

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE CELEBRATING 20 YEARS



Spring Bash Keeps Center Moving Forward

Human Rights Ordinance Passes In Pleasant Ridge

“It was definitely America that made me realize (the gays) were on my side.”

- Jessie Ware



Q+A



THE AUDACITY TO EXIST

Film Project Looks At Family's Choice For Deaf Child



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: WOET 101.9 FM, WEMU 89.1 FM, and Ann Arbor's 107one

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN | ANN ARBOR



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*)

Funded in part by:
Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan
Funded in part by: Arts Midwest Touring Fund
Media Partners: Between the Lines and Metro Times



4/27-28

**SITI Company:
Trojan Women (after Euripides)**

Saturday, April 27, 8 pm
Sunday, April 28, 2 pm
Power Center

The Trojan Women, by the Greek playwright Euripides, was first performed over 2,400 years ago. This adaptation by Jocelyn Clarke uses Euripides' text as a framework, imbuing the characters with the sensibilities and souls of 21st-century individuals. Anne Bogart, the founder of SITI Company and interviewer of Philip Glass and Robert Wilson for last year's Einstein on the Beach Penny Stamps lecture, directs.

Presented with support from: Herbert S. and Carol L. Amster Fund
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COVER STORY

4 The audacity to exist
Cover photo: Andrew Potter



“ I come up to Ferndale when I want to be around ‘my people.’ We are everywhere, but there are still a lot of places where we are still invisible.”

– Laura Williams, pg. 9



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Memphis comes to Motown via Broadway. Photo: Paul Kolnik

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The Mahoney family. BTL photos: Andrew Potter

The Audacity To Exist

Film To Look At Family's Choice For Deaf Child

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

The pressure began as soon as Jacob was born. Doctors told Donna and Marian Mahoney that their son was deaf, but that he could be “cured.” Doctors wanted them to give their son a cochlear implant so that he would have the ability to hear. The couple declined. Now at five years old, Jacob is a happy, inquisitive little boy that is at the center of a documentary project called “The Audacity to Exist.”

The Mahoneys have three children: 14-year-old Halee, 5-year-old Jacob, and 3-year-old Justin. Justin is also deaf, as are Donna and Marian’s parents. The couple knew each other growing up because their fathers had been friends. At five years apart, they were not close back then, but met up later in life and fell in love. Both have pursued careers in service to the deaf. Marian has done social work and interpreting, and Donna does interpreting. Currently Donna is a regional director for Sorenson Video Relay, a service that enables deaf people to communicate with hearing people over cell phones.

When Jacob was born, they were excited to have a deaf child. They shared the news with all their friends, including Ryan Commerson, a deaf film director who used to live in Michigan. His production crew, Facundo Element, is made up of all deaf individuals, except for their sound person.

“Jacob’s story is, unfortunately, an all-too-common story. Jacob, however, has two wonderful mothers who ‘get it,’ and they have honored us by welcoming us into their

personal lives to witness and document their journey,” Commerson said. “Jacob and Justin are both bright lights. We want to do everything we can in our power to inspire the world to embrace and celebrate the beauty that they bring to the spectrum of human diversity. Every team member in our production crew (with exception of the sound person) is deaf. We see Jacob in ourselves and understand what he and his family must face. We want the world to see itself from his perspective.

“Stories told about deaf people are never told from the lens of a deaf person. This innovative project is a gift that we look forward to sharing with the world.”

They are currently accepting donations to fund the film project. With a goal of \$75,000, they have collected \$2,000 on their website www.audacitytoexist.com.

The project looks at the family and

“We want people to know that being deaf is beautiful and something that is meant to be, we shouldn’t be trying to cure or fix something that isn’t broken.”

- Donna Mahoney

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their decision to decline an implant for their sons. It focuses mainly on Jacob and the bright personality that he shares with his classmates and family.

For Donna being born deaf is no different than being born gay. "If my parents knew I was going to be a lesbian and there was some magical pill they could have given me to be straight, should they have done it?" she asks. "No, this is the way I was made. Deaf people aren't sick or disabled; they don't need to be 'cured.'

"Jacob and Justin, as well as Halee, are allowed to be themselves and to explore life with their own eyes (of course with guidance), but we don't force them to be something they are not or be something that we think is better or easier. We want people to know that being deaf is beautiful and something that is meant to be, we shouldn't be trying to cure or fix something that isn't broken."

The mothers cherish the way the boys see and interact with the world. "We'll be walking down the street and Jacob will see things I don't even notice. Like way up ahead there could be a robin in the road, and he'll show me. Their other senses are so much stronger, and who knows what we are stifling by not letting them develop naturally?"

She went on to say that maybe someday a deaf person will use their heightened senses to discover a cure for cancer, because they may see something that other people don't notice.

Society's Failure

The issues the Mahoneys face stem from ways that society fails to adapt to support its deaf community members. "Businesses are required to provide interpreters, but a lot of times they just expect us to do it," Donna said. She pointed out that schools only expect deaf children to learn to read to a fourth grade level, and it's hard to get assistance if a child is on par with that standard.

"Michigan as well as many other states, have not taken on the responsibility of educating deaf children and then they turn it around and blame the deafness when they are failing. They try to educate deaf children just like they educate hearing children. ASL is

a visual language and of course you learn differently – *not worse* – just differently. Schools are considered a 'successful school' when deaf children graduate with a 4th grade reading level. If this was happening in the hearing community, parents would be throwing a fit and demand immediate change."

“As hearing people we have something to learn from deaf people and society hasn't event tried to accept deaf people for who they are - living, breathing human beings that aren't missing anything that prevents them from functioning in society.”

- Donna Mahoney

Another concern is that cochlear implants are marketed to parents of deaf children without a full understanding of how they work or what alternatives there may be. "People are not told that they can do anything that any other normal human being can do without hearing. You can be smart. You can run a marathon. You can play football. Learning sign language is an alternative to implants but parents aren't told about it," Donna said. Jacob attends school in Ann Arbor and is involved with a lot of activities like t-ball, soccer and swimming. "He has a knack for drama. He doesn't suffer from anything. He wants to play drums so he'll be taking drum lessons this summer. We don't think of that as a barrier."

Cochlear Implants

Over 220,000 people have cochlear implants which have been evolving since the late 1970s. The devices do not provide the full range of sounds that a hearing person experiences, but those with the devices can hear speech, environmental sounds and some music. In order to be most effective, implants should be done by age two so that the child can develop speech as well as hearing. The critical period for learning to function with an implant is up to age 9. After

this, a person has a significantly harder time adjusting to the implant.

When asked what would happen if Jacob wanted the device later in life, Donna was unconcerned. "We firmly believe Jacob wouldn't want to do that. We come from a family when you truly embrace a person for

who they are there is nothing in his life from his standpoint, that he lacks. If he does bring it up it will only be because of outside pressure. We'll have a family discussion, but even then it will be a serious talk. Again, if I was 16 and someone offered me a magic pill not to be gay, I might have taken it. It's easier to live life as a straight person, but that doesn't mean that someone who is gay should want to be one. I don't think that at 16 you really know who you are to make that decision.

"As hearing people we have something to learn from deaf people and society hasn't event tried to accept deaf people for who they are - living, breathing human beings that aren't missing anything that prevents them from functioning in society."

"There are people who do think we are awful because we don't give him the most opportunity," Donna said. "Every family is different and I don't go running up to other parents questioning why they would change their child...I'd rather have to answer the question of why we didn't do an implant versus why we would try to change him and make him something he is not."

To view a video clip of *Audacity to Exist* or to contribute to the film project, visit www.audacitytoexist.com.

Signs Of Love

Recession-Proof Job And A Website To Learn From

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

When Paul Fugate was 13 years old, he worked in an apple orchard in Romeo with a man who could not hear.

Later on when it was time to select a college and start on a career path, he remembered the man from the apple orchard and decided to spend his life bridging the communications gap between the hearing world and the deaf. He also discovered the importance of teaching others how to sign and interpret, and that the skill was in high demand in the Michigan job market.

"It's sort of recession-proof," Fugate said. "There will always be deaf people and a need for ASL (American Sign Language)." Fugate began his career as an interpreter in a school district and moved up to teaching ASL. With the state requiring two years of a foreign language, many districts are now offering ASL as an option. He found himself teaching at the high school and college level, as well as working for a video relay service that aids in telephone communication for the deaf.

Through all those experiences he learned more about the needs of the deaf community. He realized that about 90 percent of all deaf people are born to hearing parents, but that only about 25 percent of those take the time to learn ASL.

The program - ASLDeafined - includes a personalized progress chart, themed lessons, retention activities and quizzes, fingerspelling, a 10,000+ video dictionary, a customizable vocabulary bank, a deaf grammar section and lessons on deaf culture, ASL grammar and ASL syntax.

That means that most parents of deaf children are unable to communicate effectively with their child. "Deaf children get left out," Fugate said. "I've seen so many who don't even know what their parents do for a living. They only know what time their parent gets home from work, but they know nothing about what they do. If

you imagine a family sitting around having dinner and dad talking about his day at work, the deaf child doesn't know what is being said. They don't have that bond of getting to know their parents."



Paul Fugate has dedicated his life to bridging the communications gap between the hearing world and the deaf.

Fugate said most family members say they don't have time to learn ASL. Some get by with gestures, or try to force lip reading and speaking. They simply muddle through at home, hoping the child learns all they need to at school. "You can imagine how some may not have close ties with their families, because they can't even have conversations." This is the fundamental barrier to growth and education. Most

deaf people can only read at a 4th grade level, largely because of this lack of family communication.

The dedicated teacher and interpreter wanted to do something to change that. So he paired up with a fellow interpreter, Mercy Gonzales, to come up with an effective education system

See Signs Of Love, page 6

Dignity Detroit's 39th Anniversary Dinner May 4

BY CRYSTAL PROXMIRE

LGBT inclusion in the Catholic Church is a long-standing battle, with groups like Dignity Detroit leading the charge. Thirty-nine years ago the group formed to give support to church members, and especially clergy, who were determined to remain in the Catholic faith and change it from the inside out.

Now, in celebration of their 39 years of struggle and service, Dignity Detroit is preparing for an anniversary dinner that will help them fund their ongoing mission and recognize the progress that has been made.

Lourdes Rodriguez-Nogues will be coming from Boston to be the keynote speaker for the event. Rodriguez-Nogues lived in Cuba and Puerto Rico before heading northward to pursue a career in psychology and a life of LGBT activism. She is also known for giving talks about LGBT issues in workplace environments.

The dinner will take place on May 4 at the Park Place Banquet Hall in Dearborn. The cost for tickets is \$50.

The next night, May 5, the Annual Liturgy will be held at 6 p.m. at Sacred Heart Chapel of Marygrove College. Bishop Thomas Gumbleton will officiate.

Dignity Detroit was one of the first chapters to open, just one year after Dignity USA was founded. Dignity organizations are support groups with activists who strive to “work for the development of sexual theology leading to the reform of its teachings and practices regarding human sexuality, and for the acceptance of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender peoples as full and equal members of the one Christ.” Dignity Detroit was founded in 1974 and met at Most Holy Trinity Church for 23 years before moving to Marygrove College in 1997.

Their constitution states, “We believe that gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and straight Catholics are all members of Christ’s Mystical Body, numbered among the people of God. We have an inherent dignity because God created us, Christ died for us, and the Holy Spirit sanctified us in Baptism, making us the temple of God, and the channel through which the love of God might become visible. Because of this, it is our right, our privilege, and our duty to live the sacramental life of the Church, so that we might become more powerful instruments of God’s love working among all people.”

In addition to Mass every Sunday, activities include an annual retreat in the fall, monthly women’s group and seasonal prayer services. Members volunteer at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and support other charitable organizations, including those which directly impact the gay and lesbian community. There are after-Mass socials, an Annual Dinner Dance, and when the opportunity comes up, they have a party.

To order tickets or to learn more, visit the Dignity Detroit website at www.dignitydetroit.org.

