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Years

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## COVER

20 Inside out  
Photo: Austin Young



“Lesbian fans on Twitter were like, ‘Wait a second, I thought you were a lesbian.’”

– Dev, page 24



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E-mail [Ben@pridesource.com](mailto:Ben@pridesource.com) for more information or to sign up.

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Ferndale Mayoral Candidates from left: Ferndale Mayor Dave Coulter, Sherry Wells, Linda Parton and Craig Covey will be running Nov. 5.

# Ferndale Mayor's Race More Than Just A Gay 'Duel,' Four On Ballot For Nov. 5

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

**FERNDALE** - The Ferndale election has already garnered international attention. USA Today ran an article about the challenge. The Detroit Free Press called it a "duel." The Washington Times headline says "Michigan Mayoral Race Pits Gay Man vs. Gay Man," and even says, "Some gays worry the race might cause divide and suggest that former mayor Craig Covey's run will actually turn back the clock on homosexual rights with his attacks on the current mayor Dave Coulter."

And while it is true that having Michigan's first openly-gay elected mayor running against its second is a rare occurrence, in Ferndale the focus is more about the issues. Most local residents care more about the issues facing the city than about the sexual orientation of their elected officials.

"Having a gay candidate for mayor of Ferndale is so late 1990s. It's not a story anymore and never should've been in the first place," said Ferndale resident Chris Ernest. "The people of the city of Ferndale have always been a brother and sisterhood of kindred spirits that believe we are all one. There is no such thing as gay, or black or white in Ferndale. It's being a part of something cool!"

## Two Other Candidates

For one thing, the race is not just between two gay men. There are two other candidates running for the office. For what it's worth to those who track

demographics, the two lesser-known opponents are women.

Sherry Wells, who is a Democrat, has lived in Ferndale for 25 years and was part of the Charter Revision Commission in the 1990s. She and her daughter live near downtown. She is a former member of the Ferndale Rotary, part of Ferndale Seniors, a former member of the Ferndale Area Chamber

Parton filed petitions on Aug. 13. She is 55 years old and the mother of three sons, one daughter and two stepsons. She was the leader of the Ferndale Cub Scout Pack 1245 for five years and has held the positions of vice president and secretary for the Ferndale Elementary PTA. She has volunteered to do photography for the Ferndale High School Musical program, and she is

**“**Having a gay candidate for mayor of Ferndale is so late 1990s. It's not a story anymore and never should've been in the first place.**”**

- Ferndale resident Chris Ernest

of Commerce and has been a consistent presence at council meetings giving announcements about various events. She was especially vocal on the issue of creating a noise ordinance for the city. At a recent city council meeting she said that she gathered 120 signatures to get her name on the ballot, with 42 percent of them are on the east side of the city. "Your mayor should be the face of Ferndale and I will do that for you," Wells said, noting that because she does not work full time she has more time to devote to community involvement.

Linda Parton and her husband Joe have lived in Ferndale for 23 years.

active at Woodlawn Church in Royal Oak. She works as a photographer and is listed on her Facebook page as a conservative. "One definite item I will work on, will be to cost effectively eliminate the new parking 'Pay Stations' by Digital," she said. "No one likes them, residents, visitors and businesses alike."

These two candidates, who have significantly less experience with campaigning and public office, are easily overlooked by the media. Both Coulter and Covey are seasoned politicians and public community activists. Not only have they worked for

“Of course, it’s historic for Michigan and nationally and demonstrates the degree of acceptance of openly LGBT candidates and elected officials in Ferndale and Southeast Michigan. In many ways, their sexual orientation is no more of an issue than their height or hair color...”

- Mark LaChey, chair of the Michigan Democratic LGBT Caucus

equality in the LGBT community and ending the AIDS epidemic, they have each worked on other issues that have nothing to do with being gay.

Coulter is involved in the Democratic Party. He is one of the vice chairs of the statewide LGBT caucus, but before that he served as chair of the 9th congressional district. He served four terms as Oakland county commissioner (2002-2010), was on the Human Rights Ordinance committee of 1999, and served on the library board from 2004-2005. He was the executive director of the Michigan AIDS Fund and is currently program officer for Children’s Hospital of Michigan. He’s been mayor since 2011, and is running on a platform of financial health for the city, making it more business-friendly, building strong community through parks and a clean sweep program, and looking at quality of life for residents.

While Covey is also a Democrat, he’s better known for the way he parties than sticking to party politics. His forte is creating grand events like the Ferndale Pub Crawl, the Ferndale Blues Festival and Ferndale Pride, as ways to raise money for charities. Covey served on city council from 2000-2007 before becoming the first openly gay elected mayor in Michigan in 2008. In 2010 he gave up the seat when he won the seat on the county commission left vacant by Coulter when Coulter gave it up in an unsuccessful run for State Senate. Covey was the CEO of Michigan AIDS Prevention Project, which later became Michigan AIDS Coalition. He’s on the board

of the Ferndale Community Foundation, Ferndale Youth Assistance and is leading the push to decriminalize marijuana in the city.

“I am not running against anyone. I am running for the people of Ferndale,” he’s stated several times. His issues involve concern over government spending, including the new parking system. He blames the current council for the city’s high water bills and “the feeling that some city government activities are getting more complicated, more complex and less efficient.”

## Friend Against Friend

The race does pit friend against friend, and the salacious national media may only be doing what is expected of them. Comments on regional and national news sites vary from jokes about missing Detroit city council President Charles Pugh returning to Ferndale to make it a threesome, to a quip about voting for the one who has the most Liza Minelli paraphernalia. And of course a slew of bigots hoping neither of them win, using the contest as evidence that LGBT people are dramatic.

But it also is indicative of a more peaceful larger circumstance – greater LGBT acceptance.

Mark LaChey, chair of the Michigan Democratic LGBT Caucus put the race in a broader perspective. “Of course, it’s historic for Michigan and nationally and demonstrates the degree of acceptance of openly LGBT candidates and elected officials in Ferndale and Southeast Michigan. In many ways, their sexual orientation

is no more of an issue than their height or hair color... truly a non-issue. Especially when considering that the third and fourth candidates are not running as the anti-gay or straight alternative to Dave and Craig. This may be the ultimate evolution of LGBT politics (or that of any other minority) where candidates are judged on their qualifications, records and the issues,” LaChey said.

Residents are less inclined to care, perhaps since they’ve had one gay mayor or the other for over a decade now. “Sexuality has nothing to do with it, they are two very unique candidates. May the best one win,” said Ferndale resident Keith Eagles.

Having Covey running against Coulter may seem like revolution or like drama to the larger press, but at a local level it’s no secret that the men share many of the same friends and voter base. The potential consequence of splitting that voter base may just mean that the city could end up losing their status as the only city with a gay mayor. In that case it could be the second time there has been a female one, with Mayor Pamela McCullough who was elected to serve as mayor in 1994. And while there are many women in political offices, the media still likes to portray female leadership as rare and progressive.

Whether this turns into a clichéd battle of the sexes, a duel between two gay men, or an all-around royal rumble, to those who live in the community the diversity and debate over everyday issues are all just Ferndale normal.

# Michigan Companies Make Finalist List For Outie Awards

Out & Equal Conference To Honor Excellence in Workplace Oct. 28

BY BTL STAFF

The Out & Equal Workplace Summit will bring together 3,000 business leaders in human resources and diversity professionals, employee resource group leaders, executive sponsors, LGBT employees and allies for a four-day conference to examine issues of sexual orientation and gender identity in the workplace beginning Oct. 28 - Oct. 31 in Minneapolis, Minn.

On Aug. 15 the organization announced the finalists in three categories who will be considered for the agency’s coveted Outie Awards. Out & Equal Workplace Advocates’ annual awards recognizes individuals and organizations who are leaders in advancing equality for LGBT people in workplaces around the globe.

Two Michigan based companies, Dow Chemical and Whirlpool will be considered for The Workplace Excellence Award which, “recognizes an employer that has an ongoing commitment to workplace equality, demonstrated by unquestioned leadership, dedication and innovation on behalf of LGBT employees everywhere.”

Howard Ungerleider, a Dow Chemical employee, has also been named as a finalist for the Champion Award, “which recognizes a non-LGBT person who has played a pivotal role in advancing equal treatment of LGBT employees.”

Through the Outies, Out & Equal provides the business and LGBT communities with examples of innovative approaches and proven successes that create safe and equitable workplaces for the world’s LGBT workforce. The award winners are selected from a pool of highly qualified finalists.

“The finalists for the Outie Awards are people and groups who have brought real change to the world. With the Employment Non-Discrimination Act being considered in the U.S. Senate, we look to leaders like the Outie finalists to make workplace equality a reality,” said Out & Equal’s Founder and CEO Selisse Berry. “The Outie Awards are an important opportunity to honor these leaders’ commitment, celebrate their successes, and most of all, an occasion to inspire

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- Out & Equal’s Founder and CEO Selisse Berry

others to transform their workplaces.”

Individuals and companies were nominated for the Outies during the past several months. A selection committee determined the finalists for the each award. An independent panel of business and community leaders will determine the winners based on information and references provided for each finalist.

The awards given this year in three categories are:

The Champion Award Finalists:

Jenny Garretson VA (Jesse Brown VA Medical Center)

Howard Ungerleider (Dow Chemical)

Eileen Taylor (Deutsche Bank)

Cathy Bessant (Bank of America)

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Employee Resource Group of the Year Award Finalists:

PRIDE (Lockheed Martin)

LGBT Business Council (Target)

GLBOAL (Johnson & Johnson)

Working With Pride (Boehringer Ingelheim)

The Workplace Excellence Award Finalists:

Whirlpool

Dow Chemical

Bank of America

Eli Lilly & Company

For more information about the Summit and to register visit <http://outandequal.org/summit-2013>.

## KGLRC Partnership Provides Seniors With Support

The Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center, in partnership with Area Agency on Aging IIIA, will launch the Guide to Long Term Care Planning, Resources and Services for the LGBT Community Aug. 27, along with a showing of the film “Gen Silent.”

“The guide will serve as a tool for the LGBT community and their allies as they navigate the unique financial, health and social needs associated with the overlap of ageism with homophobia, biphobia and transphobia. The intention of this project, which was made possible with funding from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation, is to also support the training of care providers employed with nursing homes, assisted living facilities, home care agencies and other types of long-term care providers,” read KGLRC’s press release.

The film “Gen Silent” will be screened at the Aug. 27 event at 4 p.m. at Little Theater at Western Michigan University. Directed and produced by award winning filmmaker Stu Maddux, this critically acclaimed documentary invites viewers to walk with six LGBT seniors as they face the challenges of accessing services in the long-term health care system. The award winning documentary film, and its accompanying cultural competency training curriculum, will provide understanding and training for long-term care staff in Kalamazoo County, as well as other health care professionals.

Call 269-349-4234 to RSVP.

## Oshtemo Township Ordinance Reading Coming Up

On Aug. 27 at 7 p.m. at 7275 West Main Street, the second reading of Oshtemo Township’s nondiscrimination ordinance will take place. Anti-equality supporters voiced their opinions against the ordinance at the first reading, and organizers want to make sure the Township Board knows how important this ordinance is. They are asking for people who live or work in Oshtemo, to come speak, write a letter, or just attend. RSVP for the meeting online (<https://docs.google.com/a/kglrc.org/forms/d/1LmZjEditRdxUPYd52OAFR53zx2ehO3RXHtvY24huJJo/viewform>) and make sure to also join the Facebook event at [www.facebook.com/events/620149814673583/?utm\\_source=KGLRC+Mailing+List&utm\\_campaign=77de3ea40f-KGLRC\\_eNews\\_8\\_20\\_138\\_17\\_2013&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_d7f8aadeb9-77de3ea40f-28988825](http://www.facebook.com/events/620149814673583/?utm_source=KGLRC+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=77de3ea40f-KGLRC_eNews_8_20_138_17_2013&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d7f8aadeb9-77de3ea40f-28988825)

# Stoli Steps Up As Michigan Pride Sponsor Amid Boycott

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

LANSING - Stoli has been in a tough place lately. With LGBT people around the world looking for ways to protest against Russian human rights atrocities against gays, some have taken to the idea of boycotting Russian Vodka. The problem is that Stoli is not the Russian government, and in fact the corporation that makes Stoli Vodka actually supports LGBT equality.

The company has gone to great strides to clear its name, and Michigan LGBT people are among those Stoli wants to woo. To that end, Stoli has come on as a Main Stage Level Sponsor for the Michigan Pride 24th Annual Michigan Pride Diversity Festival.

“This sponsorship will go a long way to help Michigan Pride remain profitable, and directly assist efforts to provide a much needed LGBT Resource and Community Center to Lansing’s LGBTQ+ and allied citizens,” said Michigan Pride organizers in a recent press release.

“Stoli’s has been a supporter of the LGBT community and LGBT events around the world for many years. By accepting this sponsorship, Michigan Pride, as well as our organization’s additional sponsors, are confident that we are forging a relationship with a company that reflects similar the core values of Michigan Pride. We at Michigan Pride believe that Stoli is committed to the LGBT community. There have been constructive conversations between SPI Group, Stoli, and the Michigan Pride board

“We at Michigan Pride believe that Stoli is committed to the LGBT community. There have been constructive conversations between SPI Group, Stoli, and the Michigan Pride board of directors to express Michigan Pride’s input on how Stoli can better continue to support the LGBT community, here and abroad.”

of directors to express Michigan Pride’s input on how Stoli can better continue to support the LGBT community, here and abroad.”

Those who visit the Stoli website will see statements about the Stoli relationship with the LGBT community. A letter from CEO Val Mendelev explains that Stoli is actually headquartered in Latvia, an independent European Union state that was once part of the Soviet Union. The letter lists sponsorships of LGBT events over the years and around the world, including in South Africa, Vienna and Tel Aviv. They have many long-term partnerships in the United States as well.

“I want to stress that Stoli firmly opposes

such attitude and actions. Indeed, as a company that encourages transparency and fairness, we are upset and angry. Stolichnaya Vodka has always been, and continues to be a fervent supporter and friend to the LGBT community. We also thank the community for having adopted Stoli as their vodka of preference,” Mendelev wrote.

## Michigan Pride Aug. 24

Michigan Pride takes place Aug. 24 in Lansing, and is the perfect time for people from all over the state to come together and march as one to the steps of the State Capitol. There is a march, rally and festival full of music, vendors and opportunities for connection and advocacy.

Leading the event this year will be Ross Matthews, who is known as “Ross the Intern” by his fans. Ross the Intern started out his career as an intern on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, and has gone on to make regular appearances on Celebrity Fit Club, The Insider and Chelsea Lately. Ross is gay, and has written a book about his experience going from a small-town closeted kid and celebrity fan, to being famous himself. The book is called *Man Up!: Tales of My Delusional Self-Confidence*, and it’s promoted as “a mission statement for anyone who doesn’t fit the mold.”

Learn more about Michigan Pride at <http://www.michiganpride.org/>. Learn more about Stoli at <http://www.stoli.com/#lgbt>.

# Cedar Point Cancels Wedding Contest Rather Than Include Gay Couples

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Sandusky, OH – Cedar Point, a theme park well-known to LGBT Michiganders who flock to their unofficial Gay Day each June, has decided to cancel a wedding day contest rather than open it up to same-sex couples.

The contest was for 13 couples to be married in a horror-show-themed ceremony on Friday the 13th of September, the kickoff for HalloWeekends. The rules of the contest were clear however, due to marriage laws in Ohio, weddings are limited to male-female couples only.

Since receiving feedback from LGBT couples, the theme park has decided to end the promotion. A brief statement on their website says, “It’s time to have a moment. “Real talk,” as people are calling it.

“We’ve evaluated the 13 weddings promotion we recently announced and based on your feedback, we’ve decided that this isn’t the right time for the event.

“However, on Friday the 13th, we do have a new haunted house for you to explore – and in the coming days, you’ll get a seriously sinister sneak peek. Stay tuned.”

Their “real talk,” mentioned nothing about the reasons the contest was canceled,

although in a statement to the Sandusky Register, Cedar Point spokesperson Bryan Edwards said, “When the promotion logistics started to take on political undertones, as indicated by several guests who gave us feedback, it was decided that now is not the best time for this event. Cedar Point does not take any official stance on political issues.”

The report indicated that not only were there to be new heterosexual marriages, but heterosexual couples who wanted to renew their vows could also have taken part in the ceremony.

# Royal Oak Group Attacks LGBT Citizens

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

**ROYAL OAK** - The fight to protect Royal Oak's Human Rights Ordinance is in full swing as both sides have launched their websites and social media pages.

Just Royal Oak, the group opposed to the human rights ordinance on the Nov. 5 ballot, has launched a webpage showing their disdain for the "homosexual lifestyle" and trying to convince readers that gays are seeking "special rights" at the expense of the constitutional rights of others.

The site has sections for Privacy, Health and Legal Concerns, all of which play off stereotypes rather than giving complete information.

Under Privacy Concerns they say, "Traditionally society has protected women and girls by setting aside 'female-only' areas, including restrooms; locker rooms; communal showers; hospital bed assignments; prisons; sports competitions; support groups; rape crisis centers; women's shelters; women's colleges; sex-based crime statistics; and women's health resources, statistics, and research endowments. So-called 'human rights' ordinances, such as the one being placed before Royal Oak voters as Proposal A, institute 'gender identity protections' and eliminate sex-based protections for women and girls. This means that any male

**Fighting against the outdated data and stereotypes is the One Royal Oak campaign.**

can identify himself as 'female' and enter previously protected areas at will."

Under Legal Concerns, Just Royal Oak gives several examples of pushback against discrimination, only one of which is a case where a local nondiscrimination ordinance was in place. In 2012, Hands On Originals, a local printing company, refused to fill an order for a gay organization that wanted t-shirts for a pride event. Because there was an ordinance in place, the organization was able to make a complaint. Just like a business that serves the public is not allowed to turn away people because of their skin color, their age, their religion or other factors that seem obvious, businesses that operate in communities with inclusive human rights ordinances cannot turn away people just because they are gay. The Just Royal Oak site claims this gives special

rights to gay people. But what it actually does is gives gay people the same access to public businesses as everyone else. The ordinance does not force it upon religious institutions.

