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LGBT Older Adult Coalition Moves Forward

France Approves Same-Sex Marriage Bill

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– Olly Murs



Spring Home Guide



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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.

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COVER STORY

16 Living in style
Cover photo: Andrew Potter



There's no point in focusing on a bunch of dead kids when there are real live gun owners with rights to protect. In other words, stop trying to win Perkins over with an emotional argument. As we've already discussed, the man has no heart.

– D'Anne Witkowski on Tony Perkins,
Creep of the Week, pg. 11

NEWS

- 6 Former congressman cites immigrant partner in testimony
- 7 Transgender People Unite! day of empowerment and RO fight
- 7 Foster ready to field organize
- 8 Older adult movement moves forward
- 9 Meet OAC's Judy Lewis
- 10 Deb Dysert to receive MGC Award
- 11 Boy Scouts consider lifting ban on

OPINION

- 11 Creep of the Week
- 12 Straightening up at the BSA
- 13 Parting Glances

HOME GUIDE

- 18 Remembering Palmer Park days
- 22 'Mobile' man
- 26 Antiques offer upscale quality

LIFE

- 30 Murs invasion
- 34 Hear Me Out
- 36 Happenings
- 37 The Hilberry doing what it does best – educate

REAR VIEW

- 42 Classifieds
- 44 Puzzle

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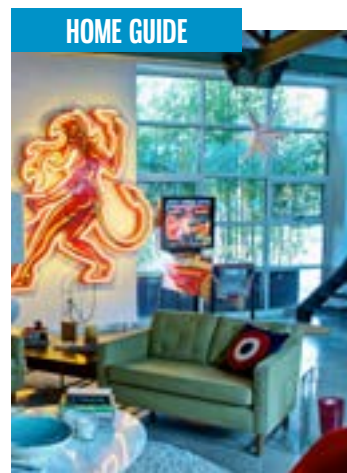


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Unity Michigan Coalition Pride Season Volunteers

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VOL 2117 • APRIL 25, 2013 • ISSUE 813

PRIDE SOURCE MEDIA GROUP

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MEMBER OF

Michigan Press Association
National Gay Media Association
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Former Congressman Cites Immigrant Partner in Senate Committee Testimony

Amendment Sought To Protect Same-Sex Binational Couples

AP AND STAFF REPORTS

WASHINGTON – Former U.S. Rep. Jim Kolbe (R) of Arizona on Monday, urged a Senate committee to expand its immigration reform bill to include a path to citizenship or permanent residency for immigrant same-sex partner partners, including his own.

"While this is an excellent starting point, I submit to you it is still incomplete. Families like mine are left behind as part of the proposal. Our laws should not separate American citizens from their loved ones for such unacceptably long periods of time," he said in his testimony.

Kolbe, a Republican who represented the Tucson area in Congress for 11 terms, has a partner from Panama who had to leave the U.S. after his work visa expired according to the Arizona Republic. Under current law, Kolbe could not sponsor his partner for a family reunification visa.

Kolbe, 70, served in the U.S. House from 1985 to 2007 and came out as gay in August 1996 after his vote in favor of DOMA spurred efforts by some gay rights activists to out him. He won reelection that year, becoming the second openly gay Republican to serve in Congress. He said the immigration bill introduced this month as a political compromise between Democrats and Republicans, is "still incomplete" because of its "omission of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender families."

The bill omitted married gay and lesbian binational couples, leaving out the Uniting American Families Act.

"I know, as the partner of an immigrant how difficult it can be to build a life and protect (my family) under the current system," Kolbe told the Senate Judiciary Committee, which is holding a series of hearings on an 844-page immigration reform bill drawn up by a bipartisan group of "Gang of Eight" senators.

"This committee has an opportunity to fix the problem," said Kolbe, urging the committee to add language from the Uniting American Families Act. The UAFA, sponsored by Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), is a stand-alone bill that seeks to allow a U.S. citizen to gain citizenship for his or her "permanent partner."



Former U.S. Rep. Jim Kolbe (R) of Arizona, AP Photo

According to a November 2011 report from The Williams Institute, the current exclusion leaves an estimated 28,500 bi-national couples in the U.S. caught in limbo, because the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) does not provide spousal benefits to same-sex couples. Approximately one in four couples include a partner from Mexico, eight percent from Canada, and six percent from the United Kingdom.

Kolbe said that he and his partner, Hector Alfonso, will legally marry in May in the District of Columbia. The former congressman was recently appointed by President Barack Obama to serve on his Advisory Committee for Trade Policy Negotiations.

Read Kolbe's entire testimony <http://immigrationequality.org/2013/04/read-congressman-kolbes-testimony-in-support-of-inclusive-immigration-reform>.

Follow the issue here at Immigration Equality <http://immigrationequality.org>

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Transgender People Unite! Day Of Empowerment And RO Fight

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Michelle Fox is pissed off. As residents of Royal Oak prepare to vote on the issue of a Human Rights Ordinance in November, transgender people like Fox find themselves the target of a hateful campaign that claims that “men in dresses” will be invading women’s rest rooms.

“This is the tactic they used in Hamtramck, and why we lost the Human Rights Ordinance there,” she said.

“We are not men in dresses,” she says with a loud, shaky voice. “I’m going to get the trans community fired up about this. We’re going to raise money. We’ll knock on doors. We need to educate the community. We lost in Hamtramck because they passed out fliers with a man in a dress saying ‘would you like that going into your women’s restroom?’”

Transgender leaders from around southeast Michigan have been meeting to discuss various concerns and how they can work together, including how to counter the false images being presented in Royal Oak by those who oppose employment, housing and public accommodation protections for members of the LGBT community.

The annual Transgender Day of Empowerment happens to fall on the heels of

the latest Royal Oak human rights controversy. The event takes place on Saturday, April 27 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Affirmations Community Center in Ferndale. The Gender Identity Network Alliance (GINA) organizes the event. Various panel discussions, speakers, and a room full of tables with resources for transgender people, gender variant people, parents, doctors, teachers, activists, allies and

“I’d love to see a lot of allies come and learn about the transgender community and see the things we go through just to live a normal life,” she said. “We just want to have a job, and a home and pay our taxes like other people.”

- Michelle Fox

people who simply want to learn more will be available. There will even be cupcakes from Cupcake Station and other food from Buffalo Wild Wings and Como’s.

“And it couldn’t come at a better time, because of what certain factions are saying in Royal Oak,” Fox said. She explained that Transgender Day of Empowerment is an “uplifting and educational” event, but that it will also serve as a rallying call for those

who want to stand up for transgender rights and images.

“I’d love to see a lot of allies come and learn about the transgender community and see the things we go through just to live a normal life,” she said. “We just want to have a job, and a home and pay our taxes like other people.”

Among the topics covered will be transgender youth, transitioning in the workplace, prejudice within the transgender community, hormones and medical care and discrimination. Transgender people will share their stories and plenty of support and information resources will be available.

Find out more about the event at www.facebook.com/events/262785463858178/?fref=ts. Following the day of workshops at Affirmations, there will be a film showing at the Transgender Michigan Office at 429 Livernois at 7 p.m. featuring “Different for Girls.” For more information go to <http://transgendermichigan.givezooks.com/>

BRIEF

KALAMAZOO TOWNSHIP

Kalamazoo Amends EEOC Statement

The Kalamazoo Township Board of Trustees approved an amendment to their Equal Employment Opportunities Statement to include sexual orientation and gender identity at their April 22 meeting. The community does not yet have a human rights ordinance, but activists are working to encourage elected officials to enact one. Human rights ordinances are in at least 22 Michigan communities, protecting LGBT people from discrimination since there is no state law to do so.

“This is a great first step towards an inclusive nondiscrimination ordinance in Kalamazoo Township. As you may already know, it is legal in the state of Michigan to fire someone from their job, refuse someone housing, or deny them service in public accommodations just for being gay or transgender. We’re working to fight against that, and this move by the Kalamazoo Township Board of Trustees is a great first step,” said Zachary Bauer, director of the Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center.

The Unity Coalition is working statewide to help communities with their inclusive policy creations. To learn more and support their efforts, go to www.unitymichigan.org. Those in the Kalamazoo area who would like to plug into the growing movement for equality can connect through the Resource Center. Their website is <http://kgllrc.org>.

Extended briefs are available online at:

>> www.PrideSource.com

Sommer Foster Gets Ready to Field Organize for Equality Michigan

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

A fresh new face appears on the page of Equality Michigan’s staff page, as the statewide advocacy group welcomes their newest Field Organizer Sommer Foster.

Foster is an Eastern Michigan graduate, a member of the Canton Township Library Board, and a member of both the NAACP and the Center for Progressive Leadership. She has worked on several political campaigns and most recently worked in constituent services and outreach for Congressman David Alan Curson, who briefly held Michigan’s 11th Congressional District seat, replacing Thaddeus McCotter (R-MI) after he stepped down abruptly during his 2012 campaign.



Sommer Foster

Equality Michigan’s field organizer is responsible for recruiting, managing and coordinating volunteers as well as for developing and executing the organization’s public education and grassroots mobilization, coordination and outreach plans.

The organization has utilized field organizers in the past to train community leaders in political activism strategies and messaging, facilitate town halls, provide rapid response and initiate public engagement in response to legislative action and assist in the passage of local non-discrimination policies, according to Equality Michigan’s Managing Director Emily Dievendorf.

“Sommer Foster brings a unique set of skills to Equality Michigan’s field program,”

Sommer has experience in the management of political campaigns, volunteer recruitment and training, coalition building, and has been a legislative staffer.

Dievendorf said. “She has experience in the management of political campaigns, volunteer recruitment and training, coalition building, and has been a legislative staffer. She is warm, passionate, politically savvy and articulate. I consider Sommer’s combination of skills an ideal match to Equality Michigan’s work to expand the base, engage and activate equality supporters, and strengthen Equality

Michigan’s collaborative work to better empower the LGBT communities’ ability to win equality and stand firm against attempts to make Michigan more hostile to our families.”

Equality Michigan advocates for full equality for all people, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. That work includes lobbying for policy change in Lansing, advancing local LGBT-inclusive ordinances, and serving over 700 victims of LGBT or HIV related harassment, discrimination, or violence.

Foster will begin working immediately with the existing staff to advance local and statewide policy initiatives, and coordinate the organization’s volunteers.

For more information on Equality Michigan, visit www.equalitymi.org.

SAGE Looks At Health Equity For LGBT Seniors Of Color

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

SAGE has been looking out for the needs of older LGBT adults since its founding in the 1980s. The organization's latest report tackles the issue of health equity for elders of color, a growing population. The report explains that "available research shows that they often face heightened health disparities and are largely rendered invisible in public policy discussions on aging. Many LGBT elders of color enter retirement age without the supports necessary for healthy aging. A lifetime of discrimination has adversely affected LGBT elders of color, based on multiple aspects of their identities, including racial inequality, anti-LGBT discrimination, challenges based on immigration status, and more."

SAGE has worked to promote change in the Older Americans Act (OAA), especially because this is where the funding comes from for a bulk of senior services and it is the most obvious place to start.

"The OAA serves as the country's leading vehicle for delivering services to older people nationwide, providing more than \$2 billion annually in nutrition and social services. Unfortunately, little OAA funding goes to programs that explicitly target LGBT older people. Since its enactment in 1965, the OAA has placed its emphasis on vulnerable elders who face challenges related to social isolation. Yet despite ample evidence of their heightened vulnerability and their need for unique aging supports, LGBT older people are absent from this landmark law. As the OAA comes up for reauthorization, and as millions of LGBT people enter retirement age, Congress has an opportunity to ensure that the OAA supports all elders, including LGBT older people – and in particular, LGBT elders of color," the report states.

The organization has come up with ten policy recommendations that would strengthen the support for these older Americans: To learn more: <http://sageusa.org/resources/publications.cfm?ID=203>.

AGING IN FOCUS:

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

The movement to assist LGBT older adults in Michigan is rather young, but the efforts have grown quickly. From initial community dialogues at the 2011 Older Adult Summit two distinct efforts, plus a state-funded survey have emerged.

The LGBT Older Adult Coalition works statewide to bring structural improvements to the systems that provide care and services for seniors, while the Gay Elders of southeast Michigan is focusing on direct needs of seniors and on becoming a SAGE Chapter (Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Elders).

Both groups have been building up relationships with other organizations, including with the state of Michigan to identify needs and to create change. Thanks in part to their efforts, and in part to the Obama Administration's priorities, Michigan has undertaken a revolutionary path towards inclusive care.

