

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE CELEBRATING 20 YEARS



Emily Dievendorf
Takes Reins At EQMI

Prop 8, DOMA In
Court Cross Hairs

“ Every time
I perform ... I can
feel a part of myself
healing. ”

– Natasha T. Miller



Same-Sex Wedding Issue



TYING THE KNOT

Same-Sex Wedding Expo
Returns Sunday, April 7

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APRIL 4, 2013 | VOL. 2114 | FREE



4/18

**Bobby McFerrin
spirityouall**

Thursday, April 18, 2013, 7:30 pm
Hill Auditorium

The ten-time Grammy Award winner will always be the musician who sang "Don't Worry, Be Happy," but his "greatest gift to audiences may be transforming a concert hall into a playground, a village center, a joyous space." (*The Los Angeles Times*)

With his new project, spirityouall, Bobby pays homage to his father (the opera singer Robert McFerrin, Sr.) and the generations of African Americans who sang of shared joy and pain through spirituals.

Media partners: WDET 101.9 FM, WEMU 89.1 FM, and Ann Arbor's 107one

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN | ANN ARBOR



4/20

Alison Balsom, trumpet & the Scottish Ensemble

Saturday, April 20, 2013, 8:00 pm
Hill Auditorium

Firmly established as one of the world's leading trumpeters, Alison Balsom makes her UMS debut with an evening of supremely beautiful music. Born in 1978, Balsom was recently crowned "Female Artist of the Year" at the Classical BRITs for the second time. She is joined by the Scottish Ensemble, the UK's only professional string orchestra and one that brings an energy and passion to every performance.

For the second half of this concert, Alison Balsom will perform on a natural trumpet. Natural trumpets are valveless, meaning that the player essentially creates each note off of various overtones obtained through the tightness or looseness of lip pressure. Hearing a live performance of this early instrument is a rare treat and one only the most highly skilled musicians can deliver.

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4/24

Ragamala Dance: Sacred Earth
Ranee and Aparna Ramaswamy,
co-artistic directors

Wednesday, April 24, 2013, 7:30 pm
Hill Auditorium

"[Ragamala] shows how Indian forms can provide some of the most transcendent experiences that dance has to offer. This is an excellent company!" (*The New York Times*)

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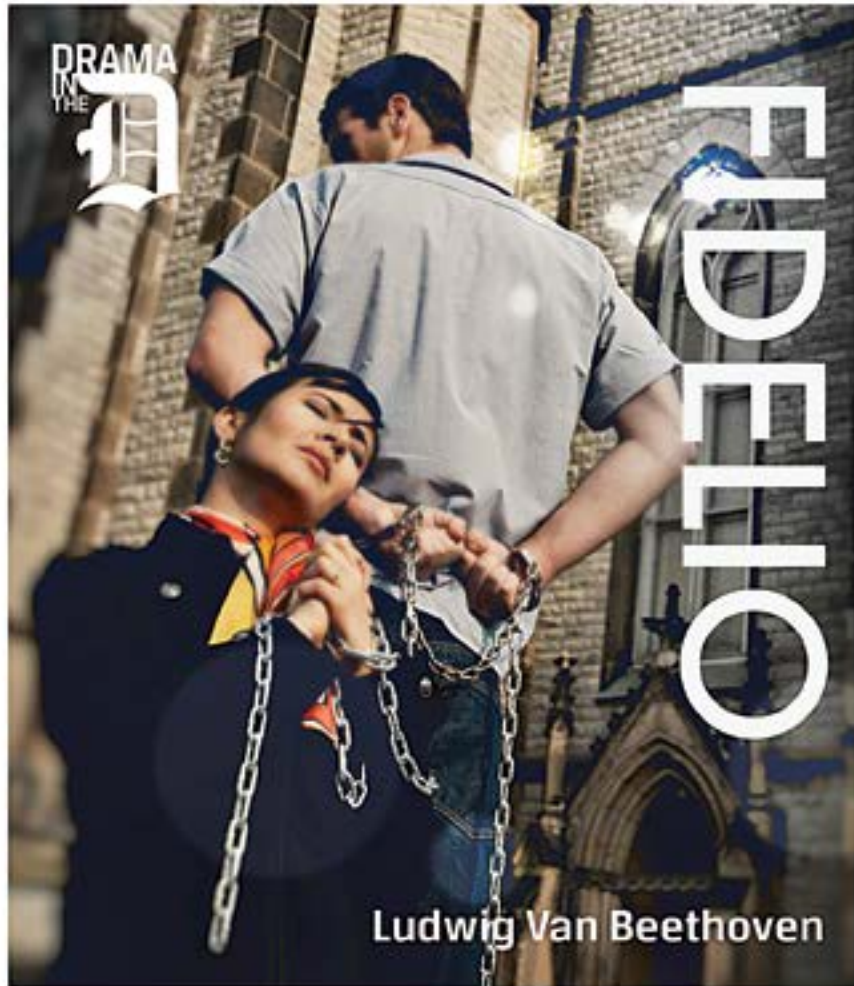
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COVER STORY

20 Tying the knot despite the law



“ This isn't about trying to impress people or make it about anybody but us. It's about us coming together and sharing our life together.”

– Julia Josling, pg. 22



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Join The Conversation @ PrideSource.com

WEDDING ISSUE



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BRIEFS

ANN ARBOR

Forum Planned To Discuss HIV Testing, Law & Confidentiality

On April 17 at 5:30 p.m. reporter Todd Heywood and UM PhD candidate Trevor Hoppe will hold a teach-in and community action forum at UM School of Public Health, room 1655. The event is free and open to the public.

Recent reporting has called into question public health policies in Michigan and this forum will look at what happens to your personal information when you get tested for HIV. Recent reports suggest that state health officials have been compiling personal information since 2003 - including name, date of birth, and other private information - into a statewide database thought to include hundreds of thousands of both HIV-negative and HIV-positive test result data. The information is maintained "indefinitely" according to the investigation.

This database is the same one recently identified in a UM study used to assist local health officials in enforcing antiquated laws used to punish HIV-positive individuals who are labeled a "health threat." Come hear from two experts at the center of these revelations.

The event is sponsored by the Center for Sexuality and Health Disparities, The Coalition for Queer People of Color, and OUTBreak. Learn more at www.facebook.com/events/122069254651764/?notif_t=plan_edited

NATIONAL

April 10 Is Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

Every month 1,000 young people acquire HIV. In order to reach an AIDS-free generation, the first National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day will take place on April 10. The event will work to acknowledge young people's great work fighting this epidemic and hold leaders accountable so they prioritize young people in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

What can you do to support NYHAAD? You can table, host a poetry reading, show a movie, bring mobile testing unites to your campus or organization. Be sure to register your event so it can be added to the NYHAAD map and be seen along with the other events young people and their allies are holding all over the country.

Get the news out by liking National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day on Facebook, following on Twitter, and Pinning to the NYHAAD boards

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



Detroit saw over 60 people show up for a marriage equality vigil and rally on March 26 in front of the Federal Courthouse. It was one of several hundred events held around the country as the U.S. Supreme Court heard historic same-sex marriage equality arguments. BTL photos: Crystal Proxmire

Detroit Area Equal Marriage Supporters Light Way To Justice

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

DETROIT – Raymond Shepherd was in awe of the crowd that gathered with him on the steps of the Federal Courthouse March 26 for the Light the Way to Justice Rally he organized in support of marriage equality. Nearly 60 people attended despite chilly temperatures. They held signs and cheered as passing motorists honked and waved. Rev. Jim Lynch of Metropolitan Community Church in Ferndale led a prayer for the group in hopes that the U.S. Supreme Court will rule in favor of equality as they deliberate on two cases before them.

Among the demonstrators, was a group of students who came from Windsor University. "I have friends that are legally married in Windsor and we want that same equality for everyone," said Jackie Hardie, who carried a sign that read, "Accept existence or expect resistance."

Jerry and Artemae Anderson of Detroit joined in as a show of solidarity for their children. They have a gay son and a lesbian

daughter, both of whom are now living out of state with their respective partners.

"We follow these cases, like the one in California, and to me, it's just so obvious. I think of the things we've seen, the signs, all the cliches. They're done," Jerry said.

"They're talking about marriage for procreation. What about people who are 55 or 60? Should they just get divorced now because they are done having children? Or infertile couples? Or those who decide not to have children? But they keep putting it out there," he added.

The Anderson's children were both in college when they told their parents about being gay.

"I felt bad they waited until college. I wish they would have told us sooner so we could have been more supportive. They are our children and we support them no matter what. A lot of young people don't have supportive parents or a supportive structure."

The couple joined the Human Rights Campaign and now participate in demonstrations to show that there are allies

out there. They even offer a support system through the Catholic Church that they attend." The Vatican and the higher ups may not approve, but there are supportive Catholics out there."

Roberta Kary came from St. Helen to take part in the demonstration along with her friend Lisa Garcia of Southgate. For Garcia the issue is simple, "We shouldn't have to ask for our rights. They're our rights."

Kary, an accountant, spoke about the many benefits that married couples have, including not having an estate tax, being able to file joint tax returns, and having clear inheritance rights. "Even if you are married in a state that recognizes it, family members can still contest your decisions because the marriage is not recognized under DOMA," she said.

The demonstration was one of over 150 taking place around the country, including two other Michigan events in Flint and Midland. The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to rule on the two cases before them before the end of June.

Agema An Embarrassment To Michigan – Again

Former State Rep. Has Long Anti-Gay History

BY JAN STEVENSON

LANSING – Republican National Committeeman David Agema ignited a national controversy when he posted an antigay diatribe on his Facebook page March 27. The post was presumably his reaction to the oral arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court regarding the legality of same-sex marriage. Leaders from both sides of the aisle quickly distanced themselves from his remarks, and some have called for Agema to resign his national leadership position because of his extreme views.

Agema's posting was based on an online article titled, "Everyone Should Know These Statistics on Homosexuals," which appeared under the byline Frank Joseph, M.D. The post depicts gays as sexually promiscuous, rife with sexually transmitted diseases and alcoholism, and responsible for "half the murders in large cities." The sources for the article date back to 1982.

The article appears on the website www.traditioninaction.org, a conservative, Catholic-based website that offers publications for sale that, among other things, condemn homosexuality, defend the Inquisition's condemnation of Galileo, posit that Vatican II was blasphemous and documents the "increasing persecution of Christians in Muslim countries and the threat of a global jihad."

"I think it was a piece worth sharing given the debate over gay marriage that is happening in the Supreme Court," Agema said in a written statement. "I strongly maintain my position in support of marriage between a man and a woman and I will not back down from my core beliefs in support of strengthening the family."

Both Republicans and Democrats were quick to denounce Agema, and a group of young Republican leaders in Michigan has demanded that he resign his position on the National Republican Committee.

Dennis Lennox, a Grand Traverse County Republican precinct delegate and former county drain commissioner, issued a statement March 27 signed by 20 other Republicans condemning Agema's "deplorable actions" and calling for his resignation.

"This isn't about what we believe either politically or as women and men of faith," the statement said. "This is about common decency and realizing that you cannot win an election by insulting a wide swath of the electorate, whose votes our Republican Party

Dennis Lennox, a Grand Traverse County Republican precinct delegate and former county drain commissioner, issued a statement March 27 signed by 20 other Republicans condemning Agema's "deplorable actions" and calling for his resignation.

needs to once again form a national majority."

Those who signed the statement, a group Lennox described as "the next generation of Michigan Republicans," included Brad Fingeroot of the Oakland County Young Republicans, and Brian Szmytke, chairman of the Wayne County Teenage Republicans.

In recent statements to various news outlets Agema has made it clear he does not intend to resign, and on Facebook he has shared a link to a new page, "I call on Dennis Lennox to resign as Precinct Delegate."

"I think this most recent posting by former state representative Agema once again illustrates him being completely out of touch with not only the citizenry of Michigan but society at large," said Mark LaChey, chair of the LGBT caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party. "It is an unfortunate perpetuation of untruths and falsehoods and does nothing positive for a better understanding of the LGBT community."

Agema has a long anti-gay history in Michigan. He sponsored or co-sponsored every piece of anti-gay legislation during his six years in the Michigan House of Representatives, including a bill to rescind domestic partner benefits for public employees and legislation that would have eliminated the state's Healthy Michigan Fund Initiative which serves as Michigan's contribution to receive federal HIV dollars. Under Agema's proposal the funding would have been shifted to a fund for airport care and upkeep. He was one of six public figures featured on the Wall of Shame during the 100-Day Hunger for Equality Campaign at Affirmations Community Center in Ferndale last year.

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What is STRIBILD?

STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before. It combines 4 medicines into 1 pill to be taken once a day with food. STRIBILD is a complete single-tablet regimen and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.

STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS. To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses you must keep taking STRIBILD. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about STRIBILD?

STRIBILD can cause serious side effects:

- **Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include feeling very weak or tired, unusual (not normal) muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold especially in your arms and legs, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Serious liver problems.** The liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and fatty (steatosis). Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice), dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored bowel movements (stools), loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach pain.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking STRIBILD for a long time. In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you also have HBV and stop taking STRIBILD, your hepatitis may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking STRIBILD without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health. STRIBILD is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

Who should not take STRIBILD?

Do not take STRIBILD if you:

- **Take a medicine that contains:** alfuzosin, dihydroergotamine, ergotamine, methylergonovine, cisapride, lovastatin, simvastatin, pimozide, sildenafil when used for lung problems (Revatio®), triazolam, oral midazolam, rifampin or the herb St. John's wort.
- **For a list of brand names for these medicines,** please see the Brief Summary on the following pages.
- **Take any other medicines to treat HIV-1 infection,** or the medicine adefovir (Hepsera®).

What are the other possible side effects of STRIBILD?

Serious side effects of STRIBILD may also include:

- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do regular blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with STRIBILD. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking STRIBILD.
- **Bone problems,** including bone pain or bones getting soft or thin, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV-1 medicines.
- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking STRIBILD.

The most common side effects of STRIBILD include nausea and diarrhea. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or don't go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking STRIBILD?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. STRIBILD may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how STRIBILD works. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Do not start any new medicines while taking STRIBILD without first talking with your healthcare provider.
- **If you take hormone-based birth control** (pills, patches, rings, shots, etc).
- **If you take antacids.** Take antacids at least 2 hours before or after you take STRIBILD.
- **If you are pregnant** or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if STRIBILD can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking STRIBILD.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk. Also, some medicines in STRIBILD can pass into breast milk, and it is not known if this can harm the baby.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Brief Summary of full Prescribing Information with **important warnings** on the following pages.





STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used as a complete single-tablet regimen to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before. STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.

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(elvitegravir 150 mg/cobicistat 150 mg/emtricitabine 200 mg/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg) tablets

Brief summary of full Prescribing Information. For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information, including Patient Information.

What is STRIBILD?

- **STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before.** STRIBILD is a complete regimen and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.
- **STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** You must stay on continuous HIV-1 therapy to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.
- **Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.** Do not share or reuse needles, injection equipment, or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them. Do not have sex without protection. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

What is the most important information I should know about STRIBILD?

STRIBILD can cause serious side effects, including:

1. Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis). Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take STRIBILD or similar (nucleoside analogs) medicines. Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**

- feel very weak or tired
- have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
- have trouble breathing
- have stomach pain with nausea or vomiting
- feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
- feel dizzy or lightheaded
- have a fast or irregular heartbeat

2. Severe liver problems. Severe liver problems can happen in people who take STRIBILD. In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis). **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms of liver problems:**

- your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
- dark “tea-colored” urine
- light-colored bowel movements (stools)
- loss of appetite for several days or longer
- nausea
- stomach pain

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking STRIBILD for a long time.

3. Worsening of Hepatitis B infection. If you have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and take STRIBILD, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking STRIBILD. A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before.

- Do not run out of STRIBILD. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your STRIBILD is all gone

- Do not stop taking STRIBILD without first talking to your healthcare provider
- If you stop taking STRIBILD, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly for several months to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking STRIBILD

Who should not take STRIBILD?

Do not take STRIBILD if you also take a medicine that contains:

- adefovir (Hepsera®)
- alfuzosin hydrochloride (Uroxatral®)
- cisapride (Propulsid®, Propulsid Quicksolv®)
- ergot-containing medicines, including: dihydroergotamine mesylate (D.H.E. 45®, Migranal®), ergotamine tartrate (Cafergot®, Migergot®, Ergostat®, Medihaler Ergotamine®, Wigraine®, Wigrettes®), and methylergonovine maleate (Ergorate®, Methergine®)
- lovastatin (Advicor®, Altoprev®, Mevacor®)
- oral midazolam
- pimozone (Orap®)
- rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifamate®, Rifater®, Rimactane®)
- sildenafil (Revatio®), when used for treating lung problems
- simvastatin (Simcor®, Vytorin®, Zocor®)
- triazolam (Halcion®)
- the herb St. John’s wort

Do not take STRIBILD if you also take any other HIV-1 medicines, including:

- Other medicines that contain tenofovir (Atripla®, Complera®, Viread®, Truvada®)
- Other medicines that contain emtricitabine, lamivudine, or ritonavir (Combivir®, Emtriva®, Epivir® or Epivir-HBV®, Epzicom®, Kaletra®, Norvir®, Trizivir®)

STRIBILD is not for use in people who are less than 18 years old.

What are the possible side effects of STRIBILD?

STRIBILD may cause the following serious side effects:

- **See “What is the most important information I should know about STRIBILD?”**
- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before you start and while you are taking STRIBILD. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking STRIBILD if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take STRIBILD. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people who take HIV-1 medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the middle of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The exact cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system** (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome) can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having any new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.

The most common side effects of STRIBILD include:

- Nausea
- Diarrhea

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

- These are not all the possible side effects of STRIBILD. For more information, ask your healthcare provider.
- Call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking STRIBILD?