And under Health Concerns they cherry-pick statistics and studies sometimes over a decade old, to make the claim that, "Judging by the years of life at risk, homosexual behavior is up to three times deadlier than smoking. Although society condemns, restricts, and spends millions of tax dollars to discourage the use of tobacco, many citizens advocate the social acceptance of homosexual behavior that results in significant health risks. Our laws should discourage ANY behavior that increases risk of disease and shortens life expectancy."

Just Royal Oak has also launched a Facebook page, which had just 62 "likes" at the time of this article's production. Two local women seem to be dominating the posts.

Fighting against the outdated data and stereotypes is the One Royal Oak campaign. Dave Garcia, Executive Director of Affirmations, said, "If you want to motivate your friends, go to that website," and One Royal Oak field organizer Megan Cece called it "disgusting."

## One Royal Oak Seeks To Educate

So far the One Royal Oak campaign says they have knocked on 5,000 doors and been working to build bridges with local businesses and churches. "We need volunteer efforts," Cece said. "We are working out butts off 24/7."

Allison VanKuiken, who is leading the One Royal Oak campaign, says that combating the negative information is a priority. "The only real issues we've run into are cases of misinformation at the doors or on the phones and even then most people are pretty polite," she said.

"As people are learning about the work we are doing and what's at stake in Royal Oak, more folks have been expressing interest and asking about the campaign." VanKuiken says getting volunteers involved to help spread the proper information is what is most needed to make their campaign successful.

To learn more about the One Royal Oak campaign, check out their website at <http://oneroyaloak.wordpress.com/>. Their Facebook page has 595 "likes" at the time of this article's production. Find them at <https://www.facebook.com/OneRoyalOak>.




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## Janice Daniels Running For Troy City Council

**TROY** - Ousted Troy Mayor Janice Daniels is back in the political ring, this time running for Troy city council. Daniels was recalled in November 2012 after bringing the city into the national limelight by famously posting on Facebook, "I think I am going to throw away my 'I Love New York' carrying bag now that queers can get married there."

The group Recall Janice Daniels listed several reasons why the Tea Party Republican was unfit to be their mayor. Among them, in an awkward attempt to explain her Facebook anti-gay slur, she told a group of students she would "bring in psychiatrists who will tell you that the homosexual lifestyle is dangerous."

The group was also offended by a "position paper" Daniels read at a city council meeting where she avoided council rules and insulted the city manager and staff. Daniels also refused to take an oath of office recognizing the city charter and worked hard to undermine a Multi-Modal Transit Center that had been in the works for over a decade.

Voters removed her from office with 52.2 percent (20,763 votes) in favor of the recall, and 47.8 percent (18,993 votes) opposed.

Now Daniels is back, running for one of three open city council seats in a pool of 11 candidates. The requirement to get on the ballot for Troy city council is only 60 signatures, much fewer than the 9,000 signatures that were gathered to bring the issue of her removal onto the ballot in 2012. Terms last for four years.

She will face incumbents Ed Pennington and Wade Flemming and newcomers Olimpiu Apahidean, Steve Gottlieb, Ellen Hodorek, Thomas Kuhn, Rodger Walters, Scott Welborn, Jim Werpetinski and Neil Yashinsky.

# Tom Zerafa Talks About His 40 Years Out Of The Closet

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

**OAK PARK** - There are those in the LGBT community who spend their lives working tirelessly behind the scenes that make the small steps and big strides possible. Perpetual volunteer Tom Zerafa of Oak Park is one such man. And at 62 years of age one thing that is interesting is not that he puts much thought into his birthdays, but instead puts his focus on a 40 year milestone – the anniversary of his coming out.

Each year he celebrates his coming out anniversary with a party to raise money for LGBT charities. This particular day has had such a profound effect on his life, and he feels that sharing it with others is not only a joy, but a responsibility. "Coming out is so important. The worst thing is to stay in a perpetual closet and hate yourself," he said.

Zerafa was raised in a Catholic home, and spent most of his career as a teacher and as a music minister at the Archdiocese of Detroit. His parents learned of his sexuality when he was 22-years-old. He'd been sick and in bed when they traveled to Michigan from their home in Florida. His mother came into his bedroom, but his father remained in the living room and took the opportunity to look at the books and magazines on Zerafa's bookshelf.

"I got a letter a couple of weeks later," he said. "My mother was nice about it. She said she hoped that I was feeling better, and that my father had been 'confused' by the literature he saw in my apartment." Zerafa said that while they struggled with it at first, they were never mean or judgmental with him and have long since been comfortable with who he is.

With his parents in Florida, Zerafa took the family values he grew up with and applied them to the dynamics of his chosen family. "When I found 'the family' finally, I came out of a strong ethnic background, and you pull your own weight when you're a member of the family. Everybody's got responsibility. You pay your dues. That's what being part of a family is. I grew up with that ethic," he said. "And when I came out and found my other family, it was time to start paying my dues. I wasn't going to sit around and be a bar fly or be the little sexpot, I had time for that later."

Zerafa got involved with many organizations and projects over the years, including Triangle Foundation. He has also been involved in dozens of other organizations and projects. Early on, he was part of the Wayne State Gay and Lesbian Liberation Front from 1973-1986. In the 80s he was also part of Dignity Detroit Area Gay



and Lesbian Council. He was a volunteer for Triangle, and among other things is currently on the Board of Michigan Coalition for Human Rights; is the Regional Coordinator for Move On.org, and is involved in the Affirmations Faith Task Force.

international rights. We aren't doing any work with these groups. More often than not, I find that I'm the lone gay face and gay voice in some of these organizations. If we don't start building these bridges now, how do we expect people to support us when we're trying to

gain even basic civil rights in this state? These are people that will support us, but we've got to meet them half way.

"I've been told by people I'm wasting my time. No I'm not. I'm building bridges."

His advice to young people faced with coming out is simple and strong. "Stay focused. Find something you have passion to do. Make

sure your passion isn't just about you. Make sure your passion helps someone else, don't hold it back. Life is too short. Share your passion. Not just with one individual. The community needs your gifts. And don't let anybody tell you that you can't do something. That's so important. I know a lot of young people are very repressed."

Zerafa is currently volunteering with the One Royal Oak Campaign, heading up their faith-community outreach. He is also taking culinary classes in hopes of one day starting up a soup kitchen in the Oak Park or Ferndale area.

**“My life is not about me. It's about service and I intend to do just that until my last breath. My bags are packed whenever God is ready to take me. I have no regrets in my life, just work to do.”**

- Tom Zerafa

"My life is not about me. It's about service and I intend to do just that until my last breath. My bags are packed whenever God is ready to take me. I have no regrets in my life, just work to do," he said.

The lesson of the last 40 years is one he's not quite been able to impart to others as well as he'd like.

"In many cases we've gone forward, that we have organizations now that fit every need and breed in our community, but we're not doing any outreach to our allies. I belong to three peace action groups. I belong to the Sierra Club. I belong to several other organizations that are talking about

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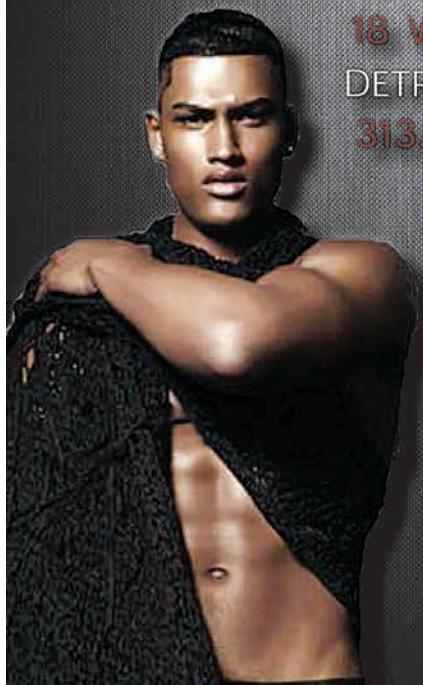
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The Gleave/Brewer family of Oscoda enjoying the Harrisville festivities. BTL photo: Crystal Proxmire.

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# Harrisville Equalityfest Brings Pride To NE Mich.

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

**HARRISVILLE** - Way up north along the Lake Huron shoreline is a town of less than 500 people called Harrisville, Michigan. The town became the home of the region's first Equalityfest last weekend, attracting over 100 LGBT people and allies to the day of celebration and education.

Guests came from as far away as the Detroit area, with several being "up north" anyway to escape the massive Woodward Dream Cruise. Others drove for miles through rural Michigan to be part of the event.

Rev. Steven Hammond of Alpena Presbyterian Church came south about half an hour to attend. He has lived in several places through the country, but landed in Alpena nine years ago. When asked if Alpena is welcoming to the LGBT community, Hammond said optimistically, "It is improving." Recently a 25 year old drowned, and the tragedy brought the community together, he said. The young man was gay, and had been bullied in school. "His death made people rethink their behavior. People were not kind to him, but this reminded them to think about how they treat people. It's led to a lot of good conversations."

Hammond has experienced warmth first hand in the community as well. "My daughter and daughter-in-law were legally married in Connecticut. It's their 11 year anniversary of being committed, and they've been legally married five years. Our family picture is right up on the wall of the church, and no one has ever had anything negative to say about it," he said.

Patty Wackerly came up from Flint for Equalityfest. The prior weekend she had traveled down to Ferndale for the Transgender Pride in the Park picnic, and earlier this year she went to Flint Pride. "I don't consider myself transgender," she said. "I'm just a guy who likes to dress up. But I feel for transgender people. I don't struggle because I am comfortable when I am a man and when I am a woman. But I think of the struggles transgender people go through and I want to help support them, support their rights and so they can feel accepted." Wackerly has cross-dressed in private at various times in life, but only began being Patty publically this past year. "I love it," she said. "Everybody's been nice so far." She said she is careful about where she goes, opting for art galleries and antique

See Harrisville, page 13

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# U.S. Cong. Gary Peters Talks About Senate Campaign At Harrisville Equalityfest

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Congressman Gary Peters is expecting a tough battle as he vies for the U.S. Senate seat that will be left vacant after 36-year-Senator Carl Levin ends his term in 2014. Peters, a Democrat from West Bloomfield, is already crisscrossing the state looking for support. And on Aug. 17 he made a surprise appearance at the Harrisville Equalityfest to talk about equal rights issues and the challenges his campaign faces.

"It's going to be a long, tough race. There's going to be a lot of money spent," he said.



U.S. Cong. Gary Peters addresses the Harrisville gathering Saturday. BTL photo: Crystal Proxmire.

"There is a slight Democratic majority in the Senate, about five seats. There are a number of seats that are going to be very difficult to hold... We will be targeted. I will have millions and millions of dollars spent against me from these outside groups that come in, these Super PACs that will come in to try and make sure that there is not a Democrat who wins this U.S. Senate seat."

So far, Peters' main opponent seems to be former Secretary of State and former Kent County Clerk Terri Lynn Land, a Republican from Byron Center near Grand Rapids.

Currently Peters represents the 9th Congressional District, which he says has

some unique characteristics. "I've got an interesting District now that winds through the Greater Detroit Area," Peters explained. "It's kind of an example of gerrymandering; in fact the New York Times did a story about the five ugliest Districts in America. My District ranked number four on the list of the five ugliest Districts. But that's only for the way it was drawn. It really is an incredibly diverse district, one that I'm very proud to represent, that stretches from the city of Pontiac, through West Bloomfield, Farmington Hills, Southfield, into Detroit, all of the Grosse Points, to the Downtown area south of the Ambassador Bridge. It's a District that brings Oakland County and Wayne County together."

But regardless of who he represents, Peters sees commonalities. "I find that people all care about the same things. People want good paying jobs. They want to have safe neighborhoods, affordable health care, to be able to retire with dignity," he said.

"When it comes to LGBT issues... these are issues I fought for, for many, many years. In fact, I was a supporter of marriage equality before it was as popular as it is now. Years and years ago, in fact when I ran for Attorney General in 2002, I was very outspoken in support of marriage equality. And in fact, the number one ad they ran against me was the fact that I supported marriage equality in 2002. I was proud to take that position then, and I'm proud to take that position now. And thank God we're making headway finally in that."

Peters is a member of the LGBT Caucus in Congress, and one of the issues he fought for there was the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell in the military. He served as a Lt. Commander in the Navy and said that when he was there it did not matter what a person's sexual orientation was, only that they were patriotic and willing to serve their country.

Along the lines of patriotism, Peters said, "When you stand up for the U.S. Constitution, when you stand up for equal rights, that means everybody in this country, not picking and choosing certain individuals. Everybody has equal rights. Bottom line, no exception."

Watch the video of Peters at Harrisville Equalityfest by visiting [www.pridesource.com](http://www.pridesource.com)

Learn more about his campaign at <http://petersformichigan.com>.

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# Protestant Group Hires Trans Man As Executive Director

BY CHUCK COLBERT

An LGBT advocacy organization within one of the nation's foremost Christian denominations announced its new executive director, Alex McNeill, who, in making history, becomes the first openly transgender leader of a mainline Protestant group.

"I'm honored to join More Light Presbyterians, which has always been on the forefront of the Christian tradition of fostering acceptance for the most vulnerable among us," said McNeill, 30, in a press statement announcing his appointment, which takes effect later this month.

"Following the risen Christ, and seeking to make the church a true community of hospitality," the mission of More Light Presbyterians (MLP), based in Minnetonka, Minnesota, is "to work for the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people in the life, ministry and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and in society."

"Our search committee unanimously chose Alex because he has a proven track record of leading and growing organizations," said Nathan Sobers, co-moderator of MLP. "We believe that he is uniquely qualified to lead More Light during this important moment in the church."

In the secular arena, McNeill has campaigned for ballot measures and legislation to promote LGBT rights. For example, he served as communications and development director and field director for Equality Maryland and was active last fall in the successful ballot measure that secured same-sex civil marriage in that state.

Within his denomination, moreover, McNeill worked to secure ordination equality for Presbyterians and celebrated that success by becoming the first openly transgender ministry candidate from his home presbytery in western North Carolina.

He holds a bachelor's degree in religious studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a master of divinity from the Harvard Divinity School.

McNeill came out as a lesbian at the age of 18 and to family and friends as transgender six years ago. At 22, he entered the ordination process and

came out transgender to his ordination committee last year.

The feature-length documentary film *Out of Order* chronicles the lives of three queer Presbyterians, including McNeill, seeking to be ordained ministers in the church.

It was in July 2010 when Presbyterian activists succeeded in dismantling a gay ordination ban – dating back to



Alex McNeill is the new leader of More Light Presbyterians. Photo Courtesy Alex McNeill

1978 – during a meeting of the 2.1 million-member's general assembly, a gathering held in Minneapolis. There, the denomination's highest governing body voted to approve Amendment 10-A, which deleted language in the denomination's Book of Order that in effect barred the ordination of non-celibate gay candidates by requiring them "to live either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and woman or chastity in singleness."

New language required that "the governing body responsible for ordination and/or installation shall examine each candidate's calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability."

But before the official change in church policy could be implemented, however, a majority of the 173 regional presbyteries were also required to approve the measure.

That happened just over two years ago when formal approval of Amendment 10-A came with a favorable vote for it by the Twin Cities presbytery, a regional governing district.

The new policy took effect in July 2011.

During a recent telephone conversation, McNeill spoke about his appointment and plans for future advocacy within the Presbyterian Church (USA).

"Changing our standards around same-sex marriage, allowing ministers to marry same-sex couples is a big priority," he said.

McNeill was referring to a 2012 Pittsburgh gathering, or general assembly, which failed to reformulate church understanding of marriage to include gay and lesbian couples.

Beyond securing marriage equality, he said, "More Light wants to deepen its welcome to LGBT people in our churches. We know a lot of education needs to be done, for example, to help people feel better equipped to welcome transgender people. We also want to help folks who are believers in More Light to take their welcome out of their congregations and into their communities and advocate for good causes and practices that affirms LGBT people as full citizens in the communities where they live."

More Light Presbyterian's operating budget is approximately \$300,000, and McNeill's salary is \$78,000.

A North Carolina native and raised "deeply Presbyterian," McNeill said, in addition to the denomination's social justice ethic, "what my tradition has taught me and reinforced is a belief that everyone has the ability to be a minister or a change agent."

"Ministers are people who are called out a community but not above a community," explained McNeill. "The ability of people to be called, use their voices, and really make a difference," he added, "is one of my uniquely Presbyterian values."

McNeill sees opportunities with congregations and communities for more conversations and fuller discussions about "what transgender means" and "how we all have our identities and what can happen when we commonly acknowledge" that reality, he said.

"I like to encourage people to tell their gender stories and how they learned about their gender identity," said McNeill. "There are a lot of commonalities across the transgender and non-transgender spectrum."



Jessica Bassing of Germany with Zephyr Gossett and Dawn Huaman of Harrisville. BTL photo: Crystal Proxmire.

### ► Harrisville

Continued from p. 10

shops where there isn't much social pressure or interaction.

Harrisville itself is home to at least a handful of LGBT people. Dave Morey said, "As a gay man in northeast Michigan I like to see the awareness there are LGBT people here. And this gives a chance for us to invite the straight people to come meet us and see what we're like. We're not here to steal your children or whatever."

Morey grew up in Royal Oak, and spent much of his life out in California. He moved to Harrisville to "get away from it all," and is happy being single and spending time with his friends, who are all straight. "I've met a few guys here and there who call themselves 'bi-curious.' No one uses the word gay up here, it's always 'bi-curious.' But apart from that there isn't really any way for gay people to meet each other. Craigslist a little bit, but even that is not very active. I'm okay with it. I've been fortunate that I've had a couple of long term relationships in my life. I'm happy on my own."

Though he is open about his sexuality, Morey has only had two incidents where it was an issue. "There was one guy who I was friends with who said he couldn't pal around with me anymore because he didn't want people to think he was gay. And I said 'well okay,' and that was it."

