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Holder Announcement

“There is still more work that needs to be done in Michigan, but in other places people are being killed or thrown in prison for being gay. People are dying, and I want to be able to help them.”

-Dave Garcia, pg. 4



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COVER STORY

The kid is more than all right 14
(From left) Frankie J. Alvarez, Jonathan Groff and Murray Bartlett in "Looking." Photo: HBO



“I am eager to continue the great conversations I am having about our state’s future, and I am committed to working hard to earn the respect, trust and vote of the people of the district.”

— State Rep. Candidate Aaryn Richard, pg. 8



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Affirmations' Dave Garcia Says Goodbye

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

After two and a half years running Michigan's largest community center, Executive Director Dave Garcia is moving on to a new position as Director of Policy and Community Building for the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center in California.

There he plans to continue working locally, nationally and internationally for equality and promote safe spaces for LGBT people. The LA Center is a large institution, with over 400 employees, a budget of \$75 million, six locations and programs overseas.

"I'm excited because I can do more international work," Garcia said. "There is still more work that needs to be done in Michigan, but in other places people are being killed or thrown in prison for being gay. People are dying, and I want to be able to help them."

Garcia has been a Michigander his whole life. He first made news back in 2000 when he walked nearly 60 miles from Swartz Creek to Lansing looking to bring attention to the discrimination LGBT people face. He was forced out of an administrative position with Swartz Creek Community Schools when he tried to start a gay-straight alliance, and he ultimately won a settlement in a lawsuit over his First Amendment rights.

Garcia then went to work for the YMCA camp in Holly, produced a documentary called "Fences" about finding himself as a gay man, and produced a play in Flint called "Candy Corn, Christ and the Convoluted Creation of Golf!" In 2009 he went to work as executive director of the Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center.

Then in 2011 Garcia got the executive director job at Affirmations. Since then he has been a bold voice for the center and the community at large, starting new projects and joining with other organizations across the state to work more effectively for the greater good.

"Dave brought to Affirmations passion and vision to propel the organization, staff, board

and volunteers forward. He was able to further build and strengthen bridges in the community and build stronger partnerships. He was able to lead, develop and attract a talented staff," said Affirmations Board President Mark Blanke. "Dave will have left his mark on each of us that he touched and influenced."

Financial Struggles

Affirmations faced financial struggles in 2009 and 2010. When Interim Director Kevin Howley took the reins in November 2010 the Great Recession was in full force. Howley had to cut the center's staff and some programs were eliminated. Hours of operation were also cut in an effort to get the center back on track. Howley's tenure was credited with stabilizing the agency financially, through significant debt reduction, working within a balanced budget and paying down the building's mortgage by well over \$200,000 to approximately \$225,000 when Garcia was hired.

In the fall of 2011, when Garcia arrived, the center was in a much stronger position financially and ready for an infusion of new energy.

"One of the first things I did when I came in was open the center back up with more hours. If nothing else, we have to be here for people," Garcia said. Under his administration, accounting was moved from an in-house function to an outside firm and record analysis found a \$119,000 billing error for the center's electricity usage which was refunded to the center. Today, thanks to careful management and increased donor gifts, the mortgage is under \$120,000 and total revenue is up.

Another early decision had two major benefits. Garcia made the Spring Bash a more formal event, with higher ticket prices and a black tie theme. This attracted more donations and gave the community a chance to show off



Executive Director Dave Garcia will be departing Feb. 1 for a position as LA Community Center Director of Policy and Community Building. BTL file photo: Andrew Potter

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► Goodbye

Continued from p. 4

their elegance. He also created the Fall Bash as a more down-to-earth, inclusive event that showcased the center and gave everyone a chance to get together and party at a low ticket price.

Because economic stability has been a priority, Garcia worked with the board of directors to find programs that met community needs and brought in revenue. While its first year - 2013 - was slow to attract students, a new alternative high school program has the potential to give teens and adults a safe space for learning while also bringing in money from the state. A partnership with a local printing company has brought in The Aff Store and More to sell snack items and customized shirts and printed apparel. And the greatly expanded counseling program leverages internships and

Like anyone else who steps into a very public role, Garcia has faced his share of criticism. Some said he tried to do too much; others disliked his vocal political stances. When asked how he kept his spirits up in the face of criticism he said, "You just have to really believe in what you're doing. For all the criticism I've had, I value what I'm doing more."

volunteers to provide mental health care to clients with the ability to bill insurance companies for these services.

Another fundraising idea implemented in 2013 was the Shore 2 Shore Equality Ride, an event that took bicyclists from Ferndale to Saugatuck with stops along the way in its inaugural year. Riders got pledges and the event attracted press attention and sponsorships. Garcia's vision is to see the ride grow so it is a major fundraiser for the Community Center Network, as rides in New York and California have been.

"I was a Boy Scout, and we had this idea that when you'd go to a campsite we would always leave it in better shape than we found it. That's what I think I did in Kalamazoo. And that's what I think I did here at Affirmations, especially in terms of the financial stability of the organization," he said.

Networking

Beyond the improving financial environment, Garcia has left his mark by making the organization more political

and more cooperative. He and other executive directors from community centers around the state got together to create the Community Center Network. Together they participated in Shore 2 Shore, went to Lansing to protest anti-gay-family legislation, and staged a 100-day relaying strike called Hungry 4 Equality. The strike brought people from all over the state to Affirmations where they would sit for 24-hour periods in the community center window without eating. The protest highlighted politicians who fought against LGBT rights and educated 2012 voters leading up to the November election.

Garcia also helped with a three-year strategic plan, strengthened diversity with the Multicultural Advisory Committee, and reached out to seniors, people of faith and transgender people with connection-building initiatives. New hires like Lydia Hanson in counseling and Angela Gabridge as

Development Director are helping to move the organization forward, even as Garcia prepares to exit.

Like anyone else who steps into a very public role, Garcia has faced his share of criticism. Some said he tried to do too much; others disliked his vocal political stances. When asked how he kept his spirits up in the face of criticism he said, "You just have to really believe in what you're doing. For all the criticism I've had, I value what I'm doing more."

Though many are sad about his departure, Garcia is confident that progress in Michigan will continue.

"We don't have a single voice. It's all of us doing our part. We cross all boundaries, gay Republicans, gay Christians, gay neighbors, gay aunts, gay uncles. Everyone knows someone that's gay. In the same way there is no one leader, there are thousands of leaders, better leaders than me," he said.

The LA Center is excited to have Garcia on board. "As an executive director, community leader, and board member of CenterLink, Dave brings a wealth of experience and vision to

the Center and the department he will oversee. We look forward to having Dave as a part of the Center's senior management team and to his leadership in enhancing our work in both the public policy arena and our efforts to strengthen local communities locally, nationally, and internationally," said Chief of Staff Darrel Cummings.

Transition

Garcia will be gone Feb. 1 and Jon Fitzgerald, current chief administrative officer, will step in as interim executive director. A search committee with over a dozen members has been formed, led by current board member Dr. Richard Gibson.

The board released the following statement regarding the executive director search, "The new executive director will be a highly driven and motivated visionary with strong leadership skills and the ability to attract a strong board and staff. This individual will continue expanding Affirmations' reach through programming and further collaborations and will also have a strength and passion for building bridges and engaging folks throughout the LGBTQA community. The new executive director will understand how the Center will need to further develop to serve the multi-generational needs of our community and have a strong skill set in fund development. Lastly, this person will embrace the vision of continuing the advocacy work the Center has begun."

"Affirmations' board and staff would like to wish Dave great success and



personal fulfillment as he begins to take on the next challenges and opportunities. We will deeply miss him but know that he will continue to have significant impact on the LGBTQ community and we are happy to have been part of that journey with him," said Blanke.

BRIEFS

Local Non-Profit Wins Ellen Degeneres' 'Purely for Pets' Holiday Contest

BY SHELBY CLARK

Tail Wagger's 1990, a non-profit organization that works for animal welfare, recently won one of ten \$10,000 grants. The money comes from the "Purely for Pets Holiday Wishes Grant Campaign" sponsored by Ellen Degeneres, Halo, and the Petco Foundation. Over 4,500 applicants applied to the contest, which was created to award non-profits who saved animals and gave them homes by the holidays.

Tail Wagger's 1990 was the only Michigan organization to win one of the prizes.

Based out of Livonia, the organization entered the contest with "For The Love of Hope," a story about the journey of a seven-month old kitten they received in Sept. of 2013. The cat had burns covering her entire back, ears burnt to nubs, and other signs of long-term torture.

The story received publicity ranging from Huffington Post to a Facebook page that received donations from other countries, including Germany and the United Kingdom.

After a 95 day long recovery process, which included intensive procedures at Michigan State University, Hope found a home with one of Tail Wagger's local supporters. The story can be found by looking for "For the Love of Hope" on www.youtube.com.

Tail Wagger's 1990 plans to use the unrestricted funds to fund multiple problems to benefit area pets, including a possible spay/neuter clinic open by March. The organization also will put money to The Hope Fund, a program to help animals in need of critical care.

Tail Wagger's 1990, dedicated to "helping people help animals," is located at 28402 Five Mile Road, Livonia. For more information on donating or visiting the organization, call 734-855-4077 or visit www.tailwaggers1990.org. A blog about Hope's journey can be found on the website. To find other LGBT-run and LGBT-friendly organizations which support animals, visit BTL's Pridesource Yellow Pages at www.pridesource.com/directory.

Detroit Film Theatre Celebrates 40th Anniversary

(AP) - The Detroit Film Theatre is celebrating its 40th anniversary. The movie house within the Detroit Institute of Arts is screening films this weekend that have been featured throughout its four-decade history.

And the theater is doing so at a 1974 price - \$2 per movie. Officials say the Detroit Film Theatre has shown 3,000 films over 2,000 weekends to more than 2 million viewers.

Among those who have appeared in person as part of a DFT program include Angela Bassett, Robert Duvall, James Earl Jones and Spike Lee. Online: www.dia.org/dft

Detroit Auto Show Opening Jan. 18

(AP) - The Detroit auto show, which opens to the public Jan. 18 after a week of media and industry previews, dates to 1907, when a group of dealers held a show in a city park.

The show was largely a regional event showcasing Detroit automakers until 1989, when the name was changed to the North American International Auto Show and Toyota and Nissan used it to introduce their new luxury brands.

The annual event has since grown to be one of most important shows on the auto industry's calendar. Last year, more than 795,000 people - including 5,200 journalists from around the world - attended the show. This year, at least 50 new vehicles will make their debut.

Online: www.naias.com/ned.htm

Creep of the Week

Chris Christie

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

We can all sleep easier now knowing that it is still a huge pain in the ass for transgender people in New Jersey to amend their birth certificates.



Hero Governor Chris Christie vetoed a bill that would have allowed transgender people to have their birth certificates reflect their actual gender without having to undergo the big “sex change operation.”

It’s important to note that not all trans people have had or want to have gender reassignment surgery. This is something a lot of non-trans people do not understand. At all. But such surgery is super-duper expensive and rarely covered by insurance. Not only that, but getting all intimate with a doctor’s scalpel is serious stuff

with the possible negative effects any surgery carries, including possibly eliminating sexual sensation. Not to mention the fact that some trans folks would still like to have kids, thank you very much, regardless of the physical manifestation of their kid-making parts.

Now, for folks who are not trans, Christie’s veto might not seem like a big deal. And in the grand scheme of things, it isn’t. This is an issue that impacts a very small number of people and most of the folks in New Jersey have not had their lives changed one bit by Christie’s veto.

What this bill would have done is afford an additional shred of decency to the way we, as a society, ultimately treat trans people.

Of course, one could also make the argument that since this bill, in fact, would directly impact such a small number of people, vetoing it is a pretty shitty thing to do. What this bill would have done is afford an additional shred of decency to the way we, as a society, ultimately treat trans people. This is a population that is discriminated against in so many ways and whose very existence is either completely denied or held up as an example of perversion by the anti LGBT right.

But Christie says no.

“Unlike many other states, New Jersey already has an administrative process in place to streamline applications to amend birth certificates for gender purposes without court order,” Christie’s veto statement reads. “Under the proposal before me, however, the sponsors seek to alter the amended birth certificate application process without maintaining appropriate safeguards.”

