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Community Centers Plan For 2013

An Interview With
Sandra Bernhard

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brothers and sisters are
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2/1

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COVER STORY

14 Not just for fun.
Photo: Fueled by Ramen



“Don't expect any **one person** to be the **role model** for the **entire community**. Everybody needs to do that for **themselves**.”

– Sandra Bernhard on Jodie Foster, Pg. 18



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VALENTINES DAY



Don't forget to send in your idea of the perfect romantic Valentine's holiday and be entered in a contest to win a gift card for a dinner for two at one of the metro area's finest restaurants! Our favorite submissions will be published online and in print in our Valentine's issue. Submissions should be kept less than 200 words and can be emailed to Ben@Pridesource.com. Please include your name and last initial.

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Online Exclusive Curtain Calls
Where does one start to describe Jeff Daniels' 15th work, "The Meaning of Almost Everything?" Check out BTL's review of Purple Rose Theatre's upcoming performances online in the Theater section of Pridesource.com!

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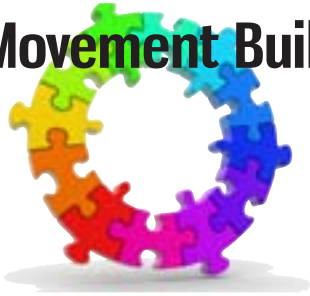


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Members of the Community Center Network layout steps for education and advocacy for LGBT rights in 2013. BTL photo: Crystal Proxmire.

Movement Building: Community Center Network Connects Across Michigan



BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

With an eye towards progress and cooperation, LGBT community centers across the state came together in 2012 to form the Community Center Network. In addition to providing services for their local communities, the seven centers serve as spokes in a wheel of information and organizing that leaders hope will drive collective action and bring change.

In 2012 the biggest accomplishment was coming together and committing to the cooperation required to create change. With regular meetings and phone calls, they've been able to devise a plan for 2013, and held two successful events.

Their first big action, and really the official start of the collaboration, was on Jan. 18, 2012 when leaders from all the community centers encouraged participants to come to Lansing for a Gay Families Matter Rally. Over 175 people attended, with bullhorns and protest signs letting legislators know that they are sick of the hateful legislation geared toward them. The removal of domestic partner benefits was a tipping point, although other bigotry has included "conscience clause" legislation that legalizes discrimination, and proposed legislation that would have removed cities' rights to make local nondiscrimination ordinances that now over 20 municipalities

have in place.

Curts Lipscomb, executive director of KICK, was especially proud of the crowd on the Capitol steps. "The most exciting part of the CCN was the rally that occurred last January. I thought that was quite important for our first showing," he said.

Perceptions of Saginaw Valley came with a packed 15 passenger van to lobby in Lansing. "We're transitioning from a community group to a community center, and I'm excited to collaborate and learn from the other community centers," said board member Tim Atkinson.

Later in the year, as the elections approached, the Community Center Network members joined together for the 100 Day Hungry 4 Equality Strike. This statewide movement was headquartered at Affirmations in Ferndale, but people from the other community centers came on various days to take part. Executive directors and other leaders took on 24 hours of not eating in the relay-style hunger strike. There were also other events and information tables at the other centers to bring attention to the obstacles LGBT people in Michigan face. The strike attracted media attention and showed that grass-roots level organization is possible. "It took a lot of work to make sure we had 100-200 people on that stage, but it really brought people together," said Affirmation's director of programming Johnny Jenkins.

Moving forward it's all about staying organized, with the realization that each of the community centers has a base of volunteers and activists that can be mobilized for larger collective action. "It's important for us to all know what each other is doing," said Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center executive director Zack Bauer. "This is a state voice opportunity."

Rosemary Linares, secretary of Detroit Latinos, agreed. "This year we (Detroit Latinos) accomplished getting two spaces and a strategic plan. Working together we're really building that infrastructure to have a statewide voice."

"I think the simple fact that all of the state's LGBT community centers have joined together to work on the challenges that face us in a focused and deliberate way is most important," said Affirmations executive director Dave Garcia. "In 2013 we have to continue to strengthen cooperation and communication amongst all of the LGBT community centers and our allied organizations such as the ACLU and Equality Michigan. ...2013 will also be an important year politically as we gear up for the 2014 elections. The community centers play a key role in communicating the issues throughout their local communities and around the state."

In addition to collaborating for communication and activism, members of

the CCN hope for more social interaction as well. Plans are in the works for a Shore to Shore biking event in September for example.

For individuals who would like to be part of the growing movement, connecting with their local community center is a great place to start. The overall mission of the Community Center Network is to "improve the quality of life for Michigan's LGBT community and our allies by promoting equality, building capacity, and fostering new leaders across the state."

Affirmations – Ferndale

With seven full time staff members, five part timers, and a million dollar budget, Affirmations is the largest community center in Michigan. Programming includes culture and society, health and wellness, advocacy, social and recreational, growth and development and collaborations and partnerships with other community organizations. There are various social and support groups that use the center's meeting rooms, plus there is a youth area, a library, a café and an art gallery.

In 2012, they completed their intensive strategic planning process, as well as unveiled their "Blueprint for Change" from their Multicultural Advisory Committee. Director of communications Cass Varner said, "One of Affirmations' biggest goals beginning in 2013 will be to incorporate the blueprint's

recommendations for becoming a model for racial and ethnic diversity and inclusion.”

Affirmations has its largest annual fundraising event Sat. April 13, The Spring Bash at the Westin Book Cadillac in Detroit.

Affirmations is located at 290 W. 9 Mile Road in Ferndale, and their website is www.goaffirmations.org.

Detroit Latin@s – Detroit and Ferndale

Detroit Latin@s grew quite a bit in 2012, establishing their headquarters in the Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation and a satellite office inside Affirmations. They partnered with the University of Michigan School of Public Health’s Sexuality and Health Lab on the United for HIV Integration and Policy project, a community-based participatory research project in southeast Michigan, received foundational support from the Arcus Foundation and the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan HOPE Fund, and hosted their first annual Detroit Latin@z Open House.

With an all-volunteer board and a \$60,000 budget, Detroit Latinos is currently working to develop programing that will serve the needs of people in the Detroit Latino/a community. The name “Latin@z” represents the masculine and feminine tense of the ethnic classification term Latino/a. “We have been negotiating our support of a project called DETROIT REPRESENT! with a mission to inspire and support community organizing efforts lead by LGBTQ youth of color from Detroit to create a revolutionary media alternative that authentically portrays our communities, our lives, and ourselves,” said secretary Linares.

They are actively looking to grow their board and their volunteer base.

The best way to find information and to contact Detroit Latin@z is through their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/detroitlatinaz.

Jim Toy Center – Ann Arbor

The Jim Toy Center is located at 319 Braun Court in Ann Arbor and has a mission “to provide information, education, social events, and advocacy by and for the Queer and Ally community in the Washtenaw County area.” A dozen LGBT groups call the Jim Toy Center home, including the Wild Wednesdays queer youth group.

In 2012, the Jim Toy Center sponsored three major social events: the annual Gay Pride Picnic, a Pride Dinner with CNN’s LZ Granderson, and OutFest - a fixture in the LGBT life of Southeast Michigan. Their get out the vote efforts helped mobilize voters and volunteers in the Ann Arbor area. Their budget is \$44,000 and their board and staff are all-volunteer.

Looking ahead to 2013, Past President Terence McGinn said, “We hope to follow up

“It’s important for us to all know what each other is doing. This is a state voice opportunity.”

- Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center executive director Zack Bauer

on our 2012 political successes by working with CCN to identify LGBT individuals who should be cultivated to run for office in the future. We are woefully underrepresented among elected official throughout the state of Michigan. We will work with the other centers to facilitate more partisan efforts, and perhaps eventually a PAC. In Washtenaw County, we hope to add a new signature fundraising golf event and to increase out educational offerings.”

To learn more about the Jim Toy Community Center, visit <http://jimtoycenter.org/>.

Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center – Kalamazoo

Located at 629 Pioneer Street, The Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center offers programs and services for the LGBT community. With a three-person staff, plus the help of many volunteers, the center provides support Monday through Friday and a host of programs, all while sticking to a \$375,000 budget.

Among the programs are the David Bonnett Cyber Center, Pride NA, Proud Families Support Group, Triangle Youth Mentorship Program, Youth Group, LGBT Professionals’ Network, and the Kalamazoo Faith Alliance. Moving forward KGLRC plans to develop a relationship with the Kalamazoo Area Agency on Aging to improve services for LGBT seniors.

The Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center also puts on Kalamazoo Pride, The Winter Gala, and a Welcome Back Picnic for area college students.

The Center began as a grassroots community group over 25 years ago. To learn more visit their website at <http://kgllrc.org/>.

KICK- Detroit

KICK, the agency for LGBT African Americans had a busy year in 2012. Members started an academy to foster leadership training, acquired and managed the annual Hotter than July celebration, hired a full time development director and part time program

See Community Center, page 12

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Benefits Ferndale Youth Assistance & Michigan AIDS Coalition

www.ferndalebluesfestival.org

YPSILANTI

EMU Center For Study Of Equality And Human Rights Seeking Grant Proposals

The Center for the Study of Equality and Human Rights at Eastern Michigan University is seeking proposals for participation in its Research Awards and Speaker Series Program.

The mission of the Center for the Study of Equality and Human Rights is to promote, support, and disseminate research focused on LGBT equality and human rights.

The Research Awards program is designed to stimulate LGBT public policy oriented academic research in the Social Sciences, Communication and Media Arts, Human Services, Education, and Arts disciplines. Grants awarded to faculty offer a quarter release time to conduct research consistent with the mission of the Center.

Faculty members working at U.S. post-secondary institutions and doctoral students in these disciplines are eligible for and encouraged to submit proposals.

Email mtew@emich.edu or visit www.emich.edu/equality for more information.

KALAMAZOO

KGLRC Faith Alliance Committee To Host Third Annual Prayer Breakfast

The Faith Alliance Committee of the Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center invites people of all faiths to join them for the third annual Faith Alliance Prayer Breakfast at the First United Methodist Church, Feb. 5.

The continental breakfast will include music, local public policy and practice discussion and a prayer session. Newly elected Kalamazoo County Commissioner Julie Rogers will be the events' keynote speaker.

The Faith Alliance Prayer Breakfast begins 7 a.m. Feb. 5 at the First United Methodist Church, 212 S. Park St., Kalamazoo, 49007. For more information, go to www.KGLRC.org or call 269-327-6643.

EAST LANSING

MSU Museum To Host Annual Chocolate Party Benefit, Feb. 24

Chocolate torte, cheesecake, truffles, fountains and other delicacies make for an edible exhibit for the MSU Museum's 24th annual Chocolate Party Benefit, Feb. 24.

Local restaurants, caterers, bakeshops, candy makers and other vendors share taste-tempting chocolate creations to fill the Kellogg Center's Big 10 Rooms. Meanwhile, the Chocolate Party Benefit permits the general public a rare opportunity to witness a professional culinary competition as area chefs and students compete to create elegant and edible masterpieces.

Tickets are \$30, \$35 at the door. All proceeds go to the MSU Museum's care and preservation of its extensive cultural and natural science collections. The party begins 1:30 p.m. Feb. 24 at the Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center, 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. For more information, go to www.Museum.MSU.edu.

Sting Operation Case Reinforces Right To Be Flirty And Gay

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

WESTLAND - Though the “fag bagging” days of police department sting operations designed to entrap gay men at common gathering places are generally over, court cases are still being litigated. One such case that began in 2007 has finally brought some level of justice to the man who was unfairly targeted by an undercover Wayne County officer just because he was gay.

The Jan. 7 decision in *Alman et al v. Reed et al*, tells a story that starts off almost like a romance novel. It was Oct. 12, 2007 when Randy Alman, who lived in Indiana with his partner, was in Michigan helping his mother move. He needed a break and decided to check out Hix Park, a local nature trail that was known to be safe for gay men. According to the ruling, Alman sat in his car for a bit then decided to get some air. He walked to a picnic table where he sat quietly by himself. Until a stranger approached him and began making conversation.

The man, who was actually deputy Kevin Reed of the Westland Police Department working undercover, testified that Alman started talking about deer.

