

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

# BTL

20 Years

## Between THE Lines™

### Detroit Police Announce First LGBT Liaison

### Brown Says Schuette Told Clerks To Defy Court

“If I have a short haircut and that makes me gay or straight or whatever to someone else, I don't care.”

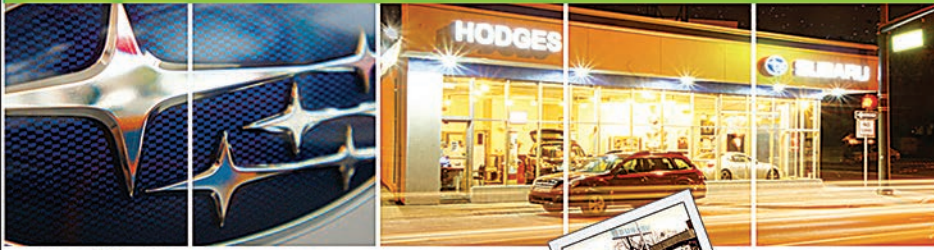
-Jennifer Nettles, pg. 16



# GAME ON

## Michigan Marriage Trial Heats Up

THE SUBARU  
**LOVE SPRING EVENT**



at *Hodges*...

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

2014 SUBARU  
**OUTBACK**  
2.5i PREMIUM



**SUBARU.**

**HODGES  
SUBARU**  
Metro Detroit's "Subaru-Only Dealer"

23100 Woodward Ave • Ferndale • MI • 48220  
248.547.8800 • www.hodgessubaru.com  
HOURS: OPEN SATURDAYS 10-3 AND  
EXTENDED HOURS TILL 9PM MONDAYS & THURSDAYS

WELLSPRING  
CORI TERRY & DANCERS  
PRESENTS

MIDWEST REGIONAL ALTERNATIVE DANCE FESTIVAL

midwest regional  
**alternative dance**  
festival  
5<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



**march 13-16 2014**

PERFORMANCES: FRIDAY & SATURDAY 7:30 PM & 9 PM | SUNDAY 3 PM

SHOW LINE-UP, TICKETS & MASTER CLASS INFORMATION  
WWW.MIDWESTRADFEST.ORG • 269.342.4354



**Point of View**  
Contemporary African American Art from  
the Elliot & Kimberly Perry Collection

Sponsored by  
community foundation  
Greater Flint

**1.26.14 – 4.13.14**

**FLINT INSTITUTE OF ARTS**

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

**FREE SATURDAYS**  
FIRSTMÉRIT Bank

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



**GENEVA BALLET**  
BALLET DU GRAND THEATRE DE GENEVE

The Detroit Opera House is proud to present one of the most ORIGINAL and INVENTIVE dance companies in Europe... directed by Philippe Cohen.

EXQUISITE DANCERS!  
EXCITING ARTISTIC COLLABORATIONS!

Featuring:  
"Glory", choreographed by Andonis Foniadakis, featuring 22 dancers performing to magnificent Handel choral and Instrumental works -and-  
"Sed Lux", choreographed by Ken Ossala, whose hypnotic quality and sculpted shadow play enhance the delicate nature of bodies wreathed by the sensitive, ethereal sweetness of Faure's Requiem.

DETROIT  
**OPERA HOUSE**  
Home of Michigan Opera Theatre

Friday, March 21, at 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday, March 22, at 7:30 p.m.

FREE DANCE TALK  
one hour prior to performance.

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



This activity is supported by the MICHIGAN COUNCIL FOR ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS and the NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS.

## COVER STORY

4 Michigan marriage equality trial begins second week

BTL photo: Andrew Potter



“ I was raised to believe people are people and we should all be treated the same. **Anything that deviates from that feels unjust and patently un-right.** ”

—Angela Gabridge, pg. 14

## NEWS

- 5 Marriage supporters, protestors brave cold at courthouse
- 5 Brown says Schuette instructed clerks to defy court
- 6 Federal judge in Texas strikes down marriage ban
- 7 Outside Michigan: federal marriage case decisions in the circuit court of appeals
- 11 Detroit police announce LGBT liaison
- 14 Meet Affirmations development director Angela Gabridge

## OPINION

- 9 Viewpoint
- 10 Parting Glances
- 12 Creep of the Week

## LIFE

- 16 Straight talk with Jennifer Nettles
- 18 The OutField
- 21 Cool Cities: Ferndale
- 23 'Daisy' takes slow drive through 25 years
- 22 Happenings
- 28 Classifieds
- 29 Deep Inside Hollywood
- 30 Puzzle

## Join The Conversation @ PrideSource.com

### ONLINE EXTRA



### DeBoer V. Snyder Trial Coverage Continued Through The Week Online At Pridesource.com

Don't miss a thing! Get updates on the DeBoer V. Snyder trial results – as well as in-depth analysis of the outcome – online at Pridesource.com

### HEARD ON FACEBOOK



### Join The Conversation With Between The Lines, 24/7

Join over 5,000 others and tap into national news, breaking stories and riveting discussion on the “Between The Lines Newspaper” Facebook!