It’s true. New Jersey is better than many when it comes to amending birth certificates. But why should trans people have to settle for Christie’s definition of “good enough?”

And what are the “appropriate safeguards” Christie is referring to? Well, he doesn’t want to see people amending their birth certificates left and right in order to do terrorism or whatever.

“A birth certificate is an important legal document,” Christie offers helpfully. “Birth certificates are often required to complete myriad security-related tasks. Accordingly, proposed measures that revise the standards for the issuance of amended birth certificates may result in significant legal uncertainties and create opportunities for fraud, deception, and abuse, and should therefore be closely scrutinized and sparingly approved.”

That’s right. All of these “trans” people are probably just a bunch of scammers.

And Christie should know a scammer when he sees one, am I right? Heck, with all of his talk about “fraud, deception, and abuse,” I thought he was talking about his own administration rather than using his veto power to further discriminate against a vulnerable minority population.

State Department Issues Warning As Olympics Near

BY LISA KEEN

The U.S. State Department issued a travel advisory Saturday for citizens traveling to Russia for the Winter Olympics next month, including a specific warning that “vague guidance” from Russia about its new laws making “it a crime to promote LGBT equality in public” could be used to fine, deport, or jail foreign visitors.

The LGBT warning was part of a longer advisory alerting Americans traveling to Sochi, Russia, for the Olympics that such highly publicized global events are seen as an “attractive target” for terrorists and that several acts of terrorism have already been perpetrated in Russia in the past few weeks.

The advisory, issued January 10, urges American citizens to “avoid large crowds in areas that lack enhanced security measures” and to use caution “in any areas where protests, demonstrations, or other public disturbances are taking place.”

“Demonstrations intended to be peaceful can develop quickly and unpredictably, sometimes turning

violent,” notes the advisory.

The possibility of LGBT-related protests in Russia has been a concern since last June, when the Russian government approved its anti-

The possibility of LGBT-related protests in Russia has been a concern since last June, when the Russian government approved its anti-gay laws.

gay laws. Although the Russian government says the laws are just focused on protecting children from “non-traditional sexual relations,” the legislation goes much further. Signed by President Vladimir Putin in June and July, they also prohibit any public displays of affection by same-sex couples and any public events related to LGBT people.

Early talk by activists of staging protests or wearing rainbow pins or waving rainbow flags at the Olympics was met with promises

by the Russian government of tough enforcement of its laws. Putin and Russian officials have softened their tone in recent weeks, and earlier this month and said they would provide a designated area in a nearby village for protests. Then earlier this month, Putin signed an executive order that will require protesters to secure approval in advance.

But tensions seemed to be ready to escalate again over the weekend, when the head of the Russian Orthodox Church suggested the Russian people vote on whether to re-criminalize homosexuality.

The State Department advisory notes that foreign citizens could be fined as much as \$3,100, jailed for 14 days, and deported for violating the laws.

“The law makes it a crime to promote LGBT equality in public, but lacks concrete legal definitions for key terms,” notes the advisory. “Russian authorities have indicated a broad interpretation of what constitutes ‘LGBT propaganda,’ and provided vague guidance as to which actions will be interpreted by authorities as ‘LGBT propaganda.’”

Joint Tax Returns For Mo. Gay Couples Spur Suit

BY CHRIS BLANK

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) – A newly filed lawsuit challenges Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon’s directive that state tax officials accept jointly filed returns from same-sex couples who have legally married in other states.

The lawsuit asks that Nixon’s executive order be declared unconstitutional and asks for an injunction to stop Missouri officials from implementing the state tax code that way. A spokesman for Nixon had no comment Jan. 9 about the court challenge.

Same-sex couples cannot marry in Missouri, and the state does not recognize such marriages conducted

in other states where they are valid. Nixon in November directed officials to accept joint tax filings from same-sex couples who live in Missouri and have wed elsewhere. He said the order applied solely to tax filing status and does not authorize or sanction same-sex marriage in Missouri, where the constitution states marriages must be between a man and a woman to be valid and recognized.

The lawsuit filed Jan. 8 challenging Nixon’s directive asserted, “Governor Nixon has attempted to circumvent the clear public policy of this State mandating the historical legal definition of marriage, and to thwart the will of the People of the State of Missouri expressed in a recent Constitutional amendment as well as

in State statutes.”

Missouri’s tax code is tied to that of the federal government, and Nixon said married couples who file joint federal tax returns also must file state taxes jointly. The U.S. Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service last year determined legally married same-sex couples would be treated as married for tax filing purposes regardless of their residence.

Nixon said accepting joint state tax returns for couples who file their federal returns that way is appropriate, and the Missouri attorney general’s office has said the governor’s policy appears to follow

See Mo. Lawsuit, page 10

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Between Ourselves: Meet State Rep. Candidate Aaryn Richard

Aaryn Richard is running for State Representative in Michigan's 85th House District, representing Owosso, Durand and Shiawassee Township. He is one of five openly gay candidates for state level legislative seats running in 2014. Richard is a graduate of Central Michigan and also earned his M.F.A. in creative writing and poetry from Colorado State University. He is an alum of the Center for Progressive Leadership's Candidate and Campaign Manager training program and he served several administrative positions with Congresswoman Betsy Markey in Colorado. Richard serves the Shiawassee County Department of Human Services as an eligibility specialist, where he's had the opportunity to learn about some of the needs within his community and to help people find the resources they need.

"My campaign will officially launch in mid-February. My team and I are already working hard, laying the groundwork for this exciting campaign. I am eager to continue the great conversations I am having about our state's future, and I am committed to working hard to earn the respect, trust and vote of the people of the district."

1 What made you decide to run for State Rep.?

I have always had a sense of duty and service toward the community in which I live. That is a huge motivating factor in my deciding to run. I think, though, the greatest motivation behind my run is the sense of deep disappointment I, along with many in my community, feel in our current leadership. Our problems are myriad, and the solutions require bold, fresh thinking - not politics as usual, and definitely not status quo public relations spin. I am running to be part of the change I want to see in Michigan's leadership.

2 What do you feel are the biggest issues facing our state?

First and foremost jobs. Jobs, jobs, jobs. We come from hardy stock; people who desire purpose-driven lives. When I say jobs, though, I mean living-wage jobs that can sustain our families. But to get those jobs, we have to take the first step: Reinvest in our K-12 public education, as well as our technical and trade schools, community colleges and universities. Good jobs come to highly skilled workforces. Our highly skilled



US Rep. Gary Peters, is running for the US Senate seat being vacated by Carl Levin in 2014. He is seen with State Rep. candidate Aaryn Richard.

workforces will then help us build a new, green, sustainable economy. If I were to boil the issues to three salient points: Education, living-wage jobs, and a renewable economy.

campaign financing, a non-partisan redistricting board, to name two specifics. I'd like to work on amending the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include the LGBT community. There's so much to do, and the window in which to complete

I have always had a sense of duty and service toward the community in which I live. That is a huge motivating factor in my deciding to run. I think, though, the greatest motivation behind my run is the sense of deep disappointment I, along with many in my community, feel in our current leadership.

3 Do you have any specific projects or legislation that you want to work on?

I believe that we can solve many of our problems through co-operation. The projects before us are incredibly clear and happen to be within the realm of the plausible, not just pipe dreams. Take our infrastructure, for instance. I think we can all agree that the very basics - our roads, bridges, the ways we sustain commerce - need overhaul. If you're asking me for a legislative wish-list, I'd begin work on making Michigan elections clean: Public

the work is finite.

4 Who do you think is your toughest competition?

I'd say the greatest competition I have is our current legislature and the decisions they continue to make that are hurting working Michigan families. It seems the current legislative majority is hell-bent on working for special interests, rather than working for the people who elected them. I'm more concerned with the issues we are having with our

See Richard, page 11



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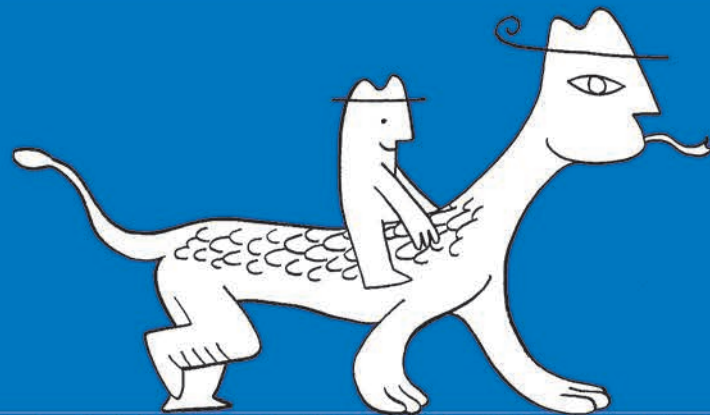
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Martin Luther King Jr. Day

The museum will be open on Monday, January 20 with tours of the African American collection, art-making workshops and a 2 p.m. screening of the documentary, *King: A Filmed Record... Montgomery To Memphis*, in the Detroit Film Theatre.

Now On View

Balance of Power: A Throne for an African Prince, through March 16.

Foto Europa: 1840 to Present, through April 27.

Let Me Show You What I Saw: American Views on City and Country, 1912-1963, through June 29.

General museum admission is free for residents of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

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requirements of Missouri tax law.

The lawsuit filed in the Capitol's home of Cole County stated Nixon's executive order forces the state Department of Revenue to require same-sex couples list one partner as "husband" and the other as "wife" on a return and therefore treat them as though they are legally married.

The suit was filed by Kerry Messer, who is the founder of the Missouri Family Network; Justin Mosher, who is a pastor and chairman of the Christian Life Commission of the Missouri Baptist Convention; Don Hinkle, who is director of public policy for the Missouri Baptist Convention executive board; and Joe Ortwerth, who is the executive director of the Missouri Family Policy Council.

Nixon said this fall he thinks that "if folks want to get married, they should be able to get married" and that he hopes voters have a chance to revisit whether to allow same-sex marriage. Missouri in 2004 became the first state to enact a constitutional amendment prohibiting same-sex marriage after the Massachusetts high court permitted gay marriage there. The Missouri measure passed with 70 percent of the vote.

A statewide organization that advocates for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality said Thursday it will work to ensure Nixon's executive order is upheld.

"Gov. Nixon's pragmatic and reasonable order ensures that Missouri income tax law continues to mirror the Federal Treasury and IRS," PROMO executive director A.J. Bockelman said. "This order gives clear and equal guidance to all legally married couples in Missouri about how to complete their state income tax returns."

The case has been assigned to Circuit Judge Jon Beetem. A hearing has not yet been scheduled.

Utah: LGBT Legal Activists Laud Holder Announcement

BY LISA KEEN

LGBT legal activists applauded an announcement by U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder Friday that the federal government will recognize marriage licenses issued to same-sex couples in Utah despite the fact that the U.S. Supreme Court put a stay on enforcement of the district court decision that allowed those couples to marry.

"It was the right call," said Mary Bonauto, Civil Rights Project Director of Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders. "The U.S. is obliged to follow its laws and rules about treating married people alike and these marriages occurred in conformity with law."

Shannon Minter, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, said the Holder decision was "extremely important for these couples and their families, and means they will have the full protection of all federal benefits."

"The federal government has already stated that it will recognize legally married same-sex couples, regardless of whether their state of residence does so," said Minter. Minter was referring to the announcements following the Supreme Court ruling in June in U.S. v. Windsor, that most federal agencies would recognize marriage licenses obtained by same-sex couples even if the licenses were obtained outside the couples' states of residence.

In his January 10 press release, Attorney General Holder noted that an "administrative step" by the Supreme Court "cast doubt" on the marriage licenses issued to same-sex couples in Utah, adding that Utah Governor Gary Herbert has announced "the state will not recognize these marriages pending additional court action."

"I am confirming today that, for purposes of federal law, these marriages will be recognized as lawful and considered eligible for all relevant federal benefits on the same terms as other same-sex marriages," said Holder. "These families

should not be asked to endure uncertainty regarding their status as the litigation unfolds."

