing about DOMA is that you have state governments that have chosen to extend the freedom to marry to the couples in their own state," she said. "Within the confines of that state these families are recognized, but the minute that they leave the state, no other state is required to recognize those relationships. So, you can literally cross a border and go from being married to being treated as an unmarried couple."

That confusing lack of consistent governance can become troublesome for LGBT families and this topic was a large chunk of the afternoon's discussion.

As its title suggests, the panel also covered what would happen if DOMA was repealed and what would come afterward. Goldberg acknowledged the possible reality that a U.S. Supreme Court ruling may not result in sweeping legislation reform as hoped.

"There's so many states where gay and lesbian couples can't get married," she said. "There's still going to be states – like here in Michigan – where gay and lesbian couples can't enter a civil unions because of constitutional amendments

and statutes. I think the work is going to move to those places."

"Then I think we have to think beyond marriage, which is employment protection. Even if you can't get married you can still be fired for having a photo of your partner on your desk or showing up to work and being transgender."

In lauding the work in the states that recently won elections in favor of same-sex marriage, Brogan-Kator said that marriage equality came after securing other rights first. "Every state that has marriage equality, including the three states that just passed marriage equality last month, had employment protections first," she said. "Organizers [in Maine and Maryland] laid out long-form campaign strategies that included getting employment protections first because that's the easier lift."

On Dec. 7, just three days after the panel – it was announced that the Supreme Court would examine DOMA (Windsor v. United States) and California's Proposition 8 in March 2013. They are expected to reach a verdict in June. This prevents the instant reversal of Prop. 8, but could also open the door for complete legalization.

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# Cumming Between Family

## Actor Talks Role In Heartbreaking 'Any Day Now'

BY LAWRENCE FERBER

Set in the late 1970s, "Any Day Now" stars Alan Cumming as a drag performer, Rudy, who forms an unconventional family unit with Paul (Garrett Dillahunt), a closeted employee of the D.A.'s office, and Marco (Isaac Leyva), an abandoned teenager with Down syndrome. But in this instance, homophobic bureaucrats would rather see Marco dead than with a deviant couple, and so begins the loving trio's heartbreaking legal struggle to stay together.

The original script, based on a real-life Rudy and Marco its screenwriter knew, had been kicking around Hollywood in development and turnaround for decades before writer/director Travis Fine found, re-wrote and produced it.

### INFO

#### Any Day Now

Open Dec. 14  
Main Art Theatre  
118 N. Main St., Royal Oak  
[www.landmarktheatres.com](http://www.landmarktheatres.com)

Here Cumming – who currently appears as slick campaign manager Eli Gold on CBS's "The Good Wife" – dishes on not possessing an inner drag queen, working with his Down syndrome co-star, and why Sylvester Stallone – attached to the project during one of its earlier incarnations – hates Woody Allen.

**One might expect a lighthearted, frothy turn**

**when they hear you play a drag queen, but this is a pretty heavy drama.**

I'll say. I liked the fact the tone of the film is always veering between comedy and tragedy.

**How much of the performance is Alan Cumming?**

Well, I feel very connected to this character as a person, as an activist, as a man. The issues involved in it are close to my heart. But I didn't realize how much of me there was until it was pointed out to me. As I got older, I realized that why people connect with you as an actor is because you do allow yourself to come through and be vulnerable. In this, I felt incredibly vulnerable and that means the audience is let in and can see you. When I'm with Isaac and Garrett, I feel that's completely me in that moment and how I am

in that situation. It's nice to be able to access those bits that allow you to connect with the audience, but couched in someone very different from you.

**Have you wanted to play a full-on drag queen before? Should we nominate you for "RuPaul's Drag Race"?**

No. I don't have an inner drag queen waiting to get out. The summer before making "Any Day Now" I did a miniseries in South Africa for British TV where I played a transvestite. It's not my thing. I don't think I'm good with it. I look like a horse in a wig. The two guys I perform the song with in the beginning of "Any Day Now" are proper drag queens – and I felt like a total amateur. Even the moves I couldn't get together. Maybe if I hadn't

“You’re so sad this family can’t be together and yet you’re so complicit because we are part of the society that allows that to happen.”

– Alan Cumming

done drag for work I would secretly pine for it, but it’s not something I yearn for.

Variety’s review delivered a compliment with a bit of a caveat: “Acting from beneath the least flattering haircut this side of the Bee Gees, Cumming delivers what is possibly his best performance to date.” What did you think of the hair?

I was not the biggest fan of my wig. On the poster they snatched the one moment where it looks quite good, but it took a while to settle in. Garrett and I still laugh uproariously about (the wigs). At the premiere, actually, we got the giggles during a very poignant scene where both of our wigs looked ridiculous. But that’s how people looked in those days and it was actually quite liberating to do something where you had to leave your vanity at the door. The clothes and the lighting as well were not particularly flattering, on purpose. Quite harsh, because the story’s quite harsh.

Had you heard about the case the film’s story was inspired by prior to receiving the script? And this resistance to gays adopting otherwise neglected or unwanted children still exists, doesn’t it?

No, I hadn’t – and absolutely! I think that’s one of the reasons I was drawn to the film. You try adopting a child through the state system as a gay in America. Nothing much has really changed. Some investors of this film had fostered kids with learning and physical difficulties and took on the state of Florida to be able to adopt one of those kids. Really the prejudice that happens in the film happens today. You’re so sad this family can’t be together and yet you’re so complicit because we are part of the society that allows that to happen.

Big actors like Sly Stallone and Tommy Lee Jones were attached to the original script during earlier attempts to get it made. Were you surprised to hear that?

I was. But Sylvester Stallone is always getting my parts so it’s about time I got one of his. I worked on a film with him once years ago and he was very open about (his plastic surgeries). He was really angry at Woody Allen and I asked, “Why?” He went, “Well, he could have a facelift; he doesn’t have to look so wrinkly!” Stallone was pissed off that Woody wouldn’t have a facelift.

What else was memorable or special about this film?

Meeting Isaac. He’s 22, and that was an amazing thing to just hang out with him for a month. I never really spent time with someone with Down syndrome, and that was hilarious because he has no filter. We were doing a night shoot and everyone was exhausted and pissed off and he turns around and says to me, “I can’t wait for the Oscars. I’m going to thank Travis and ... what’s your name again?” Bless him.

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# Here Comes John Waters

## Iconic Filmmaker Does Christmas His Way In Royal Oak



“ I don’t decorate a tree; I decorate the electric chair that we used in the movie ‘Female Trouble.’ You can’t even tell it’s an electric chair, really, with all the lights on it and everything. It’s John Waters’ Christmas values! ”

– John Waters

BY ANDREA POTEET

For four decades, reigning “Pope of Trash” John Waters has pushed boundaries with campy classic films, art and books.

So one shouldn’t expect the man who filmed drag legend Divine eating dog crap to don a fuzzy reindeer sweater and belt out “Jingle Bells” when Dec. 25 rolls around.

“I do some things traditional, but with a twist,” Waters says. “I have Christmas bulbs with ugly pictures of relatives glued to them. I don’t decorate a tree; I decorate the electric chair that we used in the movie ‘Female Trouble.’ You can’t even tell it’s an electric chair, really, with all the lights on it and everything. It’s John Waters’ Christmas values!”

Waters will share his unique take on the holiday Dec. 15 when he comes to Royal Oak Music Theatre with his one-man show “A John Waters Christmas.”

“It’s kind of a self-help thing,” he says. “It’s a 70-minute monologue that I constantly update and it’s about the extremes of Christmas: how you can either hate it or love it, but you can’t ignore it - and how to get through it no matter if you’re a criminal, a politician, a movie star, or just

completely out of your mind.”

As for Waters, he said his love for the holiday began with childhood confusion.

