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“ I apologize to
Ambassador Hormel and any
LGBT Americans who may
question my commitment
to their civil rights. ”

– Defense Secretary nominee
Chuck Hagel's apology for
anti-gay remarks made
14 years ago



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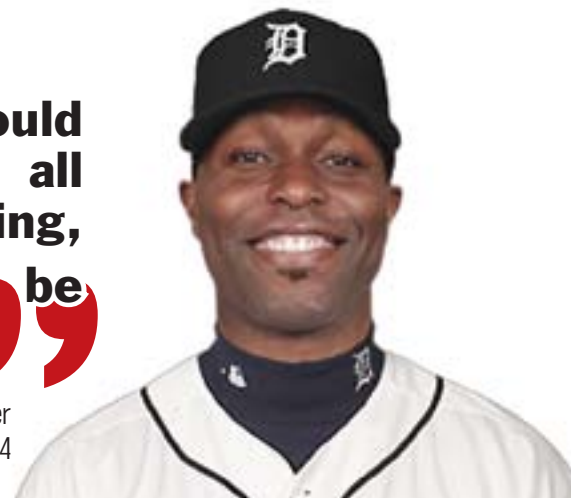
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“For me, as a Christian ... I would be **uncomfortable** because in all my teachings and all my learning, biblically, **it's not right**. It'd be difficult and uncomfortable.”

- New Detroit Tiger right-fielder Torii Hunter on an openly gay teammate, Pg. 4



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Last week, BTL asked 15 of Michigan's LGBT movers and shakers what their 2013 anticipations, hopes and fears are for a special "Year in Preview" issue. Missed the print edition? Go to Pridesource.com and look under Visions of 2013 to see what these community leaders had to say.



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Newest Tigers Player 'Uncomfortable' With An Out Teammate

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

DETROIT - Detroit Tiger's right fielder Torii Hunter joined other professional sports players in reinforcing the stereotype that gays are not welcome in the hyper-masculine world of baseball and football.

In a Dec. 29th story for the LA Times, reporter Kevin Baxter asked Hunter about what his reaction would



Torii Hunter

be to learning that someone on his team was gay. Hunter told him that an "out" teammate could divide a team.

"For me, as a Christian ... I will be uncomfortable because in all

my teachings and all my learning, biblically, it's not right," Hunter said. "It will be difficult and uncomfortable."

The LA Times article also included the Twitter remark by New England Patriots' linebacker Brandon Spikes claiming to be homophobic, "just like I'm arachnophobic. I have nothing against homosexuals or spiders but I'd still scream if I found one in my bathtub."

Hunter later Tweeted about backlash to the article and released a statement saying, "I'm very disappointed in Kevin Baxter's article in which my quotes and feelings have been misrepresented. He took two completely separate quotes and made them into one quote that does not express how I feel as a Christian or a human being. I have love and respect for all human beings regardless of race, color or sexual orientation. I am not perfect and try hard to live the best life I can and treat all people with respect. If you know me you know that I am not anti anything and to be portrayed as anti-gay in this article is hurtful and just not true."

Hunter was recently signed to a two-year \$26 million contract with the Detroit Tigers. He is a four time All Star who has played with the Minnesota Twins and the LA Angels.

This isn't the first controversial

comment Hunter has made. In 2010 he did an interview with USA Today where he complained about Dominican players being categorized as black.

"People see dark faces out there, and the perception is that they're African American. They're not us. They're impostors," Hunter told USA Today. "Even people I know come up and say, 'Hey, what color is Vladimir Guerrero? Is he a black player?' I say, 'Come on, he's Dominican. He's not black.'

"As African-American players, we have a theory that baseball can go get an imitator and pass them off as us," Hunter says. "It's like they had to get some kind of dark faces, so they go to the Dominican or Venezuela because you can get them cheaper. It's like, 'Why should I get this kid from the South Side of Chicago and have Scott Boras represent him and pay him \$5 million when you can get a Dominican guy for a bag of chips?'"

"I'm telling you, it's sad."

The LA Times article also pointed out that while a scant number of former players have come out of the closet after their careers were over, not one player in the NBA, NHL, NFL or Major League Baseball has come forward while still on the job. Although some have come out after, including: David Kopay (Redskins running back), Billy Bean (Dodgers and Padres outfielder) and John Amaechi (NBA center-forward).

Earlier in 2012 former NFL Player Wade Davis did an interview with Out Sports, where he revealed having to hide his homosexual side, going so far as to spend large amounts in a straight strip club just to avoid suspicion. But he also told Between The Lines, in an Oct. 2012 interview, that he got more support after doing the Out Sports article than he'd expected. "When I initially agreed to do the interview, I didn't expect the reaction and feedback to be so massive. Many of my friends and ex-teammates were actually mad at me. Not because I announced my sexuality, as a gay man, but I didn't give them the opportunity to show me they'd still love me," Davis said.

After leaving the NFL, Davis played in a gay football league, then moved on to work with LGBT youth in New York.



The Burchett Family. Photo courtesy of Terry Johnston Photography

Watch the Online Video
www.pridesource.com

Family Support Offers Brighter Future For Son Message: 'I Am Still Good And Loveable'

BY MEGAN ANDERSON

It all started with a web search.

When Lisa Burchett's son Nick came out to her and her husband John, she conducted a web search to find resources to assist, and the Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center was one of them.

"The KGLRC has helped us get facts and resources to support Nick," said Lisa, 44. "It has helped us open conversations and given Nick a safe place to be himself."

And Nick, now 15, agrees. He first participated in a youth group bowling outing. "I can be me without judgment, and no one cares I am gay," he said. "They understand what I go through. Youth group lets me be with people like me."

But Nick has learned being different is fine too.

"I have learned it's okay to be different than most people. I am still good and lovable. Seeing that

my mentor John is a professional and in love, I have learned that I will have a good future too. I hope to marry and have a family. He shows it can happen," said Nick.

The process hasn't always been easy. Nick was initially anxious to talk to his parents about his sexual orientation. "It is safe. Do it," he says. "I was scared, but I think I knew my parents would love me no matter what. My parents are the most understanding I know. Most parents will love you no matter what."

For Lisa and John, who have been married for 19 years, educating themselves is important to them to be strong advocates for Nick.

"Laws are changing fast and outside institutions will not seek to implement changes without your encouragement," Lisa said. "Parents have to be open. Children are essentially the same child as before they came out; they just have to let themselves

be more vulnerable to you."

Her best advice: Be the parent your child deserves.

The Burchetts believe in getting involved. Nick participates in the KGLRC Triangle Mentorship Program and the youth group. He has also attended Kalamazoo Pride and the dog walk with his dog Freckles. Says Nick, "I like to be with and help people who share what I go through."

Encouraged by Lisa and John, Nick joined the mentorship program. "Basically, neither John or I have been a 14 year old gay boy. We can love, support and advocate, but there are aspects and feelings and concerns that we will never have firsthand knowledge of," Lisa said. "His mentor gives Nick a perspective we never could."

Lisa and John participate in many volunteer activities through the KGLRC such as the Triangle Mentorship Program, fundraisers

See Family Support, page 11

Amway Boycott Growing World Wide

DeVos Monies Continued Source For Antigay Marriage Campaigns

BY CRYSTAL PROXMIRE

It isn't enough to spend one's life making millions off the backs of the gullible in a giant multi-level marketing business. One must also then use their wealth and influence to fight fervently against the rights of others, protecting one's righteous and superior way of life from those pesky LGBT people and victims of HIV and AIDS.

At least that seems to be the outlook of those in charge of the Amway fortunes. Rather than enjoying his success and wealth, Richard DeVos and his sons are using their downline-acquired gains to fund campaigns against gay marriage, as well as investing record amounts in conservative campaigns in Michigan and nationwide.

A boycott of Amway is growing as people recognize what their purchases are supporting.

Profits Into Power

Amway was founded in Ada, Michigan in 1959 by Richard DeVos and Jay Van Andel. Van Andel died in 2004 of Parkinson's Disease, leaving behind a legacy of involvement with conservative causes, his name on many buildings in Grand Rapids, and a phenomenally profitable corporation for his business partner and high school friend DeVos, and his own children. Both families still share control of the multinational private corporation.

Here is a partial list of the campaigns and causes championed by the DeVos dynasty:

- In 2004 Betsy and Dick DeVos led the effort to put the anti-gay marriage amendment on the ballot and contributed over \$200,000 to the campaign to enshrine discrimination into the Michigan constitution.

- In 2005 and 2006, Richard DeVos's son Dick DeVos launched the most expensive campaign for Governor of Michigan, spending \$41 million. Despite the funding, he lost to incumbent Jennifer Granholm.

- In 2008, Richard DeVos gave \$100,000 to Florida4Marriage, which successfully campaigned to add a state constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage.

- In 2009 Richard DeVos's other son, Doug DeVos, through the Douglas and Maria DeVos Foundation, donated \$500,000 to the National Organization for Marriage to help in the fight against marriage equality for same-gender couples. NOM has funded and run anti-gay

marriage campaigns throughout the country since California's Proposition 8 in 2008.

- In 2012, Dick DeVos contributed \$2 million dollars to help push for the controversial Right to Work legislation that was passed during the lame duck session of the legislature, and signed by Gov. Rick Snyder. The legislation strikes a direct blow to unions' ability to fund their worker-representation functions by eliminating the requirement to join a union, yet still requiring unions to serve workers who declined to join.

In a 2009 interview with Chris Knappe of the Grand Rapids Press, Richard DeVos addressed his issues with the gay community, ironically concluding with, "You live your life the way you want to live and I'll live mine and I won't stick my nose in yours, but don't keep trying to change things, that's all."

He explained that he had been "hung in effigy by the gay community for a long time, from when I was first on President Regan's first AIDS Commission...I listened to 300 witnesses tell us that it was everyone else's fault but their own. Nothing to do with their conduct. It was just the government 'fix this disease.' At the end of that I put into the document that, it's the conclusion document from that commission, that actions have consequences and you are responsible for yours."

He blamed gay animosity on the fact that he "wasn't sympathetic for their requests for special treatment," during the AIDS epidemic. When asked about his funding against gay marriage, DeVos said, "Don't ask for a concession to a marriage issue which is not vital to them in my opinion. They've made it a vital issue because they want to."

The Boycott Is On

Because Amway's founding families have dedicated so much of their resources to fighting equality, a California-based nonprofit called Rights Equal Rights has begun a boycott of the corporation and other DeVos-owned businesses. Since August they've been spreading the word about DeVos's political involvement, encouraging people not to support Amway or any of the other DeVos-tied businesses.

Led by former Presidential candidate

See Amway, page 11



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BRIEFS

DETROIT

Feb. 23 Education and Advocacy Exhibition Announced By KICK

KICK The Agency for Lesbian, Gay, Bi and Transgender African Americans will engage colleges, universities and other training institutions that value LGBT culture from across Michigan at The Education & Advocacy Exhibition on Feb. 23 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Hannan House located at 4750 Woodward Ave.

Admission officers, counselors, as well as financial and career planning professionals from colleges and universities, technical and vocational schools, training agencies and financial aid/scholarship information will be on hand to provide information on returning and attending institutions of higher learning. There will also be a variety of short workshops, lectures, activities and information sessions that will focus on a variety of topics specific to LGBT participants throughout the day. The event will allow students and their families the opportunity to interact with LGBT and ally friendly colleges, universities and training institutions.

For more information on how you or your organization can participate in "The Education & Advocacy Exhibition," please contact Victoria B. Edwards at 313-285-9733 or victoriaedwards@e-kick.org.

FERNDALE

Affirmations Gets New Floor

Affirmations Community Center will close Jan. 12 - 20 while new flooring is installed. The center will reopen on Jan. 21.

