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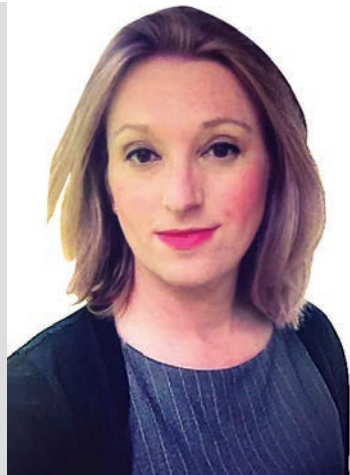


Herion Park, Fiber



COVER STORY

Adriel's Detroit dream
Photo: Andrew Potter



// If you have (a human rights ordinance) in Royal Oak, you can go file a complaint with the local police department right up the street ... So even if there is one at the state level, cities like Royal Oak still need to enact one. //

– Allison VanKuiken, campaign manager for One Royal Oak, pg. 6

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Up, Up, And A-Gay!

Families Make Connections During Annual Lake Michigan Get-Away

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

DOUGLAS - On July 13 the city of Douglas was over run with super heroes. Some wore masks, others wore capes, and most wore sunscreen as the colorful crowd moved through the streets in the scorching summer heat. Adults and children alike waved flags, banged tambourines, and carried signs reading "Love Is Love" and "Equal," all with two fire trucks and a police car in hot pursuit.

In other words, it was the annual Rainbow Families Great Lakes Family Week Celebration Parade. Dozens of families and groups like West Shore AWARE, Grand Valley State University LGBT Resource Center, and PFLAG marched undeterred by the heat in all of their rainbow glory. It was a fitting way to wrap up six days of fun and family in West Michigan.

A rainbow of parents and children from the Great Lakes region and beyond flock to the area each year to find community with other LGBT parents and their children during RFGL's Family Week.

Ariel Hoffman attended Family Week with two of his four children. The trio came from Madison, Wisconsin, though Hoffman previously lived in the Detroit area where he and his husband adopted their children. This was Hoffman's second time attending Family Week and he said he plans to "keep coming until my kids are college age at least."

"To me, the most important aspect of family week is the connections one makes with other parents," Hoffman explained. "There's so much love, compassion and friendship at Family

Week that it's hard to say goodbye to these people at the end of the week."

First time attendee Andrea Nelson shared Hoffman's sentiments. Nelson, her wife Shelly, and their three-year-old son Christopher made the trek to

him to see so many families like ours, but the organizers did a phenomenal job planning fun events that would appeal to kids - and adults - of any age."

Indeed, whether it was climbing the monkey bars at the Douglas Elementary playground, using puffy paint to make personalized capes, splashing in the pool, or dipping t-shirts into buckers of tie-dye, there was plenty to keep kids entertained.

One of the people Nelson and other Family Week attendees can thank for this is Carl Miller, one of nine Saginaw Valley State University social work students serving as the Family Week crew.

"Our role was to help organize crafts and activities for the children, talk to the families and hear their stories, learn about the LGBT community, and generally help out where needed," Miller said.

With his prominent Superman tattoo and his unabashed love for The Avengers, Miller was a natural fit with Family Week's Super Hero theme. But the true heroes, Miller said, are the families.

"I was already familiar with LGBTs as individuals, especially being bisexual myself, but did not know anything about how gay and lesbian couples parented and raised their children," he explained. "I found out it was really no different than anyone else, and perhaps in most cases even better than heterosexual parents because LGBT parents go through a lot more to get their children, and value them so much more."

Like Hoffman, Miller cites the friendships he's made as a motivator for wanting to return.

Nelson concurs. "We will definitely be back," she said. "After the amazing friends we made this year, there is no doubt that this will become an annual event for our family."

Family Week 2014 will be held July 12-18. For more information visit www.rfgl.org.



Children walk holding hands in front of the West Shore AWARE contingent during the Family Week Celebration Parade on July 18, 2013. BTL photo: D'Anne Witkowski

Douglas from St. Louis, Missouri. Nelson was struck by "the amazing diversity of the families attending."

"It was phenomenal to see how many ways families can come together: adoption, fostering, surrogacy, reproductive technology, etc.," she said. "At the same time, Family Week reinforced our fundamental belief that it is love, and only love, that makes a family."

While Nelson was drawn to Family Week for the sense of community, her family was seeking out fun, too. According to Nelson, they had plenty of it.

"Christopher had an absolute blast at Family Week. It was not only great for

Up North: Harrisville To Gather For Equalityfest

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Harrisville, Michigan will be the latest city to celebrate LGBT pride on Aug. 17 beginning at 11 a.m., with the upcoming Equalityfest, taking place on the grounds of the Harrisville Holistic Center on Hwy. 23 near the junction of Hwy. 72.

The event is a mix of community togetherness, activism and education bringing in some big names in the equal rights movement. The keynote speaker is Dr. Rev. Mel White, a man who went from working for Billy Graham, Jerry Falwell and Pat Robinson, to an openly gay activist involved in various projects including the Soulforce bus tour which takes gay youth to conservative college campuses to generate conversations.

State Sen. Rebekah Warren from Ann Arbor, who is a strong proponent of LGBT

rights in Lansing, will be the primary facilitator for the marriage equality workshop at the event. She will provide the inside story of the legislative hurdles facing the LGBT community.

There will also be a presentation on being gay in rural Michigan, focusing on the issues LGBT people face when they aren't in a supportive urban environment. And of course there will be music, vendors, food and other activities to enjoy.

About a dozen local businesses have signed up as sponsors for the event, including Ben Franklin Craft Store, Captain Pete's Mini Golf, 89.7 FM, and Modern Craft Winery.

Harrisville Holistic Center, where the event will take place, provides resources and community for those from all faiths. Rev. Paul Peterson runs the center and led the way in creating Equalityfest. He has been an advocate for the LGBT community and progressive movements for about 25 years. As a Presbyterian Minister he worked in several places throughout the U.S. and even in Ghana, West Africa before moving back to Michigan to work as a community organizer for That All May Freely

Serve (TAMFS), and eventually settling in Northern Michigan to be close to his parents. Peterson started the Harrisville Holistic Center "as a place for progressive thinkers to gather and organize."

Progressives who meet through the center have advocated for a number of issues, including protecting medical marijuana patients from police and starting a local alternative newspaper called The Alcona Citizen that covers many issues including improprieties of local elected officials and the risks of fracking.

Advocating for LGBT equality is a natural fit and the folks at the center hope to unite LGBT people and allies in northern Michigan.

"There's a lack of support groups for LGBT people. There are a few gay-friendly bars, but those don't provide the support for the challenges facing the LGBT community on a daily basis. We

are promoting the holistic center as a safe and welcoming space and will be developing programs that focus on LGBT issues. Already, just through organizing the Equalityfest, we have found people becoming more open and outspoken about marriage equality," said Peterson.

"The southern half of Michigan has many Pridefests and similar events. Rainbow flags are few and far between in northern Michigan. It is important that LGBT people from all across the state join us to help empower and give voice to the LGBT community of rural Michigan. And beyond that, it's an opportunity for a vacation day in the picturesque town of Harrisville on the beautiful shores of Lake Huron. Who says justice can't be fun?"

"In terms of attendance, we have a dream that it will be another Woodstock with traffic backed up trying to get into Harrisville. But in the real world, if the weather is good, we expect between 250 and 500 people," he said.

To learn more about the Harrisville Holistic Center and Harrisville Equalityfest, check out their website at www.harrisvilleholistic.org.



The Harrisville Holist Center will host the upcoming Equalityfest, Aug. 17

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What's At Stake In Royal Oak?

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Despite statewide campaigns and plenty of BTL stories, there are still people in the LGBT community who do not realize they can be fired for being gay in Michigan. That's why cities across the state have enacted local human rights ordinances. And that is why what's happening in Royal Oak right now is so important.

In March, city commissioners passed an ordinance to protect LGBT people and other specific groups from workplace discrimination and discrimination in housing and public accommodations, with a 6-1 vote. The ordinance is similar to ones passed in 22 other cities in Michigan, however in Royal Oak people opposed to equal rights have challenged the ordinance and now it will go to a public vote on Nov. 5.

The state of Michigan has a civil rights law, called Elliott Larsen. But that law only protects people based on religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, familial status, or marital status. There is no protection for LGBT people or those who are HIV positive. And even if there was, local ordinances would still have their place.

Allison VanKuiken, who is the campaign manager for One Royal Oak, said local human rights ordinances are essential whether there is a state law or not. "A local ordinance would provide the people of Royal Oak a local recourse for when discrimination happens. If you have a state level protection, you have to go to the attorney general if you have a complaint. But if you have one



Photo from One Royal Oak Facebook page.

in Royal Oak, you can go file a complaint with the local police department right up the street. You know if you're in a community with a human rights ordinance that they are more likely to take your complaint seriously and they'll be close by to do so. So even if there is one at the state level, cities like Royal Oak still need to enact one."

VanKuiken and the volunteers of Royal Oak One launched their campaign with a party at Pronto that attracted 125 people last week. The effort to encourage voters to keep the ordinance will take a lot of organization, and a lot of money.

Kevin Howley, a candidate for Oakland County Executive in 2012 and former interim executive director of Affirmations

Community Center, sent out an appeal recently to tell recipients why he was supporting the campaign. He emphasized that, "A convincing victory in Royal Oak will send a clear message to leaders in Lansing that things need to change on a statewide basis. Providing an expansion of civil rights protections is good for business, good for jobs, improves the quality of life and, most importantly, is the right thing to do."

Howley also pointed out that many other municipalities were watching what is happening in Royal Oak.

"City councils all over Michigan are watching this vote in Royal Oak. Many councils already have

a majority who are willing to support expanded protections in their local ordinance, but they fear what might happen to them personally at the ballot box. We all know that the political landscape has changed dramatically over the last five years, but elected officials need to see the evidence. An overwhelming victory will give them the confidence they need to do the right thing."

A sweeping victory in November will also discourage those on the fringe from pursuing future initiatives that block the expansion of civil rights. If it becomes clear that their efforts are going to fail, money will dry up and city councils will prevail

"We need money for building

a field program, voter outreach, literature, phone banking, polling, events and our webpage. Literature is the big thing. We plan on doing several mailings between now and November," VanKuiken said.

A similar fight happened in 2001 when a human rights ordinance was on the ballot. In that case it lost with 4,296 votes to 8,864 against it. VanKuiken believes that times have changed though, and that the growing support of equal rights nationwide will influence the level of acceptance now.

VanKuiken also has a lot of faith in strategy.

"What happened in 2001? They weren't identifying voters, targeting who they wanted to talk to. It sounded like a lot of hopeful thinking. They didn't operate an aggressive campaign," she said. "We're going to identify voters and supportive businesses and keep this fresh in their minds."

She added that churches and LGBT advocacy groups like Equality Michigan and Affirmations would be key to creating a strong coalition. "We need to raise visibility for the LGBT community. Why doesn't the gay community realize they can be fired for being gay? We don't have anything here in Michigan to protect us."

There will be several fundraisers and educational events in the coming months, including a Madmen-themed party and wine tasting at Café Muse on July 30, and a drag queen Tupperware sale on Oct. 3 at 5th Avenue. More are being planned so readers are encouraged to sign up online to receive updates at www.oneroyaloak.org.

Donate Today

One Royal Oak supports the city's Human Rights Ordinance. All residents should be treated fairly and equally. For information on how to get involved or donate to One Royal Oak, go to the campaign's webpage at www.OneRoyalOak.org or their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/OneRoyalOak>. Donations can also be sent to One Royal Oak, 321 S. Williams St., Royal Oak, MI 48067.

Number 23: Kalamazoo Township Joins List Of Communities That Protect Citizens

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Kalamazoo Township elected officials adopted an inclusive human rights ordinance Tuesday night, making them the 23rd municipality in Michigan to do so. The ordinance is worded to specifically protect the gay and transgender community from discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations.

Michigan law protects people from discrimination based on upon religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, familial status, or marital status. But it does not include gender identity or sexual orientation, which is why communities like Kalamazoo Township have been fighting to set up such ordinances locally. Similar ordinances can be found in 22 cities and municipalities around the state.

The Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center has been active in encouraging an ordinance, with members speaking at meetings and LGBT leaders on hand to answer questions from the public and the press.

"The Kalamazoo Township Board of Trustees proved today that Kalamazoo Township really is where the promise of fairness and equality lives," said Executive Director Zach Bauer, "and their bravery and commitment to serving all people should be emulated by other elected officials in our area."

