

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

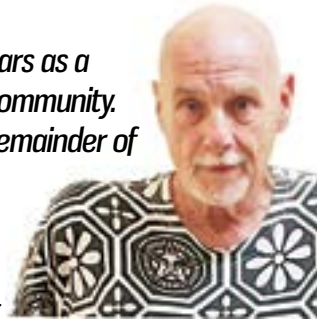


Mich. Supreme Court Upholds Partner Benefits

'Captain Buffalo' Tackles Homophobia On The Force

“ I have lived 59 of my years as a member of Detroit's rainbow community. I suspect I shall do so for the remainder of life, so please mark your desk calendars accordingly. ”

- Charles Alexander



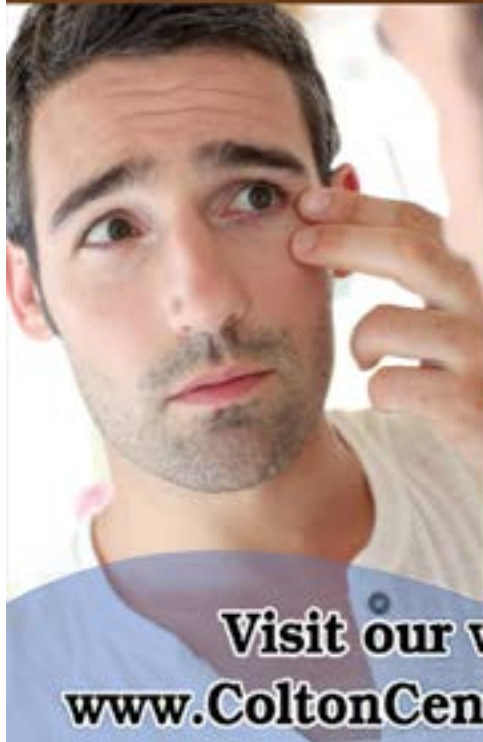
Michigan Mommy Issues

Families Find Legal Hurdles A Challenge



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COVER STORY

4 Michigan mommy issues
Cover photo: Julia Music and her son, Quinn.



This vote shows that marriage doesn't belong to a particular party or ideology, and increasingly, the public and politicians alike realize that only marriage provides loving couples and families with the protection they need and deserve.

— Chad Griffin, HRC, pg. 12

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HELP WANTED

Unity Michigan Coalition Pride Season Volunteers

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

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



COOL CITIES

This Week's Cool Cities: Lansing And Royal Oak

Stop by the Lansing and Royal Oak Cool Cities pages at Pridesource.com for information about local LGBT-friendly businesses, upcoming concerts, other events and more.



PRIDE SEASON

Pride Across The State

June Pride season is just around the corner! Which festivals and events are you counting down the hours until? See the print calendar on page 10 or head over to Pridesource.com/calendar.html and make your plans today!

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Dignity Event Draws Protests From American Family Association

DETROIT (AP) - Gay Catholics celebrated Mass at Marygrove College in the face of appeals from a conservative Christian group that the Archdiocese of Detroit block the plans.

Dignity Detroit held Mass on Sunday at the Roman Catholic-sponsored school.

Members of Dignity Detroit were met by roughly 30 protesters. A smaller group held signs in support of Dignity Detroit members.

American Family Association Michigan President Gary Glenn said May 2 that he had asked Archbishop Allen Vigneron to enforce Vatican policies on homosexuality and intervene.

The 1.3 million-member archdiocese has said church institutions are subject to Catholic beliefs.

Dignity Detroit, which regularly meets at Marygrove College, celebrated its 39th anniversary on Sunday. It has held previous Masses in the school chapel.

One of the keynotes for this year's gathering was retired auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton. The event was well attended, with the chapel filled to near capacity.

Obama Dares Graduates To Reject Cynical Voices

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) - President Barack Obama is telling college graduates that only their generation can break the cycle of a political system consumed by "small things" that work for the benefit of a few.

Obama gave his first commencement address of the year at Ohio State University on Sunday.

The president told students that if they engage in democracy, they can make sure they inherit a country that has lived up to its potential.

Obama mentioned that young people in earlier generations helped secure equal rights for women, workers and gays.

He asked them to reject cynics who say government is the root of all problems.

Obama is to give two other commencement speeches later this month - at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, and Morehouse College in Atlanta.

Michigan Mommy Issues Families Find Legal Hurdles A Challenge

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

In a state like Michigan, which fails to treat families fairly, Mothers' Day can be a hard reminder that some mothers are considered legal strangers to the children they love and are raising. The push to legalize second-parent adoption continues in Michigan, with a pending court case recently taking center stage nationally.

Hazel Park couple Jayne Rowse and April DeBoer have sued Oakland County and the State of Michigan to allow them to adopt each other's children. On March 7, U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman put his decision on hold until after the U.S. Supreme Court rules on two same-sex marriage cases that are before it. Those decisions are expected to happen at the end of June and then Friedman is expected to issue his ruling. Friedman succeeded in having the couple expand their original adoption-centric lawsuit to include a challenge to the anti-gay marriage amendment currently in the state constitution, after Proposal 2 passed in 2004.

"Children in same-sex households are harmed because they don't have the protections afforded other families," said the Hazel Park family's lawyer Carole Stanyar to Judge Friedman. "A mother is a legal stranger to her children."

Currently in same-gender couples, only one parent may adopt, leaving the other



Shawanda and Janet Nichols were legally married in California five years ago. They moved from Arizona to Michigan four years ago to live in Saline, and they now have two children; four year old Jack and nine month old Finn. Photo courtesy of Nichols family.

parent with no legal tie to their child. This is problematic in many situations including custody if something were to happen to the legal parent; the ability to make medical decisions for the child; the ability to provide insurance for the child and relationships with the child's school.

In at least 20 states children can be adopted by two parents, regardless of the parents' gender. Yet across the country there are still approximately

two million children being raised by LGBT people who do not have legal parental rights.

Despite the risks of being an unrecognized parent in Michigan, many continue to forge ahead creating their own families. Fortunately there are support groups that can help lesbian mothers and other foster/adoptive parents find their way through challenges. Two of these groups include the Ferndale Adoption Network and the Lesbian Moms Network in Ann Arbor.



Julia Music is one of the founders and organizers of the Ferndale Adoption Network. She is seen here and on the cover with her son Quinn. Photo courtesy of Julia Music.

“Children in same-sex households are harmed because they don't have the protections afforded other families. A mother is a legal stranger to her children.”

- Hazel Park family's lawyer Carole Stanyar

“What if something happened to Janet? Could I be part of my children’s lives? I try to not think of things as much. It’s frustrating not to be on the birth certificate, that piece of paper would be nice.”

Ferndale Adoption Network

Julia Music is one of the founders and organizers of the Ferndale Adoption Network (FAN). She and around 80 parents connect through the group’s Facebook page and through in-person activities. Music is a single adoptive mom who is bisexual, a group she says is often ignored, but is completely “Ferndale normal.”

“I know with the whole marriage thing, single people are kind of being pushed out of the press right now, but there are all kinds of families,” she said. FAN has single parents, same-sex parents, heterosexual parents, mixed race families, and foster parents – all with the common bond of loving children that came from beyond themselves.

“We provide resources online for people who are looking for information about adoption. We also post upcoming adoption events. We connect to make things like life books, which are books about stories of the child’s birth mother, all the way up to living with their adoptive families, sometimes beyond.

“We also have parties. Sometimes they have themes. Recently we did a Chinese New Year party which was awesome because the families that adopted children from China put in a big effort to have a lot of cultural pieces at the party. Parties are a great way for kids to know other adopted kids, plus the parents get to talk about all sorts of issues,” Music said.

Helping each other through Mother’s Day is another of the many tasks FAN members take on. “When I was having sad feelings about Mothers’ Day because I was thinking about Quinn’s birth mom, I posted a question about it and the replies back ranged a lot from all the different people who participated. Some of the moms had the same feelings that I did and it was nice to find a group of people who could really relate to what I was going through.”

Lesbian Moms Network

Lesbian Moms Network in Ann Arbor provides support for biological moms and their partners as well as couples who have adopted.

Shawanda and Janet Nichols were legally married in California five years ago. They moved from Arizona to Michigan four years ago to live in Saline, and they now have two children; four year old Jack and nine month old Finn. They found out about LMN online and connected with the group before even finalizing their moving plans.

“We were Googling stuff when we were

still living in Arizona and that was one of the things we really found nice about Ann Arbor. That network is what really drew us here. We wanted that sense of community and meeting other families like ours. A lot of places are really open and friendly in this area,” Shawanda said.

The Nichols’ family has attended picnics and other events. “If we weren’t a part of this group I wouldn’t be as connected to this community,” Shawanda said. “It’s good for other moms to join so they can get into playgroups and be connected. If there is an article that comes out we pass that along. We share that information.

“One thing we do is every Christmas we do presents for families who are struggling or having trouble with the economy. We come together and wrap presents and the board will deliver presents to families in need.

“If somebody has a baby we sign up for different days and we bring meals to them each day so they don’t have to cook. It’s a sense of security that if we needed something there’s a good resource of people who will help.”

The children know both women as their mother, but only Janet has legal parental rights.

One consequence of not being a legal parent is that when a child gets hurt, the unrecognized parent is unable to make decisions for that child’s care. “The only time it’s come up so far is when Jack was at the library and he had busted his lip. I had to go pick up Janet on the way to the hospital because a legal parent had to be there and it’s her insurance.”

Shawanda said that so far daycare centers have been understanding of their situation, but she worries what will happen when the boys are school age. Then again only Janet will have legal standing as a parent.

The worries are in the back of Shawanda’s mind. “What if something happened to Janet? Could I be part of my children’s lives? I try to not think of things as much. It’s frustrating not to be on the birth certificate, that piece of paper would be nice.”

Recently the couple took a trip back to Arizona. “Driving through Iowa we were like ‘Oh we’re in Iowa so we’re married,’ then we’d get to the next state and say ‘Oh, now we’re not married.’ It’s just silly. It will be nice when all that is behind us.”

