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1/8-13

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Toccata Festiva for Organ and Orchestra, Op. 36 (1960)  
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"How Firm a Foundation"  
Symphony No. 3 in C ("Symphony-Poem") (1947)

Media Partners WGTE 91.3 FM, WRCJ 90.0 FM, Detroit Jewish News,  
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1/17-18

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*I don't think about other people.  
I just think about who I am and I  
just rely on being honest about  
myself.*



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# Gay Detroit: A Message From The Ground

## KICK Executive Director Talks LGBT Detroit

“Detroit is far from the brutal picture painted for its LGBT residents and visitors. We have many successes under our belts and progress continues to be made.”

Recently there was an article released by CBS Detroit News headlined: “Survey: Detroit Most Dangerous U.S. City for Gays” (Dec. 5, 2012). There were accusations factored into this ideology stating that the reasoning for this is due to Detroit having “a slumping economy, increase in crime, high number of landmark gay bars closing and a severe lack of smart accommodations.”

That paints a picture of Detroit’s metropolitan area as uninhabitable space for those that are LGBT. Bruvion brought these factors to light in a survey implemented by Alternative Luxury Travel, a gay owned and operated full service travel company specializing in luxury and adventure travel.

Never heard of them.

Though there are some truths to these things, it doesn’t hold true completely. Detroit is far from the brutal picture painted for its LGBT residents and visitors. We have many successes under our belts and progress continues to be made.

My name is Curtis Lipscomb. I am a Detroit native and resident, an out gay man since 15 years of age, and I’ve been with my partner for over 13 years. Professionally, I am the executive director for KICK, the Agency for LGBT African-Americans here in Detroit. KICK’s mission is to increase awareness

Curtis Lipscomb graduated from Cass Technical High School in Detroit, and Parsons School of Design in New York. Currently he is the executive director of KICK - The Agency of LGBT African-Americans at The Center In Detroit; the winner of the 2012 Black Male Engagement (BME) Challenge, the co-planner of the 2012 national White House Conference of LGBT Housing and Homelessness at Wayne State University, member of the National Black Justice Coalition’s augural Leadership Advisory Council and was featured in Who’s Who in Black Detroit.

BTL photo: Andrew Potter

of and support to Detroit’s dynamic LGBT culture, through education and advocacy with integrity and pride.

There are several movements within the agency of KICK that oppose such thoughts of despair in the city limits. A non-profit organization for 10 years now, we are organizers of the third oldest black social justice and equality celebration, Hotter Than July. KICK also has the LEAD Academy (Learn Educate Advocate Drive), which is a social justice program for LGBT youth ages 18 to 30 training the next generation of LGBT members to be leaders within their community.

This program alone has been massively successful and accumulated great buzz in gay news in Detroit, acquiring front-page articles in Michigan’s LGBT publication Between The Lines, as well as video interviews on participants with Model D and The Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan.

Detroit is definitely a city that is on the move. Many things that are overlooked due to the “outside looking in” approach taken when it comes to what is broadcasted to the masses. We are engaged in the fight against HIV/AIDS in the US, bringing in \$11,926,948 from the CDC in funding, making up 2.1 percent of the US total per the fiscal year of 2010 [www.statehealthfacts.org](http://www.statehealthfacts.org).

It is not to be overlooked that we are progressing in the development of our city and combating the issue of homelessness and poverty.

Two local shelters (Turning Point and Haven Inc.), for domestic violence and sexual abuse are in the midst of capital projects to help them better meet rising demand for their services, collectively in the process of garnering approximately \$16 million to go towards these expansions [www.crainsdetroit.com](http://www.crainsdetroit.com).

The diversity and culture of Detroit is like

no other in the country. We have several LGBT establishments that are available for whatever you desire. Just to name a few, there’s SoHo in Ferndale and Woodward Bar & in Grill, our oldest LGBT-serving establishment, in the heart of Midtown Detroit.

There are also gay friendly restaurants such as Pronto’s and Rosie O’Grady’s, both catering to the straight and LGBT community. In the heart of the city we have several museums, historic sites and events surrounding the arts. All of these things happen on a daily and quarterly basis, opposing the thought of Detroit being anything less than an attraction for LGBT residents and visitors.

Aside from the local attractions, I believe that we should not get caught up in the thought that everywhere we visit will be a completely safe environment for our community. There are dangers in every urban environment you may decide to visit across America as a member of the LGBT community.

As Michiganders, we are diving headfirst into the fight for human rights within as well, petitioning for an amendment to Michigan’s civil rights law (The Elliot Larsen Act) to include sexual orientation and gender identity as a protected class so that discrimination on the most practical levels can cease. There are historic alliances being made between our agency with the Detroit Police Department to help with LGBT sensitivity trainings - as well as bringing to light the intolerance for our community within the city - that is proving to be successful by the participation of dedicated Detroit Police Department leadership.

About Curtis Lipscomb, Executive Director: Curtis graduated from Cass Technical High School in Detroit, and Parsons School of Design in New York. Currently he is the executive director of KICK - The Agency of Lesbian, Gay, Bi and Transgender African-Americans at The Center In Detroit; the winner of the 2012 Black Male Engagement



BY CURTIS LIPSCOMB

(BME) Challenge, the co-planner of the 2012 national White House Conference of LGBT Housing and Homelessness at Wayne State University, member of the National Black Justice Coalition’s augural Leadership Advisory Council and was featured in Who’s Who in Black Detroit.

Detroit is prime placement for those wishing to find a new home in the Midwest region. We are two hours away from several prominent universities; we have the largest Arabic population outside of the Middle East. These things attribute to the welcoming diversity and culture of our city in spite of the naysayers and negativity thrown about.

It is one thing to be concerned about the safety of others when visiting new cities, but it is another altogether to make a statement based on limited information. We should further research and take the steps to visit a city, town, region, municipality and township before we cast it away and deem it as unsafe - furthermore the most dangerous. There are dangers all around us as LGBT people. Our safety depends more on being aware of our surroundings and conducting ourselves as we are in unfamiliar territory, and not on what others say isn’t safe for us in regards to hear say and not facts.

If anyone wants to know more about gay Detroit from the ground, give me a call at 313-285-9733. Even if you work for a full service travel company specializing in luxury and adventure travel. I’ll show you a good time!



**BY ANTONIO DAVID GARCIA**

# 'Family' Ties: A Way Forward

## A Networking Possibility Takes Hold

**M**y grandpa died Sept. 8 of this year. The same day my Grandma turned 82. They were married for 64 years. While it was difficult for him to hang on that last week, I believe he wanted to tell my grandma happy birthday one last time before he left us. My grandmother was rushed to the Intensive Care Unit at Hurley Medical Center yesterday. It does not look good. She seemed so relatively healthy when my grandfather passed away just three months ago. The Japanese call it Takotsubo, or "Broken Heart Syndrome." Personally, I don't know. It's her kidneys

us many times (not that he needed to) his hope that we would all stay together and that our disagreements and arguments would never drive any permanent wedges between us.

As the lone-out-gay-anti-Catholic-atheist-kid in a large, Mexican American family, believe me when I tell you, there have been some strong disagreements. Still, I love my family deeply. My cousins, sisters, brother, aunts, uncles, parents and grandparents are my closest friends and confidants.

Often in the LGBT community I hear the word "Family." Because so many were thrown out of their homes or estranged from their birth families, many LGBT folks have had to create their own. Today my friends and I still say, "Is so-and-so family?" when asking if they are LGBT.

The biggest challenge and threat to our future is not the conservative Michigan Legislature - archaic, embarrassing, and asinine as they are. It is not Gary Glenn or the Westboro Baptist Church. It is not the Pope, Dick Devos, or Leviticus.

It is us.

Many times I have witnessed people walk away from the LGBT table or an established LGBT organization because they disagree with one or two actions that organization has made. Affirmations can do a hundred things right, but because a donor has a problem with one of the decisions I make, he or she pulls all funding. Members may take advantage of many of Affirmations' mental health services, or social activities, but because they didn't like the "Hungry for Equality Campaign," the "Gay Families Matter

Rally," or a quote of mine in the paper - they badmouth us.

We are not perfect. I for damn sure am not perfect. The Community Centers Network is not perfect, nor any executive director at the helm of those centers. Our allied/cousin organizations like Equality Michigan, the ACLU and Between The Lines are not perfect. Nor are any of us above criticism. Constructive criticism is not what angers me. What angers me is that I see so much energy spent to argue and fight one another, while people who truly could care less if we vanished from this planet exist in this world.

The Community Centers Network is a huge step in the right direction because we must all start working together more effectively and intentionally if we are going to achieve full equality for the LGBT community. Arguments can be good and often necessary. Differences in opinions about LGBT political priorities such as marriage, adoption, workplace discrimination, sexual freedom, gender identity and equity exist. Let us respectfully argue and disagree and fight it out within our own locker room.

If we are truly a strong family ... if we mean that word when we speak it. ... we will never walk away from the table. We will never take our ball and go home. We will never pull funds or trash one another behind our collective backs. We will behave as my brother and I did as kids when we could be arguing one minute and then fighting shoulder to shoulder the next if one or the other was threatened.

We have real enemies and a long, but ever closer, way to go to realize full equality. We will only get there together as one imperfect, but loyal, family... scars, mistakes, and all.

*Rosa Ena Garcia, Antonio David Garcia's grandmother, passed away the same evening Garcia sent his submission to BTL. The BTL staff asks readers to keep the family in their thoughts and prayers.*

**“** *If we are truly a strong family ... if we mean that word when we speak it ... we will never walk away from the table. We will never take our ball and go home. We will never pull funds or trash one another behind our collective backs. We will behave as my brother and I did as kids when we could be arguing one minute and then fighting shoulder to shoulder the next if one or the other was threatened.* **”**

that are failing her today not her heart... though no doubt her heart is broken as ours continues to break.

My grandpa and grandma taught us the value of love and loyalty. While we often argue amongst the vast number of aunts, uncles, cousins and siblings, we have one another's backs. My grandfather would often hear stories of other families who haven't spoken for years and he would shake his head and simply say, "That's not right." In his last days he reminded

Read about the Gay Families Matter rally in Jan. 2012 at <http://gaybe.am/y2>

Read about the Hungry For Equality campaign leading up to the Nov. elections at <http://gaybe.am/y3>

Garcia currently serves as Executive Director at Affirmations community center in Ferndale. For more information about Affirmations, go to [www.GoAffirmations.org](http://www.GoAffirmations.org).

BTL photo: Andrew Potter



# Victory Looks Different In State

## Defense For Now, Maybe Progress Later

**“**How did we win in this political climate – in a state where almost unlimited power is exploited without consideration of the human beings its haphazard wielding harms? Answer: Together, with help, and without assumptions. We admitted that the gay community as an insulated entity could not win.**”**

BY EMILY DIEVENDORF

Sometimes it's the winning that knocks you on your arse.

The 2012 election made clear, with the election of our first out lesbian U.S. Senator in Tammy Baldwin and our first out bisexual U.S. Congressperson in Kyrsten Sinema, the re-election of pro-equality President of the United States Barack Obama, a three state approval of marriage equality, one state's defeat of a ban on equal marriage, and the victories here in Michigan of the majority of the pro-equality candidates endorsed by the Equality Michigan Pride PAC that the country is ready to embrace the kind of change that will bring fairness to LGBT families. Nationally, we knew by the November election, that the gay community had reached the mountaintop and that shifts in policy are soon to follow.

Michigan, on the ground, is also ready. We have learned in the last year that a majority of Michiganders is in favor of marriage equality, the final frontier, for the first time in our state's history. Seniors and communities of color also poll in favor of fairness in housing and employment for the gay and transgender community. Young Christian evangelicals are supportive of equality and consider it a non-issue.

In Michigan government, however, the picture has been less than rosy. By this year's lame duck session, drafted and ready for action by the legislature were bills to allow discrimination condoning the denial of counseling services, the denial of adoption placements to the over 5,000 Michigan foster children eligible for homes, and the denial of medical services - all if based on any strongly held religious belief or moral conviction. There were also bills to restrict non-discrimination policies from being altered to provide protections for new categories (read: the gay and transgender) and one bill to restrict public dollars from being spent on gender reassignment surgery. We had experienced quite the couple of years and on Dec. 14, at 4:35 a.m., after fighting for our lives without pause, the gavel would finally come down.

Halfway through that last night of the 2011-2012 legislative session advocates and lobbyists started hearing rumors that the bills to allow discrimination in adoption and healthcare based on a religious belief or moral conviction would not be voted on and would be dead by the end of the night - unable to reach the governor's desk. Buried. I could not expect a victory based on national trends as much as those trends signal reason for hope. Michigan is a different animal. Our leadership's priorities have not reflected the will of the people for the last two years. It should be no surprise that after two years of accumulated bills written purely with the intent to harm Michigan's gay and transgender families that I would not believe I could leave my post in the Capitol as it was looking hopeful. For the gay community victory

remains a unicorn until it actually happens and it has to. The gay community has been told lies before.