“According to Reed, Alman then invited Reed to “take a walk down the trail” to see if they could find “a big buck,” the decision states. “Alman disputes this, claiming that he got up and said he was going for a walk and leaving the park, and that Reed then got up and followed him without invitation. In any event, it is undisputed that Alman began walking down a trail and that Deputy Reed followed him. According to Alman, Reed asked him if there was a more secluded spot they could go after they had been walking a short distance. Reed testified, however, that Alman veered

off on his own into a small clearing after they had walked a short distance.

“Once in the clearing, the two men began talking. Alman testified that he believed that Reed was flirting with him, and that Reed told Alman that he “liked to watch.” Reed testified that he told Alman he was “a little nervous” and “new to this” type of activity. The two were standing close to one another when Alman leaned forward and reached out and touched the zipper area on the front of Reed’s crotch.

The Sixth Circuit Court determined that Alman had not used force and there was no reasonable cause to believe that he had. They reversed many of the dismissals, but did agree that there was no malicious prosecution, municipal liability or abuse of power.

“The fact that Alman touched Reed’s crotch is undisputed. What is disputed, however, is the nature of this touching. Alman testified that he “brushed” his hand up against Reed’s zipper area and that he did not even consider it touching; Reed testified that Alman “grabbed” his crotch with his “whole cupped hand” for “an instant, maybe a second or half a second.”

Then Deputy Reed revealed himself and arrested Alman, charging him with the state-level crimes of accosting and soliciting

and fourth degree criminal sexual conduct. Undercover police also impounded the vehicle Alman was driving, which was registered to his partner.

When the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office told the police to dismiss the charges, the police instead switched the charges to violations of Westland municipal ordinances against disorderly conduct and battery. A judge dismissed the disorderly conduct charge but allowed prosecution on the charge of battery. A court date was scheduled and none of the involved officers showed up so the battery charge was dismissed.

Because of the ordeal, Alman, his partner and the then Triangle Foundation (Equality Michigan) working on their behalf sued Wayne County, Westland and the specific officers involved. They cited several reasons for the suit, including unlawful seizure of the vehicle, suppression of freedom, malicious prosecution and abuse of process. Following discovery, defendants filed motions for summary judgment, which the district court granted Oct. 7, 2010, dismissing all of the counts raised by plaintiffs, but only addressing the issue of the vehicle seizure, claiming it was reasonable.

Mary Kator of the Rainbow Law Center refused to give up. She represented Alman et. al. and appealed. Finally, over two years later, the Sixth Circuit Court determined that Alman had not used force and there was no reasonable cause to believe that he had. They reversed many of the dismissals, but did agree that there was no malicious prosecution, municipal liability or abuse of power.

Alman is finally free of all charges, even though the lawsuit did not garner any damages for him.

Ferndale Blues Festival Coming Jan. 25 – Feb. 2

BY CRYSTAL PROXMIRE

The 12th Annual Ferndale Blues and Music Festival is breaking records this year in many ways. There are more venues, more artists, and more days of music than ever before. The Blues Festival is a giant fundraiser for Ferndale Youth Assistance and Michigan AIDS Coalition, that last year brought in over \$19,000 for the charities. This year there are 75 concerts at 27 venues, spread out over 10 days of fun.

Festival Co-Chair Craig Covey of Ferndale Youth Assistance explained the motivation for the big party. “We do this for three reasons. One, to raise money for the two charities. The

second reason we do it is to promote the cities and the Downtown and the businesses in an otherwise slow time of the year. But just as important is that we are promoting music and culture and enabling people to get out. A lot of people get the blues during this time of year or they get cabin fever. The holidays are over, taxes are going up, the nights are long and the days are short. And so we think its an ideal time to come together and support each other.”

Co-Chair Monica Mills of Michigan AIDS Coalition is heading up the volunteer. Volunteers are needed to attend the venues and help pass around the plastic blue pigs which are used to collect money for the charities. Interested volunteers can contact Monica at

mmills@michiganidscoalition.org.

The event is supported by the venues and by the many businesses that come together to be sponsors, including Bud Light, Absolute Vodka, Garden Fresh, Allstate Insurance and media outlets like Between The Lines and The Ferndale 115 News.

In addition to great musicians, The Blues Festival winds down with the Rib Burn Off on Feb.2 in the tent behind Dino’s Lounge. For a \$10 donation, visitors can sample ribs from multiple teams and vote for which is their favorite.

The festival’s official website is {URL www.ferndalebluesfestival.org}.

Razor Law Firm Wins Big Workplace Discrimination Suit

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Michael Hester's job was hard enough. For over ten years he worked as a mason doing maintenance work in the Ryan Correctional Facility in Detroit. In a complex surrounded by two, 12-foot fences, electronic detection systems, razor-ribbon wire, gun towers and buffer fencing, and filled with people imprisoned on a variety of charges, Hester would do hard work involving building, construction and repair. At 62, two years shy of retirement, he looks forward to the end of working.

But it's not just the dismal environment or the physically exhausting work that has worn on Hester's soul. For much of his career there, Hester was the victim of ongoing racial discrimination at the hands of his supervisors.

Around the prison, black workers were called "Democrats" and often faced mockery and unfairness in job assignments. But in 2008 it got worse when a man named Sergio Paglia, who Attorney Jonathan Marko called a "hard core racist," took over as supervisor. Marko said that Paglia "admitted that black kids would come and ruin his baseball games as a child and said that the riots [of the 1960s] ruined his life."

In a trial that ended on Dec. 14, 2012, witnesses described how Paglia would call Hester lazy, swear at him and constantly single him out. In the mornings when the workers would go over their orders for the day, Paglia would come in and make the black workers leave the room. "The white buys were embarrassed for the African Americans in the shop," Marko said. "It got so bad that the white guys stood up for them." Complaints went "all the way up the chain" in the prison, including to the Warden. When Paglia got sick of the complaints, he ordered Hester to an electrical job that was beyond his job training and requirements, and could easily have killed him.

Hester refused and told him to put the job order in writing, and he testified that he was told to "choose between your life or your job." Hester was

written up when he refused. Finally he'd had enough and he turned to The Razor Law Firm for help.

At the end of the trial the jury awarded Hester a \$452,000 settlement. Marko explained that the action was not just because of the actions of one mean supervisor, but a systematic problem at the facility. "The real problem in the DOC [Department of Corrections] as a whole. The fact is it was allowed to go on so long. They condoned the behavior and they are

“We fight to win at Razor Law, so we get very creative when we have someone in our office that might not be able to recover under traditional theories. But there are cases that just can't be brought under the existing law, and even one of those is too many!”

– Jim Razor

responsible.”

Jim Razor, founder of the Razor Law Firm, is an openly gay attorney who helps clients with a wide range of legal issues including discrimination cases. He and Marko worked to bring Hester some relief. But there are still cases they must turn away.

"Employment laws are tough," Marko said. "There is no right to work. Employers don't need a reason to fire you. The trick is identifying how a case may work under the laws we have."

For example, the firm is currently working on a case in Grand Rapids Federal Court on behalf of a teacher who was fired from the Corunna Public School District and treated differently than other teachers because she is gay. "Though it's not a protected class, it can fall under discrimination based on gender," Marko said.

However, in not all cases is the discrimination based on gender very clear. "Gay people are not a protected class. I've had clients that I've had to turn away. I had a homosexual male who was an employee of a pizza place. He was subjected to discrimination

by a manager who was extremely mean to him after learning his sexual orientation. But he never brought up gender. This gentleman should have had a chance to go through the court system. That's a case of justice lost."

Razor made clear, however, that people who feel like they have been discriminated should still contact his office for a consultation. "We fight to win at Razor Law, so we get very creative when we have someone in our office that might not be able to recover under traditional theories. But there are cases that just can't be brought under the existing law, and even one of those is too many!"

While the law continues to evolve, and cases like those brought by his firm continue to send the message that discrimination is wrong (and expensive), Razor does other work to lift up the LGBT community. Since 2010 he has served on the city commission for Royal Oak, and recently ushered in the beginnings of a human rights ordinance which is expected to be complete in 2013. He said that the human rights ordinance is "the right thing to do and the right time to do it."

His law firm also offers services to help LGBT families such as partnership agreements for same sex couples, help same sex couples separate financially when it is time, and families with all sort of general practice legal issues, like criminal offenses, personal injury cases, divorces and bankruptcy.

He also worked on cases in the early 2000s where men were arrested and had their vehicles impounded in the Rouge Park area of Detroit simply for flirting with other men, waving, or giving out their phone numbers to other men. The "annoying persons ordinance" fell to the wayside after attorneys like Razor began suing the city, claiming they were targeting gays in the area who weren't breaking any laws.

To find out more about Razor Law Firm, visit their website at <http://www.razorlawfirm.com>.

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Re: Inaugural Address

"In his second Inaugural today, President Obama traced the moral arc from Seneca Falls to Selma to Stonewall, and rightly exalted the struggle for the freedom to marry as part of America's moral commitment to equality, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Freedom to Marry applauds our president and the moral leadership he has shown, the moral leadership we will continue to need until all Americans, all loving couples, all families, can share fully in the American promise we celebrate on Inauguration Day."

- Evan Wolfson, president and founder of Freedom to Marry

"While much work remains, this President again reiterated the hope of all Americans that our community be treated with the equality, dignity and respect endowed upon all citizens of our nation."

- Brian Silva, Executive Director of Marriage Equality USA

"We are ecstatic with the president's speech, because it highlights his commitment to our movement's fight for fairness and it's historic role in America's quest for expanding equal rights for all people."

- Wayne Besen, Executive Director for Truth Wins Out.

"By lifting up the lives of LGBT families for the very first time in an inaugural address, President Obama sent a clear message to LGBT young people from the Gulf Coast to the Rocky Mountains that this country's leaders will fight for them until equality is the law of the land. As the merits of marriage equality come up for debate from state houses to the halls of the U.S. Supreme Court, and a broad majority of Americans are standing up for liberty and fairness, the President's unequivocal support for equality is a clarion call that all Americans should receive with celebration."

- HRC President Chad Griffin

"Today, President Obama made history with a clear and passionate declaration of the fundamental rights of LGBT Americans, and all Americans. We honor the work of his first term - especially his leadership in the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" - and expect great progress over the next four years on the very real inequalities that exist for our LGBT service members, veterans, and their families as we work together to bend the moral arc of the universe toward justice."

- Army Veteran and OutServe-SLDN Executive Director Allyson Robinson



Viewpoint

BY EDITOR SUSAN HOROWITZ

“Let Monday's message of hope and dignity from President Obama inspire all of us to do the next right thing in each of our lives”

Sweeping Times When Love Is Equal

There are times in our lives when we remember exactly where we were when something historic took place. And for many LGBT citizens, Jan. 21, 2013 will be one of those days. As President Barack Obama was sworn into office for his second term, his Inaugural Address included these words, "We, the people, declare today that the most evident of truths - that all of us are created equal - is the star that guides us still; just as it guided our forebears through Seneca Falls, and Selma, and Stonewall; just as it guided all those men and women, sung and unsung, who left footprints along this great Mall, to hear a preacher say that we cannot walk alone; to hear a King proclaim that our individual freedom is inextricably bound to the freedom of every soul on Earth."

Obama continued, "It is now our generation's task to carry on what those pioneers began. For our journey is not complete until our wives, our mothers, and daughters can earn a living equal to their efforts. Our journey is not complete until our gay brothers and sisters are treated like anyone else under the law - for if we are truly created equal, then surely the love we commit to one another must be equal as well."

These words marked the first time gay people were mentioned in a Presidential Inaugural Address. And now, with this paradigm shift more complete, the President has called on all of us to take action in bold and profound ways so all citizens, young and old, gay and straight, have an opportunity to succeed and live with dignity.

That has been the clarion call of Stonewall since the very first LGBT people there stood up against the brutal attacks of NYC police and demanded their dignity. From that moment - to the moment on the steps of our nation's capitol - our President helped connect the dots.

Words are powerful and coming from the leader of the free world they

are often game changers. Since last May when the President evolved on marriage equality - he has changed the equation for good. Our adversaries are now on the outside looking in and our challenge will be countering them further with education and advocacy across the country. Perhaps - in some instances - some of them will become enlightened in the process.

