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NEWS

- 6 Shore 2 Shore planned
- 7 Affirmations changes name
- 7 Gay couples can now volunteer together in Peace Corps
- 8 Women in love
- 12 Hennepin: the quiet revolution
- 16 What's new at Affirmations
- 18 'Second Class Citizen' photo phoot to kick off Ferndale Pride
- 19 Between Ourselves: Monica Mills

OPINION

- 10 In this season of pride
- 11 Parting Glances
- 14 Creep of the Week

LIFE

- 22 Pride Season Calendar
- 24 A new transition
- 31 Not just another manic MonDay
- 34 An Anthem for change
- 36 Comedy hits the right notes
- 38 Happenings
- 44 Dancing on her own
- 45 Gay Play Series returns to Ringwald

REAR VIEW

- 50 Classifieds
- 52 Puzzle

“I didn’t feel **connected** to the sound that was coming out of me – I was still expecting **the old voice** to be what I’d hear.”

– Lucas Silveira of The Cliks, pg 24



Join The Conversation @ PrideSource.com



Plan Out The June Pride Season Today

June is just around the corner: plan out your month of festivities by checking out the Pride calendar on page 22 or go online to see our interactive Pride Guide Map at Pridesource.com/prideguide.html



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Unity Michigan Coalition Pride Season Volunteers

BTL is seeking volunteers to assist in a community outreach project throughout the June Pride season. Volunteers will work with BTL to collect contact information from attendees of Pride festivals who are interested in furthering nondiscrimination policies.

E-mail Ben@pridesource.com for more information or to sign up.

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REPORT: 22% Of Same Sex Couples In Detroit Raising Children

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Of major U.S. cities, Detroit ranks third among percentage of same sex couples raising children. Detroit tied with Memphis and San Antonio, at 22%. Salt Lake City had the largest percentage at 26%, and Virginia Beach VA ranked second at 24%.

The data comes from a recently released Williams Institute analysis of the 2010 U.S. Census, which was the first time that the Census offered the opportunity for same sex couples to be officially counted. Since the Census, The Williams Institute has been analyzing it and issuing reports. The Institute is part of the University of California Las Angeles, and their mission is “conducting rigorous, independent research on sexual orientation and gender identity law and public policy.”

The newest report showed that while Detroit ranks high in percentage of gay couples raising kids, overall Michigan’s same sex couples are not raising children at nearly as high of a rate – just 18%, making it the 25th highest state. Mississippi had the highest percentage of same sex couples raising kids at 26% and in Washington, DC only 8.7% of gay couples raise children.

“Research consistently shows that same-sex couples raise children all across the country,” said Williams Institute public policy research fellow, Angeliki Kastanis. “This analysis underscores the fact that recognition of LGBT families is a consequential policy question in every state.”

In Michigan, same sex couples do not have the same rights as heterosexual couples. They are unable to be married, and they are not able to have second parent adoption. This means that when same sex couples raise children in Michigan, one of the parents lack parental rights such as custody, being able to make medical decisions, being able to make educational decisions, and in many cases not being able to have them on their medical insurance.

The Williams Institute also shared information in 2012 that showed that same sex couples are more likely to be interracial than heterosexual couples. In California and states that border Mexico, the percentage goes as high as 53% of couples being of mixed race or ethnicity. In Michigan, 13-14% of same sex couples are multiracial or multiethnic.

The Census only collected data on same sex couples sharing a household, not on LGBT individuals. The data showed that there are 131,729 married same-sex couples in the United States and 514,735 unmarried couples living together.

For more information on the Williams Institute, visit their website at <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu>.



The Community Center Network’s Big Ride: Shore 2 Shore Planned

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

The statewide collaboration continues as the Community Center Network announces Shore 2 Shore – a cross-state bike ride benefitting LGBT centers throughout Michigan.

The ride goes from Ferndale to Saugatuck, and takes place Sept 4-7. It is limited to 100 riders.

“Because it’s the first year of the event we want to keep it small so we can see if there are any challenges. Within five years I expect this to be the largest fundraiser for the LGBT community,” said Affirmations Executive Director Dave Garcia.

Garcia brought the idea to Michigan after hearing about the massive rides that take place in LA and New York for LGBT community centers there.

The idea is simple, but there is magic in the details. Multiple centers are involved, but Affirmations is fronting the cost, including the services of Event Coordinator Andi Greer. Breer’s job is to plan the route, establish safety mechanisms, find sponsors, create event communications and set up supports for the riders. One thing that will make the trip nice is that there will be one “camp concierge” for every ten riders.

“I wanted to hear from riders to see what they liked about other rides and what they didn’t like. The biggest complaint was at the end the stuff is ‘just dumped at the campground’ and they have to face finding

their stuff, putting up their tents and creating their space,” she said.

“The whole focus of the camp concierge is making sure campers are happy and taken care of. The volunteers will go ahead of riders, setting up camp and making sure tents are set up so all they have to worry about is getting there and relaxing.”

“Within five years I expect this to be the largest fundraiser for the LGBT community.”

- Affirmations Executive Director Dave Garcia.

The route is designed to be scenic, with plenty of places to stop and rest. Each leg of the ride is about 50 miles, leaving plenty of time for relaxing or for side trips. Along the way, sponsors like Whole Foods will provide snacks and liquids and there will be other sponsored surprises too.

The ride hits Ann Arbor the first night, Albion the second night, Kalamazoo the third night, and wraps up in Saugatuck the fourth night.

There is a \$100 registration fee plus

SAVE THE DATE

Sept 4 - 7

Bike ride goes from Ferndale to Saugatuck and is limited to the first 100 riders that sign up

>> <http://equalityride.dojiggy.com>

a \$1,000 minimum commitment for fundraising. Volunteers are asked to raise at least \$250. Riders can pledge to a specific center or have their donations go into the pool. The community centers will split the expenses equally and the revenue will be divided among the centers based on percentage of funds raised.

The participating centers are the Resource Center in Kalamazoo, the Jim Toy Center in Ann Arbor, KICK in Detroit, The Network in Grand Rapids, Perceptions in Saginaw and Affirmations in Ferndale. Though only Affirmations, Jim Toy, and The Resource Center are along the route, each center has a representative on the Shore 2 Shore committee and is expected to encourage riders from their home community.

The Community Center Network has accomplished a lot since it formed in 2012, coming together for the Gay Families Matter rally in Lansing. They also created the 100 Day Hungry 4 Equality Strike. Further collaborations like the Shore 2 Shore ride are expected as a crucial part of attaining equality in Michigan.

To find out more about the ride, visit the website at <http://equalityride.dojiggy.com>.

Affirmations Changes Name And Structure

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

FERNDALE – Affirmations has shortened its name and changed the bylaws of the organization to create a board directorship model of governance. At the May 22 annual meeting, members voted unanimously to make the changes, which board directors say will protect the organization and help it grow.

Most people already know Affirmations as just that, Affirmations. However the full name of the organization was Affirmations Lesbian and Gay Community Center. Executive Director Dave Garcia said that the new name welcomes everyone, including transgender people and allies. Removing the word “center” means that “Affirmations is more than just a building,” and it allows for expansion of programs beyond the walls of a physical location.

“Some people did not want to give up the tags,” said Director IJ Campbell, “but it brings the name into what the logo already says. The organization may be in many places in the future, not just this building. Wherever we may be, if we do programs in other places like Wayne County or Washtenaw County or wherever, it’s a brand people will recognize.”

The changes in the bylaws affect how Directors will be placed on the board. “We are trying to bring Affirmations into the future and into the best practices of nonprofits. It used to be when you formed a nonprofit 20 or 30 years ago the traditional structure is what’s called a membership organization,” said Director Frank Aiello. “We’ve been operating as a member organization hybrid for a while where both members can elect members of the Board of Directors and then the Board also has the power to appoint Directors itself. Most nonprofits these days have moved to a directorship model where the board appoints board members itself.”

Peace Corps Now Accepting Gay Couples

Beginning June 3, same sex couples can apply to serve together in the Peace Corps. A recent press release from the Federal agency welcomed couples to apply for positions that would take them to other countries together to work.

“Service in the Peace Corps is a life-defining leadership experience for Americans who want to make a difference around the world,” Deputy Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet said. “I am proud that the agency is taking this important step forward to allow same-sex domestic partners to serve overseas together.”

Expanding service opportunities to same-sex domestic partners who want to volunteer together further diversifies the pool of Peace Corps applicants and the skills of those invited

Aiello explained that by having a directorship model, it can help them continue their commitment of having a board that is diverse and it can prevent outside parties from coming in and making radical changes, like a hostile takeover, by getting enough members to vote leadership in that may not agree with Affirmation’s mission.

Financial Health

The annual meeting also was a time for members to get an update on Affirmations’ financial health and programming. Treasurer Adam Powell’s report about the center’s million-dollar budget was read aloud by Campbell since Powell was ill and unable to attend. “2012 was a challenging year for us, but expenses were generally in line with our expectations, and on a cash basis we were fairly neutral for the year, meaning we brought in about as much as we spent, which is ok for us as we’re a non-profit and the goal is to use money we receive on providing services for the community,” the report said. It also noted that the Spring Bash was the most successful yet, bringing in enough money for 1-2 months of programming expenses.

Garcia spoke of some of Affirmation’s accomplishments, including a move towards sustainability with insurance billing for counseling services. The Shore 2 Shore bike ride is a new event that he hopes will grow to be a large fundraiser for the organization, and soon there will be GED training available. Garcia also said that Affirmations has been doing more door knocking and phone banking than any other organization in Michigan.

To learn more about Affirmations, visit their website at www.goaffirmations.org

to serve overseas in the fields of education, health, community economic development, environment, youth in development and agriculture. Married heterosexual couples have been serving together in the Peace Corps since its inception in 1961. Currently, seven percent of Peace Corps assignments are filled by married volunteers serving together.

The Peace Corps requires formal documentation for all couples who want to serve, and same-sex domestic partners will be required to sign an affidavit before leaving for service that will act as verification of their relationship. The Peace Corps continually works with staff in host countries to identify placements that allow for safe and productive assignments.

Visit www.peacecorps.gov/learn/howvol/

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Women In Love... And Some Really Great Pizza

Amici's To Be Featured On Cooking Channel Show

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

BERKLEY – “Girl Power” is the theme behind an upcoming Cooking Channel show called Pizza Cuz. The program travels the country in search of amazing pizza stories, and on June 3 lesbian-owned Amici's Pizza in Berkley (with a second location in Birmingham) will be featured as one of the most successful woman-owned pizza places in the country.

Boss-ladies Jennifer Stark and Maureen McNamara bought the pizzeria eight years ago from Stark's brother, and all told the establishment is celebrating its 20th year. They are known for their high-quality ingredients including homemade gluten-free crust and their whole wheat crust. When available they use local ingredients and have worked hard to be as non-GMO as possible.

Pizzas featured for the show include Portabella mushroom, Caribbean Spicy Jerk and Black Bean. “It was a full day shoot,” Stark said. “The first thing they did was mic us. They filmed us from 10 in the morning until 7 at night. They interviewed customers. We made pizzas. It was fun.”

There are a few things that set Amici's apart from other pizzerias. “We try to create an atmosphere where everyone is welcome. We have a lot of regular customers and they say they feel really comfortable here,” Stark said.

The walls of Amici's have ever-changing artwork by local artists. “We display the work for free, we don't take a commission like other places do. We just want to support artists,” she said. Another signature Amici's feature is the back patio, which has evolved over the years into a peaceful garden-like place where customers enjoy romantic lighting and beautiful landscaping. “We gave it a woman's touch,” Stark said.

Pizza Cuz also focused on the couple's insistence on being as earth-friendly as possible. For the past six years Amici's has been a certified green restaurant. “We recycle all our cans, bottles and packaging. We use green cleaning supplies. And we use biodegradable wear – forks and knives – and our to-go



Jennifer Stark and Maureen McNamara bought the pizzeria eight years ago from Stark's brother, and all told the establishment is celebrating its 20th year.

containers are made of sugarcane,” Stark said.

Amici's is a local favorite, having won several awards including Best Gourmet Pizza from the Metro Times for 2010 and 2013, Best Gourmet Pizza from the Detroit Free Press in 2002, and City's Best Pizza from 2005-2007 from AOL City Guide.

Stark and McNamara run the business together, working every day to keep things running smoothly. Their long-time staff is a testament to the fact that there isn't a job they won't do – from taking out the trash to cleaning the restrooms.

The couple has been together for eleven years, and has been working together for eight.

The women, both 50, met back in high school. They were in band together and both played the clarinet. “We lost touch and re-met 20 years later,” Stark said.

McNamara had been living in New York and was working in the music business. She eventually moved back to Michigan so she and Stark could have a life together. “I could not find a job in the music industry, so we bought Amici's.



SAVE THE DATE

Pizza Cuz airs June 3 at 9 p.m. on the
Cooking Channel. See the program's website:

>> www.cookingchanneltv.com/shows/pizza-cuz.html

It's a better fit for me to have my own business,” she said. “It's the realization that if I had my own thing it allows me to run it the way I want.”

“For us it works pretty well,” McNamara said. “We seem to have a good working relationship. Her qualities sort of go together with mine. At the end of the day your partner makes you a better person. We have the quality where if one person goes off a little, the other can step in. We laugh a lot and we like each other.”

Learn more about Amici's Pizza at
<http://amicispizza.com>.

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GRAND TIMES AHEAD

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On Boy Scouts of America...

“The BSA now will have to look gay teens in the eye, boys who’ve been involved in Scouting for years, and tell them they’re not going to be able to grow into adult leaders. Those conversations will be difficult and shouldn’t be had.”

- Rich Ferraro of GLAAD

“I think that the committee made the choice to do something brave and I think it shows a positive step in the right direction.”

- Chance Kawar, an Eagle Scout and high school senior. Because Chance is over 18 and legally an adult, the new rule does not apply to him and he can no longer participate in scouting.

“You’re ok, gays. Just don’t grow up.”

- Joshua Malina, actor on The West Wing and Scandal

“As a former Boy Scout, I know personally the amazing benefits youth-serving organizations like the Boy Scouts of America offer young people, and I appreciate the organization’s latest attempt to live up to their own virtues by accepting gay scouts. However, as a gay man, I am distressed by the notion that once these young people turn 18, they are no longer welcome.”

- Greg Varnum, Equality Michigan

“We are asking the Boy Scouts locally to add a system where gay boys will utilize a different shower, tent, and restroom than boys who are heterosexual. While we do not have co-ed showers for males and females, we are requesting that they devise a plan to separate the gay population out of our facilities.”

- Tim Burley via Facebook

“It is obvious the Boy Scouts have already been taken over by homosexuals or they would not have made the decision to allow homosexuals when the Supreme Court had ruled they did not have to.”

- Tom Ford via Facebook

“Frankly, I can’t imagine a Southern Baptist pastor who would continue to allow his church to sponsor a Boy Scout troop under these new rules.”

- Richard Land, a senior Southern Baptist Conference official



VIEWPOINT: MICHELLE BROWN

Even though some cities hold their PRIDE celebrations as early as April, Philadelphia’s Black Pride was held in April; June will always be the official kick-off month for PRIDE celebrations in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community.

This year we certainly have had a lot to celebrate. On the heels of a national election where LGBT rights were included as part of the larger issues facing all Americans by not just a national standard bearer but the President of the United States, it appeared as if our day had finally arrived.

Marriage equality had its day in court and as we await a ruling from the Supreme Court the number of states recognizing same sex marriage has grown to 12. The Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) might still be on the books but it’s on the ropes headed for a TKO if not by the courts then by individual states taking a stand for the rights of same gender loving couples and their families.

We’ve seen an east coast sweep of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, Delaware, and Maryland; in-roads to equality in the heartland states of Iowa and Minnesota; and the great state of Washington representing the west coast, as well as in the District of Columbia with Illinois waiting in the wings to welcome same gender loving couples.

Attitudes are changing. High profile personalities who are out like George Takei, Ellen Degeneres, Wade Davis, Anderson Cooper, Jim Parsons, Jim Nabors, and others to name a few and the recent coming out of Robbie Rogers, Brittney Griner, and Jason Collins have moved the dialogue forward immeasurably.

We looked like YOU. We were just like your sons and your daughters. We’d been your heroes on television, in the movies, on the grid iron, on the soccer field and on the basketball courts. And there was Oprah sitting on the couch with Jason Collins and his entire family saying it’s all right. A national aha moment “They’re here. They’re queer. So y’all just need to get over it.” (OK, Oprah didn’t say that but I bet she was thinking it.)

This June we really have something to celebrate as we have our PRIDE marches, picnics and various festivities but it’s not all sunshine and rainbows.

We, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans are still under attack, at risk and that we must never forget.

Last year thirteen transgender Americans

In This Season of Pride

We have to embrace the good and the bad, the celebration and the outrage, the parties and the politics. This June, this season of PRIDE, let’s be intentional. Let’s celebrate PRIDE with a purpose. A pride that goes beyond June’s 30 days. A pride, so compelling, so righteous, so just, so contagious, that our equality will no longer be denied.

were murdered and the violence continues with even more deaths including the murders of Kayla Moore and Cemla “CiCi” Dove.

In February, Marco McMillian, a black mayoral candidate, who was also gay, was found on the Mississippi River levee murdered.

And as we prepare to kick-off a month of PRIDE, New York City has been rocked by a series of homophobic attacks including the murder of Marc Carson, a gay man.