In the end, the bills that would have meant magnified disarray to our already suffering LGBT community were not included in the night's sneaky carnage. The House floor emptied, the other lobbyists in the House gallery shuffled out and I sat there, stiff and stared ahead. A friend from the Senate had positioned himself next to me, congratulated me, and assured me it was over for now and that we had won. I was shocked. It wasn't that I had even once succumbed to the notion of losing. Rather, I couldn't get used to the idea of being able to stop, even for a minute, scrapping. I protested for a long minute, looked at him, welled up, let the tears absorb, and with some hesitation accepted VICTORY.

How did we win in this political climate - in a state where almost unlimited power is exploited without consideration of the human beings its haphazard wielding harms? Answer: Together, with help, and without assumptions. We admitted that the gay community as an insulated entity could not win.

The gay community has learned how to stop just talking and start acting on the behalf of ourselves and others. In absence of power in governance, we have come together as a community and with our allies to use our voices and our spotlights. If all we can do is bring glaring attention to offensive and sloppy attempts to harm Michiganders we are happy to provide the service and we do it well, garnering the attention of the national media which is always happy to help us point out the embarrassing void of democracy that Michigan has become. This is not trickiness

or games, this is accountability. You see, our responsibility as citizens has never been restricted to the ballot box, where too many of us are already voluntarily absent. It is at the doors, on the phones, and in the email boxes of our elected leaders sharing our expectations and dissenting at the mismanagement of resources in response to our needs. When the bills to discriminate in adoption services were scheduled for committee, Equality Michigan put out the call for your voices and more than 12,000 of you answered. By the time the adoption bills were referred to the House they were never heard from again.

In 2013, we must expect more of the same. We need to be unsurprised to see "religious beliefs or moral convictions" inserted into any bill and we need to be ready to bring the absurdity of such legislation to the discussion at everybody's dinner table nationwide. We need to commit to keeping a watchful eye on our leaders and calling them out on bad decisions. We need to invest, as our opponents do, in the cultivation of leadership that WILL represent us. We need to acknowledge that we are not the only vulnerable community under attack and be ready to put Martin Luther King Jr's "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere" mantra into action. We, as a community need to acknowledge and announce that we are also women, workers, and voters who can choose to find better leaders willing to represent ALL constituents in 2014.

Victory looks different in Michigan. Michigan's current victories come from good defense and if we continue to hold the line at some point the direction we move will be forward. We need to keep WINNING.

Emily Dievendorf is Director of Policy for Equality Michigan. To learn more about Equality Michigan, go to [www.EqualityMI.org](http://www.EqualityMI.org).

Learn more about the lame duck session for the 2011-2012 legislative session at <http://gaybe.am/y4>



BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

# Past As Prologue

## Prepare For The Future By Honoring Past

This year, 2013, marks the 59th year I have been an active participant Detroit's lesbian/gay community – now the proverbial L/GBTQA gourmet alphabet soup.

Like my senior citizen friends – Jim Toy, John Kavanaugh, Dr. Henry Messer and partner of 61 years, Karl House, Vy Reed, John DiDonato, Affirmations volunteer Jack Miller – I have earned, by living it first hand, the being-there-then experience for viewing our shared rainbow future, in contrast to its hidden and closeted past.

I was fortunate on two counts as a gay man: I lived in a large metropolitan city – which Detroit with a population of two million was in the 1950s – and I realized as a teenager I wasn't heterosexual, but different: fruit, fairy, fag, queer. (Sticks and stones . . .)

In spite of low status accorded to me and other gays and lesbians by religion, psychiatry, the law, government, employers, medical profession, sometimes family, often so-called friends, I chose to associate with others sharing my sexual orientation.

I learned by these shared friendship alliances that, as the Affirmations L/GBT Center slogans it proudly, "Gay is good. You are not alone."

I did not choose to be gay. It came quite naturally to me. And about 17, as a Southern Baptist, I came to a realization that my biology was stronger than my belief system. (Had that not been the case, I'm sure I would have wound up wasting precious years of my young life as a China Inland missionary or, what's worse, a radio or TV evangelist.)

In Detroit's downtown area I found support in two restaurant hangouts for gay/lesbian teenagers – occasionally "tourist" straights – where, over "a cherry Coke and six jukebox plays for a quarter" I learned how to cope in a psychologically gay bashing straight world.

Soon with my new-found gay friends I explored nearby cities: Toledo, at the Scenic Bar for 3.2-alcohol content Zing Beer, at age 18; Cleveland, checking into the Y, with 24/7 showers; New York in July with non-air conditioned rooms at the Sloan House.

City by city we realized something

that few, if any, straights knew. We were everywhere, and our numbers were pretty substantial, if highly invisible. Gaydar helped, with substituting pronouns for private us-only conversations. He for she. Hairpin dropping cautious questions: Do you come here often? Are you, er, you know, gay? (Back then the word usually meant happy.)

Gays and lesbians kept a low profile. We used nicknames – Little Bobby, Estralita, T.D., B.J., The Empress, Miss Thing, Drano, Big Red. I was Skinny Al. We told no one where we worked, where we lived, where we went to church (if indeed we managed to get up after a night of partying on Saturday to go to church. Or confession, if ever.)

Role models were non existent. Movie

were required to show three pieces of I.D. to get into the predominantly white clubs. Foster's and the Royale were black bars. Mixing of races was rare.

Getting in drag was limited to Halloween Night, and the downtown streets of Farmer and Bates were the scene of queens in costumes, make up, high camping, glitter and be once-a-year openly gay.

When I was 23 a Wayne University professor told me that he was sorry to learn I was gay. "There's so much in life you'll not be able to do," he said. Looking back on my six decades it's been just the opposite for me. I've had an interesting gay life, met wonderful people – a few celebs – held many professional jobs, been a teacher and administrator, had many

**“My advice as a gay senior to those much younger is simple, perhaps obvious. Honor those past and present courageous persons who made our LGBT equality possible. Prepare for a career. Use and share your gifts and unique talents. Get involved. Volunteer. Vote!”**

Charles Alexander wears many hats in Michigan's LGBT community – Artist, activist, Detroit and curator of Affirmations' Pittmann-Puckett Art Gallery.

Charles is the recipient of numerous awards, among them The Spirit of Detroit Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Pride Banquet.

His donated artwork for LGBT causes has raised well over \$70,000 over the past two decades.

He writes a weekly column for BTL, titled Parting Glances, and with over 700 columns to date, he never once missed his deadline. Catch the latest installments at <http://gaybe.am/y5>

E-mail Charles at [Charles@Pridesource.com](mailto:Charles@Pridesource.com).

stars were suspect, including James Dean, Rock Hudson, Tab Hunter, Barbara Stanwyck. Wishful thinking on our part. Too often later proven to be true!

We were warned to watch out for "Miss Tillie." The Law. The Big Four in the prowling cop cars. The Vice officer. The ever-present fear of entrapment. (Footnote: Tim Retzliff, currently doing his Yale Ph.D. dissertation on LGBT Detroit History, has read and reviewed over 25,000 gay arrest case reports dating from the 1930s to the present.)

Detroit's gay bar scene, located near the old city hall, was lively on weekends. The 1011, Silver Dollar, La Rosa's, Barrel Bar, notorious Palais Dyke Bar, were in walking distance of each other (but inconveniently near the First Police Precinct). Gay blacks

dear friends (continue to do so), written reasonably informative columns for several gay papers, and made crazy, wonderful art. (So I've been told.)


My ground zero has blossomed into open spaces with park benches to sit happily in the sun, hold hands, maybe get married nearby, rent a condo – mortgage a home – raise a family.

My advice as a gay senior to those much younger is simple, perhaps obvious. Honor those past and present courageous persons who made our LGBT equality possible. Prepare for a career. Use and share your gifts and unique talents. Get involved. Volunteer. Vote! Speak out! Kick back politically! We've come a long way! We still have a long way to go in 2013.



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BY CHARLES PUGH

# It All Starts With The Kids But Everyone Must Step Up

2012 has been a historic and transformative year in many ways in terms of LGBT rights, especially on the national level with several states either securing marriage equality rights or defeating marriage equality bans. It's given me personal hope for what we can accomplish in Michigan. Sadly, we still have a long way to go before we see dramatic changes, but I'm proud to say that despite all of the obstacles we're facing I, along with my staff, have been able to plant some seeds in 2012 that we believe will be fruitful in 2013. We're working on several projects to ensure that whatever the politics, Detroit moves closer to being more progressive and that our LGBT community feels safer.

One thing that works in our favor is that Detroit is one of a few cit-

ies in Michigan that has a non-discrimination ordinance that protects sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression in both housing and employment. That same language is reinforced in our city charter as well. However, what we have to work on is making sure the language is enforced and that the spirit of the language trickles down into other parts of our city's fabric.

At present, there are zero Gay Straight Student Alliances (GSAs) in Detroit Public Schools (DPS) even though we know LGBT kids have issues in schools with discrimination from their peers, and in many cases, their teachers. We'd made pretty good progress toward GSAs in individual schools, but our work was stymied when leadership changed as one emergency financial manager left and an entirely new team came in forcing us to start over. We also had some push back from individual teachers but we're not discouraged because at the same time we're hearing directly from students that this work is needed. Students need a network of peers and a safe space to be themselves and feel supported. All too often they're made to believe that their voices and concerns don't count.

We're very close to having a policy specifically for dealing with LGBT issues in the Detroit Police Department. The process began with former Chief Godbee who was very committed to seeing this happen. The new Interim Chief has continued the work and our goal is to have a policy and training in place so that no matter who is Mayor or Chief of Police, there is a consistent policy for these issues. Included in the policy will be an LGBT liaison whose job will be to make sure concerns of the community are communicated to the police department and addressed, as well as a committee of community representatives that will assist the department in handling issues. It is groundbreaking to have this type of cooperation from the police department. They are committed to making sure every Detroit resident and visitor, regardless of sexual attraction, gender identity or gender expression, feels safe. We feel very honored to be part

of this important moment in our city's history.

Finally, we'll be ramping up our "Step Up or Shut Up" campaign in 2013. There is absolutely no way that we will change communities and laws, or have more of the rights we deserve, unless more people are willing to get involved. In 2012, I appointed Alicia Skillman, an out and accomplished member of our community to the Board of Ethics. I want to make more of these appointments. We'll be launching a website where individuals can find a list of all of the boards, commissions and other ways to serve, plus learning the full process for being involved with them. There are also numerous neighborhood groups with opportunities for people to be block captains or involved in some other leadership positions. We need more people willing to step up and run for office, as well, to set policy and make the types of changes we need to gain more rights as a community.

I'm very optimistic about what 2013 will hold for LGBT rights in Michigan and looking forward to doing my part to take the movement to the next level and make real impact, particularly in Detroit.

**“** We'll be ramping up our 'Step Up or Shut Up' campaign in 2013. There is absolutely no way that we will change communities and laws, or have more of the rights we deserve, unless more people are willing to get involved... We need more people willing to step up and run for office, as well, to set policy and make the types of changes we need to gain more rights as a community. **”**

Charles Pugh serves as the President of the Detroit City Council, the result of an historic election as the first out gay councilman in 2009, and then its president in 2011.

After graduating from Detroit's Murray Wright High School in 1989, Pugh earned a journalism degree from the University of Missouri. He worked as a journalist in Missouri, Indiana and Virginia, and in 1999 joined Fox 2 News Detroit where he rose to become its news anchor.

In 2011, Pugh entered the prestigious Harvard Kennedy School fellowship in the Senior Executives in State and Local Government program. He has received numerous awards and commendations. In addition, Pugh has been recognized by the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, and Instinct Magazine as a leader to watch.

# This Is Our Time In Michigan

## Soul Of The State Is At Stake

Lansing isn't working for us.

Over the last few years we've seen amazing advances for LGBT people. Support for marriage equality has increased across the country, even to the point of winning at the ballot box in four states this last November. It's possible that President Obama may even ban discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in federal contractors in the next year. And let's not forget the numerous advances at federal agencies to protect LGBT people and our families.

But that isn't happening in Michigan.

Over the last two years, our political process in Lansing has failed us, and my prediction for 2013 is that LGBT people and our allies have had enough of it.

Science, public opinion, and common sense agree: LGBT people are a vital part of the fabric of Michigan and it is time our politicians acknowledged us. Progress in Lansing has stalled for LGBT families - no nondiscrimination protections, no comprehensive bullying protections, no adoption protections...nothing. The only thing close to a win was a bullying bill, but it specifically removed references to LGBT kids, one of the groups needing protections the most.

2013 has to be the year to start something different.

