

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE CELEBRATING 20 YEARS



ROMANCE
ISSUE

Maine Court Defends Transgender Student

LGBT Viewer's Guide To Winter Olympics

Gay Ugandan To Speak In Detroit



THE HEAT ISON

Meet Chris Harder, Dirty Show's First Porn Star



The **one**  for me

Patient model. Pill shown is not actual size.

What is COMPLERA?

COMPLERA® is a prescription HIV medicine that is used as a complete regimen to treat HIV-1 in adults who have **never** taken HIV medicines before and who have an amount of HIV in their blood (this is called “viral load”) that is no more than 100,000 copies/mL. COMPLERA contains 3 medicines – rilpivirine, emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate. It is not known if COMPLERA is safe and effective in children under the age of 18 years.

COMPLERA® does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS. To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses you must keep taking COMPLERA. Avoid doing things that can spread HIV-1 to others: always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids; never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them, do not share personal items that may contain bodily fluids. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information you should know about COMPLERA?

COMPLERA® can cause serious side effects:

- **Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis)**, which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include feeling very weak or tired, unusual (not normal) muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold, especially in your arms and legs, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Serious liver problems.** The liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and fatty (steatosis). Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice), dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored bowel movements (stools), loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach pain.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking COMPLERA for a long time. *In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death.* Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you also have HBV and stop taking COMPLERA, your hepatitis may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking COMPLERA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health. COMPLERA is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

Who should not take COMPLERA?

Do not take COMPLERA if you have ever taken other anti-HIV medicines.

COMPLERA may change the effect of other medicines and may cause serious side effects. Your healthcare provider may change your other medicines or change their doses.

Do not take COMPLERA if you also take these medicines:

- **anti-seizure medicines:** carbamazepine (Carbatrol, Equetro, Tegretol, Tegretol-XR, Teril, Eptol); oxcarbazepine (Trileptal), phenobarbital (Luminal), phenytoin (Dilantin, Dilantin-125, Phenytek)
- **anti-tuberculosis medicines:** rifabutin (Mycobutin), rifampin (Rifater, Rifamate, Rimactane, Rifadin) and rifapentine (Priftin)
- **proton pump inhibitors for stomach or intestinal problems:** esomeprazole (Nexium, Vimovo), lansoprazole (Prevacid), dexlansoprazole (Dexilant), omeprazole (Prilosec), pantoprazole sodium (Protonix), rabeprazole (Aciphex)
- **more than 1 dose of the steroid medicine dexamethasone or dexamethasone sodium phosphate**
- St. John’s wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)

If you are taking COMPLERA you should not take other HIV medicines or other medicines containing tenofovir (Viread, Truvada, Stribild or Atripla); other medicines containing emtricitabine or lamivudine (Emtriva, Combivir, Epivir, Epivir-HBV, Epzicom, Trizivir, Atripla, Stribild or Truvada); rilpivirine (Edurant) or adefovir (Hepsera).

In addition, tell your healthcare provider if you are taking the following medications because they may interfere with how COMPLERA works and may cause side effects:

- certain antacid medicines containing aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate (examples: Rolaids, TUMS). **These medicines must be taken at least 2 hours before or 4 hours after COMPLERA.**
- medicines to block stomach acid including cimetidine (Tagamet), famotidine (Pepcid), nizatidine (Axid), or ranitidine HCL (Zantac). **These medicines must be taken at least 12 hours before or 4 hours after COMPLERA.**
- any of these medicines: clarithromycin (Biaxin); erythromycin (E-Mycin, Eryc, Ery-Tab, PCE, Pediazole, Ilosone), fluconazole (Diflucan), itraconazole (Sporanox), ketoconazole (Nizoral) methadone (Dolophine); posaconazole (Noxafil), telithromycin (Ketek) or voriconazole (Vfend).
- medicines that are eliminated by the kidneys like acyclovir (Zovirax), cidofovir (Vistide), ganciclovir (Cytovene IV, Vitrasert), valacyclovir (Valtrex) and valganciclovir (Valcyte).

COMPLERA. A complete HIV treatment in only 1 pill a day.

COMPLERA is for adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before and have no more than 100,000 copies/mL of virus in their blood.

Ask your healthcare provider if it's the one for you.

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take COMPLERA. Tell your healthcare provider about all prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, or herbal supplements you are taking or plan to take.

Before taking COMPLERA, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have **liver problems**, including hepatitis B or C virus infection, or have abnormal liver tests
- Have **kidney problems**
- Have ever had a **mental health problem**
- Have **bone problems**
- Are **pregnant or planning to become pregnant**. It is not known if COMPLERA can harm your unborn child
- Are **breastfeeding**: Women with HIV should not breastfeed because they can pass HIV through their milk to the baby. Also, COMPLERA may pass through breast milk and could cause harm to the baby

COMPLERA can cause additional serious side effects:

- **New or worsening kidney problems, including kidney failure.** If you have had kidney problems, or take other medicines that may cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider may need to do regular blood tests.
- **Depression or mood changes.** Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms: feeling sad or hopeless, feeling anxious or restless, have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself.
- **Changes in liver enzymes:** People who have had hepatitis B or C, or who have had changes in their liver function tests in the past may have an increased risk for liver problems while taking COMPLERA. Some people without prior liver disease may also be at risk. Your healthcare provider may need to check your liver enzymes before and during treatment with COMPLERA.
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do additional tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV medicine.
- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider if you start having new symptoms after starting COMPLERA.

The most common side effects reported with COMPLERA are trouble sleeping (insomnia), abnormal dreams, headache, dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, rash, tiredness, and depression. Some side effects also reported include vomiting, stomach pain or discomfort, skin discoloration (small spots or freckles) and pain.

This is not a complete list of side effects. Tell your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you notice any side effects while taking COMPLERA, and call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit <http://www.fda.gov/medwatch> or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Additional Information about taking COMPLERA:

- **Always take COMPLERA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it.**
- **Take COMPLERA with food.** Taking COMPLERA with food is important to help get the right amount of medicine in your body. (A protein drink does not replace food. If your healthcare provider stops COMPLERA, make certain you understand how to take your new medicine and whether you need to take your new medicine with a meal.)

Stay under the care of your healthcare provider during treatment with COMPLERA and see your healthcare provider regularly.

Please see Brief Summary of full Prescribing Information with important warnings on the following pages.



COMPLERA[®]
emtricitabine 200mg/rilpivirine 25mg/
tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300mg tablets

Learn more at www.COMPLERA.com

Brief Summary of full Prescribing Information

COMPLERA® (kom-PLUH-rah) (emtricitabine, rilpivirine, tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) tablets

Brief summary of full Prescribing Information. For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information including Patient Information.

What is COMPLERA?

- **COMPLERA** is a prescription HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) medicine that is used to treat HIV-1 in adults
 - who have **never** taken HIV medicines before, **and**
 - who have an amount of HIV in their blood (this is called 'viral load') that is no more than 100,000 copies/mL. Your healthcare provider will measure your viral load.

(HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome)).

- COMPLERA contains 3 medicines – rilpivirine, emtricitabine, tenofovir disoproxil fumarate – combined in one tablet. It is a complete regimen to treat HIV-1 infection and should not be used with other HIV medicines.
- It is not known if COMPLERA is safe and effective in children under the age of 18 years old.
- **COMPLERA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS.** You must stay on continuous therapy to control HIV infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.
- **Ask your healthcare provider if you have any questions about how to prevent passing HIV to other people.** Do not share or re-use needles or other injection equipment, and do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes and razor blades. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal fluids or blood.

What is the most important information I should know about COMPLERA?

COMPLERA can cause serious side effects, including:

- **Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take COMPLERA or similar (nucleoside analogs) medicines. Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**
 - feel very weak or tired
 - have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
 - have trouble breathing
 - have stomach pain with nausea (feeling sick to your stomach) or vomiting
 - feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
 - feel dizzy or lightheaded
 - have a fast or irregular heartbeat
- **Severe liver problems.** Severe liver problems can happen in people who take COMPLERA. In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis). **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms of liver problems:**
 - your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
 - dark “tea-colored” urine
 - light-colored bowel movements (stools)
 - loss of appetite for several days or longer
 - nausea
 - stomach pain
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking COMPLERA for a long time.**

- **Worsening of Hepatitis B infection.** If you have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and take COMPLERA, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking COMPLERA. A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before. COMPLERA is not approved for the treatment of HBV, so you must discuss your HBV with your healthcare provider.

- Do not let your COMPLERA run out. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your COMPLERA is all gone.
- Do not stop taking COMPLERA without first talking to your healthcare provider.
- If you stop taking COMPLERA, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking COMPLERA.

Who should not take COMPLERA?

Do not take COMPLERA if:

- your HIV infection has been previously treated with HIV medicines.
- you are taking any of the following medicines:
 - **anti-seizure medicines:** carbamazepine (Carbatrol, Equetro, Tegretol, Tegretol-XR, Teril, Eptol); oxcarbazepine (Trileptal); phenobarbital (Luminal); phenytoin (Dilantin, Dilantin-125, Phenytek)
 - **anti-tuberculosis (anti-TB) medicines:** rifabutin (Mycobutin); rifampin (Rifater, Rifamate, Rimactane, Rifadin); rifapentine (Priftin)
 - **proton pump inhibitor (PPI) medicine** for certain stomach or intestinal problems: esomeprazole (Nexium, Vimovo); lansoprazole (Prevacid); dexlansoprazole (Dexilant); omeprazole (Prilosec, Zegerid); pantoprazole sodium (Protonix); rabeprazole (Aciphex)
 - more than 1 dose of the steroid medicine dexamethasone or dexamethasone sodium phosphate
 - St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)
- **If you take COMPLERA, you should not take:**
 - Other medicines that contain tenofovir (Atripla, Stribild, Truvada, Viread)
 - Other medicines that contain emtricitabine or lamivudine (Combivir, Emtriva, Epivir or Epivir-HBV, Epzicom, Trizivir, Atripla, Truvada, Stribild)
 - rilpivirine (Edurant)
 - adefovir (Hepsera)

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking COMPLERA?

Before you take COMPLERA, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have or had liver problems, including hepatitis B or C virus infection, kidney problems, mental health problem or bone problems
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if COMPLERA can harm your unborn child.
 - **Pregnancy Registry.** There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk to your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.
- are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed. **You should not breastfeed if you have HIV because of the risk of passing HIV to your baby.** Do not breastfeed if you are taking COMPLERA. At least two of the medicines contained in COMPLERA can be passed to your baby in your breast milk. We do not know whether this could harm your baby. Talk to your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

- **COMPLERA may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how COMPLERA works, and may cause serious side effects.** If you take certain medicines with COMPLERA, the amount of COMPLERA in your body may be too low and it may not work to help control your HIV infection. The HIV virus in your body may become resistant to COMPLERA or other HIV medicines that are like it.

Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- an antacid medicine that contains aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate. If you take an antacid during treatment with COMPLERA, take the antacid **at least 2 hours before or at least 4 hours after** you take COMPLERA.
- a medicine to block the acid in your stomach, including cimetidine (Tagamet), famotidine (Pepcid), nizatidine (Axid), or ranitidine hydrochloride (Zantac). If you take one of these medicines during treatment with COMPLERA, take the acid blocker **at least 12 hours before or at least 4 hours after** you take COMPLERA.
- any of these medicines (if taken by mouth or injection):
 - clarithromycin (Biaxin)
 - erythromycin (E-Mycin, Eryc, Ery-Tab, PCE, Pediazole, Ilosone)
 - fluconazole (Diflucan)
 - itraconazole (Sporanox)
 - ketoconazole (Nizoral)
 - methadone (Dolophine)
 - posaconazole (Noxafil)
 - telithromycin (Ketek)
 - voriconazole (Vfend)
- medicines that are eliminated by the kidney, including acyclovir (Zovirax), cidofovir (Vistide), ganciclovir (Cytovene IV, Vitrasert), valacyclovir (Valtrex), and valganciclovir (Valcyte)

What are the possible side effects of COMPLERA?**COMPLERA can cause serious side effects, including:**

- See “What is the most important information I should know about COMPLERA?”
- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure**, can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Your healthcare provider should do blood tests to check your kidneys before starting treatment with COMPLERA. If you have had kidney problems in the past or need to take another medicine that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider may need to do blood tests to check your kidneys during your treatment with COMPLERA.
- **Depression or mood changes. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms:**
 - feeling sad or hopeless
 - feeling anxious or restless
 - have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself
- **Change in liver enzymes.** People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus infection or who have certain liver enzyme changes may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening liver problems during treatment with COMPLERA. Liver problems can also happen during treatment with COMPLERA in people without a history of liver disease. Your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your liver enzymes before and during treatment with COMPLERA.
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do additional tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the main part of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effect of these conditions are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider if you start having new symptoms after starting your HIV medicine.

The most common side effects of COMPLERA include:

- trouble sleeping (insomnia)
- abnormal dreams
- headache
- dizziness
- diarrhea
- nausea
- rash
- tiredness
- depression

Additional common side effects include:

- vomiting
- stomach pain or discomfort
- skin discoloration (small spots or freckles)
- pain

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all the possible side effects of COMPLERA. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 (1-800-332-1088).

How should I take COMPLERA?

- **Stay under the care of your healthcare provider during treatment with COMPLERA.**
- **Take COMPLERA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it.**
- **Always take COMPLERA with food.** Taking COMPLERA with food is important to help get the right amount of medicine in your body. A protein drink is not a substitute for food. If your healthcare provider decides to stop COMPLERA and you are switched to new medicines to treat HIV that includes rilpivirine tablets, the rilpivirine tablets should be taken only with a meal.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking COMPLERA without first talking with your healthcare provider. See your healthcare provider regularly while taking COMPLERA.
- If you miss a dose of COMPLERA within 12 hours of the time you usually take it, take your dose of COMPLERA **with food** as soon as possible. Then, take your next dose of COMPLERA at the regularly scheduled time. If you miss a dose of COMPLERA by more than 12 hours of the time you usually take it, wait and then take the next dose of COMPLERA at the regularly scheduled time.
- Do not take more than your prescribed dose to make up for a missed dose.

This Brief Summary summarizes the most important information about COMPLERA. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can also ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about COMPLERA that is written for health professionals, or call 1-800-445-3235 or go to www.COMPLERA.com

Issued: June 2013



COMPLERA, the COMPLERA Logo, EMTRIVA, GILEAD, the GILEAD Logo, GSI, HEPSERA, STRIBILD, TRUVADA, VIREAD, and VISTIDE are trademarks of Gilead Sciences, Inc., or its related companies. ATRIPLA is a trademark of Bristol-Myers Squibb & Gilead Sciences, LLC. All other marks referenced herein are the property of their respective owners.

©2013 Gilead Sciences, Inc. All rights reserved. CPAC0072 10/13

JORGENSEN





We Are Metro Detroit's Premium Ford Dealer

Quality Parts & Service

Ask About Our **Credit Approval** Guaranteed

Highest Trade-In Value Get Your Best Deal On A Car/Truck/SUV

EV CERTIFIED

Wide Selection of Pre-Owned Vehicles

2012 PRESIDENT'S AWARD

We sell electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids




Won President's Awards Two Years in a Row.
Won Partners in Quality Five Years in a Row.

313-584-2250

www.JorgensenFord.com Michigan at Lonyo

Partridge Creek

Obstetrics & Gynecology



Beth Mutch, FNP,
Tanya Vaughn, CNM

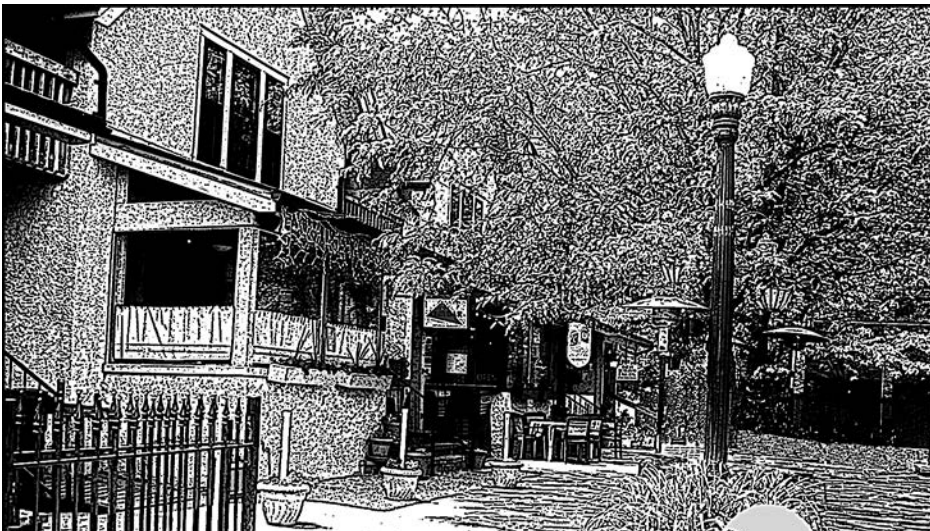
Rhonda Kobold, D.O.
Teresa Kuz, WHNP



www.partridgecreekobgyn.com

15959 Hall Road, Suite 301 • Macomb Twp. • 48044
586.247.8609

Comprehensive Women's Health Services • 3D & 4D Ultrasound Imaging
On Staff at William Beaumont-Troy



aut\ BAR

out \aut\ adv: into the open

Where LGBT Ann Arbor meets, eats, drinks, and plays!

315 Braun Court
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
734.994.3677
www.autbar.com

SH \aut\ Cabaret and Gallery

325 Braun Court
Ann Arbor, MI

Common Language Bookstore

317 Braun Court
Ann Arbor, MI
734.663.0036
www.glbttbooks.com

BEST COLLEGES

US News

REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES PUBLIC 2014

100 Degree Programs

Ranked #1

Safest 4-Year Public University in Michigan
Source: StateUniversity.com

700 Co-op and Internship placements annually

160 Student Organizations

The Degree that Makes the Difference™

M

DEARBORN

umd.umich.edu
313-593-5100

The University of Michigan

to all who may read these letters, Greetings:
Hereby it is certified that upon recommendation of
The University of Michigan-Dearborn
College of Arts, Sciences and Letters
The Regents of The University of Michigan have conferred upon
Maize N. Blue
in recognition of the satisfactory fulfillment of the prescribed requirements
the degree of
Bachelor of Arts

COVER STORY

20 The heat is on
Photo: Wilson Models



“If I were to play a lesbian, they could see me as an actress: ‘Oh, maybe the bitch can act!’”

– Toni Braxton on being cast in “Orange is the New Black,” pg. 28



NEWS

- 8 Activist from Uganda makes special Detroit appearance
- 9 Equality Michigan announces 2014 annual dinner keynote
- 10 ‘Huge breakthrough’: Maine court defends transgender student
- 11 Movement assessment report out
- 11 Community mourns loss of leader
- 14 2014: for love and taxes

OPINION

- 12 Creep of the Week
- 16 Parting Glances
- 16 Viewpoint

LIFE

- 22 Sochi: show your #SignofLove
- 23 Ruth Ellis asks you to ‘Primp For Your Partner’
- 24 Home sweet homosexual
- 26 W.E.T. Detroit hosts events for queer women
- 28 Still breathing, still singing
- 30 Happenings
- 31 Lemons to lemonade
- 35 Cool Cities: Ferndale
- 36 Classifieds
- 38 Puzzle

Join The Conversation @ PrideSource.com

SAVE THE DATE



Save The Date: BTL’s Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo Returns For A Fourth Year

BTL’s Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo will be bigger and better than ever this year with a new location, fantastic food and great vendors. Mark your calendars: April 12 at the Southfield Civic Pavilion!