"In the days ahead," added Holder, "we will continue to coordinate across the federal government to ensure the timely provision of every federal benefit to which Utah couples and couples throughout the country are entitled – regardless of whether they are in same-sex or opposite-sex marriages. And we will continue

“In the days ahead we will continue to coordinate across the federal government to ensure the timely provision of every federal benefit to which Utah couples and couples throughout the country are entitled – regardless of whether they are in same-sex or opposite-sex marriages.”

- US Attorney General Eric Holder

to provide additional information as soon as it becomes available."

Camilla Taylor, head of Lambda Legal's Marriage Project, said the Supreme Court's order "merely stayed the further issuance of marriage licenses" and "did not in any way affect the validity of marriage licenses that previously were issued – these licenses were validly issued, and remain valid."

"In fact, even the Utah Attorney General's office itself admits that these marriages may well be valid," said Taylor. "Consequently, DOJ reached the only conclusion it could, given

Windsor – that it must respect these marriages for purposes of federal benefits, protections, rights, and responsibilities."

Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes issued a statement January 8 saying that he was "unable to reach a legal conclusion as to the ultimate validity of marriage between persons of the same sex who completed their marriage ceremony in Utah between December 20, 2013, and January 6, 2014."

"That question," said Reyes, "remains unanswered and the answer will depend on the result of the appeal process."

On several occasions before, same-sex couples have been able to obtain marriage licenses only to have them declared invalid at a later date. That happened most notably in San Francisco after then Mayor Gavin Newsom directed city clerk in February 2004 to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples even though a state law prohibited them at the time. The California Supreme Court later invalidated those marriages.

But GLAD's Bonauto said Holder's action is "very different than the one in California."

"In that case, the mayor decided to deviate from existing law in California," said Bonauto. "Here," she said, the Supreme Court "has already put the federal government on notice not to discriminate" against same-sex married couples.

"And there are legally married couples in Utah," she said. "It's entirely different."

One organization opposed to same-sex marriage was quick to characterize Holder's move as overreaching executive branch authority.

"The Justice Department's edict today expressly contradicts the determination of Utah's Governor and Attorney General, and represents one of the most significant overreaches of federal authority imaginable," said Brian Brown, head of the National Organization for Marriage.

But other groups were quiet, at least so far.

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Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center Annual Gala Coming

BY SHELBY CLARK

Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center will host their Winter Gala on Feb. 1 at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts.

The award ceremony and fundraiser will be to benefit the center's many LGBT resources and projects. REACH Awards will be given to those outstanding in Retail, Education, Ally, Community, Faith, as well as the Humanitarian of the Year.

This year's event, dubbed the "most fun and formal event of the KGLRC," will feature performances by Hannaniah and the Boys, who were featured entertainment at Kalamazoo Pride this past summer.

Great food, cocktails, and a silent auction from local businesses will round out the evening. A cash bar will also be available.

KGLRC has been a prominent non-profit in southwest Michigan for over twenty years. Founded in 1987 as the "Lesbian/Gay Resource Line" with little more than a two-page newsletter, the organization has grown into an active community center.

From LGBT proms to New Year's Eve parties, the KGLRC has made sure to offer both fun and support to the area's LGBT. Such support includes Trans-cend, a decade-old peer group



KGLRC Executive Director Zach Bauer welcoming guests at last year's gala. Photo courtesy of KGLRC. Photographer Terry Johnston.

for transgender persons, among other resources.

KGLRC has also been an outspoken advocate of civil liberties in all southwest Michigan cities. The non-profit frequently works with local chapters of "Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), Planned Parenthood, and more.

KGLRC's Winter Gala will take place from 8 to 12 p.m. on Feb. 1 at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park

St., Kalamazoo. Tickets for the event are \$25 for students with valid ID, and \$50 for all others. After Jan. 31, tickets will increase to \$55. Tickets can be purchased online at www.kglrc.org.

The resource center is located at 629 Pioneer St., Suite 102, Kalamazoo. For more information on the fundraising gala or the KGLRC, call 269-349-4234.

For other LGBT benefits and galas, check out BTL's calendar at www.pridesource.com/calendar.

► Richard

Continued from p. 8

economy; how the State Legislature continues to defund education; and how we continue to defund infrastructure.

5 Do you have any LGBT specific issues that you hope to work on?

I hope that in some measure, getting elected will take care of the largest problem: We need LGBT representatives at the table. I believe the quote goes, "If you're not at the table, then you're often on the menu."

6 What have been some of your biggest accomplishments in politics?

I've been a champion for my community. Service always trumps the scoring of political wins. In that regard, I've been working on the front lines, helping those with the greatest need in my community. Helping families to step

out of poverty and into full, sustained employment has to be my greatest victory.

7 Have you experienced any discrimination, harassment or negativity being out? }

I'm am honored daily by the integrity and character of the people I wish to serve. I live an open and honest life, which means that I've never hidden from who I am, or from my seven-year-long relationship. I think people care more deeply about what their next leader has done with his life and what he wants to do than with whom he lives his life.

8 How old are you and where did you grow up?

I was born near the end of the Carter Administration; I'll say that. And if I say that my first political memory was sitting on my father's lap, watching Reagan take the oath of office, does that date me? I grew up in a rural town,

Vassar, which is a farming town nestled between the manufacturing cities of Saginaw and Flint.

9 Who has inspired you in your political career?

That's an incredible question. I admire those leaders who are driven by service. We have those kinds of leaders here, like Rashida Tlaib. I've also worked for some incredible people, like former Congresswoman Betsy Markey of the Colorado 4th. Serving in her district office provided a wealth of experience, not to mention the vantage point of watching a stateswoman who is committed to public service. I think the most inspiring people to my political career are those who have served and done the heavy lifting to get good folks elected. I have nurtured brilliant friendships with people who are deeply concerned with and committed to Michigan's bright future.

Follow the campaign online: www.richardforstaterep.com.

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Lies Can't Stop The Law



Transmissions

BY GWEN SMITH

Since before the bill's passage, the Pacific Justice Institute and Privacy For All Students has worked hard to frame this bill as "the school bathroom bill" or the "co-ed bathroom bill," claiming – at best – that this bill will lead to co-ed changing and restroom facilities at schools. That is when they are not claiming that droves of young men will suddenly claim to be transgender merely to ogle "your 7-year-old daughter" in the restroom.

Shortly after a sphere made of crystal and LED lights glided down a 141-foot pole in New York, a new law took affect some 3,000 miles to the west. The law is the California Success and Opportunity Act, otherwise known as Assembly Bill 1266. The bill passed the California State Legislature in July, and was sign by Governor Jerry Brown a month later.

The bill itself is simple: it prohibits schools from discriminating on the basis of gender, gender identity, and gender expression. It requires that students be permitted to participate in any sex-segregated school programs and activities, including athletic teams, and to use facilities consistent with their gender identity.

The bill is the first of its kind for any state to enact, although many school districts – including some of the most populace school districts in California – have had this on their books for up to a decade. Now, for the first time, gender-nonconforming students from as far north as Fort Dick to as far south as San Ysidro have the ability to use facilities consistent with their gender identity or expression regardless of their records at admission.

It is, in my opinion, also important to note that Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and the California Education Code, have both been interpreted in recent years as requiring students to be treated equally in regards to gender identity or expression. It can easily be argued, then, that AB 1266 is simply clarifying these interpretations. This does not downplay the importance of AB 1266 in the grand scheme of things, however.

This is not the first time I've discussed AB 1266, nor shall it be the last. This is a landmark bill, and there are many out there who would wish to see it struck down. Of those, the most prominent is the Pacific Justice Institute, a legal defense organization that focuses on conservative issues including, of course, stemming the tide of LGBT rights.

The Pacific Justice Institute is also part of a slightly broader coalition group called Privacy For All Students, which organized a petition drive to get a ballot measure to repeal AB 1266.

That these groups fight against this bill is more than simply living up to their mission statements: the recent Supreme Court decision overturning Proposition 8 and allowing for same-sex marriage in California was a stinging defeat for the Pacific Justice Institute, and they are clearly looking for what they might hope is

an easy victory to keep their coffers full of cash from wealthy conservative donors.

Since before the bill's passage, the Pacific Justice Institute and Privacy For All Students has worked hard to frame this bill as "the school bathroom bill" or the "co-ed bathroom bill," claiming – at best – that this bill will lead to co-ed changing and restroom facilities at schools. That is when they are not claiming that droves of young men will suddenly claim to be transgender merely to ogle "your 7-year-old daughter" in the restroom.

AB 1266 includes no language requiring "co-ed" facilities. Also, there have been no known cases of a student claiming to be transgender for the sole purpose of sexually harassing opposite gender students. Naturally, AB 1266 does not make sexual harassment – let alone worse crimes – legal due to the gender identity or expression of a student.

Privacy For All Students turned in over 619,000 signatures in their attempt to force a ballot measure. An additional 5,000 signatures gained in Mono and Tulare counties were not initially included as they were turned in after the November 10 deadline. The 10th was a Sunday, and the 11th was Veteran's Day, which meant that the State offices were closed.

The Pacific Justice Institute has claimed the California Superior Court has since ordered that those additional signatures were filed on time, regardless of the deadline. In spite of their press release, they only asked the judge to issue a statement that – based purely on preliminary non-trial evidence – they would side with the PJI. No such trial has taken place, and no order has been filed compelling the state to include those extra signatures.

This has also not stopped the Pacific Justice Institute and other conservative sources from claiming that the bill is on hold or otherwise not in effect. "Because the signatures have been filed, the implementation of the law is suspended until the final signature tally," claimed a December 30 press release from the PJI. "After that, the law will continue to lie dormant until the voters render their judgment in the November 2014 election."

Of course, you can merely go to the first sentence of this column to see that this is wrong: the law went into effect on the 1st of January, and will remain so until they have all their signatures in place.

In spite of all those shenanigans, it still must be shown that a total of 504,760 valid signatures were gathered. As of this writing, it appears that Privacy For All Students may not make the goal. They need to have a 95 percent validity rate, and at current, only about 78 percent of the signatures gathered have been shown to be valid.

Schools are meant to be safe and nurturing environments where all students can learn. This includes students who are transgender. According to the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network, over two thirds of such students feel unsafe in school. More than a quarter have reported physical violence.

The Pacific Justice Institute and Privacy For All Students are showing that they will stoop to any level to win. It's important to unmask their lies, and keep all of us safe.

Gwen Smith was bullied in a California school. You'll find her at www.gwensmith.com



Martyrdom of Saint Matt



Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

January 20th is the Feast Day of St. Sebastian. His 3rd Century death (288 A.D.) by crossbow arrows, while tethered to an upright post, is commemorated by paintings of over 100 artists, including Titian, El Greco, Redon, Tommaso, Carravaggio, Moreau.

St. Sebastian is patron saint of soldiers and athletes, many of whom wear his medal for good luck. He's also known as "Patron Saint of Sports." Of late, he has become a venerated homoerotic icon for gay men. Catholic and otherwise. Active and passive.

Impressionist Claude Debussy composed a soloist-and-chorus vocal work, "The Martyrdom of St. Sebastian," in which St. Sebastian as he gets pierced by yet another arrow sings out ecstatically, "Encore! Encore! Encore!" Again. Again. Again.

There are parallels to a legendary saint of our day, our time - although certainly not venerated in any religious sense - namely Matthew Shepard, who was left in 1998 tethered to a post to die in Laramie, Wyoming, victim of a brutal anti-gay murder. Or, was it anti-gay?

His "arrows" to wound have recently been shot in the form of a book ten years in the researching and writing by Stephen Jimenez, "The Book of Matt: Hidden Truths About the Murder Of Matthew Shepard" (Steer Forth Press)."

Jimenez's book, that has occasioned much controversy, upset, ill will, is based on in-depth interviews completed in 20 states with 100-plus contact sources in an attempt to understand the venerable and vulnerable Shepard's murder. His family is shocked and denying. LGBT activists are upset. Right-wing pundits, smug and accusatory. The arrows are sharp. Deep. Wounding.

Jimenez writes that 21-year-old Shepard was a frequent drug user, involved in the distribution of crystal meth. That drugs and drug-related debt were the real motives behind Shepard's killing. That he was friends with his hustler murderers. Other darts inflicting pain are that Matt was sexually abused as a child, raped as an adolescent.

