

Equality Michigan
Revs Up Marriage Drive

Wayne County Expands
Employment Protections

“ I don't think the LGBT community necessarily embraces other social issues. Certain pockets do, for sure. But as a whole, I don't think it necessarily does. ”

-Liz Marshall, pg. 16



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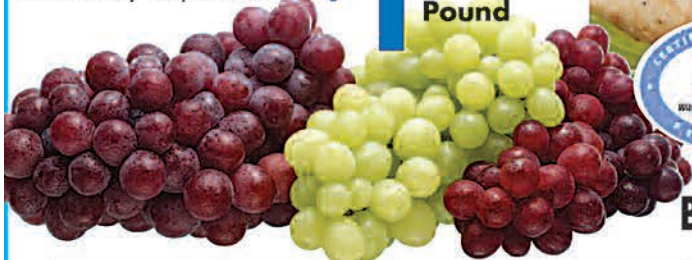


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COVER STORY

6 Emotional outpouring for marriage at Equality Cabaret

Photo: Kim Borger and Audrey Wojokowski



“ I’m not gonna end up a **tragedy** so that gay people can **live and feel comfortable with me.** ”

—Jennifer Holliday, pg. 26



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More Portraits Of Michiganders Waiting To Marry Online At Pridesource.com

See the portraits and videos of the many couples waiting to marry featured on this week's cover online at Pridesource.com! The video was created by Aaron Fown, with photographs by Kim Borger and Audrey Wojokowski and music by Razvan Veina.

PET GUIDE



Access The Spring Pet Guide Online All Year-Round

Get this issue's great pet-related content online at Pridesource.com in the Pet Guide section. Find LGBT-friendly groomers, boarding services and more with the Featured Advertisers section – or even check out previous pet-related features!

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Gala Celebrates Progress, Mourns Founder

Announces Freedom To Marry To Help Michigan's Marriage Equality Drive

BY JAN STEVENSON

DETROIT – Unity, collaboration and getting things done were themes at Equality Michigan's 2014 Annual Dinner Feb. 22. The elegant event at Motor City Casino's Amnesia Lounge attracted about 200 people and featured great food and drinks, awards, speeches and a silent auction.

Dr. Henry Messer, who had died earlier in the week at the age of 86, was remembered by many and a special tribute to him was set up with a photo and candles. The longtime LGBT activist founded the Triangle Foundation in 1991, the organization that has evolved into Equality Michigan. Director of External Relations Greg Varnum spoke eloquently about his relationship with Messer, saying he felt closer to him than to his own grandfather.

Emily Dievendorf, the group's newly named executive director, and Equality Michigan received a special tribute from the Michigan House of Representatives in honor of their work to advance LGBT civil rights in Michigan. Rep. Brian Banks who was joined at the podium by other Democratic state house members including Vicki Barnett, Bert Johnson, Roberta Tinsley-Talabi, Adam Zemke and Rudy Hobbs presented the tribute plaque.

In accepting the award, Dievendorf said, "We need to focus on who is running for office and we need to hold them accountable. Because it is



State Rep. Brian Banks with Emily Dievendorf, executive director of Equality Michigan. Photo courtesy of Equality Michigan.

people like this group that gets it done!"

Richard Carlbon from the Freedom To Marry Project delivered the keynote address. He had led the campaign to defeat a proposed anti-marriage ballot initiative in his home state of Minnesota and then six months later led the campaign in the Minnesota legislature to pass the bill bringing freedom to marry to that state. He announced that Freedom To Marry will bring its resources

and experience to Michigan to help win full marriage equality here. He said Freedom To Marry, a national organization focused on getting marriage equality passed in all 50 states, will work with Equality Michigan and the Marriage Project on legislative initiatives and a possible ballot initiative in 2016 to make marriage legal in Michigan.

Adding further momentum towards marriage

equality, Dievendorf announced results of a new Glengariff Group, Inc. poll that show marriage equality is already winning in the court of public opinion. More than 56 percent of respondents in Michigan support marriage equality, and 59 percent think that the current ban is unconstitutional. These numbers are up over 12 points from just a year ago. Evan Wolfson, executive director of Freedom To Marry, has said often that 60 percent public approval is the tipping point for marriage equality to win in any given state.

"We're there as a people, but we're still getting there as a movement," said Dievendorf. "The message for this year; leave nobody behind. We need to become more functional as a movement. We need to be more honest as a movement. We have not shared the stage, we have hoarded the stage. We need to be a machine. We need to think three steps ahead, and we need to be honest."

The Awards

Jon Hoadley and his consulting firm, Badlands Strategies, received the Partners in Progress Award. In presenting the award, Dievendorf called Hoadley her "gay life partner." "Jon is brilliant and is part of everything happening in Michigan," she said. Hoadley leads Unity Michigan, a coalition of LGBT groups focused

See State of Equality, page 10



Jayne Rowse and April DeBoer with their three children. The couple are the named plaintiffs in the federal case that could result in marriage equality for Michigan. Photo courtesy of the DeBoer/Rowse family.

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Testimony in the historic case of DeBoer v. Snyder begins this week in Federal Court in Detroit as opening statements are set to start at 9 a.m. Tuesday. The case involves a Hazel Park lesbian couple that is suing the state and Oakland County, for the right to jointly adopt their children and to marry.

Jay Kaplan, attorney for the ACLU of Michigan's LGBT Project, spoke about the

Michigan Marriage Case Begins

Rare Case Among The Recent Pack For Marriage Equality

upcoming case in a conference call Feb. 20, putting it in context for community leaders and the media.

"What's very unique about the Michigan case next week is this is only the second time in terms of any marriage litigation that there's actually been a hearing where there will be examination of scientific studies and factual information to support these presumptions. Other than in California, with all these other federal court decisions, the judges have just been relying on the documents they read, they've never taken testimony before. So this is a very significant case," Kaplan said.

The prosecution and the defense are bringing in experts from across the country to testify about studies that look at issues of same-sex parenting, and the effects of allowing same-sex couples the right to marry. The prosecution will try to show that LGBT

couples suffer harm and discrimination by being denied equal protection under the Constitution of the U.S., and they will try to show that same-sex parents are just as fit to raise children as heterosexual ones. The state will use experts who oppose same-sex parenting and adoption, who will try to prove the premise that those relationships are inferior and against the interest of the state.

"I think it's one thing for a politician to make a statement in support of a discriminatory policy or to make a generalization about a group of people. It's another thing when you have to go before the court and you have to swear under oath and be able to back up those assumptions and those rationales behind your policy," Kaplan said.

In this case, even one of the defendants, Oakland County Clerk Lisa Brown, supports the couple's right to marry and to adopt.

Kaplan said that he does "believe that there is going to be a favorable decision," but also cautioned people that a win does not necessarily mean equal marriage will happen right away.

Other states, including Utah, Oklahoma, Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky, have had marriage cases win in Federal District Court recently, but they have had "stays" issued, meaning that the resulting law is put on hold until it can be heard by the Appeals Court, and possibly even the U.S. Supreme Court. It is unclear which case will ultimately make it to the U.S. Supreme Court, and it's possible that the DeBoer case could be the one. Kaplan said there are at least four-dozen federal and state cases involving marriage equality happening across the country.

See Marriage Trial, page 12



LGBT activists and allies joined Robert Ficano, center, as he signed an executive order extending employment protections to LGBT employees of Wayne County. From left: Emily Dievendorf, executive director of Equality Michigan; Summer Foster, field organizer at Equality Michigan; Jamiil Gaston, development coordinator at KICK; Kary Moss, executive director of the Michigan ACLU; Mark Erwin, director of community development at the Ruth Ellis Center; Jeff Montgomery, former executive director of the Triangle Foundation; Tim Cordes, president of Stonewall Bar Association; Ficano and a Wayne county staff member; Curtis Lipscomb, executive director of KICK; Wayne county staff member; Angela Stevenson, director resource management and planning division at Wayne County department of Technology; John Allen, attorney and co-founder of Ruth Ellis Center; Fred Hoffman, attorney at Clark Hill and Associates; Jay Kaplan, LGBT legal project staff attorney at the Michigan ACLU; and Ralph Simpson, former president of the Michigan ACLU.

Wayne County Adds LGBT Protections

Ficano Announces Zero-tolerance Employment Discrimination

BY JAN STEVENSON

DETROIT – Surrounded by LGBT activists and allies, Wayne County executive Robert Ficano signed an executive order at a press conference Feb. 19 adding sexual orientation and gender identity to the county’s employment non-discrimination policy. Wayne is the largest county in Michigan to extend employment protections, and joins Washtenaw and Ingham counties as the third county in the state to extend employment protections to LGBT people. Ficano’s executive order applies to all 3,051 employees of Wayne County.

“This order reaffirms our commitment to diversity of the workplace,” said Ficano. “Sexual orientation and gender identity have nothing to do with someone’s job performance. I am aware of the civil rights struggles of LGBT people around the country and here in Michigan. Progress is slow, but that doesn’t mean we have to be

slow in Wayne County.”


“This is a historic moment for Wayne County,” said Kary Moss, executive director of the Michigan ACLU. “Michigan has a ways to go, but with leaders like Robert Ficano we will see progress.”

Ficano also called upon the state legislature to expand the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity. “As an employer, it is essential that we ensure there’s room for all in our workforce,” said Ficano.


“Until we have full protections at the state level, discrimination will continue against LGBT people in Michigan,” said Emily Dievendorf, executive director of Equality Michigan. “This is a standard being set, and we appreciate this huge step in Wayne County.”

“Thank you for making my county a welcoming and safe place for LGBT people,” said Curtis Lipscomb, executive director of KICK.

The executive order has immediate effect.



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Emotional Outpouring For Marriage At Equality Cabaret

BY JAN STEVENSON

ANN ARBOR – Spirits were high and emotions strong at the standing-room-only Cabaret For Equality Feb. 23 at The Ark in Ann Arbor. The event raised funds for the legal challenge to Michigan’s anti-marriage ban and adoption restrictions for same-sex couples, and was the final fundraiser for the Michigan Marriage Challenge before the start of the DeBoer v. Snyder case Feb. 25.

“This is just so important to me, thanks for being here all of you,” said a teary-eyed Kate Peterson of Nervous But Excited, the lesbian folk duo that brought the crowd roaring to their feet at the end of the afternoon program.

Organizers were not sure of the exact totals, but estimated the amount raised by the event for Michigan Marriage Challenge to be in the thousands.

Holly Hughes emceed the lineup that included a lively, eclectic mix of bands, folk singers, poets, instrumentalists, performance artists, video and drag. The crowd was boisterous, impassioned, loud and clearly ready to mobilize for marriage equality, and Hughes, a seasoned performance artist, professor and activist, kept the crowd pumped up throughout the show.

“I think this is also about state pride,” quipped Hughes. “I was OK with marriage rights getting approved on the coasts. It’s more liberal, and we’re in the Midwest - OK. But then Iowa?” she said in mock horror. “Iowa – gateway to the rectangular states! And Utah! Michigan can’t be left behind. No No No. It’s a matter of our state honor now!”

Many cried when Vienna Teng performed a tender song she had written in 2004 to celebrate San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom’s marrying thousands of same-sex couples in defiance of the state’s law banning marriage equality. Dueling Divas Jordan Harris and Robby Griswold delighted with a smart skit about their upcoming performance at the wedding of “Peaches and Steve.”

“This was the most empowering, exciting and reenergizing events for the LGBT movement I’ve been to in years,” said Linda Lombardini of Trillium



Amy and Callie were just one of the many couples waiting to marry featured in a video shown at the Equality Cabaret. The video was created by Aaron Fown with photographs by Kim Berger and Audrey Wojokowski and music by Razvan Veina.

Real Estate, one of the event sponsors. The audience, largely women, included many prominent attorneys and political leaders, including an appearance by Debbie Dingell, a prominent leader in the

were April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse, the plaintiffs in the federal case going to court. The crowd stood and cheered loudly to honor them all.

Jim Toy Center hosted the Equality Cabaret and shared in the proceeds of the event.

“Even if we win in this case, we still will not have employment protections in Michigan. So even though this case is so important, it is not the end of our struggle,”

- Sandi Smith, Pres. Jim Toy Community Center

Michigan Democratic Party and wife of congressman John Dingell.

Sandi Smith, president of Jim Toy Center, spoke about the importance of the upcoming court case, its implications for marriage rights and adoption, and the need to keep working for full civil rights no matter what the outcome of the case. “Even if we win in this case, we still will not have employment protections in Michigan. So even though this case is so important, it is not the end of our struggle,” she said. Smith also gave a shout out to Jim Toy who was there, as

Thanks For A Great Event

BTL was proud to sponsor the Equality Cabaret. We’d like to thank The Ark and all the extraordinary performers who donated their time and talents to support marriage equality in Michigan. Next time you’re looking for some cool music, watch for these talented performers, or get their cd’s:

Chris Good and the Sweet Insurrection, with Brenna Andes, James Cornelison, Julian Allen and Ross Huff

Dawn Richberg and Vanessa Marr
 Dueling Divas, Jordan Harris and Robby Griswold

Eleni Kelakos

Matt Rice

Mr. B

Nervous But Excited

Sylvia aka Mark Brown

Vienna Teng

Mr. Piano aka Michael Krieger

Holly Hughes

LGBT Activist Seeks Help As Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Bill Becomes Law

BY MICHELLE E. BROWN

DETROIT - "By tomorrow homosexuality becomes expandably criminalized in Uganda." Frank Mugisha, Ugandan LGBT rights activist was not being dramatic when he made this statement during a panel discussion on LGBT rights at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History Feb. 20. By Feb. 24, Uganda's President Museveni signed the controversial anti-gay bill into law. Homosexual acts were already illegal in Uganda. The new law toughens penalties against gay people and defines some homosexual acts as crimes now punishable by life in prison.

"The United States is deeply disappointed in the enactment of the Anti-Homosexuality Bill in Uganda," read a statement from the U.S. State Department. "As President Obama stated, this legislation is not just morally wrong, it complicates a valued relationship. Now that this law has been enacted, we are beginning an internal review of our relationship with the Government of Uganda to ensure that all dimensions of our engagement, including assistance programs, uphold our anti-discrimination policies and principles and reflect our values."