Landmark Study Conducted

In 2012 the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) conducted a needs assessment of LGBT residents over 50 or under 50 with disabilities. The year-long study was part of a broader needs assessment for older adults in the state. The Older Americans Act, a federal law establishing most aging services in the US, included LGBT older adults as a group for who special efforts should be made to address the specific challenges they face. Following their lead, the OSA included this demographic in their research, making Michigan one of the first states to do so.

753 LGBT older adults responded to the assessment, most of whom were between the ages of 50 and 60. The respondents were disproportionately younger, white, and college educated. Only 29 percent were retired, suggesting that better sampling methods might be needed for the future. However, the data does provide a starting point for government agencies and nonprofits in understanding where older LGBT adults are coming from.

Nearly one-quarter (23.3 percent) reported that it is hard to keep or find a job because of their age, and 8.8 percent reported that it is hard to keep or find a job because of their sexual orientation.

Over half (59.4 percent) of the respondents said they see themselves moving in the future. Of those, 50.6 percent want to be a place where they can stay as they get older, and 45.9 percent want a place with less upkeep. One third (33.6

Michigan's LGBT Older Adult Movement Moves Forward

percent) said that finding housing in an LGBT-friendly community is difficult when finding a new home.

Most of the respondents (94.6 percent) had a primary care physician, and 87.7 percent had access to mental health care. Of those surveyed, 26.4 percent were victimized or had someone in their household victimized because of sexual orientation or gender identity in the past 10 years. Only 35.1 percent have spoken to a lawyer regarding end of life issues. The survey also included services available through the state, asking respondents if they have heard of the service, and if they have used the service. For example, 47.2 percent were familiar with the state's food stamp program, and 8.8 percent have used it. Only 11.8 percent were aware

support of the LGBT community, but this is a bright spot. We're the only state in the country that is doing a statewide needs assessment. The federal support is what really moved this. They called it a population of most need and that helped us to get the state involved."

The study will help guide OSA practices and decisions, fostering the inclusion of the LGBT community.

Older Adult Coalition

The Older Adult Coalition is the state-wide movement that helped promote the survey, and is working with government agencies and nonprofits to teach them how to provide culturally competent care and service to the



Attendees at last fall's aging conference. BTL file photo

that the state offers a service to help resolve complaints against nursing homes, and only 12.3 percent were aware of Senior Companion or Foster Grandparenting programs.

Socialization may be the biggest area of concern. Only 19 percent participate in events designed for LGBT older adults, and 52.8 percent say it is because they don't know about them.

"What's so exciting is that for the first time LGBT people have been included in the discussion," said Judy Lewis who was recently named Organization Coordinator for the LGBT Older Adult Coalition. "We are being recognized and listened to."

Kat LaTosch, who consults with the coalition, was disappointed with the limited demographic that was reached, but pleased to be part of the state's process. "Michigan is not known for its

aging LGBT population.

The group has representatives of LGBT organizations as well as agencies that all work together on older adult issues. Participating representatives attend from ACLU of Michigan, Adult Well-Being Services, Affirmations, Area Agency on Aging 1-B, KICK, Citizens for Better Care, The Jim Toy Community Center, Michigan Office of Services to the Aging, Oakland Family Services, Optimal Care Inc, and The Village of Redford.

Their biggest impact has been in doing cultural competency trainings of care providers and agencies, which is an ongoing process. So far over 200 caregivers have been educated about how to relate to LGBT individuals who come to them for service.

The Older Adult Coalition had two major

See Older Adult, page 9

Meet Judy Lewis: Coordinator For LGBT Older Adult Coalition

In March the LGBT Older Adult Coalition announced Judy Lewis as coordinator for the Coalition. Lewis has served the LGBT community in metro Detroit in a variety of roles – as administrator, organizer and coordinator of informative events, conferences and curricula. Through her work as executive director of the Jewish Gay Network of Michigan (JGN), Lewis brought communities of faith together with LGBT organizations to create healthy, working dialogues. She has continued that commitment to communication



Judy Lewis

and diversity, being instrumental in the formation of the Affirmations Faith Alliance.

“Judy is a passionate advocate, a dedicated educator, and a tremendous asset to the cause of LGBT equality in our communities,” said Jay Kaplan, member of the LGBT Older Adult Coalition and ACLU of Michigan LGBT staff attorney. “We’re looking forward to the progress this collaboration will bring to the thoughtful care of our elders.”

Lewis serves as liaison between the Coalition and Gay Elders of Southeast Michigan and coordinates trainings for

health professionals to ensure LGBT cultural competence. She will also assist with plans for an annual summit focusing on LGBT Older Adult Issues.

Her dedication to working with the LGBT elder community has already had a sizable local impact, bringing together individuals and organizations to form the LGBT Older Adult Coalition as well as the GESEM..

This is a new position for the Coalition and was made possible by a grant from the HOPE Fund of the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan. The ACLU of Michigan serves as fiduciary for the grant.

► Older Adult

Continued from p. 8

boosts of support as of late. The first is by bringing on Lewis, who has a history of activism in the LGBT community including previous work as the director of the Jewish Gay Network of Michigan, and her current role in the Affirmations Faith Alliance.

The second exciting development is that the Older Adult Coalition is in the process of working with a social work class from the University of Michigan. Students are helping revise a guide for LGBT older adults and researching new contacts to include.

Gay Elders of SE Michigan

The Gay Elders of SE Michigan grew out of the Older Adult Coalition and the summits it held. Their focus is in getting older adults involved and providing them with opportunities to interact socially and as activists. Their focus has been on trying to become a SAGE affiliate, a process which should be complete by the end of this year. Their focus is the seven counties which are included in the Area Agency on Aging 1A, 1B, and 1C.

Laura Champaign is leading the organization’s efforts, working hard to find

out what the needs of older adults in the community are as well as working to meet SAGE’s requirements. In 2012 they formally set the board for the group. Though SAGE affiliation is top priority, another project Champaign is passionate about is creating a “buddy system” for older adults to pair with younger LGBT individuals to facilitate inter-generational dialogue. The younger generation can help the older with physical tasks, such as shopping or transportation. The older generation can share their stories and give the younger a better sense of the struggles and history they lived through.

“Older adults can do better at passing the baton,” Champaign said. “We need people to pass down history. I’m afraid if we don’t, we may lose it.”

More Information

For more information about the LGBT Older Adult Coalition, visit <http://lgbtolderadults.com>. For more on Gay Elders of SE Michigan, like them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/gesemich/>.

The coalition is also busy planning their Annual Older Adult Summit that will take place on June 22 at Hannan House in Detroit.

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Deb Dysert To Receive MCC Distinguished Service Award

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Deb Dysert was working as a public school preschool teacher in Indianapolis, living a full life helping youngsters with special needs get a good start in their educational lives. But according to Dysert, God just would not let her be. She started taking theology classes and finally moved to Michigan to serve both as a public school teacher and as clergy.

After a time shepherding the flock at Divine Peace Church, first in Hazel Park and then in Pontiac, Dysert joined MCC Detroit in Ferndale where she served as the Associate Reverend through the church's most tumultuous time. Her stable presence kept the congregation strong, and the powers that be have taken notice.

On April 28, Dysert is being honored by Metropolitan Community Church with a Distinguished Service Award. Rev. Elder Hector Gutierrez and Raquel Benítez-Rojas (Vice Chair of the MCC Governing Board) will be in town for worship on Sunday, April 28 at 11 a.m. at MCC Detroit 2441 Pinecrest in Ferndale.

Her work at MCC Detroit began in 2007, where she helped to bring back the church's "cell groups," or clubs.

"I am very, very proud that right now we have six different cell groups. It's one thing for congregations to come and worship on Sunday. It's quite another thing to come and explore in small groups. When Rev. Mark (Bidwell) was there he asked me to get them reestablished. We had them before and he asked me to get them started again.

"They are groups of people who come together to focus on something. We've got a Broadway cell group, it's a group of people who are very interested in entertainment Broadway things. We talk about people who sing and going to the plays. It's exploring who we are in these realms."

There is also a Bible study group, a movie group, a group that explores and discusses other faiths and the Goodie Two Shoes group.

"Goodie Two Shoes goes out and looks for ways they can do good in the community on behalf of the church," she said. "At Christmas we adopt families and we've given \$3-\$4,000 to families. None of this comes out of our budget,

it's all extra giving by our members and fundraising." The group also collects food donations for the Ruth Ellis Center on a weekly basis, and last fall gave the center over 30 backpacks full of school supplies for Detroit students.

Her award, however, is for the leadership she gave during MCC Detroit's darkest hours. In 2011, Rev. Mark Bidwell took a personal sabbatical and Dysert assumed the helm. Bidwell returned only to find himself in the midst of controversy after a young man died of



Rev. Deb Dysert

a drug overdose at his home. Bidwell resigned, and died a short time after that.

Through the struggle, Dysert and the congregation carried on. Members looked to Dysert for stability as MCC brought in an interim Reverend, Jim Lynch.

Service attendance dipped just slightly, and has gradually climbed back to about 100 worshipers attending every week. "I am really, really proud of the way we've stuck together. For a church to go through all we've been through and to maintain those numbers it's an accomplishment," Dysert said.

"I'm very honored to receive this [award]. I didn't set out to do anything special. I just knew that if the congregation was going to get through this I needed to be steady. They needed something to hold on to. This is what God expected from me."

As Associate Reverend, Dysert's focus is on education and stepping in to

minister as needed. Lynch handles most of the administrative work and serves on the committee to find a replacement Reverend. The process is intentionally slow, giving the congregation time to heal and reflect.

"The theory, as just with any relationship, is it's not good to jump from one to another. You need that time in between to access who you are and what you are before you jump into another relationship. The interim give a fresh set of eyes.

"Rev. Jim [Lynch] has set up an interim ministry and an interim ministry team and they meet monthly. They offer him support and guidance. We have done a lot of administrative work, getting some of those things together. We've done a vision statement and in two weeks we are going to be doing goals and objectives... I don't know the rest of the timeline, there's a lot of variables still."

As far as her future with the congregation, Dysert is not sure. "I don't know what God's going to do with this. I love the congregation. I have to teach for a number of years. It's not in my plans to move, but who knows what God's plan is. God hasn't revealed the next chapter yet."

In addition to church life, she remains a happy public school teacher, now working with cognitively impaired young adults in the Pontiac School District. "We do lots of hands on kind of training and work, and we do some training to get them out into the community. To me it's the ability to be lending the ability of what I need to be doing with my faith and putting it into the world."

And there is the stability of her happy home and her friends at MCC. "None of this could have been possible without the very strong support of my partner Ann Cox. She was very supportive of me, all the times I would be going to 'one more meeting'. She gave me a place to be grounded through all of that. Plus I just adore this congregation. They have a bunch of hidden treasures, and some not-so-hidden personalities! It's really a pretty incredible group of people. They make ministry easy - most of the time."

On April 28, Dysert is being honored by Metropolitan Community Church at 11 a.m. at MCCD, 2441 Pinecrest in Ferndale.

Boy Scouts To Consider Lifting Ban On Gay Youths

BY KATIA HETTER

(CNN) - The Boy Scouts of America would no longer deny membership to youth on the basis of sexual orientation, but would maintain its ban on openly gay adult leaders under a proposal it is considering, the group said April 19.

The organization's executive committee made the proposal, which is expected to be presented to the Boy Scouts' voting members in May. If the policy is approved, it would take effect starting January 1.

"If approved, the resolution would mean that 'no youth may be denied membership in the Boy Scouts of America on the basis of sexual orientation or preference alone.' The BSA will maintain the current membership policy for all adults," Boy Scouts public relations director Deron Smith said.

The Boy Scouts have been

considering a change in the longstanding policy against allowing openly gay members. In February, the Boy Scouts' national executive board postponed a vote on lifting its outright ban on openly gay Scouts and troop leaders and ordered a survey of its members on the issue.

A generational shift

The survey showed a generational split between adults and youth in the scouting community. While most adults in the scouting community support the Boy Scouts' current policy of "excluding open and avowed homosexuals, young parents and teens tend to oppose the policy," according to the survey, which was also released Friday.

Gay activists cheered the attempt to end the scouting ban on gay youth but questioned barring those youth once they become adults.

"Barring discrimination against

gay youth is an important step forward that is in the best interest of young people and scouting in America," said lawyer Evan Wolfson, who represented former Scout James Dale in his unsuccessful Supreme Court case to strike down the ban.

"But leaving in place a discriminatory policy once those kids grow up still sends a damaging message to gay and nongay young people that is inconsistent with the other values that scouting claims to teach."