Even though we have made advances on the marriage equality front, the greatest percentage of LGBT families lives in areas of the country with the least protections for their families. In a majority of states, including Michigan, individuals can still be fired and/or denied housing for being LGBT or perceived to be gay and the fate of the reintroduced Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) remains uncertain.

Studies show that more and more Americans have evolved on LGBT marriage and equality (some demographic models indicating that if put up for a vote, same-sex marriage would become legal in all but

six states by 2020,) but it will take more than warm fuzzy feelings about us walking down the aisle and celebrity outings to stop the violence, stop the discrimination, stop the ignorance and put an end to homo and transphobia.

This year, as we begin celebrating our pride across the country, I am filled with not just the audacity of hope, but the audacity to believe change is finally going to come. I can feel it. It’s in the air, in our conversations. It’s within our grasp.

But if we want it, we have to embrace the good and the bad, the celebration and the outrage, the parties and the politics.

This June, this season of PRIDE, let’s be intentional. Let’s celebrate PRIDE with a purpose. A pride that goes beyond June’s 30 days. A pride, so compelling, so righteous, so just, so contagious, that our equality will no longer be denied.

Michelle E. Brown is a public speaker, activist and author. Read Michelle’s blog at <http://mychangeiam.com/>. Follow Michelle at @MyChangeIAm



Here, there, everywhere!



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

I've been rereading Irish author Colm Toibin's book "Love in A Dark Time," as Motor City and Ferndale's Pride 2013 events take place one week apart from each other.

For those unfamiliar with Toibin, his novel "The Story of Night" is among the 100 best gay novels listed by Lambda Literary Digest. His books with gay struggle awareness, liberation themes are read in 17 languages. He pubs down in Dublin. (Erin Go Gaelic!)

"Love in A Dark Time" sheds light on famous men and women whose affectional needs "remained hidden or oblique for much of their lives, either by choice or necessity." Each rainbow personality lived when there was little, if any, light at the end of the tunnel of same-sex love.

For those who came out before Stonewall, 1969, psychiatry, the law, the Church, family and friends offered few kind words, little understanding, and no mending for fallen angels with cellophane wings.

There were no BTLs, no Affirmations LGBT Center, no Rainbow Cruises, no Lansing Pride parades, no holy unions, no same-sex weddings, no Triangle Foundation or Equality Michigan, no Downriver P-FLAG, no Forum Foundation scholarships, no Ferndale gay mayors, no GRINDR, no Transgender hotlines, no Dyke softball teams, no Just4Us bookstore, no MCC-Detroit, no Dignity group, no Detroit Area Gay/Lesbian Council, no MOHR, no Motor City Business Forum. No Drag Queen Bingo!

How times have changed! Just pick up a copy of Donald Webster Cory's "The Homosexual In America" (1951), and read what it was really like during the Sen. Joseph McCarthy era – himself a frustrated, basket case – whose lengthy communist, gay witch hunt destroyed lives. (Several hundred suspected gays were booted out of the State Department.)

Among insights and quotes in Toibin's "Love in A Dark Place," I've underlined with lavender marker this insight: "People can tolerate two homosexuals they see leaving together, but if the next day they're smiling, holding hands and tenderly embracing one another, then they can't be forgiven. It is not the departure for pleasure that is intolerable, it is the waking up happy."

If there's anything the Religious Right hates it's our waking up happy. Gays can't be happy. (Likewise Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists may seem to be happy. But they can't be eternally so. "Sorry, non-Born-againers. Too bad, heathen. Hey, fags. That's how the biblical fortune cookie crumbles.")

And, Charles, I ask myself these days: How often did you wake up smiling in your checkered past? Well, frequently enough not to walk the straight and narrow, I gamely answer. Yes, I've had many good times, met many fascinating people (and some jerks), traveled, partied, made love, put myself through college, wrote wordy columns, made wacky art, and to my personal, everlasting credit (Log Cabin Republicans, please note) once refused to shake hands with V. P. Richard "tricky Dick" Nixon.

I've also learned as a happy camper that closets are two-faced. They keep out good people on both sides of the keyhole. March with Pride 2013 in Ferndale, in Lansing, in Downtown Detroit, in Toronto, Ontario, in San Francisco, in Chicago, in New York City, in Paris, France, in Berlin, Hong Kong, Hamtramck, Zug Island. Need we say more!

Remember, please. Our journey of a thousand miles began with one courageous high-heeled step. God only knows when.

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Hennepin: The Quiet Revolution For LGBT Equality

1970: First U.S. Same-Sex Couple To Seek Marriage License 43 Years Later

BY LISA KEEN

Nearly every LGBT person knows about “Stonewall” – the spontaneous resistance to police intimidation of LGBT patrons at the Stonewall bar in New York City in June 1969.

Relatively few know about Hennepin in May 1970.

Events in both places became powerful catalysts for change in the way mainstream society treats LGBT people.

Stonewall took the form of hundreds of LGBT people using riots and defiance in a major city, refusing to obey laws that were hate-motivated and discriminatory on their face. Hennepin was one gay male couple, wearing suits and ties, walking into a county clerk’s office in the Midwest and applying for a marriage license.

Stonewall inspired the creation of thousands of LGBT organizations, newspapers and communities that grew enough political strength to win elections, change laws, and insist the world understand that gay people are here – “Get Used to It.”

Hennepin garnered a relative lightning flash of media attention – a story in *Look* magazine, appearances on two nationally televised talk shows, and a summarily dismissed appeal of their lawsuit by the U.S. Supreme Court. Its specific goal – to allow same-sex couples to obtain marriage licenses the same as male-female couples — appeared to fail.

Now, 43 years to the month after Jack Baker and Mike McConnell walked into the Hennepin County clerk’s office and filled out an application for a marriage license, their quiet revolutionary act stands as a monument to perseverance and success.

To say Richard John (Jack) Baker and James Michael McConnell were ahead of their time is an understatement.

They are considered the first same-sex couple to walk into any municipal clerk’s office in the United States and apply for a marriage license. They were the first to sue the local clerk when their application was refused, and the first to take their



Mike McConnell (dark suit on left) and Jack Baker (dark suit on right) attesting to information in marriage license application at Hennepin County clerk’s office May 18, 1970. Photo by R. Bertrand Heine, courtesy Minnesota Historical Society.

43 years to the month after Jack Baker and Mike McConnell walked into the Hennepin County clerk’s office and filled out an application for a marriage license, their quiet revolutionary act stands as a monument to perseverance and success. To say Richard John (Jack) Baker and James Michael McConnell were ahead of their time is an understatement. They are considered the first same-sex couple to walk into any municipal clerk’s office in the United States and apply for a marriage license. They were the first to sue the local clerk when their application was refused, and the first to take their lawsuit to the U.S. Supreme Court.

lawsuit to the U.S. Supreme Court.

They are also likely the first same-sex couple ever to obtain a marriage license, albeit through a sleight of name-change. According to a variety of news reports, Baker and McConnell were joined in marriage by a pastor in September 1971 after they obtained a marriage license from Mankato, Minnesota. An un-bylined “special” article in the January 7, 1973, *New York Times* reported that, in addition to their initial lawsuit over the rejected

marriage application, McConnell adopted Baker in August 1971 “with the goal of securing tax and inheritance advantages.”

“At that time, Mr. Baker legally assumed the name Pat Lynn McConnell, while continuing to use the name Baker in his daily affairs.” Then Baker, using his newly adopted name, filled out a marriage license application with McConnell in Mankato, a small city west of Minneapolis.

“On Aug. 16, 1971, Blue Earth

County issued the license, and, on Sept. 3, Mr. Baker and Mr. McConnell were married in a private ceremony in Minneapolis by the Rev. Roger Lynn of the United Methodist Church,” noted the *Times* article. Although the Blue Earth County Attorney challenged the legitimacy of the license, a Hennepin County grand jury “found the question not worth pursuing,” and thus, left the license intact.

Publicly Out

Baker and McConnell’s actions garnered other publicity in the early 1970s – publicity that took some courage on their part, given the volatility of the time. They appeared on the Phil Donahue Show and the David Susskind Show, nationally televised talk shows. They were profiled briefly in *Look* magazine’s cover story on “The American Family.” Their willingness to identify themselves as gay touched many individual gays around the country.

After reading about Baker and McConnell in *Look* magazine’s cover story, a Birmingham, Alabama, man called the telephone operator in Minneapolis to see whether there were phone numbers for Jack Baker and Michael McConnell. It’s not that he wanted to call them, it’s that he could hardly believe there were other men in the world like him – men who loved men.

“I have secluded myself in an apartment in Birmingham where I live alone away from parents and friends,” wrote the man, whose hand-written letter to Baker is part of an archive at the University of Minnesota. “You and Mr. McConnell have more guts than any man I have ever met.” He asked them to send him information about their gay political organization to “help make a new life for myself.”

“At seventeen years of age, I have already experienced the deep hurt of loving one who can never possibly love you,” wrote another young man, this one from a tiny rural town in Maine who said he had attempted suicide. He couldn’t even bring himself to spell out the word “homosexual” in his letter, and he cautioned them not to include their return address on the envelope because “I’m still unable to speak at home.” But he asked the couple to write “a hopeful clause” to him if they knew of any gay organization

See *Hennepin*, page 13

► Hennepin

Continued from p. 12

that might exist in Maine.

It's not clear whether Baker and McConnell were able to help the many individual people who wrote to them, but they continued their work of knocking on doors that had previously been closed to gay people – doors that many believed could get them killed.

The couple lived in a world rocked by violence over racial integration, President Nixon's invasion of Cambodia, the Kent State shootings, and the emergence of the more raucous movement for equal protection of the law launched at Stonewall. In many states, including Minnesota, laws back then were heavily stacked against gay people and it was still illegal to engage in oral or anal sex.

For whatever reasons, these two men believed in the system. They believed that they should trust the system to treat them with the same rights due to all American citizens. But despite the powerful burst forward provided by the Stonewall rebellion, many gay people at the time did not have the courage it took for Baker and McConnell to apply for that marriage license on May 18, 1970.

Facing Fear

“The fear then wasn't that you'd be

discriminated against, that was a given,” said one Minnesota activist of the 1970s, in an article by the Associated Press last December, “You were a lot more afraid that someone might come after you with a shotgun.”

McConnell, in fact, lost his job at the University of Minnesota library because of the couple's activism. But still the men forged onward.

And not everyone in the gay community supported what Baker and McConnell were doing. It's not that they were opposed, but rather they felt the community's focus and resources needed to be concentrated on goals that were embraced by greater numbers in the community – goals such as laws prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment and housing, and striking down sodomy laws.

On the David Susskind Show in 1973, Baker said gay activists around the country had criticized him and McConnell, saying gay

couples didn't need a marriage license. And in a 1993 oral history recording, Minnesota State Senator Allan Spear spoke about Baker and McConnell's efforts, saying marriage “wasn't the issue that most of the rest of us saw as a front burner issue.”

Today, there is little doubt that marriage for same-sex couples is a “front burner issue.” The U.S. Supreme Court will issue decisions

Though they have, from time to time, responded to questions via email, McConnell and Baker, both in their early 70s now, have eschewed interviews. Reached by phone this week, Baker summarily dismissed this reporter's request for an interview, saying “I don't give interviews to reporters, thank you,” and hung up.

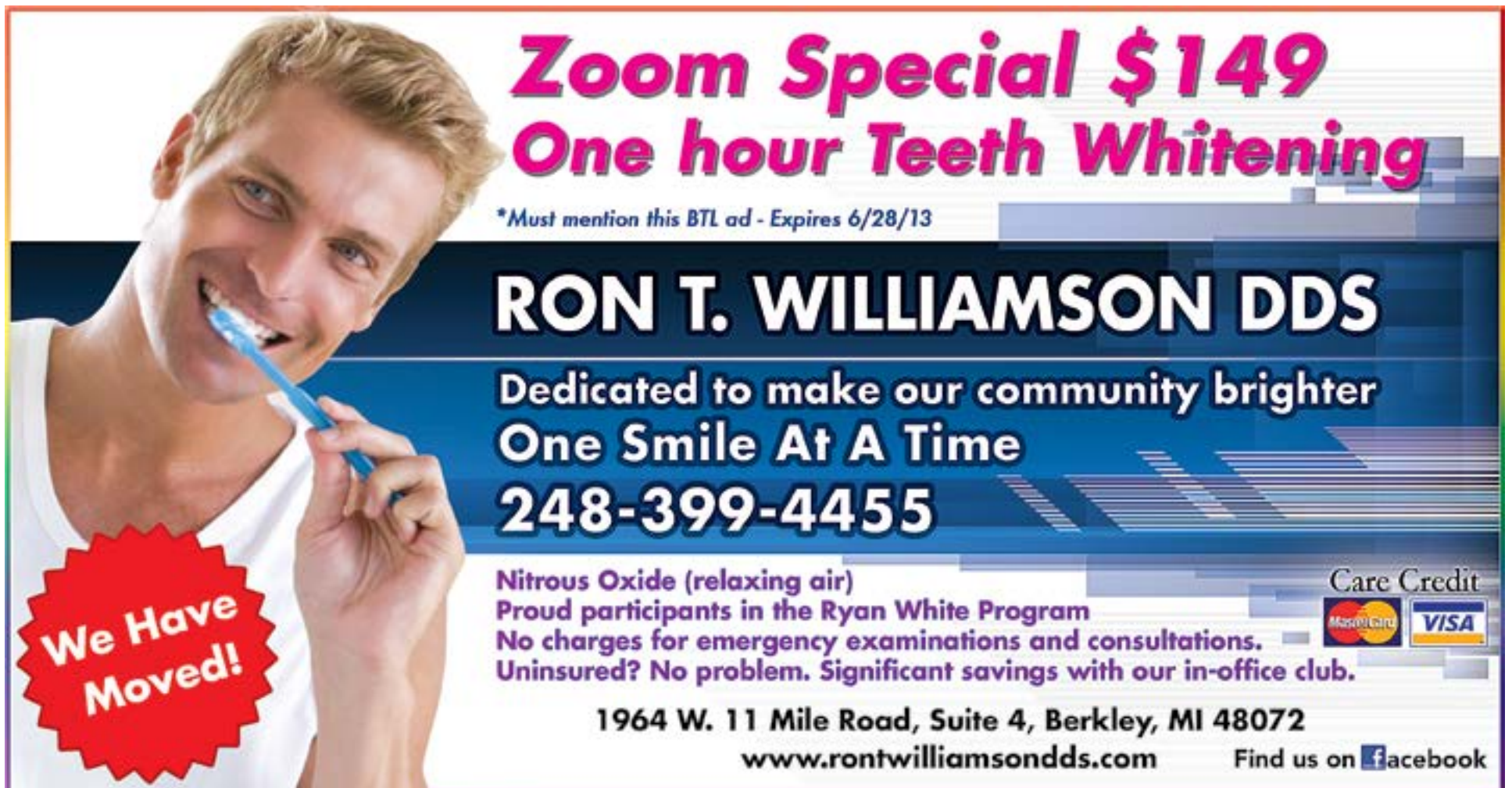
But in a response to a question via email

It's not clear whether Baker and McConnell were able to help the many individual people who wrote to them, but they continued their work of knocking on doors that had previously been closed to gay people – doors that many believed could get them killed.

before the end of June on two cases involving the legal rights of same-sex couples. And Minnesota passed a marriage equality law May 13, becoming the twelfth state plus the District of Columbia to treat same-sex couples the same as male-female couples in marriage licensing.

McConnell was on hand in the Senate gallery for the final passage of Minnesota's marriage equality law, just days shy of the 43rd anniversary of the date he and Baker first filled out the application for a marriage license in Hennepin County.

by Minnesota Public Radio reporter Sasha Aslanian, McConnell had this reaction to the passage of the Minnesota marriage equality bill: “Yesterday was a very powerful experience for me. I am so proud of this generation! I'm just so elated to have been alive to see and experience this moment in time. Words cannot describe the feeling. When I saw all those thousands of young and older people together celebrating the victory today, it was overwhelming.”



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Creep of the Week

Bryan Fischer

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Did you hear the news? It's now okay to be a gay Boy Scout. But you still can't be a gay Man Scout. Because as we all know, the second a gay male turns 18 he turns from a child into a child



Bryan Fischer

predator. At least on the planet inhabited by the anti-gay right.

On May 23, the Boy Scouts of America's National Council voted to end the long-standing ban on gay Scouts, but to keep the ban on gay Troop leaders in place.

Gay rights folks are only half impressed. Unsurprisingly, the anti-gay right is going berserk.

A lot of nastiness erupted on Twitter after the announcement.

Peter LaBarbera, founder and president of the ironically named Americans for Truth about Homosexuality, sputtered, "Boy Scouts dug own grave," and warned of an anti-gay splinter group.

Liberty Counsel's Matt Barber Tweeted, "Boy Scouts of America: Born February 8, 1910 | Died, May 23, 2013 #RIP," as if death notices don't deserve at least a phone call.

But by far the nastiest comments came from the American Family Association's Bryan Fischer.

"BSA now stands for Boy Sodomizers of America, because that's what will happen," Fischer Tweeted. "Mark my words."