Mugisha, who is also executive director of Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG), and recipient of the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award (2011), was in Detroit for a program that included a screening of "Call Me Kuchu," a film that profiles four openly LGBT individuals in Uganda - among them, the late David Kato. The program was a collaborative effort of Amnesty International, Freedom House, the Stonewall Bar Association of Michigan and KICK-the-Agency for LGBT African Americans.

A bill introduced in the Ugandan Parliament in 2009 initially proposed a death sentence for homosexual acts but was amended to prescribe jail terms including life in jail for what it called

aggravated homosexuality. It includes gay sex with a minor, where the victim is infected with HIV and where the victim is vulnerable, such as a disabled person.

The legislation was passed by Parliament in December 2013 and sent to Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni in January.

The documentary "Call Me Kuchu" depicts the last year in the life of David Kato, the Ugandan LGBT activist who worked tirelessly to repeal homophobic laws and liberate the country's LGBT community known as Kuchu's. The film is dedicated to Kato and has inspired a

Members of Uganda's LGBT community were hounded relentlessly and publicly outed by a Kampala tabloid publication. The publication's persecution of gays and lesbians within the community was encouraged by religious conservatives including evangelists from the United States, most notably Scott Lively. One of the gay activists, David Kato was murdered in 2011.

new generation of LGBTQ/human rights.

Homosexuality is taboo in most African countries and illegal in 38. Few Africans are openly gay, as they fear imprisonment, violence and loss of their jobs. Members of Uganda's LGBT community were hounded relentlessly and publicly outed by a Kampala tabloid publication. The publication's persecution of gays and lesbians within the community was encouraged by religious conservatives including evangelists from the United States, most notably Scott Lively.

Prior to the screening Feb. 20 Mugisha sat down with members of the LGBT community and the press to talk about being gay in Uganda and what he hoped to accomplish by his current visit to the United States.

According to Mugisha religion is, "Something you don't want to cross.

You do not question a pastor because they say they are speaking from God. You cannot speak from a religious point of view to people."

Much like activists in the United States have found, the key to touching hearts and minds works best when people get to know individuals. "We approach them as ordinary Ugandans," Mugisha said. "We just speak as ordinary people. I am Catholic, born and raised. I still go to church because I know God loves me. Being gay is only a tiny percent of my life," he added. "The rest of me is human."

Politicians and diplomats have called for sanctions and threats of cutting financial aid, but according to Mugisha there are other ways to apply leverage to Uganda and world politics on LGBT rights.

"Laws do not change how people feel and treat us. Homophobia must change among people without laws," Mugisha said. "We must have more opportunities to dialogue with people."

According to Mugisha, LGBT supporters need

to ask governments in every country what are they doing and demand more; be informed about international attacks on LGBT and human rights; do more than cutting funds, investing funds in countries that promote equality; and encourage more progressive African countries to take the lead in reforms.

For Mugisha the work goes on. Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG) has already shut down the tabloid that outed individuals for persecution thousands of LGBT Ugandans. A lawsuit against Evangelist Pastor Scott Lively is in the works. After Mugisha finishes his visit to the United States, he's going back to Uganda even in the shadow of repressive, homophobic legislation. With 55 human rights organizations and hundreds of volunteers, he will continue to fight for the rights of the LGBT community.

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SAVE THE DATE

DETROIT

LGBT And Allies To Peacefully Protest Catholic Conference

BY SHELBY CLARK

Affirmations' Faith Alliance, Supportive Families and PFLAG are looking for individuals to speak up for true acceptance, love and equality for LGBT people by holding vigil outside of a two day Catholic conference.

The conference, for both priests and laypeople, will be presented by the Archdiocese of Detroit through the Catholic Church's "Courage" program. The program, considered the official plan to minister to LGBT people, "offers spiritual support groups to help Catholics with same-sex attractions (SSA) to live chaste lives in accordance with the Roman Catholic Church's teaching." According to the advertising for the conference, the sessions "will explain the (official) Catholic understanding of same sex attraction from the theological, anthropological, pastoral, and psychological perspectives."

Courage is known for sharing similar beliefs to other religious groups that believe homosexuality is pathological and that the only "path" without sin is to live a life of celibacy. The Catholic program differs from other organizations in believing that sexual orientation cannot be changed and is "fixed." Regardless of the understanding that sexual orientation can not be forcibly changed, the group still intends to consider LGBT as "disordered."

The conference will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 7 and 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on March 8. The sessions will be at Sacred Heart Seminary, 2701 W. Chicago Blvd., Detroit.

To counter the ignorant words within, Catholic Parent's of LGBT Daughters and Sons will host a prayer vigil outside the seminary from 2 to 3:30 p.m. March 7 and from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on March 8.

Affirmations and PFLAG are looking for positively-worded speech and posters at the vigil. The demonstration is aiming to be both peaceful and prayerful.

RSVP to Tom and Linda Nelson of Supportive Families at lindakarie@earthlink.net to let them know you'll be supporting LGBTQ equality. More detailed information will be emailed a few days before the conference.

Follow continued news on the vigil at www.pridesource.com.

Pugh Update: Civil Suit Coming, Seeks \$1 Million In Damages

Are 'Opportunism' And Homophobia Playing Role?

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

DETROIT – Farmington Hills attorney Bill Seikaly, representing former Frederick Douglass Academy student and Charles Pugh mentee Khody Sanford, made it clear Feb. 20 that he intends to bring a civil suit on behalf of his client. The suit, which alleges "personal injury" and "violation of civil rights," lists Pugh, the City of Detroit and former mayor Dave Bing as defendants and seeks at least \$1 million in damages. The filing was made in U.S. Bankruptcy Court where all lawsuits against the city must be filed and litigated so long as the city remains in bankruptcy proceedings.

Speaking to WJBK Fox 2 and referring to the text messages Pugh sent to Sanford, Seikaly said the messages were "Predatory. One word - they were predatory. There's no question. There's nothing about these text messages that were proper, of proper conduct, between a mentor and a mentee, especially at this stage in any child's life."

Seikaly's comments overlook two important facts. Sanford had completed the mentoring program – the Charles Pugh Leadership Forum – as well as his last day of school just hours before the message exchange started. In addition, his client was 18, and not by any reasonable definition a "child."

Sanford's role in the situation – he made the X-rated video Pugh requested and

then pressured Pugh for gifts of a gaming system and video games in addition to the cash payment he received – will likely be a critical issue during a trial.

"If the boy wasn't with it, he never would have sent the video to begin with," said community activist and Pugh supporter John Trimble. "Not only that, they continued to have this back and forth. And the only reason it stopped was because the mother found out."

Trimble said he believes Sanford's mother, Tamu Gaines, who bills herself on Facebook as an evangelist, is behind the suit. He also points out that she went to both the media and an attorney before the police, which brings into question her motives.

"This reeks of opportunism," Trimble said. "If I was a parent and I thought my child was being taken advantage of, I'm not going to go to the media first. That's just not going to be my first move. My mother and I had this conversation. She said, 'if somebody was molesting you or doing something improper, let me be clear: I would be going to the police first. I'd never be going to some attorney.'"

The case is not only an attempt to make a money grab Trimble said, but also reeks of homophobia.

"What's really going on here?" Trimble asked. "Is it that you have an issue with gay people? Because that's really what I think personally. At the end of the day, this is the only boy who

came out and said that Charles was after him. This boy was old enough to make a conscious decision on his own. And when this goes in front of a court of law, that's what's going to come out."

Even Assistant Oakland County Prosecutor Jessica Cooper, in deciding not to bring any criminal charges against Pugh, questioned Gaines' rationale for coming forward.

"When we talk about credibility, there appears to be some type of motive in the reporting of this incident," Cooper told the Detroit Free Press in December.

A Free Press investigation turned up troubling details about Gaines. Shortly after the incident occurred, the Free Press reported that the rental home the family lived in had been foreclosed upon, and that Gaines and her husband had made no payment arrangements with the new owner. The Free Press also reported that Gaines and her husband had both received personal protection orders against each other at separate times. A win in court, or a swift settlement, could drastically change the family's financial status.

Many are wondering why the lawsuit names Bing and the city of Detroit as defendants, but Seikaly revealed his reasoning in his Fox 2 interview: it's because Pugh doesn't have the type of money he's after.

Seikaly said the city "has an obligation to indemnify [Pugh] under the charter."

ACCESS Opens Healthcare Enrollment Assistance To Public

FERNDALE – ACCESS' Affordable Care Act healthcare enrollment navigators will answer questions and schedule appointments for in-person assistance March 1, from noon to 4 p.m. at Just4Us in Ferndale. All services are open to the public.

ACCESS will also host a group enrollment session at ConnectMe March 6 from 5 to 9 p.m. where laptops and in-person assistance will be provided for enrollment in a health insurance plan.

"We want to get as many people enrolled as possible before the March 31 enrollment deadline," said David Posner, ACCESS' supervisor of infectious disease programs.

The events are tailored to individuals who are good with computers and understand how to use websites, but who may not be as fluent

with healthcare policy or who may have questions regarding health insurance plans. The ACCESS Manager for Affordable Care Enrollment and Education, Mediha Tariq, said the event is especially useful for young people who are signing up for healthcare for the first time.

"If you're young and think you're invincible, then you should come to this event," said Tariq. "You may think that you're healthy and don't need help, but when you break a leg, that can cost as much as \$30,000. It is much better to get insured."

Because of the politics surrounding the Affordable Healthcare Act, many people have received conflicting information about whether the website works, whether their health care costs will rise, or whether it is too expensive for young

professionals. By coming into these sessions and working with a navigator, individuals will receive accurate, current information from ACCESS staff and will be empowered to find the right health care plan for them.

"Despite a lot of the stuff people hear, all of the young people who are enrolling at these group enrollment centers are coming out happy with their plans," said Tariq. "Recently, one woman got a plan that covers most of her health care costs that, after subsidies, had a premium of eight cents per month. I can't guarantee those results for everybody, but I can say that the reality is much better than what some are saying."

The ACCESS Community Health and Research Center is one of four Navigator organizations in Michigan. Navigators can

assist clients with all aspects of the account creation, application, health plan selection and enrollment. ACCESS has navigators available five days per week and offers multiple locations covering Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties.

ACCESS serves all communities regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or gender identity. Grounded in the Arab-American tradition of hospitality, ACCESS has a 43-year history of providing social, health, education and legal services in greater Detroit to empower people to lead healthy, informed and productive lives. For more information, visit www.accesshealthcaremichigan.org to request an appointment or to see locations and hours.

Just4Us is located at 211 West Nine Mile Rd, Ferndale.

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

SPECIAL EXHIBIT
ON VIEW JANUARY 5 - MAY 4, 2014
Nazi Persecution
of Homosexuals

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

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

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

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



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1. From left, Karla Swift, president of the Michigan AFL-CIO; David Hecker, president of the America Federation of Teachers in Michigan, gubernatorial candidate Mark Schauer, Oakland County Clerk Lisa Brown and Badlands principle Jon Hoadley.

2. Garnet Lewis, left, is the first LGBT candidate for the Michigan Senate. Here with her partner Vicky.

3. Oakland County Clerk Lisa Brown thanks Equality Michigan's Summer Foster for the Catalyst Award.

4. Greg Varnum, center, presenting an award to the staff of KICK.

5. State Reps. Adam Zemke, Vicki Barnett and Brian Banks

6. About 200 people attended the elegant event at Motor City Casino's Amnesia Lounge.

Photos courtesy of Equality Michigan.

► State Of Equality

Continued from p. 4

on passing civil rights ordinances at the city, township and county levels. There are now more

than 30 such ordinances in Michigan, up from just a half dozen five years ago.

"A few years back at this dinner I received the Henry Messer Youth Award," said Hoadley remembering his first annual dinner. "I had come out in high school, and things were still a bit

uncomfortable with my parents. They came to see me get that award and we were seated at a table with Gov. Jennifer Granholm. She and my mom bonded instantly, and it was at that event that my parents realized that things were going to be OK, for me and for us."

Megan Bauer received the Henry Messer Youth Activist Award this year. "It is truly an honor to stand in the shadow of Henry Messer," said Bauer. She thanked both her parents who were in attendance. Bauer works at the Kalamazoo Resource Center, but last year she relocated for several weeks to help the One Royal Oak campaign fight back a challenge to the city's inclusive non-discrimination policy. "We have to have faith in each other," said Bauer.

Varnum presented the Heather MacAllister Award to KICK – the Agency for LGBT African Americans. Each KICK staff person introduced themselves, then Executive Director Curtis Lipscomb came to the microphone and introduced himself by saying, "I'm Curtis and I work for them," pointing to his staff. Lipscomb said is empowered by working with his staff, and collaborating with other groups such as the Unity Coalition, Equality Michigan and BTL.

Hank Milbourne was presented with the first-ever HIV Advocacy Catalyst Award. He spoke passionately about the need to remove internal stigma. "I didn't really want to do this work," said the longtime HIV activist and program director at AIDS Partnership Michigan. "The stigma exists right here in the heart. It's internal. I was diagnosed with HIV in 1996, but it took me five years working in HIV to go get an HIV test. The internal stigma of being black, gay and Puerto Rican kept me from facing what was already clear to me – that I had the virus too," said Milbourne. "Much of the HIV activism is what brought us to where we are today," he said in recognition of the huge gains in recent years on LGBT civil rights.

County clerks Lisa Brown and Barb Byrum were ready and waiting to marry couples last October when it was hoped Judge Bernard Friedman would strike down Michigan's marriage ban. Instead he referred the case to trial, which will start Feb. 25. "We remain at-the-ready and completely prepared if the opportunity presents itself to marry," said Byrum, Ingham County's clerk, in accepting the Catalyst Award. "It is my intention to issue as many licenses as possible as soon as I can. A loud minority has terrorized so many elected officials into denying equality. Henry Messer invited me to one of the first Triangle Foundation dinners - and the second and the third. I've been here ever since," she said.