A distinguished Eagle Scout, Dale was serving as an assistant scoutmaster when he was kicked out of the Boy Scouts in 1990 for being gay. He filed a lawsuit against the organization in New Jersey in 1992, saying his expulsion violated state anti-discrimination law. His case made it to the Supreme Court in 2000, and the court ruled that the Boy Scouts could refuse membership to people who identify as gay.

Poll: Portman Loses Some Support Over Marriage

(CNN) - The approval rating for the first Republican senator to back same-sex marriage has edged down, fueled mostly by a drop in support from members of his own party, according to a new survey.

An adviser to Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio, responding to the poll, says the senator's change of heart on the controversial social issue had nothing to do with politics.

A Quinnipiac University survey released Friday indicates that Portman's approval rating stands at 40 percent among Ohio voters, down four points from a February 28 poll. The four percentage point dip is within the survey's sampling error. The senator's disapproval rating went from 24 percent in February to 31 percent now.

A six point drop in approval by self-described Republicans appears to be the main factor in the overall edging down of Portman's approval. Sixty-three percent of Republicans questioned in the February poll said they approved of the job Portman was doing as senator. That's dropped to 57

percent now. And just over four in ten Republicans say they think less favorably of Portman because of his switch on same-sex marriage.

In March, Portman became the first Republican in the U.S. Senate to endorse same-sex marriage. He announced that he was swayed on the issue by his son, who told his family he was gay.

"Rob's change of heart was driven by a family issue, and clearly had nothing to do with politics or poll numbers. He remains focused on the top issues in the minds of Ohioans - our economy, and Washington's out of control spending and debt," said a Portman adviser.

Portman's change of stance came just before the U.S. Supreme Court heard two high profile cases involving same-sex marriage. The high court is expected to issue rulings in June.

Portman, a former congressman who served as U.S. trade representative and director of the Office of Management and Budget under President George W. Bush,

was first elected to the Senate in 2010 and is not up for re-election until 2016.

"Sen. Rob Portman's reversal on same-sex marriage has cost him a little support in his Republican base, but has little impact among Democrats and independent voters," said Peter Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute.

According to the poll, 48 percent of Ohio voters support legal same-sex marriage, with 44 percent opposed.

The survey also indicates President Barack Obama's approval rating in Ohio now stands at 45 percent, down from 48 percent in March and 54 percent in December.

The Quinnipiac University poll was conducted April 10-15, with 1,138 registered Buckeye State voters questioned by telephone. The survey's overall sampling error is plus or minus 2.9 percentage points.

Creep of the Week

Tony Perkins

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

The only thing that can stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy who is not having gay sex.

At least this seems to be the line of reasoning the Family Research Council's Tony Perkins is using



Tony Perkins

related to sex and family that Perkins does not personally approve of.

"If Congress wants to stop these tragedies, then it has to address the government's own hostility to the institution of the family and organizations that can address the real problem: the human heart," Perkins writes.

Got that? The real problem is "the human heart." Perkins' problem, specifically, is that he does not have one.

Perkins continues, "As I've said before, America doesn't need gun control, it needs self-control. And a Congress that actively discourages it-through abortion, family breakdown, sexual liberalism, or religious hostility - is only compounding the problem."

See? You've just got to self-control yourself. Unless you're gay, then Perkins wouldn't mind personally controlling you by thwarting your attempt at full civil rights. But guns, well, numbers indicate that people are very good at killing each other with guns all the live long day like we live in a god forsaken war zone. That is working out really well for us.

Gloating about the gun control failure, Perkins sneers, "Senate liberals, who baited members with a gallery full of Newtown and Aurora families, quickly learned that it would take more than emotional manipulation to win leaders to their side."

Ah, yes, Newtown and Aurora families. Those manipulative bastards, shoving their dead in our faces. What they don't understand is that "Right to Life" ends as soon

as you check out of Hotel Uterus. After that, you're on your own. So there's no point in focusing on a bunch of dead kids when there are real live gun owners with rights to protect. In other words, stop trying to win Perkins over with an emotional argument. As we've already discussed, the man has no heart.

If murdered children aren't a Christian concern, guns, clearly, are. "As Christians living in very dangerous times, we not only have a right - but a responsibility - to protect our families from threats of violence, which only increase as America's focus moves from personal control to more government control," Perkins writes.

"There seems to be this notion, at least among liberals, that more laws will protect us - but as we all witnessed in Boston, that isn't necessarily the case," Perkins writes. "Stronger background checks wouldn't have prevented the deaths of three people at the finish line [in Boston]."

First, I call your attention to Perkins' notion that it's liberals who believe "that more laws will protect us" and his warning of a movement "from personal control to more government control" and add: ROTFLATSHOIA (rolling on the floor laughing at the sheer hypocrisy of it all). This from a guy who supports all manner of anti-gay laws, many of them antithesis to the "small government" conservatives like Perkins pretend they favor, in the name of "protecting" society.

Second, pointing out that tougher gun control laws wouldn't have stopped the bombing at the Boston Marathon is ludicrous. It's like saying, "Well, wearing a seatbelt won't prevent cancer, so why bother?" Such an argument is what the Founding Fathers used to call "asshatery."

Also, according to Perkins, Jesus wants you to have a gun: "Not only did Jesus tolerate weapons, he instructed His disciples to buy them! In Luke 22:36, we read, 'He said to them... if you don't have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one.'"

I should point out that the modern translation of the word "sword" is "assault weapon with high capacity magazine," which is, obviously, the answer to the age-old question: What Would Jesus Shoot?

“Today’s decision by the Boy Scouts of America was not a partial or incremental win for LGBT scouts; it was a disappointing failure by BSA to demonstrate the very leadership they should be fostering in kids.”

Gay Fort Worth City Councilman Joel Burns

“The general feeling is that this is a bad move. This is about a concerted effort to bring down a cultural icon. We must brace ourselves for the long haul on this one.”

A.J. Smith, president of the Association of Baptists for Scouting

“Until every parent and young person have the same opportunity to serve, the Boy Scouts will continue to see a decline in both membership and donations.”

Rich Ferraro, spokesman for the gay-rights watchdog group GLAAD.

“Absolutely - because it is 2013”

Billionaire Bill Gates in response to a question whether the Boy Scouts should lift the gay ban, ABC News interview Mar. 14

“The Boy Scouts are once again forcing me to look my children in the eyes and tell them that our family isn’t good enough.”

Jennifer Tyrrell, an Ohio mother who was ousted as her 7-year-old son’s Cub Scout den leader because she is gay.

“Today, this is about the kids, and we are glad that the Boy Scouts of America is taking this historic step forward.”

Eagle Scout Zach Wahls, a 21-year-old activist raised by lesbian mothers in Iowa

Straightening Up At The Boy Scouts Of America



It’s Time For The BSA To Take A Tip From Its Own Handbook

THINKING OUT LOUD BY ABBY DEES

Sometime in the ‘20s my grandfather became the then-youngest Boy Scout to obtain the top rank of Eagle Scout. When he died he was as proud of that as he was of piloting ships into Tokyo Bay at the end of the war. He was a classic Scout too. The epitome of honor and resourcefulness, he whistled while he worked and did everything he could think of to make life better for the people in his world.

I never talked about the gay scouting ban with my grandfather. Maybe I didn’t give the 97-year-old guy enough credit, but I thought that conversation would be too awkward. I’d have to explain things that we just didn’t talk about together, like the difference between plain old sex and sexual orientation. And I worried he’d think I was criticizing him personally, so I cut us both some slack. You get to do that with family sometimes.

I’m not cutting the Boy Scouts of America (or “BSA”) any slack right now, though. They have announced a proposed policy change: The BSA might admit gay Scouts – but definitely not gay leaders.

So why even try? The stated basis for the ban has always been that homosexuality violates the Scout’s oath to be “morally straight.” Here’s what they mean by that: “[Y]our relationships with others should be honest and open. You should respect and defend the rights of all people. Be clean in your speech and actions, and remain faithful in your religious beliefs. (from the Boy Scout Oath and Law).

In other words, being gay is inconsistent with these characteristics. I’m not sure if it’s the honest and open part or the faith part, or whatever. I’m not privy to the bizarre conversation that must repeatedly transpire among BSA leadership every time they review and reaffirm the ban, but it’s clear to me that the new policy proposal in no way seeks to challenge the idea that gay people, by definition, cannot be “morally straight.”

But wait, there’s more! They’ve also

stated, “We allow youth to live as children and enjoy Scouting and its diversity without immersing them in the politics of the day ... The Boy Scouts of America has always reflected the expectations that Scouting families have had for the organization. We do not believe that homosexuals provide a role model consistent with these expectations.”

Nonetheless, the BSA may feel comfortable now allowing gay boys to join their ranks even though they have officially labeled gays unworthy of admiration. This is no compromise, but a twisted update on “don’t ask don’t tell,” and children will pay the price for adult cowardice. I can’t think of a worse way of virtually dunking kids into “the politics of the day” than forcing them to parse this hypocrisy.

Imagine what this might feel like to a gay Scout. He’s allowed to join, presumably because he can’t help himself, poor thing. But the BSA can still provide a bulwark that keeps other, still-unsullied straight boys from looking up to a gay Scout leader and getting ideas. He’d learn that people like him, once they grow up, can’t be trusted to behave. What a thing

to look forward to.

Where in this is the idea of strength and honesty that is all over the Boy Scout Handbook? I get that the BSA is a private organization and free to set its policy, but that doesn’t stop me from calling them out for causing harm to young people. With the mission of building character and honesty in our next generation of men, they are instead teaching that self-respect and respect for others is too fragile to withstand human difference and variety. (Interestingly, some individual chapters flout the ignorant directives from above and are thriving, of course.)

This isn’t my grandfather’s Boy Scouts. He would have struggled to understand what it meant to be gay and probably gotten it wrong in parts, but he would have measured the man, or the boy, by his actions. As a good Scout, he certainly wouldn’t have singled anyone out based on archaic stereotypes. BSA, check your own traditions and try again.

Abby is a civil rights attorney-turned-author who has been in the LGBT rights trenches for 25+ years. She can be reached through her website: queerquestionsstraighttalk.com



A Nip In The Rosebud



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

“No garden without a pansy,” is this spring’s slogan of the American Perennial Association, last week proudly announcing its alliance of over 55,000 blooming horticulturalists and 6,500 hothouse caretakers with millions of LGBT gardeners and floral caregivers worldwide.

Action taken by the APA also calls for state laws that permit display of roses, hollyhocks, and gladiolas in public places to also include restrictions to eliminate straight neighbors plucking, cross pollinating, or insecticiding LGBT displays without expressed permission.

“If state legislatures support APA recommendations it will mean that for the first time since the flower power days of the 1960s, gays and lesbians will have the right to be called landscape artists and not second class tillers of the soil,” says APA President Nance Vineyard (who has a gay son who raises orchids as a hobby).

Adds Vineyard, “Census 2010 shows that there are some 9 million LGBT homes where covert gardening of perennials is practiced. Whether we straights like it or not, we’re not the only ones with green thumbs. Many rainbow gardens are worthy of House Beautiful or Town & Country magazines publicity.

“I’ve seen candid floral snapshots that would make Butch Bob’s snapdragons hiss with envy. While we straights certainly know our fertilizers and how to lay it on thick, fair’s fair. I personally have a gay neighbor whose roses won prizes four years running in Southern Baptist competitions. Poor guy had to remain closeted at the award ceremonies.

“It’s sad to think he goes to altar confessions afterwards, blue ribbon in back pocket. ‘Love the flower. Hate the florist.’”

As expected, opposition to the APA was voiced by Lou Selfish [editor’s note: should read Shellfish] of the American Deflower Association. Said Shellfish - known for his cacti and rock gardens - at a recent press conference, held in the potted plant sanctuary of the Hope For Hay Fever Recovery Conservatory, Topelulu, Ala., “I’m sure Americans will not be taken in by the APA and the gay agenda. The only things gays can grow are cockleburs and weeds.

“It’s time people realize that the source of weeds (and aphids, too) in our gardens is from so-called lgbt - let’s garden better together - neighbors. It’s gospel that if you have weeds in your Garden of Eden you have a sod planting neighbor next door.

“Under no circumstances exchange bulbs, transplants, or tool baskets. Pray for them, but don’t implant for them.”

David Crakthorn, president of the Institute for American Shrinking Violets, shoveled his own verbal manure on the subject of LGBT florist inclusivity, “We’ve all heard how gays give pansies a bad name. I, for one, never look at a lavender flower without blushing. And, the less said about daisy chains the better. Please! I don’t want my kids to grow up to be florists.”