In 2012, we saw Mt. Pleasant and Union Township pass nondiscrimination ordinances, bringing the total number of municipalities with nondiscrimination protections up to 20. These ordinances are the result of local residents saying they've had enough of government for the people and by the people not including LGBT people.

2013 could see a wave of similar ordinances across the state where local political leaders are willing to work with local residents to not only do the right thing, but also send a message to Lansing that municipalities won't sit idly by as the legislature cares more about what Dick DeVos thinks than what is best for families and kids.

LGBT issues are just the tip of the iceberg.

**“**Over the last two years, our political process in Lansing has failed us, and my prediction for 2013 is that LGBT people and our allies have had enough of it. Science, public opinion, and common sense agree: LGBT people are a vital part of the fabric of Michigan and it is time our politicians acknowledged us.**”**

Governor Snyder and the legislature showed their true colors when they rushed through over 250 bills in a three-week period after the November elections. They specifically took aim at the allies of LGBT people, including unions, middle class workers, women's health advocates, and government accountability advocates. The purposes of the bills weren't to make Michigan better. Rather, many of the bills were a cynical attempt to weaken the political power of people who disagree with conservative donors.

Let's take a look at the passage of Governor Snyder's Right to Work for Less bill. We know there's no rational economic reason to pass these bills. States that have similar laws see the average worker, union or non-union, earn \$1,500 less per year. We know this isn't about worker freedom since already no one can be forced to join a union. Ultimately, this is about weakening unions and making it harder to negotiate contracts for middle class families. That's bad for a long-term ally in the movement for LGBT equality, but also for the LGBT families that depend on decent wages and domestic partnership benefits negotiated through union contracts.

We won't get the advances towards equality we're looking for with the politicians who are supposed to represent us answering to the few who fund their campaigns, not actual voters. And we're certainly not going to get to full equality with the political deck stacked against us.

Here's another prediction for 2013: there will be a real conversation about the need to

start leveling the playing field to put everyday voters on the same plane as big money corporate donors.

Gerrymandered districts and secret donations fueled many of the 2012 elections. How, in a world where Sen. Stabenow won by about 20 points and President Obama won in Michigan by about 10 points, do we have a Republican controlled state house? It's because in 2010 when legislative district lines were redrawn in Michigan, politicians chose their voters instead of voters choosing their politicians. Take a look at the state legislative map. It looks like a slice of Swiss cheese, not a fair representation of our state. And of course, all of this was helped with the aid of some of the least transparent laws about political and lobbying money in the country.

It's sad, but I'm not surprised when I hear people say negative things about government. In fact, some of the people who say the worst things about government are the legislators who, in fact, have the power to change things. But they don't because the people who fund their campaigns don't want to see those rules changed.

Jon Hoadley currently serves director of the UNITY Michigan Coalition. The UNITY Michigan Coalition works to ensure that all Michiganders are treated fairly in the workplace by advancing nondiscrimination policies. It includes ACLU of Michigan, Affirmations, Equality Michigan, KICK, the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion and the Ruth Ellis Center. Follow UNITY at <http://www.unitymichigan.org>

To read about Mt. Pleasant's ordinance, passed in July, go to <http://gaybe.am/y6>\>



BY JON HOADLEY

# A Year Of Promise Ahead

## State's Support Services A Growth Area



“There currently are more support groups than ever before. Transgender Michigan has helped many new groups to form. We have many more chapters and affiliates than any time in the past. Also new transgender organizations have formed in Michigan that show much promise. Right now as I am writing this article a chapter of Transgender Michigan is forming in the Traverse City area. This is an achievement for both Transgender Michigan and Traverse City.”

BY RACHEL CRANDALL

The coming years shows a lot of promise for the transgender community. Our visibility has increased much over the last year.

However the still is one thing that we are missing. A number of years ago non lesbian and gay individuals began to show support for the gay community. This has greatly helped the gay community to gain acceptance. Honestly that is one thing that for the most part the transgender community is still lacking.

Rachel Crandall, MSW, is Co-Founder and Executive Director of Transgender Michigan Director, an Transgender Advocate Trainer, and a “notorious rabble rouser.” She is the Founder of the Michigan LGBT Disability Coalition, a board member for Michigan Equality and a Transgender therapist. For more information about Transgender Michigan, go to [www.TransgenderMichigan.org](http://www.TransgenderMichigan.org)

This coming year we must reach out to the LGB and straight communities. We must ask for their support and even more importantly for their action. We desperately need non-transgender people to join us in the call for transgender inclusion and transgender rights. We must ask them to demand these for the transgender community. We need them to call their legislators write letters and demand employers to accept and treat better the transgender community in their employment. Unfortunately most LGBT organizations and agencies do not fully include the transgender community.

It is up to us, the transgender community, to reach out to their friends and families neighbors and everyone to support our community. The transgender community must become much more comfortable asking for support and for action.. The key is that we must ask our supporters to come out of the closet as transgender supporters. This may

sound silly but overall transgender community supporters keep their support quiet and guarded. This must change!

We will not be asking for anything that the lesbian and gay community has not been asking for years. It is regular practice of the lesbian community to ask for support. Even leaders of the transgender community are not good at asking for financial help for their organizations. Leaders of transgender organizations must also gain skills to write grants and raise resources.

March 31 is the International Transgender Day of Visibility. This is the one day every year that the transgender community around the world comes together for visibility and for pride. This year around the world we must also ask for our supporters to show their visibility. This is a very unique day for the transgender community. As a community we are must better at mourning for transgender people

who have been killed then we are at showing our visibility and our pride. Showing our visibility and our pride is an important step in the process to ask for support.

On a more local level 2012 has been a year of progress for the Transgender Community in Michigan. Great progress was made in offering support to more and more transgender individuals throughout the state.

There currently are more support groups than ever before. Transgender Michigan has helped many new groups to form. We have many more chapters and affiliates than any time in the past. Also new transgender organizations have formed in Michigan that show much promise. Right now as I am writing this article a chapter of Transgender Michigan is forming in the Traverse City area. This is an achievement for both Transgender Michigan and Traverse City.

Transgender Michigan is now also

working with the HIV transgender community in our partnership with Michigan Aids Coalition. This population is one of the fastest growing HIV populations. As a result of the sharing of needles, etc HIV is now a major issue for the transgender community. Hopefully soon Transgender Michigan will be providing HIV testing for the transgender community. This will be accompanied by work in the HIV prevention area.

Also this past year major transgender events have had record breaking attendance. The Transgender Michigan Pride in the Park had a record showing along with the Michigan Transgender Health Fair. Transgender Michigan recently started chapters in Lansing, Sault Ste. Marie, Detroit, and Traverse City. This increases the effort to truly represent the whole state of Michigan.



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BY JAY KAPLAN

When I look at the current State of Michigan, particularly after this recent lame duck session, I am demoralized and saddened by what this State has become. In addition to the so called Right to Work law and efforts to take away reproductive choice from women, we saw a variety of mean-spirited pieces of legislation that would have permitted adoption agencies and health care providers to discriminate against LGBT patients (among other groups of people) based on so-called religious and moral convictions. Thank goodness the “conscientious objection” bills never made it to a full vote. We will continue to have challenges securing LGBT equality and fairness in our State given that our entire state government-(the Governor, the legislature, legislature, our courts, our Attorney General, our Secretary of State) is controlled by a conservative majority. The need to educate voters, our community, our family and friends about what is at stake for LGBT people in our State remains. We have to have these conversations with family and friends in order to motivate the people in our lives who care about us to vote for policy makers who also care about us.

Jay Kaplan has been the staff attorney for the ACLU of Michigan's LGBT Project since its founding in 2001. He has worked on cases including challenging undercover sting operations targeting gay men, fighting Michigan's constitutional amendment prohibiting same-sex couples from marrying, defending the validity of second parent adoptions granted in Michigan, and recently advocating for a transgender high school student to be able to run for prom court. Jay was honored with the 2006 Unsung Hero Award from the Michigan State Bar and the 2010 Virginia Uribe Civil Rights Award from the National Education Association (NEA). Jay is a graduate of Wayne State Law School.

For more info go to [www.aclumich.org](http://www.aclumich.org)

# High Court Momentum's Impact Marriage Debate Will Frame Equality Issues

This is not say that nothing positive is happening in the State of Michigan. Last year we saw four communities (Muskegon, Mt. Pleasant, Union Township and Flint) adopt LGBT inclusive human rights ordinances, bringing a total of 20 cities and localities that prohibit discrimination against LGBT people. I think we can expect more communities, like Royal Oak to follow suit, building momentum for an LGBT inclusive civil rights law.

On the National level, things look much more positive and they can potentially benefit Michigan. President Obama was re-elected and he will have the opportunity to appoint Judges to the federal bench who are progressive and sympathetic to LGBT equality issues. Last April, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the federal agency that investigates employment discrimination claims, held that transgender employees who have been discriminated against may file a sex discrimination complaint with the EEOC, because gender identity discrimination can be a form of gender stereotyping. Following that decision the EEOC issued a memorandum that indicated that sexual orientation employment discrimination cases may be also handled as sex discrimination complaints, providing for the first time a governmental remedy for LGBT people in Michigan to address incidents of employment discrimination. In addition the Michigan Department of Civil Rights has indicated that they are on a parallel track with the EEOC and that they intend to investigate LGBT discrimination complaints involving employment, housing, and public accommodations (as sex discrimination), providing redress for anti-LGBT discrimination for the first time in our State. This is huge and unprecedented, and I believe it will be persuasive in getting both our Michigan and federal civil rights laws to finally cover sexual orientation and gender identity.

Of course, most of us are looking to the United States Supreme Court and what it will do with the marriage equality cases it has decided to take. The first case involves a challenge to Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which denies federal recognition to legally married same-sex

*“We will continue to have challenges securing LGBT equality and fairness in our State with a state government-including our legislature, our courts, our Attorney General, Secretary of State controlled by a conservative majority. The need to educate voters, our community, our family and friends about what is at stake for LGBT people in our State remains. We have to have these conversations and we have to motivate people in our lives who care about us to vote for policy makers who also care about us. This is not to say that nothing positive is happening in the State of Michigan.”*

couples in the United States, which would include IRS tax filings, social security spousal benefits, federal pensions, and citizenship status for binational couples. This section of DOMA has been consistently struck down by federal district courts and in the Circuit of Appeals. I am hopeful that the Court will render this portion of DOMA unconstitutional, which would have allow same-sex couples residing in Michigan, who got married in other states, at least recognition of their marriage by the federal government.

With regards to the Prop 8 California marriage case, there are three possible scenarios. The absolute best scenario for Michigan would be for the Court to decide the question of marriage equality for same-sex couples and of course, to hold that a denial of this right is unconstitutional. This would have the effect of striking down all the state marriage amendments and laws that prohibit gay couples from marrying, including Michigan's. The consensus of many involved in the LGBT legal rights movement is that

the Court won't go that far - that they may limit their ruling to the unique circumstances of California (where same-sex couples had the right to marry for six months until that right was taken away through a ballot initiative). The effect of this would be to allow same-sex couples in California the right to marry, and kick the can (the issue of marriage equality for all LGBT couples) further down the road. Another scenario is that the Court could uphold the right of states to deny same-sex couples the right to marry through ballot initiatives, a result that would leave Michigan's amendment fully protected. I personally don't believe that the Court majority will do that- putting itself on the wrong side of history on this issue. Whatever happens in June of 2013, this is, without a doubt, a very exciting time for LGBT rights at the national level and tremendous progress continues to be made on the issue of support for marriage equality. I'm very grateful for these advancements and I only hope that some of this positive momentum will begin rubbing off on our own State of Michigan.

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BY KATHLEEN LATOSCH

# What Am I Optimistic About?

## LGBT Older Adults Needs Moving Forward

“None of these efforts could have been successful without tremendous support from a number of sources. Michigan Office of Services to the Aging led the effort to create and offer the statewide LGBT Needs Assessment, encouraging involvement from all of our LGBT elder groups. The Area Agency on Aging 1-B is now the second such agency in the country to have created a full-time LGBT-aging specialist position. The HOPE Fund continues to support all of this work through grant funding. Indeed, there are sometimes brilliant rays of sunshine that pour down through grey skies and this one is only getting brighter.”

There's no doubt that Michigan has suffered in recent years with a slow downhill slide when it comes to protecting the rights of LGBT people. That's why this presidential election was so important – Michigan LGBT people really need help at the federal level to ensure any level of local protection. It's not coming from inside the state borders. On most counts. But there are some glimmers of hope.

I think perhaps one of the most optimistic areas is in relation to our LGBT older adults. In just two years, an array of groups, programs, services and even conferences have popped up to support LGBT elders in our community. We have two long-lasting LGBT older adult social groups hosted weekly at Affirmations, the Detroit Elder Project at KICK, the LGBT Older Adult Coalition, and Gay Elders of Southeast Michigan (the pre-cursor to a new SAGE affiliate in Michigan).