The other was one time I was up at the bar and there was some women in bikinis on the TV and one guy made a comment to me that a gal like that could turn a gay man straight. I had a good response to him though. I said 'You know what would really turn a gay man straight? A guy like you.' That got a good laugh and that was it. Most people up here are really laid back, or if they do have a problem with something they don't say it."

Dawn Huaman says she gets strange looks around town, but hasn't had any problems. Her friend Jessica Bassing happened to be in town from Germany and was excited to come to the Harrisville Equalityfest. She's been to Pride events all over the world, including Amsterdam the weekend before.

"In Amsterdam the whole city gets involved in Pride. There are signs everywhere saying 'We're with you,'" Bassing said. "This is not like Amsterdam, but it is nice to see this event and that people are trying to start one here."

Many of the 100 or so attendees were allies and people involved in progressive movements in that area. The event was organized by Harrisville Holistic Center, and the Alcona County Democrats sold baked goods as a fundraiser for their group.

Rev. Dr. Mel White of California came in to be the keynote speaker, talking about his national movement called Soulforce and how principles of Martin Luther King, Gandhi and Jesus can be applied to the movement for equality for all people. He stressed the importance of loving one's enemy and recognizing the humanity that is in them.

The event also attracted statewide political attention, with State Sen. Rebekah Warren (D-Ann Arbor) giving a talk updating the public about what progress is being made towards equal rights. She has introduced bills for second parent adoption, marriage and civil rights protections, and said that a bi-partisan move to amend Michigan's civil rights law, Elliot Larson, is likely to happen in 2014.

U.S. Rep. Gary Peters (D-MI 14) also spoke to the crowd about the need to support candidates that are vocal about equal rights. Peters is running for U.S. Senate and was on an "up north" tour to meet potential voters.

*The Harrisville Holistic Center is the gathering place for progressives in the community. To follow events happening there, check out their website at <http://www.harrisvilleholistic.org/>.*



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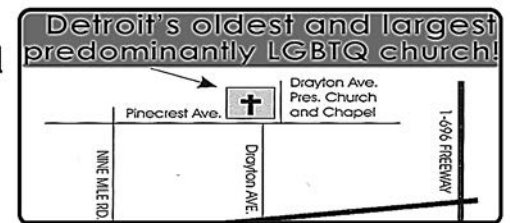
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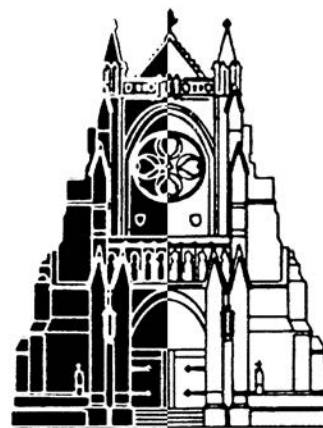
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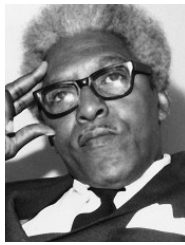
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## Obama Awards Bayard Rustin The Presidential Medal of Freedom

On August 8 the White House announced that Bayard Rustin, the trailblazing civil rights activist, would be posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the U.S.

Rustin was a key advisor to Martin Luther King and the primary organizer of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Many Americans will be celebrating that event's 50th anniversary on August 28, and insisting that the country complete the march's unfinished business of economic justice, full employment, voting rights, and equal opportunity.



Honoring Rustin with the Medal of Freedom tells us something about how far America has come as a nation in the past 50 years. After all, he had four strikes against him. He was a pacifist, a radical, black and gay.

Controversy surrounded him all his life.

From the 1940s through the 1960s, Rustin marshaled his considerable talents -- as an organizer, strategist, speaker and writer -- to challenge the economic and racial status quo. Always an outsider, he helped catalyze the civil-rights movement with courageous acts of resistance. Rustin was a brilliant thinker and strategist, but given his political liabilities as a gay, black, radical pacifist, he also relied on his incredible charm to win converts to the causes of peace and civil rights. A remarkable tenor, he frequently sang gospel and blues songs for his audiences. Had he not become an organizer, he could have become a popular entertainer.

Rustin is not as well known as other civil rights leaders in large part because of his homosexuality and his brief flirtation, during his twenties, with Communism. Although highly respected in labor, pacifist, and civil rights circles, he was typically a behind-the-scenes organizer rather than a public figure.

But last year -- the 100th anniversary of his birth and 25 years after his death -- Rustin's name was name is back in the news. A number of civil rights and gay rights groups honored Rustin with conferences, museum exhibits and other events. In addition, in the wake of President Barack Obama's support for same-sex marriage last year, the issue of homosexuality within the black community -- including the civil rights movement and the black church -- triggered some controversy. Now, with the with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Rustin may finally be getting the recognition he deserves as a human rights pioneer.

# 50 years Of Marching And Still A Long Way To Go



VIEWPOINT BY MICHELLE BROWN

Whether you participated in the historic March on Washington in 1963, weren't even a twinkle in your parents eyes or fall some were in between, it behooves each of us -- black, white, brown, young, old, gay and straight to take a moment as we celebrate this 50th anniversary to not only reflect upon where we have come as a nation but engage in real, heartfelt, even difficult conversations on the task before us to finish the work of those 250,000 Americans who descended on Washington DC August 28, 1963.

Although this March holds special significance for the African American community and its struggle for civil rights (a struggle that continues), it holds an even greater significance in the evolution of the nation founded on the premise that "all men are created equal."

The evolutionary struggle of this country to become a more perfect union, to expand upon the founding fathers' literal interpretation of "men" to be more diverse and inclusive of all Americans, began before the ink was even dry on the "Declaration of Independence." For women, immigrants, the poor, people of color and African Americans the path to equality was and is not easy.

The 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom was organized by civil rights, labor, and religious organizations for civil and economic rights for African Americans. Approximately 75-80% of the participants were African Americans. The rest represented a cross-section of America who marched for freedom and heard Dr. King's message of racial harmony and equality.

The march is widely credited with helping to pass the Civil Rights Act (1964) and the Voting Rights Act (1965). Legislation that until recently have provided a gateway and protections to millions of Americans.

Dr. King's words called upon those 250,000 marchers, the nation and generations today, as individuals and a nation, to rise up and live out the true meaning of the promise of America.

Yes, we've come a long way. You can find African Americans, women, people of color, and LGBT Americans in places and

positions that 50 years ago would have been unthought-of and certainly unheard of. The roll call of change is lengthy but one name sums it up -- President Barack Obama.

And it's not just in the African American community, women have "come a long way baby" with power houses like Meg Whitman, Marissa Mayer, Ingrid Saunders Jones and of course the goddess of all things media Oprah Winfrey.

The LGBT community is taking it's place with more and more private individuals making it public (code for coming out) each day. And at long last Bayard Rustin, civil rights activist, chief organizer of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom and gay activist received his long overdue recognition in August 2013 when President Barack Obama posthumously awarded Rustin the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

President Obama also announced that Astronaut Sally Ride would receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Yes we've come a long way, but there is still a long way to go. Because as Dr. King said, "When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men (of us)...would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

With women still lacking wage parity with their male counterparts; with more African Americans/POC incarcerated than in college; with the disproportionate distribution of wealth

to an elite few while more and more families slip into poverty; with LGBT employees living under the threat of losing their jobs just because they're gay; with women's reproductive rights under attack; with LGBT families lacking legal protections of every other family; with voters disenfranchised/disempowered and with our youth under attack physically, economically and politically, it is safe to say that America is still giving, as Dr. King said, "people a bad check, a check which has come back marked 'insufficient funds.'"

In 1963, Robert Avery was fifteen. With a friend he hitch-hiked from Gadsden, Alabama to Washington, DC. He was interviewed and seen briefly in the documentary "The March." As part of NPR's "Race Card Project" Avery was asked to share six words about the progress made since the March on Washington. Avery is on the city council of Gadsden and might be seen as symbolic of the progress since 1963, but his words speak the greater truth. His six words "Not far, long way to go."

This August 28, 2013 in Washington, DC or wherever you find yourself, be you black, white, brown, young, old, LGBT, straight, it's time we come together and cash that check, to make good on that promissory note. We do this by not only calling on/out our elected officials but by engaging in those real, heartfelt, even difficult conversations then finishing the work by being the change we want to see.

Michelle E. Brown is a Public Speaker, Activist and Author. Follow her at [www.mychangeiam.com](http://www.mychangeiam.com) and [www.twitter.com/mychangeiam](http://www.twitter.com/mychangeiam)



## My Blue Heaven ...



### Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

There's a new genre of book that's been on the New York Times Best Seller List for weeks. And weeks. And weeks. I'm not sure whether so-called first-hand accounts of Heaven and the "after life" are fiction or non-fiction.

I suspect the one by a three-year-old kid's father relaying his son's "journey" to the sweet bye and bye might be, well, fantasy. But who am I to judge whether the little tyke did indeed see a happy and smiley faced Jesus in a "big chair".

An account by a bona fide, highly respected, neurosurgeon is another matter. He may have sniffed too much of Slumber Land Ether 2000 (a good year, by the way).

I do know that these out-of-body accounts sell several thousands of copies, and make each author a tad bit of hard cash. But Heaven only knows, I'm sure -- unsaved LGBT sinner that I am -- if these authors' intent isn't to get rich from reader gullibility but rather is to provide inspiration. A celestial peek-a-boo at what's to be expected when the old oaken bucket gets kicked. High heels or not.

More to the point: I'm a believer in such o-of-b travels. It happened to me recently in P'Town on a curiously busy and surprisingly out-of-the-way, same-sex beach. Here's my first-hand (manicured to be sure) account . . .

I'm strolling along modestly nude, humming, "I Was Born This Way". As I pause to admire a curious skyward mushroom cloud formation highlighted with a bright halo effect, I notice an intriguing bottle floating by. A wave rolls it to me. I pick it up. It reads SMELL ME! I open it. Oh, my! Goodness Gracious! It's patchouli! One deep whiff ... and woosh . . .

... before me are massive gates all a glitter in gold, pearls, leather hinges They swing open and I tremble before a huge sign in rhinestone and opal stone Gothic Letters: COSMIC INTERIORS by TRINITY ENTERPRISES. A smaller sign warns: Trinity Broadcasters! Use Rear Entrance!

An older, in-shape gentleman, spiritual top type, radiant in shimmering gown, multicolored sequins, greets me. "My name's St. Peter. But you, mister newcomer, can call me Saint. For the time being -- say the next ten thousand years -- I'll call you Mary. The name works wonders here.

"You're in the Noah Rainbow Mansion, Cloud 69. You can showtime it in starry crown or tiara. As a journalist of deathless prose, you've earned both."

"Uh, St. Saint," I venture. "Is this, uh, some sort of gay heaven?" "Well, Buddy Boy. Let's just say it's heavenly, as in Hymn #247, 'Love Lifted Me.' It's impeccable! Other-worldly interior design! Why do you think our streets are gold? And, how about these swinging pearly gates! They're not faux. No siree! There is indeed a Queen of Heaven."

"Uh, say Petey: that sign about the broadcasters -- whisper -- er, back entrance. What's that all about?" "Don't worry your pretty head, Mary. TV Trash is TV trash."

... suddenly I jolt awake. I don't know who he is, but wow, the life guard's awakening kiss is angelic. (NOTE: My full account -- "Patchouli Bliss Beyond Belief" -- appears in book form in time for Halloween. \$19.75, autographed. Bless you!)

Charles@pridesource.com

# New York Community Leaders Respond To Apparent Anti-gay Attack

BY BY RANDE IABONI

CNN - Police are searching for the men involved in an apparent anti-gay assault that had New York community leaders coming together Thursday to raise awareness.

New York State Sen. Brad Hoylman and City Council Speaker Christine Quinn handed out flyers Thursday morning to spread the word about what police are calling a hate crime attack on two men Wednesday.

The two officials asked the community to stay vigilant and help catch the men, according to a statement released by Hoylman.

The victims were assaulted by two men in the Chelsea neighborhood of Manhattan early Wednesday morning. The attackers used derogatory words

about the victims' sexual orientations, New York Police Detective Marc Nell said.

The victims suffered facial injuries, Nell said, and were treated at Beth Israel Hospital.

"It makes me sick to my stomach," Michael Felenchak, one of the victims, told CNN affiliate WABC. "It scares me. It upsets me. It's really awful."

Felenchak, 27, had to have multiple stitches on his chin and suffered scrapes across his stomach from the attack.

"First they punched me so hard, I feel brass knuckles," the other victim, Peter Nortman, 53, told WABC. "Then I fell on the floor, and I jumped back up and I got hit again. And then I tried to pull them down."

Quinn held a news conference Wednesday evening after hearing about

the attack. Both victims were on hand.

"I am appalled by reports that two men were senselessly beaten in Chelsea simply because they were perceived to be gay," Quinn said. She said the pair were holding hands at the time of the attack.

She called the attackers cowardly and said they do not represent New Yorkers. She urged the community not to be intimidated by such violence.

There have been nine hate crimes against lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender people in Manhattan since May 5, according to Hoylman's statement.

Hoylman, Quinn and police urge anyone with information about the assaults to come forward. No suspects have been identified as investigation continues.

## California Supreme Court Denies Latest Bid To Revive Gay Marriage Ban

BY SONYA HAMASAKI AND GREG BOTELHO

CNN - Those trying to reinstitute Proposition 8 - the voter-backed referendum to ban gay marriage in California - lost once again in court on Aug. 14, meaning no stop to such legal unions that resumed a few weeks ago.

In two brief rulings, California Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani Gorre Cantil-Sakauye dismissed attempts by opponents of same-sex marriage.

One was brought by ProtectMarriage.com, the group that's led legal efforts defending what's known as Prop 8, and the other came from a San Diego County clerk who'd argued the state had put him in an "untenable position" by compelling him to sign off on marriage licenses for gay and lesbian couples.

The rulings were the latest in a spate of decisions - at the state and federal level, including the U.S. Supreme Court - that have gone against those trying to restrict marriage in the Golden State to between one man and one woman.

Attorney General Kamala Harris was among those gay marriage supporters who cheered the ruling, much as they have the others in recent months. She tweeted: "The CA Supreme court has denied the #Prop8 proponents' request to halt same-sex marriages!"

"#Prop8 dead for good," tweeted Equality California, the state's biggest

gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender advocacy group. "CA Supr. Ct. refuses last remaining legal challenge. Freedom to marry here to stay."

Those on the other side of the debate, meanwhile, lamented the ruling and more generally criticized state leaders who, in their view, had "silenced more than 7 million Californians who clearly expressed their views."

"Though the current California officials are unwilling to support the state constitution, we remain hopeful that one day Californians will elect officials who will," Alliance Defending Freedom, a legal advocacy organization, said in a statement. "... The court's decision today ... does not end the debate about marriage in California."

In May 2008, California's Supreme Court struck down the state's ban on same-sex marriage, ruling that the state's constitution gives "this basic civil right to (marry to) all Californians, whether gay or heterosexual, and to same-sex couples as well as to opposite-sex couples."

The tide turned a few months later, when 52% of voters backed Proposition 8 to halt gay and lesbian marriages.

Yet state officials declined to stand behind the prohibition, even if private parties did. A federal appeals court subsequently ruled that Proposition 8 was unconstitutional, though it still issued a stay on same-sex marriages

until the U.S. Supreme Court could weigh in.

That happened June 26, when the nation's high court -- in a 5-4 decision -- dismissed an appeal of the earlier lower court ruling on narrow, jurisdictional grounds.

Two days later, the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals officially lifted the previous injunction, and same-sex weddings took place very soon thereafter.

Proposition 8 backers tried to get the U.S. Supreme Court to again intervene, but Justice Anthony Kennedy refused to do so.

Efforts continued, though, in the state court system.

One came from San Diego County Clerk Ernest Dronenburg, who last month asked the California Supreme Court to order Gov. Jerry Brown, Harris and other state officials to abide by an "immediate temporary stay" to once again halt same-sex marriages.

Dronenburg argued that he had been "threatened with legal action by the attorney general for exercising his public duties consistent with state law defining marriage as the union between one man and one woman."

Yet the state Supreme Court responded days later by denying the county clerk's request to stop same-sex marriages immediately. On Aug. 14, Cantil-Sakauye officially dismissed Dronenburg's petition.



# Mich. Health Dept. Puts HIV Criminal Law Review 'On Hold'

## Move Comes As Abuses In Prosecution Discovered; Evidence Law Has No Deterrent Effect Mount

BY TODD A. HEYWOOD

**LANSING** – A yearlong review of Michigan's controversial HIV disclosure law has been put "on hold" a spokesperson for the Michigan Department of Community Health says.

"This review was put on hold due to the internal reorganization," Angela Minicuci, spokesperson for MDCH said in an email. "Staff is checking to see if there are any plans to pick this up again anytime soon."

The reorganization of the department became effective May 13 and is expected to fully complete by

Oct. 1, according to a May 10 MDCH memo from Melanie Brim, senior deputy director of health administration.

"The recent reorganization of the Michigan Department of Community Health does not justify keeping people living with HIV in the dark about their privacy rights in Michigan. A full review of Michigan's HIV disclosure law, MCL 333.5210, must be done thoroughly and without further delay. Equality Michigan calls on the MDCH to make clear its intentions to review MCL 333.5210 and work with our communities on how to best address this complex issue," said Emily Dievendorf, managing director of Equality Michigan.

The move is not sitting well with some other anti-criminalization advocates.

"At a time when public health officials around the globe have recognized

HIV criminalization as a problem, it is odd that Michigan's health department has chosen to put their review process 'on hold' with no timetable or plan for completion," says Sean Strub, executive director of Sero Project, a national organization dedicated to ending HIV criminalization. "While the bureaucracy dilly-dallies, Michigan public health suffers."

"It would very discouraging for the Department to discontinue reviewing its policies to encourage people to get tested for HIV, while at the same time protecting both their confidentiality and respecting their constitutional rights," said Jay Kaplan, attorney with ACLU Michigan's LGBT Project.

The department has been reviewing Michigan's HIV specific criminal law, MCL 333.5210, which makes it a felony for a person who knows he or she is infected with HIV to engage in sexual penetration, "however slight," without first disclosing that status to partners. The review is in response, in part, to the federal government's National HIV/AIDS Strategy released in July 2010. That document encouraged states to review the laws and directed the Department of Justice to provide technical assistance in the reviews.