Currently, the Oshtemo Township Board of Trustees is also in the process of discussing an ordinance for their township. That discussion will continue on Aug. 13 at 7 p.m. at their township hall (7275 W. Main St. 49009). They will be drawing much of their language from the work of Kalamazoo Township. To learn more about Kalamazoo area activity on human rights ordinances, connect with the KGLRC through their website at <http://kgllrc.org/>.

Near Lansing several communities are also pushing for ordinances. On July 10 the Meridian Township Board of Trustees voted unanimously to amend their internal policies to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, and they have vowed to work towards introducing a human rights ordinance within the next couple of months. That effort has been led by One Capital Region. Their website is <http://onecapregionblog.wordpress.com>.

Residents of Royal Oak are facing an election in November about their human rights ordinance, which passed the city commission, but was challenged by a petition. The issue must now be voted on, and activists on both sides are mobilized for a political fight. Learn more about the movement in Royal Oak at One Royal Oak's website at www.OneRoyalOak.org.

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July 25, 2013 | BTL 7



A Russian LGBT activist seen here bleeding after being attacked during a protest June 29 in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Russian Activists Encourage Lansing To Sever Ties

BY SUSAN HOROWITZ AND TODD HEYWOOD

LANSING - Activists in St. Petersburg, Russia are encouraging leaders of Michigan's Capitol City to take action over violations of the human rights of LGBT citizens in that city.

"Every message and action of solidarity is important," Olga Lenkova tells Between The Lines in an exclusive email interview. Lenkova serves as the communications manager for St. Petersburg's LGBT rights organization Coming Out.

"It is important to raise the issue, and it is important to make human rights a focus point in the international relations. It is equally important to continue the struggle for acceptance and equality at home in your own town and country," she wrote later in the email. "In the era of globalization, human rights can't exist separately in every country, and it is globally that we have to fight for them."

Lenkova's interview with BTL - even though she identifies as heterosexual - could subject the 27-year-old woman to arrest, imprisonment and fines for violating St. Petersburg nearly two year-old ban on propaganda in favor of LGBT people. The Russian Federation's national government adopted a similar ban at the end of June, leading to travel advisories being issued by the U.S. State Department for LGBT citizens.

Lenkova's comments mirror statements made in background interviews with other LGBT residents of St. Petersburg, as well as on the record statements by the international LGBT equality group All Out, which is working with Coming Out to address human rights abuses. BTL is not identifying the other activists at their request, out of concern for their safety.

Lansing's political leadership began to address the issue last week when First Ward City Councilperson Jody Washington expressed condemnation of a June 29 protest in which LGBT activists were beaten by nationalist and neo-Nazis while St. Petersburg police

stood by. Following the beatings, 60 activists were arrested for violating the city's ban.

"I do not believe that Lansing, Michigan should be in a Sister City agreement with St. Petersburg, Russia when these type of violations are occurring," Washington told BTL in an email last week. "I do believe that the agreement violates the Human Rights Ordinance. We have long been working on making Lansing, Michigan an inclusive city where everyone's civil rights are protected. To be in an official agreement with any part of the world that violates those human rights that we have protected in our ordinances does not make any sense, whatsoever."

The next day, Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero - who has a long history of supporting the LGBT community and helped to pass the city's 2006 human rights ordinance - told MLive.com that ending the relationship was "the exact opposite" of how the city should handle the abuses and the Sister City relationship.

Lansing has had an official Sister City status with St. Petersburg in 1994, Martha Fujita of the Sister City Commission tells BTL. However, the relationship has been "dormant" for the last six years.

While the Lansing Sister Cities Commission is an independent nonprofit, it received \$20,000 from the city of Lansing in this current budget year, to underwrite activities. The city also contributes \$23,000 a year for Fukita's salary.

At Monday night's Committee of the Whole meeting, councilmembers expressed universal disdain for the ongoing harassment and violence against LGBT citizens in Russia. The majority of council expressed support for a resolution condemning the widespread abuses. The resolution could ultimately lead to the severance of ties to St. Petersburg.

Bernero has not, as of Sunday night, responded to a series of questions submitted by BTL to the mayor on Thursday night.

While Bernero is mum, other councilmembers and Lansing area leaders are weighing in on the

situation. Councilmembers Carol Wood and Brian Jeffries have both stated that they support ending the partnership. Fourth Ward Councilperson Jessica Yorke says the relationship should be put "on hold" until the abuses end. Yorke's opponent in the August primary, Chong-Anna Canfora, issued a press release on Monday night calling for an end to the Sister City status for St. Petersburg. Councilmember Kathie Dunbar did not respond to email requests for comment.

Washington will introduce such a resolution Monday during the regular Council meeting, and she says she has met with Bernero. The two will present the resolution together.

Glenn Freeman III, President of the Lansing Labor Council - which represents all of the local unions in Lansing - has also called for an end to the relationship.

"The Labor movement has long stood with our LGBT brothers and sisters in the fight for equality," Freeman said in an exclusive statement to BTL. "The continued targeted violence both in society and in the law in St. Petersburg against LGBT people is simply unacceptable and anathema to our values in Lansing. We are a World Class City and part of being a leader in the world is telling our friends that their behavior is abhorrent. There can be no question that is the case in St. Petersburg, and Lansing City Council and the Mayor should immediately end the Sister City relationship with that city until and if they change their violent repression of free speech in general, and LGBT people in particular."

As Lansing Votes On It's Sister City Status With St. Petersburg, The Entire World Watches

VIEWPOINT BY ROMAN COLLINS

The blood running from his nose was what drew my eyes. The panic and terror is what caught my attention. This is St. Petersburg for an LGBT activist merely exercising their rights. This is how I found out that Lansing's Russian Sister City, St. Petersburg was systematically violating the human rights of it's LGBT residents.

In a picture from St. Petersburg, Russia of a young gay man, -- a man that couldn't be much older than I -- red rimmed glasses and blood running from his nose; the atrocities of a reign of terror unleashed on Russia's LGBT community became blatant. A truth that became inescapable. The videos of the atrocities merely reinforce the outrage that I feel every second Lansing remains a "sister" to St. Petersburg.

The LGBT community in Russia has been terrorized for years. It's so bad in St. Petersburg that in May last year gay rights activists were trapped in a bus by neo-Nazis and skinheads who halted their bus as they tried to flee in fear of violence. Breaking the windows with rocks and clubs, the neo-Nazi's bludgeoned the activists. Two of the activists were hospitalized. To make matters worse, last month Russia passed a ban on "homosexual propaganda." In April, the State Department even issued a travel warning to LGBT U.S. citizens traveling to Russia.

Russia's homophobic new law - originating in St. Petersburg - bans everything from equating gay relationships with straight ones, to rainbow symbols. Just yesterday three tourists from Denmark were arrested in Murmansk, Russia for violating Russia's "homosexual propaganda" law. Before being deported, they'll be fined and detained for up to two weeks in a Russian prison.

In the midst of this human rights crisis in Russia, Lansing has a choice. When a city and it's country makes it a crime to merely speak about gay rights, clearly, they're not open to dialogue about gay rights. Lansing either stands with the regimes in Russia and St. Petersburg or stands with our LGBT brothers and sisters in St. Petersburg and moves to sever ties with the city.

See Lansing Votes, page 9

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Continued from p. 8

Here's five reasons Lansing should sever ties with St. Petersburg:

1 It's what LGBT activists in St. Petersburg want and need.

In a recent editorial in *Between The Lines*, Joe Mirabella Communications director with All Out stated, "If Lansing joined the thousands from around the world who have called for equality in Russia by severing ties with St. Petersburg, they would become a sister city for all of Russia's gay, bisexual, lesbian and transgender citizens and their allies. Lansing would be giving them hope." In other words, this is what our LGBT brothers and sisters in St. Petersburg want and need and who are we to tell them they're wrong?

2 We have a moral imperative.

When Lansing moves to sever ties with St. Petersburg we will be taking a principled moral stance against the violence and oppression that our LGBT allies in St. Petersburg and Russia suffer from every day. We will show the world that we don't tolerate this kind of abuse in our own community and any city that tolerates it in theirs is no "sister" of ours. As Lansing said when we passed the Human Rights Ordinance, every human being has the right to live free of oppression and discrimination. Every human being. It shouldn't matter if they live in Lansing, Michigan or St. Petersburg, Russia.

3 St. Petersburg and Russia are violating international law, and our Sister City Status violates the very essence of our Human Rights Ordinance.

Human Rights Watch points out that Russia's homophobic laws that ban the free expression of LGBT people are in violation of international and European law. Human Rights Watch writes, "It is long established that the right to freedom of expression guarantees the expression of ideas or thoughts that might offend, shock, or disturb some sections of the population (see *ECHR Handyside v. United Kingdom*, judgment of December 7, 1976). Any restriction on the right to freedom of expression must be demonstrably proportionate and necessary to achieve a legitimate aim. The existing regional laws banning "homosexual propaganda" as well as the proposed federal draft law [now established law] fails this test. Moreover, according to European Court case law, any measure that results in a difference of treatment in enjoyment of the right based solely on sexual orientation, amounts to discrimination - and is therefore a violation under the Convention." By becoming a part of the European Convention, Russia agreed not to violate the legal obligations that go along with it. The European Court of Human Rights and the UN Human Rights Committee both have issued decisions making it very clear Russia's laws banning "homosexual propaganda," are in violation of human rights under the European Convention and international human rights

law of the UN.

So long as we stay "sister" with St. Petersburg we are violating the very essence of our own Human Rights Ordinance. As our ordinance states, Lansing "finds that discrimination on the basis of irrelevant characteristics exists and that it adversely affects all citizens and the quality of life and opportunities available to all people." Russia's laws allow for the fining, detainment, and subsequent deportation of tourists based on "irrelevant" characteristics and they're entirely based on discrimination based on those "irrelevant" characteristics. Either Lansing violates Russia's law when we send representatives to Russia who are openly gay, or we violate our own Human Rights Ordinance and deny LGBT people the right to represent Lansing in Russia. We cannot simply tell Lansing residents, "Check your gay at the door."

4 It's about human rights. 'It should never be a crime to be gay.'

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights defends all people's rights to free expression, including LGBT people. Hillary Clinton said it best when she declared to the UN, "Like being a woman, like being a racial religious tribal or ethnic minority, being LGBT does not make you less human. And that is why gay rights are Human Rights and Human Rights are gay rights, ... It should never be a crime to be gay."

Indeed, you can't simply separate someone's sexuality from their identity. It's an intricate part of who we are, it's inseparable. While Russia suppresses gay rights they're suppressing human rights.

5 Enough politics.

What would we tell the LGBT activists in St. Petersburg if Lansing had the opportunity of being the first city in the nation to cut ties with St. Petersburg over the human rights abuses, yet instead of doing the right thing we let petty politics stand in the way. If we told them, "Sorry we simply cannot agree that your tragedy is more important than our politics." Imagine how selfish and insulting it would be to our LGBT brothers and sisters in St. Petersburg, who face violence and fears of death everyday for simply being themselves, if we denied them our support in their moment of urgency. Their moment of darkness, cast in the shadow by a government that refuses to acknowledge their humanity.

Now more than ever, our friends in St. Petersburg need us. We have a duty to sever ties with St. Petersburg as a city that has deep pride for the LGBT community, but there's no pride in human rights abuses. In this moment, the entire world watches.

Help us reach 1,000 signatures to end the Sister City Status! Like Sever Ties With St. Petersburg www.facebook.com/SeverTiesWithStPetersburg on Facebook, and follow Sever Ties With St. Petersburg on Twitter @SeverTiesWSTPB



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Affirmations To Educate Social Workers On LGBT Issues Starting Aug. 8

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

FERNDALE – Social worker and licensed counselors with any level of experience with the LGBT community can benefit from a new series of workshops being hosted at Affirmations. With trainings by experts like Antonia Caretto, Amorie Robinson, Michelle Anderson, Fran Brown and Robert Martin attendees will grow in their knowledge of how to serve this growing, and important, client base.

Dr. Antonia Caretto will be teaching the first workshop Aug. 8, called “Working with Transgender Youth & Their Families.” Caretto has been a clinical psychologist in her own Farmington Hills practice since 1994, where she sees both youth and adult clients. She’s well-known for her work with transgender individuals and their families.

“I have seen an increase in transgender youth in my practice, as have clinicians worldwide,” Caretto said. “There are several factors which may account for the increase in these numbers. One possibility is that there are more transgender youth than there ever were before. Perhaps this is the result of the sexual revolution two generations ago which challenged rigid beliefs about men and women. If so, it is likely that the freedoms did not create more transgender children, but rather just allowed transgender children to identify themselves rather than repressing their gender non-conforming sense of self.

“Let’s be honest, there have always been transgender children and in the past many did not come out until their adult years, sometimes not until age 50 or 60. Access to information has allowed transgender children to self-identify earlier.”