DEAF C.A.N HIV/AIDS Program Offers Wide Range Of Services

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Knowledge is power, especially when it comes to HIV and AIDS prevention. But sometimes groups are overlooked in outreach efforts. This is particularly true in the deaf community, where reading levels can be lower, TV public service announcements are not as effective and radio does not work at all. Medical care providers that can communicate well are limited in number. But one group in southeast Michigan has made it a priority, using Ryan White federal funding, to serve the deaf HIV positive people in the metro Detroit area.

DEAF C.A.N. is an agency dedicated to helping those who cannot hear or who have hearing loss. They offer a wide range of services and support, including their DEAF C.A.N. AIDS Program.

Rosalee Harris has been working with DEAF C.A.N. for four years. She and a small, dedicated staff assist clients who have a wide variety of challenges. “A lot of the time they need help applying for DHS (Department of Human Services) benefits. I have clients that I help with employment, connecting with medical care, social security, court issues.

“The big thing is a lot of people don’t realize that anyone that deals with the public must provide an interpreter for deaf people at their expense. The Americans



“The big thing is a lot of people don’t realize that anyone that deals with the public

must provide an interpreter for deaf people at their expense. The Americans with Disabilities Act requires this.”

- Rosalee Harris

with Disabilities Act requires this,” Harris said. “If a client is having trouble getting service, I’ll call the business or the agency on their behalf and let them know what the client’s rights are.”

The agency can also help clients connect with services that assist them in communication. There are video phones for deaf people and services that provide over-the-phone translation. For example, a hearing person can call the service and speak to the translator and the person with

the video phone can see them and sign a response back. The translator then tells the hearing person what was said. Harris has also helped older clients learn how to text.

Currently there are 13 steady clients for the DEAF C.A.N. AIDS Program, in addition to supporting outside calls for information. Deaf C.A.N. works with local HIV/AIDS prevention organizations to ensure that information remains accessible. They put literature in medical clinics and attend health fairs. This year, on Sept. 28, they will be part of Deaf Celebration Day, an event held every two years to connect the community and share information. This year’s Deaf Celebration Day will be held at Northland Mall in Southfield.

“I love my job,” Harris said. “When I was 18 I found a job in a group home with deaf people and I’ve been helping ever since. I love the customers and being able to see new clients get the things they need to make life better. We take so much for granted.”

In addition to case management for HIV positive clients, DEAF C.A.N. provides a wide range of services to the deaf community, including advocacy, direct services, translation, resources for parents of deaf children, educational materials, workshops and case management.

Learn more at <http://deafcan.org/deafaims>. For general information go to <http://deafcan.org>.

► Signs Of Love

Continued from p. 5

for parents and others wanting to learn ASL outside a traditional class. After four years of development and thousands of dollars in personal investment, they created a web-based learning program called ASLDeafined. With monthly packages under \$25 (less if you buy longer-term), ASLDeafined is great for deaf and hearing people looking to learn or sharpen their skills.

The program includes a personalized progress chart, themed lessons, retention activities and quizzes, fingerspelling, a 10,000+ video dictionary, a customizable vocabulary bank, a deaf grammar section and lessons on deaf culture, ASL grammar and ASL syntax.

“It’s a great way to learn for people who are busy,” Fugate said. He explained that the average user keeps using the program for about a year, and there are about 10,000 subscribers at any given time. In addition to deaf people and families, schools can use

the website to offer more help to students.

In addition to just learning the language, users of ASLDeafined get acquainted with the deaf culture, learning syntax and history that is important. “Because family ties are not always strong, deaf people really connect with each other. When deaf people get together they can sit for hours signing because they have so much to say that they don’t always get to. They share a common bond and the ties are strong.”

The site even shares history. In one entry, for example, deaf people are credited with the creation of the “huddle” in football. “The quarterback of the Gallaudet University football team in 1892, Paul D. Hubbard, invented the huddle. Hubbard realized that using sign language to communicate with the teams plays could be understood by the opposing team, especially because they often played other deaf teams. He created the huddle as a way to communicate to his teammates while shielding their plans from the other team and the spectators,” ASLDeafined says.

Increasing the number of people with ASL skills is something that Fugate and Gonzales are passionate about. “At the public school I teach at, I have students come in and tell me they work at McDonalds or Subway or wherever and they had a deaf person come in. They’re so excited that they were able to sign with the person and take their order with dignity. You never know when you will meet someone and be able to help them. Deaf people are like everyone else. They eat out, they go to hotels, they buy gas, and they go to the grocery store. You can run into a deaf person anywhere,” Fugate said. He also noted that businesses are required to provide translator services for deaf customers, a fact that puts the profession in high demand.

Any amount of time spent learning ASL can be useful. Fugate said that even 1-2 hours a week in lessons can make a big difference in the lives of deaf people. ASLDeafined has a free trial option where people can explore some of the lessons and vocabulary before signing up for the program.

To learn more go to www.asldeafined.com.

Pleasant Ridge Human Rights Ordinance Passes Unanimously

22nd City In State To Pass Protections

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

There was little to debate in the unanimous passing of the Pleasant Human Rights Ordinance on April 9. The ordinance makes it a misdemeanor with a \$500 fine to discriminate in the areas of housing, employment or public accommodation in the city.

Pat Gross, who has lived in Pleasant Ridge for 23 years, was among those who spoke at a public comment hearing on the ordinance. "Unlike a lot of the communities where they pass these ordinances to kind of say 'this is how we should be,' I really think that what we're doing here is a proclamation of how we do live. I personally have always felt safe here."



“I really think that what we're doing here is a proclamation of how we do live.”

- Pleasant Ridge Resident Pat Gross

Pleasant Ridge has the highest per capita population of self-identified gay people in Michigan as reported in the last census, and they are now the 22nd municipality to enact a human rights ordinance.

Resident Jeanne Ruzzin questioned why the penalty was only \$500, saying it was just a "slap on the hand." Members of the Commission explained that \$500 was the amount set by the state for local ordinance fines.

The only other question came from a resident who wondered why HIV was listed as a protected class, but that people with other health conditions weren't specifically listed. Rudy Serra, a former Judge and a former School Board member of Ferndale

Schools of which Pleasant Ridge is a part, happened to be at the meeting to speak on another matter. Serra served as the first openly gay judge in the state and was a member of the Detroit Human Resources Commission. He addressed the woman's concerns by explaining, "The distinction though, is HIV is the only chronic disease that's criminalized in Michigan. ... There are people in prison today because of failure to disclose their HIV status and that's why HIV status is included in most of the modern up to date ordinances that municipalities look at."

Victor Walker, an employee of Affirmations Community Center in neighboring Ferndale, said that he meets young people from Pleasant Ridge in his work. He too expressed hope that HIV status would be specifically retained in the ordinance wording. "There is no other health issue that is as stigmatized as HIV," he said. "Once you hear someone has HIV you never forget that."

The ordinance was passed unanimously as originally drafted. To the north, in Royal Oak, the City Commission recently passed a Human Rights Ordinance, but it was put on hold after residents gathered enough signatures to intercede. That ordinance will now be put to a public vote in November.

To learn more about Human Rights Ordinances in cities across the state, visit the Unity Michigan website at www.unitymichigan.org/resources.

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On The Move Toward Equality: Creating Change With Information

MPIPP Gathers Data To Inform State Policy

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

With all the emotional and seemingly self-evident reasons for LGBT equality, sometimes the data-gathers get less attention than they deserve. But when it comes to convincing elected officials to craft policy, or educators to make diversity a priority, the numbers make all the difference. Those are the people who want "nothin' but the facts."

Thankfully MPIPP is happy to oblige. The Michigan Project for Informed Public Policy is the largest effort in Michigan to gather data relevant to their mission, which is to achieve equality for those who are LGBT and to reduce the stigma and discrimination that can negatively impact the mental and physical health of many LGBT individuals and their allies. They accomplish this by providing science-based information to help make data-driven public policy decisions, and to increase the public's understanding of the negative impact of stigma and discrimination against LGBT people.

With an extensive collection of studies, surveys, briefs and experts ready to answer the call to testify, MPIPP is a valuable source for those looking to prove the importance of treating people fairly. Since 2008, MPIPP has worked with the Michigan Psychological Association to preserve their collection efforts and services. Now the group is moving forward in a new partnership with Affirmations Community Center in Ferndale, and working on a new expansion of their work aimed at teaching others how to better tell their stories by mixing anecdote with evidence. A grant from the Arcus Foundation makes the new move possible.

MPIPP has three part-time employees, whose hours add up to one full-time position. However Judith Kovach, Diana Popp and Melissa Grey go beyond the call of duty to share their expertise. Each has a passion for promoting equality. Kovach, director of MPIPP, is a psychologist with a long list of titles and distinctions, including 13 years as Director of Public Affairs for the Michigan Psychological Association and another 10 years as their executive director.

Project Coordinator Melissa Grey is



From left Melissa Grey, Diana Popp and Judith Kovach from The Michigan Project for Informed Public Policy have forged a partnership with Affirmations Community Center. BTL photo: Crystal Proxmire

“ We offer education on the mental health implications of public policy, like the good mental health benefits of amending Elliot Larsen and the bad effects of policy like removing domestic partnership benefits. ”

- Judith Kovach

an assistant professor of psychology at Monroe County Community College, where she is active in the Gay Straight Alliance. She is also active in the American Psychological Association's Society for the Psychological Study of LGBT Issues as co-chair of their Public Policy Committee.

Popp brings a wide range of communications experience to MPIPP including communication project management, development of diverse print communications (such as newsletters, fact sheets, brochures, and technical manuals), development of multi-media training programs, and website content development. She has also been the executive producer of training and promotional films.

Conscience Clause Battle

While lobbying is off-limits because of the terms of their grant, providing

data-driven evidence to lawmakers can help them make informed decisions. Many studies focus on the psychological harm done by discrimination. "One of the bills that's been very important is the conscience clause," said Kovach. "When that issue came up, the Public Policy committee started looking at that. We got input from around the country."

Their research, based evidence obtained nationwide, was presented to the Committee. The legislation was not heard by both houses last year, but it has been reintroduced again in 2013 as SB 136. The legislation would make it legal for health care workers to refuse to provide service in cases that violate their religious beliefs.

"We also offer education on the mental health implications of public policy, like the good mental health benefits of amending Elliot Larsen and the bad effects of policy like removing domestic

See MPIPP, page 13

Spring Bash Keeps Affirmations Moving Forward

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

DETROIT – The spacious ballrooms of the Westin Book Cadillac were full of supporters in tuxedos and gowns for the Affirmations Spring Bash. This annual event is the community center’s largest fundraiser, providing funding for many of their programs and services.

It is the time when Center Partners and other major donors are able to come together and remember the value of having a place where young people can come to feel accepted, find resources, get support, get services, and learn that they are not alone in the world. The stories shared remind them that once they too were rejected, judged or even persecuted for being gay or transgender.

Noted workplace trainer and expert on LGBT issues Brian McNaught spoke at the pre-Bash VIP reception, reminding folks that in the past - in his lifetime - events such as the Big Bash would have been raided by police. McNaught typically speaks to predominantly heterosexual audiences about LGBT issues. After being the first trainer to go to the National Security Agency (NSA) to talk on this subject, he told the audience members to go home and tell their families they were at a training on “lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues.” He stressed the importance of saying the words and not just the letters, and doing so in a loving way. The result was remarkable. “I got an email the next day from one of the top people at the NSA saying ‘Brian last night I came home and I did what you told me to do. I talked to my family about where I was today and I said I went to a talk about gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender issues and an hour later my college-aged daughter came out to me as a lesbian,’” he said.

The Awards

During dinner, two awards were presented. The Jan Stevenson Award was given to longtime volunteers and donors Nancy Katz and Margo Dichtelmiller. Katz, an attorney, served on the Board of Affirmations for a decade, including two years as President. The couple has donated more money to the center than anyone else in its history, leading the way to inspire others in the organization’s capital campaigns and making the new building possible. In response to the honor, Katz said, “It’s given so much back to us. I really want to emphasize that. People think ‘Oh volunteering, it takes a lot of time,’ or ‘giving money, I can’t do that.’ But really it’s so given back to us in terms of things we’ve learned and people we’ve met, and ways in which our lives have been enriched by Affirmations. So really I feel like it’s almost unfair because we’ve gotten so much more than we gave.”