“I didn’t know whether to pray to Santa Claus - or was he Jesus or what?” Waters says. “Did the Tooth Fairy have anything to do with this? I was confused, so I just prayed to all of them to make sure I would get what I wanted. I always resented having to write a ‘Dear Santa’ letter when my parents had told me all year if you were good, you’d get what you wanted - and I was always my version of good, so why did I have to write a second begging letter? I had a deal; why did I have to write a Part 2?”

Waters’ love of storytelling began as a child. At age 12, he performed suitably wacky puppet shows for children’s birthday parties. Later, while working at a summer camp, he wrote a series of gruesome campfire stories to read to campers each night, to the dismay of their parents, who flooded the camp with angry phone calls.

“I’m still doing that,” he says. “It’s the same career; it’s just taking people into a world that they don’t feel comfortable in and using humor to get them to at least listen to a different viewpoint.”

See John Waters, page 18

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► **John Waters**

Continued from p. 16

His quirky characters have turned films like “Cry-Baby,” “Hairspray” and “Pink Flamingos” (the one with the infamous Divine-eating-poo scene) into cult classics.

“They’re like your children,” he said of his misfit characters, “but mine all have learning disabilities, so I like them even better.”

With his biggest mainstream film, 1988’s “Hairspray,” entering its second life as a Broadway musical and 2007 feature film, he said he is still surprised when he sees different takes on the story of the chubby Tracy Turnblad’s fight for integration.

“I have seen it today though, with political correctness, in public schools, where they’re not allowed to cast it by race or weight,” he says. “So I’ve seen Tracy played by a skinny black girl, which is really bizarre. It makes it even more post-modern.”

His work has attracted diehard fans with quirks of their own, and for them - upon request - he has signed anything from used tampons to mastectomy scars. Fans learned earlier this

**INFO**

**A John Waters  
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[www.royaloakmusictheatre.com](http://www.royaloakmusictheatre.com)

year through Twitter that Waters was working on his forthcoming book, “Carsick,” in which he chronicles his hitchhiking journey from his hometown of Baltimore to San Francisco when the band Here We Go Magic tweeted that they had picked him up, thinking he was a homeless man.

“To find the details you have to read ‘Carsick,’” he says. “That’s my Christmas present to you - maybe next year .”

And what does Waters hope to find under his tree this year?

“I’d like to interview probably the most despised woman in America, Casey Anthony.” Waters says. “I’d ask her if she, too, wants Nancy Grace’s head to explode. I would. That’s what I want for Christmas.”

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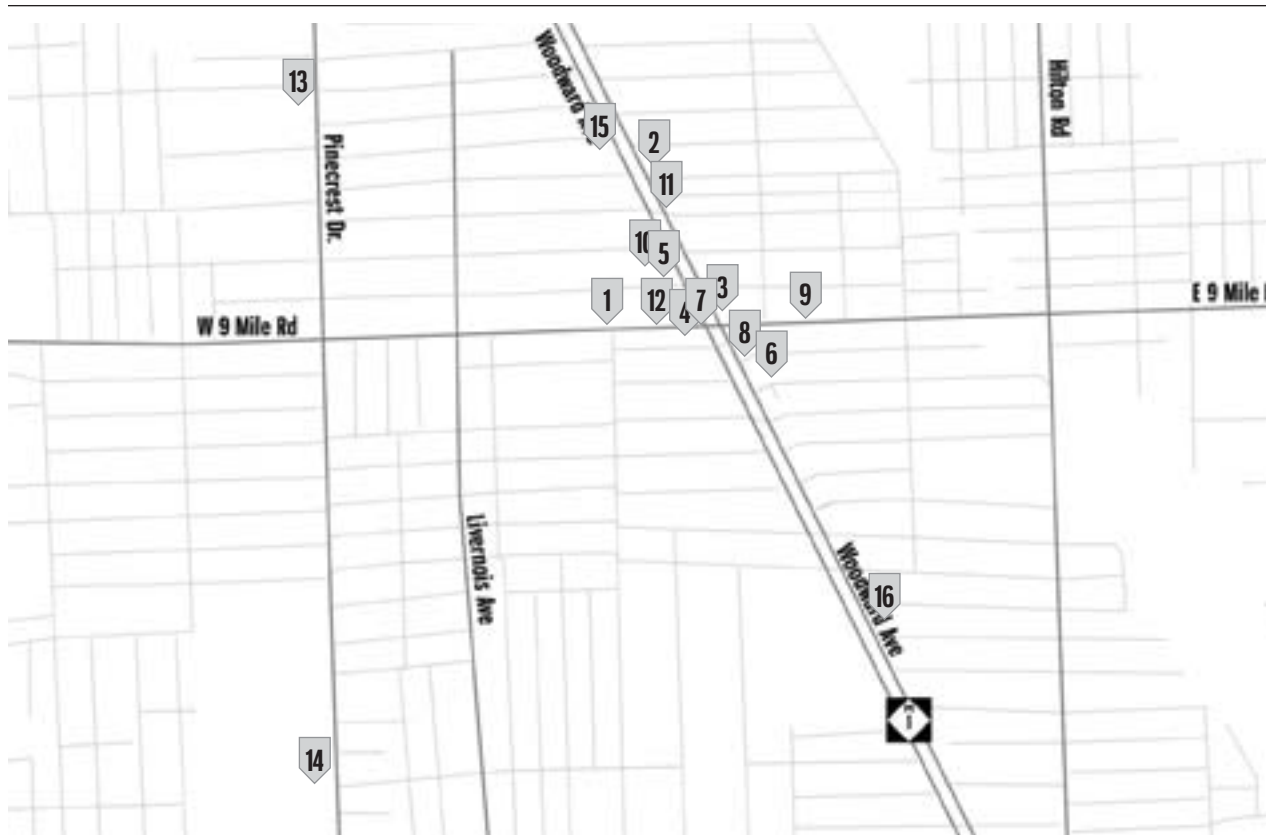
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# Out of Town

## Hawaii's Big Island

BY ANDREW COLLINS

Roughly twice the size of the rest of Hawaii's islands combined, the Big Island cultivates a loyal following of repeat visitors while delighting first-timers with its eye-popping scenery and welcoming, laid-back personality. Home to two of the world's most active volcanoes, the state's highest mountain (13,800-foot Mauna Kea), a wealth of both ritzy resorts and economical inns and B&Bs (quite a few of them gay-owned), some of Hawaii's most secluded beaches and spectacular waterfalls, and miles of scenic roads, the Big Island – officially called the Island of Hawaii – is truly a land of superlatives.

You'll hardly be alone if you spend most of a visit to the Big Island ([gohawaii.com/big-island](http://gohawaii.com/big-island)) by anchoring yourself at one of the larger resorts – and it's fairly tempting to while away your days lazing by the pool, swimming in the sea, enjoying a round of golf or some spa treatments, and eating and drinking fabulously, especially when some properties abound with cushy amenities. But do try to visit whichever side of the island you're not staying on, either by car, or by booking a helicopter tour of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park or over the amazing 1,200-foot waterfalls of the remote Waipio Valley. If you're visiting the Big Island for the first time, plan to spend at least four full days here – you could easily stay two weeks without running out of things to see and do.

Most visitors stay on the island's west coast, either around the town of Kona, which is also home to the largest airport, or a little farther north along the Kohala Coast, which is renowned for its swank resorts and arid, beautifully desolate terrain, characterized by massive black fields of lava rock. There's far less tourism development on the verdant but also quite rainy eastern side of the island, but on this side you will find the small, historic city of Hilo, fascinating Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, and the funky Puna Coast – there are quite a few gay-owned B&Bs in these latter two areas.

Other areas that see fewer visitors but offer incredible scenery and all sorts of hidden charms include North Kohala, at the northwest tip of the island, which includes the historic plantation villages of Hawi and Kapaau, and access to the magnificent black-sand beach at Pololu Valley, which is situated at the very end of Hwy. 270 and then reached by a somewhat steep

trail (it's about a 30-minute hike).