Find more online:

- Ferndale Adoption Network:
www.facebook.com/groups/112375997645
- Lesbian Moms Network:
www.lmnetwork.org

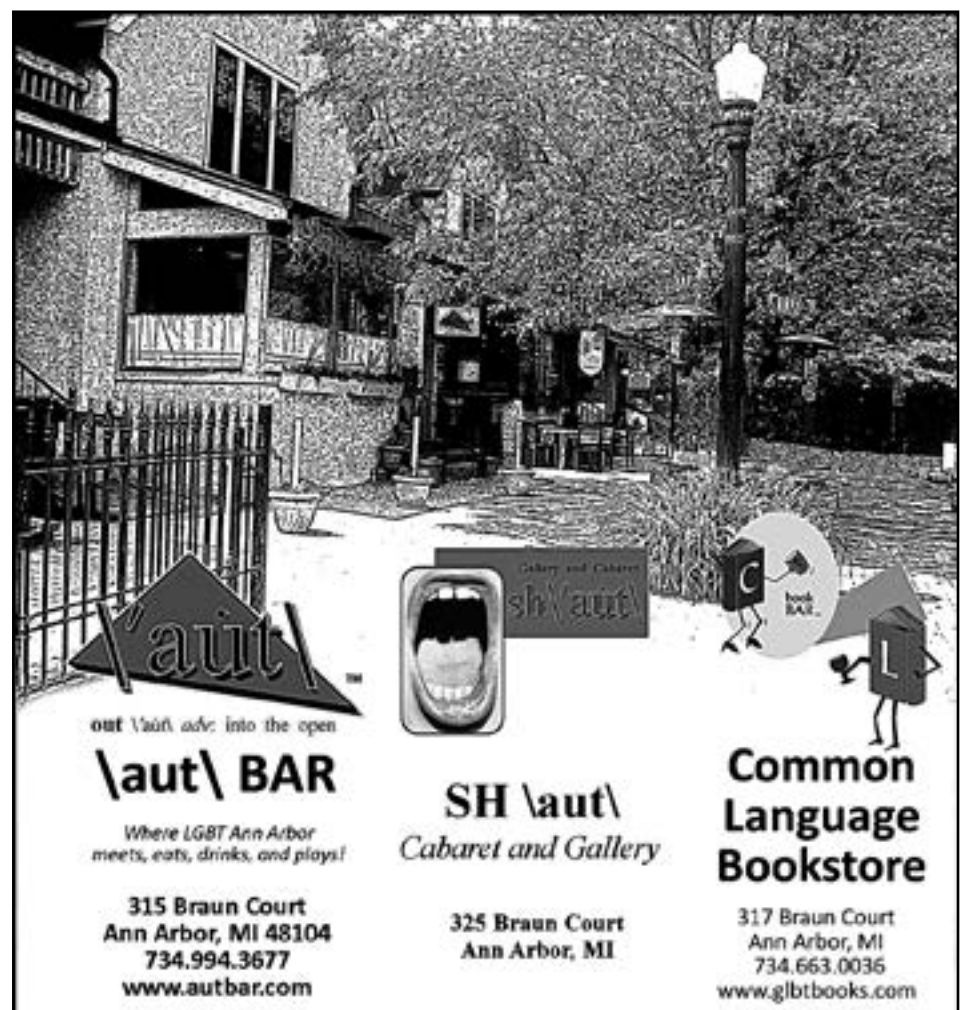


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Three Unsolved Homicides of Black Transgender Women in the Month of April

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Program (NCAVP) said in a May 2 press release it “is deeply concerned by three unsolved homicides of transgender women of color that occurred during the month of April, which continues a trend of murders of transgender and gender non-conforming women and people of color in the past few years.”

According to NCAVP, on April 3 Kelly Young, a 29-year-old black transgender woman, was found shot to death inside a home in Baltimore, Maryland. On April 4, 30-year-old Ashley Sinclair, a black transgender woman, was found shot to death in a wooded area in the Oak Ridge section of Orange County, Florida. And on April 30, another young black transgender woman, Cemia Dove, also known as Ci Ci was found on April 17 in a retention pond in Olmsted Township, Ohio. Dove, a 20-year-old woman, had multiple stab wounds, was tied to a concrete block, and was found naked from the waist down. As of April 30 all three of these homicides remain unsolved.

“Each year NCAVP tracks the homicides of LGBTQ people in the U.S. in which an anti-LGBTQ motive is known. However for many LGBTQ homicide victims, especially transgender women and people of color, who are disproportionately affected by anti-LGBTQ violence, a motive is never determined,” said Chai Jindasurat, NCAVP Coordinator at the New York City Anti-Violence Project. “It is imperative to call attention to these incidents so that the lives of these individuals are not forgotten or overlooked and so that we can bring all resources to bear to discover what happened to them, when that is possible.”

NCAVP has seen an increase in the severity of anti-LGBTQ hate violence incidents in the US. NCAVP’s most recent report on Hate Violence, documented 30 anti-LGBTQ homicides in 2011, the highest number ever recorded by the coalition. Transgender women made up 40 percent of the 30 reported hate murders in 2011, while representing only 10 percent of total hate violence survivors and victims. Of the 30 reported hate murder victims in 2011, 87 percent were LGBTQ people of color.

NCAVP is a resource for anyone who experiences violence. For more information, or to locate an anti-violence program in your area, please contact us at info@ncavp.org or visit us online www.ncavp.org.

Michigan Supreme Court Upholds Benefits For Unmarried Partners

BY TODD HEYWOOD

LANSING – State employees in Michigan can continue to receive health benefits for their significant others, even if they’re not married, and even if they’re gay. That’s because the Michigan Supreme Court May 1 declined to hear an appeal from the attorney general’s office, which has been challenging a local body’s decision to offer health-care benefits to unmarried state employees, saying it violates the state’s anti-gay-marriage statute. According to Attorney General Bill Schuette, the policy treats married and unmarried couples differently.

But in January, a split appeals court panel ruled that the Michigan Civil Service Commission’s health-care policy was “unambiguously completely gender neutral” and therefore does not violate the constitutional ban on same-sex marriages or other civil unions.

Thanks to the Supreme Court’s refusal to hear Schuette’s appeal, the lower-court ruling stands.

Background

Over objections by Republican Gov. Rick Snyder, the state Civil Service Commission voted in 2011 to have the state health insurance plan cover non-family members who have lived continuously with state workers for at least a year. GOP Attorney General Bill Schuette sued, saying the move was unconstitutional.

A divided state appeals court upheld an Ingham County judge in a ruling this past January, that the policy does not conflict with Michigan’s 2004 same-sex marriage ban. The appeals court said it is not the place of courts to second-guess the wisdom of state action, and state workers can share benefits with other people besides a gay partner.

Matt Fedorchuk, acting deputy state personnel director told Crain’s Detroit that Michigan has 124 state employees whose health insurance covers live-in partners. He said it is costing the state \$690,000 a year to provide the coverage.

Since voters approved the same-sex marriage ban (Proposal 2 in 2004), many public employers no longer specifically acknowledge domestic partnerships but have made sure “other qualified adults” – including gay partners – are still eligible for health care.

In 2011, Snyder signed a law blocking taxpayer-paid health benefits from being offered to domestic partners living with public employees. The measure, which is being challenged in federal court, does not apply to public universities or many state employees.

The attorney general’s office did not respond to inquiries from The American Independent regarding this ruling; however, Joy Yearout, spokesperson for the department, told the Detroit Free Press, “We are disappointed with the ruling because Gov. (Rick) Snyder is correct that expanding state benefits costs the taxpayers millions when they can least afford it.”



“(I)t is not inclusive enough to resolve the matter of employee benefits for same-sex partners in committed relationships. There is still a vital need to legally ensure that all committed and loving families have equal access to healthcare insurance and other critical employee benefits.”

Equality Michigan Managing Director, Emily Dievendorf

Jay Kaplan, a staff attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan, praised the Supreme Court’s decision, saying the lawsuit itself was “flawed” and “deserved to be dismissed.”

While state workers will continue to receive partner benefits, others employed by public agencies are not so lucky. That’s because last winter, Republican Gov. Rick Snyder signed a law banning local government agencies from offering partner benefits to employees.

But certain agencies were exempt from this law, such as universities and the Michigan Civil Service Commission, because they have constitutionally protected autonomy.

The ACLU of Michigan is currently challenging this 2011 law in federal court.

“The ACLU is challenging the constitutionality of this law in federal court as violating the equal protection rights of LGBT employees and their same-sex partners,” Kaplan said in an email. “Although the state court decision has no legal binding precedent on federal courts, we believe that local governments, including public school districts also have the same autonomy to set the terms and compensation for its employees and that this should not be interfered with by the legislature.”

Emily Dievendorf, managing director of Equality Michigan, the statewide LGBT advocacy group, said that Supreme Court’s ruling “is an important step in our struggle

for full relationship recognition,” but she said the state has not gone far enough to protect Michigan’s LGBT community.

“(I)t is not inclusive enough to resolve the matter of employee benefits for same-sex partners in committed relationships,” Dievendorf said in an email. “There is still a vital need to legally ensure that all committed and loving families have equal

access to healthcare insurance and other critical employee benefits.”

Ray Holman, Legislative Liaison for UAW Local 6000, said that while his state-wide union has 17000 employees in every state department, only about 200 employees have signed up to receive the benefits.

Holman said he is proud of the court’s choice not to hear the appeal. “This means that collective bargaining rights have been preserved,” he said. “We need more people with healthcare benefits, not less. And this is good for Michigan. It helps us attract qualified, capable, creative people into our workforce. It makes Michigan an attractive place for people to move to and work.”

The decision also impacts non-union employees such as members of management who are not part of the union, but receive the same benefits. And it helps bring the state in line with many of the major corporate employers who offer these benefits.

“What we’re about is trying to give everybody opportunity and raise everyone up,” Holman said.

Notably the benefits package does not include “domestic partner” wording, rather extends medical coverage to “to one non-married, non-related household companion.”

Additional Reporting by Crystal Proxmire. Originally published on American Independent Network.

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From The Mouths Of Babes Quotes ON Lesbian Moms

“ . . . I think it would be really boring if everybody had just a mom and a dad. It's really special how I have a mom and a mama!”

Cody Jurs-Allen, second-grader,
son of lesbian mothers

“ . . . I asked [my son] Jonathan what he felt were the strongest negative and the strongest positive aspects for him in having grown up with lesbian parents. He said the strongest benefit he felt he gained was that he knew that he did not have a lot of the hang-ups that some other boys did about men and women. And the most negative aspect he felt, Jonathan said, was the ridicule he got from some kids with straight parents. ‘You mean, from your peers?’ I said. ‘Oh no,’ he answered promptly. ‘My peers know better. I mean other kids.’”

Audre Lorde, lesbian mother

“People who don't like gays feel that way because there aren't so many gay people and they're not in a gay family so they don't know what it feels like. The other kind of family that is not lesbian or gay was started first, and people think it shouldn't change. They think people are supposed to stay the same. I want them to know that I probably have more than they do because I have two moms and a stepmom too!”

Keely Coffrin-Shaw, third-grader,
daughter of lesbian mothers

These kids were planned and their lesbian mothers were very engaged in parenting. At the end of high school, the teens tell us that they have excellent grades, feel connected to their families and friends, and admire their parents.”

Nanette Gartrell, principal investigator of “Adolescents with Lesbian Mothers Describe Their Own Lives,” a study for the Williams Institute that found teens living in homes with two mothers to be more successful at school and generally happier in life.

“My grandpa majored in biology in college, but he wasn't allowed to teach at a high school because he was black. Not long ago, I spoke on a panel at a high school with my mom. This guy in the audience told my mom that he wouldn't want her to teach his kids because she is a lesbian. It reminded me so much of what happened to my grandpa. I think homophobia is like any other 'ism.' It's the racism of today. Like racism, you learn it from the people you grow up with, from your parents, from television, and from society.”

Rayna White, eleventh-grader,
daughter of a lesbian mother

How Special My ‘Nothing Special’

OPINION BY SHELLY STEWART

My partner Jennifer McKissick and I had hoped to be legally married before we adopted our foster son, little Ty, but we realized that the timing of his adoption was out of our control and getting married involved leaving Michigan.

Right after scheduling our wedding in Connecticut for April 2, we were notified that Ty's adoption finalization hearing would take place on the 12th. Knowing that the next two weeks would change our lives forever, we loaded up our car for a spring break road trip with ten-month old Ty and our two teenage daughters, Faith and Annie.