The Lorna Utley Outstanding Ally Award was presented to a woman who jumped in and got involved in the community center after her son came out as gay. Lisa Gretchko has served on the Finance Committee and currently serves on the Fund Development Committee. Jan Stevenson presented the award, explaining, “She told me her story of five years ago when her 14 year old son called her up on the phone, at work, and said ‘Mom, I’ve got to tell you something important, I’ve been keeping something from you.’ And she being the lawyer that



From left, Affirmations Community Center Executive Director David Garcia with staff members Kat LaTosch, Meg Hollowell and Johnny Jenkins with dinner guest. See online photo and video gallery at www.pridesource.com. BTL photo: Crystal Proxmire

she is, was quick to say ‘what did you do wrong?’ And he said ‘Mom, I’m gay.’ And she said ‘Okay, but what did you do wrong?’” From then on Gretchko has been a tireless advocate not only for her son, but for every young person in the LGBT

community. “It’s always struck me as unfair that I have certain rights as a heterosexual that people don’t have as homosexuals. That’s absolutely unacceptable,” Gretchko said.

Robert Shimmel came out 20 years ago and remembers the

Giving

The impressive generosity of the award winners compliments the true nature of funding for the center, which is done by the collective giving of hundreds of contributors. Whether it’s a dollar or a thousand dollars, every bit helps keep the center open and serving people of all ages and backgrounds. Many of the attendees had personal reasons for giving their support.

Jessica Barrow of Sterling Heights came out to her family and learned to cherish her true self thanks to the help of Affirmations’ Coming Out Over Coffee which she attended about three years ago. “I used to say I was going to

See Big Bash, page 13

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Messages Michigan Sends About Inclusion Matter Enormously To Our State's Economy



OPINION BY JOHN AUSTIN

Last week, at Wayne State University, I gave the Samuel Levin Economics Award Lecture and used the forum to deliver a major speech on Michigan's economy.

I basically made two arguments about what matters most: One, we have to build up, not diminish through disinvestment, the public institutions and services: schools, universities, transportation infrastructure, parks, museums, libraries, that support a thriving economy and rich quality of life; and two, we have to send the right values message to our own citizens and outsiders – that say Michigan is the state that is the most attractive and supportive place for wonderful, creative, diverse and well-educated people to live, work and play.

These values signals we send – as a political community or polity, and through our public policies – matter enormously to the economy, and are often given short shrift in debates over whether we should raise or lower taxes; invest more or less in roads or education.

The questions: Are we welcoming and inclusive and tolerant – of women, the LGBT community, immigrants, people of color and each other? Are we embracing change, or protecting our past and present – whether by protecting our “tribe” by resisting newcomers or those different from ourselves; or protecting our existing industries, and not embracing the coming ones like clean energy and clean water? Are we sending messages that we care about our neighbors, our community and our planet? Answering these questions the right way is so important.

Happily and increasingly around the country and in Michigan, most

people, and clearly young people in the next generation want to live lifestyles, and live in communities that animate certain values, including social equity, tolerance and sustainability.

We are at a thrilling time in the nation as same-sex marriage for gay and lesbian couples is being embraced. Immigrants rightfully are viewed as an asset to a more economically vibrant and diverse society. Leaders in business and government are appreciating as never before that our people, our human capital, our “talent” – whether gay, straight, black, white, brown, old, young, man, woman – is the most precious commodity and important ingredient in growing jobs and opportunity.

We need Michigan to join that national party. That is why we need clear messages from our leadership at all levels: We treat all equally, we welcome newcomers, we embrace our LGBT children, friends and co-workers, and want to do everything possible to make this state the choice place for our children to make their careers, and newcomers to make their home and do their business.

That is why we must have zero tolerance for leaders and legislation that send the wrong message to our own citizens and outsiders. Early last year when Michigan passed and saw signed by the Governor, legislation denying domestic partner benefits to gay couples at universities – and denying university employees the right to organize – I said then in a Free Press editorial – we should make Michigan the “want to work here state” – not the state that tells top researchers, top talent: “Hey, we don't want you to be happy and welcomed here.” Also last year the homophobic over-reaching including “religious and moral” opt-

“Leaders in business and government are appreciating as never before that our people, our human capital, our “talent” – whether gay, straight, black, white, brown, old, young, man, woman – is the most precious commodity and important ingredient in growing jobs and opportunity.”

outs from anti-bullying legislation was called out and beaten back – but we still did not get the needed clarity and enumeration of “whose rights are being protected” in this long overdue bill.

We failed to join the states sending a message that we embrace the industries of the future, and want to lead in needed job creation in clean energy, when we defeated increased renewal energy standards at the ballot.

And right after the election the Right-to-Work law was jammed through the legislature in lame duck, and Pure Michigan ads touting it ran in the Wall Street Journal. As I said at the time – this is sad and embarrassing for Michigan – both sully Michigan's ‘brand’ and sending a message to the world that Michigan is competing to be a “low-wage” state; and has succeeded

in beating up its labor unions and working people. More recently we have the spectacle of a right-wing legislature seeking to ‘punish’ schools and universities for negotiating long-term “win-win” agreements with their employees – and modeling collaborative labor-management relations – because it violates the spirit of “right-to-work” (which I guess is about punishing your workers). And RNC Committeeman and former State Rep. Dave Agema starts frothing about the menace to

society posed by its gay citizens. Boy are we looking backward!

Make no mistake, we are in an international competition to be the place the best educated people in the world want to live, work, become an entrepreneur, and start their own business. Our top-talent still leave our state in droves, because we aren't modeling the attitudes, nor making the investments in our communities, nor higher education, nor jobs of the future – that make Michigan the place to be. Do our young people, our new college graduates – move to Indiana because it's a right-to-work state? No they go to Chicago, Boston, Seattle, New York, Colorado, California – all non-right-to-work – and arguably attractive as tolerant and forward leaning. Why would any woman choose to make their career in a state where threats of invasive health

practices are “on-the-agenda” in Lansing? Can immigrants choose and trust a state where the Governor says you're welcome here, but the Secretary of State of the same party wants you to have to (illegally) check a special box to vote? Where the LGBT community can't trust, day-to-day, whether elected leaders will stay strong, and say clearly: “you are embraced as part of the Michigan family!”

Michigan needs leadership that won't compromise, and will consistently stand up for the values shared by the growing majority – here and around the country. Why? It is the right thing to do, but also, as Clinton advisor James Carville famously put it: “It's about the economy, stupid!”

John Austin is President of the Michigan State Board of Education, and Directs the Michigan Economic Center at Prima Civitas Foundation. @John_C_Austin. www.MiEconomicCenter.org



Creep of the Week

Alan Keyes

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

You know how sometimes you haven't heard from somebody in a while and you just kind of assume that they've crawled under a rock and disappeared from public life for the good of humanity?

Well, someone's gone and unearthed Alan Keyes, former



Satan is hell-bent for the destruction of all mankind with the help of his loyal minions, the gays.

presidential candidate and current nutcase, and put a microphone in front of his face because apparently this world just doesn't have enough crazy in it.

And Keyes doesn't disappoint.

In an interview with conservative radio host Stan Solomon, Keyes made clear that legalizing marriage for gays and lesbians would inevitably lead to the destruction of civilization, in a very literal way.

I should mention that Keyes has a daughter who identifies as gay, although he identifies her as not existing. Not exactly father of the year material.

Keyes claims that "homosexual rights ... returns us to the dark ages of human oppression.

"The aim is not compassion for homosexuals, respect for homosexuals and all of this, the aim in the mind of these hardheaded, calculating, leftist, Communist, totalitarians is to destroy the family and to establish the notion that once you have seized power there is no limit whatsoever to what you can do," Keyes said.

He's right, of course. Gay rights are really just the gateway drug of rights. Once gays are considered equal human beings under the

law the real agenda is going to be uncovered and by then it will be too late to stop us (insert evil laughter here).

Keyes continues, because apparently he has no filter, "If you want to tolerate abuses then those abuses can be imposed upon the people. Once you establish that, the abuses are then not going to be confined to egregious outrages like this; those abuses are going to be committed against the whole society and they will in the end include the murder of the masses as has occurred in all Communist regimes that existed. That includes as well the expropriation of all property because if you don't respect the primordial God-endowed belongings that are associated with family life then why on earth would you be constrained to respect any other form of human property claim."

Ah, the slippery slope argument. If gay marriage is legal, well, then anything goes! I think the proper response to Keyes claim here is "no duh and obviously." I mean who doesn't believe that marriage equality will lead to a Communist regime and "the murder of the masses" and the abandonment of private property laws? Oh, wait, nobody who is sane.

And who is to blame for all of this upheaval? Why, Satan, of course.

"We need to keep in mind that the Devil is not playing, he's deadly serious about the destruction of America's character, spiritual nature and the foundations of that way of life," Keyes warned.

In other words, Satan is hell-bent for the destruction of all mankind with the help of his loyal minions, the gays.

But how do we do it? Why, via the Tee Vee, of course.

"All of that is being destroyed and a key vehicle for doing that is what you might call the popular culture of entertainment: music, television shows, movies," Keyes claims. "I've noticed for instance that every form of entertainment now is being programmed to promote the acceptance of homosexuality, every form of it."

In other words, Keyes sees homosexuality everywhere he looks and he can't stop obsessing over it. But somehow gays are the ones with the problem.

OBITUARY: Edward Johnson

April 20, 1976 - April 8, 2013

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

DETROIT – Community activist, dancer and former female impersonator Edward Johnson died April 8th from complications from kidney failure. He was 36.

A Detroit native, Johnson grew up on the West Side. He graduated from Cass Technical High School in 1994 and went on to study dance at Oakland University, Marygrove College and Wayne State University. He performed with many local dance companies, including Jazz & Spirit Dance Theatre of Detroit, Natural Locz Dance Company, Detroit City Dance Company, Body Rhythm Dance Theatre and the Detroit Windsor Dance Company. Soon, he was not only dancing but choreographing and instructing as well.

But dancing wasn't Johnson's only passion. He became active in Detroit's LGBT community, working for Horizons Project and later Men of Color Motivational Group.

"He just had a beautiful soul," said June Washington, who hired him to work at Horizons Project as an outreach worker. "He was just a sweet individual. He didn't speak badly about anyone."

In the late '90s, Johnson

made a foray into the world of female impersonation, creating the character Tokyo Reign. Legendary female impersonator April Summers soon took Johnson under her wing.

"I loved Tokyo," Summers said. "She was a very hard worker. And as Edward, he was very giving."

Tokyo Reign went on to win many area titles, including Miss Michigan Continental Plus, Miss Great Lakes Continental Plus, Miss Club Flamingo and Miss Stilettoes.

As Johnson began to master his craft, he took time to school others.

"When I met Edward, I was a shy, soft spoken young man," said Donzell, aka Dominique Polo. "Edward took me under his wing not only as my drag mother but as a gay parent and mentor. Edward taught me not only about the gay life and the pageant world, but also about real life."

Polo said that Johnson's impact on his personal development cannot be overstated.

"There was a time in my life when it seemed as if my world was coming to an end," Polo recalled. "I didn't know what to do. So I called my 'momma' and he came to my rescue. He lectured me and showed



me that my situation wasn't as bad as I thought. He was my voice of hope."

In recent years, Johnson had started his own business and worked as a personal shopper. He was ever-evolving and always trying something new.

Johnson is survived by his mother, Deborah Johnson, and his sister, Erica Barham.

"What I will remember most is his spontaneity," said Barham. "You never knew what he was going to get into next. He had so many interests, and anything that sparked creativity interested him. You really never knew what was next."

Funeral services for Johnson were held April 15.



BY SUSAN HOROWITZ

There are hundreds of entries on BTL's website, quoting former Pennsylvania Senator and 2012 Republican Presidential contender Rick Santorum making anti-gay remarks. He has made the Creep of the Week column numerous times (perhaps a record number) over the years, all of them for virulently homophobic remarks (not to mention offensive remarks regarding race and Islam.)

When Grosse Pointe School administrators moved to cancel a scheduled appearance by

Rick Santorum To Speak At Grosse Pointe South HS

Santorum on April 24, stating his views were extreme, he took to Fox News.