Her workshop will focus on transgender youth and their relationship to their families. Parents of transgender children have a few issues they will likely need to look at. Having

care providers familiar with these issues is essential in healthy development.

Caretto explained, “The first struggle that parents and families have is denial and the subsequent stages of the grieving process such as anger, guilt and bargaining. They must mourn the loss of the identity and future they thought their child would have - and that takes time.

“Parents of transgender children struggle with their own coming out process. They feel the shame and the stigma from the binary hetero-normative majority culture which

demands everyone meet expectations assigned to us because of our biology. Parents struggle with not knowing how to guide and help their child, nor how to advocate for them.

“Parents of very young transgender children really struggle a lot with not being able to know how their child will experience and express their gender as they reach adolescence and adulthood.”

Research shows youth who do not have supportive parents have poorer health outcomes; they have an increased incidence of depression, suicidality, substance use

and unsafe sex. Helping parents learn to be more supportive can greatly increase any youth’s potential, particularly LGBT youth.

In addition to focusing on emotional and behavioral needs of transgender clients, Caretto will make care providers aware of the medical aspects of transitioning, including the availability of hormones to prevent the body changes that happen during puberty.

“The first struggle that parents and families have is denial and the subsequent stages of the grieving process such as anger, guilt and bargaining. They must mourn the loss of the identity and future they thought their child would have - and that takes time.”

– Dr. Antonia Caretto

The three-hour trainings count for continuing education credit, and cost \$45. Future training topics include: *The Role of Christianity in Sexual Identity Development, Culturally Competent Practice with African American LGB Youth, and Counseling LGBT Parents & Their Children.* For more information visit the Affirmations website at www.goaffirmations.org or contact organizer Lydia Ahlum Hanson at 248-677-7230.



We need 100 backpacks donated with supplies for youth at the Ruth Ellis Center



Ruth Ellis Center provides short-term and long-term residential safe space and support services for runaway, homeless and at-risk gay, lesbian, bi-attractational, transgender and questioning youth.

Back Packs should be large enough for 15-18 year-olds and contain the following:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Handwarmers | 2 Bottles Of |
| Gloves | Water |
| Winter Hats | Non- Perishable |
| Small Roll Up | Food (trail mix, peanut |
| Blankets | butter crackers, etc.) |
| | Optional: Bus Passes |

**Bring them to the Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit
2441 Pinecrest, Ferndale, MI
248-399-7741**

Drop off hours: Tuesday through Friday
10 - 3 p.m.
Sunday 10 - 2 p.m.



Where's The Party?

Democratic LGBT Caucus Gets Pumped Up For Politics

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

When Mark LaChéy went to North Carolina to serve as a delegate for the Democratic National Convention, he was struck by the warm welcome he and other LGBT people received. He and over 500 others were invited from across the country to discuss their issues, and the mood was “like the LGBT family was part of the Democratic party. We were there. Like women. Like Hispanics. Like Asians. We weren't just a small interest, we were part of things,” he said.

This contrasted with LaChéy's experience in Michigan. “The Democratic party took the LGBT community for granted that we would always vote Democratic. Elected officials in our state were afraid to take on gay issues like Elliott Larsen and second parent adoption. One recent example was including enumeration in bullying legislation. We did not have enough of a place at the table. I want what we have nationally to happen here.”

That's why LaChéy decided to run for chair of the LGBT and Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party. He successfully took over the caucus on Feb. 23 with three fellow activists taking on Vice Chair positions.

Jan Stevenson of Farmington Hills, co-publisher of *Between The Lines*, was voted first vice chair. Ferndale Mayor Dave Coulter became second vice chair, and Garnet Lewis, a Democratic Party recruiter and Saginaw area politician, got the third vice chair position. Lewis is running for a seat in the State Senate in 2014.

“In asking people to run for vice chair it was important for me to find diversity in the vice chairs. We've got four separate Congressional districts represented. All four of us have known each other beforehand, so we know we can work together. They're all people who can get things done.

“As the caucus, in many ways



Mark LaChéy at the Michigan Democratic Convention, Feb. 23. BTL photo: Crystal Proxmire

we're starting from scratch. It hasn't been active. I want to increase the membership of the caucus. We have begun to assemble our membership list, and we have a series of meet and greets that we're working on for 2013.

“Our goal is electing pro-LGBT candidates statewide. The ultimate goal is to elect pro LGBT leaders. We are not engaged in policy. We are all about finding, funding and supporting pro-LGBT candidates,” LaChéy said.

The work has already begun, and news of more LGBT people in positions of power is giving the group momentum. Recently six LGBT people were named members of the MDP's policy-making body, its executive committee: Mark LaChéy, Dave Coulter, Nancy Katz, Toni Sessoms, Jon Hoadley and Christy Jense. These were elected as part of the Unity Slate proposed by MDP Chair Lon Johnson at the Democratic State Central Committee meeting. Traditionally there is only one LGBT slot on the Committee.

Being a member of the Democratic Party is not a requirement to be part of the caucus, and allies are welcome to get involved too. LaChéy hopes to attract a more diverse group of participants as the organization grows.

Coulter and other members share LeChéy's vision. “We have a mix of people by region and sex, and each person brings a unique perspective to our work. We need greater representation from people of color and others, but it's a great start,” Coulter said. “The caucus is critical to making sure the voices of LGBT

residents are heard in the Democratic Party. Although the Democratic platform is extremely supportive of LGBT issues, especially as compared to the intolerant language of the Republicans, it's still important for us to help make these promises real and not let them simply be words on paper. We need to hold the party accountable for making tangible progress.”

The Ferndale mayor said LaChéy is “the glue that is making this work possible.”

LaChéy has been active in politics for many years. He was a board member of the Triangle Action Fund and was chair of the board when Triangle merged with Michigan Equality to become Equality Michigan. He served for 14 years on the Pleasant Ridge City Commission, is a member of the Victory Fund Campaign Board and a member of the Stonewall Bar Association. When he's not fighting for equality and community, LaChéy pays the bills as an attorney handling litigation for companies in product liabilities cases. His partner, Bryan Hoffman, is the former president of the board of Ruth Ellis Center. Together they live in Saugatuck where they care for two dogs and one cat.

“Mark is an inclusive leader who pushes and prods in a way that keep us motivated,” Coulter said. “I think he has the potential to really make this caucus a force in state politics, and I'm just happy to support him.”

For more information on the Caucus, “like” them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TheLGBTACaucusoftheMDP.

A As In Zilch



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

There's been a bland addition to the soup. (Or is it stew?) The label on the can now reads LGBT.A. The LGBT stands for the usual spicy noodles and meatballs; the A stands for asexual, as in “An asexual is someone who leaves the room and nobody gives a damn one way or the other.”

Frankly, I've never encountered anyone who wouldn't dare or care for a diddle, but I once met a guy who said that until age 30 he hadn't wanked alone, with a partner, or in the happy-go-lucky company of a circle jerk. (He traveled exclusively in square, knee-jerk circles.)

I have no idea who tumbled him down the slippery slope of fun and games, and it wasn't me who escorted him hand-in-hand (or whatever) picking cherries along life's sunny rimrose path. But I do recall hearing about another 25-year-old bloke who had no libido, period. Zilch.

Turns out his problem was organic. He had a tumor pressing on that part of the brain responsible for getting it on and off. Once an operation was performed, a whole new world of libidinous adventure opened: courtship, marriage, children, divorce, alimony, child support, burnout, and overcompensatory total exhaustion

Poor guy. He shudda stayed in bed with his socks on.

According to a Brock University (St. Catherines, Ont.) study this newly outed asexual breed of homo-sapiens (emphasis on syllable three) makes up one percent of the population. Findings are detailed in *The Journal of Sex Research* (I have a lifetime subscription with coupon-clipping privileges) and *New Scientist*.

According to *New Scientist*, “The response level is close to the percentage of gay people . . . which is around three percent.” (I don't mean to quibble but a two percent difference when it involves millions of people is quite a difference. But don't get me wrong. I'm not putting asexuals down. I just don't want one to hit on me.)

New Scientist admits the results are controversial and offers a caveat: “The closest we have come to understanding human asexuals comes from studies -- mostly surveys -- of people who report not having sex.” (And do they cheat on their income taxes?)

Having not had sex myself lately, I suppose I qualify by default. It's reassuring to feel not wanted, er, wanted, er, whatever.

New Scientist coyly adds: “If asexuality is indeed a form of sexual orientation [Aside: Is starvation a form of eating?], perhaps it will not be long before the issue of ‘A’ Pride starts attracting more attention. Activists have already started campaigning to promote awareness and acceptance of asexuality.” (P'town nursing homes.)

Lest anyone think yours truly made any of this up, let me hasten to assure you that the flat champagne has indeed already been uncorked. An Asexual Visibility Education Network exists, with online store. AVEN sells T-shirts: “Asexuality: it's not just for amoebas.” (Earthworms or Michael J)

As expected, the fundies and Focus on the Family are having fits of righteous dysentery. Ex-Asexual Ministries (Amoebas for Jesus) are being activated in “strongholds” like Boston, Hell MI, and the Greater Zug Island Bar & Grill.

A4J Founder Rev. Pat Freeloader says, “We want to save these anemics who won't procreate or have the decency as good Americans to even try to have an abortion. The next thing you know they'll want to marry each other, form Straight-Asexual Alliances, and serve in the military and seduce our troops.”

Asexuals of America, UNITE! (Divide and conquer.)



Viewpoint

BY MICHELLE E. BROWN

No Justice, No Peace For Trayvon Until We Get Beyond The Other

It would be easy to go all in on the outcome of the George Zimmerman trial for the murder of Trayvon Martin – you know that NOT Guilty verdict – from the obvious perspective of race. Here was a young African American teenager – no angel, but then what teenager is – returning home from the store who was profiled, stalked and murdered.

He was guilty of no crime, but in a society gone mad, high on a steroid of suspicion, hatred and fear of the “other” (no matter what that other might be), being young, black wearing a hoodie, Trayvon Martin was found guilty of being that OTHER and met the harshest punishment – death by execution. Then, in an even greater diabolical twist, was put on trial for his own murder. It was reminiscent of rape trials where the victim’s actions and/or past are used to exonerate the rapists.

I could leave it at race. I have a son – an African American son - with whom I had to have that talk. The talk not only about being safe in general, but about being especially vigilant in places where he would be seen as the “other,” a suspect just because of his black skin where he would be considered GUILTY, hopefully until proven innocent, but even despite the evidence proving him innocent.

As an African American woman, my parents had that talk with me. I have been followed silently about in stores or an over-abundance of sales personnel asking every two seconds, “Can I Help You?” I have foregone invitations in unfamiliar neighborhoods, especially at night, where being a lone black woman might put me at risk from random strangers and law enforcement officers.

Remember Harvard Professor Henry Louis Gates, one of the nation’s pre-eminent African-American scholars, arrested at his home by Cambridge, MA police. He wasn’t wearing a hoodie!

Outraged by the verdict?? We all should be outraged because there was no justice for Trayvon. Dr. King said “Justice denied anywhere diminishes justice everywhere.”

There was no justice for Trayvon, but to focus solely on this case, outside of the greater context of injustice and victimization in America, would be as unfair as Zimmerman’s acquittal based on self-defense, ignoring his intentions/actions that precipitated those final deadly moments.

Trayvon lost his life at the hands of George Zimmerman, but everyday young people - African American, Latino, and Transgender, male and female – are victims of violence in their communities, sometimes perpetrated by their peers. They have little hope in our judicial and economic system. They have been

Philosopher and activist Grace Lee Boggs wrote in the Michigan Citizen, “I believe the question of justice for Trayvon Martin is one of the most profound and challenging questions our country now faces.” She added, “But justice for Trayvon Martin goes beyond a new trial. It requires that we accept the challenge

were you?” moments happening separately, but at the same time impacting how we as a community and society, vis-à-vis our intentional and non-intentional actions, dole out the inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness we all hold so dear.

In seeking justice for Trayvon let’s begin

Trayvon Martin was found guilty of being that OTHER and met the harshest punishment – death by execution. Then, in an even greater diabolical twist, was put on trial for his own murder.

marginalized and disenfranchised. We have let them down.

Everyday Americans of all ethnicities, races, genders experience poverty, hunger and lack of opportunities denying them access to basic human rights, let alone that elusive American dream. One of the most disturbing trends in this country is the rise of extreme wealth and income inequality. America has become the country of the wealthy 1 percent vs. the struggling 99 percent.

Everyday women struggle to provide for families on wages below their male counterparts. Women are seeing access to basic health and reproductive care (which are more than social justice, but also economic issues to women) under attack and stripped away putting not only themselves, but their children at risk.