DEARBORN

UM-Dearborn To Host Queer-Identified Muslim Activist, Faisal Alam

University of Michigan-Dearborn will host a presentation by speaker, writer, organizer and activist Faisal Alam.

Alam is a queer-identified Muslim activist of Pakistani descent. He began the first internet based email discussion group for LGBT Muslims at age 19 in Nov. 1997, which marked the first time that LGBT Muslims could discuss issues of common concern in a safe environment.

This listserv eventually led to the First International Retreat for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Muslims.

Alam's presentation "Hidden Voices: The Lives of LGBT Muslims" has been featured at over 100 universities and colleges. He has spoken and presented at numerous events across the country including LGBT interfaith services, inter-religious LGBT panel discussions, at synagogues, churches, PFLAG meetings and other community events.

Alam presents "Hidden Voices" at 6:30 p.m., Jan. 24 in Kochoff Hall, 4901 Evergreen Road, Dearborn. For more information on his presentation, visit <http://www.hiddenvoices.info>. For more information about this event, call 313-593-5390 or go to <http://Sao.umd.umich.edu/faisalalam>.

Non Discrimination Ordinances Spread Equality City By City

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Michigan's legislators in Lansing may not be ready to step up and declare equality for the LGBT community, but across the state individual cities have been creating local ordinances that prevent discrimination and publicize that anti-gay bias is something they won't tolerate.

The past year has seen more advances than setbacks according to Jon Hoadley, director of Unity Michigan, a statewide organization that aims to advance equality one city at a time. Working with groups like Equality Michigan, the ACLU, KICK, Affirmations, the Ruth Ellis Center and the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, Unity Michigan provides data and support to groups that want to create change in their communities.

In 2012, four Michigan cities passed non-discrimination ordinances. Elected officials in Mt. Pleasant approved theirs on July 9, Muskegon approved theirs on Aug. 14, and Union Township approved theirs Sept. 26.

Flint also passed an ordinance expanding their current non-discrimination ordinance, however when the Emergency Financial Manager law was voted down statewide, all ordinances enacted in Flint by the EMF were removed, including the non-discrimination ordinance. Their previous non-discrimination ordinance is still in effect, but the gender expression component is not.

So overall, Michigan gained three. Progress has also been made toward enacting one in Royal Oak, with city commissioners voting to have the city attorney draft an ordinance that will be voted on in 2013.

The total statewide is now 21. But what does that mean for the communities that have them, and for the state as a whole?

Hoadley explained that ordinances may vary from city to city. Some may include "gender expression," while some just include "sexual orientation." The most inclusive ones protect individuals from discrimination in housing, jobs and accommodations, but not every city has all those provisions. The penalties for violating the ordinance may also vary.

But what they all do is demonstrate the growing trend toward LGBT acceptance.

"Michigan has a rich tradition of local governance," Hoadley said. "This is something we are empowered to do. They (cities) can protect their resources when Lansing won't. One reason Lansing won't take action is they don't think there is local support, but that is not true. Polling shows that the majority of people support equal rights. This is where America is moving, and these ordinances show that."

In addition to the protections implemented, the process of passing non-discrimination, or human rights, ordinances has other benefits. "These start by local efforts, with people in the communities coming together to create change. First, the passages themselves start conversations that let people know about the lack of protection LGBT people face. There's a fuller sense of community, and it gets people involved in the political process. After it's passed, it's not done. There are conversations with businesses and governments to make sure we're treating people fairly."

The Williams Institute in California offers multiple studies and other research to show the need for listing sexual orientation and gender expression as protected classes. For example,

percent include gender identity. A Williams Institute study shows that large companies report that they adopt these policies to improve employee retention, recruitment, and productivity, as well as to generate the best ideas and a stronger customer base.

The biggest argument against inclusive non-discrimination policies is that it may bring lawsuits or cause strain on administrators to implement or enforce. Yet the Williams Institute research shows that LGBT lawsuits happen at about the same rate as discrimination cases involving race or gender.

Royal Oak, Holland, Rochester Hills and Jackson are among the cities where a human rights ordinance is being discussed, and there's no telling how many other cities will move



“One reason Lansing won't take action is they don't think there is local support, but that is not true. Polling shows that the majority of people support equal rights. This is where America is moving, and these ordinances show that.”

- Jon Hoadley, director of Unity Michigan, a statewide organization that aims to advance equality one city at a time.

37 percent of gay and lesbian respondents to a 2008 General Social Survey had experienced workplace harassment in the last five years, and 12 percent had lost a job because of their sexual orientation. As recently as 2010, 78 percent of respondents to the largest survey of transgender people to date reported having experienced harassment or mistreatment at work.

Cities with inclusive protections attract LGBT residents and workers, as well as allies who see the treatment of LGBT people as a litmus test for progressive values and overall care and respect. Where inclusive policies can be an economic draw for communities, it's proven to be a successful way for private business to grow. According to the Human Rights Campaign, 86 percent of the Fortune 500 companies include sexual orientation in their nondiscrimination policies, and 50

forward in the coming year. In general all it takes is a vote of the city's elected officials, though sometimes petitioning for a public vote can work when officials are unresponsive.

Unity Michigan has worked with members of several communities that have passed the ordinances. They offer model ordinance wording, best practice advice, and information about messaging and the political process. They can help identify supporters and donors, and can connect interested advocates with others who have passed ordinances in their hometowns. They also have ties to community centers and other organizations involved in the fight for equality.

To learn more about Unity Michigan and the push for nondiscrimination ordinances, check out their website at www.unitymichigan.org/.

Some LGBT Groups, Politicians Soften On Hagel

BY LISA KEEN

U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin said Monday that she wants to see whether Defense Secretary nominee Chuck Hagel's apology for anti-gay remarks 14 years ago is "sincere and sufficient."

Baldwin made her remarks just minutes after President Obama officially nominated the former Republican Senator from Nebraska to the top Pentagon post. During an interview with MSNBC, Baldwin said she did not know Hagel, but that she plans to ask him "some tough questions."

Baldwin does not sit on the Senate Armed Services Committee but, as a member of the U.S. Senate she will vote on Hagel's confirmation.

She told MSNBC she plans to give Hagel's nomination a "thorough review" and will "be fair."

"But I do want to speak with him particularly about his comments 14 years ago to ... see if his apology is sincere and sufficient," said Baldwin. "I want to see how he's evolved on this issue in last 14 years" and how he will contribute to the successful implementation of the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell.

The Human Rights Campaign has backed off from its initial opposition to Hagel as Secretary of Defense, but the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force continues to express "concern" and Log Cabin Republicans says he's "not the right nominee."

The national LGBT Republican group ran a full-page ad in the Washington Post Monday, saying Hagel's apology for past anti-gay remarks is "too little, too late." The ad highlights his previous opposition to repealing the military ban on gay servicemembers and his opposition to allowing equal marriage rights for gay couples.

"Until his name surfaced as a potential nominee for Secretary of Defense, he has stood firmly and aggressively against not only gay marriage, but also against gay people in general," said Gregory Angelo, who took over as interim executive director of Log Cabin less than two weeks ago. "Log Cabin Republicans helped lead the charge to repeal Don't Ask, Don't Tell and is extremely invested in seeing that we don't lose any ground due to a lack of sincere commitment to gay people and their families on the part of the incoming Defense Secretary."

In a phone interview Monday afternoon, Angelo said he thinks people should "pause and question" the timing of Hagel's "so-called apology."

"I'm not about to hypothesize what was in his head, but the timing of the apology does seem rather suspect - that his evolution (on gay issues) came days after his name floated" as a nominee said Angelo.

"Log Cabin Republicans spent a lot of time

and money on repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell - a bipartisan effort," said Angelo. "Now is not the time to roll the dice on a nominee who may or may not smoothly implement" that repeal. "He's not the right nominee."

A spokesperson for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force expressed "grave concerns" last month about Hagel's potential nomination and this week said NGLTF "continues to have concerns."

"Though Chuck Hagel has recently apologized for past anti-gay remarks, we expect him to fully explain his views during the confirmation process and what steps he intends to take as defense secretary to demonstrate his support for LGBT members of the military and their families," said NGLTF Executive Director Rea Carey. "We recognize that people do evolve on these issues and we hold out hope that, if confirmed, Hagel will



Pres. Obama nominated former Nebraska Senator Chuck Hagel for Secretary of Defense Monday. AP photo.

meet the bar set by other cabinet secretaries and the administration when it comes to ensuring fairness for all LGBT military families and for women in the military."

Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin issued a statement last month when Hagel's name was floated as a likely nominee, saying Hagel's past comments on gays and his Congressional voting on gay-related issues "unacceptable." But after Hagel issued his apology for his 1996 hostile remarks over openly gay ambassadorial nominee James Hormel, HRC softened its opposition to the nomination.

"Senator Hagel's apology and his statement of support for LGBT equality is appreciated and shows just how far as a country we have come when a conservative former Senator from Nebraska can have a change of heart on LGBT issues," said Griffin, in a statement issued Monday. "Our community continues to add allies to our ranks and we're proud that

Senator Hagel is one of them.

"The next Defense Secretary should get off to a fast start and ensure LGBT military families have access to every possible benefit under the law," said Griffin. "Every day these families continue to face unfair treatment and the Secretary can take meaningful action to remedy this discrimination."

This week, HRC added, "We look forward to Senator Hagel's testimony on how he intends to ensure equal benefits for gay and lesbian service members and their families."

Zeke Stokes, spokesman for the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), said his organization never opposed Hagel's nomination and believes the apology was worth consideration.

Hagel issued a statement shortly after reports surface that he was a leading candidate for Secretary of Defense, apologizing for his

and, just as we would with anyone, we are communicating to him and to the White House things we believe need to happen."

Specifically, said Stokes, SLDN wants to hear from the nominee whether he will "take a serious look at the inequities" for gay servicemembers serving today "and make an immediate commitment to remedy those inequities that he can (through...) own authority."

In a press release Jan. 4, SLDN Executive Director Allyson Robinson said Hagel "clearly has the military credentials and experience" for the Secretary's job but that it is "incumbent upon him during the nomination and confirmation process to lay out demonstrable actions he will take" to support his words. The press release said SLDN wants the nominee, if confirmed, to add "sexual orientation" to the language of

“Senator Hagel's apology and his statement of support for LGBT equality is appreciated and shows just how far as a country we have come when a conservative former Senator from Nebraska can have a change of heart on LGBT issues.”

- HRC Executive Director Chad Griffin

remarks against the nomination of James Hormel to become ambassador to Luxemburg under President Bill Clinton. At that time, in 1998, Hagel characterized Hormel's openness about his sexual orientation as an "aggressive" act that could inhibit his ability to represent the United States in a foreign post.

"My comments 14 years ago in 1998 were insensitive. They do not reflect my views or the totality of my public record, and I apologize to Ambassador Hormel and any LGBT Americans who may question my commitment to their civil rights. I am fully supportive of 'open service' and committed to LGBT military families," said Hagel in his statement.

"Senator Hagel pretty quickly addressed those remarks and apologized for what he said 14 years ago, so we certainly want to give him the same space we would give anyone to evolve over 14 years on this issue," said Stokes. "He's indicated he has (evolved)

military's non-discrimination policies and extend "all benefits" possible to married same-sex couples, while DOMA is still in force.

The Human Rights Campaign's scoring of Hagel's voting record while the Republican represented Nebraska in the U.S. Senate earned him the lowest grade possible on LGBT-related issues - zero in two of his last three congressional sessions, and a 20 out of 100 in the last session he served. Hagel opposed an effort to ban same-sex marriage nationally through an amendment to the federal constitution.

Former U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, who is both gay and Jewish, said last month that he thinks Hagel would be "very good" with respect to Israel and the Defense budget but that Hagel's anti-gay comments were a "disqualification from being appointed."

Neither the president nor Hagel referred to any opposition to the Hagel nomination during a White House press conference Monday afternoon.