"Never could I imagine I'd be so excited about being a defendant in a lawsuit," said Brown, who as Oakland County Clerk is a named defendant in the DeBoer v. Snyder case. "I hope that very soon – maybe March 7 – I will no longer be forced to discriminate against my friends and that they will have the same rights that I do."

Yvonne Siferd, Equality Michigan's director of victim services, presented a Catalyst Award to Oshtemo Township Trustee Dusty Farmer. "Right after I was elected in Nov. 2012 I called Yvonne and said I was going to introduce a non-discrimination ordinance. Yvonne said for me to be prepared for backlash, and I just said – why?" Farmer's ordinance passed.

Dievendorf inserted a bit of levity with her presentation of the first Dave Agema Award, a dubious honor to a person who has harmed Michigan's LGBT community. Agema, Michigan's co-chair to the National Republican Party, has insulted and defamed LGBT people repeatedly. "Each year we will present this award. I will send them a letter - and then we will cover it up," she said to laughter and applause. "This year's Dave Agema honoree is – Dave Agema."

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Creep of the Week

Coalition for Family Values

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

What do you do when you're losing your ideological battle at the national level? Why, you go global! Which is why a group of A-List anti-gay folks have gone and formed the Coalition for Family Values, a group that hopes to teach the world to sing. Except in this case "sing" means enact punishing anti-gay legislation.

Joining forces are, according to the Washington Blade, "more than 70 anti-gay activists and religious leaders from the U.S., Canada, Australia, the U.K. and Brazil."

And what a roster of Creep luminaries and Creep contenders! Peter LaBarbera, who has advocated enacting Russian-style anti gay laws in America; Sally Kern (R-Oklahoma), who believes gays are a bigger threat than terrorists; Matt "There Is Nothing Conservative About Sodomy" Barber; Brian "Gays are too psychologically damaged to be athletes" Camenker, and members of the American Family Association.

And what do these folks all have in common? Let's see how Scott Lively explains it.

"We share a Biblical world view and speak the plain truth of the LGBT agenda and its destructive influence on society," Lively said at a recent D.C. press conference.

Got it. So the formation of this group is basically a reactionary response to the fact that LGBT rights are advancing and these folks are very a-scared.

Lively continued, "Our goal is to promote and protect the natural family as the essential foundation of civilization, and family values as the sources and guide to mainstream culture in every society, while advocating reasonable tolerance to those who choose to live discretely outside the mainstream."

In other words, Lively and his minions have joined forces to "protect" heterosexual married couples from the homos, lest we destroy all of civilization and every society, blah blah blah. Yeah, we've heard that all before.

What's worth noting is Lively's goal to advocate "reasonable tolerance to those who choose to live discretely outside the mainstream."

It truly boggles the mind what is considered "reasonable tolerance" to Scott Lively, a guy who has links to Uganda's "kill the gays" bill and who has personally thanked Vladimir Putin for the anti-gay laws in Russia.

In other words, back in the closet, homos! And it truly boggles the mind what is considered "reasonable tolerance" to Lively, a guy who has links to Uganda's "kill the gays" bill and who has personally thanked Vladimir Putin for the anti-gay laws in Russia that have led to untold numbers of gay people being discriminated against, beaten, and jailed.

"We want to praise the Russian Federation for providing much-needed leadership in restoring family values in public policy," Lively said at the press conference. "We believe that God will bless the Russian people for their faith and courage."

During the Coalition for Family Values press conference, Lively was interrupted by Spectrum Human Rights Alliance's Ellen Sturtz and Slava Revin, and got pretty pissed. Revin was speaking in Russian and Sturtz was translating.

As Lively talked over Sturtz and Revin and as they talked over him, Lively said, "This is what we call homo-fascism." Which is ironic, since homosexuals are basically living under a fascist set of laws in Russia - laws that Lively is very excited about.

"I would like to ask you to remove these two people from the press conference," Lively told security.

On her way out Sturtz shouted, "We would like to stop the killing that is going on in your name in Uganda and in Russia."

Oooh. Burn. Or it would be if the horrible climate in Uganda and Russia wasn't exactly what the Coalition for Family Values was created to help perpetuate.

Opponents Protest Arizona Bill Targeting Gays

BY ASTRID GALVAN

PHOENIX (AP)—An estimated 250 people who gathered at the Arizona Capitol demanded Gov. Jan Brewer veto legislation that would allow business owners to refuse to serve gays by citing their religious beliefs.

Friday afternoon's protests come a day after the House passed a bill pushed by conservative Republicans that adds protections from discrimination lawsuits to individuals and businesses.

The Senate passed the same bill on Feb 19. Gov. Jan Brewer must sign or veto Senate Bill 1062 by the end of this week.

Protesters held signs that read "No religion should be for discrimination" and "What about love thy neighbor." They repeatedly chanted "veto this bill."

Republicans say the law is needed to protect people who have legitimate religious objections to gay marriage. Democrats argue it will be a license to discriminate.

Jesus Castro-Byrd, who attended the protest with his

Cheri White said she jumped in the car with her daughter and two grandchildren when she learned of the protest ... White said the bill was discriminatory and that she didn't want her grandchildren to grow up with it.

husband, said the bill was going to hurt Arizona's economy and reputation. Like many others, he said Arizona already suffered too many consequences when it passed immigration crack-down law Senate Bill 1070.

"We have to voice our rights and stand up for what we believe," he said.

Cheri White said she jumped in the car with her daughter and two grandchildren when she learned of the protest. The family drove from Cornville, Ariz., near Sedona, to attend.

White said the bill was discriminatory and that she didn't want her grandchildren to grow up with it.

"We want them to be able to be free and happy," she said.

Social conservatives and

libertarian-minded members of the GOP believe the legislation protects the First Amendment rights of business owners who are expressing their religious beliefs.

The new legislation was passed over the shrill objections of Democrats who said it was clearly designed to allow discrimination against gays. All but three Republicans in the Legislature voted in favor of the bill.

In Tucson, more than 200 people listened to protest speeches Feb. 21 and then marched to Brewer's local office in the state office building.

The rally and march was organized by Wingspan, southern Arizona's non-profit lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community center.

► Marriage Trial

Continued from p. 4

"It's very clear that Judge [Bernard] Friedman wants to make sure that when he issues his decision that it can be backed up with a very strong factual record," Kaplan said. The testimony builds resiliency so that it will stand up to an appeal. He said that Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette will most likely appeal, and that he will ask for a stay.

A stay would mean that same sex couples would not be able to marry until a higher court ruled. Some have speculated that if Judge Friedman decides in favor of the couple and does not issue a stay, there could be a window of a couple of hours up to a couple of weeks in which to secure a marriage license. Kaplan said this is unlikely, and potentially problematic.

"What we saw in Utah is couples...who were able to get married during this window period and now their marriages are in limbo. The state of Utah said they would not recognize these marriages, whereas the federal government said they would, and now there's some litigation over the validity of these marriages," he said.

The number of states with same sex marriage has grown from seven to 17 in the time since Jayne Rowse and April DeBoer began their case in 2012, Kaplan said. They filed even before the U.S. Supreme Court had made their decision in the Windsor case. "So much progress is happening, and happening so fast," he stressed.

In Oregon, Virginia, Pennsylvania, California, Illinois, and Nevada state attorneys have declined pursuing

appeals to cases that decided in favor of same sex couples.

Kaplan added that even though the DeBoer case gives Michigan couples hope, others in the LGBT community continue to work on changes at the legislative level. The National ACLU's "Out for Freedom" campaign is working with Republican office holders in several states to change their votes on access to marriage. Equality Michigan and other organizations are exploring the potential for a ballot initiative in 2016 to repeal Michigan's constitutional amendment barring same sex marriage.

Those watching the DeBoer case can expect up to eight days of testimony, and then there will likely be a break of hours to days, or maybe even weeks, before Judge Friedman issues his decision.

3:16 Gets Flicked Out!



Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

I rarely write about straight guys. I find them to be, well, rather flighty. But in the interest of LGBT civility to all God's web-footed creatures, let tell you about my oddball neighbor Glen. A piece of work.

I met Glen last year. Our meeting was brief. He buzzed my door. Expecting DBT ("door bell trade"), I opened. He whispered "John 3:16," turned and vanished down the hall. Thinking I'd been invited to a promising, exciting, memorable Sunday brunch I hurried down two flights.

There was no John at 316, just a tired Jane in a terry cloth robe and haphazard curlers who said, "Whatever you're selling I don't want any!" and slammed the door in my startled, disappointed face. Alas, no orgy with finger food. Or, Glen.

A week later Glen hit on me again. "Jeremiah 9:25!" he winked and quickly disappeared once more. I gave it another go and this time hiked up four flights. Surprise of surprises, a Jewish couple actually lives there. I had tea, blintzes, a nice chat. (I hit it off with their poodle named Putzer.) They hadn't a clue about who goyishe-kopf Glen is.

My third encounter with Glen was on the elevator. He stepped on, beamed, shook my hand, and said, "Heaven loves you! Have a blessed day, big guy." Before I could protest, "I'm too old for long-distance romances," he was off and running again.

The next thing I know pamphlets were being shoved under my apartment door at odd hours. Copies of "Detroit: Sin City USA," "Let Jesus Rapture You!," "Fags Aflame!" The sci-fi literature kept me awake. I was a basket case. Then, before you could shout out, "Armageddon at Menjo's! Grab your jockey shorts!" it stopped. No more pamphlets. No Glen. Nothing ...

Strange to tell I start to miss the guy even if he is straight. He seems a nice paint-by-numbers sort. You know the type. Pin-stripe shirt. Bow tie. Plaid sports coat. Four-pocket cargo shorts. Argyle socks. Penny loafers. Drip-dry bliss in winter and in summer. He just needs a few friendly tips on living from a pro. (Unfortunately not my cup of spiked oolong tea.)

Six months pass before we meet by chance again at a crowded gym. What a surprise! Shoulder-length hair. Gold rings on biceps. Heroic sandals. Leather headband. Glen looks like a Ben Hur cab driver with his meter running.

"Wow! Were have you been all my life?" I ask the prodigal son. "I've had an intervention," confides Glen, sipping a flirtatious cappuccino. "My family hijacked me to a Fundy Movie Conversion Marathon." "Good grief, dude, what's that?" I ask.

"Well, to keep me from going overboard on the holy roller express I was given 24/7 hours of nonstop reparative viewing."

"Go on," I urge.

"Not much to tell. Exhausting nonetheless. And scary. I was locked in a padded TV room with Grade B Bible flicks playing day and night. Day and night!

"You know: Samson and Delilah, Sodom and Gomorrah, King of Kings, Ten Commandment, Mel Gibson's Passion in Latin, Sound of Music, Flying Nun reruns. Left Behind serials. Something clicked. I haven't 3:16'd or 9:25'd a soul since I got out."

(Therapeutic thanks to Julie Andrews, Sally Field, Charlton Heston, Cecil B. DeMille, and Jeffrey Hunter, as that hunky, blue-eyed Good Guy from Galilee.)

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Day 1 Of DeBoer V. Snyder, From Inside And Outside The Federal Courthouse

“We are very excited today and happy people could join us at this historic occasion, and this trial's been a long time coming. We are very much looking forward to presenting the evidence and the witnesses in this case. We are extremely optimistic that when all the evidence has been heard, the trial has reached a conclusion, and the decision has been rendered that Michigan will finally join many other states where gays and lesbians are considered to be equal citizens and that their families and children enjoy the same protections and the same rights that everybody else has.”

– Dana Nessel, attorney representing April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse

“Jayne and I made this choice - the decision to fight the second parent adoption ban - and we are happy to be representing everybody in the marriage case as well. We love our children. This started out as about our children, this is still about our children. Although we'd reap the benefits of being able to get married in the state of Michigan, we want to be recognized like everybody else. Nothing says family like a marriage license that says we are legally a family. And that's what we are hoping for and - I think - what we're going to get.”

–April DeBoer

“There are 3500 children in Michigan's foster care system are waiting for adoption. They linger. Too often they move from home to home. He believes making gay and lesbian adoption easier would give these children better outcomes.”

–Excerpt from Dr. David M. Brodzinsky's testimony in the trial.

“Both scripture and nature is designed by God to affirm the lifelong coveted union of one man being a male as created by God, one woman being female as created by God in a one-flesh relationship. Violations of this one-flesh union, whether heterosexual or homosexual, premarital or extramarital, contravene the divine plan for the family, for the conception and rearing of children, bringing spiritual disparity and guilt and death to individuals and cultures.... The state of Michigan's already spoken on this issue. The people, the public, has spoken. And God has spoken... That's all we have to say.”

–Rex Evans of Free Will Baptist Church, Ypsilanti

Court Of Public Opinion Has Decided, Leads Way For Justice System



Viewpoint

BY KARY L. MOSS

I recently spoke with a group of law students about life as a civil rights advocate and we soon veered onto the topic of marriage equality. They could not understand how the issue was even remotely controversial, an opinion I frequently hear. I observed that we were at the end of the ‘controversy’ in the court of public opinion and that the shift had been remarkable. In fact, I said I had never seen anything like it on any other social justice issue.

Just think, it was only 10 years ago that Michigan voters passed a marriage ban. At that time, bans on the freedom to marry were considered a viable political strategy by the far right as a means to turn out their base on Election Day. And they were successful. Between 1998 and 2008 thirty-one states adopted constitutional amendments blocking legal recognition of unions between same-sex couples.

Now, according to a recent poll by Glengariff Group Inc., more than 56 percent of respondents in Michigan support marriage equality, up 12.5 percentage points from the previous year. In just the last three months, courts in Utah, Oklahoma, and Virginia have struck down marriage bans as unconstitutional. Two weeks ago a court in Kentucky ruled that the state has to recognize marriages between same-sex couples performed in other states. Marriage equality is the law of the land in California, Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Mexico, Delaware, Illinois, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, Maine, Maryland and Washington D.C. All of this has happened in just the last five years.