Seventy-four percent of Americans are not aware that women do not constitutionally have equal rights. The Equal Rights Amendment was never ratified into the U.S. Constitution and considering the recent gutting of the Voting Rights Act by the Supreme Court, a dark cloud hangs over the future of women and their daughters.

And let’s talk about the gutting of the Voting Rights Act. We’ve always been told that the road to equality passed through the voting booth. With the Supreme Court’s decision gutting section 4 of the Voting Rights Act, it opens the door to challenges, redistricting and other actions that will further marginalize voters who have been traditionally under represented and disenfranchised.

and responsibility for creating a society in which there are no ‘outsiders.’”

We have shed our collective tears for Trayvon Martin and the unbearable loss his family has experienced. We have expressed our outrage on social media, signing petitions for involvement by the Department of Justice and civil rights charges. We have marched in cities across the country demanding justice for Trayvon. But we have the opportunity to do so much more.

The summer of 2013 will forever be a period where I look back at significant “where

intentional conversations, intentional actions for creating a community in which there are no outsiders – a beloved community.

Michelle E. Brown is Public Speaker, Activist and Author. You can follow her at www.mychangeiam.com and www.twitter.com/mychangeiam



ORSON SCOTT CARD GAME

LGBT Rights Organizations Issue Open Letter: Trayvon Deserves Justice

WASHINGTON -- A coalition of national lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) rights organizations, led by the National Black Justice Coalition and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, July 15 issued the following open letter:

An Open Letter: Trayvon Deserves Justice

We cannot begin to imagine the continued pain and suffering endured by Trayvon Martin's family and friends. We stand in solidarity with them as they continue to fight for justice, civil rights and closure. And we thank everyone who has pushed and will continue to push for justice.

Trayvon Martin deserves justice and his civil rights. We support the organizations and community leaders who are urging the federal government to explore every option to ensure that justice is served for Trayvon and that his civil rights are honored and respected. But our work does not end there: we will honor Trayvon Martin by strengthening our commitment to end bias, hatred, profiling and violence across our communities.

We represent organizations with diverse lesbian,

gay, bisexual and transgender constituencies. Our community has been targets of bigotry, bias, profiling and violence. We have experienced the heart-breaking despair of young people targeted for who they are, who they are presumed to be, or who they love: Rashawn Brazell, Lawrence King, Ali Forney, Brandon Teena, Brandon White, Matthew Shepard, Marco McMillian, Angie Zapata, Sakia Gunn, Gwen Araujo and countless others.

Every person, regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity, must be able to walk the streets without fear for their safety.

Justice delayed is justice denied and in the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "a right delayed is a right denied." We honor Trayvon by seeking justice for all people.

All Out
American Civil Liberties Union
Believe Out Loud
BiNet USA
Bisexual Resource Center
Center for Black Equity
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers
Consortium of Higher Education LGBT Resource Professionals
Equality Federation
Family Equality Council
Freedom to Work
Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network
Gay-Straight Alliance Network (GSA Network)
GetEQUAL
GMHC
GLAD
GLAAD

Harvey Milk Foundation
Human Rights Campaign
Immigration Equality
Lambda Legal
Movement Advancement Project
National Black Justice Coalition
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs
National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
National Minority AIDS Council
National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance
Out & Equal Workplace Advocates
PFLAG National
The Trevor Project
Trans Advocacy Network
Transgender Law Center
Trans People of Color Coalition

Creep of the Week Ken Cuccinelli

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Let's say, hypothetically, that you wanted to become Virginia's next governor and you want to find a way to stand out and get noticed. You could run on a job creation platform. You could promise to lower taxes. Or maybe even vow to improve public education.



But let's face it. Those issues are boring. Voters have been there done that. Let's think. There's got to be something... Wait, I've got it! If you really want to win, campaign on the promise to ban oral sex. Because if there's one thing that people hate, it's the scourge of fellatio and cunnilingus.

Ha ha. Just kidding. Who would ever run on such a platform?

Why, Ken Cuccinelli would, of course. And by Jove he will fight for your right to have only penile-vaginal intercourse, the way God intended. (And then, not incidentally, he will fight against your right to have an abortion, also because of God and Cuccinelli's belief that he should be in charge of what goes in and comes out of Virginia's vaginas.)

You see, Cuccinelli, who is currently Virginia's Attorney General and is running for Governor, is campaigning hard and fast to keep Virginia's sodomy law, which makes anal and oral sex a felony, on the books. The very type of law that was declared unconstitutional by the United States Supreme Court in the 2003 Lawrence v Texas ruling.

But that is just a pesky little detail.

Granted, any politician worth his salt knows that positioning is everything. (To be clear, I'm talking "positioning" as in public relations not, um, public relations.) So just how do you sell the criminalization of Virginian's own sex lives to voters?

Under the guise of keeping "kids safe," of course! Cuccinelli would like you to believe that Virginia simply must keep "sodomy" illegal in order to protect children from child predators. Because apparently only pedophiles would stoop so low (figuratively, though also literally at times) as to

have oral or anal sex.

Granted, this is coming from the man who said in 2008, "When you look at the homosexual agenda, I cannot support something that I believe brings nothing but self-destruction, not only physically but of their soul." He reaffirmed this belief in a debate against his Democratic opponent, Terry McAuliffe, on July 20.

So it's understandable that one might think this whole "keep the sodomy law alive" crusade is just Cuccinelli's way of saying, "Go blow" (figuratively only) to the gays. But don't worry. The sodomy law applies to everyone, equally. Now whether or not it's enforced equally is another

“When you look at the homosexual agenda, I cannot support something that I believe brings nothing but self-destruction, not only physically but of their soul.”

story. But you can rest easy knowing that just about everybody around you is a felon.

Cuccinelli claims that consenting adults are not impacted by the law, but as NBC's Lawrence O'Donnell and others have pointed out, the law's wording literally covers everyone or, as the law's own language puts it, "Any person." Added bonus fact: when Cuccinelli was a state senator he voted against exempting consenting adults from the law.

Another fun fact: in 2004 Cuccinelli claimed that homos wanted to "dismantle sodomy laws" and "get education about homosexuals and AIDS in public schools." So sodomy law fever is nothing new to him. Which is all the more reason to be suspicious of his save our souls from sodomy campaign.

If this guy gets his way, Virginia is going to have to change its motto to "Virginia is for lovers, but not the icky kind that makes God puke."



Hot Weekend Ahead For Hotter Than July

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

DETROIT – Capping off a week-long celebration of Black Pride in the Detroit Area are several Hotter than July events that will connect over 20,000 LGBT people and their allies.

Thursday is the perfect night to pack the Cass City Cinema for some entertaining and empowering film. There will be a preview of the TransParent documentary looking at the life and murder of a Detroit transgender woman, a documentary called Tongues United, an episode of the DL Chronicles and other showings with an LGBT theme. The cost for an entire night of film is \$20.

Friday night is the Prom Night, with an opportunity to get dressed up, dance, and vote on the Prom court just like back in the day. And unlike many high school proms, this one is made for all couples to feel safe and loved. Plus the tux rentals aren't so bad. President Tuxedos are offering a special HTJ rate of just \$99 for the event that includes coat, pants, shirt, vest, studs, cufflinks, socks, shoes and a plain hanky. Fancier styles can be rented for \$129. (Use promo code HTJ2013). Prom Night takes place Friday July 26 at the University of Michigan Detroit Center from 6-10 P.M. at a cost of just \$35 per person.

Saturday is the big day – The Palmer Park Picnic. This annual event is basically a big family reunion, with 20,000 people meeting at the park for food, games, music, sharing stories and making plans. It's advocacy and entertainment rolled into one. The fun begins at 9 a.m. and goes until 8 p.m., with a march scheduled for 10:30a.m.

HTJ wraps up Sunday with morning worship and a Sunday brunch. The worship takes place at WHOSOEVER Ministry at 2930 Woodward in Detroit at 11 a.m. WHOSOEVER Ministry is no ordinary church, it is a church for the Christian Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Affectionate and Transgendered child of God. Led by Pastors Rev. Dr. Selma Massey and Rev. Jeffrey M. Seals, WHOSOEVER is welcoming all year round, and is certainly filled with lots of love for the HTJ service.

Lastly HTJ winds down with the Sunday Brunch. This classy fundraiser helps keep HTJ going each year, and gives people a chance to enjoy some delicious food and great music. The brunch goes from 2 - 5 p.m. at the Roberts Riverwalk Hotel and Residence at 1000 River Place in Detroit. Tickets are available in advance for \$50 per person or \$90 per couple.

To learn more about the entire week of Hotter Than July events, and to buy tickets for the events with a fee, visit www.hotterthanjuly.org.

Into Action: Detroit Needs More Vibrant LGBT Businesses

Many Faces, One Dream Offers Resources, Support

DETROIT - LGBT businesses are an untapped resource that could help regenerate Detroit's economy, especially those owned by LGBT people of color. That was the premise of Many Voices, One Dream, a one-day conference July 22 at the Roberts Riverwalk Hotel.

This economic development initiative came just days after Detroit filed for bankruptcy in the largest municipal bankruptcy filing in U.S. history. However, conference leaders said Detroit's fiscal crisis is an opportunity for all small businesses, especially those owned by LGBT people.

"Entrepreneurs spring up when they have no other alternative," said Eugene Cornelius, the openly gay deputy associate administrator for field operations at the U.S. Small Business Administration in Washington D.C. The SBA was one of the principle sponsors of the conference and had leaders on hand from the local Michigan office as well as national representation.

"There is definitely a silver lining to this bankruptcy. Detroit has a chance to create something really new and LGBT businesses should be front and center in that," said Cornelius.

"Small Businesses don't know what they don't know, especially in underserved communities like the LGBT community," said Gerald Moore, Michigan District Director of the SBA. "This conference is an opportunity to get connected. Take advantage of it."

"We want to be a good partner to both the SBA and the National Black Justice Coalition," said Sam McClure, director of affiliate relations and external affairs at the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce in Washington D.C., another conference sponsor. She said that NGLCC membership is



Eugene Cornelius from the U.S. SBA was the keynote speaker at Many Faces, One Dream in Detroit, with BTL's co-publisher Jan Stevenson and Sam McClure of the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, a conference co-sponsor. Photo: Chris "Tall Guy" Sutton.

“Small Businesses don't know what they don't know, especially in underserved communities like the LGBT community.”

- Gerald Moore, Michigan District Director of the SBA

predominately caucasian and that the Many Faces, One Dream tour is an unique chance for NGLCC to become more diverse. The Detroit conference was the first in a 13 city tour.

Curtis Lipscomb, executive director of Detroit's Kick and the local host for Many Faces, One Dream, welcome about 40 attendees to the opening breakfast. "We have to own our own power," said Lipscomb. About 80 people pre-registered for the conference.

Sharon Lettman-Hicks, executive director of the National Black Justice Coalition and the main organizer of the Many Face, One Dream tour, opened the conference. "This is an important first step in recognizing the untapped

potential of this important community," she said.

Cornelius said the SBA is ready to help, and that the city's bankruptcy means the SBA can be more important to small businesses than usual because those banks that had shied away from SBA loans will have few alternatives if bankruptcy exacerbates the disinvestment trend that has plagued southeast Michigan.

"Whenever there is a crisis the SBA becomes more important," said Cornelius. "We saw it after Katrina and after Hurricane Sandy. Lenders don't have access to capital they would during normal times, so they lean on the SBA more. Show me a disaster and I'll show you a spike in SBA lending."

INFO

Want To Start / Grow Your Business?

For more information about how the SBA can help LGBT businesses go to www.sba.gov/mi.