While they all possess some distinctive qualities, they also all collaborate effectively, coming together to plan what's become an annual LGBT Older Adult Summit. The third is planned for this coming June and

headed up by KICK's Cornelius Wilson. And that's not all they've done collectively, they've also:

- Successfully encouraged more than 1,000 Michigan LGBT older adults to participate in a statewide needs assessment. In partnership with the State of Michigan, this was a first in the country and will form the basis for determining future programs and services.
- Hosted two summits to gather face-to-face input from more than 100 LGBT older adults and published reports comparing and contrasting racial and residential differences among the area's LGBT older adult community.
- Begun to explore housing and residential options for Southeast Michigan's LGBT older adults.

Individually, they've all had amazing successes. Gay Elders of Southeast Michigan now offers educational programming and workshops on financial, legal and healthcare issues affecting LGBT elders. Their last

legal workshop attracted nearly 100 people and their recent Sunday social attracted more than 50. For more information or to get involved, visit: <http://www.facebook.com/gesemich>.

KICK hosted a first in the nation – an African American LGBT Elder Summit. The organization gained national attention for not only bringing light to the issues, but also reflecting back to the field some of the important challenges and barriers faced by African American LGBT elders. Out of the summit grew a permanent discussion and work group, The Detroit Elder Project. For more information or to get involved, visit: <http://e-kick.org/>.

The LGBT Older Adult Coalition has provided training to more than 164 aging care workers at 24 different agencies. It launched a website with information and resources and has been working to impact policy on a state level, including advocating for deeper investment in LGBT issues among the Area Agencies on Aging across the state. During 2013, it plans to explore housing options for LGBT elders in Michigan. For more information or to get involved, visit:

<http://lgbtolderadults.com/>.

None of these efforts could have been successful without tremendous support from a number of sources. Michigan Office of Services to the Aging led the effort to create and offer the statewide LGBT Needs Assessment, encouraging involvement from all of our LGBT elder groups. The Area Agency on Aging 1-B is now the second such agency in the country to have created a full-time LGBT-aging specialist position. The HOPE Fund continues to support all of this work through grant funding.

Indeed, there are sometimes brilliant rays of sunshine that pour down through grey skies and this one is only getting brighter.

Kathleen LaTosch is Co-Chair of the Michigan LGBT Older Adult Coalition, and is the former COO at Affirmations Community Center in Ferndale.



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# No More Business As Usual

## Moving Toward Overcoming HIV In 2013

We have a crisis in the gay/bi/men who have sex with men community. This crisis is particularly clear among our youth, 13-24. HIV is not gone, and in fact has become a generational legacy. While most age groups in the U.S. are leveling off in the number of new infections, our youth continue to bear the brunt of the epidemic.

The CDC says that every month in the U.S., 1,000 youth 13-24 are diagnosed with HIV. Of these, 78 percent are gay/bi/men who have sex with men. Worse? More youth are infected, but don't know it. The CDC estimates 59.5 percent of youth 13-24 who are infected are unaware of their status.

Add to this that a 2010 study by the CDC found that 1 in 5 gay/bi/men who have sex with men in 21 U.S. cities (including Detroit) is infected with HIV. Of those, the study reported, 44 percent do not know they are infected.

Over 52 percent of HIV infections according to Michigan Department of Community Health stats are in gay/bi/men who have sex with men.

So what is causing this crisis? Nobody

knows for sure. According to the CDC, 86 percent of young men who had sex only with women reported having learned about HIV in school, while only slightly more than 74 percent of MSM reported learning about HIV in school. It is unclear what role abstinence only sex education is playing in this, particularly in light of studies which misinform youth about transmission of HIV as well as critical analysis of such programs showing they are heterosexist in nature.

While all of this is terrifying and in some ways disappointing, it is not surprising in the big picture of HIV. Sure, government policy has something to do with this. So does the failure of our educational system.

But ultimately, we as a gay community have to take ownership here as well. HIV has become a taboo subject. It is not discussed openly, let alone honestly, in the community. We shame and isolate many with the virus, particularly those who are out and open about the virus. Our social and political events are void of anti-HIV-stigma messages or programs; and our bars and social

venues rarely have condoms freely and openly available. Most in our community do not know the basic facts about HIV transmission, and even fewer are aware of drugs that are available to prevent infections. Many in the community have surrendered their sexual health to the faulty expectation of disclosure – and in fact many actually reject those who are positive for being honest.

But here on the cusp of 2013, we have a real opportunity to challenge and change this. It will not be easy and it will require a community change. Here's how we can overcome HIV in the gay/bi/MSM community in 2013:

1. Learn the facts. HIV is an incredibly difficult virus to transmit. The CDC says the highest probability for sexual transmission is .5 percent for the bottom in one episode of unprotected anal intercourse. Most Americans – and that includes our community – think the probability is between 20 and 90 percent per sex act. A person living with HIV who is on successful anti-retroviral treatment (meaning they have an undetectable viral load) reduces that already low probability by 96 percent more. And using a condom reduces that by 80 percent. Intervention after an exposure with antiretroviral medications (n-PEP) can reduce infection by 78 percent if initiated within 72 hours of exposure (such as unprotected sex). The daily use of the antiretroviral medication Truvada can reduce transmission by up to 90 percent (in those who actually took the drug daily).

2. Reliance on disclosure is not a prevention method. With 44 percent of the community members infected with HIV not aware of their status, reliance on disclosure is futile. Those who do not know they are infected are 3.5 times more likely to transmit their infection and studies place responsibility for new infections from those who are unaware of their infection at between 55 and 90 percent of the new infections in the U.S. Get tested and presume anyone you have sex with is HIV positive, and behave accordingly.

3. Demand our organizations accept responsibility for addressing the HIV crisis in our community. Marriage equality is lovely, but if the next generation is decimated by a preventable epidemic, then marriage equality won't mean diddley squat. Our organizations

and institutions must put HIV front and center in the political and social agenda. Leaving to overburdened and underfunded AIDS Service Organizations is irresponsible and a failing in leadership.

4. Discuss HIV openly everywhere. This means we have to start talking about the real crisis here today. This means we need to discuss stigmatizing language and actions from those who think they are uninfected. This means we need to discuss the import of barebacking to the gay/bi/MSM community in a nonjudgmental way. This means we need to not blame those who are becoming infected and support those who are uninfected.

This requires a paradigm shift in the thinking of a community that has made HIV and all the issues associated taboo subjects. But we cannot afford business as usual. Business as usual means more and more youth being infected with a life altering viral infection. Business as usual means isolation and abuse of those living with the virus, driving the disease underground. Business as usual means shifting responsibility for our sexual health onto another person's shoulders. Simply put, business as usual means letting the virus take many more of our community. 2013 can change this. But only if you step up to the plate to help make the change.

Todd A. Heywood is a senior reporter for the American Independent News Network covering HIV policy in the U.S.



BY TODD HEYWOOD

**“Ultimately, we as a gay community have to take ownership here as well. HIV has become a taboo subject. It is not discussed openly, let alone honestly, in the community. We shame and isolate many with the virus, particularly those who are out and open about the virus. Our social and political events are void of anti-HIV-stigma messages or programs; and our bars and social venues rarely have condoms freely and openly available. Most in our community do not know the basic facts about HIV transmission, and even fewer are aware of drugs that are available to prevent infections.”**



**BY PENNY GARDNER**

# A Life Propelled By Activism

## Passion For Feminism, LGBT Rights Fuels Me

The question posed to me by *Between the Lines* was “What is near and dear to my activism in the Lesbian women, gay men, transgender and bisexual women and men’s movement?” Depending on timing frames my answer. As a younger feminist, my focus was inclusion of Lesbians in the women’s movement; on reproductive freedom for all women; and on electing women to office.

At age fifty-three I came out and moved to Lansing to attend Michigan State University to become more intellectual in my social justice activism. Today as a seventy-one year old womyn, a lesbian and still a diehard feminist, I advocate for our communities of

I fight for those of us who are not so fearful and seek assisted living, rehabilitative care for our loved ones or for our selves, to not be faced with forms to be filled out, which ask us if we are married, divorced, single, widowed, etc. all only pertinent to heterosexual people. That we, who are LGBT be spared pictures of happy opposite sex couples in golf carts posted on the walls, printed in brochures, and repeated and repeated endlessly where ever! I read it as code for “don’t darken our doors if you are other than heterosexual, rich, white, and happy!” For goodness sakes. (I cleaned that last up for publication!)

I implore agencies, care-givers, other support systems, that they over and over again,

clues, touching on the tried and true methods followed by other minority populations who have fought for and begun receiving equitable conditions. I do not take lightly though the seemingly shallowness of a form, a picture, language, welcoming practices though, and do not do so here. It is only but a start.

My lifelong passion is for my active and informed involvement in the fight for a society free from discrimination, dedicated to equal rights under the law for all peoples in our country, and the power being in the hands of the people. Activism sustains me. It enrages me. It fulfills me. It costs me. It feeds me. It keeps me alive and provides me with strength and value. Engaged citizenship is another word for activism. And at the risk of being banal, it is in engaged citizenship, activism, from which I have been afforded more opportunities of value to me personally, professionally, publically, then any costs that I might have incurred, be it monetary, time, personal sacrifice, etc.

When I first began responding to Susan Horowitz’ request to write my passion, I began in a celebratory manner. We had just elected a president who supported our right to legally marry. A first! We passed in three states, freedom to marry statutes and in a fourth state we voted down an anti freedom to marry constitutional amendment. I was happy, engaged, and passionate.

But then, a young man wielding a semi automatic gunned down 20 kindergartner girls and boys and their teachers and administrators in Connecticut! Any celebration seemed distant, not pertinent. I was lost.

We as a people have been witness to so much gun violence – perpetrated by us, against us and against others – and yet we remain cowed by the NRA. Guns have never been my battle. I have

stuck to my world of people discriminated against. Are we as peace-loving people being discriminated against by those who support the absolute freedom of carrying a deadly weapon?

I would be dishonest if I didn’t include in this narrative, my seemingly reactionary passion to restrict gun ownership in this land. Protect us from those who would use them to destroy innocence, hope and trust in our land and its people.

“When I first began responding to Susan Horowitz’ request to write my passion, I began in a celebratory manner. We had just elected a president who supported our right to legally marry. A first! We passed in three states, freedom to marry statutes and in a fourth state we voted down an anti freedom to marry constitutional amendment. I was happy, engaged, and passionate. But then, a young man wielding a semi automatic gunned down 20 kindergartner girls and boys and their teachers and administrators in Connecticut! Any celebration seemed distant, not pertinent. I was lost.”

LGBT people, who are old; I advocate that their lives be brought to light within our caregiving, policy making, and governmental institutions. That we as old LGBT women and men be protected, honored, and treated with compassion and care throughout our lifetimes, including the end of life. That those of us who are isolated, alone, and living in fear, be sought out, included, and be offered genuinely the care they need and are afraid to seek out.

required for all staff, provide opportunities to overcome personal difficulties an individual might have for anyone other than their clones, through formal and informal trainings and support groups.

In informal, close to formal information sessions I have offered and provided to various Area Agencies on Aging and other old people service agencies, I start with what seems the easiest. Change forms, remove the dratted pictures, provide diversity welcoming

Penny Gardner, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor at Michigan State University, President of the Lansing Association for Human Rights and President of Elsie Publishing, publisher of the *Lesbian Connection*. Gardner is partnered, a mother of five, a grandmother of six and was deemed a commotion in her recent horoscope entry – Aries. She is also always out and always recruiting.

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# What's Left to Argue

## Uneven Marriage Debate Reveals Deeper Issues



BY JOHN CORVINO

A couple of years ago I was chatting with a gay literary agent in a downtown Manhattan cafe. Our conversation turned to the book I was working on, *Debating Same-Sex Marriage*.

"Debating same-sex marriage?" he scoffed. "I mean, really: What's left to argue?"

Note that, at the time of the conversation, same-sex marriage was still illegal in New York, as in 44 other states. What's more, pro-equality forces had lost in every single state (nearly 30 at the time) where marriage had been on the ballot. And there had been a rash of news stories in the preceding months about gay teen suicides, typically in the wake of bullying and harassment.

Yet my New York friend could ask with a straight face, "What's left to argue?" I remember thinking to myself: He really needs to get out of Chelsea once in a while.

You might object that I'm being uncharitable. Perhaps he just meant that for him (and for sane people everywhere!)

In 2012, President Obama announced his support of marriage equality. And in the recent November election, three states (Maine, Maryland, and Washington) extended marriage to same-sex couples by popular vote, while a fourth (Minnesota) blocked an anti-gay marriage amendment.

Given our record at the ballot box, any one of these November victories could have been considered a game-changer. Taken together, they signal a dramatic shift. Combine them with the fact that marriage equality is part of the Democratic Party's national platform and that an increasing number of Republicans are favoring it, and there's reason to be jolly this holiday season.