It is truly remarkable progress when one considers that the history of civil rights is replete with examples of long fights and hard won victories. Just think, it wasn't until 1920 that women secured the right to vote. It wasn't until 1954 that segregation in education was ruled illegal by the United States Supreme Court. And it wasn't until 1964 that a federal Civil Rights Act was passed ensuring protection against race, sex, or age discrimination.

Even when we have taken a step forward, time and again we have then taken multiple

steps backward. Although voting rights discrimination was outlawed in 1965, we continue to struggle to ensure that all people have equal access to the ballot. Although it's been illegal since 1976 to fire a woman when she became pregnant, we continue to file cases when employers fire or demote them nonetheless.

Overall, the wheels of justice turn slowly and sometimes the shifting winds upend the most fragile victories. Will discrimination

Now, according to a recent poll by Glengariff Group Inc., more than 56 percent of respondents in Michigan support marriage equality, up 12.5 percentage points from the previous year.

and bigotry ever completely disappear? I think not. But the massive transformation we are witnessing in the public psyche should be appreciated as a truly remarkable moment that will forever change the legal and cultural landscape for the LGBTQ community.

How did this happen?

It shows what is possible when people truly unite for a common purpose.

It shows what is possible when leaders will take an unequivocal stand, as when president Obama spoke out for marriage equality.

It shows what individuals can accomplish when they take responsibility for their own communities, as when over 30 Michigan cities passed human rights ordinances in just a few years.

It shows that the courts can move the needle when presented with the right cases at the right time.

It shows the power of storytelling, which puts a human face on the issue.

It shows the power of talking about real facts, injuries, and costs of injustice.

It shows the power of putting aside our differences, resisting the temptation to compare injuries, and instead insisting that all people are entitled to dignity, fairness, and equal justice under the law.

And it shows the power of money, wielded strategically and with the expectation that our elected officials must represent all of their constituents, especially the most disenfranchised.

Right now I am feeling very lucky to be part of this very special journey. I feel very proud to work with so many committed partners – Equality Michigan, the Ruth Ellis Center, Affirmations, Kick, and the thousands of individuals who have become politically active in recent years. We must thank all those who have lent their financial support to build the capacity of advocacy organizations and all those who have lent their influence to build bi-partisan coalitions.

Onward and upward. Let's keep up the good work.

Kary L. Moss is the executive director of the ACLU of Michigan



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Empathy For Animals

SPRING PET
ISSUE

Liz Marshall explores animal rights in "The Ghosts in Our Machine." Photo: Jo-Anne McArthur

Lesbian Filmmaker Explores Intersectionality Of Human And Animal Rights

BY TRACY BAIM

“The Ghosts in Our Machine” is a powerful 2013 feature documentary about animal rights, made accessible through the photos and personal journey of well-known international photographer Jo-Anne McArthur.

Directed, written and produced by lesbian filmmaker Liz Marshall, this is a haunting yet beautiful movie.

The film was among the 151 eligible, qualifying documentaries for the Academy Awards, but it did not make the top 15 list. It has been playing at festivals and theatrically, and is available to rent for public screenings.

As you might expect from a film about animal rights and abuses, it can sometimes be difficult to hear and see what is happening across the world. But one of the more powerful comments is about the abuse in the U.S., based on the large factory farms and billions of animals that are “processed” in those places each year. Another fact hard to digest is that the animals that are not killed, those that are worked for milk, eggs and other products, actually face a longer life of abuse, especially those that are used as breeding animals.

As a relatively new vegetarian myself, I have often thought about how we make decisions on what rights to fight for. I’ve worked a long time

on civil rights, but have felt torn about the animals right in our midst. This is not about just gorillas in Africa, or dolphins in Japan. It is also about pigs, cows and chickens right in the U.S.

This interview was appropriately conducted at the Chicago Diner, a vegetarian diner on Halsted Street in Boystown.

How did this subject interest you? You have done documentaries on water rights, HIV/AIDS in Africa, etc., so what is something specific that drew you to this subject now?

I had always been sympathetic to the issue and interested in exploring it, but very, very preoccupied for years, one project after the

next focusing on human-rights issues, and then more recently on environmental-rights issues. It was actually my partner, LP, who really challenged me to tackle it. For years it was incubating, she was always the person I would debate the most with, and use as a sounding board. My last project did well, and I knew I wanted to make another feature film documentary, and I knew I wanted it to be this one. But I didn’t know what I wanted the story to be –I didn’t want it to be an “issue” film. I wanted it to be a story, grounded in a human story. That’s when I decided I wanted to focus it on (photographer) Jo-Anne McArthur.

Had you worked with Jo-Anne before?

I knew Jo-Anne for years through my partner, and I noticed her images. I felt inspired by them for two reasons. One, I felt a sort of kinship to her, because we’re both documentarians. But I’d never met anyone who was solely focused on the animal issue in documentary form. I found that quite interesting. Second, her images invite the viewer to consider non-human animals as individuals, and I think that’s quite revolutionary. I wanted the film to invite viewers to consider that animals are sentient beings.

See Liz Marshall, page 18

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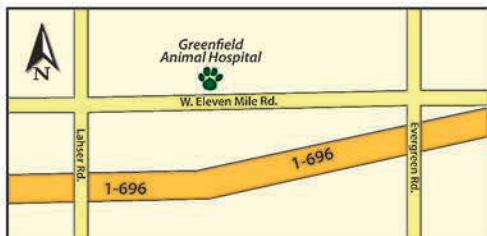
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SHOP LGBT



Director Liz Marshall, cinematographer Nick de Pencier and researcher Lorena Elke. Photo: Noah Bingham

► **Liz Marshall**

Continued from p. 16

How long ago did animal rights become an issue for you?

I've had my own journey with it. I really do think it's a "journey," and that is an active word, a key word to describe it. It's not something that happens over night. I know for myself it's been a layered process. But it started for me when I read "Diet for a New America" (by John Robbins) when I was 19. That's an amazing book that makes the connection between human rights and environmental rights and animal rights. It really struck a chord, and it really drastically changed the way I eat. I became a vegetarian at that time.

But it was also something that I didn't necessarily hold on to. I needed to be reminded. I think with this issue, it's easy to want to forget, or ignore it. So I wanted to make a movie that could reach people that were like me. What I mean by that is people who already care, but I think need to care in a deeper way.

I became a vegetarian because my partner and I drove next to a pig truck, and we could see all the pigs' snouts, just like the tragic scene in your film. We looked at each other and became vegetarian on the spot. That scene was incredible. What was interesting to me is what you said, it's a journey. But the film shows there is no degree. An animal is an animal, whether used for research or food or clothes.

In the movie, all four main animal industries are explored in an equal way. The moral question posed is, do (animals) have an inherent worth that we're not seeing, collectively, that needs to be acknowledged and taken seriously as a significant moral-social dilemma? Whether it's research or a fur coat, it's the same. All of these industries have reduced animals to tools for production and bits and parts of ingredients. In my view, and what the film is trying to communicate, is that the continuum is all connected, and what we're seeing in mainstream culture is an emergence toward new technologies, new ways of manufacturing and creating food, that are alternatives to using animals. That's really a revolutionary thing that's happening now. The film is part of a zeitgeist of awareness that's happening and starting to take root. They're hand-in-hand, the whole thing is connected.

The pet industry, people owning animals, is probably the most difficult situation to address.

The film doesn't address that, that's a whole other thing. My partner has rescue cats. (The film features people who have rescued Beagle dogs from research facilities.) Rescue cats, that's the other lesbian cliché.

About this connection of civil rights and human rights: is the LGBT community more sensitive, or just like the mainstream on this, with various levels of understanding?

I don't think the LGBT community necessarily embraces other social issues. Certain pockets do, for sure. But as a whole, I don't think it necessarily does. I am more philosophically in my life at the point where I think the intersectionality of all of it matters the most. I was one of those human-rights-focused people who was looking through glass, on the other side of the glass, when it came to the animal-rights issue. I wanted to make a movie that would shatter that divide – break it down and unpack it for people in a way that was accessible. It is all connected. Some people misread or misunderstand what I mean when I say that. I have had people say: "So you're saying animals should have the same rights as people?" I don't know what that means, but it's not the right question to ask. The right question is, "Do animals also matter?" The answer is "Yes." The movie focuses on our industrialized, globalized world that uses animals as products for our use. So it's really raising awareness and posing the question about that, as opposed to what is a hunting-and-gathering society.

The film deals with Jo-Anne as she discusses the placement of her powerful images of animals into mainstream media. Some outlets would not want to show the brutality animals face.

Jo-Anne's been published all over the

See Liz Marshall, page 23

www.PrideSource.com

Why We Should Care (More) About Animals



Viewpoint

OPINION BY LIZ MARSHALL

Someone should do a survey to actually see how many queer vegetarian/vegan women are out there. I suspect a very large percentage.

Ever since I came out in the early '90s, I have noticed the trend in queer women's spaces for hummus and veggies and tofu scramble. (Thankfully the veg world has exploded in recent years and there are many more versatile foodie options, although I still eat and love hummus and tofu scramble!) But seriously, what is this cliché about anyway? The empathy gene? We know that the majority (76 percent) of our social media followers are female; I wonder how many of them are queer? Maybe it's not important, but I am curious ...

I am curious about the capacity for empathy. The film I directed, "The Ghosts in Our Machine," is ultimately a plea for greater empathy. Animal sentience is defined in the first act, through the disembodied voices of cutting-edge scientists: "Sentience is the capacity to feel; all animals are sentient, and humans are animals."

The film illuminates the lives of nonhuman animals (the ghosts) rescued from and living within the machine of our modern world. Through the heart and photographic lens of protagonist and photographer Jo-Anne McArthur, the audience experiences empathy for nonhuman animals. The audience also experiences the sentience of Jo-Anne McArthur, as she is the conduit into the hidden lives of the nonhuman animals featured throughout the film. Audiences are left with a new way of seeing animals as feeling and

conscious beings, not merely as tools for production.

Since the world premiere of "The Ghosts in Our Machine" at the Hot Docs Film Festival in April/May of 2013, the film has garnered several international awards and nods, and has attracted a myriad of reviews, from mainstream press to countless blogs and it has been quite fascinating for me to observe not only the emotional, and often visceral reaction to the film, but also the interpretation of the film. The theme of empathy comes up repeatedly in various ways.

A queer woman, a film theorist and professor, Sherry Coman, wrote one of my favorite reviews of the film. After viewing the film she unpacked it for me saying that it's not "about" empathy but rather it "dwells in" empathy, not in a saccharin sentimental way, in a heartfelt and even tragic way. Many people will comfortably inhabit that space, while others will distance themselves from it. Coman's review of the film is here: www.hanadreaming.blogspot.ca/2013/10/the-ghosts-in-our-machine.html, and a list of reviews with hyperlinks can be found here: www.theghostsinourmachine.com/press.

So what about that "empathy gene?" Do vegans and vegetarians have a larger or more honed empathy gene? My partner Lorena Elke has a super sonic one; it is about 10,000 times bigger than your average person's when it comes to her capacity to feel for animals, and to want to help them. I have always cared for the underdog, for people and for animals, and have naturally "put myself in another's shoes," to feel their pain or joy. The only fistfight I had in grade school was with a bully. But my empathy for animals has developed and grown in the making of "The Ghosts in Our Machine" because I am more aware and tuned in to "seeing" them. I wanted to make a film that would be a catalyst for people who care, but who need to care more. And there are those who will never care. When it comes to having empathy for other species, I think many people need to, and can, foster and develop this part of themselves/ourselves.

Liz Marshall is an award-winning auteur filmmaker who fuses character-driven cinematic storytelling with social and environmental justice issues. Since the '90s she has created a body of documentary projects shot all over the world which focus on a range of subjects including: animal use and animal sentience; the right to water movement; HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa; sweatshop labor; corporate-globalization; gender; censorship affecting writers and journalists, war-affected children; music icons and the written and spoken word. Liz is well versed in the craft of conceptual point-of-view storytelling as a means of exploring complex issues. Marshall's current film is "The Ghosts in Our Machine" (2013), a critically acclaimed cross-platform documentary that illuminates the lives of individual animals living within and rescued from the machine of our modern world.

Through the heart and photographic lens of acclaimed animal photographer Jo-Anne McArthur, we become intimately familiar with a cast of non-human subjects. The film follows McArthur over the course of a year as she photographs several animal stories in parts of Canada, the U.S. and in Europe. Each story and photograph is a window into global animal industries: research, food, fashion and entertainment. This essay originally appeared in Windy City Times in December 2013.



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WAGS Program In Need Of Support

SPRING PET ISSUE

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Jihannh Jones knows the comfort that having a pet can bring. After a long day of work helping service clients at the Michigan AIDS Coalition, Jones goes home to his adorable Shih-Poo named Buddy.

“Sometimes in life all you have is your pets when your family and friends have turned on you,” Jones said. That’s why his work with MAC is so important. Jones runs the WAGS program, which means Wonderful Animals Giving Support. And his job is to provide support to the animals that give support to their human companions. The program is designed to ensure that people living with HIV/AIDS are able to keep their furry friends in their lives even though they may struggle financially.

WAGS provides a basic supply of food for cats or dogs. When there is funding to do so, they also help with veterinary bills up to \$100 a year.

For over a dozen years WAGS has been helping low-income clients keep their pets. Individuals must make less than \$1,000 a month to qualify for the program, and they must verify proof of HIV-positive status.

Jones said he knows that animals provide “joy and laughter.” Helping support WAGS can also bring the good, warm feeling of helping both a person and an animal have joy and laughter in their lives.

The program costs about \$5,000 a year for MAC to run, and currently they are not getting any grants for it. People can help by donating food or money, which can be done by contacting Jones at jjones@michiganaidcoalition.org.

Head over to www.Pridesource.com/Calendar.html for a complete collection of LGBT-friendly pet-oriented events – from social events to fundraisers!