"It's a sad day when liberal educators are allowed to influence young minds – extending free speech rights only to those who share their liberal views. I support traditional marriage; I believe marriage should be between one man and one woman. I'm not sure what the administrators in the Grosse Pointe Public School System are afraid of, but these students deserve the respect to form their own opinion on this important issue," Santorum said.

His host, Young Americans for Freedom, raised the \$18,000 to

bring him to the High School.

At press time the event is scheduled to take place April 24 (though Santorum was in the hospital over last weekend and cancelled an appearance at the Iowa Faith and Freedom Dinner April 15.)

Students will now need a permission slip from parents to hear Santorum, who when pressed on the content of his speech, refused to give a copy to Grosse Pointe school administrators.

You can find a list of the more salient quotes Santorum has uttered through the years on our website at www.pridesource.com.

► MPIPP

Continued from p. 8

partnership benefits,” Kovach said. MPIPP also works with the Michigan Department of Education in their Sexual Minority Youth Work Group, which looks at ways to train administrators in schools how to support LGBT youth. They do trainings on college campuses, through PTAs and other educational avenues.

On top of educating legislators and educators, MPIPP is now looking at a more grassroots approach to helping others tell their stories.

“Contact theory says that when an empowered group gets to know someone from a disenfranchised group, they are much more likely to empathize with that person and group,” Kovach said. Because of this, MPIPP began KUP, the Know Us Project.

KUP provides training and support for people who are willing to step up and put themselves out there by sharing their story. But it’s not just the typical speakers’ bureau approach. “What’s unique is that we address the mental health needs of the person telling their story. It’s not easy. We provide a way to cope with negative reactions. When you have conversations with people you never know how they are going to react,” she said.

Using a research-based approach, KUP helps participants identify people to speak with, how to reduce the listener’s levels of anxiety, and how to use words and body language that make their storytelling more effective. KUP training sessions are generally 3-4 hours long for groups of 10-30 people.

Kovach stressed that allies need to be story-tellers too, since their viewpoint may resonate with other straight people. “How does it feel if your kid comes home beaten to a pulp? How does it feel if you’re a social justice worker and you see LGBT youth who are struggling?”

Website Resources

Beyond the trainings and support, the MPIPP website and newsletters contain a wealth of information individuals and groups can use to discuss a wide range of topics important to the LGBT community. These include: Anti-gay Ballot Initiatives, “Conversion” or “Reparative” Therapy, Employment Discrimination, Family & Parenting, Health Care, LGBT Elders, LGBT People of Color, LGBTQ Youth, Marriage Equality and Transgender Issues.

With the Michigan Psychological Association cutting back on staff and partnerships, working with Affirmations seemed like the perfect next step. Affirmations has a growing counseling

program and both groups were already working together on the Older Adult Coalition.

“We’re very pleased about this new partnership and excited about the opportunities that come with it,” said Dave Garcia, executive director of Affirmations. “It not only strengthens our mental health expertise but it also provides added validity to our expanding mental health services.”

To learn more about MPIPP and to see their range of resources, check out their website at www.mpipp.org.

On May 4, MPIPP will be hosting a conference at Affirmations Community Center called “Waves Of Courage: Social Science Evidence to Strengthen Ally & LGBT Equality Efforts.” Nationally known researcher Dr. Glenda Russell, a psychologist, author, and university professor from Boulder, Colorado, will be there to share research that she and others have done on anti-gay politics and its personal impact on LGBT people and their allies. The conference has been underwritten by The Joshua Lobenthal and Debbie Kovach Memorial Funds, so the cost for attendees is only \$25. To register visit <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e78tznhecb82e99&llr>.

► Big Bash

Continued from p. 9

progression of Affirmations through the years. “I’m here for the gay kids so they can have a place to come out. I grew up in a little place called Sturgis, Michigan and there was nowhere like Affirmations nearby. Kids need a place to feel safe.”

Laura Williams of Riverview supports Affirmations for the same reason, saying there isn’t a place downriver for LGBT people to feel welcome. “Someday I want to have a Pride there, or a march

or something,” she said. “I come up to Ferndale when I want to be around ‘my people.’ We are everywhere, but there are still a lot of places where we are still invisible.”

Affirmations Executive Director David Garcia reported progress about the community center and throughout the state, touting the unprecedented Community Center Network and the Unity Michigan Coalition which are working together towards change. He lauded the center’s extended hours, the ever-growing counseling program, and the growing acceptance for gay marriage. But he also said that the movement does

not stop there. Affirmations needs ongoing support to remain open, and while there is some social progress, there is still more that needs to be done.

“Marriage is a mile-marker, not a goal line,” Garcia said. “What happens after marriage? Does that protect the transgender community? Does that protect us in our employment where we can still be fired in the state of Michigan for being gay? This fight is not over if the Supreme Court overturns Prop 8. Please remember that.”

To find out more about Affirmations, visit the website at www.goaffirmations.org.

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REWRITING

Singer On Career Switch, Big Gay Following & Her Wildest Moment

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

With all the due praise for Jessie Ware's honeyed debut, "Devotion," including a Mercury Prize nomination, no one's complaining that the Londoner dropped journalism for music. Least of all Ware herself.

As she heads stateside, the charming "Wildest Moments" singer chatted about changing careers, first recognizing a gay fan base while touring America and the Whitney Houston album that inspired her debut.

Do you think you would've pursued a solo career if your mom hadn't convinced you to?

No. Probably not. It was a joint thing – my mom and my friends put me in a session with some tracks. I felt like I was very lucky to have people who really had faith in me.

Were you a good journalist?

No, I was rubbish! That's why I didn't do it for that long. I found it really, really competitive and it just didn't feel completely right for me. My father is a journalist and I was under the impression that it's very glamorous and that I'd be a hard-hitting journalist, but no. I just wasn't very good.

Isn't music competitive, too?

Yeah, but I feel like I was extremely lucky with how I came into music, because I had people really rooting for me and so I didn't feel quite guilty about it. I didn't really have that struggle. I went from backing singer to solo singer, but I was so content being a backing singer. It was really my mates pushing me to get in a session on my own, which I was petrified about.

Look, I put my time in as a backing singer and I was a dance vocalist, but it felt sometimes too good to be true with how generous people were with me, giving me these opportunities.

Your Twitter wallpaper is Barbra Streisand. What kind of influence has she had on you and your career?

She's brilliant and just so charismatic. I just think she's a great, great singer and a great performer, and you can just learn a lot from watching any performance of hers – that you must never forget to try your hardest all the time.

Were you an obsessive fan as a kid?

No, not at all. My grandma made me watch concerts



Jessie Ware

Photo: James Moriarty

of hers when I was younger and she was just obsessed. My mom took my grandma to a concert and I remember it very vividly. But no, it was more a later love and find when I started watching “Yentl” and “Funny Girl” and things like that, and actually getting so madly into the stuff that she did with Robin Gibb.

Are there other gay-loved singers you idolize that we do as well? Bette Midler?

Uh, hello! I’m partly calling my unborn child – my daughter that I hopefully will have – C.C. because of C.C. Bloom from “Beaches,” and also because my grandma is called Cecilia, so I’m calling her that. Yeah, there’s a definite Bette Midler love in there. I just love strong Jewish women.

Mariah or Whitney?

Whitney was my one, my love. In fact, I had Whitney and Barbra Streisand vinyls in the recording booth when I made my album just so if ever I wasn’t trying hard enough, I’d just look at them and be like, “Oh no, try harder. Babs wouldn’t do that. Whitney wouldn’t do that.”

“You know what, when I came in January and I saw how many gay people were at my gigs, I breathed a sigh of relief, I’m not gonna lie. I thought, ‘OK, yes, they’re on my side. Wicked. Let’s go.’”

Which Whitney album?

I had the “Whitney Houston” one – the orange vinyl where she looks very elegant.

Why do you think gay men gravitate toward big female voices like those and yours so much?

Look, I don’t know, but maybe it’s the drama. There’s always a huge passion. I don’t know if it stems from musical theater and the kind of fabulousness of it. I don’t know. You tell me. You’re gay!

I like to say we have good taste.

(Laughs) It’s good taste, but also I feel like you’re always the ones who have your finger on the pulse. You’re always the first to know about people. You’re breaking me! You know what, when I came in January and I saw how many gay people were at my gigs, I breathed a sigh of relief, I’m not gonna lie. I thought, “OK, yes, they’re on my side. Wicked. Let’s go.”

Were you doing a club tour?

No, I didn’t, actually. The only club that I played was in San Francisco, which I think had quite a renowned gay club night and that was amazing. It was the second sellout of the

tour. It was just amazing. I loved it. But I have really catered to the gays in the new video (for “Imagine It Was Us”). It’s got voguing and lots of beautiful men with no tops on and choreographed dancing and a disco feel to it.

Thank you so much!

Pleasure!

When were you aware that you had a gay following?

I only really realized when I came to America. You know what, I’m still working out who’s coming to see me anyway, but when I saw all these beautiful black men at the front (at one of the shows) I was like, “Oh, heyyy,” and they’d be like, “Gurrrrlfriend!” It was definitely America that made me realize you were on my side.

What song on “Devotion” speaks most to your gay fans?

I feel like quite a lot of them like “Taking in Water,” and I don’t know if that’s because it’s about my brother and they know that. It was written when he was having a really tough time, which could’ve been partly to do with sexuality and the struggle of that.

Did you write it about him and his struggle with his sexuality?

It’s not just about that. It’s kind of the aftermath of coming out. I don’t know. It’s about a few things. I was very protective of him but I wasn’t very good at expressing it, and then I kind of wrote this song. I’m not saying the song made us closer at all, but we definitely are much tighter now. I make sure everyone knows he’s in the audience when he is and I make sure everyone knows it’s about my little brother.

How has having a gay brother influenced the way you feel about gay rights?

I’ve always felt really protective of my brother. I think we all kind of knew he was gay from quite a young age, and I felt like he was picked on at school because of maybe him being more effeminate and not being able to come out and it became an issue. He was having to defend himself and he wasn’t even sure if he was gay yet. You can still see it happening, and people are still so casually homophobic without even knowing it, whether it be, “Oh, that’s so gay.” Things like that. It really annoys me. I feel very protective of him and I’d like to do

See **Jessie Ware**, page 21



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Screen Queen BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Oscar Winners 2013



Les Misérables

Wins: *Actress in a Supporting Role (Anne Hathaway), Sound Mixing, Makeup and Hairstyling*

Boasting of its eight Academy Award nominations, three Golden Globe wins and “perfect” picture and sound, the “Les Misérables” Blu-ray – all right, you got me with that velvet-soft slipcase, Universal – is as showy as director Tom Hooper’s stuffy, up-the-nose shots of his live “singers.” And if you want to hang out in Hugh Jackman’s nostril cavities, then by all means. Other reasons for seeing Hooper’s version of the Broadway hit: You like overwrought musicals where people sing about suffering, and then where they sing about suffering some more. For almost three hours. You are curious to hear just how bad Russell Crowe sounds. You want to see Anne Hathaway own that Oscar win as a prostitute in need of a shower, who sings better than Susan Boyle. That performance, and also Jackman as Jean Valjean, elevates one of the greatest misses of last year, but only so much. And not enough. If you want to see Anne (pretend to) get emotional discussing her character – and also ogle a shirtless Hugh at the gym – the extras are for you, too.



Skyfall

Wins: *Original Song, Sound Editing*

For a half century, the James Bond franchise – including this one, that’s 23 films – has built a wildly heteronormative world based on chases and girls and beating the bad guys. So, of course madness and mayhem and machismo endure in “Skyfall,” but this exhilarating joyride doesn’t stop there: A bad call in the beginning puts Bond’s life in danger, things get complicated between 007 and M (Judi Dench, chewing up every scene), and a deranged arch nemesis (maniacal marvel Javier Bardem) puts the moves on his foe. Bond himself, played by Daniel Craig at his best, even suggests he’s maybe a little gay. (Oh, oh.) With a team of shrewd writers, and director Sam Mendes’ stylistic influence (he won an Oscar for “American

Beauty”), Bond is more grounded – more human – than ever: He’s aging and his days are numbered. Mortality and loss are at the film’s rich, gritty center, but “Skyfall” – a major comeback after “Quantum of Solace” – soars with life. The hour-long doc “Shooting Bond” looks at the dashing stunts and psychedelic title sequence, which accompanies one of the best Bond themes ever by you know who: Adele.