In the upcountry not far from the Kohala Coast, Waimea is a vintage ranching town known for its Hawaiian paniolo (cowboy) culture – you pass through it if you drive to the east side of the island via the northern loop (Hwy. 19), in which case you'll also have the chance to see the beautiful Hamakua Coast as you make your way down to Hilo. Waimea has several notable restaurants, from fancy Merriman's to affordable and fun Big Island Brewhaus & Tako Taco Taqueria, which serves some of the finest artisan beers in the state. From near Waimea, you could also

This park devoted to a pair of extremely active volcanoes is one of the best places on earth to view and learn about geothermal energy and volcanology. Trails lead from the visitor center, which overlooks the steam plumes rising out of massive Halemaumau Crater (which erupted in 2008 and has been belching toxic gas ever since). You can drive along part of the rim of Kilauea Volcano caldera, which has been sending rivers of molten lava down to the ocean, off and on since it entered into a period of hyper activity in 1983. You can drive the park's scenic, 23-mile Chain of Craters Road, accessing many other

is another of the area's notable luxury resorts, while the Waikoloa Beach Marriott ([marriott.com](http://marriott.com)) is a more affordable through still exceptionally comfy – and very gay-friendly – hotel with a great beachfront setting.

Down a side road near the Marriott, you'll also find one of the sweetest little lodging gems in all of Hawaii, the gay-owned Lava Lava Beach Club ([lavalavabeachclub.com](http://lavalavabeachclub.com)), which comprises just four immaculate and smartly furnished bungalows on the beach at Anaehoomalu Bay, each with private outdoor lava-rock showers, a large lanai, and a well-

magical setting, kind staff, healing spa treatments, and peaceful vibe.

Down near Hilo, the lush Puna Coast is home to a favorite of LGBT visitors, Kalani ([kalani.com](http://kalani.com)), a long-established retreat center with eco-cottages, a clothing-optional pool, an open-air restaurant with meals enjoyed family-style, hot tubs, a sauna, gathering spaces in which workshops and classes (from yoga to martial arts) are offered, and massage rooms where you can book a wide range of spa services. Although this nonprofit resort is popular with groups on retreat, it also draws plenty of solo travelers, couples and small groups of friends seeking rejuvenation, wellness and relaxation. Smaller gay-owned B&Bs abound in this area anchored by the quirky town of Pahoehoe – a few favorites include Absolute Paradise B&B ([absoluteparadise.tv](http://absoluteparadise.tv)), the Ohia House B&B ([ohiahousebb.com](http://ohiahousebb.com)), and Coconut Cottage B&B ([coconutcottagehawaii.com](http://coconutcottagehawaii.com)).

Just outside Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, gay-owned Hale Ohia Cottages ([haleohia.com](http://haleohia.com)) is an airy, warmly decorated seven room complex nestled amid pine trees and ferns. The elegant cottages and suites sleep from two to five persons, and some have kitchen facilities. In the same village, other gay-popular inns with excellent reputations include Volcano Village Lodge ([emmaspencerliving.com/volcano-village-lodge](http://emmaspencerliving.com/volcano-village-lodge)) and Volcano Rainforest Retreat ([volcanoretreat.com](http://volcanoretreat.com)).

Finally, along the Kona Coast you'll find several other terrific lodgings. An upscale guest house that offers elegant decor along with intimacy and seclusion, Horizon Guest House ([horizonguesthouse.com](http://horizonguesthouse.com)) has four units that afford unparalleled ocean views, as does the in-ground infinity pool and sweeping grounds on this 40-acre mountainside high above the Pacific. And on a 30-acre coffee plantation in an artsy upcountry enclave above Kona, the Holualoa Inn ([holualoainn.com](http://holualoainn.com)) is an absolute stunner, with handsomely appointed rooms, dramatic sea views, and lushly landscaped gardens. On the Big Island, there's a lodging that fits just about every style and budget, a reflection of this wonderfully diverse, enchanting getaway.

*Andrew Collins is the editor in chief of the GLBT travel magazines OutAloha and OutCity, and he covers gay travel for the website GayTravel.About.com. He can be reached care of this publication or at [OutofTown@qsyndicate.com](mailto:OutofTown@qsyndicate.com).*



The view from the Lava Lava Beach Club cottages, on the Big Island's Kohala Coast. Photo: Andrew Collins

drive an alternate route to Hilo, via the narrow (but much-improved over the years) Saddle Road across the island's midsection, perhaps visiting the Onizuka Center of International Astronomy on the upper slopes of Mauna Kea.

Other communities in the cooler upcountry elevations of the western side of the island include the prime coffee-growing and agricultural communities of Holualoa and Kealahou, charming little towns with a number of distinctive restaurants and shops. Continue south through along Highway 11 in order to take the southern loop around the Hilo – the road twists and turns along some dramatic stretches of the Kona Coast, eventually passing through Naalehu – the southernmost town in the United States. It then climbs northeast along the lower slopes of Mauna Loa and into the town of Volcano, which is the base camp for 520-square-mile Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

trails along the way, including a short and memorable jaunt through a lava tube and others along hardened lava flows. For another opportunity to come fairly close to where lava has quite recently flowed directly into the ocean, drive along to the end of Hwy. 130 on the Puna Coast to Kalapana, where in the 1980s and '90s, huge swaths of lava destroyed more than 100 homes.

The big resorts along the Kohala Coast include everything from ultra-posh hideaways to moderately upscale chain hotels. Among the former, the Four Seasons Hualalai ([fourseasons.com](http://fourseasons.com)) is a supremely swank property, consisting of spacious rooms set within secluded three and four-unit bungalows facing either the ocean or golf courses. Private entrances, spacious lanais, a magnificent health club and spa, and parklike grounds set this compound apart from the competition. The Fairmont Orchid ([fairmont.com](http://fairmont.com))

**Home to two of the world's most active volcanoes, the state's highest mountain (13,800-foot Mauna Kea), a wealth of both ritzy resorts and economical inns and B&Bs (quite a few of them gay-owned), some of Hawaii's most secluded beaches and spectacular waterfalls, and miles of scenic roads, the Big Island – officially called the Island of Hawaii – is truly a land of superlatives.**

equipped kitchen. This mini-resort, which opened in spring 2012, is also home to an excellent and very LGBT-popular beachfront restaurant – it's owned by partners Eric von Platen and Scott Dodd, who also operate the exceptional Kona restaurant, Huggo's.

Up on the North Coast, just a five-minute drive from Hawi, the charmingly secluded Hawaii Island Retreat ([hawaiiislandretreat.com](http://hawaiiislandretreat.com)) is another of the Big Island's newer and still relatively lesser-known jewels. Built in 2009 by spa therapist and healer Jeanne Sunderland and her husband Robert Watkins, this tranquil "eco-boutique hotel" set dramatically atop a seaside cliff comprises nine simply but elegantly furnished rooms, all with whirlpool paths, plus several economical yurts, as well as a spa, yoga studio, fitness room, and infinity pool. The property has developed a strong following among spiritually minded visitors who appreciate the



Keith Kalinowski (standing), Jaime Warrow and Peter Prouty in "Faith Healer" at The Abreact Performance Space. Photo: The Abreact

## A Portrait Of The Artist As A Flawed Man

BY JOHN QUINN

The Celts have a word for it: "Glamour." It is the spell that the eldritch folk can cast to deceive the senses of mortals, making things appear more attractive than they truly are. The performing arts are all about glamour, but some companies defy tradition for a far more potent magic - the fundamental dialogue between artist and audience. It's an experience that only theater can provide. The Abreact and its artistic director, Charles Reynolds, explore truth versus illusion in Brian Friel's "Faith Healer," and the result is spell-binding.

"Faith Healer" is a challenge few artists could accept. But director Reynolds and three of Detroit's brighter lights; Keith Kalinowski, Jaime Warrow and Peter Prouty, take on its convoluted plot and unconventional narrative with the apparent ease of a spring walk in Killarney. There's some real magic in that alone.