Yellow Means Doggies Need Space

Organizations Promote Respect When Approaching An Unfamiliar Dog



SPRING PET ISSUE

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Some dogs need their space. Whether it’s because they are recovering from an injury, still in the stages of being trained, or simply not that social, some dogs are better left to themselves. That’s why the Yellow Dog Project is promoting an idea worldwide to protect dogs and people from social misunderstandings.

The basic idea is that if dogs need space, their owner can tie a yellow ribbon on their leash so others can be aware. This can prevent dogs from panicking around other dogs or people. A yellow ribbon is not an admission of guilt, a waiver of responsibility, or a way for people to avoid properly training their animals. However it is a friendly notice to others.

It works because even though the yellow ribbon or yellow leash is not yet universally recognized, it is generally



Illustrated by Lili Chin. www.Doggiedrawings.net

obvious enough to make people pause before approaching the animal. It can also prompt the question “what is that ribbon for,” helping spreading the word.

The Yellow Dog Project also seeks to educate about appropriate ways to approach or make contact with a dog, stressing it should only happen with permission of the dog owner, whether or not a dog is a “yellow dog.” They also offer links to training resources on their website.

Tara Palardy, a dog trainer in the city of Red Deer, in Alberta, Canada, started the Yellow Dog Project. In a statement to supporters she said, “I started to teach owners how to deal with their yellow dogs and that’s where this whole thing started – locally. I had no idea thousands of people would join. I figured some friends,

other trainers ... but nothing global. And surprise! Here we are.”

The movement is still young, and has not yet taken root in Michigan. However, trainers, veterinarians, doggie daycares and even elected officials who get behind the movement can sign up to be listed on their website.

A second group that advocates for space and safe approach of all dogs is Dogs In Need Of Space (DINOS). Teaching adults and children to respect dogs can avoid a lot of misunderstandings and potential injuries.

The Yellow Dog Project can be found at www.theyellowdogproject.com, their Facebook social media page “The Yellow Dog Project,” their Twitter account @yellowdogproj and by email info@theyellowdogproject.com.

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► **Liz Marshall**

Continued from p. 18

world. I wanted to feature that story in the movie, because it parallels the challenge in mainstream society, for mainstream media to really take this seriously. That was the purpose and meaning of those scenes. On a grassroots perspective, she's been published all over the world.

The film also shows how this work can emotionally impact people, including Jo-Anne.

I think that highly empathetic people can run the risk of burning out, because the degree in which you feel connected is, I think, amplified. You have to develop coping mechanisms. This connects to the article I wrote for you about empathy (see page 19). I am genuinely curious about the capacity for empathy and how that gets developed. I have always been empathetic, but my empathy for this issue has grown. I think you can develop it. I think everyone can develop it. In the movie, Jo-Anne says she believes everyone is innately compassionate, and given the opportunity to care,



Liz Marshall with Sonny on his rescue day. Photo: "The Ghosts in Our Machine" / We Animals

they will. I think that's a great moment in the film. It comes at a time, near the end, in the final act, where the thesis of the movie, the animals themselves and Jo-Anne's journey, has been fully expressed. I think the average person watching it feels pretty

impacted by those words.

What has been the response from PETA, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals?

They love it. Ingrid Newkirk, the founder of PETA, wrote an endorsement equating the film

to "Uncle Tom's Cabin" (the anti-slavery novel). People are really saying that the film is an incredible tool, because it's able to communicate with a broader audience.

For those who work on LGBT rights,

and see how much there is still to do, it can be frustrating at times, deciding what issues to focus on, including animal rights.

Why does it have to be either/or? Why can't we redefine what that means, to be an active participant in social justice? One of my favorite quotes is by Martin Luther King, Jr., he says "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." I totally agree with that. There's a major disconnect happening. I am a social issues filmmaker. I go from issue to issue, film to film. What I've arrived at is that most of those things become their own insular bubble. You could be sitting, eating a ham, and fighting for the rights of people overseas, because of the suffering of those people. But what about the suffering of what you're eating right now? I think it's important to recognize what King said, that it's all connected.

"The Ghosts in Our Machine" is watchable on VOD and iTunes. For more information, visit www.theghostsinourmachine.com.

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International Victories For Animals In 2013

SPRING PET ISSUE

Animal Defenders International (ADI), based in California, is celebrating a number of successes for animals throughout 2013.

Colombia bans wild animals in circuses. In June, some six years after ADI launched its damning undercover investigation of the Latin American circus industry, Colombia followed Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru and Paraguay with a ban. The campaign was hard fought, with vigorous opposition from Colombia's powerful circus industry and marks an important win for animals.

Europe bans cosmetics tests on animals. The European Union introduced the final stage of the cosmetics ban, which prohibits the marketing and sale of new animal-tested products from March 11, 2013. ADI and its partner organizations have campaigned for the ban for over 30 years. This vital legislation will put pressure on other countries to follow suit.

ADI invited to rescue Peru's circus animals. After successfully securing a ban on wild animals in circuses in Peru, the Government has asked ADI to return and help rescue the animals from the dismal conditions. ADI is preparing and conducting a census of the country's circus animals. This will be ADI's greatest challenge in 2014 and the organization urgently needs public support to rescue the animals.

Circus ban in El Salvador. El Salvador has become the latest Latin American country to ban the use of wild animals in circuses, with ADI working with local groups to secure success.

"No Fun for Elephants" victories. ADI kicked off 2013 with a new campaign video narrated by Bob Barker, which quickly clocked up victories as five fairs said no to the cruel elephant rides offered by Have Trunks Will

Travel and Trunks & Humps.

Lion Ark lifts off! In October, ADI's feature length film documenting the rescue of 25 lions from Bolivian circuses hit the film festival circuit, winning awards, critical acclaim, and the hearts of people who have had their eyes opened to the hidden suffering of circus animals. Lion Ark offers an enjoyable, uplifting and accessible look at the issues faced by circus animals. Watch out for Lion Ark in 2014!

1000s of owl monkeys saved from experiments. This month it was formally announced that the capture of owl monkeys in the Amazon would no longer be permitted. ADI undercover investigators exposed the night-time trapping of the terrified monkeys as they were torn from the trees.

British circus ban moves forward. The legislation for the long promised ban on wild animals in British circuses was finally tabled. But there was another battle as a committee tried to radically reduce the scope of the new law. ADI fought off the attempt and the full ban on wild animals will be put before Parliament.

Baby elephant Lily saved from a life of misery. ADI hit the media nationally across the US, when it learned that notorious trainer Have Trunk Will Travel (HTWT) – exposed by an ADI investigation – had a claim on newborn elephant Lily at Oregon Zoo. As a result, the zoo purchased both Lily and her father (owned by HTWT) and tore up the agreement.

Plans for beagle farm defeated. Previously defeated plans for a laboratory beagle factory farm in the UK were re-submitted. ADI's UK partner organization led the campaign to halt the plans, leading to a national outcry and the plans were denied again!



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Photo: Lou Freeman

And She's Telling You...

Jennifer Holliday On Drag Queen Backlash, Death Threats & Her Fake Oscar

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Jennifer Holliday wants to clear something up: When she performed her signature song, “And I Am Telling You I’m Not Going,” on “American Idol,” those facial contortions weren’t a joke. She wasn’t exorcising a demon or doing them to out-diva “Idol” finalist Jessica Sanchez, who she sang the number with. Holliday’s been showing that song who’s boss since 1981, when the “Dreamgirls” actress originated the iconic role of Effie on Broadway.

Over 30 years later, Holliday, 53, still feels Effie’s raw emotion – an emotion that’s conveyed on her first solo secular album in 23 years, “The Song Is You,” a collection of R&B standards.

In this new interview with Holliday, the singer recalls the

death threats she received after that “American Idol” performance two years ago, the backlash from the gay community when she lost weight and how she celebrated when Jennifer Hudson won her “Dreamgirls” Oscar – she bought her own.

Why has it been so long since you released a solo secular album?

The music business kept changing when I started making music in the ’80s, and I got lost because my record company, Geffen Records, felt that I wasn’t attractive enough back then. They were like, “You have a great voice, but you’re not really attractive to do what we need to do.”

So you weren’t marketable according to them?

Yeah, that’s what they were saying.

It’s so strange, too, because it used to be big voices were associated with big bodies – I’m 200 pounds smaller now than I was in the ’80s. Then the little girls with the big voices slipped in – Mariah Carey, Whitney Houston (laughs) – you know what I’m saying? So I just felt I missed some things, and some people would probably disagree on terms of “whatever’s meant for you is meant for you,” but I just felt I missed out on a lot.

It sounds like mainstream success was something you hoped for.

Yeah, but it never happened. I only had the one big hit, “And I Am Telling You,” and then I just didn’t make a lot of albums. Fortunately, because I had a diversified career, I did more theater and some television acting – I was on “Ally McBeal” for

five-and-a-half seasons – so it did allow me to have a more diverse career by having to find other ways (to work) besides recording.

Where do you keep your Tony award?

With my Grammys. I have everything together.

In a special glass case?

They’re just out. Yeah, I’m not that wealthy or anything – not for a case.

So no armoire?

Child, no. They’re just out with everything else. (Laughs)

Would you have gone the music route if “Dreamgirls” hadn’t happened?

I don’t think I would have had an opportunity to do that. My first show was called “Your Arms Too Short to Box With God” and I was

on board with that when they saw me for “Dreamgirls,” so I basically would’ve just been a theater baby. Actually, I’m glad about it now because having to do eight shows a week, you learn how to preserve your voice – so thankfully, 32 years later after “Dreamgirls,” I still have my instrument intact.

I don’t know if I would’ve actually pursued a recording career because image was beginning to become everything, and I was an overweight girl and quite self-conscious about it. I didn’t aim to be a recording artist. I came straight out of the church, out of the Baptist choir, onto the stage. I was discovered in Houston, Texas, while I was singing in the choir, so I don’t know what my fate would’ve been had it not been for “Dreamgirls.” I just don’t know.

Because “Dreamgirls” was created

with you in mind, do you think a lot of people see you as Effie?

I think so. Of all the accolades that I got for my "American Idol" performance two years ago with Jessica Sanchez, I also got a few disturbing comments from people laughing at me because of the facial expressions that I made when I was performing the song. I wish I could've explained that the song came out of a play and I still have the emotion of Effie when I do the song. I think that's why I've been able to sing it and sing it well – because I've never tried to make it all about Jennifer Holliday. I've always tried to stay true to the character, and to some people it did look a little over-the-top or awkward, and so there were some very mean comments people made. Someone even threatened to kill me. I was like, "Whoa, wait a minute, what's going on?"

Did those comments make you self-conscious about your face when you sing?

It did. Actually, I took my Facebook and my Twitter page down because the comments had gotten so ugly about the facial expressions, and I felt they didn't understand. When they started circulating my Tony Awards performance from back in 1982, people kind of eased up off of me once they saw it. They got it. But before they were just very hard on me, saying, "Why did it take all of that for her to sing the song?" And it wasn't that it takes all of that; it's just that I go to another place so that it's real and so that the emotion is real, and I stay true to what Effie gave us. I'm still connected with Effie.

Were a lot of your friends gay when you first started your theater career?

Well, you know I'm in the theater, so of course – everybody's gay in theater pretty much! (Laughs) So yes, I did make a lot of gay friends. Unfortunately, I also lost a lot of gay friends because the '80s was the beginning of the AIDS epidemic, so I saw firsthand how devastating the illness was. It was a very devastating time, so yes, I knew lots of gay people, and was dear, dear friends with them, but I also lost so many dear friends as well.

Was it during "Dreamgirls" that you became aware of your gay following?

No, I think it was afterwards. Back then I didn't do anything to have a following. It was after the show had pretty much ended – after the AIDS epidemic had quieted down – and then that's when it came forth. I think when you go through a certain tragedy with people, you're closer to them. Once people were beginning to assert themselves, and gay men started taking a stand and coming out, I became more so associated with the gay community because my music, I think, is the kind that pulls you through. A lot of people say to me, "Your album got me through this particular time when I was just coming out."

It's about empowerment.

That's right – empowerment.

Why do you think "Dreamgirls" and the character of Effie has resonated so strongly with the gay community all these years?

The gay community has seen themselves as outcasts, as freaks and as something to be ashamed of. They associate with Effie because of the weight problem – she was overweight, she was awkward and she was trying to fight for herself. Nobody loved her. That's what I'm thinking they identified with, and the reason why I say that is because when I lost weight I got a lot of backlash from the gay community – from the ones who were performing my songs – that I had betrayed them by losing weight. I was like, "No, you all need to go ahead and just come out and not be ashamed of who you are." I'm not gonna end up a tragedy so that gay people can live and feel comfortable with me. It was almost like I had to have a tragic end like Judy Garland, or the ones that they were attracted to, in order for them to feel connected. I'm not gonna put on no weight so you can like me again. You go ahead and be who you need to be and don't be ashamed of it.

You've said that without the gay community you would have no career at this point.

Oh, I don't think I would. I don't think that I would because they're the ones that carried this "Dreamgirls" thing on. Even when they were trying to impersonate me and it was like, "OK, she lost weight now, she's not gonna put it back on, what do we do?" I was like, "Lose weight, child." But for the most part, they're the ones who carried the legacy of "Dreamgirls" way beyond with impersonations and pageants, so it lived in the gay community for many, many years. Otherwise it would not be a movie. It wouldn't have been anything if it had not been for the gay community.

For myself, I used to be able to work with the gay clubs without a record and not work anywhere else. I would go on at 3 or 4 in the morning and they allowed me to hold onto my dignity, and that's what I wanted for them so much – to be able to have their dignity, because they loved me so much.

When you first heard Jennifer Hudson's take on "And I Am Telling You," what did you think?

I don't know if I can really look at it like that. But having it portrayed on the screen, I couldn't help but be proud, because I created it. That's something that I created. And that's a part of history now – twice! Not only did it make Broadway history, now it's made movie history because she won an Oscar – or, we won an Oscar. Yeah, we won an Oscar, honey! (Laughs) In fact, they sell little Oscars in LA and I got one. I got a little one. I bought me one. It's one of those little plastic ones they have at the gift shop.