Wreck-It Ralph

Wins: *Short Film, Animated (“Paperman”)*

People adored Sarah Silverman as the squawking tyke. They loved her rainbow-colored world. All the “joyful” nostalgia and turd jokes? They loved that, too. Not me. “Wreck-It Ralph,” with Jane Lynch essentially doing an animated Sue Sylvester, is a genius concept that goes “game over” after a promising start – where the bad boys of arcade, including ransacker Ralph, sit in group therapy and discuss their aggressiveness – left-right-lefts into an obnoxiously grating ADHD nuisance. I kept wanting Ralph to wreck *this* and restart. That’s not to say “Ralph” doesn’t make clever gaming-culture cracks, but not nearly enough to justify spending almost all its time in the acid-trippy Sugar Rush, run by the stereotypical “nelly wafer” King Candy. If you wanna spend an hour in Candy Land, call your gayest friend and get the board game out. Extras aren’t so great, either. Though it does include Disney’s enchanting Oscar-winning short “Paperman,” and it’s better than the film itself.

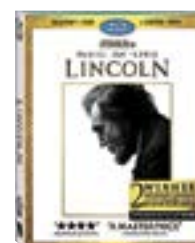


Zero Dark Thirty

Wins: *Sound Editing*

During a short featurette, director Kathryn Bigelow says she wouldn’t do her Osama bin Laden docudrama – an unnerving and exceptional retelling of the arduous manhunt – without Jessica Chastain. And good. Chastain is an actress of immense versatility with an already impressive resume, and her Maya (which nabbed the star a Best Actress Golden Globe) is portrayed with feministic

fierceness, strident determination, confidence and ultra badassery. She knows it, too. “I’m the motherfucker who found this place,” she tells an inquiring CIA agent. They believe her, at least enough to crash and shoot up bin Laden’s compound, because she believes in herself. The tense, gripping search then, with its false leads, suicide bombings, torture interrogations and eventual raid (spectacularly and realistically shot, by the way), becomes just as much about the man behind the 9/11 attacks as it does the woman – that’s right: the *woman* – who nailed him. With all the supplemental possibilities, it’s a shame only four featurettes – the best being the one on Chastain – round out the set.



Lincoln

Wins: *Actor in a Leading Role (Daniel Day-Lewis), Production Design*

Set during the Civil War just as Abraham Lincoln enters his second term, Steven Spielberg’s inspiring biopic “Lincoln” spotlights the landmark amendment to abolish slavery and the knuckle-clenching courtroom drama that ensued. As the Supreme Court hears arguments for gay marriage, “Lincoln” is both timely (see also: Obama) and hopeful (we know what happened then: equality prevailed). The first half of out scribe Tony Kushner’s meticulously focused script is dense and dry in textbook history – it’s all conversation (too much conversation) after that deceptive opening war scene – before delegates group for the big climatic vote that’s no less intense, even humorous at times, despite knowing the outcome. Day-Lewis makes a riveting Abe that, like Lincoln himself, will go down in history. Not only is the resemblance uncanny, he emancipates every scene with gravitas. Sally Field also does career-best work as wife Mary Todd. She gets to cry. Enough said. Special features are scant, but they decently skim all aspects of “Lincoln,” from the artistic production design to casting.



Life of Pi

Wins: *Directing, Cinematography, Visual Effects, Original Score*

It’s perfectly normal to have Ang Lee envy. Aside

See Screen Queen, page 18

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Ethan Allen Design Center To Host 'Chair-ity' Event For Rainbow Connection April 19

Ethan Allen Interiors Inc. will host "Chair-ity" Benefit for the Rainbow Connection to celebrate the launch of Fresh Colors, "a new collection for the young and the young at heart." Proceeds will go to The Rainbow Connection, an organization focused on fulfilling dreams and wishes of terminally ill Michigan children.

The Rainbow Connection was founded in 1985, in part by Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson and Janet Dobson to honor her husband, Ron, and their two children, Tim and Jennifer, who were killed in a plane crash.

Since its creation as a \$2,300 scholarship started in 1980 in memory of the deceased, the Michigan based group has raised more than \$1.8 million annually to help dreams come true for

children fighting for their lives.

Today, over 87 percent of all money raised through donations, fundraisers and sponsorships goes toward helping answer wishes for Michigan children dealing with life-threatening conditions.

The Fresh Colors line marks the 80th anniversary of Ethan Allen, bringing fresh and vibrant fabrics and finishes to its accessories. The design company has been giving to the Birmingham community for over 14 years and hopes locals will help contribute to such a dedicated cause.

As part of Ethan Allen's corporate principle of focusing on the client, their years of charitable work coincide with a desire to focus on helping the area in service and in charity. Birmingham Design Center notes, "We value our reputation for excellent

service, quality and style, and clients love our complimentary design service. We are a full service interior design firm committed to designing your perfect space."

Pam Bemus, regional design manager of the Great Lakes region, adds, "We encourage the local community to join the celebration and help support The Rainbow Connection."

"Chair-ity" Benefit for The Rainbow Connection begins 6 p.m. April 19 at Ethan Allen Design Center, 275 N. Old Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Festivities include appetizers and wine, live music, raffle prizes and silent auction of four hand-painted upholstered chairs. For more information, call 248-540-8558 or e-mail info@birminghammi.ethanallen.com.

► Screen Queen

Continued from p. 16

from winning the coveted statue at this year's Oscars for his soul-awakening masterpiece, the filmmaker (who's luckier than you) also directed Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal's spit-and-stick tent scene in "Brokeback Mountain." Then Ang went ahead and made "Life of Pi" (the nerve!), an aesthetic dazzler that's also a spiritually rich thinker, based on the bestselling book, about a boy who survives a shipwreck and fights for survival in the middle of the ocean on a raft with a gaggle of animals. Lee immerses you in an extraordinarily breathtaking CGI-enhanced out-at-sea adventure, with all the majestic wonder of a dream. At dawn, it's rich and lucid; nighttime is celestial and shimmering. No film in 2012 looked better than "Life of

Pi" (2-D and 3-D formats are available on Blu-ray). So, even if the allegory doesn't click, you won't be at all bored trying to figure it out. Extras include an hour-long doc covering the story's novel-to-screen evolution and an entire feature dedicated to Richard Parker, the tiger.



Argo

Wins: Picture, Adapted Screenplay, Film Editing

Nobody's feeling sorry for Ben Affleck anymore.

Probably not even Affleck himself. Though wrongfully snubbed of even a best director "nomination," Affleck's historical account took home The Big One – as it should have – for his life-or-death dramatization

of 1979's Iranian hostage situation, when six U.S. Embassy escapees hide in the home of Canadian ambassador Ken Taylor (out actor Victor Garber). The plan to get them out? Shoot a fake sci-fi movie kind of like "Star Wars" but called "Argo." You might already know how it all shakes out when CIA staffer Tony Mendez leads the rescue mission, but Affleck's effective no-nonsense direction moves every scene along with nail-biting intensity – and, in the peripheral movie-planning parts, welcome comic relief – that no history book could possibly replicate. Besides an Affleck commentary, "Picture in Picture: Eyewitness Account" headlines an impressive bunch of historically informative extras on the actual crisis.

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



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Great Goerke! Fabulous 'Fidelio' At MOT

BY MICHAEL H. MARGOLIN

For its first-ever production of Beethoven's only opera, "Fidelio," Michigan Opera Theatre caught the wave and brought one of the best dramatic sopranos around, Christine Goerke, to sing the role of Fidelio/Leonora, who, in 18th century Spain, disguises herself as a man and seeks, then rescues, her husband from a dungeon and death. (Sung in German with English supertitles.)

"Fidelio" is called a rescue opera since, *reductio ad absurdum*, someone is rescued at the end – the kind of ending that Brecht and Weill mocked in the closing moments of "The Threepenny Opera. But in "Fidelio," when the full chorus and the principals sing of Leonora's courage, there is no mockery; soaring and passionate are the words that come to mind.

As is fairly well-known, Beethoven struggled for many a year revising this work; there are even three or four "Leonora" overtures, one of which is often played as a concert piece. Yet it does not sound or seem overworked, though if you don't read the program synopsis, you may think you've been dropped into the middle of an ongoing drama.

Still, that does little to degrade the very clear message that is still relevant today and that DNA has proved: Many innocents have been sent to prison and, perhaps, put to death. In the last few hundred years, some things have remained constant.

Above all, whether you agree with the moral, there can be no doubt that this is a brilliantly sung "Fidelio." Goerke

PREVIEW

Fidelio

Michigan Opera Theatre, Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. April 17, 19, 20 & 2:30 p.m. April 21. 2 hours, 35 minutes. \$25-125. 313-237-SING. www.motopera.org

has become a dramatic soprano as her career continues. She owns a sensuous, powerful voice with a pure effortless top. The wrongly imprisoned Florestan, sung by last-minute replacement John Mac Master, possesses a large, trumpeting voice. In their second act duet that is one of the evening's highlights, they reach high, then higher, each of the notes ascending towards heaven.

The third major role is Rocco, the somewhat-conflicted jailer who is a bit of a pragmatist – he follows orders, but then his sympathies can be engaged and he mellows – was sung by Danish bass Per Nach Nissen. His voice is also powerful and dramatic, and he has brio in the way he moves.

The first act quartet, with Goerke, Nissen and young performers Cameron Schutza as Jacquino and Grosse Pointe native Angela Theis as Rocco's daughter Marzellina, is a canon, each singing the same melody as they join in. It is lovely musicianship. Theis has an aria in this act that she sang charmingly, though the lower register is not suited to her lighter voice, which succumbed under the orchestra.

Speaking of the orchestra, they played Beethoven with a striking degree of



Carsten Wittmoser and Per Bach Nissen in MOT's production of "Fidelio." Photo: John Grigaitis

Germanic attitude. They were led by Christian Badea who kept a superb balance between stage and pit.

Among the several other named roles, Nicholas Fitzer and Errin Brooks, first and second prisoners respectively, and Carsten Wittmoser as the evil dude, Don Pizzaro, who took exception to Florestan's truth-telling, proved their worth. As the *deus ex machina*, young Ricardo Lugo sang gravely as Don Fernando, whose arrival to review the prison finalizes Florestan's freedom.

In John Pascoe's production – he also directed – his lighting design with Ruth Hutson was splendid and, among other things, showed off the excellent costumes and makeup by Cindy Ludwig.

This "Fidelio" was good to see, great to hear, and firmly authenticates David DiChiera's strengths as an artistic impresario, the sole role he assumes at MOT this fall, leaving the business end to a newcomer not yet in place.

► Jessie Ware

Continued from p. 15

more supporting gay rights, absolutely, because it's close to home for me. I don't think he's had an easy time being gay, to be honest. It's been harder for him, I think.

You really demonstrate a lot of self-control on this album, and the album is better because of that. Were you conscious of keeping your voice in check?

Absolutely. I wanted to tell stories and draw people in and not inundate them with a big powerhouse vocal. It would've been a bit exhausting on the ears. Don't get me wrong, live I go for it a bit more because I think it's more necessary. But I definitely wanted to be able to exist in people's homes, cars and just in the background, and I didn't want people to want to turn me down.

Were there times while recording where you just wanted to let your voice rip? I feel like you could've gone there with "Running."

For "Running," it's just enough, I think. I keep that really long note, and you should see how long I keep it in the live show. It's ridiculous. I try to test myself and see how long I can hold that note, but no, I think it's not about me showing off on a vocal; it's more about what's necessary for the song.

What's been your wildest moment so far?

Probably getting the A\$AP Rocky verse in the inbox (for the "Wildest Moments" remix). That was pretty amazing and nobody really thought it was going to happen. We were just about to deliver the album, and then he popped up in everyone's inbox with the verse.

With artists like you, Adele and Florence Welch, and several other emerging female performers who actually wear

clothes, I'm reminded of the early '90s when Mariah, Whitney and Celine didn't have to look like floozies to sell records. What do you think of this new wave of women who are bringing a more sophisticated – and clothed – look back?