Make no mistake, however: These victories happened because of hard work, and there's much work left to be done.

While polls show a majority of Americans supporting marriage equality, it's not a huge majority. Indeed, it's barely more than 50 percent. It's smaller among older Americans (who also hap-

(and maybe Mrs. Kennedy), no one knows how these cases will turn out.

Let's imagine that, contrary to most expectations, the Court rules broadly that the U.S. Constitution requires that all states grant equal marriage rights to same-sex couples. Not just in California, but everywhere: Michigan, North Dakota, even Mississippi. Imagine that, in one fell swoop, dozens of anti-gay marriage bans were declared unconstitutional.

Even then, there'd still be plenty left to argue, and not only because of the inevitable backlash.

The reason is simple: marriage is not merely a legal institution; it's also a social one. As I've said many times (and the point bears repeating): It's one thing for the state to let you marry; it's another for your family to show up at your wedding and be happy for you. Both elements are important.

The social progress on gay rights has in some ways been even more impressive than the legal progress. When I came out in the late 1980s, most people claimed never to have met a gay person. Today, such isolation is rare.

And yet I still meet young people who are estranged from their families because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. I meet adults who live much of their lives in the closet. I meet LGBT people and allies who, despite a strong commitment to equality, feel a residual shame.

For these reasons, I see 2013 as an opportunity to return to debates that have, in many circles, been relegated to the back burner: a time to argue, not only for equal legal access, but also for equal moral respect.

It should also be a time to explore more deeply the significance of marriage: Now that we have it (in 9 states and counting), what should we do with it? What does it mean to aspire to it? What does a healthy marriage culture look like, and how can LGBT people make a distinctive and valuable contribution to that culture?

We have much to be proud of, and much to be thankful for. We also have much left to do.

**“It should be a time to explore more deeply the significance of marriage: Now that we have it (in 9 states and counting), what should we do with it? What does it mean to aspire to it? What does a healthy marriage culture look like, and how can LGBT people make a distinctive and valuable contribution to that culture?”**

the answer is obvious. But I couldn't help but detect a worrisome sentiment: We don't need to expend energy on securing marriage rights, because we've got the issue pretty well wrapped up.

That sentiment has been growing with the positive momentum in the last two years. In 2011, New York gave same-sex couples the freedom to marry.

pen to be the Americans most likely to vote), smaller in "red states," and smaller among the devoutly religious.

There are still 41 states that won't grant us marriage licenses.

In the coming year, the U.S. Supreme Court will consider challenges to California's Prop. 8 and to the Defense of Marriage Act. Aside from the justices

John Corvino, who is chair of the Philosophy Department at Wayne State University, is the co-author (with Maggie Gallagher) of *Debating Same-Sex Marriage* and the author of the forthcoming *What's Wrong with Homosexuality?*, both from Oxford University Press.

# Promises To Keep And Miles To Go

## What Can We Be That Our Children Might See?

As we go through life there's a handful of people who change you, whose words haunt you and in critical times, challenging times, crucial times shape your thoughts, move you to action and help you be that part of change, the solution instead of sitting on the sidelines.

So it only makes sense that as we celebrated the twentieth anniversary of Detroit Summer, the words of James Boggs weighed heavily on my mind and influenced my actions not only in 2012 but as we go in to 2013. In founding Detroit Summer, Jimmy asked "What can we be that our children might see?"

It began with the elections and the divisive politics pitting more than Democrats against Republicans, progressives against conservatives but the haves against the 99 percent - a hodgepodge of Americans that includes immigrants, women, youth, labor, and the LGBT community.

What we discovered was that we, this hodgepodge of America, this 99 percent were all under attack. This attack promised to do more than turn back hard won human/civil rights of the past, but deny rights moving forward not just for us but for our children as well.

Even while conservative organizations used the Citizens United ruling to funnel millions of dollars into attempts to influence, buy and out-and-out steal the election, adversity brought us together.

The President's evolution on LGBT marriage and the prominent role of our issues at the Democratic National Convention, along with the GOP's recurring incidents of "foot in mouth," broadened the discussion.

Our issues were different, but the intersections between social justice and LGBT equality became even clearer - attacks on Choice/Planned Parenthood and women's health issues included lesbian health initiatives; discussions on full employment included ENDA; and family values/protections included our families.

In 2012 we dodged the Romney/Ryan bullet, but there's no time to sit on our laurels, hope that the Mayan predictions for the end of times is wrong and pick out our inaugural gowns.

Washington grid-lock continues and at the state level, well Michigan's lame duck

*"We have to quit talking about diversity and inclusion and be diverse and inclusive. That's the world our children see and it's time we start doing the serious work to make it so, and that includes within our LGBT leadership and organizations."*

legislature showed us how dangerous that can be - the war for equality wages on.

As the days countdown to 2013, the question remains; "What can we be that our children might see?"

Studies show that more and more Americans have evolved on LGBT marriage and equality but it will take more than changed minds.

Our efforts to educate and register voters must continue - right now! We've seen the enemy, and if we don't take proactive steps to educate, mobilize and get out our vote, our inaction will continue to be our own worst enemy come 2014.

Social issues like equality are very much inexorably tied to fiscal and financial issues; many in the LGBT community get hit with the double struggle of a bad economy and legal employment discrimination against them.

We must continue to build upon the alliances formed in 2012 within the progressive community, but as partners, not part of the supporting cast. We have skin in the game not just as Americans but as Gay Americans.

Our rights, our issues, our stories must be heard - they are, have been and will be part of America's story.

We have to quit talking about diversity and inclusion and be diverse and inclusive. That's the world our children see and it's time we start doing the serious work to make it so, and that includes within our LGBT leadership and organizations.

Time and time again, when sitting around the diversity campfire I hear the same story. "We try to be inclusive and have reached out to (gay/straight, youth, people of color, transgender - fill in the group of your choice) but it just hasn't worked out.

On the flip side, I hear from the other folks (youth, people of color, transgender - fill in the group of your choice) that although a seat was offered at the table the menu remained unchanged.

Decisions, strategies, new initiatives and governance remains the same. As one Latina sister told me, "Adding Habanero sauce to the condiment tray but still serving peas and white rice ain't inclusion!"

Let's face it, if we can't get it together in our LGBT house our work will continue to be an uphill battle in the state and federal legislative houses. There's a lot of work to be done for our families, in the workplace, and for marriage equality.

As one year ends and a new year begins we must each decide how and where we are going to give and commit our time, talent and tithes.

So as you contemplate how you will commit your time, (especially over the next four years; hate to say it but we still have two elections to be working on now) and reinvest in our community (yes the money will have to come from us), don't say no. Say yes to equality.

Because we have promises to keep to our community and most importantly to our children, and miles to go before we sleep.



BY MICHELLE E. BROWN

Michelle E. Brown is a public speaker, activist and author.

Read Michelle's blog at <http://mychangeiam.com/>

Follow Michelle at @MyChangeAm

Detroit Summer is multi-racial, inter-generational collective in Detroit that has been working to transform communities through youth leadership, creativity and collective action since 1992. The Live Arts Media Project (LAMP) of Detroit Summer is a youth-led response to Detroit's drop-out crisis, which uses music, poetry, and visual art to investigate community problems and generate community-based solutions. For more information about Detroit Summer, go to <http://detroitsummer.wordpress.com/>



BY JIM TOY

# On the Road Towards Equality, Peace

## Bullying At Any Level Intolerable

We're the further down the road to justice than we've ever been.

President Obama and Vice President Biden have declared their support for legal same-sex marriage.

Voters in two states have approved same-sex-marriage legislation.

Same-sex legal marriage has been approved in other countries.

The Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States are considering challenges to DOMA and to California's Proposition 8.

More women, some lesbian, have been elected to Congress.

same-sex-adoption rights, thanks to the ACLU.

And we "on the ground" have organized creative campaigns for human dignity and freedom.

The 100-Day Hunger4Equality Strike at Affirmations protested Michigan's anti-equality legislation. The Strike earned world-wide media attention. Every queer community center in Michigan joined in this protest. And individual supporters pledged to engage in their own hunger strikes.

The "Get Out the Vote for Equality" campaign at Ann Arbor's queer community center successfully engaged in identifying and mobilizing progressive voters. As campaign organizer Sandi Smith noted, "Together, we are making a difference."

In 2013 let's mount other campaigns! We have much to do in 2013.

We must continue to push for the addition of gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation to Michigan's Elliott-Larsen non-discrimination law. Since our legislature has not approved this legislation - after 30 years of our advocacy - many more of our villages, towns, and cities must adopt their own protective policies.

We must continue to advocate at the national level for the passage of similar legislation.

We must continue to adopt and enforce anti-bullying policies in our K-12 schools.

Bullying is an abuse of power and authority, launched by individuals, groups, classes, and nations who have or believe they have power and authority. Bullying is perpetrated against individuals, groups, classes, and nations perceived to be weak, less powerful, threatening, or "different."

We need to name things as they are. In Michigan, we experience bullying by our governor and by our legislature, even though these politicians may believe they are "doing the right thing."

At the Service of Affirmation "Renewed in Love: Honoring the Tapestry" held at the First Unitarian Universalist Church on Dec. 18, the Reverend Selma Massey urged us to forgive those who harm us.

That's an essential first step.

And then, we must hold them to account through "tough love": we must make it clear we expect them to engage in ethical action.

And then, to attempt to prevent bullying, we must live out empathic, peace-making behavior everywhere.

In talking with those who oppose our human and civil rights, we can support their human worth and dignity by seeking to connect with them through values, feelings, and life experiences that we may share with them - concern for the welfare of children or of the aged, for example. And then we can attempt to express our point of view.

I need to say that each of us has a child within. And our child within, the child within each of us, however buffered by the armor of our adulthood, is at risk of bullying and harassment and discrimination and assault.

And we say, "I wouldn't bully anyone." I trust not. And when we witness or hear about bullying and harassment and discrimination and assault, we have an obligation to intervene and to report these acts of psychological and physical violence - instead of being silent bystanders. And an obligation to do all we can to prevent these inhuman behaviors.

And I believe that we are called to ally with those who are at risk of bullying and harassment and discrimination and assault on person and property. Those who are denied power and autonomy and equal access to resources. People who are at risk because of their biological sex, because of their gender identity, their gender expression, their sexual orientation, their partnership status, their age, their race, their color, their ethnicity, their national origin, their disability, their economic class, their veteran status, their conscientious objection to war, their political belief, their religious belief.

We are called to ally with them.

A grateful resolution and task for all of us, in the New Year, as we labor in the cause of justice and peace.

"The wrong shall fail, the right prevail. With peace on earth, good will to all."

**“Bullying is perpetrated against individuals, groups, classes, and nations perceived to be weak, less powerful, threatening, or “different.” We need to name things as they are. In Michigan, we experience bullying by our governor and by our legislature, even though these politicians may believe they are “doing the right thing.”**”

A gay, Asian American man has been elected to the House of Representatives.

Judicial elections, nominations, and appointments have advanced our cause.

More public figures have come out of the closet.

Gallup polls conducted every decade demonstrate that support for our human and civil rights is increasing nationwide.

We have gained judicial support for

Jim Toy co-founded the first sexual orientation program office at any university in the world. That original Lesbian-Gay Male Programs Office at the University of Michigan still exists and is now named the Spectrum Center. For more information about the Spectrum Center, go to [www.spectrumcenter.umich.edu](http://www.spectrumcenter.umich.edu)

See the Spectrum Center's 40th Anniversary short film on Jim Toy, his story and his legacy at <http://gaybe.am/yy>





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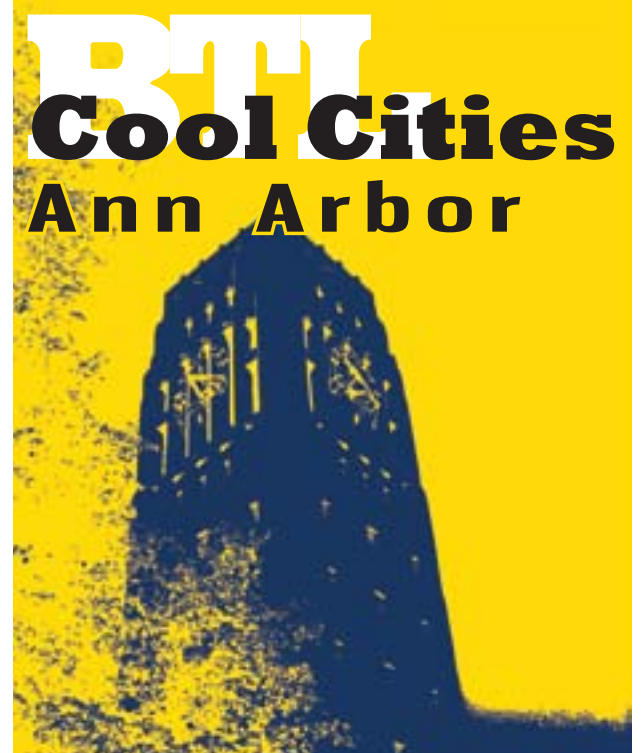
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BY ANTHONY WAGNER

# Folds of Fabric

## A Journey Nearly Forgotten

It was early on a warm September Sunday. I stood with a friend at the perimeter of a large square of concrete blocked by a low, temporary fence. The sun just began to rise over the nearby buildings, and cast gentle light over the folds of tan fabric lying on the ground in neat bundles, spaced several yards apart. As I looked on, one of the workers came searching for extra volunteers to help with the opening ceremony. I glanced at my friend nervously, and then called out “we’ll help!”