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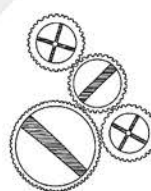
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The Angel (Cara Trautman) looks over Louis (Matthew Turner Shelton) in The Ringwald Theatre's production of Tony Kushner's "Angels in America, Part 1: Millennium Approaches." Photo: Brandy Joe Plambeck.

A Stunning 'Angels In America' At The Ringwald

BY MARTIN F. KOHN

The millennium Tony Kushner refers to in "Angels in America, Part 1: Millennium Approaches" is the one we're living in now, not the one that will approach in 900-and-something years.

Kushner may have been looking ahead – the play opened on Broadway in 1993 – but here we are looking back, as The Ringwald brings us its production of Kushner's play. (Although it's Part 1, "Angels" is a play unto itself.)

Like the novel "1984" or the film "2001: A Space Odyssey," "Angels" transcends its title's implied chronological limitations. Or maybe not, but Joe Bailey's beautiful and intense Ringwald staging would overcome any potential shortcomings. The play is intensely political and philosophical, but it's also about loyalty, devotion, commitment, denial, fear, religion, power, corruption. In other words, it's about being human.

Its three main stories are separate but connected. In one, Joe Pitt is an up-and-coming lawyer who is Republican, Mormon and a closeted (even to himself) gay man, although his wife, Harper, strongly suspects. Louis Ironson, an employee at the law firm, is in a

REVIEW

Angels in America, Part 1: Millennium Approaches

The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 8 p.m. Friday, Saturday & Monday, and 3 p.m. Sunday through March 10. 3 hours, 20 minutes. \$10-20. 248-545-5545.

www.theringwald.com

committed relationship with another man, Prior Walter; Prior has AIDS and Louis can't face it.

The third story involves a fictionalized real person, lawyer Roy Cohn (1927-1986), a right-wing wheeler-dealer with friends in very high places. A mentor to Joe Pitt, Cohn is gay and has AIDS, but won't admit it because in his mind homosexuals are weak; angrily, he calls himself "a heterosexual man who fucks around with guys."

In what may be the best performance of the theater season, Travis Reiff is astonishing as the repellant Cohn, delivering one of the most vivid portrayals of self-loathing ever seen. He bullies, he bellows, he coddles, he wheedles and maintains a solid wall of

denial even at the brink of death.

Excellent, too, are Matthew Turner Shelton, as Louis, and Bailey Boudreau as the sorely afflicted Prior. Shelton is also sorely afflicted, not physically but by his own ambivalence: He knows he should stay with prior, but is physically repulsed by Prior's illness. "You can love someone and fail them" he says. Does doing the wrong thing but feeling guilty about it make it less wrong? Shelton conveys that well, and Boudreau's Prior is deserving of great sympathy, but he's never pitiful.

Brenton Herwat as Joe Pitt and Meredith Deighton as Harper Pitt also play well off each other. Harper is so upset by her husband's probable homosexuality that she retreats into a world of imaginary friends and displaces her worry into concern about holes in the ozone layer. Deighton captures the ethereal quality of Harper's flights of fancy. Herwat makes Joe the character the audience most hopes will figure himself out.

This is a very long play, but as with the similarly lengthy "Long Day's Journey Into Night" or "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" anything less would be a disservice.



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Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, Feb. 27

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

New Volunteer Meeting 5:30 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

8th Annual Ladies Night Open House 6 p.m. All women are invited to see what cycling has to offer and learn about upcoming events, new products, and gain general information about health and fitness. Macomb Bike and Fitness, 28411 Schoenherr, **Warren**. 586-756-5400. Macombbike.com

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

Gender Hormone Counseling Sessions 6 p.m. Darnell Jones, RPH and GNA, will conduct one on one counseling sessions for the transgender community. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

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

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

Toastmasters International SpeakOUT! Club 7 p.m. Toastmasters will show you how to listen more effectively, think on your feet and speak confidently Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. Jimtoycenter.org

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

Friday, Feb. 28

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

Open Mic Night with Michelle Brown 6 p.m. Whether it's poetry, singing or anything in between, this is your opportunity to express yourself on stage. All ages welcome. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

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

Detroit Women's Coffee House Revival 8 p.m. A chance for us to celebrate the talent in our community and raise funds for Women musicians and artists and our local non-profit organizations in our community. GIFT, 1641 Middlebelt Road, **Inkster**. 248-943-2411. lindacbrin@gmail.com Womenoutandabout.com/calendar/detroit-womens-coffee-house/

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, March 1

Michigan Humane Society Fundraiser Fifteen minute photo session and a free 5x7 of your pet. Mininum \$25 donation. Appointment required. Seeger Studios, 239 S. Old Woodward, **Birmingham**. 248-646-9010. Seegerstudios.com

Healthcare Enrollment Assistance 12 p.m. ACCESS' Affordable Care Act navigators will answer questions and schedule appointments for in-person assistance. All services are open to the public. This event is particularly useful for people who are good with computers but who have questions about health insurance plans and health care policies. ACCESS, 211 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 586-330-8028. Accesshealthcaremichigan.org

X the Line- Peer Educators 2 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. dsmith@goaffirmations.org Goaffirmations.org

Yoga Reading Group 3 p.m. Please read the book, and come prepared to discuss the ways this text has helped your yoga practice. Namaste Yoga, 399 S. Troy St., **Royal Oak**. 248-339-9642. Namaste-yoga.net

Detroit Derby Girls- Elvis Night 4:45 p.m. Detroit Derby Girls present the Grand Prix Madonnas vs. the D-Funk Allstars in an Elvis Themed bout. Tickets: \$12-15. Detroit Derby Girls, 500 Temple St., **Detroit**. 313-444-4841. Detroitderbygirls.com

W. E. T. Detroit's Naughty School Girl Party 10 p.m. Bring your diversity, resilience, and fabulousness to the dance floor. DJ Mother Cyborg will be rocking electronic midwest pride, global bass, latin house, and classic cyborg jams. We chose this theme name for this party as a form of activism. We aim to break the cycle of sexualizing young women. Cover: \$5. W. E. T. Detroit, 2906 Cass Ave., **Detroit**. 313-832-2822. Facebook.com/events/593957157364014/

Sunday, March 2

Conversation Station 5 p.m. A new topic is discussed each week. GOAL, 714 S. Washington, **Royal Oak**. 248-981-4227. MarciLWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

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

Showbiz Sunday 10 p.m. Ace Deville, Delicious, Maria Mirelez, DJ Lipgloss, and more. Additional showtimes at 11 p.m. and 12 a.m. Spiral Dance Bar, 1247 Center St., **Lansing**. 517-894-1315. Spiraldancebar.com

Monday, March 3

Restorative Yin Yoga with Meditation 6:45 p.m. Get pampered. GOAL, 1945 Pauline Blvd., **Ann Arbor**. Meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

Art Therapy 7 p.m. Common Ground will be giving us an overview of what services they provide and how art fits into their programs. South Oakland

Art Association (SOAA) and Common Ground, 814 N. Campbell Road, **Royal Oak**. Commongroundhelps.org

Tuesday, March 4

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

Circle of Life: Pet Ownership Discussion and Support Group 6:30



innocent kiss with Cunegonde, a beautiful young woman. This incident begins a miraculous series of misfortunes played out in cartoon violence, swashbuckling action and ridiculous adventure.

The 90-seat black box space is located within Mosaic's new facility on the Sidney Miller Campus of University Prep Science and Math Elementary, located at 2251 Antietam Avenue, Detroit. If you like Monty Python, you'll enjoy this over-the-top comedy.

Performances will take place at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28 and Saturday, March 1, and at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 2. Tickets are \$15 at the door, or by credit card for \$10 at 313-872-6910, ext. 4021.

p.m. Led by a licensed counselor. Share stories, frustrations, grief and successes. Tail Waggers 1990, 28402 Five Mile Road, **Livonia**. 734-855-4077. Tailwaggers1990.org

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

Wednesday, March 5

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

Community Cat Training 2 p.m. Learn why HSHV believes that Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) offers the greatest chance of success for feral cats. Humane Society of Huron Valley, 3100 Cherry Hill Road, **Ann Arbor**. 734-662-5585. Hshv.convio.net

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

Dykes on Bikes- Monthly Planning Meeting 6:30 p.m. Monthly meeting to plan rides and socialize. A great group of women who welcome new members with all levels of experience. Get Out And Live!, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

Thursday, March 6

Twisted Games Party games and fully nude strippers. Hosted by Ace Deville. 18+. Spiral Dance Bar, 1247 Center St., **Lansing**. 517-894-1315.

Spiraldancebar.com

\$6 at 6 a.m. 6 a.m. Cash only or class passes. Tickets: \$6. Namaste Yoga, 399 S. Troy St., **Royal Oak**. 248-339-9642. Namaste-yoga.net

Relationship Skills Class 6 p.m. A series for LGBTQ people and their friends and loved ones. Topics include: exploring personal and cultural relationships, values, arguments and making agreements, accountability and building community connections. Tickets: \$35 per person. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Family & Friends 7 p.m. Topics vary from month to month. This is a gathering of people who have family or friends who identify as lesbian,

current rising stars in the Detroit Metro area and beyond. Tickets: \$5. Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 8- March 26. 734-996-9080. Aacomedy.com

Concerts

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Terence Blanchard & Friends" Paradise Jazz Series. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. March 1. 313-576-5111. Dso.org

Kerrytown Concert House "George Benson and The Speakeasy Quartet" Celebrating Benson's 85th Birthday. Tickets: \$5-30. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 4 p.m. March 2. 734-763-4186. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Editor's Pick

The Mosaic Acting Company will present Scott Hunter's "Candide," an outrageous adaptation of the satirical novel by Voltaire in the intimate new GM Foundation Mosaic Theatre.

The dynamic performance style of Mosaic's young artists is perfectly suited to this broad, physical comedy. The fantastical and fast-moving story of the play begins when Candide, an optimistic young man, shares an

gay, bisexual, transgender, or who are questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity. Join us as we offer support, share our experiences, and learn about the issues impacting the LGBTQ and allied community. The Jewish Gay Network of Michigan (JGN), 6600 W. Maple Road, **West Bloomfield**. 248-432-5661. Jgnmi.org

Red Robot 7 p.m. Ageplay group. Every first Thursday. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. Jimtoycenter.org

Whole Lives, Healthy Lives Adult Support Group 7 p.m. This one-of-a-kind program in Berrien County helps attendees support each other in healthy ways through active listening and caring feedback. OutCenter, 132 Water St., **Benton Harbor**. 269-925-8330. Outcenter.org

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

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

MUSIC & MORE

Comedy

Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase "Mike Green" Tickets: \$7-12. Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Feb. 27- March 1. 734-996-9080. Aacomedy.com

Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase "Comedy Jamm" It's cut-loose comedy as we present the comedy of 12 of the

Theark.org

The Ark "Blackie & The Rodeo Kings" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Feb. 28. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Magic Bag "Buckwheat Zydeco" Tickets: \$20. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. March 6. 248-544-3030. Themagicbag.com

The Magic Bag "Taj Mahal" Tickets: \$58. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. March 1. 248-544-3030. Themagicbag.com

The Majestic "Stanley Clarke Presents: School Days" All ages. Tickets: \$38-40. Majestic Theater, 4120-4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. March 2. 313-833-9700. Majesticdetroit.com

Wharton Center for Performing Arts "Trisha Yearwood" One of the highest-selling female artists in Country music history, a New York Times Bestselling cookbook author, and now a Food Network star. Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. Feb. 27. 517-432-2000. Whartoncenter.com/events/detail/trisha-yearwood

Dance

Flawless and Fabulous Productions "Ball Room Dancing Classes" This is a six weeks series ballroom class. 25916 Five Mile Road, 25916 Five Mile Road, Redford. March 2- March 30. 313-212-9219.

Michigan Opera Theatre "The Joffrey Ballet" Tickets: \$25-125. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. March 1- March 2. 313-237-SING. Motopera.org

THEATER

Civic/Community Theater

Ain't Misbehavin' \$20-30. Stagecrafters, Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. Through March 2. 248-541-6430. stagecrafters.org

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

Butterflies are Free \$10-33. Starlight Dinner Theatre at Waverly East Cafetorium, 3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. March 7 - 15. 517-243-6040. starlightdinnertheatre.com

Father of the Bride \$15-35. The Crosswell, 129 E. Maumee St., Adrian. Feb. 28 - March 9. 517-263-6868. crosswell.org

Free Man of Color \$10-12. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. Feb. 28 - March 9. 517-482-5700. riverwalk.com

Good People \$18-24. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Parish Theatre, 426 South Park Street, Kalamazoo. Feb. 28 - March 15. 269-343-1313. kazooicivic.com

Lil' Darlins Vaudeville \$10. Rated PG-13 for crude humor, strong language and sexual content. The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 8 p.m. March 3. lildarlinsvaudeville.com

The Improv Mixer \$8. Emergent Arts at The Mix Studio Theatre, 8 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti. Feb. 28 - March 1. 734-985-0875. Emergentarts.com

The Miracle Worker \$24. The Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Through March 1. 269-343-1313. Kazooicivic.com

The Twilight of the Golds \$15-20. Barefoot Productions Theater, 240 N.