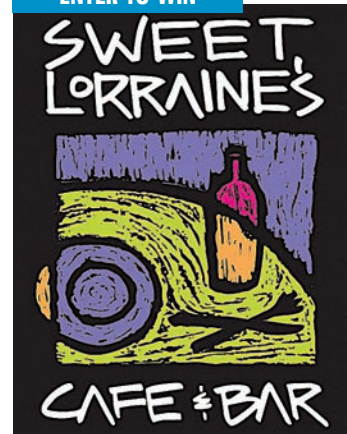
ROMANCE GUIDE



Access The Romance Guide Online All Year-Round

Get this issue’s great romance-related content online at Pridesource.com in the Romance Guide section. Find LGBT-friendly florists, chocolatiers and more with the Featured Advertisers section – or even check out previous Romance-related features!

ENTER TO WIN



Win A \$50 Gift Certificate To Southfield’s Sweet Lorraine’s

Go online to Pridesource.com and enter to win all kinds of prizes, including a \$50 gift certificate to Sweet Lorraine’s Cafe & Bar!

Enter at www.pridesource.com/tickets-contest.html

VOL. 2206 • FEB. 6, 2014 • ISSUE 850

PRIDE SOURCE MEDIA GROUP

20222 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone 734.293.7200

PUBLISHERS

Susan Horowitz & Jan Stevenson

MEMBER OF

Michigan Press Association
National Gay Media Association
Q Syndicate



Copyright 2013 Pride Source Media Group, LLC

EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief

Susan Horowitz, 734.293.7200 x 12
susanhorowitz@pridesource.com

Entertainment Editor

Chris Azzopardi, 734.293.7200 x 24
chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com

Associate Editor

Benjamin Jenkins, 734.293.7200 x 14
ben@pridesource.com

News Staff Writer

Crystal Proxmire

Arts & Theater Editor

Donald V. Calamia, curtaincalls@pridesource.com

Calendar Editor

Shelby Clark, shelby@pridesource.com

CREATIVE

Art Director

Benjamin Jenkins, ben@pridesource.com

Webmaster & MIS Director

Kevin Bryant, kevinbryant@pridesource.com

Contributing Writers

Charles Alexander, Michelle E. Brown,
Todd Heywood, Jerome Stuart Nichols,
Kate Opalewski, Anthony Paull,
Andrea Poteet, Eric W. Rader,
Gwendolyn Ann Smith, Dawn R. Wolfe

Cartoonists

Paul Berg, Dave Brousseau

Contributing Photographers

Andrew Potter

ADVERTISING & SALES

Director of Sales

Jan Stevenson, 734.293.7200 x 22
jan@pridesource.com

Sales Representatives

Ed Bohach, 734.293.7200 x 15
ed@pridesource.com

Ann Cox, 734.293.7200 x 13
anncox@pridesource.com

National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

Our rate cards are available online. All material appearing in Between The Lines is protected by federal copyright law and may not be reproduced in whole or part without the permission of the publishers. Between The Lines is supported by many fine advertisers, but we cannot accept responsibility for claims made by our advertisers, nor can we accept responsibility for materials provided by advertisers or their agents.

Business Office

Diane Smith, dianesmith@pridesource.com

Circulation & Distribution

Diane Smith

ONLINE AT



“Between The Lines Newspaper”



Follow us @YourBTL



Email your op-eds to
editor@pridesource.com



Sign up online to receive our E-Digest

BRIEFS

FARMINGTON HILLS

Out As An Ally: A Step Forward In Understanding

Tying in with the special exhibit Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals, the Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus in Farmington Hills is hosting a free panel discussion on Feb. 20 about the importance of allies.

Led by Judy Lewis, a Jewish member of the LGBT community, the panel will “examine the concepts of gender, sexual orientation, and human rights while learning how Allies, some of the most effective and powerful voices of the LGBT movement, help convey the importance of equality, fairness, acceptance, and mutual respect.”

Admission is free and there will be complimentary pizza. The event begins at 7 p.m.

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. It is on view now through May 4.

More information about the panel discussion and the exhibit can be found online at www.holocaustcenter.org RSVP for the panel discussion at 248-553-2400, ext. 24 or lawrence.willim@holocaustcenter.org.

WASHINGTON DC

Social Security Responds

The Social Security Administration (SSA) announced in December it would begin immediately processing applications for survivor benefits for same-sex spouses. Now it has released new instructions for same-sex couples who might be applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). SSI is a monthly payment to help persons who are disabled or over the age of 65 who have low incomes. Cathy Sakimura, family law director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, says the new instructions help those couples living in states that recognize their marriages. “But the rules still prevent people living in other states from receiving any benefits until more instructions are released.” – Keen News Service

INDIANA

Restoring Discrimination

Republican Governor Mike Pence said Friday he hopes the state senate will restore a sentence cut out by the House last week in a bill to ban recognition of same-sex marriages. The cut sentence called for also banning recognition of other forms of same-sex relationships, such as civil unions. By cutting the sentence, the House version would require the legislature to vote on the new form of the overall bill again next year. If the senate adds the sentence back, the House will be called on to approve that version and, thus, put the issue on this November’s ballot. –Keen News Service

Restoring Honor

U.S. Senators Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Brian Schatz (D-HI) introduced a bill last month seeking to require the Secretary of Defense to review the discharge of any former service member who was forced out solely because of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” and upgrade the characterization of the discharge to “honorable.” S. 1956 is a companion to House Bill 2839 introduced by Rep. Mark Pocan (D-Wisc.) last July. –Keen News Service

Extended briefs are available online at:

www.PrideSource.com

Activist From Uganda Makes Special Detroit Appearance

Film And Expert Panel Look To Shed Light On International LGBT Struggle

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

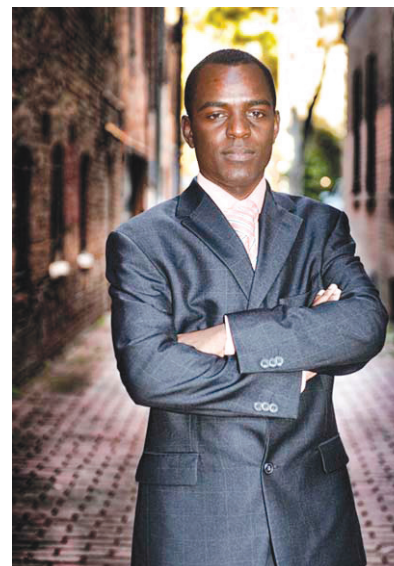
DETROIT – Uganda treats LGBT people like second class citizens. But how deep is the systemic violence in Ugandan society? How cruel is its media in the portrayal of sexual minorities? How little does the government care to protect its LGBT citizens? And why should people in America care what happens half way around the world?

On Feb. 20 at 6:30 p.m. a unique opportunity comes to Detroit, where people can learn about the plight of their LGBT brothers and sisters in Uganda. Freedom House will host a free screening of the movie “Call Me Kuchu” followed by a discussion panel that includes Frank Mugish, executive director of Sexual Minorities Uganda. The event takes place at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. There will also be a special VIP Reception from 5-6 p.m. for \$25 that benefits Freedom House.

“In many countries, most recently India, Nigeria and Uganda, people’s lives literally hang in the balance as anti-LGBT legislation sweeps through the land,” said Freedom House Program Assistant and Case Manager Thomas “TJ” Rogers. “This trend is alarming in and of itself, but what makes matters worse is that it gets minimal media coverage, and so few people know the gravity of the lived reality of sexual minorities.”

Rogers reached out to Mugish after seeing so many Ugandan refugees seeking asylum because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

“As a case manager, I have had an intimate view into their lives and history of trauma, both mental and physical. While heartbreaking, yes, it has also pushed me to do more in recognition of their bravery, their sacrifice. So, I wanted to do something to send a message of support to our current and future LGBT residents. By inviting an internationally recognized LGBT rights activist to Detroit, to Freedom House, we lift them up. Frank’s visit acknowledges their struggle, their



Frank Mugish, executive director of Sexual Minorities Uganda, will be speaking Feb. 20 at the Charles Wright Museum as part of The Freedom House program.

courage, thereby validating them. It serves as a statement that we will no longer stand for the violation of one’s rights,” said Rogers.

In Uganda sexual minorities are called “Kuchu.” The documentary “Call Me Kuchu” focuses on the plight of LGBT people there. Filmmakers Katherine Fairfax Wright and Malika Zouhali-Worrall explored the lives of LGBT Ugandans in the midst of society’s mistreatment. Among them was activist David Kato, dubbed the first gay man in Uganda. Kato was raised in Uganda, but spent some time in South Africa in the late 90s. There he met other gay men and was determined to bring freedom and acceptance to his homeland. In 2004 he helped fund SMUG and served as an Advocacy Officer for the organization.

While the women were filming, Kato became involved in a lawsuit. A local publication, known for its anti-gay rhetoric, printed the photos and addresses of 100 LGBT citizens along with a call to “hang them.” Kato sued the publication and won but within a month of the ruling he was murdered in his own home, bludgeoned to death

with a hammer. The film shares Kato’s story along with several others.

“It is time the space be created for dialogue and conversation to be had because the plight of LGBT people around the globe can no longer be ignored. The struggle is an international one, and progress can only be achieved when we build coalitions and work together. Solidarity is borderless, and as human beings we all have a responsibility to ensure one another’s inherent human rights and human dignity is not put down or deprived,” said Rogers about the upcoming event.

The Panelists

The panel discussion hopes to bring to light several perspectives in the battle for equality in Uganda. Panelist Allida Black is an activist with a lengthy list of involvement, including managing director of the Allenswood Group, a collaborative founded to empower individuals and strengthen democracy through education, and a senior fellow at the Women’s Research and Education Institute, and a research professor of History at George Washington University. She also is a co-founder and chair of Ready for Hillary.

Panelist Kelly AuBuchon is a Senior Attorney for Freedom House. Her prior experience includes work with Naturalization Outreach in Pontiac; the Michigan Department of Civil Rights in Detroit; the Family Law Assistance Project in Auburn Hills; and the Refugee Development Center in Lansing. She is a member of the State Bar of Michigan and the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

Panelist Husam Abdulkhaleq earned a Bachelor degree in Sociology from BirZiet University at Ramallah, West Bank in 1986, and a Masters degree in Mental Health Counseling from the University of Tennessee in 1998. He began work at ACCESS Psychosocial Rehabilitation Center for Victims of

See Uganda, next page

Equality Michigan Announces 2014 Annual Dinner Keynote

Feb. 22 Event Will Feature Richard Carlbom, Manager Of Campaign That Brought Marriage Equality To Minnesota

DETROIT – Guests at this year’s Equality Michigan Annual Dinner, planned for Feb. 22 at Motor City Casino will hear remarks and a special announcement from Freedom to Marry’s Richard Carlbom. Previously the campaign manager of Minnesotans United for All Families, the campaign which won Minnesota’s marriage equality ballot initiative in 2012, Carlbom is now the director of state campaigns for Freedom to Marry, the organization working to win marriage nationwide. In addition to delivering the event’s keynote address, Carlbom will be making a special Michigan marriage equality announcement.

Equality Michigan, the statewide anti-violence and advocacy organization serving Michigan’s lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and HIV positive communities, will be bringing the organization’s annual dinner event to Motor City Casino for the first time. The dinner event includes a reception, silent auction, remarks by community leaders and the presentation of this year’s



Freedom to Marry’s Richard Carlbom, above left, led the successful 2012 Minnesota marriage campaign. He will keynote the event and make a special announcement Feb. 22 at Equality Michigan’s Annual Dinner.

Catalyst Awards recognizing excellence in LGBT and HIV advocacy.

The organization’s leader, Emily Dievendorf, will be delivering this year’s state of equality in Michigan address and joins Carlbom in making this year’s special announcement. “Equality Michigan is honored to have Richard Carlbom joining us for this year’s Annual Dinner. The wisdom Richard will be able to share from his experiences leading Minnesota’s successful marriage equality campaign

helping others was born. Within the Office of Student Engagement, he oversaw student organizations, assisted with event planning, and managed the LGBT Resource Center and its ally training program, Project Safe. He is also a graduate of The LEAD Academy, a social justice and equity training course designed by KICK.

Panelist Donald Bierer is an attorney and longtime member of Amnesty International. He is a founding member of Amnesty International USA’s LGBT Human Rights Coordination Group, where he leads AIUSA’s LGBT human rights work on Sub-Saharan Africa. Last spring Bierer organized visits from Alice Nkom, a prominent Cameroonian lawyer to the late Jean-Claude Roger Mbede, and

in 2012 and his work at Freedom to Marry will be invaluable to Michigan achieving marriage equality by the end of 2016. Anyone interested in winning a victory for gay marriage in Michigan will not want to miss it,” said Dievendorf.

“The evening will not be just about marriage, we have a lot to celebrate from 2013 and even more to prepare for in 2014. Workplace discrimination is a hot topic right now, and we once again selected Detroit for this year’s

event in part to acknowledge the city’s LGBT inclusive anti-discrimination protections. We also wanted to acknowledge the city’s renewed commitment to LGBT outreach, another topic we will be sharing news about that evening.”

Tickets and more information about Equality Michigan’s 2014 Annual Dinner are now available online at equalitymi.org/dinner or by calling 313-537-7000.

Bishop Christopher Senyanjo, Ugandan clergy and LGBT rights activist, to Amnesty’s national conference in Washington, DC. Outside of Amnesty Bierer is a recently admitted attorney and recent graduate of Indiana University Maurer School of Law in Bloomington. While a law student, Bierer co-founded the LGBT Law Project, a pro bono service organization serving LGBT organizations and individuals at Indiana University. Its first major report, More Than Just a Couple: 614 Reasons Why Marriage Equality Matters in Indiana received national media coverage. Bierer and his husband Le, live in Lansing.

To learn more about the event visit www.freedomhousedetroit.org.

SOCHI

LGBT Viewer’s Guide To Winter Olympics

Who’s Out, Risking Medals, Demonstrations Planned

BY LISA KEEN

www.keennewsservice.com

Tensions are high as the 2014 Winter Olympics prepares to get underway Thursday with figure skating and skiing events and then with the globally televised opening ceremony Friday. While there is a tremendous amount of anxiety over the possibility of a terrorist attack against the Games in Sochi, Russia, there is also considerable uncertainty around who might protest the country’s new anti-gay laws and how and when they might do so. Beyond the expectation that some might wear rainbow pins or hats that include “P6,” a reference to the Olympic charter’s non-discrimination policy, there are hints of bands playing “YMCA” and one skater promising to “rip” into Russian President Vladimir Putin after she’s finished her competition.

There is even more uncertainty about what the Russian government will do to anyone who does protest or violate its laws by expressing some positive message about being gay.

In a conference call with reporters last week, the International Olympic Committee president, Thomas Bach, said athletes would “enjoy freedom of speech” at a press conference, but they could be punished if they do so during competition or on a medal podium. But a few days later, the chief executive of the Olympic Games in Russia, Dmitry Chernyshenko, seemed to contradict that statement.

“I don’t think [athletes] are allowed by the [Olympic] Charter to express those views that are not related to the sport at the press conference room,” said Chernyshenko. “What I would call the Sochi ‘speakers’ corner’ has been organized in Sochi city so that everybody can express themselves.”

The so-called “speakers’ corner” is a cordoned off protest area six or seven miles from the site of the Olympics.

Outsports.com, a site devoted to news about LGBT athletes in both professional and amateur sports, says it’s found only six openly gay athletes coming to the Sochi Olympics. All are women, none are American, and they represent an “an improbably low number” among the 2,500 athletes coming to the games.

The six include three speedskaters (Canadian Anatasia Bucsis and Dutch Ireen Wust and Sanne van Kerkhof), two snowboarders (Dutch Cheryl Maas and Australian Belle Brockhoff), and one Slovenian cross country skier (Barbara Jezersek).

“Either GLBT athletes are uniquely bad at winter sports,” wrote the Outsports, “or dozens - perhaps a hundred or more - must be competing in Sochi while in the closet.”

By Sunday, the site announced a seventh openly gay competitor: Finnish Olympic swimmer Ari-Pekka Liukkonen, who swims the men’s 50-meter freestyle. Liukkonen came out on Finnish television and said his family and teammates have taken the news well.

For U.S. television audiences interested in watching the Olympics for signs of LGBT demonstrations or visibility, there are two options: watch a condensed broadcast of the events each evening on NBC, which is covering the events; or watch live webstreams at NBCOlympics.com, keeping in mind that Sochi is nine hours ahead of U.S. east coast time.

LGBT VISIBILITY

The following is a list of specific events at which the potential for LGBT visibility is higher than most:

Thursday, Feb. 6: Dutch lesbian Cheryl Maas will be competing in the “Ladies Slopestyle” snowboarding event today. She has a profile video,

See Sochi Viewer Guide, page 18

► Uganda

Continued from p. 8

Torture and Refugees in 2001 as a psychotherapist where he still works today. To date he has assisted more than 1,500 refugees and survivors of torture. He has provided court testimony for more than 100 asylum seekers and over 300 psychological affidavits for asylum interviews.

Panelist Jamiil M. Gaston, development coordinator for KICK – The Agency for LGBT African-Americans, attended Lawrence Technological University for a Bachelor of Science in Construction Management. While at Lawrence Tech, he worked in the Office of Student Engagement where his passion for

BRIEFS

TEXAS

Equality Texas Raises Eyebrows

The Texas Equity political action committee of the statewide LGBT political group Equality Texas raised some eyebrows last month when, for the first time ever, it endorsed for a state House seat a Republican that some characterize as a Tea Party extremist. Texas State Rep. Sarah Davis voted against LGBT resource centers and against required reporting of harassment of LGBT students. But, noted an Austin Chronicle report Friday, she also met with Log Cabin Republicans and said "I do not oppose...civil unions." Chuck Smith, executive director of the Texas Equity PAC, said Davis authored legislation to ensure LGBT people had the right to hospital visitation and to make medical decisions and helped defeat legislation that tried to remove LGBT centers from state college campuses. And Davis' opponent in the Republican primary, said Smith, would be "infinitely worse on issues affecting the LGBT community than Rep. Davis." —Keen News Service

VIRGINIA

U.S. Congressional Run

Openly gay Virginia State Senator Adam Ebbin announced last week that he is a candidate to fill the U.S. House seat being vacated by retiring Democratic Rep. Jim Moran. Ebbin is entering a crowded and somewhat hefty field. Other announced contenders thus far include a former lieutenant governor and ambassador, a big city mayor, and the chairman of the Virginia Democratic Party. The Democratic primary is June 10.

—Keen News Service

MARYLAND

Trans vs. Gay Candidate

Transgender activist Dana Beyer announced last week that she is a candidate for a state senate seat currently held by the Maryland legislature's first openly gay member, Rich Madaleno. Madaleno has represented Montgomery County for seven years. Beyer, a former aide to the Montgomery County Council, said she thinks she can do better on economic issues. "The fact that both of us are LGBT probably neutralizes the issue completely," Beyer told the Washington Post. "I think it says a lot about how far America has come." —Keen News Service

HAWAII

Judge Rules Law Okay

A state circuit court judge in Oahu ruled January 29 that the state's newly enacted marriage equality law is constitutional. One of the legislators who opposed the law last year, Rep. Bob McDermott, filed a lawsuit challenging its constitutionality. Big Island News says McDermott intends to appeal. The attorney general's office reports that more than 670 same-sex couples have married since the law went into effect December 2 and another 230 licenses are pending. —Keen News Service

'Huge Breakthrough': Maine Court Defends Transgender Student

BY LISA KEEN

In an historic first, a state high court ruled last week that a male-to-female transgender student who was accepted by school staff and students as a girl could not be barred from using the girls' bathroom at school.

Jennifer Levi of Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), which brought the lawsuit on behalf of the girl and her parents, called the decision in *Doe v. Clenchy* a "huge breakthrough" for transgender young people. GLAD also noted that the decision marks "the first time a state court has ruled that transgender students must be allowed to use the bathrooms that match who they are."