BRIEFS

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Supreme Court Announces Dates And Argument Parameters For DOMA, Prop. 8 Cases

The U.S. Supreme Court announced Monday Jan. 7 that it will hear arguments on Proposition 8, California's same-sex marriage ban, on March 26 and *United States v. Windsor*, challenging the constitutionality of the federal Defense of Marriage Act (signed in 1996), on March 27.

In *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, the Proposition 8 hearing, the justices are asking parties to argue on the question of whether the U.S. Constitution allows California to limit marriage to unions of one man and one woman.

In *United States v. Windsor*, the justices are asking parties to argue whether DOMA violates the U.S. Constitution. Furthermore, parties are to argue whether the U.S. House of Representatives can legally defend DOMA despite the Obama Administration's support for a federal appeals court decision that the law is unconstitutional.

Currently nine states have legalized gay marriage - Maine, Maryland, Washington state, Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York and Vermont - and the nation's capital, the District of Columbia.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

10th Episcopal Bishop Of New Hampshire To Take Over

New Hampshire will soon have a new Episcopal bishop with the investiture of A. Robert Hirschfeld to succeed Gene Robinson.

Hirschfeld will be invested Saturday at 11 a.m. in an elaborate ceremony at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Concord.

Hirschfeld was Rector of Grace Episcopal Church in Amherst, Mass., when he was elected in May to be New Hampshire's 10th Episcopal bishop.

Robinson's election in 2003 as the first openly-gay Episcopal bishop created a tempest in the Anglican Church worldwide.

After handing his pastoral staff over to Hirschfeld, Robinson will become a part-time senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, a liberal think tank in Washington, D.C.

The 51-year-old Hirschfeld will lead a congregation founded in 1802.

The investiture ceremony is open to the public but closed to the media.

Extended briefs are available online at:
>> www.PrideSource.com



Viewpoint

OPINION BY MICHELLE BROWN

First and foremost, let me say I am no movie critic.

My tastes in film are as varied as my tastes in music, books and just about everything else. My personal favorites include the 1933 film "42nd Street," "Raise the Red Lantern," "Bound," "Y Tu Mama Tambien," "Blade Runner," "Alien Resurrection," "The Red Violin" and "Bodyguards & Assassins" just to name a few. Then there are the documentaries, but I think you get my point.

I don't go to the movies often and when I do go it's purely for entertainment. This holiday season has been no exception. In the past six weeks, I've seen three films: "Lincoln" because I'd read the book; "Life of Pi" because of a great NPR interview; and "Django Unchained" as an in-person meet-up with Facebook friends.

More than either "Lincoln" or "Life of Pi," "Django Unchained" seems to be one of those movies everyone has a strong opinion about. So let's do the controversial stuff and just get it out of the way.

First, it's a Quentin Tarantino movie. If you've seen any of his movies you had to go in to the theater knowing there would be blood. Come on. "Reservoir Dogs," "Pulp Fiction," "Kill Bill" - there's going to be blood, violence and some crazy twists and turns.

Next, it is set in the south during slavery. Slavery was brutal, ugly, horrific and violent by any account even if you threw in a love story.

Finally, they use the "n" word - a lot. But that's what they called black slaves during slavery. No one said take the African American out back and beat them for trying to escape. They used n*gger. They used it a lot, but quite frankly I found the use of the "n" word in a period piece about slavery far less offensive than its casual use in today's culture.

If you still want to go there on any of these issues, there are plenty of blogs, Facebook posts and op-eds where you can continue that discussion. I'll catch you there but that's not my point here.

Amidst all the hype about the blood, the violence, the "N" word, the depiction of slavery, the love story, Kerry Washington and, yes, Spike Lee there was another story, a sub-plot some might say, could get lost in the fray.

I'm talking about the evolution of the German born bounty hunter, Dr. King Schultz.

Django Unchained Lost in Translation

This is a story of human evolution as pertinent then as it is today when we as a nation struggle with equality for the "other" (LGBT, immigrants, etc.) and interestingly the spark for his evolution is marriage.

This may have jumped out at me because in writing and speaking on marriage equality, particularly in reference to opposition by members of the African-American clergy, I have noted that marriage has been a cornerstone in the fight for human and civil rights.

Despite attempts during slavery to break the spirit and strength of African Americans by destroying familial bonds, we African Americans found ways to acknowledge our kinship, our families, our love - even forming our own ceremonies and traditions to celebrate our humanity, our relationships, often with full knowledge that the next day our families could be ripped apart, sold the very next day.

Initially seeing "Django" as a means solely to his ends, we witness Dr. Schultz transformation, beginning with his ah-ha moment while relating the story of Broomhilda and Siegfried, perhaps for the first time truly understanding the fable in human terms - but not just the love story.

As Dr. Schultz acknowledges and respects "Django's" humanity he begins his own journey of reclaiming his own. To the point where one can almost see him haunted by

King's words that "Injustice anywhere, is a threat to justice everywhere."

"Unchained" was Schultz's apathy, his complicity in the perpetuation in the system that denied others their humanity. One might say that in the end Schultz had evolved and might have shared President Obama's thoughts "... that is that, in the end the values that I care most deeply about... is how we treat other people." (from President Obama's May 2012 remarks on marriage equality.)

In a letter to the editor in 1895 French novelist, critic and essayist Marcel Proust wrote, great art/artists "initiate us into a knowledge and love of the external world... they are the ones by whom our eyes are opened." Therein lays the beauty of the arts; music, art, books, cinema are not just to entertain us, but to engage, outrage and make us think.

I will leave you with these words from that Saturday morning philosopher Fat Albert this movie is "... coming out with music and fun. If you're not careful, you may learn something before it's done! Hey, Hey, Hey!"

"Django Unchained" - love it, hate it? I'll let you decide. "Hey, hey, hey!"

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





OPINION BY ERIC RADER

Stay Committed To Fight Outlasting Forces of Greed, Intolerance

In the closing days of the Michigan Legislature's lame-duck session, Republicans hastily passed bills to fulfill the right-wing wishes of a small minority of people in our state. Unfortunately, Gov. Rick Snyder didn't have the backbone to stand up to the Tea Party-inspired agenda of legislative Republicans, and despite his supposed moderate credentials, signed much of this awful legislation. In passing these bills, legislative Republicans denied opponents any chance to really debate the pros and cons of the legislation, ramming it through the legislature without any real hearings or discussion. The process by which the Republicans passed their agenda can hardly be described as "democratic" and was profoundly flawed.

Included within the package of bills were two pieces of legislation that now make Michigan a so-called "Right-to-work" (RTW) state, meaning that unions can no longer require the workers they are legally required to cover to pay their fair share for the services the union provides for them. With RTW in effect, workers are no longer allowed to vote for such requirements, limiting their ability to negotiate in good faith with their employers and silencing their voices.

The Republican legislative agenda in Michigan flew in the face of the will of Michigan voters, as expressed in the statewide results of the November 2012 election. Michigan citizens recently voted to re-elect Barack Obama and Debbie Stabenow by significant margins, and reduced the Republican margin in the Michigan House from eighteen seats to eight. While it is true that the voters defeated the pro-labor Proposal 2 by a large majority, they actually defeated all of the statewide proposals by similar or even greater margins. In any event, voting against an amendment to the Michigan Constitution is not the same thing as endorsing RTW legislation, something that polls show a majority of Michigan citizens oppose.

While not everyone in the LGBT community is a member of a labor union, it's important to recognize the critical work unions have performed in advancing LGBT equality in

the workplace. Unions and labor federations such as the AFL-CIO, the United Auto Workers (UAW), and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), have worked to negotiate labor contracts that protect against LGBT discrimination in the workplace and extend domestic partner benefits to employees when not prohibited by law.

The entire Michigan Legislature and Gov. Snyder will be on the statewide ballot in 2014. A key reason for the Republican sweep of our state in 2010 was the decision by many progressive voters to stay home on Election Day. If the LGBT community and our allies are to ever enjoy equality and fairness in this state, we need new leadership in Michigan.

Labor groups have been at the forefront in the fight for LGBT equality, opposing statewide ballot measures (such as the one here in Michigan) that enshrine anti-gay bigotry in state constitutions, and supporting efforts to protect LGBT rights and extend marriage protection and workplace nondiscrimination laws.

Gov. Rick Snyder has been a huge disappointment to a lot of people in our state, though many of us were suspicious of his policy intentions when he first ran for governor two years ago. A majority of Michigan voters cast ballots for the "tough nerd" in 2010, with many voters believing that he would govern in the style of the last truly moderate Republican governor of Michigan, William Milliken.

Though Snyder has publicly proclaimed his desire to tamp down "divisive" agendas in the state, he has signed numerous bills that actually serve to widen the political divide in Michigan. One example of this divisive agenda was a bill the governor signed during his first year in office that denies domestic partner benefits to public employees in Michigan. At a time when a majority of Michiganders now say they approve of legal same-sex marriage, Snyder has joined the most intolerant elements in our state to divide gay people from straight people.

The entire Michigan Legislature and Gov. Snyder will be on the statewide ballot in 2014. A key reason for the Republican sweep of our state in 2010 was the decision by many progressive voters to stay home on Election Day. If the LGBT community and our allies are to ever enjoy equality and fairness in this state, we need new

leadership in Michigan. We must support candidates for governor and for state legislative seats who will fight for all Michiganders, not just the wealthy and well-connected. This means that we cannot rest over the next two years, especially since we know that the other side most certainly won't rest. The last few weeks have not been good ones for equality and fairness in Michigan, but it's time to move on and fight for our values in the coming weeks and months. If we stay committed to our beliefs, we can outlast the forces of greed and intolerance, and Michigan's future will be bright.

Learn More: LGBT Rights & Labor

AFL-CIO Pride At Work group:
www.prideatwork.org

UAW President's statement on President Obama's support for equal marriage rights:
www.uaw.org/taxonomy/term/2288/0

AFT 2004 Proclamation in favor of equal marriage rights:
www.aft.org/about/resolution_detail.cfm?articleid=1344

And A Big Bow Wow!



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

A federally funded study by People & Friends of Cats and Dogs (P-FCD) says that "persons of rainbow personality make the best dog owners, but have little influence on cats - although this should not be misconstrued as homophobia on the part of America's feline population."

The P-FCD Study - "Are American Pets at Risk with Gay/Lesbian Owners?" - finds that "dogs owned by lgbs are happier, better mannered, more likely to heel and fetch than dogs reared by straights. They shed less - the dogs not the heterosexuals - during summer months and do their gender sniffing and hydrant marking in a covert, more decorous manner."

Interestingly too is the Study finding that most breeds - with the exception of Pekingese, Chihuahuas, dachshunds - show marked sporting instincts: catching Frisbees, treeing squirrels, chasing unmarked police cars, when raised by lesbians.

"Rottweilers, when dyke raised, tend to be one-owner breed. They are loyal to a fault. (The dogs, not the dykes.) Curiously, Pitt bulls become remarkably docile when trained by lipstick lesbian owners in suburban settings.

"Breeds raised by gay men seldom bark or if they do it's in quieter tones, and are less likely to eat ill-prepared dinner scraps or TV frozen dinner leftovers. They also show a preference for dog houses that are painted in warmer tones and edged with white lattice work. Collars preferred are with sequins and, in leather outings, studs or spikes."

The old saying, You can't teach an old dog new tricks, has been proven "to be utterly false and denigrating to aging canine populations. Old dogs -- with gay owners as role models -- are actually remarkably adept at doing new tricks."

A big disappointment of the Study is with the finicky cat population. It was determined that cats raised by lgbs were just as likely to be as independent as cats raised by straights. "The truth is, that cats just don't give a rat's winkie if you're straight or gay. If you feed them on time, they just couldn't care less. And whatever you do, don't smoke their catnip."