### ENTER TO WIN



### Win Tickets To The Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo

Enter online to win a pair of tickets to BTL's Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo, April 12 at the Southfield Civic Pavilion. Enter at [www.pridesource.com/tickets\\_contest.html](http://www.pridesource.com/tickets_contest.html)

VOL. 2210 • MARCH 6, 2014 • ISSUE 854

### PRIDE SOURCE MEDIA GROUP

20222 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48152  
Phone 734.293.7200

### PUBLISHERS

Susan Horowitz & Jan Stevenson

### MEMBER OF

Michigan Press Association  
National Gay Media Association  
Q Syndicate



Copyright 2014 Pride Source Media Group, LLC

### EDITORIAL

#### Editor in Chief

Susan Horowitz, 734.293.7200 x 12  
[susanhorowitz@pridesource.com](mailto:susanhorowitz@pridesource.com)

#### Entertainment Editor

Chris Azzopardi, 734.293.7200 x 24  
[chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com](mailto:chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com)

#### Associate Editor

Benjamin Jenkins, 734.293.7200 x 14  
[ben@pridesource.com](mailto:ben@pridesource.com)

#### News Staff Writer

Crystal Proxmire

#### Arts & Theater Editor

Donald V. Calamia, [curtaincalls@pridesource.com](mailto:curtaincalls@pridesource.com)

#### Calendar Editor

Shelby Clark, [shelby@pridesource.com](mailto:shelby@pridesource.com)

### CREATIVE

#### Art Director

Benjamin Jenkins, [ben@pridesource.com](mailto:ben@pridesource.com)

#### Webmaster & MIS Director

Kevin Bryant, [kevinbryant@pridesource.com](mailto:kevinbryant@pridesource.com)

#### Contributing Writers

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

#### Cartoonists

Paul Berg, Dave Brousseau

#### Contributing Photographers

Andrew Potter

### ADVERTISING & SALES

#### Director of Sales

Jan Stevenson, 734.293.7200 x 22  
[jan@pridesource.com](mailto:jan@pridesource.com)

#### Sales Representatives

Ed Bohach, 734.293.7200 x 15  
[ed@pridesource.com](mailto:ed@pridesource.com)

Ann Cox, 734.293.7200 x 13  
[anncox@pridesource.com](mailto:anncox@pridesource.com)

#### National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

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

### ONLINE AT



“Between The Lines Newspaper”



Follow us @YourBTL



Email your op-eds to  
[editor@pridesource.com](mailto:editor@pridesource.com)



Sign up online to receive our E-Digest

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

Live in Your Core Value NOW

Navigate your Life's Journey to Wellness

Create & Establish Healthy Boundaries

Consider Compassion

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

**BTL**  
**Between THE Lines™**

Please patronize our advertisers  
and let them know you  
appreciate their support for the  
LGBT community!

**Tax Time?**



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

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



**KUDERIK**  
AND ASSOCIATES

Kuderik and Associates PLLC  
Certified Public Accountants

32121 Woodward Ave Suite 202  
Royal Oak MI 48073

www.kuderikcpa.com




Jayne Rowse, right, gets a hug from a flag-wielding Linda Lombardini outside the federal courthouse in downtown Detroit. The plaintiffs Rowse and Alice DeBoer appeared at a press conference before court Mar. 3 at which Lombardini and other organizers of the Equality Cabaret presented a \$17,500 check towards their legal fees. BTL photo: Andrew Potter

# Michigan Marriage Equality Trial Begins Second Week

## State Witness Tossed, Discredited Regnerus Takes Stand

BY SUSAN HOROWITZ AND JAN STEVENSON

**DETROIT** – Opening week in the courtroom for the DeBoer v Snyder trial was one of cautious optimism for those rooting for the Plaintiffs April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse. On Friday, expert witnesses presented by the Plaintiffs concluded a week of brilliant testimony that clearly demonstrated the state could show no rational basis for continuing to discriminate against same sex couples seeking to marry and jointly adopt children.