"This ruling is an important breakthrough for transgender students," said Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality. "Schools have a desire and responsibility to make schools safe and welcoming for all students. And this ruling helps schools meet that mission. In fact, this is consistent with what educators and human rights commissions around the country have concluded. Trans girls are girls, trans boys are boys and schools that understand that will

better serve all their students."

GLAD took the appeal to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court on behalf of Nicole Maines (identified in court papers as Susan Doe) and her parents after losing in a state superior court. Their girl attended public schools whose staff and students seemed to be handling her transition well. Controversy erupted, however, after one boy — prompted by his guardian — followed Susan into the girls' bathroom, claiming that he, too, should be allowed to use the girls room. The incident garnered considerable media attention and prompted school officials to require Susan to use a unisex staff bathroom.

The Maines filed suit, saying forcing Susan to use a separate bathroom violated the state human rights law against sexual orientation discrimination.

Saying it had to enforce the law "without regard to the public's potential discomfort with the result," the 6 to 1 majority said that segregation or separation is a form of discrimination. Noting that another state law requires school bathrooms be segregated by sex, the court said that policies concerning the use of those bathrooms must nonetheless

comply with the state non-discrimination law. Given that the school staff and Susan's parents agreed that Susan is a girl, wrote the majority, the school violated the human rights ordinance when it "treated [her] differently from other students solely because of her status as a transgender girl."

The majority decision, written by Justice Warren Silver (appointed by former Democratic Governor John Baldacci), emphasized that Susan had obtained a diagnosis of gender dysphoria and that the school staff and her friends all accepted her as a girl.

"Thus, we do not suggest that any person could demand access to any school facility or program based solely on a self-declaration of gender identity or confusion without the plans developed in cooperation with the school and the accepted and respected diagnosis that are present in this case," wrote the majority."

What bathrooms transgender people use has often been trotted out as a major concern by opponents of equal rights for transgender people.

www.keennewservice.com

Judge In Virginia Marriage Case Will Decide 'Soon'

BY LISA KEEN

Keen News Service

A federal judge in Norfolk, Virginia, told attorneys in a lawsuit challenging Virginia's ban on same-sex couples marrying that she will render her decision "soon."

According to David Boies, one of the lead attorneys arguing against the ban, U.S. District Court Judge Arenda Wright Allen listened "studiously," took a lot of notes but "did not ask a lot of questions," during Tuesday's two-hour hearing.

Ted Olson, who is working with Boies and a team of lawyers sponsored by the American Foundation for Equal Rights, said the judge "didn't hear a whole lot new" in the way of arguments, compared to the case Boies and Olson mounted against California's Proposition 8.

He noted that arguments made in support of the law included "variations on the same theme," including the need to preserve "traditional marriage" and the male-female composition of marriage "since the beginning of time." But Olson said those "very same arguments are ones people have been making in civil rights cases since the beginning of our country."

"And as the [Virginia] solicitor general said, many of those same arguments were made in the past in an attempt to maintain Virginia's law to prohibit persons of different races" from marrying, in the famous *Loving v. Virginia* case of 1967.

Tuesday's case, *Bostic v. Virginia*, is one of two separate lawsuits filed in federal courts in Virginia challenging the state's ban. The *Bostic* case was brought by two same-sex couples — Tim Bostic and Tony London who have been together for 24 years, and Carol Schall and Mary Townley who have been together 30 years and are raising a daughter.

"Carol and Emily and I own a home in suburbs, go to games, we shop at Target, we're no different than anybody else," said Townley, in a telephone press conference with reporters after the arguments. "Yet we are treated differently by Virginia laws." Shaw noted that there were moments in Tuesday's proceedings when she found herself near tears, hearing attorneys challenging the ban and "hearing these learned men understand what we are going through."

Tony London told reporters he and Bostic simply "want to get married in the state we love."

Virginia Attorney General Herring attended

Tuesday's hearing in Norfolk, where many protesters showed up with signs and chants criticizing his announcement that the ban is unconstitutional and that the state would argue against it. He called Tuesday's hearing a "very significant step in the journey towards full equality under the law for all Virginians."

Olson said, "the judge said she would study the matter...and render a decision 'soon.'" He said he expects that, no matter which side wins, the case will be appealed the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and that his team would ask for an expedited appeal.

Boies noted the significance of an appeal to the Fourth Circuit, one of the most conservative in the nation and one that covers the southern states of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Maryland, and West Virginia.

The decision from the Fourth Circuit, he said, "would have the potential to change the opportunities of gay and lesbian citizens in a large number of southern states to actually enjoy equality."

Interestingly, Associated Press began its pre-court coverage with a prominent notice of that possibility, saying the case "could give gay marriage its first foothold in the old

[See Virginia, page 17](#)

Movement Assessment Report Out

BY LISA KEEN

Keen News Service

An independent think tank that studies the progress of the movement on equal rights for LGBT people released its latest report last week, and the assessment is a surprising “mixed.”

The Movement Advancement Project’s “Momentum Report” acknowledges

“unprecedented progress” towards marriage equality in the past two years but notes that, while 17 states allow same-sex couples to marry, 33 don’t. And progress on other issues of importance to the LGBT movement, such as bullying and employment discrimination, “have slowed significantly.”

“In fact, over half of U.S. states lack even the basic laws protecting LGBT people from discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations,” notes MAP, a Denver-based group whose work is funded by 13 foundations and LGBT supporters, including the Gill Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the David Geffen Foundation, and James Hormel.

“The fact is, most states have passed few or no laws protecting LGBT people,” states the report. “In the spirit of Charles Dickens’ famous line, ‘It was the best of times, it was the worst of times,’ the

remarkable progress of recent years in some states has obscured the fact that in a majority of states, LGBT people still are treated under the law as second-class citizens.”

The report divides the states into three categories: “High Equality” states

“The fact is, most states have passed few or no laws protecting LGBT people,”

(20 plus D.C.), “Medium Equality” states (2-Wisconsin and Indiana), and “Low Equality” states. The “High Equality” states include California, Illinois, Massachusetts, and New York. The “Low Equality” states include Arizona, Florida, Michigan, and Texas.

The report said momentum favors continued progress in marriage equality, in large part because public opinion polls show a growing percentage of Americans accept the fairness of allowing same-sex couples to marry. But it noted that, despite the U.S. Supreme Court’s landmark decision striking down the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), the availability of benefits involving certain federal agencies—Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare, to name three big ones—remains “unclear.”

The report also noted “real progress” in fighting discrimination through local government ordinances and major employer policies. It noted that 188 local governments in states with no sexual orientation discrimination protection now prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, as does 91 percent of Fortune 500 corporations.

Highlights

Among the more interesting facts included in the report this year are:

- every state but one has an openly LGBT elected official;
- there are more than one million LGBT veterans; 71,000 are serving in the military currently;
- there are about 140,000 transgender veterans;
- only 21 states and D.C. have “unambiguous laws” allowing same-sex couples to adopt children;
- 20 percent of hate crimes reported by law enforcement agencies to the FBI in 2012 involved sexual orientation bias;
- three times as many people between the ages of 18 and 29 self-identify as LGBT compared to people 65 and older; and
- “the number of regular and recurring LGBT characters on broadcast network television reached its highest point in five years during the 2012-13 season.”

Community Mourns Loss Of Ground Breaking Leader

BY TODD HEYWOOD

LANSING – The HIV and AIDS Service Organization community is mourning the loss of Kaye McDuffie. McDuffie, 59, passed away this week from undisclosed causes. A memorial service was held Saturday at the Riley Funeral Home, 426 W. St. Joseph St, Lansing.

Jake Distel, executive director of the Lansing Area AIDS Network, where McDuffie worked as an early intervention prevention specialist, said he was crushed by her loss. He said McDuffie had come to be not only a mentor to him, and countless others, but also a “cherished” friend.

“It was as clear then as it is now, that the level of Kaye’s compassion, integrity, and honesty were unmatched. Her commitment to social justice was unwavering and she actively battled the ugliness of HIV stigma, racism,

homophobia, and all forms of social prejudice,” Distel said in an email to Between the Lines. “She has impacted my life in ways that she was probably unaware of. More importantly the loss of Kaye McDuffie to our shared communities is profound.”

Distel noted that McDuffie had mentored many young people, introducing them to a world where compassion would overcome hatred, indifference and fear.

One of those young people was Becky McKendry, who volunteered at the Lansing Area AIDS Network when she was a teenager.

“Kaye always made me feel like my

thoughts or ideas were valuable, and I will never be able to explain how much that meant to me. Especially at that time in my life. She genuinely helped me on my path to becoming a happy, healthy and focused adult. It was totally commonplace for her to stay late after work and a five-minute chat in the parking lot would turn into a hour or more, or a little walk around the building, while she asked me about my future, my writing and that sort of thing,” McKendry said in an email to BTL. “And maybe this is the best way to put it into perspective: by all accounts, I absolutely should have been a tertiary character in her life. Just some kid who volunteered at her job for a little while. And still, in the small amount of time we did have together, she made such an incredible impact on me and my self-esteem. I have never been able (and would never have been able) to thank her enough for that.”



Kaye McDuffie

EXPO COMING



First Comes Love, Then Comes Marriage

BY SHELBY CLARK

It’s February: that means groundhogs, blizzards, and romance. For those looking to postpone their Valentine’s Day festivities until grass is poking through the snow, start planning for Between the Lines’ Annual Wedding Expo on April 12.

This year’s Wedding Expo’s got a few differences, the key one being a new, larger location. Moving from Livonia’s Marriott to the much larger Southfield Civic Pavilion, BTL’s fourth annual Expo will also be titled “The Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo.”

Open to LGBT and allies, the expo is a fantastic opportunity to find inclusive religious services and officiants, LGBT and LGBT-friendly bakers and DJs and more. The Expo moved to a larger location in order to accommodate more couples, vendors, presentations and activities.

Editor-in-Chief of BTL, Susan Horowitz, is very excited about this year’s expo, particularly with changes on the horizon. “With the DeBoer case being heard at the end of February, and federal tax changes accommodating same-sex marriage, now is the time for LGBT Michiganders to think about getting married. The Expo is a perfect place to start getting ideas for not only a future Michigan wedding, but also to find LGBT and LGBT-friendly vendors for other events, like birthdays, anniversaries, and more.”

Previous BTL Wedding Expos have been huge hits, with numbers of attendees growing each year. Almost like a wedding in itself, the Expo consists of free food, dancing, and opportunities for alcohol. There will be a full runway fashion show.

Vendor opportunities are still available for this year’s expo. Prices for booth rentals begin at \$395, and each 10x10 exhibit space includes draping, table, two chairs, and a listing in BTL’s Special Wedding Guide out the week of the Expo. Vendor applications are available on the BTL expo website (www.btlweddingexpo.com); submit all forms to Pride Source Media Group, 20222 Farmington Road, Livonia.

This year’s Gold sponsors include Star Trax Event Productions in Ferndale and C & N Party Rentals of Royal Oak. Silver sponsors include Five 15 in Royal Oak and B. Ella Bridal in Plymouth. Scores of vendors have already signed up including florists, photographers, caterers, lawyers, adoption agencies, bridal shops, tuxedo rentals, banquet halls, hotels, officiants...and the list goes on!

The Wedding Expo will run 12-6 p.m. on Sunday, April 12 at the Southfield Civic Pavilion, 26000 Evergreen Road, Southfield. For more information, visit www.btlweddingexpo.com or e-mail Jan Stevenson at janstevenson@pridesource.com.

For further information on the wedding expo, visit www.btlweddingexpo.com.

Creep of the Week

Peter LaBarbera

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

I do not watch The Disney Channel. Mind you, this is not any kind of elitist pronouncement. It's just that I'm more than seven years old.

The Disney Channel does play a small role in my life, however, as my son sometimes watches it. Or, more accurately, it is frequently on the TV in the kids' area at the gym where I drop off my son while I go work out in the hopes that it will help me live that much longer so I can keep doing the important work of being his mom. Which I love doing because I love him.

At times when I pick him up his eyes are glued to one of many weird Disney sit-coms where children and adults try to approximate real-world snarky humor, except because it is a show for children any and all rough edges are not just smoothed, but are melted into a edgeless blob of mindless pap.

Which leads me to the show Good Luck Charlie, a show I never would have intentionally sought out except for the fact that the show recently featured Taylor, a little girl with two moms who comes over to have a play date with Charlie, the show's namesake.

So Charlie's mom Amy and dad Bob meet Susan and Cheryl, Taylor's two moms. And Amy and Bob kind of bumble their way good-naturedly through the whole two-mom experience. The big gag is that Susan goes to watch "the game" in the basement with Bob, and Cheryl stays upstairs and chats with Amy. Except the pairs don't

really mesh (Bob won't shut up about the bugs he exterminates for a living, and Cheryl won't stop finishing Amy's sentences) and so a headache is faked and the play date is over.

It's all really dull, honestly. Though I have to say good for Disney for daring to show that lesbian couples can be totally boring and annoying just like the straight couples they usually parade in front of us.

Do I need to mention that people are upset? Because people are upset. The largely pretend One Million Moms are threatening to boycott or some such bullshit.

But it's Peter LaBarbera's anger that most amuses me. LaBarbera, of Americans For Truth About Homosexuality, warns, "This is probably The Disney Channel's first 'baby step' into more aggressive homosexual advocacy — which is not unexpected given America's moral decline, but tragic just the same."

Yes, how tragic that my kid might see another kid with two moms on TV. Or, worse, that kids who don't have two moms will be subjected to something so commonplace.

"If you are a Christian and/or moral-minded parent who wants to teach your children that homosexuality is aberrant and wrong behavior — i.e., you don't want to model sinful relationships as normative to your kids — YOUR morality and faith, and your child's innocence, are being undermined by Disney."

He's right that Disney is undermining your child's innocence, though. Disney doesn't care about anything other than making money. Which is hardly a virtuous enterprise.

But are Cheryl and Susan going to deflower America's kids? Not so much. Granted, this was not an anti-gay episode. Cheryl and Susan aren't run out of Charlie's house. Bob doesn't threaten to "rape them straight" and Amy doesn't smack them in the head with a crucifix or anything. Perhaps such a rewrite would help LaBarbera sleep better at night.

Disappointment In State Of Union Speech

BY LISA KEEN

Keen News Service

In his State of the Union address Jan. 28, President Obama spoke of a nation working on issues such as marriage equality and earning the respect of other nations "because we believe in the inherent dignity and equality of every human being, regardless of race or religion, creed or sexual orientation."

But while LGBT leaders expressed appreciation for those references, most voiced considerable disappointment over what he did not say.

Rea Carey, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, said the president was "right to urge Congress to fix our broken immigration system this year, create more jobs, equal pay for women, and the restoration of the Voting Rights Act." And she praised his announcement to sign an executive order to increase the minimum wage federal contractors must offer their employees. But, she added, "The irony is that some LGBT federal contract workers will get a pay raise but they could still be fired for who they are and who they love."

"The longer the President waits, the more damage LGBT people will face," said Carey. "Discrimination is a painful reality that is too often the lived experience of LGBT people. The President has to act when Congress won't."

Tico Almeida, founder and leader of the Freedom to Work group, also expressed frustration.

"President Obama should have challenged the House Republicans to allow a vote" on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), said Almeida. "It's disappointing that he has still not included LGBT workplace protections among the issues he will handle through executive order as part of his 'year of action,'" said Almeida. "Both ENDA and the LGBT executive order would

have fit perfectly into the themes of this address."

Lorri Jean, executive director of the nation's largest LGBT community center and health facility, the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center, praised Obama for saying "many important things about equality, or the lack thereof." But she, too, noted he said "nothing about the fact that no federal law protects LGBT people from employment discrimination, let alone equally harmful forms of

was watching, but they put it out to quell any criticism from our community," said Jean. "It just seems odd."

Asked to respond, the White House said, "The State of the Union isn't a comprehensive list of all of the President's positions or priorities. The President has long supported ENDA, and its inclusion in our fact sheet reflects the President's belief that Congress needs to act. It's time to add sexual orientation and gender

LGBT activists have been, since the beginning of President Obama's first term, pressuring the White House to issue an executive order barring sexual orientation discrimination by federal contractors. Others have urged him to speak out more forcefully for ENDA.

discrimination."

The White House did issue to reporters a long supplemental statement in conjunction with the State of the Union address, and that statement did note that, "Today, federal law prohibits employment discrimination based on race, sex, religion, and disability."

"It's time to add sexual orientation and gender identity to that list, so that no American worker can lose his or her job simply because of who they are or who they love," said the statement. "The Employment Non-Discrimination Act would provide strong federal protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender workers. Last year, a bipartisan majority of the Senate passed ENDA, and the President renews his call for the House to do the same."

But Jean said, "I'd be happier with [the supplemental statement] if it came last week or even next week" rather than in conjunction with the State of the Union address.

"It's almost as if he didn't dare to say it when the whole country

identity to the list of categories protected by federal law against employment discrimination. No American worker should lose his or her job simply because of who they are or who they love. Last year, a bipartisan majority of the Senate passed ENDA, and the President renews his call for the House to do the same."

Gregory T. Angelo, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans, was unimpressed with the president's speech, calling it "more of the same." He, too, dinged the president's speech for what it lacked.

"While the President's calls for a more equal nation are welcome," said Angelo, "there is a profound irony in the absence of any mention of [ENDA]."

LGBT activists have been, since the beginning of President Obama's first term, pressuring the White House to issue an executive order barring sexual orientation discrimination by federal contractors. Others have urged him to speak out more forcefully for ENDA.

Coincidentally, the Movement

See State Of Union, page 17

**ONE NIGHT IN BAMAKO**

BASSEKOU KOUYATÉ AND NGONI BA WITH FATOUMATA DIAWARA

Friday, February 7, 8 pm

Michigan Theater

Two of Mali's greatest talents unite for this special concert: Bassekou Kouyate a virtuoso picker, musical visionary and one of Africa's greatest instrumentalists, and Fatoumata Diawara, perpetuating Mali's rich musical tradition through a joyous mix of songs inspired by Wassoulou tradition, jazz, and blues.

SPONSORED BY



HOSTED BY

Gary Boren

MEDIA PARTNERS

WEMU 89.1 FM, Ann Arbor's 107one,
and WDET 101.9 FM

SCAN FOR A
VIDEO PREVIEW

**COMPAGNIE KÄFIG**

CCN DE CRETEIL DU VAL-DE-MARNE

MOURAD MERZOUKI, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND CHOREOGRAPHER

Friday, February 14, 8 pm

Saturday, February 15, 8 pm

Power Center

Artistic director Mourad Merzouki, who is at the forefront of the international hip-hop dance scene, has created two heart-stopping works showcasing an irresistible cocktail of athletic samba, hip-hop, and capoeira dance styles.

MEDIA PARTNERS

Metro Times and Between the Lines

TICKETS ON SALE NOW:

UMS.ORG / 734.764.2538



A benefit for the Michigan Marriage Challenge, presented by the Jim Toy Community Center

EQUALITY CABARET

MAKING MARRIAGE EQUALITY A REALITY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

at 1 p.m

at **THE ARK**, Ann Arbor

michiganmarriagechallenge.com

VIENNA TENG

**NERVOUS
BUT EXCITED**

& MORE

In partnership with the Jim Toy Community Center the artists have given their time & talent to raise critically needed funds for the DeBoer-Rowse Family to legally co-adopt their three children.

Tickets on sale at the Michigan Union Ticket Office:
734.763.TKTS



THE LUNCH ROOM

Tax Time?



When it's tax time, it's time to
call **Kuderik** at **248 835 7755**.