The news of the APA support is welcomed by Traverse City gay covert gardener Tom Trowel, who spent five years in prison for growing pre-op orchids in a straight neighborhood, while secretly feeding wingless flies to his *Dionaea muscipula*. He comments succinctly, “It’s nobody’s damned business where and how I sew my Burpee seed.”

(Just don’t spill it on the ground near Adam & Steve’s petunias.)

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French Lawmakers Approve Same-Sex Marriage Bill

BY LAURA SMITH-SPARK

(CNN) - French lawmakers voted to legalize same-sex marriage Tuesday, despite vocal protests from some conservatives opposed to the step.

The nation's lower house approved a marriage bill, which will also give same-sex couples the right to adopt, in a 331-to-225 final vote.

They cast their votes after impassioned speeches by lawmakers for and against the legislation.

President Francois Hollande, who pledged his support for same-sex marriage on the campaign trail last year, will have to sign the bill before it becomes law.

Opponents, including the Roman Catholic Church, other religious groups and social conservatives, still hope to block the measure by filing a legal challenge with the Constitutional Council.

It would have a month to make its ruling.

The measure was expected to pass Tuesday since the left, which includes Hollande's governing Socialist Party, dominates the National Assembly, or lower house. The legislation was approved in the Senate earlier this month.

Once the measure is enacted, France will be the ninth country in Europe to allow same-sex marriage.

Protesters on Sunday joined the latest in a series of marches through Paris against the measure, and they have vowed to carry on the fight.

One of the groups behind the marchers urged protesters to rally again Tuesday evening and is planning more demonstrations around the country next month.

Policing has been stepped up in the streets around the lower house in case demonstrations by those for and against the bill become heated, CNN affiliate BFM-TV reported.

In France, the contentious debate over the same-sex marriage bill has coincided with a spike in reported incidents of homophobic abuse, the gay rights group SOS Homophobie told BFM-TV last week.

A gay bar in Lille was targeted Wednesday night by four men who appeared to belong to a far-right group, Interior Minister Manuel Valls said Thursday, in a statement condemning the attack.

Valls also condemned violence that broke out Thursday evening at a march against same-sex marriage, when

"organized groups" refused to disperse and clashed with police.

France is committed to upholding the right of all people to demonstrate peacefully, he said.

International debate

Passage of the divisive bill will admit France to a small but growing club.

Lawmakers in New Zealand last week made it the first country in the Asia Pacific region to legalize same-sex marriage. The law is set to be enacted later this year.

Its move came a week after Uruguayan lawmakers approved a measure allowing same-sex marriage. The measure awaits the signature of Uruguay's president, who has indicated he supports it.

If the laws in New Zealand, Uruguay and France are enacted as expected, the count of nations allowing same-sex marriage will rise to 14.

The first same-sex couples walked down the aisle in the Netherlands in 2001, with others following suit in Canada, South Africa, Belgium and Spain. Argentina was the first Latin American nation to legalize such marriages, in 2010.

Legislators in the United Kingdom are also weighing proposals to legalize same-sex marriage.

However, many countries remain split over the issue.

In the United States, the question went before the Supreme Court last month, and justices are now deliberating over the matter.

Nine states and the District of Columbia issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, including three states -- Maryland, Washington, and Maine -- where voters approved it in ballot initiatives last year. Many states have specific laws blocking same-sex couples from legally marrying.

Lawmakers in Australia voted against a bill to legalize same-sex marriage last September. A poll for the advocacy group Australian Marriage Equality indicated that 64 percent of those surveyed "support marriage equality."

A law legalizing civil unions was introduced in 1999 in France under a previous Socialist government.

Known in France as the PACS, or pacte civil de solidarite, the civil union agreement can be entered into by same-sex or straight couples and confers many but not all of the rights of marriage.

International Networks Of Gay Men Unite to Fight HIV

Global, Regional MSM Networks To Coordinate Efforts

BY BTL STAFF

On April 18 the major regional networks of men who have sex with men (MSM) and the Global Forum on MSM & HIV announced they have joined forces to form a unified front against HIV to protect the health and human rights of MSMs worldwide. The consortium, which includes international networks from Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia, will work to coordinate the efforts of thousands of human rights groups and HIV service providers around the world.

"People talk about milestones in the history of movements," said Joel Nana, executive director of the African Men for Sexual Health and Rights.

"This is one of those times in our global movement. We are uniting our efforts for MSM health and rights, and we are reclaiming the response to HIV in our communities. The persistent HIV burden among MSM in all regions and the severe inequity in global funding call for nothing less than a coordinated approach."

The consortium was formed through a series of meetings between regional and global networks that took place in Oakland, California. The consortium includes the Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health (APCOM), the African Men for Sexual Health and Rights (AMShE), Asociacion para la Salud Integral y Ciudadania en America Latina y el Caribe (ASICAL), the Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition (CVC), the European Coalition on Male Health (ECOM), and the MSMGF.

Recent research has estimated that HIV prevalence among gay men and other MSM is as high as 15 percent in South Asia, 18 percent in sub-Saharan Africa, 15 percent in Latin America, 25 percent in the Caribbean, and 6.6 percent in Eastern Europe

and Central Asia. Despite the disproportionate disease burden shouldered by MSM, existing research indicates that MSM

are uniquely positioned to hear the concerns of frontline organizations and respond appropriately with targeted

“Despite the disproportionate disease burden shouldered by MSM, existing research indicates that MSM programs receive only 2 percent of global HIV prevention funding.”

programs receive only 2 percent of global HIV prevention funding. Access to HIV services remains low for MSM around the world, hindered by a lack of targeted resources and homophobia among service providers.

"MSM-led grassroots organizations make up the bulk of the response to HIV among MSM in most parts of the world," said Dr. George Ayala, Executive Director of the MSMGF. "While these organizations are best suited to meet the needs of local MSM, they often work in hostile environments with a severe lack of funding and capacity support. MSM-led network organizations

community-based research, technical support, and advocacy with funders and policy-makers."

Priorities

AMShE, APCOM, ASICAL, CVC, ECOM, and the MSMGF will work in collaboration to address a number of priority issues in the immediate future:

- Coordinating advocacy to ensure that funding through Global Fund and other donors is commensurate with disease burden as demonstrated by epidemiologic research.


- Developing a unified global emergency response system to support grassroots MSM activists, especially MSM living with HIV, who are targets of violence, unfair arrest and imprisonment.

- Documenting the vital role played by LGBT-led community organizations in responding to HIV among MSM.

"We are adamant in our resolve to work together in calling out injustice and correcting the gross misalignment of global AIDS funding," said Dr. Ayala. "It is no longer acceptable for us to stand by politely while governments under-invest in our communities and large mainstream healthcare organizations with little knowledge of our realities pose as experts on our behalf. Too much is at stake."


Learn more at www.msmsgf.org

Recent research has estimated that HIV prevalence among gay men and other MSM is as high as 15 percent in South Asia, 18 percent in sub-Saharan Africa, 15 percent in Latin America, 25 percent in the Caribbean, and 6.6 percent in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.



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Living In Style



Michael Chetcuti (left) and Kyle Evans at their Royal Oak home. BTL photo: Andrew Potter

Royal Oak Couple Takes Home Design To A Different Dimension

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

SPRING HOME GUIDE

So often a dream house is just that – a dream. But for Royal Oak couple Michael “Chet” Chetcuti and Kyle Evans, they didn’t just imagine parking a vintage car in the living room or consider a kitchen big enough for a 20-person cooking party. They made it happen.

Located on East Fourth Street, the flattop residence is a renovated construction of Hinson Heating and Air Conditioning, built in the 1950s and redone California style. The couple snagged the 5,600-square-foot loft in 2007, modernized and moved in two years later. Since, the swanky residence has been featured in design and home magazines for its unparalleled uniqueness in the metro Detroit area. It even won a beautification award from the Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce in 2012.

“We gutted the whole entire house,” Evans says. “If you see pictures of it, it looked like someone bombed it. We took it down to dirt floors; most of the windows are completely new. We opened it up so there’s just a shell of the building, but we tried to keep as much of the original cool parts of the building.”

The grittiness of the former industrial setting still exists – look up and there are steel beams in the ceiling – but, Evans says, they added insulation and other practicalities. “You know,” he laughs, “stuff that’s, like, pretty basic to living.”

The couple worked closely with an architect on the basic layout of the home, essentially purging the building into a big white box that



Whether it's picking out some furniture or building some furniture, that's what's so cool about this place – it lets us build.

– Kyle Evans



could be stylized to their liking later.

“We could move in and live in here and then start to really design the fixtures, finishes, textures and colors,” Evans says. “That’s what I get excited about, and that’s what Chet loves doing. So whether it’s picking out some furniture or building some furniture, that’s what’s so cool about this place – it lets us build.”

Not to mention, the Mustang just hanging out in the front room.

“That was the whole gig, right?” Evans says. “I’ve always had a dream to have a car in the living room, and Chet was like, ‘Yeah, that sounds pretty kick-ass.’ We kind of designed around that, but we also designed around the fact that we like to entertain.” He laughs. “Chet likes to cook, I like to drink.”

When they’re not entertaining in the kitchen – or, this summer, in the courtyard they’re hoping to complete – guests often mingle on the upper level. Before they moved in, the upstairs was just a urinal and some filing cabinets. They built an upper level around what’s now a bathroom and turned the rest into a party deck, also their favorite brunch spot. Oh, and the urinal – it’s still there.

Then, they got creative. Using a dot pattern, they mirrored the trees that line the street outside the home and cut them into the metal railing. By settling for cheaper knockoffs of the Saarinen tables they wanted, and painting them lime-green to complement the bedroom trim, they saved themselves a couple thousand bucks. Old art-deco club chairs they bought were refurbished in all cowhide and silver piping.

“You get that mid-century modern feel, but

it’s a different take on it,” Evans says. “We like to do that sort of stuff – and that’s what this place allowed us to do. We built the things that we couldn’t buy or find and put our own twist on it.”

It’s not like they hadn’t done this before. Evans is an exterior stylist for Chrysler and a transportation design instructor at the College for Creative Studies. Chetcuti heads Quality Metalcraft Inc., a Livonia-based stamping, engineering and development company founded by his father. A leader in the flexible manufacturing and automated assembly, the company is responsible for the massive renovation and interior design of the old St. Clair Edison Building in downtown Royal Oak into Cloverleaf Fine Wine and Craft Beer, which Chetcuti co-owns. He also is part-owner of Pizzeria Biga. The high-end pizzeria opened in April 2012 in the same space.

“I’ve been cooking since I was 15 or 16 years old,” Chetcuti says. “I’ve fought typical suburban kitchens and their amenities for most of my adult life – and the cleanup. If I go to my parents’ house and try to cook a meal, with the cleanup and the lack of space, sink sizes and counter space, it’s like, ‘This is work.’”

To eliminate such hassles, they turned their kitchen into a culinary kingdom that even Martha Stewart would gush over. They call it “kitchen stadium” for its enormous size and ample countertops, made of scrap metal leftover from the MotorCity Casino rooftop, that allows guests to observe the cook in action. They use the space yearly for an interactive meal-making party with a group of 15-20 close friends and family members.

See Living In Style, page 20

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“ Nearly everyone in the gay community had a connection to the Park. It was our village and we mixed with young straight professionals and community activists who created a juried art fair that was held in the '80s. ”

Remembering Palmer Park Days

BY GREG PIAZZA

HOME GUIDE

Before there was a “Fashionable Ferndale” there was Palmer Park. An enclave of some 50 apartment buildings and five houses of worship, the “Park” as it was called sat in a triangle shaped subdivision with stunning architectural masterworks by notable Detroit architects. It was the heart of the Detroit LGBT community from the early 1950s down to the 1990s. I lived there from 1974 to 1991 and consider it the best times of my life.

Vacancies were not advertised either in the paper or by outdoor signs. Getting a unit was usually by referral. Since I had no referral the chances of my getting a unit seemed slim. In June of 1974, having graduated from Wayne State and said goodbye to my first partner, I set out to find a unit in the Park. I had the “GM look,” dark suit, dark tie, white shirt, highly polished shoes and a crew cut. Resume and references in hand, I spent two days knocking on doors. Applications completed, credit checks done and interviews concluded, I finally found a unit at 361 Merton (The Merton Manor). A spacious one bedroom with breakfast nook. The rent was \$145 a month which was about average for a one bedroom in the Park unless you were lucky enough to have a porch or balcony, which was \$5 extra.