Tell your healthcare provider about all your medical conditions, including:

- If you have or had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis B infection
- If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if STRIBILD can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking STRIBILD.
 - There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk with your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.
- If you are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you take STRIBILD.
 - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
 - Two of the medicines in STRIBILD can pass to your baby in your breast milk. It is not known if the other medicines in STRIBILD can pass into your breast milk.
 - Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements:

- STRIBILD may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how STRIBILD works.
- Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you take any of the following medicines:
 - Hormone-based birth control (pills, patches, rings, shots, etc)
 - Antacid medicines that contains aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate. Take antacids at least 2 hours before or after you take STRIBILD
 - Medicines to treat depression, organ transplant rejection, or high blood pressure
 - amiodarone (Cordarone®, Pacerone®)
 - atorvastatin (Lipitor®, Caduet®)
 - bepridil hydrochloric (Vasacor®, Bepadin®)
 - bosentan (Tracleer®)
 - buspirone
 - carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Epitol®, Equetro®, Tegreto®)
 - clarithromycin (Biaxin®, Prevpac®)
 - clonazepam (Klonopin®)
 - clorazepate (Gen-xene®, Tranxene®)
 - colchicine (Colcrys®)
 - medicines that contain dexamethasone
 - diazepam (Valium®)

- digoxin (Lanoxin®)
- disopyramide (Norpace®)
- estazolam
- ethosuximide (Zarontin®)
- flecainide (Tambocor®)
- flurazepam
- fluticasone (Flovent®, Flonase®, Flovent® Diskus, Flovent® HFA, Veramyst®)
- itraconazole (Sporanox®)
- ketoconazole (Nizoral®)
- lidocaine (Xylocaine®)
- mexiletine
- oxcarbazepine (Trileptal®)
- perphenazine
- phenobarbital (Luminal®)
- phenytoin (Dilantin®, Phenytek®)
- propafenone (Rythmol®)
- quinidine (Neudexta®)
- rifabutin (Mycobutin®)
- rifapentine (Priftin®)
- risperidone (Risperdal®, Risperdal Consta®)
- salmeterol (Serevent®) or salmeterol when taken in combination with fluticasone (Advair Diskus®, Advair HFA®)
- sildenafil (Viagra®), tadalafil (Cialis®) or vardenafil (Levitra®, Staxyn®), for the treatment of erectile dysfunction (ED). If you get dizzy or faint (low blood pressure), have vision changes or have an erection that last longer than 4 hours, call your healthcare provider or get medical help right away.
- tadalafil (Adcirca®), for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension
- telithromycin (Ketek®)
- thioridazine
- voriconazole (Vfend®)
- warfarin (Coumadin®, Jantoven®)
- zolpidem (Ambien®, Edlular®, Intermezzo®, Zolpimist®)

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine. Do not start any new medicines while you are taking STRIBILD without first talking with your healthcare provider.

Keep STRIBILD and all medicines out of reach of children.

This Brief Summary summarizes the most important information about STRIBILD. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can also ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about STRIBILD that is written for health professionals, or call 1-800-445-3235 or go to www.STRIBILD.com.

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Jean King Award Will Go To Lorraine H. Weber

DETROIT – On April 12 Lorraine H. Weber will receive the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan’s prestigious Jean King award during WLAM’s ninety-fifth annual conference at the historic Book Cadillac.



Lorraine H. Weber

The award is the latest in a long series of recognitions for Weber, who has served as the executive director of the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association Foundation since 2003 and as co-founder and executive director of For The Seventh Generation (www.fortheseventhgeneration.org) the DMBA’s program for foster children, since 2005.

“It would be a huge understatement to say that I’m thrilled to receive this award,” said Weber. “Every legal professional in our state is deeply aware of the many contributions Jean King has made in politics, social policy, and education to advance the cause of women’s equality. She is a role model and an inspiration, and I’m deeply honored to be recognized in her name.”

In 2003, Weber received the Community Service Pride Award from the Triangle Foundation, and in 2008 she was the recipient of the prestigious State Bar of Michigan Champion of Justice Award for her lifetime career of service to the causes of equal and open justice.

This year’s WLAM conference is entitled “Furthering Herstory Together.” In addition to the King award, the event will feature a keynote address by Judith Lichtman of the National Partnership for Women & Families, panelists including State Senators Gretchen Whitmer and Rebekah Warren and judges including WLAM past-President Marianne Battani, and the awarding of the Mary S. Coleman Award to Michigan Supreme Court Justice Marilyn Kelly.

The daughter and granddaughter of attorneys and an honors graduate of the University of Michigan and Boston College of Law, Weber first joined the Wayne County Probate Court in 1979 and went on to serve the Probate and Juvenile Courts in several capacities, including as a Referee of the Juvenile Division, for most of the next eighteen years.

Weber left the bench in July of 1997 to serve as special advisor to the State Bar of Michigan Task Force on Racial/Ethnic and Gender Issues in the Courts and the Legal Profession and director of the State Bar of Michigan Open Justice Commission. Under the leadership of Justice Marilyn Kelly and Judge Harold Hood, Weber worked with the commission to develop and administer numerous programs and initiatives specifically aimed at eliminating all forms of bias within the legal profession and promoting fairness in the courts. In August 2009, she was appointed the first Michigan Supreme Court Director of Access and Fairness by then Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly.

For more information or to register for the awards ceremony visit: <http://womenlawyers.org/> or call the association at 517-372-3320.

For more information about For The Seventh Generation and the upcoming In Seventh Heaven fundraising gala visit: www.fortheseventhgeneration.org or call (313) 961-6120, ext. 206.

“Well, all one has to do is turn on the TV or radio, read the paper, or connect through Facebook and Twitter to see how the climate has changed and is continuing to change. Never, in my lifetime, did I think we’d be looking at a broad cultural acceptance of marriage equality. Amazing. No matter the ultimate SCOTUS decision later this summer, Americans in general are much more aware and accepting of the LGBT community.”

- Garnet Lewis

Garnet Lewis Announces Candidacy for State Senate, Fundraiser April 15

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Democrat Garnet Lewis will officially launch her campaign for State Senator of the 32nd District with a fundraiser at Savoy Bar and Grill, 127 S. Franklin, Saginaw on April 15 at 5 p.m. Suggested donation is \$35.

Lewis was recently voted Third Vice Chair of the Michigan Democratic Party LGBT Caucus. She worked for the Michigan Democratic Party for the 2012 election cycle, and was previously the Chair of the Saginaw Area Democratic Club. She ran unsuccessfully for the House of Representatives for the 98th District in 2008.

As a prior member of the Northern Michigan University Board of Trustees and a former Central Michigan University administrator, she has demonstrated a passion for both politics and education. “I am a candidate running for the senate seat with the following priorities: economic development, educational funding, and infrastructure. I will fight for these three priorities for everyone, not just the majority,” Lewis said.

Lewis has served on the board of Michigan Equality, was a member of Perceptions and was honored with the Political Award from the Saginaw Valley LGBT Pride Awards. In 2008 the campaign against her turned nasty, with Republican opponent James Stamas’s camp taking out radio ads about Lewis’ sexual orientation. This year the climate is much different.

“Well, all one has to do is turn on the TV or radio, read the paper, or connect through Facebook and Twitter

to see how the climate has changed and is continuing to change. Never, in my lifetime, did I think we’d be looking at a broad cultural acceptance of marriage equality. Amazing. No matter the ultimate SCOTUS decision later this summer, Americans in general are much more aware and accepting of the LGBT community,” Lewis said.

“That bodes well for any progressive candidate and makes it possible to focus on the real reasons that I, or any other gay candidate are running: jobs, the economy, small business development, education, infrastructure, etc., etc. No longer are Americans as easily distracted by the traditional ‘gays, guns & God’ moral issues. At least one of the three G’s is being removed from the divisive topics of the recent past.”

As her campaign site outlines, there are several issues on her agenda. “A small business owner/manager for the past 8 years, she is well-aware that we need to grow Michigan’s economy to create jobs and return Michigan to prosperity. A former educator and administrator, she has seen the results of cuts to educational funding as they play out in K-12 schools, colleges, and universities, limiting opportunities for the state’s young people and pricing higher education out of range for many. A long-distance runner, she knows the value of clean air and a protected environment. And as an experienced political worker, she knows how to get things done, to move beyond gridlock and produce results.”

She will likely be facing Republican Paul Mitchell or former Republican Rep. Ken Horn. Mitchell, who owns Ross



Garnet Lewis

Medical Education Center in Saginaw, has already hired a political consultant and vowed to use his vast personal funds to run for the Senate seat.

State Rep. Terry Brown is among her growing number of supporters. “Garnet has earned my support, and that’s not easy. Our officials must be held to a high standard; they must act with responsibility and integrity; they must listen to and learn from others; and they must be a voice for those who are overlooked, ignored, or subjugated. In each of these, Garnet exceeds my expectations. I admire Garnet’s commitment to make this world better and her deep-seated understanding that it starts with the involvement of each of us working as a community as we work for the greater good,” Brown said.

Learn more at www.garnetlewis.com.

Emily Dievendorf Takes Reins At Equality Michigan

Managing Director Eager To Build 'Better Partnerships'

BY JAN STEVENSON

DETROIT – Equality Michigan's Board of Trustees has appointed Equality Michigan's director of policy, Emily Dievendorf, to the position of managing director of the organization. Emily will be empowered to lead the staff and organization. Currently there are four people on staff, including Dievendorf.

Equality Michigan has been without an executive director since Denise Brogan-Kator left that position in May 2012. The job description for the managing director states that "the managing director will also fulfill the responsibilities of the executive director to serve as the face of the organization and assist in fundraising." So in effect,

related to LGBT equality, race relations and equality, women's rights and HIV/AIDS. She serves on the board of the Lansing Area AIDS Network and as an appointed member of the Ingham County Women's Commission.

"I'm eager to build better and stronger partnerships between Equality Michigan and its allied partners within the movement and to expand the base to include Michigan citizens and our straight allies that are invested in justice issues but have not been active in the equality fight," said Dievendorf.

This should please other LGBT leaders, such as Dave Garcia, executive director of Affirmations Community Center, who said, "I would hope that Equality Michigan will reach out to

really be the leadership voice for the LGBTQ community and I love Emily's enthusiasm and passion for the work," said Kary Moss, executive director of the ACLU of Michigan.

"Emily and I have been working together on the Unity Michigan coalition for some time now," said Garcia. "I



do think that she is someone I can work with well, and that her heart and mind is in the right place. In fact we have already been in contact about having dinner soon to start working together in her new capacity as managing director."

Dievendorf said she is excited to delve into her new position. "Progress on relationship recognition nationwide has awakened Michigan citizens to the impact of inequality on our communities in regard to marriage. This is our opportunity to inform Michiganders about the harm done to friends and neighbors when we lack basic parental rights, employment and housing protections, and safety in our communities. I intend to make sure all equality-loving Michigan citizens are given the opportunity to join the discussion around Equality Michigan's goals and how we get there," she said.

other LGBT organizations throughout the state and work together with them to advance equality throughout the state of Michigan."

Dievendorf is already well known to many LGBT activists because of her work in Lansing as Equality Michigan's policy director and her role as the liaison to Unity Michigan for Equality Michigan.

Unity Michigan is a coalition of five of the largest LGBT organizations in Michigan including Equality Michigan, the ACLU of Michigan, Affirmations Community Center, Kick!, The Ruth Ellis Center and the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion.

"Equality Michigan is poised to

“Progress on relationship recognition nationwide has awakened Michigan citizens to the impact of inequality on our communities in regard to marriage. This is our opportunity to inform Michiganders about the harm done to friends and neighbors when we lack basic parental rights, employment and housing protections, and safety in our communities.”

Dievendorf is acting as the executive director until that position is filled sometime in the future, assuming it will be.

Dievendorf is a graduate of James Madison College at Michigan State University, where she was a social justice leader on campus as a student. She then worked in the Michigan House of Representatives, elevating to chief of staff to Representative Andy Coulouris (D-Saginaw), the chair of the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services. While in this position she focused on developing banking legislation, notably Michigan's Foreclosure Lifeline legislation. Dievendorf has engaged on issues

Pleasant Ridge to Hold Public Hearing On Human Rights Ordinance

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

The City of Pleasant Ridge is holding a public hearing on April 9, at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the possible adoption of a Human Rights Ordinance.

Commissioner Ann Perry is in support of the ordinance. "I was asked other day if there had been any instances of discrimination in our community. I know of no cases of discrimination in Pleasant Ridge. This is a thoughtful city that naturally embraces an inclusive culture. However, that doesn't mean the Pleasant Ridge can't benefit from a human rights ordinance. In keeping with our diverse community, this ordinance is about making sure all people in Pleasant Ridge are treated fairly and equally under the law," Perry said. "And more importantly, it is an open public statement that our city welcomes everyone, including businesses seeking an environment where diversity thrives."

The ordinance would ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in housing, public accommodations and employment. The City of Royal Oak recently passed a similar ordinance, but it was placed on hold after an opposing group of residents gathered 100 signatures to block its implementation. If the group is able to gather enough signatures, the ordinance will be put on the ballot for a public vote in November. If the petition drive fails, Royal Oak will be the 22nd city to have such an ordinance. If the ordinance is put on hold until November, Pleasant Ridge could become the 22nd if they pass their's first.

The hearing will take place in the City Commission Chambers, 23925 Woodward Avenue, Pleasant Ridge. Unity Michigan is among the groups advocating for human rights ordinances across the state. To learn more visit <http://www.unitymichigan.org/>.

JGN Plans Film Screening At Festival

WEST BLOOMFIELD – On April 16 at 8 p.m. the Jewish Gay Network will sponsor a film screening of Yossi. The film is part of the Annual Warwil Jewish Film Festival taking place April 7 - 18 at the Berman Center for the Performing Arts. Yossi is Eytan Fox's sequel to the 2002 hit film, Yossi and Jagger. The story line picks up with Yossi's life ten years later. Yossi is now a successful but lonely doctor. He meets Tom, but is it too late for him to feel something for someone again? JGN is will be hosting an afterglow following the film. Tickers are \$11 for the film or become a supporter of JGN and receive one ticket for the film and afterglow for \$25. Order tickets by sending a check, payable to JGN to: the Jewish Gay Network of Michigan, 6600 W. Maple Rd., West Bloomfield, MI 48322. You can also order tickets by calling 248-432-5661 or visit our website www.jgnmi.org. All tickets will be held at the JGN Will Call Desk at the Berman Center. Learn more about the film festival by visiting <http://filmfest.jccdet.org/film-schedule>

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Prop 8 Has Its Supreme Day

March 26: Roller Coaster Ride Over Standing, Merits

BY LISA KEEN

The U.S. Supreme Court took the marriage equality issue on a roller coaster ride March 26 as it heard almost 90 minutes of argument in the case testing the constitutionality of California's ban on same-sex marriage.

For supporters, the highs included Justice Sonia Sotomayor asking whether there was any other context other than marriage where there would be a rational basis reason for using sexual orientation as a factor in denying rights to gay people, to which Yes on 8 attorney Charles Cooper conceded "I do not have anything to offer." And they included Justice Anthony Kennedy commenting on the importance of considering the "immediate legal injury" that 40,000 children in California suffer because their same-sex parents are not allowed to marry.

The lows included the considerable time justices spent wrangling over whether the Yes on 8 supporters of Proposition 8, California's ban on same-sex marriage, have proper legal standing to appeal the case. It included Chief Justice John Roberts saying the debate was "just about the label" marriage. And it included Justice Antonin Scalia repeatedly interrupting marriage equality attorney Ted Olson demanding that he identify "when did it become unconstitutional to exclude homosexuals" from marriage. But none of the three attorneys had an easy day.

Chief Justice Roberts tackled Solicitor

General Donald Verrilli over his brief to the court, saying it was "inconsistent." Roberts noted that Verrilli was arguing that the children of same-sex couples do as well as the children of male-female couples, while also arguing that Proposition 8 harms the children of same-sex couples.

"Which is it?" asked Roberts.

Cooper stumbled, too, when Justices Stephen Breyer and Elena Kagan challenged his argument that marriage is all about regulating procreation. If so, asked Breyer, why does California allow sterile male-female couples to marry? If so, asked Kagan, why allow people over 55 to get married. (Cooper, to much laughter in the courtroom, offered that it was "very rare that both parties in such marriages are infertile.")

Olson, lead attorney with David Boies of the American Foundation for Equal Rights team representing two same-sex couples, got into the most prolonged exchange of the session when Justice Scalia demanded to know "when" it became unconstitutional to exclude gays from marriage. Scalia repeatedly insisted Olson identify a "specific date in time." Olson tried several times to answer the question and eventually shot back, "you've never required that before."

Gay Legal Activists

Gay legal activists seemed impressed with the overall discussion and most enthusiastic about Justice Sotomayor's

pointed question to Cooper, concerning other areas where gays could be excluded from rights.

"It was basically asking him whether it's permissible to treat gay people differently from everyone else in anything else other than marriage," said Mary Bonauto. "And [Cooper] said, 'I can't think of anything, no.'"

"I thought that was extremely important in terms of acknowledging equal treatment," said Bonauto. "I thought that was critical."

Jon Davidson, legal director for Lambda Legal Defense, said a high point for him was Kennedy's remark about the "legal impact" on children of same-sex couples.

"I was really encouraged that he was thinking about the children of same-sex marriage. That is a very good sign."

Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, said she was a little surprised by the "rather heated exchange" between Scalia and Olson, over when it became unconstitutional to exclude gays from the right to marry.

"What Ted Olson should have said is, 'It's always been a violation of the constitution but, like in many of the other cases (involving rights withheld from other groups), it took a while for us to recognize that this right always existed for these people that we treated

See March 26: Prop 8, page 16

Sen. Carper And Kirk Announce Support For Gay Marriage

ASSOCIATED PRESS AND BTL STAFF REPORT

CHICAGO – Republican Sen. Mark Kirk of Illinois and Democratic Senator Tom Carper of Delaware both announced support for gay marriage on April 2.

Kirk, who previously opposed a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, said in a post on his blog that "same-sex couples should have the right to civil marriage."

Carper made the announcement on his Facebook page, saying he came to his decision "after a great deal of soul searching."

The senators' announcements brings the total number of pro-marriage equality members of the senate to 50 out of 100 - including Michigan's Carl Levin and

Debbie Stabenow.

"Our time on this Earth is limited, I know that better than most," said Kirk, who suffered a stroke in January 2012. "Life comes down to who you love and who loves you back -- government has no place in the middle."

Kirk went through months of rehabilitation before returning to work in Washington this January. He said in his blog post that when he went back to the Senate he promised himself he would return "with an open mind and greater respect for others."

Kirk is Illinois' ranking Republican lawmaker. His announcement comes less than three weeks after Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio became the first Republican in the Senate to say he

supported gay marriage and one week after the U.S. Supreme Court held two days of oral arguments on the subject.

The news of the two senators' announcements was greeted with enthusiasm by supporters.

"Senator Kirk and Senator Carper have shown tremendous leadership in announcing their support for marriage equality," said HRC President Chad Griffin in a statement. "It is a sign of our progress that so many of their colleagues are showing the same political will. Democrat or Republican, there can simply be no excuse for standing on the wrong side of history when it comes to this basic question of justice."