Get it? Because gays are all about the butt sex and letting gay kids be Boy Scouts, instead of ostracizing them like God intended, means that the entire organization is basically going to be a big rape party. No longer will Boy Scouts make pinewood derby cars or learn how to build campfires. The BSA in Fischer's twisted fantasy is all anal-penetration all the time. "Mark my words" is a nice touch, too. As if Fischer is gleefully waiting to be proven right, as if this is actually what he wants to see happen.

But perhaps Fischer is just speaking out of unhinged anger after being proven wrong.

"[T]he ban on homosexual Scout masters and homosexual participants, that ban is going to be upheld. It's going to be defended," Fischer ranted on Focal Point, his radio show, in February. "It's the end of the game. This is game over. This is the Super Bowl and the good guys have won. Make no mistake about this, this is a huge win for the pro-family movement; it is a big, big,

"BSA now stands for Boy Sodomizers of America, because that's what will happen"

big setback for Big Gay." Oops.

Granted, you could say he was half right since, after all, gay grown-ups are still banned, but Fischer was adamant that BSA would never happen. He had no contingency plan. It never dawned on him that BSA would adopt a more humane policy toward gays of any age.

Of course, now that they've done it, Fischer is sure he knows why. He Tweeted,

"Boy Scouts have sold their soul for a mess of corporate pottage. They will wind up with lots of money and no scouts."

That's right. It's all about the Benjamins. Just a bunch of greedy bastards in neckerchiefs up in the BSA. No doubt money is going to start pouring in now that the queers are here. And with cash in hand, the gay BSA take-over will be complete. Before you know it Dan Savage will get a fleur-de-lis tattoo on his forehead and Elton John will perform, "Can You Feel the Cubs Tonight" at the next National Scout Jamboree.

Or, in all likelihood, nothing much will happen except some gay kids who previously felt excluded may join. Some kids who are freaked out (or, more likely, whose parents are freaked out) may quit. And gay kids who are already members will take comfort in knowing that an organization that requires a serious level of dedication doesn't officially forsake them.

Mark my words.

Florida Teen Rejects Plea Deal In Controversial Case

BY ASHLEY FANTZ

(CNN) - Eighteen-year-old Kaitlyn Hunt, charged with a crime for having sex with a 14-year-old girl, rejected a deal Friday that would have required her to plead guilty to child abuse, according to Hunt's attorney.

Hunt was charged with two felony counts of lewd and lascivious battery after the parents of the 14-year-old went to authorities. Hunt's family says their relationship was consensual, but in Florida a person under the age of 16 is not legally able to give consent to sex.

If Hunt is convicted, she could go to prison for 15 years - a reality that touched off a maelstrom of controversy across the country this past week. The case became widely known when Hunt's family began a Facebook campaign in defense of their daughter.

In a statement saying that Hunt was rejecting the plea deal, her attorney, Julia Graves, wrote:

"This is a situation of two teenagers who happen to be of the same sex involved in a relationship. If this case involved a boy and girl, there would be no media attention to this case. "If this incident occurred 108 days earlier when she was 17, we wouldn't even be here," the attorney wrote.

The parents of the young girl Friday evening said they are prepared to go forward with the case.

His daughter's innocence was taken away, Jim Smith told CNN affiliate WPEC. "There deserves some type of punishment for that."

The office of State Attorney Bruce Colton said it tendered an "extremely lenient plea offer in this case which would have ensured that the defendant avoided any term of incarceration and the stigma of being labeled a sex offender.

"In fact, in all probability the defendant would have avoided being a convicted felon," the statement continued. Colton will

prepare for a mid-July trial.

Charles Sullivan Jr., the attorney for the 14-year-old girl's family, said they had been hoping the case would be resolved by now.

Now the 14-year-old girl may have to take the witness stand if the case goes to court, Sullivan said.

"No parent wants their child

and that was a 14-year-old girl, it would have been prosecuted the same way," he said.

Parents Of Girl, 14, Say They Are Protecting Her

In an earlier interview with CNN affiliate WPEC, Jim and Laurie Smith insisted that the girls' gender has nothing to do with the case. They are concerned about ages.

"Our daughter was 14, and this girl was 18," said Jim Smith.

According to the Smiths, they twice warned Hunt to stop.

Then one weekend morning the Smiths went to their daughter's bedroom and discovered she was missing.

They panicked, thinking someone took their daughter or that she was hurt. "Her running away was the furthest thing from our mind," said Jim Smith. "We thought ... you hear about kids getting abducted from their homes."

But they later learned that Hunt had picked their daughter up, they told WPEC.

"We had no other alternative but to turn to the law, use it basically as a last resort," Jim Smith said.

Still, Hunt's supporters say she is being prosecuted because she was in a sexual relationship with someone of the same sex. A Facebook support page the Hunt family set up called "Free Kate" has gathered more than 47,000 names.

Regardless, everyone seems upset about the effect a felony child abuse conviction would have on Hunt, if she agreed to the plea deal.

"This is a life sentence for behavior that is all too common, whether male, female, gay, straight," Graves said at a Wednesday news conference.

"High school relationships may be fleeting," she said, "but felony convictions are forever."

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Kaitlyn Hunt rejected a plea deal last week. Her attorney called it a "life sentence" for what is a fleeting high school relationship.

to have to testify in court, but unfortunately the reality of our system is we have a system where a defendant has the right to have all the witnesses present. It's just the aspect of our law," Sullivan said.

The amount of difference between the alleged perpetrator's age and the victim's age weighs heavily in whether a prosecutor moves forward on a case.

"If you had an 18- and 17-year-old, there may be some investigation," Colton said.

"If the 17-year-old says it was consensual, that would probably be the end of it and you wouldn't have charges."

But in this case, 18 and 14 is a wide gap, he said. "According to law in Florida, this is a crime."

While some have suggested this case is being handled differently because it involves two females, Indian River County Sheriff Deryl Loar said that has nothing to do with it.

"If this was an 18-year-old male

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Mike LaSage and Rick Harris are running the Aff store serving food and creating T-shirts and other items that benefit the center. BTL photo: Crystal Proxmire

What's New At Your Community Center: The Aff Store & More!

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Mike LaSage and Rick Harris found true love late in life. LaSage had been married, but his wife passed away. Harris is divorced. They began dating four years ago and for the past two years they have been in the printing and apparel business together, with a shop down in Westland.

But when an opportunity came up to be supportive of the LGBT community in Ferndale, it just felt right. And a series of quickly evolving steps has led them to what is today known as The Aff Store & More!

"We were both married for many years, so we are late bloomers," LaSage said. "The big things were being able to be involved. We want people younger than us being able to have it easier."

They came up to attend a Faith Initiative event, and fell in love with the center. They went on to do some t shirts for an event and the relationship with Affirmations grew from there. In the front café space the former occupant, Grab n' Go Sushi, closed shop and the front sat empty except during special events.

"Dave (Garcia, the executive director of Affirmations) asked us if we'd make some shirts and put them up so the space didn't look so empty. We'd take orders for shirts and come out for special events. That's how it started," Harris explained.

But then two things happened. First people were suggesting that since the area was a café;



why not sell some food or snacks. Secondly, the guys started to dislike their Westland location by comparison.

"Going down there seemed like a task, but coming here is somewhere we want to be. I'm so much happier coming in here," LaSage said.

The couple staffs the store and provides items on consignment, although Affirmations remains in control of the space. LaSage and Harris provide the labor for free, and Affirmations gets 50 percent of the profit from anything sold.

The Aff Store & More has screen printed and embroidered shirts on hand or to custom order. Plus they now sell beverages, pre-made sandwiches, pizzas, burgers, chips, snack cakes, candy bars, and other snack foods and pride-related items. The bulk of sales come

See Aff Store, page 18



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'Second Class Citizen' Photo Shoot To Kick Off Ferndale Pride

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Ferndale Pride is kicking off with a strong political statement, "I am not a second class citizen." As part of fundraising for the documentary "Second Class Citizens," filmmaker Ryan Yezak will be at Affirmations on May 31 from 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. for a photoshoot and kick-off party. For \$25 individuals can be photographed in the theme of the documentary – with a black shirt on black background with an American flag wrapped around their wrist. Multiple people can be in the shot for \$20 each.

The money goes to help fund the documentary, which is currently halfway produced. In March Yezak raised \$176,354 on Kickstarter towards the project and now his goal is to travel around the country, visiting every state to get people involved. Yezak, a California native who became outraged over the Prop 8 fights in his state, said this is his first visit to Michigan and he looks forward to attending Ferndale Pride on June 1 as well.

Several instances of discrimination prompted Yezak to produce the film. "Discrimination first hit me personally a couple of years ago when my former boss at MTV asked if I wanted to donate blood with her to help save the lives of tornado victims. I enthusiastically agreed until something in me signaled that I wouldn't be able to. So I quickly did some Googling and found out that I was not allowed to donate my blood simply because I was gay. I had to explain to my boss, in front of my other colleagues, and it made me feel like I was part of a different species. It made me

feel like I was lesser than a human being. And it was in that moment that I personally felt legalized discrimination and decided to do everything in my power to ensure no one else in our community would have to feel that way," he said.

He also had a friend who faced expulsion from school for being gay. The documentary covers discrimination in many forms, including marriage, adoption, education, private organizations, religion, employment,



donating blood, anti-bullying laws, housing, homelessness and the gay panic defense.

"I am not a second class citizen. You are not a second class citizen. Right now, the laws in place (and lack thereof) say that we are. Let's change that," Yezak said.

"I felt that two of the short feature postings that Ryan Yezak has posted on YouTube were very inspiring and I also thought it would be good to host a community activism event as an additional feature along with all of the other various Ferndale Pride happenings," said Ferndale Pride volunteer Derek Pratley.

To participate in the photo shoot, come to Affirmations camera ready and wearing a black shirt. To learn more, visit the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/events/361140530654861/?fref=ts. For more on Ferndale Pride go to www.ferndalepride.org.

► Aff Store

Continued from p. 16

from doing shirts for groups and events, such as softball league shirts.

"When we do group orders it helps keep a family business going, but it also helps keep Affirmations going too," Harris said.

The business is growing slowly, but steadily. They recently began opening for lunch and their current hours are Tuesdays through

Saturday. Another exciting development is the activities that take place in the café space each Friday from 7 p.m to 9 p.m. Each week there is a different theme, with things like game night, trivia night and open mics. These are relatively new, but the couple hopes they will take off.

Another step in the growth process is the addition of an online store, which also benefits the center 50 percent. That can be found through the Affirmations website at www.goaffirmations.org/?page=AffStore.



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FRIDAY, JUNE 21 • DOORS 8PM
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WITH HORSE CAVE TRIO & ROYAL BLACKBIRDS



FRIDAY, JUNE 28 • DOORS 8PM
RYAN DILLAHA & THE MIRACLE MEN
WITH OAK BONES & 500 CLUB



SATURDAY, JUNE 29 • DOORS 8PM
HOUNDS BELOW
WITH BIG MESS & THE BARRETTES



SUNDAY, JUNE 30 • DOORS 8PM
FROM THE FACES
IAN McLAGAN



THURSDAY JULY 11 • DOORS 8PM
THE GRANDMOTHERS OF INVENTION



SATURDAY, JULY 13 • DOORS 8PM
UNTIL SUNDAY
WITH BISON MACHINE & PJ'S MY COUSIN TOO



THURSDAY, JULY 18 • DOORS 8PM
MIKE PINTO BAND
WITH NATURAL VIBRATIONS



FRIDAY, JULY 19 • DOORS 8PM
SOLDIERS OF SCRAPE • CELL BLOCK EARTH
MARJORIE'S CANE • LAVA MOTH



FRIDAY, JULY 26 • DOORS 8PM
SAVAGE GRACE
WITH PAZMAN'S SUPERSESSION



SATURDAY, JULY 27 • TWO SHOWS: DOORS 7 & 10PM
SANDY DANTO



THURSDAY, AUGUST 1 • DOORS 8PM
THE STICK MEN
FEATURING TONY LEVIN



FRIDAY, AUGUST 2 • DOORS 8PM
KEEPING BOB MARLEY'S LEGEND ALIVE
THE ORIGINAL WAILERS
FEATURING AL ANDERSON



THURSDAY, AUGUST 8 • DOORS 8PM
FROM THE RUNAWAYS
CHERIE CURRIE



SUNDAY, AUGUST 11 • DOORS 8PM
LEGENDARY GUITARIST
ALBERT LEE



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 • DOORS 8PM
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WHO'S BAD

FEATURES



THURSDAY, MAY 30 • DOORS 8PM
A ROOTS ROCKING REVIVAL
JD McPHERSON
WITH TRAPPER SCHOEPP & THE SHADES



FRIDAY, MAY 31 • DOORS 8PM
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BILL GROGAN'S GOAT
WITH STONE CLOVER & I LOVE LIGHTNING BUGS



MONDAY, JUNE 10 • DOORS 8PM
GRAMMY WINNING LATIN FUNK ORCHESTRA
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SATURDAY, JUNE 15 • DOORS 8PM
RECORD RELEASE PARTY
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WITH CRACKJAW, ELECTRIC PLAYGROUND & AFTER THE TIDE



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SPRING BREAKERS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5
GREETINGS FROM TIM BUCKLEY



THURSDAY, JUNE 6
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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12
SCARY MOVIE 5

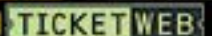


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Between Ourselves: Meet Monica Mills

Ferndale Pride Volunteer Coordinator

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Monica Mills and her husband Larry are instrumental to the success of events like Ferndale Blues Festival, Ferndale Pub Crawl and others. Monica is a strong ally who has been with what is now called Michigan AIDS Coalition for over 10 years, and serves as Volunteer Coordinator for fundraising events for the nonprofit. She and Larry also created the annual End of Prohibition Party which raises money for the Ferndale Goodfellows. As Ferndale Pride approaches it is a good opportunity to show some of the behind-the-scenes work of the volunteers and encourage others to join her in making Ferndale Pride safe and fun for everyone.

1 Why is HIV/AIDS advocacy work important to you?

It has been interesting learning about the issue and the community. Our work helps people, often the folks with the fewest resources or inadequate support. I like giving back to the community.

2 What changes have you seen at MAC through the years?

MAC has always been a "grass rootsy" kind of community based organization that focuses on results oriented programs. It is still largely that way, not too big and not too small. When we merged MAPP and the Michigan AIDS Fund about 5 years ago, we combined very talented staff for even more programs and results. There were some bumps in the road, but we are still a great organization that keeps churning out effective interventions, HIV testing, prevention education, supportive programs and successful fundraising. MAC's present CEO, Terry Ryan is always thinking ahead to accomplish our goals with ever changing funding.

3 What accomplishments at MAC are you proud of?

When Craig Covey brought me on as an intern, those 10 years ago, I was working on a program called Lesbian-A-Sisters. We recruited volunteers to assist differently-abled women with errands,

doctor's visits, home chores, and other needs. Many of the clients also began to volunteer. Even after all these years, that is what I am most proud of.

4 How long have you lived in Ferndale, and why do you like it here?

I've been in Ferndale more than 40 years and in the school district since I was born. I love the sense of community, and vibrancy, and the diversity. It is an amazing town, walkable and affordable. The taxes and water bills are a little high, but I still love the town, neighbors, and businesses and would have trouble ever leaving.

I couldn't do this work without the support of my loving husband of 31 years, Larry. We are fortunate to have been taken in by the LGBT community as allies, and we are proud to give back to them as well.

"None of these events could happen without the volunteers that come out to help."

5 What events do you work on through the year? How much do those events raise?

DIFFA, (Design Industry Foundation Fighting AIDS) and ArtWorks Detroit are the largest fundraising events each year and I am part of the team that makes these very cool successful events happen. We have raised several hundred thousand dollars over the years on those two events alone. And of course I co-chair the annual Ferndale Blues Festival and the Annual Ferndale Pub Crawl each year with my mentor, Craig Covey. Over the past 15 years, those events have raised over \$400,000 for MAC and other local groups. Now I am part of Ferndale Pride, working with Craig and many others, for an event that is growing just like all the others.



6 How many volunteers do you coordinate with?

We use lots of volunteers for MAC tasks and at all of our events. I have databases with hundreds of folks who help with office tasks, HIV outreach, the Pride Festival, the Blues Festival, Pub Crawl, AIDS Walks, DIFFA, ArtWorks Detroit...really everything. Most volunteer for more than one event. Pride is growing and we would like assistance from a hundred people at this year's event on June 1. None of these events could happen without the volunteers that come out to help. We cheer each other on, make new interesting friends and contacts and learn new skills with every event. I've met and become friends with some on the most giving people offering support and their time to a cause that helps others.

7 What kinds of things do volunteers for Ferndale Pride do?

There are many tasks to be done including planning, promoting, handing out posters and flyers, fundraising, advance events, bar parties, staffing entrances the day of the festival, working at the Ferndale Pride Event Staff and Volunteer check-in table and staff the volunteer room, security, moving tents tables and chairs, stage support, recycling / trash pickup, and breaking down the event when it's over. Tasks are divided into short shifts so it's convenient for everyone's schedule. Please offer a block of time if you are unsure which task, we'll find a good fit for you.

Please, contact me, mmills@michiganaidcoalition.org be get involved. Also find out more about Ferndale Pride at www.ferndalepride.org. For more on MAC go to <http://michiganaidcoalition.org/>.