- Specialist in Individual Returns
- Over 20 years Small Business experience
- Maximize your deductions and returns
- Electronic filing for fast refund
- Call today to begin tax planning now



KUDERIK

AND ASSOCIATES

Kuderik and Associates PLLC
Certified Public Accountants

32121 Woodward Ave Suite 202
Royal Oak MI 48073

www.kuderikcpa.com



2014: For Love And Taxes

BY JAN STEVENSON

For the first time in U.S. history, same-sex married couples may file as "married" on their 2013 federal returns. No longer are same-sex married couples seen as "legal strangers" in the eyes of the I.R.S. Although it may feel strange to be excited about federal income taxes, there are many impactful and important aspects of the I.R.S. rulings that can benefit same-sex couples.

It is important for same-sex married couples and their financial advisors to fully understand the wide-ranging changes in their financial status as a result of the I.R.S. ruling. Tax professionals who are up to date on these changes can help couples navigate these new complexities effecting federal and state income taxes, inheritances and estate taxes, business income allocations, retirement benefits, expenses for children, educational costs and more.

The I.R.S. ruling, although enormous in its impact for same-sex married couples, does not cover all federal programs and agencies yet. For example, the legislation that created Social Security defines marriage by



Same sex couples in all 50 states can now file their federal returns jointly.

"place of domicile," meaning that in Michigan same-sex marriages would not be recognized by Social Security because same sex marriage is not legal in Michigan. Married couples living in any of the 17 states and the District of Columbia where marriage is legal would be able to apply for spousal Social Security benefits. Although President Obama has instructed all federal agencies to go through their rules and regulations

and wherever possible interpret or change them to be inclusive of same-sex marriages, it may be years before every federal program has inclusive rules and regulations.

Here is a quick Q&A on just some of the most frequently asked questions about the new I.R.S. ruling and its impact on same-sex married couples filing jointly for the first time:

See next page

KEY

FINANCIAL SERVICES

TAX & CREDIT SPECIALIST



**COMPLETE YEAR ROUND TAX SERVICE WITH
ATTORNEY SUPERVISED CREDIT EDUCATION AND
IMPROVEMENT SERVICES.**

CHECKOUT WWW.GOODCREDITCOURSE.COM FOR MORE INFO
ABOUT OUR PROFESSIONAL CREDIT RESTORATION PROGRAM.

17515 W NINE MILE RD SUITE 445
SOUTHFIELD, MI 48075

(248) 569-9120 • WWW.KEYFINANCIALONLINE.COM

M & M

Accounting Service

Mark G. Benner, CMA, EA, RTRP

Phone: 248-547-9436

Fax: 258-547-5165

www.mmaccounting.net

Taxes@mmaccounting.net

*Flexible Hours:
Day/Evenings & Weekends!*

*We Accept
Major Credit Cards!*



TAX PREPARATION & ALL ACCOUNTING NEEDS!
IRS REPRESENTATION AND PROBLEM RESOLUTION SERVICES AVAILABLE

We're a full accounting firm available 12 months a year for your individual and business tax preparation and planning. We provide prompt, professional services at a reasonable price for a wide variety of clients, including individuals, small businesses, partnerships, corporations, sole proprietorships & LLC/LLP.

Call and set up an appointment with us today!

Q. Can same-sex spouses file federal tax returns using a married filing jointly or married filing separately status?

A. Yes. For tax year 2013 and after, same-sex spouses generally can file using a married filing separately or jointly filing status.

Q. Can we go back and amend prior year's tax returns?

A. For tax returns for years before 2013 same sex spouses may choose to amend their federal tax returns to file using married filing separately or jointly filing status, provided the statute of limitations for amending has not expired (generally three years from the date the return was filed or two years from the date the tax was paid, whichever is later).

Q. Can a taxpayer's same-sex spouse be a dependent of the taxpayer?

A. No. A taxpayer's spouse cannot be a dependent.

Q. Does the I.R.S. recognize domestic partnerships?

A. No. For the purposes of federal income tax filings, only couples who are legally married may file jointly.

Q. Can same-sex spouses file jointly on their Michigan tax return?

A. No. Michigan does not recognize same-sex marriages for any purpose. Couples filing federal joint returns must go back and recalculate their taxes separately for their state tax returns. This recalculating may require significant additional work for tax preparers.

Q. Can a same-sex spouse file using head-of-household filing status?

A. A married taxpayer cannot file using head of household filing status. However, a married taxpayer may be "considered unmarried" and may use head-of-household filing status if the taxpayer lives apart from the spouse

for the last six months of the year and provides more than half the cost of maintaining a household that is the principal place of abode of the taxpayer's dependent child. (IRS Pub. 501)

Q. If the taxpayer adopts the child of their spouse as a second parent or co-parent, may the adopting parent claim the adoption credit for qualifying adoption expenses paid or incurred to adopt the child?

A. No. An adopting parent may not claim an adoption credit. (Second parent



adoptions in Michigan are rare due to a hostile . However, a favorable decision in the DeBoer v Snyder federal case going to trial Feb. 25 in Detroit may allow same-sex couples to more easily adopt each other's child(ren)).

Q. Must same-sex married couples continue to pay taxes on the health premiums and other benefits for their spouse by having those expenses added to their taxable income?

A. No. As a result of the I.R.S. ruling, an employee enrolling a same-sex spouse for benefit coverage under an employer-sponsored health plan no longer has imputed income for federal income tax purposes; may pay for the spouse's coverage using pre-tax contributions under cafeteria plans; and may take tax-free reimbursements from flexible

spending accounts (FSAs), health reimbursement accounts (HRAs) and health savings accounts (HSAs) to pay for the same-sex spouse's qualifying medical expenses.

Q. If a sole proprietor employs same-sex spouse in his or her business, can the proprietor get a refund of Social Security, Medicare and FUTA taxes on the wages paid to a spouse as an employee in the business?

A. Services performed by an employee in the employ of his or her spouse are excluded from the definition of employment for the purposes of FUTA. For all open tax years, a sole proprietor can claim a refund of FUTA tax paid on compensation the sole proprietor paid the spouse as an employee in the business. Services of a spouse are excluded from Social Security and Medicare taxes only if the services are not in the course of the employer's trade of business, or if it is domestic service in a private home of the employer.

Q. Even though Michigan does not recognize same-sex marriage, will same-sex spouses be considered spouses for a qualified retirement plan?

A. Yes. A plan operating only in a state that does not recognize same-sex marriages must treat a participant who is married to a same-sex spouse under the laws of a different jurisdiction as married for the purposes of applying the qualification requirements that relate to spouses. A qualified defined contribution plan provides that participant's account must be paid to participant's spouse upon death unless spouse consents to a different beneficiary.

For more information consult a professional or go to www.irs.gov/uac/Answers-to-Frequently-Asked-Questions-for-Same-Sex-Married-Couples



Chris Perry
Owner/Tax Professional
Cherie Mascarello
Tax Professional

8252 E. Twelve Mile Rd.
Warren, MI 48093

Chris@coop-tax.com
P: (586) 573-7250
F: (586) 573-9901

Over 20 Years Of Experience

HARBOUR TAX AND ACCOUNTING INC.
1220 E. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067
(248) 399-7331
www.harbourtaxaccounting.com

BTL

Join The Conversation

Many Happy Returns!

COMPLETE ACCOUNTING SERVICES
COMPLETE TAX PREPARATION
Individual, Partnership, and Corporate
FINANCIAL PLANNING

Alan T. Semonian, C.P.A.
(248) 584-1040

3336 West 12 Mile Road • Berkley, MI 48072
Fax (248) 399-6902 • 1-800-TAX-ALAN • TaxAlan@aol.com

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

BTL
Between the Lines

5K LIKES
ON FACEBOOK

Thank you!

Urogynecologist, Anyone?



Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

I can be thinking contentedly of a dozen things - of sealing wax, cabbages, queens - but let me get one hundred yards near my art studio, and without the slightest conscientious intent on my part I suddenly, urgently, desperately, have to p-e-e-e.

I'm convinced my bladder has a mind of its own, taking a perverse delight in reminding me at inconvenient moments just who really runs my Waterworks Park, who alone schedules my sunlit Old Faithful spoutings.

Whoa! Hold on there! I urge the little guy haphazardly working the switch, bargaining for a few more seconds 'til I get my key into the lock and make an unscheduled dash to the loo, there to discharge another distillation of my allotted 140,515.58 lifetime litres.

I'm not alone in being ambushed by this most insistent of Pavlovian reflexes. It happens to everybody, and to some with five-alarm frequency. (Test: See how soon you have to go after -- or during -- the reading of this Pee G.)

I wouldn't have brought the topic up in mixed company (tiny bladders vs. big tankers), but I chanced upon a Cosmopolitan magazine article, "Do You Always Have to Pee? (Find Out Why Your Tank Seems So Tiny -- and the Surprising Ways to Fix It)".

According to the article, some hapless glamour gals pee as many as 15 times a day. "My boyfriend calls me the pee queen," opines Vanessa, 25, "because I'm at mercy of a bladder that won't quit, while he can hold it in all night."

(I wish I could find someone with that holding-it-in-all-night expertise. Even an amateur's half hour would suit me just dandy. Peeing in his case optional.)

You'll be pleased to know that bladder size has nothing to do with frequency of voiding (or, avoiding voiding). Nor is male or female a factor says urogynecologist Dr. Ingrid Nygaard. "No matter what gender you are or your overall physical size, all bladders are capable of expanding to about the same amount: able to hold up to 18 ounces of liquid."

The problem is that we're drinking more liquids these days. "We've become a nation of chronic drinkers," says Lindsey Kerr, M.D., another pee-in-the-bottle, smile-for-me specialist. "And logically, the more a person drinks, the more she's going to need a bathroom break."

As for Cosmopolitan's "surprising" ways to curb an insistent urge to go on bladder patrol - say, beyond a reasonable truck stop call of patriotic duty - desensitization heads the list. "As soon as you feel the need to go to the bathroom, take a few deep breaths, relax, and hold it for half an hour." (Your breath, not your privates.)

You may get a little red in the face or find yourself doing a few spontaneously choreographed tea dance routines, but don't worry your pretty little unzipped head. In time your feisty bladder will learn who's boss and come around to behaving itself like a lady or a gentleman (or both) in public.

To pee or not to pee. That is the question. The answer: Let it all hang out. Just don't get caught with your panic down.

Charles@pridesource.com

CC14: Changing How We Look, Live And Define Our Lives



Viewpoint

BY MICHELLE E. BROWN

I love Creating Change! It's like getting beamed up to a "Gay World" where you are surrounded by OUR community - all sizes, shapes, hair styles, demographics. OUR community where no one raises an eyebrow if you hold your partner's hand or plant a wet kiss on their lips.

It's a space where around every corner, in every session or just lounging about you can sit down and talk about your life and the other person will get it because it's their life too.

I always come back geeked, full of ideas and ready for action - then reality sets in. The reality that I'm not somewhere over the rainbow and, unfortunately, under the rainbow when the creating change glow has cooled down, my big gay community returns to our own separate silos.

But this year was different. We have seen so many changes in recent years, there has been such momentum, that this year we came to Houston ready not only to create change but to be that change.

The charge was led by amazing Trans-activists like Laverne Cox, Monica Roberts, Kylar Broadus, Bamby Salcedo, Cecilia Chung and Carter Brown who gave a masters class on living authentically and the intersections of LGBTQ equality and humanity.

Wow, that's saying a lot, but seriously, there were some big lessons being taught in Houston!

I could probably write a book - probably two or three - about the workshop sessions, the plenary sessions, the caucuses, the film screenings, the speakers and the amazing Laverne Cox but for me

the big story was the new energy changing how we have come to talk about, advocate for and engage our community.

Lesbian feminist, leather activists, queer, young, old were all there adding their voice to the conversation but the most transformative conversations for me came from our transgender activists.

Theirs is a Trans story, but it is also our story and a human story - the ultimate quest to be our authentic selves.

Our transgender sisters and brothers remind us that gender is not just male or female but a spectrum of expression and cannot - should not be defined by anatomy.

By forcing a child, and later the adult, to live by standards conforming to anatomy but denying their spirit/soul true gender expression is not only harmful, but keeps us from developing our full potential as human beings.

When a baby is born someone looks between his/her legs and labels them with an identity and the accompanying baggage society has given that gender - toxic whether gay, straight and especially if transgender.

Healthcare doled out based on flawed societal norms whether for transgender services, individuals living with HIV/AIDS or women's reproductive rights is discriminatory.

Homelessness, violence, sexual exploitation, poverty are the evils that man makes and doles out to the poor,

immigrants, not just to but most harshly to the LGBT community.

Ironically the very part of our LGB community - the "T" - which has been too often thrown under the bus in "our" fight for equality is profoundly and eloquently telling the story of the evils of bias, discrimination and all the hate based phobias in a patriarchal society - pushing the envelope that could ultimately shift the paradigm on how we value the human spirit.

Will it happen tomorrow as a result of Creating Change? No - but the seeds are planted, the conversations begun, the movement strengthened and the winds of change - well they're blowing.

Creating Change - not only educating about healthcare but leading the charge to end AIDS now; Creating Change - supporting, engaging, protecting LGBTQ youth; Creating Change - recognizing, celebrating and supporting the diversity within our community; Creating Change - developing strategies for intentional intersectionality not just for survival but as a tool for real social change.

Creating Change Houston 2014 - it was a very good year. Next stop Denver!

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



Mixed Messages

John Podesta, the former chief of staff to President Clinton who joined the Obama White



John Podesta,

House just a few weeks ago as Counselor to the President, says an executive order prohibiting sexual orientation discrimination by federal contractors is "under consideration at the White House – we're looking at that."

He made his comment in a January 31 interview on Bloomberg News' Political Capital. When host Al Hunt asked him, "What's the argument against doing it?" Podesta said, "There is no real argument against non-discrimination in the workplace. I think the question is ... we've been putting forth the effort to get a comprehensive ENDA through the Congress. We'll see whether that's possible." But White House Press Secretary Jay Carney said in a daily meeting

with reporters Friday that he didn't have any updates on "a hypothetical executive order for LGBT non-discrimination" but he said it's "the wrong approach" and that the president thinks ENDA is "the right way to go here." LGBT leaders have been pressing President Obama for the executive order since he first took office in January 2009.

Starving The South

A report released Saturday shows that only a tiny percentage of monies contributed to LGBT efforts goes to southern states. "Out in the South," published by Funders for LGBTQ Issues, an organization that seeks to promote philanthropic giving to LGBT organizations, estimates that foundations gave \$101 million to U.S. LGBT groups in 2012 --\$55 million to national groups, \$46 million to local and regional groups. And only \$4.8 million went to organizations in the 14 southern states. By comparison, organizations in New York City alone received \$10 million and those in San Francisco received \$4 million.

—Keen News Service

► Virginia

Continued from p. 10

Confederacy."

Attorney General Herring, who also participated in the press call with plaintiffs and their attorneys, did not reflect that far back in history, but emphasized that, too many times in the past, Virginia has treated some citizens as second class. He was referring to cases in which Virginia opposed school desegregation, interracial marriages, and women attending Virginia Military Institute.

"The injustice of Virginia's position in those cases will not be repeated this time," said Herring.

Although the judge allotted three hours for arguments, only two were used, noted Olson, because two friend-of-the-court attorneys supporting the ban opted not to use their time.

► State Of Union

Continued from p. 12

Advancement Project, in releasing its biennial assessment of the LGBT civil rights movement Tuesday, noted that the "top 50 federal government contractors (81 percent) include sexual orientation in their nondiscrimination policies."

Even the Human Rights Campaign, one of the LGBT community's strongest supporters of President Obama, could not hide its disappointment.

"The President's message tonight failed to address the needs of LGBT workers looking for a fair shake in this economy," said HRC President Chad Griffin in a statement issued after the address. "Not only was there no call for the House to pass a federal law to protect

The judge had made a request before oral argument that attorneys not use their allotted time if it would duplicate arguments already made.

Asked whether last June's Supreme Court decision in U.S. v. Windsor, striking down the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), gave attorneys challenging Virginia's marriage ban any new arguments, compared to those they made during the Proposition 8 trial in California in 2010, Boies said the Windsor decision was "very strong support for us." He also cited as helpful last month's decision from the Ninth Circuit, in SmithKline v. Abbott, that said the courts should give laws disadvantaging people based on sexual orientation heightened scrutiny.

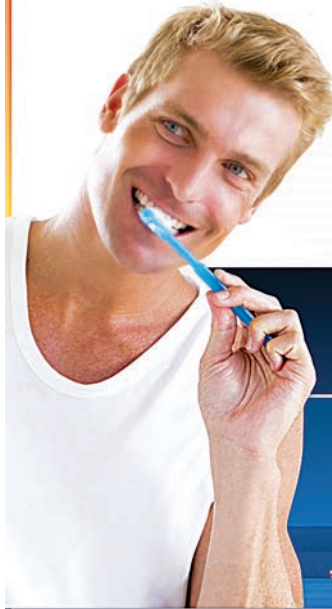
The second federal challenge in Virginia, Harris v. Virginia, is scheduled to have a status hearing on February 12.

LGBT workers nationwide, President Obama also sidestepped his commitment to take action where Congress has left off, leaving out an order prohibiting discrimination by federal contractors. Unfortunately, President Obama missed a real opportunity to use the State of the Union to improve the lives of LGBT people by taking immediate executive action to address anti-LGBT discrimination for the millions of Americans employed by federal contractors."

As in past years, President Obama included an openly gay person among the special guests joining the First Lady in the House gallery during the State of the Union address. This year it was Jason Collins, the National Basketball Association player who, last year, became the first male player in a major American team sport to come out as gay.

RON T. WILLIAMSON DDS

Dedicated to make our
community brighter
One Smile At A Time
248-399-4455



Zoom Special
\$149
One-hour Teeth Whitening

*Must mention this-BTL ad - Expires 2/28/14

Nitrous Oxide (relaxing air)

Proud participants in the Ryan White Program

No charges for emergency examinations and consultations.

Uninsured? No problem. Significant savings with our in-office club.

Care Credit



1964 W. 11 Mile Road, Suite 4,
Berkley, MI 48072
www.rontwilliamsondds.com

Find us on
facebook

Point of View

Contemporary African American Art from
the Elliot & Kimberly Perry Collection

1.26.14 – 4.13.14

Sponsored by
community foundation
Greater Flint

FLINT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

1120 E. Kearsley St. • Flint, MI 48503
810.234.1695 • flintarts.org

FREE SATURDAYS
FIRSTMERT Bank

Jeff Sonhouse, American, b. 1968, TOUGHER THAN TWO MOTHERS (detail), mixed media and steel wood on board, 2007, 36 x 32 x 4.5 inches, Collection of Elliot and Kimberly Perry, Reproduced with permission from the artist

Prism of Possibilities Psychotherapy

Christine Cantrell, PhD
Fully Licensed Psychologist

Give yourself an extreme self makeover ...

- ▼ Speak Your Truth
- ▼ Discover What You Want
- ▼ Create Your True Self
- ▼ Heal Old Hurts, Find Wholeness

CALL NOW!
248-591-2888

Located in Royal Oak
www.christinecantrell.com
christinecantrellphd@gmail.com

YOU DON'T NEED GOOD CREDIT TO DRIVE A GOOD CAR!

SUBURBAN
The Suburban Collection
Celebrating 65 Years!

- ✓ Bankruptcy
- ✓ Liens
- ✓ Judgments
- ✓ Divorce
- ✓ Repossessions
- ✓ No Credit
- ✓ Recent Graduate

It Doesn't Matter! Call Tessa Today!
"I finance your future, not your past!"

248-979-9000 • tcuthrell@suburbancollection.com

SHOP LGBT

► SOCHI Viewer Guide

Continued from p. 9

Through My Eyes, that talks about her wife and child. She has spoken in the Dutch press about her unhappiness with the IOC choosing Russia for the Olympics given its hostile laws.