Michigan is one of 32 U.S. states and two territories with such HIV specific laws, and recent years, those laws have come under increasing scrutiny. Academic studies have found the laws have no impact on risk behavior and transmission rates in states with such laws and without them are comparable. A study in Ottawa Canada found that high profile prosecutions also prevented a small percentage of men who have sex with men who were most at risk for infection from being tested for

the virus or discussing their sexual health and activity with medical professionals.

In addition to the scientific findings, the Global Commission on HIV and the Law – a United Nations commission – issued a report last year calling for the elimination of such laws. Other organizations such as the National Association of State and Territorial AIDS Directors and the HIV Medicine Association have also called for the elimination of the laws. And in June, California Democratic Congresswoman Barbara Lee was able to attach an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act requiring the Department of Defense to review policies and prosecutions of service members living with HIV.

Susan Grimes Gilbert, formerly Susan Grimes Munson, was a state Republican lawmaker who pushed the 1989 disclosure law through the legislature. She has since announced the law is not working and that she is working on its repeal.

According to documents obtained from MDCH, the state began reviewing the laws in July of 2012. In December 2012, the state released a July memo, as well as three drafts all from November 2012, of an internal report on the law.

The memo, from Mikelle Robinson, director Bureau of Local Health and Administrative Services, was written July 23, 2012. Robinson writes that subjecting Section 52 of the Public Health Code to legislative action would be a poor choice at this time.

"Recognizing the importance of Part 52 and the risk of untoward amendments the division recommends against opening it up for revisions," Robinson wrote. Emphasis in the original. She then proceeds to lay out two options to address MCL 333.5210, Michigan's HIV-specific disclosure law.



The first option is to "rescind" the section altogether. The second option is to amend the section to address only those who are intent on infecting their partners -- which she notes is "atypical and uncommon."

The draft reports, which were written by a variety of staff in the HIV/AIDS Prevention and Intervention Section (HAPIS), vary only slightly from one and other -- although those slight variations would have significant policy impact.

In the first draft, dated Nov. 1 and the second, dated Nov. 16, staff recommended the adoption of the policy construction substantially similar to recommendations from the Center for HIV Law and Policy in New York City as well as the Global Commission on HIV and the Law.

"In cases involving the willful and knowing spread of HIV and other hazardous communicable diseases," the MDCH staff wrote, "ensure that prosecution requires proof of intent to harm, conduct that is likely to result in that harm, proof the conduct of the accused in fact resulted in the alleged harm, and punishment that is proportionate to the actual harm caused by the defendant's conduct."

In the third draft released by MDCH, dated Nov. 29, that recommendation is removed.

In Michigan, Trevor Hoppe, a University of Michigan researcher and Ph.D. candidate, has raised significant concerns about the abuses of the state's laws related to HIV. He has identified 61 convictions in Michigan between 1992 and 2010, and reviewed just over 4,500 pages of trial transcripts from 46 of those cases.

In February, Hoppe published a study in the *Journal Social Problems* which found some local health departments participated in the prosecution of people living with HIV. The study was the result of interviews Hoppe conducted with various local health agencies to discuss the use of HIV specific laws in the state. MDCH vehemently denied Hoppe's findings were accurate.

But a 2009 memo from Grand Traverse County shows Hoppe's findings were, in fact, accurate. In the memo to Grand Traverse Prosecutor Al Schneider, from Grand Traverse Health Officer Fred Keeslar, Keeslar tells of receiving a complaint from Brian Simmerson of the Thomas Judd

Center -- an medical center dedicated to treating HIV in Traverse City -- about a man identified only as Mr. X.

Simmerson alleged that the man was engaging in 'unprotected' sexual activity with partners he met online and at a local public restroom without disclosing his HIV-positive status. Simmerson's sole source of the allegations comes as unsubstantiated statements from other, unidentified HIV-positive clients of the center.

“At a time when public health officials around the globe have recognized HIV criminalization as a problem, it is odd that Michigan's health department has chosen to put their review process 'on hold' with no timetable or plan for completion. While the bureaucracy dilly-dallies, Michigan public health suffers.”

Sean Strub, executive director of Sero Project

Despite the fact the allegations were second hand statements from unidentified clients of the medical clinic, the health department initiated a health threat to others action against the man. Such an action is a civil action which can result in mandatory counseling, education or up to six months civil confinement.

"I suggest three options." Keeslar wrote to prosecutor Schneider in February 2009. "1. This Mr. X be warned by you and/or prosecuted for failure to inform his sex partners of his HIV status. 2. There be a "sting" operation by the police at the public bathroom where this person is reported to have had his encounters. 3. That I go public and inform the public via the media that this activity is happening and that anyone who has engaged in this behavior should get tested for HIV and other STI. I would not divulge the name of the person or the public bathrooms. 4. All or two of these options."

No evidence exists that any of Keeslar's recommendations were followed. Freedom of Information Act requests to police authorities in Grand Traverse County, including the city police, county sheriff and state police, who frequently conduct sex sting operations

targeting men who have sex with men in the region, found no operations in 2009. A request to the office of the prosecutor uncovered no written responses or memos from Schneider about the case.

The Thomas Judd Center declined to comment on the specifics of the case, or the requested actions from the health department to the prosecutor's office.

While health officials in the state continue to deny Hoppe's findings are accurate, cases of prosecutions uncovered by Hoppe are raising eyebrows.

For instance, in 2009, an adult entertainer working in a strip club pleaded guilty to one count of Michigan's HIV disclosure law and was sentenced to five months in prison. According to trial transcripts obtained by Hoppe and shared with *Between the Lines*, the woman's alleged penetration could not transmit HIV.

"[The confidential informant] would pay her twenty dollars a song for a lap dance, and on this occasion she was topless, she began dancing, started grinding on him, trying to arouse his penis," the investigation detective told the court during a plea hearing. "At one point she exposed her vagina area to him and placed it on the tip of his nose and began grinding on his nose with her vagina."

The Prosecutor then asked, "Did the confidential informant indicate that his nose actually went inside or penetrated her vaginal area?"

"Yes, it did," the detective testified.

There has never been a documented case of HIV transmission involving vaginal nasal penetration.

"I think that the MDCH staff who considered the problems with the existing law and proposed ways to modernize it deserve considerable credit for their leadership and clear vision of the big picture. Rather than assume, I and others at The Center for HIV Law and Policy, and members of the Positive Justice Project, will stay tuned to see whether the reorganized MDCH will continue the work completed so far. We stand ready to support an open, informed process of reform," said Catherine Hanssens, executive director of Center for HIV Law and Policy.

## Creep of the Week

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

### Russell D. Moore

How do you solve a problem like a tranny? How do you catch a gender and pin it down?

Those are the questions keeping Russell D. Moore up at night. And so Moore, president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, took to the pages of the *Washington Post* to ponder the "transgender question" in the wake of California's decision to protect transgender students from discrimination.

"Ultimately," Moore writes, "the transgender question is about more than just sex. It's about what it means to be human."

Exactly! Wow. This guy actually gets it. The root of the matter is basic human dignity. I mean,

what kind of person wouldn't want to protect transgender teens, a group of kids who are often misunderstood and face ridicule and harassment?

Moore continues, "Laws such as those in California will quickly test the boundaries of society's tolerance for a psychological and individualistic definition of gender. There are reasons, after all, why societies put boys and girls in different bathrooms, men and women on different sports teams. When gender identity is severed from biological sex, where does one's self-designation end, and who will be harmed in the process?"

Uh oh. I take it back. He doesn't get it. But don't worry, it's not like he has anything against transgender people.

"As conservative Christians," he writes, "we do not see transgendered persons as 'freaks' to be despised or ridiculed."

Aww, how sweet. I mean, seriously, coming from him, this is practically a Valentine. Because he basically thinks that transgender people are the anti-Christ.

Or if *not* the anti-Christ, at least anti-Christ.

"The transgender question means that conservative Christian congregations such as mine must teach what's been handed down to us, that our maleness and femaleness points us to an even deeper reality, to the unity and complementarity of Christ and the church," he writes. "A rejection of the goodness of those creational realities then, is a revolt against God's lordship..."

Got that? If you've got a beef with your genitals, then you've got a beef with God. And God don't make junk. Or give you the wrong junk. Or something like that. Because God.

Look, I know that the Christian church is all about the difference between "maleness and femaleness" and are hot to keep those categories separate and unequal forever and ever, amen. But people are not transgender just because they're confused and are just rebelling against God. Moore's *Washington Post* piece completely disregards individual experiences and circumstances, not to mention religious belief or lack thereof, and characterizes all transgender people as people who just need to get right with God.

"[W]e will love and be patient with those who feel alienated from their created identities. We must recognize that some in our churches will face a long road of learning what it means to live as God created them to be, as male or female. That sort of long, slow, plodding and sometimes painful obedience is part of what Jesus said would be true of every believer: the bearing of a cross."

In other words, we will never accept you as a human being worthy of dignity or protection. We will, however, acknowledge your suffering and applaud your courage to live your life in constant pain because we say you should.

Because when all is said and done, gender is a binary. You're either male or female and if you aren't sure which one you are, just look between your legs to see if you have a flibbertigibbet, or whatever kids are calling it these days.

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# Lansing City Council Passes Resolution To Sever Ties With St. Petersburg

## Confusion, Politics Continue To Cloud Move

TODD A. HEYWOOD

LANSING—The Lansing City Council voted 7 to 0, with Councilmember Kathie Dunbar absent, to adopt a resolution condemning anti-gay violence and laws in Russia, and calling for an end to the Lansing Regional Sister Cities Commission relationship with St. Petersburg.

“The Lansing City Council strongly condemns the widespread abuses of human rights being perpetrated in St. Petersburg,” the resolution reads. “The Lansing City Council urges the Lansing Regional Sister Cities Commission to sever all remaining ties, including references on its website and signage, with St. Petersburg.”

Whether or not the city continues to have a relationship with St. Petersburg has been a matter of much confusion since First Ward Councilmember Jody Washington brought the issue forward in July. While the city continues to be listed on the city website for the Commission, as well as on signs welcoming visitors to the capitol, officials from the city

have called the relationship “dormant,” then two weeks ago announced the relationship was severed “some years ago.”

But in an email to Washington, shared with Between the Lines, Barbara Roberts Mason, the chair of the Commission, wrote, “At our January meeting in 2010 the LRSCC reviewed our status with St Petersburg, since the dissolution of the Kubyashi District. We did not vote to end/ sever the relationship, because no relationship existed and there was no one in Russia to contact. Subsequently, the Lansing/St Petersburg relationship was removed from the Sister Cities International Membership Directory and the city hall list on the window on the 9th floor. It is to be removed from the signs at the entrances to the city, when the city updates those signs.”

In other words, the relationship was never formally severed, it was merely ended by benign neglect. Mason makes no mention of the website, however, the group’s Facebook page indicated the website was out of date and needed to be updated.

Longtime LGBT ally Mayor Virg Bernero has opposed severing ties since the controversy erupted in July, but on Monday night found the final paragraph of the resolution something to oppose.

“The Lansing City Council requests the City of Lansing Human Relations and Community Service Department and/or Advisory Board prepare an annual report summarizing current human rights issues and challenges in each of Lansing’s sister cities and submit the report to the Lansing City Council by the beginning of each calendar year,” the resolution concludes.

Bernero tells the City Pulse, a weekly alternative newspaper in Lansing, that won’t fly.

“It’s certainly idiotic,” Bernero told the newspaper after saying he was studying whether he could “simply” ignore the resolution or would have to veto it.

The passage comes as top Russian leaders have announced that the national ban on propaganda will be enforced during the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia in February.

## Gay Rights Campaigners Petition IOC Over Russia’s Sochi Olympics

BY LAURA SMITH-SPARK

CNN- A 320,000-signature petition protesting Russia’s stance on gay rights ahead of the Winter Olympics in Sochi early next year was presented to Olympic bosses in Switzerland on Wednesday.

The petition, delivered to the International Olympic Committee headquarters in Lausanne by gay rights group All Out, calls on Russia to repeal its anti-gay propaganda law in advance of the Sochi Games.

It also urges the IOC to condemn the law and urged Russia to ensure the security of all visitors, athletes and Russian people before, during, and after the Games.

Implemented last month, after Russian President Vladimir Putin signed it into effect, the law bars the public discussion of gay rights and relationships anywhere children might hear. It has been condemned by Russian and international rights groups as highly discriminatory.

“Ironically, the global outcry is

transforming Sochi into an amazing platform for Russians and athletes to defy the law and speak out on gay rights,” said All Out co-founder and executive director Andre Banks.

About 50 Swiss members of All Out joined leaders of the organization to present the petition, said All Out spokesman Guillaume Bonnet.

The IOC said last week that it had “received assurances from the highest level of government in Russia that the legislation will not affect those attending or taking part in the Games.”

But in a meeting Wednesday with All Out representatives, senior IOC staff said they would pursue a stronger, written commitment from the Russian government on the issue, Bonnet told CNN.

Such direct meetings between senior IOC staffers and protest groups are very rare, Bonnet said -- and a sign that the IOC is taking the matter “very seriously.”

IOC spokeswoman Sandrine Tonge told CNN the IOC had met with

representatives of All Out, received their petition and “engaged in an open and constructive discussion.”

The IOC reiterated its position “that sport is a human right and should be available to all regardless of race, sex or sexual orientation,” she said.

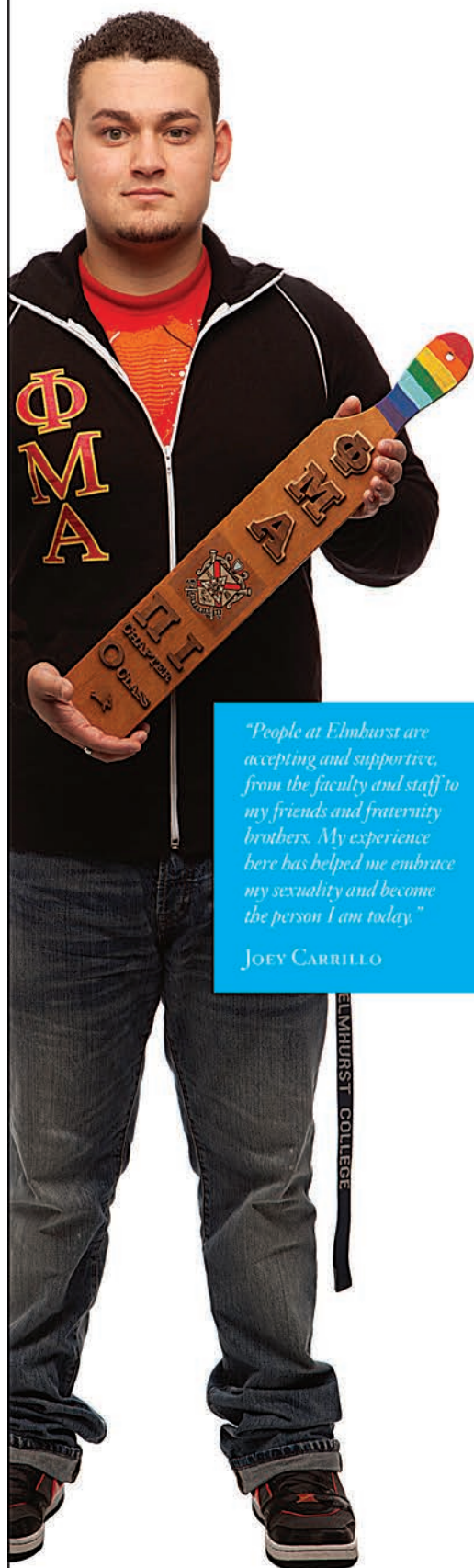
“The Games themselves should be open to all, free of discrimination, and that applies to spectators, officials, media and, of course, athletes. We would oppose in the strongest terms any move that would jeopardise this principle.”

The All Out petition was accompanied by a letter from British actor Stephen Fry and thousands of signatures from former Olympians and athletes collected by the group Athlete Ally, to show solidarity with the gay community.

Four-time Olympic gold medalist Greg Louganis, NFL linebacker Brendon Ayanbadejo, tennis player Mardy Fish and Australian women’s cricket player Alex Blackwell were among those to put their name to the call for equal treatment for all.

Read this entire story online at [www.pridesource.com](http://www.pridesource.com)

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# INSIDE OUT



Photo: Timothy White/E!

## Ross Mathews On Michigan Pride & His New Talk Show

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Ross Mathews is talking to me from his own office in Hollywood and he can't believe it. "It's the dream," he says, bubbling over with joy. "I'm getting to do exactly what I've always wanted to do."

That dream began back in 2001 when the pop-culture fanatic landed a spot on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" as the host's buoyant intern. It wasn't long before Chelsea Handler took him under her wing and he

became the comedian's resident gay. Now, she's letting him fly solo: Mathews launches his very own show, "Hello Ross," with Handler co-producing, on Sept. 6 on the E! network.

Before the premiere, Mathews will serve as Michigan Pride's grand marshal on Aug. 24, when he'll spend the entire day in Lansing meeting the community and taking photos. "Come say hi to me," he insists.

In our recent chat, Mathew talks about how over-the-top gay his new show will be, why he learned to embrace his high-pitched

voice and the trick to keeping it together when meeting Madonna.

**What kind of message do you plan on bringing to Michigan Pride?**

It's a wonderful time to be gay. You look at what the Supreme Court just did and what President Obama has said in terms of coming out in support of marriage equality, and it really is a new world. My book, "Man Up!," is all about celebrating what makes you different and using it to make you stand out

from the crowd. I think that message is more relevant and more welcome than ever, and that's what I'll be bringing to Pride.

**When do you think you first felt like you could feel pride about being a gay man?**

I felt it right away. The moment it became very clear to me, I was just full tilt. I was 100 percent. No matter what, you have to love yourself more than anybody else.