There is a note of progress, however. For some reason "alley cats seem to live longer when kept by gay, single males. This applies whether neutered or unneutered." (The cats, not the single males.)

Not everyone is pleased with the P-FCD findings. In The Family Way, a right-wing vigilante organization headquartered in Free-Fall, Montana, expresses outrage at the P-FCD in its monthly newsletter, "The Litter Box." Editorial correction: That should be Letter.

"The Gay Agenda stops at nothing," opines the editorial. "Not only do they want special rights, the right to marry and adopt children, now they want to raise America's wagtail majority: our innocent dogs and cats, as same-sex household pets. Maybe a poodle or two, but not a born-again boxer. Never!"

The editorial ends with the usual request for money in the "cultural war to save our four-footed friends from a life of pampering and eternal perdition. Heaven loves a cheerful benefactor."

How true. Give a pup or kitten a loving home in 2013. Call the Michigan Humane Society today. Happy Arf! Mary Meow! And a Perverted Purr!

Charles@pridesource.com

John Boehner



I don't know if you've noticed, but national approval of Congress is down. Like, way down. You know what's more popular than Congress right now? BP during the oil spill in the Gulf. That's right. People hate Congress more than they hate oil soaked pelicans and sea turtles.

You know what is up? Like, way up? Support for marriage equality.

So if you were John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House, what would you want

to focus on in light of these numbers? Where would tax-payer money be best spent?

Why, on defending the Defense of Marriage Act, of course!

On Jan. 3 Boehner authorized the continued use of your money to the losing battle of defending DOMA, the 1996 law that defines marriage as between one woman and one man, and which President Bill Clinton signed (boo).

The Obama administration has called DOMA unconstitutional and is no longer defending challenges to the law. This has driven Boehner and Co. absolutely nuts and so, using taxpayer money, they decided the House would take over the job of defending this unconstitutional law.

This is a very crazy time for DOMA seeing as the Supreme Court is going to hear a case about it in March.

Granted, it isn't surprising that Boehner and his fellow Republicans are freaking out about this. Anti-gay hysteria has long been a staple for them. But for a guy who would rather your grandma eat cat food than a billionaire pay another dime in taxes, it does call into question how sincere Republicans are about their garment wrenching over fiscal issues. We don't have money for Social Security, but for beating up on gays? Oh, sure. Here's a blank check. Gotta have priorities.

Many people are, unsurprisingly, calling Boehner out on this. According to ABC News, Drew Hammill, a spokesperson for Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi said, "House Republicans will send a clear message to LGBT families: their fiscal responsibility mantra does not extend to their efforts to stand firmly on the wrong side of the future."

Hammill continued, "As House Democrats have time and time again made clear, the BLAG (the House's Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group, which is defending the law) does not speak for all Members of the House of Representatives and we will continue to oppose this wasteful use of taxpayer funds to defend DOMA."

Other Democrats criticized the Republicans as well. "You know, they are like flamingos — no, ostriches — with their heads in the ground," Rep. Jim McDermott, D-Wash. told the Seattle Post Intelligencer. "They cannot see what is going on in the country around them. They just keep doing this crazy stuff. This crazy stuff is taking over the Republican Party. The tide of history has turned against them. They just refuse to recognize it."

McDermott continued, "(House Republicans) are the people who made a big deal about opposing earmarks, yet they keep spending money on this stupid lawsuit. Spending \$1.7 million on a lawsuit doesn't bother them."

DOMA has been struck down in Federal appeals court and with the current administration refusing to defend it, this decades-long anti-gay chapter in history may well be coming to an end. DOMA is a sinking ship. Let's hope it takes Boehner along with it.

Gay Marriage Remains A Tough Sell In Illinois

BY SARA BURNETT

SPRINGFIELD, ILL. (AP) — The stalling of Illinois' gay-marriage push — at least for now — shows the difficulty of approving legislation to legalize it, even with a nudge from the home-state president, steadily rising support in the polls and national momentum from the November elections.

Democrats control both chambers of the General Assembly and the governor's office in the solidly blue state. Yet the margin of support Senate Democrats were able to pull together for a bill last week was so thin that a death in one lawmaker's family and another senator's extended trip to Israel were enough to push the issue into the next legislative session.

Supporters downplayed the delay, saying a Senate committee's vote to advance the measure was history itself and insisting same-sex marriage here is inevitable. But there's no denying that even as the nation's feelings about the issue appear to be shifting, lawmakers have been more reluctant to do so — particularly in the nation's heartland.

No legislature in the middle of the country has approved gay marriage. Of the nine states that allow it, Iowa is the only one not located on the nation's coasts, and it adopted same-sex unions through the courts, not the Legislature.

As it became clear last week that Illinois didn't have a deal and would have to push back a vote until possibly February, Senate President John Cullerton, a Chicago Democrat, mentioned same-sex marriage along with gun control as measures that are "always going to be very, very tough" to pass.

That makes a potential victory in Illinois even sweeter, advocates say. The Iowa Supreme Court's decision to void the state's gay marriage ban in 2009 shocked people on both coasts and sent ripples across the nation, said Jim Bennett, director of the Midwest office of Lambda Legal.

"I think Illinois is the same way," Bennett said. "There's a sense that if it happens in the middle of the country, it's not a trend. It's a new understanding of

the gay community and where we are."

While President Barack Obama's home state is known for its liberal policies, its Democratic leadership hails mostly from Chicago while the rest of the state — including fellow Democrats — are far more conservative. One Republican from downstate Illinois said what happened last week was a reflection of that.

"I think the Legislature is a microcosm of the state's society, and

One supporter said votes could occur as early as February. Until then, they will continue to meet with legislators and tell their stories.

it proves once again that the state of Illinois is not ready for gay marriage," Sen. Sam McCann said.

But Edwin Yohnka, director of public policy for the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois, which is part of a coalition pushing the bill, characterized the committee vote as "a great accomplishment."

"That was something a year ago or two years ago people would not have conceived," Yohnka said. "We are a day closer today to having the freedom to marry for all couples in Illinois than we were yesterday, and we will be a day closer tomorrow. Marriage is coming to Illinois."

Parallel Court Push

Supporters have a parallel effort underway in the Illinois courts, where 25 gay and lesbian couples are challenging the state law that prohibits marriage between people of the same sex, but the legal process could take years. And unlike some other states, Illinois doesn't have a process for citizens to change state statutes at the ballot box. So the Legislature is seen as the quickest, less expensive route for marriage-equality advocates.

A gay marriage bill was introduced in the Legislature early last year but was going nowhere until last fall. In November, voters in four states either approved gay marriage or voted down bans on it. Wisconsin elected an openly

gay U.S. senator, and an Iowa Supreme Court justice who participated in the court's unanimous ruling in favor of gay marriage kept his seat. Two years earlier, voters ousted three of his colleagues.

Coming just months after Obama announced his support for same-sex marriage, Illinois advocates decided to grab the momentum and press the issue before the Legislature as soon as they believed they could get it through. That meant the January lame-duck session, which had the added benefit of letting dozens of lawmakers who wouldn't have to stand for re-election vote their conscience.

"You really had a sense that it's our time," Bennett said.

"We moved when the iron was hot."

Some observers questioned whether advocates rushed too much, not taking time to iron out details that might have helped pick up some votes. But the bill's sponsor and other supporters said they had done their due diligence and the only glitch was the absence of three lawmakers whose backing was critical.

One suburban Chicago Republican, Sen. Suzi Schmidt, was absent because her mother died, while Democratic Sen. Jeffrey Schoenberg was overseas for his daughter's bat mitzvah and Democratic Sen. James Clayborne had a family emergency.

Lawmakers note it's not unusual for an issue — especially one as controversial as same-sex marriage — to take several hearings before getting a floor vote. Cullerton and the bill's sponsor, Sen. Heather Steans, said they will spend the next few weeks of the new session, which begins Jan. 9, trying to tweak the bill to allay Republican concerns about violations of religious freedom.

One supporter said votes could occur as early as February. Until then, they will continue to meet with legislators and tell their stories — an approach that has seemed to work well so far. And they say this week's events ignited their coalition in a way they haven't seen in nearly a decade.

"At the end of the day, I feel momentum is still behind us, and it's strong," Bennett said.

► Amway Boycott

Continued from p. 5

Fred Krager, who is a gay Republican, Rights Equal Rights has led four other boycotts. Bolthouse Farms was the first to settle, contributing \$110,000 to LGBT organizations to offset its founder's \$100,000 donation to Yes on Proposition 8 in California.

They've also posted the names of 800 donors on the "Dishonor Roll" of their website www.rightsequalrights.com. Actress Jane Lynch and Equality Pennsylvania have joined in the boycott against Amway and the other DeVos Companies.

Amway responded to the boycott in a statement to ABC News stating, "As private citizens, the DeVos family supports causes and organizations that advocate for policies aligned to their personal beliefs... one of the highest callings of any individual is to express their own personal beliefs as a participant in the democratic process."

The list of businesses owned by the DeVos family is extensive, but it includes Amway products like iCook, Nutrilite Health Products, and XS Energy Drinks, JW Marriott and Courtyard by Marriott in Grand Rapids, MVP Sports Clubs in Michigan and Florida, the Grand Rapids Griffins, the Orlando Magic, and Fox Automotive Group with dealerships in Grand Rapids, Cadillac, Traverse City, Negaunee, Marquette and Charlevoix.

For more information visit www.boycottamway.com.

► Family Support

Continued from p. 4

and Kalamazoo Pride. They were also the recipients of the 2011 Ally of the Year Award from the KGLRC. "We participate because the work done by the KGLRC is vital," says Lisa. "Our son's future depends on the real changes the KGLRC affects. We believe in the mission of equality."

Family is very important to the Burchetts, and they share a love of watching scary movies. Nick likes to spend time with family, including his brother Jacob, whom he considers his best friend.

"I feel I can talk to my parents about anything," Nick shares. "Sometimes my mom wants to talk too much about things, but she is always open to my questions."



Readers can call Amway owner and President Doug DeVos and ask him why he gave so much money to NOM (National Organization for Marriage) to take away LGBT rights. If you don't get through leave a voice mail. Please be respectful and courteous to Mr. DeVos and his associates.

Call Doug DeVos: 616-676-6000

Amway A Business of False Hope

Amway is one of the grandest multi-level marketing businesses in the world. Profits are not just made on the products directly sold (usually to friends and family of the independent business operator), but on recruiting other salespeople and getting a percentage of their sales. Other countries have banned this practice, which looks like a pyramid when diagramed out, with the people at the top making the most money.

The company touts wealth, independence and financial freedom, giving sample incomes of people at the very top of the "upline," while only putting the more realistic income potentials in fine print. Their 2012 brochure, for example, says that the average gross monthly income for active IBOs in the U.S. was \$202. In even smaller print it further clarifies that only 46 percent of registered IBOs are considered to be "active," meaning that over half of the business operators aren't even included in that average.

To become an IBO, people invest in a welcome packet and are encouraged to purchase products themselves so they can know what they are selling. The "gross" income does not even take into consideration these expenses. Those who have made it to the "Q12 Platinum Level," where the average annual compensation is \$51,437, make up just 0.25 percent of active IBOs in the U.S. In short, making a living off of Amway is statistically improbable,

“I wish there were stronger laws to protect gays at work and in school. I think the way we are heading politically is good but slow. I will get married and have kids. I am hopeful.”

-Nick Burchett

Nick also turns to his Sam, his other best friend, for support. "We have been together since we were three. I came out to him within two weeks of telling my parents. He never reacted. He never changed how he treats me. We love each other like brothers."

While things may not always be easy, the Burchetts are grateful for the love of their family and the support and friendship they have received from people at the KGLRC.

"Because Nick is who he is, we have been given an opportunity to know some

of the most wonderful people we have been ever been blessed to know," Lisa said. "We never would have chosen such a difficult path that our son is on. But now that we are here, we know it's where we belong."