For a young gay man Palmer Park was home. Back then on Six Mile between Third and Hamilton, you would find Bookie’s (aka Gagen’s) favored for drag shows; Chosen Books between Menjo’s (disco divas) and The Glass House (aka the Crews Inn and Don’s Beef and Ale for the neighborhood bar style). Across Woodward was Tiffany’s with its barn wood interior and great food. At Seven Mile and Woodward you would find a Cunningham’s; the first location of the Backstage; the Outlaw leather and cowboy bar; Heaven, the E-ramp and the Gas Station. There was Ted’s Restaurant, open 24/7 and packed



One of the six buildings that comprise the Palmer Park Square project. Photo: Jason A. Michael

after the bars. At the counter sat a drag queen; a cop; a leather man and a male hustler. Until the wee hours of the night cars circled the Park and guys walked the streets in a search of a one nighter.

Nearly everyone in the gay community had a connection to the Park. It was our village and we mixed with young straight professionals and community activists who created a juried art fair that was held in the '80s. We also created a citizen’s patrol and advocated for the area through the Palmer Park Citizens Action Council, the precursor to today’s People for Palmer Park.

I quickly fell in love with the range of architecture and unique buildings. I started to research the history of the district. This led to the listing of the apartment district on the National Register of Historic Places. I developed a tour of the buildings which ran during the art fairs. In 2011 I revived the tours and 200 people attended. In 2012, 400 people attended. This October we expect upwards of 600 people to marvel at one of four of Albert Kahn’s apartment buildings; an Art Deco marvel which is one of the first

completely cast concrete residential structures in Detroit; almost the entire career of one firm covering 40 years and Temple Israel designed by William Kapp designer of Meadowbrook Hall.

Largely vacated after 1995, the apartment district did not decay as other neighborhoods did. It lost two buildings and two marginal buildings are scheduled for demolition. Today, one long time property owner is committed to keeping his family’s buildings intact in memory of his parents. Another is gut renovating 11 buildings. They are doing historically sensitive rehab leaving detail work when possible and totally rebuilding interiors. Today the air is filled with the noise of hammers; the whine of saws evoking the furious pace of the 1920s when the Park was born.

The third annual Palmer Park walking tour will be held Oct. 5, 2013 beginning at Unity Temple (Second and Whitmore in Detroit) sponsored by People for Palmer Park. Cost is \$25 for guide book and tour. For info, see peopleforpalmerpark.org. For private tours of six or fewer people contact Greg Piazza at healergreg@prodigy.net



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► **Living In Style**

Continued from p. 17

“Having people here is one of the best parts of having this house,” Evans says. “It’s comfortable for us, but the whole point of it is to entertain.”

Or, you know, have Bill Clinton over. The couple hosted the president in October 2012 as a fundraiser for Michigan Sen. Debbie Stabenow, who was completely awestruck by the lavish Royal Oak home when she stopped in for an informal meet-and-greet. Stabenow loved the space so much that she suggested bringing Clinton there. The guys didn’t believe a visit could actually happen. Who would? But then it did: Stabenow called and told them they had six days to sell tickets. In less than a week, they had 167 guests and raised over \$500,000 for Stabenow. And Bill Clinton was in their house.

“I was definitely blown away by Clinton’s reaction,” Evans says. “They basically told us, ‘Don’t think this is gonna be some lovefest between you and Bill Clinton.’”

Except it kind of was. On the way to the bathroom, the couple’s car emblems caught Clinton’s eye. “So, you’re car guys?” they recall him saying before they geeked out about their mutual auto infatuation.

“It felt like a half hour,” Evans says, “but it was probably eight minutes.”

More recently, they hosted Dustin Lance Black for a dinner to benefit the ACLU. Black, the Oscar-winning screenwriter of “Milk,” casually chatted about Hollywood, design and gay politics for several hours.

Chetcuti and Evans also opened their abode last year to the Royal Oak Woman’s Club Home and Garden Tour, where they were informed of other, uh, opportunities for such a big space.

Nearly 500 women walked through their home that day, gushing about the space and how they wished it were their own, but it was one lady in her 80s who



BTL photos: Andrew Potter

had a very specific – and unexpected – vision for the home. Moving slowly up the stairs, she reached the top and looked around. “She looked at me,” Evans recalls, “and she goes, ‘You know, this would be a great place for an orgy.’”

Stunned, Evans asked, “Did you just say ‘orgy’?”

“Yup, that’s what I said.”

The home, though, isn’t just a suitable place for presidents, cooking parties

and sexual rendezvous. It’s a testament to what the Motor City can do with its underutilized resources.

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We can, though. Right in the living room.



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SPRING HOME GUIDE

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Guests from the Baby Boomers and

X-Generation will get to walk down memory lane with the many attractions including 1950's and 1960s concert posters, the original Lava Lamp, original Peter Max art works, furniture, fabulous jewelry, decorator items and vintage clothing from that era.

The weekend event starts with a Grand Opening Preview Party at 7 p.m. April 26 with live music, hors d'oeuvres and drinks at the Southfield Municipal Complex, 26000 Evergreen Road.

Tickets to the Opening Preview are \$65 and can be purchased by calling 248-582-3326. Admission to the expo April 27 and 28 is \$10 and tickets can be purchased online at www.MichiganModernism.com or at the door. Hours are Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday 12-5 p.m.

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'Mobile' Man

MOCAD Work Reflects Detroit Circa 1960s

BY JEROME STUART NICHOLS

SPRING HOME GUIDE

During his 35-year career, Michigan-born sculpture, installation and performance artist Mike Kelley went from humble beginnings to being labeled as "one of the most influential American artists of the past quarter-century" by the New York Times. His legacy of imaginative rebellion and thoughtful cultural critique remain a lasting testament to his impact on the art community and the world at large. With the posthumous completion and launch of "Mobile Homestead," his final work, the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit is making sure his legacy remains.

"Mobile Homestead," a permanent sculptural artwork and mobile public space, will open to the public beginning at 12 p.m. May 12. The homestead is located on MOCAD grounds, 4454 Woodward Ave., in Detroit.

The eight-year journey from conception

to finished product began in 2005 when Kelley met James Lingwood, co-director of London-based arts organization Artangel. From the beginning, Mike wanted to create something that would make a long-lasting impact on Detroit, a place he considered home. From there, they partnered with MOCAD and received funding from several different sources. The project started to become reality in 2010, but it almost didn't.

On Jan. 31, 2012, at the age of 57, Kelley was found dead of suicide in his South Pasadena, Calif. residence. With his death the project was almost derailed, but with the help of those closest to him, the project moved forward.

"Mike died in early 2012. In spring 2012, together with the Trustees of the Kelley Estate, we decided the project should not die with him," Lingwood said.

The "Mobile Homestead" project is a life-sized, near-replica sculpture based on Kelley's Westland childhood home. While

"(It's) really very unique in terms of Mike's output as an artist. It is an extremely challenging work on so many levels; it addresses the role of art, public art and the artist in these times and it looks at history, memory and narratives that we create as individuals and as communities."

— Mary-Clare Stevens

See 'Mobile' Man, page 24



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► 'Mobile' Man

Continued from p. 22

currently situated in a repurposed lot, Kelley initially hoped that it could be a part of the Henry Ford Village.

"Mike liked the idea of putting this kind of 1950s suburban ranch house, a replica of it, in that situation as short of homage to the middle class," said Marsha Miro, president of the board at MOCAD.

According to MOCAD, "Homestead" "enacts a reversal of the 'white flight' that took place in Detroit following the inner city uprisings of the 1960s."

"This is a living artwork, in a sense," said Mary-Clare Stevens, Kelley's long-time studio assistant and current executive director of The Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts. "(It's) really very unique in terms of Mike's output as an artist. It is an extremely challenging work on so many levels; it addresses the role of art, public art and the artist in these times and it looks at history, memory and narratives that we create as individuals and as communities."

"Mobile Homestead" is a two-part project that consists of a mobile home and a stationary living space for artists' work. The mobile portion functions as a moving piece of art and a practical place for people to congregate and collaborate.

The hope is that the people of Detroit who need a space will use it to create more art and positivity within the city.

"I hope that individuals and communities can utilize the work, the 'center,' as a place or platform of exchange with others in the community," Stevens said. "It is an experiment of sorts, I suppose. The work was conceived as utilitarian on some levels, though it isn't your regular meeting house."



LGBT groups will find that the space is all-inclusive. This gives the homestead the opportunity to become a hub for LGBT artists who can often have a more difficult time finding work spaces.

"I see it also as a free zone where ideas can be exchanged unencumbered and outside of the art world in some ways," Stevens said.

With all posthumous "completions" of artists' works, there's always the question of whether the original artist would grant approval.

"He would have been very curious about the way different groups started to use the place," Lingwood said. "He would have been conspiring to do his own underground projects too. That's the one thing we will really miss. He had plans for the basement."

"I wouldn't presume to guess what Mike's thoughts would be," Stevens said. "But in my opinion, I think he would be really pleased with it physically ... and perhaps surprised that it actually got done!"

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Antiques Offer Upscale Quality At Bargain Prices

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

HOME GUIDE

It's really exciting to see a piece of repurposed furniture transform into something new and beautiful.

Many homeowners are intimidated by the idea of restoring their old pieces to their former glory and they sell them or donate them. Some are unsure of where to look to buy those unique, vintage items that reflect their personal style and good taste.

But there are people who make it possible to preserve those pieces

and create high-end details on a budget. There are also places available to find furniture that has fallen on hard times for those that are looking to customize their own creations or have someone do it for them.

Whether it's a discount store, flea market or reuse center, interesting and historic pieces are waiting for some much-needed TLC.

Open since 2009, The Treasure Trove, an antique and consignment shop in downtown Grosse Pointe, deals in a wide range of ever-changing items. "We have anything from high-end furniture to art, crystal, fine jewelry and collectables," said Tae Cole, store manager. "We find and carry great high-end items for reasonable prices. We always have something for everyone."

The benefit of buying a vintage

piece, according to Cole, is that it will outlast anything new these days. "Having a vintage piece is very in right now. What's great about our store is that you never know what you'll find, so most of our customers will visit at least once a week just to see what is new."

For those looking to sell their vintage pieces, The Treasure Trove can also help with estate sales and services.

"You want to do it efficiently, effectively and with the highest return possible on your valuables," said Cole. "A garage sale won't get you a fair price. Internet listings are too time consuming and not always trustworthy."

If a professional refinishing job is sought after, Steve Szuba at Old World Refinishing, Ltd. in Farmington said he is happy to guide anyone who is interested in restoring an old piece.

"We do that with every project," he said. Szuba prides himself on being able to offer the finest in furniture refinishing and repair.



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See Antiques, page 28



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► Antiques

Continued from p. 26

of work sold at chain furniture stores. “There is very little wood used in the manufacturing of new furniture. Labor and wood is very expensive, so craftsmen who carefully milled and fitted wood furniture by hand have been replaced by overseas companies that build disposable furniture,” he said. “Grandma had her dining set all her life and the new furniture is disposable – that is designed to keep you buying new furniture every seven to 10 years, if it lasts that long. We take old furniture that was originally manufactured with care, quality and pride, and make it new again ... beautiful, old, vintage furniture to fill your home.”

Old World Refinishing, Ltd. does not use pre-mixed stains. According to their website, they custom mix and blend their own colors for each project. They offer upholstery services and will even re-veneer entire table tops.

When asked why he thinks this type of work is so attractive to people, Szuba said, “Craftsmanship, value, and keeping their homes beautiful with quality old real wood furniture. Furniture refinishing is generally a third of the cost of purchasing comparable new furniture, if you can even find it.”

So how does one work a vintage piece into their decor at home? “Some folks like to do theme rooms,” he said. “A neat retro art deco or Victorian bedroom, a magnificent Duncan Phyfe dining table surrounded by modern upholstered Parson chairs. Heck, antique end tables in a contemporary living room. This isn’t the 50s with dos and don’ts. Everything doesn’t have to match.

“Who made those rules? Shake off those old rules and come out and express yourself.”

INFO

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Photo: Bella Howard

British Crooner On U.S. Debut, Gay Rumors & Getting Naked

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Olly Murs isn't your average straight dude. The U.K. "X Factor" alum, who recently released his proper stateside debut "Right Place Right Time," has stripped down to a thong for an all-queer crowd, championed games of gay chicken and been on the receiving end of a man-spank.

We, uh, uncovered all the nitty-gritty in our recent chat with Murs, who also addressed the gay rumors, taking on America and the threesome he'd like to have with a Kate Beckinsale look-alike ... and yours truly?

Some straight guys might have a problem being as chummy as you are with the gays, but not you. Why's that?