We were led inside of fenced area by the worker. He asked us to join six other volunteers standing silently around one of the bundles of fabric. I inhaled deeply as one of the experienced volunteers gave us instructions. The bundle

to lift the quilt square in unison, rotate it once moving clockwise, and then set it back down.

As those opening the other squares of the quilt began completing the ritual, tears streamed down my face. I had often heard and read of the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, but it was the first time I had seen it for myself. After all of the groups rotated and replaced their sections, I walked through the rest of the memorial that was set up for AIDS Walk Detroit that day. The mourning of thousands of people, friends and neighbors, partners and lovers, mothers, fathers, siblings, and grandparents overwhelmed my senses, and although I would never come to know them, I wept for them.

As an openly gay college student, I

known the pain of losing a loved one to a disease which has no name.

But it is for precisely these reasons that I write to you today. I write in honor of the memory of those that our community has lost, but more importantly I write to you as a college student with an urgent message. I fear that the fire that burned in the hearts of so many great queer and allied leaders is growing dim, and many of my LGBTQ colleagues are complacent. They are young and in the throes of becoming educated, and have never examined their own past. They have no idea what has brought them to today.

And so I ask a simple question: why is it that queer history is ignored? I do speak of those LGBTQ youth that pay little attention, but I also wonder why have they never been given the opportunity to have that first discussion? Why must our leaders, both in education and in politics, “shield” children from history? Why is there nothing written into textbooks, college or otherwise, about the contributions of Harvey Milk or Harry Hay or Ruth Ellis or Jim Toy? Will my colleagues ever come to remember June 28, 1969, or know the significance of seeing the AIDS Quilt for the first time?

We are closer than ever to our goal, but we must never allow the stories of those that came before us to be forgotten. We must keep the flame of their passion and perseverance alive within all of our youth as it is alive in us. We must empower students to find the voice that they have lost through years of political struggle. We must inspire them to remember the folds of fabric of the AIDS Quilt, and to recognize the power of its message, and of its importance.

And so I charge the readers of Between The Lines to create change. Write a letter to your representatives in Congress. Join an LGBTQ rights organization. Campaign for and contribute to pro-LGBTQ candidates. Voice your support for queer education in every way you can. Take the time to make a difference. The future leaders of the LGBTQ rights movement, and of this country, require it. We demand it.

*“I write in honor of the memory of those that our community has lost, but more importantly I write to you as a college student with an urgent message. I fear that the fire that burned in the hearts of so many great queer and allied leaders is growing dim, and many of my LGBTQ colleagues are complacent. They are young and in the throes of becoming educated, and have never examined their own past. They have no idea what has brought them to today.”*

was folded into a square, and each of the eight volunteers was to stand on either a side or a corner. We were then asked to grasp hands, forming a human chain around the bundle. The volunteer explained that when our turn came, we would release our hands, and those on the corners, then followed by those on the sides, would reach down and open their section of the quilt. After the bundle was completely open, we were

have been spared much of the heartache that the LGBTQ community has endured throughout history. I was born into a more enlightened and accepting world than those who lived through the times of Stonewall, Anita Bryant, Harvey Milk, and the AIDS crisis. I will never be forced to stomach the tainted acid of the Save Our Children campaign. I will never have the privilege of being recruited on Castro Street. I have never

Anthony Wagner is a senior at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, majoring in Liberal Studies. He serves as the Director of Inclusion for Student Government, and as Chair of PRIDE, UM-Dearborn’s LGBTQA student group.



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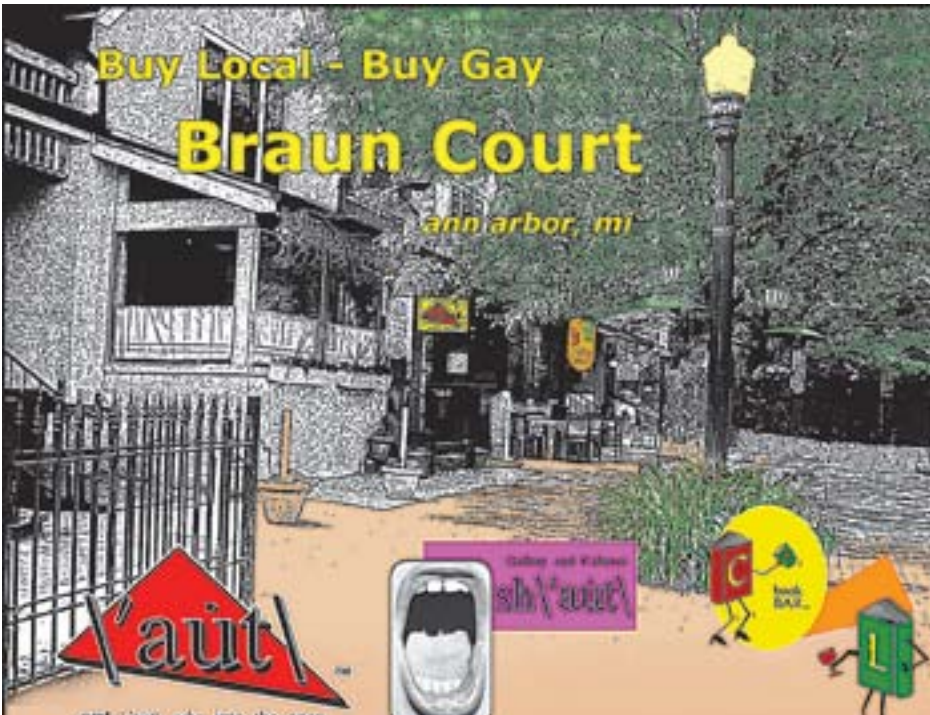
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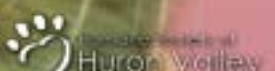
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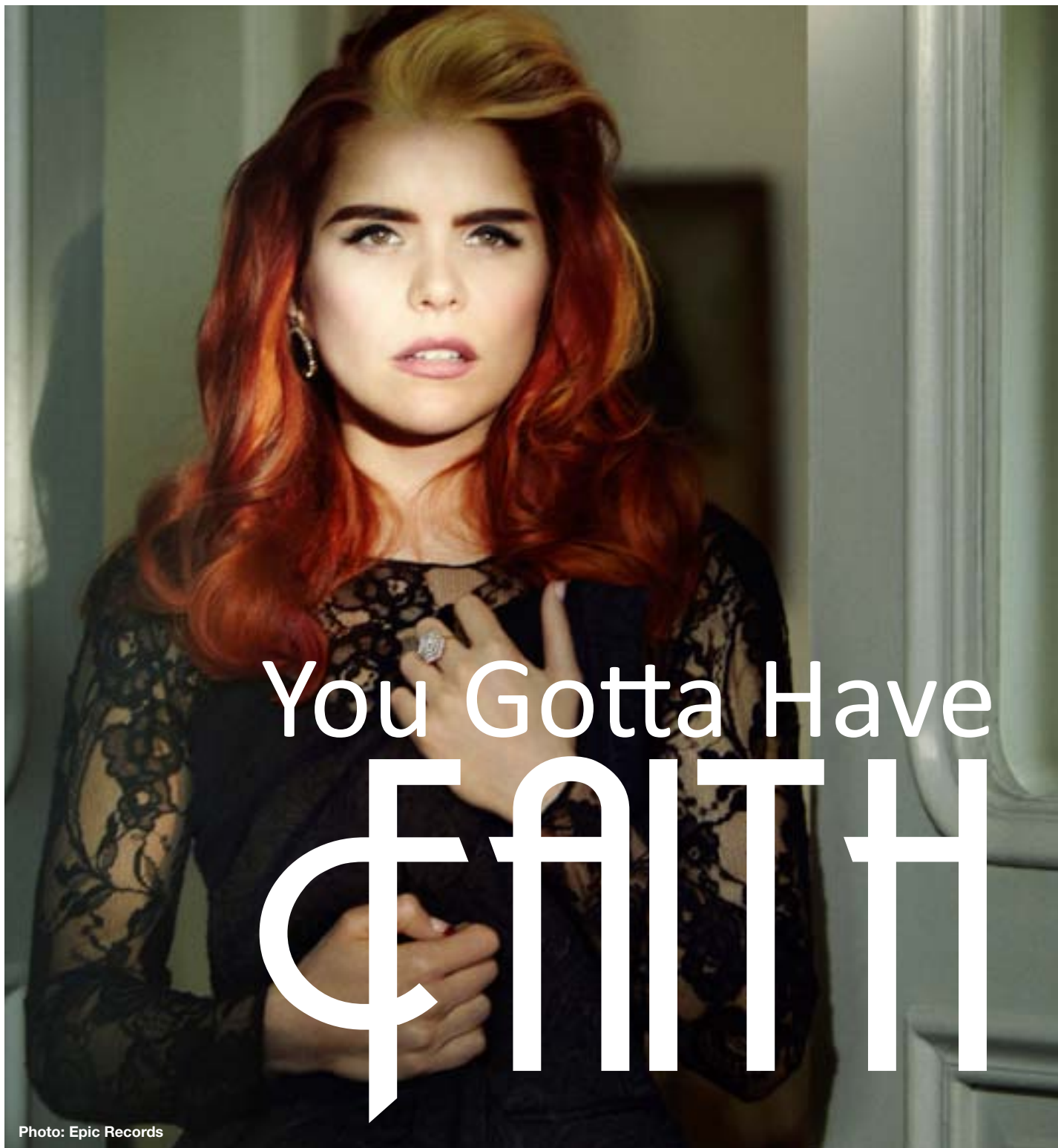


Photo: Epic Records

# You Gotta Have FAITH

## UK Sensation Talks Drag Queen Style & Marriage Equality

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Few artists these days have what people like to call “the voice.” Paloma Faith has it – a force of nature so strong that it could lift the whole world up with just one note.

Already certified double platinum in the U.K., the 27-year-old British sensation known for her emo-pop theatricality recently dropped her second album, “Fall to Grace,” on American soil.

Faith recently filled us in on the story behind that big voice, the reason for all her bear friends and why you’ll never see a Twitter pic of her stoned.

**Are you ready to take over the States with “Fall to Grace”?**

I’m feeling really good about it. I’m really excited about new possibilities and the future and what it may bring and all those things. I’d also like for it to work, but if it doesn’t, then I’ll go back with my tail between my legs.

**You’ve called “Blood, Sweats & Tears” your gay anthem. How did that come to be?**

When I was writing it, I was listening to a little Chaka Khan and I was like, “I wanna do a diva-disco song that people can put their hands in the

air to.” That’s what I came up with. All my male gay friends – it’s their favorite song.

**It’s also just your gay male sensibility that you’ve admitted to having.**

Absolutely. I’m definitely a tranny. You know, in America, that’s considered offensive to say, but over here it’s considered a compliment. I love the word “tranny” and I love calling myself one.

**Have you gotten some flack for using that word in the U.S.?**

Yeah, but I’m not changing it, because that’s what we do over here. It’s acceptable over

here. We have whole nights called things like “Tranny-tastic.” I was at a festival the other day and 20 drag queens passed me and went, “Paloma, the trannies love you!” (Laughs)

**Why do you think trannies adore you?**

Because my wardrobe’s very similar. I love to dress up, and one of my best friends is a drag queen and he’s always calling me up going, “Can I borrow something?” (Laughs)

**Do you ever borrow clothes from your tranny friends?**

Sometimes, yeah. I borrowed a cape from one of them this week. I just enjoy dressing up a lot. The difference between being a fashionista and a drag queen is when you’re a drag queen, you don’t take yourself too seriously. That’s why I consider myself a drag queen.

**What you wear, though, seems very consciously selected. Most female artists – Lady Gaga, Katy Perry and Florence Welch, for instance – have very distinct styles. You do, as well. How do you define yours?**

As Hollywood glamour, at this point. But occasionally I’ll throw in something a bit funny. Last night I went to this Amy Winehouse Foundation Ball, and I dressed really elegantly in all black and everyone was saying how much they loved my hat, which I basically made out of a net curtain and some safety pins – like what old ladies have in their house – and everyone was going, “Who designed the hat?” And I was like, “Me! It’s a net curtain I bought on eBay.” I was in my house with my stylist and he was like, “I have this dress but I don’t have anything to put on your head.” I said, “Don’t kill me, but I’ve got some net curtains upstairs.” (Laughs)

**So you wore them.**

Why not?