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Pride Season Calendar

COMPILED BY SHELBY CLARK

MAY 31

Annual Motor City Bears Dinner

Presenting Organization: Motor City Bears

5:30 p.m. Zion Lutheran Church, Ferndale. www.meetup.com/Motor-City-Bears

Access / Connect Me Barbecue

Presenting Organization: Al Gamea
7 p.m. Ferndale

Pre-Pride Festival Bar Party

Presenting Organization: Soho
9 p.m. Soho, 205 W. Nine Mile

Road, Ferndale. With Mr. Leather Gay Michigan. www.Sohoferndale.com

JUNE 1

Ferndale Pride

Presenting Organization: Ferndale Pride

12:00 p.m. Nine Mile and Woodward, Ferndale. Two sound stages with a variety of musical performances, including The Clinks, My Pal Val, Cullen Blue and Randy Friess. Vendor and informational booths. Benefits Affirmations, Project XYZ, Ferndale Community Foundation and Michigan AIDS Coalition. www.ferndalepride.org

Dykes on Bikes Pride Rides

Presenting Organization: GOAL: Get Out and Live!

11:45 a.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. Starts at Affirmations and rides to Ferndale Pride. 248-398-7105, ronda102003@yahoo.com.

Annual Women's Golf OUTing

Presenting Organization: Equality Michigan

10:30 a.m. St. John's Golf and Conference Center, 44045 Five Mile Road, Plymouth. Join more than one hundred golfers challenge each other for the prizes that are awarded for Longest Drive, Longest Putt and other games of skill and

chance. Registration: \$99. www.equalitymi.org

Rainbow Run

Presenting Organization: Ferndale Area Chamber of Commerce

8:45 registration; **10:30** race. Allen Street, Ferndale. 5K run/walk and 2K kids run/walk for support of diversity, acceptance, anti-bullying programs and equality. 248-542-2160.

Love & Marriage

Presenting Organization: Sing Out Detroit Chorus

7 p.m. 14450 W. 10 Mile Road, Oak Park. 248-943-2411, www.singoutdetroit.org

Shangela

Presenting Organization: Club Liquid Detroit

3537 E. Seven Mile Road, Detroit.

Shangela of RuPaul's Drag Race (seasons two and three) comes to Detroit for the Ferndale Pride afterparty. Hosted by Jade in Black. 313-826-1192 or www.facebook.com/ClubLiquidDetroit

JUNE 2

Second Annual Bowling Extravaganza

Presenting Organization: Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center

4 p.m. 5570 Gull Road, Kalamazoo. Contact: 269-349-4234, www.kglrc.org/pride.

Raffles, music, and more. All ages.

JUNE 6

Beyond the Bar Graphic Artists Reception and Motor City



Launch Party

Presenting Organization: Equality Michigan

7 p.m. Start Gallery, 206 E. Grand River, Detroit. www.motorcitypride.com

Ivy Winters

Presenting Organization: Menjo's

9 p.m. 928 W. McNichols, Detroit. From "RuPaul's Drag Race" Season Five. 18 and over. www.menjosbar.com.

JUNE 7

Michigan Pride White Party

Presenting Organization: Michigan Pride

6 p.m. Marquee Lounge 319 E. Grand River, Spiral Dance Bar 1247 Center St., Esquire 1250 Turner St., Grand Cafe 201 E. Grand River, Lansing. Michigan's biggest white attire party. See DJ Rodney Lamar Page at Marquee Lounge, dancing at Spiral Dance Bar, and more.

18 and over. \$10 (admits into all four venues). www.michiganpride.org

JUNE 8

Motor City Pride

Presenting Organization: Equality Michigan

1 p.m. Hart Plaza, Detroit. Four stages of entertainment, vendor and information booths, food trucks, and more. Miss Motor City Pride Contest with Yara Sofia from "RuPaul's Drag Race." Other entertainment includes Alex Acosta, Killer Flamingos, Tunde Olaniran and more. www.motorcitypride.org

Commitment Ceremony

Presenting Organization: Affirmations and Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit (MCCD)

2 p.m. Hart Plaza, Detroit. This is an opportunity for couples to publicly announce their love and commitment

and also apply pressure on legislatures to stand up for equal rights. In addition to the ceremony, each couple will receive flowers, light refreshments, photos from the ceremony, wedding cake, two notarized and embossed Domestic Partnership certificates. Registration: \$100. 248-398-7105 ext. 230 or www.motorcitypride.com

Dykes on Bikes Pride Rides (continued)

Presenting Organization: GOAL: Get Out and Live!

11:45 a.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. Starts at Affirmations and rides to Motor City Pride. 248-398-7105, ronda102003@yahoo.com.



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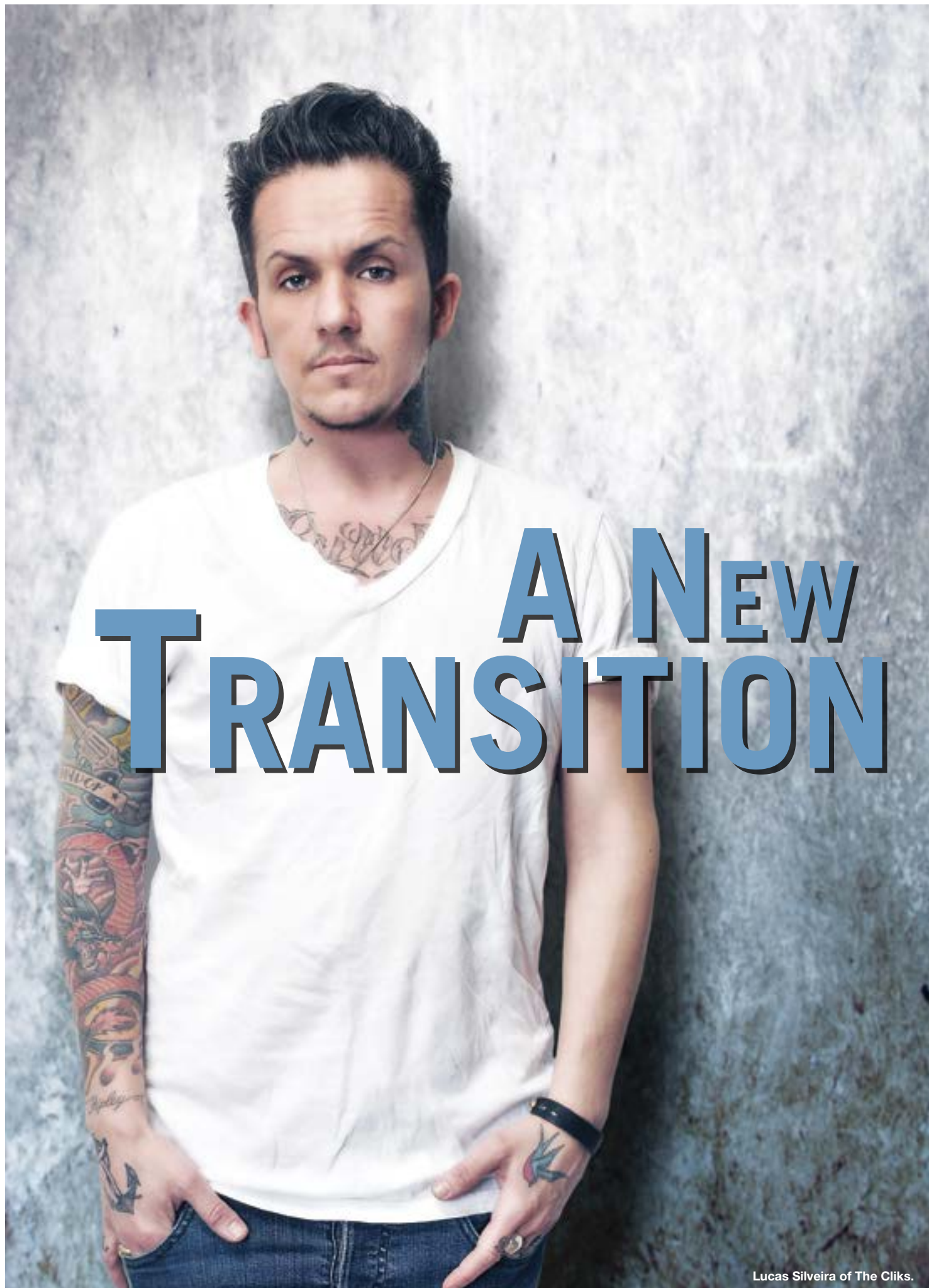
www.ForTheSeventhGeneration.org



In Seventh Heaven is the annual fundraiser for For The Seventh Generation (www.fortheseventhgeneration.org), an organization that matches donations of goods and services with foster children, foster families, and young adults aging out of the foster care system.

We project that in 2013 our program will serve more than 700 of our area's most vulnerable youth. Join us for a fabulous evening on June 1 and your good time will also make a difference to "our" kids ... and their kids ... down through the seventh generation.

See Pride Calendar, page 26



Lucas Silveira of The Cliks.

Cliks Frontman Dishes On Band Changes & New LP

BY CHRISTOPHER J TREACY

They made a hilarious joke about it on “The Brady Bunch.” But when your voice is your true moneymaker, sudden shifts in range are nowhere near as amusing as what happened to little Peter during the recording of the Brady classic, “Time to Change.”

Cliks’ frontman Lucas Silveira, performing with his band at 7:05 p.m. June 1 at Ferndale Pride, faced a series of unexpected curveballs in the four years since 2009’s “Dirty King” CD. The transgendered singer-songwriter had to rebuild his band – and its musical personality – from the ground up. A lesser man might have thrown in the towel, but while rethinking The Cliks, he took the opportunity to make a solo disc, 2010’s “Mockingbird,” and take care of some unfinished business in the form of hormone replacement therapy.

One of the more noticeable effects of the treatment? A throaty change in his singing voice.

Silveira can kiss those androgynous high notes goodbye. Thankfully, his deeper voice has a sexy grit all its own, something proudly on display throughout the brand new, independently-released Cliks collection, “Black Tie Elevator.” But, as you might guess, it was a difficult adjustment. Sometimes when we realize our dreams, the results are startling before they become truly satisfying.

“It was very strange,” Silveira admits during a phone call while preparing to leave for a tour stop in Columbus. “I didn’t feel connected to the sound that was coming out of me – I was still expecting the old voice to be what I’d hear. It’s hard to

See The Cliks, page 33

www.PrideSource.com

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► Pride Calendar

Continued from p. 23

Fourth Annual Doggy Day

Presenting Organization: Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center

1 p.m. 629 Pioneer St., Kalamazoo. Bring your dog for an afternoon of food, prizes and fun. www.kglrc.org/pride

Bears in Speedos Charity Carwash

Presenting Organization: Motor City Bears

1 p.m. Level One Bank, 22635 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. www.motorcitybears.com.

JUNE 9

Motor City Pride (continued)

Presenting Organization: Equality Michigan

1 p.m. Hart Plaza, Detroit. www.motorcitypride.org. Four stages of entertainment, vendor and information booths, food trucks, and more. Headliners: Ana Matronic from Scissor Sisters and Yara Sofia from RuPaul's Drag Race. Other entertainment includes Alex Acosta, Killer Flamingos, Tunde Olaniran and more. Motor City Pride Parade, 11 a.m.

Dykes on Bikes Pride Rides (continued)

11:45 a.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. Starts at Affirmations and rides to Motor City Pride. 248-398-7105, ronda102003@yahoo.com.

Totally Gay 5K

Presenting Organization: West Michigan Pride

3:30 p.m. Richmond Park, Grand Rapids. Running and walking to celebrate oneness in the gay and straight community while kicking off the week of the 25th Annual West Michigan Pride Festival. www.totallygay5k.blogspot.com

JUNE 13

Manila Luzon

Presenting Organization: Menjo's Bar

9 p.m. 928 W. McNichols, Detroit. From "RuPaul's Drag Race" Season Three and "All Stars." 18 and over. www.menjosbar.com

JUNE 14

Kalamazoo Pride White Party

Presenting Organization: Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center

5-11 p.m. Local drag, electronic music, and Manila Luzon of "RuPaul's Drag Race." www.kglrc.org/pride.

PRIDE Pub Crawl

Presenting Organization: West Michigan Pride

6 p.m. The Network 343 Atlas Ave. SE

7 p.m. Brewery Vivant -925 Cherry St. SE

8 p.m. HopCat 25 Ionia Ave. SW

9 p.m. The Apartment Lounge 33 Sheldon Ave. NE

10 p.m. Pub 43 43 Division Ave S.

11 p.m. Rumors 69 Division Ave S.

JUNE 15

Kalamazoo Pride Brunch

Presenting Organization: Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center

10-12 p.m. Arcadia Creek Festival Site, Kalamazoo. www.kglrc.org/pride

Kalamazoo Pride

Presenting Organization: Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center

2-11 p.m. DJ and performances by Hannaniah & The Boys, Kimi Hayes, Deja Vu, and more.

See Pride Calendar, page 32

www.PrideSource.com



YARA SOFIA



TUNDE OLANIRAN



HART PLAZA, DETROIT

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SECOND WEEKEND IN JUNE

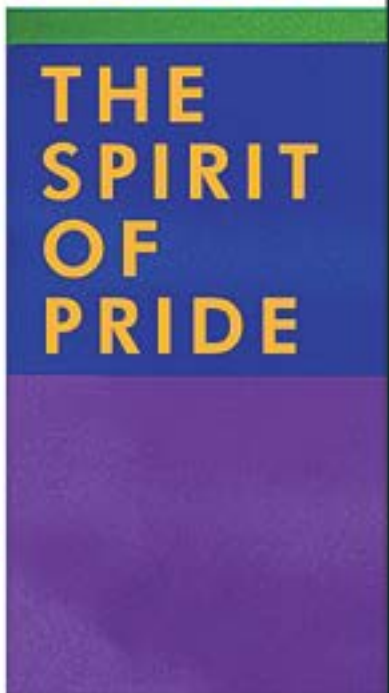


ALEX ACOSTA

HEADLINING ACT:
ANA MATRONIC



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For Festival Information Visit: MotorCityPride.org



Friday, May 31, 2013

8:00 p.m. Mommie Dearest Screening at the Senate Theater
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<http://www.dtos.org/>

Saturday, June 1, 2013

9:00 a.m. Women's Golf Outing
St. Johns Golf Club
<http://www.equalitymi.org/take-action/events/womens-golf-outing>

8:00 p.m. Mommie Dearest Screening at the Senate Theater
6424 Michigan Avenue, Detroit
<http://www.dtos.org/>

Thursday, June 6, 2013

Beyond the Bar 2013: An LGBT Art and Design Showcase
7:00 p.m. Start Gallery
208 East Grand River, Detroit
www.detroit.aiga.org

Friday, June 7, 2013

Pride Night at Necto
516 E Liberty Street, Ann Arbor
www.necto.com



Saturday, June 8, 2013

2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Motor City Pride
Hart Plaza
4 Stages of Entertainment
130 Vendors and Exhibits
Food and Beverages
www.motorcitypride.com

2:00 p.m. Commitment Ceremony
Pride Stage
Sign up by calling 248 398-7105 x 230

4:00 p.m. Miss Motor City Pride Contest
Featuring Yara Sofia
<https://five15.net/pride2013/#missmotorcitypride>

After party at the Skybar
11560 Griswold, Detroit
9:00 pm to 2:00 am
Food and Drink Specials all Night
www.skybardetroit.com

After party at the Cream



Sunday, June 9, 2013

Pride Parade
11:00 a.m. Griswold Street
Downtown Detroit

Noon Interfaith Ceremony
Pride Stage

Noon Doggie Drag Review
Prizes for the best dressed pets
Festival stage

1:00 p.m. Equality Rally
Pride Stage

Noon Family Picnic
Games and Snacks for kids of all ages
Hart Plaza, riverside

Family Activities
Hart Plaza, riverside
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m. Featured Artist Ana Matronic
Presented by Five-15

Noon to 7:00 p.m.
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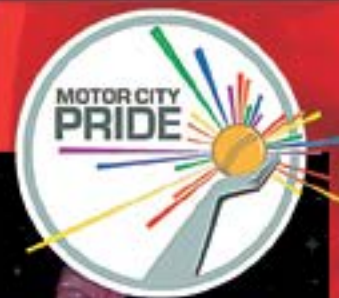


THE SPIRIT OF PRIDE

For Festival Information Visit: MotorCityPride.org



Tentative 2013 Entertainment Schedule



Saturday, June 8, 2013

Pride Stage

Commitment Ceremony
Killer Flamingo's
Miss Motor City Pride
Mz Jonz
Blu Control

Festival Stage

Duane
Steffie & the Dirty Virgins
Passalacqua
Gay Marvine

Underground

DJ Mark
Deka
Jon Cruz
DJ Cap'n 20
Dave Aude & Vassy

Pyramid Stage

JSette Competition / JSette Finals
Prevention Ball

River Patio

DJ - Kimo Fitness - Maestro

Sunday, June 9, 2013

Pride Stage

Interfaith Service
Equality Michigan
DJ Marquis
Tunde Olaniran
Jamaican Queens
Ana Matronic
JoRay

Festival Stage

Doggie Drag Show
The Hype Syndicate
Mother Cyborg
Mike Medow
Alexis

Underground

Sarena Tyler
Jace
Alex Acosta

River Patio

DJ - Country
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 Festival: Noon – 7PM

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Not Just Another Manic MonDay

Flint Band On Ferndale Pride Debut, Releasing First Album

BY JEROME STUART NICHOLS

Every Pride season, LGBT musicians pull out all the stops. And though it won't be easy competing with half-naked go-go boys, the world's fiercest drag queens and an air-conditioned beer garden, out-lesbian musical trio AllDay MonDay is bringing the heat for their 30-minute set at 2:55 p.m. June 1.