Our first stop was New York City. While there, Jennifer took the girls to be in the TODAY show audience. Our girls proudly stood in front of the cameras waving their shared poster, “Our moms are getting married TODAY!” We were so proud of them. Connecticut was excitingly next for all of us.

We had searched the Internet and discovered Justice of the Peace Mary Pugh. She simplified the process for us, provided us with a great deal on a luxury hotel, and directed us to the picturesque Town of Darien where we had a simple and intimate Town Hall marriage ceremony.

The most remarkable part of the whole experience was how ordinary the process seemed to everyone around us.

Even though Jennifer and I were emotionally overwhelmed when completing our marriage license application, the staff smiled, congratulating us like same-sex marriage had always been legal. I know it sounds odd, but in that situation, I appreciated being “nothing special.” Nothing special. Indeed!

After our ceremony was over, Mary Pugh asked, “Do you feel different?”

We both replied adamantly and as one, “Yes!”

After spending more than a decade with Jennifer, I had underestimated the emotional impact of getting married. After all, we had a holy union ceremony in 2003. It's just a legal process, I told myself. But that was not true. Knowing our marriage was legally recognized felt amazing.

We spent the rest of the week in states that saw us as a married couple and it was wonderfully different – a sense of validation and safety. My heart sank just a little when we drove across the New York state line and crossed into no-same-sex marriage

Pennsylvania.

I confess that I had mixed emotions about finalizing Ty's adoption. On one hand, I was delighted because his adoption was our ultimate goal and he would finally be ours. On the other, I was disappointed because in Michigan only one of us could legally adopt him.

We had decided that Jennifer would be the adoptive parent, and I worried that I would feel left out of the entire process, disconnected from my son and wife. I was afraid that I would be on the sidelines as just an observer. However, I was pleasantly surprised when the judge's assistant told me that I should stand up front next to Jennifer and Ty while she was sworn in and took the adoption oath. Well!

“Ms. Stewart, even though the State of Michigan isn't progressive enough to recognize your relationship, we realize. . .” She went on to say that she realized that I was also included in the process to adopt Ty, and she asked if I too was willing to make this commitment, unofficially of course. I fought back the tears and responded, “Absolutely!”



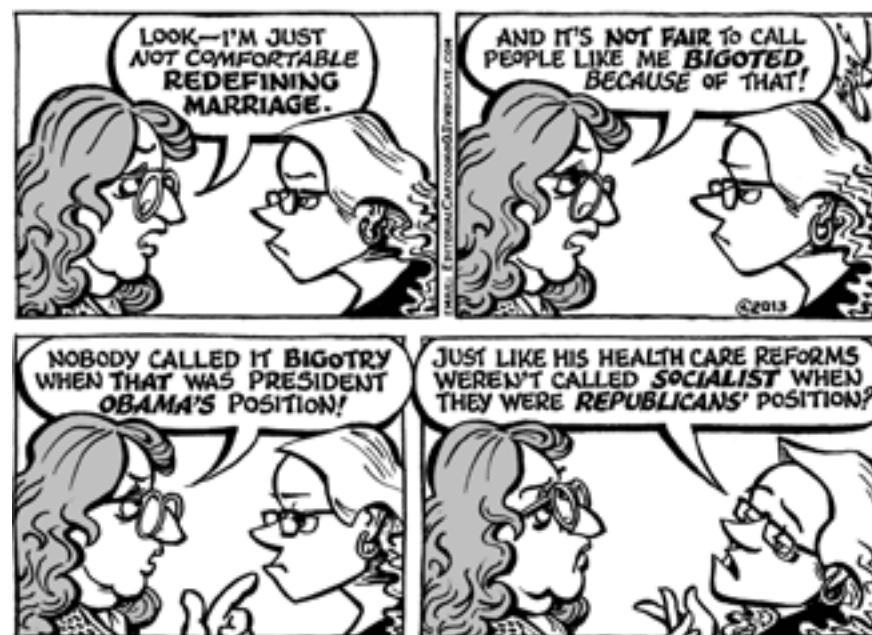
Jennifer and Shelly with their three children in front of Darien, Ct. courthouse where they were recently married.

I was absolutely elated when Judge Tracey Yokich addressed me. “Ms. Stewart, even though the State of Michigan isn't progressive enough to recognize your relationship, we realize. . .” She went on to say that she realized that I was also included in the process to adopt Ty, and she asked if I too was willing to make this commitment, unofficially of course.

I fought back the tears and responded, “Absolutely!”

Jennifer and I cried with joy for our new son and gratitude for this judge who gave us so much hope. That hearing demonstrated an incredible shift in attitude in Macomb County. In 2001, a judge in that same court house had blatantly discriminated against me for my sexual orientation during my divorce and child custody proceedings.

We have renewed optimism that very soon we will enjoy the same recognition in Michigan that we had in New England. We are family. And blessed.



My Past, Our Prologue



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

I will in three days, as this Parting Glances again makes its weekly welcome appearance – number 650 in a long, long series of fascinating, and occasionally improbable, columns – turn 77.

I have lived 59 of those years as a member of Detroit's rainbow community. I suspect I shall do so for the remainder of life, so please mark your desk calendars accordingly. Item in italics: Charles, gayly tenacious into his 90s.

As a friend of mine who would call me up yearly on my birthday put it, "Ah, yes, Charles, you're living proof of the old adage, "May babies are gay babies." Or, as the Coffee Table Book of Astrology, admonishes, "Taurus is the Sign of Sexual Deviancy."

I was born on a Tuesday, at 7:49 a.m. in Detroit's Harper Hospital, where I also worked right out of high school as an O.R. Tech. It was while scrubbing in a Harper operating theater that I had the unique experience of assisting the foresighted straight man who brought me into the world, Dr. Leonard P. Heath.

Lenny seemed pleased to get reacquainted. I was delighted. (Unfortunately, he couldn't remember my face, and I couldn't place his. Sometimes 'family' reunions are like that.)

As for the "May babies are gay babies" bit, two friends share the same birthday as mine, May 12th: Affirmations senior coordinator Kat Latosch and ever-smiling, journalist Ted Kirby, now living in sunny Arizona. Former Triangle CEO Jeffrey Montgomery turns 60 on the 8th. (A soon-to-be-started Kick Start film project is focusing on his life as an activist and community arts presence.)

Notable gays born on my birthday are actor Katharine Hepburn, and 19th Century nurse Florence Nightingale. (Other famous Twelvers -- who may or may not be LGBT: Yogi Berra, George Carlin, Burt Bacharach, artist Frank Stella.) Needless to say, I'm in pretty good company.

At my advanced age I find that quite often I'm out of touch with who's who these days in entertainment, sports, theater, film, the gay bar scene. Regularly I check the daily Free Press birthday listings, and find that many times I haven't a clue who the celebs are. (Then again, I'm sure they've never heard of me -- that is, outside of Michigan!)

I've lived long enough to know how things were for us gays and lesbians. As a teenager I was very aware that I was a sexual deviant, marked for watching and monitoring by society, religion, government, psychiatry, the law. To survive I pretended to be straight, went by a nickname, told no one where I worked, lived a tiresome lie to parents, friends, teachers, and clergy. I got by. Sometimes barely.

As a gay teenager I also believed the variant saying shared among us for a future that seems decades and decades away, "Nobody wants you when you're old and gay." We believed there existed a place we jokingly dreaded to go to. It was called "the Wrinkle Room." Don't ever grow old, Mary; if you can help it.

Standing at age 18 in the heart of Detroit's downtown gay bar community, if some all-knowing Wizard of Osmosis told me there would someday be LGBT organizations, newspapers, churches, same-sex marriages, gay/lesbian children adoptions, big name celebrities willing to be open about who they really are, I would have said, Man, you've got to be crazy! That's really weird.

Also, by the way, if someone warned, "In your lifetime thousands upon thousands of gay men will die of a devastating, scary virus. Be prepared!" I'd shrug, "Yeah, sure, Doc. You've got to be kidding. That's too far out. A plague, no way."

How times have changed.

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June is right around the corner....



BTL photo: Andrew Potter

Quick Michigan Pride Preview

Ferndale Pride

DATE: JUNE 1, 2013

**LOCATION: 9 MILE AND
WOODWARD IN DOWNTOWN
FERDALE**

Features:

- ~Two sound stages with a variety of musical performances, including The Cliks, My Pal Val, Cullen Blue and Randy Friess
- ~Vendor and informational booths
- ~SE Michigan Dyke March
- ~Rainbow Walk/Run 5k, registration begins at 8:45 a.m.
- ~Ferndale Pride benefits Affirmations, Project XYZ, Ferndale Community Foundation and Michigan AIDS Coalition

Tie In Events:

- ~Second Class Citizen Photo Shoot and Ferndale Pride Kick Off Party, May 31, 7-10 p.m. at Affirmations, \$25
- ~Several bar and patio parties around town on May 31-June 2
- Sponsors Include: Motor City Casino, Suburban GMC, Garden Fresh, Blue Care Network, Buffalo Wild Wings, Como's, Dino's Lounge, Between The Lines

More Info: www.ferndalepride.com

Motor City Pride

DATE: JUNE 8-9, 2013

LOCATION: HART PLAZA, DETROIT

Features:

- ~Four stages of entertainment, Anna Matronic headlining Sunday, Miss Motor City Pride Contest Saturday with Yarrow from Ru Paul Drag Race. Other performers to be announced

- ~Pride Parade, June 9, 11 a.m.
- ~Vendor and information booths, food tucks
- ~Benefits Equality Michigan

Tie In Events: ~Beyond the Bar Graphic Artists Reception and Motor City Launch Party, June 6, 7 p.m. at Start Gallery, 206 E. Grand River
Sponsors Include: 5/3 Bank, Necto, The Detroit Partnership, UAW, Whole Foods, Fuze, Comerica Bank, Barefoot Wine, Chrysler GALA, Ford Globe, GM Plus, Between The Lines

More Info: www.motorcitypride.com

Kalamazoo Pride

DATE: JUNE 14-16

**LOCATION: ARCADIA CREEK
FESTIVAL AREA**

Features:

- ~ White Party, Arcadia Creek Festival Area
- ~Pride Brunch 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., Pride details to be announced
- ~Entertainment: Kimi Hayes w/Déjà Vu, Hannaniah & The Boys
- ~Recovery Party, details to be announced
- ~Vendor and informational booths, food trucks
- ~Benefits Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center

Tie In Events:

- ~ Garden Workshop, May 18, 8-10 a.m. Wenke Greenhouses, 5071 Market St.
- ~Bowling Extravaganza, June 2, 4-7 p.m., Eastland Bowl, 5570 Gull Rd.
- ~Doggie Day, June 8, 1-4 p.m., Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St.
- Sponsors: Bell's Brewery, Bronson, MetroKzoo.com, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, MPI Research Lion's Den, Between The Lines, plus over a dozen "Triangle Level" local sponsors

More Info: <http://kgfrc.org/pride/#.UYcNc8pTQUg>

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West Michigan Pride

DATE: JUNE 15-16

LOCATION: CALDER PLAZA IN GRAND RAPIDS

Features:

- ~First ever Grand Rapids Parade of Pride, June 16 1-3 p.m., starts at Michigan and Ottawa
 - ~Two drag shows
 - ~Performances by several artists, including Jane De Young Trio, Potatobabies and Bermudas
 - ~Vendor and informational booths, food trucks
- Sponsors: Herman Miller, Frito Lay, Rumors Night Club, Gazelle Sports, The Matthew Agency, Diversions, Pub 43, Jeffrey Richard Salon, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Between The Lines