Here in Michigan we know there is so much yet to be accomplished; from repealing our discriminatory state constitution which currently bans same-sex marriage, to seeking support services for LGBT seniors, to finding enough housing for LGBT homeless youth, to educating our neighbors, co-workers, family and friends about who we are and who we love.

Let Monday's message of hope and dignity from President Obama inspire all of us to do the next right thing in each of our lives. In this edition of BTL, we report on the one year old Community Center Network's efforts to better educate and mobilize our citizens across the state. Consider learning more about any or all of the centers and their

efforts. Support them with your checkbook, volunteer where you can and learn more about the depth of support services they work to provide every day of the year to LGBT Michiganders.

The inspired slogan, Until Love Is Equal, should help guide us. And it is so powerful to know that we are fully supported and treated with dignity by our President.

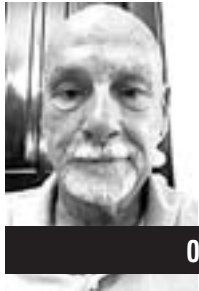
Do take a moment this weekend to read the poem "One Today" by the Inaugural Poet Richard Blanco - a gay man - who so eloquently captured how to move forward as a country. We are at a critical crossroads where our efforts are needed to push us over the finish line for LGBT equality.

On Monday the U.S. capital was filled with gay people - a simple, necessary, visible part of the American fabric was vibrantly on display for all to witness.

Let's build on this incredible and inspired moment and further secure our future here in Michigan. Promise to engage in creating a sweeping time for Michigan's LGBT community today.



Time's Up #144,000!



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

It was toward the end of 10,000 years when The Great Almighty had what seemed to angels and saints alike a change of heart.

Corporate head of PR spin St. Peter said during Fox Martyr Newscast that it was "merely a change in direction, to be celebrated in keeping with our national anthem Amazing Grace.

"Remember Cloud 9ers! To suggest that The G of A might be subjected to boredom borders on insubordination. It's we former mortals who have wearied of requisite praise singing for 'no less days then when we first begun' ten centuries ago."

But, unsaved BTL readers, if truth be known, it was actually The G of A who, while not really bored so much by praise sung endlessly over and over, was, shall we say, just a tad embarrassed and given inwardly occasionally to blushing a "beyond the sunset" red.

It was thus that after a corporate board of directors mandated counting galaxies by the billions that The G of A, exhibiting yet another moment of Infinite Creativity, called St. Peter in for a heavenly briefing.

"My dear St. Peter, has it never occurred to you that it's something of an assembly line operation to have those here by the grace of being raptured singing my praises nonstop -- even though it's certainly deserved -- for century after century?"

"What say, old chap, we bestow a brief moratorium on the singspiration, and let each soul have a half hour break to fulfill some long-forgotten, earthly wish, say, to refresh spirits for the centuries to come before 10,000 Singalong Two?"

"As you wish, Your Eternal G of A, but might not a tryout be ecumenically proper? Let's send the last soul who passed through our Pearly Gates for 30 minutes of fulfilling a simple earthly pleasure, provided of course it has some redeeming spiritual and/or social value."

So it happened to Soul #144,000, who in his earthly existence was known, quite fortuitously as it turns out, as Bruce Straightgate. St. Peter briefed him that on a tryout basis he was to have a wish fulfilled of past earthly time as incentive perhaps to round two of 10,000 years of communal praising The G of A.

"What would please you most?" asked St. Peter "Gosh," said Bruce, "Maybe something simple. One of my great pleasures was taking a warm, sudsy shower. Might that be possible? I mean it's pleasant enough up here. But a shower. Oh, what cleansing joy!"

Thus in an eye's twinkling Bruce found himself sudsing joyfully in a spiritual setting as well: the Metropolitan Downtown Y. The warm cascading water felt wonderful. A simple pleasure. But oh! how divinely glorious it felt.

Bruce looked happily about the tiled shower walls, and it seemed that those about him, even though they were mere earthly phantoms, were playfully soaping themselves up as well.

As the warming steam vapors rose, Bruce was overcome with strong, insistent emotion. Thirty minutes quickly showered by; and just as Bruce Narrowgate dropped his soap, his 30 minutes, perhaps inconveniently, bubbled down the drain.

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Creep of the Week

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Peter Sprigg

As I write this gays and lesbians are celebrating the fact that President Obama called for equal rights for everyone, not just straight people, during his Inaugural address. This was the first time a President has expressed his support for gays and lesbians at this event.



Sprigg graciously responded, "All PEOPLE are equal; all conduct, relationships are not."

Conservatives, on the other hand, are sad bastards. Scrolling through conservative social media feeds you'd think the #tcot (that's "Top Conservatives on Twitter") were live-Tweeting a funeral. Or they were just bitching.

The Young Cons, a "Christian and Conservative Duo from Dartmouth College," wrote, "The poem Obama wanted to read: Roses are red, Violets are blue, I won reelection, now I'm ready to screw you. #tcot."

Whatever, Young Cons. That doesn't even scan.

The poem that actually was read at the Inauguration was "One Today" by Richard Blanco, a known gay whose selection as Inaugural Poet must have felt to conservatives like Obama just rubbing his pro-equality message in.

Speaking of that message, during his address Obama said, "We, the people, declare today that the most evident of truths -- that all of us are created equal -- is the star that guides us still; just as it guided our forebears through Seneca Falls, and Selma, and Stonewall; just as it guided all those men and women, sung and unsung, who left footprints along this great Mall, to hear a preacher say that we cannot walk alone; to hear a King proclaim that our individual freedom is inextricably bound to the freedom of every soul on Earth."

In case you didn't catch how gay that was, let me spell it out for you: He name-dropped Stonewall, the

historic rising up of LGBT people against police harassment in New York, in 1969, considered to be the birth of the LGBT rights movement. Not only did he name it, but also he put it in the company of the women's rights (Seneca Falls) and civil rights (Selma) movements. To say that's a rousing endorsement for LGBT rights is an understatement.

Obama continued, "It is now our generation's task to carry on what those pioneers began. For our journey is not complete until our wives, our mothers, and daughters can earn a living equal to their efforts. Our journey is not complete until our gay brothers and sisters are treated like anyone else under the law -- for if we are truly created equal, then surely the love we commit to one another must be equal as well."

Beautifully put, if I do say so myself (and I do).

But not everyone was so moved. Peter Sprigg of the Family Research Council took issue with a Tweet from The American Foundation for Equal Rights that quoted Obama: "for if we are truly created equal, then surely the love we commit to one another must be equal as well."

Sprigg graciously responded, "All PEOPLE are equal; all conduct, relationships are not."

Sprigg then ReTweeted a post from Gina Dalfonzo who is affiliated with the Break Point Blog, which promises "A conversation on current events and Christian worldview." Sprigg's Tweet read, "Exactly. RT @ginadalfonzo: Um, Mr. President, our gay brothers and sisters ARE treated like every other citizen under the law."

This is, of course, a favorite line of argument against marriage equality. That gays and lesbians have the same rights as everyone else to marry someone of the opposite sex.

Sprigg even took time out to make fun of Bishop Gene Robinson. Sprigg responded to Robinson's Tweet: "Invited by POTUS to sit in the Presidential viewing stand. Practicing my queenly wave!" by Tweeting, "Real tweet. No comment." Get it? Because OMG, Obama is letting a gay homo sit with him and that gay homo is being all gay about it. Ewww!

Bottom line, regardless of the conservative bellyaching, Obama's speech was nothing short of historic and progressives are hoping the sequel term is even better than the original.

JGN Partnership With TRUST Taps First Hand Teen Experiences

Bullying, Substance Abuse Explored In Play

BY CRYSTAL PROXMIRE

Trust is the core value of a play being performed on Monday, Jan. 28 at Temple Shir Shalom in West Bloomfield Township. Illuminarts, in partnership with the Jewish Gay Network, will be presenting Project Teach Reach Using Students in Theatre (TRUST) as part of their regular Monday night youth program, although the program is open to the public.

The play shows a variety of situations that young people are likely to encounter, including bullying and substance abuse. It also shares tools for conflict resolution and compassion. But what's really special is that the play is put on by local teenagers who have experienced these situations first hand.

Patty Ceresnie of Illuminarts has been mentoring young actors and actresses for over ten years, guiding them through the process of producing skits and taking them to various schools to perform for others. She has partnered with local schools, including W. Bloomfield, N. Farmington and Bloomfield Lasher, and worked with students from many different backgrounds.

"I try to make a really diverse class," Ceresnie said. "There are different ethnicities, different religious backgrounds, and even LGBT youth."

"They come forward at their schools to volunteer. What I have found for me is the lasting effects are priceless. We take a kid who is failing at school or having attendance problems and give them a safe place within the school to divulge their problems -- and their happiness, so they can develop trust and end up being good friends. Sometimes

they end up being advocates at school, helping others and stopping fights."

The performance is a mix of short scenes, many written by the students themselves. One student, Andrew Mason, wrote a scene based on an experience he had with a young lady friend who came out to him as bisexual. "The scene teaches other students how

SAVE THE DATE

Monday, Jan. 28

The performance is at 7:15 p.m. at Temple Shir Shalom, 3999 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield Township.

"This type of programing is very important because of current demographics. The two areas of

"This type of programing is very important because of current demographics. The two areas of most need for services, especially in the LGBT community, are aging LGBT citizens and youth. JGN needs to be there for emerging LGBT youth so that they will know that it is ok to be Gay in the Jewish community and the greater community."

- JGN President Michael Phillips

to be a good listener and how to be supportive," Ceresnie said. "Our goal is if we can get one or two kids out of the crowd to change their behavior, we're happy with that. We have the kids in the audience fill out a survey at the end and we get about 85% positive results. They realize it's okay to speak up, or they recognize a behavior they are doing or their friends are doing that may be hurting others. Kids will come up to our students at the end and share their own experiences or have questions."

JGN has embraced this concept, this year bringing the performance first to Congregation Shir Tikvah back in November, and now for Jan. 28th presentation.

most need for services, especially in the LGBT community, are aging LGBT citizens and youth. JGN needs to be there for emerging LGBT youth so that they will know that it is ok to be Gay in the Jewish community and the greater community. We also need to provide programs so that teens know best how to support friends and family members who maybe LGBT or questioning," said JGN President Michael Phillips. "As an "old person" and seasoned educator myself, I know that teens hear messages and ideas better if they come from people their own age."

Learn more about Jewish Gay Network at <http://www.jgnmi.org>

Sweeping Inaugural Address Includes Gays

President Obama Ties Together Seneca, Selma And Stonewall



“We, the people, declare today that the most evident of truths – that all of us are created equal – is the star that guides us still; just as it guided our forebears through Seneca Falls, and Selma, and Stonewall...”

- President Barack H. Obama

BY LISA KEEN

President Obama, in his second inaugural address, emphasized the nation's principle of equality for all and, in doing so, specifically included the struggles of LGBT Americans to achieve equality.

“We, the people, declare today that the most evident of truths – that all of us are created equal – is the star that guides us still; just as it guided our forebears through Seneca Falls, and Selma, and Stonewall; just as it guided all those men and women, sung and unsung, who left footprints along this great Mall, to hear a preacher say that we cannot walk alone; to hear a King proclaim that our individual freedom is inextricably bound to the freedom of every soul on Earth.

“It is now our generation's task to carry on what [our nation's] pioneers began. For our journey is not complete until our wives, our mothers, and daughters can earn a living equal to their efforts. Our journey is not complete until our gay brothers and sisters are treated like anyone else under the law – for if we are truly created equal, then surely the love we commit to one another must be equal as well,” said Obama.

Our generation's task, he said, is to “make these words, these rights, these values – of Life, and Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness – real for every American.”

LGBT groups issued statements praising President Obama for including the gay civil rights struggle in his remarks.

“By lifting up the lives of LGBT families for the very first time in an inaugural address,

President Obama sent a clear message to LGBT young people from the Gulf Coast to the Rocky Mountains that this country's leaders will fight for them until equality is the law of the land,” said Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin.