Hailing from Flint, AllDay MonDay – comprised of lead singer Em Burns, bassist Michelle “Misha” McAuley and drummer Tam “Tammy” Pendleton – is new to the scene but hardly new to music. In particular, Burns comes from a family of musicians.

“All of us have had music in our backgrounds forever,” Burns says. “I personally come from a long line of musicians. I started a couple years ago doing a solo act and then I joined my brother and then I said, ‘I want more than this.’ Then I joined with Misha and formed an all-girl band.”

Among their influences are lesbian fan favorites Ani DiFranco, Tracy Chapman, Erin McKeown, Melissa Etheridge and Melissa Ferrick, all known for their thoughtful lyricism, outspoken nature and, of course, their fierce hair. Outside of the Womyn's Music Festival kin, they also site influences from genres like blues, funk, rock and ska. It's such a hodgepodge that even they have a hard time putting it into words.

“Like nothing I've ever really heard,” Burns says. “It's kind of like indie-rock with an attitude.”

“It's like you took oatmeal and threw in Cheerios; it's a little bit of everything,” Pendleton adds.

“It's just a good time – just a

“I will put it on tapes! I will put in on records! We will bootleg our own CD to have it there. Cover or not, it will be there. I hope to have it with us and release it really soon ... because everybody's been waiting, and we've been waiting.”



Flint-based band AllDay MonDay performs at 2:55 p.m. June 1 during Ferndale Pride.

groovin' good time,” McAuley says.

Being an up-and-coming, all-lesbian band in the Michigan music scene may seem like a tough sell, but so far, the women of AllDay MonDay are proving otherwise.

“I think, personally, to us girls, Michigan is open arms,” Burns says. “We are just getting nothing but love everywhere we go.

Anywhere you throw us they're like, ‘Hmmm ... not so bad.’

“Summertime is actually our time to thrive as lesbian artists.”

And thrive they will come June 1, when they're set to take Ferndale Pride's Main Stage.

“Oh my gosh,” McAuley says all Oprah-like. “It's like a dream come true,”

A dream that almost didn't

happen when their app to perform was initially denied.

“They were like, ‘Oh, we're so sorry,’” Burns recalls. “Then, shortly after, they were like, ‘We made a mistake. We want you guys to play.’ I was like, ‘Uh... hold that thought.’ I had to call Misha real quick because I had sweaty palms. Couldn't believe it. That's a huge show for us.”

“Then they told us that we got an award for up-and-coming artist and we were just floored,” McAuley adds. “We couldn't even believe that was associated with us. It was just an amazing, amazing feeling.”

While Ferndale Pride won't be their first Pride performance, it's already shaping up to be a much bigger deal than their initial outing.

“It's our first huge LGBT thing,” McAuley says. “We played Saginaw Pride last summer but we kind of got thrown on the bill last minute. So, we pretty much opened the show; we played right before the mayor spoke.”

This year, not only do they expect to play for a bigger bunch at Ferndale Pride but they'll also be back for Saginaw Pride.

And that's not all. Their full-length studio debut, “Still Waters Studio,” is done and expected to drop soon. Having recently received the photography for the packaging, they're still in the midst of putting everything together. Regardless, almost nothing will stop them from having it ready for their watershed moment at Ferndale Pride.

“I will put it on tapes! I will put in on records!” Burns says. “We will bootleg our own CD to have it there. Cover or not, it will be there. I hope to have it with us and release it really soon ... because everybody's been waiting, and we've been waiting.”

FERNDALE PRIDE

AllDay MonDay

2:55 p.m. June 1
Main Stage
ferndalepride.com

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BTL 2122

► Pride Calendar

Continued from p. 26

Bell's Brewery to debut new beer, Sparkleberry.

Admission: \$5 Friday, \$7 Saturday, or \$10 pass for both days. Kids 12 and under free. www.kglrc.org/pride. Arcadia Creek Festival Site, Kalamazoo.

West Michigan Pride

Presenting Organization: West Michigan Pride

1 p.m. Calder Plaza, Grand Rapids. Vendor and informational booths, food trucks, drag shows and performances by artists including Jane De Young Trio, Potatobabies, Bermuads, and more. <http://www.grlgbt.org/west-michigan-pride-2013/pride-festival-2013/>

Women's Potluck

Presenting Organization: Windsor-Essex Pride Fest

5:30 p.m. Windsor Family Credit Union, 2800 Tecumseh Road E., Windsor, ON, Canada. www.windsorpride.com

Bring a dish to pass. Coffee, tea, pop and water provided. Alcohol- and smoke-free event.

JUNE 16

Grand Rapids Parade of Pride

Presenting Organization: West Michigan Pride

1-3 p.m. Michigan and Ottawa, Grand Rapids. <http://www.grlgbt.org/west-michigan-pride-2013/pride-festival-2013/>

JUNE 21

Candlelight Vigil

Presenting Organization: Tri-City Pride

8 p.m. Borchard Park, Saginaw. Remembering those lost to suicide. www.tricitylgbtpride.com.

Lavendar Dance Metro-Post Pride Party

Presenting Organization: GOAL

7 p.m. Emagine Royal Oak Cinema, 200 N. Main St., Royal Oak. DJ. Cash bar. Drink specials. All funds after coverage of party will go to non-profit. Tickets: \$12-15. www.meetup.com/GOAL-Get

JUNE 22

Tri-City Pride

Presenting Organization: Tri-City Pride

1-8 p.m. Ojibway Island Park, Saginaw. Car show, vendor and information booths, food trucks, and more. Drag queen hostess: Asio Aviance. Performances by Bayside Bombshell's Burlesque Troup, Drag King Rebellion, Abbie Stauffer, Sandy Mulligan and Kris Pride. www.tricitylgbtpride.com



Manila Luzon, Kalamazoo Pride & Menjo's

Washtenaw Pride Picnic

Presenting Organization: Jim Toy Community Center

1 2 p.m. Allmendinger Park, Ann Arbor. www.jimtoycenter.org

[jimtoycenter.org](http://www.jimtoycenter.org)

T-Party

Presenting Organization: Windsor-Essex Pride Fest.

7 p.m. Windsor Pride Community Resource and Education Centre, 422 Pelissier, Windsor, ON, Canada. An opportunity for the transgender community and their allies to get to know each other. Coffee, tea and soft drinks available. www.windsorpride.com.

JUNE 29

Holland Area Pride

Presenting Organization: Holland Area PRIDE

1-10 p.m. Centennial Park and Park Theatre. Booths, vendors, musical acts at Centennial Park and comedy show, drag performance and dancing at Park Theatre in the evening. www.hollandareapride.com

Flint Gay Pride in the Park

Presenting Organization: Flint Gay Pride Society

1 p.m. Riverbank Park and University of Michigan Pavilion Rink. Features vendors, information booths, food trucks, live entertainment, wrestling show, and children's activities. www.facebook.com/Flintgaypride

LGBTQ Youth Prom

Presenting Organization: Affirmations

6 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105 or www.goaffirmations.org

See Pride Calendar, page 35

www.PrideSource.com

► The Cliks

Continued from p. 24

articulate, but I felt as if my voice was away from me – as if it wasn't a part of me. The overall effect made it difficult to recognize who I really was."

It would seem that by seeing the hormone treatments through, he was able to resolve a number of identity issues still plaguing him, despite having been wholly accepted by his audience as a trans man. The voice was the missing link, and by the time work on "Black Tie Elevator" had commenced, Silveira was feeling more complete than ever before.

"The album is a reflection of how I finally became grounded in the end," he says. "This soul sound is definitely what's been inside of me all along. But with my old singing voice, I never felt like I could pull it off – I didn't hear what I wanted to hear. In my own narrative, as a transgendered male, I felt like I needed to relate to edgier rock 'n' roll. This process freed that up."

But if Silveira has any nagging second thoughts about stepping away from the rocking grind that characterized The Cliks' breakthrough disc, "Snakehouse," he needn't worry – "Black Tie Elevator" is far from a straight soul record. The reality is that it's full of hybrids and very modern sounds without ever giving into to clichéd, 21st-century R&B production. It certainly pays tribute to the past, however, with the lead single "Savanna" striking any number of Motown references and the doo-wop noir of "Walking in a Graveyard," two standout examples. Sorting out his voice was a late-coming issue, however, compared with the lack of stability within The Cliks. The original lineup disbanded in 2005. Then, he lost guitarist Nina Martinez in 2008. When "Dirty King" dropped in spring of 2009, all hell broke loose.



FERNDALE PRIDE

The Cliks

7:05 p.m. June 1
Main Stage
ferndalepride.com

"This has been a really bad time for the music industry – for management, for labels. We'd all become very unhappy, but for very different reasons," he muses, in reference to

“It's a clichéd rock 'n' roll story, but maybe they didn't feel very seen, very visible. They also were apparently uncomfortable being a niche, LGBT act ... even though they both identify as gay!”

– Lucas Silveira on former members of The Cliks

former band members Jen Benton and Morgan Doctor. "It's a clichéd rock 'n' roll story, but maybe they didn't feel very seen, very visible. They also were apparently uncomfortable being a niche LGBT act ... even though they both identify as gay! It was as if they'd become resentful of our audiences rather than being grateful someone was listening. We barely got to do any promotion or touring for "Dirty King," because they both quit not long after it came out."

Silveira has been forced to realign his M.O. to jibe with industry throes; it's meant a complete change in how he thinks of being in a band. In the end, he's decided to assume the identity of The Cliks and let the chips fall where they may – a move that will hopefully allow him to continue pursuing the project for as long as he likes.

"I needed to admit to myself that this is my project and that it's up to me to keep it going," he says. "So, I've started hiring people with that in mind, gathering folks around me that want to play, but with the understanding that it may shift around depending on other factors. There's so little money involved at this point, it's hard to keep people – and you can't make promises."

He clarified that his goal is to hopefully secure permanent members, but said that the current temperance of the music world requires flexibility, adding, "People have lives and jobs; sometimes they need to be able to say, 'Hey, I can't do this right now, I need to go pay my rent.' Redefining things has worked really well for me in the end – it's strengthened my business relationships."

Like the Brady Bunch song goes, "When it's time to change, you've got to rearrange..."

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Chris Anthem performs at 1:55 p.m. June 1 in Ferndale.

An Anthem For Change

R&B Singer Talks Pride Performance & Frank Ocean

BY SAMANTHA WHITE

FERNDALE PRIDE

Chris Anthem

1:55 p.m.

Main Stage

ferndalepride.com

Last summer, it was considered groundbreaking when soul crooner Frank Ocean revealed in an open letter on his Tumblr page that he once loved a man. As hip-hop godfather Russell Simmons noted on his website, GlobalGrind.com, "the courage of Frank Ocean just changed the game."

And not just for him but for up-and-coming gay artists like Chris Anthem, the Fort Wayne, Ind. native performing June 1 on the Ferndale Pride Main Stage.

"It's hard for me to understand why that's still an issue," says Anthem. "But if someone of that status coming out opens doors, then it's a good thing."

Anthem, 27, is excited to be a part of a more diverse, accepting musical landscape. "I have always wanted to influence change," says the singer-songwriter. "I want to live in a world where I can sing about a boy on the radio without being the 'gay singer' – and I think we're close."

Growing up the son of a preacher, Anthem sang gospel music. His powerhouse voice is the product of his childhood, when he started singing in the choir. He showcases his complete

range on his recent 11-track LP, "Rock Bottom." It's Anthem's first full-length album, following the previously released EP "Atta Boy."

Anthem's vocal ability may come easily, but the lyrics? Not so much. "I'm a perfectionist to a fault, so I never feel like a song is done," he says. "I'm always searching for this feeling I get when it all clicks. I suppose it's intuition. If I can listen to it without analyzing it and just experience it, then I know I am on the right track."

Anthem admires artists like Mariah Carey, Ellie Goulding and the late American-playwright Howard Ashman for their lyrical talents.

"To me, a good lyricist can paint a detailed picture in the simplest, most elegant way possible," he says. "They are all so clever."

Whether he believes it or not, Anthem, much like the aforementioned Ocean, has

a knack for lyricism and musicality, and he also has a talent for telling stories over eclectic beats and rhythms – from a simple piano to a more complex production.

The album's title track is a slow jam about bad choices made in the midst of loneliness. "It's a song about those really long days you have when you come home and just start making all the wrong decisions about that one boy," he says.

He's not always this deep, though. And when he performs his 30-minute set at Ferndale Pride, Anthem promises to get folks on their feet with his summer song "Boys in Town," a fusion of '80s music reminiscent of New Edition and Culture Club – danceable but still rooted in rhythm and blues.

"You can expect a really upbeat, lively show from me," he says. "I want people to enjoy my music as a form of escape. Come out and forget everything; chill, dance and just enjoy the show."

Anthem is planning an engaging set that showcases all of his talent – a talent that has the potential to earn him the same global success Ocean has earned over the past 12 months.

"I see myself being globally significant," he says. "Go big or go home."



► Pride Calendar

Continued from p. 32

Celebrate the music and culture of the 80s, 90s and 00s by wearing your best generation inspired outfit. Dinner, light refreshments and beverages provided. Open to all youth 13-20. Free.

Beyond June

JULY 23

Candlelight Vigil

Presenting Organization: Hotter Than July
6 p.m. Blue Spruce Memorial Tree, Palmer Park, Detroit. The nation's third oldest celebration of African-American LGBT culture. www.HotterThanJuly.org

JULY 24

Boat Ride

6:10 p.m. Rivard Plaza on Downtown Detroit's Riverwalk. www.HotterThanJuly.org. \$55 per person. Join Hotter Than July for a three-hour cruise on the Detroit River.

JULY 25

Film Festival

Presenting Organization: Hotter Than July
5:30 p.m. Cass City Cinema, 3420 Cass Ave, Detroit. The Hotter Than July Film Festival is a presentation of featured and short films. \$20 per person. www.HotterThanJuly.org.

Youth & Young Adult Summit

Presenting Organization: Hotter Than July

12 p.m. University of Michigan Detroit Center, 3663 Woodward Ave, Detroit. A free event addressing issues and concerns of the LGBT community, from youth and young adult perspective. www.HotterThanJuly.org.

JULY 26

The Annual Gathering on LGBTQ Issues

Presenting Organization: Hotter Than July
8 a.m. University of Michigan Detroit Center, 3663 Woodward Ave, Detroit. Two days of education and advocacy with an array of interactive and informative workshops covering issues of importance to women, men, transgender and youth. www.HotterThanJuly.org.

The Friday Night Party – "One Night Only"

Presenting Organization: Hotter Than July

7 p.m. TBA. A formal event with refreshments, dancing and entertainment. \$35. www.HotterThanJuly.org

JULY 27

The Palmer Park Picnic

Presenting Organization: Hotter Than July

10 a.m. Palmer Park, Detroit. The pinnacle event of Detroit's annual celebration. Over 20,000 guests taking a moment to celebrate culture, self-empowerment and identity. www.HotterThanJuly.org

JULY 28

Worship Service

Presenting Organization: Hotter Than July and Whosoever Ministry

11 a.m. Whosoever Ministry, 2930 Woodward Ave., Detroit. www.HotterThanJuly.org

Sunday Brunch

Presenting Organization: Hotter Than July

2 p.m. Roberts Riverwalk Hotel & Residence, 1000 River Place, Detroit. www.HotterThanJuly.org. \$50 per person/ \$90 per couple.

AUG. 24

March and Rally at the Capitol

Presenting Organization: Michigan Pride
1 p.m. From Adado Riverfront Park to the Capitol steps, Lansing. Celebrating the LGBTQ community's progress in achieving civil rights and uniting against housing, workplace, and marriage discrimination. www.MichiganPride.org

Commitment Ceremony

Presenting Organization: Michigan Pride

2 p.m. Capitol steps, Lansing. www.MichiganPride.org.

Michigan Pride Diversity Festival

Presenting Organization: Michigan Pride

11 a.m. 220 East Maple St., Lansing. Michigan-based musicians, Grand Marshal Ross Mathews, vendors and non-profit booths, children's area and more. www.MichiganPride.org.

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10:53

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Sandra Birch and John Lepard in the world premiere of "10:53" by Annie Martin at Williamston Theatre. Photo: Chris Purchis.

Williamston Comedy Hits The Right Notes

BY MARTIN F. KOHN

Night after night a woman camps out in a hospital waiting room, easing her mind with coffee and television, stretching high to reach the volume control or change the channel. Night after night in the hallway behind her the same man comes and goes, getting on or off the elevator. Eventually they're going to have to say something to each other, because life without connection is no life at all. And sometimes you have to stretch, and sometimes you have to stop stretching.

The meeting between Kathryn (Sandra Birch) and John (John Lepard) occurs quickly in "10:53," Michigan playwright Annie Martin's engaging comedy receiving its world premiere at Williamston Theatre. Kathryn stations herself in the waiting area to avoid the hospital room where her husband is dying. The reason for John's nightly visits will be revealed later and explains the play's title.