Oh, I love it. Whenever I dress up, it's always gotta be something that my mother would be happy with me wearing, so I always have that in the back of my mind. But yeah, I think it's brilliant. What's better than a classy woman who can sing? I mean, I show my tummy a lot. But I think I can get away with a little bit of midriff.

What're you wearing now, then?

A knitted pink crop top with a really big roll-neck and a lovely silk jacket with high-waisted trousers and slippers.

So you're completely covered.

There is a tiny bit of midriff. I'm so sorry.

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THE BERMAN
Center for the Performing Arts

 **Sunday, May 12**
"Witches of Lublin,"
featuring Broadway
star Tovah Feldshuh

 **Saturday, May 18**
"Rock of Ages: The
Jewish Side of Pop Music"
featuring 50 Amp Fuse
hosted by
Gary Graff



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 **KRIS ALLEN**
w/sg Jillette Johnson
Monday, April 22, 8:00pm
American Idol's season 8
winner!

 **PATTY LARKIN**
Thursday, April 25, 8 p.m.
"Drop-dead brilliant!"
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MICHIGAN
ROUNDTABLE
FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION



presents

2013 Youth Justice & Leadership Exhibition

A regional exhibition of youth social justice issues and strategies identified and developed by youth

April 27

Saturday

Wayne State University

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Schedule

11 am: Lunch & Justice Fair
Noon: Film Fest & Open Mic
1:30: Youth Led Workshops
3:30: Closing

Students \$15
Adults \$20
Limited Scholarships
are available



www.miroundtable.org/youthevents
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Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, April 18

Retirement Income Luncheon 11:30 a.m. Auto Workers, join Ameriprise for an educational event about how to decide if a pension buy-out is right for you. This is a major decision that could impact you and your family for years to come. Call now to RSVP. Lunch will be served. Ameriprise, 600 E. University Dr., **Rochester**. 248-799-5935. Jennifer.m.gray@ampf.com

Walk, Jog or Running Group 6:30 p.m. We can walk/run around the park area so if we all go at our own paces we will still be together. It doesn't matter what shape you're in. Just get out and join us! Get Out And Live!, **Ferndale**. meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

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

Livingston County PFLAG Meeting 7 p.m. Meets the third Thursday of every month. Please park behind the church, use the handicapped entrance, and follow the signs to Room 127. All are welcome! Livingston County PFLAG, 400 E. Grand River Ave., **Brighton**. 517-548-0839. LivingstonPFLAG@aol.com Facebook.com/pages/Livingston-County-PFLAG

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

Friday, April 19

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

Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: Chicago. Roxie hungers for stardom but ends up in the slammer, where superstar Velma is doing time for shooting her cheating husband. When Velma's lawyer makes Roxie a tabloid sensation, he sets up a musical catfight between the all-too-willing rivals. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org/

Saturday, April 20

HIV Testing 1 p.m. Free. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

YEP Night 4 p.m. For LGBT youth, ages 14-24. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

Sunday, April 21

Ally Development Training 10 a.m. Spectrum Center, 530 S. State St., **Ann Arbor**. 734-763-3241. SpectrumCenter.umich.edu

Cheryl Burke at Plymouth UCC 10 a.m. Rev. Cheryl Burke will share her experience with union services and marriage as an ordained UCC

clergy person and as a partnered lesbian woman with three children. Plymouth UCC, 4010 Kalamazoo Ave., **Grand Rapids**. 616-455-4260. plymouthchurchgr.org

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

PFLAG Tri-Cities Meeting 2 p.m. Midland, Bay City and Saginaw area PFLAG. Meets the third Sunday of every month. Offering support, education and advocacy for LGBT individuals and families with group and monthly speaker at each meeting. PFLAG Tri-Cities, 2525 Hemmeter Road, **Saginaw**. 989-941-1458. Pflag@pflag-mbs.org Pflag-mbs.org

Equality Band of Michigan Rehearsal for Pride Season 4:30 p.m. New members are encouraged to attend. We perform at Pride events across the state, including Motor City Pride, West Michigan Pride, and Michigan

and open to all LGBT adults and their allies. It is professionally facilitated and designed to provide a safe, therapeutic, and LGBT-affirming environment for participants to talk freely and find the support they need. Transportation may be arranged with advance notice and driver availability. OutCenter, 132 Water St., **Benton Harbor**. 269-925-8330. outcenter.org

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

LGBTQA 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 23

Gay Business Networking 8 a.m. Networking for LGBT business owners and professionals. Every fourth Tuesday of the month. Get Out And Live!, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105.

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

Ferndale Pride - Volunteer Planning Meetings 7:30 p.m. Ferndale Pride, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105.

P.L.U.S. Youth Group 9 p.m. For Middle and High school age youth who enjoy socializing with people their own age,

Editor's Pick

The glimmers of spring brings one of Detroit's most deliciously anticipated events: Detroit Restaurant Week.

Each establishment of the 19 participating Detroit restaurants will offer a scrumptious dinner menu and offer guests a unique dining experience that can only be found in Detroit. Try a super lump crab cake at Cliff Bell's, a chocolate-peanut butter lollipop at The Whitney, or tofu pad thai at Atlas Global Bistro. Whatever your culinary craving, be sure not to miss this limited time experience.



Beginning Friday, April 19 through Sunday, April 28, Metro Detroiters will once again be able to enjoy premier three-course meals for just \$30 per person (excludes beverages, tax and gratuity). For more information, visit www.detroitrestaurantweek.com or e-mail info@detroitrestaurantweek.com

Pride. Come out and play for equality! Contact the band president Gary Hicks if you have questions about the band. Equality Band of Michigan, 201 E. Grand River Ave., **Lansing**. 517-525-1732. Equalitybandmi@gmail.com Equalitybandofmichigan.org

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: If you could have a super power, what would you choose? Get Out And Live!, 714 S. Washington St., **Royal Oak**. 248-981-4227. MarciLWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

Monday, April 22

It's Not Just Social: Using Social Media in the Job Search 1 p.m. Savvy job seekers know that social media is a powerful tool for the job search. Discover how you can use your favorite social tools to build a network, promote your personal brand, and get access to great career opportunities. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Adult Support Group 7 p.m. Our Whole Lives, Healthy Lives support group is free

GetOutAndLive.me

Discussion on HIV Criminalization in Michigan 11 a.m. Community roundtable. Located in Lake Superior Room. Positive Justice Project, 702 West Kalamazoo St., **Lansing**. kaplan@aclumich.org

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/

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/

Wednesday, April 24

Coping with Disabilities Group 1 p.m. An ongoing discussion group for people who have any physical or mental illnesses who struggle with day to day issues such as applying for benefits, relationships, being with people who understand. Meets every second and fourth Wednesday. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

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 25

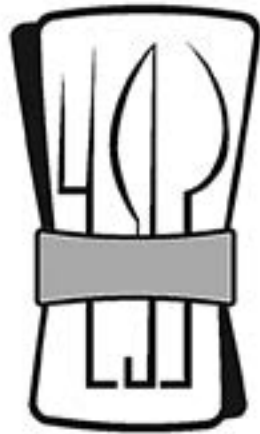
Dining Out for Life Fifth annual fundraiser for AIDS service organizations. 35 restaurants will donate 25+ of sales. CARES, **Kalamazoo**. diningoutforlife.com/kalamazoo

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

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

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

See Happenings, page 25



detroit restaurantweek

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\$30 Three-Course Dinners

(beverage, gratuity and tax not included)

Detroit's top dining establishments will offer a minimum three-course dinner for a fixed price of \$30.* Reservations are going very fast, act soon. *(exclusive of beverage, tax and gratuity)

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GM Renaissance Center

Cuisine

New Center

Da Edoardo Foxtown Grille

Fox Theatre Building

Detroit Seafood Market

Paradise Valley

Fountain Bistro

Campus Martius Park

Iridescence

MotorCity Casino Hotel

La Dolce Vita

Palmer Park District

Rattlesnake Club

Stroh River Place

Roast

Westin Book Cadillac Detroit

Roma Cafe

Eastern Market

Santorini Estiatorio

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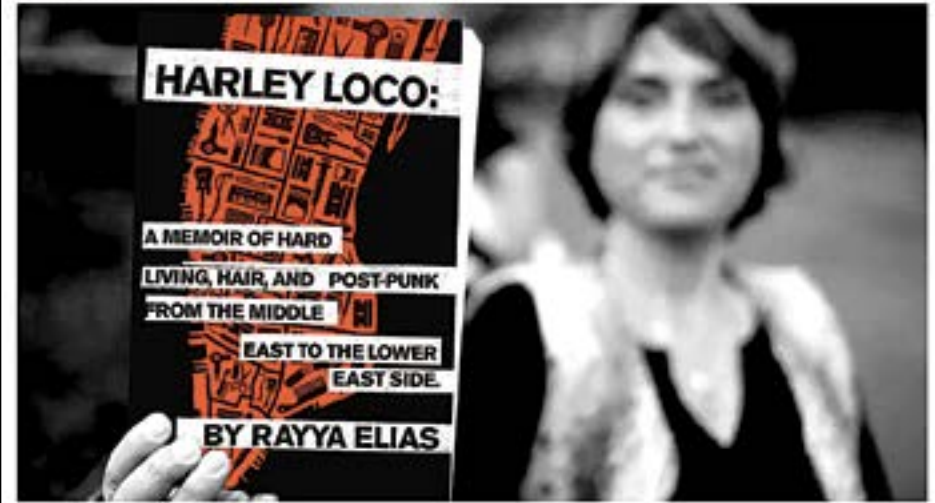


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7 PM
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AUTHOR OF "HARLEY LOCO"



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www.farmingtonplayers.org
248.553.2955

► Happenings

Continued from p. 22

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. Crystalr@jimtoycenter.org JimToyCenter.org

Friday, April 26

Oakland County's Denim Day Those who work in participating Oakland county departments may wear jeans to work for a \$1 donation. For more information about participating or making a donation to support victims of sexual assault and domestic violence, contact HAVEN. HAVEN and County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, **Oakland County**. 248-334-1284. haven-oakland.org

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

Saturday, April 27

2013 Youth Justice & Leadership Exhibition 11 a.m. A regional exhibition of youth social justice issues and strategies identified and developed by youth. Tickets: \$15+. Michigan Roundtable, **Detroit**. 313-870-1500. mi-roundtable.org/youthevents

OutCenter Volunteer Orientation & Training Session 12 p.m. OutCenter, 132 Water St., **Benton Harbor**. 269-925-8330. outcenter.org

Workshop: How To Start A Cottage Law Food Business In Michigan 1:30 p.m. This workshop combines the business and food safety aspects of preparing and selling cottage foods safely and successfully. Learn what foods can be legally produced and how to label and sell them. You will leave with a certificate of completion for cottage law food safety. Tickets: \$30 Fair Food Matters, 1157 Bank St., **Kalamazoo**. fairfoodmatters.org

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

MUSIC & MORE

DYPAC Alexander Zonjic and Friends with Special Guest Keiko Matsui Tickets: \$25. Trenton Village Theater, 2447 W. Jefferson Ave., Trenton. 7:30 p.m. April 21. 313-964-5050. dypac.com

Grasshopper Underground Nick Monaco (Dirtybird-SF). The Grasshopper Underground, 22757 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. April 27. thegrasshopperunderground.com

Michigan Philharmonic "Adventures on Earth: An Orchestral Celebration of Earth Day". Michigan Philharmonic, 774 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth. 2 p.m. April 21. 734-451-2112. michiganphil.org

MSU College of Music "Danz'n and Musical Dialogues with Early Jazz" A lecture by Robin Moore. Tickets: Free. Cook Recital Hall, East Lansing. 5 p.m. April 26. music.msu.edu/event-listing

MSU College of Music "Latin IS America" A musical, artistic, and scholarly exploration of interwoven Latin American and U.S. culture. Michigan State University, East Lansing. April 15 - April 30. latinISamerica.msu.edu

Olympia Entertainment "Original

Funkfest - 5 Hours of Funk The hottest names in Funk will unite together. Tickets: \$49-89. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. April 27. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

The Palette "Happy Hour". Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. April 18 - Sep. 26. 810-234-1695.