**Your story of being this kid from a farm town who**

## Michigan Pride

1 p.m. Aug. 24

The Capitol, Lansing

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

**didn't feel like he fit in, who was bullied and is now the star of his own show, must be really inspiring to young gay people. How do you hope your story inspires those who are going through what you went through as a young gay kid?**

When I was growing up, I remember thinking, "What is my life gonna be like?" I didn't know what it meant to be a successful, happy, grown-up gay person because I didn't see that. I didn't see that in my small town. I didn't see that represented on television. Even when I started on television in 2001, it was really at the beginning, before "Queer Eye" and "Will & Grace," before Ellen was out, before Rosie was out; it really wasn't represented anywhere. I started appearing on national television as people like Rosie and Neil Patrick Harris came out and shows like those became relevant, and I was part of something.

From this point forward, whenever kids are realizing they're gay, they know what it means to be a happy, successful, openly and unapologetically grown-up gay person, and what that looks like and what life can be for them. And I hope people can see me on "Chelsea Lately" and see me on my show and say, "Hey, look, he's got a partner and a family and a dog and friends, and he never apologized for who he is and neither will I."

**Do you realize that you are like the modern-day Ellen and the modern-day Rosie? You are now that person that you once looked up to.**

OK, now that freaks me out! I have a lot more to achieve to reach anything like that, but I will gladly fulfill that role for people, whomever needs it. I feel like I have a big ol' wagon; everybody hop on it and let's do this together.

**Who's the tougher boss: Jay Leno or Chelsea Handler?**

(Laughs) Well, I would never categorize either one of them as tough in terms of tough on me. I will tell you, though: They've both given me incredible platforms, which is very rare for comics to do. I take it very seriously when they do that because they don't do it lightly, and I know if they give me that opportunity, I gotta show up and be on point. That's how you get the next opportunity. That's how this town works. You get a shot, you deliver and you get another one.

**And now look at you in your own office.**

I know. Isn't that nuts? And Chelsea is upstairs. You know, there's been two pivots in my life when it comes to my career: one was meeting Jay Leno and the other was meeting

Chelsea Handler, and both of them have been so instrumental and crucial and supportive and inspiring and have served as the most amazing mentors anybody in this town could ever have. I don't know what I ever did to deserve them, but I will spend the rest of my life thanking them.

**Don't forget about Mark-Paul Gosselaar, who you interviewed recently when you guest hosted "Chelsea Lately."**

When I guest hosted and I said, "Please welcome Mark-Paul Gosselaar," and he walked around the corner, it was like I needed a time machine to go back to myself at 12 years old in my bedroom and be like, "Oh my god, guess what he just said?" – because it was the most surreal thing in the world. (Laughs) All of a sudden he's there and he had heard me on "Howard Stern" talking about how, maybe, I had fantasized about him as a young kid watching "Saved by the Bell," and he said he heard that and told his wife and screamed, "Ross Mathews masturbated to me!" It really was like my head was going to explode.

**No pun intended?**

(Laughs) Hilarious!

**Tell me about the "interactive" element of your new show.**

It's a big party. This show is what I wish existed when I was a little kid, when I could reach out and be a part of pop culture. The audience is joining the conversation, and I'll literally be in the audience with a microphone asking people's opinions. When I have a guest, the people in the audience can ask the guest questions. We're Skype-ing people in from all over the country so they can ask questions as well. Everybody's welcome.

**There's never been a show like this on TV then, has there?**

No, there hasn't. I looked at all these shows that sort of talk about pop culture and the majority of them, if not all of them, were kind of saying, "Isn't she a dumb bitch?" "Isn't that stupid?" "He's so lame." There wasn't a show that was doing what I'm doing, which is saying, "I love this stuff, you guys love this stuff, let's talk it out."

**How gay and fabulous is your set?**

Oh my god, it's pretty great. It's a little Palm Spring chic-y, but very comfortable as well. We're trying to mix the two things. And it's all a little elevated because I am super gay, so it has to be; people would be disappointed if it wasn't.

**Ellen has her dancing. Rosie had her Koosh balls. What will be your signature thing on this show?**

I don't know! I think that kind of thing just evolves, so I'll figure that out. My thing is sort of interacting with the audience; this show is really for the fans, so if that's the legacy of this show, I'm thrilled with that.

See Ross Mathews, page 22

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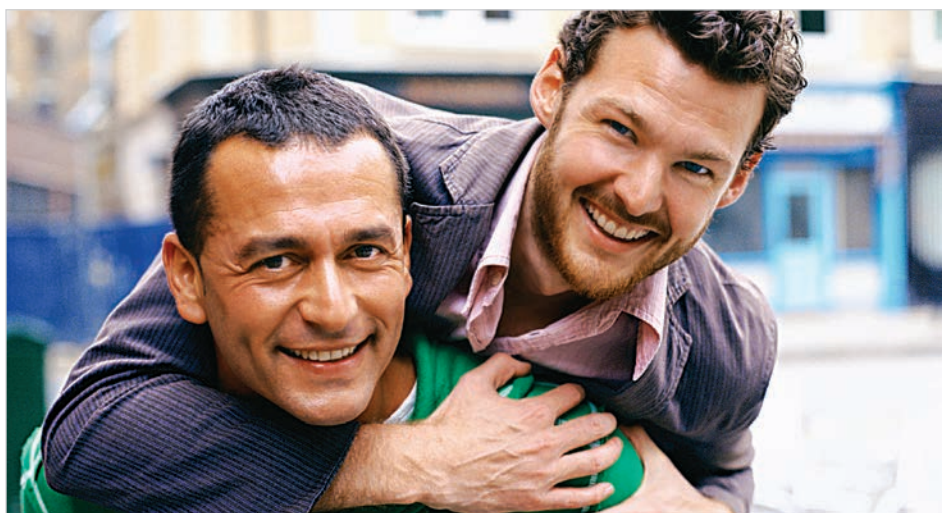
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Photo: Timothy White/EI

### ► Ross Mathews

Continued from p. 21

#### How did you decide on "Hello Ross" as the name?

There was a lot of debate from a lot of people about the name, but there was never a debate on my end about the show. To me, it was always "Hello Ross." That's my Twitter, that's my website, that's the spirit of the show.

#### Chelsea is a producer on the show. How involved will she be?

She's been involved every step of the way. She sees the whole process and she's invested a lot in this. Not financially or anything like that, but to say, "I pick Ross, I think the audience wants to hear from Ross, I get behind Ross" means more to me than she'll ever know.

#### What have you learned from Chelsea about having your own show?

That there's a power in saying "I am what I am." Never second-guessing that thing that only you own and only you know, which is your point of view and your perception of things and your truth. I know that sounds really hippy-dippy, but if you look at her, how many times do you think she's probably heard, "You can't say that"? And I've heard, "You can't be that gay, you can't be that high-pitched, you'll never host a show with that voice." But what I've learned from her is to use what makes you different to stand out. I could've come to this town and taken hosting classes and done this and that and tried to lower my voice, but I would've looked like every other rock on the beach. The ones that work are those weird-looking rocks. Those are the ones you notice.

#### When did you start to really love and embrace your voice?

There was a point in my teenhood when I realized that the voice wasn't changing. I was this gay cartoon of a person and it was a crossroad for me: I could either hate myself or I could love myself, and it's just not in my nature to hate, so I said, "Fine, I accept myself fully. Go 100 percent. Be you. Do you."

#### You talk about your Madonna encounter in your book. What's the trick to keeping it together when meeting Madge?

Clench your legs. Don't just, like, lose it. And if you're a huge fan, perhaps bring a diaper, because I have to tell you, that was so surreal. All I was thinking was, "Don't say something that makes her kick you out." I've shot pieces at zoos with animal keepers where they hand you a snake and you think, "This is exotic, this could bite me and this could kill me at any second." It felt the same way when I met Madonna.

#### There's already talk of a follow-up to your first book. Where might you take the second one?

The first book was about this person who loves pop culture and got plopped in the middle of it and tried to paddle and survive. I wanted to sort of establish who I was growing up, how I got plopped in pop culture and why that was such a big deal.

The next book is about what happens now. You achieved this dream; what's it like? I have a partner, we're starting a family, I'm trying to see the world and travel. Every day I live this crazy life and I think to myself, "You've gotta write this down." I mean, the fact that I'm sitting where I'm sitting and I walk by celebrities every day on this lot and amazing things happen, and I go to these celebrity houses and I just can't believe it. I am this superfan, but I get to be on the inside. I think that's a story people want to hear.



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# A Different Dev

'Like a G6' Singer On Androgyny, Lesbian Rumors & Upcoming Album

BY JEROME STUART NICHOLS

When dance-floor mainstay Dev first hit the scene with her minimalist, bass-heavy, club-thumper "Booty Bounce" in 2010, she told the world, "I ain't yo average bitch." Some listened, but most didn't, disregarding Dev as just another pseudo-edgy, white girl rapper.

"It was my first album," she says emphatically. "The first time anyone had really ever heard my voice was on (Far East Movement's) 'Like a G6.' From then on, everybody just sort of summed me up like that ... but I also like (being) vulnerable."

In just a year, "Booty Bounce" racked up 12 million views on YouTube, many of them from the gay community. Dev says she owes her early success to the LGBT scene in the San Francisco Bay Area. "It's been pretty much amazing having that support since day one. They still do (support me) and I appreciate it. Coming up in San Francisco and in the

INFO

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Bay, that whole community took to me before anybody, so I put a lot of my heart into that community."

And now, at 10 p.m. Aug. 24, she'll perform for that community. Along with "RuPaul's Drag Race" alum Raja and Latrice Royale, Dev will appear during Ice-At-Large: The Epic Reunion Party at the Royal Oak Music Theater. But just because she's performing for a sea of queers, don't be fooled. Despite rumors, Dev isn't a lesbian.

"I just felt bad because when I had a baby, lesbian fans on Twitter were like, 'Wait a second, I thought you were a lesbian. This is bullshit.' And I was like, 'I'm sorry, I love you too, though!' she

says, jokingly tearful. "It's actually really funny and cute. It didn't offend me at all. If anything, it's a compliment."

Although she'd never been linked to any specific woman, her androgynous style and aggressive lyrics led some people to make the erroneous logical leap.

"Growing up, I was a big tomboy, pretty much up until I got boobs, then I was like, 'OK, I'm wearing a bra now,'" she recalls. "It's interesting – now that I'm an adult – I like carrying that over and also celebrating my feminine side. I like being strong and fierce but I also like being sweet. I love being able to pair my fiancé's clothes with mine and do a crazy haircut and also wear lipstick. It's so fun for me."

Her love of androgyny doesn't stop at herself; she also finds androgynous women to be beautiful and inspiring.

"Androgynous women are so beautiful, and I really look to them so

See Dev, page 26





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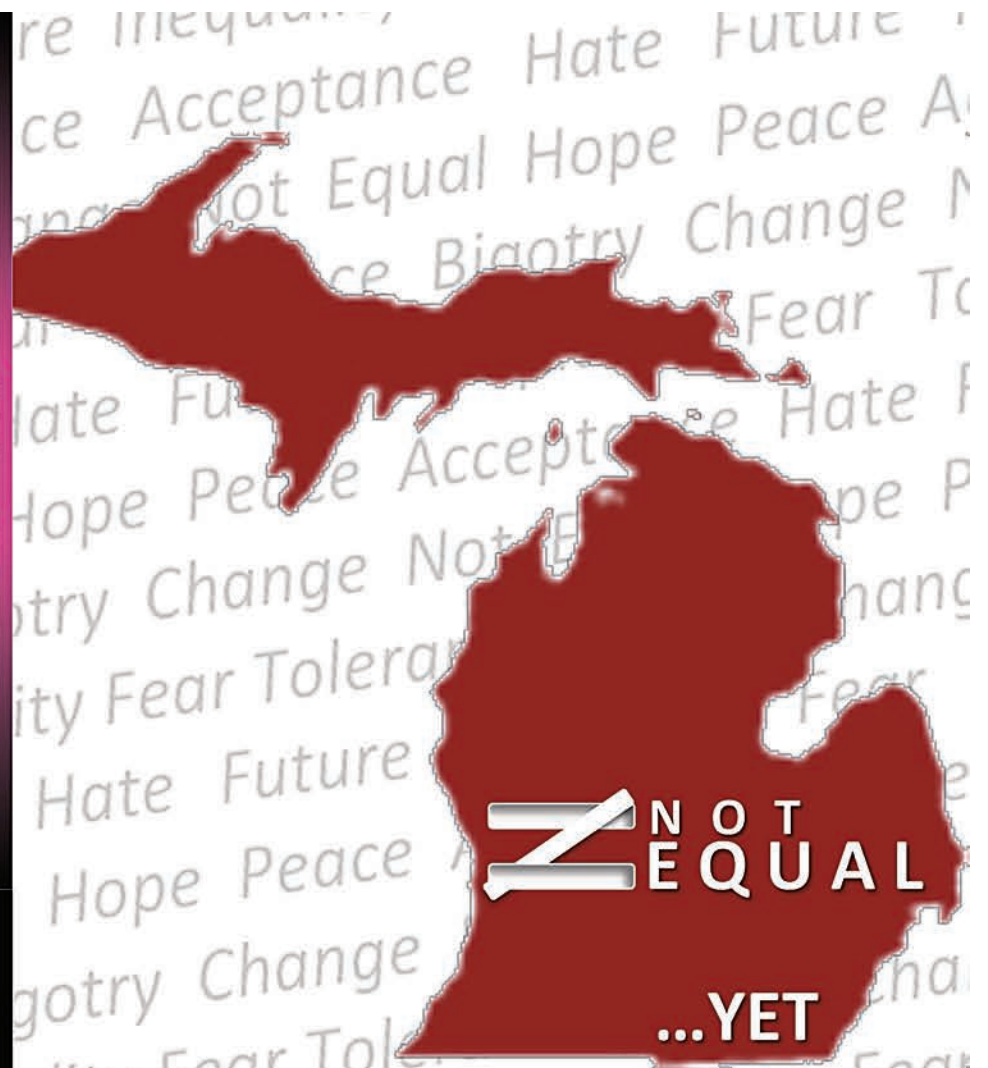
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► **Dev**

Continued from p. 24

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much for inspiration," she says proudly. "When Lady Gaga plays it up, I think it's beautiful. She's so fun."

But Dev is all about the men, especially the one she plans on marrying, skateboarder Jimmy Gorecki. While some would find the transition between jet-setting career and family difficult, for Dev, it's a matter of balance.

"I love being able to travel with my daughter or bring her to the studio or sit at home and watch 'Bubble Guppies' for 10 hours on repeat," she says. "But what's really cool is that I get to go and still be sexy and still be 24 and still get to celebrate. I want my daughter, one day, to feel just as powerful and sexy. I can have family time and I can also wear hot pants and it's fucking sick. That balance is awesome."

After a baby, fiancé, tour, a mixtape, a couple hit singles, a viral video hit and three years, Dev is a decidedly different woman than during the recording of her debut.

"I recorded the first album in 2011 when I was living in a loft with The Cataracs," she recalls. "My situation then was very different than it is now. A lot of growth and a lot of interesting stuff have happened this past year that's given me a lot to say, which is good. I definitely want it to still be quirky. I want it to also be a little bit grown. I want my music to grow as I grow."

She's in no hurry to release the product of that growth – and despite it being pretty much finished, she's tightlipped about its release. She is, however, quick to correct a rumor that the album will be called "IAMDEV."

"It's currently in the works," Dev says. "I've spent the last seven months writing and recording, meeting a bunch of new producers. I wanted to spend a good amount of time on it. I don't know where the 'IAMDEV' rumor started; it's probably not going to be called that."

Take that, Wikipedia.

# Hear Me Out

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

## The Civil Wars, Backstreet Boys



### The Civil Wars, 'The Civil Wars'

Nitty-gritty details are few concerning the highly publicized drama between The Civil Wars twosome Joy Williams and John Paul White, but the fallout was at least intense enough to cause a tour cancellation, talk of a possible breakup and this album: a gothic-dark speculative set of neo-folk songs strewn with wounded hearts, religious undertones and the looming sense that this won't end well. And if it doesn't, if the only good that comes of their personal turmoil is this, then at least they can be remembered for breakup songs so good Adele is probably pissed they're not on her next album. "The One that Got Away" aptly turns that cliché on its head; swelling with red-hot intensity at the chorus and then closing with a cacophony of telling guitar rips, it emotes post-split bitterness and regret. Williams takes lead on most of the tunes, with White shadowing her vocals – they make harmonious heaven on said single – or stepping in to magnify the power of them. "Dust to Dust" is raw and gut-wrenching with just Williams alone, but that moodiness takes on a new, more sorrowful life when White tiptoes in; the same goes for "Eavesdrop," a beauty built

on Coldplay-mounting guitars that eerily – and sadly – parallels the duo's personal lives: "Don't say that it's over / Oh no, say it ain't so." Because after this triumph, that would truly be devastating. *Grade: A-*



### Backstreet Boys, 'In a World Like This'

Backstreet's back ... but is it really all right? It's not, unless you're still holding onto the nostalgia of them as boys. Then, they could get away with a certain degree of cheese and artistic growing pains. But nearly two decades later, the original quintet – Kevin Richardson returns! – are still all wink-wink with the same shameless set of lovey-dovey pop and fifth-grade-journal outpourings. The worst offenders are "One Phone Call," not even good enough to sound like a Lonely Island parody of the Backstreet Boys, and "Feels Like Home," which takes you around the world – name-dropping just about every major city – on the duller expedition of your life. The Max Martin-produced title track

has charm (and its video celebrates marriage equality), but aside from the acoustic-y verses, this is the same bland boy-band template these guys have been hawking their whole career. "Breathe," however, is a harmony pleaser, and "Trust Me" – a Jason Mraz move that could benefit future outings – delights with its summery Starbucks vibe. Even "Soldier," despite being innocuously cookie-cutter, decently works those stacked percussions into an earwormy hook. Hey, it's the Backstreet Boys; no one's expecting miracles. *Grade: C*

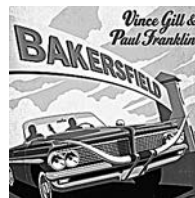
### Also Out



### Gregory Alan Isakov, 'The Weatherman'

It's easy to write off Gregory Alan Isakov's third full-length because of the

mellowness of these hammock-swinging songs. But Isakov has another feather in his hat with this sumptuous set: "The Weatherman" is a truly stunning release on which the South African-born singer-songwriter eases into your conscious with little more than his thoughtful words ("If it weren't for second chances, we'd all be alone"), that dreamy voice and the magic of his melodies.