See Happenings, page 34

www.PrideSource.com

Hear Me Out

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

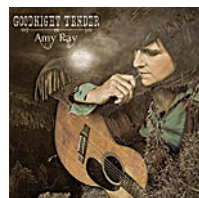
Lea Michele, Amy Ray



Lea Michele, 'Louder'

The business of turning a theater-born star into a bona fide pop act isn't as easy as it looks, and Lea Michele knows this from seeing her "Glee" co-stars, Matthew Morrison and Kristin Chenoweth, make failed attempts. The TV musical has proven Michele, who plays Rachel Berry, isn't just a flash in the pan; this girl can actually sing. And she can sing anything, from Rihanna to Barbra to The Beatles. Her debut, then, wisely puts her sterling voice front and center, but doesn't forget that to have a radio hit you need a soaring melody, and you should probably have Sia too. A strategic move considering how prolific the hit machine's become, three of the album's singles were all, in some part, written by Sia. The defiant "Cannonball," produced by Stargate and resembling Beyoncé's "Halo," is an empowering anthem; the beautiful "Battlefield" builds into the kind of sad power ballad Celine Dion would have a field day with; and armed with an urban thrust is the mid-tempo "You're Mine," a declaration of eternal love Michele dedicated to her late boyfriend, Cory Monteith. When Michele picks up the pace on "Don't Let Go" and "On My Way," you imagine the entire "Glee" cast dancing behind her. She sings her butt off, but the stock beats are tailored for a

TV show choir and not a solo career. The last song leaves the biggest impression. Given the context of Monteith's death, which inspired her to write "If You Say So," the song is a haunting piano ballad made even more heartbreaking given its real-life candor. This is Michele at her saddest and most vulnerable. It's that kind of personal touch "Louder" could use more of. *Grade: B-*



Amy Ray, 'Goodnight Tender'

Amy Ray's solo career was bound to end up here. The singer-songwriter's been inching her way to the prairieland ever since 2001's "Stag," her first Emily Saliers-less album; her fifth break from the Indigo Girls, "Goodnight Tender," goes all in. This is her farm album. Rooted solely in the sounds of the Deep South, its dozen tracks are fully immersed in country culture. Pedal steel, fiddle, banjo and mandolin frame the folk, gospel and Appalachian sounds, which, of course, wouldn't follow in the genre's footsteps if they weren't pensive and raw, and didn't completely wreck you. "Broken Record" stings with the

lonesome plea of wasted love, and the title track – as lullaby-like as you'd imagine from a track called "Goodnight Tender" – unfurls into a sweet, empathetic story-song. "The Gig That Matters," a spiritual toe-tapper, and the reflective "Anyhow" conjure the image of Ray, guitar in hand, singing on the porch with a bottle of Jack at her side. These are simple songs from a simple time, something she ponders while looking forth to her last days on the dreamy "Oyster and Pearl." By honoring the great traditions of the country recipe, and with her singing sounding like it's been rolled across the dust and gravel of a dirt road, Ray's "Goodnight Tender" captures an authenticity that's been missing from country music for some time. *Grade: B+*

Also Out



Ghost Beach, 'Blonde'

"Moon Over Japan," the launch pad for this Brooklyn-based duo's debut,

could run over the closing credits of just about any John Hughes movie – that's how '80s it is. It's got psychedelic funk, soaring synths and a whimsical dreaminess, which means it's everything you want from the MTV era. From the danceable sun-kissed "On My Side" to that awesomely retro guitar riff on "Too Young," Josh Ocean and Eric "Doc" Mendelsohn's 12-song release is an exhilarating rush of youthful energy and neon glow.



Robert Ellis, 'The Lights from the Chemical Plant'

Even though Robert Ellis is a country gent, you won't find him singing about his truck or beer-guzzlin' with the boys. This is quiet, sensitive introspection that sounds wise beyond Ellis' 25 years – and not just lyrically. Ellis introduces bossa nova, jazz and classic pop to the country palette, so while rooted in the genre – especially given that Ellis' voice is about as twangy as they come – it's also clear his influences aren't all in the family. It's not always a knockout, but it's always refreshing.

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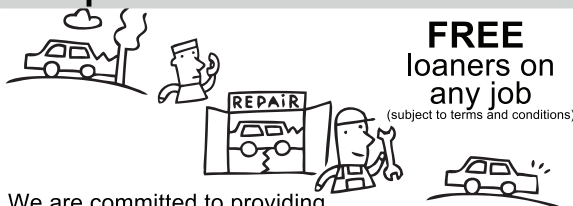
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A Group For Every Kind At JTCC

BY SHELBY CLARK

Fresh off Equality Cabaret, the benefit for the Michigan Marriage Challenge, Ann Arbor's Jim Toy Community Center continues its LGBT support and activism into the spring and beyond.

JTCC has been serving the LGBTQ community of Washtenaw County since 2010 (formerly the Washtenaw Rainbow Action Project), providing "information, education, social events and advocacy by and for the queer and ally community." In particular, the recent Equality Cabaret on Feb. 23 helped benefit a lesbian couple who's suing Michigan for the right to co-adopt their three children.

Jim Toy has had an illustrious career in Michigan's LGBTQ community. He co-authored Ann Arbor's non-discrimination policy on sexual orientation and gender identity and expression and co-founded the Spectrum Center; he's also a founding member of the Ann Arbor Gay Liberation Front, PFLAG/Ann Arbor, GLSEN/Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti Area, WRAP and the Out Loud Chorus.

One of the highlights of the center is the many LGBTQ groups that meet weekly, semi-weekly and monthly. These regular groups center around various activities and events throughout the year, but have meetings around specific elements of the community. Many of these groups are focused on elements of sexuality. JTCC's Bisexual Peer Group meets the third Sunday of every month from 4 to 6 p.m. Red Robot, an ageplay group, meets every first Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m.

Ann Arbor TNG is a fetish/kink group for young "kinksters," focusing on support, demonstrations, discussion and socializing. The group considers itself pansexual and welcoming to all regardless of gender or gender role identification. The group meets every third Tuesday from 8 to 10 p.m. E-mail cutesubtoy@yahoo.com for further details.

The Polyamory Network focuses on people living polyamorously and is open to people interested, curious or friendly to the community. Meeting on third Thursdays at 7 p.m., the group welcomes "diversity of sexual orientation, gender identity, family constellation and spiritual path."

LGBTQ struggling with certain issues can find support in an already inclusive environment. Because We Are Worth, held the first Tuesday of every month starting at 6:30 p.m., is a local meeting for LGBTQ and allies dealing with sex addiction.

Weekly events of this nature also include Regardless Of (Narcotics Anonymous), which meets every Sunday



Braun Court, home of the JTCC.

at 7 p.m. and GLBT AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) every Saturday from 8 to 9 p.m.

Interest-specific meetings find a home at JTCC as well. Gay Business Networking meets on the second Friday of every month at 8 a.m. The networking group meets to unite LGBT business owners and professionals, working to foster support and business amongst professionals while also serving as a place for business leads and referrals. More specific information can be found both on JTCC's site and at www.gaybusinessnetworking.com.

Many lesbian groups at the center deal with certain hobbies. Older Lesbians Organizing meets on second Fridays at 7:30 p.m. in the spring and summer, and the second Sunday of the month at 1 p.m. in the fall and winter. The group works to provide older lesbians a place to share common struggles and mutual interests and experiences. Jackie can be reached at jasmithers@sbcglobal.net for more information.

Lez Red Ann Arbor is a book group for lesbian women meeting every last Saturday of the month from 4 to 6 p.m. Books chosen for the often lively and provocative discussion revolve around lesbian topics and sometimes feature local authors. Meetings are free and open to the public. E-mail lezread@yahoo.com for questions

on the current book being covered.

Rainbow Book Club also features LGBT book readings, open to all ages, genders and orientations. The group, which reads both classic and contemporary literature with LGBTQ themes, meets on second Sundays from 4:30 to 6 p.m. For specific info on this inclusive JTCC group, visit JTCC's site or <http://sitemaker.umich.edu/queerbookclub>.

The most recently added group, Toastmaster's International SpeakOUT! Club, helps LGBTQ and allies learn how to communicate effectively. Focusing on building leadership skills and confidence in speaking, the group meets the second and fourth Thursday of every month from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

For more general reasons to visit JTCC, the first Monday of the month features their finance committee meeting, with board meetings on the last Monday, all running from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Every Monday features a drop-in night from 7 to 10 p.m.

To host a new group at the center, e-mail terrym@jimtoycenter.org.

The Jim Toy Community Center is located at 319 Braun Court in Ann Arbor. For more information on the center, call 734-995-9867 or visit www.jimtoycenter.org.

For other LGBT organizations in the area, check out BTL's Yellow Pages at www.pridesource.com/directory.html.

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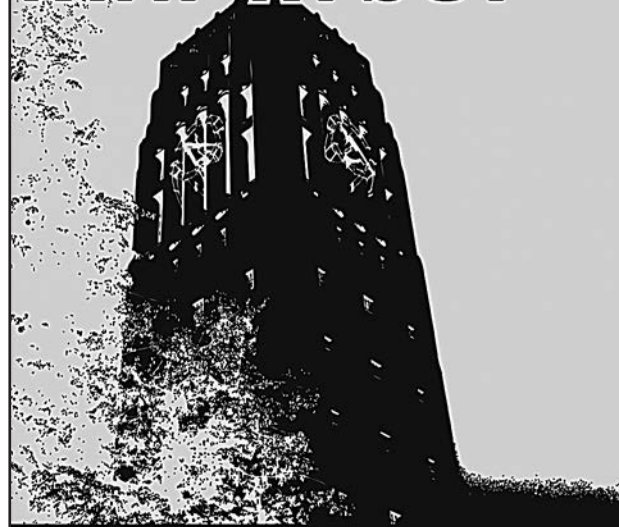
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SHOP LGBT

► Happenings

Continued from p. 30

Main St., Plymouth. Through March 2. 734-560-1493. [HYPERLINK "http://justgobarefoot.com"](http://justgobarefoot.com) justgobarefoot.com

Professional

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

Angels in America Part 1: Millennium Approaches \$10-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through March 10. 248-545-5545. theringwald.com

Candide \$10-15. Mosaic Acting Company at Mosaic Youth Theatre, Sidney Miller Campus of University Prep Science and Math Elementary, 2251 Antietam Ave., Detroit. Feb. 28 - March 2. 313-872-6910 ext. 40. mosaicdetroit.org

Collected Stories \$15-20. Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley, Detroit. Through March 16. 313-967-0999. matrixtheatre.org

ComedySportz Michigan Actors Studio, 648 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 877-636-3320. comedysportzdetroit.com

Driving Miss Daisy \$12-15. Great Escape Stage Company, 155 W. Michigan Ave., Marshall. Feb. 27 - March 9. 269-781-2700. greatescapestagecompany.com

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

Hormonal Imbalance...A Mood Swinging Musical Revue \$43-58. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. March 8. 586-286-2222. macombcenter.com

Improv Mondays \$5 at the door. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. 313-365-4948. planetant.com

Italian American Reconciliation \$16-18. The Box Theater, 90 Macomb Place, Mount Clemens. Through March 8. 586-954-2677. theboxtheater.com

Lysistrata Jones \$25-40. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. Through March 9. 248-377-3300. mbtheatre.com

Moon Over Buffalo \$12-30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through April 5. 313-577-2972. hilberry.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

My Dearest Friend \$8-12. GEM Theatrics at Dog Story Theater, 7 Jefferson SE, Grand Rapids. Feb. 28 - March 2. 616-425-9234. dogstorytheater.com

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

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

Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles \$30-70. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. March 8. 313-471-6611. raintribute.com

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

The Bob & Tom Comedy Show \$26. Wharton Center's Pasant Theatre, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. March 1. 800-WHARTON. whartoncenter.com

The Improvised Shakespeare Company \$20-25. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. March 1. 586-286-2222. macombcenter.com

The Sunshine Boys \$15-18. Broadway Onstage Live Theatre, 21517 Kelly Road, Eastpointe. Through March 22. 586-771-6333. broadwayonstage.com

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

Venus in Fur \$22-41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Feb. 27 - April 6. 734-663-0681. performancenetwork.org

Yes Weed Can \$10-20. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. March 7 - 29. 313-365-4948. planetant.com

ART 'N' AROUND

Cranbrook Art Museum "From the Archives: Forging Cranbrook's Gatescape" TCranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Dec. 1 - March 16. 877-462-7262. cranbrookart.edu

Detroit Artists Market (DAM) "Annual Scholarship Awards & Exhibition". Cranbrook Academy of Art, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Feb. 28 - April 5. 877-462-7262. detroitartistsmarket.org

Detroit Institute of Arts "Foto Europa, 1850 to the Present" Europe was the birthplace of photography in 1839 and has remained a center for progressive ideas about and experimentation with the medium ever since. The more than

seventy photographs in this exhibition highlight the contributions of major European artists and photographers from across the continent. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Oct. 25 - April 27. 313-833-7900. dia.org

Downriver Council for the Arts "Adult Watercolor Class" Facilitated by Shirley Ciungan. Drop-In. Open to beginners to advanced. Students bring own supplies. List available at first class or in DCA office. Admission: \$10. Downriver Council for the Arts, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. Aug. 7 - June 25. 734-720-0671. downriverarts.org

Flint Institute of Arts "Point of View: Contemporary African American Art from the Elliot & Kimberly Perry Collection" 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Jan. 26 - April 13. 810-234-1695. flintarts.org

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

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". Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Feb. 7 - May 4. 313-832-6622. mocadetroit.org

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

Riverside Arts Center "Mosaic Evolution" Both 2D and 3D creations. Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. March 6 - March 29. 734-483-7345. riversidearts.org

Royal Oak Farmer's Market "Artist Market". 316 E. 11 Mile Road, Royal Oak. Feb. 28 - March 1. 248-246-3276. ci.royal-oak.mi.us

The N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art "Do The Yale Thing: An Exhibition of Exceptional Artwork by Recent Yale MFA Graduates". The N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, 52 E. Forest Ave., Detroit. Jan. 24 - May 21. 313-831-8700. nnamdicenter.org

The Scarab Club "Bill Rauhauser: The Three Iron Rules of Street Photography". The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. Feb. 19 - March 29. 313-831-1250. scarabclub.org

UMMA "Fragments from the Past: Islamic Art from the Collection of the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology". University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Nov. 30 - April 13. 734-763-4186. umma.umich.edu

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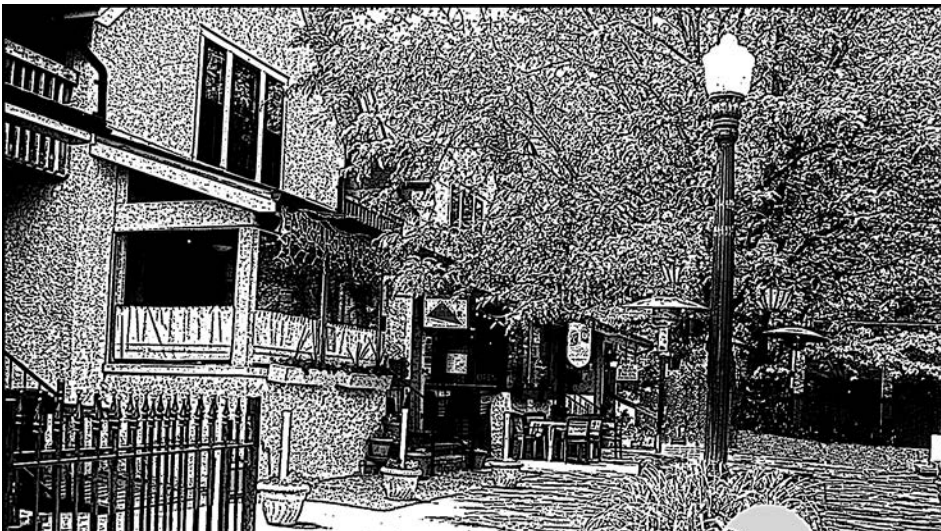


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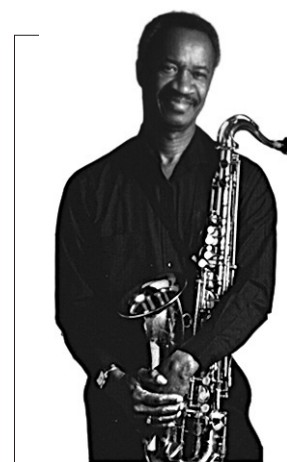
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Editor's Pick

Kerrytown Concert House hosts George Benson and the Speakeasy Quartet this weekend in Ann Arbor. The quartet is considered one of Canada's top jazz combos, featuring Benson on saxophone, Mike Karloff on piano, Dan Pliskow on bass and Ray Manzerolle on saxophone.