For more info on NGLCC go to www.nglcc.org

For more info on NBJC go to www.nbjc.org

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1000 Riverwalk Drive, Detroit

\$25 with online registration

www.nbjc.org/many-faces-one-dream-detroit

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Tuesday, July 23

6:00 pm to dusk

Blue Spruce Memorial Tree, Palmer Park, Detroit

Free

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Wednesday, July 24

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Sailing at 7:00 pm

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\$55 per person

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT SUMMIT

Thursday, July 25

12:00 noon to 5:00 pm

U of M - Detroit Center

3663 Woodward Ave

Free with online registration*

FILM FESTIVAL

Thursday, July 25

5:30 pm - Midnight

Cass City Cinema, 3420 Cass Ave

\$20 per person

ANNUAL GATHERING ON LGBTQ ISSUES

Friday, July 26

8:00 am to 6:00 pm

U of M - Detroit Center

3663 Woodward Ave

Free with online registration*

PROM NIGHT

Friday, July 26

7:00 - 11:30pm

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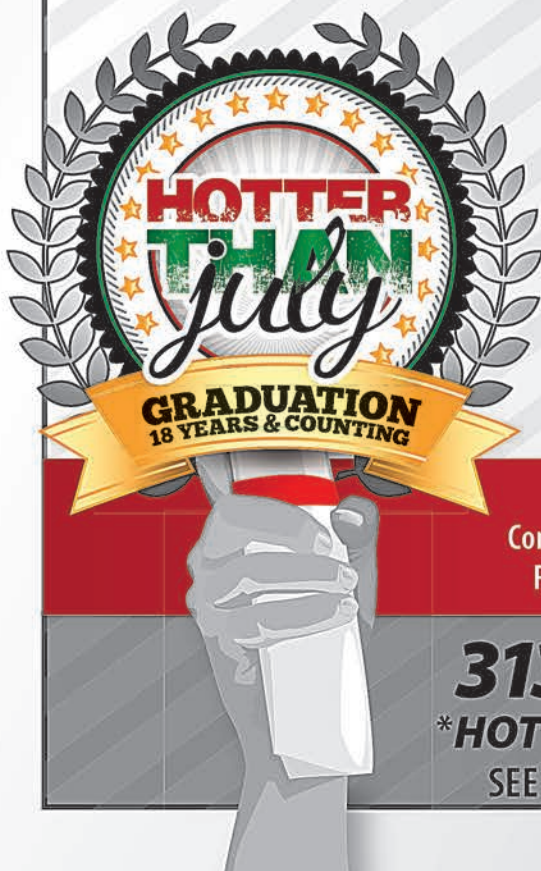
Sunday, July 28

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England, Wales Set For Same-Sex Marriages In 2014

BY LAURA SMITH-SPARK

(CNN) - A bill to allow same-sex marriage in England and Wales is now law, though the unions aren't expected to take place until 2014.

Queen Elizabeth II has given her assent to the landmark bill, which the British House of Commons passed Tuesday, the house's speaker, John Bercow, said July 17.

The first same-sex wedding could be held as early as next summer.

The law does not come into force immediately because government departments need time to make changes. New processes must be drawn up for registrars, and new forms will also have to be drawn up.

The government expects to announce a more formal timetable for the implementation of the law in the fall.

The Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill cleared the House of Lords and the House of Commons this week, just before the summer recess. The monarch's assent - a formality in the United Kingdom - makes the measure official.

The bill had the backing of British Prime Minister David Cameron, but his commitment to it put him at odds with many in his Conservative Party and its grass-roots supporters. The Conservatives govern in coalition with the Liberal Democrats.

The bill was also opposed by religious groups, including the Church of England.

The Catholic Church in England and

Wales said that the law's passage "marks a watershed in English law and heralds a profound social change," and that it regretted that the bill had been "rushed though" Parliament.

"With this new legislation, marriage has now become an institution in which openness to children, and with it the responsibility on fathers and mothers to remain together to care for children born into their family unit, are no longer central. That is why we were opposed to this legislation on principle," a statement said.

'Go Forth And Propose'

The debate over the legislation became heated at times in the House of Commons, where the issue exposed divisions within Cameron's party.

Conservative MP Gerald Howarth angered many when he referred to "the aggressive homosexual community" that would "see this is as but a stepping stone to something even further."

Responding to the news that the law had passed, Labour lawmaker Chris Bryant tweeted: "The Queen has given Royal Assent to Same Sex Marriage. Aggressive homosexuals, please note. Go forth and propose."

The new law will allow same-sex couples to marry in civil or religious ceremonies.

However, religious organizations must explicitly "opt in" if they want to perform such ceremonies, and the religious minister conducting the

ceremony must also agree.

The law also protects religious organizations and their representatives who don't wish to conduct marriages of same-sex couples from being challenged in the courts.

It will allow couples in civil partnerships to convert to marriage if they wish. The new law also allows married men or women who wish to change their gender to do so without ending their marriage.

A law recognizing civil partnerships in England and Wales was passed in 2004.

The issue of same-sex marriage has also divided other nations.

A law that allows same-sex couples to marry and adopt was passed by France this year, despite large street protests and vocal opposition from religious groups. The move made it the ninth country in Europe to allow same-sex marriage.

In the United States, two landmark rulings by the Supreme Court last month gave the gay and lesbian rights movement huge political and legal momentum.

The justices said legally married same-sex couples will now enjoy the same federal benefits as heterosexual couples, striking down a key provision in the Defense of Marriage Act.

And although not granting a sweeping right of gays and lesbians to marry nationwide, a separate high court ruling effectively allows same-sex marriage to resume in California, the nation's most populous state.

Cameroon Activist Killed Following Months Of Violent Anti-Gay Attacks

BY BTL STAFF FROM PRESS RELEASE

Prominent Cameroonian gay rights activist and Executive Director of the Cameroonian Foundation for AIDS, Eric Ohena Lembembe, was found dead in his Yaounde home on Monday, July 15 night. His body had extensive signs of torture. The murder follows a series of attacks against human rights defenders and LGBT rights organizations in the

country.

All Out (www.allout.org), the global movement for equality is calling on Cameroon's President Biya to ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice and to publicly condemn this attack.

Lembembe, who was also a journalist, was a leading voice for LGBT people in Cameroon, fighting to tell the stories of LGBT people and organizations facing arrests, violence and blackmail.

"The global movement for love

and equality is poorer for the loss of Eric Lembembe, because brave activists like him in Cameroon, and other countries where it's illegal to be gay, are an inspiration to human rights defenders everywhere," said Andre Banks, executive director and co-founder of All Out.

See the full story online at Pridesource.com

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Photo: Andrew Potter

Adriel's Detroit DREAM

'Cultural Contributor' Has Big Ideas For His Hometown

BY JEROME STUART NICHOLS

For many, clubbing is an excuse to drink too much, dance until 2 a.m. and celebrate the energy of youth. For others, it's a release from the work week. For event producer and self-proclaimed "cultural contributor" Adriel Thornton, it's a way to bring people together, pay the bills and bring some spirit back to his hometown of Detroit.

Detroit's electronic music

scene is legendary. Not only is it capable of influencing tastemakers worldwide, it also has a following whose passion is only matched by the Los Angeles rock and Brooklyn hip-hop scenes. It was this passionate and thriving community that first appealed to Thornton.

"Initially what attracted me to it was the music and the culture of the electronic music scene here," he says. "It sort of epitomized what I thought we should be striving for,

this very equalized environment, in which it didn't matter if you were black, white, gay, straight, boy, girl. You find yourself in a room with every type of person you can think of and the fact that nobody cared about any of that was amazing to me."

While most successful people started their careers in a calculated effort to be great, many of the most legendary careers in history started with the same passion and luck. Thornton's career took the latter

approach.

"I was introduced by a friend of mine to Detroit's underground electronic music scene," Thornton says. "You know, you're a kid – 17, 18 – you just want to get involved."

He approached Carlos Oxholm, former owner of the now-defunct club The Alley, with an offer to promote for him. Oxholm accepted and Thornton's career took off.

"As within any scene, you begin to get to know people and begin to become a part of it," he says. "Once

you get started in something, if you really have a passion for it, you grow from it and the things you do grow with you. Next thing you know, you have a career."

He transitioned into promoting events to reach out to the people of his city and invite them into the happiness he'd found. He wanted to spread the love he felt for the Detroit underground electronic music scene.

"I had this culture that I really felt at home in and to be able to

reach out and share that with other people via promoting and creating other events was really sustaining. It gave me a mission," he says.

That mission: to bring people from all walks of life together.

"That's always been a mission of mine ... to create spaces and moments for people to gather and share that energy in a really positive way."

Thornton believes that a fat bass line has power to unite communities and break down the barriers people place between themselves.

"As human beings we have a tendency to become siloed in our own little world. When you bring a wide range of people together it creates an environment where you have to open yourself up to what's in front of you.

"It would be nice to have that utopian, Martin Luther King Jr. vision of equality in America, but we all know we're not there yet. I feel that being part of events that showcase positive things about what major America views as a marginalized group of people is important."

Despite all his numerous contributions to the Detroit nightlife and party scene, Thornton recognizes there's still a lot more to be done.

"In a metropolitan area that's roughly five million people, I feel like we should have multiple options every single night," he says. "Our club scene here is adequate but not all that it could be. Unfortunately, the metro Detroit market is still very segregated, not only by race but even in a socioeconomic way."

He has hopes to develop more parties, events and outlets for new media to help solidify the Detroit LGBT community and build bridges that would help people feel comfortable in every situation. He sees plenty of reason to be hopeful already.

"Gay culture is being absorbed more into the mainstream society," Thornton says. "I think a lot of people are much more comfortable going to a non-gay bar with their boyfriend or girlfriend."

Thornton's passion for nightlife has made him something of a party ambassador for the city of Detroit. In 2011 he took part in a panel at South by Southwest about the revitalization of the city through a media-based economy. He also serves as the operations and outreach manager for Detroit-based media development think-tank Allied Media Projects.

In the LGBT entertainment and culture sphere, he served as an entertainment director for Motor City Pride since its move to Hart Plaza in Detroit. He also previously ran Family the Tuesday electronic music/queer night at Motor.

These days he's the producer of Cream, the LGBT party night at The Shelter at Saint Andrew's in Detroit. Every Saturday night, Thornton offers a unique after-dark experience to Detroit's gay nightlife. It attracts over 300 people every week.

"People are hungry for that downtown experience where you go out in the big city and just have fun," he says. "We're pulling in some of the community from downtown and Midtown but also the suburbs ... a nice diverse mix."

While diverse, the crowd does share one important similarity: They're all out to celebrate the night.

"These people seem to be more into clubbing than into bars," he says. They get dressed up a bit for it. You rarely see someone going out in sweats; they really make the effort to look cute."

For the record, he shamelessly claims Cream as his favorite place to go on a Saturday night, naturally.

"We don't have a drag queen that comes and stops the party," he says. "We have DJs and a very cool venue that we use, which gives it a cool underground vibe. Cream takes clubbing back to its roots."

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Out Artist, JGN To Appear During Fine Art Show

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Mixed-media artist Dan Neil Barnes is back in town to share his contemporary work with art lovers in Michigan at the Orchard Lake Fine Art Show, where 140 juried, professional artists have been invited to sell their original and handmade work.

Barnes is a special guest for the 11th anniversary of the high-quality fine art and craft event July 26-28 at the West Bloomfield Plaza on Powers and Daly Roads in West Bloomfield.

"For me to make something from my own hands that someone else values enough to pay me for is pretty cool," said Barnes, a Lexington, Ky. native who tours the country as a juried artist and has been recognized at many art shows for his outstanding booth design and display technique.

Barnes opened his own business in 1986 to satisfy his inner drive to create. "It comes from within me. I want to make art. Some may not understand, but that's who I am," he said. In business for almost 20 years, Barnes earned a degree in Human Environmental Design from the University of Kentucky where he met his partner of 19 years.

Barnes will showcase new stained glass works, including a three-dimensional piece made up of more than 3,000 pieces of flat glass, which took two to three months to create. The high-end piece is worth \$12,000, but Barnes said he has other unique and affordable pieces available.

"My work is recognized for its design quality. Buyers who get what I'm doing and like what I'm doing

can see my artwork in their home. The copper wall pieces with rich, deep colors is warming and creates a sense of home," he said.

Hotworks executive director Patty Narozny worked Barnes into the show to expose people to the well-respected gay artist, who stands as an inspiration in the art world, to adopt a new

"We would like to give back to them, as those two demographics are the premium 'art buying' demographic and are important patrons to bring to the art fair. We want to express our support



for the Jewish Gay Network and offer them an opportunity to reach out to the community to bring awareness to the organization, and support for those individuals to express themselves," said Narozny. "Their participation

in the show is important because they are on-site and exposing the community to their existence, where one may not have otherwise come across their organization."

The Jewish Gay Network has participated in the art show in the past. "Having an information booth at the art show provides us with a wonderful opportunity to connect with a broader community of people including

LGBT people and their allies," said Michael J. Phillips, president of the Jewish Gay Network of Michigan. "As many of us know, the State of Michigan is not very welcoming to its LGBT citizens. By having a booth at the art show, we can show the real and friendly face of the Jewish LGBT community and its allies. It gives us a chance to share information with people so that they can make wise decisions and develop empathetic opinions."

For more information on the Orchard Lake Fine Art Show, visit hotworks.org/orchardlakefineartshow.



Out artist Dan Neil Barnes will exhibit at the Orchard Lake Fine Art Show.



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Ash Cave is a "recess cave" in the Hocking Hills. Photo: Chris Azzopardi

Home Away From Home

Hocking Hills: The Midwest's Hidden Gem

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

The first time I navigated the windy roads through the Hocking Hills, the surrealness of it all – Ohio, really? – was more like a trip through a very pretty postcard your favorite aunt sends you. It was serene and magical, neither of which I expected from a Midwest state I once considered flat and boring.