### Day One - Opening Statements

The courtroom was packed to overflow to hear opening statements and initial testimony in the DeBoer v. Snyder federal court case Feb. 25. Judge Bernard Friedman, dozens of lawyers and law clerks and stenographers began the trial to decide two legal issues; whether LGBT people should be

permitted to jointly adopt, and whether marriage equality should be permitted in Michigan.

“We would like this to be the last trial in America where same-sex parents have to defend that they are good parents,” said Carole Stanyar, an attorney for the plaintiffs, April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse.

“Marriage is now an equal, gender neutral partnership,” said Stanyar, arguing that marriage has been evolving for centuries. She reminded the court that women were once considered property of their husbands, slaves were not permitted to marry and inter-racial marriage was banned in some states until the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Loving v. Virginia* in 1967.

Battle lines were drawn quickly. Plaintiffs lawyers argued that a huge body of distinguished social science evidence exists, collected over more than 30 years of rigorous study clearly demonstrating no difference in child outcomes for children raised by same sex couples, proving time and again

it is not the gender of the parents that matter. It is the stability of the family structure that matters most – and not the sexuality of the parents.

The state attorneys quickly tried to inject fear and doubt, arguing that the body of evidence on same-sex marriage is too new to draw conclusions, traditional marriage is the only standard that should be supported by the state for the sake of the children, and the court should not overrule the constitutional antigay-marriage ban in Michigan that voters approved ten years ago.

“Jayne and I made the decision to file this lawsuit because we wanted to better protect our family. We already feel married in our hearts, but we want to be married before the eyes of the law,” said plaintiff April DeBoer. “We want to have the security that other Michigan families have.”

There were many LGBT families in the courtroom for opening statements, anxiously waiting to learn the fate of their family's legal status. Some came

as couples, some brought their children, others where there alone.

“If the state’s true interest in upholding the Michigan gay marriage ban is the ‘optimal family environment for children,’ perhaps the state should spend its time and our tax money on banning divorces and eradicating poverty, rather than attempting to prevent amazing, hardworking people like April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse from adopting special needs children from Michigan’s overcrowded foster care system,” said Amanda Shelton, a Royal Oak attorney who is raising her two children with her longtime female partner.

As testimony began, attorney’s sparred over the credibility and validity of each side’s studies and their authors.

## Plaintiffs’ Witnesses

The plaintiffs presented an impressive array of distinguished, highly qualified witnesses from the fields of law, social science, demography and history - all of whom testified that being raised by same-sex parents is no disadvantage for children when measured by health, education, child development and other outcomes.

The first witness, Dr. David Brodzinsky, a renowned researcher affiliated with the Donaldson Adoption Institute internationally recognized for his research on family and child wellness issues. “There is no discernable difference,” said Brodzinsky. “To a study, it is not the family structure, but the family process and resources that help the children.”

On cross examination, the state’s attorney tried to discredit Brodzinsky and his research, arguing that sample sizes were too small and same-sex parenting too new a phenomenon. Brodzinsky effectively dashed both objections. Extensive evidence on social science methodology was read into the record, all of which supports the strong body of scientific study on parenting, family structure and stability, and child outcomes presented by the plaintiffs.

Brodzinsky was questioned about one of the witnesses for the state, Mark Regnerus, a professor of sociology at the University of Texas in Austin. Regnerus conducted a study of 3,000 young adults that looked at 40 measures of social, emotional and relationship outcomes in their lives. He found that adults raised by lesbian mothers had negative outcomes in 24 of 40 categories, while adults raised by gay fathers had negative outcomes in 19 categories, the Washington Times reported when the study was published in 2012.

Brodzinsky said that Regnerus’ work is “fatally flawed and not credible”, and in fact his research has been rejected by every professional peer review it has undergone. Brodzinsky said the study has even been disavowed by the journal that published it – a highly unusual rebuke in the field of social science.

“It’s extraordinarily rare – I’ve never seen it before – where a journal orders an audit of a study, and then publishes a statement that the work should not have been published,” said Brodzinsky. Critics point out that Regnerus’ study only looked at the sexuality of the parents, not family stability.

The state also argued that providing children with biologically connected role models of both genders is necessary. Brodzinsky countered, stating, “The vast majority of non-biological children are raised by heterosexuals.”