The evening will celebrate Benson's 85th birthday and feature a variety of classic jazz pieces. The early music of Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong and more can be heard in the predominantly 1920s and '30s sounds of the night.

George Benson and the Speakeasy Quartet will play at 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 2 at Kerrytown Concert House. Kerrytown Concert House is at 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Tickets range from \$5-30. For more information, call 734-763-4186 or visit www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com.



- | | | | |
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| Arbor West Dental.....* | HIV/AIDS Resource Center (Harc).....* | Peterson, PLLC, Lisa J.....14 | Two Men And A Truck.....* |
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- * Not shown on map

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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

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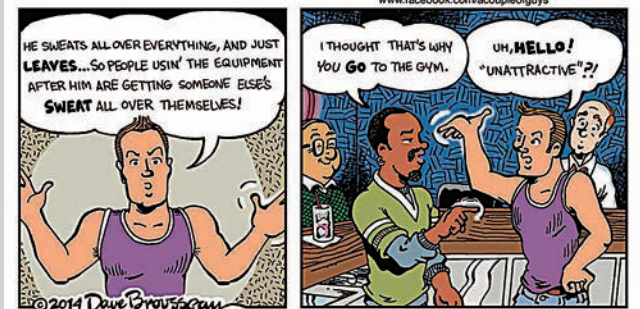
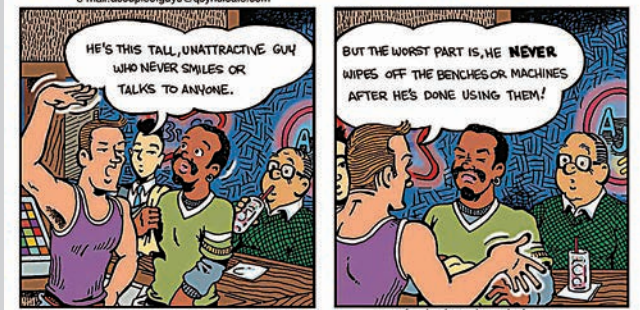
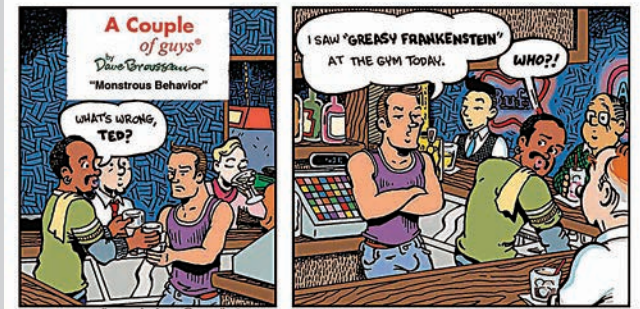
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Solution to puzzle from page 38

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

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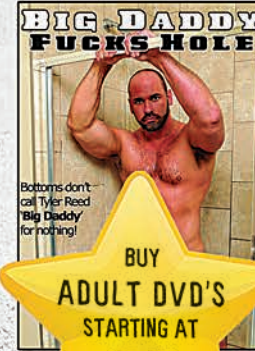
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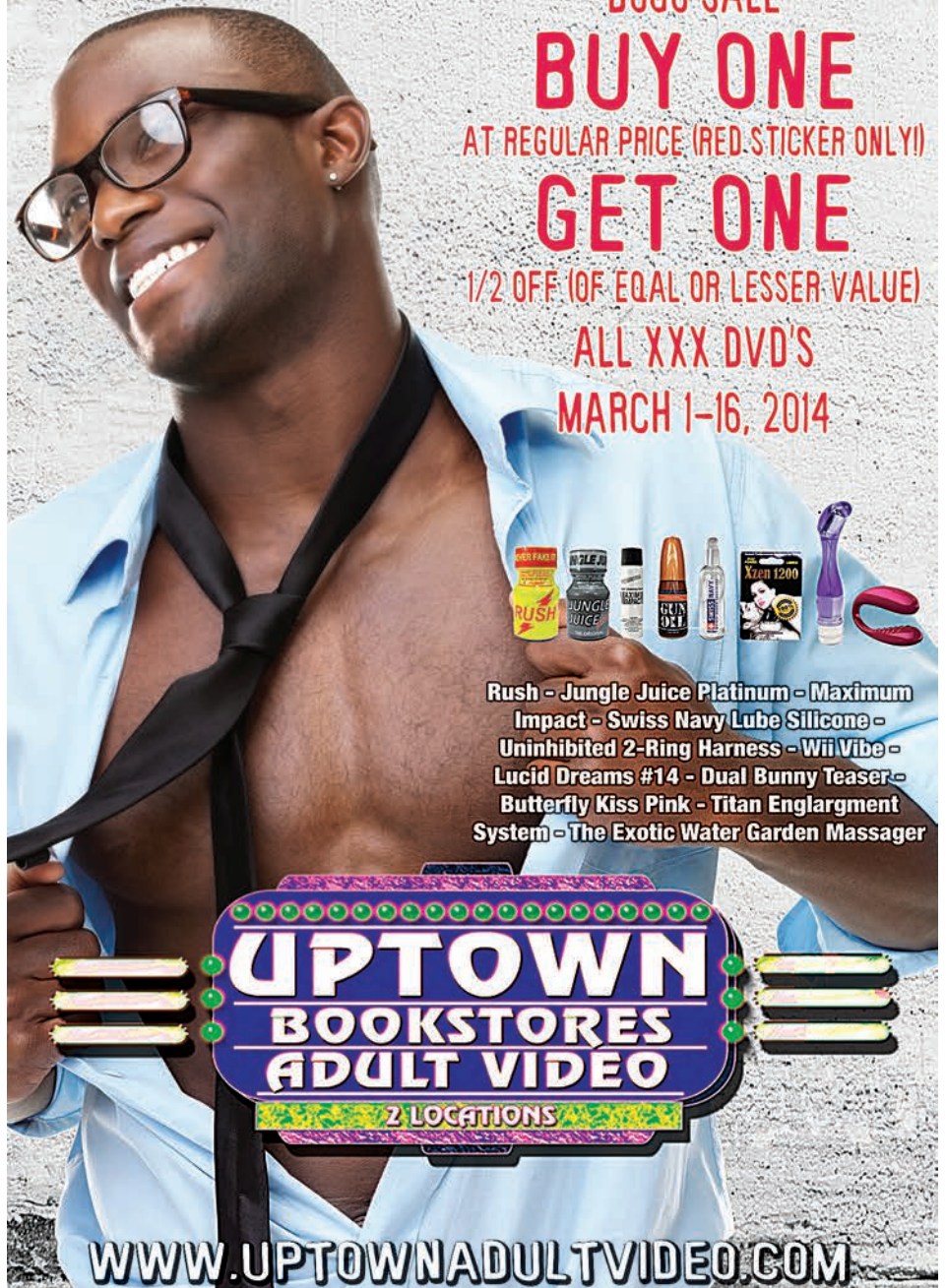
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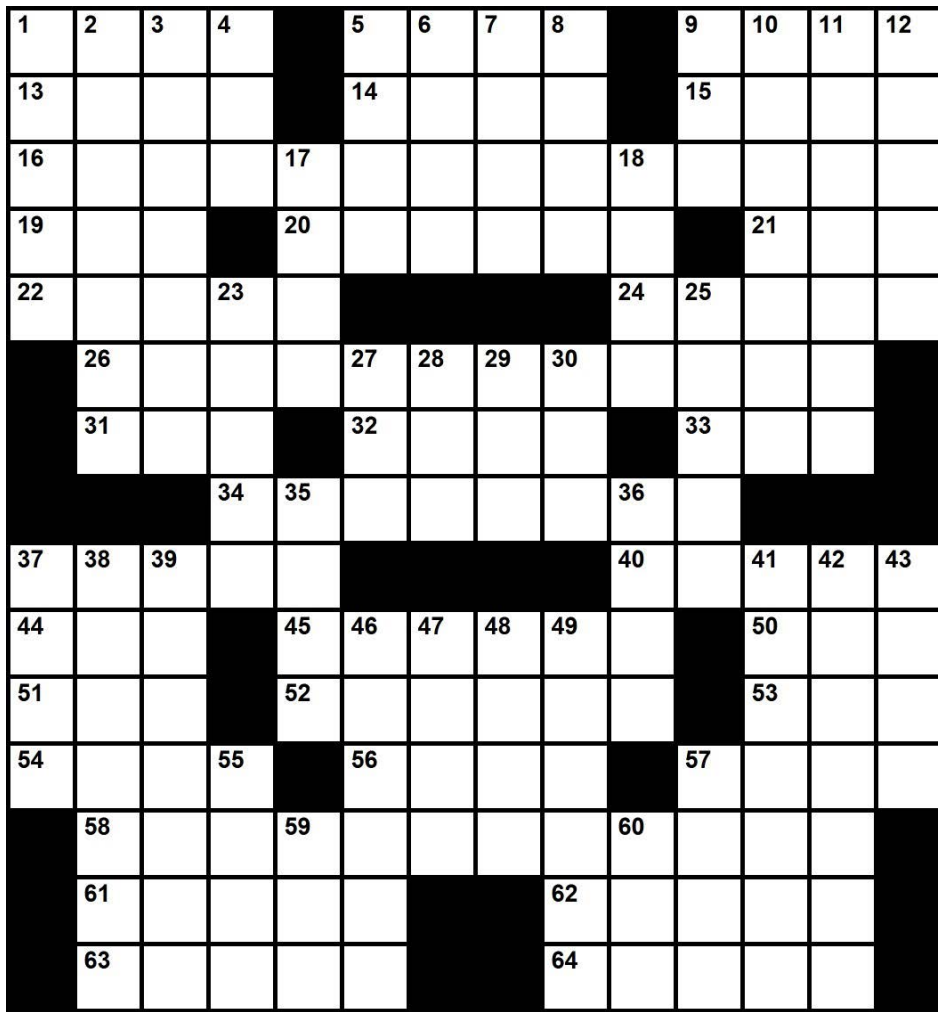
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- 14 He took on a pair of bears
- 15 Golden Rule word
- 16 Start of a question from Leno's "Jaywalking"
- 19 Comics outburst
- 20 Where Priscilla is queen
- 21 Vintage vehicle
- 22 Hard to penetrate
- 24 Disney's middle name
- 26 More of the question
- 31 JFK info
- 32 Sissy
- 33 Son of Aga Khan
- 34 McKellen movie "Gods and ____"
- 37 Hannah of "Steel Magnolias"
- 40 Wishful words
- 44 Didn't fast
- 45 End of the question
- 50 Way out
- 51 Anais the diarist
- 52 Amy chaser Ben

- 53 Ziegfeld, familiarly
- 54 Hollywood canine
- 56 You might see a polar bear there
- 57 Feels poorly
- 58 Answer to the question
- 61 Too-too
- 62 Navratilova's winter home
- 63 Op-ed offering
- 64 Out

Down

- 1 Story of Greeks that busted some Trojans
- 2 Give up
- 3 Present adornment
- 4 Dashboard inits.
- 5 " ____ Upon a Mattress"
- 6 Package appreciation cries
- 7 How quickly one comes
- 8 Restaurateur Toots
- 9 Woman who doesn't date men
- 10 Facing peers
- 11 Like some dirty windshields
- 12 Toys that do tricks
- 17 Fateful day
- 18 Lone Star coll.
- 23 In bad shape
- 25 Rover's restraint

- 27 "A League of Their ____"
- 28 Monnier's pair, on Lesbos
- 29 Hrs. in P-town and Key West there
- 30 NNW's opposite
- 35 Bard Broumas
- 36 Ilsa's love
- 37 TV role for Gillian
- 38 Up for debate
- 39 Video store transactions
- 41 Workplaces
- 42 Umpire Dave
- 43 Boy who shoots off arrows
- 46 Big fight
- 47 Scat queen
- 48 Province of Spain
- 49 Top of the world
- 55 Hill builders
- 57 Snakes in the grass
- 59 Title for a brother
- 60 Life-beach connection

Solution on pg. 36

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