More Info: www.westmipride.org

Tri-City Pride

DATE: JUNE 22

LOCATION: OJIBWAY ISLAND PARK SAGINAW

Features:

- ~1-8 p.m., Pride Festival
- ~Car Show
- ~Vendor and informational booths, food trucks
- ~Drag Queen Hostess Asia Aviance
- ~Performance by Bayside Bombshell's Burlesque Troup
- ~Musical performances by Drag King Rebellion, Abbie Stauffer, Sandy Mulligan and Kris Pride

Tie In Events:

- ~Candlelight Vigil remembering those lost to suicide, June 21, 8 p.m., Borchard Park, Saginaw
- Sponsors: Divine Light Interfaith Ministry

More Info: www.tricitylgbtpride.com

Holland Area Pride

DATE: JUNE 29

LOCATION: CENTENNIAL PARK, PARK THEATRE

Features:

- ~1-6 p.m., at Centennial Park, booths, vendors, musical acts
- ~6-10 p.m., moves to Park Theatre for comedy show, drag performance and dancing

More info: www.hollandareapride.com

Flint Gay Pride In The Park

JUNE 29

RIVERBANK PARK AND UNIV. OF MICHIGAN PAVILION RINK

Features:

- ~Vendor and informational booths, food trucks
- ~Live Entertainment
- ~Wrestling Show
- ~Children's Activities

More info: www.facebook.com/FLINTGAYPRIDE

Hotter Than July

JULY 27-28

LOCATION: DETROIT, MAINLY PALMER PARK

Features:

- ~Candle Light Vigil, July 23, 6 p.m., Palmer Park by Blue Spruce Memorial Tree
 - ~Boat Ride, July 24, Detroit River
 - ~Film Festival, July 25, Cass City Cinema
 - ~Annual Gathering on LGBT Issues, July 26, Univ. of Michigan Detroit Center, 3663 Woodward Ave.
 - ~Prom, July 26, details to be announced
 - ~Palmer Park Picnic, July 27, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Palmer Park
 - ~Worship Service, July 28, 10 a.m. location to be announced
 - ~Sunday Brunch, July 28, Roberts Riverwalk Hotel, 1000 River Place, \$50 per person or \$90 per couple
- Sponsors: Community Foundation of SE Michigan, Swerv Magazine, GBM News, Ruth Ellis Center, Michigan AIDS Coalition, Between The Lines

More Info: www.hotterthanjuly.org

Michigan Pride

DATE: AUG. 24, 2013

LOCATION: LANSING

Features:

- ~White Party June 7, 6 p.m. at Four Lansing Old Town Locations, \$10
- ~Grand Marshall and Keynote Speaker Ross Matthews
- ~Rally and March
- ~Vendor and information booths, food trucks

More Info: www.michiganpride.org



Over 40,000 people are expected at Hart Plaza June 8 -9.

Watch for extensive coverage coming in BTL May 30 and June 6 and check us out online for regular updates to June Pride information @ www.pridesource.com

Creep of the Week

Dr. Ken Hutcherson

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

A few weeks ago if someone had asked you if you knew Jason Collins, you likely would have said no. That is, unless you were a big fan of the Washington



Wizards (which I doubt). But today, it seems like Jason Collins is the only professional basketball player in the world. His name and face are everywhere.

Because he's gay. Specifically, because he's the first openly gay professional player in a major U.S. sport.

It's a BFD. Even President Obama said that he "couldn't be prouder" of Collins for coming out.

Which is evidence that Obama is clearly taking orders from Satan, according to Dr. Ken Hutcherson of the Antioch Baptist Church in Redmond, Washington.

In a May 2 opinion piece for the Christian Post, Hutcherson used the fact that Obama praised a known homo-sexer and that he spoke to Planned Parenthood as proof of Obama's Satanic usurping and a vast conspiracy against Christians in America.

"[D]o any of you believe there is a connection between [Jason Collins] announcing he is gay only 72 hours after President Obama's speech to Planned Parenthood?" Hutcherson writes. "The answer is a resounding YES! More proof that Christian views are very much under attack!"

Yes, very much under attack. Poor Christian views in America. Just think of all the taxes churches have to pay. Not to mention the fact that there has never been a single American President who identifies as Christian. Don't get me started about how out-numbered Christians are in Congress. And just try getting Christmas day off from work! Yes, it's a tough life for Christians in America. And it can all be blamed on Planned Parenthood and Jason Collins, a.k.a. "agents of Satan."

"The connection between these two stories should be very obvious: they both go directly against God's Holy Word," Hutcherson continues. "After all, God hates hands that shed innocent blood (Prov.6:17) and is sickened by sodomy (Rom.1:24-27)."

In other words, Collins makes

God puke.

Of course, the joke is on Collins, according to Hutcherson.

"Collins is being used as a pawn, in the most dangerous game of Russian roulette for his soul," he writes. Silly Satan, souls are for Christians.

Hutcherson also predicts a rude

"[D]o any of you believe there is a connection between [Jason Collins] announcing he is gay only 72 hours after President Obama's speech to Planned Parenthood?"

awakening for Collins in the locker room: "I can't imagine that Collins, standing in the shower after a game, and knowing the vast majority of his teammates are not gay, will go over very well. How about the players standing in the shower with him, knowing that one of their teammates likes other men? Just saying..."

Let's unpack that, shall we? First of all, when someone ends an idea with "just saying..." it means, "I have just said something for which I do not want to take responsibility" because it was probably a shitty thing to say. And, indeed, this thinly veiled "warning" about things not going "over very well" for Collins the homo while he is standing naked with a bunch of his hetero teammates is worthy of distancing yourself. Because it's an asinine thing to say.

Not only is Hutcherson implying that Collins is some kind of pervert who won't be able to keep his eyes and hands off his teammates, but he's also implying that a bunch of grown men can't behave themselves if one of them is gay, especially if they're all naked. It's an argument that has always left me baffled: how little regard folks like Hutcherson have not just for gays, but for men entirely. As if a penis makes it impossible to be a decent human being.

Then again, maybe Hutcherson is projecting his own fantasy of getting in a wrestling match with Collins in the shower while a bunch of other naked guys stand around and watch. Just saying...

Breaking: Delaware Senate approves marriage bill

The Delaware Senate on Tuesday by a 12-9 vote margin approved a bill that will allow same-sex marriage in the First State.

"It is about treating couples the same under the law as all other couples," Equality Delaware President Lisa Goodman said before the vote. "It is about similarly situated people the same."

State Sen. Karen Peterson (D-Stanton) came out as a lesbian while she spoke in support of House Bill 75.

"We are not seeking to redefine marriage," she said. "We are seeking to expand the definition of marriage just as the Supreme Court did in the Loving v. Virginia case."

State Sen. Robert Venables (D-Laurel) noted "very anatomy" means "a man should not be marrying a man" as he spoke against House Bill 75.

"This is a step to break [marriage] down," he said.

Governor Jack Markell has said he will sign the bill into law.

Illinois GOP Chair Resigns, Cites Support for Same-Sex Marriage As A Reason

BY MARK PRESTON

WASHINGTON (CNN) - Illinois Republican Party Chairman Pat Brady resigned Tuesday, citing a handful of reasons including an ongoing struggle with several members of the state GOP over his support for same-sex marriage.

"There were several reasons," why he decided to step down, Brady said in a telephone interview with CNN. "I've been going at it hard for six years, I need to focus on my family, and obviously I had lost the support of the state Central Committee because of my position on gay marriage."

Brady was elected chair in August 2009. His wife is battling cancer.

Brady is a close confidante of Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus and Sen. Mark Kirk, R-Illinois. Kirk announced his support for same-sex marriage last month, while Brady did so earlier this year. Brady's public support of same-sex marriage angered social conservatives because it went against the state GOP platform on the issue. At the time Brady said it was a personal endorsement and reiterated that in the interview Tuesday with CNN.

The Illinois state legislature is considering legislation to legalize same-sex marriage. In speaking about Kirk and same-sex marriage, Brady said, "I agree with him, we need to get on the right side of history."

Brady also suggested the party is at a crossroads and needs to decide if it can be a party where "people can disagree on some issues" but agree on many others.

The RNC is currently working on a plan to help broaden the GOP's appeal beyond its traditional political base such as reaching out to minorities and younger voters - voting blocs it lost to Democrats by wide margins in 2012.

Under pressure from social conservatives, the RNC approved two resolutions last month re-affirming its position of only recognizing that marriage is a union between one man and one woman.



One hour after the RI State Senate passed the bill allowing same-sex marriage, Gov. Chafee is signed it into law on the capitol steps. AP photo.

RI Now 10th State To Allow Same-Sex Marriage

BY DAVID KLEPPER

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)

- Rhode Island has become the nation's 10th state to allow gay and lesbian couples to wed, after a 16-year effort to extend marriage rights in this heavily Roman Catholic state.

Gays, lesbians, their friends and families erupted into cheers Thursday following a final 56-15 vote in the Rhode Island House, and then again an hour later when Gov. Lincoln Chafee signed the bill into law on the Statehouse steps.

"Democracy feels good, doesn't it?" said House Speaker Gordon Fox, D-Providence, who is gay. Fox struggled to keep his composure as he addressed the crowd at the Statehouse, looking over at his longtime partner, Marcus LaFond. "This tells me our relationship does matter. It means that we mean something."

The first marriages will take place Aug. 1, when the new law takes effect.

The day was bittersweet for Deborah Tevyaw, whose wife, state corrections officer Pat Baker, succumbed to lung cancer two years ago. Months before she died, Baker, relying on an oxygen tank, angrily told lawmakers that it was unfair

that Tevyaw wasn't considered her wife in Rhode Island despite their marriage in Massachusetts.

"I'm ecstatic, but sad she's not here to see this," Tevyaw said. "I'm sure she's watching, but she's not here next to me. Before she died, she told me, 'I started this, and now I'm leaving it in your hands.' We worked hard for this. There were petitions, door knocking, phone calls. I think people decided, 'just let people be happy.'"

Once consigned to the political fringe, gay marriage advocates succeeded this year thanks to a sprawling lobbying effort that included support from organized labor leaders, religious clergy, leaders including Chafee and Providence Mayor Angel Taveras and hundreds of volunteers. Their efforts overcame the opposition of the Roman Catholic Church and lawmakers including Senate President Teresa Paiva Weed, who voted no but allowed the issue to come to a vote anyway.

Supporters framed the issue as one of civil rights, arguing in daylong legislative hearings that gay and lesbian couples deserve the same rights and protections given to opposite-sex married couples. The Catholic Church was the most

significant opponent, with Bishop Thomas Tobin urging lawmakers to defeat what he called an "immoral and unnecessary" change to traditional marriage law.

On Thursday, Tobin repeated his opposition, writing in a letter to the state's Catholics that "homosexual acts are... always sinful."

"Catholics should examine their consciences very carefully before deciding whether or not to endorse same-sex relationships or attend same-sex ceremonies," Tobin wrote. "To do so might harm their relationship with God."

The Rhode Island legislation states that religious institutions may set their own rules regarding who is eligible to marry within the faith and specifies that no religious leader is obligated to officiate at any marriage ceremony and no religious group is required to provide facilities or services related to a gay marriage.