Evan Wolfson, head of the national Freedom to Marry group, said President Obama, by including the gay civil rights movement alongside the movements for the civil rights of blacks and women, “rightly exalted the struggle for the freedom to marry as part of America's moral commitment to equality, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

In his first inaugural address, President Obama emphasized unity, and did not refer to LGBT citizens directly or indirectly. Some last-minute inclusion of gay people in various venues of the inaugural festivities were generally unpublicized and unseen. Instead, the high-profile inclusion of a California evangelist Rick Warren had shone attention on the support for a voter-passed Proposition 8 in California just two months earlier, banning marriage for same-sex couples.

This time, however, there was positive and visible inclusion of LGBT people throughout the inaugural ceremony.

Delivering the benediction on the inaugural podium Monday, the Rev. Luis Leon, the pastor of an Episcopal church near the White House that the Obama family attends, urged that “prejudice and rancor” not be allowed to rule our hearts but that, instead, all citizens hold each other in “mutual regard” no matter what their race or gender or immigrant status, and whether “gay or straight, rich or poor.”

Press reports prior to the inaugural ceremony characterized Leon as a “gay-affirming” clergyman at Saint John's Church, which also celebrates marriage ceremonies for same-sex

couples. Leon replaced Atlanta pastor Louie Giglio who was initially invited to deliver the benediction but who withdrew from the ceremony after criticism surfaced about remarks he made in a sermon in the 1990s. In that sermon, Giglio called homosexuality “probably the greatest addiction” and said that marriage between same-sex partners is “absolutely undermining the whole order of our society.”

An openly gay man, Richard Blanco of Bethel, Maine, presented a poem as part of the inaugural ceremony. Drawing from common images of Americans in all walks of life, Blanco's poem spoke of the nation's oneness.

“One sun rose on us today,” he noted. “... one light waking up rooftops, under each one a story....my face, your face, millions of faces in morning's mirrors.” He spoke of sights common to all, of the rows of colorful fruits and vegetables at markets, as “rainbows begging our praise.” And he spoke of “carrying our lives without prejudice” and “giving thanks for a love that loves you back.”

Myrlie Evers-Williams, who delivered the invocation at the inaugural ceremony, did not mention LGBT people specifically, but repeatedly referred to the importance of diversity in the nation's people and in the principle “everyone is included.” In an interview with Urban Christian News a few days before the event, she was asked how she felt about the Giglio controversy: “I'm simply delighted that I was not so controversial that I would step down,” said Evers-Williams, “or be asked to step down.”

If there was any mar to the historic inauguration day, it was a tiny display of hostile signs along

the motorcade route to the U.S. Capitol Monday morning. According to a pool reporter for White House, a small number of people held up signs saying, “God hates fags” and “God hates Obama.” The messages were typical of a Kansas pastor and his follower who have acquired considerable media attention by displaying hate-filled messages at gays during various high-profile events.

During the inaugural parade Monday afternoon, the Lesbian and Gay Band Association appeared in the third of five divisions of parade contingents, each division led by a different branch of the armed services. The Third Division will be led by the U.S. Navy. After the several Navy bands and marching units, a float about Martin Luther King Jr., and several other parade entries, the Lesbian and Gay Band will appear behind the “Civil Rights Float” and in front of the “Native American Women Warriors” contingent from Colorado. This is the Band's second appearance ever in an inaugural parade and, because its members are comprised of 37 groups from around the world, its first rehearsal for this year's event took place Saturday. The Civil Rights Float is described by the Presidential Inaugural Committee as featuring “images representing historic struggles of many of the civil rights movements in our country,” including the LGBT movement.

On Tuesday (January 22), the National Prayer Service was led by a moderate pastor from Kansas.

Rev. Adam Hamilton, senior pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas, delivered the sermon, and was attended by President Obama and many of the nation's leaders at Washington's National Cathedral. Hamilton co-authored a motion last year to urge the United Methodist denomination to amend its policy statement that homosexuality “incompatible with Christian teaching.” The motion failed.

► Community Center Network

Continued from p. 5

and project coordinators, and was recognized by President Barack Obama on two visits to the White House. Three members of the Young Adult Board of Advisors were recognized as “Emerging Leaders” by Vice President Joe Biden and his wife. KICK also revised and adopted a new programmatic strategy to address issues surrounding employment, health, education, social justice and equality.

Programs include their well-attended Talk Tuesdays discussion group, education and health expos, Woman 2 Woman monthly group, career development workshops and case management services with a focus on educational, housing, employment and health-related challenges.

With a budget of \$459,278, there are two full time staffers and two part time staffers working in an office just off Woodward Avenue at 41 Burroughs Street.

According to Executive Director Lipscomb, the 2013 goals are to strengthen the overall health and well-being of our community, provide leadership to the community by modeling civic engagement and community building, and to strengthen the community through identification and engagement activities. Upcoming activities include the Educational & Advocacy Exhibition on Feb. 23 and the Tea Party quarterly fundraiser on Feb. 16.

For more information and details, visit www.e-kick.org.

The Network – Grand Rapids

The Network is located at 343 Atlas Ave SE in Grand Rapids, a 3,000 s.f. space



Above: Gay Family Matters rally in January, 2012 was the first action the Community Center Network created and promoted. Right: Executive Directors Dave Garcia and Zach Bauer at the beginning of Hunger For Equality Strike this fall. BTL file photos.

for the LGBTQ community to enjoy their library, meetings and conference rooms, and computers. They provide a variety of referrals to gay-friendly doctors, lawyers and other businesses. There is one paid staffer who is there to answer phones, edit The Network News, write grants, greet people, answer questions, and oversee volunteers and interns.

“We plan to build community coalitions by making our Network News better, keeping our webpage updated and fun, and by working together with HIV agencies and GLSEN,” said office manager Christina Wade.

“We also plan on board development. By this we plan on to increase funding by writing grants and holding fundraising events, by growing our board of directors, and getting corporate sponsors.

In spring 2013 The Network will host a

Wine and Cheese event at the center, and in December will be the annual Saving One Life gala event.

More information can be found on their website at www.grlgbt.org.

Perceptions- Midland

Perceptions celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2012, starting the year with an Open House in their first dedicated facility (rather than meeting in churches, libraries, etc.), and hosting several successful outreach and social events. The Saginaw Valley Pride Awards recognized local individual’s contributions to LGBT equality.

Their speaker series covered 8 various topics, and their holiday party had over 200 attendees. Senator Carl Levin and Senator



Debbie Stabenow recognized Perceptions with video tributes for their grand party.

With a donated space and a \$30,000 budget, the all-volunteer grassroots organization continues to grow each year. The group now meets at The Alderton Building (2nd floor), 301 Cass St for board meetings and special events. Their target cities are Bay City, Saginaw and Midland.

Coming up are the Valentines Dance on Feb. 9 and a Chocolate Party fundraiser in conjunction with PFLAG Tri-Cities at Castle Museum on March 16.

To learn more about Perceptions Saginaw Valley, visit their website <http://perceptionssv.org>.

Other Groups, Partners

Other community groups and centers may get involved in the CCN, including Algemea, 3ci in Battle Creek, Out Center in Benton Harbor and Jackson Together. CCN also works with organizations like the ACLU, Equality Michigan, Unity Michigan, university LGBT groups and centers and LGBT media such as Between The Lines.

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fun.: Andrew Dost, Nate Ruess and Jack Antonoff. Photo: Fueled by Ramen

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

If Nate Ruess, Jack Antonoff and Andrew Dost have taught us anything, it's this: You can be fun, and still stand up for something serious.

The breakout single that sent the New York-based band's sophomore album, "Some Nights," soaring, "We Are Young" entered the pop-culture zeitgeist almost overnight with commercial spots and a "Glee" rendition. Their ubiquitous earworms gave them a platform, and they stood on it and told the world – time and time again, during sold-out shows and in online essays – how they support equal rights.

In this interview with Jack Antonoff, the 28-year-old guitarist talks about being drawn to the gay community's "inspiring" ways of uniting in the face of oppression, the stigma of being a straight man who doesn't care about the fight and how he loves Lena Dunham like a lesbian.

You're one of the gay community's biggest supporters, and you've been very outspoken about it. When and why did gay issues become so important to you?

I wish there was a great story or a poetic answer, but I just don't know how anyone could "not" be outspoken and enraged with any violation of human rights. If the government decided tomorrow to strip Jews or African Americans of certain rights, no one would say, "How did you get involved with Jews' human rights, blah blah blah?" It would just be this universal violation that we would all be up in arms about. But the issue of gay, bisexual and trans rights, the discrimination is so ingrained in us that it's this slow-moving process of people realizing how shameful it is, the way we treat our citizens. Anyone who is even remotely cognizant is speaking up and fighting for equal rights.

It's hard for some people to understand that you don't have to be gay to care about gay people. Is that the case for you and the band?

One-hundred percent. That's the big thing: We're less concerned with the Westboro Baptist Church than we are with just the average American who has a good heart and is pretty smart but isn't completely educated on the issues, and if this person knew everything would stand up and fight.

I think most Americans have no issue with homosexuality or gay people. They just think, "Oh, they have civil unions; we have marriage – what's the difference? Who cares?"

They don't realize that 1,000-plus rights are denied. They don't think of adoption rights or work comp rights. Connecting all the dots is a huge thing

INFO

fun.

7 p.m. Jan. 26
The Fillmore
2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit (sold out)
www.thefillmoredetroit.com

and the difference between people being like, "Yeah, I think gay people should be equal" versus really making a big deal out of it and really thinking about it when they vote. The reason for the band speaking out is, if you have any sort of stage or soapbox in 2013 in America – and really anywhere in the world – you should be using that to discuss human rights and all people being treated equal.

So as a celebrity you have a responsibility to speak up?

Absolutely. It's a really weird life. Public figures deserve privacy. They don't deserve to be thrown into the fire just because they have an audience. I mean, we're out here because we're artists, we're songwriters. What I do is what I am and I would understand if someone only wanted to put out what they're there to put out. But it's just one of those complicated generations. Ten or 15 years ago it was a little different because at that point we were only X amount of years away from a learning curve of not really understanding what was going on. But now, in 2013, we have all the information and we've seen the effects of homophobia and we've seen the effects of denying citizens' rights. It's just a time where I don't think any of us have the luxury to not stand up.

As a straight ally in the fight for gay rights, what effect do you think you have on the gay rights movement that you wouldn't if you were gay?

It's all about the power we each have based on who we are and where we come from. Obviously, LGBTQ people have the power that comes with being oppressed. Those who are denied rights have the most inspiring voice in fighting for them. But beyond that, there is a distinct power that comes with being a person who is not denied rights but still cares and will fight for them as if they were their own rights. Furthermore, being someone who others presume wouldn't care, or even opposes gay rights, gives you an even greater power in speaking up for gay rights.

There is stigma that comes along with being straight – like we don't care. Being straight and standing up for gay rights is a statement that says "this is everyone's issue." We are not all free unless we are *all* free. Just because I was born into the elite class of straight Americans who have maximum rights does not mean that I won't fight as if it were me being denied human rights.

If fun. were a band 30 years ago and had come out in favor of gay rights, you probably would have jeopardized your career. What does it say about this time in our lives that you're able to stand up and still maintain a significant fan base?

We get asked, "If you guys are gonna be political, do you worry you'll be offending people who are coming to your shows?" And the answer for us is, "Well, if anyone has a problem with us, then they're homophobic and hateful and we're glad to not have them come to our shows." (Laughs)

It's an amazing time, and I think with the way the Internet works, it's easy to think that there's a lot more hate than there is. Obviously we only hear the most disgusting stories and, as they should, the horror stories inspire change. But what we've learned from touring and being outspoken in the press about this is that there is great support – and even where there isn't great support, there is a hunger for knowledge.

We set up booths at our shows and it's not like people are coming up slamming their fists down and being like, "Stop redefining the family." We never get that. We get people coming up and saying, "I don't really know why this issue matters."

Will you bring the booth on the current tour? And how about The Ally Coalition that the band and your sister, Rachel, recently formed – is that coming with you, as well?

The Ally Coalition, or TAC as we call it, will be with us for the foreseeable future. We've always done a lot with the issue and then we realized that if we had a big umbrella to funnel all this under, we could do so much more. So we started The Ally Coalition, which is a nonprofit. And it's kind of boundless.