University Musical Society "Allison Balsom, Trumpet; The Scottish Ensemble" Tickets: \$10+. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. April 20. 734-761-1800. ums.org

University Musical Society Bobby McFerrin: "Spirit You All" Tickets: \$10+. Hill Auditorium, 825 North University Ave., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. April 18. 734-763-3333. ums.org

CLASSICAL

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "WSU Mondays at the Max" Tickets \$15+. 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. April 18 - April 22. 313-576-5111. dso.org

Kerrytown Concert House "Benefit Concert for Caleb Lei Memorial Award" Mary Siciliano, piano, and Jack Robbins, violin, join forces to honor the memory of their violin/piano student, Caleb Lei. Tickets: \$5-10. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. April 22. 734-763-4186. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Kerrytown Concert House Penelope Crawford. Internationally acclaimed as one of America's master performers on historical keyboard instruments, Penelope Crawford has appeared as soloist with modern and period instrument orchestras, and as recitalist and chamber musician on major North American concert series. Tickets: \$5-25. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. April 26. 734-763-4186. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

MSU College of Music "Wind Symphony". Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan State University, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. April 25. 800-WHARTON. music.msu.edu/event-listing

CONCERTS

Caesars Windsor Natalie Cole. Her album "Unforgettable .. With Love," which featured the interactive duet of "Unforgettable" with her late father, the legendary Nat King Cole., reached #1 on the pop charts, earned 6 Grammy Awards and sold 14 million copies worldwide. Tickets: \$25+. Caesars Windsor, 377 E. Riverside Dr., Windsor. 8 p.m. April 26. 800-991-7777. CaesarsWindsor.com

Canton Commission for Culture, Arts, and Heritage "Canton Acts of Culture Week". Canton Commission for Culture, Arts, and Heritage, Canton. April 27 - May 5. cantonfun.org

Detroit Children's Choir "The Power of Song" The concert will be highlighted with a performance of a new work by 2012 Kresge Arts Fellow Kris Johnson titled "Change.". Detroit's Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church, 6125 Beechwood St., Detroit. 4 p.m. April 27. 313-898-3040. detroitchildrenschoir.org

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "It's A Small World" A kid-friendly performance of classical favorites featuring. Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 11 a.m. April 20. 313-576-5111. dso.org

Kerrytown Concert House Bucky Pizzarelli and the Michele Ramo Trio. A superior guitarist appreciated by swing musicians in particular, Bucky Pizzarelli has been a fixture in jazz and the studios since the early '50s. Self-taught, Pizzarelli has long been a master of the seven-string guitar. Tickets: \$5-30. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. April 21. 734-763-4186. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

MSU College of Music James Forger, saxophone; Deborah Moriarty, piano; Suren Bagratuni, cello; Tickets: \$0+. Cook Recital Hall, East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. April 24. music.msu.edu/event-listing

MSU College of Music "Symphony Orchestra and University Chorale, State Singers, Choral Union" Tickets: \$0+. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan State University, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 8 p.m. April 27. 800-WHARTON. music.msu.edu/event-listing

Really Living Foundation "The Urban Soul Experience" Marsha Ambrosius, Dwele and Conya Doss will grace the stage of the Max M. Fisher to deliver a triple impact of amazing vocals, talent and flare. Tickets: \$35-100. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. April 27. 313-576-5111. DSO.org

Royal Oak Music Theatre Chris Mann. All ages. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 7 p.m. April 24. 248-399-2980. royalokmusictheatre.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre Tech N9ne. All ages. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 6 p.m. April 25. 248-399-2980. royalokmusictheatre.com

The Ark Kris Allen. Tickets: \$20-50. The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. April 22. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Ark Brother Josphus and the Love Revolution. Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. April 20. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Ark Drew Nelson. Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. April 26. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Majestic Dale Earnhardt Jr.; Dale Earnhardt Jr. returns to the Majest with special guests Tunde Olaniran and Stepdad. Majestic Theater, 4120-4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. April 20. 313-833-9700. MajesticDetroit.com

University Musical Society "Albert Kahn Architecture Immersion" Tickets: \$50+. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 a.m. April 20. 734-761-1800. ums.org

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. Through April 28. 248-541-6430. stagecrafters.org

As You Like It \$10-\$15. Korda Artistic Production at Kordazone Theatre, 2520 Seminole, Windsor. Through April 20. 519-562-3394. kordazone.com

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

Disney's The Little Mermaid Jr. \$5-12. Warren Civic Theatre at Warren Community Center, 5460 Arden, Warren. April 19 - 28. 586-268-8400. WarrenCivic.org

Legally Blonde \$16-18. Farmington Players, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. April 26 - May 18. 248-553-2955. farmingtonplayers.org

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

Time Stands Still \$7-19. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Parish Theatre, 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. April 19 - May 4. 269-343-1313. KazooCivic.com

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

Bat Boy: The Musical \$20-25. Bonstelle Theatre, 3424 Woodward Ave., Detroit.

See Happenings, page 28



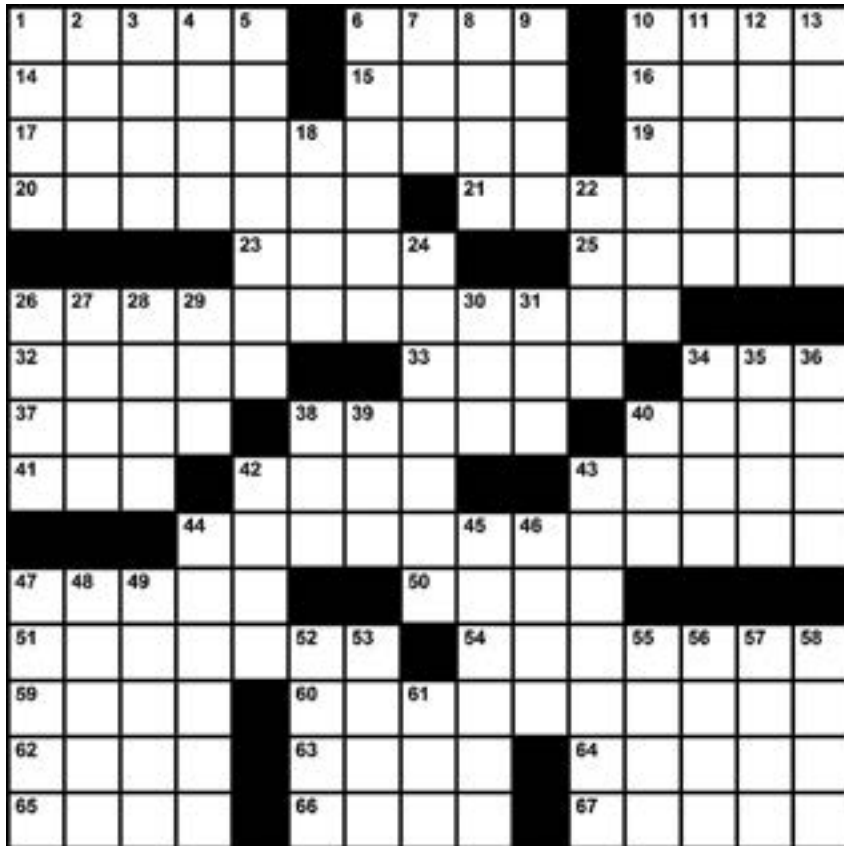
A Conversation with
Apple Award Recipient
ELAINE STRITCH
4 p.m.
Saturday, April 27, 2013

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Passion Of Crime



Across

- 1 Sarandon's partner in "Thelma & Louise"
 6 Neuwirth of "Chicago"
 10 Court order
 14 Bridge call, informally
 15 Like a meticulous bottom?
 16 Have ___ to grind
 17 Serial killer on 26-Across
 19 Baby's dusting
 20 Not oral
 21 Man-to-man, to Sue Wicks
 23 Bone to pick
 25 Rupert Everett's "An ___ Husband"
 26 Fox crime drama
 32 DJ's creation
 33 Event for George Frenn
 34 Down in the mouth
 37 Shakespeare's foot
 38 Detective Ryan of 26-Across
 40 Remarkable item
 41 Cross-dresser's cup pair
 42 Oz visitor Dorothy
 43 On top
 44 Actor who plays 17-Across
 47 Seat at the Stonewall Inn
 50 Strip in the locker room
 51 Device used to determine orientation?

54 Flips out

- 59 It comes at the bottom of a list
 60 Actor who plays 38-Across
 62 Old fruit drink
 63 Hacker's cry
 64 Words from an emcee
 65 Govt. investigator
 66 Emulate Rufus Wainwright
 67 Cuts "Leaves of Grass"?

Down

- 1 School for martial arts
 2 At once, to Byron
 3 Lincoln's Johnson
 4 Pre-Columbian Peruvian
 5 TV when you're watching "Desperate Housewives"?
 6 Bung hole's place
 7 Rocker Brian
 8 Smooth on top
 9 Pronoun for Proust
 10 Like "Beauty and the Beast"
 11 Cockamamie
 12 Latin music
 13 Do a bang-up job
 18 Rod attachment
 22 Like some print
 24 Tom Hanks' Gump
 26 Chi paper
 27 Get wind of

28 Oscar winner Thompson

- 29 White lie
 30 What a guy may shoot
 31 Like treacherous winter roads
 34 Foam at South Beach
 35 On top of that
 36 Moral obligation
 38 Show-off on the stage
 39 Maugham's "Cakes and ___"
 40 Become prone
 42 The Oscars, e.g.
 43 It's comped
 44 Bi singer Janis
 45 Alerting electronically
 46 Second word of a fairy tale
 47 Pumbaa's problem, in "The Lion King"
 48 Family figure
 49 Largest cornhusker city
 52 Dashes through the snow
 53 Interstate rumbler
 55 Material for Sylvia Beach?
 56 Beginning of "Wicked"
 57 Left to pirates
 58 Biblical patriarch
 61 What fifty million Frenchmen drink

Solution on p. 27

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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
- Tasks Include:
- Build relationships with patients, referral sources and HIV community clinics
 - Establish strong relationships with new patients and referral sources
 - Manage expense budget within territory
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 - Articulate core disease epidemiology, prevalence, patient signs and symptoms, microbiology, anatomy and physiology.
 - Understands treatment protocols, therapies, and discuss proactively with customers within the scope of Treatment Education

Criteria:

- Proficiency in using Microsoft Office— Word and PowerPoint
- Ability to multi task
- Detail oriented and organized
- 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

320 EMPLOYMENT - WANTED

Unity Michigan Coalition Pride Season Volunteers

The Unity Michigan Coalition and BTL is seeking volunteers to assist in a community outreach project throughout the June Pride season. Volunteers will work with UMC and BTL to collect contact information from LGBTQ and allied attendees of Pride festivals who are interested in furthering nondiscrimination policies throughout the state and would like to keep informed on how they can become involved.

Call at 734-293-7200 ext. 14 or e-mail Ben@pridesource.com for more information or to sign up.

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A Couple of guys
The Storyline: An Introduction

1. I WAS THINKING ABOUT YOUR BANGS. OH.

2. HE WAS SUCH A SWEET, GENTLE PERSON. YEAH.

3. SO SHY AND PRIVATE. BUT HE ALWAYS SAW THE GOOD IN EVERYONE...

4. RIGHT. IT'S BEEN WHAT? A YEAR AND A HALF SINCE HE PASSED AWAY. WHAT MADE YOU THINK OF THAT?

5. FACEBOOK JUST TOLD ME HE LIVES! BOSH.

Solution to puzzle from page 30

D	A	V	I	S	B	E	B	E	R	I	S	E		
O	N	E	N	O	A	N	A	L	A	N	A	X		
J	O	E	C	A	R	R	O	L	L	T	A	L	C	
O	N	P	A	P	E	R	D	E	F	E	N	S	E	
					B	E	E	F	I	D	E	A	L	
T	H	E	F	O	L	L	O	F	O	L	L	I	N	G
R	E	M	I	X	R	A	C	E	S	A	D			
I	A	M	B	H	A	R	D	Y	L	L	U			
B	R	A	G	A	L	E	F	I	R	S	T			
			J	A	M	E	S	P	U	R	E	F	O	Y
S	T	O	O	L	T	A	P	E						
C	O	M	P	A	S	S	G	O	E	S	A	P	E	
E	T	A	L	K	E	V	I	N	B	A	C	O	N	
N	E	H	I	I	M	I	N	I	N	T	R	O		
T	M	A	N	S	I	N	G	E	D	I	T	S		



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This happily hopping bunny is one of four Dwarf rabbits at our Rochester Hills Center. Buster is an alfalfa-loving brainiac who's quickly learning how to use his litter box. He enjoys burrowing in newspaper and showing off his perky brown ears.