Friday, Feb. 7: Two openly gay people are part of the United States' five-member delegation to the opening ceremony, and there seems little doubt that cameras will focus on them from time to time. They are tennis legend Billie Jean King and Olympic figure skating medalist Brian Boitano. There are several things to watch for during the opening ceremony: Do individual athletes wear anything or do anything in the procession of athletes to identify themselves as gay or as supporting equal treatment for gay people? Will Russian President Vladimir Putin voice anything about the highly publicized controversy during his remarks to the opening ceremony? And to what degree will NBC, which is covering the Games globally, report on the controversy?

Saturday, Feb. 8: Speed skating starts today (6:30 a.m.) and three openly lesbian competitors are on the oval track. One of them, Canadian long-track competitor Anatasia Bucsis, who told *outsports.com*, "I could never promote that message of concealing who you are with all of this going on in Russia. I'm kind of happy that I did it on my own terms." The other two openly lesbian speedskaters are both from the Netherlands, Ireen Wust (short track) and Sanne van Kerkhof (3000 relay). Their presence on the track may be a particularly interesting time to watch. The *Washington Post* reported that a Dutch brass band Kleintje Pils ("Small Beer") "always performs at Olympic speed skating ovals" and signaled it might play the iconic gay anthem "YMCA" this year. "We will see if we can get one or two songs into the selection, knowing that in the Netherlands it will be seen as a signal we are thinking of [gays]," said Ruud Bakker, the band's leader.

Sunday, Feb. 16: The Women's Cross Snowboarding is today and Australian Belle Brockhoff, the only openly gay person on Australia's Olympic team, has told home country papers she plans to wear a "P6" logo and make her unhappiness about the anti-gay laws in Russia known. "The Australian Olympic Committee has been really supportive and they want me to be safe. They don't recommend me waving a [rainbow] flag around which I won't do," said Brockhoff, in an interview published January 23 in the *Courier-Mail*. "The most I'll do is hold up six fingers to represent Principle Six. Possibly I'll do it on camera here or there, and maybe after the heats of my event." After her event, Brockhoff said she plans to speak freely about her thoughts. "After I compete, I'm willing to rip on his ass," she said. "I'm not happy and there's a bunch of other Olympians who are not happy either." Also on the 16th, the Australian Men's Bobsled team will carry "Principle 6" logo down the track on their two-man bobsled. Team captain Heath Spence has spoken out against discrimination of gay and lesbian athletes. He'll be competing in both two-man and four-man sleds.



Two openly gay people are part of the United States' five-member delegation to the opening ceremony, and there seems little doubt that cameras will focus on them from time to time. They are tennis legend Billie Jean King and Olympic figure skating medalist Brian Boitano.

Sunday, Feb. 23 Closing Ceremony: The five-member delegation representing the United States at the Closing Ceremony will include openly lesbian Olympic silver medalist hockey player

Caitlin Cahow. Any athlete who might want to make a show of protest could save their plans for the closing ceremony so as not to risk jeopardizing their competition and medals.

PRINCIPLE 6

SPORT DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON GROUNDS OF RACE, RELIGION, POLITICS, GENDER OR OTHERWISE.

Principle 6, a campaign inspired by the values of the Olympic charter, is a way for athletes, fans and global supporters to celebrate the Olympic principle of non-discrimination and speak out against Russia's anti-gay laws before the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi.

A DREAM-LIKE FOREST
WITH FANTASTICAL
CREATURES

VAREKAI™

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL™

PREMIERES TONIGHT!

FEBRUARY 5-9 | JOE LOUIS ARENA

Tickets at cirquedusoleil.com/varekai




VISA SIGNATURE IS
THE PREFERRED CARD
OF CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

PRESENTED BY

VISA
SIGNATURE

OFFICIAL SPONSORS


INFINITI.

xerox 

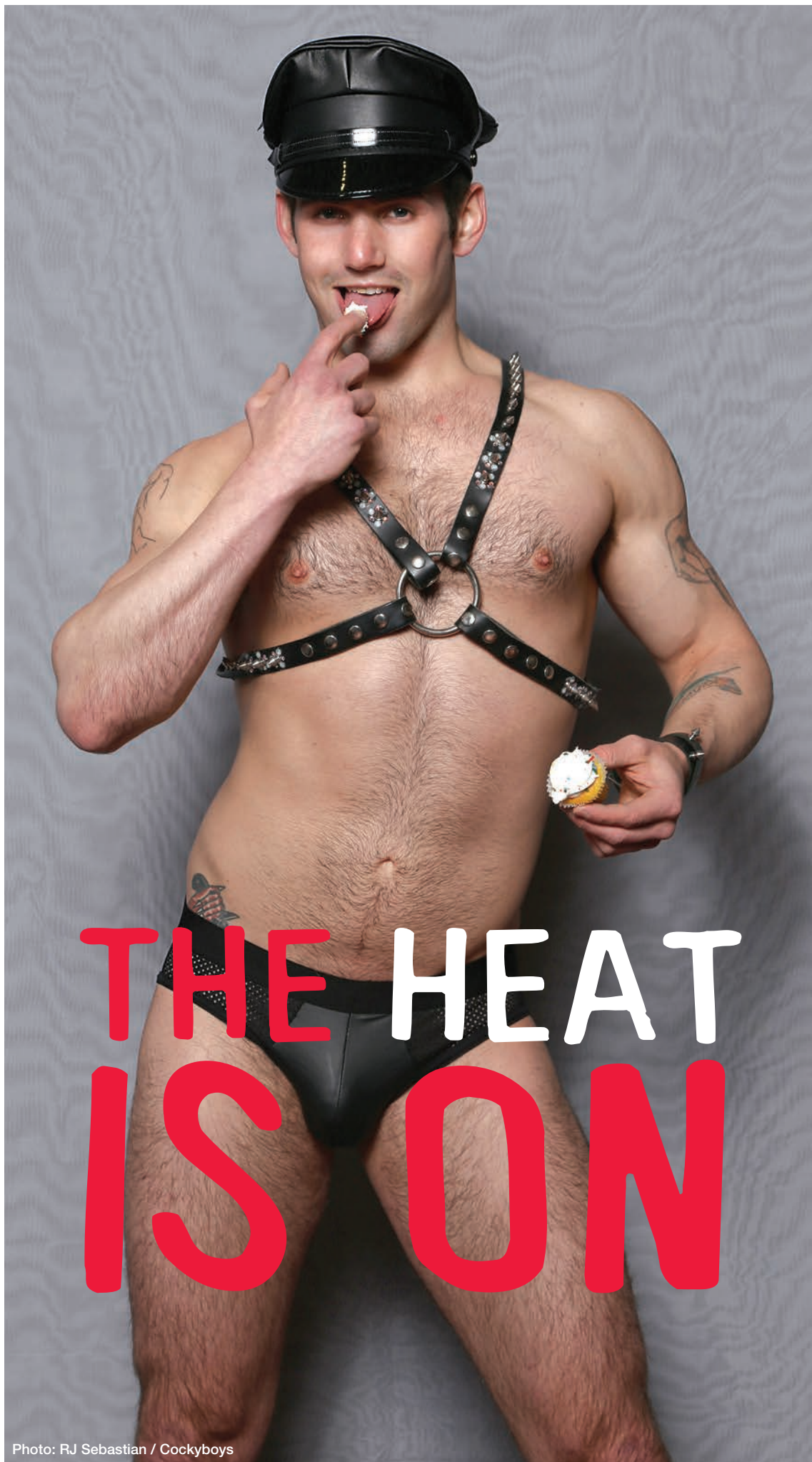


Photo: RJ Sebastian / Cockyboys

Chris Harder On Dirty Show & Being The Fiona Apple Of Porn

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Here's something we all wouldn't mind hearing: It's about to get really hot. "I'm doing some fire eating and body burning at this upcoming show," Chris Harder says, so casual he could be talking about what he had for lunch. "My friends say, 'There's no basic way to eat fire.'"

And there's not, really, but Harder's career has been anything but "basic." Originally from North Dakota, the "boylesque"-turned-pornographer got his start in children's theater – no joke: he was a sheep in "Charlotte's Web" – before traveling the world to perform bawdy stripteases and have sex on camera. The international erotic art exhibition, Dirty Show, held Feb. 7-9 and 14-15 at the Russell Industrial Center, brings the entertainer to Detroit during Valentine's Day weekend. (The New York-based performer will be the first porn star to appear in the event's 14-year history, according to founder Jerry Vile.)

While doing some packing – meaning, putting clothes in a suitcase – Harder chatted about making lunch ladies blush and the problem with people calling him a "porn star."

How do you even get to the point where you're comfortable putting fire near your face?

I wanted another challenge to bring to the stage besides just stripping, and I've always thought it would look cool. This past summer I took some classes from a friend in England. Once you get over that initial shock, it's a lot easier.

Are you always trying to raise the bar?

Even in a career like striptease, where most people think it's a one-trick pony, there really are a ton of possibilities. There's definitely more than what meets the eye.

I'm doing the opposite of what many porn actors are doing. I am getting into the adult industry now, at 27, when many people start younger than me and then expand into other areas. I *have* been doing that, and now I'm expanding into porn. More than ever, I think sex is becoming integrated into popular culture in

INFO

Dirty Show

Feb. 7-9, 14-15
Russell Industrial Center
1600 Clay St., Detroit
dirtydetroit.com
chrisharderfilms.com
800-838-3006

ways that it wasn't five or 10 years ago. The possibility of being a sex worker with other career spinoffs is definitely happening for many people right now.

I think porn is interesting, too, because it's one of the few professions where, if you make a few videos, suddenly you have the "star" label slapped on you. I don't think of myself as a "porn star" any more than I do a burlesque star. I think of myself as an entertainer at the end of the day.

But "entertainer" is pretty vague, don't you think?

I should probably just accept it; I sound like the Fiona Apple of porn. You know how she was like, "This doesn't mean anything!" But I do think it means something for sure, but I guess calling yourself a "porn actor" feels kind of ridiculous. I feel ridiculous saying "porn star," so I don't know. But for lack of a better word, sure, porn star. I'm a porn star. Thanks. That'll be my new positive affirmation every day now. (Laughs)

Why is the term "porn star" hard for you to accept?

I feel like I have worked in a variety of entertainment fields. I've done children's theater, theater, a bit of film, television and commercials, and modeling and porn modeling.

Hold up. You've done children's theater?

(Laughs) It seems like a traditional kind of porn career, right? Yeah, when I moved to New York, I came here about five years ago with every intention of being a "serious actor." And then, of course, I got cast in "Charlotte's Web" – the traveling children's musical theater – and I

See Chris Harder, page 25



*Always a
Good Time*

*Always
Welcome*



*Always
Fabulous*



TURTLE CREEK CASINO & HOTEL



Traverse City, MI | 800.922.2WIN | turtlecreekcasino.com

Owned and Operated by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.



Sochi: Show Your #SignofLove

V-Day Campaign To Support Equality In Russia Launches

This Valentine's Day, with the spotlight on the Sochi Winter Olympics, LUSH Cosmetics has joined with All Out to champion everyone's right to love and stand with all citizens who are calling

on the Russian government to stop fueling anti-gay violence.

For the three weeks leading up to Valentine's Day, LUSH is urging the public to show their solidarity by posting selfies wearing the love triangle symbol, painted in pink lipstick, to their social media networks using the hashtag #signoflove. The #signoflove pink triangle is seen as a global sign of LGBT rights.

LUSH is gathering the #signoflove

images both electronically and physically in-store to create a photo petition book full of images of people who believe love is an essential human right. On Feb. 14, LUSH staff will take the petition to the Russian Embassies in Washington, D.C. and Ottawa, as well as the Russian Consulate offices in New York, San Francisco, Seattle, Houston, Toronto and Montreal.

"At LUSH we believe that individuality, diversity and freedoms

are worth standing up for. We stand alongside the gay community as they strive for universal acceptance. Love is the world's most precious commodity and should never be legislated against," said Hilary Jones, LUSH ethics director.

LUSH is working with non-profit All Out, an organization that's helping people all over the world get the freedom they need to love who they choose. All Out is challenging

homophobic laws and attitudes, and is working to end violence and discrimination against the LGBTQ community worldwide.

Consumers can also visit one of the 188 stores in North America to take pictures with the pink #signoflove triangle in-store. Search online for a LUSH store in the the area. There are four in southeastern Michigan. Search www.lushusa.com.

NOW OPEN!
19363 Livernois Ave.
 (between W. 7 mile Rd. and Outer Drive)
 Detroit, MI 48221
 313.468.9915
 313.468.9921 Fax

NOW OFFERING VEGAN OPTIONS!

Hours:

Monday - Tuesday:	Closed
Wednesday - Saturday:	8am - 8pm
Sunday:	1pm - 6pm

Free WIFI

Good Cakes and Bakes

Happy Valentine's Day
 To Abra Couples

SWIRLING LAYERS OF STAINLESS STEEL
 & PRECIOUS METAL
 NESTLED BETWEEN LAYERS OF GOLD

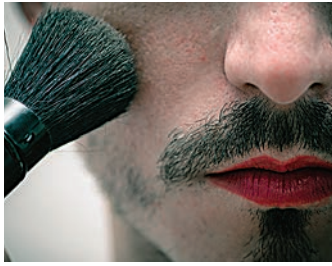
Celebrating 40 years of love
ABRACADABRA
 Jewelry/Gem Gallery

WWW.ABRAGEM.COM
 734.994.4848

Ruth Ellis Asks You To 'Primp For Your Partner'

BY SHELBY CLARK

Feeling dull and lifeless in this seemingly unending winter? Pamper yourself while supporting a good cause at "Primp for your Partner." Azenza Salon of Birmingham will be hosting the event in order to benefit the Ruth Ellis Center.



The Ruth Ellis Center has been metro Detroit's leading social service agency for LGBTQ youth. Since 1999, the center has helped runaway, homeless and at-risk youth with their residential housing, drop-in centers and mental health services.

The event will include cosmetic pampering such as eyebrow arching, hair blow outs, eyelash tinting and spray tans. For those who wish to learn how to primp at home, Azenza will also offer makeup and hair consultations as well as providing product samples.

Complimentary champagne and treats will be on site. A 50/50 raffle and silent auction will also occur during the evening.

Primp for your Partner will run 7-10 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 12 at Azenza Salon, 130 W. 14 Mile Road, Birmingham. Tickets for the event are \$15. For more information, e-mail amy.flory@ey.com or call 248-321-3635.

2014 PICK
the knot
best of
weddings

BIRMINGHAM JEWELRY

SINCE 1975

34756 Dequindre Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan
www.birminghamjewelry.com (586) 939-5100

Timeless, Classic Designs That Exhibit Impeccable Taste



"Largest selection of engagement rings in Michigan"



Relax ~ Reaffirm ~ Recreate ~ Revitalize ~ Rejoice

7194 S Dune Highway, Empire MI 49630
Call Today for Reservations 231-668-6789
www.Duneswood.com



EMBASSY SUITES®

Detroit - Troy/Auburn Hills
850 Tower Dr, Troy, MI 48098
Detroitroy.embassysuites.com / 248-879-7500

Purchase your Valentine's Day chocolates at

AGCHOCOLATES.COM

AG
Chocolates
by cek



~ Distinctive designs perfect for any occasion ~
~ Chocolate fountains and gifts for any event ~
~ Custom images on chocolate, including photos, logos and text ~
~ "Family" owned and operated ~

Hand-Crafted Chocolates

Chris E. Kitley • 517.917.3385

Denise Joseph, Ph.D. & Associates, LLC
Fully Licensed Psychologist & Counselor

Live in Your Core Value NOW
Navigate your Life's Journey to Wellness
Create & Establish Healthy Boundaries
Consider Compassion

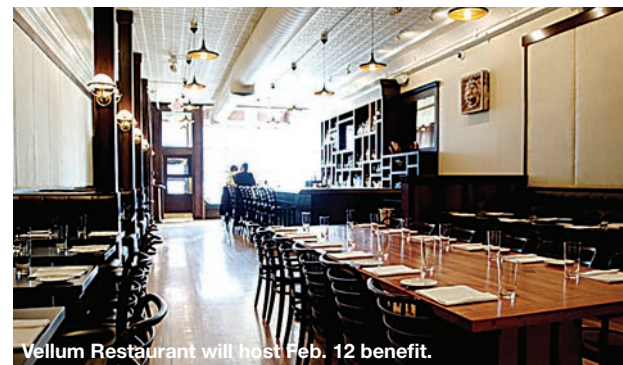
248.613.9230
dr.dj@comcast.net • www.denisejoseph.com
1026 W. ELEVEN MILE, SUITE C • ROYAL OAK, MI • 48067



Park House Inn B & B

888 Holland St, Saugatuck MI 49453,
866 321-4535 or 269 857-4535

150+ year old Inn home 4 blks from downtown shops/restaurants, 9 guest rooms, cottage, all private baths, some rooms with private hot tubs/Jacuzzi tubs, WI-Fi, Direct TV, on site parking and full breakfast served daily.



Vellum Restaurant will host Feb. 12 benefit.

Home Sweet Homosexual

Valentine's Day Benefit For Ozone House

BY SHELBY CLARK

Looking for a specifically LGBT Valentine's Day event, with the added benefit of helping a good cause?

The Ozone House works to benefit their "Kicked Out Fund" with "Home Sweet Home: A Night of Wine, Cheese, and Chocolate to End LGBT Youth Homelessness." The Home Sweet Home Event is an LGBT-themed event for Valentine's Day which will include a wine, cheese and chocolate tasting at Vellum in Ann Arbor.

Vellum Restaurant, a partner in hosting the event, is known for its craftsmanship when it comes to architecture, furnishing and of course, food and beverage. More information on the restaurant, bar and lounge can be found at www.vellumrestaurant.com.

The event will feature top quality "romantic" foods, as well as a brief program at 7:30 p.m. on the state of LGBT youth. All net proceeds from the evening will go to Ozone House's services, specifically the Kicked Out Fund.

Current programs at Ozone House's drop-in center include career services, life skills groups, peer outreach, recreational games and even pizza parties. A popular service includes "Youth Making an Impact," a youth volunteer groups that works to positively affect the community with activism and service projects.

The Kicked Out Fund helps to provide support and shelter to hundreds of young people who have left home because their sexual orientation has lead to unsafe situations. The fund also helps fund the 24/7 Crisis Line at Ozone House, which often serves as the first connection between LGBTQ youth in need of help at the nonprofit. The Crisis Line can be reached at 734-662-2222.

In addition to services of shelter and support, the fund helps sustain PrideZone, the weekly support group for LGBTQ youth at Ozone House. Queer youth ages 13-20 are able to socialize and build a safe community at PrideZone, as well as access other services every Wednesday at 6 p.m.

The Home Sweet Home event will be from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 12 in the Upstairs Lounge at Vellum. Tickets are \$75. Vellum is located at 209 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. Reservations are required.

Ozone House is at 102 N. Hamilton, Ypsilanti. For more information on Ozone House or this event, call Development Director Heather Steenrod at 734-662-2265 ext. 25 or visit www.ozonehouse.org.

For more Valentine's Day events, check out BTL's calendar at www.pridesource.com/calendar.html.

WORLDVIEW

LECTURE SERIES

TONY KUSHNER

PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING PLAYWRIGHT

Monday, February 10, 2014 AT 7:30PM
Cobb Great Hall

"Some playwrights want to change the world. Some want to revolutionize theatre. Tony Kushner is that rarity of rarities: a writer who has the promise to do both."
-The New York Times

Tony Kushner is best known for his Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning play *Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes*, a work recognized as one of the best plays of the 20th century. A 2013 recipient of the National Medal of Arts, Tony Kushner was nominated for an Oscar and Golden Globe for his screenplay for the Steven Spielberg film, *Lincoln*. He is also the co-author of another Spielberg film, the critically-acclaimed *Munich*. Mr. Kushner will be speaking in an informal interview format, led by actor and director John Lepard.