Not even an hour outside of Columbus, the Hocking Hills – with its stunning naturescapes, simple pleasures and restorative retreating – is neither. So, naturally, I made a return visit earlier this year, in April. Here's why everyone should experience this little piece of heaven on earth, and why I'm already making plans for the next time:

at Cedar Falls and arriving at a secluded gravel driveway, would be a place so special that it's become a perennial favorite of mine. I feel right at home – but comfortably away from it – in the cutely named cottages that affable innkeepers Ellen Grinsfelder and Terry Lingo are known for. A lot of love went into each place, where journals are kept on a nightstand, with handwritten entries from previous guests chronicling their experiences (and from the journal in my room, that sometimes includes baby-making). Family-operated since 1987, the property boasts the amenities of a blue-ribbon resort, like a full-service spa in the woods and a wonderful farm-to-table restaurant (don't leave without trying the berry cobbler that offers classes on cooking some of their famed dishes. <http://innatcedarfalls.com>).

The Inn at Cedar Falls

Waiting for me, after watching my cell's service bars die off the closer I got to the Inn

Ash Cave

Ohio is all flat, right? Wrong. This



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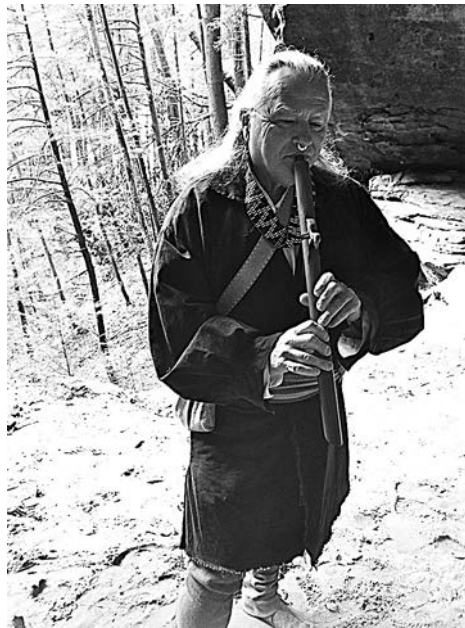
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Clockwise from top left: a cottage at the Inn at Cedar Falls; a Shawnee at the Saltpetre State Nature Preserve; the Pencil Sharpener Museum. Photos: Chris Azzopardi

majestic landmark in the southernmost reaches of Hocking Hills is the largest “recess cave” in the state – it’s not classified as simply a cave since it doesn’t completely lack light – and really something to marvel. Situated in a gorge of sandstone extending one-quarter mile, created by the erosion of a small tributary called Queer Creek (not even kidding), are a towering waterfall, a small plunge pool and honeycomb-looking rocks. Wildflowers, such as trout lily and jewelweed, sprout seasonally, and a large ledge hangs over the gorge, where, once, early inhabitants sought shelter (Ash Cave is named after the huge pile of ashes found under the shelter by former settlers). The recess was once a workshop for Indians who cooked and fashioned arrow and spear points and skinned and dressed game. www.hockinghills.com/ash_cave.html.

Pencil Sharpener Museum

Make it a point – get it? – to stop at this one-of-a-kind museum: a shed

of unique pencil sharpeners, none of them the same. Every sort – ones that pay homage to Barbie dolls, the Eiffel Tower and Disney characters – is housed in this little magical treasury that’s a marvelous haven of a man’s kitschy obsession. The man is Paul A. Johnson, a former pastor who began his collection over 20 years ago. It all started when his wife bought a couple metal-car sharpeners. Two became nearly 3,500, which are now – after Johnson’s death in 2010 – exhibited in this charming museum at the Hocking Hills Welcome Center at 13178 St. Rt. 664 S. in Logan, Ohio. There, the whole world can share in the peculiarity of a man and his sharpeners.

Shawnee storytelling

You know the “circle of life” from Mufasa, but you’ve never heard it told like this. In the depths of Saltpetre State Nature Preserve, Wehyehpihehrsehnhwah – or just simply Ron – offers fascinating and inspiring tales of his people, dwellers of the Hills for hundreds of years, and his appreciation for not just his life,

but the life around him: the trees, the animals, the land. Through stories and music that harmonize with the surroundings, he takes you on a spiritual and enriching cultural journey that puts you in touch with the world around you. www.hockinghillsadventuretrek.com.

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Viva Las 'Tuna'!

BY CAROLYN HAYES

Imprudent as it may seem to turn up the small-town Texas heat at the sweltering height of summer, Williamston Theatre is confidently tripling down on the practice. The company's seventh season closer is also the final installment of what it has dubbed the "Tuna Trilogy": Following on the momentum of 2011's "Greater Tuna" and 2012's "Red, White and Tuna," now the show hits the road in "Tuna Does Vegas" (by Jaston Williams, Joe Sears, and Ed Howard). Director Quintessa Gallinat takes the helm of the franchise in this installment, which heralds the return of stars Aral Gribble and Wayne David Parker. But against a deliberately kitschy comic premise and the goof-off tendencies of summer, the production is nevertheless operating at full firepower, staying notably high-concept to set off the script's affable low humor.

Once again, Gribble and Parker assume the many characters running around rural little Tuna, Texas, from the gossipy radio deejays to the man-hungry diner waitresses and everyone in between. Most of the top Tuna favorites are represented, which introduces the serial-specific problem of finding new ground to cover. In such cases, popular choices are to introduce new faces or drop the familiar ones into a new environment; "Tuna Does Vegas" opts for both. Specifically, when radio personality Arles Struvie (Gribble) discusses his vacation plans for a Las Vegas vow renewal with his fussy wife, Bertha Bumiller (Parker), most of the town is incited to make the trek — despite not being invited.

Much of the first act, which is essentially confined to Tuna, sets the machinery in place for the various characters to decide on and prepare for the trip. By intermission, they've left the little ol' homestead behind and made their way to the dazzlingly garish Sin City. Despite a reserved few cosmetic alterations in Bartley H. Bauer's set, the change in atmosphere is like night and day, helped by auditory and visual excesses courtesy of designers Genesis Garza (lights) and Will Myers (sound). This still may be the desert, with its anonymous sand-colored decor, but it's definitely no place like home. The effects are wild and wonderful, just



Inita Goodwin (Wayne David Parker) and Helen Bedd (Aral Gribble) try to figure out how to get to Vegas in "Tuna Does Vegas" at Williamston Theatre. Photo: Chris Purchis

PREVIEW

Tuna Does Vegas

Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. Thursday-Sunday through Aug. 18. 2 hours, 20 minutes. \$20-25. 517-655-SHOW. www.Williamstontheatre.org

what the script ordered to shake up these small-town types and throw them out of their well-traveled depths.

Once in Vegas, the audience is introduced to a few new faces and scenarios, including — what else? — a pair of professional Presleys. A particular highlight is Gribble's sinus-abusing hotel proprietress, who makes a game out of bilking her guests at every conceivable turn. Similarly wondrous is the up-and-coming hotel floorshow, which is too rich to spoil, except to commend Karen Kangas-Preston's costume work for hitting the gaudy jackpot.

Yet the more things change, the more they stay the same: While the material can be hit and miss at times (and really, how many sequels successively improve on the original?), this show's most successful comic beats reside in the hilarious chasm between what people practice and what they preach.

The vicious animosity between superstitious Aunt Pearl (Parker) and virtuous society captain Vera (Gribble) is heightened when they're trapped

in close quarters together, but what makes it work is the straight-faced sanctimony of the performances. In the same vein, the romantic connection between lovebirds Arles and Bertha is unparalleled; it's a spectacular (and spectacularly odd) relationship within which the heart of the silly story can sweetly roost.

With its built-in emphasis on character, any "Tuna" is only as good as its citizens, and the duo of Gribble and Parker is as marvelous as ever. On the one hand, this team will go to any lengths for a laugh, indulging in gawky and gross do-it-yourself sound effects and playing up conventions of femininity. But on the other, they're constantly elevating the material: They sail past obvious jokes for loftier payoffs, and their solid and expansive character work never feels reductive or cheap.

Granted, "Tuna Does Vegas" does fall victim to sequel problems, running a bit long with material that starts to feel a little lean. But with collaborative design and polished comic performances like these, it's a treat to have another go-round with this circus, far preferable to none at all. Viewers who caught the prior productions will need little coaxing to see this company bring its A game once again, and those who didn't have one last chance before this superlative "Tuna" is wiped off the map.

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Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, July 25

Hotter Than July! Detroit Black Gay Pride Festival The nation's third oldest celebration of African American lesbian, gay, bi and transgender culture. A variety of events throughout the week. KICK, Detroit. Hotterthanjuly.org

12th Annual Neutral Zone Golf Classic 9 a.m. The NZ Golf Classic is a four-person scramble. Participants may register as a team or individually. Registration fee includes golf, cart, continental breakfast, lunch and a steak dinner. Tickets: \$300-1,000. The Neutral Zone, 310 E. Washington, Ann Arbor. 734-214-9995. Neutral-zone.org

Youth and Young Adult Summit 12 p.m. Addresses issues and concerns of the LGBT community, from youth and young adult perspective. Tickets: Free. KICK, 3663 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Hotterthanjuly.org

Hotter than July Film Festival 5:30 p.m. A presentation of featured and short films. Tickets: \$20. KICK, 3420 Cass Ave., Detroit. Hotterthanjuly.org

Friday, July 26

The Annual Gathering on LGBT Issues 8 a.m. The Annual Gathering on LGBT Issues is two days of education and advocacy with an array of interactive and informative workshops covering issues of importance to women, men, transgender and youth. Tickets: Free (with required registration). KICK, 3663 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-876-4536. hotterthanjuly.org

Lake Effect Pride Event 6 p.m. Food, music, and people. Celebrate OutCenter's 10-Year Anniversary. OutCenter, Benton Harbor. 269-927-4653.

17th Annual Ferndale Pub Crawl 6:30 p.m. Begins at Boogie Fever. Sends groups and parties on foot across downtown visiting two-dozen pubs, clubs, restaurants, and bars. Lots of fun, lots of camaraderie, and lots of sights all for a good cause. Downtown Ferndale, Ferndale. Facebook.com/events/273482959461472/

Prom Night 7 p.m. Formal, themed night event. Refreshments, dancing and entertainment. Tickets: \$35. KICK, 3361 Gratiot Ave., Detroit. detroit@hotterthanjuly.org hotterthanjuly.org

Saturday, July 27

Gathering for Catholic Parents of LGBT Daughters and Sons This will be a day of learning, praying and getting to know one another. Fortunate Families, Cincinnati. 586-698-6100. fortunatefamilies.com

Open Meditation Saturdays 9 a.m. A communal, non-hierarchical meditation space open to all. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

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

MIGRA 2013 Rodeo 10 a.m. Michigan Gay Rodeo Association, 10871 Quirk Road, Belleville. 810-293-1307. michiganrodeo.org/rodeo.html

Palmer Park Picnic 10 a.m. The pinnacle event of Detroit's annual celebration is a family reunion and you're invited. Over 20,000 guests taking a moment to celebrate culture, self-empowerment and identity. Free. KICK, Detroit. hotterthanjuly.org

T-Party 7 p.m. A great opportunity for those in the Transgender community and their allies to get to know each other. Coffee, tea and soft drinks available. Windsor-Essex Pride Fest, 422 Pelissier, Windsor. 519-973-4656. windsorpride.com

2013 Black Arts Festival Summer White Party 9 p.m. 25+. Tickets: \$20-25. Black Arts & Cultural Center, 359 S. Kalamazoo Mall Dr., Kalamazoo. Blackartskalamazoo.org

Sunday, July 28

Get Out Bike/Shore to Shore Training - Three Parks 10 a.m. GOAL, 17385 Haggerty Road, Belleville. Meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

Summer Rocks! 2013 10 a.m. Arrowhead Alpines, 1310 N. Gregory Road, Fowlerville. Arrowheadalpines.com

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

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

Thursday, Aug. 1

Free to be Me 9 a.m. Bi-weekly support group for ex-offenders living with HIV. Participants have been out of prison for three weeks to 15 years. AIDS Partnership Michigan, 2751 E. Jefferson Ave., Number 301, Detroit. 313-446-9836.

Moms in Motion 11 a.m. Bi-weekly support group for parents living with HIV. DMC/AIDS Partnership Michigan, 471 St. Antoine, Detroit. 313-993-3444.



Editor's Pick

Just in time for the reprieve from summer heat, Ferndale's 17th Annual Pub Crawl will take place this Friday. Ferndale fixtures will be filled with inclusive fun and camaraderie.