### Vince Gill & Paul Franklin, 'Bakersfield'

Country king Vince Gill swings back to old-time twang for "Bakersfield,"

his honky-tonk collaboration with steel guitarist Paul Franklin. Tipping their hats to a bygone era, the gents take on tracks steeped in the early 1960s sound made famous by Buck Owens and Merle Haggard. All 10 songs are resurrected with fanboy delight and know-how, and Gill's vocals – especially when he falsetto dips on Haggard's lesser-known "I Can't Be Myself" – are quite possibly the best they've ever been.



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# Performer Finds 'Other Voice' In Cancer Play

BY DANA CASADEI

Anne Frank once said, "I don't think of all the misery but of the beauty that still remains." For Alex Kip, that quote couldn't ring more true.

Enter his autobiographical show, "My Other Voice," which makes its premiere Thursday, Aug. 15 at the University of Michigan's Arthur Miller Theatre, and you'll understand how he found the beauty in a situation when some would have only seen the bad.

After being diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma two weeks before graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre from the University of Michigan, Kip would go on to lose not only his voice while getting treatment at the U-M Medical Center, but his identity as a performer.

"When I lost my voice, (writing) sort of became my new creative outlet in a sense," Kip said. "(The show) was allowing myself to explore whatever interested me and not judging it as far as I've never written a play before, and just seeing what happens."

Kip said the show covers an eight to nine month period and takes viewers from life before the diagnosis to him getting better and "everything that happens in-between."

His diagnosis in 2010, where he was given a 15-30 percent chance of survival, came as what Kip describes as a "relief in a weird way." After struggling vocally the entire year, the London Dramatic Academy graduate was finally able to identify what was going on.

Then in 2012, when he was "done with everything," Kip made the move to New York, where he was cast in a play Ari Laura Kreith was directing.

Kreith, who's the artistic director at Theatre 167 in New York and director of "My Other Voice," is primarily a new works director and works with medical students doing professional identity development, using theater as a tool to awaken their awareness.

While discussing this with Kip, it led to a conversation about collaborating between the first-time playwright and seasoned director.

"We had a moment of 'let's just go get coffee,'" Kreith said. "So we walk down and literally, neither of us can remember who said it first, but we both said, 'I think we should write a play.'"

Kip began writing and bringing in scenes – and the rest, as they say, is history.

Kreith said she had no idea what the project was going to be when it began, but as the piece evolved, she was "struck by the way that he (Kip) tells his story."

"It wasn't so much me taking a chance on a piece, but reaching out to a person and both of us discovering that it would



Trevor St. John-Gilbert and Alex Kip rehearse a scene from "My Other Voice." Photo: Amnon Steiner

## PREVIEW

### My Other Voice

AkIP Productions at Arthur Miller Theatre within the Walgreen Drama Center, 1226 Murfin, Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 15 - Sept. 1. \$25. 614-832-8304.

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

be something really meaningful and deserved to be explored," she said.

After readings in New York, the show staged a workshop in Columbus, Ohio, Kip's hometown, before coming to Ann Arbor for its premiere – and in a sense, an out-of-town tryout.

"I don't think much will change after this, but it's sort of our chance to really get to work at it a lot and really expose it to a lot of people and go from there," Kip said.

Kip's and Kreith's hopes for this show go much beyond seeing it perform off-Broadway or on Broadway, even though that is a hope. There are dreams to turn it into a film or TV series, a la HBO's "The Big C." But more importantly, the show is about getting people to discuss and ask questions about young adult cancer, which is the number one killer of young adults today.

Kip said that the young adult cancer movement is really starting to pick up, as there are a lot of questions people don't have answers to. He also said that there is a lot of controversy around it, leading to people really getting interested in the specific age group.

"I think (the show is) a way to expose the problem in the system and expose why maybe we aren't getting better or why people are dying, and to really look at it more intensely – but in an interesting way too," Kip said.

The way that the show addresses cancer is also being done in a way that won't make viewers think of a "movie-of-the-week tearjerker," Kreith said. Something else they've heard a lot is how surprised people are by the humor in it.

"He's (Kip) someone who's always proven to seeing the hopeful and sometimes the absurd in the moment," she said. "I think that's one of the strengths of the play.

"It's interesting because people think about this play as the 'cancer play,' and it's really a play where cancer catalyzes change," Kreith said. "There's a larger sense where it's an identity play, and it's also a play about truly discovering what matters."



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by Joe DiPePietro  
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by James Goldman  
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# Happenings

## OUTINGS

### Thursday, Aug. 22

**Focus Group Affirmations** is conducting focus groups to learn more about tobacco use and effective quit tobacco messages in the LGBTQ community. August 20 date specifically for LGBTQ women. Receive \$20 gift certificate for participating. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

**Counseling LGBT Parents and Their Children** 8:30 a.m. Fran Brown, Psy. D., LP. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

**The Family & Friends Support Group** 5:30 p.m. Support group for family and friends of people living with HIV. Community Health Awareness Group, 1300 W. Fort St., **Detroit**. 313-963-3434.

**Men's Film Group** 7 p.m. Social group to meet and discuss films of interest to men. Meets every Thursday at Affirmations. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

**Wings** 7 p.m. A support and social group for people living with HIV. Self-Run, 2441 Pinecrest Dr., **Ferndale**. info@wingsmi.org

### Friday, Aug. 23

**SCA Farmer's Market** 8 a.m. Those wishing to sell fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, and eggs, including baked goods, cheeses, honey products, flowers, and related food products made regionally or by the vendor should apply. A limited number of handcrafted items can be included; goods that relate to the serving or enjoyment of food products will be given priority consideration in this category. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., **Saugatuck**. 269-857-2399. scaa.org

**Lunchtime Live in Bronson Park** 11:30 a.m. Grab lunch from a food truck at beautiful Bronson Park while listening to live music and doing a little pop-up retail shopping. Fair Food Matters, **Kalamazoo**. Fairfoodmatters.org

**Friday Night Socials: evolution. An open mic affair.** 6 p.m. Snacking and beverages will be available for purchase. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

**Summer's a Drag** 6 p.m. Join host Ace DeVille and special guest Maria from 6-8 PM at the museum, followed by an after party at Spiral Dance Bar in Lansing. Free. Broad MSU, 409 W. Circle Drive, **East Lansing**. 517-355-7474. fortint1@msu.edu Msu.edu

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

**Kiss My Gender: A DKR Reunion!** 7 p.m. DKR Reunion Show; unforgettable show by the local Drag King Rebellion. Tickets: \$10. Drag King Rebellion, **Ann Arbor**. Facebook.com/#!/events/118001745067693/

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

**The miPride Pre-Pride GLOW Party with Morgan McMichaels** 8 p.m. 18+. Spiral

Video and Dance, 1247 Center St., **Lansing**. Facebook.com/events/617292391625801/

**Live Music at Stiletto's: Mama's Black Sheep** 9 p.m. Nationally touring lesbian duo. Stiletto's, 1641 Middlebelt Road, **Inkster**. Meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

### Saturday, Aug. 24

**Michigan Pride - March** Michigan Pride, **Lansing**. Michiganpride.org

**Michigan Pride - Rally** Michigan Pride, **Lansing**. Michiganpride.org

**Shop for a Cause** Purchase a \$5 Savings Pass for exclusive savings in every Macy's store and online at Macys.com on Saturday August 24th. HARC keeps 100 percent of the proceeds from all \$5 Saving Pass purchases. Plus, you can enter to win a \$500 Macy's Gift Card. HARC, **Metro-Detroit**. Hivadsresource.org/shop-for-a-cause-august-24th/

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

**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 Pellissier, **Windsor**. 519-973-4656. windsorpride.com

**The miPride 2013 After Party with RuPaul's Dida Ritz** 7 p.m. 18+. Spiral Video and Dance, 1247 Center St., **Lansing**. Facebook.com/events/692322444117667/

### Sunday, Aug. 25

**Birmingham Farmer's Market** 9 a.m. 70+ booths featuring locally and regionally grown produce, plants, foods

**Dog Hikes with Pro K9** 2 p.m. GOAL, **Canton**. meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT/events

**Conversation Station** 5 p.m. GOAL, 714 S. Washington, **Royal Oak**. 248-981-4227. MarciLWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

### Monday, Aug. 26

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

**2013 Artists' Market** 3 p.m. All products handcrafted in U. S. and Canada. Market benefits Leon & Lulu's AIDS Walk Detroit Team. Leon & Lulu, 96 W. 14 Mile Road, **Clawson**. 248-288-3600. LeonandLulu.com

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



## Editor's Pick

Ford's Arts, Beats and Eats, one of the biggest festivals of the year in Metro Detroit, begins Aug. 30. The long-running event moved from Pontiac to Royal Oak in 2010 and has been more successful than ever.

Celebrating Metro Detroit's culturally unique group of artists, musicians and food exhibitors, the festival came about over 16 years ago to provide outstanding family entertainment at a very low

cost. Today, the festival pulls in over 400,000 people who bring nearly \$40 million to the region.

The festival begins at 11 a.m. every day of the festival, from Friday, Aug. 30 through Monday, Sept. 2 in downtown Royal Oak. Admission is \$3, which goes toward area non-profits. For more information, visit [www.artsbeatseats.com](http://www.artsbeatseats.com).

**Annual Membership Meeting** 8 a.m. KICK, 41 Burroughs St. 109, **Detroit**. 313-285-9733. E-kick.org

**Jim Toy Center Golf Outing** 8:30 a.m. All proceeds to benefit JTCC. Tickets: \$99. Jim Toy Center, 8768 N. Territorial Road, **Plymouth**. Jimtoycenter.org

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

**Queer & Trans Yoga Series - Summer 2013** 10:30 a.m. This all-levels class balances movement with held poses in an environment that is safe, friendly and supportive of people of all genders and orientations. We will build strength and stamina with standing poses, release with twists, and foster joy with backbends, all tailored to the level of the yoga student. Admission: \$10-15. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

**Michigan Pride - Festival** 11 a.m. 2013 Grand Marshall and Keynote Speaker: Ross Mathews. Michigan Pride, 220 East Maple St., **Lansing**. Michiganpride.org

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

**Canning Class** 2 p.m. With expert canner, Lori Evesque. Tickets: \$35. Fair Food Matters, 511 Harrison, **Kalamazoo**. 492-0261. Fairfoodmatters.org

and more. Principal Shopping District, N. Old Woodward, **Birmingham**. info@enjoybirmingham.com Birminghamfarmersmarket.org

**Hug Detroit with Just a Little Love Day** 9 a.m. One full day of celebrating the accomplishments that have been made by the dynamic people of Detroit and thanking those who either chose to stay here or have moved to Detroit to add to the power of resurrecting this Great City. Free. Hug Detroit Movement, 227 Iron St., **Detroit**. 586-362-7460. nicolefreemanmangement@gmail.com Hugdetroitwithjustalittlelove.com

**Free Farm Stand @ Tabitha Urban Farm Homestead** 1 p.m. Free, fresh produce is available at this urban farm stand. Fair Food Matters, 111 Dixie Ave., **Kalamazoo**. Fairfoodmatters.org

**Hustle & Flo's Second Summer Picnic** 1 p.m. For mature lesbians, 25+. Hustle & Flo, **Metro-Detroit**. Meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

**Queer Women's Committee Potluck** 1 p.m. Monthly potluck on fourth Sunday of each month. All lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer and ally women welcome. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. Kglrc.org

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

**Higher Ground** 6:30 p.m. Weekly support group meetings for people living with HIV/AIDS. Each meeting includes meditation and peer discussions. Self-Run, **Ferndale**. 586-427-1259. info@hghiv.org

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

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

**Sexual Compulsives Anonymous** 7 p.m. A weekly anonymous 12-step group for those who are facing sexually compulsive behaviors. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

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

**Woodward School Garden Nights** 7 p.m. If you'd like to meet other people who are interested in gardening and help us keep the garden at Woodward School looking great and growing healthy food, please join us. Fair Food Matters, Corner

See Happenings, page 36



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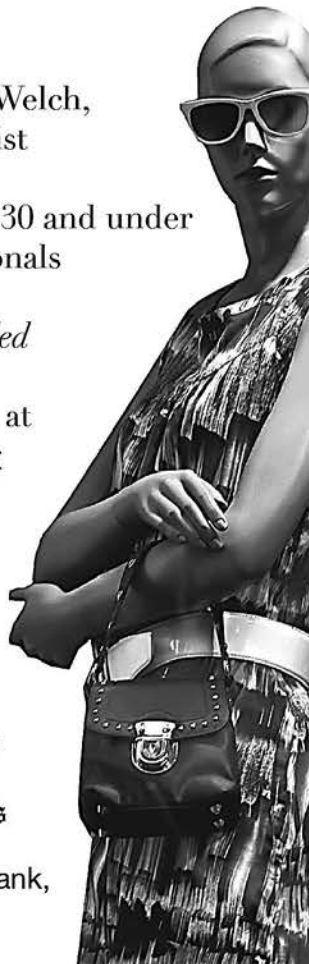
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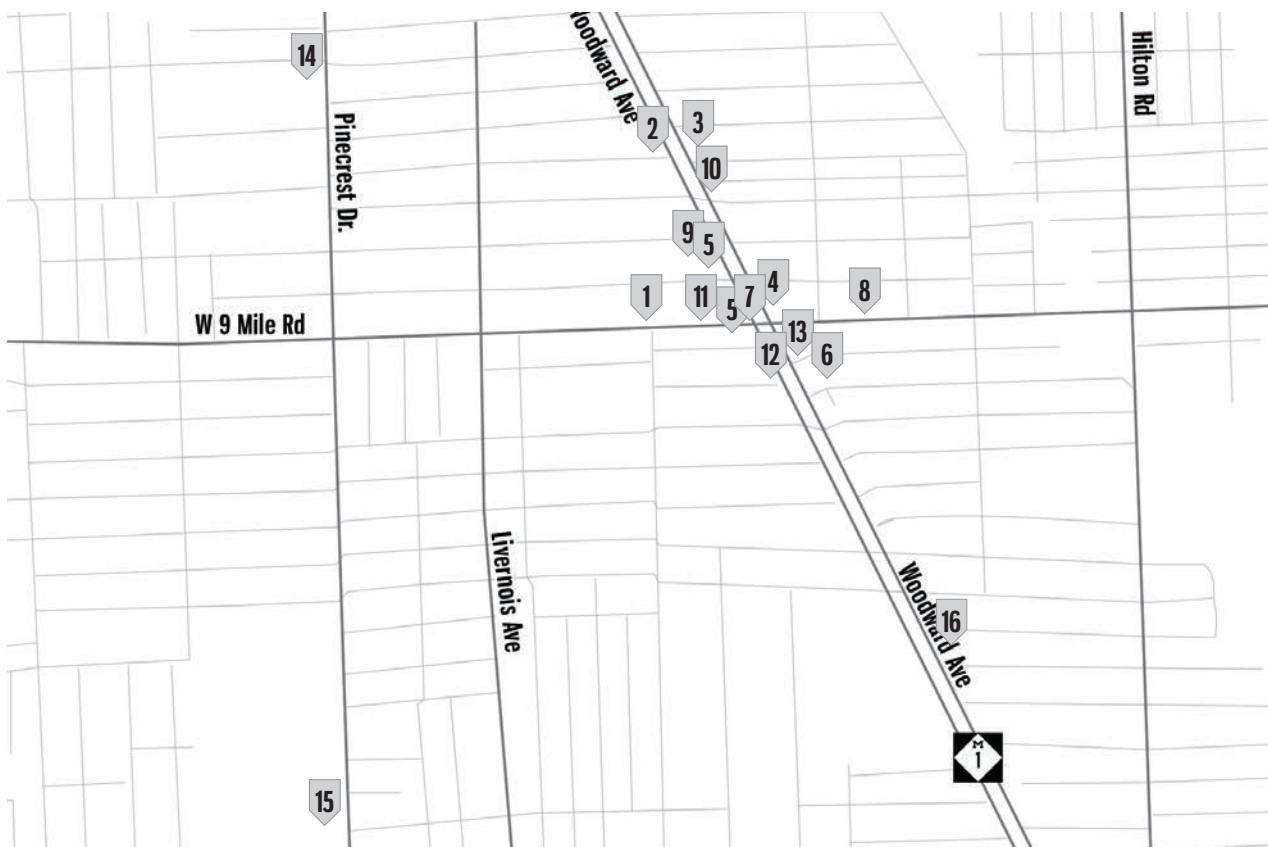
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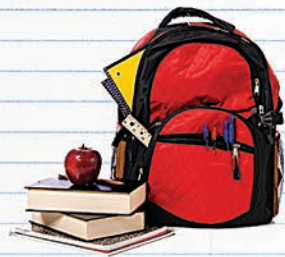
Back Packs should be large enough for  
15-18 year-olds and contain the following:

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



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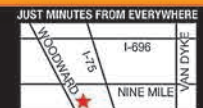


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# BTL Cool Cities Ferndale

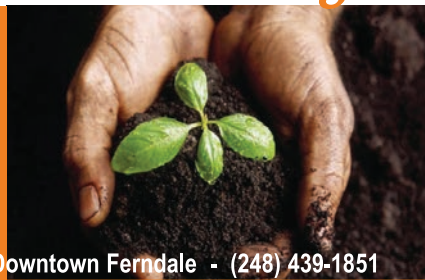
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# DIY Street Fair Sept. 13-15

The DIY Street Fair, running Sept. 13-15, is a free two-day, three-night event in Ferndale where local artists, crafters, businesses, groups and organizations, musicians, restaurants, brewers and others who live and work with a do-it-yourself ethic converge for one big celebration. The event, which launched its first weekend fair in 2008, showcases the immense creative energy, independent spirit and innovative talent that can be found throughout the area. Open to the public, free to attend and all are welcome.