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For more information, visit or call the MHS Rochester Hills Center for Animal Care at (248) 852-7420 and provide the pet ID number, 742696. Photo by Michigan Humane Society.

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Editor's Pick



Wayne State University's Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance announces "A Conversation with Apple Award Recipient Elaine Stritch" at the Hilberry Theatre at 4 p.m. April 27. Stritch will appear on campus as the recipient of the 2013 Apple Award and will entertain her audience in an "Actors Studio"-style interview and question-and-answer session.

A Tony, Emmy and Drama Desk Awards winner, the legendary Stritch has been onstage entertaining audiences since 1944. Her most recent stage work includes her critically acclaimed portrayal of Madame Armfeldt in the Sondheim-Wheeler musical "A Little Night Music" and the Tony Award-winning "Elaine Stritch At Liberty."

After her recently announced retirement, Stritch will return home to reside in Metro Detroit.

To purchase tickets, call 313-577-2972 or visit the Wayne State University Theatres Box Office at 4743 Cass Avenue on the corner of Hancock in Midtown Detroit. Tickets are \$25 and seating is assigned.

Happenings

Continued from p. 25

Through April 21. 313-577-2960. Bonstelle.com

Crazy for You \$10-\$26. UM Dept. of Musical Theatre at Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 N. Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. April 18 - 21. 734-764-2538. <http://tickets.music.umich.edu>

Funny Girl \$15-20. Michigan State University Department of Theatre at Wharton Center's Pasant Theatre, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. April 19 - 28. 800-WHARTON. Theatre.msu.edu

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

PROFESSIONAL

33 Variations \$18.50-42. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through June 1. 734-433-7673. PurpleRoseTheatre.org

35MM \$15. The AKT Theatre Project at Wyandotte Arts Center, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. April 19 - May 4. 734-258-8370. www.akttheatre.com

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

A Conversation with Apple Award Recipient Elaine Stritch \$25. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. 4 p.m. April 27. 313-577-2972. hilberry.com

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

Cell Phone Shakespeare Puzzle Piece Theatre, Detroit. April 20. 313-303-8019. PuzzleStage.org

Crane Maiden \$10 adult, \$5 child. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theatre, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit. Through April 27. 313-961-7777. puppetart.org

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

Gem of the Ocean Previews April 19. \$25.50-\$32. Plowshares Theatre Company at Boll Family YMCA Theatre, 1401 Broadway St., Detroit. April 19 - May 12. 313-744-3181. Plowshares.org

Macbeth \$7-14. Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company at Dog Story Theatre, 7 Jefferson Ave. SE, Grand Rapids.

April 18 - 28. DogStoryTheater.com

Marat/Sade \$12-30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. April 19 - May 11. 313-577-2972. hilberry.com

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

On Golden Pond \$16-\$18. The Box Theater, 90 Macomb Place, Mount Clemens. Through April 27. 586-954-2677. theboxtheater.com

Peter Pan \$30-\$70. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. April 19 - 21. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com

Pookie Goes Grenading \$10-15. The New Theatre Project, Mix Studio Theater, 130 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. April 18 - 28. 734-961-8704. TheNewTheatreProject.org

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

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. Through April 28. 248-850-9919. TwoMusesTheatre.org

Tapdance! \$18. Broadway Onstage, 21517 Kelly Road, Eastpointe. Through May 11. 586-771-6333. BroadwayOnStage.com

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

The Addams Family \$29-\$69. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint. April 26 - April 27. 810-237-7333. thewhiting.com

Trojan Women (After Euripides) \$18+. University Musical Society at Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. April 27 - 28. 734-764-2538. ums.org

Wicked \$45-160. Miller Auditorium, 2200 Auditorium Drive, Kalamazoo. April 24 - May 5. 269-387-2300. millerauditorium.com

ART'N'AROUND

Ann Arbor Art Center "Potential 2013" 117 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. April 13 - May 12. 734-994-8004. AnnArborArtCenter.org

Black Arts & Cultural Center "Black Arts & Cultural Center's Annual Women's Exhibit" Gail Sydnor Art Gallery, 359 S. Kalamazoo Mall, Suite 202, Kalamazoo. April 12 - April 26. blackartskalamazoo.org

Charles H. Wright Museum "Visions of Our 44th President" 315 E. Warren, Detroit. Jan. 1 - April 30. 313-494-5853. Thewright.org

Cranbrook Academy of Art "OPEN(STUDIO5)" Tickets: \$12+. 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. 12 p.m.

April 21. cranbrookart.edu

Detroit Artists Market "Line by Line: Drawing Explored". Detroit Artists Market, 4719 Woodward Ave., Detroit. April 18 - May 24. 313-832-8540. detroitartistsmarket.org

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

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Reflections: African American Life from the Myrna Colley-Lee Collection" 314 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. March 2 - May 26. 269-349-7775. KIAarts.org

Lawrence Street Gallery "Exposures: Photography 2013". Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave. Suite A, Ferndale. April 1 - April 26. 248-544-0394. lawrencestreetgallery.com

Motown Museum "Girl Groups: The Grit, The Glamour, The Glory" 2648 W. Grand Blvd, Detroit. March 1 - April 30. 313-875-2264. MotownMuseum.org

Pewabic Society "Joe Zajac: New Work" Exhibit featuring contemporary ceramic art. Pewabic Pottery, 10125 East Jefferson Ave., Detroit. April 10 - May 27. 313-626-2000. pewabic.org

Rackham "Celebrating .. Artist, University, Community" Fourth Floor, 915 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor. April 1 - May 10. 734-764-8572. Umich.edu

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

Riverside Arts Center "The 9th Annual Docent Art Exhibit". Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. April 4 - April 27. 734-483-7345. riversidearts.org

Saugatuck Center for the Arts "Lakeshore Watercolors" 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. March 15 - May 4. 269-857-2399. SC4A.org

The Henry Ford "Designing Tomorrow: America's World's Fairs of the 1930s" Tickets: \$17+. Members: Free. The Henry Ford, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. April 27 - Sep. 2. 313-982-6001. thehenryford.org

The Scarab Club "Silver Medal Exhibition". 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. April 11 - May 11. 313-831-1250. scarabclub.org

University of Michigan Museum of Art "El Anatsui: When I Last Wrote to You about Africa" 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Feb. 2 - May 5. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Florescia Pita/FP mod" 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Jan. 19 - June 16. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

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Talking Out Your Ass



Dating Diet

BY ANTHONY PAULL

I shouldn't talk about my asshole. It's not that amazing. It's pink and whatever but it's not like it's the only one that color.

My friends tell me a lot of people dye their assholes to match my shade so I should be silent and thankful. I should just shut up and stop bragging about it on Facebook. They're starting to get mad at me, erasing the naughty things I post on their walls. But if only we could rewind back to a time when Facebook was fun. Back in the day my friends didn't give a hoot about what I posted. Back then they knew better than to "friend" their shithead relatives. Now, they delete my posts in fear of what others might think.

Can someone tell me what happened? I remember when my friends would get drunk and post unflattering pictures. Now everyone is mature and talking about babies and crockpots and anti-aging creams and going to bed early on school nights. I guess it was bound to happen. We're at that age. But the truth is I don't ever want to be so old and mature that I can't talk about things like assholes and sucking on lollipops and falling asleep with Bic razors up my ass, because, well, there was that one rogue hair.

"That's why Facebook invented private messaging," my friend Pete reminds me. "Not everyone is so public about things. I mean...I have a whole other life in Facebook messages. It's like Narnia...starring my dick."

"Oh. Is it a short?"

Pete groans explaining that he is involved in several love affairs, each on a different social media site. It's wonderful because he doesn't actually have to meet the guys. They just give him the attention he needs when he's lonely, then he goes about his day. He states Facebook is the best because the messages can go on for days. "Twitter limits your characters," he says. "I need more than 50 characters to translate my stats and needs. Twitter is just so superficial."

Presently, Pete is in five pseudo-relationships, each varying in levels of intimacy and meaning. He hasn't had many problems with it because what happens online stays online, according to Pete. He has no intention of actually meeting these guys in public. In fact, if he sees them in public he runs the other way or feigns indifference, casually passing them on the street.

"Can you believe it? Some guy actually expected me to know his name just because I sent him a picture of my penis the night before," he states, as we grab a cup of coffee. He huffs. "Some people."

Pete finds this humorous until a week later when we're at the bar and one of his "regulars"

attempts to speak to him.

"Pete?" the guy asks, approaching.

The room is dark with pink lasers slicing the smoke and Pete turns to me, his eyes glowing with concern. "Oh god," he says.

"Pete. Pete," the guy calls, approaching. "Hey, it's me. Roger."

Pete eyes him then me like I'm supposed to give him clues, like I know the identity of this random guy with the nose-ring and Carrot Top hair. I elbow Pete in the side.

"Roger...Roger...Roger!" Pete says, having an epiphany. If only his acting skills were a level above Barbizon his reaction might be plausible. What follows is that awkward moment where two people know each other online but don't know each other in reality. So we stare at each other smiling like this exchange is normal even though Roger has a picture of Pete's penis on his phone. Isn't it wonderful how we've all become porn stars in our personal lives?

"I need another drink," Pete says, rushing off to the bar.

In the darkness I'm left alone with Roger with the big red hair. Unfortunately he doesn't know when to walk away so we shake hands and he tells me that he plays the accordion and that he just got back from the hospital because his mother had a hysterectomy. Yeah, he's that person.

"That's lovely," I say, gritting my teeth. "Good for you."

"Are you on Facebook?"

"No."

"Grindr?"

"No."

"I know I've seen your pic before. What are you on?"

"Earth...here...in front of you...having this really awkward conversation about your mother's uterus."

He eyes me dully and I shudder, casually looking over at the bar to find Pete is nowhere to be found. I don't know whether to be mad or sad. Am I the crazy one or has Facebook and Twitter and Grindr completely eradicated the concept of social etiquette? Tell me, how do you go from "here's a pic of my dick" to a casual conversation? A few minutes later Pete apologizes, stating Roger should have known better. "He's acting like a stalker," he says.

But I don't fault Roger. How is he to know the dating rules when they've become so skewed? Lately, even with friends, I have a hard time knowing what's allowed. Is it OK if I call on the phone? Should I just text? Maybe I shouldn't post on his/her Facebook wall. Is it OK to say hello in public? What am I allowed to do? Someone enlighten me.

"You can do whatever you want," Pete tells me on the drive home. "Just don't be so open about. That's your problem, Anthony. You're too open. You say the most random things in public...really loud so everyone can hear. Why do you do that?"

I think for a moment then turn to him. "To keep my friends talking."

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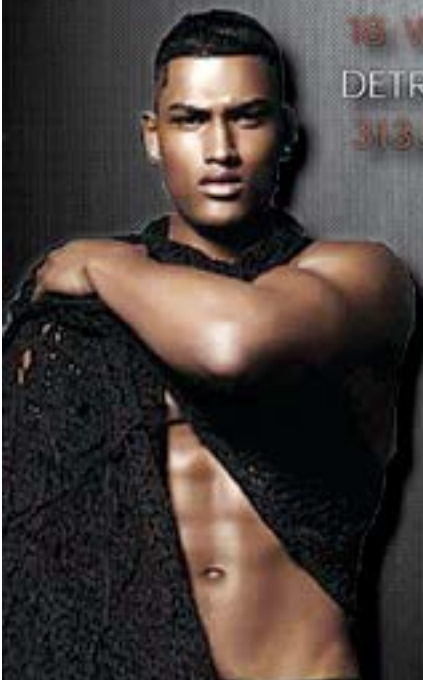
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