Matt, Jimenez claims, was as a teenager arrested for molestation of two boys. (His criminal record was sealed to the public almost immediately after his death). Some Laramie citizens quoted say media rushed into hasty judgment without considering facts based upon a full crime investigation.

Unquestioned! Matt's death became a rallying cause against gay bashing and anti-gay crimes.

But shockingly, Matt wasn't the innocent victim portrayed by the media, says Jimenez. He was a very troubled young man involved in an underground Wyoming sex and drug-trafficking life style. As a gay man, he was frequently a victim of the dynamics of a drug-using milieu that took tenacious control. Matt became, like his murderous associates, Aaron McKinney and Russell Henderson, a predator.

The bottom line of course is that Matt Shepard was murdered. He was left to die a horrendous, unattended death, tethered helplessly to a fence. There's no doubt it was a hate crime. However unnerving, "The Book of Matt" forces readers to weigh whether Matt's cruel, night-long agony is an anti-gay hate crime or a drug-related act of vengeance. Perhaps both.

Two martyrs of sorts. One past. St. Sebastian. One present. Matt Shepard. Both asking with their respective deaths centuries apart how God and society view them in their troubled journeys to manhood and self respect. Judge not that ye be not judged.



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(From left) Murray Bartlett, Jonathan Groff and Frankie J. Alvarez in "Looking." Photo: HBO / John P. Johnson

Jonathan Groff On All His Gay Projects & Why He's So Proud Of HBO's 'Looking'

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Jonathan Groff is remembering a scene he shot for the upcoming HBO adaptation of "The Normal Heart." It's his only part with Julia Roberts, and he doesn't have a single line with her.

"She plays a doctor and I collapse on the street, and then they take me into her office and she's like, 'He's dying,'" the actor recalls. "So I didn't get to act with her because I'm, like, hyperventilating on a stretcher. I was foaming at the mouth. She was probably all, 'This kid is really going for it.' But she was really nice, very chill, very undramatic and easy."

The same could be said for Groff.

The affable Pennsylvania native got his start on stage, nabbing a Tony nomination for his role in the 2006 Broadway musical "Spring Awakening" before battling it out with New Directions on "Glee," portraying a young David Sedaris in "C.O.G." and voicing Kristoff in Disney's hot winter hit "Frozen." Now the actor plays Patrick, the charmingly clueless lead in the new gay-friends-living-in-San-Fran series "Looking," also on HBO. Will there be foam? Probably, but only if it's at a party.

With "Looking" and "The Normal Heart," it must be nice knowing that HBO is gonna pay your bills for at least the next year.

(Laughs) Right? It's great. But I've already been paid for those jobs in 2013!

In the pilot's opening scene, after a phone call interrupts a hand-job hookup, you tell your friends you worried it was your mom calling. Has your own mother seen the show?

My mom has always been really supportive of my work. When I was doing "Spring Awakening" she took bus trips of people to come and see the show – like, seriously, 40 people on a tour bus up from Pennsylvania. That was before she had even seen it, so she was shocked when she saw the sex and the nudity and me hitting Lea Michele with a stick, but she

obviously enjoyed it ... because there were three more bus trips after that! So she overcame the awkwardness of seeing my butt on stage, but ever since they cast me in "Looking," the big question in my family has been: "Are they gonna watch it or not when it comes on TV?"

When I came home for the summer to Pennsylvania, I brought the pilot home on DVD and I just said, "I don't know if you wanna watch this or not, but I feel like if you do watch it, you probably won't wanna watch it with me in the room." I think that really freaked them out. (Laughs)

Director Andrew Haigh, who also did

the 2011 gay indie drama "Weekend," has a knack for capturing real moments on camera. How do you think he's accomplished that in "Looking"?

I could spend hours talking about Andrew Haigh. I saw "Weekend" and was like, "Wow, somehow he's made a gay movie that feels universal." I feel like whether (the characters) were gay or old or whatever, he could take any story and humanize it. He's somehow able to catch really human moments.

I would be done with work some days and Frankie (J. Alvarez), Murray (Bartlett) and I would look at each other and say, "Did we

even act today?" It felt so much like us hanging out that it didn't feel like we were "acting." It speaks to the energy of his movie "Weekend," and also to the energy of our show. It was really unlike anything I've ever worked on before.

For "Looking," what's expected of you sexually and what are you not comfortable doing on the show?

Seeing "Weekend" and knowing Andrew Haigh was attached to direct the show, I was like, "OK, I feel 100 percent comfortable to sign that nudity waiver and do absolutely anything." I signed on before I really even knew him. I was like, "Yes, whatever, I'll do anything." Also, from years of being in "Spring Awakening," I've built up a tolerance for acted intimacy. (Laughs) It doesn't freak me out. And I don't wanna give the story away, so I'm not gonna tell you the guy who I get naked with.

I hope it's your boss.

(Laughs) I know! He's cute, right?

What do you have to say about the show being called a "gay version of 'Girls'" - which, by the way, I don't think is accurate. Your boobs don't look anything like Lena Dunham's.

(Laughs) I love that. It's about a group of friends in the way that "Girls" is about a group of friends, but the tone, writing and acting are totally different. I do think if you enjoy "Girls" you will enjoy "Looking," because it's about relationships and trying to find love and your place in the world.

When "Queer as Folk" aired in the early 2000s, the show reflected how anti-hair the gay community was. Body hair wasn't as accepted in the gay community as it is now. And "Looking" and "Weekend" really represent the zeitgeist in that regard. How do you feel about "Looking" embracing a hairier man?

The more natural the body, the better. What they're trying to do in "Looking" is show as many types of people and as many different types of bodies as possible, and also to stay true to San Francisco. And there's a lot of facial hair and body hair in San Francisco!

How much do you relate to Patrick and what's going on in his life?

At the first audition, because I knew Andrew's work, I knew the lines but I didn't do a lot of emotional preparation. I didn't even say the lines out loud until I was in the room with him, because I wanted to find it in the moment. The first time I did the audition scene - the scene on the train where I meet Richie (Raul Castillo) - I started to get hot, but

not in a sexy way. I got nervous-hot. I started sweating and blushing and I felt immediately, in the audition room, like, "I know who this guy is. I feel so connected to his social anxiety."

What shows and films did you connect with as a gay man who was figuring it all out?

I remember being in eighth grade and seeing the billboards for "Will & Grace" - and then, there was so little gay anything. Not as much gay press, not as many out gay actors or gay material to watch, certainly not on network television. Any sort of shred of people being gay was like, "Oh my god, look at that. Is that me? Is that who I am?"

Even though I was not out in high school I knew that I was gay, and seeing that billboard and watching the show, even though I didn't really feel like I was a Will or a Jack - I didn't necessarily connect these characters to me - but just to see some gay characters on TV was great. It made me feel less alone.

As far as "Looking" is concerned, the story is very specific to Michael Lannan, our creator, and his group of friends. When they were auditioning for the show, they had pictures of his friends on the casting board to say, "This is what we're looking for." It's very specific to his experience in San Francisco, but the gay community will hopefully still embrace the fact that there are gay people on TV in the way that I watched "Will & Grace" growing up.

Because of your role in "Looking," how do you feel about possibly being the new poster boy for the gay community in the way Jack and Will were?

I feel so excited to be a part of a show that could potentially be a great moment for the gay community, because it's crazy how few shows there are where there are a lot of central gay characters. As an actor you sort of become the face of whatever you're working on, and I feel really lucky to be a part of this specific show because I believe in it so much as a television show. I'm so proud to be a part of this show.

Maybe Patrick will inspire some kid to feel less alone.

Yeah, totally. That would be amazing. I mean, that's so cool. Yeah, that's like beyond.

In addition to playing gay in "Looking," you also played gay in "C.O.G.," an adaptation of David Sedaris short stories, and you're starring as a gay man in "The Normal Heart." Are you worried about being typecast? Or do you think that's no longer a concern for actors playing gay roles?

I don't know. Only time will tell. For any

actor, gay or straight, being typecast is the biggest thing you have to work against. When I did "Spring Awakening" in New York, it took a long time of auditioning and then I moved to L.A. to prove that I could do more than that. For any actor, you have to put in a lot of work to continually show people and the industry that you can do more. So if the show gets picked up season after season - which, god willing, I would love; that would be amazing and I would want nothing more than that - I'm also ready to take on the challenge of trying to bust out of a role if I get attached to something specific. Call me in 10 years, but I feel so excited to just continue to challenge myself.

Can we get Lea Michele on "Looking"? I mean, you did "Glee," so I think it's only fair.

(Laughs) Oh my god, I would love that! I showed her the first episodes when we took a little trip to Mexico recently and she watched them all again a couple nights ago with her mom. She's so excited. It would be so amazing to have her on.

Everyone's always saying how you're the most charming man ever. But what sets you off? What makes Jonathan Groff a living hell?

Oh, good question. When we were doing "Spring Awakening," I had to do this beating scene with Lea where I got really angry. In early days of rehearsals, Michael Mayer, our director, screamed at me, "Seriously, you're like the most everything-happens-for-a-reason person I've ever met. What makes you angry?! I don't get it." And I said, "You, when you belittle people!" Which is what he was doing to me in that moment. He was thrilled to get a rise out of me and help me finally get there. But here's what I hate: I hate when you're at dinner with a couple who are dating or married and they belittle the other person in front of a group. It's like nails on a chalkboard. I fucking hate that.

And you just dropped the f-bomb, so I know you really mean it.

(Laughs) Yes! I hate that! I honestly hate that in any way, shape or form - with teachers, directors, producers, friends or anyone that is talking down to me or down to someone I'm with. It really pisses me off.

As a Disney fan, was the experience of voicing Kristoff in "Frozen" surreal for you?

Yeah, I was Mary Poppins for Halloween, I was Peter Pan, and I grew up watching Disney movies.

Do you see "Let It Go," the film's musical climax, being done by drag queens?

Oh my god, completely. It's like a gay anthem. I asked (composers) Bobby

See Looking, page 26



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Restaurant Week Kicks Off Jan. 27

BY SHELBY CLARK

Birmingham's annual Restaurant Week, running Jan. 27-31 and Feb. 3-7, will again feature some of the best restaurants bets in town. Three-course lunches will be \$15; three-course dinners run \$30. Portions of the events proceeds will go to charity. Last year, the week-long event raised nearly \$4,000 for Forgotten Harvest.

A silent auction will be offered at various locations throughout the event, with further proceeds going to benefit the Beaumont Hospital's Charles Main Pediatric Cancer Survivor Scholarship Fund. The charity helps young cancer survivors pursue advanced education and honors achievements made by both former and current pediatric cancer patients of the hospital.

Foodies can expect to find delicious and diverse entries during the event. French and Euro-inspired fare can be found at What Crepe? on 172 N. Old Woodward Ave. The bistro brings sweet and savory crepes, soups and salads. The restaurant offers many vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options.

Mediterranean food is plentiful at Elie's Mediterranean Cuisine and Salvatore Scalopini. Elie's specializes in Lebanese dishes such as hummus, stuffed grape leaves and other Middle Eastern dishes. Located at 263 Pierce St., Elie Mondalek and his wife, Tracy, have run the business for 16 years.

Salvatore Scalopini, named "Best Italian Restaurant" by the Detroit News in 2005, brings fresh-made pasta and other Italian

specialties to restaurant week. The Italian eatery is located at 505 N. Old Woodward Ave.

For those craving seafood, Streetside Seafood (273 Pierce St.), open since 1995, features seafood from both the Atlantic and Pacific, as well the "lakes and streams of the Midwest."

Further American cuisine includes The Stand Gastro Bistro (34977 Woodward Ave.), a modern American establishment featuring fresh, local and organic ingredients. The business prides itself on its knowledgeable and courteous staff.