## Highlights include:

**Live Music:** regional, popular and up-and-coming original bands converge for one the largest showcases of area talent over three days, four nights and three stages.

**The Record Shop:** Visit the UHF record shop near the Metrotimes Stage to purchase self-produced and/or self-released music and merchandise from the performing acts

**The Beer Garden:** sample a wide variety of delicious craft beers brewed right here in the Great Beer State

**The Restaurant Row:** local restaurants and food trucks cook up delicious dishes all weekend long

**The Marketplace:** local artists, crafters, entrepreneurs and organizations present and sell their original work

**The Kids Zone:** hands-on, DIY projects, educational demonstrations, music and entertainment for children of all ages throughout the weekend

**DIY 5K:** charity 5K benefiting Ferndale Public Schools' art programs

## Who's behind this?

The street fair is organized by local business owners who recognize the DIY ethic that thrives throughout the local community and enhances the quality of life in Detroit and surrounding areas.

## How is this event different?

Among the many special characteristics that push this event beyond the traditional art fair, DIY Street Fair is about community growth and support. It is a showcase for local, homegrown, forward-thinking solutions, original works, innovative products, businesses and ideas.

## Why Ferndale?

Ferndale has quickly become the areas hottest place to be, epitomizing the DIY ethic on so many levels – evident in the national success of such companies as Garden Fresh Salsa, the local popularity of Woodward Avenue Brewers and the Magic Bag, and the fertile creative soil that is home turf to so many artists, musicians, entrepreneurs and activists.

## Where is it?

DIY Street Fair is located on E. Troy Street, off of Woodward Avenue, one block South of E. Nine Mile Road in Ferndale. It will occupy the municipal parking lots just west of the Ferndale Public Library and south of Troy Street behind Woodward Avenue Brewers.

Source: <http://diystreetfair.com/about-diy-street-fair>

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## ► Happenings

Continued from p. 30

of North and Stuart St., **Kalamazoo**. Fairfoodmatters.org

**Writing Group** 7 p.m. Different focus for each meeting. Meets fourth Monday of every month. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

### Tuesday, Aug. 27

**Grand River Connection** Creative class. Lansing Association for Human Rights, **Lansing**. grandriverconnection.com

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

**People of Victory** 12 p.m. A bi-weekly support group for all women living with HIV. People of Victory, 4201 St. Antoine, **Detroit**. 313-805-7061.

**Saline Farmer's Market - Tuesdays** 3 p.m. Saline Farmer's Market, 555 N. Maple Road, **Ann Arbor**. Cityofsaline.org/

**LGBT Elder Resource Guide & Gen Silent Film Screening** 4 p.m. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., **Kalamazoo**. Kglrc.org

**Release of the LGBTQ Elders Resource Guide** 4 p.m. The guide will serve as a tool for the LGBT community and their allies as they navigate the unique financial, health and social needs associated with the overlap of ageism with homophobia, biphobia and transphobia. The intention of this project, which was made possible with funding from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation, is to also support the training

of care providers employed with nursing homes, assisted living facilities, home care agencies, and other types of long-term care providers. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, **Kalamazoo**. Kglrc.org

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

**Positive Support Organization (PSO)** 6 p.m. A support group for people living with HIV. Free parking in the back. Meals provided. Self-Run, 2727 Second Ave., Suite 101, **Detroit**. 313-341-5989.

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

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

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

**Women's Social Group** 7 p.m. Women's discussion group. Plans a monthly group activity such as dinner, movies, games. Meets the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. The Lesbian and Gay Community Network, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids**. 616-458-3511. Grigtbt.org/calendar/

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

### Wednesday, Aug. 28

**Capuchin Soup Kitchen's School Supply Drive** Detroit's children are heading back to school soon and the Rosa Parks Children

and Youth Program is in need of school supplies. Please drop off items at the Conner Kitchen. Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 4390 Conner, **Detroit**. Bit. ly/1cyfp2q

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

**Senior Koffee Klatch** 1 p.m. A lively, discussion and social group for LGBT adults over 45. Group covers topics pertaining to aging and outside speakers. Potluck dinners at members homes, lunches out and holiday parties. Meets ever Wednesday on the upper level of the Affirmations building. Senior Koffee Klatch, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

**Jam Sessions** 3 p.m. Bi-weekly support group for youth (13-24) years of age living with HIV. The Horizons Project (WSU School of Medicine/Children's Hospital of Michigan), 3127 E. Canfield, **Detroit**. 313-966-2589.

**KGLRC Walk/Jog/Run Group** 6 p.m. The Resource Center's Health and Wellness Committee is proud to offer our very own group devoted to walking, jogging, and/or running. Everyone is welcome, regardless of physical ability and/or sexual orientation. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 4143 N. 10th St., **Kalamazoo**. KGLRC.org

**Marriage Equality Discussion** 6 p.m. An affirming discussion on how the acceptance of same-sex marriage impacts culture, family, and religion. Ample free parking on the Bingham St. side of our accessible building, one block south of Sparrow, next to Rite-Aid. Free. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, **Lansing**. 517-484-7434. mike@pilgrimucc.com Pilgrimucc.com



Senior Koffee Klatch meets at 1 p.m. every Wednesday on the upper level of the Affirmations building, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. Event is free. For more information, call 586-573-9932 or visit [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org).

## Editor's Pick

Head to Ferndale this week for coffee, conversation and more with the Senior Koffee Klatch. Hosted by Affirmations, Senior Koffee Klatch is a lively discussion and social group for LGBT adults over 45.

The group covers various topics each week, ranging from subjects pertaining to age to bringing in outside speakers. Other activities within the group include potluck dinners at members homes, lunches out and holiday parties.

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

**Arcus Youth Group** 7 p.m. This is for middle and high school age youth who enjoy socializing with people their own age, going through the same issues as them. Some of the topics covered are current events, families, communication, and decision making. No one over the age of 20 please. The Network, 343 Atlas

Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids**. 616-458-3511. Grigtbt.org

**Open Arms** 7 p.m. Weekly support group for all people infected and affected by HIV; provides monthly informational speakers and monthly dinners. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), 429 Livernois, **Ferndale**. 248-545-1435.

**Significant Other Support** 7 p.m. Discussion and support group for friends and loved ones of LGBT. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

### Thursday, Aug. 29

**Chocolate, Cheese & Churches** 7:30 a.m. This tour will experience all things chocolate, cheese & churches from

Jackson to Kalamazoo. There will be historical stops, too with various guides. Hear about recipes beyond mac & cheese and baked brie. Pick up destinations in Novi & Wixom. Tickets: \$70. Step On Bus Tours, 215 W. Troy, Suite 2046, **Ferndale**. 248-619-6692. steponbustours@gmail.com Steponbustours.com

**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.

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

**Connections** 6 p.m. Open to all LGBTQ and Ally youth from 13-18. Join us to meet other LGBTQ and Ally teens and socialize in a safe space. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. Kglrc.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

**20 Somethings** 7 p.m. Social group for young adults. Followed by an evening out. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

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

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

**Welcome Back Students** 7 p.m. Museum

will be open late for students to enjoy an evening of fun with DJ Stinkwiddle. Free. Broad MSU, 409 W. Circle Drive, **East Lansing**. 517-355-7474. Msu.edu

## MUSIC & MORE

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**Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase** "Comedy Jamm" Thursdays it's cut-loose comedy as we present the comedy of 12 of the current rising stars in the Detroit Metro area and beyond. Tickets: \$5. Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 23 - Aug. 29. 734-996-9080. Aacomedy.com

**Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase** "Mike Bonner" Tickets: \$10-12. Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 23 - Aug. 24. 734-996-9080. Aacomedy.com

### CONCERTS

**DTE Energy Music Theatre** "Honda Civic Tour - Maroon 5 with Kelly Clarkson" Tickets: \$29. 50+. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. 7 p.m. Aug. 28. 248-377-0100. palacenet.com

**DTE Energy Music Theatre** "Depeche Mode with Bat for Lashes" Tickets: \$29. 50+. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. 7:30 p.m. Aug. 22. 248-377-0100. palacenet.com

**Grand Rapids Art Museum** "Niel Jacobs" Gypsy & world 12-string guitar. Event is indoors because of Polish Festival in Rosa Parks Circle. Part of GRAM on the Green outdoor summer music series. Dancing, fitness, sketching and more prior to show. Free. Grand Rapids Art Museum, 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. 5 p.m. Aug. 23. 616-831-1000. artmuseumgr.org

**Kerrytown Concert House** "Los Gatos Latin Jazz Quintet" 15th Anniversary Concert.

Pete Siers, timbales/coro/percussion. Cary Kocher, vibes/coro. Kurt Krahnke, bass. Brian DiBlassio, piano/coro. Al DiBlassio, congas/vocal/percussion. Tickets: \$5-25. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 23. 734-763-4186. kerrytownconcerthouse.com

**Kerrytown Concert House** "Manner Effect" Sarah Elizabeth Charles, vocals. Caleb Curtis, saxophone. Logan Thomas, piano. PJ Roberts, bass. Josh Davis, drums. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. Aug. 25. 734-763-4186. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

**Meadow Brook Music Festival** "Lyle Lovett and His Large Band" Tickets: \$20. 35-86. 65. Meadow Brook Music Festival, 3554 Walton Blvd., Rochester Hills. 8 p.m. Aug. 25. 248-377-0100. Palacenet.com

**Olympia Entertainment** "An Evening with Diana Ross" Tickets: \$68-98. Sound Board, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Aug. 25. 800-745-3000. Olympiaentertainment.com

**Royal Oak Music Theatre** "Ariana Grande" All ages. Tickets: \$29. 50-32. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 7:30 p.m. Aug. 28. 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre.com

**Saugatuck Center for the Arts** "Summer in the Studio: Sam Corbin & Jen Sygit" Tickets: \$15+. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. 8 p.m. Aug. 26. 269-857-2399. sc4a.org

**Stars in the Park** "Farmington Community Chorus" Free. Heritage Park Amphitheatre, Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. 7 p.m. Aug. 22. 248-473-1848.

**Static Network** "The Akabane Vulgars on Stong Bypass, White Shag, and The Luckouts" Japanese all-girl power trio The Akabane Vulgars on Strong Bypass return to Detroit with special guests, Detroit's

See Happenings, page 38

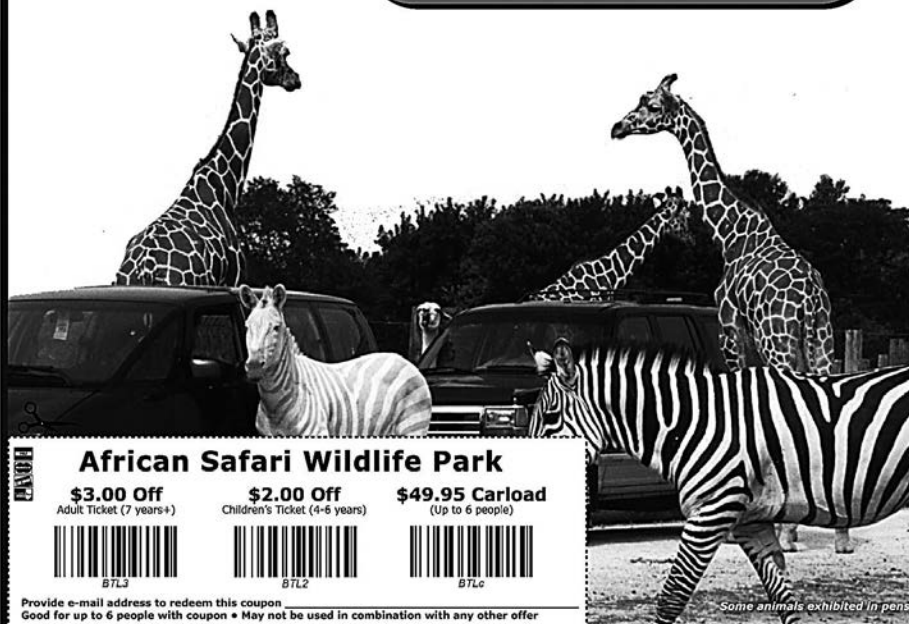
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## ► Happenings

Continued from p. 37

own White Shag and The Luckouts joining the show. The Akabane Vulgars on Strong Bypass made their Detroit debut last September on their U. S. Return of King Zero tour; this year, they are back to promote their two new albums, Proclamation and the live release, Live in Brooklyn. 21+. Tickets: \$6. The Corktown Tavern, 1716 Michigan Ave., Detroit. 9 p.m. Aug. 22. 313-964-5103. Corktowntavern.com

**Summer in the Park** "Fourth Friday Concerts" Variety of entertainment every fourth Friday of the summer. Times vary. Campus Martius Park, Detroit. June 28 - Aug. 23. Campusmartiuspark.org

**The Ark** "Tuck & Patti" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 24. 734-761-1800. theark.org

**The Ark** "Hana Malhas & The Overthinkers & Christopher Norman" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 22. 734-761-1800. theark.org

**The Magic Bag** "Said the Whale" Tickets: \$10+-. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 7 p.m. Aug. 28. 248-544-3030. Themagicbag.com

### FESTIVALS

**DTE Energy Music Theatre** "Rockstar Energy Uproar Festival" Featuring Alice in Chains, Jane's Addiction, Coheed and Cambria, Circa Survive, and more. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. 2 p.m. Aug. 24. 248-377-0100. Palacenet.com

**Jewish Gay Network** "Gottlieb Family Festival of the Arts" West Bloomfield Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Aug. 28 - Sep. 1. 248-432-5661. Jgnmi.org

**Meadow Brook Music Festival** "Wine and Food Festival" 21+. Tickets: \$15. 25-35.55. Meadow Brook Music Festival, 3554 Walton Blvd., Rochester Hills. Aug. 24 - Aug. 25. 248-377-0100. Palacenet.com

**Michigan Renaissance Festival** "Michigan Renaissance Festival" Entertainment, food, drink, and various things to purchase. Various discounts available for tickets. Tickets: \$9. 50-20.95. Michigan Renaissance Festival, 12600 Dixie Hwy., Holly. Aug. 17 - Sep. 29. 248-634-5552. Michrenfest.com

**Pontiac Pride** "Pontiac Pride" Our goal is to promote the unique features that make Pontiac, Michigan such an amazing city -- and to help create a cleaner, safer and more financially sound Pontiac. Pontiac, Pontiac. Aug. 1 - Aug. 31. Pontiacpride.com

## THEATER

### CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

**Father Bingo** \$13-15. Spotlight Still Got it Players at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. Aug. 21 - 25. 734-394-5300. www.Canton-mi.org/village theater

**Ives Gotta Say Goodbye** \$10. Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley, Detroit. Aug. 23 - 24. 313-967-0999. www.matrixtheatre.org

### PROFESSIONAL

**Bad Romance** \$20. Loud LLC at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. 8 p.m. Aug. 24. www.badromanceshow.com

**Basheret** \$15. WickedGreen Productions at Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. Aug. 30 - 31. 248-298-9617.

Charles Strouse: The Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 W. Maple Road, West

Bloomfield. 7 p.m. Aug. 29. 248-432-5420. www.Theberman.org

**Closer Than Ever** \$29-\$42. Mason Street Warehouse at Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. Aug. 16 - Sep. 1. 269-857-2399. www.sc4a.org

**David Fisher - The Rock N' Rope Warrior** \$7-15. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 2 p.m. Aug. 25. 269-756-3879. www.Acorntheater.com

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

**Golda's Balcony** \$62-67. Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Aug. 31 - Sep. 1. 248-661-1900. www.theberman.org

**If You Give a Mouse a Cookie** \$18. Etico Productions at City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Aug. 23 - 25. 313-471-6611. www.olympiaentertainment.com

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

**My Name is Asher Lev** \$22-\$41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through Sep. 8. 734-663-0681. www.performancenetwork.org

**My Other Voice** \$25. Akip Productions at Arthur Miller Theatre within the Walgreen Drama Center, 1226 Murfin, Ann Arbor. Through Sep. 1. 614-832-8304. www.myothervoice.org

**You're a Good Man Charlie Brown** \$20-50. Ann Arbor Musical Theater Works at Children's Creative Center Theater, 1600 Pauline, Ann Arbor. Aug. 29 - Aug. 31. 734-546-5087. www.annarbormusicaltheaterworks.com

**Young Frankenstein** \$35. Barn Theatre, 13351 W. M-96, Augusta. Aug. 20 - Sep. 1. 269-731-4121. www.barntheatre.com

## ART'N'AROUND

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

**Cranbrook Academy of Art and Art Museum** "A Driving Force: Cranbrook and the Car" Exploring the way Cranbrook has played a role in shaping the landscape of American life through the automobile from the start of the twentieth century. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. June 13 - Nov. 30. 877-462-7262. cranbrookart.edu

**Detroit Artists Market** "FIREPOWER Ceramics 2013" Ceramics from different angles. Detroit Artists Market, 4719 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Aug. 2 - Aug. 30. 313-832-8540. Detroitartistsmarket.org

**Detroit Institute of Arts** "Bojagi" Korean women used traditional wrapping cloth or bojagi, to wrap, store, decorate, or carry gifts and objects of everyday life. Use cotton fabric and markers to create one of your own. All ages. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Aug. 6 - Aug. 27. 313-833-7900. dia.org

**Detroit Institute of Arts** "Mosaics" A mosaic is a picture or decoration made of small pieces of stone or glass. Use a variety of art-making materials to make one of your own. All ages. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Aug. 1 - Aug. 29. 313-833-7900. dia.org

**Downriver Council for the Arts** "Acanthus Art Society Meeting" Downriver Council for the Arts, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. June 26 - Oct. 23. 734-720-0671. Downriverarts.org

**Flint Institute of Arts** "Modern Dialect: from the John & Susan Horseman Collection" This collection of paintings focuses on images from across the United

States and chronicles the rapidly changing American scene between the 1920s and 1940s. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Aug. 1 - Sep. 22. 810-234-1695. Flintarts.org

**Grand Rapids Art Museum** "Saturday All Day with The Arts" Drop-in family activities. Grand Rapids Art Museum, 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. May 4 - Dec. 28. 616-831-1000. artmuseumgr.org