Thousands of people gathered outside the U.S. Supreme Court March 26 and 27 in support of same-sex marriage. Anti-gay demonstrators were also present in small numbers.

DOMA In Cross Hairs On Historic Day 2

March 27: Equal Protection Clause Raised

BY LISA KEEN

Arguments in the U.S. Supreme Court March 27 over the Defense of Marriage Act sounded at times as if President Obama was on trial for enforcing the law even though he considers it unconstitutional. At other times, it sounded like Congress was on trial, for attempting to cloak its moral disapproval of gay people under the guise of seeking “uniformity.” And at the end of two hours, LGBT legal activists seemed cautious but optimistic that there are five votes to find DOMA unconstitutional.

It was the second and final day of two historic sessions at the nation’s highest court to hear oral arguments in cases challenging the federal law denying recognition of marriage licenses granted to same-sex couples and challenging a state law banning same-sex couples from obtaining marriage licenses.

Wednesday’s case, *U.S. v. Windsor*, posed the question of whether Section 3 of DOMA violates the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. New York lesbian Edith Windsor filed the lawsuit with the help of the ACLU when the federal government demanded she pay more than \$360,000 in estate taxes after her same-sex spouse died. Surviving spouses in male-female marriages do not have to pay estate taxes.

The first 50 minutes of the two-hour argument was given to a discussion of whether the case was properly before the court, given

procedural questions. On the issue of DOMA’s constitutionality, former George W. Bush Solicitor General Paul Clement, an attorney hired by the Republican-led Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group (BLAG), said the Congress, in passing the law in 1996, did not discriminate against gays but simply decided to define the term “marriage” “solely for federal law” in order to ensure “uniformity” in the deliverance of benefits.

“It’s rational for Congress to say its treating same-sex couples in New York the same as same-sex couples in Nebraska,” said Clement.

That assertion did not go unchallenged.

Justices Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, Stephen Breyer, Anthony Kennedy, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg all questioned Clement on it.

“What gives the federal government the right to be concerned at all about the definition of marriage?” asked Sotomayor, noting that marriage has always been considered an area of state law. She suggested members of Congress appeared to create a law to disfavor a “class they don’t like.”

When Clement suggested Congress was helping the states by putting the issue on “pause” and letting the states work through the democratic process in deciding the law in each state, Kennedy noted that DOMA seemed instead to be “helping states if they do what (members of Congress) want them to do.”

Justice Ginsburg said DOMA appears to affect same-sex couples by turning their

See March 27: DOMA, page 17

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John Corvino Releases New 'Gay Moralists' Video Series



John Corvino

The current debate over same-sex marriage, at the U.S. Supreme Court and elsewhere, has revived the moral debate over same-sex relationships. Despite tremendous social and political progress, LGBT people – and especially, vulnerable LGBT youth – continue to face objections to the way they experience love and affection.

In his new video series, Chair of the Wayne State University Philosophy Department and co-author of “Debating Same-Sex Marriage” John Corvino addresses these objections with his trademark combination of logical precision,

sensitivity and humor.

Is homosexuality unnatural? Is it a “risky lifestyle”? Are gay people born that way, and does it matter? For the past 20 years, John has traveled the country to address such questions.

In his new book “What’s Wrong with Homosexuality?” he presents his insights, and in these YouTube videos he shares some of the book’s content in an accessible and often funny way.

Until 2011, Corvino’s column “The Gay Moralists” appeared weekly at 365gay.com. He has also contributed to The Advocate, the LA Times, the Huffington Post and Between The Lines.

The full playlist, which lasts about an hour total is available at John’s website www.johncorvino.com.

Lesbian Pastor To Speak About Gay Marriage

GRAND RAPIDS—Rev. Cheryl Burke will speak at Plymouth United Church of Christ in Grand Rapids on April 21 about the rite of marriage and the LGBT community. Rev. Burke will share her experience with union services and marriage as an ordained UCC clergyperson and as a partnered lesbian woman with three children. She will speak during worship at 10 a.m. at the church located at 4010 Kalamazoo Ave. SE, in Grand Rapids.

The United Church of Christ has a decades-long history of promoting full inclusion of LGBT persons in the community of faith and society. In 2005, the United Church of Christ’s General Synod passed a resolution affirming equal marriage rights for couples regardless of gender, making the UCC the first mainline denomination to allow same-sex marriages in the United States. The resolution also urged congregations and individuals of the United Church of Christ to support local, state and national legislation on marriage equality and to work against legislation and constitutional amendments that deny those rights.

Rev. Burke currently serves as an Associate Conference Minister for the Michigan Conference of the United Church of Christ based in Lansing. A graduate of Hope College, she earned her Master of Divinity Degree at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. Cheryl’s partner is the Rev. Dr. Julie Kilmer, also an ordained UCC minister.

Plymouth United Church of Christ welcomes and supports people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. In 1998, by a vote of its membership the church became an “Open and Affirming” congregation. This is a specific designation for UCC churches nationwide, which have voted to declare publicly that they expressly welcome and affirm LGBT individuals.

For more information, call Plymouth UCC at 616-455-4260, visit www.plymouthchurchgr.org or email the church at Plymouth@wmis.net.

► March 26: Prop 8

Continued from p. 14

differently in the past.”

“I doubt that if any other lawyer had been up there it would have been as heated,” said Kendell, who said the exchange was like “two old friends” having a debate.

But each of the legal activists cautioned that it’s important not to read too much into what the justices said or asked.

“We all know you can’t tell from arguments how it’s going to go,” said Evan Wolfson, head of the national Freedom to Marry group. “The argument showed they’re wrestling with a lot of these big questions. I think standing is very much on their mind—very much a live part of the case. But they also were really grappling with the merits.”

Though none mentioned it, it must have been somewhat worrisome for marriage equality supporters to hear Justice Kennedy say, “the problem with this case” is that it is asking the court to “go into uncharted waters.” That mantra was repeated by several other justices during the argument in the case, *Hollingsworth v. Perry*. Justice Samuel Alito echoed it when he told Solicitor General Donald Verrilli that marriage for same-sex couples is a “very new” phenomenon, newer than cell phones.

“You want us to step into” this debate, he said, when “we don’t have the ability to see into the future. Why not leave it to the people?”

But hearing it from Kennedy was even more worrisome because he is considered the most likely fifth vote to provide a majority on one side or the other. Kennedy wrote the opinion in the 1996 *Romer v. Evans* decision striking an anti-gay initiative in Colorado and in the 2003 *Lawrence v. Texas* decision striking down sodomy laws. Both sides of the Proposition 8 case consider him the key vote to sway in order to consolidate a five-vote majority.

Recent Kennedy Decisions More Conservative

But Kennedy has been listing toward the conservative wing of the court recently, leading its dissent against President Obama’s Affordable Care Act and leading its majority ruling to allow corporations to contribute without limits to political

campaign activities. And in a speech in Sacramento March 6, he worried many marriage equality supporters when he told reporters he thinks it is a “serious problem” that the Supreme Court is being asked to settle controversial issues facing a democracy.

The *Hollingsworth v. Perry* case is testing the constitutionality of California’s voter-approved ban on same-sex marriage. Voters approved Proposition 8 in November 2008, just six months after a California Supreme Court ruling found that the state constitution required that same-sex couples be able to obtain marriage licenses the same as male-female couples do.

The American Foundation for Equal Rights organized the original lawsuit in federal district court in San Francisco in January 2010, initially over the objections of LGBT legal activists and groups. But the groups came onboard quickly and U.S. District Court Chief Judge Vaughn Walker (who came out as gay after retirement in 2011) issued a decision in August 2010, saying Proposition 8 violated the federal equal protection and due process clauses, that there was no rational basis for limiting the designation of marriage to straight couples, and that there was no compelling reason for the state to deny same-sex couples the fundamental right to marry.

Then California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Attorney General Jerry Brown declined to appeal Walker’s ruling, but Yes on 8 was granted permission to do so. A Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals panel upheld Walker’s decision but on much more narrow grounds. It said the U.S. Supreme Court’s 1996 ruling in *Romer* precluded voters from withdrawing the right to marry from same-sex couples in California. But the Supreme Court asked for arguments on the broader question of whether Proposition 8 violates the constitutional right to equal protection. It also asked whether Yes on 8 has proper legal standing to appeal the case after California elected officials decided not to.

As expected, there was considerable attention on the cases from the mainstream news organizations leading up to the arguments and very heavy media coverage of the argument Tuesday. Many nationally televised political talk shows spent time with commentators speculating whether the justices might be influenced by

the latest polls showing growing popular support for marriage equality.

Chief Justice Roberts' Gay Cousin In Courtroom

A number of news and commentary sites reported that Chief Justice John Roberts’ openly gay cousin—48-year-old Jean Podrasky of San Francisco—and her partner Grace Fasano would be in the courtroom as the Chief Justice’s guest. The Los Angeles Times quoted her as saying that, “He is a good man. I believe he sees where the tide is going. I do trust him. I absolutely trust that he will go in a good direction.” She acknowledged that, while Roberts knows she’s gay, she does not have any personal knowledge of his views on the marriage issue.

Hoping For A Seat To See History

People began standing in line for public seats on Thursday afternoon, five days before the Proposition 8 argument and in weather that was in the low thirties with rain and snow. On Monday afternoon, most were huddled under large blue tarps to fend off a wet snowfall. None of the dozen or so whom this reporter talked to acknowledged being professional “line-sitters,” though one small group did say they were holding places in line for friends from California. Surprisingly few said they were gay.

Three young men near the front of the line were with the Family Research Council, which opposes same-sex marriage.

Abigail Cromwell, a former criminal prosecutor from Cambridge, flew in Monday morning to see if she could get a seat. She supports marriage equality.

But the reasons each gave for trying to get into Tuesday’s argument was similar: history.

“This is the most important case of our generation,” said Cromwell.

“This is the civil rights issue of our time,” said a man in his fifties or sixties at the very front of the line. Rick declined to give his last name.

On the other end of the National Mall from the Supreme Court on Tuesday, the National Organization for Marriage held a rally of opponents of allowing same-sex couples to marry. The rally was broadcast live by C-SPAN.

marriages into a sort of “skim milk,” in comparison to the whole milk version enjoyed by male-female couples.

Justice Kagan perhaps hit the hardest note when she said the record of House proceedings around DOMA in 1996 seemed to indicate Congress “had something else in mind than uniformity.... something that’s never been done before.” She quoted a passage of the House report that said that DOMA was intended to express “moral disapproval” of marriage for same-sex couples.

“That’s a pretty good red flag,” said Kagan.

Clement seemed to be caught off guard by the excerpt. “Does the House Report say that?”

The challengers of DOMA appeared off guard at times, too.

Chief Justice John Roberts asked both Solicitor General Donald Verilli and plaintiff’s attorney Roberta Kaplan whether it would be permissible for Congress to adopt a definition for federal purposes that included gay couples, rather than excluded them.

Verilli said the House Report excerpt “makes glaringly clear” that DOMA was intended to exclude lawfully married same-sex couples.

“Are you saying that 84 senators were motivated by animus?” asked Chief Justice Roberts in follow-up to both Verilli and Kaplan.

Both Verilli and Kaplan clearly avoided saying they think DOMA was motivated by animus.

“It could have been a lack of reflection or an instinctive response,” said Verilli. But, he added emphatically, “Section 3 discriminates and it’s time for this court to recognize that discrimination cannot be reconciled with our fundamental commitment to equal protection of the law.”

But it was during questioning about the procedural matters that Roberts and other conservative justices hammered on what came across as much as a political jousting as it was a legal matter.

Roberts wondered why President Obama didn’t have “the courage of his convictions” that DOMA was unconstitutional and “instead, wait until the Supreme Court” rules it so.

Justice Samuel Alito said he thought it odd that President Obama



Edith “Edie” Windsor, who shared her life with her late spouse, Thea Spyer (right), for 44 years is at the heart of the DOMA fight. The ACLU filed a lawsuit on her behalf and that case, Windsor versus the United States of America, was before the U.S. Supreme Court last week.

would continue to enforce DOMA “until the court tells him to stop.”

Justice Breyer commented that the president has an “obligation” to faithfully execute the laws, whether he likes them or not.

Jon Davidson, legal director for Lambda Legal, said he was “very encouraged” by the argument.

“When it comes to the merits, I think there are at least five justices who are prepared to strike down Section 3 of DOMA,” he said. “One of the things that Justice Ginsburg said at the end, about the beginning of the sex discrimination cases, the court did strike down laws that discriminated based on sex based on rational basis, and saw it as discrimination.”

Mary Bonauto, head of civil rights for Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, said she thought the questioning was “vigorous” on the procedural issue of standing. On the issue of DOMA’s constitutionality, she said she thought Justice Kagan “called out” the discriminatory statement in the House report.

“Overall, they were asking the right questions and the right themes were in play,” said Bonauto.

Jenny Pizer, a Lambda Legal attorney who followed the case at the three-week trial in San Francisco, said she thought it was clear that the argument of “uniformity” made “no sense at all.”

“It was surprising to me the suggestion from some of the conservative justices that the administration should not enforce laws when they have questions about constitutionality or have a view of constitutionality different from

what previous administrations have said. That seems immensely impractical,” said Pizer.

“One thing that did seem clear yesterday and today,” said Pizer, “is that we’re witnessing a moment of recognition of anti-gay discrimination and the government trying to come to terms with how it should change. Perhaps we shouldn’t be that surprised that some justices are resistant to addressing the merits of the question, but the justices are particularly well situated to address them.”

Yesterday’s argument was over the constitutionality of Proposition 8, California’s voter-approved ban on marriage licenses for same-sex couples. The court heard 80 minutes of argument in *Hollingsworth v. Perry* over whether it should find California’s ban on same-sex marriage unconstitutional.

In both cases, both sides see Justice Anthony Kennedy as the most likely justice to provide a fifth vote for the winning side. But Tuesday’s argument in the Proposition 8 case left many speculating that the court may decide that opponents of marriage quality did not have proper legal standing to appeal the case.

Legal standing was an issue in the Windsor case, too, because the Obama administration appealed the Second Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals ruling that DOMA violates the equal protection clause of the constitution. A party bringing an appeal must show it is injured by the lower court holding.

Creep of the Week

OPINION BY D’ANNE WITKOWSKI

Dave Agema

Facebook’s ever-changing privacy settings can be confusing, but you might

want to click the “Only Me” setting if you’re about to post



something completely bat-shit crazy on your wall and are a figure of any public significance.

Or, if you’re Republican National Committeeman Dave Agema, you can post a foaming-at-the-mouth anti-gay screed for lots of people to see, complain that criticism you’ve received as a result is unfair, and then reaffirm that you actually believe the crazy shit you posted.

Agema used to be a state representative in Michigan. He was insanely anti-gay then, which is clearly a dream he’s still pursuing.

And so it was that Agema found himself posting an article titled “Everyone Should Know These Statistics on Homosexuals” by Frank Joseph, M.D., who may or may not be a real person. Regardless, whoever did write this had quite the imagination.

But wait, you say, the article has footnotes! It must all be true! Except the most recent source Joseph uses is from 1994, and the majority are from the late 70s and early 80s. For example, Joseph’s claim that “78 percent of homosexuals are affected by STDs” cites a source from 1982. Someone with even the most basic research skills would look at that number and say, “Huh. 78 percent sounds pretty high and 1982 was a long time ago. I’d better see if any more current information exists to back up such a wild claim before I post it to Facebook and defend it as gospel.” But not Agema.

Joseph’s “fact” sheet also included: “Homosexuals account for half the murders in large cities” and “50 percent of suicides can be attributed to homosexuals,” both citing the same unverifiable source.

Most reasonable people, even those against marriage equality, would not believe such alarming stats without sound support. The only people who’d believe such utter bullshit are people who want it to be true. Agema is, unabashedly, one of those people.

“The suicide rates and the murder rates, the diseases and the fact that they die younger and so fourth, it’s all in there,” Agema told WWMT-TV. “I not only believe it but it’s substantiated by several different articles and studies. That’s just a fact.”

And that, ladies and gentlemen, is how “facts” are made: anything that is included in “several different

The kind of ignorance Agema embraces is most certainly a lifestyle choice.

articles and studies” must be true, especially if someone with an M.D. after his name has posted it to the Interwebz, The Official Home of The Truth.

Republicans and Democrats alike have been calling for Agema to resign for posting such dumbfuckery to Facebook, but Agema has no intentions to do so and furthermore thinks this is all much ado about nothing.

“They quoted as what somebody else said and attributed it to me; I didn’t say that,” Agema said. In other words, “Just because I posted it to Facebook doesn’t mean I should be held in any way accountable for its message.”

“So, do I agree with everything that that guy said and the way he said it in the article, no. But he gives a lot of statistics on the results of the health and mental and physical health of the lifestyle and what it causes.”

Yes, yes he does. Lots of “statistics” specifically conjured to appeal to people who already believe terrible things about gays and lesbians. Thinking people are not the target audience here.

Which is why I think posting this was actually a cry for help. Coming out as stupid can be very difficult, but the kind of ignorance Agema embraces is most certainly a lifestyle choice.

“*Dave Agema should resign from his position with the National Republican Party.*”

“The Republican party believes every American deserves the utmost respect and dignity and we are a party that believes in traditional marriage. But that should never be confused with any form of discrimination or hate and any message to the contrary undermines the optimism and solutions that our party provides to people.”

Matt Frendeway, spokesman for the Michigan Republican Party

“It’s not a question of disagreement over an issue; rather it’s a question of tone. Bigotry, hatred, and discrimination cannot be tolerated regardless of a person’s position on an issue – particularly, from one in a position of leadership.”

- Brad Fingerroot, a Republican activist in Oakland County.

“I stand behind MiGOP Chairman (Bobby) Schostak’s statement that our support for traditional marriage shouldn’t be used to convey any form of hate or discrimination towards anyone. The Facebook posts by National Committeeman Dave Agema are disgusting and do not reflect what the Party stands for.”

- David Worthams, chairman of the Republican Party of Kalamazoo County, on his website March 28.

“As the only openly LGBT member of the Michigan Republican Party’s First District executive committee, and perhaps the only openly LGBT Republican elected to district party office in Michigan or higher, I was extremely offended by Agema’s post and subsequent defense of it, saying it has a place in discussion of same-sex marriage. As a prominent official, Agema helped reinforce some ugly stereotypes of Republicans.”