The World View Lecture Series is made possible in part by the MSU Office of the President. This presentation is generously supported by College of Human Medicine; College of Natural Science; Honors College; and University Outreach and Engagement.

michigan state university
whartoncenter
for performing arts

Media Sponsor
WKAR
1150 | 101.7

Presented in partnership with

LEADING VOICES SERIES
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Arts & Letters

WHARTONCENTER.COM • 1-800-WHARTON

► **Chris Harder**

Continued from p. 20

actually went back to the Midwest and traveled through Wisconsin playing a giant purple sheep. My nose looked like a vagina and I made kids cry all the time.

What does it feel like knowing you'll be the first porn star to appear at the Dirty Show?

I am really flattered because I know not every entertainer necessarily fits into every show. As a male entertainer in burlesque, I wasn't always getting cast in fancy dinner party shows. My stuff has always been more comical and now it's getting more sexual on stage, so the fact that they are bringing me out as a male burlesque performer and a male porn star, I'm really quite flattered.

What do you have planned?

I don't just wanna do a striptease. I have some more spectacle, big costume-based numbers, but I think sometimes I forget that the sexuality of the piece just emerges from taking off clothing. My style has always been kind of

“ *My nose looked like a vagina and I made kids cry all the time.* ”

– Chris Harder on doing children's theater

a cross between Tom of Finland and Liberace – and now it's a lot more Tom of Finland. But I kind of have a goofy personality.

There's been controversy regarding the school that suspended an 18-year-old Sean Cody model, Robert Marucci, for doing porn. What's your take on how that was handled?

It's unfortunate that they chose to make such a big deal out of it. If you really want to reprimand someone because you feel it's a moral obligation, you think you'd find a more clever way to do it as opposed to creating this media coverage that pulls your decision into question.

I would never tell someone to

go do porn, just like I would never tell someone to go drink alcohol, but I think it can be a part of the human experience. I don't want to say, “kids, go make porn,” but certainly if all needs are being met – and for porn that's being of legal age – I think it's horribly wrong to shame someone for exploring their sexuality.

The other argument regarding this is that he's having bareback sex in the video. And bareback sex in porn has obviously been a hot topic lately. What are your thoughts on bareback sex in porn, and could you see yourself doing it?

I will never do bareback porn. That is just a personal choice. I

don't say that to shame people who do perform bareback in scenes or companies who market bareback porn. Just as with that high school student, at a certain point you are an adult legally, and we have to take responsibility for our personal decisions.

I want to say this as carefully as possible because I don't want to take some kind of moral high ground, but I feel like bareback sex is a fantasy. When we fantasize, we don't necessarily fantasize about our partners putting on the condom or taking out the dental dam! (Laughs) But I don't think professionally I have a responsibility to practice safer sex with condoms because, again, I am an adult. We can't play that constant game of who's responsible for children's upbringings. All I know is that, personally, my responsibility to myself is not to do bareback porn.

Tell me about your decision to change your professional name from Go-Go Harder to your real name, Chris Harder?

I'm trying to take a less-than-regular path in the adult industry.

I'd at least like to have a name and appearance that is an initial hook. I think that goes back to performance as well. As performers, we have to trick our audience into liking us – and gay men are no exception to that rule. It's also easier for people to get into Chris Harder than it is Go-Go Harder.

Literally?

(Laughs) Well, you know, I've always been kind of tight, but once you're in, you're good to go.

With a last name like "Harder," how could you not use it?

I won't lie, it does come from a place of vanity. I do think “Harder” is a great name. I remember when I was in second grade and the lunch lady would always stumble over my name – and literally, for five years! I think it makes people blush a bit.

I wonder what the lunch ladies would say now if they knew you were doing porn.

Oh god. Probably, “We knew all along. That Harder boy, he was a weird one.”



Newmyer

Distinctive Remodeling

Dedicated to Quality, Design & Workmanship

248-669-3500

www.newmyer.com



Premier Remodeling Specialists

BATHS | KITCHENS | ADDITIONS | WINDOWS | DOORS | WINE CELLARS

Stop by to See Our New Displays
3081 Haggerty Road | Walled Lake, MI 48390

TREAT YOURSELF



FREE WIFI, COFFEE, ESPRESSO, GELATO, MACARONS, CROISSANTS, CATERED COFFEE AND DESSERT TRAYS AVAILABLE

Melt
espresso • gelato

4160 CASS AVE. STE A, DETROIT, MI 48201
313-833-4223
M-TH: 8 AM - 10 PM, F-S: 8 AM - 10 PM, SUN 10 AM - 6 PM

W.E.T. Detroit Hosts New Events For Queer Women

BY SHELBY CLARK

A grassroots LGBTQ organization has recently swept the Detroit event scene: Women's Entertainment Team, also known as W.E.T. Detroit.

The group, founded by Noura B. and Raz, has worked to create events made for queer women, as well as allies. Since September 2013, the two women have made every first Saturday of the month at Temple Bar in Detroit a dedicated night for queer women.

Suitably, the women come from backgrounds ripe for party-planning and entertainment. Raz, who is currently majoring in hospitality management at Eastern Michigan University, has worked in the hospitality industry since she was a teenager, with a passion for event planning and small business.

Noura is a founding member of both the Z Collective, an art movement, and Humans of Detroit (www.humansofdetroit.com), a photo collective designed "to spread a positive light on the city and the people who call it home." She is currently a photographer studying at Wayne State University.

With an eye for business, art and planning, the two decided to create W.E.T. after Noura visited New York City.

"I was exploring the diverse LGBTQ community there," says Noura. "I noticed how segregated Detroit's LGBTQ community was. Detroit didn't have much to offer for its lesbian, bisexual and queer women. Raz and I would often complain about not having enough places to go to interact with fellow queer women."

Raz notes, "I was never interested in going out to LGBTQ events because parties seemed focused on gay men. Necto, Menjos, Pronto, and Cream — just to name a few — all cater to the gay men of the community. This made me wish there was more diversity in Detroit's LGBTQ party scene."

Raz also experienced LGBTQ scenes outside of Michigan.

"I moved to Florida for a year and experienced a different atmosphere. I felt like we both could add something that's been missing to the Detroit scene," she tells BTL.

After returning to Detroit, Noura approached Raz about planning events



W.E.T. meets the first Saturday of every month at Temple Bar in Detroit.

specifically for queer women, but open to all and W.E.T. was born.

Despite their initial feelings towards LGBTQ events in Detroit, the women still view the more gay-centered parties as good for the city.

"We don't view other LGBTQ resources as competition, but rather as a community that supports each other. We didn't start this project to make a profit; we started out because of our love for the community," Noura affirms.

"We started from zero and have been working our way up," the two say. "The owner of Temple Bar was very open and supportive to the idea of a queer women's night. It took us a few months to find a female DJ that we could work with, but we found her — DJ Diana (Mother Cyborg)."

W.E.T. had its first event, the Coming Out Party, Dec. 7 at the bar — and with a great turnout to boot. Excitement over the party quickly led to another scheduled event, the Black & White Party, held Jan. 4.

"Overall, the reception to W.E.T. has

been really good," Noura says.

Upcoming plans for W.E.T. include a different themed event every month, with an event being planned for Valentine's Day in February. The party will be called "W.E.T. Detroit's Queer Mingle." The mix-and-mingle will feature colored bracelets signifying the party goer's relationship status, as well as a bachelorette auction. Twenty percent of proceeds from the auction will go to a local family in need.

With few issues standing in their way, W.E.T. joins others in continuing to make Detroit an inclusive, open and vibrant LGBTQ community. Noura and Raz both agree, "We feel it's about time."

W.E.T.'s monthly event begins at 10 p.m. on the first Saturday of the month at Temple Bar, 2906 Cass Ave., Detroit.

To contact W.E.T. e-mail womenentertainmentteam@gmail.com. For more information on W.E.T. and future "themed" events, visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/W.E.T.Detroit.

SWEET LORRAINE'S
The Way Life Should Be...
Casual, Fun & Delicious!

Daily Vegetarian Specials, Seafood, Pasta & Steaks. 25 Wines by the Glass

Make your Valentine's Reservation Soon!



SOUTHFIELD
(248) 559-5985
(12 Mile & Greenfield Rd.)

LIVONIA
(734) 953-7480
In the Livonia Marriott Laurel Park Place
(near I-275 & Six Mile Rd.)

Miner's Den

JEWELERS

www.minersden.com

Show your love with the rose that lives forever...rose gold.



Diamonds
Wedding Rings
Custom Jewelry
CAD Jewelry Design
Estate Jewelry

Appraisals
Watch Repair
Watch Batteries
Minerals
Fossils

\$25 Off!

with a purchase of \$100 or more!*

Must present this coupon - expires 2/28/14

*Excludes bead sale. Cannot be combined
with any other offer.

3417 Rochester Rd.
Royal Oak MI 48073
248-585-6950

www.minersden.com



STILL BREATHING, STILL SINGING

Toni Braxton Talks 'Love' Album, Going Lesbian & The Hit Song She Hates

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Toni Braxton is getting deep. Real deep. “I have a bit of a cold,” she says, her voice doing that sexy-low thing it does when she sings, “so yeah, it’s very Bea Arthur from ‘The Golden Girls.’”

A little cold can’t stop Braxton, who’s already faced bankruptcy, is managing lupus and then, before friend/producer Babyface intervened, almost retired from the music business altogether. Luckily, he changed her mind, and hearts everywhere were unbroken.

“Love, Marriage & Divorce,” her first album since 2010’s “Pulse,” brings Braxton back together with Babyface. The two most notably collaborated on her self-titled debut, the singer’s mega-selling caper that scored her a Grammy for Best New Artist in 1994.

Braxton was candid as ever in our recent chat, talking about why she told Babyface that she’s a grown woman (“I have breasts now”), her desire to have a lesbian experience and how short hair put her back in touch with her roots.

First of all, thank god for Babyface. I am so glad he wasn’t about to let you throw in the towel. What were you smoking when you said you were gonna give up on music?

Obviously not weed, because I would’ve still stayed in the business! (Laughs) You know what, I was just in a sad space in my life. I think everybody goes through that, but I

didn’t realize, I guess, just how sad I was at that time – and friends like Babyface, Missy Elliott, Fantasia and Anita Baker helped talk me out of that state. Sometimes you just need friends and family to rally around you and let you know it’s gonna be OK.

And now you’re in it for good?

I’ll never retire. I’ll be 85 years old singing at the Cafe Carlyle like Eartha Kitt.

How do you make a love album with an attractive, talented man like Babyface and not fall in love?

I’ve been in love with him since he was in (’80s R&B group) The Deele. I was a huge fan. Very quickly he became my big brother when we started working together. I was the girl who was like, “I’ll never have a chance with him,” and from there we just became brother and sister. Our relationship was really weird. I will always, always love him. But it’s like having a crush on your cousin and you realize, “Maybe I shouldn’t have a crush on my cousin. That’s not hot.” (Laughs)

So then with “Sweat,” a song off the new album, is it weird to sing about makeup sex with your “brother”?

(Laughs) Well, we really aren’t brother and sister, so it wouldn’t be incest! But I call him my “musical husband” and we are married, but just musically. We’re kind of like Elliot Stabler (and Olivia Benson) on “Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.” You want them to get together, there’s a bit of attraction, but we’ve never crossed the line. That’s kind of where it is with us.

How does “Love, Marriage & Divorce” compare to the work you and Babyface did in the ’90s?

It’s similar. Kenny Babyface helped make my dreams come true. He helped develop my sound, and so I’m more comfortable with him than any other producer I’ve worked with. And he’s given me great songs in my career but not the biggest songs in my career, which is really odd. He didn’t write “Un-Break My Heart,” he didn’t write or produce “He Wasn’t Man Enough,” but I was still on his label so he still fostered my career. But whenever we’re together, he is the one I’m most comfortable

and creative with, and I feel home.

So these recording sessions must have felt nostalgic for you and him.

Working together was actually tough at first. The first couple of months we struggled because I'm his artist and he kind of developed me, so his artist grew up and I have my own opinions, my own thoughts, my own philosophies, my own judgments and my own career. We talked about it and it took a second for him to understand. We argued a bit – not bad-argued, but we just had creative differences. Later on he said, "You know, Toni, I have to give you credit. You're an artist now and it's sometimes hard for a brother to accept that his sister is growing up." I said, "I know, Kenny. I have breasts now and everything." (Laughs)

Looking back at some of the songs you did with Babyface, which stand out most to you?

"Breathe Again" is my favorite song to sing. It makes me happy. It's a beautiful, sad love song. I love "Another Sad Love Song." But of all the songs that I ever recorded with him, I love them all except for "Seven Whole Days." Hated it. Didn't understand it. Why am I singing it? And it turned out to be a big urban song for me.

You've been very passionate about wanting a lesbian role on "Orange is the New Black." Where's that at?

My agent is working on that for me as we speak. I got a call (recently) that said, "We're working on it." We believe they're taping in March, so we'll see. I'm excited about it.

Why the interest in playing a lesbian character?

I just want something out of character. When people see me, Toni, as a performer, they see something completely different. If I were to play a lesbian, they could see me as an actress: "Oh, maybe the bitch can act!" And every girl has her lesbian crush. My lesbian crush would be Ellen (DeGeneres). I love how she dances. I like her haircut. Love everything about her. So this would be a way for me to channel my inner Ellen.

And you already have the short hair.

I'm halfway there!

There's some intense lesbian sex on that show. Would you be up for getting it on with another woman? Would you go as far as they'd ask you to?

If the role called for it, I would be willing to do it. It would be a great endeavor, and I think I would be comfortable in that role. I don't think it would be a stretch for me.

It wouldn't be a stretch? Are you saying you've had a lesbian experience?

I've never had one in my life! Ever! This would be my first lesbian experience if I did "Orange is the New Black," because I've never had one. There are a lot of things I haven't experienced that I need to start experiencing. I need to start living. Like Aunt Mame said, I need to live! I would like to say, "I lived."

How do you feel about gay people having the right to love and marriage and divorce?

We're all people, so I don't even like to get into those conversations. As an African-American woman, we were told we couldn't vote, we were told we couldn't have interracial marriages – and my dad's biracial. So I hate that people put labels on how you should love and whom you should love. I think that's ridiculous. Everyone should be able to love.

How would you say this album looks at relationships differently than the love songs you sang a couple decades ago?

You're aging me! (Laughs) Twenty years ago I was just singing about having my heart broken, and now I'm dealing with my heart *being* broken – and possibly having to start over and look for love again. Kenny and I both went through divorces. For me it was more therapeutic than for Kenny, and we decided to put words and music to what I went through recently and what he went through in the past. It definitely helped me a lot. I wanted to call the album "Love, Marriage & Divorce" and Babyface wanted to call it "Love, Marriage & the D Word" and I'm like, "Kenny, we're grown, let's just say it. Put it out there. It's divorce."

Is it different singing from a personal perspective?

Yes! It's really different because you're telling your story and you're exposing yourself, but at the same time you're using it as a healing tool. Every song on the album isn't about something I've experienced solely. There's a song on the album called "I Wish," and it's my mother's story of my mom and dad's divorce. It's a really beautiful song that she inspired me to write.

How about "Sweat"? Was that inspired by your own life?

I think everyone's experienced "Sweat" and I-hate-you sex. I haven't had that in a while because I really haven't been dating since my divorce, so I long to experience "Sweat" again. That would be lovely.

Why does the androgynous mystique interest you? Is it a conscious decision?

No, no. It just fits my face. When I first came out, I had short hair on the first album. By the time I got to the second album I put some extensions in my hair, but I'm always comfortable with my short hair. My short hair gives me my strength. I know that sounds weird, the lack of hair, but I feel more powerful. I feel more indigenous of the artist I was when I initially came out. It makes me feel more at the center of my roots again.

And it also could be your ticket to "Orange is the New Black."

I'm hoping so. They may make me take the little wave out, and I may have to have a little afro, but we'll see!

If anyone can make an afro look hot, it's you.

(Laughs) What a beautiful lie, but I appreciate it.

Royal Oak's long running interactive comedy experience!



Drag Queen
B I N G O
This Ain't your Grandmas Bingo!

Thursday,
Friday,
Saturday Nights
& Sunday Brunch



Reservations at:
Five15.net or call **248-515-2551**

Milestone Birthdays ★ Private Event Hosting
Office Parties ★ Date Night ★ Block Parties
Bachelorette Parties ★ Girls Night Out



**DIGNITY
DETROIT**

A Faith Community for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered
& Questioning individuals, their families and friends.

Box 558 - Royal Oak, MI 48068 - (313) 278-4786
www.dignitydetroit.org

**PATTERSON
DOG**



**CAT
HOSPITAL**

Established in 1844

Glynes D. Graham, DVM
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

3800 Grand River, Detroit, MI 48208-2866
tel: 313.832.7282 fax: 313.832.4990

www.pattersondogandcat.com


Find us on:
facebook.

**Divine Peace
Metropolitan Community Church**

"Sharing God with all through
love, faith and service."

**Mission: Love, faith and service grow here
by: Learning and following the example of
Christ and his teachings * Demonstrating
good stewardship of time, talent and
treasure * Accepting and celebrating
diversity Helping those in need *
Promoting justice and peace.**

NEW LOCATION



MCC
DIVINE PEACE
METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCH

1400 Scott Lake Rd. Ste H.
Waterford, MI 48328
Phone: 248.332.1186
www.dpmcc.net

Sunday Worship time is 10:00 A.M.
Wednesday-Praise and Ponder Service 7:00 P.M.

Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, Feb. 6

Fundraiser for the American Heart Association 6 p.m. Join us for a night of painting, food, and fun! A portion of the proceeds from this event will be donated to the American Heart Association of Michigan, so come join in on the celebration of this great cause. Tickets: \$35-40. Paint and Pour, Studio West Gallery, Go RED for Women, American Heart Association, 220 S. Main St., Basement, **Ann Arbor**. 734-720-9777. info@thepaintandpour.com Thepaintandpour.com

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

Dinner Club-Hamlin Corner 7 p.m. Will feature announcement about Detroit Women's Coffee House. GOAL, 386 N. Main St., **Royal Oak**. Meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

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

Tease a Rama 9 p.m. Burlesque. Drag. Girl fights. 18+. Tickets: \$5-10. Spiral Dance Bar, 1247 Center St., **Lansing**. 517-894-1315. Spiraldancebar.com

Friday, Feb. 7

2014 Michigan SOGI Education Conference 8 a.m. Registration: \$25-100. Oakland University School of Education & Human Services, 3600 Centerpoint Parkway, **Pontiac**. 248-370-4614. Sogi@oakland.edu Oakland.edu/SOGI

Shades of Brown and Black: A Celebration of Black History Month and HIV/AIDS Awareness 5:30 p.m. Featuring a REC Boyz photo voice installation, local LGBT of color art, performances and a live DJ. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: Wanda Sykes: Tongue Untied. 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, Feb. 8

Love Me Because: Pet Adoption Event An event to place harder-to-adopt cats and dogs. Our animals are fostered and cared for by the following groups on a volunteer basis: P.A.W.S. of Michigan, Shelter-to-Home, and Wyandotte Animal Control. P.A.W.S. of Michigan, 1844 Ford Ave., **Wyandotte**. Pawsofmichigan.com

Lezhike-Island Lake 11 a.m. Hike hinges on if trail will be plowed. Lezhike, 100 State Parkway Road, **Brighton**. Meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

All on a Winter's Night with Harmony Bones 8 p.m. Laz Slomovits of Gemini and Tom Voiles & Linda Teaman of Nutshell join out lesbian Jeanne Mackey for musical reflections on the season (praises, prayers,

and a few protests) with rich harmonies, and an array of instruments including mandolin, pennywhistle, flute, fiddle, guitar, percussion. Cafe 704, 704 Airport Blvd., **Ann Arbor**. cafe704@gmail.com Cafe704.org

Drag Queen Bingo 8 p.m. Reservations required. 18+. Drag Queen Bentley James. Ticket: \$20. Leaf & Berry, 6385 Orchard Lake Road, **West Bloomfield Township**. 248-671-6011. info@leafnberry.com Leafnberry.com

Open Meditation Saturdays 9 p.m. A communal, non-hierarchical meditation

Pauline Blvd., **Ann Arbor**.