**Kerrytown Concert House** "Kathy Kosins" Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Aug. 6 - Sep. 4. 734-763-4186. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

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

**Lawrence Street Gallery** "Printmaker X 6" Six artists will present works displaying examples of traditional etching, drypoint etching, monotypes and monoprints, collagraph prints, solar plate etching, and silkscreens. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave., Suite A, Ferndale. July 31 - Aug. 31. 248-544-0394. Lawrencestreetgallery.com

**Michigan State University Museum** "Michigan and the Civil War" Exhibit highlights Michigan connections in the Civil War. Michigan State University Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. May 4 - Oct. 31. 517-355-7474. museum.msu.edu

**Michigan State University Museum** "Evolution in Action" New exhibit explores evolution of biological systems and technologies - evolution in living things, and also in computers and engineering. A new exhibit, "50,000" reveals an ongoing experiment where scientists have observed bacteria growing, competing, and evolving for 50,000 generations in only 23 years. Michigan State University Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. May 4 - Oct. 31. 517-355-7474. museum.msu.edu

**Pewabic Pottery** "David Stark Design and Culture Lab Detroit" Guided by David's artistic vision, Pewabic has created an original piece that was inspired by a recent visit to Detroit. One-of-a-kind dinnerware piece will be on display. Pewabic Pottery, 10125 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit. June 7 - Sep. 30. 313-626-2000. pewabic.org

**Riverside Arts Center** "Map It" People's Choice voting will run throughout the month with winners announced at the end of the exhibit. Free. Riverside Arts Center, 76 North Huron Street, Ypsilanti. Aug. 1 - Aug. 24. 734-483-7345. Riversidearts.com

**Saugatuck Center for the Arts** "Jeff Kraus" Abstract paintings. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. Aug. 8 - Sep. 4. 269-857-2399. Sc4a.org

**The Henry Ford** "Designing Tomorrow: America's World's Fairs of the 1930s" Tickets: \$17+. Members: Free. The Henry Ford, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. May 4 - Sep. 2. 313-982-6001. thehenryford.org

**The Scarab Club** "Focus Hope: Focus on the Mission" This long-running annual diversity and leadership program uses photography as the focus to bring together students from the tri-county area. The students are mentored by some of the most respected and experienced photographers in Metro Detroit. The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. Aug. 7 - Aug. 24. 313-831-1250. Scarabclub.org

**UMMA** "Isamu Noguchi and Qi Baishi: Beijing 1930" University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. May 18 - Sep. 1. 734-763-4186. umma.umich.edu

**Yourist Studio Gallery** "Thom Bohnert Drawings and Sculpture" His evocative, archaeological forms challenge viewers to expand their thinking about the possibilities of clay as medium. Yourist Studio Gallery, 1133 Broadway, Ann Arbor. Aug. 26 - Oct. 4. 734-662-4914. Youristpottery.com

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Solution to puzzle from page 40

R	O	A	D	M	A	P	I	S	L	A	N	D
I	N	D	I	A	N	A	N	E	S	S	I	E
F	R	A	N	C	I	S	C	R	U	S	T	S
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A	R	O	U	S	E		S	N	A	R	L	E
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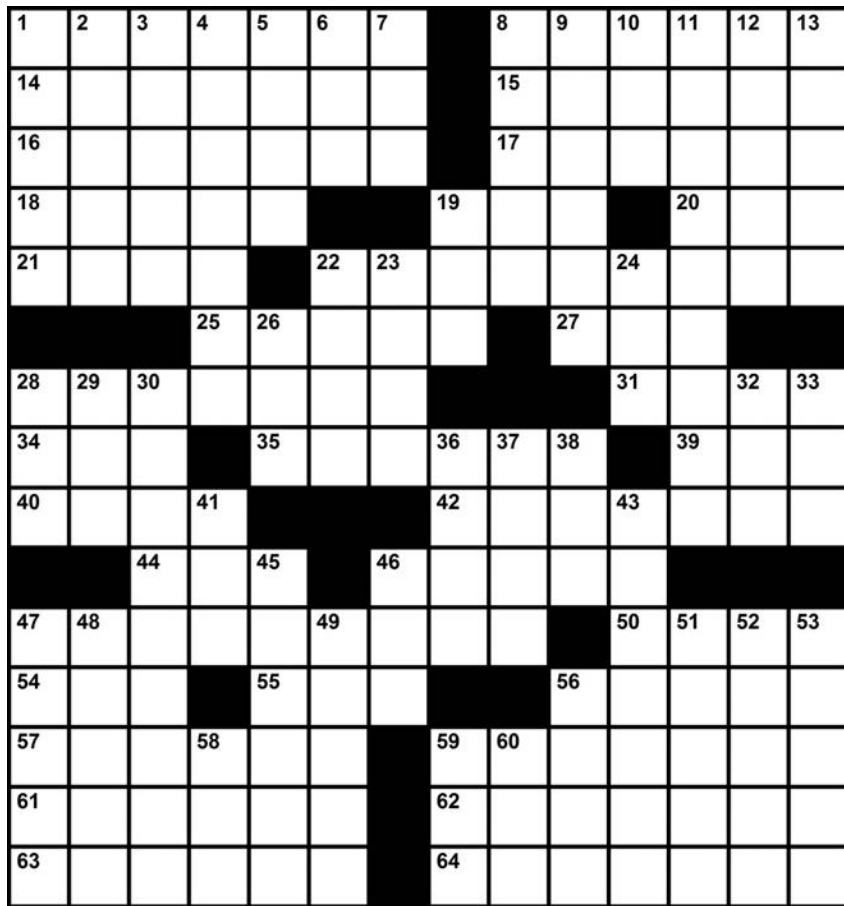
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# Live From Rio



## Across

- 1 One of the motorist's aids  
 8 \_\_\_ Records (Etheridge label)  
 14 Artist Robert  
 15 Loch name  
 16 Pope who recently spoke in Rio about gay priests  
 17 Cobbler containers  
 18 Uses the keyboard  
 19 Where to put your meat, in a deli  
 20 Traveler's info  
 21 Studio stages  
 22 Start of how Pope Benedict XVI labeled gay life style  
 25 Coming soon  
 27 Some sex-toy batteries  
 28 Hook up  
 31 Medicine dose  
 34 Beantown tower, with "the"  
 35 Start of what 16-Across said about gay priests  
 39 Prefix with classical  
 40 Maria's "Do-\_\_\_"  
 42 John, who played a transsexual in "The World According to Garp"  
 44 Sixth sense  
 46 Gay porn director Francis  
 47 See 22-Across  
 50 Good buddies  
 54 Half of a ballroom dance  
 55 Pitching stat

- 56 Former "American Idol" judge Paula  
 57 Lane of "The Birdcage"  
 59 See 35-Across  
 61 Turn on  
 62 Tangled up  
 63 Interrupts, with "in"  
 64 Bacon procurers

## Down

- 1 Splits  
 2 Way to serve your meat  
 3 Make fit  
 4 Enjoys orally  
 5 PC alternatives  
 6 Singer DiFranco  
 7 Audio systems, for short  
 8 Acquire, as debt  
 9 Neighbor of Croatia  
 10 Tigers of the NCAA  
 11 Taking stock of  
 12 Capone colleague  
 13 Cul-\_\_\_  
 19 Gas additive  
 22 Problem for skin  
 23 Cold war defense assn.  
 24 Catch forty winks  
 26 Fresh  
 28 Putting your mouth on a stranger, perhaps  
 29 Vein filler

- 30 The number on top of a fraction  
 32 Bloom of "The Producers"  
 33 On the down \_\_\_  
 36 Weight loss product  
 37 Textiles plant  
 38 "...see \_\_\_ will believe..."  
 41 Bk. before Jeremiah  
 43 Quip source Kate  
 45 Tickle pink  
 46 NASA outing  
 47 Mystery writer Claire  
 48 Poet Frank  
 49 Sea eagles  
 51 Confuse mentally  
 52 German pistol  
 53 Snow vehicles  
 56 Showing a tiny opening  
 58 Hold tight  
 59 Poet who inspired "Cats," initially  
 60 "Put \_\_\_ Happy Face"

Solution on pg. 39

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# Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

## Amber Tamblyn is TV lesbian

Usually when a series is as long in the tooth as “Two and a Half Men,” the producers bring in a cute kid to boost the ratings. But with Angus T. Jones all grown up and no longer a series regular (not to mention notoriously bad-mouthing his childhood job as “filth”), the hit sitcom’s producers – already having replaced Charlie Sheen with Ashton Kutcher – are playing by their own rules once again. They’re bringing in a lesbian. Amber Tamblyn will join the show as Charlie’s long lost daughter Jenny, who moves to Los Angeles to become an actor and who shares all of her late father’s tastes, including his taste in women. It’s the coolest of possibilities, a bad-girl lesbian on prime time TV and not even wearing an “Orange Is The New Black” prison jumpsuit. Guess it’s time to watch our first episode of “Two and a Half Men.”

## Anthony Rapp has new jobs to make the rent

Original star of “Rent” Anthony Rapp has joined the cast of the new musical “If/

Then,” from the creative team behind “Next to Normal.” He’ll reunite with former “Rent”

co-star Idina Menzel for the show, one that centers on a woman about to turn 40 who moves to New York in the hopes of starting a brand new life. The musical opens March 2014, which shouldn’t interfere too much with Rapp’s need to promote his new film, “Opening Night.” It’s a comedy from Ryan Dixon, Nena Girsh and Jack Henry Robbins, with Robbins directing. Co-starring Cheyenne Jackson, the story centers on a high school drama club, their teacher and a visiting B-list TV star, which makes it sound something like a kinder, gentler “Waiting for Guffman.” It begins production this summer in Los Angeles so fans of anything that smells “Rent”- or “Glee”-adjacent can begin obsessing now.

## Philip Seymour Hoffman and John Cameron Mitchell are ‘Trending Down’

Showtime has given a pilot order to something that sounds very promising, something that doesn’t involve vampires or dragons. A dark comedy, “Trending Down,” will star Philip Seymour Hoffman as a middle-aged man who finds himself facing career obsolescence when his advertising agency is sold into new hands. Hoffman will co-star with Kathryn Hahn (“Revolutionary Road”) and John Cameron Mitchell (“Hedwig and the Angry Inch”) will direct the pilot that’s being described as “a blistering attack on our youth-obsessed culture... a darkly comic examination of what it means to matter. Or matter not.” In other words, it’s about what’s going to happen to everyone when the cast of “Girls” takes their jobs away

from them. And who better than Hoffman, a master of portraying miserable characters, comic or not, to embody the anxiety of the age? Can’t wait.

## Pee-Wee Herman returns

2014 is going to be an excellent year for television because that’s when Pee-Wee Herman will be back on it. Children (and adults) of the 1980s who worshipped at the altar of “Pee-Wee’s Playhouse” will see their hero return next year in a new TV project whose details aren’t fully known just yet. Paul Reubens, Pee-Wee’s creator, is 60 now and still, thankfully, happy to put on that too-tight suit. And he isn’t spilling much information beyond the fact that, along with the long-anticipated Pee-Wee movie – to be produced by Judd Apatow – the show is a go and it will not necessarily be a reboot of “Playhouse.” One off or not, any Pee-Wee is better than no Pee-Wee at all. And as for that movie, if the Muppets can reboot successfully in theaters and remind the world how much they loved “Rainbow Connection,” now it’s “Tequila”’s time back in the sun as our national dancing-on-bars anthem.

Romeo San Vicente thinks lesbians should replace his least favorite sitcom characters across the board. He can be reached care of this publication or at [DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com](mailto:DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com).



Amber Tamblyn.  
Photo: Shutterstock.com

A large advertisement for the "Arts Beats &amp; Eats" event. The background is light blue with white clouds. At the top is the Ford logo. Below it, the text "ARTS BEATS &amp; EATS" is written in large, bold, white letters with a blue outline. Underneath, it says "presented by: FIRSTMERIT Bank". The dates "AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 2" and "LABOR DAY WEEKEND" are prominently displayed in large, bold, blue letters. Below that, it says "DOWNTOWN ROYAL OAK". At the bottom, there is a row of logos for sponsors: Comcast, Budweiser, THE WESTIN SOUTHFIELD DETROIT, MICHIGAN LOTTERY OFFICIAL ADVERTISER, THINK FORD FIRST, ROCKSTAR ENERGY DRINK, FIRSTMERIT Bank, metroPCS Wireless for All, U.S. PARK ON MIDDLEBURY, Soaring Eagle CASINO &amp; RESORT, HAWTHORN SUITES BY WYNDHAM, www.ARTSBEATSEATS.COM, meijer, and BTL Between Lines ONLINE AT PRIDESOURCE.COM.

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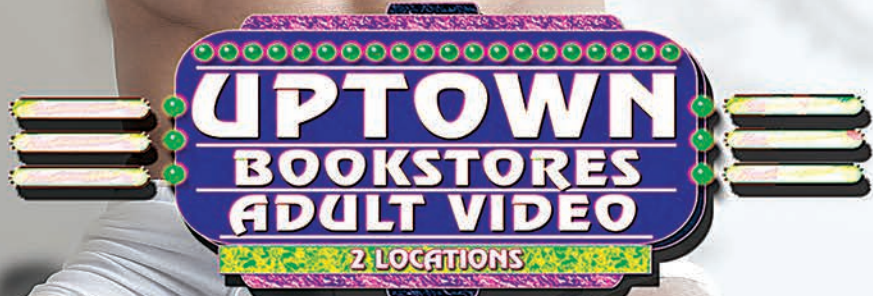
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LGBTQIA

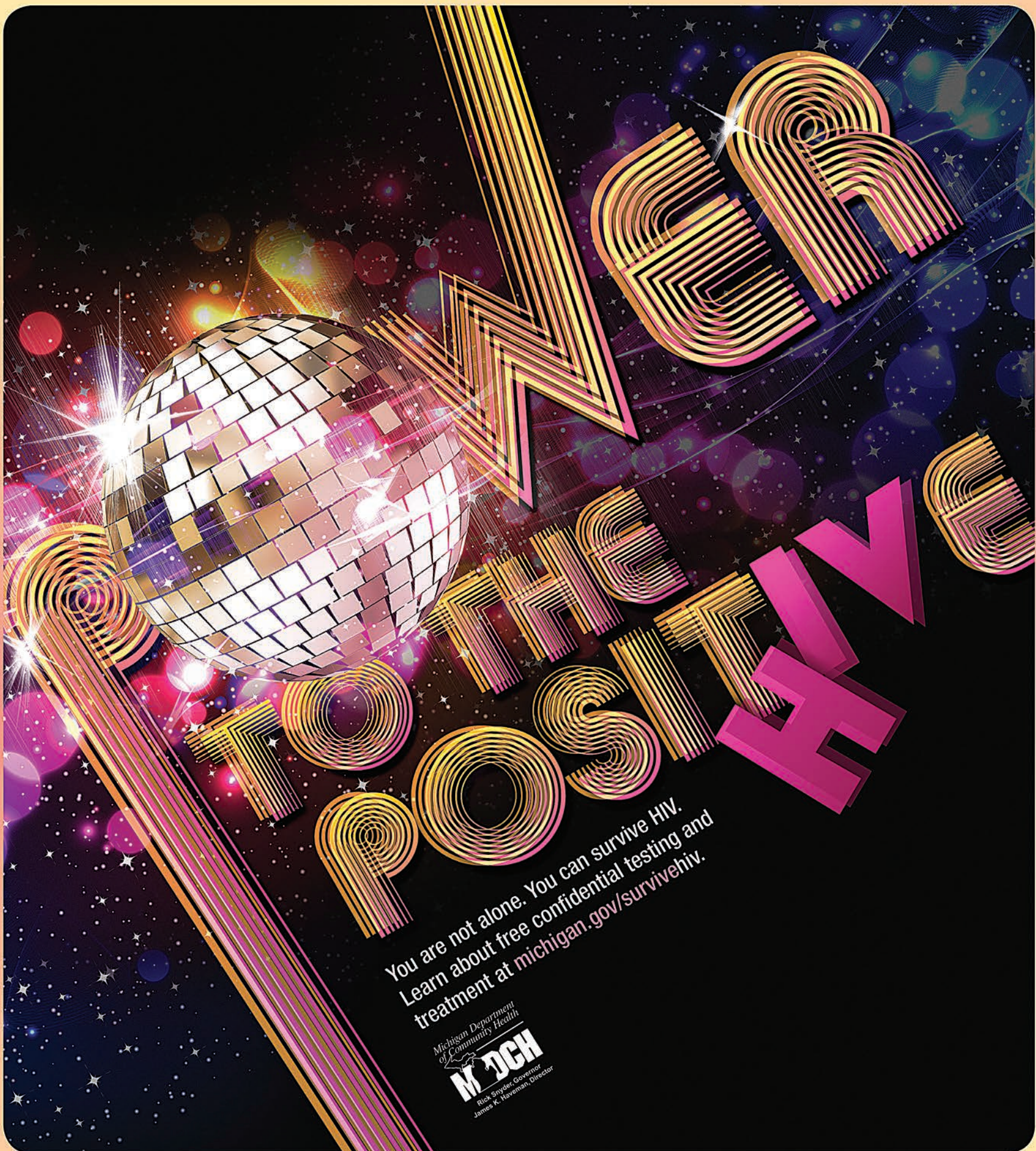


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The Michigan HIV/STD Hotline.  
Live weekdays, 10 am - 6 pm.

All calls with our live expert are free and anonymous.

A program of  
**AIDS PARTNERSHIP**  
MICHIGAN  
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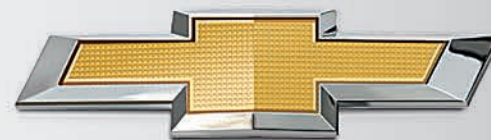


You are not alone. You can survive HIV.  
Learn about free confidential testing and  
treatment at [michigan.gov/survivehiv](http://michigan.gov/survivehiv).

Michigan Department  
of Community Health

**M DCH**  
Rick Snyder Governor  
James K. Hlaveman Director

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