Support local Ferndale businesses like Howe's Bayou, Como's, Valentine Distilling Co., One Eyed Betty's and more. Presented by Rosie O'Grady's and Absolut Vodka, the pub crawl will send different groups and parties on foot across downtown. More than two dozen pubs, clubs, restaurants and bars will be participating in the crawl, with proceeds going to the Ferndale Police Authority, FernCare, the Ferndale Community Foundation and Michigan AIDS Coalition.

The 17th Annual Ferndale Pub Crawl begins at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, July 26 at Boogie Fever, 22901 Woodward, Ferndale. The pub crawl will take place until 2:30 a.m. or later. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/events/273482959461472.

The Worship Service 10 a.m. A worship service hosted by Detroit's faith community. Free. KICK, Detroit. hotterthanjuly.org

Tom Zerafa 40th "Coming Out" Anniversary 1 p.m. Tom has been an activist for GLBT rights in Michigan since 1973 and been at the forefront of many GLBT organizations on active duty doing the work necessary to bring about positive change for the good of all. Affirmations, Oak Park. 248-591-9444. musicalchairstrz003@gmail.com

The Sunday Brunch 2 p.m. Friends, food, location and music. Tickets: \$50-90. KICK, 1000 River Place, Detroit. hotterthanjuly.org

Monday, July 29

Board Meeting 6 p.m. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. jimtoycenter.org

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

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

Tuesday, July 30

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

Speak Out 6:15 p.m. Offers a welcoming environment for LGBT people to improve their public speaking and leadership skills. Meets the first and fourth Thursday of every month. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. Crystal@jimtoycenter.org JimToyCenter.org

Transgender Helpline 6:30 p.m. A representative from Transgender Michigan is available to answer questions on helpline. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

Beautiful-Monthly Social 7 p.m. A monthly get-together for people living with HIV and their families and friends. Beautiful, 1415 Glynn Ct., Number 111, Detroit. 313-733-8183.

Gender Non-Conformists 7 p.m. A social and discussion group for transgender, genderqueer, gender-neutral 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

JGN Family & Friends 7 p.m. Topics vary from month to month. This is a gathering of people who have family or friends who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or who are questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity. Join us as we offer support, share our experiences, and learn about the issues impacting the LGBTQ and allied

community. The Jewish Gay Network of Michigan, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. 248-432-5661. jgnmi.org

Music & More

CONCERTS

Olympia Entertainment "Justin Bieber Believe Tour" Tickets: \$45+. Joe Louis Arena, 19 Steve Yzerman Dr., Detroit. 7 p.m. July 28. 313-396-7000. olympiaentertainment.com

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

Avanti Summer MusicFest 2013 "Avanti 2013 First Student Concerto/Solo Competition" Workshop for students aged 13-18. Tickets: \$10. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. July 22 - July 27. 313-576-5111. avantisummermusicfest.org

Blind Pig "Roister" 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 9:30 p.m. July 25. 734-996-8555. Blindpig.com

City of Birmingham "Mainstreet Soul" Part of the 2013 In the Park Summer Concert series. Shain Park, Birmingham. 7 p.m. July 31. bhamgov.org/summerconcerts

DTE Energy Music Theatre "Chicago" Tickets: \$36. 60-112. 70. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. 7:30 p.m. July 25. 248-377-0100. palacenet.com

Grand Rapids Art Museum "The John Gist Band" 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. 5 p.m. July 26. 616-831-1000. artmuseumgr.org

Kerrytown Concert House "Haldeman, Rolston, Weed, and Woodring Quartet" Tickets: \$5-25. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. July 27. 734-763-4186. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Meadow Brook Music Festival "OneRepublic" With Mayer Hawthorne and Churchill. Tickets: \$35. 55-50. 35. 3554 Walton Blvd., Rochester Hills. 7 p.m. July 27. 248-377-0100. palacenet.com

Olympia Entertainment "Steely Dan" "Mood Swings: 8 Miles to Pancake Day Tour." Tickets: \$45+. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. July 27. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com

The Ark "The Handsome Family & Danny Barnes" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. July 28. 734-761-1800. theark.org

See Happenings, page 28

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Editor's Pick



Now in its third year of operation, Ann Arbor's Penny Seats Theatre Company is set to produce its summer show at the West Park Band Shell, 215 Chapin St. in Ann Arbor. This year the group will present the musical "Little Me." This title is known for Sid Caesar performing multiple roles in the original 1960s-era production, a feat later repeated by actor Martin Short in the 1990s. In Ann Arbor, Penny Seats company member Roy Sexton will undertake this creative challenge.

"Little Me" tells the story of Belle, a woman who "made it" from the other side of the tracks to a place of wealth, honor and social position. As she looks back over her life while preparing her memoir, her adventures are highlighted with style, verve and emotion.

The production's closing weekend is July 25-27. Grounds will open at West Park at 5:30 p.m. each night with performances at 7 p.m. Tickets available at the gate are \$7-10.

Happenings

Continued from p. 26

The Magic Bag "Savage Grace" With Mark Pazman's Supersession. Tickets: \$10+. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 7 p.m. July 26. 248-544-3030. Themagicbag.com

The Magic Stick "Elder & Beast in the Field" All ages. Tickets: \$7. The Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. July 29. 313-833-9700. majesticdetroit.com

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

Aladdin and His Wonderful, Magical Lamp \$5-7. All-of-us Express Children's Theatre at Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. July 26 - Aug. 3. 517-333-2580. Cityofeastlansing.com/allofus

Charlotte's Web \$5-7. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. July 25 - 28. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com

Little Me \$7-10. Penny Seats Theatre Company at West Park Band Shell, 215 Chapin St., Ann Arbor. Through July 27. 734-276-2832. Pennyseats.org

One-Act Play Festival \$10. Village Players, 34660 Woodward, Birmingham. July 26 - 28. 248-644-2075. birminghamvillageplayers.com

The Seagull \$5-15. Brass Tacks Ensemble at Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Aug. 1 - 3. 734-763-4186.

PROFESSIONAL

All Shook Up \$12-28. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre at DeWitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. Through Aug. 10. 616-395-7890. Hope.edu/hsrt

Becky Shaw \$27-41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through July 28. 734-663-0681. PerformanceNetwork.org

Complicated \$35. Three Oaks Theater Festival at The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. Aug. 3. 269-756-3879. Threeoaksfestival.com

Ernie \$20-\$25. City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Through Aug. 11. 800-745-3000. olympiaentertainment.com

I Am Woman \$12-20. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre at Park Theatre, 248 S. River Ave., Holland. Through July 31. 616-395-7890. Hope.edu/hsrt

James and the Giant Peach \$12-18. Flint Youth Theatre, 1220 E. Kearsley St., Flint. July 26 - Aug. 11. 810-237-1530. Flintyouththeatre.org

King John \$12-36. Michigan Shakespeare

Festival at Potter Center's Baughman Theatre on the campus of Jackson Community College, 2111 Emmons Road, Jackson. Through Aug. 9. 517-796-8600. Michiganshakespearefestival.com

Kolobok \$5-10. PuppetART, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit. Through July 27. 313-961-7777. Puppetart.org

Les Miserables \$22-\$32. The Encore Musical Theatre Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Through Aug. 18. 734-268-6200. theencoretheatre.org

Life Could be a Dream \$33-35. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Through Aug. 11. 269-343-2727. Farmersalleytheatre.com

Love Letters \$15. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. 7 p.m. July 28. 517-655-SHOW. Williamstontheatre.org

Miles & Ellie \$18.50-42. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through Aug. 31. 734-433-7673. PurpleRoseTheatre.org

Mommie Queerest \$10-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through Aug. 5. 248-545-5545. Theringwald.com

Much Ado About Nothing \$8-20. Water Works Theatre Company, Starr Jaycee Park, 1301 W. 13 Mile Road, Royal Oak. Aug. 3 - 11. 248-399-3727. Waterworkstheatre.com

Peter Rabbit and Friends \$7. Tibbits Popcorn Theatre at Tibbits Summer Theatre, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. Through July 27. 517-278-6029. Tibbits.org

Romeo + Juliet \$12-21. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre at DeWitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. Through Aug. 8. 616-395-7890. Hope.edu/hsrt

She Stoops to Conquer \$12-36. Michigan Shakespeare Festival at Potter Center's Baughman Theatre on the campus of Jackson Community College, 2111 Emmons Road, Jackson. July 25 - Aug. 11. 517-796-8600. Michiganshakespearefestival.com

Tarzan \$35. Barn Theatre, M-96, Augusta. July 23 - Aug. 4. 269-731-4121. Barntheatre.com

The Producers The content of this show is suited for adults. \$25. Tibbits Summer Theatre, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. July 25 - Aug. 3. 517-278-6029. Tibbits.org

Tuna Does Vegas \$20-25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. Through Aug. 18. 517-655-SHOW. Williamstontheatre.org

ART'N'AROUND

4731 Gallery "Laerrus Show". 4731 Gallery, 4731 Grand River, Detroit. July 20 - Aug. 31.

Chelsea River Gallery "Natural Phenomena and Synthetic Wonder" 120 S. Main St., Chelsea. July 11 - Aug. 17. 734-433-0826. Chelsearivergallery.org

Cranbrook Art Museum "From the Archives: Teaching and Exhibiting Painting at Cranbrook, 1930 - 1970" Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. July 3 - July 31. 313-833-7900. dia.org

Fourteen East "Abstract Art by Jan Brown" Fourteen East, 15 E. Kirby, Detroit. April 30 - July 26.

GRAM "Friday Night Conversations" 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. April 5 - Sep. 27. 616-831-1000. artmuseumgr.org

Hot Works, LLC "11th Annual Orchard Lake Fine Art & Craft Show" Admission: \$5. Free Parking. Hot Works, LLC, 6668 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. July 26 - July 28. 248-684-2613. Hotworks.org

Krasl Art Center "Philosophy of Art" 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph. May 23 - Sep. 26. 269-983-0271. krasl.org

Lawrence Street Gallery "Summer Invitational" 22620 Woodward Ave., Suite A, Ferndale. July 4 - July 27. 248-544-0394. Lawrencestreetgallery.com

Liberal Arts Gallery "Shooting Nudes... and Other Stories" Homage to women by Jack Kenny. 3361 Gratiot Ave., Detroit. July 12 - July 27. 313-925-9578.

Michigan State University Museum "Michigan and the Civil War" 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. May 1 - Oct. 31. 517-355-7474. museum.msu.edu

Re:View Contemporary Gallery "Kate Silvio: 40 Weeks Unprepared... Little Nightmares" 444 W. Willis #112, Detroit. July 13 - Aug. 17. 313-833-9000.

Riverside Arts Center "Ann Arbor Women Artists Summer Exhibit" 76 North Huron Street, Ypsilanti. July 1 - July 27. 734-483-7345. Riversidearts.com

Saugatuck Center for the Arts "Chris Cox" Color film photography. 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. July 11 - July 31. 269-857-2399. Sc4a.org

See Art Gallery "O Fortuna" Mark Dancy's newest exhibit. 444 W. Willis #111, Detroit. July 13 - Aug. 17. 313-833-9000.

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

UMMA "Exploring the Landscape" Tickets: \$90-100. 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. July 13 - Aug. 3. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts "CHROMA" Two Fulton West, Grand Rapids. May 31 - Aug. 18. Uica.org

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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.

106 ANNOUNCEMENTS - GROUPS

Open Arms: Southeast Michigan's longest run- ning peer-run HIV/AIDS support group

Meets every Wednesday from 7pm to 9pm at the Community Pride Building: 429 Livernois, Ferndale; 248-545-1435 Ext. 104, openarms@michiganaidscollition.org, Michigan Open Arms Open to those infected or affected by HIV or AIDS.

106 ANNOUNCEMENTS - GROUPS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR DIFFA: DINING BY DESIGN & ArtWorks Detroit

Detroit's most original event, involving members of our fabulous design and art community. Cocktails by Design - Thursday, Sept. 26, 2013 ArtWorks Detroit - Friday, Sept. 27, 2013 Dining by Design - Saturday, Sept. 27, 2013 DIFFA: Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS Benefits Michigan AIDS Coalition - click on DIFFA Dining by Design and ArtWorks Detroit Located at the former Federal Reserve Building, 160 Fort St. Detroit, near Campus Martius For information, contact Monica Mills at (248) 545-1435, ext. 117, or mmills@michiganaidscollition.org

301 EMPLOYMENT - GENERAL

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http://groups.yahoo.com/group/michigan_mens_clothing_optional_yoga



Solution to puzzle from page 34

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



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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Prop 8: The Movie

First it was a horrible ballot initiative designed to strip marriage rights away from California's LGBT community. Then it was a parody YouTube musical with an all-star cast. Then it was a play from Dustin Lance Black based on court transcripts. Then it was a dead piece of historic legal discrimination thanks to the Supreme Court of the United States (boom!) and now, thanks to HBO Documentary Films and directors Ben Cotner and Ryan White, the Proposition 8 media train makes another stop at the feature-length doc station. For the past five years, Cotner and White have had access to the work of both the legal team and the plaintiffs, whose stories gave the case such a powerful punch when it came to demonstrating Prop. 8's harm to gay relationships with no concurrent benefit for society. The as-yet-untitled film is currently in production and is scheduled to air on HBO at an unspecified date in 2014. If justice prevails, there'll be more states adopting marriage equality laws in the interim. Victory lap!