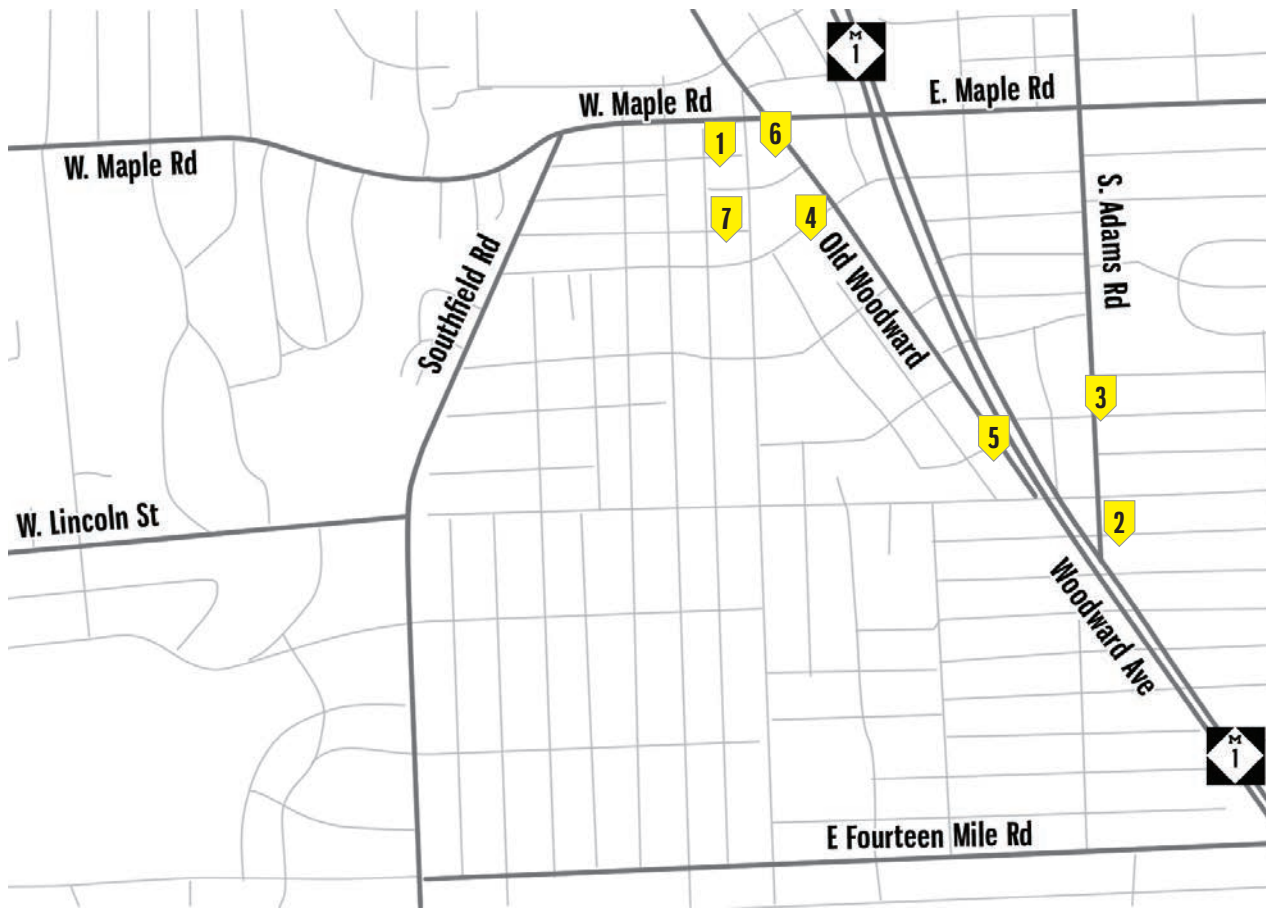
Rojo Mexican Bistro serves as the lone Mexican cuisine during the event, bringing both new and authentic dishes at 250 E. Merrill.

Fleming's (323 N. Old Woodward Ave.) restaurant week menu includes Filet Mignon, Breast of Chicken, or Barbecue Scottish Salmon accompanied by either a Fleming Salad or Seasonal Soup. Finish the meal with an assortment of fresh dessert choices at the steakhouse and wine bar.

Nearly 20 eateries are participating in this year's Birmingham Restaurant Week. Menus for other restaurants will be posted online closer to the event.

For more information on Birmingham's Restaurant Week, call 248-530-1200 or visit www.birminghamrestaurantweek.org. The event's Facebook page can be found at www.facebook.com/EnjoyBirminghamNOW.

Find more LGBT-friendly Birmingham businesses at BTL's Pride Source Yellow Pages at pridesource.com/directory.



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We're Here, We're Queer – Now Where's The Beer?

BY SHELBY CLARK

Nothing chases away a winter chill like a pint of beer. Wine, mead and hard cider can be equally appealing after a day spent shoveling snow.

Luckily, Royal Oak plays host to two separate beer fests featuring local and national beer, wine, cider and mead.

The first event, the Royal Oak Beer Fest, will begin at 8 p.m. and run until 11:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 18 at the Royal Oak Farmer's Market, 316 E. 11 Mile Road.

Multiple craft breweries will be featured, including Michigan microbreweries such as Brewery Vivant out of Grand Rapids, Saugatuck Brewing Company out of Saugatuck, and Motor City Brewing out of Detroit. The festival will also have beers being poured from Boston-based Sam Adams, Ohio-based Great Lakes Brewing and even Quebec's famous Unibroue. Large macrobreweries, including beers from Magic Hat and Blue Moon, will also be present.

Some standout beers to be poured include Oskar Blue's Ten Fidy, Dragonmead Brewery's Final Absolution and Griffing Claw Brewery's Norm's IPA. The latter two breweries are located in Warren and Birmingham, respectively, and have already won multiple awards for their beers. Gallo Winery, Jagermeister and Woodchuck will also be present for those more inclined to wine, spirits and cider.

Proceeds from the Royal Oak Beer Fest will help benefit Planned Parenthood.

Tickets are \$10 for designated drivers, and \$40-60 for all others. The event will open an hour earlier for VIP ticket holders. For more information, visit www.royaloakbeerfest.com



Royal Oak's second beer extravaganza begins at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 25 at the Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St. The "Royal Oak Craft Beer Fest" focuses specifically on "craft" beer from national and local breweries.

Some featured breweries include Warren's award-winning Kuhnhenh Brewing Co., Dexter and Ann Arbor's famous Jolly Pumpkin Artisan Ales, and the much-beloved brewery out of Bellaire, Short's Brewing Co. Breweries outside of Michigan, which will pour libations including Lagunitas Brewing Company, Brooklyn Brewery and New Belgium Brewing, among others.

Not into beer? Vander Mill Cider Mill

& Winery and Mckenzie's Hard Cider will be on hand.

Tickets are \$5 for designated drivers, \$40 for general admission and \$60-65 for VIP tickets, which allow for earlier entry into the beerfest. For more information, visit www.royaloakcraftbeerfest.com.

Both festivals will feature multiple vendors and food trucks, and give 20-drink sample tickets with festival entry. All attendees must be 21 and older, including designated drivers.

For more information on other events in Royal Oak, visit BTL's calendar at www.pridesource.com/calendar.

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Out Of Town

Exploring San Francisco's SoMa Neighborhood

BY ANDREW COLLINS

Encompassing a vast, architecturally and demographically diverse tract of central San Francisco (sanfrancisco.travel/lgbt) that extends from the Mission District to the bay, SoMa is most markedly defined by what it stands for: It's the neighborhood south of Market Street.

Within this urban swath containing everything from shiny new loft condos to vintage refurbished warehouses, you'll find a vibrant stretch of waterfront on the bay, the culturally dynamic Yerba Buena Gardens complex, several stylish hotels, the heart of the city's leather-and-Levi's queer scene, a few of the longest-running gay dance clubs in the country and some of the city's trendiest restaurants and cafes.

Day or night, you'll find plenty to see and do in SoMa. Although LGBT tourists often look upon the Castro as San Francisco's must-see neighborhood, the SoMa gay scene – concentrated around Folsom and Harrison streets near the confluence of the 101 and I-80 freeways – has been humming along for even longer, and it offers an impressively eclectic, creative and edgy vibe that appeals to everyone from queer artists to sophisticated foodies to leather-and-fetish aficionados.

At the upper (northeastern) end of SoMa, closer to the Financial District and waterfront, the neighborhood is more touristy and traditional. This section is anchored by the mammoth Moscone Convention Center, named for former mayor George Moscone who was – with iconic gay rights activist Harvey Milk – assassinated in 1978. Business travelers and tourists of all types are drawn to the several museums, upscale shopping malls and luxury hotels in this area.

It's about a 2.5-mile walk (allow 45 minutes to an hour) to get from the bay to southwestern SoMa's border with the Mission District, and the section in the middle – from about 4th to 8th streets – can be a little Spartan and less interesting (though still quite safe). At night,

consider cabbing it if trying to get from one of the hotels up near Yerba Buena Gardens to the gay-bar and hip dining district.

SoMa sightseeing

Right where Market Street ends on the bay, at Embarcadero, you'll find San Francisco's Ferry Terminal Building, which contains a slew of great restaurants and food shops. The gorgeously restored 1898 building overlooks San Francisco Bay – ferry boats to Oakland, Sausalito, Tiburon, and elsewhere still leave from the piers behind the building. Inside, you'll find merchants and restaurants proffering a dizzying variety of mouthwatering morsels, including wines, olive oils, sausages, cheeses, coffee and tea, sweets – you name it. There's also a terrific farmers market early on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Across street, stop inside the small but very interesting San Francisco Railway Museum, which contains exhibits on the city's famed cable cars and F-line streetcars.

The contemporary Yerba Buena Gardens comprises terraced gardens and waterfalls, sculptures, an arts center with performance halls and art galleries, cafes, a children's museum and an ice-skating and bowling center. Taking up two large city blocks, this complex also contains the huge and modern Metreon shopping mall and movie plex, and several intriguing museums: the Museum of the African Diaspora, the Cartoon Art Museum, the Contemporary Jewish Museum and the California Historical Society. Across from Yerba Buena, the outstanding San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA) is closed during a major expansion until early 2016, but the excellent SFMOMA museum store is still open, and in the meantime, the museum is presenting a number of rotating exhibits at other venues around the city.

The neighborhood has quite a few commercial art galleries, too: 111 Minna Gallery and Terra Gallery are notable venues not too far from Yerba Buena Gardens, while down near the

See **Out Of Town**, page 26

www.PrideSource.com

Hear Me Out

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Beyoncé, Jennifer Nettles

BEYONCÉ

Beyoncé, 'Beyoncé'

It's a new year, but we're not done gushing over Beyoncé and that juggernaut of an album she surprise-dropped to a web blitz of industry-shattering joyousness. She was all like "I'm just gonna put this here" when the pop behemoth snuck 14 songs and 17 music videos up on iTunes, a game-changing move that was only outdone by the actual contents of the sprawling project. Easily Bey's most personally inspired, sexually uninhibited work, it's what "Erotica" was to Madonna, what "The Velvet Rope" was to Janet, and what "ARTPOP" should've been to Gaga. "Can you lick my Skittles, it's the sweetest in the middle / Pink is the flavor, solve the riddle," she sexes on "Blow," a flirty, innuendo-drenched '70s throwback that has all sorts of roller-skating vibes radiating off its Donna Summers-esque glow (and naturally, it has Bey skating in the video). Sex is recurring on "Beyoncé," as is feminism, love, family, spirituality, death and self-image; it's as all-encompassing as we've seen its creator, making for a provocative, multi-layered, career-best opus that's reflective, sophisticated and decidedly not very mainstream. "Mine," with Drake, is a morphing, six-minute-plus piece of minimalism that, despite its trippy style, is still profoundly affecting. So is "Heaven," the best of two child-inspired

ballads (though the big-hearted "Blue" endears greatly). The song is pure and powerful, reiterating the sentiment that "heaven couldn't wait for you, so go on, go home" – the "you" presumably being the pre-Blue baby she miscarried. In that context, especially, it's wrenching, but it's also real – more real than Beyoncé, known for her elusiveness, has ever been. Here, the star lets down her guard and, for just a bit, lets us into her heart, her soul, her world. *Grade: A-*



Jennifer Nettles, 'That Girl'

It's her first official release as a solo artist, but hasn't Jennifer Nettles always been one? I mean, even with

Kristian Bush, she's the energy, charisma and voice of Sugarland. And it's not the first time: In 1998, before she became one of the biggest names (and voices) in country music, Nettles fronted a self-titled alt-country group. Sugarland might as well be called The Jennifer Nettles Band, too. "That Girl," then, isn't a surprising venture, but – even with Rick Rubin's earthy production, and considering what she is capable of – it's also not one that compels or captures like Nettles has with

or before Sugarland. She pours her heart all over "Falling," a drum-kicked soul surger, and "Good Time to Cry" and a stripped cover of Bob Seger's "Like a Rock" – both demonstrating the power and spirit that make Nettles a vocal force to be reckoned with – save the best for last. The disc's core, though, is tepidly fly-by, and besides "That Girl" – an almost wink-wink companion piece to Sugarland's Grammy-winning "Stay" – it disappoints with melodically bland blues/gospel/rock and Nettles' middle-of-the-road co-writes. Nettles will release another solo LP, because she should, and though "That Girl" – a refreshing-if-unsound break from Sugarland's country pop – isn't the album it could be, it at least shows there's more up her sleeve. *Grade: C+*

Also Out



Mary Chapin Carpenter, 'Songs from the Movie'

Age has mellowed Mary Chapin Carpenter, who, at the height of her popularity, was a country-radio mainstay, delivering one buoyant hit after another. Her now-ethereal folk is embellished with an orchestra on this 10-song collection of previously released, recently re-imagined songs from the singer-songwriter's esteemed catalog. Gorgeously augmented with soaring strings and brass from some of London's premier orchestral musicians, and making the experience of these compositions anew ("The Dreaming Road," "Between Here and Gone"), "Songs from the Movie" is like hearing them for the first time.