- Luke Londo, Marquette

The ‘Center’ Has Shifted

BTL EDITORIAL

Once upon a time it took political courage to stand up for LGBT rights. Mainstream journalists, elected officials and governmental agencies treated LGBT people with anything from open disdain to polite tolerance. As recently as 2004, the Democratic candidate for President, John Kerry, would not speak out against blatant discrimination espoused by the proponents of the anti-marriage amendments that appeared on ballots in 11 states, including Michigan.

Fast forward to last week when the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in two cases dealing with whether same-sex couples should be able to enjoy full marriage rights. At one point, Justice Elena Kagan noted that the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, signed by President Clinton, targets only one group of Americans and that “Congress’s judgment was infected by dislike, by fear, by animus.” The 1996 House Report, she noted, reads in part: “Congress decided to reflect and honor a collective moral judgment and to express moral disapproval of homosexuality.” Justice Kagan’s point was that the “animus” towards gays and lesbians, clearly defined in the Congressional Record, is no longer an acceptable rationale for discrimination.

She articulated reality – that the general attitude towards LGBT people has shifted, and that just not liking a whole group of Americans has no place in our collective political discourse.

We wholeheartedly agree. And we know that the cause for this rapid and profound shift in public opinion is that many more LGBT Americans have stepped out of the closet. Anyone who says that they have never met or don’t know a gay American is now viewed as out of the mainstream. And we know that the direct, personal experience of knowing someone who is LGBT is the primary factor in changing people’s attitudes.

We have been delighted by the specter of Republicans and Democrats tripping over each other in their rush to issue statements of support for full marriage rights. Sen. Bob Portman (R-Ohio), one of the most conservative U.S. Senators, voiced his support for marriage last week, and said his change of position had a lot to do with having a gay son. President Obama, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, former President Bill Clinton, cadres of congresspeople, senators,

We have been delighted by the specter of Republicans and Democrats tripping over each other in their rush to issue statements of support for full marriage rights. Sen. Bob Portman (R-Ohio), one of the most conservative U.S. Senators, voiced his support for marriage last week, and said his change of position had a lot to do with having a gay son.

Agema, a Republican National Committeeman and former Michigan legislator, who last week described us as “living a filthy lifestyle” and posted an article on his Facebook page that accuses gays of being diseased, alcoholic and responsible for half the murders in the country. His outrageous comments attracted national news and calls for his resignation, because Republicans fear his opinions are so far out of the mainstream

governors and mayors have collectively and individually issued statements of support.

Both of the U.S. Senators from Michigan, Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow support marriage equality. Sen. Levin co-sponsored the 2012 bill that would have repealed DOMA, and Sen. Stabenow issued this statement last fall: “Gay and lesbian couples should not be denied the ability to pledge their love and commitment through the civil institution of marriage. I believe that two committed adults of the same sex should be able to receive a government-issued marriage license, while religious institutions retain their right to determine which marriages they will perform.”

Anti-LGBT diatribes that were once the norm of the political right are now regarded as unacceptable. Reactions were quick and harsh against Dave

that it will cost them votes and financial support, especially among young voters who overwhelmingly support LGBT rights and marriage equality.

Once upon a time it would have been only us calling for his resignation. Now it’s even people in his own party.

This Sunday BTL hosts the 3rd Annual Same Sex Wedding Expo at the Detroit Marriott Livonia. Hundreds of people will mingle with vendors, munch on great food and sip wine. Many will be planning their nuptials. Even though it’s not legal yet in Michigan, we can feel that the center of public opinion has already shifted in our favor, and with enough time and momentum what once felt like a fairy tale will become the real story of the LGBT rights movement – full marriage equality in all 50 states.



Wedding Belles Are Wringing



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

It all started as an oh-so-clever, Mary! same-sex wedding joke that quickly got out of hand, soon becoming an urban legend.

This year there's a happy ending for one of the "grooms" caught as the saying goes between a rock and a hard place, way back when in '71.

The rock was big-name actor Rock Hudson. The hard place was actually not a hard place but a hard pile, as in Gomer. Gomer Pyle. Get it? (Rock Pyle.) Most straights, dense as church door knobs, didn't get it, so that's how the star-studded gossip got going. Going and growing.

Apparently some dizzy queens took it into their concocting craniums that sending out engraved invitations on gay neighbor Nabors announcing his wedding nuptials to Rock would be lots of fun. So, invites were printed and sent to a select few. They weren't maliciously sent, just thoughtlessly mailed without consideration for the consequences.

According to Hudson, who almost brought a lawsuit against the perpetrators, "There appears to be a couple of elderly, or middle-aged homosexuals who live in Huntington Beach, which is just down the coast from L.A., who every year give a party, a big party, 500 people or so," he commented defensively to the media. "They invited everyone they know."

"It's an engraved invitation, and to make it more amusing they will say things like: You're cordially invited to the coronation of Queen Elizabeth in Huntington Beach. The Hudson and Nabors item soon went all over the country."

Gossipmongers joined in, including a Windy City disk jockey who hinted the queenly couple combo "is a sort of rock of Hollywood, wedded to a plain guy (pause, pause) just neighbors."

Nabors, whom TV audiences saw as a good guy, country bumpkin type at heart, on the Andy Griffin and Gomer Pyle USMC shows, was shocked and appalled, commenting, "What can I say? It's like a nightmare, a bad dream. It's so ridiculous, yet so horrible. I really don't know what to say. Of course, it's untrue. But how do you convince people of something like that?"

Hudson and Nabors were casual friends, but neither star, enjoying highly successful careers on their own, wanted to be identified as gay. They agreed to stop speaking to each other. Nabors managed to survive the incident, appearing in several TV shows and entertainment engagements on the strength of his good-natured acting and singing talents.

Hudson, who remained closeted as much as he could get away with - his gayness was a well-known secret, with word-of-mouth circulation from steam bath habitués spreading his multiple-partner rumors during the so-called Sexual Revolution of the 70s and 80s - died of AIDS related causes in 1985.

In January of this year Nabors, 82, officially came out of the closet by marrying his partner of four decades, Stan Cadwallader, 64, in a swank Seattle Hotel. Happy, content, fulfilled, they returned to their shared home in Hawaii for sunshine and a few alohas and remaining well-deserved leis.

"I'm not ashamed of people knowing," says Nabors. "It's just a personal thing that I didn't tell anybody." (Don't worry, Gomer. We already knew. But thanks for blowing your cool anyway.)

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Same-Sex Wedding Guide

“Dan and Todd Jacey of Troy were so willing to share their story in an effort to educate people who don’t realize that having the wedding of their dreams is an option.”

Tying The Knot Despite The Law

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Many same-sex couples in Michigan aren’t waiting for the Supreme Court to decide on Prop 8 and DOMA in order to have a wedding.

Julia Josling, 30, popped the big question last December while out for date night at her favorite restaurant in Ann Arbor. Her partner, Andrea Vandenburg, 27, was apologetic because they don’t always have enough time to see each other with conflicting work schedules.

“That’s when she came to my side of the booth and said ‘well then how about we spend the rest of our lives together?’” said Vandenburg. Together for almost four years, the couple from Jackson said they were nervous about how they would be perceived when they approached the wedding coordinator at the English Inn and Restaurant in Eaton Rapids.

“With the business’ image in mind, I had to explain to her that Julia is a trans woman who used to be Jon and while she presents as a woman, her driver’s license still says male,” said Vandenburg. “She was 100 percent supportive of a ceremony with two brides.”

This means their marriage is valid and legal, according to the National Center for Transgender Equality. As

stated on the NCTE website: “Generally, the validity of a marriage is determined by the status of the couple at the time the marriage was performed. If the spouses were different genders at the time of marriage, the marriage should remain valid even if one spouse later

transitions.”

“My assumption is that this couple will apply for a marriage license in Michigan as an opposite-sex couple. This is a bit of a complicated issue because Michigan has no case law regarding what gender a transgender person is recognized

as in regards to a marriage,” said ACLU of Michigan LGBT Project Staff Attorney.

The NCTE website further states: “Some couples in this situation currently encounter discrimination from government officials, private employers or others who erroneously refuse to

honor the marriage based on the mistaken view that events that happen after a couple marries can somehow retroactively invalidate a marriage that was lawful at the time it was entered.”

But Josling and Vandenburg aren’t worried about all the obstacles right now while they plan for what will be the happiest day of their lives underneath the pergola on the Grand River with 50 of their closest friends and family.

“Right now, the focus is wrapping up invites and tasting cakes with our favorite almond cream and fruit fillings,” said Vandenburg.

“This isn’t about trying to impress people or make it about anybody but us. It’s about us coming together and sharing our life together,” said Josling, who didn’t think there was anybody else like her out there. “Hearing other people’s positive stories helps.”

Dan and Todd

This is why Dan and Todd Jacey of Troy were so willing to share their story in an effort to educate people who don’t realize that having the wedding of their dreams is an option.

“We always wanted to get married,” said Todd Jacey, 45. He and his 48-year-old partner are celebrating their



Todd (left) and Dan (right) following their wedding ceremony ten years ago. Photo courtesy of the couple

See *Tying The Knot*, page 22

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“Not all LGBT couples are going to have a traditional wedding either, so what a great way to showcase different ideas. It would definitely take away the fear of rejection or being treated differently.”

- Todd Jacey

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► Tying The Knot

Continued from p. 20

tenth anniversary this month. “People ten years ago didn’t know you could do this. Dan is Catholic, but we had a very traditional wedding in a Lutheran church followed by a reception with a caterer and 165 guests. We picked out wedding bands and ordered a white cake with butter cream frosting decorated with periwinkle flowers, our color of choice. We even had cake cutting knives engraved.”

Business owners and guests from other wedding parties were curious about two men having a wedding. “We answered lots of questions and made sure people we did business with were comfortable and supported us rather than just tolerated the idea in order to take our money,” said Todd Jacey.

“If we knew where to find people that supported us, it would’ve been much easier,” he said, adding that he would have taken full advantage of an event like the Third Annual BTL Same-Sex Wedding Expo at the Detroit Marriott Livonia on April 7, had it been around when they were planning their wedding.

“We would have gone not just to find support, but to support those businesses. Not all LGBT couples are going to have a traditional wedding either, so what a great way to showcase different ideas. It would definitely take away the fear of rejection or being treated differently,” he said.

After all this time, it is important to the Jacey’s that their marriage is legally recognized for the benefit of their five-year-old children Sydney and Timmy who need two



Julia (left) and her partner, Andrea (right), had apprehensions when they approached the wedding coordinator at English Inn and Restaurant in Eaton Rapids, but were pleasantly surprised by her support. Photo courtesy of Julia and Andrea.

legal parents, not just one. “Marriage is about starting a life together and creating families, whether it’s a family of two or many. Find the people that support you and you can create the family you want.”

But according to Kaplan, we are up against quite a few barriers. “Michigan has had laws on the books since 1996 that deny gay couples the right to marry and deny recognition of marriage between same-sex couples in other states. In 2004, voters approved a referendum amending our state constitution to limit marriage to opposite sex

See *Tying The Knot*, page 32



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Expo To Offer Lots Of Options

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

LIVONIA - The process of planning a wedding is supposed to be fun and exciting, not pressure-filled and intimidating. There are many LGBT-friendly vendors who understand and are ready to help at the Third Annual BTL Same-Sex Wedding Expo at the Detroit Marriott Livonia April 7.

When it comes to dress and tuxedo shopping,

ordering a cake, choosing rings, or selecting a photographer and flowers, many local vendors are available to provide products, resources and information for same-sex couples looking for something that suits their needs.

“Flowers are beautiful. They stir the senses and enhance the special day. Without flowers, a wedding just wouldn’t seem complete,” said Jeffrey Jucewicz, owner of Fleurtech Designs (www.fleurtechdesigns.com) in Bloomfield

Hills. “For years I had seen so many boring, predictable flower arrangements and I started thinking about how I might use a shape and texture to create something more sculptural with impact.”

Fleurtech offers up some advice for couples when choosing flowers. “Don’t be afraid to think outside of the box. I often like to select flowers that are seldom used and design using them in mass. Flowers such as carnations,

Great company, food, drinks and fabulous vacation getaways are part of this year’s BTL Same-Sex Wedding Expo.

Attendees will also have a chance to participate in two workshops, hear great music and meet 40 terrific vendors!

baby’s breath, and gladiolas are often seen as being inexpensive but when bunched together tightly, these flowers can have a huge impact,” he said. “I’m not only able to create beautiful floral designs but often work with my clients in designing the entire event. You know, a wedding or any event is so much more than just centerpieces.”

Many LGBT people love the opportunity to

See Options, page 26


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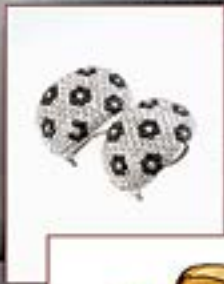
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► **Options**

Continued from p. 24

be non-traditional and reinvent what weddings should look like. That's why stores like Infinity Jewelers (www.infinityjewelersmi.com) in Royal Oak are so unique.

"We hand make a lot of our own jewelry and have the ability to create any design anyone can dream of. We make it in-house so that helps us keep the cost down," said Seta Bederian, owner of the store in business for more than 25 years. "We are an honest jewelry store with the ability to give couples fast and reliable service with any jewelry repairs. Our customers can expect to receive exactly what they paid for and friendly service from a knowledgeable staff," he said.

While there are many LGBT-friendly venues to choose from, some LGBT couples would prefer a more traditional and religious ceremony. That is made possible at the Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church (www.northwestuu.org).

Couples making a commitment to one another need a supportive community of faith and the church officials declared on the website that they are "proud that Northwest UU publicly and successfully welcomes LGBT people. We celebrate the lives of all people and welcome same-sex couples, recognizing their committed relationships, and equally affirms displays of caring and affection without



Expo vendors Miner's Den (above) and B. Ella Bridal (right) return to the expo, April 7. BLT photos: Andrew Potter

regard to sexual orientation."

For Marsha Hogerheide, owner of the Buttercream Bakeshop (www.buttercreambakeshop.net) in Wixom, it's important to find someone to work with that is flexible and willing to brainstorm ideas, whether it is simple and elegant or out of the box. "Be creative and think about what you like and how you would like to share this with friends and family," said Hogerheide, owner of the bakeshop established in 2006. "Use the Internet for ideas. Don't get lost in the millions of pictures or ideas, but narrow it down and find a few jumping points then add your own touch to it."



Hogerheide has had the pleasure of creating wedding cakes for LGBT celebrations before. "I don't discriminate against anyone," she said. "I want to be able to provide a product that people are happy with and are proud to talk about it with friends and family. It doesn't even cross my mind to ask. What I do ask is what flavor of cake do you like?"

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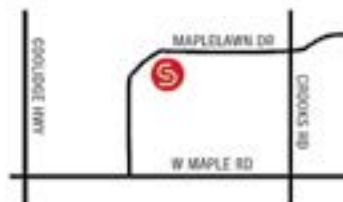


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Four Approaches, One Goal: Marriage Equality

Workshop To Look At Potential Roads To Equality For Michigan's Same-Sex Couples

BY DAWN WOLFE

LIVONIA - The theme of this year's Between The Lines Same-Sex Wedding Expo is "Marriage Rites for All," after all – so of course one of our workshops needs to feature the activists and attorneys working to achieve marriage rights for all.

Without further ado, here is a look at our panelists and their differing approaches to marriage rights.

Taking our presenters in alphabetical order, first we come to Equality Michigan's Director of Policy, Emily Dievendorf. According to Dievendorf, Equality Michigan (www.equalitymi.org) has been in the marriage equality business, "...since the 1990's, when the so-called Defense of Marriage Act was first presented."

Our People In Lansing

Equality Michigan, then known as the Triangle Foundation, was

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a founding member of 2004's Coalition for a Fair Michigan – the coalition that tried, unsuccessfully, to defeat Michigan's anti-gay marriage state constitutional amendment. Since then, Dievendorf said, her organization has "...engaged in public education and lobbying efforts to increase support for marriage equality," with the goal of ultimately repealing the 2004

Proposal 2.

Dievendorf said that her organization's approach focuses primarily on lobbying and public education. "With an issue as complex as the advancement of marriage equality, there is no one best venue for achieving success. Ultimately, success will only be achieved through a combination of public education, legislative

lobbying, and court cases." Though the organization has contributed amicus briefs to support other organizations in LGBT-related court cases, Dievendorf said, "...we feel that a combination of political lobbying organizations and grassroots organizations is our best chance for engaging the magnitude of people required to effectively implement a strategy for each venue."

Young Activists See Hope In The Ballot

While Equality Michigan is taking the struggle for marriage equality – and other LGBT issues like workplace discrimination – to Lansing, Andrea Ernst and MILove (www.milove.org) hope to take the issue directly to voters with a pro-equal marriage ballot initiative.

BTL first profiled Ernst and MILove in our Feb. 14 issue.

According to Ernst, MILove is currently working to educate voters about the challenges same-sex couples and their children face under discriminatory Michigan laws. A young organization headed by young activists, MILove is also starting with the state's college campuses in addition to recruiting teams throughout Michigan. "...we are building relationships with student organizations and faculty members..." she added, because, "the support of Michigan's youth will be instrumental in passing a marriage equality ballot proposal."

While the ballot box was once a disaster for marriage equality in Michigan, Ernst believes that current poll numbers may well lead to a pro-equality victory.

"Our approach capitalizes on the recent drastic change in public opinion and allows the people of Michigan to create the change that they want to see in our state," she

See Workshops, page 34

Top 10 Reasons To Come To The Same-Sex Wedding Expo

Back by popular demand, the Third Annual BTL Same-Sex Wedding Expo will paint the Detroit Marriott Livonia rainbow-colored once again this April 7 from 1-4 pm.

What makes this event so special - besides the chance to meet with dozens of LGBT-affirming wedding vendors and other service providers in one convenient place?

We thought you'd ask. That's why we've put together this list of the Top Ten Reasons to put this year's Expo in your calendar:

1 Get away for the day - and earn a chance to win a getaway later! BTL 20th Anniversary sponsors Caesar's Windsor and Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island are offering six weekend getaways featuring all sorts of tasty extras and the Detroit Marriott Livonia is chipping in with weekend trips too! If you're getting married this spring or summer - or even if you're

not - wouldn't you like to spend a weekend in a Deluxe Room with dinner for two at the Market Buffet, for example? Of course you would.

2 Other Prizes! Start your life of wedded bliss off right with gift certificates for florists, jewelers, bakers, and more, including a free tux rental (spiffy!) and a Tapper's gift card. We have more than fifty giveaways available, and all you have to do to qualify for a chance at winning is register and have fun at our party.