"Faith Healer" is the second in The Abreact's showcase of contemporary Irish playwrights. In a comparison of this play with the first, Martin McDonagh's "A Skull in Connemara," one is struck by the liberating influence on his successors of playwright Samuel Beckett ("Waiting for Godot," among many others), who bravely booted theatrical convention. "Skull" is an absurdist romp, full of dark Irish humor. In "Faith Healer" Friel ignores past and future for an omni-present now, throws out linear narration, and tells

### REVIEW

#### Faith Healer

The Abreact Performance Space, 1301 W. Lafayette, #113, Detroit. Free; donations accepted. 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday through Dec. 29, plus 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 23. 2 hours, 30 minutes.  
www.theabreact.com

his story in four monologues delivered by three characters.

That's the story of Limerick-born Francis (Frank) Hardy, self-styled healer, who tours the Gaelic portion of the British Isles accompanied by his wife, Grace, and his manager, Teddy. Each takes the stage in turn to recount the story of Frank's mission. But the story is a puzzle whose pieces don't fit. Each character has a different narrative of the same period. Ultimately, it is futile to ask who is telling the "truth" and accept that perception, whether delusion or illusion, is more important than reality. In short, their lives are clouded by glamour.

Monologue is a tough sell. For the actor, he or she is most vulnerable, figuratively naked and literally alone with an audience. For that audience, poorly performed monologue is a real bore. There is nothing boring about this production; even though the play clocks in at well over two hours, the cast commands our attention at every turn. That is partly due to

the respect paid to Friel's gradually revealed plot, but mostly it is the utter honesty of these three performances that casts a spell. Each character is a study in conflict; each actor resolves the conflict.

Keith Kalinowski finds both sides of troubled Frank, who is simultaneously doubtful and sure of his "powers." His two monologues act as bookends to the other characters' stories. In the second, Kalinowski's portrayal of Friel's recurring theme of birth into death is riveting.

Jaime Warrow's Grace is another study in contrasts; we don't recognize in the Jameson-swilling, chain-smoking, damaged soul the woman Frank remembers. Grace is a self-described mess, and Warrow's intelligent interpretation reveals the character's heartbreak.

Peter Prouty is no newbie at monologue; he was the 2012 Wilde Award winner for Best Solo Performance in "The Devil and Billy Markham" at The Abreact. Here he brings an elegant turn of emotion as Teddy, whose ideal is "Business is business," gradually admits he loved Grace - and Frank, too.

There is a recurrent theme in "Faith Healer" that is thought-provoking: the performer as sacrifice. It must be sobering for artists to spend weeks living these lost characters, tinged with Friel's metaphor; a walk in the shadows of the Valley of Death, career-wise. Their journey is an unexpected, but gracious, holiday gift.

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# Happenings

## OUTINGS

### Thursday, Dec. 13

**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. 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

### Friday, Dec. 14

**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

**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

**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: Aimee and Jaguar; Based on the memoirs of Lilly Wust, this is the story of two women who fall in love in 1943 Berlin. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

### Saturday, Dec. 15

**Christmas Cookie Walk** 10 a.m. Troy Oaks Community of Christ hosts its 8th Annual Christmas Cookie Walk. Large variety of homemade cookies available for \$8/lb, candy and specialty treats, and prepackaged cookie plates with 1 lb of cookies for gift-giving. The Troy Oaks Compassionate Ministries Team will also be collecting toys for Toys for Tots during this event. Troy Oaks Community of Christ, 3830 Crooks Road, Troy. 248-321-5553. Mcmcfall@gmail.com

**8th Night Hanukkah Party & Pot-Luck** 5 p.m. Havdallah followed by a group lighting of the menorahs and then a pot-luck style dinner. There will be songs, and games for the children and a new skit by our astonishing author Barbara Goldman. All are welcome. Congregation Tchiyah (Jewish Reconstructionist), 15000 W. 10 Mile Road, Oak Park. 248-542-0900. Tchiyah@tchiyah.org Tchiyah.org

**KGLRC Winter Gala Awards Ceremony and Fundraiser** 7 p.m. Join the KGLRC in celebrating another year. Wonderful entertainment, fantastic food and cocktails as well as sought after silent auction items from favorite local businesses all in addition to the REACH Awards for Retail, Education, Ally, Community, Faith and Humanitarian of the Year Award. Tickets available online. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. 269-349-7775. Kglrc.org/winter-gala/

**Grand Rapids Women's Chorus Winter Concert** 7:30 p.m. Doors at 7 p.m., GRWC's Winter Concert. Grand Rapids Women's Chorus, 1100 Lake Dr. SE, Grand Rapids. GRWC.org

**Sparkly, Jolly, Twinkly, Jingly** 7:30 p.m. Detroit Together Mens Chorus presents their Holiday Concert, "Sparkly, Jolly, Twinkly, Jingly" under the artistic direction of Brian Londrow. Tickets: \$18 in advance, or \$20 at-the-door. Tickets available by phone or at Five15 and Just 4 Us. Detroit Together Mens Chorus, 610 W. Thirteen Mile Road, Madison Heights. 248-544-3872. Info@dtmc.org Dtmc.org

### Sunday, Dec. 16

**Conversation Station** 5 p.m. LGBTQI (and allies) 35 and over-join GOAL each week for discussion, food and fun. Topic: What is the worst holiday present you ever received? GOAL, 714 S. Washington St., Royal Oak. 248-981-4227. MarciLWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

**A Better Holiday A Concert & Art Benefit for the Ali Forney Center** 7 p.m. In efforts to make this holiday season a little brighter, a benefit concert will be held for the Ali Forney Center at XL Nightclub. This concert will feature guest host Sunday Morning Mimosa and talented performers such as Andrew Keenan-Bolger, Ryann Redmond, Monica Raymond, Max Von Essen and many more names to be announced. XL Night Club, 512 West 42nd St., New York. 212-239-2999. interns@rcourihaycpr.com http://xlnightclub.com/

### Monday, Dec. 17

**Sexual Compulsives Anonymous** 7 p.m. A weekly anonymous 12-step group for those who are facing sexually compulsive behaviors. Affirmations, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

### Tuesday, Dec. 18

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

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

### Wednesday, Dec. 19

**Senior Koffee Klatch** 1 p.m. A lively, discussion and social group for LGBTQ 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

**Wild Wednesday** 6 p.m. A group for youth ages 12-18 interested in hanging out with other kind and supportive youth in a safe environment. Dedicated to Make a Change, 319 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-657-1792. Gail@dedicatedtomakeachange.com Dedicatedtomakeachange.com

### Thursday, Dec. 20

**Polyamory Network** 7:30 p.m. Open and inclusive community of people living polyamorously, people interested in polyamory and people of, friendly to and curious about polyamory. Welcomes diversity of sexual orientation and gender identity. Polyamory Network, 319 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. jimtoycenter.org

### Friday, Dec. 21

**Bisexual Peer Group** 7 p.m. Our group meets monthly on the third Friday & discussion relates to bisexual identity. Building is handicap accessible using ramp

to rear entrance. Bisexual Peer Group, 319 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-678-2478. Biprideannarbor@gmail.com Facebook.com/groups/110918256984/

**Womyn's Film Night** 7 p.m. Film: My Summer of Love; Pawel Pawlikowski's BAFTA award-winning film juxtaposes the secret longings of two very different young women: Mona, who's bored and tired of poverty, and Tamsin, who's long ceased to be impressed with her well-heeled lifestyle. 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org/

**Bright and Gay Cabaret** 8 p.m. Lansing Women's Chorus, Sistrum's winter concert. Tickets: \$12-25. Sistrum, Lansing Women's Chorus, 215 N. Capital Ave., Lansing. Sistrum.org

### Sunday, Dec. 23

**Conversation Station** 5 p.m. LGBTQI (and allies) 35 and over-join GOAL each week for discussion, food and fun. Topic: Do you think there are extraterrestrials that influence events on earth? GOAL, 714 S. Washington St., Royal Oak. 248-981-4227. MarciLWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