On this tour, we're really going to be getting into homeless gay youth in different cities. We'll be working with different shelters. What's really cool about TAC is it has given us the opportunity to participate in all the different aspects of what comes along with human rights, and there are a lot of sub issues. We're just trying to focus on different areas on different tours. A dollar from every ticket goes to The Ally Coalition and then that money gets funneled out to the coalition and what we do, and then a decent portion we donate to different gay groups.

You're on the road through the rest of the year. How does fun. have fun on the road?

We're really square. Our definition of fun at this point is just taking care of ourselves. We all get great joy out of

not eating disgusting food, getting a lot of sleep and going to the movies. But our schedules have been so completely insane, so the great enjoyment aside from playing – which is the greatest joy of all – is just trying to be like a normal person out there and not like you're on Mars.

There are a lot of queer people who look at "We Are Young" as an anthem of liberation and individuality. How does it feel knowing you've written the theme song for a new generation of not just youth but queer youth?

That's just the coolest thing I've ever heard, because it's always subcultures – it's always people who are oppressed – that are the most vibrant. That's part of the reason why I feel so drawn to the gay community in general – the very fact that there's an opposition in general that creates an amazing community within the gay community. You can't really find that anywhere else. It's inspiring.

“Just because I was born into the elite class of straight Americans who have maximum rights does not mean that I won't fight as if it were me being denied human rights.”

Were any of the songs on "Some Nights" written with the gay community in mind?

Not initially and not directly, besides "One Foot," which talks about being in the closet and the church and the offensive things that come out of there. But these are songs about feeling separate and about feeling pushed aside and feeling down on yourself and pushing on. That's the theme of the album. That's the idea of all of it: carrying on and moving on. "Carry On" speaks to the same issues that gay people go through, which is a lot of the same issues that a lot of people go through. It's just on a different scale. It's about having other people treat you like you're less than and finding a way to move on.

I don't have to tell you this, but this next album will be a crucial one for you. You have six Grammy nominations to live up to. What's your game plan for the third album?

(Laughs) We haven't really begun yet, because we have this theory. We've all been at this for, like, 12 years (in different bands) and there's always this crazy hunger to work on new material. When you work on new material while you're out promoting your current album, it becomes like this inside joke –

we're out there playing and imagining a new song that (we're) not sharing with our audience. So we made a conscious effort to stay in "Some Nights" mode because if we thought too much about the future or worked too much on new songs, it would be like making out with the person you're with and imagining someone else. We'd be cheating on our audience. That might sound pathetic, but the point is, we're playing our biggest shows ever, people are really excited over this album and we're gonna deliver best if we stay here. We always work really well in the moment, and the next album will be no exception.

Because I'm a gay man, I can't end this interview without asking you if your relationship with Lena Dunham is anything like an episode of her show, "Girls."

(Laughs) No – there's nothing awkward or clunky about our relationship. I think what probably happens when you put two awkward/clunky people together is that their awkward/clunky world seems like a normal world. And I think that's something that's nice about our relationship.

I could picture you two dancing to Robyn in her bedroom, though.

I've been dancing to Robyn since "Body Talk" came out. Anyone who has ears should be dancing to Robyn. (Laughs)

Both of you are gay magnets, and for different reasons. You've been said to have a lot of lesbian friends, actually.

I do.

If you were to compete in a gay-off with Lena, who would win?

It would be a really epic tie. We both have so many wonderful gay people in our lives. People identify with other people for different reasons, and I personally am really comfortable around lesbians because, in some ways, we view women the same way. I've never really identified with the way a typical alpha-male views women. It's always an awkward forum for me to hang out with another guy and talk about girls, because I can't really find a way to fit in. I've never really had those big macho alpha qualities.

So a lot of my lesbian friends have this way that they talk about women, and in the way they connect with them I just feel a little bit more comfortable. Which kind of makes me think that maybe I'm a straight man with, like, lesbian chemicals. I think you can be a man who loves a woman but love someone the way a gay man loves another man or a woman loves a woman.



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Get Ready To Be 'Conned' At City Theatre

BY DANA CASADEI

Plays and musicals often contain three essentials: characters, plot and a set. Some are simple, others elaborate a la "West Side Story" or "August: Osage County," both of which have complex sets and characters. "Conned," at Detroit's City Theatre, breaks many "rules" of traditional theater, but is all the more interesting for it.

The show, directed by Jim Milan, tells many stories but doesn't really have a plot. There are four "characters" and the set looks like an open mic night at your local bar. But again, this isn't a bad thing. If anything, it's one of the most real things you'll see. Each of the four "characters," all internationally known con men, share numerous stories and tricks of their trade, while taking the audience under their

REVIEW

'Conned'

City Theatre inside Hockeytown Cafe, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Thursday-Sunday through Jan. 27. 2 hours, 15 minutes.
\$32.50-37.50. 313-471-3099.
www.OlympiaEntertainment.com

wing. They let viewers into the world of darkened back alleys, smoky casinos and basement card games.

When the show begins, Todd Robbins, an authority of deception and "the king of New York con men" according to The New York Times, walks on stage and introduces the evenings "characters."

His three friends are Bob Arno, pickpocket; Banachek, an expert on psychological manipulation; and Richard


Turner, card cheating expert. Once all four are standing on stage there's a slight resemblance to the Blue Collar Comedy Tour. But quickly it's shown these men are more Rat Pack than redneck.

Throughout the evening, each man shows how they became the best at what they do, with Robbins guiding the audience along for the two-hour ride. Audience members are called up so the men can show off their skills, which include metal bending forks, pick-pocketing everything from watches to ties, and proving why you should never play cards with a stranger. At one moment the whole audience gets conned, and you won't see it coming.

To read the complete review, go to
www.pridesource.com

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Burn Hard

Sandra Takes On Jodie Foster & Voices In The Night

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Sandra Bernhard has never been one to mince her words. The Flint-born comedian – who’s been performing her audacious standup since the ’70s and stops at The Ark for two shows Feb. 1-2 – wasn’t about to change her ways during our interview, where she says gay people need to get over Jodie Foster’s emotional coming-out (or whatever it was) and why she’ll never do a reality TV show.

In a review for your current show, The New York Times says the “meanness has largely evaporated.” Is that true?

I just think it’s transformed. As an artist and performer, you constantly transform your emotions in a different way. Certainly I’m still fueled by the same things that I have

always been concerned about or fascinated by, but you just can’t stay locked in the same mentality your entire life. That just shows absolutely no evolution as a person.

So the meanness isn’t completely gone.

I don’t think I’ve ever been mean, per se. Some people who are intimidated are gonna think I’m mean or scary; other people are just gonna think I’m ballsy. In terms of being strong and forthright and saying what’s on my mind, I don’t think that’ll ever change.

Is writing standup now easier than it was at the beginning of your career?

No. My material has always just come from casual conversation. It just comes to me in a very melodic way. I don’t sit down and write material that way. A lot of my ideas are off-the-cuff, and I develop them from there.

Of all your passions – music, comedy, politics – is there a specific one that you find most fulfilling?

Everything is in tandem with the others. Being a mother and being in a relationship with somebody for almost 14 years is sort of my bedrock. And my dog George, who’s a rescue pup. These are all things that anchor me day to day, and then I kind of go out from there. If you don’t have a solid base for your life, the rest of it doesn’t even have any impact after a certain point. So I think all that stuff melds together and it’s all exciting to me. It’s exciting to me that I can go out into the world and talk about all of it and experience it and retreat from it. I think that’s what keeps people sane and healthy.

When we spoke four years ago, you mentioned looking for a regular TV gig.

I still am.

Is it difficult to find roles or are you just picky?

Well, it’s kind of a combination of both. There are certain things that I just wouldn’t be happy doing. But there are just not that many roles that are right, either. I also have completely new representation in the last year that is really on top of it in a different way, so I’m feeling much more confident. In fact, I just did a guest-starring role on “The Neighbors.”

How about for the rest of the year? Any major TV gigs in the works?

Yeah, I’m looking at them. It’s pilot season now, so as soon as that kicks into high gear, I’m sure I’ll be auditioning for several different roles and hopefully landing something – and hopefully that show will get picked up. It’s a big process for all that to happen.

I don’t think people realize that.

INFO

Sandra Bernhard

8 p.m. Feb. 1-2
The Ark
316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor
www.theark.org

No, they don’t. They think it’s all magic.

As one of the first gay characters on television as Nancy Bartlett on “Roseanne,” what do you think of the strides we’ve made on TV as far as inclusivity?

It’s kind of stalled out. Some of it’s grotesque. “Modern Family” is fabulous and fun; “The New Normal” is over-the-top and awful and stupid and doesn’t really hit anything important.

Which is ironic, because it’s Ryan Murphy – who’s gay!

I know. That’s my point. They’re usually the worst perpetrators of that –

Stereotype?

Yeah. I think black people haven’t progressed very much in film and television, either. I just think it’s a white person’s medium, and unfortunately, a lot of people never get to experience the success they should.

If you were to play Nancy now, in a time that’s much more progressive than it was in the early ’90s, would her character be different?

No, that wasn’t “Roseanne”’s take. They lived in a small town and it was all about what happened in a small town, and things have changed in small towns. I don’t think “Roseanne” could exist anymore on TV, so I don’t think Nancy would have a place. The way “Roseanne” presented small-town life doesn’t even make sense anymore.

How long do you see yourself doing standup?

Forever.

Some comedians, like Kathy Griffin and Joan Rivers, go on to do reality shows. Does that interest you at all?

No. You think they haven’t asked me to do that a million times? Absolutely not. From day one, that was destined to be crap. I don’t want to exploit my life or my family. It’s not what I got into this business for. You keep those two worlds separate. To show it in this disgusting, exploitive way – what is that? It’s nobody’s business how I live my life. I protect my daughter and my family at all costs. They’re not there for exploitation. My daughter didn’t choose to become exploited on television in some sleazy show. It’s just out of the question.

See Sandra Bernhard, page 23

Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, Jan. 24

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

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

Friday, Jan. 25

Coping with Disabilities Group 1 p.m. Ongoing discussion group for adults with disabilities. Discussions about LGBT friendly doctors, counseling, health benefits, and activities. Every second and fourth Wednesday. Handicapped accessible. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

Bocce with the Capuchin Brothers 6 p.m. Proceeds from the events profit benefits Capuchin ministries. Admission: \$40 ticket includes unlimited Bocce Ball, a buffet, and cash bar. To order dinner tickets, call 313-579-2100, ext. 153 or 170. Capuchins, 43985 Hayes Road, Sterling Heights. 313-579-2100 ext. 15. Kwikins@thecapuchins.org Thecapuchins.org/BOCCE_WITH_THE_CAPUCHIN_BROTHERS.shtml

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

Tu B'Shevat Seder 6:30 p.m. Beginning with a dinner provided by the T'chiyah Board in honor of the esteemed President Syma's birthday, followed by the Tu B'Shevat Seder and a short Kabbalat Shabbat service. Congregation T'chiyah, 15000 W. 10 Mile Road, Oak Park. Tchiyah.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. Soes 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

Polyqueer Womens Group 7 p.m. Open meeting to lesbian, bisexual and transgendered women who are polyamorous or curious about women-centered polyamory. Meets the last Friday of the month. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. PolyLezzie@Yahoo.com JimToyCenter.org

Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: Bandidas; With a ruthless despot terrorizing their tiny Mexican town, a pair of oddly matched women join forces to become two of the most celebrated bank robbers of their time. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org/

Saturday, Jan. 26

LezRead 4 p.m. Ann Arbor's book group for Lesbians. Meets the last Saturday of every month. LezReads, 319 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. Lezread@yahoo.com LezRead.com

Sunday, Jan. 27

TransCend 4:30 p.m. Open to persons 18 and older. Younger are welcome with parent or guardian permission. Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., Kalamazoo. 269-349-4234. Tracy@kglrc.org Kglrc.org

Conversation Station 5 p.m. Discussion Group with facilitator for LGBTQI (and allies) 35 and over. Food, fun and discussions. Topic: If you could be anyone else, who would you be? Get Out And Live!, 714 S. Washington St., Royal Oak. 248-981-4227. MarciLWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

Monday, Jan. 28

New Member Night 7 p.m. For the upcoming concert season. Opportunity to join LGBT chorus group. All are welcome--LGBT & allies. No sight-reading skills are required! We are Washtenaw County's original mixed LGBT chorus. Out Loud Chorus, 1400 West Stadium Boulevard, Ann Arbor. 734.265.0740. Outloudchorus@gmail.com olonline.org

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

PFLAG Battle Creek 7 p.m. Meets monthly at St. Thomas Episcopal Church. Affiliated with BC Pride. PFLAG Battle Creek, 16 E. Van Buren, Battle Creek.