3 Yes, there is such a thing as a free lunch - and we have it for you at the Expo, including two adult drinks. Put your diet on hold, or get in an extra few workouts, because our caterers and bakers will be tempting you with samples and we'll have a full menu of hors d'oeuvres, courtesy of the Marriott. Oh - and

did we mention the return of AG Chocolates' amazing chocolate fountain for your treat-dipping pleasure?

4 This party isn't just for queers. Or couples. If you're an ally, LGBTQIAO(ETC), single and hoping, single and not caring, engaged or disengaged, you're still welcome to join the fun. Many of our vendors offer essential services all year round - where else can you interview a prospective attorney or caterer over a glass of champagne?

5 The Windsor Experience Lounge. Get a taste of Canadian hospitality and Canadian equality while learning everything you need to know to tie the knot, officially even, in Windsor. Lots of fine Canadian vendors will also be on hand to politely offer their services. Like Canadians do (and we love them for it).

6 A free workshop on protecting your joint finances. Michigan still isn't out of the Stone Ages as far as equality is concerned, but you can still protect your relationship. This workshop will show you how to deal with taxes, your joint finances, and plan to make sure growing older together really is the best that's yet to be.

7 A look at the State of LGBT equality in Michigan. We may have a great Supreme Court decision just in time for the Expo (and what a wedding gift that would be)! We may have a bad decision, or a muddled decision that is both. Regardless what the SCOTUS does, this workshop is a chance to find out what's next for equality in Michigan - and how to make things better. Because right now, our state's laws need all the help we can give them...

8 Support the businesses that support you! When we spend money on LGBT and allied companies, those companies return the favor. Did you know that more than 100 corporations signed an amicus brief urging the Supreme Court to strike down California's anti-marriage Prop 8? That's the power of our dollars talking.

9 Can't wait for Pride in June? The Same-Sex Wedding Expo is like Pride in April! Because, really: who wants to wait until June for a great party?

10 Speaking of parties, this year's Expo just happens to be the start of BTL's 20th Anniversary celebrations! Raise a toast with us to acknowledge all that has come before and look ahead to a more equal future. Because we will get there, over that rainbow, and we'll get there together.



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• See Fabulous Vendors, pg. 30



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► Tying The Knot

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couples. The language of this amendment also refers to ‘or similar union for any purpose.’ These six words have been interpreted very broadly by our State Supreme Court as basically taking everything off the table for same-sex couples regarding relationship recognition. No civil unions, no domestic partner health insurance benefits. We have one of the broadest relationship recognition prohibitions in the country and we are the only state where this prohibition is as a result of a state court interpretation. We are one of the worst states in the country as it pertains to LGBT relationship recognition. The only way we can get to marriage equality in our state is to repeal this amendment through a ballot initiative campaign, or for the United States Supreme Court to declare that it is unconstitutional to deny gay couples the right to marry, something many legal



Lia (right) proposed to Chloe (left) over an elaborate breakfast last January. Regardless of the Supreme Court's upcoming decision, the couple plan to find a way to marry. Photo courtesy of Lia and Chloe

experts believe that the Court is not yet ready to do,” he said.

Until then, LGBT couples will find a way to be together forever.

“We’re in the beginning stages of planning, but we’re thinking about eloping, maybe going to Canada or New York possibly

and then we’ll have a party for friends and family at home,” said Chloe Matthews, 27, who met her partner Lia Tennant, 25 via the

Internet. Tennant, a soon-to-be chemical engineering graduate from Wayne State University, secured a position working in oil field services in New Mexico where their out-of-state marriage would be recognized.

In a relationship for almost six years, the Ferndale couple got engaged when Tennant proposed over an elaborate breakfast at home in January.

“It was adorable. I had a feeling because she was acting out of the ordinary around Christmas time. She had gone shopping for a ring with friends from work and I know she hates shopping,” said Matthews. “We had an interesting experience when we first got engaged. You want people to be really happy and excited for you, but not everybody has responded in a supportive way and it’s unfortunate. But that’s what makes the people who have been supportive that much more special.”

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► Workshop

Continued from p. 28

said during an interview via email. “Our greatest strength is that our success lies in the hands of Michigan voters - where we already have a projected majority supporting marriage equality.”

On the other hand, Ernst admits that public opinion can be fickle – and that anti-equality forces are willing to twist the truth to their own ends. “Our greatest risk lies in the fact that people can be unpredictable, and it will require a significant amount of time and effort to ensure that we ultimately get a majority of voters to support our cause,” she conceded. “This means we will have to work hard to combat factors such as voter apathy or opponents that may try to twist our message to confuse voters.”

Has Legal Briefs, Will Fight for Equality – ACLU of MI

Like Equality Michigan, the ACLU of Michigan’s LGBT Project has been fighting for marriage equality (and equal rights generally) since the beginning – and Jay Kaplan, our next presenter and staff attorney of the organization’s LGBT Project (www.

aclumich.org/courts/lgbt-project), has been on the front lines of that fight from the beginning.

Kaplan and his staff directly challenge discriminatory laws through the court system, public education efforts, and legislative lobbying. While the organization takes this three-pronged approach, however, it is best known for its work in the courts.

“We actively opposed the federal Defense of Marriage Act and Michigan laws that denied same-sex couples the right to marry,” Kaplan said. “We also actively opposed the (legislative) attempt to amend our state’s constitution in 2003, as well as the ballot referendum in 2004.”

When persuasion didn’t work, the ACLU went to court. “We sued the State of Michigan regarding its interpretation of the Marriage Amendment and whether the language of the amendment prohibited domestic partner health insurance benefits, [and] [w]e sued the State of Michigan last year for passing a law that prohibits certain public employers from offering health insurance coverage to same-sex partners even where the eligibility criteria has nothing to do with relationship recognition,” Kaplan explained. Unfortunately for equality, Michigan’s courts ruled against the ACLU – and Michigan’s LGBT citizens – in those cases.

Making A Federal Case For Equality Under the Law

While Michigan’s legislature and court system are, on the whole, against equal protection under the law for LGBT couples and their children, Detroit attorney Dana Nessel is hoping that going directly to the federal court system may bring some much-needed relief.

Nessel, of the firm Nessel & Kessel Law (<http://nesselandkesselaw.com>), specializes in criminal and family law and told BTL that, “[M]y passion has long involved issues related to LGBT rights, and I have handled a variety of cases involving the inequitable treatment of gays and lesbians in our community,” including representing Renee Harmon in her unsuccessful 2010 bid to keep joint custody after her partnership with her children’s biological mother ended.

Given the failure of Michigan’s courts to uphold the rights of LGBT parents, Nessel is now trying a case in federal court challenging the state’s ban on second-party, same-sex adoption. In *DeBoer et al v. Snyder*, Nessel is representing the rights of a same-sex family headed by two women, both nurses, who are the adopted parents of three special needs children. Under Michigan law, each

of the couple’s children can only be legally adopted by one parent. As part of the case, Nessel and her Co-Counsel Carole Stanyar are also challenging the constitutionality of Michigan’s anti-marriage amendment. The case is currently pending.

“Michigan’s laws are, without question, the most anti-LGBT laws in the United States,” Nessel said. “Despite the admirable efforts of many LGBT advocacy groups in the state, not only is the state legislature unwilling to remotely consider passing any laws which afford protections to gays and lesbians and their families, the laws routinely proposed at the state level offer only further discrimination against the LGBT population.”

“I honestly believe that, at this juncture, challenging the constitutionality of Michigan’s laws as applied to gays and lesbians is the only course of action which has the opportunity of providing relief to the LGBT residents of our state.”

BTL readers can hear all 4 speakers at the Same-Sex Wedding Expo this Sunday, April 7 at 2:15 p.m. at the Detroit Livonia Marriott on Six Mile just east of I-275. Tickets to the expo are \$10 and include all the wonderful food, cake and dessert you can manage. Six great vacation getaways will also be given to six lucky Expo attendees. The Expo will open at 1 p.m. and run till 4 p.m.

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Healing Words

Lesbian Poet To Perform Original Work April 13

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

No matter what the art form, the artists creating it share a common goal: connection.

Whether they are seeking to connect to a concept, an idea, an audience, a reader, a viewer, a listener, the past, the present or the future, the act of creation is ultimately a form of communication and sharing. For performance artist and poet Natasha T. Miller, that is the most crucial part of the work she does.

“It’s the connection to other people,” says Miller, a 28-year-old native Detroit. “If I can get people to listen to me, I can change minds and change views just by speaking words that are coming to me from my heart and my head. That’s what really appeals to me about my poetry.”

As someone who didn’t know much about poetry when she first started writing and performing it, Miller has used the medium to say powerful things about numerous topics, especially about being an African American, being a woman and being gay. She performs at poetry slams, communicates her ideas through social media, has published two books, and is working on a documentary about a Detroit transgender teen who was murdered. She was the 2012 Kresge Artist Fellow in the Performing Arts.

On April 13 midway through Art X Detroit: Kresge Arts Experience, she’ll present “The Biggest, Gayest Play Ever.” The performance will take place at 8 p.m. at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. It will feature several artists performing poetry

Kresge Artist Fellow in the Performing Arts Natasha T. Miller will perform her original work as part of the Art X Detroit on April 13. Photo: David Lewinski Photography

through several different mediums, from dance to the spoken word, to acting to playing instruments.

"I booked these different artists from different parts of the country," Miller says. "Most were poets, but some were singers and artists in different art forms. They came out and performed work tailored to the LGBTQ community. We're using other disciplines to bring out the poetry. It is about the poetry, but we're going to bring the poetry to life with other art forms."

Art X Detroit features Kresge eminent artists and artist fellows. The multidisciplinary event opens on April 10 and runs through April 14. The visual arts exhibition will remain open until April 28. The free program takes place at more than 12 different venues in Midtown Detroit and includes dance and musical performances, literary readings, workshops, panel discussions, public art and special exhibitions.

Miller says her main message to anyone in the LGBTQ community is to just hold on and to believe that whoever you are is who you were meant to be and who God intended you to be. The pieces she writes draw from her own experiences and the experiences of others.

"I enjoy the pieces that are about my own struggles," Miller says. "I read a lot of pieces about the LGBTQ community, about being a black woman, about ex-girlfriends. The pieces that are for me and for my healing process and how I feel growing up or overcoming things – those are the pieces that really resonate with me. Every time I perform them, I can feel a part of myself healing."

Miller said her own experience as a lesbian was made easier by having a very loving and supporting family.

"One day I had a boyfriend in middle school, the next day I had a girlfriend," Miller says. "No one in my family shunned me or shut me out. No one made a big deal out of it."

Miller said that in high school there were several women in her social circle who were dating other women.

"They didn't coerce me or force me. They just showed me this different lifestyle and I recognized myself in this life and that it was a part of me," Miller says. "It didn't define me, but I knew it was a part of me. From 10th grade, I knew that was the way I wanted to love."

As part of her performance, Miller will unveil the trailer to the documentary she is producing about Michelle Hilliard, a transgender teen who was killed in Detroit in 2011. The film, "TransParent," puts the spotlight on Detroit's transgender community as well as telling the story of a mother who loses her child.

INFO

The Biggest, Gayest Play Ever

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Bedlam And Belly Laughs At The Encore

BY CAROLYN HAYES

From a mission-statement standpoint, The Encore Musical Theatre Company's leap from four seasons of wall-to-wall musicals to a "straight" stage play is a noteworthy development. From an artistic standpoint, however, the theater's production of "Lend Me a Tenor" (by Ken Ludwig) delivers unequivocal proof that there is no learning curve for director Tobin Hissong and his sharp ensemble. This zany behind-the-scenes farce is profusely funny on its own merits and reaches exceptional performative heights, no qualifier required.

It's going to be a huge night of prestige and fundraising clout for the Cleveland Opera Company, which has nabbed world-famous Italian tenor Tito Mirelli (Brian Sage) for his American debut, singing "Otello." And the gala is going to go perfectly, provided that every variable falls magically into place — details like the man of the hour showing up, or agreeing to attend rehearsal. Care and maintenance of the noted womanizer is entrusted to lowly Max (Sebastian Gerstner), whose prime directives are to keep the star out of trouble and to deliver him punctually to the stage door, or else face the rage of the explosively stressed Saunders (Paul Hopper).

If only poor Max had noticed the number of doors in designer Leo Babcock's luxe two-room hotel suite. There are no less than six doors visible in the lovely gilt-beige 1934 art deco setting, simply amber-lit by Daniel Walker, and all are oiled and optimized for frequent use — bad for Max and the gala, good for the audience.

Beginning with Tito's tardiness, and continuing with the unexpected wrinkle of his hot-blooded, accusatory wife (Angela Miller) tagging along, the misfortunes keep on coming. Throughout the first act, the extent of each crisis is directly proportional to the comic strength of the absurdly implausible material, allowing the frantic Gerstner and Hopper to shine as they endeavor to keep the stable of bigger, broader supporting characters blissfully uninformed. But considering the growing queue of women who want a piece of Tito, it's only a matter of time before a misunderstanding begets a crisis, which snowballs into a whoopsie overdose, which leaves Max and Saunders no choice but to enact a Hail-Mary switcheroo in order to keep the event afloat. (The plausibility of the substitution is foreshadowed in the establishing scenes, including an impromptu singing lesson that elegantly references The Encore's musical foundations.)

Fortunately for our heroes, the little substitution works; unfortunately for them, this means continuing to keep up the ruse, a prospect that becomes even more unfortunate when some parties are less dead to the world than previously



Brian Sage, Sebastian Gerstner and Paul Hopper in "Lend Me a Tenor." Photo: The Encore Musical Theatre

thought. Yet even one real Tito and one impostor on the loose (both in blackface as Otello, a necessary evil for this level of deception) can hardly keep up with the clamor of hangers-on: the casting-couch costar (Tara Tomcsik-Husak), the high-status opera board president (Barbara Coven), the overstepping bellhop (Elliott Styles), and even Max's own true love (Thalia Schramm), a romantic naïf who wants to be swept off her feet before settling down. Needless to say, costume designer Sharon Larkey Urick's vision is working overtime with duplicate outfits, sophisticated black-tie ensembles, and skimpy underthings, as the characters' euphoric post-opera libidos and mistaken identities make for strange bedfellows indeed.

The result is mayhem of the finest order, a universally proficient show with generous portions of exceptional to boot. The wily Tomcsik-Husak strews the stage with devilishly rich innuendo, and later levels with Schramm in a rare scene of female complicity. Brutish baby Sage is also deserving of mention, especially his delightfully infectious reactions to bewildering second-act encounters. Above all, however, is Gerstner's extraordinary lead performance: The actor shows a unique gift for deadpan squareness that is equally as funny as his later fits of melodramatic apoplexy, not to mention above-and-beyond physical excesses that sing.

Skillful production and playful entertainment both, this "Lend Me a Tenor" has tricks up its sleeve that go beyond complex door-slamming precision and a flair for the histrionic. It stands to reason that plays that are evidently fun to perform are even more fun to watch, and judging by the energy ping-ponging through the house on opening night, Hissong and company (and, by extension, the viewer) have hit the fun jackpot.

PREVIEW

Lend Me a Tenor

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Out of Town



Downtown Pittsburgh, viewed from across the Allegheny River, on the city's North Side. Photo: Andrew Collins

Pittsburgh

BY ANDREW COLLINS

Once one of the country's preeminent industrial powerhouses, with a population of nearly 700,000, Pittsburgh (visitpittsburgh.com) has – like many similar American cities – changed considerably over the past few decades. Although now less than half the size as during its heyday, this hilly and historic metropolis in the Ohio Valley is enjoying a dramatic renaissance, with a number of formerly downcast neighborhoods now abuzz with hip restaurants, indie shops and rehabbed factory buildings, apartments, and row houses. Having received a bump in gay visibility during the years it served as the setting of TV's "Queer as Folk" (which was actually filmed in Toronto), Pittsburgh has also steadily developed into a very popular weekend destination among LGBT travelers.

Once the nation's leader for mining and metals manufacturing, Pittsburgh has re-emerged as a thriving center of health and medical research, education, and computer software industry. Air and water pollution have been largely eradicated, and many former industrial sites now house cultural attractions.

Gays and the arts

The gay community is well-integrated within the mainstream population. The city has numerous theaters with artsy and gay-themed films and a high appreciation of alternative culture – consider that two of its top attractions are the Mattress Factory contemporary art museum and the Andy Warhol Museum. Also, the city hosts the well-attended Pittsburgh

International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival over 10 days in October, and the fast-growing Pride Theater Festival over two weekends in June.

Although, downtown contains but a fraction of metro Pittsburgh's top attractions, its handsome, contemporary skyline strikes a regal pose over the confluence of the Ohio, Allegheny, and Monongahela rivers. You can't miss the city's most remarked-upon skyscraper, PPG Place, a neo-Gothic monolith designed by the late gay architect, Philip Johnson. Near here, Liberty and Penn avenues form the spines of a 14-block Cultural District of theaters and performance halls housing the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, the Pittsburgh Ballet, and the Pittsburgh Opera. You'll also find numerous theaters, including the gay-popular Cabaret at Theater Square, where you can enjoy cocktails and tapas while taking in a show.

Penn Avenue continues into the historic Strip warehouse district, which has several nightclubs and restaurants interspersed among produce and food markets, and offbeat shops. The neighborhood is also home to the superb Sen. John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center. The neighborhood leads northeast into the cool 16:62 Design Zone, home to boutiques, home-furnishings shops and galleries.

Pittsburgh's North Side lies just across the Allegheny River from downtown and is home to the city's relatively new sports stadiums as well as the Andy Warhol Museum, which celebrates the life of the late pop art icon, who grew up in nearby Oakland. Created inside an eight-story 1911 warehouse, the museum contains more than 8,000 works and is an outstanding, engaging, and often very funny museum, laid out with abundant commentary on Warhol's life (and his homosexuality). Close by are the Carnegie Science Center, the National Aviary, and the Mattress Factory, known for its provocative

See Pittsburgh, page 45

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Williamston's 'Valentine' Expresses A Love Of Life

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

Is it a crime to live a little life if that is what everyone expects of you?

At 46, Shirley Valentine is wondering whether there is life outside the confines of her kitchen and companions with more to say than the wall who has been listening to her for years. In the more than capable hands of Julia Glander on the Williamston Theatre stage, Shirley is able to explore her dilemma and take the audience on her journey.