While ministers already cannot be forced to marry anyone, the exemption helped assuage concerns from some lawmakers that clergy could face lawsuits for abiding by their religious convictions.

Under the new law, civil unions will no longer be available to same-sex couples as of Aug. 1, though the state would continue to recognize

“I’ve been waiting 32 years for this day, and I never thought it would come in my lifetime. For the first time in my life, I feel welcome in my own state.”

- Raymond Beausejour, 66, who has been with his partner for 32 years

existing civil unions. Lawmakers approved civil unions two years ago, though few couples have sought them.

The first marriages will take place Aug. 1, when the new law takes effect. Raymond Beausejour, 66, used to photograph weddings, but the gay North Providence man never expected he would have one himself.

“I’ve been waiting 32 years for this day, and I never thought it would come in my lifetime,” said Beausejour, who has been with his partner for 32 years. “For the first time in my life, I feel welcome in my own state.”

Delaware could be the next state to approve gay marriage. Legislation legalizing same-sex marriage has narrowly passed the Delaware House and now awaits a vote in the state Senate.

Advocates in Rhode Island say that while they’re proud the state is the 10th to legalize gay marriage, they expect other states to quickly follow as support for gay marriage grows around the country. According to polling experts at Gallup, 53 percent of Americans support giving gay and lesbian couples the right to marry, up from 27 percent in 1996.

Rep. Frank Ferri, D-Warwick, who lobbied for gay marriage before becoming a lawmaker himself, recalled that years ago he asked a sitting lawmaker if he would consider supporting same-sex marriage. “He said ‘I’ll pour gasoline on my head and light myself on fire before that bill passes,’” Ferri recalled.

That has changed, said Ferri, who is gay. Ferri said he hopes Fox can marry him and his partner on Aug. 1, which also happens to be the couple’s 32nd anniversary.

“Today a dream has come true,” he said. “No more hiding in the shadows. No more being ashamed of who we are.”

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HOMOPHOBIA ON THE FORCE

Patrick Moug's 'Captain Buffalo' At Detroit Ensemble Theatre Through May 19

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

FERNDALE – Not all actors are gay, but it doesn't stop some people from thinking so.

Playwright and actor Patrick Moug has spent 25 years as a police officer. It's the family business. When, along the way, he discovered he wanted to be an actor, it raised more than a few eyebrows.

"The first time I was in a play and my sisters told one of my brothers, he asked, 'Is he gay?'" Moug said. "Here I am a SWAT officer, played football in college, but because I'm becoming an actor, the question is asked. I found it interesting."

It was part of what inspired him to write the play that opened May 3 at the Detroit Ensemble Theatre in Ferndale, "Captain Buffalo," directed by Barton Bund. The story, he explains, is definitely fictional, but inspired by his own experiences straddling two worlds with sometimes highly divergent outlooks.

Moug comes from a family of nine police officers and two firefighters spread over three generations.

"We were always the athletes," Moug said. "No one ever got into acting. I dabbled in it by

taking a couple courses in college and I really liked it, but I was afraid of what people would think of me. I was about eight years into being a police officer and I had this nagging feeling it wasn't what my passion was."

So after taking classes at The Purple Rose, he began acting and writing. Fourteen years ago he wrote "Captain Beef-alo," the predecessor to this current script. It was, Moug said, more slapstick and humorous. Three years ago, he took it back out and wrote it as a screenplay, a work that won support from the Mi-GOAL (a Michigan gay and lesbian police organization).

From the screenplay, Moug turned it back into a play. In this rewritten version, Ryan or "Hoss," the police officer planning to become an actor, faces opposition from James or "Bones," his brother and fellow SWAT team member whose homophobia creates an antagonism toward the entire profession. Contributing to this was the loss of one of their SWAT brothers to "cancer," a loss that James still struggles with.

"What I really hope I have done well is this character who is homophobic," Moug said of the role, which he will also play in

PREVIEW

Captain Buffalo

Detroit Ensemble Theatre at Michigan Actors Studio, 648 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday & 2 p.m. Sunday through May 19. \$12-18. 877-636-3320.

www.Detroitensembletheatre.org

the DET production. "I think he is a good person. His being homophobic originates in a fellow officer who died of AIDS, one of his childhood friends. He can't identify with him, he can't explain it. This isn't a police officer who gets killed in the line of duty. He becomes homophobic because he is hurt. His friend died and was gay."

His journey becomes one of trying to understand someone who is different from himself and to grapple with the question about whether his love for his friend was any different just because the friend was gay.

Ryan's journey is one of pursuing a dream despite the opposition he faces from his family and co-workers. He searches out a way to live both parts of his life. It is a journey that

is intensely personal to the playwright, as it is inspired by his own journey from those early days of taking classes to a career that now involves both stage and film. In the past several years he has been a parking lot attendant in the movie "Sucker"; directed the television series "Keys to the Blue Goose," which has a theme song recorded by Sarah Lenore (a finalist from "America's Got Talent"); and has directed his own plays and films including "The Detroit 59ers" and "The Ugly One."

But it is "Captain Buffalo" that is the most autobiographical, including the title that was a nickname he earned on the squad because he liked to eat buffalo – or beef-alo – meat from a farm in Chelsea.

"In one aspect, the two brothers are both me – me at first being reluctant, being afraid of what others would think of me. I took all those fears and made them present in the brother who wants to be an actor," Moug said. "I think we've really fleshed out an honest antagonist instead of a stereotypical one. We have a good person who is thinking the wrong things."

'Captain Buffalo' Loses Power To Unnecessary Complexity

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

Detroit Theatre Ensemble's "Captain Buffalo," which is making its stage premiere at the Michigan Actors Studio, straddles two worlds and expects its audiences to be intimate with both of them. Ryan, also known as "Hoss," is a SWAT team hall boss and has decided to learn to become an actor. It is a choice his brother and SWAT team commander, Bones, scorns and attempts to block.



Detroit Theatre Ensemble's "Captain Buffalo" continues through May 19 at Michigan Actors Studio in Ferndale. Photo: DET

As a study in contrasts, Patrick Moug's story works well. The SWAT team is as close as a family and filled with macho testosterone and drunken physicality. Even the woman's moves are that of a jock and an athlete. Then the scenes switch and the personalities, moves and behavior of the actors become the opposite: flighty, chatty, emotional.

It is this contrast that director Barton Bund handles well and most effectively in the scene where Ryan attends his first acting workshop and is trying to observe and fit into this strange environment he has found. As the actor's perform Meisner exercises and physical warm-ups, Phil Hughes' Ryan circles and watches, fascinated but finding it as strange as the audience does.

Bund also creates bookends with similar actions at the start and end of the play, creating a complete circle with visual techniques in a play that is otherwise more cinematic than theatrical. It is a delicate balance that is effective in keeping the scenes from being drowned in the winks about the venue, the inside world of acting, and the close-knit culture of police officers.

Playwright Moug also performs as the antagonistic brother, the one whose homophobia stems from the loss of a fellow officer and lifelong friend whom he feels he should have stopped from being gay. Together Moug and Hughes portray disconnected brothers who love each other despite their differences. Hughes is uncertain and vulnerable, while Moug is blustering and overly confident despite his fears.

The acting surrounding them varied in strength.

Playwright Moug also performs as the antagonistic brother, the one whose homophobia stems from the loss of a fellow officer and lifelong friend whom he feels he should have stopped from being gay. Together Moug and Hughes portray disconnected brothers who love each other despite their differences.

Despite the intimate space of the Michigan Actors Studio, the acoustics often made it difficult to hear the actors, their voices too often sinking into the floor rather than carrying out to the seats. This was especially true in intimate scenes, or such times as when Ryan's first acting teacher, Glory, discouraged him from participating. Her

lines were clipped and she seemed uncertain of what she was saying, lacking in the arrogance that the lines of the script seemed to imbue her with.

In contrast, Kristen Wagner-Nader's Kate was filled with personality and a bubbly charisma that sparkled whenever she was on the stage, making the storyline flow better, and providing Ryan with needed motivation.

As the playwright, Moug does more telling

than showing in "Captain Buffalo." We are told many times that Ryan is a good actor, but there is only one scene where we see it, and even then the others on the stage overreact to us, telling us how we should perceive it, lest we miss that it is supposed to be good. To be effective in the story that it tells, we need to see Ryan's growth, not simply be told about it.

"Captain Buffalo" tries to tell many stories: that of loss, homophobia, chasing one's dreams, finding one's place in the world, friendship, family and love. But in the two hours that it has on stage, those are too many stories to tell, and none of them are given the power or focus to make it truly compelling.

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Staged Reading Of '8' At Peppermint Creek

Dustin Lance Black's latest play, "8," will be read for one night only at Lansing's Peppermint Creek Theatre.

The play chronicles the historical trial of the federal constitutional challenge to California's Proposition 8 filed by the American Foundation for Equal Rights (AFER).

Using first-hand interviews and actual court transcripts from the landmark trial, audiences will see both sides of the debate, while learning about the historical context of marriage, the arguments used to justify bans on marriage for gays and lesbians, and the emotional costs of discrimination.

Black, who won the Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay for "Milk" in 2008, is a founding board member for AFER, a non-profit dedicated to protecting and advancing equal rights for all Americans, which also served as the sole sponsor for Perry v. Schwarzenegger (now Hollingsworth v. Perry), the federal court challenge of California's Proposition 8.

Peppermint Creek Theatre Company "continues to strive to produce classic and contemporary theatre that addresses vital issues in our society, raises



awareness, and encourages dialogue while entertaining." This one-night performance begins at 8 p.m. May 10 at Peppermint Creek's performance venue, located in the Miller Performing Arts Center, 6025 Curry Lane, in South Lansing.

For tickets and information, call 517-927-3016 or visit www.peppermintcreek.org.

LAAN To Provide HIV Testing Every Tuesday

The Lansing Area AIDS Network (LAAN) has begun providing Rapid HIV Testing every Tuesday 1-8 p.m. All results will be anonymous and given the same day.

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517-394-3719 ext. 30 and ask for Matt. LAAN is located at 913 W. Holmes Road, Ste. 115, in Lansing.

Sistrum Presents 'It Takes A Village' May 10

Sistrum, Lansing's Women's Chorus, presents their spring concert, "It Takes a Village." The show highlights families and communities, core issues to the goal of creating empowering and inspiring music for Sistrum's community. Music ranges from lullabies to love poems, marked by both large and small ensemble performances.

Founded in 1986 by Rachel Alexander, former assistant director of the St. Louis Woman's Choir, Sistrum embraces core values of empowerment and acceptance. Providing a musical haven for women to find and nurture their voices, the Lansing Women's Chorus believes in the magic and joy of raising voices together as diverse lesbian, bisexual, heterosexual, queer and transgender women.

Performances will be held at 8 p.m. on May 10 and 11 at First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. A silent auction will be held before each concert at 7 p.m., with proceeds going to support the chorus. Tickets range from \$12-50. For more information, visit www.sistrum.org.