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

LGBTQ 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. 29

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 Coit F. McIssac. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Transgenderlifesupport.org

Wednesday, Jan. 30

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

Confessions of an Elder-in-Training with Jeanne Mackey 7 p.m. Lesbian musician and workshop leader Jeanne Mackey shares stories, songs, and reflections on the aging process, offering a rare blend of emotional intensity, wry humor, and social commentary. Free event. Ann Arbor District Library, 343 S. Fifth Ave., Ann Arbor. 734-327-4555. Jmackey50@gmail.com Aadl.org/events/list?id=16826

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 Movie Night 7 p.m. Featuring the film Paris is "Burning." Free event. Detroit Metro Chapter

of Transgender Michigan, 429 Livernois St., Ferndale. 517-420-1544. Info@transgendermichigan.org Transgendermichigan.org

Thursday, Jan. 31

Free HIV Testing 5 p.m. Free, anonymous HIV testing is available at S3 Safe Sex Store every other Thursday until 9 p.m. Testing is performed by HARC staff. Call to schedule an appointment, but walk-ins are more than welcome. S3 Safe Sex Store and HIV/AIDS Resource Center, 1209 S. University, Ann Arbor. 734-741-1434. Info@bak-inc.com S3safesexstore.com

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. J.Jenkins@GoAffirmations.org GoAffirmations.org

Friday, Feb. 1

Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: Platinum Comedy Series: Adele Givens: This hysterical and often raunchy stand-up comedy performance showcases Givens's comedic chops with her uproarious take on current events, relationships and the government. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

Saturday, Feb. 2

Oasis Ministry of Michigan: TBLG Outreach 5:30 p.m. On the first Saturday of each month Oasis Ministry holds an Evensong at St. Andrew's. Using the "Holden Evensong," Oasis strives to reach out to those who may be trying to grasp how one can be an LGBT person and a part of a church or of any faith community. Meets the first Saturday of every month. Oasis, 306 N. Division, Ann Arbor. OasisMinistryMI.org

Until Love Is Equal + Hope Is Ready 8 p.m. "Grand Rapids Soul Club" GR Soul Club describes how soul music can bring people together across demographic. Come join Until Love Is Equal and Hope Is Ready. Park Theatre, 248 S. River, Holland. 616-355-7275. Facebook.com/events/387037984723343/

Sunday, Feb. 3

Conversation Station 5 p.m. Discussion group with facilitator. LGBTQI (and allies) 35 and over, join us each week for discussion, food and fun. Topic: Write and 11th Commandment Get Out And Live!, 714 S. Washington St., Royal Oak. 248-981-4227. MarciLWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

MUSIC & MORE

COMEDY

The Ark "Sandra Bernhard" Sandra began her career at L.A.'s famed Comedy Store in the 1970s. Since then she has written and starred in numerous one-woman shows, acted in movies and on television, recorded albums, and written books and magazine pieces. Her first one-woman show, the groundbreaking "Without You I'm Nothing," ran for six months off-Broadway in 1988 and served as inspiration for the film and Grammy-nominated album of the same name. Tickets: \$35-50. The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. Feb. 1 - Feb. 2. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

CONCERTS

Magic Stick Lounge "Emancipated With Eliot Lipp" Emancipator is Douglas Appling, who is joined in the live setting by Violinist Ilya Goldberg. His agile melodies layered over headnodic, immaculately produced beats have captivated fans

See Happenings, page 20

Looking for something to do this summer?
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Detroit's oldest and largest predominantly LGBTQ church!



Editor's Pick



A new exhibit at the Michigan State University Museum, "East Meets West: The Transgender Community of Istanbul," gives a rare insight into the lives of people in transition living in the economic and cultural heart of Turkey. Its photographic portraits — taken by photographer Mary Robert — explore the complex identities of the members of a community of male-female transsexuals living in Istanbul.

Robert's photographs focus on the human qualities of the subjects who have developed a new, unique aesthetic. Of the reported 2,000-3,000 transsexuals and transgendered individuals in Istanbul at various stages of transition from male to female, the vast majority exist in difficult circumstances and are often ostracized by their families. Although considered as either freaks or exotic aberrations in their own society, Robert's photographs focus on the human qualities of these women who have both strength and charm.

This exhibit runs until April 14 at the MSU Museum Heritage Gallery in East Lansing. A Guest Lecture Series featuring Mary Robert begins at 1 p.m. Feb. 9 in the MSU Union Ballroom. For more information, go to www.Museum.MSU.edu.



Editor's Pick

St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild of Cranbrook brings an electrifying tale of greed, murder and showbiz to its indoor Pavilion through Feb. 2. "Chicago," one of Broadway's most popular and thrilling smash-hit musicals, is a satire on corruption in the criminal justice system and the concept of the "celebrity criminal." The musical is based on a 1926 play of the same name by reporter Maurine Dallas Watkins about actual criminals and crimes she reported on.

Although "Chicago" is a very popular musical, director Jeff Davison is up to the task of keeping it fresh. "We are mixing modern trends, new twists and a 1920s attitude to create a very unique version.

Performances are at 8 p.m. Jan. 25, 26, Feb. 1, 2 and 2 p.m. Jan. 27. Reserve tickets (\$20-\$22) by calling 1-888-71-TICKETS.

St. Dunstan's Guild is located at 400 Lone Pine Road in Bloomfield Hills.

► Happenings

Continued from p. 19

across the internet and across the world. Tickets: \$15. Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave, Detroit. 8 p.m. Jan. 24. 313-833-9700. MajesticDetroit.com

Magic Stick Lounge "One More Time - A Tribute to Daft Punk" Daft Punk'd: The Tribute, is a fully loaded salute to Daft Punk, one of the greatest electronic musical duo's of our generation and globally hailed pioneers of modern day electronic music. Tickets: \$15. Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave, Detroit. 8 p.m. Jan. 29. 313-833-9700. MajesticDetroit.com

The Ark "Vagabond Opera" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Jan. 31. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Ark "Adam Plomaritas" With special guest Jason Drenie. Tickets: \$12. The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Jan. 30. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Berman Center for the Performing Arts "Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center" The nation's premiere repertory company for chamber music, the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center will perform an extraordinary collection of the worlds finest music, dating as far back as the Renaissance and continuing to today. The Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 West Maple Road, West Bloomfield. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 31. 248-661-1900. Theberman.org

The Berman Center for the Performing Arts "DSO at The Berman Center for the Performing Arts" Opportunity to hear the highly acclaimed DSO at The Berman Center for the Performing Arts in West Bloomfield. Tito Munoz to conduct. The Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 West Maple Road, West Bloomfield. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 24. 248-661-1900. Theberman.org

The Fillmore Detroit "9th Annual Flogging Molly Green 17 Tour" Presented by HOB 20th Anniversary. Tickets: \$27-36. Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Jan. 25. TheFillmoreDetroit.com

The Fillmore Detroit "Fun." Tickets: \$29.50-35. Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Jan. 26. TheFillmoreDetroit.com

FESTIVALS

The Ark "36th Ann Arbor Folk Festival" A two-night celebration of roots music presented by The Ark, Ann Arbor's non-profit home for folk, roots, and ethnic music. Tickets available online. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. Jan. 25 - Jan. 26. 734-761-1800. FindYourFolk.org

The Detroit Institute of Arts "An Evening with Julie Dash" Filmmaker Julie Dash will introduce a special screening of her extraordinary 1991 film Daughters of the Dust, followed by an on-stage discussion of her filmmaking career. Detroit Film Theater, 5200 Woodward Ave, Detroit. 7 p.m. Jan. 24. 313-833-7900. DIA.org

FILM & VIDEO

Flint Institute of Arts "Spike & Mike's Sick & Twisted Festival of Animation" The long-running annual festival of offbeat animated shorts that has launched the likes of Beavis and Butthead and the original South Park characters comes to Flint for a trio of late-night screenings. Watch our website for more details. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Jan. 24 - Jan. 26. Flintarts.org

Flint Institute of Arts "All Me: The Life & Times of Winfred Rembert" As part of the FIA exhibition Winfred Rembert: Amazing Grace, we're presenting an award-winning documentary on the self-taught artist whose paintings depict the day-to-day existence of African Americans in the segregated South. The artist relives his turbulent life, abundantly visualized. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Jan. 25 - Jan. 27. Flintarts.org

Flint Institute of Arts "Compliance" When a prank caller, pretending to be a police officer, convinces a fast-food restaurant manager to interrogate an innocent young employee, no one is left unharmed. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Feb. 1 - Feb. 3. Flintarts.org

The Detroit Institute of Arts "Sister" Twelve-year-old Simon lives with his older sister Louise near a luxury Swiss ski resort. Taking on the responsibility of providing for the two of them - since Louise can't seem to hold on to a job - Simon finds ways to eke out a living from the rich tourists in the area, but when he partners with a crooked British seasonal worker, his life takes a dangerous turn. Detroit Film Theater, 5200 Woodward Ave, Detroit. Jan. 18 - Jan. 27. 313-833-7900. DIA.org

The Detroit Institute of Arts "Holy Motors" The first feature film in 13 years from France's Leos Carax is a visionary, unclassifiable and altogether stunning fantasy set in a dreamlike Paris. Detroit Film Theater, 5200 Woodward Ave, Detroit. Jan. 25 - March 10. 313-833-7900. DIA.org

The Detroit Institute of Arts "2013 Academy Award Nominated Short Films" A ticket to a satisfying banquet of this year's Oscar nominated animated and live-action shorts - as well as an opportunity to predict the winners before the Oscars are handed out. Detroit Film Theater, 5200 Woodward Ave, Detroit. Feb. 1 - Feb. 17. 313-833-7900. DIA.org

OTHER

The Henry Ford "Tinker. Hack. Invent. Saturdays." Celebrates American ingenuity resourcefulness and innovation. Join us as we welcome crafters, hobbyist, tinkerers and makers to Henry Ford Museum the last Saturday of each month. Learn their stories and how they make things. Activities will change monthly from hands-on or how-to workshops to presentations. The Henry Ford Museum, 20900 Oakwood, Dearborn. Jan. 26 - March 30. 313-982-6001. TheHenryFord.org

Out Loud Chorus "New Member Night" For the upcoming concert season. Opportunity to join LGBT chorus group. All are welcome-LGBT & allies. No sight-reading skills are required! We are Washtenaw County's original mixed LGBT chorus. Trinity Lutheran Church, 1400 West Stadium Boulevard, Ann Arbor. Feb. 7 - Feb. 4. 734.265.0740. olconline.org

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

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

2013 Season Kick-Off Party Free. Fancy Pants Theater at Studio 246, 246 N. Kalamazoo Mall, Kalamazoo. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 31. 269-599-6437. www.fancypantstheater.webs.com

Bedroom Farce \$22. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin, Ann Arbor. Jan. 24 - 27. 734-971-2228. www.a2ct.org

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

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

First Things First \$13-15. The Players Guild of Dearborn, 21730 Madison, Dearborn. Through Jan. 27. 313-561-TKTS. www.PlayersGuildOfDearborn.org

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

In The Heights \$17. Peppermint Creek Theatre at Miller Performing Arts Center, 6025 Curry Lane, Lansing. Jan. 24 - Feb. 2. 517-372-0945. www.peppermintcreek.org

Shakespeare in Hollywood \$11-12. The Twin City Players, 600 W. Glenlord Road, St. Joseph. Feb. 1 - 17. 269-429-0400. www.TwinCityPlayers.org

Sherlock Holmes: the Final Adventure \$12-23. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Feb. 1 - 16. 269-343-1313. www.KazooCivic.com

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

Caroline or Change \$18-20. The University Theatre at York Arena Theatre inside the Gilmore Theatre Complex, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. Jan. 24 - Feb. 10. 269-387-6222. www.WMUTheatre.com