R. Kelly, 'Black Panties'

When it comes to good-bad, it's hard to top R. Kelly's awesomely awful "Trapped in the Closet" soap-opera saga. Unless, of course, you're R. Kelly and you've just released a new album called "Black Panties" (let that sink in for a minute). His wish to "Marry the Pussy," a slinky slow jam that's parody-bound, makes you wonder how people can even make a fuss about gay marriage, and bump jam "Cookie" gives new meaning to the "cream in the middle." With the X-rated ridiculousness of "Black Panties," the closet door is wide open and everything is on full display.



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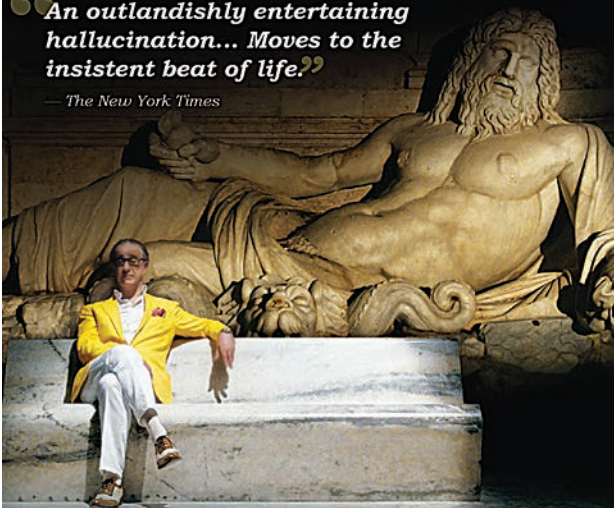
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“3”
Kathryn Brackett Luchs,
Lois Teicher &
Marie Woo
January 17th—February 15th, 2014



Left to right: Lois Teicher, "Three Red Geometric Shapes", welded steel, Kathryn Brackett Luchs, "Transition", mixed media, and Marie Woo, "Vessel", stoneware.

Opening Reception: Friday, Jan. 17th. 6-9pm
Gallery Talk: Saturday, Feb. 1st. 2-4pm

DAM JANUARY FEATURED ARTIST:
S. Kay Young, photography

Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, Jan. 16

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

The Parent Network 6 p. m. This group aims to assist parents in understanding their child's identity, while also giving parents the opportunity to socialize with other adults who have LGBT children. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. Kglrc.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

Trivia with Terry 7 p. m. Join Terry for Trivia upstairs. No registration required. Aut Bar, 315 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-994-3677. Autbar.com

Pagan Chat Nights 7:30 p. m. Come socialize with FOCAS members and other area pagans! Michigan Pagans, 21700 West Road, **Woodhaven**. Meetup.com/michiganpagans

Polyamory Network 7:30 p. m. Meets the third Thursday of every month. Polyamory Network, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. jimtoycenter.org

Drag Queen Bingo Un-Leashed 8 p. m. "No Holds Barred" Thursday edition! 18+. Tickets: \$20. Five15, 515 S. Washington Ave., **Royal Oak**. 248-515-2551. Five15.net

Friday, Jan. 17

Womyn's Film Night 7 p. m. Film: Saving Face Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Bear Trap 9 p. m. All new weekly party for bears, cubs and their admirers. Hayloft Saloon, 8070 Greenfield Road, **Detroit**. 313-581-8913. Hayloftsaloon.com

Pride Friday 9 p. m. The one and only gay night. 18+. Guys with college ID get in free before 11 p. m. Cover: \$5+. Necto, 516 E. Liberty St., **Ann Arbor**. 734-994-5835. Thenecto.com

Saturday, Jan. 18

Windover Women's Resort Bowling Event 2 p. m. Windover Women's Resort, 600 E. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. Meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

Men's Discussion Group 6 p. m. Lighthearted or in-depth discussion on a variety of topics. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

Dinner and a Movie with Out Loud 8 p. m. Tickets: \$12-18. Out Loud Chorus, 4800 E. Huron River Dr., **Ann Arbor**. 734-265-0740. outloudchorus@gmail.com Olconline.org

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

Sunday, Jan. 19

Tashmoo Biergarten 12 p. m. Pop-up European style beer garden with Detroit sensibility. Food, beer, games, and more. Location often varies. Tashmoo

Biergarten, 1420 Van Dyke, **Detroit**. guten-tag@tashmoo-detroit.com Tashmoo-detroit.com

Monthly Support and Program Meeting 2 p. m. PFLAG, 306 N. Division, **Ann Arbor**. 734-741-0659. Pflagaa.org

Bisexual Peer Group 4 p. m. Our group meets monthly on the third Friday & discussion relates to bisexual identity. Building is handicap accessible using ramp to rear entrance. Bisexual Peer Group, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-678-2478. Biprideannarbor@gmail.com Facebook.com/groups/110918256984/

Fellowship for Today 5:30 p. m. Open and Affirming. Lansing Korean United Methodist Church, 2400 E. Lake Lansing Road, **East Lansing**. 517-337-4070. info@fellowshiptoday.org

Salon Sunday 7 p. m. Free cabaret concerts. Five 15, 515 S. Washington Ave., **Royal Oak**. 248-515-2551. Five15.net

Server Sundays 9 p. m. Bring in a paystub or POS card. Discounts for

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

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

A2 TNG (Next Generation of Kinkster) 7:45 p. m. A2 TNG, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-678-2478. CuteSubToy@yahoo.com JimToyCenter.org

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

Karaoke 9:30 p. m. Hosted by KJ Les. aut Bar, 315 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-994-3677. Autbar.com



17-18. The performance is at Towsley Auditorium, located within the Morris Lawrence Building on Washtenaw Community College's campus. Tickets are \$12-18. For more information, call 734-265-0740 or visit www.olcoline.org.

those in hospitality industry. aut Bar, 315 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-994-3677. Autbar.com

Monday, Jan. 20

Movement with Kristi Faulkner Dance 7 p. m. Tickets: \$5. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

Tuesday, Jan. 21

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

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

Interweave 6:15 p. m. A spiritual home to LGBTQ and all family and allies. Potluck begins every meeting. First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, **Ann Arbor**. 734-665-6158. Uuaa.org

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

Life's a Stitch 6:30 p. m. Open to those who Crochet, Knit, Quilt, Needlepoint, Macrame and Jewelry.

Wednesday, Jan. 22

Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals 1933-1945 The story of what happened to homosexuals in Nazi Germany is the subject of the exhibition. Holocaust Memorial Center, 48123 Orchard Lake Road, **Farmington Hills**. 248-553-2400 x24. Holocaustcenter.org

Alexander: Art Bi-Polar A solo exhibition of work by Charles Alexander. The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, **Detroit**. 313-831-1250. Scarabclub.org

COBO Support Group 5 p. m. Coming out, being out. EMU LGBTRC, **Ypsilanti**. 734-487-4149. Emich.edu/lgbtrc

Mid-Week Meditation 6 p. m. Suggested Donation: \$3. Michigan Pagans, 195 W. Nine Mile Road, Suite 1B, **Ferndale**. Meetup.com/michiganpagans

A Venomous Cocktail Wine and Cheese Party 7 p. m. A wine and cheese celebration of author Jody Valley's novel with a short talk. Rescheduled from Oct. 17. Schuler Books & Music, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., **Lansing**.

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

Sistrum Weekly Rehearsal 7 p. m. Sistrum, Lansing Women's Chorus, 215 N. Capital Ave., **Lansing**. Sistrum.org

Young@Heart 7 p. m. Socializing and conversation for those 45 and older. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

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

MUSIC & MORE

Classical

Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra "Chamber Recital Series: The Singing Trumpet" Tickets: \$10. Jewish Community Center of Ann Arbor, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr., Ann Arbor. 1 p. m. Jan. 17. A2so.com

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Mozart and Bach" Tickets: \$25+. Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, Grosse Pointe. 3 p. m. Jan. 19. Dso.org

Concerts

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "A Tribute to Led Zeppelin" Tickets: \$19+.

Editor's Pick

Out Loud Chorus will give their first concert of the New Year this weekend. Titled "Dinner and a Movie," Washtenaw County's "Original mixed LGBTQA Chorus" invites all LGBTQ and allies on a musical date of food, movie and song.

The show will focus on songs from films about food. Paul Haebig both directs and leads the chorus, with Annie Jeng on piano, Edie Herrold on bass, and Tamara Perkuhn on percussion.

"Dinner and a Movie" with the OutLoud Chorus begins at 8 p.m. on both Friday and Saturday, Jan.

Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jan. 17 - Jan. 18. 313-576-5111. Dso.org

Kerrytown Concert House "The Whammies" Music of Steve Lacy. Tickets: \$5-30. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p. m. Jan. 19. 734-763-4186. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Bastille". Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. Jan. 19. 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre.com

The Ark "Seth Glier" With special guest Anne Heaton. Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p. m. Jan. 17. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Franke Center for the Arts "Ronny Cox" Tickets: \$23-25. The Franke Center for the Arts, 214 E. Mansion St., Marshall. 8 p. m. Jan. 18. 269-789-9677. frankecenterforthearts.org

The Magic Bag "Mike Leslie Band" With Seven Birds One Stone & Chris Degnore and the Black Drops. Tickets: \$10. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 8 p. m. Jan. 17. 248-544-3030. Themagicbag.com

The Majestic "Escaping Pavement" With Ryan Dilaha and the Miracle Men & The Barbarossa Brothers. All ages. Tickets: \$5. The Magic Stick Lounge,

4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p. m. Jan. 17. 313-833-9700. Majesticdetroit.com

UMS "Kronos Quartet" Tickets: \$20-50. Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. Jan. 17 - Jan. 18. 734-764-2538. Ums.org

THEATER

Civic/Community Theater

12 Angry Men \$12-14. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. Through Jan. 19. 517-482-5700. riverwalk.com

Arsenic and Old Lace \$7-24. The Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Through Jan. 25. 269-343-1313. kazooicivc.com

Into the Woods \$18-24. The Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Parish Theatre, 426 South Park Street, Kalamazoo. Jan. 24 - Feb. 8. 269-343-1313. kazooicivc.com

Shrek The Musical \$20-22. Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. Through Jan. 26. 248-541-6430. Stagecrafters.org

The UFO Show 7: I'll get in shape next year \$8. Emergent Arts at Mix Studio Theatre, 130 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. 8 p.m. Jan. 16. 734-961-8704. emergentarts.com

College/University Theater

Birth and After Birth \$10-12. Studio Theatre, underground at the Hilberry, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Jan. 16 - 25. 313-577-2972. wsustudio.com