Personally, it's because I'm so comfortable with my sexuality. I know I like women and it's simply that. I've had gay friends and it's never been a problem. Sure, there's obviously boundaries you can't cross, but nine times out of 10, it doesn't bother me. I find that gay guys are really funny and quite bitchy – but in a good way. It's always very funny and it never bothers me if, like, they slap my bum. It's not like I'm freaked out by it. I don't care. That's why I'm so chill with it.

Using the Kinsey Scale, where 0 is exclusively hetero and 6 is exclusively homo, how gay is your fan base?

Well, it's funny, because I've done a couple of big events in the U.K. I performed at G-A-Y a few times, and every time I perform I have a really great response from the gay fans. I'm really comfortable with my sexuality, and to be around gay guys is fine. I enjoy their company and they enjoy the music as well, which is good.

So we're saying maybe a 3 on the scale?

It's about 3 to 6. I reckon quite a lot of guys like me.

Some interviews you've done address how *not* gay you are. Is that something that comes up a lot?

Yeah, like I said, I'm really comfortable with my sexuality and I'm really extroverted and I like having a good time. Some people have even said, "He's obviously gay," because I like to have a good time and I don't really care. Some people struggle with that.

What do you make of the gay rumors?

I'm straight and I love girls, but I've always been able to hang around with gay guys and have a laugh. I think sometimes that offends straight guys for some reason. I don't know

See Olly Murs, page 32



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► Olly Murs

Continued from p. 30

why they decide to write stupid rumors on Twitter and in different magazines saying that I'm gay. I just think that's ridiculous. The fact is, they're probably more worried about their own sexuality than I am.

There are so many people in this industry that I'm friends with who are gay, and if I was so dead against talking to gay people, what kind of person am I? I think that's just ridiculous. We're all human beings. We're all the same. Whether you're gay, straight, bisexual – it doesn't matter. But for me, I think it's quite clear that I'm straight and that I like women. So I don't know. It's unfortunate. But hey, who cares.

I hear you're a pro at gay chicken.

(Laughs) You know, I've played it twice now. Obviously the game is a straight guy vs. a gay guy, and normally you'd think that a gay guy would last longer. Well, I've done it twice now and both gay guys have turned away, which is funny.

So you win?

I won both times!

If you could pick any dude celebrity and play gay chicken with him, who would you pick?

Good question. Who do you think I could play with in America?

Anderson Cooper? Neil Patrick Harris?

Could I do it with Mila Kunis? (Laughs) I'd like to see if Will Ferrell would do it. I'd like to see if he'd actually go for it. I think he would.

Who are two gay artists who've influenced you musically?

Definitely Elton John. He's incredible. I'd probably say George Michael, as well. Regardless of his personal life and the problems he's been through, his music and his ability to sing and his performances – he's an amazing artist. Elton John and George Michael are the two who've really inspired me in some way, shape or form musically.

Your first album, "In Case You Didn't Know," never had a proper release in the U.S., and then the label scrapped that for "Right Place Right Time." What happened there?

To be honest, I always felt it was a bit weird. I was always unsure about releasing that album over here. I wanted a really good album, but it didn't feel like it was the right album to release here at

the moment. I was writing at the time, so I said to the label, "Look, hold off for a minute; let me just finish this album." I told the U.S. label, "I have this really good album coming out. I'm really pleased with it. It's got 'Troublemaker,' which I think will be a big song in the U.K. and hopefully in America."

How is this album different than "In Case You Didn't Know"?

This album has much more depth to it. It's much more mature. It's cooler. I think the American audience is gonna love it a lot more. The title, for me, says it all: "Right Place Right Time." It feels like the right place and the right time for me.

What's been the biggest challenge of cracking America?

It's a massive market. I've never had my expectations high in America; I've always kept them low, and I always knew it was gonna be a tough challenge. I've

“They wanted me to dress up as a drag queen and sing one of my songs at a proper evening night at a gentleman's club or something. I was like, 'No way am I doing that! I don't think I can do it. I'm not that good at it.'”

noticed a massive change in the last year. I came from a TV show here in the U.K. – obviously, "X Factor" – so I came off that show with a huge fan base who knew who I was without any music coming out, but in the states, people don't really know me, so people haven't got to know me as a person; they're just listening to my music. I haven't really been over there that much to do lots of TV shows or big performances. To be at the point where we are now, with how well the singles have done, and to see that success and to see how much we've sold over there, it's brilliant.

What kind of exposure did "The X Factor" give you?

It gave me an amazing opportunity. Reality TV shows seem to put a negative spin sometimes on artists, and people don't seem to like that I came from "The X Factor." For me, it gave me an opportunity to showcase my personality as well as my voice and my performing, and obviously I was able to showcase that to lot of girls and female fans – and, of course, the male fans. People liked it and I enjoyed what I did. It was great for me, and it's given me the most amazing job and I love it very, very much. I hope I get to do it for many years to come.

INFO

Olly Murs

6:30 p.m. (doors) April 30
St. Andrew's Hall
431 E. Congress St., Detroit
saintandrewsdetroit.com

You've toured with One Direction. Were you a fan of boy bands growing up?

Yeah, massive! I was NSYNC all the way, as well as Backstreet Boys. I was also a massive Spice Girls fan back in the day. I mean, come on, every guy hates to admit it, but we all bought or danced to their songs in a club at some point.

What's your go-to Spice Girls song?

For me, it's, (singing) "Stop right now, thank you very much; I need somebody with a human touch."

Let's talk about this naked infatuation you have. Pics I've seen on the web show you either with your shirt off, pants off, something off. And you stripped at G-A-Y. Are you an exhibitionist?

No, I don't know why. I just, for some reason, have taken a lot of clothes off in the last three years. And people have taken pictures and caught me with my clothes off. But maybe I

am an exhibitionist. I'm not afraid to take my clothes off; that's basically it. It just happens. If someone dares me to do something, I always do it.

What's the most ridiculous dare you've been asked to do?

Oh god, I was asked to dress up in drag for my documentary ("Olly: Life on Murs"). It just got weird. They wanted me to dress up as a drag queen and sing one of my songs at a proper evening night at a gentleman's club or something. I was like, "No way am I doing that! I don't think I can do it. I'm not that good at it."

What don't we know about you?

I can't stand raw tomatoes. I hate olives. I'm a 32 waist. I am conscious of my belly and I wish I could have a six-pack. And I love Kate Beckinsale. She's my ideal woman.

So maybe a game of chicken with her, too?

If you could arrange it. We'll do a threesome. We'll have a gay guy, a really hot Kate Beckinsale look-alike and me.

I'm in.

Let's do it.



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Hear Me Out BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Gin Wigmore



Yeah Yeah Yeahs, 'Mosquito'

Karen O and Co., the New York alt-rock trio widely known as the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, went neon for "It's Blitz!," a staggering best-of-2009 creation that pulsed with dance-floor fever and, as promised, got heads rolling. Four years later and they're back with a different animal ... er, insect. "Mosquito," the band's fourth outing, is a sloppy mess of awesomeness that starts where they left off, as "Sacrilege" bursts at the seams with a thundering melody that avalanches into a gospel choir send-off. And then things get weird. "Area 52" might be code for some strange cult initiation, or it might just be a grungy song about an alien abduction. The title track could be about those pesky bloodsuckers, or another nuisance: men. And then, of course, you have rapper Keith Matthew Thornton's alter ego, Dr. Octagon, on "Buried Alive," the kind of tune you imagine running over the closing credits of "The Human Centipede." Whatever the intent of the mesmeric "Mosquito," it accomplishes something, somehow, in its own big, bad and bold way. It's an itch you won't mind. *Grade: B+*

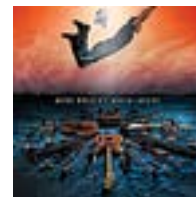


Gin Wigmore, 'Gravel & Wine'

"I'm gonna getcha," New Zealand songstress Gin Wigmore vamps like a monster lurking in the shadows on "Kill of the Night." And you believe her. How could you not? The first four songs on her sophomore album have more bite than anything on "True Blood." There's a dangerous edge to Wigmore, if not for her infatuation with hell, poison and the devil (all are referenced in the titles alone), then that salty voice, which sounds like a savage beast unearthed from the seventh circle. It's big and menacing during the disc's front half, and doused in more whiskey than Amy Winehouse – whom she resembles vocally – ever drank. "Black Sheep" has the hook of a girl-group anthem and the fury of "Bonnie and Clyde," and during it, Wigmore emerges with zing and sting. On "Devil in Me," you can just see the snake slithering its way through the desert. Eventually, the spunk subsides for "If Only," but darkness looms in the self-consciousness of the heavy-hearted track, with references to blood and "the ghosts in my head." In the same way, Gin Wigmore,

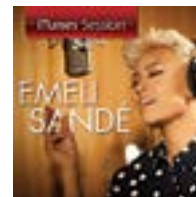
even with her liquor-soaked voice, will live in yours. *Grade: B+*

Also Out



Brad Paisley, 'Wheelhouse'

Let's all pretend that "Accidental Racist" was truly an accident. The song buzzing most on Brad Paisley's ninth album is, no doubt, a good-intentioned misfire. Lose LL Cool J, and sour lines like "If you don't judge my gold chains/I'll forget the iron chains," and it's not half bad. Paisley's audacity pays off elsewhere: girl-power anthem "Karate" turns the tables on domestic abuse, and "Those Crazy Christians" challenges Bible-thumpers with political incorrectness. Not Brad's best work, but definitely his boldest.



Emeli Sandé, 'Our Version of Events'

Some of the best bits off Emeli Sandé's "Our Version of Events" were the ones stripped of nearly everything but her voice. The British belter needs no flashy backup. She's a bona fide singer. And every bit of that soulful boom is revealed during this eight-song set; both "Next to Me" and "Heaven" scale back the pop punch but remain just as powerful. New cover "I Wish I Knew (How It Would Feel to be Free)" epitomizes greatness. What a showcase.



Paramore, 'Paramore'

If Paramore circa mid-'00s made you feel like an angry 12-year-old girl, the trio's mature fourth LP will put you past puberty. "Some of us have to grow up sometimes," sings Hayley Williams. "So, if I have to, I'm gonna leave you behind." Subtle nod to ex-bandmates? Probably. Completely intoxicating ear candy? Absolutely. The new Paramore takes emo on a 17-song odyssey with the restless rocker "Fast in my Car" and funky '80s whomp "Ain't It Fun." Turns out, it is.

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Happenings

OUTINGS

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

Lavender Graduation 6 p.m. Students are recognized for their leadership, success, and achievement. This is also an opportunity to recognize faculty, staff, and/or WMU groups who have made a significant contribution to the LBGTA community at WMU. Graduating students will need to register to participate. They will receive a certificate at the ceremony. Western Michigan University, **Kalamazoo**. 269-387-3232.

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

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. Crystal@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

LGBT AA Meeting 6:30 p.m. Lansing Association for Human Rights, 1120 S. Harrison Road, **East Lansing**. Lahronline.org

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

Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: Making Maya. The game of life proves to be the most complicated game of all for small-town high school basketball player Maya, a girl caught between her feelings for her best friend, Mars, and Sam, an alluring new addition to the basketball team. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org/

Saturday, April 27

LAHR Breakfast Club 10 a.m. Meet at Flap Jack near Frandor. Lansing Association for Human Rights, **Lansing**. Beachlerb@sbcglobal.net lahronline.org

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. Miroundtable.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 Arbor 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

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 28

Red Cedar Friends Quaker Meeting Red Cedar Friends Quaker Meeting, **Lansing**. 517-371-1047. Redcedarfriends.org



all of Michigan. This year, Zingerman's Roadhouse serves as a major sponsor of the annual dinner, with restaurant founder and managing partner Chef Alex Young preparing the evening's meals.

The event for the non-profit will take place on Wednesday, May 8 at Zingerman's Roadhouse, 2501 Jackson Ave., in Ann Arbor. Appetizers, cocktails, silent auction, and strolling raffle will begin at 6 p.m., with dinner and a homemade ice cream sundae bar to follow at 7 p.m. Tickets range from \$100-\$375. For more information, visit www.hivaidresource.org/dining-for-dollars.