Shaking Earth A staged reading. \$7. Eastern Michigan University Theatre at Sponberg Theatre in the Quirk Dramatic Arts Building, East Circle and Best Hall, Ypsilanti. Jan. 25 - 27. 734-487-2282. www.emutix.com

The Mississippi Delta \$10-12. The Studio Theatre Downstairs at the Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through Jan. 26. 313-577-2972. www.Hilberry.com

PROFESSIONAL

All The King's Women \$12-18. Detroit Ensemble Theatre at Michigan Actor's Studio, 648 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. Feb. 1 - 17. 877-636-3320. www.DetroitEnsembleTheatre.org

Brill \$25-\$41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron, Ann Arbor. Through Feb. 10. 734-663-0681. www.performancenetwork.org

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

Detroit \$12-\$30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Plays in rotating repertory through April 5. 313-577-2972. www.hilberry.com

Elmo Makes Music \$12-68. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jan. 24 - Feb. 18. 313-471-6611. www.Olympiaentertainment.com

End Days Previews Jan. 24-27 & 31 (\$15). \$15-22. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. Jan. 24 - Feb. 24. 517-655-SHOW. www.WilliamstonTheatre.org

Flashdance \$34.50+. Broadway Grand Rapids at DeVos Performance Hall, 303 Monroe Ave., Grand Rapids. Jan. 22 - 27. 800-745-3000. www.BroadwayGrandRapids.com

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

Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet) \$12-30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Plays in rotating repertory through Feb. 9. 313-577-2972. www.Hilberry.com

Lake Effect Fringe Festival \$10. Dog Story Theater, 7 Jefferson SE, Grand Rapids. Jan. 31 - Feb. 24. www.PCShakespeare.com

Lambert Street A Late Night Series presentation. \$10. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Through Feb. 2. 313-365-4948. www.PlanetAnt.com

Les Miserables \$38-78. Miller Auditorium, 2200 Auditorium Drive, Kalamazoo. Jan. 29 - Feb. 3. 269-387-2300. www.MillerAuditorium.com

Looking Previews Jan. 24-25 (\$20). \$29-32. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Jan. 24 - March 3. 248-347-0003. www.tippingpointtheatre.com

Oh, Ananse \$10 adult, \$5 child. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theatre, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit. Feb. 2 - 23. 313-961-7777. www.puppetart.org

Photograph 51 Previews Jan. 23 - 25 (\$5 p.m.). \$38-\$45. The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company at Aaron DeRoy Theatre

on the campus of the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road., West Bloomfield. Jan. 23 - Feb. 10. 248-788-2900. www.jettheatre.org

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

Shatner's World \$35-150. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 24. 800-WHARTON. www.WhartonCenter.com

Shrek The Musical \$29-\$67. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Feb. 1 - 2. 810-237-8689. www.TheWhiting.com

Soul Mates \$15-\$18. Magenta Giraffe Theatre at The Abreact Performance Space, 1301 W. Lafayette #113, Detroit. Feb. 1 - 23. 313-408-7269. www.MagentaGiraffe.org

Spamalot \$25-60. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 8 p.m. Feb. 1. 800-WHARTON. www.WhartonCenter.com

Spank! The Fifty Shades Parody \$27.50-42.50. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jan. 30 - Feb. 3. 313-471-6611. www.olympiaentertainment.com

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

The Gruffalo \$13. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. Jan. 27 - Jan. 27. 800-WHARTON. www.WhartonCenter.com

The Meaning of Almost Everything \$18.50 - \$42. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through March 9. 734-433-7673. www.purplerosetheatre.org

The Midtown Men \$50-55. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. Jan. 26 - 27. 586-286-2222. www.MacombCenter.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

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

Trent's Last Case \$16. Broadway Onstage Live Theatre, 21517 Kelly Rd., Eastpointe. Through Feb. 9. 586-771-6333. www.broadwayonstage.com

Under The African Sky \$8-12. Wild Swan Theater at Towsley Auditorium, Morris Lawrence Building, Washtenaw Community College, 4800 E. Huron Dr., Ann Arbor. Jan. 24 - 26. 734-995-0530. www.WildSwanTheater.org

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

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

White's Lies \$31-\$40. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Rd., Rochester. Through Feb. 3. 248-377-3300. www.mbtheatre.com

ART 'N' AROUND

Charles H. Wright Museum "Visions of Our 44th President" A collective art exhibit, was created to honor and celebrate the significance of the first African American President of the United States, Barack Obama. Forty-four busts

were created from a model that served as a blank canvas, giving each of forty-four contemporary 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

Detroit Institute of Arts "Motor City Muse: Detroit Photographs, Then and Now" For more than 70 years, photographers have found inspiration for their work from the people, city streets, and automobile culture of Detroit. This exhibition includes select photographers who, through their personal vision and photographic skill, have captured subjects, past and present, specific to Detroit, its changing landscape, architecture and auto industry. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jan. 1 - June 16. 313-833-7900. DIA.org

Flint Institute of Arts "Around the World with 80 Objects" Rarely seen selections from the four points of the compass and across millennia have been drawn from the FIA's vault and assembled into this provocative and stimulating exhibition. While many objects were born out of necessity - vessels, weaponry, tools, and apparel - they have been collected here for their fascinating artistic designs, from simple to the most elaborate. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Jan. 1 - June 30. Flintarts.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 "East Meets West: The Transgender Community of Istanbul" Gives a rare insight into the lives of people in transition living in the economic and cultural heart of Turkey. Its photographic portraits - taken by photographer Mary Robert - explore the complex identities of the members of a community of male-female transsexuals living in Istanbul. MSU Museum Heritage Gallery, 409 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. Jan. 22 - April 14. www.Museum.msu.edu

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

The Henry Ford "Celebrate Black History" Join us special programming and interactive musical and dramatic performances. Wednesdays through Sundays. The Henry Ford Museum, 20900 Oakwood, Dearborn. Feb. 1 - Feb. 28. 313-982-6001. TheHenryFord.org

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



Sarah Leahy and Phil Powers in "Brill" at Performance Network Theatre. Photo: Sean Carter

Building Foundations Of Song And Story

BY CAROLYN HAYES

Times are always changing; old is always begrudgingly giving way to new. The tools of today's digitally driven music industry might be unrecognizable to the brick-and-mortar establishments of 50-some years ago, but upon closer inspection, the building blocks of craft and collaboration are well intact.

It's this inventive spirit that provides the driving force behind "Brill" (by David Wells; music by Frank Allison), now in its world premiere at Performance Network Theatre. The play's story takes inspiration from a revolutionary age in popular music, but director David Wolber's conveyance of the timeless spark of the creative process is what gives this production its luster.

It is summer 1959, during the heyday of Manhattan's historical Brill Building: Home to songwriters, publishers, recording studios, and promoters alike, the edifice is a nerve center of the music industry and a natural destination for aspiring professionals. Enter Margie Lesser (Sarah Ann Leahy), 19 and green, into the office of Jimmy Wise (Phil Powers), who has turned out modest Tin Pan Alley hits since before she was born. What Margie wants from Jimmy is not only an office partner, but an adviser and potential collaborator, and although the elder isn't keen to be any of those things, he's behind on rent and in no position to refuse.

Intriguingly, the office itself – the attendant sense of place – becomes a dynamic component in "Brill"'s success, reflected in the deliberate imbalance of the stage's real estate by set and lighting designer Daniel C. Walker. His angular gaze at the unheeded world outside

PREVIEW

Brill

Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron, Ann Arbor. Thursday-Sunday through Feb. 10. 2 hours, 15 minutes. \$25-\$41. 734-663-0681.

www.performancenetwork.org

reinforces the warring concepts of the interior office: often a creative incubator, sometimes merely a cold and lonely room.

The initial beats of this comedy stumble between resistance and acquiescence in a pairing that evades reason, even as it refuses to feel arbitrary. The contrasts of Jimmy's big-band mentality and Margie's embrace of rock 'n' roll's surging popularity show not only in the names they liberally drop, but throughout the design concept. Monika Essen's costume work contrasts summer-cool clam diggers and a youthful high pony with a man whose version of "dressed-down creative type" is to abandon the suspenders. Properties by Charles Sutherland offset the daily grind at the piano (coffee cups, paper detritus, Dopp kit) with the breezy portability of a straw handbag and guitar case. Similarly, even as Will Myers's sound scheme cleverly counts out the scenes as a series of musical takes, the songs tip the balance into a brighter, peppier age.

Wells, too, makes no bones about which way the wind is blowing in music. As the plot progresses, the larger questions that permeate are whether Jimmy's career can adapt and survive, and where Margie's already rising stock will take her. Their story takes shape within the framework of an extended lesson in songwriting and theory, which leads to several scenes of brainstorming and composing, sung and played live. Here, the work of music

director R. MacKenzie Lewis (also credited with arrangements and additional music) is most notable for its spontaneity: Both actors are musically competent, but these characters are writers, not performers, and the cute Allison tunes capture a vital element of thinking on the fly.

With one writer a closed system and the other a seemingly born collaborator, the comic ground for personal and professional conflict is fertile. However, the most rewarding developments are cooperative, at first found in the space between verses, then picking up steam through end of each act. Leahy commands Margie's sweetly catty foibles and shrewd business sense, but requires increasing space for her big young character's big dynamic moments; at her most revealing, she seems to burn up all the oxygen in the room.

Yet Powers, however more subdued, holds his own as the immutable cornerstone of the production. His is a fun character to know, a veritable master at punctuating a joke, and has sly fun acceding to his scene partner while concurrently putting up roadblocks to distract her. But his real gift is in turning on a dime, which singlehandedly shepherds some clattering late plot machinery into a smooth and fulfilling story arc.

As a script, "Brill" portrays a humorous, compelling partnership of adversaries and occasionally caves in to an impulse to make it deeply personal. But anchored by breathtaking performance and charming musical flair, this production flourishes, elevating a gently uneven foundation into a towering accomplishment.

Music and lyrics by Laurence OKeefe and Neil Benjamin, book by Heather Hack
Based on the Amanda Brown novel and the 2001 film.

oakland.edu/theatre

LEGALLY BLONDE THE MUSICAL

At Oakland University

Directed by Dan Campbell
Musical direction by Fred Lewis
Cinematography by Al Wasser
Voyager Studio Theatre
Jill Givens
FWS Studios and other names

Thursday, January 10, 2013 at 8 p.m.
Friday, January 11, 2013 at 10:00am and 8 p.m.
Saturday, February 2, 2013 at 8 p.m.
Sunday, February 3, 2013 at 2 p.m.
Wednesday, February 6, 2013 at 8 p.m.
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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 Pincrest. 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) Pincrest & Drayton, Ferndale Closed Meeting

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Solution to puzzle from page 24

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Buying And Financing A Rental Home



**Gay
Real
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News**

OPINION BY JEFF HAMMERBERG

With property values rising, and the economy continuing to turn more and more people into home-renters instead of home-buyers, now is a fantastic time to purchase a rental home and become a landlord.

Higher rents, added equity with each passing month and a slew of qualified renters to choose from equal success.

Like any business, starting a rental property business has start-up costs involved – if you have solid credit and a nest-egg you can put toward a down payment, are organized enough

to handle the details of leases, deposits, maintenance and repairs, it's a great side business.

To purchase a home as a simple rental property, you'll have to plan on a 25 percent down payment. As a Non-Owner Occupant (NOO) your costs on a mortgage are slightly higher than they would be as an owner occupant. With current loan rates, you can likely get a 4.5 percent 30-year loan.

Of course if you have the flexibility, you can buy as an Owner Occupant (OO) with as little as 3.5 percent down. To qualify as an OO you need to actually live in the property as your principle residence for at least 24 months. Check with your mortgage lender to determine the amount of time you need to live in the home before you can rent it. You will be purchasing this home as your personal residence, so it makes for a good first investment property.

With getting started in the rental game, these costs and fees can be daunting.

What can you do if you're unable to purchase it as an owner occupant? Find a property that already has renters living in the home. You're going to face the fees involved in a "non-owner occupant" purchase, but you can help in the loan process by showing instant income from the existing tenants. They can help offset down-payments with their first month's rent and deposit, and you won't have any "lag time" between purchase and your first month's worth of payments.