Most importantly, Nick has positive thoughts about the future.

Editor's note: This is an ongoing series of articles featuring KGLRC staff, volunteers and community members.

Developed over 22 years ago, Tail Waggers 1990 is a unique animal welfare organization focusing on the needs of animals in the community. Tail Waggers provides low-cost services to animals and their owners to help them stay together!

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David Smith and Greg Reyner, owners of Café Muse. Photos: Andrew Potter

Café Muse Owners Break Outside Of The Brunch Box

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

People don't talk about Royal Oak's Café Muse without mentioning the grilled cheese: the way the three-cheese blend – havarti, fontina and mozzarella – melts into a savory mix of basil, tomatoes and organic bread, and what the dash of honey does to the taste buds.

You know it's good when it's got Oprah's approval.

"That's gonna be my epitaph," deadpans Greg Reyner, who co-owns the restaurant with his business and life partner David Smith.

Responding to Reyner's sarcastic eye-roll at a table situated in the new expansion of their restaurant, Smith reassures, "It's good to be known for something."

But nearly five years after the grilled cheese became Café Muse's claim to fame, Reyner wants more than a signature sandwich to their name.

They do dinner now, with a smorgasbord of sea scallops, duck, filet and the grapefruit-marinated tofu. The new menu was introduced two years ago, as the restaurateurs expanded their breakfast and lunch success into the evening with 15 rotating small plates, bar snacks and hearty entrees (all served 5-10 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday). The bar they always wanted also became a reality when the space next door – formerly If the Shoe Fits – closed and they moved in. Now, Café Muse isn't just egg scrambles and dino pancakes – they've got a happy hour.

"I want to see us known for dinner," Reyner says. "That's what we're really pushing right now."

Which is why they're doing things a little differently. They offer unique bites like rabbit and mussels, and even their sides stand out: an asparagus foam – a whipped puree – accompanies the filet.

"From the beginning, we've always wanted to be more of a farm-to-table restaurant, something that wasn't really a thing in this area back when we opened," says Smith.

They outsource as much local food as possible. The rabbit, for instance, is raised specifically for them up in the Irish Hills, located on the border of Jackson and Lenawee counties.

Not a foodie? Have a drink. Café Muse's selection of wines recently earned them their second Award of Excellence from Wine Spectator, which picks the recipient based on the kinds of wines it serves and how well they complement the menu items.

"We have, I think, the best beverage program in Royal Oak and probably one of the top in southeast Michigan," says Reyner. "We have a phenomenal program. And what we're doing dinner side is very creative – no one else is doing it."

When Smith and Reyner opened Café Muse seven years ago, its location a block north of its current spot on Washington Avenue was so small that only one person could fit in the kitchen. The dish-washing space wasn't any bigger. Even Reyner was too tall to fit back there.

"That was the prerequisite," Smith says about the hiring process. "You had to be short."

Now their kitchen storage alone is about 2,000 square feet, while the kitchen itself is larger than their entire original space. No height restrictions anymore, either.

"That being said, most of our staff is short," Reyner laughs, before his partner quips, "Well, you're 6 feet 4. Come on!"



“From the beginning, we’ve always wanted to be more of a farm-to-table restaurant, something that wasn’t really a thing in this area back when we opened.”

– David Smith

Why the need to expand? One word: Oprah. After the talk show tycoon endorsed Café Muse’s now-legendary grilled cheese sandwich in 2008, business boomed.

Smith recalls being so slammed on the day he received a call from her production company that he didn’t take the call from Harpo seriously. “Take a message,” he remembers telling the server who answered the phone.

Later that day, he returned the message. And it wasn’t a hoax. Oprah’s show was curious about this grilled cheese that Esquire Magazine called one of “the best sandwiches in America.” Her trusty sidekick, Gayle King, flew out to their first location – it had just 23 seats, and half the equipment in the kitchen had to be hauled out to fit in Oprah’s production crew – and put it to the test. King loved the grilled cheese so much it got top honors.

After the episode aired, hundreds of people swarmed the cafe just for that sandwich.

“We thought we had bought enough cheese for the week,” Smith recalls, “but we went through all that in the weekend after it aired. It was insane.”

Ever since, Café Muse has been a Royal Oak hot spot – and not just with the locals. Oprah’s endorsement boosted the restaurant’s notoriety so much that even celebrities stop in between film shoots. Mila Kunis, Michelle Williams, Jason Segel and, most recently, Tilda Swinton have all come in for a bite while working on movies in the area.

Swinton, of course, had the vegan burger, but didn’t leave before telling Smith how much it tickled her taste buds. “She stopped me and said, ‘I wanna let you know everything was great and I’m going to really try to come back before I leave.’”

When they’re not serving the Hollywood elite, they say their clientele is mixed and pretty gay despite not being a “gay restaurant.”

“We’ve never really promoted ourselves as being a gay-owned, gay-run restaurant,” says Smith, who mentions that they also believe in giving back to the community. They’ve partnered with both Ruth Ellis Center and AIDS Partnership Michigan.

“We don’t fly a flag out front – no. Because

we’ll take anyone.” He laughs. “Anybody that wants to buy food, please come.”

But they are also gay, so of course they understand the need for a queer hangout that’s not just a bar or nightclub. Hence their reason for launching Gay Centric Tuesdays, a new night dedicated to the gays who want to have an after-work cocktail in a relaxed environment.

“Typically bars in Detroit are either pickup bars or just dance clubs,” Reyner says. “There’s no place where you can just go and hang out.”

Though food is a priority at Café Muse, for Smith and Reyner that’s not always the case. Even *they* eat fast food. “It’s all relative,” Reyner says. “I love Taco Bell.”

And with lots of long days, sometimes they only have time for a Double Decker.

“Work doesn’t stop,” says Reyner, who runs the kitchen. “I just want to go to bed at 10 o’clock and he’s like, ‘Oh, I have another question’ and it’s just like, ‘Leave me alone.’”

Smith deals with logistics and catering, but only part-time because he also runs a video production company in Auburn Hills that does work for Volkswagen, so when restaurant questions come up, Reyner’s his go-to – even if it’s bedtime. “It’s just always like, ‘OK, one question – that’s all!’” Smith says.

“That’s probably the hardest thing about owning a business with your partner,” says Reyner. “They also sit next to you on the couch.”

The two met 20 years ago at an after-hours club called Red Door at Wayne State University, back when the only way in was with a secret word. Reyner was studying pre-law, political science and history. But he hated college.

“I wanted to get to a place where I could actually make money as quickly as possible,” he says, “so I went to culinary art school.”

It made sense: He grew up around food. His mother had dinner promptly on the table every day. Sunday was reserved for a big feast.

“Food wasn’t the driving force in the family, but it was something that was always there,” Reyner says. “Food’s a part of life. It should be enjoyed and savored.”

Even if it’s a grilled cheese sandwich.

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Hear Me Out: Best of 2012



Rufus Wainwright. Photo: Decca Records

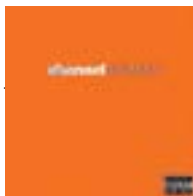
BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI



10. Cat Power, 'Sun'

Clocking in at just under 11 minutes, "Nothin' But Time" starts simple enough,

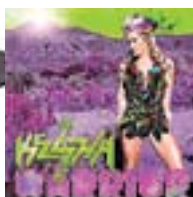
with just piano and fuzzy static – then there's some man chants, and Iggy Pop. On paper it's a hot mess, but the heartfelt coming-of-age mantra – during which all things seem infinite and possible – beautifully builds into a euphoric mind-release that breezes on by. For the musical oxymoron "Ruin," Chan Marshall's a world traveler singing over a bouncy drum beat, chiding fussy Americans. The hallucinatory "Manhattan" drops you in the bustle of a big city, where you're just a speck of broken dreams and memories. On "3, 6, 9" she's so drunk that her looseness translates to the song's rhythmic punch. And to your ears. Forever and ever.



9. Frank Ocean, 'Channel ORANGE'

Can men who love men make it in the supposed anti-gay realm of

hip-hop? Frank Ocean answered that question when he came out via Tumblr and topped the charts with his solo debut, rightfully earning him kudos, a rabid fan base and Grammy nominations. And it's not just hype. "Channel ORANGE" renders his poeticism – about sex, drugs, love and longing – into progressive hip-art beats. The music, though, is only the half of it: Frank's voice rolls over your sound holes like the "buttercream silk shirt" he sings about on "Lost," an acid trip that will have you trying to find your way out. This is the gem, though, that'll go down in the books: "Bad Religion," so painfully pointed it hurts.



8. Ke\$ha, 'Warrior'

Well, this wasn't supposed to happen. Ke\$ha was destined to fall off the pop

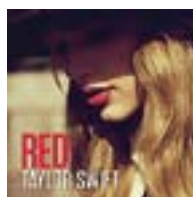
pantheon, but somehow she hoisted her drunk ass up and came back a "Warrior." Her follow-up to the one-note "Animal," first of all, makes her likable: There's not just debauchery; there's actual love, feelings and all that stuff that real singers sing about. Stripped of gimmicky studio tricks, the album takes an organic approach that pays off on "Only Wanna Dance With You" and "Love into the Light," a Ke\$ha song disguising itself as an '80s hit. There's still talk of excessive drinking, but it's nice to know that Ke\$ha's only working organ isn't a booze-beaten liver. There's a beating heart in there, too.



7. Kathleen Edwards, 'Voyageur'

The feelings on alt-rockers Kathleen Edwards' open-

diary disc are so raw and exposed that every listen sounds like her heart's bleeding out. Recorded after the initial breakdown and the eventual breakup of her marriage, "Voyageur" is the bad, the worse and the ugly. It's the seemingly happy wedding (exposed on "Pink Champagne"), the devastating fallout ("House Full of Empty Rooms" cuts deep) and the healing process (aka finding a replacement, who just so happens to be new beau/"Voyageur" producer Bon Iver) – reflections written with more emotional honesty than an Adele song. I mean, who knocks their own wedding day? That alone makes this the breakup album of the year.



6. Taylor Swift, 'Red'

Taylor Swift ain't fooling anyone by throwing in the tiniest bits of banjo and

mandolin; she's about as "country" as Honey Boo Boo is classy. "Red" further removes her from the singing-about-Tim-McGraw-in-a-pickup-truck teen years and transforms the 23-year-old into a pop star who means business: "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together" is so bubblegum that she makes Britney sound like Doublemint. Her fourth album

– about boys; what else? – is a surprising sound evolution for T-Swift, who gets in touch with her inner U2 and disco-dance diva. Even her love stories – the best being "All Too Well," where even fridge light sounds romantic – aren't all Romeo-save-me, but complicated observations that don't end so happily ever after.



5. Regina Spektor, 'What We Saw from the Cheap Seats'

A song about a serial killer? A painting? There's

nothing too out-there for Regina Spektor. After diluting her oddball peculiarities on "Far," she returned with an awesomely schizophrenic palette: a twisted museum observation that's as beautiful as it is bizarre ("All the Rowboats"), a celebration of the dearly departed and everything else ever ("The Party") and the adorkable "Don't Leave Me (Ne Me Quitte Pas)" – a song so infectiously happy it could be the all-natural answer to antidepressants. It was the piano-piloted to-be-a-kid-again lament "Firewood," though, that wrapped me in a blanket and made me happy and sad and all those other emotions you feel when you're told "there's still no cure for crying."



4. Bruce Springsteen, 'Wrecking Ball'

No album this year reflected the plight of Americans – a

war, a recession, social injustice – better than Bruce Springsteen's "Wrecking Ball." "We Take Care of Our Own" blasts the self-righteous and asks, "Where's the promise, from sea to shining sea?" The title track, a rip-roaring anthem, goes even further: His anger turns into rage as he dares anyone to mess with him. It's a triumph – and this political zeitgeist is filled with them: the glorious gospel-touched "Rocky Ground" and "Land of Hope and Dreams" both illustrate hard times and The Boss' great ear for melody. When he rounds out the set with "We Are Alive," it's like he's handing you another chance to dance under the stars.