Exceptions to Gravity \$10-\$20. Oakland University Dept. of Music, Theatre and Dance at Varner Recital Hall, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 16. 248-370-2030. oakland.edu/mtd

Seven \$5-20. The University Theatre at York Arena Theatre inside The Gilmore Theatre Complex, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. Jan. 23 - Feb. 2. 269-387-6222. wmutheatre.com

Professional

A Doctor in Spite of Himself \$12-30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through Feb. 8. 313-577-2972. Hilberry.com

An Evening with The Rat Pack of Opera \$18-33. The Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 18. 248-661-1900. Theberman.org

Are You My Mother? \$10. Flint Youth Theatre, 1220 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 7 p.m. Jan. 17. 810-237-1530. flintyouththeatre.org

County Line \$22-41. Performance

Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Jan. 16 - Feb. 16. 734-663-0681. performancenetwork.org

Eric Gutman: From Broadway to Obscurity \$27 and \$22 for JCC members (includes service fees). The Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 West Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Jan. 25 - 26. 248-661-1900. theberman.org

Girls Night: The Musical \$38. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Through Jan. 19. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com

Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde \$12-30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through March 22. 313-577-2972. hilberry.com

Harris Cashes Out! \$25-40. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. Through Feb. 2. 248-377-3300. mbtheatre.com

I Hate Hamlet \$16-\$18. The Box Theater, 90 Macomb Place, Mount Clemens. Jan. 10 - 25. 586-954-2677. theboxtheater.com

My Occasion of Sin \$17-20. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Through March 16. 313-868-1347. detroitreptheatre.com

Owl's Winter \$3-12. Wild Swan Theater at Towsley Auditorium in the Morris Lawrence Building on the campus of Washtenaw Community College, 4800 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor. Jan. 23 - 25. 734-995-0530. wildswantheater.org

Peter and the Star Catcher \$25+. Wharton Center's Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. Jan. 22 - 26. 800-WHARTON. whartoncenter.com

Redwood Curtain \$18.50-42. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through March 15. 734-433-7673. purplerosetheatre.org

Sesame Street Live: Can't Stop Singing \$15-68. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jan. 23 - Feb. 17. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com

Stomp \$25-55. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Jan. 24 - 25. 810-237-8689. thewhiting.com

Tartuffe \$7-14. Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company at Dog Story Theatre, 7 Jefferson SE, Grand Rapids. Through Jan. 19. 616-894-1252. dogstorytheater.com

Tartuffe \$12-15. Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company at Red Barn Saugatuck, 3657 63rd St., Saugatuck. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 25. 269-857-5300. pcsakespeare.com

Tartuffe \$7-14. Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company at Seven Steps Up, 116 S. Jackson St., Spring Lake. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 24. 616-850-0916. pcsakespeare.com

The Addams Family \$25-65. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. Jan. 24 - Jan. 25. 586-286-2222. macombcenter.com

The Lion in Winter \$15-25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. Jan. 23 - Feb. 23. 517-655-SHOW. williamstontheatre.org

The Submission \$10-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through Feb. 3. 248-545-5545. theeringwald.com

We've Only Just Begun: Carpenters Remembered \$43-58. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. Jan. 18. 586-286-2222. macombcenter.com

You Just Have No Idea \$15-18. Broadway Onstage Live Theatre, 21517 Kelly Road, Eastpointe. Through Feb. 8. 586-771-6333. broadwayonstage.com

ART 'N' AROUND

Cranbrook Academy of Art and Art Museum "The Islands of Benoit Mandelbrot: Fractals, Chaos, and the Materiality of Thinking" Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Nov. 16 - March 30. 877-462-7262. Cranbrookart.edu

Detroit Artists Market (DAM) "3: Kathryn Brackett Luchs, Lois Teicher and Marie Woo" Detroit Artists Market, 4719 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jan. 17 - Feb. 15. 313-832-8540. detroitartistsmarket.org

Detroit Institute of Arts "Foto Europa, 1850 to the Present" Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Oct. 25 - April 27. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

Flint Institute of Arts "Martin Luther King Jr. Day" Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Jan. 20. 810-234-1695. flintarts.org

Grand Rapids Art Museum "Friday Night Conversations" Grand Rapids Art Museum, 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. Aug. 9 - Feb. 28. 616-831-1000. artmuseumgr.org

Saugatuck Center for the Arts "The Uncanny Life and Legacy of Harry Brorby" West Michigan artist. Free. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. Dec. 13 - Jan. 31. 269-857-2399. Sc4a.org

The Scarab Club "Gary Grimshaw: Solo" Grimshaw is a graphic artist of exceptional talent who has an extraordinary history and character. He was born in Detroit. The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. Jan. 1 - Feb. 15. 313-831-1250. Scarabclub.org

UMMA "Three Michigan Architects: Part 1 - David Osler". University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Dec. 7 - March 31. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

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Solidarity
by Richard Gruno, lithograph, 1947
(image: Schwules Museum, Berlin)

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Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals



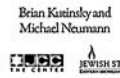
The Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals exhibit details the Nazis' so-called moral crusade against homosexuality in an effort to racially and culturally purify Germany. This persecution ranged from dissolution of homosexual organizations to internment of thousands of individuals in concentration camps. Gay men, in particular, were subject to harassment, arrest, incarceration, and even castration. In Nazi eyes, gay men were weak and unfit to be soldiers, as well as unlikely to contribute to the racial struggle for Aryan dominance.

Artifacts from the exhibit depict the freedom experienced by homosexuals prior to the Nazi rise to power in 1933:

FAR LEFT: A 1907 political cartoon depicting sex researcher Magnus Hirschfeld, "Hero of the Day," drumming up support for the abolition of Paragraph 175 of the German penal code that criminalized homosexuality (image: US Holocaust Memorial Museum Photo Archives)

LEFT: Cover of the September 1931 issue of *The Island*, a magazine for homosexuals (image: US Holocaust Memorial Museum)

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► Looking

Continued from p. 15

(Lopez) and Kristen (Anderson-Lopez), "Did you intend to write a gay anthem? Because I'm pretty sure you did." They're like, "No; honestly, when we wrote that song we were like, 'We're gonna go to a room right now and get really in an emotional place and write this ballad that is just true and honest and real.'" So they did not intend to write a gay ballad – but I think they did anyway!

You worked with Julia Roberts and Mark Ruffalo on Ryan Murphy's adaptation of Larry Kramer's 1985 play "The Normal Heart," which airs in May. I mean, no big deal or anything.

I know, it's crazy. When "The Kids Are All Right" came out, I saw that movie three times in the movie theater and I'm so obsessed with it and I'm so obsessed with him (Ruffalo) in it. Like a crazy person, I cut out a picture of him in a magazine – I'm not even kidding, I never do this – and put it on my dressing room mirror because I was like, "That's who I wanna be." I just admire him so much. And so in the movie I play his ex-boyfriend ...

Do you get to kiss him then?

► Out Of Town

Continued from p. 22

Mission, the SoMa Arts Cultural Center presents provocative exhibits throughout the year that are often specifically of queer interest. Several other galleries are located along Howard and Folsom streets in this part of the neighborhood.

Gay bars and nightclubs

SoMa's lower section is home to some of the city's most historic gay bars, including the End Up, which has been going strong since 1973 – it was featured famously in Armistead Maupin's "Tales of the City" series. The crowd these days is a catch-all: queer and straight clubbers of all ages, from college students to some who may very well have been here on opening night four decades ago. Also legendary is The Stud (studsf.com), which is nearing its 50th birthday and is justly famous for its Meow Mix gender-bender Tuesday variety shows and is fun for dancing on weekends too.

The neighborhood has long been one of the world's leading hubs of gay leather culture – it plays host to the infamous Folsom Street Fair (folsomstreetfair.org) each September as well as the Up Your Alley fetish fair in late July. The renowned San Francisco Eagle (sf-eagle.com), which shuttered for a time and was nearly redeveloped as an upscale restaurant (causing a huge community kerfuffle), reopened early in 2013 and is as invitingly dark and saucy as ever, if less strictly leather-oriented than it used to be. These days you'll find a diverse crowd, including otters and bears, hipsters, leather

We don't have a kissing scene, which is unfortunate for me, because when the movie starts, we're already exes. But just to be in the same room as him was a big deal for me. I fell deeper in love.

What do you hope the takeaway will be for this generation of LGBT people who didn't experience the AIDS epidemic like those who saw "The Normal Heart" in its original form?

We did this scene on the beach on Fire Island where they had a white party and there were extras in their early 20s – and I'm 28 – and we're all having a blast, and then it hit a bunch of us as we were standing there that, in the story of this movie, most of these people are dead. Just standing there on the beach with everyone dressed in white being so young and having a great time – and thinking about what happened to the people who were dressed like this – it was really powerful and really affecting.

For my generation of people watching the movie, hopefully that will be like, "Oh, this was like us. This was us 30 years ago." It's so amazing that they're turning that play into a movie, and that young people will watch. Maybe people who aren't as connected to the AIDS crisis will be able to look back and see themselves in these characters and pass the story onto the next generation.

daddies, and even some twinks. Other good bets along Folsom Street include the ultra-cruise-y Powerhouse (powerhouse-sf.com), with such creative theme nights as Nipple Play and Kink Salon, and the venerable Hole in the Wall Saloon (holeinthewallsaloon.com), which has long billed itself "a nice little queer bar for filthy bikers and loudmouth punks." Nearby, the Lone Star Saloon (lonestarsf.com) is a beloved neighborhood bar with a good-size patio, great happy hour drink specials, and a furry all-ages crowd.

11th Street between Folsom and Harrison has gradually become SoMa's hippest bar-hopping block, with a slew of notable restaurants, lounges and clubs, including the gay nightclub BeatBox (beatboxsf.com), an eclectic space for dancing that offers everything from country music on Tuesdays to Tea-Rex T-dances on Sundays; and DNA Lounge (dnalounge.com), a huge dance club and live-music venue with a mixed crowd and an adjacent pizza restaurant that's handily open 24/7.

Nearby, the massive 1015 Folsom (1015.com) nightclub has some highly popular circuit-style parties and raves (check the calendar for details). Cat Club (sfcatclub.com) is another cool dance space with different theme nights, many with a strong queer following: Throwback Thursdays and Wednesday's Bondage A-Gogo are two of the city's better midweek clubbing adventures.

Andrew Collins produces the site GayTravel.About.com and contributes to many other travel magazines and websites. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutofTown@qsyndicate.com.

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Wilde For Wilde's Sake

BY CAROLYN HAYES

In 1895, celebrated scribe and legendary wit Oscar Wilde sued a man for libel and lost; the private details unearthed in that trial, in turn, led to Wilde's own arrest, trial and eventual conviction for engaging in homosexuality. This blanket description alone swells with scandalous dramatic possibility, but the reality was even more intricate, interrogating the complex interplay of an artist's self, his work and his philosophy, and then throwing in the added complications of societal morality and celebrity to the mix.

Playwright Moses Kaufman fastidiously reconstructs the events into his own artistic conception, "Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde," now at the Hilberry Theatre under the direction of Blair Anderson. While the production shows a smooth execution of an unusual narrative form, it has less success in identifying its opus, incongruously asking to be appreciated on solely artistic grounds while simultaneously making faulty passes at emotional appeal and didactic purpose.

The play is told entirely via primary and secondary sources, drawing heavily from trial transcripts, but also incorporating quotes from newspapers, biographies and the writings of Wilde (Tophér Allen Payne) and his longtime lover, Lord Alfred Douglas (David Sterritt). These different, opinionated voices flesh out the dubiously motivated libel suit brought against Lord Alfred's disapproving father (Brent Griffith), who thought that by heaping scandal upon Wilde, he could ruin the elder man and consequently recover his rebellious younger son. Through this and the subsequent trials prosecuting the artist, the courtroom thrummed with scandalous details, Wilde's beliefs and works were attacked as vehemently as his character, and media and public sentiment fell to breathless puritanical judgment. In the eyes of clamped-down Victorian society, homosexuality was not merely an offense punishable by imprisonment and hard labor, but the worst, most immoral crime imaginable.