Purchasing a home as a rental property involves a great deal of preparing, paperwork and financial investment, but the added income you'll see will make it more than worth your while as long as you plan carefully before diving in.

For expert advice on buying your first rental home or condominium, contact any of the top gay realtors at GayRealEstate.com and find Michigan specific listings in our Michigan Pride Source Yellow Pages at www.pridesource.com/directory.html

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► Sandra Bernhard

Continued from p. 18

I know you have an opinion about everything, so how do you feel about Jodie Foster's speech at the Golden Globes?

I just think that it's terribly sad that she's spent her whole life holding down her emotions and repressing them, and of course I find it totally absurd that when you finally decide to tap into them, it's in front of the entire world at the Golden Globes. Have your catharsis with your therapist and the people who are important to you, and *then* bring the results of that to the world.

I don't think that (the Golden Globes) is the place to work it out. I don't like maudlin in front of large groups of people. But I don't think she thought about it. I just think it all came spewing out. I guess it's all people who are in her life. I mean, her life has been the movies since she was 3 years old, so I don't think she has much connection to reality, in a certain way.

When you came out it wasn't so much an issue for you, right?

I've never really come out. That's never been my thing. I never made a definite statement about my sexuality. Obviously, I'm the torchbearer for people just to be comfortable in their own skin, and that's what my whole philosophy has always been. I never needed to come out, because I came out as a person with many different facets

to her personality since the beginning of my career. And that's what I stand for.

I remember a YouTube video you shot encouraging people to just be who they are.

Yeah, and fortunately or unfortunately, now you sort of have to beat people over the head with the obvious. My whole point of view has been subtlety, nuance and sophistication – that's just not the world we're living in anymore. Maudlin is the end of civilization.

Rupert Everett is making news again for restating that gay celebrities shouldn't out themselves if they want to maintain a successful career in the entertainment business. What's your take? Do you think coming out affected your acting career? Did you miss out on roles because you're gay?

No! I'm still an actress. I think my attitude and my kind of approach to who I am as a performer has affected it more than my sexuality. People perceive me as being tough and one-note, and sometimes that's limiting – but hopefully you find that role that breaks the cliché. I don't think anybody cares about the sexuality aspect, to be honest with you.

What helped you gain the confidence to be so forthright with who you are?

I was just always that way naturally. That's how I was as a kid and as a teenager, and I kept evolving over the years as I peeled away layers of myself – the onion that I live in. We're all peeling away things as we go through

life and revealing more of ourselves to ourselves and to those around us. If you stay grounded in the world and in your life, you're just gonna keep evolving and also enjoying your life as you go. I mean, otherwise, what's the point?

Do you think Jodie's speech warrants all the fuss from the gay community? Do you think we're being too persnickety?

What was the response from the gay community?

Some people say it's too little too late.

Does it really matter? Do we need Jodie Foster to legitimize our cause? I mean, who fucking cares?

We do. You know how we look to other people in the gay community as examples.

Ah, I know. That's what I don't like. Don't expect any one person to be the role model for the entire community. Everybody needs to do that for themselves. That's always been my point of my view. If you don't feel confident, if you don't feel good, then you figure it out. Don't wait for somebody else to do it for you.

We look for all these other voices to speak for us.

Yeah, I know, I know. These voices that come to us in the night. I know.

You mean to tell me you never have voices come to you?

I tell them to shut up and I go back to sleep.

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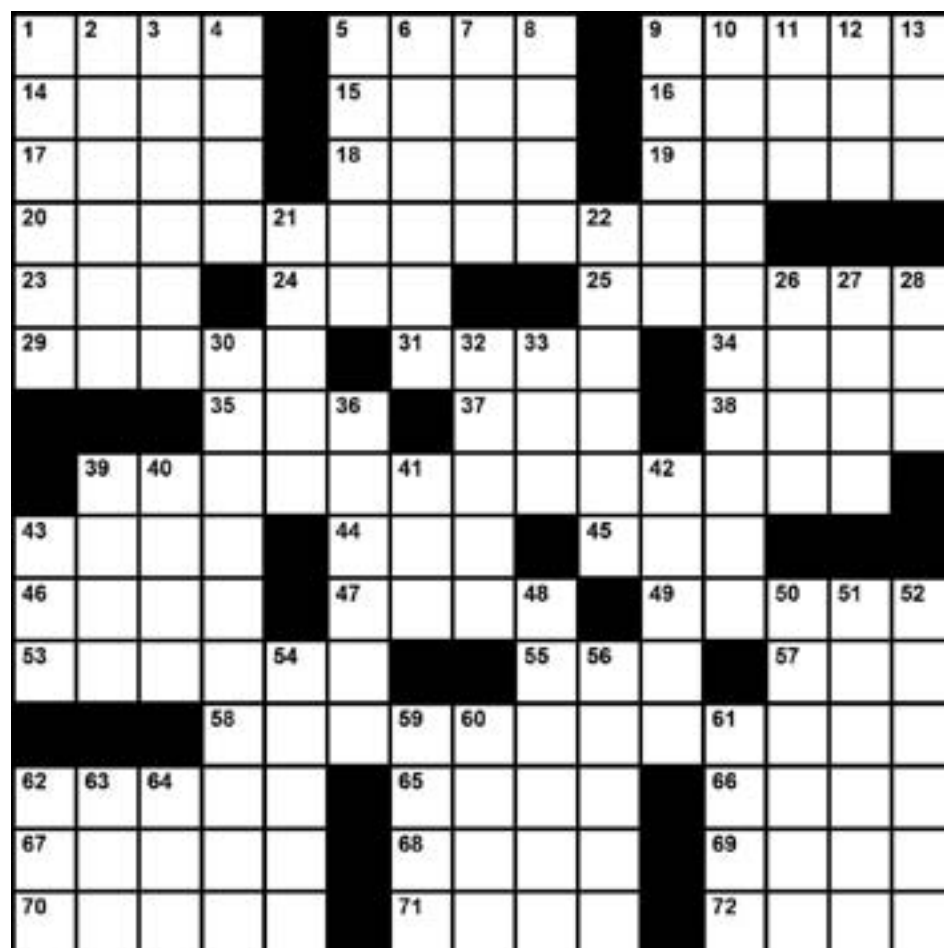
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Across

- 1 Bones partner
- 5 Second fruit eater
- 9 Go lickety-split
- 14 Give a hang
- 15 Vincent Lopez theme song
- 16 Word before "ho!"
- 17 End note
- 18 Rachel's TV show
- 19 Playful aquatic critter
- 20 Javert portrayer in 39-Across
- 23 Barely get by, with "out"
- 24 "Once Upon a Mattress" legume
- 25 Begin stomping grounds
- 29 They go into drives
- 31 "Funny Girl" holder
- 34 Skin moisturizer
- 35 Letters on the Internet
- 37 Org. for Bama and LSU
- 38 Mardi Gras follower
- 39 Gay fave movie of 2012
- 43 Vidal's Breckinridge
- 44 California has a big one
- 45 Maiden name preceder
- 46 Gaza Stripper, e.g.
- 47 Some like them hot
- 49 Come out in the long run
- 53 Howard of "Gone With the Wind"

55 D.C. lobby group

- 57 Collection suffix
- 58 Fantine portrayer in 39-Across
- 62 Begins, on Broadway
- 65 Somewhat, in music
- 66 "Bus Stop" playwright
- 67 "Amadeus" star
- 68 Countee Cullen work
- 69 Stag party?
- 70 Pie fight sound
- 71 "The ___ the limit!"
- 72 Says further

Down

- 1 What Arlen did to "The Wizard of Oz"
- 2 Noh alternative
- 3 Murdoch and others
- 4 The L.A. Sparks strip them
- 5 Avoid going straight
- 6 Word after bottom
- 7 Mapa of "Desperate Housewives"
- 8 Editor Roshan
- 9 Comes in third
- 10 Hugh Jackman played him in "The Boy from Oz"
- 11 Enjoy orally
- 12 Wife without in-laws

13 Aachen article

- 21 Coarse salt in the tub
- 22 Tin Man slicker
- 26 Helm location
- 27 Seemingly forever
- 28 Rent or allow
- 30 Ted of gossip
- 32 Former NFL player Tuaoilo
- 33 Musket attachment?
- 36 Prick up one's ears
- 39 Ancient harp
- 40 The Gay '90s, and more
- 41 Boy in a Johnny Cash song
- 42 Tree with triangular nuts
- 43 Grand ___ seizure
- 48 Kevin of "American Beauty"
- 50 Occurred to (with "on")
- 51 Like Dorian Gray
- 52 They might be charging
- 54 Map legend, usually
- 56 Water molecule threesome
- 59 Omar of "ER"
- 60 Pan foe
- 61 Elton John Broadway musical
- 62 Satisfied cries, perhaps
- 63 Type of tent
- 64 Wing for Julia Morgan

Solution on pg. 22

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Deep Inside Hollywood

Logo turns back time for Cher

Did you know Cher could write? Neither did we. But the Oscar-winner is working with co-writer Ron Zimmerman on a drama pilot for gay cable channel Logo and she just might star in it, too. The script has no title just yet, but word is that Logo is looking for the period drama, to be set in 1960s Hollywood, to give them another hit show so that reruns of "Bewitched" aren't all they have up their sleeve over there besides "RuPaul's Drag Race." And Hollywood in the 1960s is a world Cher remembers well, so the whole thing could take on an air of autobiography if she wants to spill the dirt. Word is that the show is not specifically gay, in spite of Logo's participation. And Cher's participation. And... oh who's kidding whom? It's going to be really gay, especially if she's writing a part for herself as a 22-year-old pop star ingénue.



Cher. Photo: Screen Gems

Sean Hayes is playing that 'Hollywood Game'

It's not the same kind of exposure as a weekly sitcom brings, but Sean Hayes is still out there in front of the camera, whether it's with his upcoming recurring role on "Smash"'s second season or unrecognizably nebbishy as Larry in last year's unexpectedly funny "The Three Stooges." But the real money and power come when you pull the strings, as Hayes has learned in his time as producer of "Grimm" and "Hot in Cleveland." So it's no shock to learn that the comic actor has a goofy game show up his sleeve, too. "Hollywood Game Night," based on his own idea, will place two contestants in a Hollywood cocktail party setting to mingle with celebrities (better name: "Drinking With The Stars") and compete for cash prizes. NBC has already ordered eight episodes for an unspecified future date. Now to get some big names who'll drink the contestants under the table and/or be cruel enough players sabotage their chances. Somebody get Lindsay Lohan and Tommy Lee Jones on the phone.

'The L Word' is still a thing

This might be news to you, but Showtime is still cashing in on "The L Word." It all seems very long ago and far away since the days when the fashionable world of Los Angeles lesbians soaped it up on premium cable. And we don't really know anybody who watches "The Real L Word" and its contrived, scripted "reality," yet apparently it's still on TV and has a viewership of some sort. But David Nevins, who makes these sorts of things happen at the cable channel, is eyeing new, different sort of life for the brand as a stand-alone documentary. The idea: get out of New

York and Los Angeles, hit the road and make a real documentary (or two, or three, or more) focusing on real lesbian communities in the places cameras usually don't go, like the Midwest and the South and other places with no Prada boutiques or skateboard/smoothie/hair salon hybrids. Could gritty, true lives of gritty, true lesbians be the franchise's next-phase salvation? It's all in the ambiguously defined research stage right now, but get ready: this could all turn into something... what's the right word... real.

Academy Awards get the documentary treatment with TCM

Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman already have their own Academy Awards as the team behind 1984's "The Times of Harvey Milk" and 1989's "Common Threads: Stories From The Quilt." So who better to direct a documentary feature about the Oscars themselves? The filmmaking partnership is shooting material now for a feature-length doc for Turner Classic Movies, one that will focus less on the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences itself and more on the history of the awards: the trends in nomination, the patterns of history that find themselves reflected in winners and losers, the snubs and oversights and upsets and controversies – in other words, the things people are genuinely interested in. Set to air during the channel's Oscar Month in 2014, here's hoping they secure that footage of Rob Lowe singing to Snow White. That was the best.

Romeo San Vicente's Oscar party is clothing optional. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

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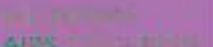
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