"Shirley Valentine" presents a lot of challenges to an actor. Glander must hold the attention of the audience for two hours while alone on the stage, and she does so with good humor and finesse. She tells Shirley's story with a vulnerability that is always sympathetic and never makes the middle-aged housewife look pathetic or dull.

It is this genuine empathy that makes the one-woman show so effective. Glander is able to express exquisitely how Shirley has come to be in the place where she is: stuck and living life at the half-empty mark. Shirley has done everything that was expected of her. She fell in love and had a relationship that was passionate and playful. But then life intervened and things slowed down until only routine and conventions were left. She became wife and mother and lost herself in the process.

Even as Shirley makes a simple meal in a cramped kitchen, Glander shows us there is more to Shirley than a bored housewife. She does this with her animated movement, the delight she takes in her memories, and the mischievous manner in which she shares her secret moments in the present where she breaks with habit and defies expectations.

Perhaps even more important is the relationship Glander establishes with the audience. She may claim she is talking to the wall, but she is really charming and seducing the people in the seats beyond the invisible wall, letting



Shirley (Julia Glander) explains about her family as she fixes chips and eggs for her husband in "Shirley Valentine" at the Williamston Theatre. Photo: Chris Purchis.

them see the woman who was longing to escape.

Director Lynn Lammers makes excellent use of the Williamston space, starting with the very cramped, claustrophobic kitchen in the first act and

It is this genuine empathy that makes the one-woman show so effective. Glander is able to express exquisitely how Shirley has come to be in the place where she is: stuck and living life at the half-empty mark

then providing a physical change to help the audience travel with Shirley in the second act. The tight space demands a blocking that can keep the energy high with restricted movement.

Lammers also tightly focuses all aspects of the production on telling the story and not distracting with extraneous effects.

Daniel Walker's scenic design is an excellent example of the set serving the story, with a fully functioning kitchen filled with Bruce Bennett's 1980s kitchen props to underscore the condition of Shirley's life.

PREVIEW

Shirley Valentine

Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. Thursday-Sunday through April 21. 2 hours, 6 minutes.
\$20-25. 517-655-SHOW.
www.WilliamstonTheatre.org

Walker then creates a wonderful contrast in the second act, with the set extending to the far walls of the audience space.

It is the commitment on the part of the artistic and technical staff that lets what really matters come out in this comedy: the story itself. For while Glander excels at comedic acting, the laughter all has a purpose. It is an invitation to the audience, encouraging them to laugh so that like Shirley, they can find a way to live life more fully, more passionately, and in a madcap pursuit of whatever dreams makes them the unique individuals they are.

To die before death, to suppress the joyful playfulness that hides in the soul, those are what Shirley Valentine tells us are the crimes against God and against a life that can be so much more than what we allow it to be.

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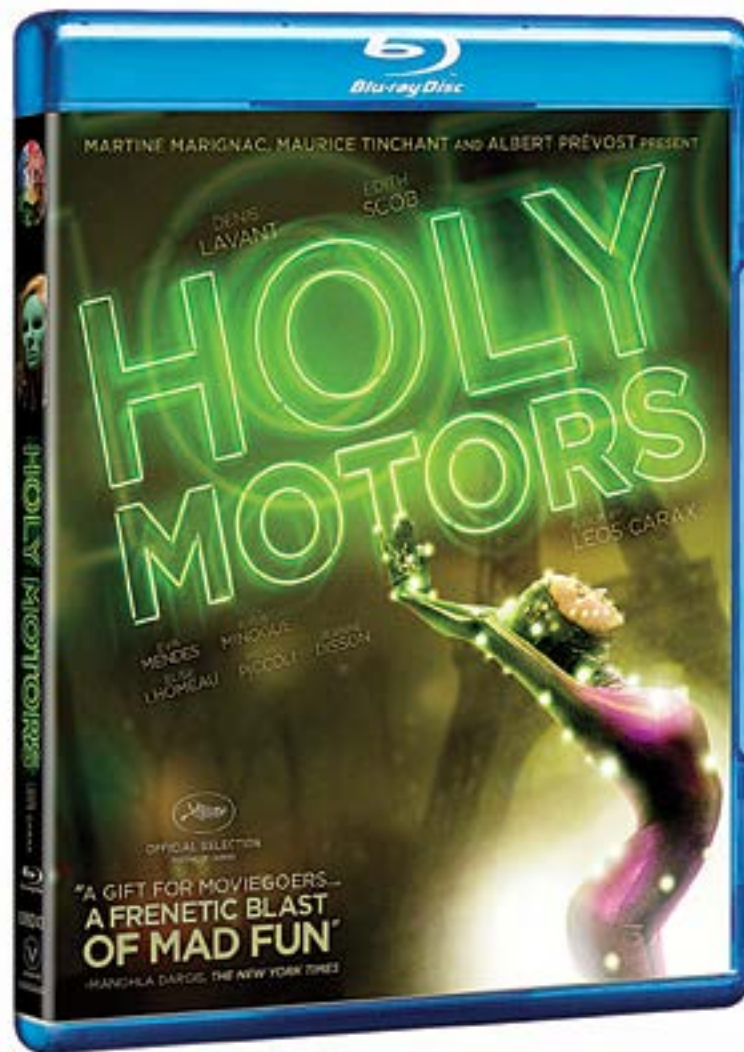
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Screen Queen BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI



Holy Motors

A hypnotic fever dream of wildly intoxicating weirdness, the twisted premise of director Leos Carax's cinematically self-aware "Holy Motors" might add up to something, or it might not. It doesn't really matter. The only absolute is Monsieur Oscar; the rest is up to you. Here's what we know: Oscar is chauffeured around Paris in a limo-cum-dressing room where he transforms into a gypsy beggar, a leprechaun-looking hobo, and on and on with the eccentric identities. No matter that many of these psychedelic perversions are surrealist who-knows-whats, because the trippy vignettes build to greater strangeness and intrigue as Oscar fulfills his nine "appointments." Reptilian sex? Check. Naked and erect on Eva Mendes' lap after eating her hair? Of course. Then Kylie Minogue shows up, breaking into a melancholic ballad and making all the gays happy. French actor Denis Lavant's chameleonic role as Oscar is

mesmerizing, effecting a performance within a performance that's equal parts uncomfortable, darkly humorous and deeply moving, often at the same time. The extras: a Minogue interview and an ultra comprehensive making-of, but no director commentary. You'll just have to process that boner scene on your own.



Top Gun

You know those scenes in porn that you fast-forward through to get to the good stuff? They're everywhere in "Top Gun": tight baby-smooth bodies glisten sweat beads during a slo-mo volleyball match, men loiter in the locker room in just their towels, and the dialogue – well, let's just say some of it's so gay you might mistake it for a Chi Chi LaRue production. The developments in "Top

Gun," making its 3-D Blu-ray debut, are far less interesting, as hotshot flyboy "Maverick" (a 23-year-old Tom Cruise) has a need for speed that lands him a training chance of a lifetime, in bed with Kelly McGillis (who'd later come out as lesbian) and among a bunch of buddies who have cute pet names for each other. Director Tony Scott's "Top Gun" isn't groundbreaking cinema, and it wasn't when it was released in 1986; it was laughable mindlessness that indulged in big-blockbustery Jerry Bruckheimer aerial action and cheesy pop songs that defined an era. Not to mention all the homoeroticism, discussed during an extensive and interesting six-part documentary that revisits everything from the steamy volleyball scene to McGillis' casting. Fan or not, it's a pretty fly set.



The Sessions

There's no apple pie or Steve Carell, but "The Sessions," on the surface, is about sex. It's about getting laid. It's about a man wanting it so bad he hires a woman to get the job done. It's also about so much more than that, because its central character, Mark (John Hawkes), is paralyzed and bedridden. He's never slept with a woman or even masturbated, and he wants some action. Once he OKs Mission Sex through his unusually hip pastor (William H. Macy), hoping God gives people with polio a pass, a "sex surrogate" visits Mark for a series of sessions that result in hilariously awkward exchanges ("Your money's on the table") and moments of heartfelt humanity in the face of adversity that are quite lovely. As surrogate Cheryl, Helen Hunt bares body and soul for her long-awaited cinematic return with this Oscar-nominated performance. In her matter-of-fact way, and with an everyday realism that Hunt envelopes empathetically, she radiates warmth and compassion – and, at 49, she looks damn good doing it. Using just his spirited voice to communicate, Hawkes makes an inspiring transformation as a man looking not just for a quick lay, but a connection. It's touching in ways you don't even imagine. Not even a lack of extras – just some cast interviews and a commentary – can mar the utter delight of "The Sessions."

See Screen Queen, page 44

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► Screen Queen

Continued from p. 42



Who Framed Roger Rabbit: 25th Anniversary Edition

Watching “Roger Rabbit” as a cultured fully gay adult, you notice a lot more about the wovable wabbit than your 5-year-old self did. You notice that this live-action fantasy noir actually isn’t just fun-loving Disney character cameos and “patty cake,” but a satire of L.A.’s suburban takeover in the illusory Toontown. You notice crime and blackmail and sex, but particularly a revolutionary film that flawlessly fused humans with cartoons a la “Mary Poppins” and galvanized an abundance of its kind, for better (“Enchanted”) and for worse (“The Smurfs”). You also remember why you had a crush on Jessica Rabbit – besides her obvious foxiness, her cartoon-character fakeness was no real threat to your homosexuality. She was a sassy little vixen (“I’m not bad, I’m just drawn that way”). And I wanted that dress. Now, 25 years after “Who Framed Roger Rabbit” became the second-highest grossing film of 1988, the dance craze-causing cult classic returns in a commemorative Blu-ray edition. Extras are rehashed from its 2003 DVD release: an overstuffed commentary with director Robert Zemeckis and his collaborators, a worthwhile making-of doc and three shorts. Now that’s a crime.



Hitchcock

If you’re looking for a Hitchcock history lesson, this isn’t it. Little of the iconic filmmaker is revealed besides, according to Anthony Hopkins’ near-caricature portrayal, his piggish arrogance and the fierceness of his strong-willed wife, Alma, a central part of his career. The wryly humorous behind-the-scenes biopic centers on the Master of Suspense during a creative rut, when he stumbles on a true story that inspires his next movie – his masterwork, as it would become. We learn of Hitchcock’s unwavering dedication to “Psycho” despite the studio’s resistance to “a picture about a queer killing people in his mother’s dress” and how crucial Alma was to the film (“kill her off,” referring to Janet Leigh, portrayed here by an adequate Scarlett Johansson). A brilliantly empowered Helen Mirren works for that Golden Globe nomination. In just

a few scenes, James D’Arcy as Anthony Perkins is uncanny. Extras are plentiful, but none more engaging than “Obsessed with Hitchcock.”



Flight

Denzel Washington plays a self-loathing addict still drunk on last night’s liquor – and a few other cocktails he made in flight – when he acts instinctively to a plane’s mechanical issue and, in doing so, prevents a bigger disaster. Did a couple screwdrivers make “Whip” Whitaker a hero? The question lingers, but after those panic-driven minutes of fist-clenching, high-intensity action, as we’re practically onboard for one of the most terrifying celluloid plane crashes, what ensues is about more than just an aviation crisis. It’s about a crippling addiction and, when asked to face the truth, the willpower to overcome it. Serious stuff, but not too serious for John Goodman as a hilarious hippie coke dealer. Washington, of course, commits a riveting, all-in redemptive performance that achieves character-study greatness, something the as-of-late action actor hasn’t for quite some time. Check out “Anatomy of a Plane Crash” for a look at that unforgettable scene.



Rise of the Guardians

How successful was the superhero orgy “The Avengers”? Successful enough to warrant a new ego war among Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny, the Tooth Fairy and the Sandman, who all unite to stop the evil magic-killer Pitch Black. Essentially the same deal, where “the big four” all use their magical powers to keep hope and the holidays alive, “Rise of the Guardians” could use some refinement from Santa’s elves in the storytelling department (DreamWorks: Remember when you did “How to Train Your Dragon” and it was awesome?), but its razzle-dazzle animation is so vivid it’s like a dream. A dream you forget. Laughs are slight, though this line, delivered when a soul-searching metrosexual Jack Frost lands in Santa’s workshop as a guardian amateur, got a crack out of me: “I love being shoved in a sack and tossed through a magic portal.” One last thing: I don’t remember the Tooth Fairy as a flying drag queen, but I dig it. Supplements include actors in voicing action and a Jack Frost snowball-fight game.

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

► Happenings

Continued from p. 39

larger-than-life installations created by visiting artists in residence.

South of downtown, the city rises sharply above the Monongahela River toward Mt. Washington, a workaday neighborhood with spectacular views of downtown. Ride up the slope via the Monongahela Incline, which leads to a viewing platform and a small museum. A short drive east is the bohemian South Side, a repository of funky shops, galleries, and eateries that once anchored Pittsburgh's Lithuanian and Polish communities.

East of downtown

Still farther east of downtown, Oakland was built from the gobs of money generated during Pittsburgh's industrial heyday and today contains hospitals, universities, and high-tech firms. Forbes and 5th avenues anchor the University of Pittsburgh and formidably endowed Carnegie Mellon University campuses. Be sure to visit the Carnegie Museums of Art and Natural History, which contain well-conceived architectural and decorative arts exhibits, a cache of artifacts from ancient Egypt, and the nation's third-largest dinosaur collection. Nearby Schenley Park, ideal for a stroll, is anchored by the 1893 Phipps Conservatory, comprising 13 rooms of exotic flora.

East of Oakland is Shadyside, a gentrified patch of neatly kept yards and attractive old homes, many of them gay-owned. Ellsworth Avenue (around the 5800 block) has several gay-popular eateries and businesses, and more chichi Walnut Street (along the 5500 block) holds mid- to high-end chain stores. It's a short drive east to Clayton, the former estate of industrialist Henry Clay Frick – it now consists of a magnificent mansion and other historic outbuildings, including the Frick Art and Historical Center, which has an outstanding collection of European master paintings.

Pittsburgh's dining scene has really blossomed of late, especially in some of the hip, outlying neighborhoods like Lawrenceville, East Liberty, and Bloomfield. Along Butler Avenue in Lawrenceville, you'll find all sorts of cool eateries - Coca Café (cocacafe.net), which also has a branch in the Mattress Factory Museum, serves modern American fare is a great pick for brunch; Cure (curepittsburgh.com) is known for innovative, meaty fare, including pig's cheek ragu and ox-tail ravioli; and Tamari (tamaripgh.com) is a gorgeous space acclaimed for artful Asian-Latin fusion fare, such as Asian

tamales with chicken, Chinese sausage, and green curry. In Garfield (near East Liberty), Salt of the Earth (saltpgh.com) serves fine renditions of farm-to-table fare, including a hanger steak with collards, bacon, and Dijon.

Strip District

In the Strip District, lesbian-owned Pamela's Diner, aka P&G's (pamelasdiner.com), is a fine spot for hearty breakfast fare and delicious sandwiches at lunch - the blueberry crepe pancakes are a favorite. There are other branches in Squirrel Hill, Shadyside and Mt. Lebanon. And the original Primanti Bros. (primantibros.com) has been doling out huge sandwiches, topped ridiculously but deliciously with French fries and cole slaw, since 1933.

The elegant Eleven Contemporary Kitchen (www.elevenck.com), which is well-suited to special-occasion meals, is part of the gay-friendly Big Burrito (bigburrito.com) group, which operates several slick, lounge-y restaurants around town, including the fun Pan-Asian restaurant Soba and the colorful and lively Cal-Mex restaurant Mad Mex. For a terrific meal near downtown's gay bars, check out Meat & Potatoes (meatandpotatoespgh.com), a lively gastropub serving sophisticated yet accessible burgers, sweetbread tacos, bone marrow with grilled bread, and other carnivore-driven delights.

Among coffeehouses, the local chain Crazy Mocha (crazymocha.com) has several fun locations around town, including a particular gay favorite at Shadyside. And Espresso A Mano (espressoamano.com) is a sleek, artisan roaster in Lawrenceville.

The 900 block of Liberty Avenue downtown has a few the city's top gay nightlife options, including neighborhood-y There Ultra Lounge; the popular and long-running Images video bar, and 941 Saloon, which has an after-hours upstairs section that pulses into the late-night hours. Relatively new Cruze Bar (cruzebar.com) in the Strip is a very popular dance club in an attractive space – it's arguably the snazziest gay bar in the city. Low-keyed Real Luck Café (realluckcafe.com) is nearby, draws a mix of men and women, and serves pub food and drinks. A few blocks away is the popular gay bathhouse, Club Pittsburgh (clubpittsburgh.com). Not far away on Polish Hill, Donny's Place is a country-western dance bar with a pool hall drawing a mixed-gender crowd. Downstairs is a guy-oriented basement nook known as Leather Central.

Shadyside's quintessentially queer video lounge and cafe, 5801 Ellsworth (5801videolounge.com) is a hip but friendly place for cocktails, good home-

style cooking, and great conversation, and nearby Spin draws a similar, mostly gay mix of scenesters, young professionals, and fairly collegiate sorts. In increasingly trendy Lawrenceville, the Blue Moon is a fun and welcoming spot with fun videos on TV, karaoke, and an easygoing crowd, and Cattivo (cattivo.biz) – especially popular with lesbians but friendly to all – stands out as a great place both to drink and eat (expect pizza, hoagies, strombolis, and the like).

Bloomfield

In nearby Bloomfield, the hipster live-music bar Brillo Box (brillobox.net) draws an eclectic queer-hetero crowd and serves very tasty food, from burgers to Korean-BBQ seitan. And Lawrenceville's New Amsterdam Bar (newamsterdam412.com) caters to a similarly cool crowd for its good list of microbrews and tasty pub fare.

Among accommodations, you can't beat either the location or the swank decor of the Westin Convention Center (westinpittsburgh.com), which sits near Liberty Avenue's gay nightlife and the Strip's restaurants and markets. But for sheer history, check into the old-world Omni William Penn (omnihotels.com), a 1916 beauty in the heart of downtown. The excellent, mid-priced option downtown, the Doubletree Pittsburgh Downtown (doubletree3.hilton.com) nicely appointed rooms (many of them suites) and a great central location.

In the Cultural District, the Courtyard Marriott Pittsburgh Downtown (marriott.com) occupies four adjacent historic buildings. A few miles east, the Courtyard Marriott Shadyside/Oakland (marriott.com) is close to gay-popular shopping and dining along Liberty and Ellsworth avenues.