Every scrap of text is clearly the result of exhaustive research (for which the author's dramaturg, Stephen Wangh, deserves mention); this is made clear by ongoing citations and explanatory footnotes, delivered by a supporting cast that collaborates to serve a shared narrative function. The device also allows actors to visibly don and shed their different parts, an artifice that cleanly justifies women inhabiting men's roles (mindfully costumed by Mary Gietzen).



"Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde" continues in repertory at the Hilberry Theatre through March 22. Photo: Hilberry Theatre

REVIEW

Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde

Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit.
8 p.m. Jan. 11, 16-18, 30-31, Feb. 1,
March 20-22, and 2 p.m. Jan. 15 and
Feb. 1. \$12-30. 313-577-2972.

www.hilberry.com

The unconventional storytelling of the full-bibliography conceit has surprising advantages, chief among them the disconnect between a character's own recollections and accounts by others. In particular, Annie Keris soars with contradiction within the character of Wilde's serious, competent, but dismayed lawyer. The authenticity of using transcripts brings Wilde's scathing intelligence and maddening particularities to life, making literary treats of the delightful semantic battles between Payne and Alec Barbour as a defending barrister.

The narrative format also permits the playwright to skip ahead or note an unspoken "et cetera," best exemplified in a well-timed parade of miscreants that serves as a comic showcase for Bevin Bell-Hall, Miles Boucher, Brandon Grantz, and Brandy Joe Plambeck.

Scenic designer Sarah Pearline answers the representative and deliberately unreal proceedings with a perspective-bending funhouse of a courtroom set, its white raked floor and railings in glaring contrast to the black details and furniture. Symbolic though it may be, the setting may be too specific, as scenes set in flashback or in tandem feel strangely confined or out of place. (A contributing factor may be Michael "Mick" Keathley II's lighting

design, which glosses over many of the constant narrative shifts, underlining only the most capital-I Important themes with harsh backlighting and a weak spotlight.) Sound design by Leah McCall fills in audience reactions in keeping with the transcripts, canned noises that further divide the unusual onstage proceedings from the genuine reactions of the play's live audience.

With these tactics, the play is mirroring Wilde's own deeply founded Hellenistic perspective of art for art's sake. It unfolds here in a clear execution of a very good, albeit complex, script, although the whole of the show falls somewhat short of being revelatory.

Some of this can be attributed to Payne's portrayal of Wilde, who animatedly praises literary and aesthetic beauty above all else, but is reticent to show interest in the proceedings that will dictate his fate, leading to long stretches of reasoning met by furtive indifference.

Additionally, Kaufman self-sabotages his artistic ideal by padding an already-lengthy show with an intriguing but pointed contextual interlude and a heavy-handed, melodramatic coda.

With its upfront emphasis on source material and its thorough coverage, "Gross Indecency" holds plenty of intrigue for history buffs. Viewers familiar with Wilde's literary achievements should also appreciate the in-depth look at the collision of his personal and artistic lives; similarly, fans of alternative dramatic structures will find much to mine from this play. Still, although the production itself has a competent grasp on its form and flow, it ultimately gets tangled up in the script's uncertainty as to whether the story is self-sufficient, or should serve a greater purpose.

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

Bloomfield Hills-Sunday / Tuesday / Thursday

8:00 pm, North Woodward Equality, Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, lower level classroom - enter first walkway off Woodward entrance. Big Book/12 & 12 Meeting.

Detroit-Tuesday / Friday

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

Farmington Hills-Monday

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

Ferndale-Monday / Wednesday / Friday

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

Ferndale-Saturday

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

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

Livonia-Friday

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

Warren-Monday

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

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Solution to puzzle from page 30

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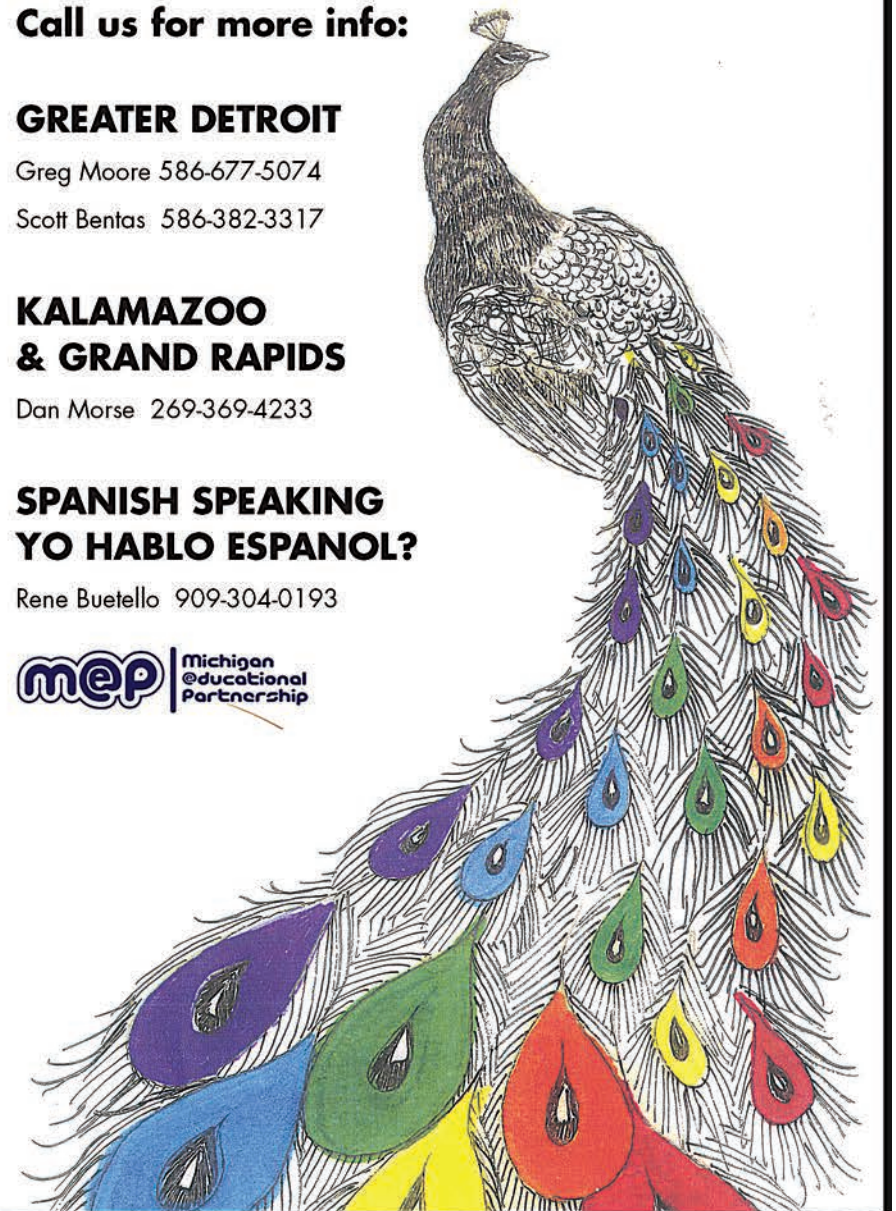
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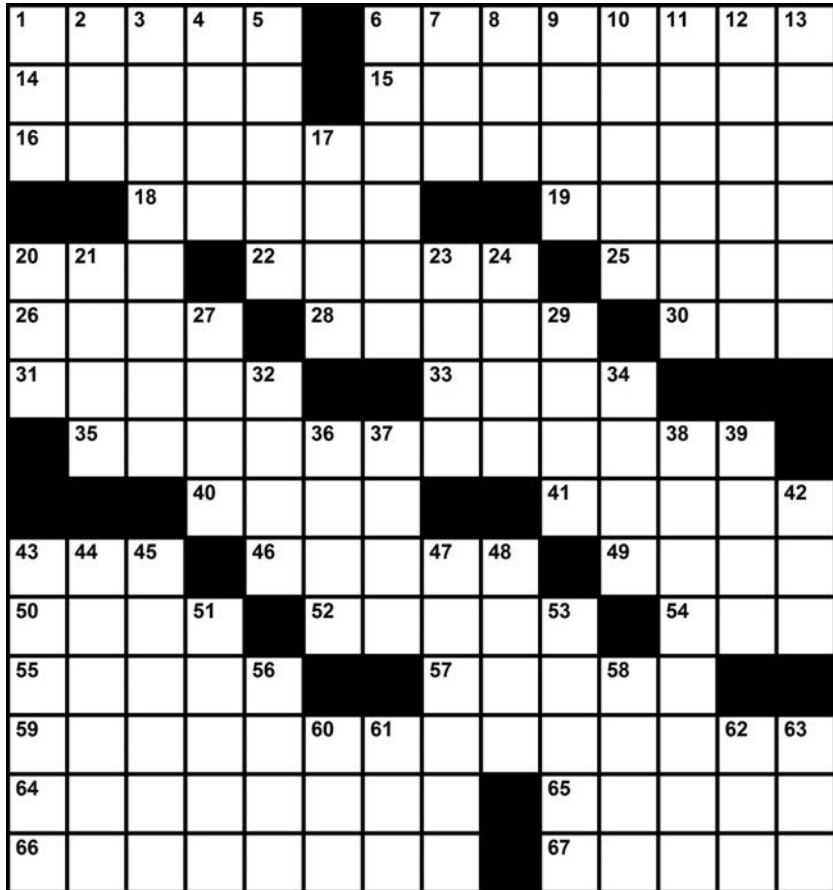
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Across

- 1 Name of many a gay bar
- 6 "Cabaret" director
- 14 Become an open pansy, e.g.
- 15 Like an empty apartment
- 16 Tennis great and LGBT icon
- 18 Handle on a wine bottle
- 19 Hard to penetrate
- 20 Hornet's nest
- 22 First name in talk
- 25 Role for Bela
- 26 Charted records
- 28 Second name in cross-dressing
- 30 '69 and others
- 31 Fire remains
- 33 Part of San Francisco's BART
- 35 Two-time Olympic medalist in hockey
- 40 Harness the wind
- 41 Where you can eat heroes
- 43 What you thumb through in a bk.
- 46 Boat bottom bumpers
- 49 Pianist Hess
- 50 "Brothers & Sisters" producer Ken
- 52 Tonsil trouble
- 54 Supporter of bottoms
- 55 SautÉed delicacy
- 57 Winfrey of "The Color Purple"

- 59 He appointed two athletes in this puzzle to the US delegation to the Sochi Olympics
- 64 Ben Gay, for one
- 65 Parent's major responsibility
- 66 Gets touched by a rubber
- 67 Sleek swimmer

Down

- 1 Come out on the beach
- 2 Will Smith title role
- 3 Vidal's "Live from ____"
- 4 Role for Marlene
- 5 Nellie-lover in "South Pacific"
- 6 Actress GeneviÈve
- 7 January, numerically
- 8 Cross-dresser's cup pair
- 9 Provide, as for oneself
- 10 Like Bernstein, regarding pitches
- 11 Tight-fisted
- 12 Alarm component
- 13 They can cut leaves of grass
- 17 "She" to Bonheur
- 20 "So, it's YOU!"
- 21 Record album
- 23 "A Summer Place" actor Richard
- 24 Undercover crack investigator, perhaps

- 27 Frida's half-dozen
- 29 Enjoy E. Lynn Harris
- 32 Jones formerly of "The View"
- 34 Deep throat clearer
- 36 They gave Pinocchio an 8-incher
- 37 "Why should ____ you?"
- 38 Timothy of "Damages"
- 39 Telegram
- 42 Went out with
- 43 Cheerleader's handful
- 44 Audre Lorde's partner Josephs
- 45 Rock singers of Greek mythology?
- 47 Leads, as a rock band
- 48 Back-to-school mo.
- 51 Chicken hawk pads
- 53 Movie trailer, e.g.
- 56 Peru's capital
- 58 Some
- 60 Univ. title
- 61 Hydrocarbon ending
- 62 He comes between Larry and Curly
- 63 Abbr. on a Provincetown Ferry ticket

Solution on pg. 28

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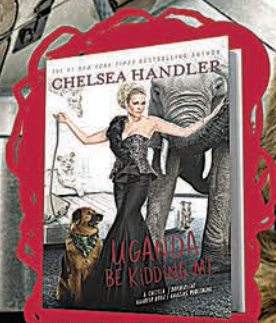
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