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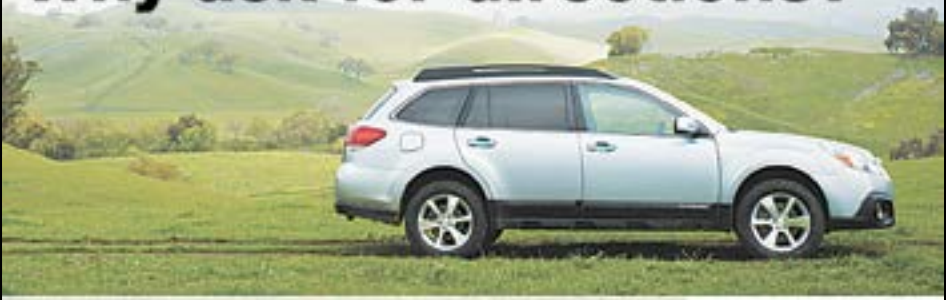
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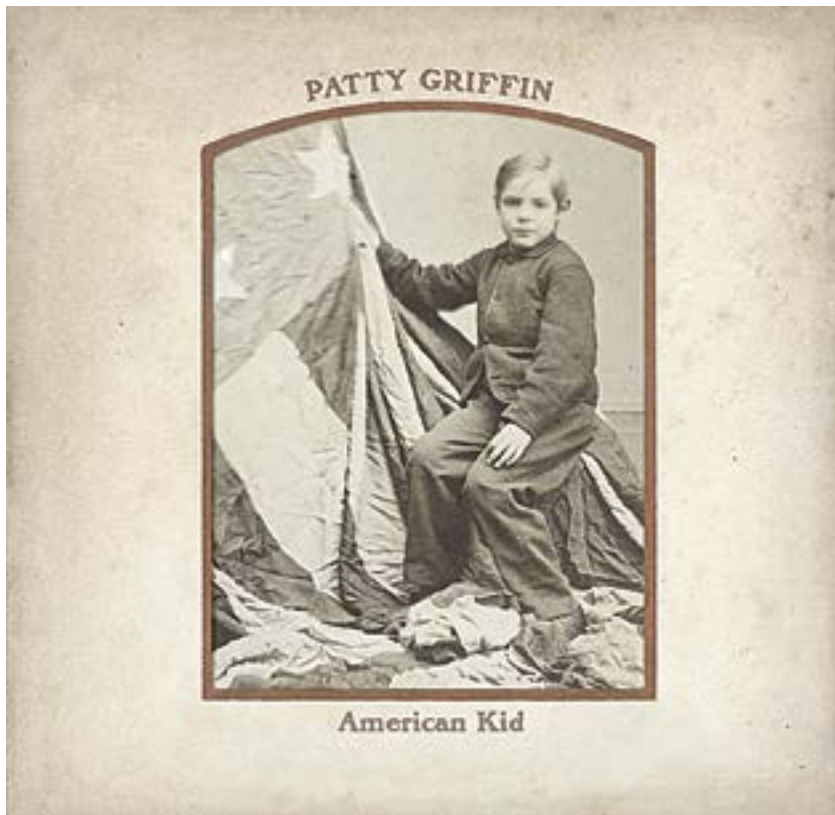


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Hear Me Out BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Patty Griffin, James Blake



Patty Griffin, 'American Kid'

Ever since her rootsy 1996 debut “Living with Ghosts,” Patty Griffin has found inspiration in the deep, dark corners of life. Written in the midst of her father’s death, “American Kid” serves to honor him in the best way Griffin knows how: with song. Griffin go-tos, like mortality and loneliness, reoccur in the elaborately painted snapshots that play out like chapters of a book – each one taking you closer to the end of a story. That bitter end is “Gonna Miss You When You’re Gone,” a glimmer of hope in her grief. The wistful opener, “Go Wherever You Wanna Go,” imagines eternal rest as the release of life’s burdens. But this isn’t a dedication that merely mourns. In fact, it doesn’t do much of that at all. It remembers. Sung in first person, the man in “Irish Boy” and “Faithful Son” is an overlooked wallflower – a war vet who went his whole life doing unto others and still slipped through the cracks. “Little children came and grew, moved away and never knew who I was or who I am; no, they never knew this lonely man,” Griffin laments on the latter, as a guitar waxes with escalating percussion and an ethereal voiced Robert Plant carrying out the track like a spirit sailing off to the sky. Capturing scenes from everyday life, “American Kid” riffs on an abandoned mutt (heartbreaker “Wild Old Dog”), a frisky fella courting his new wife (“Get Ready Marie,” her most playful song

ever) and transcendence (spiritual “Ohio”). It sweeps the earthiness of “Living with Ghosts” into a sublime Americana sound with the heart and soul – and certainly the songs – of Patty at her prime. In a career repertoire of highs, this one goes all the way to the heavens. *Grade: A-*



James Blake, 'Overgrown'

James Blake doesn’t care if you rip his sophomore album for free. He said so in a recent interview, noting that the label is not in agreement with his very generous marketing strategy (oh, I wonder why). Blake is either really modest with his music, or he’s selling the prowess on display during “Overgrown” so short – it doesn’t get shorter than free – he’s unconcerned with profiting from it. But he certainly deserves to. Having claimed a fair amount of indie clout with 2011’s self-titled debut, the English virtuoso ambles into the same electro “post-dubstep” lushness that scored him a Mercury Music Prize nod that year. This time, Blake approaches his work with even more refined precision and the delicately winsome soundscapes that summon the abstractness, wonder and dream states of Bon Iver and Sigur Rós – all the while, his melty-voiced endearment pulls you in like the tide. The

title track’s cascading piano is swallowed by a whorl of sound euphoria; “Life Round Here” fuzzes and sizzles into a hooky soul hypnosis (it also features an unforgettable thread: “Everything feels like a touchdown on a rainy day”); “DLM” strips back the atmospherics for just a simple melody and still mesmerizes. Even the rap Wu-Tang Clan leader RZA lays down on “Take a Fall for Me” jibes with Blake’s subtly melodic and stunningly cinematic work. “Overgrown” is the kind of outré album that commands quietly with its minimalism and soothing sensitivity, as it frames a world of majestic sonic grace. That sounds like something that deserves some monetary recognition, don’t you think? *Grade: A-*



Amy Grant, 'How Mercy Looks From Here'

What’s Amy Grant been up to in the 10 years since her last studio album? Living. There’s no “Baby Baby” on the Christian-pop darling’s long-gestated work, because these songs are formed from wisdom and reality: seizing the day (“Our Time Is Now” with Carole King), love’s boundlessness (“Deep As It Is Wide” with Sheryl Crow and Eric Paslay; a threesome pulled off masterfully) and a vow of acceptance (“Golden,” a welcome throwback to Grant’s ’80s catalog). Life at 52 also means confronting grief and sadness; the inspiring title track carries the burden of both, as does the somber “Shovel in Hand.” Those songs, like all of “Mercy,” aren’t pretty pop – but they’re real.



Alice Russell, 'To Dust'

Adele better hurry with that junior album if she doesn’t want Alice Russell to swipe the soul-diva spotlight from her. The British songstress’ “To Dust” – her fifth solo release in just over a decade – is cut from the same cloth of vintage soul that launched Adele into global stardom. Now it’s Russell’s turn. Besides a voice big and bold enough to wage war, the U.K. singer is also completely invested in the torrent of emotions rippling through this old-school R&B revival. About those emotions: they’re everywhere, from the sad demise of a relationship (“I Loved You”) to defiance (“A to Z”) and desperation (“4 a While”). It’s time she get her big break, America.



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'Asher Lev' Explores The Price Of Individuality

BY JOHN QUINN

Each of the narrative arts tells a story in a different way. Adaptations are a mixed bag; some are successful, many are less so. Aaron Posner's dramatic adaptation of Chaim Potok's 1972 novel, "My Name Is Asher Lev," though, is an achievement. Posner distills Potok's 375 pages into less than 90 minutes of drama, creating a richly theatrical experience. The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company offers us the rare opportunity to enjoy a current off Broadway hit without visiting the Big Apple.

His name is Asher Lev. He's an observant member of Brooklyn's tight-knit Hassidic community. He also, from early childhood, demonstrates brilliance in art – "a little Chagall." His incessant, compulsive drawing irks his father, Aryeh, who considers art irrelevant to true religious devotion. The mediator between father and son is Asher's mother, Rivkeh, dedicated to her beliefs but a little more tolerant of her son's obsession.

"My Name Is Asher Lev" is a conceptual work so streamlined it could play effectively in the smallest chamber

PREVIEW My Name Is Asher Lev

The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company at Aaron DeRoy Theatre on the campus of the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Thursday, Saturday & Sunday through May 19. 85 minutes; no intermission. \$38-45. 248-788-2900.

www.jettheatre.org

theater. All the men but Asher are played by John Seibert, all the women by Naz Edwards. Together they are a case study in the actor's art. Although each is using a full complement of tools to delineate his and her multiple characters, Seibert tends to employ voice. He's particularly effective demonstrating the polar opposites among the men, contrasting the gentle, Old-world cadence of the Rebbe with Jacob Kahn's harsh, "New Yawk" accent. Edwards leans toward using expression. Just the way she holds her mouth defines Rivkah Lev. One might think she wears a totally different face when she portrays (Sigmund Freud, call your office!) Asher's first nude model.

But the title character is Asher Lev, and he is Mitchell A. Koory, whose stamina is impressive. He's pretty much non-

stop for the entire performance. No less impressive is the way he finds the fundamental truth in his character and conveys it to his audience.

Structurally, the drama alternates between narration and vignette and the transitions are seamless. David J. Magidson, artistic director of JET, establishes a measured pace that allows an audience to savor Potok's use of language. He even overcomes the script's rare hiccups; for example, a potentially dull scene in which Posner uses repetition for comic effect. Asher is trying to explain the difference between painting nudes and painting naked women to his skeptical father. It kind of got away from the playwright; the director reined it back in. Timing is everything. This show is a co-production with Ann Arbor's Performance Network Theatre.

The production will also be presented at Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor, Aug. 8-Sept. 8. \$22-41. For information: 734-663-0681 or www.performancenetwork.org

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Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, May 9

Give OUT Day Every donation received will go to KGLRC. Part of national campaign of LGBTQ giving. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., Kalamazoo. 269-349-4234. Kglrc.org

This Boy is a Bottom: Willam, Detox, and Vicky Vox Willam and Detox from seasons four and five of RuPaul's Drag Race perform with Vicky Vox. 18+. Menjo's, 928 McNichols Road W., Detroit. 313-863-3934. Menjosbar.com

Voices Story Project Share your story through Voices, a project highlighting the experiences of LGBTQ people in the Kalamazoo area. Selected pieces will be read at the Pulse: Allied Artist event. This is Fire, 1249 Portage Road, Kalamazoo. 269-344-6659. Voices.fire@gmail.com

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

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

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

Friday, May 10

Ladies Night Out 5 p.m. Beginning at 5 p.m., participating Ann Arbor stores will be offering discounts, refreshments, and other special surprises. Not just for ladies; in store specials are for everyone. Shop local and support your downtown friends and neighbors. Ann Arbor Art Center, Ann Arbor.