Dawn Farm's Fourth Annual Ride for Recovery 8 a.m. Family-fun fitness event and a fundraiser. Opportunities to participate at any fitness level, including bike rides from 10K to 100K and 5k and 10K walks and runs. Registration: \$35. Dawn Farm, 6633 Stony Creek Road, **Ypsilanti**. 734-485-8725. Dawnfarm.org

Volleyball 1 p.m. With warm weather. Located north of the Lansing Mall. Lansing Association for Human Rights, **Lansing**. beachlerb@sbcglobal.net

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: Is public humiliation a deterrent to future crime? Get Out And Live!, 714 S. Washington St., **Royal Oak**. 248-981-4227. MarciLWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

Monday, April 29

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

Sistrum, Lansing Women's Chorus 7 p.m. Lansing Association for Human Rights, 1020 S. Harrison Road, **Lansing**. Haston@lcc.edu lahronline.org

Bowling Night 8 p.m. Post-bowling cocktails at Woody's Oasis, East Lansing, for "Gay Night." Michigan Pride, 3103 East Grand River Ave., **Lansing**. Michiganpride.org

Tuesday, April 30

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. Grlgbt.org/

Dykes on Bikes - Monthly Planning Meeting 6:30 p.m. Monthly meeting to plan rides and socialize. A great group of women who welcome new members with all levels of experience. Get Out And Live!, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

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

Karaoke Night 9 p.m. Lansing Association for Human Rights, 1250 Turner St., **Lansing**. 517-487-5338. Lahronline.org

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

Thursday, May 2

Lavender Graduation 4:30 p.m. Spectrum Center, 530 S. State St., **Ann Arbor**. 734-764-0087. Spectrumcenter.umich.edu

Editor's Pick

The HIV/AIDS Resource Center (HARC) will be celebrating their 18th Annual Dining for Dollars event at Zingerman's Roadhouse. Contributions from the dinner will help support HARC's mission of providing direct care, prevention and outreach to those affected by HIV/AIDS in Washtenaw, Jackson, Livingston and Lenawee counties.

HARC began in 1986 by a group of volunteers who wished to provide both compassionate and innovative service to locals suffering from HIV. Since then, the organization has grown to service

Talk Tuesdays 6 p.m. Free. KICK, 41 Burroughs St. 109, **Detroit**. 313-285-9733. E-kick.org

Because We Are Worth It (Sex Addicts Anonymous LGBTQ Meeting) 6:30 p.m. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. Jimtoycenter.org

Euchre at Esquire Club 6:30 p.m. Lansing Association for Human Rights, 1250 Turner St., **Lansing**. 517-487-5338. Lahronline.org

Greater Lansing Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal 6:45 p.m. Lansing Association for Human Rights, 510 W. Ottawa St., **Lansing**. info@glgmc.org

Wednesday, May 1

Suits and the City 5:30 p.m. Location changes each month. Lansing Association for Human Rights, **Lansing**. Suitsandthecity.org

Beloved Hearts 6:30 p.m. Grief Support Group for those who are grieving the death of a loved one. Get Out And Live!, **Royal Oak**. 248-981-4227. MarciLWilliams@yahoo.comorbillyray92@comcast.net GetOutAndLive.me

Lansing Community College Gay Straight Alliance 5:30 p.m. Bingo after at Esquire. Lansing Association for Human Rights, **Lansing**. Spennyj@lcc.edu lahronline.org

Kalamazoo LGBT Professionals Network 6 p.m. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 3307 Stadium Drive, **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. Kalamazoolgbtnetwork.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

MUSIC & MORE

CLASSICAL

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

See Happenings, page 39

The Hilberry Doing What It Does Best – Educate

BY JOHN QUINN

The Hilberry Theatre closes its 50th season with an extraordinary challenge. “The Persecution and Assassination of Jean-Paul Marat as Performed by the Inmates of the Asylum of Charenton under the Direction of the Marquis de Sade,” better known, I am grateful, simply as “Marat/Sade,” is still *avante garde* even at age 50. It’s more pageant than play: cruel, unrelenting and hard to like. It is also, thanks to its director, guest-artist Matthew Earnest, a compelling, visceral work, satisfying for its sheer theatricality. Earnest has gotten everything right by simply honoring the playwright’s intent.

That playwright was Peter Weiss, born a Czech but a naturalized Swede. His work was heavily influenced by German playwright and director Bertolt Brecht and Antonin Artaud, the French director who espoused the Theatre of Cruelty – as explored in “Marat/Sade,” meaning a violent determination to shatter false reality. Weiss has created a timeless work; he crafts a framework of societal dysfunction during the Napoleonic Empire, using techniques developed amidst the dysfunction of the Weimar Republic. His purpose was to explore the dysfunction of the Cold War, but his theme was eerily echoed this week in the streets of Boston. In a nut shell, “Marat/Sade” asks, “What needs to be altered in order to promote change? Is it society, or is it the individual?”

Weiss delved into history and chose as his debaters Jean-Paul Marat, firebrand journalist of the French Revolution, and the Marquis de Sade, whose sexual predilections gave us the term, “sadism.” While the characters were contemporaries, they had no historical conversation. “Marat/Sade” by intention is an unsettling work, and it all begins with the structure. The setting is Charenton Asylum; the date is July 13, 1808. Dr Coulmier (Joshua Blake Rippey), the “progressive” head of the institution, uses theater as therapy for his patients. He has encouraged his most notorious charge, the Marquis de Sade, to write and direct an account of the assassination of Jean-Paul Marat on the 15th anniversary of the event. He’s looking for a celebration of how successful the new regime is compared to the old. For his patients, and especially Sade, the difference is summed, “Meet the new boss/Same as the old boss.” Even the word “freedom”



“Marat/Sade” closes the Hilberry Theatre’s 50th season. Photo: Hilberry Theatre

PREVIEW

Marat/Sade

Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit.
Thursday-Sunday through May 11. 2 hours,
25 minutes. \$12-30. 313-577-2972.

www.Hilberry.com

sets off the insane. Weiss has already set us up for layers of unreality. “Marat/Sade” is a play within a play in which the interior playwright may interact with his creations.

Historically, Marat was pushing for further bloodshed as the Revolution devolved to murderous infighting among factions. Charlotte Corday, representing a less violent faction, stabbed him to death in his bath in an effort to head off a civil war. The effort was in vain, and the Reign of Terror commenced.

We can dispense with the historical narrative, though; it’s not terribly relevant. Weiss put it, “Our play’s chief aim has been to take to bits great propositions and their opposites, see how they work, and let them fight it out.” The antagonists are Marat (Edmund Alyn Jones) and Sade (Joe Plambeck), polar opposites, representing anarchy and authoritarianism. Is there a winner? This is Brechtian theater; the resolution is left to each audience member.

This is edgy stuff. Earnest has toned down the violence and sex, but “Marat/Sade” still resonates on a primitive level. But as an educational experience for both artists and audience, it is unparalleled.

The asylum residents are in mime

makeup. Our narrator, “The Herald,” is the formidable Topher Payne, cross dressing in heels, a white slip, and red opera gloves. Overall, his remarkable performance is reminiscent of the Master of Ceremonies in “Cabaret.” Evoking that account of the failing Weimar Republic would warm the cockles of Becht’s Marxist heart.

Two especially satisfying performances stand out; Vanessa Sawson as a narcoleptic playing Charlotte Corday, paired with Brandon Grantz as a grabby satyromaniac playing Duperret, one of her compatriots. Their downstage-center dialogues practically define alienation as the artists portray multiple layers of fantasy, destroying them as they go.

Ultimately, though, Edmund Alyn Jones and Joe Plambeck own this show. Jones is able to limn both Marat and the paranoid patient that plays him without leaving a bathtub – a tub on wheels, no less. He holds his own against Plambeck’s imposing stage presence and the Marquis’s more appealing philosophy, a sort of libertine libertarianism. Plambeck plays one of the most memorable scenes; Sade dispenses political musings while being lashed (in mime, faint of hearts) at his own request.

“Marat/Sade” is not a production for the easily offended. Nor is it likely to entertain patrons with rigid prejudices. It instead demands an intellectual, internal discussion in each member of a discerning audience. Once again our society is caught in a riptide of clashing forces: It’s the wise citizen who will be ready.

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Editor's Pick

Patty Larkin will bring her famously inventive folk music to The Ark on April 25. Known for blending the influences of Beck, Bob Dylan, Richard Thompson, Guy Clark and Beth Orton, Larkin breaks all boundaries. Dubbed as a guitar "wizard" or "sorceress," her innovative music and instrumental prowess magically mixes rock, folk, blues, Celtic and funk.

Boston-based Larkin has been in the music industry for over 25 years, with an honorary doctorate of music from Berklee College of Music and a "Patty Larkin Appreciation Day"

in Massachusetts, where she currently lives with her partner and two children.

Concert will be at The Ark in Ann Arbor, at 316 S. Main, on Thursday, April 25. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., with the show slated to start at 8. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased online at www.theark.org or by calling 734-761-1451.

▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 36

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Lynn Harrell plays Dvorak" Program: RAVEL La Valse. DVORAK Concerto for Cello and Orchestra. IVES Symphony No. 2 (Friday). IVES Symphony No. 4 (Sunday). Tickets: \$15+. Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. April 26 - April 28. 313-576-5111. Dso.org

Kerrytown Concert House "Music of

Charles Ives" Members of the Detroit Symphony will perform works for violin, voice and piano composed by the 20th century composer, Charles Ives. This concert precedes a duplicate presentation of the same program at Carnegie Hall in New York. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. May 1. 734-763-4186. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

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

CONCERTS

Blind Pig Chrome Sparks; Tickets: \$8+. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 9 p.m. April 28. 734-996-8555. Blindpig.com

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

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

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

The Ark Billy Bragg and Kim Churchill; Tickets: \$40. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. May 1. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "Patty Larkin" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. April 25. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Magic Stick "High Higs" All ages. Tickets: \$10-12. The Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. May 1. 313-833-9700. Majesticdetroit.com

FESTIVALS

Detroit Restaurants "Detroit Restaurant Week" Premier three-course meals for just \$30 a person (excludes beverages, tax and gratuity). Various Venues - see website for detail, Detroit. April 19 - April 28. Detroitrestaurantweek.com

Live Green Fair "Earth Day Festival". Downtown Rochester, Rochester. April 26 - April 28. Livegreenfair.com/

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

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

A Little Night Music \$18. The Players Guild of Dearborn, 21730 Madison, Dearborn. April 26 - May 19. 313-561-8587. Playersguildofdearborn.org

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

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

553-2955. farmingtonplayers.org

The Beatles Slept Here \$5-7. All-of-us Express Children's Theatre at Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. Through April 28. 517-482-5700. RiverwalkTheatre.com

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, Parish Theatre, 426 S. Park Street, Kalamazoo. Through May 4. 269-343-1313. KazooCivic.com

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

Funny Girl \$15-20. Michigan State

See Happenings, page 41

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Editor's Pick

"Who doesn't enjoy silly?" says "Arsenic and Old Lace" director Jody Florkowski. Mix absurd comedy with a bit of slapstick, and you get silly – which is just what Florkowski and his cast of characters offer in this production, closing April 28 at the Baldwin Theatre.

Set in Brooklyn in 1941, charmingly sinister Brewster sisters Abby and Martha find it morally acceptable to murder old men with arsenic-laced elderberry wine as an act of "charity." They discreetly dispose of the bodies with the help of their delusional nephew, Teddy, who believes he's Teddy Roosevelt and is building the Panama Canal. He thinks the bodies are really yellow fever casualties, so he buries them in the "canals" in the cellar!

Advance tickets for performances are \$16 on Thursdays, and \$18 on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. For more information, call Stagecrafters at 248-541-6430.

▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 39

University Department of Theatre at Wharton Center's Pasant Theatre, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. Through April 28. 800-WHARTON. Theatre.msu.edu

PROFESSIONAL

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

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

Captain Buffalo \$12-18. Detroit Ensemble Theatre at Michigan Actors Studio, 648 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. May 3 - 19. 877-636-3320. Detroitensembletheatre.org

Charlotte's Web \$10-\$15. Wild Swan Theater at Towsley Auditorium at Morris Lawrence Building, 4800 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor. April 24 - 28. 734-995-0530. wildswantheater.org

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

Evita in Concert \$50 benefit performance; \$25 all others. The Encore Musical Theatre Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. May 2 - 4. 734-268-6200. theencoretheatre.org

Four Wounded Women \$8-12. The Stark Turn Players at Dog Story Theater, 7 Jefferson Ave. SE, Grand Rapids. May 2 - 5. dogstorytheater.com

Macbeth \$7-14. Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company at Dog Story Theatre, 7 Jefferson Ave. SE, Grand Rapids. Through April 28. DogStoryTheater.com

Making Porn \$10-\$20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through April 29. 248-545-5545. theeringwald.com

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

Measure for Measure \$20, or pay-what-you-can. The Elizabeth Theater, 2040 Park Ave., Detroit. Through April 27. 313-454-1286. elizabeththeater.com

Mrs. Mannerly \$27-32. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 Cady St., Northville. Through May 5. 248-347-0003. Tippingpointtheatre.com

On Golden Pond \$16-\$18. What's That Smell Productions at The Box Theater, 90 Macomb Place, Mount Clemens. Through April 27. 586-954-2677. theboxtheater.com

Spank! The Fifty Shades Parody \$45.50. City Theatre at Hockeytown Cafe, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. May 1 - 5. 800-745-3000. olympiaentertainment.com

Steel Magnolias \$15-18 in advance; \$2 more at the door. Two Muses Theatre at Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. 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 - 27. 810-237-7333. thewhiting.com

The Fisherman and His Wife \$10 adult, \$7 child. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron, Ann Arbor. 1 p.m. April 27. 734-663-0681. performancenetwork.org

The Happy Prince \$30 adult, \$15 child. Michigan Opera Theatre Children's Chorus at Detroit Opera House, 1401 Broadway St., Detroit. 2:30 p.m. April 28. 313-237-SING. motopera.org

The Maids \$15-18. Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company at The Abreact Performance Space, 1301 W. Lafayette #113, Detroit. April 26 - May 18. 313-408-7269. magentagiraffe.org/

Trojan Women (After Euripides) Performed by the SITI Company. \$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" Ann Arbor Art Center, 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. Thewright.org

Cranbrook Academy of Art and Art Museum "Anders Ruhwald at Saarinen House: The Anatomy of a Home" 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. April 28 - Sep. 30. 877-462-7262. cranbrookart.edu

Cranbrook Academy of Art and Art Museum "2013 Graduate Degree Exhibition" Bloomfield Hills. April 21 - May 12. 877-462-7262. Cranbrookartmuseum.org

Detroit Artists Market "Line by Line: Drawing Explored". 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

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

Fourteen East "Abstract Art by Jan Brown" 15 E. Kirby, Detroit. April 30 - May 30.

Grand Rapids Art Museum "Saturday All Day with The Arts" Grand Rapids. April 6 - June 29. 616-831-1000. Artmuseumgr.org

Grand Rapids Art Museum "Friday Nights at GRAM" 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. April 5 - Sep. 27. 616-831-1000. Artmuseumgr.org

Kerrytown Concert House "May Gallery Exhibit" Rita Malone - Painter. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. April 30 - May 28. 734-763-4186. kerrytown.com

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

Michigan State University Museum "Sun-Up to Sundown" 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. April 23 - June 16. museum.msu.edu

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

The Gallery Project "Circus" 215 S. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. April 4 - May 5. 734-997-7012. thegalleryproject.com

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

University Of Michigan Museum Of Art "Laurie Anderson: From the Air" 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. April 6 - Aug. 11. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

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St. Closed/Discussion.

Detroit-Tuesday / Friday

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

Farmington Hills- Monday

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

Ferndale-Monday / Wednesday / Friday

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

Ferndale-Wednesday

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

Ferndale-Saturday

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

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

Livonia-Friday

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

Warren-Monday

7:30 p.m., Eastside Serenity Gay
AA, Odd Fellow's Hall, 830 S
Monroe St Closed/Discussion.

112 ANNOUNCEMENTS - VOLUNTEERING

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.

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Solution to puzzle from page 44

T	O	M	S		C	E	R	T		S	A	S	S							
E	U	R	O		A	G	E	E		A	L	E	E							
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S	I	N	E			E	R	R	S		C	R	E	D						
T	A	S			A	S	E	A			H	Y	D	E						

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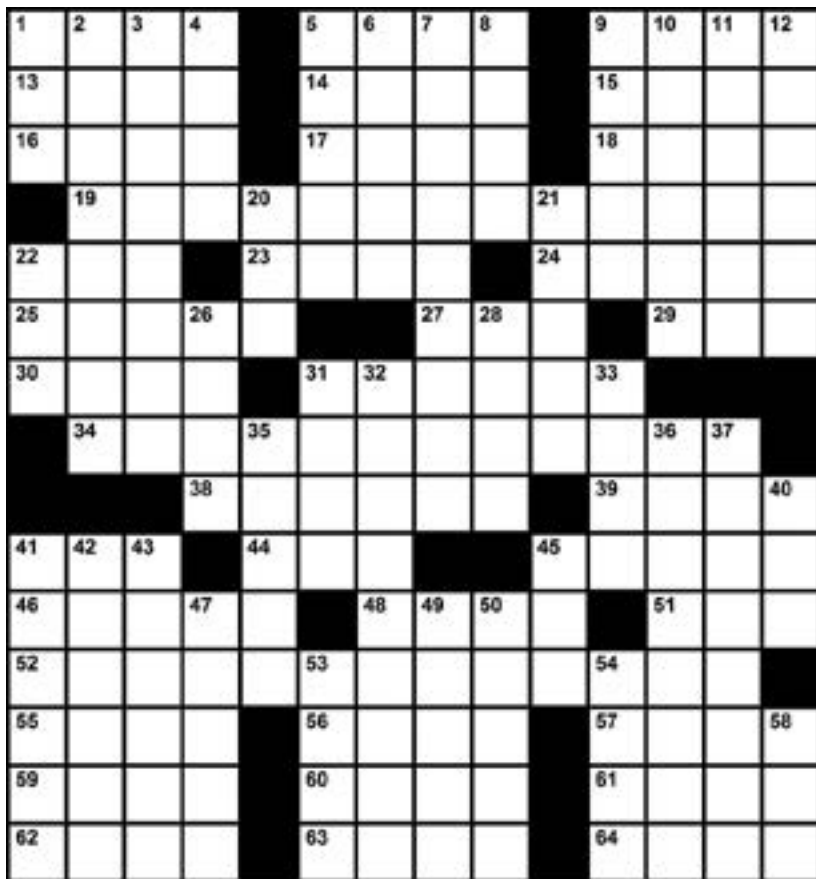


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The Big C, As In ...



Across

- 1 Bianchi and Hulce
- 5 Part of a breath mint pack
- 9 Give some lip to
- 13 Continental coin
- 14 "The African Queen" author
- 15 Protected from the wind
- 16 Pink Triangle Press publication
- 17 Light licks
- 18 Marsh, marsh, marsh
- 19 Role of 34-Across
- 22 Chow down
- 23 Lucie's pop
- 24 Perineum, in slang
- 25 Muslim faith
- 27 No. 6 to P-town
- 29 Saint, in Rio
- 30 Deity to Debussy
- 31 Have a thing for
- 34 "The Big C" actress with C as an initial
- 38 Prickly
- 39 Lesbian character in "No Exit"
- 41 Some sex-toy batteries
- 44 Cyclops's singleton
- 45 Places for commercial intercourse
- 46 Military muff
- 48 Where pirates moor
- 51 '70s abductors

- 52 TV series with 34-Across
- 55 Welcome response after a tumble
- 56 Serengeti sound
- 57 "___ lay me ..."
- 59 Trig function
- 60 Blows it
- 61 Rep in the 'hood
- 62 Pravda provider
- 63 Sailing the Pacific
- 64 David ___ Pierce

Down

- 1 Cowboy moniker
- 2 Network for gay songwriters
- 3 Highsmith character played by Damon
- 4 Head for the heavens
- 5 "Flesh" in an Almodovar title
- 6 "Holy crow!"
- 7 He whips out his tool on the job
- 8 New Age musician John
- 9 Brazilian dance
- 10 "I was at my mother's," and others
- 11 Samantha's witchy cousin
- 12 Looks after
- 20 Abbr. after "rear," in the navy
- 21 Funny Cheri
- 22 Caesar, for one
- 26 Em, e.g.

- 28 Elton John's "___ Dancer"
- 31 "Hi, sailor!"
- 32 Adam Shankman and Gus Van Sant
- 33 Come out
- 35 Country club?
- 36 Like the shortest buildings
- 37 One bride or the other
- 40 Half of a Hollywood name
- 41 Lend a hand
- 42 No zip
- 43 Early invaders of England
- 45 Agcy. that sued Martha Stewart
- 47 Pretends to have an orgasm
- 49 Terminal in Chicago
- 50 The end of vice?
- 53 De Matteo of "Desperate Housewives"
- 54 Move a little at a time
- 58 Chemical ending

Solution p. 42

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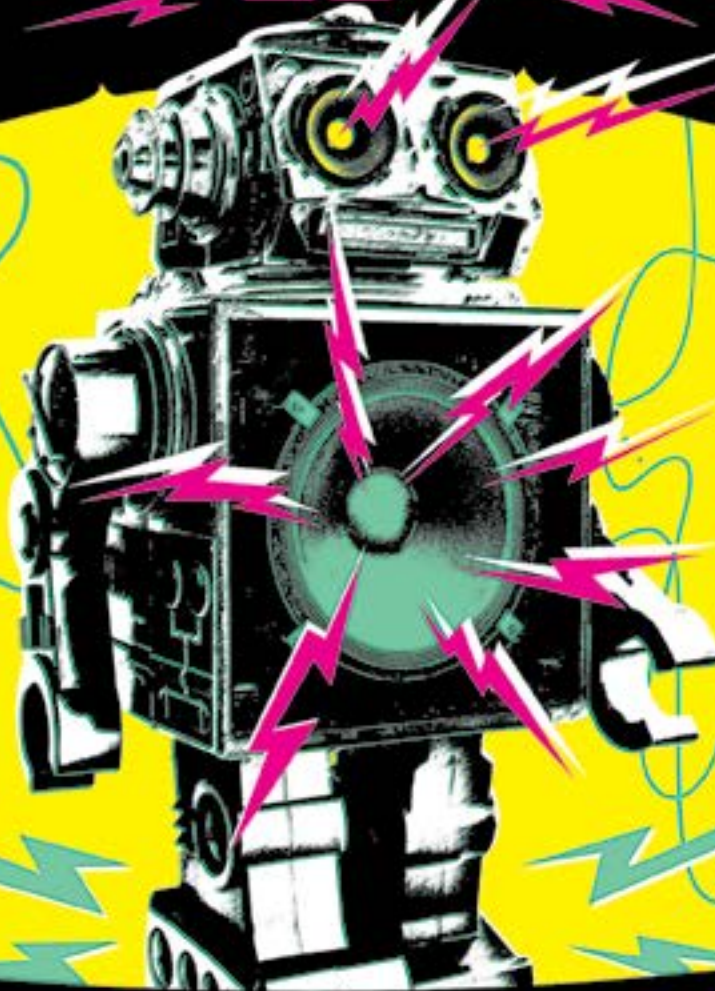
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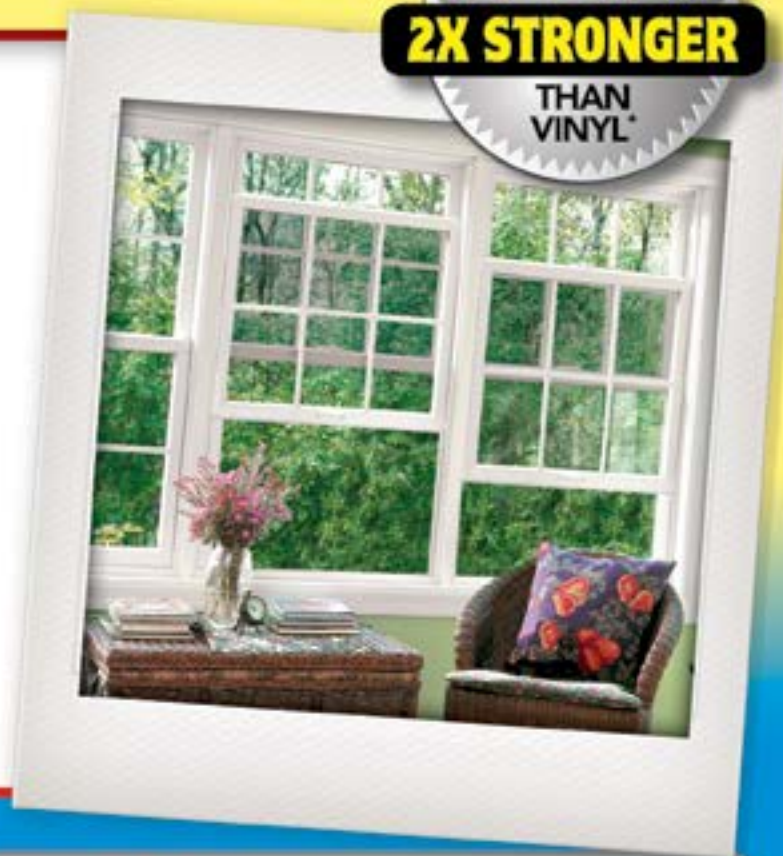
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