## MUSIC & MORE

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**Detroit Symphony Orchestra** "The Nutcracker" Vaughan Williams' Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis, Sierra's Navidad en la montana, and Tchaikovsky's Act II of Nutcracker. Tickets: \$15-+. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Dec. 13-Dec. 14. 313-576-5111. DSO.org

**Kerrytown Concert House** "Possible Futures: Winter Solstice Concert" Tickets: \$5-25. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Dec. 21. 734-769-2999. KerryTownConcertHouse.com

**Lansing Symphony Orchestra** "Holiday Pops" Join LSO for all of their holiday favorites, welcoming back the MSU Children's Choir. Tickets: \$15-40. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts at Michigan State University, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 3 p.m. Dec. 16. 517-353-1982 ext. 14. LansingSymphony.org

**Michigan Philharmonic** "Home for the Holidays" Michigan Philharmonic invites all to come "home" for festive, family-friendly yuletide pops concerts featuring traditional holiday favorites. Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth. Dec. 13-Dec. 13. 734-453-0870. MichiganPhil.org

**Michigan Philharmonic** "Home for the Holidays" Michigan Philharmonic invites all to come "home" for festive, family-friendly yuletide pops concerts featuring traditional holiday favorites. Seligman Performing Arts Center, 22305 W. 13 Mile Road, Beverly Hills. 7:30 p.m. Dec. 14. 248-559-2095. MichiganPhil.org

### CONCERTS

**Kerrytown Concert House** "Global Jazz Project" Tickets: \$5-25. Global Jazz Project presents traditional avant-garde jazz infused with world music concepts. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Dec. 13. 734-769-2999. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

**Kerrytown Concert House** "Eric Vloeimans and Florian Weber" Eric Vloeimans on trumpet and Florian Weber on piano. Tickets: \$5-25. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Dec. 14. 734-769-2999. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

**Oak Park Arts and Cultural Commission** "Holiday Music Flute and Piano Recital" Join flutist Jeffrey Beyer and pianist Sharon Sweet for an evening of holiday and classical music. A free will offering will be collected to benefit the Oak Park Arts and Cultural Commission. Oak Park Public Library, 14200 Oak Park Blvd, Oak Park. 6:30 p.m. Dec. 19. 248-691-7481.

**Olympia Entertainment** "Kenny Rogers Christmas and Hits" With special quest Billy Dean. Tickets: \$38-75. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. Dec. 13. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

**Olympia Entertainment** "Clay Aiken Joyful Noise 2012" Tickets: \$35-75. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. Dec. 14. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

**Olympia Entertainment** "Mannheim Steamroller Christmas by Chip Davis" Tickets: \$30-85. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Dec. 16. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

**St. James Choir** "Tell It On the Mountain" Featuring Gwyneth Walkers Appalachian Carols and Daniel Pinkhams Christmas Cantata. The St. James Choir and Soloists, with brass quintet and organ. Glenn Burdette, conductor. St. James Episcopal Church, 355 W. Maple Road, Birmingham. 4 p.m. Dec. 16. 248-644-0820. stjamesbirmingham.org

**The Ark** "Erin Zindle & Friends" Holiday Show. Tickets: \$16. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Dec. 15. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

**The Ark** "The Klezmatiks" Celebrate Hannukkah with the Klezmatiks and The Ark. Tickets: \$30. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Dec. 14. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

**The Ark** "George Winston" Tickets: \$45. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Dec. 16. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

**The Ark** "Over the Rhine" Tickets: \$30. The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Dec. 13. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

**The Ark** "Kitty Donohoe" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Dec. 19. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

**The Ark** "Delbert McClinton" Tickets: \$50. The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Dec. 20. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

**The Detroit Institute of Arts** "A Jazz Nutcracker featuring the Mike Jellick Quartet" This modern jazz version of Tchaikovsky's holiday classic The Nutcracker Suite was written by Detroit Mike Jellick, who is joined by Miles Brown on bass, Jesse Kramer on drums, Kira Frabotta on vocals and Marcus Elliot on saxophones. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward, Detroit. Dec. 21-Dec. 21. 313-833-7900. DIA.org

## THEATER

### CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

**Blame of Bones** A Medieval themed dinner. \$40, which includes entree salad and desserts. Get a Clue Mystery Theater at Historic Farmington Masonic Temple, 23715 Farmington Rd., Farmington. Dec. 15 -16. 248-476-2099. blameofbones.eventbrite.com

**Christmas Belles** \$11-12. The Twin City Players, 600 W. Glenlord Road, St. Joseph. Through Dec. 23. 269-429-0400. TwinCityPlayers.org

**Santa's Shoes** \$10. Spotlight on Youth at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Rd., Canton. Dec. 13 -16. 734-394-5300. spotlightplayersmi.org

**The 1940's Radio Hour** \$16-18. Farmington Players, 32322 W. Twelve Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Through Dec. 22. 248-553-2955. FarmingtonPlayers.org

**The Hollow** \$18. PTD Productions at Riverside Arts Center, 76 North Huron Street, Ypsilanti. Through Dec. 15. 734-483-7345. ptdproductions.com

**The Night Before Christmas** \$19-\$23. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Dec. 15 -19. 269-343-1313. kazooicivic.com

### PROFESSIONAL

**A Christmas Carol** \$17-\$40. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Rd., Rochester. Through Dec. 23. 248-377-3300. mbtheatre.com

**A Little Night Music** \$30-\$46. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron, Ann Arbor. Through Dec. 30. 734-663-0681. performancenetwork.org

**A Paradise of Fools** \$17 in advance, \$20 at the door. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Through Dec. 23. 313-868-1347. detroitreptheatre.com

**A Very Mary Christmas** \$20. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. Dec. 15. 269-756-3879. www.acorntheater.com

**A Year with Frog and Toad** \$16-\$18 adult, \$14-\$16 senior & teen, \$12-\$14 child. Flint Youth Theatre, 1220 East Kearsley St., Flint. Dec. 7-Dec. 23. 810-237-1530. FlintYouthTheatre.org

**Bringing Up Baby New Year** \$10. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff St., Hamtramck. Through Dec. 15. 313-365-4948. planetant.com

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

**Christmas at The Acorn** \$25. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. Dec. 22. 269-756-3879. acorntheater.com

**Christmas Belles** \$15-18. Broadway Onstage, 21517 Kelly Road, Eastpointe. Through Dec. 22. 586-771-6333. Broadwayonstage.com

**Dr. Suess' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical** \$29-\$62. Broadway in Detroit at Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. Dec. 18 -Dec. 30. 313-872-1000. broadwayindetroit.com

**Ebenezer** \$20-25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. Through Dec. 23. 517-655-7469. WilliamstonTheatre.org

**Faith Healer** Free; donations accepted. The Abreact Performance Space, 1301 W. Lafayette, #113, Detroit. Through Dec. 29. theabreact.com

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

**Greetings!** \$15-18. Two Muses Theatre, Barnes & Noble Booksellers Theatre, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. Through Dec. 16. 248-850-9919. TwoMusesTheatre.org

**Home for the Holidays** \$28. Dionysus Theatre and Performing Arts Academy at Hartland High School Auditorium, 10635 Dunham Rd., Hartland. Through Dec. 23. 517-672-6009. diotheatre.com

**I Do! I Do!** \$38-\$45; \$50 (6 p.m.) and \$60 (9 p.m.) New Year's Eve. The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company at Aaron DeRoy Theatre at Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road., West Bloomfield. Through Dec. 30. 248-788-2900. jetttheatre.org

**Jersey Boys** \$34-\$94. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Dec. 12 -Jan. 6. 313-872-1000. broadwayindetroit.com

**My Way: A Musical Tribute to Frank Sinatra** \$33-35. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Through Dec. 30. 269-343-2727. FarmersAlleyTheatre.com

**Only the Best** \$15-\$22. Mosaic Youth Theatre at Detroit Film Theatre inside the Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Dec. 14 -16. 313-833-4005. mosaicdetroit.org

**Plaid Tidings** \$26-\$32. The Encore Musical Theatre Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Through Dec. 23. 734-268-6200. theencoretheatre.org

## Editor's Pick

The Michigan Philharmonic invites all to come "home" for three festive, family-friendly yuletide pop concerts titled "Home For The Holidays," featuring traditional holiday favorites such as "Around the World at Christmas Time," "Festive Sounds of Hanukah," "I'll Be Home for Christmas," "Santa Claus is Comin' to Town," "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" and "How the Grinch Stole Christmas."