3. Santigold, 'Master of My Make-Believe'

The songs on Santigold's defiant diatribe of hard times and hoers – the one where she poses as a drag king on the cover – wormed into my head

like a stupid pop hook, but without any of the nagging guilt. "Disparate Youth" is a skittish dance jam about beating the odds – but really, it just makes me want to stand tall on a mountain top and sing it out – and the island-ish "This Isn't Our Parade" seems like a nod to the gay movement. Themes of unity, self-love and liberation from the world gone awry especially beget the inescapable "The Riot's Gone," but all of "Master of My Make-Believe" is Santigold's emancipation proclamation.



2. Lana Del Rey, 'Born to Die'

YouTube-spawned puffy-lipped Lana Del Rey made a splash with "Video Games" in late 2011 – both the hauntingly hypnotic song and the MacBook-made clip

accompanying it – and immediately became one of the most hated, compelling and confusing pop-culture geneses of the year. Her major label debut – a sonically pretty pop-trash masterpiece that, with cohesiveness among its 12 songs, made you feel dangerous and sexy, lonely and sad – deserved a longer ride at the top of the charts. And the seductive songs should have taken it there, from could-be-single "Dark Paradise" to her beautiful tragedy "Summertime Sadness."



1. Rufus Wainwright, 'Out of the Game'

Rufus Wainwright's power-croon can sing anything – and it has, from baroque to acoustic and Judy Garland. And when he disappoints, how can you

fault him? His uncharacteristically snoozy last album, "All Days are Nights: Songs for Lulu," grieved the death of his mother. The troubadour made "Out of the Game," then, as a throwback to the days when he wouldn't let an ounce of flamboyancy and grandeur slip through his fingers. With producer Mark Ronson, the two let most of these classic-sounding ol'-timers soar and pomp, even tapping some lady gospel voices for max gayness. The result? Moments of melodic bliss so rich and moving that "Out of the Game" put Rufus back in it.

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

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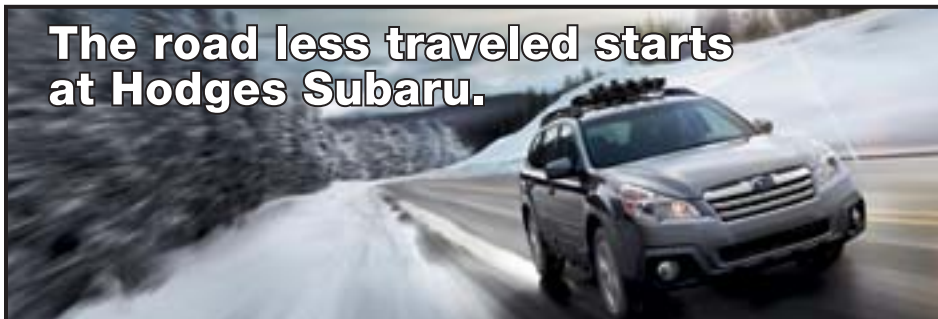
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The Ringwald Gets A Little New Year's 'Rain'

FERNDALE – A sweeping portrait spanning 80 years, “When the Rain Stops Falling” is a story of fathers and sons, lovers and friends, husbands and wives – a grippingly intimate tale of a young man courageously defying the legacies of his ancestors. At times surreal and hauntingly close to the heart, “When the Rain Stops Falling” will play Jan. 11-28 at The Ringwald Theatre in downtown Ferndale.

“When the Rain Stops Falling,” written by Australian playwright Andrew Bovell, had its U.S. premiere at Lincoln Center in 2010 and was subsequently named “Best Play of the Year” by Time magazine.

It’s raining. Gabriel York is awaiting the arrival of his grown son whom he hasn’t seen since he was 7. “I know what he wants. He wants what all young men want from their fathers. He wants to know who he is. Where he comes from. Where he belongs. And for the life of me I don’t know what to tell him.” That’s the beginning of this compelling family saga that takes us back and forth in time from one generation to another, from 1959 to 2039, from London to Australia. With four generations of fathers and sons, their mothers, lovers and wives, “When the Rain Stops Falling” is epic in its scope, yet at the same time extraordinarily intimate and always



“When the Rain Stops Falling” opens Jan. 11 at The Ringwald. Photo courtesy of The Ringwald

exquisitely beautiful.

The cast for “When the Rain Stops Falling” features Travis Reiff (Gabriel York), Bryan Lark (Henry Law), Annabelle Young (Elizabeth Law – Younger), Connie Cowper (Elizabeth Law – Older), Michael Lopetrone

(Gabriel Law), Ashley Shamoon (Gabrielle York – Younger), Cara Trautman (Gabrielle York – Older), Joel Mitchell (Joe Ryan), and Bailey Boudreau (Andrew Price).

“When the Rain Stops Falling” is directed by Jamie Warrow. Bethany Hedden is the stage

manager and assistant director, Alexander Carr is scenic and media design, Barton Bund is sound design, Michelle LeRoy is lighting design, original music and score is provided by Travis Reiff. Costume design is provided by Miekyle Turner, dialect coaching is Karen Sheridan, and property design provided by Jamie Warrow.

“When the Rain Stops Falling” opens Friday, Jan. 11 and plays through Monday, Jan. 28. Performances are at 8 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Monday nights, with 3 p.m. Sunday matinees.

Ticket prices are \$20 for Friday and Saturday performances, \$15 for Sunday shows, and Monday nights are half-off the original ticket price at only \$10 each. All students can now receive a \$5 discount off normal ticket price on Friday, Saturday and Sunday performances (available at the box office the day of the show with valid student ID). Tickets can be purchased at www.TheRingwald.com or at the theater box office. The Ringwald box office opens 45 minutes before performances and tickets can be purchased with cash or Visa/Mastercard.

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—Christopher Howard

BY SUE MERRELL

“Billy Elliot the Musical” is set in 1980s England amid a violent coal miners’ strike. One miner’s son has a dream to dance, and early in the second act he imagines what his life could be as a ballet dancer.

“It’s such a contrast. Everybody’s like ‘Who’s that guy in the tights?’” said ensemble member Christopher Howard.

During the show, which opens Jan. 15 at East Lansing’s Wharton Center, Howard portrays both a miner and a cop, but people remember him as the grown up Billy in the dream scene. The guy in tights.

“It’s a visually stunning scene,” Howard said. “There are so many special effects: dim lights, fog, a flying sequence. It is the climax of Billy’s story. This is when he sees what he could be. It’s my favorite moment in the show.”

Based on the 2000 British film, the Tony Award-winning musical features a score by Elton John and non-stop energetic choreography.

“The show is very well rounded, with many strong points and great messages,” said Howard, 26. “There are many different kinds of dance: ballet, tap, partnering. Everyone has something they can connect with.”

Even a confrontation between the miners and the cops is told in a dance.

“In the choreography, we link arms and exchange hats at one point,” Howard said. “It’s about fighting but also about coming together. It has a bit of a message. It shows that we’re all the same.”

At times the dance is aesthetically shocking, Howard said, because hefty ensemble members in dirty miners’ overalls or police uniforms are doing ballet moves.

“You see big burly guys doing pirouettes and you can’t believe it,” Howard said.

The strike is based on a 1984 situation in County Durham. Historically accurate details help the audience understand how

the miners were treated and how they felt, Howard said.

“It makes Billy’s struggle more beautiful, more magnificent, because he is doing something outside his community. The resolution is more moving. Everything is very different. Ultimately, his whole life changes. It’s a great message. Whatever you do, whether that’s dancing or mining, whatever career path you choose, you have to express yourself.”

The show also confronts the question of sexual orientation, making it clear in one scene that Billy’s love of dance does not mean he is homosexual. But Howard, who is openly gay, believes the story’s message of being true to oneself applies in both cases.

“Whether you are struggling with what you want to be or struggling with your sexual orientation, it’s important to do what you need to do,” Howard said. “We don’t get much opportunity to discuss the impact the show has on people, but I assume the story has helped people be a little more confident in themselves. Whether that’s a career choice or coming out, this story makes that path a little easier.”

Howard grew up in upstate New York, singing and acting in high school productions.

“I encountered a little teasing in high school because I was not playing sports, but I got support from the drama community. And my family was supportive. I knew it was the right path for me.”

A musical theater graduate of the State University of New York at Buffalo, Howard also studied with the Joffrey Ballet School.

“I have a deep appreciation of classical ballet,” he said.

But unlike Billy Elliot, Howard didn’t



Christopher Howard plays Older Billy in “Billy Elliot the Musical,” coming Jan. 15-20 to Wharton Center in East Lansing.

grow up wanting to dance. He didn’t start dancing until he was in college. His dream is to sing.

“Of course, everybody in the ensemble sings along. But I’m usually seen as a dancer. Before ‘Billy Elliot,’ I just finished doing ‘A Chorus Line.’ I played Larry, the dance captain who demonstrates every step. A lot of people don’t even know I can sing. I want to dance as long as I can, but someday I would like to do a play as a singer and save my body.”

“Billy Elliot” is Howard’s first national tour.

“The touring life isn’t for everybody,” he said. “We’re flying somewhere when we’re not on stage so we don’t get a day off. But it’s a great way to see the country while doing something you love. Isn’t that everybody’s dream?”

PREVIEW

Billy Elliot the Musical

Cobb Great Hall at Wharton Center, on the campus of Michigan State University, East Lansing. Jan. 15-20: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 8 p.m. Friday; 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday; 1 and 6:30 p.m. Sunday. \$32-\$72. 1-800-WHARTON

www.whartoncenter.com

January 24 - February 24, 2013

End Days

Hilariously funny and achingly poignant, *End Days* takes us on a wonderful journey exploring love, loss and the healing power of family.

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Directed by Tony Garella

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Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, Jan. 10

Men's Film Group 7 p.m. Meets every Thursday at Affirmations. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

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

Friday, 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

GLSEN 6 p.m. Social and discussion group for members of local high school LGBT groups. 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. GoAffirmations.org

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

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

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 olconline.org

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

Motor City Bears 7 p.m. Social group for metro area bears. Meets every second Saturday of the month. Motor City Bears, 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

Monday, Jan. 14

One Voice Chorus 7 p.m. LGBT Choral group. Meets every Monday. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

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

LGBTG Gender Explorers Group 8 p.m. Meets the second and fourth Mondays of every month. Spectrum Center, 3200 Michigan Union, 530 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Pajeho@med.umich.edu

Tuesday, Jan. 15

St Mary's Lesbian and Gay Outreach Ministry 7 p.m. Affirming ministry teaching LGBT Catholics to reconcile faith with orientation. A safe space for discussion and prayer. Meets the third Tuesday of every month. St. Mary's Student Parish, 331 Thompson St., Ann Arbor. Thies@Umich.edu

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. McClissac. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Transgenderlifesupport.org

Wednesday, Jan. 16

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

Book of Genesis - Christian Jewish Dialogue 6 p.m. Considering several stories in Genesis and discuss how they are understood within the Reformed Jewish tradition. How does this inform our position on modern social issues such as abortion, gay marriage and creationism? An interfaith discussion. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 517-484-7434. Mike@pilgrimucc.com PilgrimUCC.com

Co-Gender Rap Discussion 6 p.m. Light refreshments and good fellowship between men and women, young and seasoned. Meets every third Wednesday of the month. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org/

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

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

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

Transgender SOS 7 p.m. A safe space for spouses, partners, family and friends of transgender people. Ages 18 and up. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