"10:53" is nowhere as predictable as this setup makes it sound, and two additional characters enrich the proceedings: Kathryn's daughter Zoe (Zachera Wollenberg), home from college, and Zoe's girlfriend – Kathryn

10:53

Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. Thursday-Sunday through June 16. 1 hour, 40 minutes. \$20-25. 517-655-7469.

www.williamstontheatre.org

was expecting a boyfriend – Chris (Julia Garlotte).

Amid much genuinely funny dialogue about such topics as the joys of lousy TV shows and how daunting routine activities like mowing the lawn or maintaining a retirement account can be when the spouse who's been doing it no longer can, Birch and Lepard supply splendid give-and-take. They are two pained souls with similar wry perspectives on life, she high-strung, he laid back but adrift in his own anguish.

Wollenberg and Garlotte are credible as Zoe and Chris, the less meticulously drawn college kids who may be in love but not necessarily forever. Occasionally the dialogue veers into murky waters – a metaphysical disquisition on death and premonitions, a mother-daughter conversation that goes right for the analytical with barely a hello – but overall "10:53" is touching when it wants

to be touching and funny when it wants to be funny and there's not much more you can ask of a play.

Speaking of touching, director Tony Caselli has his actors inject just the right amount of physical contact in their interactions. And they make good use of the couch that is the main set piece, sitting lying, tussling and what have you.

The skilled hands of lighting designer Daniel C. Walker, sound designer Michelle Raymond and scenic designer Bartley H. Bauer are evident everywhere – from the convincing light and sound emanating from the imagined TV set to the stunningly believable elevator with its silently sliding doors and seemingly solid interior.

Not that the play needs excessive deciphering, but the songs between scenes come from the recorded oeuvre of Mama Cass Elliot, and the show's Rosetta stone, played at the curtain call, is a song called "Don't Let the Good Life Pass You By." If that's not enough of a clue, its final verse hits the play's key points: "Did you ever see the funny side of losing? / Did you ever sit right down and have a cry? / Did you ever take the time to help a neighbor? / Just don't let the good life pass you by."

Somewhere Mama Cass is smiling.

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Happenings

See All Pride Season Events On Page 24

OUTINGS

Friday, May 31

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

Second Class Citizen Photo Shoot and Ferndale Pride Kick Off 7 p.m. Tickets: \$25. Ferndale Pride, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. ferndalepride.org

Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: I Can't Think Straight. When Tala and Leyla meet in London and begin to have feelings for each other, it's a problem. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org/

Saturday, June 1

Shangela 1 a.m. Halleloo! Drag queen from RuPaul's Drag Race (seasons two and three) comes to Detroit. Hosted by Jade in Black. Ferndale Pride after-party. Club Liquid Detroit, 3537 E. Seven Mile Road, **Detroit**. 313-826-1192. facebook.com/ClubLiquidDetroit

Rainbow Run 10:30 a.m. Tickets: \$15-35. Ferndale Area Chamber of Commerce and Garden Fresh Gourmet, Allen St., **Ferndale**. 248-542-2160. rainbow-run.com

Rainbow Community Rally 11 a.m. A call to celebrate diversity and love inclusively. Livingston PFLAG, W. Main St. & Millpond Trail, **Brighton**. 734-224-8838. LivingstonPFLAG@gmail.com Facebook.com/events/566082083422730/

Ferndale Pride 12 p.m. Third annual street festival in downtown Ferndale. Ferndale Pride, W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. ferndalepride.org

Osherno Township Canvas 12 p.m. Kalamazoo has always been at the political forefront, and we can't let our friends in Osherno down. Either in solidarity to our fellow citizens in Osherno, or because it is your own community, join the KGLRC on Saturday. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. kglrc.org

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

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

Sing Out Detroit Chorus Presents: Love & Marriage 7 p.m. Tickets: \$10+. Get Out And Live!, 14450 West 10 Mile Road, **Oak Park**. 248-943-2411. singoutdetroit.org

Sunday, June 2

25th Annual Mutt March 8 a.m. Relaxed and family-friendly atmosphere to benefit the thousands of homeless animals that MHS cares for each year. Up to five mile

stroll. Michigan Humane Society, 1100 Lake Shore Road, **Grosse Pointe Shores**. 248-283-1000. michiganhumane.org/mutmarch

Flea Market 10 a.m. Admission: \$2. Greenmead Historical Village, 20501 Newburgh Road, **Livonia**. 734-425-6880. ci.livonia.mi.us

Bowling Extravaganza 4 p.m. There will be raffle prizes, music and fun for all ages. Tickets: \$6-15. Kalamazoo Pride, 5570 Gull Road, **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234.

Regardless Of (Narcotics Anonymous Meeting) 7 p.m. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. jimtoycenter.org

Monday, June 3

Movement with Kristi Faulkner Dance 7 p.m. A different genre of movement each week, including modern dance, ballet, jazz, hip hop/breaking, soft shoe tap dance, and stretch and strengthening. Workshops are designed for beginning/intermediate movers ages 16-55. Tickets: \$5. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

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Wednesday, June 5

Senior Koffee Klatch 1 p.m. A lively, discussion and social group for LGBT adults over 45. Group covers topics pertaining to aging and outside speakers. Potluck dinners at members homes, lunches out and holiday parties. Meets ever Wednesday on the upper level of the Affirmations building. Senior Koffee Klatch, 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

Dykes on Bikes - Monthly Planning Meeting 6:30 p.m. Monthly meeting to plan

A representative from Transgender Michigan is available to answer questions on helpline. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

Beyond the Bar: An LGBT Art and Design and Motor City Launch Party 7 p.m. Enjoy great art, delicious appetizers, beer and wine as well as music by DJ Lena. A silent auction will be held to benefit Ruth Ellis Center. Take home a unique piece of art and help make this the largest LGBT art show in the country. Motor City Pride, 206 E. Grand River, **Detroit**. motorcitypride.com

Community Cinema: Love Free or Die 7 p.m. Documentary about Gene Robinson, the first openly gay person to be elected bishop in the high church traditions of Christendom. Panel discussion with community members and the audience. Dennon Museum Center, 1701 E. Front St., **Traverse City**. 231-995-1029. dennonmuseum.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. Jjenkins@GoAffirmations.org GoAffirmations.org

Men's Film Group 7 p.m. Social group to meet and discuss films of interest to men. Meets every Thursday at

Editor's Pick



Northminster Presbyterian Church will host "The Shower of Stoles Project," a collection of liturgical stoles and other sacred items representing the lives of LGBT people of faith. 50 of these stoles and items will be displayed in addition to a short video presentation, "So Great a Cloud of Witnesses: The Story of the Shower of Stoles."

The project originated in 1996 when founder and formerly closeted Presbyterian minister, Martha Juillerat, chose to set aside her ordination when faced with the threat of being defrocked by the church. She asked her LGBT friends and colleagues to send a stole to hang at the presbytery meeting on the day she set aside her ordination. Since then, over 1,000 stoles and other sacred items have been acquired from numerous denominations around the world in this touring collection.

The project will run from 1 to 4 p.m. on June 2 at 3633 W. Big Beaver Road, Troy. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call 248-644-5920 or visit www.troynorthminster.org.

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

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

Tuesday, June 4

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

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

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

Tea & Talk 8 p.m. Open discussion with free tea and treats. Triple Goddess New Age Bookstore, 1824 E. Michigan Ave., **Lansing**. 517-347-2112.

rides and socialize. A great group of women who welcome new members with all levels of experience. Get Out And Live!, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

Trompe L'oeil and the Politics of Food 6:30 p.m. Judith Barter talks about the political and cultural meaning of rabbits, chickens, peanuts, potatoes, and other edibles in nineteenth-century paintings by William Harnett, DeScott Evans, and John Haberle. Recipes will be provided. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 313-833-7900. dia.org

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

Thursday, June 6

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

Transgender Helpline 6:30 p.m.

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

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

Weekly Support Group 7 p.m. Weekly support group for members of the HIV/AIDS community. Wings, 2441 Pinecrest Dr., **Ferndale**. wingsmi.org

MUSIC & MORE

BENEFITS/SOCIAL EVENTS

Ann Arbor Art Center "Paint the Town" Annual fundraising celebration. Tickets: \$100+. Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. June 1.

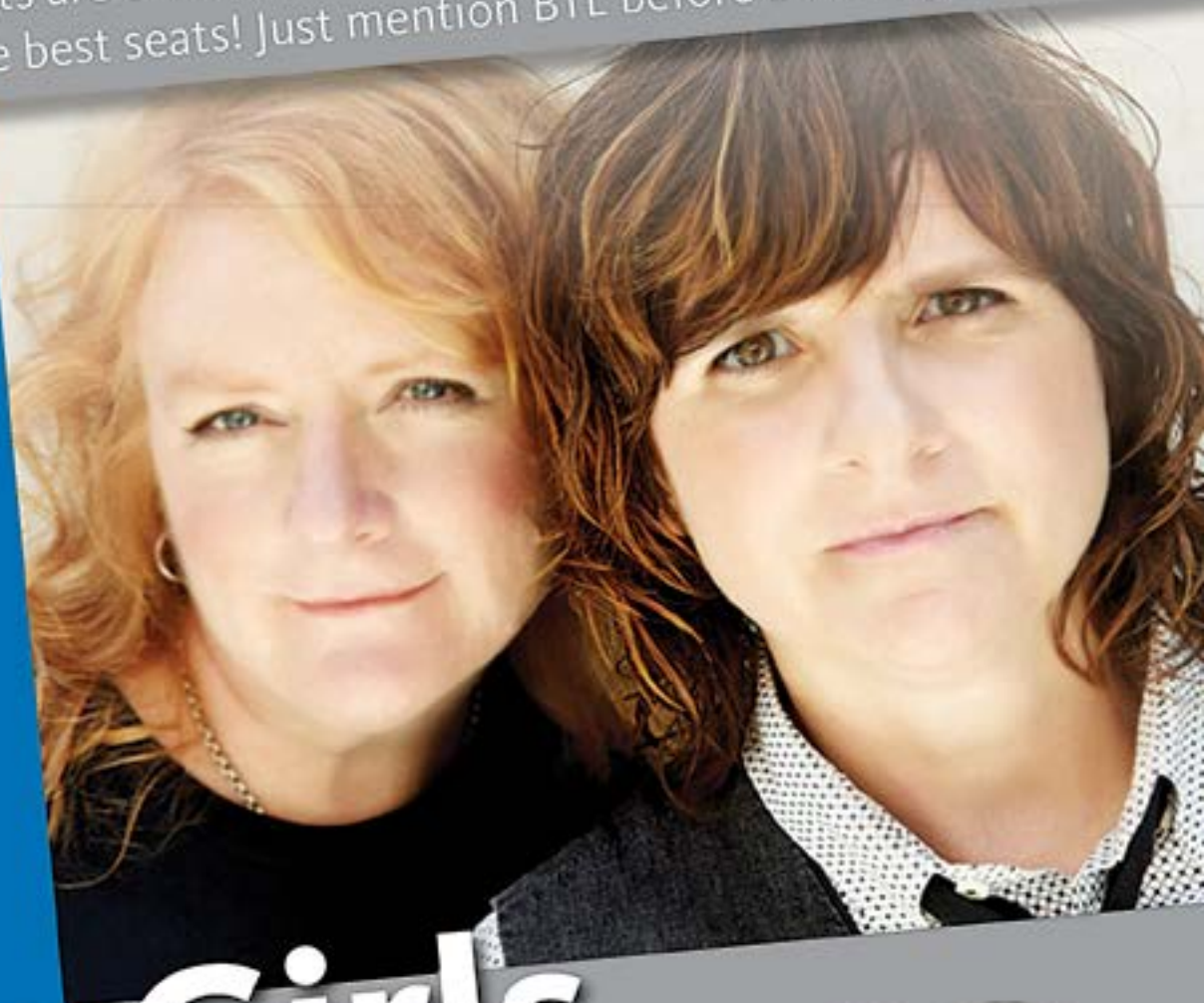
See Happenings, page 40

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▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 38

annarborartcenter.org

Grand Rapids Art Museum "Keeler Legacy Society Luncheon". Grand Rapids Art Museum, 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. 11:30 a.m. June 3. 616-831-1000. artmuseumgr.org

Michigan Opera Theatre "BravoBravo!" Specifically targeted to the young professional demographic in the metro Detroit area, this event caters to the 21-50 year old, predominantly educated, successful professional with a sincere interest in assisting with the support of this major cultural resource of the city of Detroit and the State of Michigan. 21+ event. Tickets: \$95-135. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. June 7. 313-237-SING. michiganopera.org

Sing Out Detroit "Sing Out Detroit Rehearsal" Singers needed to join Sing Out Detroit Choir. LGBT and Ally's Welcome. Always looking for non-singing members to help out at concerts and events. Jewish Community Center, 15110 W. 10 Mile Road, Oak Park. Feb. 5 - Sep. 24. 248-943-2411. singoutdetroit.org

CLASSICAL

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Season Finale Andre Watts" Program: MISSY MAZZOLI Lebenbom Premiere. MACDOWELL Piano Concerto No. 2. TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 4. Tickets: \$15+. Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. May 31 - June 1. 313-576-5111. dso.org

Kalamazoo Bach Festival Chorus and Kalamazoo Philharmonia "Of Gods and Men" Luigi Cherubini: Requiem in C minor Maurice Ravel: Suite from Daphnis et Chloe. Tickets: \$5-18. Chenev Auditorium, 714 S. Westnedge Ave., Kalamazoo. 8 p.m. June 1. 269-337-7407. kalamazoo Bach festival.org

Kerrytown Concert House "Cello Chamber Music with Suzanne Smith" Schumann piano quartet - Op. 47 and Debussy Sonata for cello and piano. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. June 2. 734-763-4186. kerrytownconcerthouse.com

CONCERTS

Blind Pig "Josh Krajcik" Tickets: \$15+. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 9. 734-996-8555. blindpig.com

Chelsea Alehouse Brewery "Lac LaBelle" Jennie Knaggs and Nick Schillace form this acoustic group from Detroit. Suggested donation: \$5. All Ages. Chelsea Alehouse Brewery, 420 N. Main, Suite 100, Chelsea. 8 p.m. June 8.

chelseaealehouse.com

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Scheherazade" Tickets: \$10. Congregation Shaarey Zedek, 27375 Bell Road, Southfield. 7:30 p.m. June 6. 248-357-5544. dso.org

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Civic Jazz Live!" Tickets: \$12+. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 6:45 p.m. May 31. 313-576-5111. dso.org

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Dave Holland and Kenny Barron" Tickets: \$18+. Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. May 31. 313-576-5111. dso.org

DTE Energy Music Theatre "The Lumineers with Cold War Kids and J Roddy Walston" Tickets: \$25+. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. 7 p.m. June 6. 248-377-0100. palacenet.com

Elektricity Nightclub "Project 46" 18+. Free with RSVP. Elektricity Nightclub, 15 S. Saginaw St., Pontiac. June 7. 248-599-2212.

Grosse Pointe Village Downtown Development Authority "Music on the Plaza" Free jazz concert series. In case of rain, concert will move to Mare Elementary School, 740 Cadieux. Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe Stage, St. Clair and Kercheval, Grosse Pointe. June 6 - Aug. 1. thevillagepp.org

Kerrytown Concert House "Andre Mehmani" Jazz. Tickets: \$5-30. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 8. 734-763-4186. kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Michigan Opera Theatre "Mos Def" A.k.a. Yasiin Bey with special guest Royce Da 5'9". Tickets: \$36-58.45. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. 8 p.m. June 1. 313-237-SING. michiganopera.org

Senate Theater "Mommie Dearest" Tickets: \$5. Senate Theater, 6424 Michigan Ave., Detroit. May 31 - June 1. 313-894-0850. www.Facebook.com/SenateTheater

The Ark "Dave Boutette & Billy King" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 7. 734-761-1800. theark.org

The Ark "Lee DeWyze" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 6. 734-761-1800. theark.org

The Magic Bag "Autumn Wolf" With Casio Choir, Erno The Infernos and Alexis Doors. Tickets: \$5. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 8 p.m. May 31. 248-544-3030. themagicbag.com

The Palace of Auburn Hills "The Package Tour: New Kids on the Block" With guests 98 Degrees and Boyz II Men. Tickets: \$40. 15-104.50. The Palace of Auburn Hills, 5 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. 7:30 p.m. June 8. 248-377-0100. palacenet.com

The Palace of Auburn Hills "Pitbull and Ke\$ha" With Justice Crew and Jump Smokers. Tickets: \$40. 15-111.65. The Palace of Auburn Hills, 5 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. 7:30 p.m. June 7. 248-377-0100. palacenet.com

FESTIVALS

Berkley Chamber of Commerce "13th Annual Berkley Art Bash" Join the Street Party on Twelve Mile in Downtown Berkley and enjoy the works of over 115 artists, live music, kid activities and food trucks. Downtown Berkley, 3117 W. 12 Mile, Berkley. 10 a.m. June 8. 248-414-7222. berkeleyartbash.com

Grand Rapids Art Museum "Festival of the Arts 2013: Community Quilts Mural at GRAM". Grand Rapids Art Museum, 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. June 7 - June 9. 616-831-1000. artmuseumgr.org

The Friends of Modern Art "Flint Art Fair" Concession, local music, beverages and more. Entertainment includes Justin Rose, Jon Fatt Quartet, Pat Cronley, and various other acts. Admission: \$0-5. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. June 8 - June 9. 810-234-1695. flintartfair.org

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

Chess \$13-\$25. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. June 6 - 9. 734-971-2228. www.a2ct.org

Dick: The Musical \$10. Fancy Pants Theater at Studio 246, 246 N. Kalamazoo Mall, Kalamazoo. June 7 - 22. 269-599-6437. www.fancypantstheater.webs.com

Disney's The Little Mermaid, Jr. \$13. Spotlight on Youth at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Rd., Canton. May 30 - June 2. 734-394-5300. www.spotlightplayersmi.org

Do-Dah Parade Is Dead: The First Ever FLOATing Musical Free. Fancy Pants Theater on the streets of Downtown Kalamazoo, starting at the corner of Jasper and Lovell Streets, Kalamazoo. 11 a.m. June 8. 269-599-6437. www.fancypantstheater.webs.com

Little Shop of Horrors \$15. The Twin City Players, 600 W. Glenford Rd., St. Joseph. June 7 - 30. 269-429-0400. www.twincityplayers.org

My Favorite Year \$18-20. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. May 30 - June 9. 517-482-5700. www.riverwalktheatre.com

Spamalot \$20-22. St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild, Cranbrook Greek Theatre, 400 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills. May 31 - June 15. 877-717-TICKETS. www.stdunstanstheatre.com

See Happenings, page 42

June 16 is FATHER'S DAY... So bring DAD for FREE! Buy 2 regular price adm. and Dad's admission is free!