New Member Night 7 p.m. Washtenaw County's original mixed LGBT chorus. Opportunity to join LGBT chorus group. No commitments, just see if we're the right group for you. All are welcome--LGBT & allies. No sight reading skills or audition are required. Out Loud Chorus, 1400 W. Stadium Blvd, **Ann Arbor**. 734-265-0740. outloudchorus@gmail.com Olconline.org

Tony Kushner 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$20. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, **East Lansing**. 800-WHARTON. Whartoncenter.com



"harmony" will come from the array of instruments used during the event: mandolin, pennywhistle, flute, fiddle, guitar and percussion.

"All on a Winter's Night" runs 8 to 10:30 p.m. this Saturday, Feb. 8 at Cafe 704. Cafe 704 is at 704 Airport Blvd., Ann Arbor. Admission is by donation, with a suggested donation of \$8 per person. For more information, visit www.interfaithspirit.org or e-mail cafe704@gmail.com.

space open to all. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

Sabin Returns 9 p.m. Sabin returns to Spiral Video and Dance! Cover: \$0-10. Spiral-DanceBar, 1247 Center St., **Lansing**. 517-894-1315. Facebook.com/SpiralDanceBar

Sunday, Feb. 9

Dirty Show 12 p.m. International Erotic Art Exhibition. 21+. Select dates are 18+. Tickets: \$15+. Dirty Show, 1600 Clay St., **Detroit**. 1-800-838-3006. Dirtydetroit.com

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@tashmoodetroit.com Tashmoodetroit.com

The Reel Thing-Lesbian Movies at the Emagine 7 p.m. Every second Sunday, a LGBT-themed movie will be played. Title not to be revealed until night of each showing! GOAL, 200 N. Main St., **Royal Oak**. Meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

Server Sundays 9 p.m. Bring in a paystub or POS card. Discounts for those in hospitality industry. aut Bar, 315 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-994-3677. Autbar.com

Monday, Feb. 10

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

Restorative Yin Yoga with Meditation 6:45 p.m. Get pampered. GOAL, 1945

Editor's Pick

Ann Arbor's Cafe 704 will host "All on a Winter's Night with Harmony Bones" this Saturday. The musical event will feature the group, Harmony Bones, composed of out lesbian Jeanne Mackey, Laz Slomovits, Tom Voiles and Linda Teaman. Slomovits is from Gemini, while Voiles and Teaman are members of Nutshell.

Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth presents the event, which will feature musical reflections of the season, included praises, prayers and even protests. The

Tuesday, Feb. 11

Trans/Genderqueer Peer Group 4 p.m. EMU LGBTRC, **Ypsilanti**. 734-487-4149. Emich.edu/lgbtrc

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

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

Wednesday, Feb. 12

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

Test Your Love 2 p.m. Join Team S3 and LTASex for our Test Your Love event, promoting a safer, sexier Valentines Day! We will be holding games, discounts, and giveaways in-store, as well as providing free, anonymous HIV testing on site. S3 Safe Sex Store and LTASex, 1209 S. University, **Ann Arbor**. 734-741-1434. info@bak-inc.com S3safesexstore.com

Old Town Chocolate Walk 5 p.m. Tickets: \$10-15. Old Town Community, **Lansing**. iloveoldtown.org

Home Sweet Home: A Night of Wine, Cheese, and Chocolate to End LGBT Youth Homelessness 6:30 p.m. All net proceeds from the evening will go to the Kicked Out Fund which subsidizes the LGBT support group Pridezone; help

provide shelter to homeless youth; and Ozone's 24/7 Crisis Line. Ozone House Kicked Out Fund, 209 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 734-274-4596. Ozonehouse.org

Open Arms Support Group 7 p.m. Southeast Michigan's lonest running peer-run HIV/AIDS support group for those infected or affected by HIV or AIDS. Michigan Aids Coalition, 429 Livernois, **Ferndale**. 248-545-1435. openarms@michiganaidcoalition.org Michiganaidcoalition.org

Primp for your Partner 7 p.m. A benefit for the Ruth Ellis Center. Spray tans, make up and hair consultations, eyebrow arching, hair blow outs, and more. Tickets: \$15. Azenza Salon, 130 W. 14 Mile Road, **Birmingham**. 248-321-3635. amy.flory@ey.com Ruthelliscenter.org

Sexy Supplies! Workshop 7 p.m. Join Beth Karneisool, MPH, owner of Ann Arbors S3 Safe Sex Store to explore pleasure and sexual health in a fun and interactive workshop. Find answers to your questions about sex play and learn how to select the supplies that are right for you whether on your own or with partners. S3 Safe Sex Store and Sexpertise 2014, 911 N. University, **Ann Arbor**. 734-741-1434. info@bak-inc.com S3safesexstore.com

MUSIC & MORE

Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase "Derick Lengwenus" Tickets: \$8-13. Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty St., **Ann Arbor**. Feb. 6-Feb. 8. 734-996-9080. Aacomedy.com

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Miles Davis & Gil Evans Tribute" Paradise Jazz Series. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 8 p.m. Feb. 6. 313-576-5111. Dso.org

Lansing Symphony Orchestra "Special Event-Blakemore Trio". Plymouth Congregational Church, **Lansing**. 7:30 p.m. Feb. 11. LansingSymphony.org

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Greensky Bluegrass" Tickets: \$20. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., **Royal Oak**. Feb. 8. 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre.com

The Ark "Carlos Nunez" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. Feb. 11. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Carr Center "Jimmy Heath" Tickets: \$10-20. The Carr Center, 311 E. Grand River, **Detroit**. 7 p.m. Feb. 9. 313-965-8430. Thecarrcenter.org

University Musical Society "Kremerata

See Happenings, page 32

www.PrideSource.com

Lemons To Lemonade: A Tart Solution To Writer's Block

BY JOHN QUINN

The backstage story was a recurring plot device of Hollywood films, but it's less common in theater itself. That alone would make "A Play by Franco Vitella" unusual, but this wicked little variation on the theme, spawned from the fertile imagination of local playwright Franco Vitella, is totally unique. The Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company is launching this new show at The Abreact Performance Space. The Critic is seldom at a loss for words; this concept leaves him speechless.

A necessary quality for the theater professional is a broad streak of masochism, and it's therapeutic at times to simply let the id out to play. The result is very personal – something of an Aristotelian catharsis for the artist – so to describe what "A Play by Franco Vitella" is about, let's turn to Franco Vitella. "The play was born in my own struggles with writer's block and the countless unfinished drafts I've started, only to abandon after a few pages. And then I thought about how when it comes down to it, an audience gathering to see a play is sort of a strange thing. Even more strange is the fact that actors shed themselves to become other people for a few hours, and as a playwright, I have control over what they say and do. So I wanted to take the theatricality of it all, director and actors, the audience, myself, and throw them into this experiment to see what happened."

That's the "why" of the creative process; the "how" is so wonderfully convoluted it defies description.

But The Critic must try.

Actors Joel Mitchell, Holly Portman and Adam Schrader have been cast in Franco Vitella's new play. Though the show is already in production – hey, there's an audience out front! – they're working from an incomplete script, which frustrates director Jonathan Davidson, played by Keith Kalinowski. The cast has been enticed into this production by the promise that they will not be buried by character; they will have a chance to be themselves. The promise is a sham; the cast finds they are hostage to Vitella's increasingly futile attempts at completing a cogent



Artun Kircali stars as the playwright in "A Play by Franco Vitella." Photo: Chuk Nowak

REVIEW

A Play by Franco Vitella

Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company at The Abreact Performance Space, 1301 W. Lafayette #113, Detroit. 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday through Feb. 22, plus 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16. 1 hour, 40 minutes. \$15-18. 313-408-7269. www.Magentagiraffe.org

story. This is a surreal experience for artist and audience alike.

Although "A Play by Franco Vitella" is insanely funny, the playwright doesn't omit the dark side of the equation. "With great power comes great responsibility," but the ability to play puppet master is a heady

intoxicant. Artun Kircali is the onstage avatar of the playwright, and admirably handles the complex emotions tossed at his character. Who knows those emotions better than Franco Vitella?

And who knows director Jonathan Davidson better than Jonathan Davidson? He's given Keith Kalinowski ample room to poke fun at directors in general and himself in particular. As for Mitchell, Portman and Schrader, they've been cast because they're performers who can let their hair down and still entertain. And one must not forget Alexis Mabry, pinch hitting on stage for long-suffering stage manager Julianne Jacobs.

With all its complexities and layers, "A Play by Franco Vitella" is an existential experience for all involved.



GM WORLD HEADQUARTERS
at Renaissance Center

MILLENDER CENTER
Downtown Detroit

www.AshleysFlowers.com

313-259-5000

We Deliver Around the World.



24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICES

COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL
RESIDENTIAL

16350 Northville Rd. Plymouth

248-735-5464

www.paffelectric.com

Electrical Wiring since 1947

ONSTAGE SEATING AVAILABLE

AIN'T NOthin' BUT THE BLUES

MUSICAL SHOW

MISBEHAVIN'

CONCEIVED BY RICHARD MALTBY, JR. AND MURRAY HORWITZ. CREATED AND ORIGINALLY DIRECTED BY RICHARD MALTBY, JR. ORIGINAL CHOREOGRAPHY AND MUSICAL STAGING BY ARTHUR FARIA. MUSICAL ADAPTATIONS, ORCHESTRATIONS AND ARRANGEMENTS BY LUTHER HENDERSON.

Vocal and Musical Concepts by Jeffrey Gubson. Musical Arrangements by Jeffrey Gubson and William Elliott. Originally produced by The Manhattan Theatre Club. Originally produced on Broadway by Emanuel Azenberg, Desha Epstein, The Shubert Organization, Jane Gaynor and Ron Dante.

FEBRUARY 14 - MARCH 2, 2014

CO-SPONSORED BY
Cardelli Lanfear
CIVIL LITIGATION ATTORNEYS

Stagecrafters

Tickets
\$20 - \$24
Onstage \$30 ea

415 S Lafayette Ave Royal Oak 248-541-6430 stagecrafters.org

▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 30

Baltica" Tickets: \$10-60. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Feb. 6. 734-761-1800. Ums.org

THEATER

Civic/Community Theater

Assassins \$16-18. Farmington Players, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Feb. 14-March 1. 248-473-1856. Farmingtonplayers.org

Big Love \$10-15. Peppermint Creek Theatre at Miller Performing Arts Center, 6025 Curry Lane, South Lansing. Through Feb. 8. 517-927-3016. Peppermintcreek.org

Deathtrap \$7-15. Twin City Players, 600 W. Glenford Road, St. Joseph. Through Feb. 23. 269-429-0400. Twincityplayers.org

Harvey \$8-10. Center Stage Jackson at Middle School at Parkside, 2400 4th St., Jackson. Feb. 7-16. 517-796-2602. centerstagejackson.org

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change The show contains mature language and adult content and is not appropriate for kids. \$16-14. Spotlight Players at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. Through Feb. 9. 734-394-5300. spotlightplayersmi.org

Into the Woods \$18-24. The Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Parish Theatre, 426 South Park Street, Kalamazoo. Through Feb. 15. 269-343-1313. kazooicivic.com

Leaving Iowa \$8-14. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. Feb.

6-16. 517-482-5700. riverwalk.com

The Play's the Thing Free. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at A2CT Studio Theater, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. Feb. 7-9. 734-971-2228. A2ct.org

College/University Theater

Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo \$5-20. The University Theatre at Williams Theatre inside The Gilmore Theatre Complex, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. Feb. 6-16. 269-387-7222. wmutheatre.com

In the Red and Brown Water \$10-20. Bonstelle Theatre, 3424 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Feb. 7-16. 313-577-2960. wsushows.com

Under Milk Wood \$8-14. Oakland University Dept. of Music, Theatre and Dance at Varner Studio Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. Feb. 6-16. 800-585-3737. oakland.edu/mtd

Professional

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

A Play by Franco Vitella \$15-18. Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company at The Abreact Performance Space, 1301 W. Lafayette #113, Detroit. Through Feb. 22. 313-408-7269. Magentagiraffe.org

Almost, Maine \$32-39. The Dio-Dining and Entertainment, 135 E. Main St., Pinckney. Through March 2. 517-672-6009. diotheatre.com

Awake \$8-10 in advance; \$2 more at the door. Two Muses Theatre at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. Feb. 8-22. 248-850-9919. twomusestheatre.org

Clybourne Park \$27-29. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley,



Editor's Pick

The first play Detroit native Dara Harper ever wrote, "Passing," sold out its entire debut run off-Broadway. The show's success was even more surprising, because its subject matter is one Americans are most reluctant to confront: race.

"Passing" is the true story of Harper's great-grandmother, Minerva Roulhac, who grew up in a close-knit African-American community in the segregation-era South. Minerva and her brother, Jordan, were orphaned young and each adopted by different families (Minerva by a former slave). Both Minerva and Jordan had complexions light enough to "pass" for white, enabling them to live free of the "inherent" inequality of the day. Each sibling, however, chose a different identity in life.

"Passing," a one-woman show told by Minerva, examines the complex decisions made by both characters, and brings a dark period in American history into joyous love-filled life.

Performances are at 3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday through Feb. 16 at Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, 315 East Warren Ave., Detroit. For information: www.passingonstage.com

Kalamazoo. Feb. 7-23. 269-343-2727. farmersalleytheatre.com

Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood: Two Man Group \$25-45. Miller Auditorium, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. 8 p.m. Feb. 15. 269-387-2300. millerauditorium.com

County Line \$22-41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through Feb. 16. 734-663-0681. performancenetwork.org

Diary of a Worm, a Spider and a Fly \$12. Wharton Center's Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. Feb. 9. 800-WHARTON. Whartoncenter.com

Dino Light \$10-20. Lightwire Theatre at Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit. 4 p.m. Feb. 9. 313-887-8500. musichall.org

Hamlet \$35. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 7 p.m. Feb. 11. 810-237-8689. Thewhiting.com

Murder at the Howard Johnson's \$27-32. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Through March 9. 248-347-0003. tippingpointtheatre.com

Oliver! \$22-32. The Encore Musical Theatre Company, The Encore Musical Theatre Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Feb. 6-March 2. 734-268-6200. theencoretheatre.org

Passing \$10-15. Noble Peak Productions at Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, 315 East Warren Ave., Detroit. Through Feb. 16. passingonstage.com

Redwood Curtain \$18.50-42. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park

St., Chelsea. Through March 15. 734-433-7673. purplerosetheatre.org

Somebody/Nobody \$5-20. UDM Theatre Company at Marygrove Theatre, 8425 McNichols Road, Detroit. Feb. 7-16. 313-993-3270. <http://rheatre.udmercy.edu>

The Taming of the Shrew \$20. The Elizabeth Theater Company, 2040 Park Ave., Detroit. Through March 2. 313-454-1286. elizabeththeater.com

ART 'N' AROUND

Cranbrook Academy of Art and Art Museum "Waylande Gregory: Art Deco Ceramics and the Atomic Impulse" 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Nov. 16-March 23. 877-462-7262. Cranbrookart.edu

Detroit Artists Market '13: Kathryn Brackett Luchs, Lois Teicher and Marie Woo" 4719 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jan. 17-Feb. 15. 313-832-8540. Detroitartistsmarket.org

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

Downriver Council for the Arts "Adult Watercolor Class" 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. Aug. 7-June 25. 734-720-0671. Downriverarts.org

Flint Institute of Arts "Point of View: 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Jan. 26-April 13. 810-234-1695. Flintarts.org

Gallery 1212 Old Town "Homebound: The Work of Nicolas V. Sanchez". 1212 Turner St., Lansing. Feb. 1-Feb. 27. Gallery1212.com

Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum "The President's Photographer: Fifty Years Inside the Oval Office" 7400 Bay Road, University Center. Feb. 3-May 24. 989-964-7125. Marshallfredericks.org/presidents

MOCAD "James Lee Byars: I Cancel All My Works at Death". 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Feb. 7-Feb. 28. 313-832-6622. MOCAdetroit.org

Pewabic Pottery "State of Flux". 10125 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit. Jan. 1-March 9. 313-626-2000. Pewabic.org

Saugatuck Center for the Arts "Open Figure Class" 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. Jan. 23-Feb. 27. 269-857-2399. Sc4a.org

The Scarab Club "Gary Grimshaw: Solo" 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. Jan. 1-Feb. 15. 313-831-1250. Scarabclub.org

UMMA "Flip Your Field: Photographs from the Collection" 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Dec. 1-March 16. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu



THE BERMAN
Center for the Performing Arts

HAIFA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Sponsored by SAJE as a gift from Cis Maisel Kellman

Under the baton of Maestro Noam Sheriff, one of Israel's most versatile musicians, the Haifa Symphony Orchestra is embarking on its **first-ever tour of the United States.**

The program will include unforgettable performances featuring the music of **Rachmaninov and Tchaikovsky.**



United States Premiere

Signature Series 2013-14



248.661.1900
theberman.org

THE BERMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit
D. Dan & Betty Kahn Building
Eugene & Marcia Applebaum Jewish Community Campus
6600 W. Maple Road • West Bloomfield, MI 48322



Live Performance
Thursday, February 20
8 p.m.
\$67/Admission, \$62/JCC Member

Live On Stage!

NETworks presents
Disney's BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
 THE SMASH HIT BROADWAY MUSICAL

TICKETS AS LOW AS \$29

Fisher Theatre • March 25–30

Tickets: ticketmaster.com, 800-982-2787 & Fisher Theatre box office.
 Kids' Night at the Fisher Tues., March 25, 7:30PM info: www.broadwayindetroit.com/kidsnight.
 Open Caption performance Fri., March 28, 7:30PM.
 Info: BroadwayInDetroit.com & 313-872-1000.
 Groups (12+): 313-871-1132 or e-mail Groups@BroadwayInDetroit.com.

BROADWAY IN DETROIT SPONSORED BY IMPORTED FROM DETROIT™ ChryslerCurrentOffers.com

The Farmington Players present

"I DID IT" BECAUSE NO ONE CARED ABOUT THE POOR MAN'S PAIN. "I did it because they said I'd be Ambassador to France."

SPECIAL STUDENT PRICES!

ASSASSINS

Stephen Sondheim's deliciously dark musical explores the minds and motives of the nine men and women who have attempted to assassinate the President.

FEBRUARY 14 – MARCH 1
Special President's Day performance February 17.
All student tickets are half off — ONLY \$9.00 each!
 Teachers who bring ten students get a FREE ticket.

Tickets are available online at www.farmingtonplayers.org or call us at (248) 553-2955.

91 THE FARMINGTON PLAYERS
 32332 West Twelve Mile Road
 Farmington Hills, MI 48334

WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO GET THE AMERICAN DREAM?
 "I DID IT TO PROVE TO HER N.Y. EVERLASTING LOVE."
 "I did it to bring down the government of Abraham Lincoln and to avenge the ravaged South."
 "I did it to make them listen to Charlie."
 "I DID IT 'CAUSE THE BOSSES MADE MY BELLY BURN."
 "I DID IT SO MY FRIENDS WOULD KNOW WHERE I WAS COMING FROM."

UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY

The Theatre Company presents

SOMEbody nobody
 by Jane Martin
 February 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16

Adults \$20, \$17
 Students \$10, \$5

an offbeat comedy

For tickets call 313-993-3270
theatre.udmercy.edu

DANCE THEATRE OF HARLEM
 VALENTINE'S WEEKEND!

Fri. February 14, at 7:30 p.m.
 Sat. February 15, at 7:30 p.m.
 Sun. February 16, at 2:30 p.m.

Don't miss the opportunity to see this multitalented, multicultural dance institution perform pieces from its unparalleled repertoire!

TICKETS & PRE-PAID PARKING CALL 313.237.SING or michiganopera.org

FREE DANCE TALK one hour prior to performance.

DETROIT OPERA HOUSE
 LEAR CORPORATION
 FOUNDATION
 DTE Energy Foundations
 MGM GRAND
 COMERICA Bank
 Ford
 Michigan Opera Theatre
 Student Performance Sponsor
 Gold Adopt a School Sponsor
 Silver Adopt a School Sponsor, Silver Adopt a School Sponsor, Sponsor Host Committee Sponsor
 Student Row Sponsor
 Dance Ensemble of Michigan Educational Outreach Sponsor

BTL Cool Cities Ferndale

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ♦ YOUR MARKET

Pinpoint your ad dollars where they will do the most good . . .
Advertise in the next Cool Cities TO PLACE AN AD CALL 734.293.7200



*Organic
and
All-Natural
Gardening*

- ❖ Vegetable Seeds
- ❖ Flower Seeds
- ❖ Potting Soils
- ❖ Plant Nutrients
- ❖ Gardening Tools
- ❖ Rain Barrels
- ❖ Compost Bins
- ❖ Worm Composters
- ❖ Grow Lights
- ❖ Hydroponics
- ❖ Growing Media
- ❖ Aggregates
- ❖ Gift Baskets
- ❖ Gardening Advice and More!



22963 Woodward - Just north of 9 Mile - Downtown Ferndale - (248) 439-1851

AFFIRMATIONS CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

SILVER JUBILEE



APRIL 5, 2014

COBO HALL, DETROIT

TICKETS: GENERAL/\$150 (\$175 AFTER MARCH 1), VIP/\$300, SPONSOR/\$500

All ticket levels open bar and dinner.

Tickets at www.GoAffirmations.org



**PLUMBING? SEWER? DRAIN PROBLEMS?
WE CAN HELP! CALL TODAY:**

248-542-8022

www.waterworkplumbing.com



**FULLY STOCKED TRUCKS
TO SERVE ALL YOUR PLUMBING NEEDS**

**MASTER PLUMBER
LICENSED & INSURED
AVAILABLE 24/7
EXPERT SEWER
& DRAIN CLEANING
CERTIFIED
BACKFLOW TESTING**

\$20 OFF

NEW CLIENTS ONLY. NOT TO BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER OFFERS.

THE SUBARU TrueLove EVENT



at Hodges...

We know that moving forward means remembering where you came from. That's why we're proud to say that Hodges is celebrating nearly 90 years in Ferndale, Michigan; and over 40 years as Hodges Subaru. Since we may have had the pleasure of helping your grandparents purchase their first Subaru 360, or helped your parents pick out that blue GL, we would love the opportunity to find the perfect Subaru for you. We'll help you get where you're going, because you've helped us get where we are. Thank You!

2014 SUBARU IMPREZA
WRX
4-DOOR



SUBARU.

**HODGES
SUBARU**

Metro Detroit's "Subaru-Only Dealer"

23100 Woodward Ave • Ferndale • MI • 48220

248.547.8800 • www.hodgessubaru.com

HOURS: OPEN SATURDAYS 10-3 AND
EXTENDED HOURS TILL 9PM MONDAYS & THURSDAYS



50 Shades Of Gay: Celebrating Black History Month And HIV/AIDS Awareness

BY SHELBY CLARK

FERNDALE - Shades of Black and Brown, a gallery opening reception focusing on the impact of HIV/AIDS among communities of color, kicks off the 2014 Pittmann-Puckett Gallery exhibition season 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Feb. 7. The opening will feature works and performances by young artists of color in celebration of Black History Month and African American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

The event will feature a Photo Voice project presented from the lenses of youth community members who are a part of an HIV prevention group in Detroit known as the REC Boyz.

The photographs displayed represent how each one of them see HIV/AIDS represented in young black LGBT communities.

Other featured artists of color include Katherine Boswell and Rhiannon Chester. Billione will perform, the author of several books including his most

recent poetic play *The Birth of Mars* and short novel set in Detroit, *No Tea. No Shade*. DJ Tone will spin. Admission is free and open to the public.

Affirmations, metro Detroit's community center for LGBT people and their allies – along with Status Sexy, a movement to increase testing by decreasing the stigma surrounding HIV for young men – are co-producing the event.

Using its website as the focal point, the statussexy.com campaign takes both innovative and traditional approaches to engage populations at the highest risk for HIV. This community driven movement empowers young people to manage their health by knowing their status free of judgment, shame or insecurity.



The Pittmann-Puckett Gallery is located in Affirmations, 295 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. For more information, visit www.GoAffirmations.org. For other February events, visit BTL's calendar at www.pridesource.com/calendar.html.

BTL
Cool Cities
Ferndale

SCHMIDT
LAW SERVICES

Civil Rights - Family - Criminal Defense



Lisa J. Schmidt

www.SchmidtLawServices.com

248-764-8584

Your ally in the courtroom.



MCC
METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF DETROIT



40 YEARS OF SERVING GOD AND COMMUNITY
THROUGH WORSHIP, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ACTIVISM

Service at 11am
Children's Sunday School at 11 am

2441 Pinecrest Ferndale, MI
248-399-7741 • mccdetroit.org



Associate Pastor Rev. Deb Dysert
**Detroit's Oldest and Largest
Predominantly LGBTQ Church**

**EVERY GOOD DEED
DESERVES A MORTGAGE!**

For exceptional mortgage service call:

MARC EDELSTEIN
248-658-2643 | 248-379-6749 (cell)
medelstein@rossmortgage.com
www.thatmortgagebanker.com
NMLS # 533706

**ROSS MORTGAGE
CORPORATION**

BTL
Ferndale

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD • YOUR MARKET

Be included in our
Ferndale Cool Cities
Pages

Call us today:
734-293-7200 x13



Say Hi To Carmela!

This 2-year-old Shiba Inu mix is looking for a fun and active family to match her playful energy. She can be shy at first but is sure to warm right up when you take her on her first walk. The adoption fee includes sterilization, age-appropriate vaccinations, the MHS Adoption Guarantee and much more. For more information, please visit or call the MHS Berman Center for Animal Care in Westland at (734) 721-7300 and provide the pet ID number, 769793. Photo by Dave Sallberg



Pet of the Week made possible by
Patterson Dog & Cat Hospital
 3800 Grand River Ave., Detroit
313-832-7282
www.pattersondogandcat.com

A Tension Getter Massage Therapy

by David Rosenberg
(734) 662-6282

Therapeutic Massage gets rid of back, neck and shoulder pain



2 Downtown Locations

Ann Arbor **Berkley**
 209 West W. 12 Mile Road
 Kingsley (just west of Greenfield)

(Couple blocks west of main, between Ashley & 1st.)

"I can bring my massage table to your home, too!"

Massage Class for Men

Sheets, showers and lotions provided

Learn some massage techniques.

Meet others in a safe and caring environment.

Thursday at 2 pm.
Tuesdays & Saturdays at 8pm
 \$10 per session
 209 W. Kingsley St.
 Ann Arbor, MI
 (734) 662-6282

Find me on the Internet at
<http://www.trymassage.com>

Classifieds

01-ANNOUNCEMENTS LGBT AA MEETINGS

Ann Arbor-Friday
 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.

101-ANNOUNCEMENTS LGBT AL ANON

Diversity Wednesday Al-Anon Family Group
 Wednesday 8pm
 St. Luke's Parrish Hall (in basement)
 Lewiston & Livernois, Ferndale MI
 Closed Meeting

Go After Your Serenity (G.A.Y.S.) Al-Anon Family Group
 Saturday's 8pm
 Drayton Ave. Presbyterian Church (in basement)
 Pinecrest & Drayton, Ferndale
 Closed Meeting

112 ANNOUNCEMENTS - VOLUNTEERING

Ferndale Pride 2014 Volunteers
 We appreciate our helpful volunteers and would like you to be involved. Choose dates and times that work for you. Please ask your friends and family that would like to volunteer to sign up as well. Interested? Fill out our online registration form: <http://www.ferndalepride.com/volunteering/how-to-volunteer.html>
 Sponsorship and vending opportunities available.

428 PROF. SERVICES - MASSAGE

GROUP MASSAGE
 - For Gay and Bisexual Men. Learn some massage techniques and meet others in a safe and caring environment. Tuesdays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. Thursdays at 2 p.m. \$10 per session. 209 West Kingsley in downtown Ann Arbor. (734) 662-6282 or email Massage4@aol.com. <http://www.trymassage.com>

WARNING HOT GUYS!
313.962.5000
 FREE to listen & reply to ads!
FREE CODE: 2532
 For other local numbers call **1-888-MegaMates™**

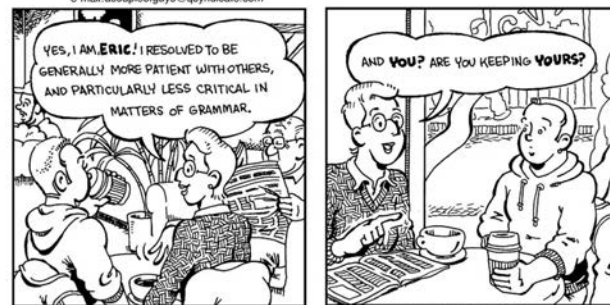
WHERE DO YOU SHOP?
WWW.PRIDESOURCE.COM/DIRECTORY.HTML
 MICHIGAN PRIDE SOURCE DIRECTORY • 2013 - 2014
 MICHIGAN PRIDE SOURCE DIRECTORY • 2013 - 2014
 MICHIGAN PRIDE SOURCE DIRECTORY • 2013 - 2014
 MICHIGAN PRIDE SOURCE DIRECTORY • 2013 - 2014
 MICHIGAN PRIDE SOURCE DIRECTORY • 2013 - 2014
 MICHIGAN PRIDE SOURCE DIRECTORY • 2013 - 2014

To place a classified ad with us, visit pridesource.com/classifieds or call us at 734-293-7200 x15

Naked Men's YOGA

Meets in Ann Arbor
TUESDAYS AND SATURDAYS 6:30-7:30 PM

Contact Dave at massage4@aol.com
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/michigan_mens_clothing_optional_yoga



Solution to puzzle from page 38

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

We speak
LGBTQIA



8 0 0 8 7 2 2 4 3 7

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

All calls with our live expert are free and anonymous.

A program of
AIDS PARTNERSHIP MICHIGAN
Funded by MDCH

**BUY 2 XXX DVD'S
GET A \$4.95
DVD FREE!!**
*Excluding 50% Off
& Specials!



**SAVE 50% OFF 100's
of HARD CORE DVD'S!!!**

Lubes - Dildos - Fleshlights - C/rings
Pumps - Butt Plugs - Head Cleaner
Male Enhancement - Glass Wands
Strokers & More!

Like us on  Blue Moon Video/DVD

OPEN EVERYDAY MON-SAT 11AM-MIDNIGHT SUNDAY 11AM-10PM
7041 W. 8 MILE 1 MILE WEST OF WOODWARD 313-340-1730

-15TH ANNIVERSARY-

2014 INTERNATIONAL EROTIC ART EXHIBITION

SPONSORED IN PART BY
REALDETROIT



WARNING
DUE TO THE SHOCKING
NATURE OF THIS EXHIBIT
YOU MUST HAVE VALID
PHOTO I.D. TO ENTER.

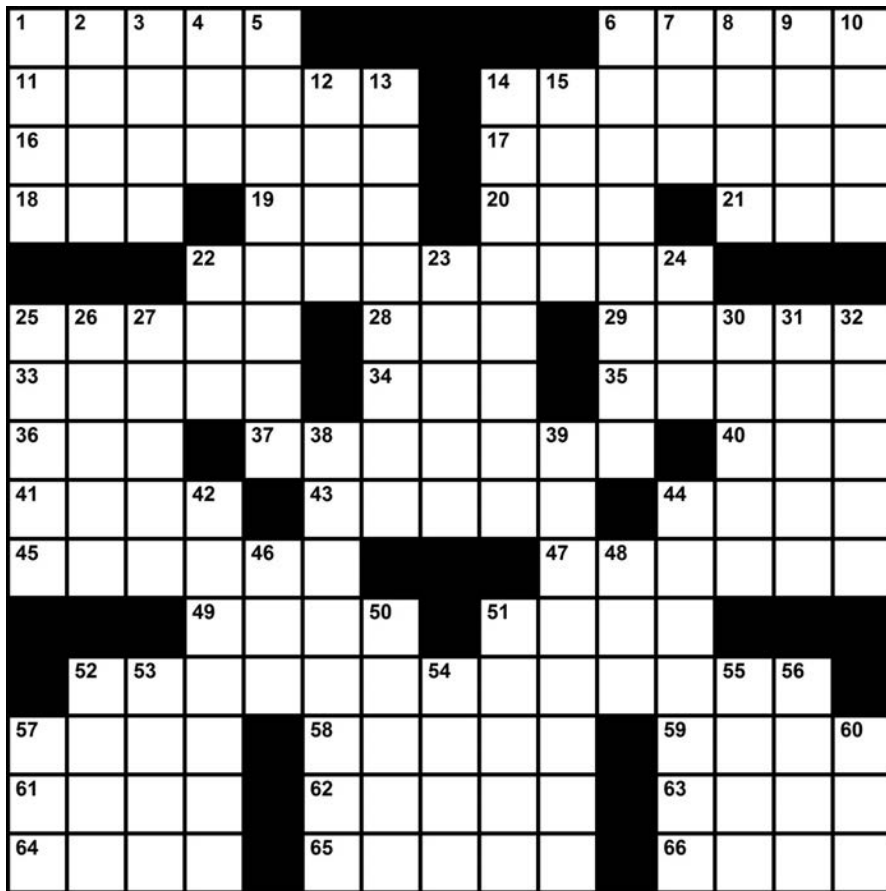
FEBRUARY
7-8-9-14-15

EXHIBITION CENTER
AT THE **RUSSELL INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX**
1600 CLAY ST. DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48211

TICKETS ON SALE NOW • 21 & OVER
GET TICKETS ONLINE AT
WWW.DIRTYSHOW.ORG

AND LOCAL TICKET OUTLETS: NOIR LEATHER-ROYAL OAK,
FOUND SOUND-FERNDALE • RIVER'S EDGE GALLERY-WYANDOTTE

Mother Ruth



Across

- 1 Start of one description of Mother Ruth's father
 6 Longtime oldest out lesbian "Mother Ruth"
 11 They may zip out
 14 Notarize
 16 Head problem
 17 "Northern Exposure" extra
 18 Legislators in O. Wilde's land
 19 Take a whack at
 20 Dorm VIPs
 21 Yadda-yadda-yadda ...
 22 End of one description
 25 George of "It's My Party"
 28 Bellows on the set
 29 Puts on a happy face
 33 As a whole
 34 Bard of boxing
 35 Show that aired TV's first lesbian kiss
 36 Aspen's hrs.
 37 Kind of fiction
 40 "Much ___ About Nothing"
 41 Crude dude
 43 Tatum of "The Bad News Bears"
 44 Barbra's "Funny Girl" guy
 45 Start of another description of him
 47 More of another description

- 49 Tabloid tidbit
 51 Nemesis of Tinkerbell
 52 End of another description
 57 Con man's mark
 58 "___ at time!" (No threesomes!)
 59 What Sam twitched on "Bewitched"
 61 "The Good Earth" heroine
 62 Christopher of "Superman"
 63 Frasier's response to a client
 64 It'll spice up your meat
 65 Tops of arenas
 66 A lot, maybe

Down

- 1 David Bowie genre
 2 Like a stereotypical wrist
 3 Bannon and others
 4 Cube with pips
 5 Loads, as software
 6 Like pencil marks
 7 OCS grads
 8 Have a thing for
 9 "___ first you don't succeed, keep on sucking till you do suck seed"
 10 Together, after "in"
 12 What one does to one's loins
 13 "What?"
 14 With "North," Maupin's birth state
 15 Cowboy actor Jack
 22 Shakespearean prince
 23 ___ Coyote (one who wants to eat the Road Runner)
 24 Three R's org.
 25 "The Lion King" protagonist
 26 R.E.M.'s "It's the ___ the World as We Know It"
 27 Swamp critter
 30 You must remember this
 31 Woman who goes both ways?
 32 Uttered obscenities
 38 It may not mean what you think
 39 Sets of environmental conditions
 42 Clothing
 44 Where to find a Pacific Rim job
 46 Sodom suffix
 48 Young lady coming out
 50 Sal of "Exodus"
 51 Close one, for a drag queen
 52 Type of skirt worn by a Hawaiian man
 53 Lesbian character in "She's Gotta Have It"
 54 Swarm
 55 Fruit of Peter Pears?
 56 River in NW Belgium
 57 Buns and shags
 60 Shrek's shoe size, perhaps

Solution on pg. 36

#TIME2KNOW
 CHECK US OUT

MPOWERMENT DETROIT
 18 W BETHUNE
 DETROIT 48202
 313.963.9402

Follow Us

Find Us

HIV TESTING
SAME DAY TESTING
SAME DAY RESULTS

KNOW YOUR STATUS

For more information or to get tested, contact:
Michigan AIDS Coalition (M.A.C.)
 429 Livernois
 Ferndale, MI 48220
 (248) 545-1435 x107
 Mon. - Thurs. 11am - 4:30pm

MICHIGAN AIDS COALITION

TRANSITIONS

GIRLTALK
 KNOWLEDGE
 DISCUSSTANS
 ISSUES
 EMPOWERMENT
 COMMUNITY
 BETTERMENT
 VOLUNTEER
 OPPORTUNITIES
 AWARENESS
 NETWORK
SAFESEX

MPOWERMENT
 18 BETHUNE
 DETROIT

Sponsored By:

MICHIGAN AIDS COALITION

For more information contact, Issiccs at:
 bbridgesmichiganidscoalition.org
 248-545-1435 x107
 www.michiganidscoalition.org

HOPE is



Forever

It takes a special person to think about the needs of future generations. Christopher Nern was such a person. In 2004 he made The HOPE Fund a beneficiary in his will. In 2011, when Christopher passed away, an endowment fund was established in his name to support the LGBT community in perpetuity. Learn how you can become a member of The HOPE Fund Legacy Society with a planned gift. Because, as the adage goes, a society grows great when we plant trees whose shade we will never sit in.

The HOPE Fund

Celebrating 20 years of Helping Others
through Partnership and Education

communityfoundation
FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

cfsem.org/hope-fund



LGBT ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL

Earn your diploma FREE
Online educational program
Credit recovery
Credit for work/life experience
Score over 70% and receive credit for the class
24/7 access to classes
Drop in centers in Metro Detroit and across the state
Learn how to get a FREE laptop
16 to 19-year-olds www.mepvirtual.com

Call us for more info:

GREATER DETROIT

Nino Rea 586-588-0238

Scott Bentas 586-382-3317

SPANISH SPEAKING YO HABLO ESPANOL?

Rene Buetello 989-304-0193

KALAMAZOO & GRAND RAPIDS

Dan Morse 269-369-4233



WWW.MEPVIRTUAL.COM



*Now that you found love...
Find your dress at B. Ella!*

Beautiful, Unusual...

B. Ella Bridal

570 S. Main Plymouth, MI 48170 734·459·0000

Are you a B. Ella Bride?

www.b-ella-bridal.com