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

Woman 2 Woman 6 p.m. Free. KICK, 41 Burroughs St. 109, Detroit. 313-285-9733. E-kick.org

Friday Night Socials: Euchre Night 7 p.m. Snacks and drinks available for purchase. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Saturday, May 11

KICK's Careers & Employment Summit 8 a.m. KICK, 41 Burroughs St. 109, Detroit. 313-285-9733. E-kick.org

"Run 4 A Reason 2013" 5k Walk/Run, 10k Run 10:30 a.m. Registration Fee: \$25. Includes a t-shirt and backpack. Get Out And Live!, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

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

Out4Equality-Collage Project 6 p.m. Collaborative art project incorporating community created art. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Crossroads 7 p.m. Dedicated to serving the needs of transgender individuals. Meets the second Saturday of every

month. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

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

Sunday, May 12

Bicycle Ride at Paint Creek Trail 10 a.m. Ride into Lake Orion and catch the cider mill on the way back. Lunch after at the Rochester Brewery. GOAL, 400 Water St., Rochester.

Mother's Day Brunch 10:30 a.m. Tickets: \$15+. Caesars Windsor, 377 E. Riverside Dr., Windsor. 800-991-7777. Caesarswindsor.com

Older Lesbians Organizing 1 p.m. Provides older Lesbians with the chance to meet like minded women in their common struggles. Older Lesbians Organizing, 319 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. JimToyCenter.org

Michigan Union, 530 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Pajeho@med.umich.edu

Tuesday, May 14

Older Adult and Senior Helpline 4 p.m. Provides peer counseling, empathy and community resources for LGBT adults. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 1-800-398-4297. goaffirmations.org

Aff Action Night 6 p.m. Educating others about how to make Michigan an equality state. Pizza provided for volunteers. 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

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

Coming Out Over Coffee 7 p.m. Casual discussion group about "coming out." Welcomes anyone at any point in their journey. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105.

Significant Other Support 7 p.m. Discussion and support group for friends and loved ones of LGBT. 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

Thursday, May 16

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

Pittman-Puckett Gallery Opening Reception 7 p.m. An exhibition and performance space intended for the presentation of work by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender artists. The gallery includes a growing permanent collection of original works and features rotating shows with specific focuses. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Polyamory Network 7:30 p.m. Open

Editor's Pick

Michigan Humane Society and the Detroit Zoological Society are hosting "Meet Your Best Friend at the Zoo" at the Detroit Zoo. Hundreds of dogs, cats, puppies and kittens will be available for adoption from over 25 animal shelters and welfare organizations.

The annual adoption event has been held at the Detroit Zoo since 1993, where more than 18,000 pets have found homes. Free admission and parking is being offered for the adoption event, though standard rates apply for zoo visits.

Adoptions begin at 2 p.m. May 17 and 10 a.m. May 18 at The Detroit Zoo, 8450 W. 10 Mile Road in Royal Oak. "Puppy passes" will be distributed to the first 25 guests on May 18 specifically adopting a puppy, giving prospective pup parents a 15-minute head start to the event. Adoption fees and policies are subject to participating shelter. Visit www.michiganhumane.org for more information.



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

Conversation Station 5 p.m. Discussion group with facilitator-LGBTQI (and allies) 35 and over-join GOAL each week for discussion, food and fun. Topic: What subjects are you not comfortable talking about? Get Out And Live!, 714 S. Washington St., Royal Oak. 248-981-4227. GetOutAndLive.me

Monday, May 13

Social Knit Night 6:30 p.m. Lansing Association for Human Rights, 319 S. Waverly Road, Lansing. Lahronline.org

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

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

LGBTa Gender Explorers Group 8 p.m. Meets the second and fourth Mondays of every month. Spectrum Center, 3200

Goaffirmations.org

Forum to discuss the Boy Scouts 7 p.m. Open forum to discuss the Boy Scouts' discriminatory policy towards LGBTQ Scouts and leaders. LAHR, 469 N. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. Lahronline.org

Out4Equality-Open Mic Performance Series 7 p.m. Monthly open mic series. Donations: \$0-5. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Wednesday, May 15

GLSEN Mid-Michigan 4:30 p.m. Lansing Association for Human Rights, Lansing. Lahronline.org

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

Beloved Hearts Grief Support Group 6:30 p.m. We cannot change what has happened, but we can support and walk beside you as you grieve. We can give you hugs, help you cry and be the soft place for you to fall when you feel like you cannot take another step. For LGBT and allies grieving the death of a loved one (including pets). GOAL, 515 S. Washington Ave., Royal Oak. 248-515-2551. Getoutandlive.me

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

Friday, May 17

Meet Your Best Friend at the Zoo Hundreds of adoptable dogs, cats, puppies and kittens will be available for immediate adoption from MHS and more than 20 additional organizations at the largest off-site pet adoption event in the country. There is no charge for admission or parking for this event, which is held under tents in the Detroit Zoo front parking lot, beneath the signature water tower. Michigan Humane Society and the Detroit Zoological Society, 8450 W. 10 Mile Road, Royal Oak. 248-283-1000. Michiganhumane.org/zoo

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See Happenings, page 28

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Out of Town

Rehoboth Beach, Delaware

BY ANDREW COLLINS

The unofficial gay and lesbian summer beach resort of the Mid-Atlantic states, charming Rehoboth Beach is situated along a sweeping, sandy stretch of the Delaware shore that's within a three-hour drive of Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia. Over the past decade, many of the town's guest houses, shops and restaurants have received stylish makeovers, and this once low-key, largely middle-class town has developed a see-and-be-seen cachet that extends well beyond nearby cities. Prices have risen, too, but Rehoboth largely retains a laid-back, welcoming vibe that makes it a perfect destination for summer fun, and a romantic weekend retreat during the quieter spring and fall shoulder seasons.

The town began developing a subtle gay following in the '50s, probably owing to the fact that closeted Washington types, unable to risk braving the nightlife of D.C., found this relatively secluded beach region a relatively safe and anonymous place to be themselves, or at least test the waters. Lesbians and gays continued to settle here gradually, and then Glenn Thompson opened a full-scale gay resort, the Renegade, on the western outskirts of town in 1980. Soon after, the Blue Moon restaurant and bar opened downtown. Nowadays, Rehoboth (beach-fun.com for general tourism info; camprehoboth.com for details on the GLBT scene) teems with gay-owned or -oriented businesses, including cafes, restaurants, bars and about a dozen guest houses. Although the Renegade was razed in 2002 to make way for condos, the Blue Moon is still a first-rate place to dine and socialize.

Although an increasing number of trendy, urbane businesses have opened here in recent years, Rehoboth's beachfront is still lined with a bustling, honky-tonk boardwalk of saltwater taffy parlors, video arcades and souvenir shops. Many visitors spend afternoons catching rays at the beach. The largely gay male section, known as Poodle Beach, runs from about St. Lawrence to Penn streets, at the southern tip of the Boardwalk. Women sunbathe here to some extent, but more lesbians and a fair share of gay men flock north of downtown to the beach at Cape Henlopen State Park (aka "North Shores" – about a 20-to-30-minute walk

or 10-minute drive via Ocean Drive).

You can also access other parts of Cape Henlopen State Park by driving 10 miles north (via Rte. 1 and U.S. 9) to the charming and historic town of Lewes, and accessing the park from Dunes Road. Lewes itself is a lovely Dutch colonial town founded in 1631, with a neatly preserved downtown of tony shops and inviting restaurants overlooking a beautiful, narrow yacht harbor – it makes a great little day trip, by car or bike. Top-notch, gay-popular restaurants in Lewes include The Buttery (butteryrestaurant.com), which occupies a romantic Victorian house with a large veranda, and Café Azafran (cafeazafran.com), a Spanish-inspired tapas bistro open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner – there's a branch in Rehoboth, too.

Shopping and Dining

Another popular daytime diversion is shopping. Rehoboth Avenue, the main drag, has plenty of fun retail as well as a few galleries. A block over, Baltimore Avenue is the hub of the town's gay scene, home to a few boutiques, home-furnishing emporia, and the small but well-stocked Proud Bookstore, which carries GLBT books and gifts. Delaware has no sales tax, and out on Route 1 you'll discover a bounty of outlet shopping centers. Back in town, take a break from browsing to grab a delicious lunch (maybe the best chicken salad sandwich you'll ever taste) at Lori's Café (lorisoyveycfe.com), or enjoy a snack or a latte at the Coffee Mill (coffeemillrehoboth.com), a cheerful coffeehouse.

Rehoboth has an excellent dining scene, and several trendy newcomers seem to open each season. On the high end, the superb Blue Moon (bluemoonrehoboth.com) – site of the gay bar of the same name – turns out high-caliber contemporary American fare, like Maine lobster spaghetti and stout-brined Berkshire pork chops. Down the street, trendy Aqua Grill (aquagrillrehoboth.com) serves eclectic and reasonably priced international fare – Thai-mango-chutney burgers, coconut shrimp, pot stickers – and then morphs into a fantastic gay video and dance bar, with a sprawling patio, as the evening proceeds. Drag brunches and T-dances are part of the fun on weekends. In the same neighborhood,

Mixx (mixxrehoboth.com) is another high-energy, stylish restaurant and bar with a strong GLBT following, excellent food (macadamia-crust local rockfish, seared scallops), and a see-and-be-seen cocktail scene – there's live music some evenings.

Another hip spot where you'll see plenty of family, Espuma (espumarestaurant.com) serves contemporary Spanish and Mediterranean fare, including great lobster paella. And don't miss the casual Purple Parrot (ppgrill.com), a good bet for burgers and diner fare; it's a lively hangout for drinks and conversation, too, with a popular happy hour each day. Other notables include the Seafood Shack (seafoodshackrehoboth.com), which serves tasty fried-oyster po'boys and tender crab cakes and is known for its live entertainment, which includes piano, female vocalists, and acoustic bands.

Dos Locos (doslocos.com) is a great standby for Mexican food and cocktails. The ornately furnished, Asian-inspired Planet X (planetxcafe.com) scores high marks for its creative cocktails and unusual vegetarian and organic fare, from tofu sate with ginger-peanut sauce to grilled ahi fillet with asparagus, scallion herb salad and lemon aioli. Dogfish Head Brewing & Eats (dogfish.com) is one of the most esteemed craft breweries in the country – it's a fun place to sample a flight of unusual beers (Chicory Stout, Positive Contact Wit-style beer, Chateau Jiahu – which is brewed with rice from an ancient Chinese recipe), and the kitchen serves tasty modern pub fare, too.

For cocktails and entertainment, most folks drop by the lounges at local restaurants to socialize before or after dinner, with the aforementioned Blue Moon, Mixx, Aqua, and Seafood Shack among the favorites. Early in the evening, a lot of lesbians and gay guys head to the Frogg Pond (thefrogpond.com) tavern for karaoke and conversation, or nearby Rehoboth Ale House (rehobothalehouse.com), which has live music some evenings and drag brunch on Sundays. If you're into the leather-and-Levi's scene, be sure to check out the Double L Bar (doublelbar.net), which has a patio, two pool tables, and a cruise-y vibe.

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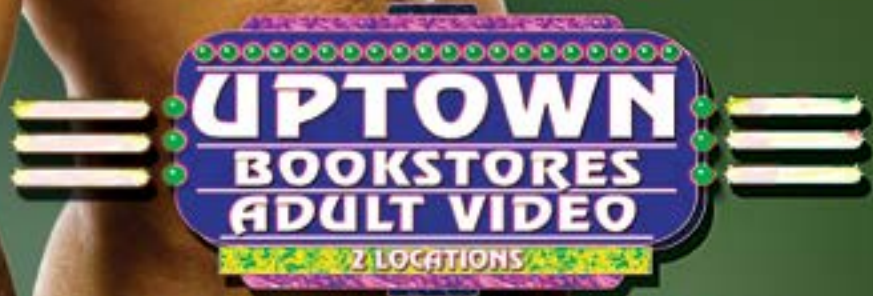
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Editor's Pick



Stephen Sondheim's Tony Award-winning musical "A Little Night Music" continues at the Players Guild of Dearborn, 21730 Madison in Dearborn. Under the professional direction of Harold Jurkiewicz, the show runs weekends through May 19.