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The Case of the Dead Paparazzi

Last night a member of the local paparazzi was found dead in their Plymouth apartment. Police headquarters has since narrowed down the suspect list to eight, the suspected weapons list to ten, and the possible crime scenes to six. It is now up to you, our CSI department, to determine whodunit, with what weapon, and where. Clues are littered around town and we have special agents working on the case and forwarding you information as we get it. Can your team crack the case?

Was it Kevane with the 9 iron at The Penn Theatre?
Round up a team of four and register to find out!

Benefit for the NEW Tail Waggers Wellness & Spay/Neuter Center

When: Saturday, June 8th at 8 pm
Where: Downtown Plymouth - Kellogg Park
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WESTMI PRIDE
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Editor's Pick



This weekend see Faye Dunaway in one of her most well-known roles: as Joan Crawford in "Mommie Dearest." Based on the memoir written by Crawford's adopted daughter, Christina, the film chronicles the abuse and chaos of growing up with the famously unbalanced star. Though initially met with mixed reviews, the 1981 movie has become a cult classic over the years.

Senate Theater, which will be running the film, is owned and operated by the Detroit Theater Organ Society. The all-volunteer, non-profit organization operates an 800-seat theater complete with Wurlitzer Pipe Organ. Since 1926, the theater has graced the area west of Livernois with shows and entertainment.

Mommie Dearest runs 8 p.m. on Friday, May 31 and Saturday, June 1 at Senate Theater, 6424 Michigan Ave., Detroit. Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 at the door. For more information, call 313-894-0850 or visit www.facebook.com/SenateTheater.

► Happenings

Continued from p. 40

The Sound of Music \$18-\$20 in advance. Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. May 31 - June 23. 248-541-6430. www.stagecrafters.org

The Third Ever Fancy Pants Gay-la! \$10. Fancy Pants Theater at Studio 246, 246 N. Kalamazoo Mall, Kalamazoo. June 7 - 15. 269-599-6437. www.fancypantstheater.webs.com

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

Honk! \$7-15. Eastern Michigan University Theatre at Sponberg Theatre in the Quirk Dramatic Arts Building, East Circle Dr. and Best Hall, Ypsilanti. May 31 - June 9. 734-487-2282. www.emutix.com

PROFESSIONAL

10:53 \$20-25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. Through June 16. 517-655-7469. www.williamstontheatre.org

2013 Gay Play Series \$10 per event, or \$20 City Pass or \$30 Threeway Pass. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. June 7 - 24. 248-545-5545. www.theringwald.com

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

70, Girls, 70 Previews May 29-31 (\$25-\$31). \$31-40. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Rd., Rochester. May 29 - June 23. www.mbtheatre.com

A Divine Evening with Charles Busch \$30. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. June 8. 269-756-3879. www.acorntheater.com

August: Osage County \$10-22. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through June 3. 248-545-5545. www.theringwald.com

Brimstone and Treacle \$20. Planet Art Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Through June 1. 313-365-4948. www.planetart.com

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

I Hate Hamlet Previews May 30-31. \$27-32. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. May 30 - June 30. 248-347-0003. www.tippingpointtheatre.com

Next to Normal \$27-\$31. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. June 7 - 23. 269-343-2727. www.farmersalleytheatre.com

Roaming Charges \$17-20. Detroit

Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. May 30 - June 23. 313-868-1347. www.detroitreptheatre.com

Sleeping Beauty \$10 adult, \$5 child. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theatre, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit. June 1 - 29. 313-967-0999. www.puppetart.org

The Lost and Found Project \$16-\$19. The Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 W. Maple Road., West Bloomfield. June 8 - 9. 248-661-1900. www.theberman.org

The Mountaintop \$27-41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through June 2. 734-663-0681. www.performancenetwork.org

The Sound of THEIR Music: The Music of Rodgers, Hart & Hammerstein \$20. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. June 7. 269-756-3879. www.acorntheater.com

ART'N'AROUND

Ann Arbor Art Center "The Print" 117 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. May 1 - June 23. 734-994-8004. annarborartcenter.org

Anton Art Center and Right Brain Projects "Paint Your Pet" 125 Macomb Place, Mount Clemens. 2 p.m. June 6. 248-499-7073. theartcenter.org

Chalk of the Town "Fifth Annual Chalk of the Town" Artists creating masterpieces on the sidewalks of Lansing's historic Old Town using only chalk. Free. Old Town, Lansing. 10 a.m. June 1. chalkofthetown.org

Chelsea River Gallery "2D3D" 120 S. Main St., Chelsea. May 25 - June 28. 734-433-0826. chelsearivergallery.com

Cranbrook Academy of Art and Art Museum "Michigan Modern: Design that Shaped America" 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. June 1 - Sep. 30. 877-462-7262. cranbrookart.edu

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

Dennos Museum Center "Larry Cressman: Line Work" 1701 E. Front St., Traverse City. May 1 - June 2. 231-995-1055. dennosmuseum.org

Detroit Institute of Arts "The Potter's Wheel for Adults and Children" 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 8 - Oct. 12. 313-833-4005. dia.org

Flint Institute of Arts "The Party: An Artrageous Affair" Admission: \$100. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 7 p.m. June 1. 810-234-1695. flintarts.org

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

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

Fourteen East "Abstract Art by Jan Brown" Jan Brown's acrylic paintings, done in the past three years, display an emotional excitement that lures viewers into their depths. Fourteen East, 15 E. Kirby, Detroit. April 30 - July 31.

Grand Rapids Art Museum "Summer Drop-in Tours: The Jansma Print Collection at GRAM" . Grand Rapids Art Museum, 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. June 4 - June 18. 616-831-1000. artmuseumgr.org

Grand Rapids Art Museum "Weekend Drop-in Tours: The Improvisational Quilts of Susana Allen" . Grand Rapids Art Museum, 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. May 11 - June 8. 616-831-1000. artmuseumgr.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "The Arts of China and Japan: Selections from the Collection" 314 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Jan. 31 - June 9. 269-349-7775. kiarts.org

Lawrence Street Gallery "Palette and Brush Club" . Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave. Suite A, Ferndale. June 5 - June 28. 248-544-0394. lawrenchstreetgallery.com

Michigan State University Museum "East Lansing Modern, 1940-1970" 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. May 1 - Aug. 18. 517-355-7474. museum.msu.edu

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit "(in)Habitation" 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 7 - July 28. 313-832-6622. mocadetroit.org

Riverside Arts Center "Exhibit in Off Center" . Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. May 31 - June 1. 734-483-7345. riversidearts.org

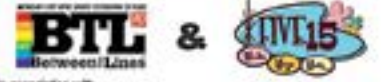
Robert Kidd Gallery "Come On Oeuvre" . Robert Kidd Gallery, 107 Townsend St., Birmingham. May 3 - June 1. 248-642-3909. robertkiddgallery.com

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

Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts "Intro Class: Clay Planters & Pots" complete their work. Tickets: \$85-95. Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts, Two Fulton West, Grand Rapids. May 19 - June 9. uica.org



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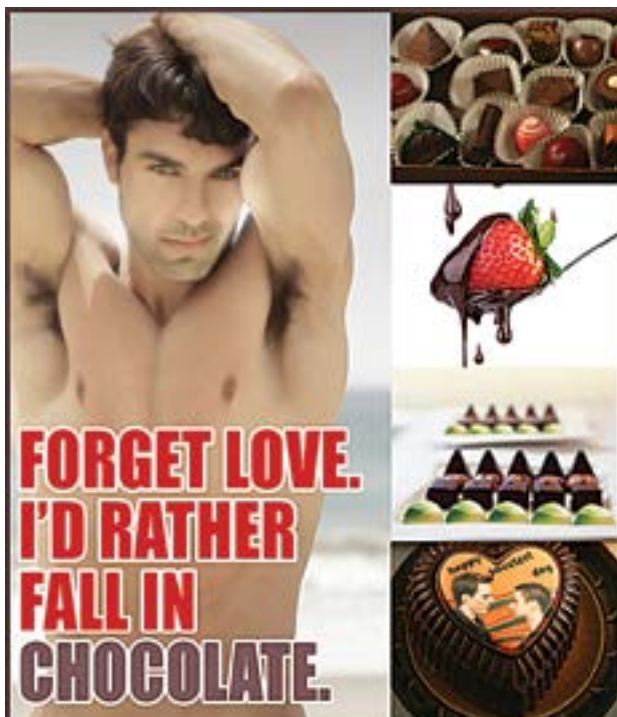
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Greta Gerwig stars in "Frances Ha." Photo: IFC Films

Dancing On Her Own

Greta Gerwig Fills 'Frances Ha' With Infectious Spirit

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

You know Frances Ha. She's the modern-day slouch, also known as the Lena Dunham of this generation: she has vague art-career ambitions, thrives on the independence of singlehood, and acts as a lesbian even though she isn't.

"Frances Ha," then, has all the makings of an episode of "Girls," Dunham's HBO series about female friends making bad decisions, in the sense that this is another zeitgeisty chicks-in-peril, coming-of-age character sketch. Except it stars Greta Gerwig, one of the most promising actresses of today who turns out a career-making role that's both life-affirming and endearingly pathetic — the mainstream breakthrough she deserves.

We meet 27-year-old Frances (Gerwig), a marginally talented understudy at a New York ballet company, while she's still close with her sidekick Sophie (Mickey Sumner); they share an apartment in Brooklyn and fake-fight, knit and play backgammon together. Frances' observation about their relationship is hilariously accurate when she tells Sophie, "We are like a lesbian couple that doesn't have sex anymore."

Life — and the trailer — clues you into

the doom of adulthood that awaits these girls. It won't always be so... lesbian. And so it goes: Sophie seeks a nicer place because she can afford it. She also has Patch, her boyfriend. Frances has no boyfriend, no job, and now no one to fake-fight with (a space-filler "friend," played by Mamie "Meryl Streep's Daughter" Gummer, doesn't take to well to getting smacked around). It's like that scene in "Bridesmaids" where Kristen Wiig forces a happy face in the midst of her best friend's wedding announcement because their future is ... well, maybe without any future at all.

This is how Frances handles it: clumsily, pathetically and with a graceless NYC street dance set to David Bowie's "Modern Love." It's especially intoxicating to see the irresistible Gerwig whirl around with such zest, and more hope than most could muster under these hapless circumstances, during this standout sequence of blitheful delight. Because this isn't all rainbows and sunshine. The dark cloud hanging over Frances pours with money trouble, lonesomeness, and the terrible inevitability of growing up. And if you've seen "Girls," or the gobs of indie comedies with themes of suppressed adulthood, you know these woes. But not with

Gerwig, who dances away with this little gem much like she did in "Damsels in Distress," "Lola Versus" and Ben Stiller's "Greenberg." There's none of the grating narcissism of Dunham in this role, and "Frances Ha" makes its point without sinking to debauchery levels: no meth, drinking, sex. No boobs!

The film relies a lot on Gerwig, a blundering, socially awkward gump who's impossible to hate because she owns every bit of her essence. How she puts it after darting through the East Village looking for an ATM, only to return with a bleeding arm and a beau prospect's "what the fuck" face: "I'm not a real person yet."

This whole no-job, no-boyfriend thing is reality, but in her own mind, her better self — the one who's gainfully employed and has a place she doesn't share with two bums — is the dream she's trying to achieve. And Noah Baumbach, the indie filmmaker who directed "Greenberg" and "The Squid and the Whale," does something wonderfully enchanting with the picture: he goes black-and-white, striking a fabled spirit that lends itself to Frances Ha's arrested adolescence. The bleakness of growing up just isn't bleak enough in color.

Gay Play Series Returns To The Ringwald

Fourth Annual Event Runs June 7-24

FERNDALE - The Ringwald Theatre recently announced the fourth installment of its wildly popular Gay Play Series. Last year's outing was attended by hundreds of people over a two weekend period. This year the program will run three consecutive weekends and will feature a two-week run of the past three winning scripts, a serialized staged reading of a beloved classic, a new one-woman show, a brand new cabaret, and performances of eight new, one-act LGBT plays.

GPS will run June 7-24 at The Ringwald Theatre in beautiful downtown Ferndale. The 2013 GPS will kick off at 8 p.m. June 7 with a special staged reading of Armistead Maupin's seminal classic, "Tales of the City." And, in keeping with its original serialized format, the "Tales" reading will unfurl over the following two Fridays, June 14 and 21, as well. Presented with a fixed cast and rotating guest stars, "Tales of the City" is the perfect opening for GPS.

Beginning on Saturday, June 8 will be a celebration of the GPS-winning shows of the past three years. The GPS Threesome will feature performances of "My Dull Friend" by Margaret Edwartowski, "A Few Survivors" by Jason Sebacher, and "Fanny Packs & Hanky Codes" by Kristian O'Hare. Director Kathleen Lietz and actors Chris Stepnitz, Alonzo Luzod, Julie Spittle, Christian Lafata and Vince Kelley tackle all three past winning shows.

Ringwald artistic director Joe Bailey says, "We really wanted a chance to produce these shows in a manner that was different than what audiences may have already seen during the individual competitions. By having one fantastic director and one core cast, we are excited to present these shows anew. And it really is remarkable how different they are from one another; it'll make for a thrilling evening of theater. It's just a great example of the depth of LGBT playwrights."

The GPS Threesome will play 8 p.m. Saturdays and Mondays and 3 p.m. Sundays for two weekends, June 8-17.

The original One Act Festival will kick into gear on Saturday, June 22 and Sunday, June 23. This year 142 submissions were received, again from around the world. From those submissions, eight have been chosen for production. In a break from previous years, the original one acts will be performed in one block.

The 2013 chosen shows and their directors are:

- "Threesome" by Brian Walker; directed by Veronica Zahn
- "Batperson and Robbie: Cute Meat" by Daniel Curzon; directed by Sean McClellan
- "Cake Top This" by Donna Hoke; directed by Heidi Bennett
- "The Loose Ends" by Mark Harvey Levine; directed by Joe Plambeck
- "Romeo and Jules" by Ron Burch; directed Gary Lehman
- "Waiting for the Skel" by EM Lewis; directed by Topher Payne
- "Justin & Kyle Shop at IKEA" by Kent Forsberg; directed by Dyan Bailey
- "Four Dry Tongues" by Alex Dremann; directed by Lisa Melinn

All eight one-acts will be performed at 8 p.m. June 22 and 3 p.m. June 23.

As always, audience members will be voting for their favorite script. The winning script will receive an additional performance at the closing ceremonies on June 24. Audience members will also be asked to vote for a favorite actor and director.

At 7 p.m. June 23, Julia Marsh will preview her new one-woman show, "Please Give Me Your Money So I Can Buy A Vagina." Through the use of stand-up comedy and improv, Julia shares her experiences in life, which include searching for a vagina and ultimately finding herself instead.

GPS will come to a close at 8 p.m. June 24. In addition to the encore presentation of the winning script, this year GPS is proud to present the debut of the 3 Queer Tenors. Comprised of Vince Kelley, Richard Payton and Jamie Richards, 3 Queer Tenors will combine Broadway, pop and a dash of cattiness in their debut cabaret. The program will be an evening of music both popular and obscure, with songs from Detroit to the Big Apple and hopefully a few laughs along the way.

Admission to individual events during this year's GPS will be \$10 per event. A \$20 City Pass will be available to see all three evenings of "Tales of the City" (saving you \$10 to see all three parts). A \$30 Threeway Pass (which gets you into all events all three weekends) will also be available.

Tickets can be purchased at www.TheRingwald.com or at the theater box office. The Ringwald Theatre is located at 22742 Woodward Avenue in downtown Ferndale.

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2013 Voter Education Project
Between THE Lines

Out of Town

Gay Seaside Getaways

BY ANDREW COLLINS

Beach vacations come in many forms, especially in the context of gay and lesbian travel. Years ago, LGBT travelers seeking summer fun at the shore tended to focus on several tried-and-true resort communities, primarily Provincetown, Ogunquit, Rehoboth, Fire Island, Laguna Beach, Key West and Saugatuck. Although all of these towns are still justly popular, with their lively gay beach bars and inviting accommodations, America has no shortage of quirky, scenic seaside communities with progressive bents and welcoming vibes.