The gay-owned Inn on the Mexican War Streets (innonthemexicanwarstreets.com) occupies a grand mansion with seven elegantly furnished rooms and suites—it's steps from the National Aviary and near the Warhol and Mattress Factory museums. Also on the North Side, the Parador Inn (theparadorinn.com) is another lovely, gay-owned option occupying a stunningly restored redbrick mansion with beautiful original interior details, including stained-glass and ornate woodwork. Another gay-friendly option, the Arbors Bed & Breakfast (arborsbnb.com) occupies a handsome 19th-century house on 2 pastoral acres. Rooms have unfussy but elegant furnishings.

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

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Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, April 4

Free HIV Testing with S3 and HARC 5
p.m. Free and confidential HIV testing
provided by HIV/AIDS Resource Center at
S3 Safe Sex Store. Call ahead to schedule an
appointment, or simply walk-in.
Appointments take approximately 20-30
minutes. Testing is provided the first and
third Thursday of the month at S3. S3 Safe
Sex Store and HIV/AIDS Resource Center,
1209 S. University, **Ann Arbor**. 734-741-
1434. s3safesexstore.com

Men's Film Group 7 p.m. Meets every
Thursday at Affirmations. Affirmations,
290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-
398-7105. GoAffirmations.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 Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-
995-9867. Kevinolmstead76@yahoo.com
JimToyCenter.org

Toastmaster's International SpeakOUT!
Club 7 p.m. Toastmasters shows others
how to listen effectively, think on their
feet, speak confidently and learn valuable
leadership skills. Meets the first Thursday
of every month. Jim Toy Community
Center, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-
995-9867. Kevinolmstead76@yahoo.com
JimToyCenter.org

Saturday, April 6

Volunteer Recruitment Meeting 10
a.m. Preservation Detroit is looking for
volunteer join the following: teams tours,
digital archives, marketing, events,
fundraising, preservation advocacy,
membership, research and survey,
grant writing, and office assistance.
Refreshments will be served. Preservation
Detroit, 4735 Cass Ave., **Detroit**. 313-
577-3559. Info@preservationdetroit.org
Preservationdetroit.org

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

Sunday, April 7

3rd Annual Same-Sex Wedding Expo 1
p.m. Back by popular demand, the Third
Annual BTL Same-Sex Wedding Expo will
paint the Detroit Marriott Livonia rainbow-
colored once again. Over 40 vendors
and weekend getaway giveaways every
half hour. Between The Lines, 17100 N
Laurel Park Dr., **Livonia**. 734-293-7200.
Pridesource.com

Conversation Station 5 p.m. Discussion
group with facilitator. LGBTQI (and allies)
35 and over - join GOAL each week
for discussion, food and fun. Topic:
What fictional hero do you most closely
identify with? Get Out And Live!, 714 S.
Washington St., **Royal Oak**. 248-981-
4227. MarciLWilliams@yahoo.com
GetOutAndLive.me

Monday, April 8

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

LGBTA 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, April 9

Women's Social Group 7 p.m. Women's
discussion group. Plans a monthly group
activity such as dinner, movies, games.
Meets the second and fourth Tuesday
of every month. The Lesbian and Gay
Community Network, 343 Atlas Ave. SE,
Grand Rapids. 616-458-3511. Grigbt.
org/calendar/

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

Thursday, April 11

Gender Non-Conformists 7 p.m. A social
and discussion group for transgender,
genderqueer, genderneutral and gender-
exploring people. Space also for significant
others. Meets every Thursday. Affirmations,



Editor's Pick

Join the Jim Toy Community Center in creating
a new tradition with the first annual Jim Toy
Birthday Bash and Fundraiser, April 12 at the
Corner Brewery in Ypsilanti.

The JTCC and Ann Arbor LGBT community will
celebrate the 83rd birthday of one of Michigan's
greatest gay activists, founder of the U-M
Spectrum Center and the namesake of the city's
LGBT non-profit community center, Jim Toy. This
lively celebration will include raffles, door prizes,
cupcakes, a cash bar and live entertainment.

Admission is free, donations to JTCC are welcomed. Minors may attend in the company
of their parents from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The Birthday Bash begins 7 p.m. April 12 at the Corner Brewery, 720 Norris St., Ypsilanti.
For more information go to www.JimToyCenter.org. The center also invites pictures,
stories, videos and other remembrances of Jim to be sent to ChrisF@JimToyCenter.org.

Wednesday, April 10

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

KGLRC Walk/Jog/Run Group 6 p.m. The
Resource Center's Health and Wellness
Committee is proud to offer our very
own group devoted to walking, jogging,
and/or running. Everyone is welcome,
regardless of physical ability and/or sexual
orientation. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian
Resource Center, 4143 N. 10th St.,
Kalamazoo. KGLRC.org

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

Beloved Hearts 6:30 p.m. Grief Support
Group (LGBT and allies) for those who
are grieving the death of a loved one
(including pets). Meets every Wednesday.
Call for information and address. Get Out
And Live!, **Royal Oak**. 248-981-4227.
MarciLWilliams@yahoo.comorbillyray92@
comcast.net GetOutAndLive.me

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

290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-
7105. GoAffirmations.org

Friday, April 12

GLSEN 6 p.m. Social and discussion
group for members of local high school
LGBT groups. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine
Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105.
GoAffirmations.org

Jim Toy's Birthday Bash 7 p.m. JTCC
is hosting a Jim Toy Birthday Bash and
JTCC fundraiser at the Corner Brewery
Lounge. This will be a social gathering to
celebrate the birthday of our namesake and
to fundraise for the Jim Toy Community
Center to support its efforts in the pursuit
of equality. Jim Toy Community Center, 720
Norris St., **Ypsilanti**. JimToyCenter.org

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

Saturday, April 13

A Souforce Training in Non-Violent
Resistance 1 p.m. Students \$20, Adults
\$45. Together in Faith, 900 Oakwood St.,
Ypsilanti. Inclusivejustice.org/home/register

Spring Bash 6 p.m. Mystery, intrigue and
elegance are in the air as Spring Bash
2013 approaches. This year's event will be
held in one of Detroit's most prestigious
and notable locations, The Westin Book
Cadillac. Tickets are \$225 for General
Admission and \$325 for VIP. Affirmations,
1114 Washington Blvd., **Detroit**. 248-
398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

Motor City Bears 7 p.m. Social group for
metro area bears. Meets every second
Saturday of the month. Motor City Bears,
290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-
398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

Sunday, April 14

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

Conversation Station 5 p.m. Discussion
group with facilitator. LGBTQI 35 and over
- join GOAL each week for discussion, food
and fun. Topic: What are three of the most
immoral things a person can do? Get Out

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

Tuesday, April 16

SWEAT 6 p.m. A weekly support/social
group to encourage those of us who need
to achieve wellness and or weight loss.
The Network, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, **Grand**
Rapids. 616-458-3511. Grigbt.org/

PFLAG Family Reunion Detroit Chapter 7
p.m. PFLAG Family Reunion Detroit Chapter
for People of Color meets the third Tuesday
of every month. Provides a safe space for
those who are dealing with the joys and
challenges related to the coming out process
of their family members. All are welcome,
but this chapter specifically focuses on
people of color in the City of Detroit and the
close surrounding suburbs. PFLAG Family
Reunion Detroit Chapter, 7707 West Outer
Dr., **Detroit**. 313-286-8572. Info@pflag-fr-
detroit.org Pflag-fr-detroit.org

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

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

Continued on page 51



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 FOURTH FRIDAYS
 Poetry, singing or anything in between. This is your opportunity to express yourself on stage. The youth hosted event will surely be a time to remember. All ages welcome. Snacks and beverages will be available for purchase.

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Volunteers will be meeting every week at Affirmations. Go to www.FerndalePride.com for info on volunteering.

Get Your Fingerprints On Ferndale Pride

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Downtown Ferndale will host its third annual Ferndale Pride on June 1 for the LGBTQ and ally community. The event brings the community together for a weekend celebrating acceptance and diversity. What many may not realize is that for the group of people that get together and make Ferndale Pride happen, the planning is part of the fun too.

In the weeks leading up to the June 1 event, the Ferndale Pride planning meetings make all the difference.

Dozens of volunteers gather in the Affirmations Community Center Youth Room to share their ideas, hopes and dreams and this year's event is on its way to being bigger than last year with organizers planning on up to 15,000 attendees this year. There are volunteer meetings every week, with the day moved around to give everyone who wants to a chance to get involved.

"You are welcome to come to every volunteer meeting, but it is not necessary," stressed volunteer coordinator Monica Mills.

There are many tasks to be done including planning, promoting, handing out posters and flyers, fundraising, advance events, bar parties, staffing entrances the day of the festival for donations, working at the Ferndale Pride Event Staff and Volunteer

check-in table, security, moving tents and chairs, stage hands, entrance greeters, helping in the kids area, recycling / trash pickup, and breaking down the event when it's over. Tasks are divided into short shifts so it's convenient for everyone's schedule.

Upcoming meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. at Affirmations:

Thursday, April 11
Wednesday, April 24
Thursday, May 9
Wednesday, May 15
Thursday, May 23
Wednesday, May 29

Ferndale Pride takes place on June 1 and the main activities will be on Nine Mile. There will be two stages and plenty of after party events. Related events include the Southeast Michigan Dyke March, the Rainbow 5k Walk/Run, multiple club and bar events, "alley" and patio parties, dinners, art shows, and many other fun events. Proceeds from Ferndale Pride benefit Affirmations Community Center, Project XYZ, Ferndale Community Foundation and Michigan AIDS Coalition. In addition to volunteers, organizers are seeking sponsors and booth rentals. For more information visit their website www.ferndalepride.com. Affirmations Community Center is located at 290 W. Nine Mile.

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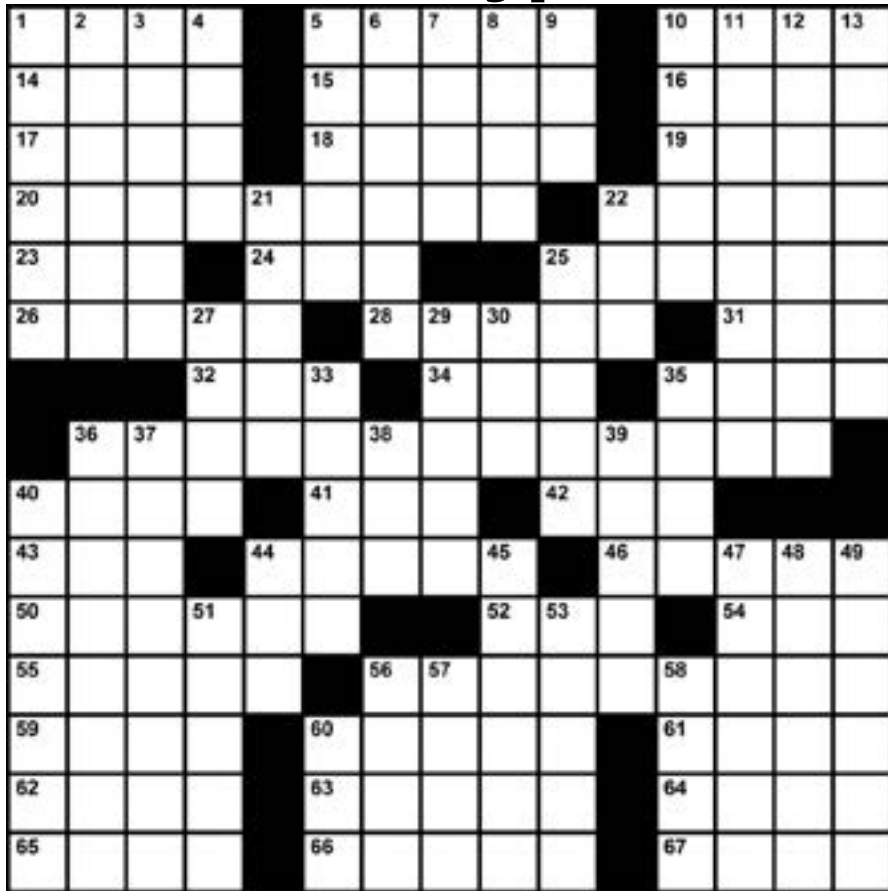
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Across

- 1 Former Korean president in the land of Margaret Cho's ancestors
- 5 Game with men that are queens
- 10 Talk back to
- 14 Chauffeur's order
- 15 Seduces
- 16 Coagulate
- 17 Last word in prayer
- 18 Brian of figure skating
- 19 Plot unit
- 20 With 56-Across, _Rhoda_ was a spin-off from this TV program
- 22 "Melrose ____"
- 23 Fabergé creation
- 24 NASDAQ rival
- 25 "My Brother's ____" (ground-breaking episode of the show)
- 26 Oozes through
- 28 "Candle in the Wind 1997" subject
- 31 Vein filler
- 32 From Jan. 1 to now
- 34 Field film name
- 35 Like a straight line, for short
- 36 "Rhoda" star
- 40 "Show Boat" bundle
- 41 Lodging place
- 42 Cole Porter's "____ Love You?"
- 43 Conduit bend
- 44 Cold shower

- 46 Cary Grant's real last name
- 50 Line from the show that used a certain word for the first time on network TV
- 52 Shakespearean prince
- 54 Jack of "Flower Drum Song"
- 55 Prelude, for short
- 56 See 20-Across
- 59 Trojans' org.
- 60 Ashley's C&W mother
- 61 Earthenware jar
- 62 Malicious gossip
- 63 Bones below the elbows
- 64 Golda of Israeli politics
- 65 Enc. with a ms.
- 66 Style Tracy Turnblad's hair
- 67 Ogled a hottie in a bar, e.g.

- 12 "Fantasia" figure
- 13 Took the wheel
- 21 Sample some buns, e.g.
- 22 It may be black-eyed
- 25 Work with the hands
- 27 Part played by Nabors
- 29 Cara of "Fame"
- 30 Postcoital sigh
- 33 In a straight-faced way
- 35 Ron Howard role
- 36 Juicy fruit
- 37 Top athletes
- 38 Suffix with Paul
- 39 Bea Arthur's TV maid Esther
- 40 Top targets
- 44 Word in Brazilian place names
- 45 The "T" in T.E. Lawrence
- 47 "Jeffrey" director Christopher
- 48 Eastern laborer
- 49 Disney lyricist Ashman
- 51 Catch basin cover
- 53 Heed the alarm
- 56 International ____
- 57 Sometime Capote associate
- 58 To a degree
- 60 Testacle, in slang

Down

- 1 "Pulp Fiction" actor Ving
- 2 Tribute
- 3 Come out
- 4 Start of a rhyme about a tiger
- 5 Has an effect like the Teletubbies
- 6 Threw a screwball, in Billy Bean's game
- 7 Hebrides language
- 8 Student of palms
- 9 Ukr., once
- 10 Sequence for Bernstein
- 11 Top mobster

Solution on pg. 53

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Editor's Pick

The Riverwalk Theatre is hosting a live and silent auction at 8 p.m. Friday, April 12. The Arts and Entertainment Auction is part of the theater's capital campaign to raise funds for a new roof, furnace and an upgrading of the electric system.

Evan Pinsonnault, morning anchorman for WLNS TV6, will serve as master of ceremonies for the event. "The role of auctioneer was just too good to pass up," said Pinsonnault, who has starred in several shows at Riverwalk.

The auction will be held at the Riverwalk Theatre, an abandoned warehouse that was converted over a quarter-century ago to house the non-profit organization. Musician Jerry Sprague will provide entertainment during the auction. There will be a 50/50 raffle, and desserts donated by Edible Arrangements, Iced & Spiced Cupcakes and the Grand Traverse Pie Company.

Tickets are \$20, and can be purchased by calling 517-482-5700.

Happenings

Continued from p. 46

Yossi 8 p.m. JGI film night: Ten years after "Yossi and Jagger," the tragic love story of two IDF officers serving in Lebanon, director Etan Fox returns to find out what has happened with Yossi. Jewish Gay Network of Michigan, 6600 W. Maple Road, **West Bloomfield**. JCCDet.org

MUSIC & MORE

CLASSICAL

Kerrytown Concert House "Mad About Chamber Music" Students from the University of Michigan School of Music, Theater and Dance perform. Free Event. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. April 8. 734-763-4186. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Oakland Choral Society, Friends of the Opera of Michigan, Jackson Chorale "Verdi's Requiem" Verdi's Requiem and Quinto Millito's Kyrie. Tickets: \$20-35. St. Hugo in the Hills Catholic Church, 2215 Opydyke Road, Bloomfield Hills. 7:30 p.m. April 13. 248-644-5460. OaklandChoralSociety.org

CONCERTS

Caesars Windsor "John Pinette" Pinette has received multiple awards for his work, including Stand-Up Comedian of the Year by the American Comedy Awards in 1999 and a Gemini Award for his televised performance at Montreal's Just for Laughs Comedy Festival. Tickets: \$20+. Caesars Windsor, 377 E. Riverside Dr., Windsor. 9 p.m. April 5. 800-991-7777. CaesarsWindsor.com

Caesars Windsor "Boz Scaggs" His 1976 album "Silk Degrees" was one of the landmark pop titles of the decade. Owner of one of the most distinctive voices in popular music, Scaggs

continues to delight his fans with live performances and classic hits. Tickets: \$20+. Caesars Windsor, 377 E. Riverside Dr., Windsor. 9 p.m. April 13. 800-991-7777. CaesarsWindsor.com

Kerrytown Concert House "RJ Spangler & Planet D Nonet" Detroit's space-age swing band, the Planet D Nonet pay tribute to Billy Strahorn. Brand new charts by Mike Sailors and arrangements by Joshua James, Michael Malis, Duncan McMillan & Pat Prouty, David Berger & Chuck Israels. Tickets: \$5-25. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. April 5. 734-763-4186. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Kerrytown Concert House "All About The Trio" Take a behind-the-scenes look at the foundations of jazz with the Ellen Rowe Trio. Tickets: \$5-25. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 2 p.m. April 7. 734-763-4186. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Kerrytown Concert House "Happy Birthday Susan Chastain" KCH is proud to present Susan Chastain, celebrated jazz vocalist and owner/impressaria of the Firefly Club of many years. She is joined by her superb jazz colleagues Paul Keller Phil Duper, and Pete Siers. To celebrate her birthday, Susan will perform spring songs from the Great American Songbook. KCH will transform into a nightclub for Susan's special appearance. Tickets: \$5-30. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. April 12. 734-763-4186. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Macomb Center for the Performing Arts "The Osmond Brothers" Five decades ago, four young boys were flashed across national television screens on what was meant to be a one-time shot at "the big time." That single appearance led to such an overwhelming mail response that for the following seven seasons, The Osmond Brothers became regulars on the Andy Williams Show. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. 7:30 p.m. April 6. 586-286-2222. MacombCenter.com