**With these pop stars doing everything from wearing meat dresses to cupcakes, does it make it harder to be original?**

It’s not something that concerns me or that I’m trying to be. I don’t think about other people. I just think about who I am and I just rely on being honest about myself, so I don’t really care what they’re doing, to be quite honest.

**You have quite the gay fan base – and a lot of bear friends. How did you end up with more bears than twinks?**

I think I’m looking for a father figure. (Laughs) I just love cuddling big, bearded men. I’ve got a group of bear friends called Bearlesque and they do bear burlesque.

**Where does that big voice of yours come from?**

I’ve worked for it. I don’t think it was something that has been with me forever. You know how when you do interviews with singers and quite often they’re like, “I was singing when I was a kid and it just came”? It didn’t for me.

First and foremost I was a creative mind – an artist. And then I was doing all sorts of things at the same time, and I started to do cabaret and use my voice in it. People were like, “Oh, it’s good!”

See Paloma Faith, page 30



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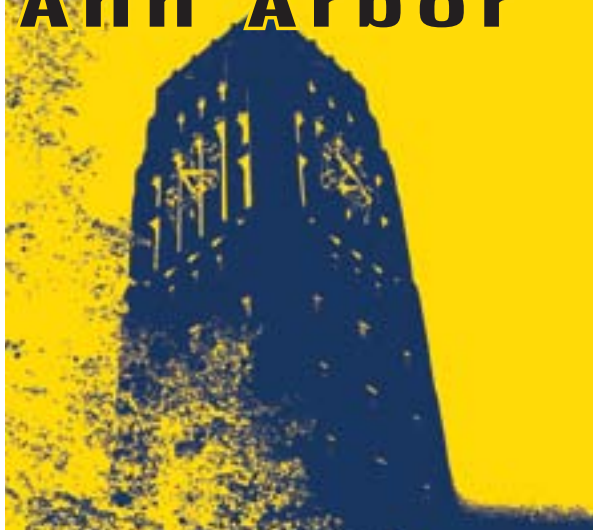
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## ► Paloma Faith

Continued from p. 28

Your voice has potential.” At that point it wasn’t as strong. I sort of learned.

Then I started to write songs – what I was trying to say was more important than the technique side of it. I wanted to write lyrics that moved people, so it was all about the lyrics and the way I performed it on stage. In the last kind of year or so, I took singing lessons, because I just thought I should probably learn how to *not* lose my voice. I think you can hear the difference between the vocals on the first and second album. This album is a lot stronger vocally.

### **In the Out4Marriage video you shot, you acknowledged that everyone should be able to marry. Why is this important to you?**

Marriage equality is important to me because everyone is entitled to do whatever the hell they want. I performed recently at a club called G-A-Y in London and I said, “Personally I don’t want to get married and I don’t necessarily believe in marriage, but that doesn’t mean that a homosexual or lesbian couple shouldn’t be allowed to make that choice themselves.” I just believe that everyone should be free to choose. If everyone can’t marry, we should just abolish marriage entirely.

### **One of my favorite lines off this album comes from “Black & Blue,” when you say, “I know people who use chat rooms as confessionals.”**

Do you relate to that?

### **Well, maybe. I told a friend, “I wonder if she wrote that about Manhunt or Gay.com.” Have you ever used one as a confessional?**

(Laughs) I haven’t, you know. I’m not really that technologically minded. I probably couldn’t even figure out how to use one of those sites, so no. But I do know people who use chat rooms as confessionals. I think a lot of people do, even people in the public eye who are going on Twitter posting pictures – like Rihanna looking stoned. It’s the new thing. It’s like whispering a secret into a tree, but in this case the whole world is listening. It’s quite strange to me. I’m a bit more private.

### **You strike me as this woman who, like gay men, loves her big-voiced divas. Besides Chaka Khan, who are some of your other favorites?**

My all-time favorite is probably Etta James. I always tell people she was my singing teacher, because I learned to sing by trying to impersonate her way of singing. I love Tina Turner, Grace Jones – not the biggest vocals, just the massive personality – and Edith Piaf. High drama.

### **Are you saying you’re high drama?**

I think so, but I try to tone it down, because sometimes people get afraid. I am known to collapse on the floor in a writhing mess or pass out. People are always like, “Oh my god, what’s she doing?”

I trained originally as a dancer and was famously told from a guy in my dance school, “The problem with you, Paloma, is you’re useless – but the other problem is, nobody can take their eyes off of you, because you’ve got something that commands attention. So now all the audience’s eyes are being drawn toward the most useless girl on the stage; you’re going to have to do something with that in your life, but I know it’s not gonna be dance.”

I bumped into him about three years later at the airport; he put his bags down and went, “I fucking told you.” (Laughs) My taste always goes toward extremes. I feel like in order to find the truth you have to go to extremes – that’s just the way that I live my life. It’s just balancing between polar opposites. Mediocrity scares me. I’m so afraid of it.



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# Happenings

## OUTINGS

### Thursday, Jan. 3

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

**Gender Non-Conformists** 7 p.m. A social and discussion group for transgender, genderqueer, genderneutral and gender-exploring individuals. Space also available to significant others. Meets every Thursday. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Jjenkins@GoAffirmations.org Www.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, Jan. 4

**Womyn's Film Night** 7 p.m. Kathleen Madigan: In Other Words; Acclaimed St. Louis comic Kathleen Madigan unleashes her sarcastic delivery on such subjects as George W. Bush, tattoos, math, sports, aliens and more in this hilarious stand-up performance. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.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. www.PhoenixChurch.org

**The Real L Word (Ladies Night @ Liquid)** 9 p.m. Every Friday, it's ladies night at Club Liquid Detroit with DJ Lena. \$5 cover. DJ Lena, 3537 E. Seven mile Road, Detroit. 313-826-1192. Djsirlena@gmail.com Facebook.com/liquiddetroit

### Sunday, Jan. 6

**Conversation Station** 5 p.m. Discussion Group with facilitator for LGBTQI (and allies) 35 and over. Food, fun and discussions. Topic: What is the biggest lie you ever told? Get Out And Live!, 714 S. Washington St., Royal Oak. 248-981-4227. MarciLWilliams@

yahoo.com GetOutandLive.me

### Monday, Jan. 7

**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. Www.GoAffirmations.org

### Tuesday, Jan. 8

**Calhoun County Coalition for Inclusion** 5 p.m. 3Ci is a coalition of faith leaders, medical professionals, students, teachers, youth and community members dedicated to creating an inclusive, open and welcoming community for LGBTQ youth and adults alike in Calhoun County. 3Ci is led by Planned Parenthood Mid and South Michigan and was formed in 2008. 3Ci meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Calhoun County Coalition for Inclusion, 2855 Capital Ave., Battle Creek. Inclusion.coalition@yahoo.com Ppmsm3ci.org

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

### Wednesday Jan. 9

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

### Thursday, Jan. 10

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

GoAffirmations.org Www.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. Kglrc.org

### Friday, Jan. 11

**Womyn's Film Night** 7 a.m. She Likes Girls 2; This collection of lesbian short films offers thought-provoking dramas and lighthearted comedies that will touch and entertain viewers. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

**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. Www.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. www.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

**Keep Calm & Sing Out Loud** 8 p.m. Travel back to the era of World War II with the music that buoyed a nation at war. Join us for an evening of jazz, swing and classics from the '40s such as All of Me, Nice Work if You Can Get It, Come Rain or Come Shine and many more performed by Washtenaw County's original, mixed LGBT chorus. Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$18 at door, \$12 students, free for unemployed people & children under 4. Director Dan Gerics leads the chorus with Paul Haebig on piano, Edie Herrold on bass, Tamara Perkuhn on percussion and special guests on alto sax & trumpet. Tickets available online, from chorus members or at Common Language Books. Out Loud Chorus, 4800 E Huron Rive Dr, Ann Arbor. 734-265-0740. outloudchorus@gmail.com olonline.org

**The Real L Word (Ladies Night @ Liquid)** 9 p.m. Every Friday, it's ladies night at Club Liquid Detroit with DJ Lena. MC Lyrik Drag King Teddy, \$5 cover. DJ Lena, 3537 E.

Seven mile Road, Detroit. 313-826-1192. Facebook.com/liquiddetroit

### Saturday, Jan. 12

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

### Sunday, Jan. 13

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

**Conversation Station** 5 p.m. Discussion Group with facilitator for LGBTQI (and allies) 35 and over. Food, fun and discussions. Topic: What is the biggest lie you ever told? Get Out And Live!, 714 S. Washington St., Royal Oak. 248-981-4227. MarciLWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutandLive.me

## MUSIC & MORE

### CLASSICAL

**Kerrytown Concert House** "Robert Satterlee" Pianist, Robert Satterlee, is joined by violinist, Elizabeth Suh-Lane and horn player, Andrew Pelletier for an evening of chamber works, culminating with the virtuosic Brahms Horn Trio. Tickets: \$5-25. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. Jan. 6. 734-769-2999. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

**Lansing Symphony Orchestra** "Chamber Series: Trio Favorites" Featuring works by Brahms and Ravel on the Violin, Cello and Piano. Tickets: \$10-15. Molly Grove Chapel, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. 3 p.m. Jan. 13. 517-487-5001. www.LansingSymphony.org

**Lansing Symphony Orchestra** "MasterWorks 4: "Red Violin" & Brahms" Respighi's Brazilian Impressions, Corigliano's Chaconne from "The Red Violin", Brahms' Symphony No. 1. Tickets: \$15-50. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts at Michigan State University, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 8 p.m. Jan. 5. 517-353-1982 ext. 14. www.LansingSymphony.org

**Michigan Philharmonic** "Miniature Masterpieces" A performance of the original Appalachian Spring will feature the principal player all-stars of the Michigan Philharmonic. The Inn at St. John's Chapel, 44045 Five Mile Road, Plymouth. 3 p.m. Jan. 13. www.MichiganPhil.org

### CONCERTS

**Kalamazoo State Theatre** "Winter Funk Fest Encore featuring The Zapp Band" Tickets: \$20-28. Kalamazoo State Theatre, 404 S. Burdick, Kalamazoo. 8:30 p.m. Jan. 12. 269-345-6500. www.KazooState.com

**Kalamazoo State Theatre** "Grace Potter & The Nocturnals" Tickets: \$29.50. Kalamazoo State Theatre, 404 S. Burdick, Kalamazoo. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 13. 269-345-6500. www.KazooState.com

**Kerrytown Concert House** "Jazz Master Series" John E. Lawrence, a life long resident of Ypsilanti is one of Michigan's most talented and respected guitarists.

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## Editor's Pick

What happens when Agatha Christie changes her locale from the British countryside to a cruise boat on the exotic waters of the Nile? Find out in Village Players' production of "Murder on the Nile," which opens in Birmingham on Jan. 11.

"This is a mindboggling, brain twisting, thrilling whodunit," said director Tim Wittlinger. "In typical Agatha Christie fashion, 'Murder on the Nile' will keep you on the edge of your seat analyzing all 11 characters, each of whom

has a motive for murder. Christie also manages to bring a dose of humor into the production, as we meet the society matron who can't abide anyone beneath her socially, the doctor who continually wants to give everyone an injection, and the steward who is always waiting for the never-arriving tip."

Performances are at 8 p.m. Jan. 11, 12, 18 and 19, and at 2 p.m. Jan 13 and 20, at the Village Players Playhouse, 34660 Woodward, in Birmingham. For tickets (\$17), call 248-644-2075.

See Happenings, page 34

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# Classifieds

## 101-ANNOUNCEMENTS LGBT AA MEETINGS

### Ann Arbor-Friday

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

### Bloomfield Hills-Thursday

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

### Detroit-Tuesday / Friday

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

### Farmington Hills-Monday

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

### Ferndale-Monday / Wednesday / Friday

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

### Ferndale-Wednesday

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

### Ferndale-Saturday

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

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

### Livonia-Friday

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

### Warren-Monday

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

## 101-ANNOUNCEMENTS LGBT AL-ANON MEETINGS

### Diversity Wednesday Al-Anon Family Group

Wednesday 8pm  
St. Luke's Parrish Hall (in basement)  
Lewiston & Livernois, Ferndale MI  
Closed Meeting

### Go After Your Serenity (G.A.Y.S.) Al-Anon Family Group

Saturday's 8pm  
Drayton Ave. Presbyterian Church  
(in basement)  
Pinecrest & Drayton, Ferndale  
Closed Meeting

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For more information, please visit or call the MHS Berman Center for Animal Care at (734) 721-7300 and provide the pet ID number, 732787.