P.L.U.S. Youth Group 9 p.m. For Middle and High school age youth who enjoy socializing with people their own age, going through the same issues as they. Meets every Wednesday. The Lesbian and Gay Community Network, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, Grand Rapids. 616-458-3511. Grigbt.org/calendar/

Thursday, Jan. 17

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

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

Friday, Jan. 18

Bisexual Peer Group 7 p.m. Our group meets monthly on the third Friday & discussion relates to bisexual identity. Building is handicap accessible using ramp to rear entrance. Bisexual Peer Group, 319 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-678-2478. Biprideannarbor@gmail.com Facebook.com/groups/110918256984/

Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Rizzoli & Isles - I Kissed a Girl; Jane and Maura investigate the murder of a young woman who was found beaten, raped and strangled outside a gay bar. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.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. Djsirlena@gmail.com Facebook.com/liquiddetroit

Sunday, Jan. 20

PFLAG Ann Arbor Meeting 2 p.m. Third Sunday of every month. Attendees may park in the back of St. Andrews Episcopal Church. Support group and monthly speaker at each meeting. PFLAG Ann Arbor, 306 N. Division St., Ann Arbor. President@PFLAGAA.org Pflagaag.org

Conversation Station 5 p.m. Discussion Group with facilitator for LGBTQI (and allies) 35 and over. Food, fun and discussions. Topic: What is something you will stand for even if it means you will stand-alone? Get Out And Live!, 714 S. Washington St., Royal Oak. 248-981-4227. MarciLWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutandLive.me

MUSIC & MORE

CLASSICAL

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. 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. MichiganPhil.org

COMEDY

Olympia Entertainment Brian Regan; Regan has distinguished himself as one of the premier comedians in the country. The perfect balance of sophisticated writing and physicality, Brian fills theaters nationwide with fervent fans that span generations. Tickets: \$34.50-49.50. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Jan. 19. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

The Fillmore Detroit Underoath Tickets: \$25. Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 6 p.m. Jan. 19. TheFillmoreDetroit.com

CONCERTS

Detroit Opera House "Red, Hot and Blue" An eclectic and entertaining program by an array of renowned choreographers, Red, Hot and Blue will take audiences on a journey of love, passion and joy through dance. Works include dances choreographed by EDE artistic director Laurie Eisenhower and associate artistic director Stephanie Pizzo. Tickets: \$15-60. Michigan Opera Theatre, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 19. 800-745-3000. MichiganOpera.org

Farmington Players Barn "A Tribute to Frank Sinatra" Fresh unique and modern salute to "The Chairman of the Board," showcasing the wonderful music of this great performer. Tickets: \$17 seniors, \$19 adults. Farmington Players, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 12. 248-473-1848. Recreg.fhgov.com

Johnny's Speakeasy Electrosonic; Electrosonic plays improvised music, ambient in nature, inspired by Brian Eno, Jon Hassell and the Art Ensemble Of Chicago, among others. Tickets: \$10. Johnny's Speakeasy, 2923 Dexter Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Jan. 19. 734-665-6383.

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. 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. 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. 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

The Ark "Simon & Garfunkel Retrospective" By AJ Swearingen & J Beedle. Tickets: \$22.50 The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Jan. 19. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Ark Seth Glier; Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Jan. 11. 734-761-1800. 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. TheArk.org

The Ark Dala; Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Jan. 17. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Ark Freakwater; Tickets: \$12. The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Jan. 10. 734-761-1800. 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

FILM & VIDEO

The Berman Center for the Performing Arts "Giuseppe Verdis La Traviata Opera" The Berman Center presents a fascinating production of La Traviata captured in HD at the Opera Festival St. Margarethen. The Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 West Maple Road, West Bloomfield. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 16. 248-661-1900. Theberman.org

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

2013 Canton One Acts Festival \$12. TLC Productions at The Village Theatre at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Rd., Canton. Jan. 18 - 20. 734-394-5300. www.cantononeacts.com

August: Osage County \$10-\$14. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. Jan. 10 - 20. 517-482-5700. www.riverwalktheatre.com

Chicago \$20-22. St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild of Cranbrook, 400 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills. Jan. 18 - Feb. 2. 1-888-71-Tickets. www.StDunstansTheatre.com

Curtains - The Musical \$18-20. Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. Jan. 18 - Feb. 10. 248-541-6430. www.Stagecrafters.org

Grey Gardens \$12-19. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Parish Theatre, 426 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Jan. 18 - Feb. 3. 269-343-1313. www.KazooCivic.com

Liz Estrada \$5-10. Blackbird Theatre and Neutral Zone at The Neutral Zone, 310 E. Washington, Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 18. 734-214-9995. www.Neutral-zone.org

Murder on the Nile \$17. Village Players, 34660 Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Jan. 11 - 20. 248-644-2075. www.birminghamvillageplayers.org

PROFESSIONAL

Antigone in New York \$25. The Elizabeth Theater at Park Bar, 2040 Park Ave., Detroit. Through Jan. 12. 313-444-2294. www.ParkBarDetroit.com

Billy Elliot the Musical \$25-32. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts at Michigan State University, East Lansing. Jan. 15 - 20. 1-800-Wharton. www.WhartonCenter.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.performancecenter.org

Conned \$32.50-37.50. City Theatre at Hockeytown Cafe, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jan. 17 - 27. 313-471-3099. www.OlympiaEntertainment.com



Editor's Pick

Travel back to the era of World War II with the music that buoyed a nation at war. Join Out Loud Chorus 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.

Out Loud Chorus is a non-auditioned, community chorus open to all who consider themselves members and allies of the LGBT community. 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 and trumpet.

Tickets cost \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door, \$12 for students and free for the unemployed and children under 4. The performance begins at 8 p.m. Jan. 11 at Common Language Books, 4800 E. Huron River Drive, Ann Arbor. For more information, call 734-265-0740 or go to www.OLCOnline.org.



Editor's Pick

From film noir to garage sales to trepidatious tales of love, letting go and moving on, the "2013 Canton One Acts Festival" showcases winners of a national playwriting contest that will celebrate art and community at the beautiful state-of-the-art Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton. Join the festival for only \$12 a seat Jan. 18-20.

Eight original works will be presented. Authors from Michigan and elsewhere entered the contest and won a slot in the festival. Local actors and directors will take the stage to bring these

original works to life. Audience members will vote to determine which playwright will take home 1st, 2nd or 3rd place cash awards.

Performances are at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday. For tickets, call 734-394-5300.

Detroit \$12-\$30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Jan. 11 - April 5. 313-577-2972. www.hilberry.com

Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet) \$12-30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through Feb. 9. 313-577-2972. www.hilberry.com

Guess How Much I Love You & I Love My Little Storybook \$7-30. Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison, Detroit. 4 p.m. Jan. 13. 313-887-8501. www.MusicHall.org

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

Postcards \$17 advance, \$20 day of performance. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Jan. 10 - March 17. 313-868-1347. www.detroitreptheatre.com

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

The Resolution Will Not Be Realized \$10. Crawlspace Eviction at Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Jan. 11 - 12. 269-599-7390. www.crawlspaceattheatre.com

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

Twelfth Night \$12 adult, \$6 student & senior. Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company at Dog Story Theater, 7 Jefferson Ave. SE, Grand Rapids. Jan. 11 - 13. www.dogstorytheater.com

When the Rain Stops Falling \$10-\$20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Jan. 11 - Jan. 28. 248-545-5545. www.theringwald.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.mbrotheatre.com

Yo Gabba Gabba! Live! Get the Sillies Out! \$25-\$45. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 2 p.m. Jan. 12. 313-471-6611. www.olympiaentertainment.com

You Say Tomato, I Say Shut Up \$40-45. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. Jan. 19. 586-286-2222. www.Macomb.edu

ART'N'AROUND

Charles H. Wright Museum "Visions of Our 44th President" A collective art exhibit created to honor and celebrate the significance of the first African American President of the United States, Barack Obama. Forty-four busts were created from a model that served as a blank canvas, giving each of forty-four artists from across the country free reign to creatively interpret this milestone in American history. Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, 315 E. Warren, Detroit. Nov. 1 - April 30. 313-494-5853. Thewright.org

Cranbrook Art Museum "From Here to There: Alec Soth's America" Within the wanderlust embodied in Alec Soth's photographs is an impulse to uncover narratives that comprise the American experience. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Nov. 17 - March 30. 877-462-7262. CranbrookArtMuseum.org

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

Grand Rapids Art Museum "Real/Surreal" Focusing on the tension and overlap between these two strong currents in twentieth-century art, the juxtapositions and points of convergence encourage fresh new ways of looking at some of the most dynamic works of art of the thirties, forties, and fifties in America. Grand Rapids Art Museum, 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. Nov. 1 - Jan. 13. 616-831-2904. ArtMuseumGr.org

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

Grand Rapids Art Museum "Robert McCann: New History Paintings" In his dynamic and colorful large-scale paintings, Robert McCann explores "the ways people fit into and echo their environment," including sites of urban sprawl and strip malls. He draws from a cast of characters that include friends and acquaintances, sports stars, and pop culture icons. Grand Rapids Art Museum, 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. Nov. 1 - Jan. 13. 616-831-2904. ArtMuseumGr.org

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

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. Variations of the beautiful scene on the box also appeared in their magazine advertising and in store display signs displayed in shoe and clothing stores. Michigan State University Museum, Michigan State University, East Lansing. Dec. 1 - Jan. 13. Museum.msu.edu

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

The Berman Center for the Performing Arts "The Russian National Ballet Presents Swan Lake" The powerful and

timeless story of a princess turned into a swan, and the journey back to herself through love. The Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 West Maple Road, West Bloomfield. 8 p.m. Jan. 15. 248-661-1900. Theberman.org

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

Toledo Museum of Art "Made in Hollywood" Showcasing more than 90 prints by the most important photographers working in Hollywood from 1920XX1960, celebrating the finest portraits and still photography drawn from the London-based archive of John Kobal. Toledo Museum of Art, 2445 Monroe St., Toledo. Oct. 7 - Jan. 30. 419-255-8000. ToledoMuseum.org

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

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Discovering Eighteenth-Century British America: The William L. Clements Library Collection" This significant exhibition provides glimpses of British America in the 1700s and is designed to complement the Museum's concurrent exhibition, and features a mix of rare items from Mr. Clements's original donation and pieces the Library has acquired since 1923 to complement and enhance its strength in eighteenth-century American history. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Sep. 22 - Jan. 13. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Florencia Pita/FP mod" Organized by the University of Michigan Museum of Art, Florencia Pita/FP mod explores the provocations and intersections of digital technology, material experimentation, femininity, and ornament in the work of Argentina-born, Los Angeles-based architect and designer Florencia Pita. The exhibition and its related publication, part of the UMMA Books series, trace the evolution of Pita's design ideology through installation pieces, urban design, tableware, furniture, and architecture, as well as small adornments. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Jan. 19 - June 16. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

Together We Can 2013

Pancake Breakfast

\$10 **Date: 1/19/2013 Saturday**

Time: 10 am breakfast, 11 am open talk

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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. |
| 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, Odd Fellow's Hall, 830 S Monroe St Closed/Discussion. |

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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