Billie Jean King: 'American Master'

For the first time ever, PBS's "American Masters" is going to profile a sports figure and that inaugural honor goes to tennis legend Billie Jean King. The 90-minute documentary on the 69-year-old King will focus on her career, one that challenged sexism in American sports and changed the way women's athletic achievements are perceived all over the world. In addition to new interviews with King, the film will feature Serena and Venus Williams, Maria Sharapova, members of the Virginia Slims Circuit "Original 9" like Rosie Casals, Gloria Steinem, Chris Evert, Margaret Court, Bobby Riggs' son Larry, King's friend Elton John and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Fittingly, "American Masters: Billie Jean King" will premiere September 10 on PBS affiliates to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the infamous "Battle of The Sexes" match between King and Bobby Riggs. This calls for a watching party: white Lacoste shirts and soft-butched haircuts mandatory.

'HR' gives Alicia Silverstone the job

We've missed Alicia Silverstone. Like, a lot. Our worn out VHS tape of "Clueless" bit the dust and then we wore out the DVD, too (yes, it can be done) as the talented comic actor focused on her own post-"Clueless" life — vegan cookbooks, unorthodox child-rearing practices, simultaneous Internet notoriety for those unorthodox child-rearing practices and a lot of less-than-awesome TV and film



Alicia Silverstone. Photo: Shutterstock.com

projects that we pretty much ignored (with the exception of that one-off episode of the hilarious and weird "Children's Hospital"). But now Darren Star ("Sex and the City") has her and we have hope again. A pilot for Lifetime called "HR" will star Silverstone and focus on the changes her character, a Type-A director of Human Resources for a large corporation, goes through after suffering a head injury. Drama? Comedy? Probably a little of both (although most likely not slavishly attached to being the female version of the old sitcom "Herman's Head"), which suits us fine. Head injuries are like that. More news as this develops.

Ian McKellen to star in a zombie movie. Excited?

When you're Gandalf and Magneto at the same time, you can do whatever you like. So you can forgive Sir Ian McKellen for deciding that another Shakespeare adaptation would be, of course, a wonderful idea ... perhaps later. Right now he'd much rather run off to star in a zombie comedy sporting the unlikely title of "The Curse of The Buxom Strumpet." You really can't blame him. Set in the 18th century, the story concerns a small English village beset by a zombifying illness, causing the uninfected to flee, even if it means going to — oh dear — France. So think "Shaun of The Dead" with less electricity and more mud. Directed by Matthew Butler, the film also stars Gillian Anderson and Academy Award nominee Imelda Staunton and is due sometime in 2014. No word on who plays the Buxom Strumpet. Hope it's McKellen.

Romeo San Vicente has known his fair share of strumpets. Good people, all. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

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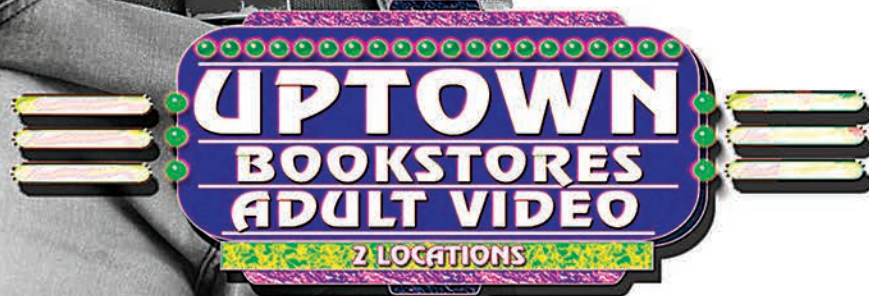
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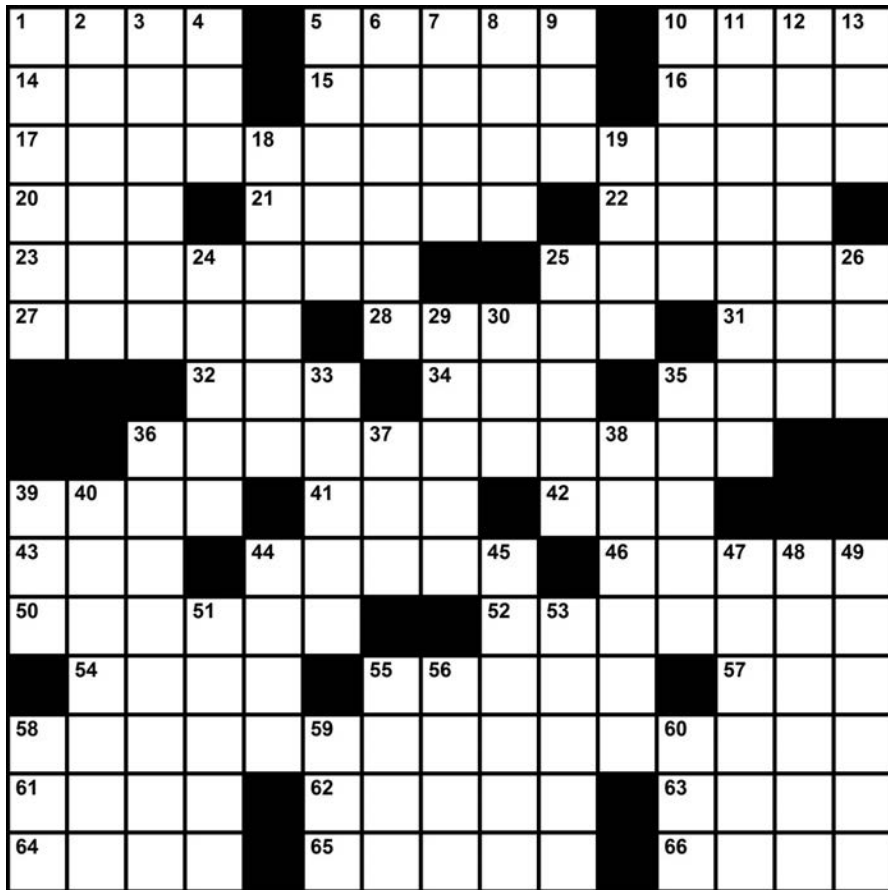


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Across

- 1 It may bite your shorts
 5 Be intense like a queen
 10 Not straight
 14 "Take ___ leave it!"
 15 Caesar, for one
 16 Queens stadium
 17 Start of a quote from Daniel Radcliffe
 20 ___ Sec.
 21 Ballet follower
 22 Shed tears
 23 With tutti-frutti, e.g.
 25 Pairs of grooms walk them
 27 "___ Be"
 28 River rapids
 31 "We ___ Family"
 32 Org. for narcs
 34 Saint, in Rio
 35 The A in GLARP
 36 More of the quote
 39 Some hosp. workers
 41 Born, in gay Parea
 42 Letters in some church names
 43 Ice in Ulm
 44 Factions that sound like fornication?
 46 Spin doctor
 50 Lesbian couple on a cake
 52 In favor of Chaz?
 54 "The African Queen" author

- 55 Deli subs
 57 Theology subj.
 58 End of the quote
 61 Subway Series team
 62 Trump of old
 63 Early AIDS play
 64 Oral attention getter
 65 Think fit
 66 What a small shooter shoots off

Down

- 1 Prayer book, to Father Mychal Judge
 2 Peter who played Lawrence
 3 Rum Tum Tugger, for one
 4 Bygone Eur. realm
 5 Austrian analyst
 6 Unties
 7 REM gear
 8 International ___
 9 Uey from WSW
 10 Grate stuff
 11 Rear-ender injury
 12 Many summer residents of Fire Island
 13 Use your mouth
 18 For now
 19 Boob, to a Brit
 24 King with the golden touch
 25 It comes with a lei
 26 D. Feinstein title

- 29 To date, but not to go out with
 30 Car assemblers' org.
 33 Endora portrayal
 35 Like sourballs
 36 Perceptions
 37 NRC forerunner
 38 Make obligatory
 39 Neighbor of Isr.
 40 Jolly Roger fliers
 44 James Baldwin's "The Evidence of Things Not ___"
 45 Popped (up)
 47 Having been dumped, e.g.
 48 Lack of zip
 49 As a surprising fact
 51 Franklin, religiously
 53 "Laugh-In" cohost
 55 Sweet spot
 56 Morales of "Resurrection Blvd."
 58 Shakespeare's Puck, e.g.
 59 Tease
 60 Type of sucker

Solution on pg. 31

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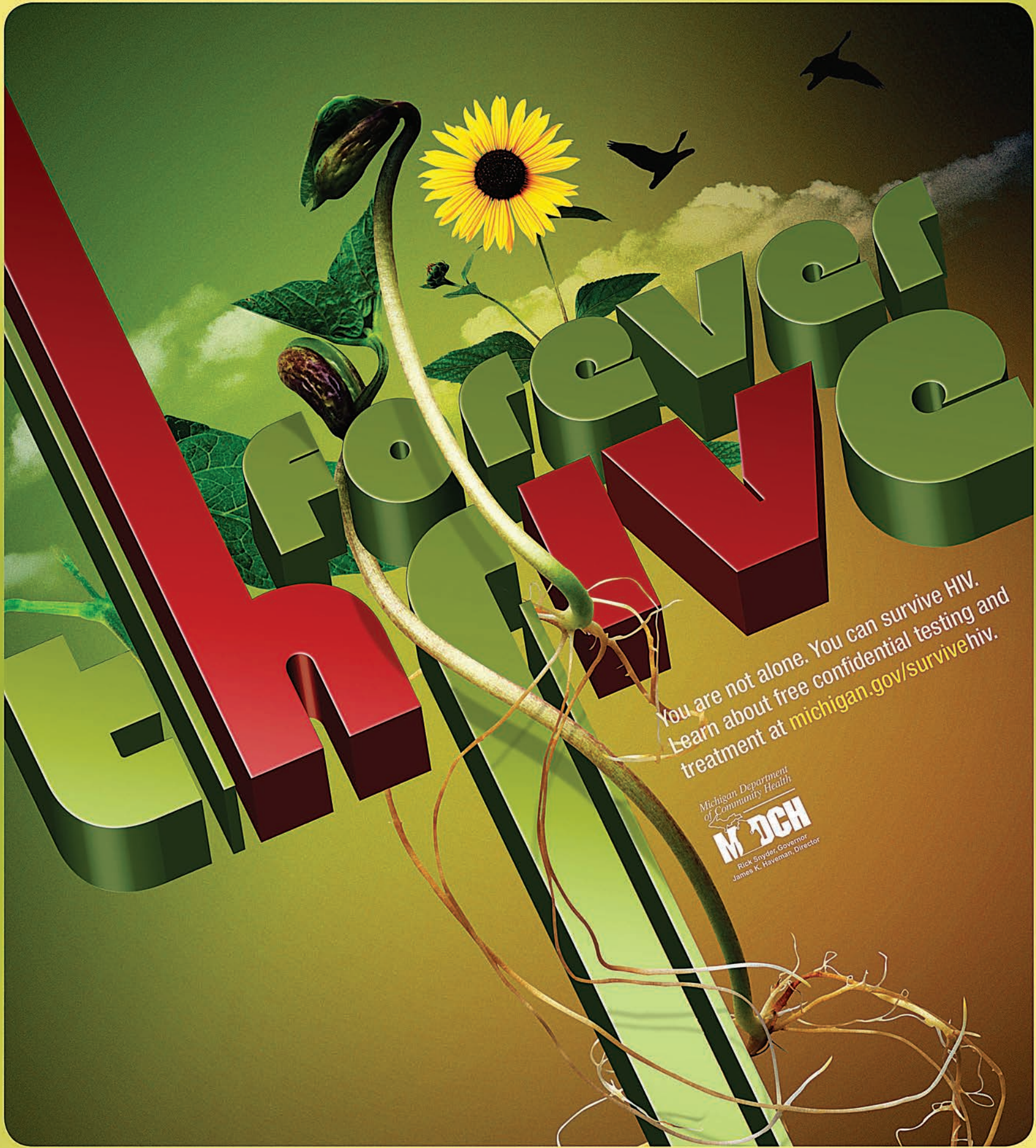
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