Michigan Philharmonic's own pianist, Patrick Johnson, will take center stage to perform Bach's Keyboard Concerto in D Major. Rounding out this special wintry musical feast will be a classic, old-time, Holiday sing-along and a joyous rendition of Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus."



Michigan Philharmonic's "Home For The Holidays" concerts are 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Dec. 13 at the Penn Theatre in Plymouth and 7:30 p.m. at the Seligman Performing Arts Center in Beverly Hills. Tickets are \$10-40. For more information, go to MichiganPhil.org.





## Editor's Pick

Talented local youths, ages 5-18 showcase their acting talents Dec. 13-16 in Spotlight on Youth's upcoming production of "Santa's Shoes." This play with great comedy and magical cheer is loved by families during the holiday season. The story starts when Santa forgets to put on his "magic" shoes. The Elves worry that he will get lost. Meanwhile, the Ice Princess and her pack of wolves plot to take control of Santa's flight. They are foiled when the Elves unleash Robo Elf!

Santa himself serves as the narrator of the play and will be available afterwards for "Photos with Santa."

Performances, which will take place in the Biltmore Studio of the beautiful, state-of-the-art Village Theater at Cherry Hill, will run about 1 1/2 hours with a 15-minute intermission. The Village Theater is located at 50400 Cherry Hill Rd., Canton.

Tickets (\$10) are available by calling at the Village Theater Box Office at 734-394-5300 or 734-394-5460.

**Puppet Scrooge** \$12 adult, \$10 senior & student. Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley, Detroit. Through Dec. 16. 313-967-0999. matrixtheatre.org

**Sundays at Go Comedy!** Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. gocomedynet.net

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

**The Christmas Schooner** \$10-\$20. What A Do Theatre, 4071 W. Dickman Rd., Springfield. Through Dec. 15. 269-282-1953. whatado.org

**The SantaLand Diaries & Season's Greetings** \$10-\$20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Dec. 20-23. 248-545-5545. TheRingwald.com

**The Snow Queen** \$10 adult, \$5 child. PuppetArt at Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit. Through Jan. 26. 313-961-7777. PuppetArt.org

**This Wonderful Life** \$30. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Dec. 21-31. 248-347-0003. tippingpointtheatre.com

**Thursdays at Go Comedy!** Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. gocomedynet.net

**Twisted Xmas: A Druid's View of the Holidays** \$20. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. Dec. 21. 269-756-3879. acorntheater.com

**Wednesdays at Go Comedy!** Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. gocomedynet.net

**Wolf Cry Wolf** \$10-15. The New Theatre Project at Mix Studio Theater, 130 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. Through Dec. 16. 734-961-8704. TheNewTheatreProject.org

## ART'N'AROUND

**Charles H. Wright Museum** "Visions of Our 44th President" A collective art exhibit, was created to honor and celebrate the significance of the first African American President of the United States, Barack Obama. Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, 315 E. Warren, Detroit. Nov. 1-April 30. 313-494-5853. Thewright.org

**Cranbrook Art Museum** "From Here to There: Alec Soth's America" Within the wanderlust embodied in Alec Soth's

photographs is an impulse to uncover narratives that comprise the American experience. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Nov. 17-March 30. 877-462-7262. CranbrookArtMuseum.org

**Cranbrook Art Museum** "Soo Sunny Park: Vapor Slide" Sculptor Soo Sunny Park's large-scale installation SSVT Vapor Slide. The exhibit combines quotidian materials chain link fence, plastic cups, paper clips, river rocks in imaginative ways, crafting a dazzling environment of ethereal light and space. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Nov. 17-March 17. 877-462-7262. CranbrookArtMuseum.org

**Flint Institute of Arts** "Worth a Thousand Words: American Political Cartoons" Through Nast's work for Harper's Weekly, he popularized such American political symbols as the Republican elephant and the Democratic donkey. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley, Flint. Nov. 3-Jan. 6. Flintarts.org

**Flint Institute of Arts** "Drawing Together: International Cartoons" Presents 130 award-winning cartoons from around the globe, offering an opportunity to study almost three decades of world history. Each year in Istanbul, Turkey, the Aydin Dogan Foundation organizes an international cartoon competition in order to stimulate thinking about important issues among nations. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley, Flint. Nov. 1-Dec. 30. Flintarts.org

**Grand Rapids Art Museum** "Real/Surreal" The juxtapositions and points of convergence encourage fresh new ways of looking at some of the most dynamic works of art of the thirties, forties, and fifties in America. Grand Rapids Art Museum, 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. Nov. 1-Jan. 13. 616-831-2904. ArtMuseumGr.org

**Grand Rapids Art Museum** "Salvador Dali's Twelve Tribes of Israel" Salvador Dali,

one of the masters of European Surrealism, created the Twelve Tribes of Israel portfolio in 1973 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel. Grand Rapids Art Museum, 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. Nov. 1-Jan. 13. 616-831-2904. ArtMuseumGr.org

**Kalamazoo Institute of Arts** "Treasures from Kalamazoo Collections" Through the generosity of many lenders in the greater Kalamazoo area, this exhibition will feature paintings, sculptures, prints, photographs, and decorative arts that are seldom seen in public. Explore these treasures from private collections. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. Nov. 17-Feb. 17. 269-349-7775. KIArts.org

**Kalamazoo Institute of Arts** "Great Lakes Pastel Society National Show 2012" 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. Nov. 1-Jan. 8. 269-349-7775. KIArts.org

**Lawrence Street Gallery** "Think Small" This show gives an opportunity to showcase small-scale work that won't get lost among larger pieces. Small work invites the viewer to look closely, to scrutinize, to appreciate detail. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave. Suite A, Ferndale. Dec. 1-Dec. 22. 248-544-0394. Lawrencestreetgallery.com

**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

**Michigan State University Museum** "An Interwoven Christmas" Every Christmas through the first half of the 20th century, the Intervoven Stocking Company of New Brunswick, New Jersey provided a popular gift option for Dad. Knowing that every man could use more stockings, they offered a

new Christmas gift box each season with a colorful Early American holiday scene created by a series of talented commercial artists including N. C. Wyeth, J. C. Leyendecker, Norman Rockwell and others. Michigan State University, East Lansing. Dec. 1-Jan. 13. Museum.msu.edu

**The Detroit Institute of Arts** "Faberge: The Rise & Fall" Discover the story behind the renowned House of Faberge as you view more than 200 precious objects from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts that trace Faberge's rise to fame and privileged relationship with the Russian aristocracy. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Nov. 1-Jan. 21. 313-833-7900. DIA.org

**The Gallery Project** "Process as Content" A multimedia exhibit in which 24 local, regional and national artists explore a wide range of iterative and often intense processes for making art. The Gallery Project, 215 S. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Dec. 1-Dec. 30. 734-997-7012. TheGalleryProject.com

**The Henry Ford Museum** "Holidays in Henry Ford Museum" The Henry Ford welcomes families to build lasting memories and traditions during Holidays in Henry Ford Museum. See how we've decked the halls, share your wish list with Santa or build your own Lego creation during this seasonal celebration. Henry Ford Museum, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. Dec. 1-Jan. 6. 313-982-6001. TheHenryFord.org