Middle-aged lawyer Fredrik Egerman takes his young, still-virgin bride Anne to a play starring his former middle-aged mistress, Desiree Armfeldt, who then rekindles the affair. This stirs anger among not only her current lover, Count Malcolm, but from his wife Charlotte and from Anne. Meanwhile, Fredrik's seminarian son Henrik is in love with Anne. The couples collide in a weekend party at the country estate of Madame Armfeldt, Desiree's mother, who is raising Desiree's daughter, Fredrika. Lusty maid, Petra, and a ready-to-serve butler, Frid, add to the salacious mix.

Friday and Saturday shows are at 8 p.m., with 2:30 p.m. Sunday matinees. Tickets are \$18, with group discounts available. For more information, call (313) 561-TKTS.

Happenings

Continued from p. 22

Concert The George Krasl Memorial Concert is held in memory of George Krasl, who along with his wife Olga shared a passion for the arts and were major benefactors of The Krasl Art Center. Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph. 7:30 p.m. May 9. 269-983-0271. Krasl.org

Majestic Theater "The Airborne Toxic Event" All ages. Tickets: \$20. Majestic Theater, 4120-4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. May 15. 313-833-9700. Majesticdetroit.com

Olympia Entertainment "Jillian Michaels" In the "Maximize Your Life Tour," illian shows how to harness your potential, kick-start your goals and live an exceptional life-sharing her keys to health, success and happiness. No hype, no false promises: just results. Tickets: \$33-200. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. May 9. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Fabulous & Pusha T" All ages. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 8 p.m. May 11. 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre.com

Sistrum, Lansing Women's Chorus "It Takes a Village" The music we're preparing ranges from a Hebrew celebration to a sweet lullaby to a love poem. The concert will include small ensemble performances to add to the variety. Silent Auction & Concert. Tickets: \$12-25. First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. May 10-May 11. Sistrum.org

The Ark "Shinyribs" Tickets: \$10. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. May 15. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "Kristin Hersh" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. May 14. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "The Chenille Sisters" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. May 11. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Magic Stick "Peter Murphy Celebrates 35 Years of Bauhaus" Performing solely Bauhaus material. All ages. Tickets: \$20-50. The Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. May 13. 313-833-9700. Majesticdetroit.com

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

8 \$10-15. Peppermint Creek Theatre at Miller Performing Arts Center, 6025 Curry Lane, Lansing. 8 p.m. May 10. 517-927-3016. peppermintcreek.org

9 to 5, the Musical \$15-35. Crowell Opera House, 129 E. Maumee St., Adrian. May

10-19. 517-264-7469. crowell.org

How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying \$12-23. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Through May 19. 269-343-1313. kazooicivic.com

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

Rabbit Hole \$14-\$16. Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre's 2nd Stage, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. May 10-19. 248-541-6430. stagecrafters.org

Ragtime \$15-50. Ann Arbor in Concert at Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. May 18. 800-745-3000. a2ic.org

Robin Hood \$7. Kalamazoo Civic Youth Theatre at Parish Theatre, 426 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. May 17-25. 269-343-1313. kazooicivic.com

The Beauty Queen of Leenane \$10-12. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. May 10-19. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com

The Fox on the Fairway \$10-33. Starlight Dinner Theatre at Waverly East Cafeterium, 3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. May 10-18. 517-243-6040. starlightdinnertheatre.com

The Lion in Winter \$11-22. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at Arthur Miller Theatre within the Walgreen Drama Center, 1226 Murfin Ave., Ann Arbor. May 9-12. 734-971-2228. a2ct.org

The Man Who Came to Dinner Kalamazoo Civic Senior Class Reader's Theatre, Carver Center Studio, 426 South Park St., Kalamazoo. May 10-May 12. 269-343-1313. kazooicivic.com

PROFESSIONAL

Captain Buffalo \$12-18. Detroit Ensemble Theatre at Michigan Actors Studio, 648 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. Through May 19. 877-632-3320. detroitensembletheatre.org

Catch Me If You Can \$35-80. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. May 7-19. 313-872-1000. broadwayindetroit.com

Laughter and Reflection with Carol Burnett \$35-85. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. May 15. 517-432-2000. whartoncenter.com

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

My Name is Asher Lev \$38-45. The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company at Aaron DeRoy Theatre, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Through May 19. 248-788-2900. jetttheatre.org

Tapdance! \$18. Broadway Onstage, 21517

Kelly Road, Eastpointe. Through May 11. 586-771-6333. BroadwayOnStage.com

The 5th Annual Improv Festival \$10-25. Crawlspace Theatre Productions at Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. May 10-11. 269-343-2727. crawlspace theatre.com

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

ART'N'AROUND

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

Chelsea River Gallery "2013 Annual Chelsea School District & Juried Art Exhibit Celebration" 120 S. Main St., Chelsea. May 3-May 12. 734-433-0826. Chelsearivergallery.com

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

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

Detroit Institute of Arts "Motor City Muse: Detroit Photographs, Then and Now" 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Feb. 1-June 16. 313-833-7900. DIA.org

Flint Institute of Arts "Around the World with 80 Objects" 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Jan. 31-June 30. Flintarts.org

Fourteen East "Abstract Art by Jan Brown" Fourteen East, 15 E. Kirby, Detroit. April 30-July 31.

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

MOCAD "Mike Kelley's Mobile Homestead" 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. May 11-July 28. 313-832-6622. Mocadetroit.org

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

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Florenza Pita/FP mod" 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Feb. 1-June 16. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts "Quirkshop: Tiny Terariums" Tickets: \$15-20. Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts, Two Fulton West, Grand Rapids. 7 p.m. May 9. Uica.org

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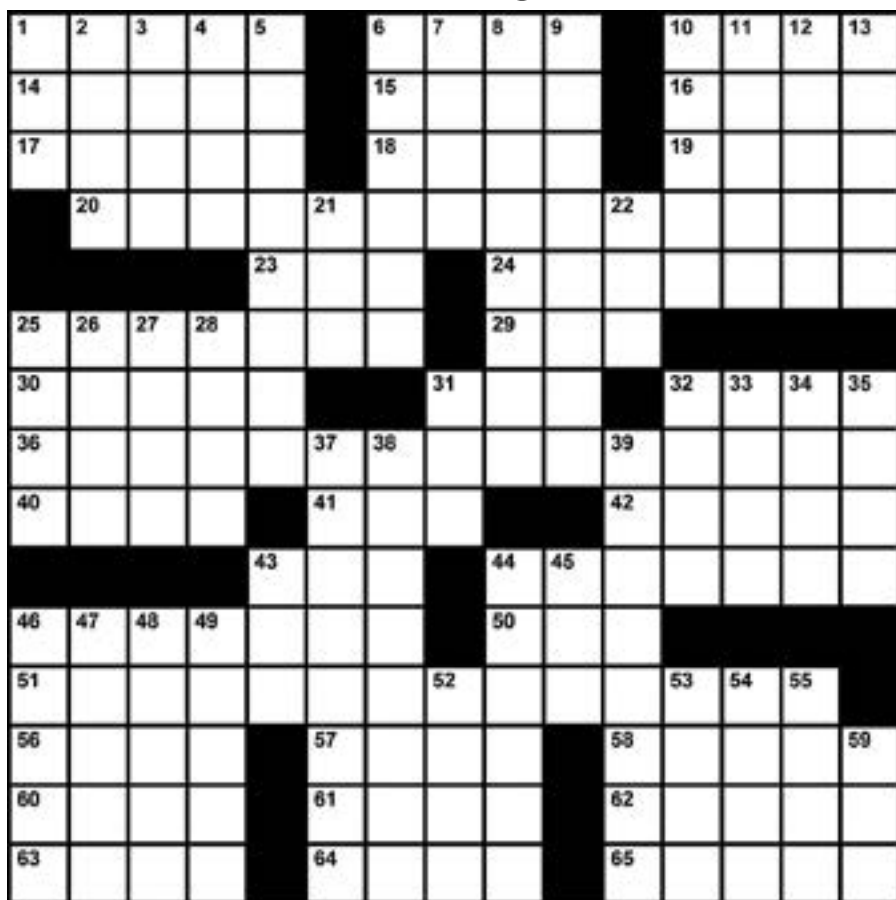


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Across

- 1 "No problem" from a bottom?
- 6 Yr. before jr.
- 10 Like communion at the Crystal Cathedral
- 14 Connect with
- 15 Warhol pal ___ Sedgwick
- 16 Theater award
- 17 Sign in Frasier's booth, perhaps
- 18 Actress Foch
- 19 Seizures for Caesar
- 20 With 36-Across, assessment of marriage equality by 51-Across
- 23 Burgundy Bible gospel
- 24 Vin Packer and others
- 25 Part of the Bush pere pair
- 29 Neighbor of Neb.
- 30 Philosopher Locke
- 31 Mom's specialty, briefly
- 32 "La ___ aux Folles"
- 36 See 20-Across
- 40 Dike problem
- 41 Margaret of "Drop Dead Diva"
- 42 Type of queen
- 43 Prefix for system
- 44 Loads
- 46 "Metrosexual" pirate Jack
- 50 Vein filler
- 51 Antigay author of "Ender's

Game"

- 56 Out-of-this-world org.
- 57 Baseball diamond cover
- 58 Constellation with a belt
- 60 Fateful March day
- 61 Morales of "Resurrection Blvd."
- 62 "You'll ___ Walk Alone"
- 63 Susan B. Anthony colleague Carrie
- 64 Cut
- 65 Former NFL player Tualo

Down

- 1 Simpson trial judge Lance
- 2 It reveals a drag queen's thighs
- 3 Gun, slangily
- 4 Inflamed end?
- 5 Locale of the Hawthorne neighborhood
- 6 Nero's tutor
- 7 Garfield's sidekick
- 8 Top
- 9 A wrestler may use it to hold his man
- 10 Nicholson title role
- 11 Final notices
- 12 Like a ballerina
- 13 Ass-kissers' responses
- 21 Heston in a chariot

- 22 Tin Man's request
- 25 Lament loudly
- 26 Skin moisturizer
- 27 Uncommon, to Caligula
- 28 Swindle
- 31 "Heather Has ___ Mommies"
- 32 Backs (out)
- 33 ___ bit (slightly)
- 34 Bannon's "Odd ___ Out"
- 35 JFK predictions
- 37 Confronted
- 38 Trot out
- 39 Missile head
- 43 Suffix for southeast
- 44 Where a baker may put his meat
- 45 Gallery objects
- 46 Type of boom
- 47 What the Devil wears, in a movie
- 48 Nice buns, for example
- 49 Friar's affair
- 52 Anal alternative
- 53 Greek war deity
- 54 It was gauche, for Debussy
- 55 Active one
- 59 Shooters' org.

Solution on pg. 27

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