See Classifieds, page 24

Naked Men's YOGA

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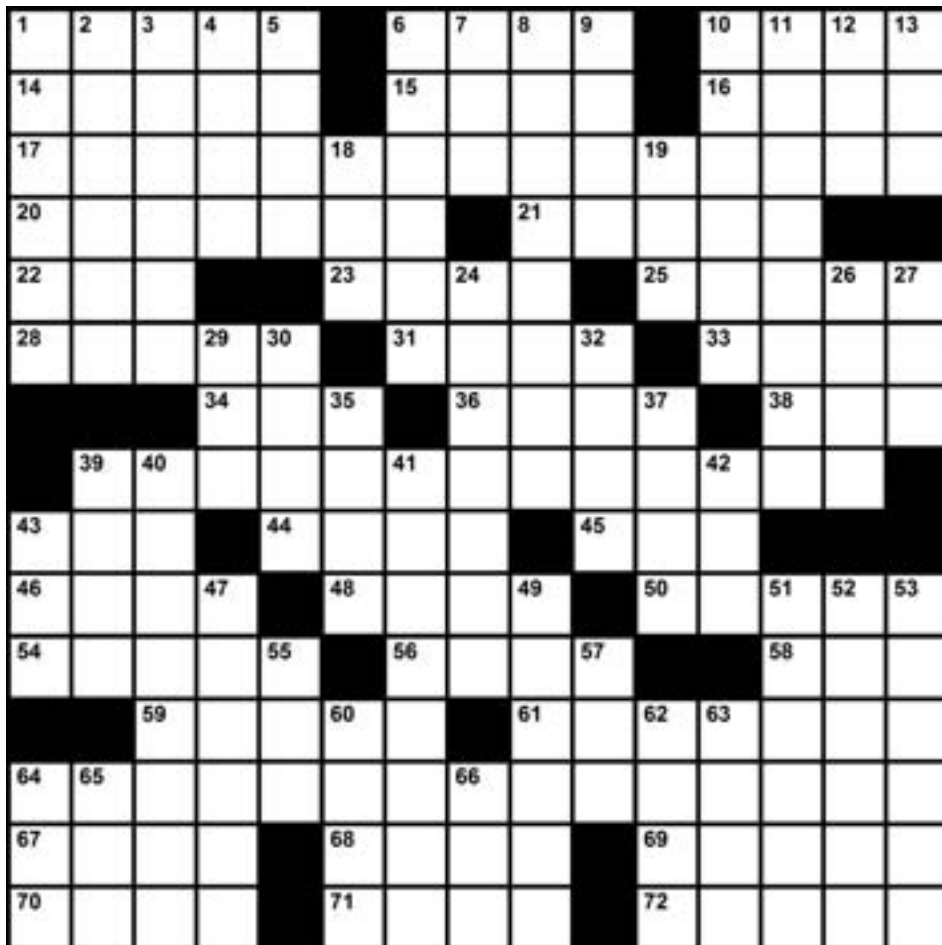
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Across

- 1 "The Wizard of Oz" dropout
Buddy
- 6 In stitches, to Edith Head
- 10 Brandy bottle letters
- 14 Mazda model
- 15 Dixie Chicks, e.g.
- 16 Cry after getting the shaft
- 17 Singer tapped to play
- 39-Across
- 20 Penetrated
- 21 Church leader
- 22 "The Name of the Rose" writer
- 23 "Little Caesar" gangster
- 25 Heads-up
- 28 He comes once a year
- 31 "My bad"
- 33 Neighbor of Neb.
- 34 Mountain in 64-Across
- 36 Tobias pseudonym
- 38 Club for GIs
- 39 Former nun in 64-Across
- 43 Bonheur bathed in it
- 44 Like McKellen's Magneto
- 45 Where buoy meets gull
- 46 Windshield feature
- 48 Gardner of mystery
- 50 "It has ___ of it's own"
(phallogentric saying)
- 54 Some opera queens

- 56 Explorer Vasco da ___
- 58 Turkish title
- 59 Baghdad resident
- 61 "War Requiem" composer
Benjamin
- 64 Classic to be remade for NBC
by Meron & Zadan
- 67 Spread it and lick it
- 68 Shows on TV
- 69 Absinthe flavoring
- 70 Precious stones
- 71 Ginsberg's "Nagasaki ___"
- 72 Lincoln bas reliefs

Down

- 1 Ryan Seacrest, and others
- 2 "Othello" courtesan
- 3 Poet-novelist May
- 4 To be, in Toulon
- 5 Depilatory product
- 6 54, in a Ryan Phillippe flick
- 7 Soaring seafood lover
- 8 Like welcoming thighs
- 9 French Christmas
- 10 Alphabet quintet
- 11 Fortified like Dinah?
- 12 The Plastic ___ Band
- 13 Place to take a pea
- 18 Racket extension
- 19 Cereal box no.

- 24 Toyota model
- 26 Sound like Harvey Fierstein
- 27 Boxing ref's end to a butt-
whipping
- 29 It gets laid in the street
- 30 "That's ___ and you know it!"
- 32 Poses for Bruce Weber
- 35 Smooth the way
- 37 De Matteo of "Desperate
Housewives"
- 39 Chains around a knight
- 40 Dorothy Gale lived with her
- 41 State named for a queen who
wasn't sexually active
- 42 "That was good, honey!"
- 43 Announcement from the cockpit
- 47 Trunks of Mapplethorpe's photos
- 49 Do relief work
- 51 Avoids waiters
- 52 Senior snubber
- 53 Emulates Isadora Duncan
- 55 Saint, in Rio
- 57 Sandy's sound in "Annie"
- 60 Muscle Mary's pride
- 62 Apple of a sort
- 63 Bring to proper pitch
- 64 Get dressed, with "up"
- 65 Abbr. on old maps
- 66 In need of a lube

Solution on pg. 24

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Deep Inside Hollywood

Biggest Stories Of 2012

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

'Magic Mike' sizzles, 'The Paperboy' does whatever the opposite of sizzle is

It was a year of male nudity at the movies, but it came with some strings attached. It turns out that sometimes what you think is going to happen... well, it just doesn't. Steven Soderbergh's hit summer stripper movie opened with a lot of buzz about a lot of naked men. And it more or less delivered, especially where "True Blood"'s Joe Manganiello was concerned. But what the unsuspecting gays-and-their-straight-girls audience didn't know was how the film would turn out to really be about the economic crisis and how much of a drag it is to be stuck in Tampa, Fla., in a go-nowhere job. Not quite the lap dance we were promised. Meanwhile, after a storm of press for its Cannes Film Festival premiere, Lee Daniel's much-outraged-about "The Paperboy" (the one where Nicole Kidman urinates on Zac Efron's face) barely made a noise at the box office. And it can be argued that Efron - mostly appearing in the film in a variety of dampened pairs of underpants - and co-star Matthew McConaughey both show much more skin than anyone in "Magic Mike" (McConaughey included, since he was in both films). It's just that nobody seemed to care.

Gay shows get cancelled, audiences refuse to freak out too much about it

"The New Normal" is still buzzing along, thanks to juggernaut-master Ryan Murphy grabbing hold of the TV zeitgeist and turning every show he creates into miniature tempests of one-liners and plot continuity frustrations. But "Partners" is already done, out of here, erased. From the creators of "Will & Grace," it came and went without audiences making much online outcry (the place where all outcries go to be stoked these days). It turns out that with so many gay characters on so many shows, the days of rallying around the only flag in town are over. You have to be the kind of gays we want to actually watch. And no, nobody has a good answer for what kind of gay that is. Ask the still-smarting-from-defeat cast of "The A-List: Dallas" about it.



Rachel Maddow. Photo: MSNBC

Rachel Maddow is the boss of election night 2012

How great is it to have a brilliantly smart, rational, funny lesbian leading the pack of TV political pundits? That's a rhetorical question, of course. Sure, Rachel Maddow fumbles the ball every now and then, like any human being hosting a news program will, but overall she couldn't be any better if she were dreamed up by a team of thoughtful lesbian marketing wizards. And the MSNBC host cemented her place as a leader in the world of talking heads on election night, as one run-of-the-mill, middle-of-the-road male pundit after another seemed to be courting her favor while results poured. And because she is a recently installed queen, she was still gracious to them all. Long may she reign.

The Beekman Boys 'Race' amazingly

OK, to be honest, we were actually rooting for Natalie and Nadiya, the Sri Lankan identical twins who never stopped shouting, "GO TWINNIE!" to win this season of "The Amazing Race." But when they were ousted close to the end, our second favorites, the bickering married gay goat farmers from upstate New York (making a sideline visit to competition game shows from their own reality program about what it's like to be, well, gay goat farmers), were still waiting in the wings. Former "Martha Stewart Show" fixture Brent and author Josh had their share of rocky roads during the race: mistakes and errors nearly sent them home more than once. But when it was all said and done it was a pleasure to watch this couple give each other a big fat victory kiss on primetime television. And nab that cool two million bucks. Free goat cheese for everybody!

See Deep Inside Hollywood, page 26

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► Deep Inside Hollywood

Continued from p. 25

'The Times of Harvey Milk' makes The National Film Registry

"The Times of Harvey Milk," the Oscar-winning 1984 documentary from Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman, which also helped lay the cinematic foundation for Gus Van Sant's later fictionalized biopic, "Milk," was recently selected for The National Film Registry, which archives historically important movies for preservation. The story of the 1970s San Francisco City Councilman and gay rights activist marks a first for the Registry, which was previously without any films by or about gay Americans. And if you're wondering if this is going to open some kind of floodgate, rest assured that "I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry" and "Boat Trip" are probably not on anyone's short list.

Gay indie film 'Keep The Lights On' makes critics' year-end best lists

It's an explicitly sexual indie film about a gay couple dealing with drug addiction. But Ira Sachs's "Keep The Lights On," an autobiographical account of his relationship with a partner caught in a spiral of substance abuse (a character based on Bill Clegg, whose own memoir "Portrait of An Addict As a Young Man" tells his version of events) crossed over from the usual gay-indie-cinema world of film festivals and low-key DVD release schedules to win acclaim across the board and a wider release than this sort of thing usually receives. It was sensitive, intimate, harrowing and maddening, intelligently written and directed, and acted with quiet intensity by Danish star Thure Lindhardt and Zachary Booth ("Damages"). Just because you watched an episode of "Intervention" once, don't think you know everything. This movie will take a bite out of you.

'One Million' moms pick fights with Ellen and J. Lo

A group of several thousand online activists calling themselves – counting be damned – One Million Moms, decided to court media attention by organizing an ineffectual boycott of JC Penney after they put Ellen DeGeneres in some of their TV ads. Yes, that Ellen DeGeneres, the frothing monster and supervillain, that one with her own widely watched afternoon talk show, the one who dances adorably with the audience and is generally beloved by actual millions. Then "One Million Moms" decided to get mad at Jennifer Lopez. Why? J. Lo is now a TV producer, see, and she is working on a show



Ellen DeGeneres. Photo: DFree

where two characters are a lesbian couple with children. Obviously, this is also an outrage because "One Million Moms" hate other moms almost as much as they hate Ellen. When the J. Lo tempest went nowhere, OMM decided to return to the scene of the crime and get angry about JC Penney again for putting Ellen in their Christmas-themed commercials. Or maybe they're mad about elves and little gingerbread cakes. It's hard to keep track. More from them in 2013, we're sure. Hope it's just as entertaining.

Frank Ocean (and some more usual suspects) come out

Yes, Anderson Cooper. Yes, Matt Bomer. Yes, Jillian Michaels. Yes, Kristy McNichol. We're glad each and every one of them decided to go public with the information that pretty much everybody already knew. It's welcome information, yes, and we can always use more people with public voices coming out and committing themselves to the cause of LGBT rights. But who was surprised? OK, besides One Million Moms. And then a real surprise took place in the form of Frank Ocean. Not a household name before the release of his now-Grammy-nominated album "Channel Orange," the singer-songwriter and member of the indie-cool Odd Future collective turned the hip-hop world upside down by coming out as a man who loves men. It prompted supportive responses from the (formerly) notoriously anti-gay hip-hop world. Well, mostly. There are always haters. But when you make them upset you're "really" doing something right.

Romeo San Vicente can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

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| Samuel Barber | Toccata Festiva for Organ and Orchestra, Op. 36 (1960) |
| William Bolcom | Free Fantasia on "O Zion, Hasten" and "How Firm a Foundation" |
| Aram Khachaturian | Symphony No. 3 in C ("Symphony-Poem") (1947) |

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1/17-18

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