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Patterson Dog & Cat Hospital  
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[www.pattersondogandcat.com](http://www.pattersondogandcat.com)

Together We Can 2013

Pancake Breakfast

\$10

Date: 1/19/2013 Saturday

Time: 10 am breakfast, 11 am open talk

First United Methodist Church of Ferndale  
22331 Woodward Ave. (Just South of 9 Mile)  
Suggested Donation: \$10

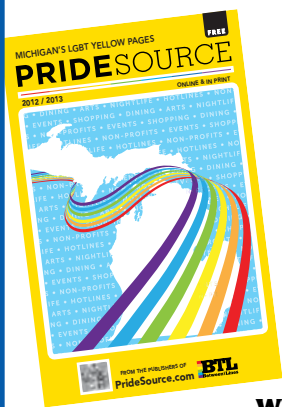
Join at your friends in recovery for a mouth-watering pancake breakfast that warms your tummy followed by an AA open talk to fuel your recovery.

- Pancakes, home fries, scrambled eggs, fresh fruit, coffee & orange juice bar
- 50/50 raffle
- SPEAKER: Daryl K. from the Toledo Area

Proceeds benefit the 2013 Together We Can conference. The goal of Together We Can is to provide educational opportunities on substance abuse issues to the GLBT and allied communities.

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

# Michigan's LGBT Yellow Pages



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## PRIDESOURCE

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- [Theater News](#)
- [Reviews](#)
- [Interviews](#)
- [Show Listings](#)
- [Podcasts](#)
- [Audition Info](#)
- [And more!](#)

I should have gone to

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*If it's about Michigan theaters, it's here.*

### Solution to puzzle from page 35

R	E	B	E	L	S	A	L	M	I	N	E	O	
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# Happenings

## ► Listings

Continued from p. 31

John is now gaining national recognition with the recent contract with Mel Bay Publications, Inc., one of the country's largest publishers of instructional materials. Tickets: \$5-30. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Jan. 11. 734-769-2999. [Kerrytownconcerthouse.com](http://Kerrytownconcerthouse.com)

**Magic Stick Lounge** "Vanna Inget" The band has a sound that Swedish bands like Massysteri, Baboon Show, Invasionen, etc. have conveyed the last ten years. Bands that have given punk a little more melodic vein. Vanna Inget have turned down the distortion and added some more minor chords and vocal harmonies but the intensity, anxiety and the energy is there anyway. Cover: \$5. Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Jan. 6. 313-833-9700. [www.MajesticDetroit.com](http://www.MajesticDetroit.com)

**Sing Out Detroit** "Sing Out Detroit Rehearsal" Singers needed to join Sing Out Detroit Choir. LGBT and Ally's Welcome. Jewish Community Center, 15110 W. 10 Mile Road, Oak Park. Jan. 8 - March 26. 248-943-2411. <http://Singoutdetroit.org>

**The Ark** "Seth Glier" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Jan. 11. 734-761-1800. [www.TheArk.org](http://www.TheArk.org)

**The Ark** "Robin & Linda Williams" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 13. 734-761-1800. [www.TheArk.org](http://www.TheArk.org)

**The Ark** "Rev Robert Jones" Featuring Sis Bernice Jones. Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 6. 734-761-1800. [www.TheArk.org](http://www.TheArk.org)

**The Ark** "Freakwater" Tickets: \$12. The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Jan. 10. 734-761-1800. [www.TheArk.org](http://www.TheArk.org)

**The Ark** "The Wailers" Tickets: \$30. The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Jan. 8. 734-761-1800. [www.TheArk.org](http://www.TheArk.org)

**The Ark** "Gemini's "When I'm 64" Concert" Tickets: \$12. The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Jan. 16. 734-761-1800. [TheArk.org](http://TheArk.org)

## THEATER

### CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

**August: Osage County** \$10-\$14. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. Jan. 10 - 20. 517-482-5700. [www.riverwalktheatre.com](http://www.riverwalktheatre.com)

**Murder on the Nile** \$17. Village Players, 34660 Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Jan. 11 - 20. 248-644-2075. [www.birminghamvillageplayers.org](http://www.birminghamvillageplayers.org)

### PROFESSIONAL

**Antigone in New York** \$25. The Elizabeth Theatre at Park Bar, 2040 Park Ave., Detroit. Through Jan. 12. 313-444-2294. [www.ParkBarDetroit.com](http://www.ParkBarDetroit.com)

**Brill** Previews Jan. 10-17 (\$22-\$32). \$25-\$41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron, Ann Arbor. Jan. 10 - Feb. 10. 734-663-0681. [www.performancenetwork.org](http://www.performancenetwork.org)

**Detroit** \$12-\$30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Jan. 11 - April 5. 313-577-2972. [www.hilberry.com](http://www.hilberry.com)

**Sundays at Go Comedy!** Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. [www.gocomedy.net](http://www.gocomedy.net)

**The Meaning of Almost Everything** Previews Jan. 10-17 (\$22-\$32). \$18.50 - \$42. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Jan. 10 - March 9. 734-433-7673. [www.purplerosetheatre.org](http://www.purplerosetheatre.org)

**The Resolution Will Not Be Realized** \$10. Crawlspace Eviction at Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Jan. 11 - Jan. 12. 269-599-7390. [www.crawlspace.com](http://www.crawlspace.com)

**The Snow Queen** \$10 adult, \$5 child. PuppetArt, Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit. Through Jan. 26. 313-961-7777. [www.PuppetArt.org](http://www.PuppetArt.org)

**Trent's Last Case** \$14 opening night, \$16 all others. Broadway Onstage Live Theatre, 21517 Kelly Rd., Eastpointe. Jan. 11 - Feb. 9. 586-771-6333. [www.broadwayonstage.com](http://www.broadwayonstage.com)

**White's Lies** Previews Jan. 9-11 (\$25-\$31). \$31-\$40. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Rd., Rochester. Jan. 9 - Feb. 3. 248-377-3300. [www.mbttheatre.com](http://www.mbttheatre.com)

**Yo Gabba Gabba! Live!** \$25-\$45. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 2 p.m. Jan. 12. 313-471-6611. [www.olympiaentertainment.com](http://www.olympiaentertainment.com)

**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](http://ArtMuseumGr.org)

**Michigan State University Museum** "An Interwoven Christmas" Every Christmas through the first half of the 20th century, the Interwoven 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. Michigan State University Museum, Michigan State University, East Lansing. Dec. 1 - Jan. 13. [www.Museum.msu.edu](http://www.Museum.msu.edu)

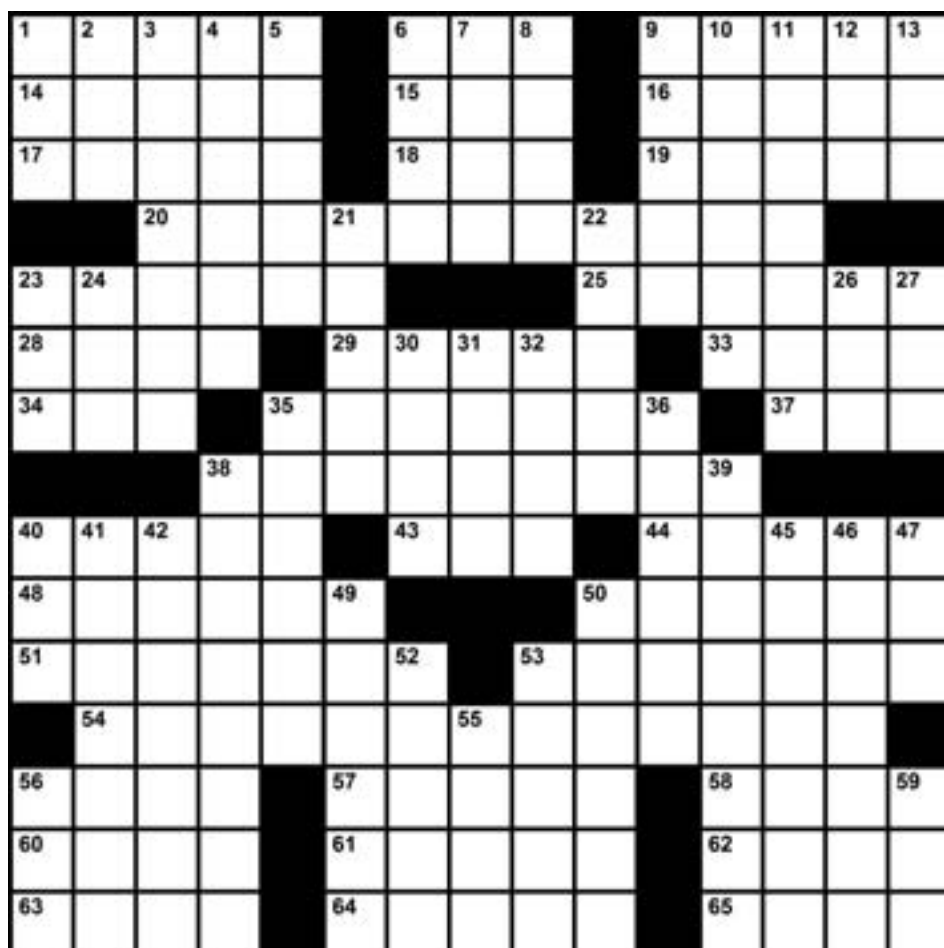
**Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit** "Voice of the City" Directed by Qiu Zhijie and co-curated by Boris Groys, Jens Hoffman and Johnson Chang Tsong-zung, the themed exhibition is composed of four parts, "Resources", "Revisit", "Reform" and "Republic", which focus on artists that can motivate the public, revisit or rewrite history, convert and transform energy and organize dialogues and communications respectively. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Oct. 2 - March 31. 313-832-6622. [www.MOCADetroit.org](http://www.MOCADetroit.org)

**The Detroit Institute of Arts** "Faberge: The Rise & Fall" Discover the story behind the renowned House of Faberge. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Nov. 1 - Jan. 21. 313-833-7900. [www.DIA.org](http://www.DIA.org)

**University of Michigan Museum of Art** "Francis Alys: Guards" Belgian artist Francis Alys's video Guards (2005) documents sixty-four of the Queen of England's guards on a "walk" throughout the City of London. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Dec. 15 - March 31. 734-763-4186. [www.Umma.umich.edu](http://www.Umma.umich.edu)



# Giant Star



## Across

- 1 With 54-Across, movie of 38-Across  
6 With 9-Across, costar in this puzzle's movie  
9 See 6-Across  
14 "Scary Movie" Cheri  
15 "Double Fantasy" artist  
16 Fred's first partner  
17 Empathetic phrase  
18 "\_\_\_ De-Lovely"  
19 Triangle sign  
20 Costar in this puzzle's movie  
23 Pal around  
25 Mary Cassatt, for one  
28 Zoo barrier  
29 Hotel quote  
33 Burn the surface of  
34 Sticker datum, for short  
35 Sonny and Cher, to Chaz  
37 "Crying" singer Orbison  
38 Gay icon of the '50s  
40 Samantha of "The Collector"  
43 It comes after kick or kiss  
44 Dances in a grass skirt  
48 Bones that are the farthest up  
50 Muslim palace areas  
51 Giant killed by David  
53 Tennis great Navratilova

54 See 1-Across

- 56 Like autoeroticism  
57 Loaded  
58 Trojan Horse, e.g.  
60 Glenn Burke, formerly  
61 Metaphysical poet John  
62 Buffalo's lake  
63 Lines from Lesbos  
64 Golf great Sam  
65 Stud poker demand

## Down

- 1 Colette's king  
2 Truncation abbreviation  
3 Chair style named for Baseballer Billy?  
4 Like a "Man of la Mancha" knight  
5 Try to deceive  
6 Erosion loss  
7 Start to climax  
8 Blow, as a game  
9 George Moscone, for one  
10 Real jerk-offs  
11 More like Albert in \_The Birdcage\_  
12 Cockney's place of torment?  
13 Brit. word ref  
21 Genesis patriarch

- 22 Piss away  
23 "Let's see ... "  
24 Comic caveman Alley \_\_\_\_  
26 Saint, in Rio  
27 Take a shot at  
30 Perimeter contents  
31 Gay wedding guide author Ayers  
32 Targets of men who make passes  
35 Persona non grata  
36 1943 Bogart film  
38 Cleaning agents  
39 Like gay teens with supportive moms and dads  
40 Heart exam  
41 What Dorian Gray didn't do  
42 Ancient Roman province  
45 Suit type  
46 Result of a lick on the head, perhaps  
47 FICA funds it  
49 Likely to butt heads  
50 Did a circumcision roughly?  
52 Iroquoian language  
53 Unexpected help  
55 Dancer Tommy  
56 Cone starter  
59 Sushi selection

Solution on pg. 34

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