**University of Michigan Museum of Art** "Young-Hae Chang Heavy Industries" The Seoul-based art collaborative, known for innovative video works that exist at the nexus of visual art and digital literature. Blurring the boundaries between media, technologies, and cultural histories, YHCHI has gained international acclaim for their "net art" productions and videos. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 11-Dec. 30. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

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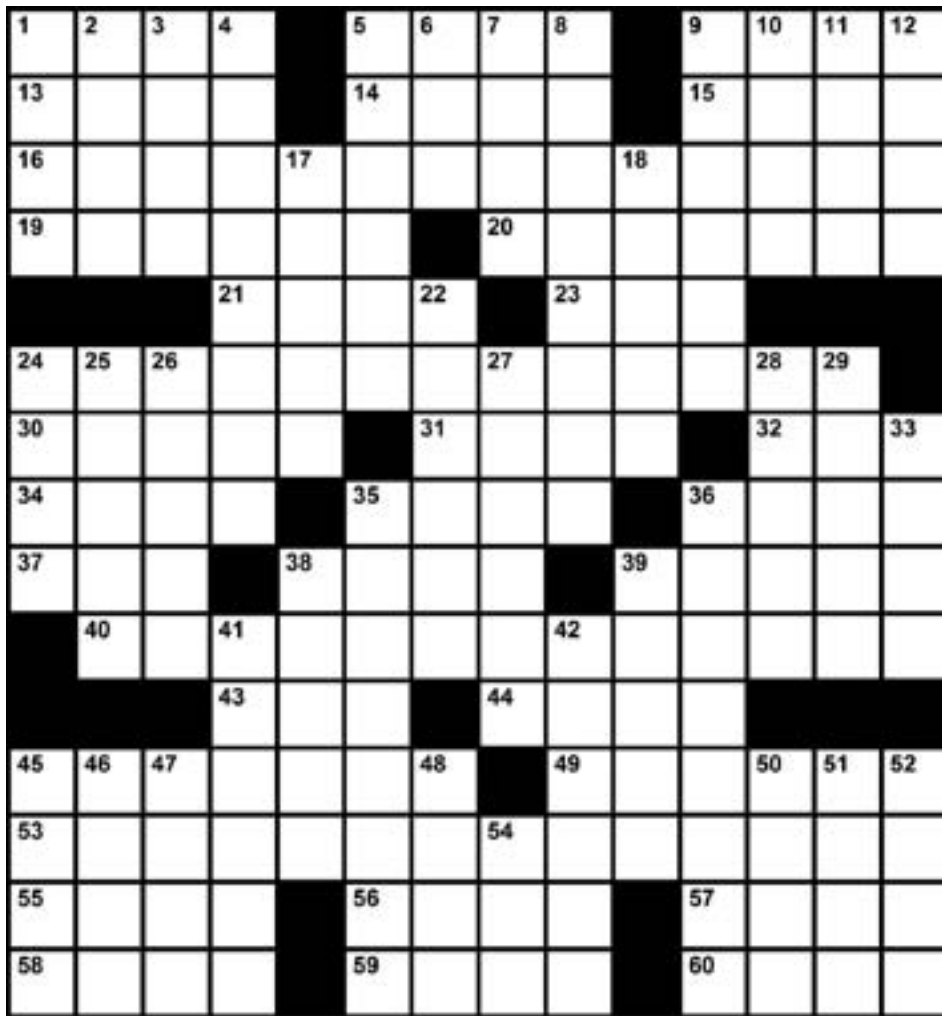
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# Look Out, Dan White



## Across

- 1 It can give a man legs like a lady  
 5 "My \_\_\_ Lady"  
 9 Farmer's tool  
 13 Like Hawaiian shirts  
 14 Voice in a loft  
 15 Straddled a stallion  
 16 Start of a "benefit" of a food company's demise  
 19 Tank top  
 20 As a bottom limit  
 21 Many a moon  
 23 Dorm VIPs  
 24 More of the "benefit"  
 30 \_\_\_ fours (doggy-style)  
 31 Pet food brand  
 32 Triangle side  
 34 Dietary, in ads  
 35 Bannon and Northrop  
 36 Fashionable Fla. resort  
 37 Cold-cocks  
 38 \_\_\_ fu  
 39 Flip  
 40 More of the "benefit"

43 Toothpaste box letters

- 44 Debussy's daddy  
 45 What drawers do  
 49 Able to assume many positions  
 53 End of the "benefit"  
 55 It crosses Hollywood  
 56 Romeo or Juliet  
 57 Breaks for Heather's mommies  
 58 "Don't leave me!"  
 59 Hit with hand motions  
 60 Windshield feature

## Down

- 1 Went down (on)  
 2 Vegetarian's staple  
 3 German industrial locale  
 4 Like Teletubbies  
 5 Become like a bear  
 6 Malt drink  
 7 Words with shame or boy  
 8 Oration stations  
 9 Mychal Judge, e.g.  
 10 Marlene's "Blue Angel" role  
 11 Sapphic poems  
 12 " \_\_\_ Side Story"

17 George of "It's My Party"

- 18 Labia, e.g.  
 22 The 411  
 24 Coffeehouse music  
 25 Tear producer  
 26 Dustin in "Midnight Cowboy"  
 27 Processed with a cash register  
 28 Political power  
 29 "That's disgusting!"  
 33 Ironically straight singer Marvin  
 35 Balls  
 36 Bargain spot  
 38 Eastman camera  
 39 Letter flourish  
 41 Frank on the House floor  
 42 One-named Tejano singer  
 45 Off-rd. travelers  
 46 Boob, to a Brit  
 47 Fey of "30 Rock"  
 48 Abound  
 50 \_\_\_ B'rith  
 51 Where to see sweaty men  
 52 Silence for Saint-Saens  
 54 Last mo.

*Solution on pg. 28*

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# Classifieds

Continued from p. 26

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Solution to puzzle from page 27

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K	O	S	K	U	N	G	S	A	U	C	Y		
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# When Will Housing Prices Rebound?



**Gay Real Estate**

OPINION BY JEFF HAMMERBERG

For those of you homeowners looking into selling a home, the first question to ask yourself is when will home prices bounce back? - If it ever truly can. Depending on whom you ask, some say it never will, but we don't believe that to be the case.

Everyone has their own opinions on when housing prices will rebound; in today's economy it's hard to answer this sort of question with 100 percent certainty. In the past, when the real estate market was up, even the professionals couldn't accurately predict what way the market was going to swing at any given moment.

There are many factors to consider; if the economy remains shaky, people tend to hunker down making prices stagnant, when the economy is hot and rates are low, people tend to move more, which drives housing prices up.

There are some things you can look at to gauge which direction the market is headed.

It's always wise, no matter what the current state of the market, to look at the trends in your area - both in the zip code, and in the surrounding city. Even when the economy is down, you'll notice times when there will be clear up-swings in activity, like we're witnessing in many markets today. Plan your home sale around those swings, and with the

input of well-trusted market advisers, like your gay realtor.

There are always doomsayers who will proclaim that home prices will never recover, and that anyone who buys or sells now will only see losses ~ but there are also doomsday buyers, who take advantage of it being a buyer's market to make purchases at a reduced cost, recognizing the direction of the market and trends locally and nationwide!

As a buyer, with home inventory low and prices rising, your personal dedication to the numbers, and willingness to take a risk while all things seem to be aligned on your side, will result in the highest potential profits. It pays to be an opportunist, and to watch the way things go over time.

As a seller, you can weigh the potential profits of selling in today's market vs. the potential higher price you will pay for a replacement home if you wait to sell. For most of us, we "buy up" so it would be better to buy the more expensive home at today's lower prices.

The bottom-line is that no one can definitively say when home prices will "come back" although a careful analysis of today's markets show prices increasing almost across the board. What we can do is look at current trends, in order to determine if a particular time seems like it will provide a return on your investment, and ensure that you get in while prices continue to climb.

With a little luck, and some research, you can successfully navigate the market of today.