The Ark "Gardenia Bluegrass & Roots Festival" Tickets: \$25. Royal Oak Farmers Market, 316 E. 11 Mile Road, Royal Oak. 6 p.m. April 13. TheArk.org

The Ark "The Flatlanders Acoustic" With special guest Joe Pug. Tickets: \$35. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. April 8. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Ark "Frontier Ruckus" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. April 5. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Ark "Brown Bird" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. April 12. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Ark "Joshua James" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. April 9. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

FILM & VIDEO

The Berman Center for the Performing Arts "The 15th Annual Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival" The Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit is set to host the 15th Annual Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival, presenting 30 award-winning films that tell the stories of everyone from a talented songwriter to a famed Israeli war hero to those affected by the Holocaust. Tickets are \$11 each. The Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 West Maple Road, West Bloomfield. 12 a.m. April 7. 248-661-1900. Theberman.org

The Detroit Institute of Arts "Celine and Julie Go Boating" Julie sees Celine - for the first time - as she's dazedly staggering through a park. As they become friends, weird connections proliferate. Detroit Film Theater, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. April 6 - April 7. 313-833-7900. DIA.org

OTHER

Mid-Michigan Antiquarian Book Dealers Association "57th Michigan Antiquarian Book & Paper Show" Admission: \$4.50, children 13 and under free. The Midwest's largest antiquarian book and paper show will be held. The 57th Michigan Antiquarian Book and Paper Show has become a regular event for book and paper enthusiasts from across the country. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 9:30 a.m. April 7. 517-332-0112. Curiousbooks.com/shows.html

Specific Wellness "The Sexy Side of Cholesterol" Dr. Stacey Francis, holistic practitioner and entertaining public speaker, will teach the long awaited and surprising answers to your cholesterol questions and why sex has anything and everything to do with it. A light Mediterranean dinner will be served. Cost: \$20. RSVP required. Specific Wellness, 20307 W. 12 Mile Road Suite 105, Southfield. 6 p.m. April 11. 248-213-1332. SpecificWellness.com

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

Arsenic and Old Lace \$16-\$18 in advance; \$2 extra at the door. Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. April 12 - 28. 248-541-6430. stagecrafters.org

Broadway Bound \$23. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. April 5 - 20. 269-343-1313. KazooCivic.com

Dreamgirls \$18-30. Park Players at North Rosedale Park Community House, 18445 Scarsdale, Detroit. Through April 6. http://ParkPlayers.WordPress.com

Leaving Iowa \$17-19. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at A2CT Studio Theater, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. April 6. 734-971-2228. A2CT.org

The Cover of Life \$11-12. The Twin City Players, 600 W. Glenlord Road, St. Joseph. April 12 - 28. 269-429-0400. TwinCityPlayers.org

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

August: Osage County \$10-26. U-M Department of Theatre & Drama at Arthur Miller Theatre within the Walgreen Drama Center, 1226 Murfin, Ann Arbor. April 4 - 14. 734-764-2538. umich.edu

Bat Boy: The Musical \$20-25. Bonstelle Theatre, 3424 Woodward Ave., Detroit. April 12 - 21. 313-577-2960. Bonstelle.com

Kiss Me Kate \$5-20. Western Michigan University Theatre at Shaw Theatre, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. April 11 - 20. 269-387-7222. WMUTheatre.com

Time Stands Still \$10. The Studio Theatre Downstairs at the Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Avenue, Detroit. Through April 6. 313-577-2972. Wayne.edu

Wedding Band: A Love/Hate Story in Black and White \$9-15. Eastern Michigan University Theatre at Sponberg Theatre, Quirk Dramatic Arts Building, Ypsilanti. April 5 - 14. 734-487-2282. emich.edu/emutheatre

PROFESSIONAL

33 Variations Previews April 3-4 (\$22-32). \$18.50-42. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through June 1. 734-433-7673. PurpleRoseTheatre.org

A Cabaret Showcase \$10-20. University of Detroit Mercy Theatre Company, Grounds Coffeehaus in the Student Union Building, 4001 W. McNichols Road, Detroit. April 12 - 21. 313-993-3270. http://UDMercy.edu

A Thousand Circlets \$17 in advance, \$20 at the door. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Through May 19. 313-868-1347. DetroitRepTheatre.com

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

Fidelio \$25-125. Michigan Opera Theatre, Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. April 13 - 21. 313-237-SING. motopera.org

Fish Dinner; Second Helping \$10. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. April 5 - 20. 313-365-4948. PlanetAnt.com

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

Good People \$27-41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through April 7. 734-663-0681. PerformanceNetwork.org

Lend Me A Tenor \$25-32. The Encore Musical Theatre Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Through April 14. 734-268-6200. TheEncoreTheatre.org

Marriage \$12-30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through April 6. 313-577-2972. hilberry.com

Measure for Measure \$40. The Elizabeth Theatre, 2040 Park Ave., Detroit. Through April 27. 313-454-1286. elizabeththeater.com

Memphis \$34-89. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. April 9 - 21. 313-872-1000. BroadwayinDetroit.com

Mike Tyson: Undisputed Truth \$45-65.50. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 a.m. April 6. 313-471-6611. Olympiantertainment.com

Mrs. Mannerly Previews April 4-5 (\$20). \$27-32. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 Cady St., Northville. April 4 - May 5. 248-347-0003. Tippingpointtheatre.com

Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom \$15-25. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. April 13. 586-286-2222. MacombCenter.com

Scooby-Doo Live! Musical Mysteries \$19.50-65. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. April 13 - 14. 313-471-6611. Olympiantertainment.com

Shirley Valentine \$15-25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. Through April 21. 517-655-SHOW. WilliamstonTheatre.org

Continued on page 54

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Cocktail Chatter

The Greyhound

BY ED SIKOV

"I can't believe you're serving us a drink named after a bus line." This was going to be a long night. Craig was in one of his moods, and it seemed as though nothing anyone could say or do was going to make things any better. "It's not 'named after a bus line,'" I snapped. "It's a classic cocktail named after...." I had to stop the sentence in midstream because I had no idea why the drink was called a greyhound.

"There! You see?" Craig cried triumphantly. "It was named after a bus line! How very middle America of you. Woman of the masses! Everygal! You think just because you're serving a drink named after a bus line you're connected to 'the people.' Well, you're not. You're still a prissy little snob."

"Craig, dear," I began in my calmest available tone. "We love you and all that, but shut the hell up. Do you want a greyhound or don't you? That's what the bar is serving this evening, and if you don't like it, you can shove it up your...."

"Ladies," Dan interrupted. "Ladies, please!"

"You're no better," Craig said turning his venomous attention to Dan. "In fact, in certain ways you're worse."

"Name one," Dan challenged.

"First of all, your many Harvard degrees are tiresome, especially when you bring them up, which is once a day if we're lucky."

Dan looked stricken. He knew Craig was right. Fortunately for us, Craig paused and reached for the glass I was proffering, took a big gulp, and suddenly looked like he'd just been given the keys to heaven. "This is good," he announced. "What's in it?"

I had a momentary urge to make up a list of fake ingredients, but I chose the path of honesty instead. "Vodka and grapefruit juice, with a hint of orange Curacao. It's basically a screwdriver with a citrus cousin."

Craig polished off his greyhound in just shy of 90 seconds and asked for another. Dan glared at me as if to say "Don't you dare," but the drink seemed to be taming Craig's inner rhinoceros, and I was glad to serve him anything as long as he stopped being so



obnoxious.

"Am I obnoxious?" Craig asked in an abrupt change of disposition.

"I wouldn't say 'obnoxious,'" I said, lying through my teeth. "You're, you're, um, opinionated."

Craig looked pensive, as though he'd just been handed an enormous box of assorted chocolates and was deciding which one to start with. "I just say what I feel," he said mildly. "That you do," I concurred. "That you do."

The Greyhound

Absolut premium vodka
Grapefruit juice
A small splash of Orange Curacao (optional)

Like the screwdriver, much depends on the quality of grapefruit juice you use. Tropicana makes a delicious grapefruit juice that tastes almost as though the juice has been freshly squeezed. All you do to make this cocktail is pour the Absolut over some ice and fill the glass with grapefruit juice. If you decide to add the Curacao, do it after the vodka but before the juice. (It mixes better that way.) Stir. Serve.

Ed Sikov is the author of the e-book, "The Boys' and Girls' Little Book of Alcohol," a novel with recipes based on his Cocktail Chatter column.

Classifieds

309 EMPLOYMENT - PROFESSIONAL

HIV Pharmacy Community Outreach Coordinator (Wayne/Oakland County)

Innovative HIV and Hepatitis Specialty Community pharmacy is seeking a community outreach coordinator to work within the HIV and Hepatitis community. The community outreach coordinator will be responsible for the coordination and execution of the pharmacy's vision on HIV and Hepatitis market growth. This is a field-based position, increasing referrals from referral sources and patient support groups, education programs and events.

- Requirements:
- Intimate understanding of the HIV and gay community
 - Passion for working within and helping the HIV and affected communities
 - College education preferred
 - Demonstrates an understanding of knowledge of HIV Disease and Hepatitis, treatment, patient population and market place
 - Excellent communication skills

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- Establish strong relationships with new patients and referral sources
- Manage expense budget within territory
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- Understands treatment protocols, therapies, and discuss proactively with customers within the scope of Treatment Education

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- Proficiency in using Microsoft Office- Word and PowerPoint
 - Ability to multi task
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 - Experience in developing and cultivating community relationships with individuals, groups, AIDS Service Organizations and physicians offices
 - Knowledge of Social Media
- Please email your resume to: Janafakih@hotmail.com

Full Time Social Service Worker

Full Time Social Services Worker; Please submit resume and salary requirements to Ruth Ellis Center 77 Victor St, Highland Park 48203 or via email at info@ruthelliscenter.org; Please do not call about this position; Qualifications: A master's degree in social work, sociology, psychology, guidance and counseling, business administration, criminal justice, or public administration and 2 years experience in a child caring institution or child placing agency; or a bachelor's degree in sociology, social work, criminal justice, or guidance and counseling and 4 years experience as a social service worker in a child care organization. Two years of the 4 years of experience shall be in a child caring institution. Strong verbal and written communication skills, public relations and marketing skills are required. Cultural competence required. Must have reliable transportation and a valid MI driver's license and current auto insurance.

Full Time Direct Care Supervisor

Full Time Direct Care Supervisor; Please submit resume and salary requirements to Ruth Ellis Center 77 Victor St, Highland Park 48203 or via email at info@ruthelliscenter.org; Please do not call about this position; Qualifications: A bachelor's degree and 2 years of work experience in a child caring institution; or two (2) years of college and 3 years of work experience in a child caring institution; or a high school diploma and 4 years of work experience in a child caring institution. Strong verbal and written communication skills, public relations and marketing skills are required. Cultural competence required. Must have reliable transportation and a valid MI driver's license and current auto insurance.

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"A BORN DYKE WITH HARDY HAIR, BOYISH CLOTHES AND AN ATHLETIC BUILD..."
"IN OUR LIGHT LINE THIS, IT'S EASY TO MISTAKE A WOMAN LINE THAT FOR A THINK."
"I PREFER THIS WOMAN FOR A BEAR."
"PLEASE TELL ME YOU DON'T 'MUSE' AT HER."

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Solution to puzzle from page 50

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Editor's Pick

Tracing the maritime and seaside history of America through 50 paintings, the Flint Institute of Arts' exhibition "Reflections on Water in American Painting" illustrates the different artistic trends that shaped American art. Ranging in date from 1828 to 1945, these paintings depict ship portraits, sailboats,

warships, waterside towns and beach life, capturing virtually every aspect of life on or in the water.

Artists represented in this exhibition, from the early 19th century to the mid 20th century, have taken inspiration from water, depicting not only its functional and practical side but also exploring its inherent beauty. Highlights of this exhibition include a rare 1828 painting by John S. Blunt of a U.S. Naval frigate, James Bard's meticulously rendered Hudson River steamboat and Reginald Marsh's cathedral-like rendering of a New Jersey railway bridge.

"Reflections on Water in American Painting" is on exhibit April 6-June 16 in the Hodge I Gallery. FIA is located at 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. For more information, go to www.FlintArts.com.

▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 51

Sons of the Prophet \$10-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. April 5 - 29. 248-545-5545. TheRingwald.com

Steel Magnolias \$15-18 in advance; \$2 more at the door. Two Muses Theatre at Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. April 5 - 28. 248-850-9919. TwoMusesTheatre.org

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

Tapdance! \$15 opening night; \$18 all others. Broadway Onstage, 21517 Kelly Road, Eastpointe. April 12 - May 11. 586-771-6333. BroadwayOnStage.com

The 39 Steps \$23-27. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. April 12 - 28. 269-343-2727. farmersalleytheatre.com

The Animals and Children Took to the Streets \$45-50. University Musical Society at Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. April 10 - 14. 734-663-0681. UMS.org

The Constant Wife \$31-\$40. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Rd., Rochester. Through April 14. 248-377-3300. mbtheatre.com

The Weir Free; pay-what-you-can. The Abreact, 1301 W. Lafayette #113, Detroit. Through April 6. Theabreact.com

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

Charles H. Wright Museum "Visions of Our 44th President" erpret this milestone in American history. Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, 315 E. Warren, Detroit. Jan. 1 - April 30. 313-494-5853. Thewright.org

Detroit Artists Market "2013 Annual Detroit Artists Market Scholarship and Exhibition Program" 4719 Woodward Ave., Detroit. March 1 - April 6. 313-832-8540. DetroitArtistsMarket.org

Detroit Institute of Arts "Motor City Muse: Detroit Photographs, Then and Now" Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jan. 2 - June 16. 313-833-7900. DIA.org

Epiphany Glass Studios "Epiphany Glass Open Studio" First Thursday at Epiphany. The Studio line has some great items for the graduates, Mother's Day or for that special occasion or gift. Free glassblowing demonstrations during the event. Epiphany Glass Studios, 770 Orchard Lake Road, Pontiac. 4 p.m. April 4. 248-745-3786. Epiphanyglass.com

Flint Institute of Arts "Around the World with 80 Objects" Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Jan. 1 - June 30. Flintarts.org

Flint Institute of Arts "Reflections on Water in American Painting" Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. April 6 - June 16. Flintarts.org

Goldner Walsh Garden & Home "Visions of Africa" African Safari Photographer William Cowger will have a showing of his African Safari photographs on exhibit at Goldner Walsh Garden and Home. The event is free and open to the public. Goldner Walsh Garden & Home, 559 Orchard Lake

Road, Pontiac. 7 p.m. April 12. 248-332-6430. Goldnerwalsh.com

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Reflections: African American Life from the Myrna Colley-Lee Collection" Reflections tells a highly personal story of community and place through a selection of the extensive collection of costume designer and arts patron, Myrna Colley-Lee. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. March 2 - May 26. 269-349-7775. KIArts.org

Motown Museum "Girl Groups: The Grit, The Glamour, The Glory" In a brand new exhibit at the world famous Motown Museum - aka "Hitsville, U.S.A." - the pioneering women of girl groups will have the spotlight all to themselves. Motown Museum, 2648 W. Grand Blvd, Detroit. March 1 - April 30. 313-875-2264. MotownMuseum.org

River Gallery "big triumph X majestic land" River Gallery, 120 S. Main St., Chelsea. March 30 - May 11. 734-433-0826. ChelseaRiverGallery.com

Saugatuck Center for the Arts "Lakeshore Watercolors" Experience the vivid watercolors of celebrated West Michigan artist James Johnson. Saugatuck Center for the Performing Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. March 15 - May 4. 269-857-2399. SC4A.org

WonderFool Productions "FoolMoon" Moonlight event features an enormous procession of community-made illuminated sculptures carried by dancing teams of merry-makers as they thread their way downtown to Washington and Ashley St. in the heart of Ann Arbor. Ann Arbor, Washington St., Ann Arbor. 5 p.m. April 5. Festifoos.org

ART'N'AROUND

Ann Arbor Art Center "Potential 2013" A juried exhibition that showcases the work of Washtenaw County high school artists. The purpose of Potential is to display original pieces of high school art work of the highest quality and creativity and which transcend the usual class projects and assignments. Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. April 13 - May 12. 734-994-8004. AnnArborArtCenter.org

Ann Arbor Art Center "Ruth Gilmore Langs: The MOCEAN Paintings" Features the recent work of this celebrated artist whose large-scale oil paintings are vibrant, abstracted expressions of often highly personal subject matter. Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. March 8 - April 7. 734-994-8004. AnnArborArtCenter.org

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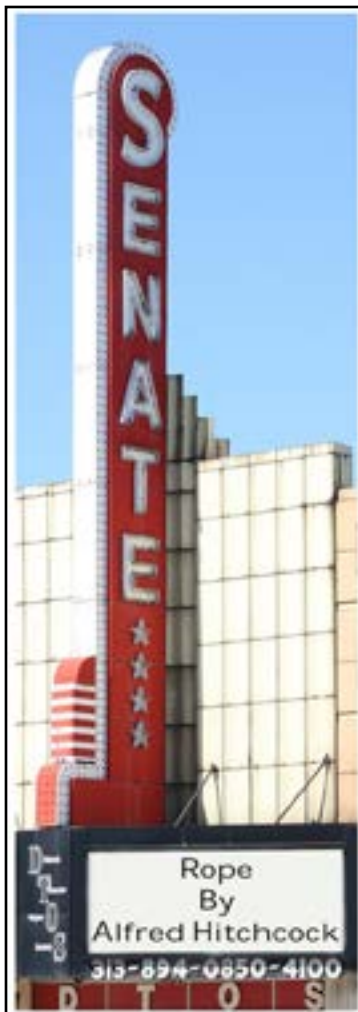
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HARC will be rolling out a new program in May 2013, called Healthy Relationships.

Don't be misled by the title. This exciting and interactive program provides gay and bi-sexual men, who are living with HIV the chance to work on some of the stress and worry that comes with disclosure to family, friends, and sexual partners. We explore and work on issues around sex, sexuality, intimacy, and relationships, with a focus on how unique these concerns are for us.

Healthy Relationships will also provide useful skills to help build healthier and safer sexual relationships.

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For more information contact
Leon Golson at lgolson@hivaidresource.org
Or Anthony Jenkins at ajenkins@hivaidresource.org
Or call us at 734-572-9355

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