Here are four great little coastal towns – two on the West Coast and two on the East Coast - you may not have thought much about, especially if you live outside the regions they're in. Each has plenty going for it, from an abundance of romantic, gay-friendly inns to urbane restaurants to memorable cultural and recreational assets.

Camden and Rockland, Maine

To experience a less-developed, ruggedly scenic part of New England, make the two-hour drive north of Portland, Maine to visit the historic seaside communities along western Penobscot Bay, including Rockland and Camden (mainesmidcoast.com). Maine's Mid-Coast is a place for quiet vacations, ideal if you're a hiker, photographer, fishing enthusiast or sailor. Camden is home to a fleet of Windjammer sailing ships, which can be booked not only on multiple-day excursions throughout the region but also for afternoon jaunts along Penobscot Bay.

The craggy 1,000-foot peaks of Camden Hills State Park delight outdoors enthusiasts – you can scamper along more than 20 miles of rugged nature and hiking trails through this unspoiled paradise –

there's also overnight camping. The formerly workaday town of Rockland has come into its own in recent years, with several outstanding restaurants and cafes – don't miss In Good Company (ingoodcompanymaine.com), a dapper neighborhood wine bar with creative American cuisine,

to the LGBT-owned Camden Harbour Inn (camdenharbourinn.com), which is situated across from a harbor and has 18 warmly appointed rooms and suites, plus a terrific restaurant. In Rockland, the gay-owned LimeRock Inn (limerockinn.com) is a handsome painted-lady Victorian B&Bs



View from Homer Spit of Kachemak Bay and Alaska's glacier-capped Kenai Mountains. Photo: Andrew Collins

Maine's Mid-Coast is a place for quiet vacations, ideal if you're a hiker, photographer, fishing enthusiast or sailor. Camden is home to a fleet of Windjammer sailing ships, which can be booked not only on multiple-day excursions throughout the region but also for afternoon jaunts along Penobscot Bay.

or Primo (primorestaurant.com), where James Beard award-winning chef Melissa Kelly turns out stunning farm-to-table Mediterranean-inspired fare. The key draw in Rockland is one of the country's best small art museums, the Farnsworth, which focuses on noted regional artists of international acclaim, including Louise Nevelson, George Bellows and the Wyeth, who are celebrated with their own wing.

Among recommended accommodations, Camden is home

whose rooms are outfitted with all the perks you'd expect of a modern hotel. A lavish breakfast is included in the rates, and downtown restaurants are within easy walking distance.

Homer, Alaska

You may not think of Alaska when you're planning a beach vacation, but the offbeat fishing town of Homer (homer.alaska.com) is an endearingly funky and gay-friendly coastal getaway

popular both with residents and visitors to the Last Frontier. On the Kenai Peninsula and reached from Anchorage either by a stunning 220-mile drive or an easy 40-minute flight, the town is situated at the mouth of Kachemak Bay and affords dramatic views of the glacier-capped Kenai Mountains.

You can stroll among the cool coffeehouses and seafood restaurants along Homer Spit, which pokes out into the bay – good bets include Captain Patties

Bay Lodge, which overlooks a crystalline fjord and has its own cooking school run by talented chef-owner Kirsten Dixon. Back in Homer, charming, gay-friendly accommodations include Brigitte's Bavarian B&B (akms.com/brigitte), on a bluff outside town, and the Bay Avenue B&B (bayavebb.com), a modern house with plenty of big windows and great views over the bay.

In Homer's funky village center, notable dining options abound - be sure to check out colorfully decorated Mermaid Bistro (mermaidbistro.com), which serves out-of-this-world salads, sandwiches and pizzas with an emphasis on organic ingredients; colorful Café Cups (cafecupsofhomer.com), where you can feast on platters of tiger prawns with honey-habanero sauce and charbroiled filet mignon; and adorable Two Sisters Bakery, which is known for seafood chowder, creative salads and delectable baked goods. There's not a ton of nightlife in these parts, but offbeat Alice's Champagne Palace (aliceschampagnepalace.com) is a fun spot for live music, cold beer and juicy burgers.

Mendocino, California

Among the many jewels of the rugged California coastline, the beautiful little town of Mendocino (visitmendocino.com) stands out for its rugged sea cliffs, charming New England-inspired cottages and serene seclusion. The town is just 150 miles up the coast from San Francisco, and 80 miles via the lovely Anderson Valley from the heart of the Sonoma Wine Country.

This cliff-top community is in the heart of a region where loggers, farmers, winemakers, writers, tourists, hippies, yuppies and fishermen all more or less coexist harmoniously. And while it's not really a gay mecca, it does have a strong following among same-sex couples who appreciate the low-keyed vibe and alluring setting.

The most intriguing activities in coastal Mendocino County usually involve one kind of touring or another. You can rent mountain bikes, kayaks or canoes and explore the region's rivers or country lanes. And you can hike along oceanfront bluffs that loom high over the frothy Pacific surf and watch whales during the

See Out of Town, page 48

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► Out of Town

Continued from p. 46

spring and fall migrations. A great place for this is Mendocino Headlands State Park, an easy walk from downtown. Just north of Mendocino, the once-prosaic lumber town of Fort Bragg has lately gentrified with hip coffeehouses and fun restaurants – it's also home to such attractions as the 47-acre Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens, and the historic 21-mile Skunk Train scenic excursion railroad, which passes through soaring redwood groves.

You can also go wine-touring in the adjacent Anderson Valley, whose cool climate is particularly suitable for turning out stellar Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Mendocino County Wine (mendocinowine.com) has information on tastings at dozens of vineyards open to the public. The region has no shortage of stellar restaurants. Occupying a dark, wood-paneled room with big windows overlooking colorful gardens, 955 Ukiah (955restaurant.com) serves sophisticated California-style cuisine. Also outstanding, the unassuming Moose Café (themoosse.com), which is warmed by a fireplace, offers exceptional mod-American fare and laid-back yet efficient service, and the MacCallum House (maccallumhouse.com) – also a nice place to stay – serves some of the most accomplished regional American cuisine on the Northern California coast.

Mendocino and nearby villages have a bounty of gay-friendly inns and B&Bs, with an emphasis on unpretentious, rustic luxury. The J.D. House (jdhouse.com) is a lovely eight-room B&B surrounded by fragrant gardens, and with an invitingly simple and fresh country-chic aesthetic. Innkeepers Andrew Hindman and Damien Wood also run two sister inns, the Packard House and Blue Door Inn. A stylish “eco-resort” with one of the country’s most acclaimed vegan restaurants (Ravens’), the Stanford Inn by the Sea (stanfordinn.com) has a breathtaking location overlooking Mendocino Bay.

A short drive south of town near verdant Van Damme State Park, the gay-owned Glendeven Inn (glendeven.com) looks like a Maine farmhouse and is surrounded by lush gardens and dewy meadows. Most of the rooms here have private decks overlooking the ocean and are warmed by fireplaces, and the on-site wine bar is a wonderful dining option. Another highlight is the gay-owned boutique resort Stevenswood (stevenswood.com), which

is nestled among tall trees and open meadows and has 10 rooms decorated in a light and airy contemporary style. A big draw here is the serene full-service spa. Also nearby is the 65-room Little River Inn (littleriverinn.com), a rambling and comfy hideaway with a friendly staff and charming rooms – it’s perfect for a romantic getaway – room all face the ocean, and some with fireplaces and Jacuzzi tubs.

Tybee Island, Georgia

Every bit as quirky, laid-back and personable as historic Savannah, which lies just a 20-minute drive inland, Tybee Island (visittybee.com) is one of Georgia’s famed barrier islands, an idyllic locale for beach-bumming, fishing, or boating. In May 2013, this colorful beachside community hosted its first Tybee Gay Days (gaysavannah.com/tybee-gay-days), a weekend of parties and events that organizers plan an annual gathering.

You’ll find plenty of condo and cottage rentals on this compact island, making it a popular destination for extended stays with groups of friends. One very good option is the LGBT-friendly Beachside Colony Resort (beachsidecolony.com), which has upscale one-, two-, and three-bedroom condos set among eight different buildings and adjoins the terrific, lesbian-owned restaurant and bar, Marlin Monroe’s Surfside Grill (marlinmonroessurfsidegrill.com). Here you can feast on tasty seafood and minty mojitos while relaxing on the deck overlooking the sea. Also check out the sister restaurant, Fannies on the Beach (fanniesonthebeach.com), which is steps from the island’s colorful pier and pavilion. And off U.S. 80 as you enter the island, lively Coco’s Sunset Grille (cocostybee.com) has occasional gay parties and is another sure bet for delicious seafood.

The fact that Tybee is so close to Savannah (visitsavannah.com) makes it a great option if you’re keen on a vacation that mixes beach relaxation with touring historic homes, tony galleries, and upscale Southern restaurants – and, of course, you can always overnight in Savannah and visit Tybee as a day-trip. Charming properties like the snazzy yet historic Mansion on Forsyth Park (mansiononforythpark.com); the stylish and art-filled Bohemian Hotel Savannah Riverfront (bohemianhotelsavannah.com), and the sleek Andaz Savannah (savannah.andaz.hyatt.com) are all favorites with gay travelers, and Club One (clubone-online.com) is a hot spot for dancing and drag shows, it being the home nightclub of Lady Chablis, of “Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil” fame.

Every bit as quirky, laid-back and personable as historic Savannah, which lies just a 20-minute drive inland, Tybee Island (visittybee.com) is one of Georgia’s famed barrier islands, an idyllic locale for beach-bumming, fishing, or boating.

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101-ANNOUNCEMENTS LGBT AA MEETINGS

Ann Arbor-Friday

7:30 pm, St. Andrews Episcopal
Church Gay AA, 306 N. Division
St. Closed/Discussion.

Bloomfield Hills-Thurs- day

7:00 pm, Sobriety in The Hills
Gay AA, Kirk in The Hills Church,
1340 W. Long Lake Rd. Closed/
Discussion.

Detroit-Tuesday / Friday

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

Farmington Hills- Monday

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

Ferndale-Monday / Wednesday / Friday

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

Ferndale-Wednesday

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

Ferndale-Saturday

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

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

Livonia-Friday

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

Warren-Monday

7:30 p.m., Eastside Serenity Gay
AA, Faith-Trinity United Church of
Christ, 12221 Martin Rd. East of
Hoover. Closed/Discussion.

112 ANNOUNCEMENTS - VOLUNTEERING

Unity Michigan Coali- tion Pride Season Volunteers

The Unity Michigan Coalition
and BTL is seeking volunteers to
assist in a community outreach
project throughout the June Pride
season. Volunteers will work with
UMC and BTL to collect contact
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who are interested in further-
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michigan_mens_clothing_optional_yoga](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/michigan_mens_clothing_optional_yoga)



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Solution to puzzle from page 52

R	A	G	E	M	B	A	S	I	M	P	E	I		
F	L	A	X	A	S	T	I	S	C	A	L	D		
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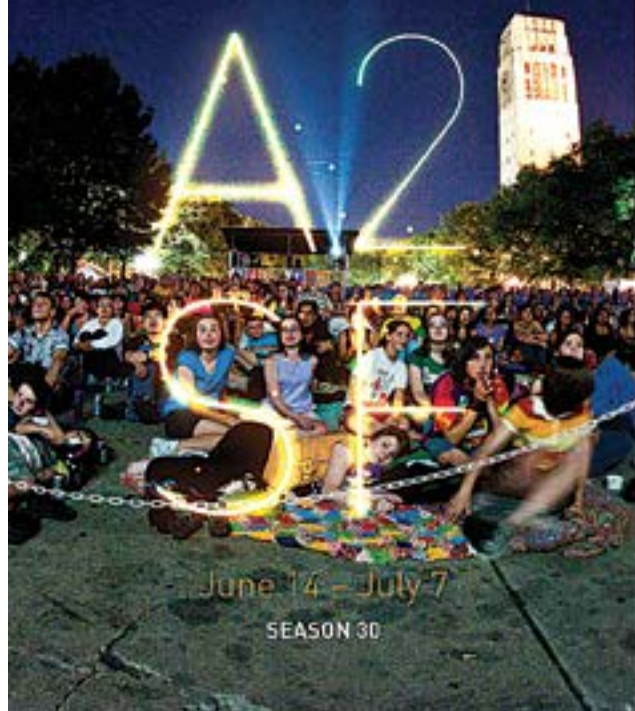


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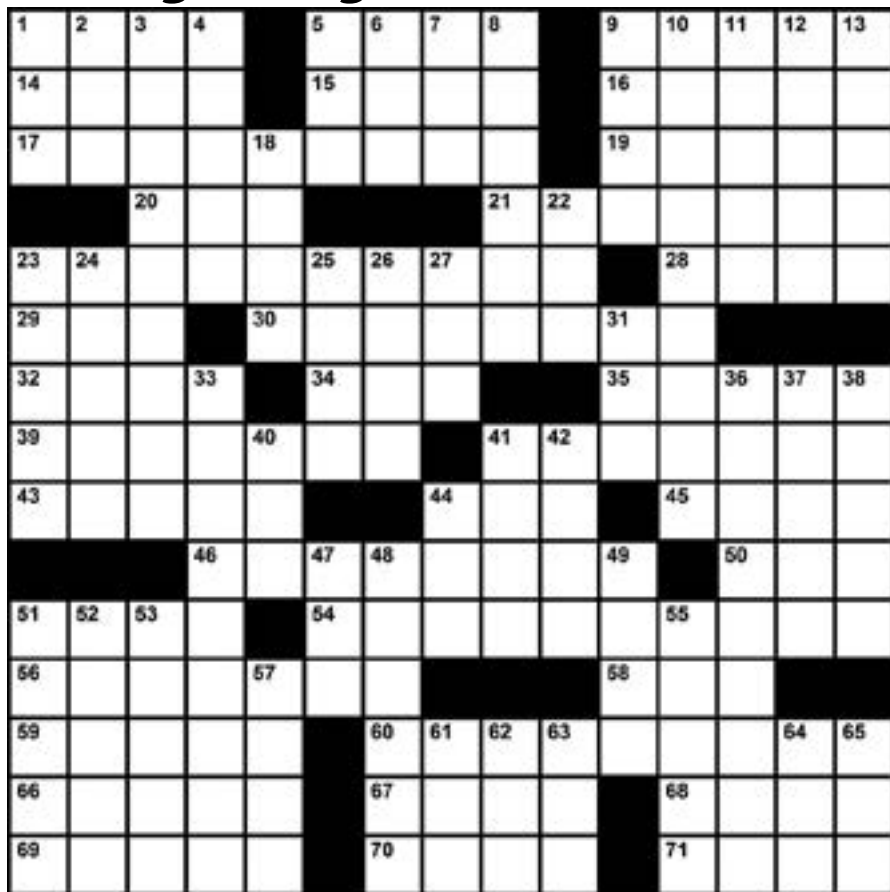
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Across

- 1 Foam at the mouth
 5 Business degs.
 9 Philip Johnson contemporary
 14 Linen fiber
 15 Wine region of Michelangelo's land
 16 Burn with water
 17 With 23-Across, soap with Lee
 19 In a queer way
 20 Fight with fists
 21 Shakespearean sister
 23 See 17-Across
 28 Rod attachment
 29 Lending letters
 30 Gladiator area
 32 Sausage unit
 34 Log Cabin member (abbr.)
 35 Part of a cathedral name in gay Parea
 39 Like some kings or pirates
 41 Formed bubbles
 43 Start something with Mauresmo
 44 Hearst's kidnappers, for short
 45 Garr of "Tootsie"
 46 New member
 50 Except
 51 Healthy ___ ox
 54 Portrayer of Lee's husband

- 56 Stonewall Inn feature
 58 Running game
 59 Oral performances
 60 Lee's husband
 66 Younger daughter of Michelle
 67 Drawing card
 68 "Myra Breckinridge" author Vidal
 69 Hostile state
 70 Boy who shoots off arrows
 71 Very top

Down

- 1 Gomer's mail service
 2 Heady stuff
 3 It has a hot nozzel
 4 Montreal team of old
 5 Mardi Gras mo., often
 6 "Morally straight" org.
 7 Person with a J.D.
 8 Greeks' operation against the Trojans, et al.
 9 "Help ___ the way!"
 10 Lee, in a soap
 11 Kahlo's father
 12 Porn director Francis
 13 Pastoral poem
 18 Business boss
 22 Fruit sugar ending
 23 Circles over Mary and Peter

- 24 Put in two cents worth
 25 Tested, to Marc Jacobs
 26 "Glen or Glenda: ___ Two Lives"
 27 BMOC, e.g.
 31 Game with "Reverse" cards
 33 Portrayer of Lee
 36 Bottom's lover at the circus?
 37 "The Golden Girls" episode
 38 Cuts
 40 Kobe currency
 41 Defect of precious stones
 42 Tat opener
 44 "___ semper tyrannis"
 47 Lance at court
 48 Roll in the hay
 49 Rebuke from Caesar
 51 Demean
 52 That's a wrap
 53 Leave the sack
 55 Roo's mom
 57 Key opening
 61 Wilder's "___ Town"
 62 Bart, to Maggie
 63 Cocks and bulls
 64 Early preposition
 65 Title for Oedipus

Solution on pg. 50

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