*Jeff Hammerberg is the founding CEO of GayRealEstate.com, offering free instant access to the nation's top gay, lesbian and gay-friendly realtors coast to coast.*

The bottom-line is that no one can definitively say when home prices will "come back" although a careful analysis of today's markets show prices increasing almost across the board. What we can do is look at current trends, in order to determine if a particular time seems like it will provide a return on your investment, and ensure that you get in while prices continue to climb.

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## Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

### Matthew McConaughey Joins 'The Dallas Buyers Club'

Maybe you've seen photos of recent public appearances by actors Matthew McConaughey and Jared Leto and wondered why they're both so emaciated. The answer is "for their craft." Both men will play AIDS patients in Canadian filmmaker Jean-Marc Vallée's ("C.R.A.Z.Y.," "The Young Victoria") next project, "The Dallas Buyers Club," a movie set in the mid-1980s, the bad old days of the AIDS crisis. McConaughey plays real-life AIDS activist Ron Woodruff, a heterosexual electrician whose battle with the FDA over non-toxic AIDS drugs became a cause taken up by other people living with AIDS in a desperate attempt to stay alive. Leto plays a character named "Rayon," a drag performer, who gets involved in the underground medications movement started by Woodruff. Jennifer Garner and Steve Zahn will co-star in the film and it will also feature the acting debut of indie rock star Bradford Cox (the bands Deerhunter and Atlas Sound) as Leto's boyfriend. It follows the award-winning documentary "How To Survive A Plague" in a cinematic mini-wave of '80s AIDS remembrances and, with HIV infections on the rise among young gay men who weren't around to experience that decade of fear, couldn't be more appropriately timed.



Matthew McConaughey Photo: D Films

that all we don't know yet is the plot. And, as any good Internet user knows, is a thing for the bloggers to tease and coax out and breathlessly announce each time a publicist or on-set journalist is given a tiny morsel of information and imagery to share with the salivating movie-nerd audience. This is the new production paradigm, so watch this space. If anything breaks open wide, you'll be informed.

### Charlize Will Have Her 'Vengeance'

OK, truthfully, there's nothing technically lesbian about this following bit of movie news. Except for, you know, everything. And you may not be familiar with director Park Chan-wook, but the Korean filmmakers' "vengeance trilogy," consisting of the movies "Oldboy," "Sympathy for Mr. Vengeance" and "Sympathy for Lady Vengeance," has been blowing the minds of foreign film fans for several years now. And while the Oldboy remake is already in the can with Josh Brolin and Elizabeth Olsen, today we're here to discuss ladies, specifically Charlize Theron in the American version of "Sympathy for Lady Vengeance." The Oscar-winner for "Monster," having already proven she can be terrifying and violent, will play a woman imprisoned for 13 years for a crime she did not commit. Then, upon being set free, she wreaks deadly havoc on the people who put her there. Did we say deadly havoc? We meant "insane" deadly havoc. The kind of deadly havoc usually reserved for Michelle Rodriguez, who must have been busy when the casting agents were doing their thing. It's the kind of movie that, if done properly, will be as artful and disturbing as the original. And if it's not done well, it'll still feature one of cinema's most beautiful women, destroying everything in sight until she's satisfied. They call that a win-win. And you're welcome.

Romeo San Vicente's approach to vengeance usually just involves watching Emily Thorne hunt down Madeleine Stowe. He can be reached care of this publication or at [DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com](mailto:DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com).

### Jane Lynch Gets Some 'Afternoon Delight'

The 2013 Sundance Film Festival is right around the corner and so is "Afternoon Delight." That's not a euphemism for anything related to film festival hook-ups, by the way, it's just the name of a comedy premiering at Sundance from director Jill Soloway ("Six Feet Under"). Starring Kathryn Hahn, Juno Temple and Jane Lynch, it's the story of a Los Angeles housewife who takes in a stripper as her live-in nanny. And if Indie Film Law has anything to say about it, that thong-wearing Mary Poppins is going to teach the family some things about life right after she displays proper pole technique to her young charges. But that's just a guess. And whatever, it's got Jane Lynch in it. Does she ever do anything wrong besides occasionally freak us out on "Glee" by being nice to people? Watch this one get scooped up at the fest and unleashed into art-houses later in 2013. That's another guess.

### It's On! 'X-Men' Sequel Gets McKellen and Stewart

Bryan Singer has made it official: the sequel to "X-Men: First Class" will include the cast of that film, including January Jones, James McAvoy, Jennifer Lawrence, Michael Fassbender and Nicholas Hoult, as well as the last two contract negotiators, Sir Ian McKellen and Sir Patrick Stewart. Singer will direct this next film in the ongoing saga of superpower-having-mutants-as-metaphors-for-being-gay, shooting in London this year for a release date of July 18, 2014. That means

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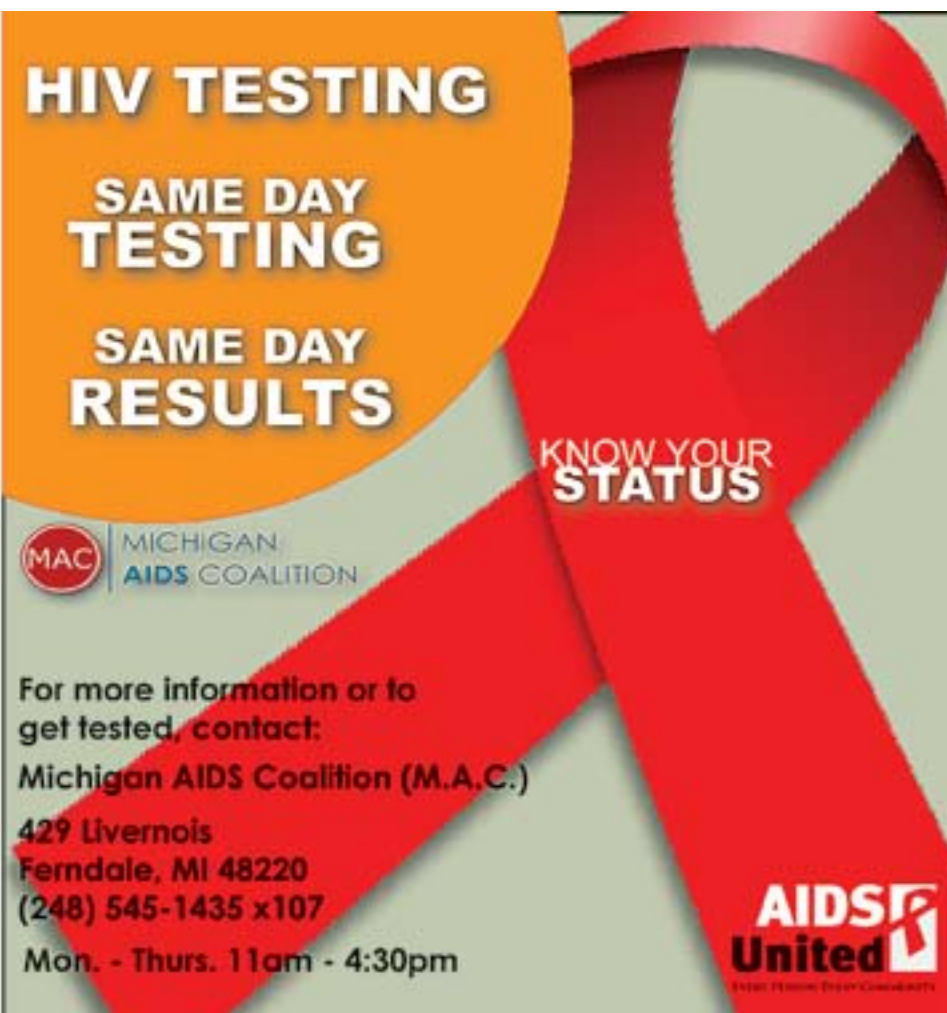
   
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