“There is absolutely a scholarly consensus,” said

See Equality Trial, page 13



Both pro-marriage equality and anti-marriage protestors mingled peacefully outside the federal courthouse Mar. 3. A large anti-marriage rally had been announced by a group of Detroit-based pastors but failed to materialize. BTL photo: Andrew Potter

# Marriage Supporters, Protestors Brave Cold At Courthouse

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

**DETROIT** - News spread quickly Mar. 2 that over 100 Detroit-based pastors would be convening at the federal courthouse Mar. 3 to protest marriage equality. Rumors put expected turnout as high as 600. The Detroit Police stood ready with extra officers in the area and an elevated observation platform. The media turned out in force. And about 50 pro-equality folks with rainbow-decorated signs and flags bundled up in bitter cold temperatures ready to counter the crowds.

They came to support April DeBoer and Jane Rowse, a Hazel Park couple that is suing the state for the right to marry and to jointly adopt their children.

But the crowds of ministers did not come in the morning as expected, only the die-hard Ypsilanti-based “traditional marriage” supporters who were there every day with professionally-made signs and coordinated

shifts of pacing in front of the building. They blended peacefully with the pro-equality supporters, in a moving circle with clusters from each side, alternating with each other. For about an hour they walked – long enough to be seen by the entering attorneys and observers and the media. Then the cold sent most everyone away.

The lack of ministry presence provided a more peaceful than expected backdrop for the 8:45 a.m. press conference where Sandy Smith of the Jim Toy Center presented the couple with a \$17,500 check towards their legal fees. Most of the money was raised during the Equality Cabaret last week at The Ark in Ann Arbor.

“This is from the Jim Toy center in Ann Arbor. We raised over \$17,000 dollars for you guys. It’s just a start, a drop in the bucket. It takes a lot to do this and we all are standing with you,” Smith said.

DeBoer and Rowse spoke with visible

breath in the harsh cold air, talking to reporters before going in to hear the state present their first witnesses.

“We are excited. Our attorneys have done a great job building the case. And we’re just excited waiting to hear the verdict and what the judge has to say,” DeBoer said. “We love the supporters, that’s fantastic. We’re glad they’re out here and we’re sorry that it’s so cold. It’s devotion, you know. We all stand by each other. They’re not standing behind us, they’re standing with us.”

When asked if she was nervous, Rowse answered, “I think the nerves ended about two years ago.”

Once the parties were inside, and the morning’s protestors and supporters had dispersed, about 30 Detroit ministers joined about 20 of the “traditional marriage” supporters and circled the

See Equality Rally, page 12

## Brown Says Schuette Instructed Clerks To Defy Court

**DETROIT** - Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette sent all 83 county clerks a memo Oct. 16 instructing them to refuse to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples even if a federal judge declared the state’s ban on same-sex couples marrying to be unconstitutional. That was the testimony by Oakland County Clerk Lisa Brown Mar. 4, who is a defendant in DeBoer v. Snyder. She said a second page of the memo eventually explained that the state would ask for a stay of such a court decision.

“But I think especially if you don’t look at the attachment and you just read just the body of the email, you know,” said Brown, “you open your email and that’s the part that comes up that says that same sex marriage licenses should not be issued basically - regardless of, you know, what the judge says.”

Brown said she did not report to the governor or the attorney general. “I’m an elected county person, and the people that I answer to would be the 1.2 million

people of Oakland County.” When asked if a final order of the federal court strikes down the Michigan constitutional ban as unconstitutional and she receives conflicting instructions from AG Schuette which would she follow, she said, “Well, my job is it follow what the judge says, not what the AG says.”

Brown has been a vocal supporter of marriage equality and was identified as an “adverse” witness by the state’s attorney.

# Federal Judge In Texas Strikes Down Marriage Ban

BY LISA KEEN

A federal judge in San Antonio, ruled Feb. 26 that Texas' ban on same-sex marriage violates the U.S. Constitution and demeans the dignity of gay couples "for no legitimate reason." Judge Orlando Garcia then granted two plaintiff couples' request for an injunction barring the state from enforcing the ban. But, like federal district court judges in Virginia and Utah, Garcia stayed his ruling pending appeal of the case to the federal appeals level.

The Garcia ruling was in *DeLeon v. Texas*, in which two same-sex couples challenged the state's statutory ban and its state constitutional ban on marriages for same-sex couples. One couple had married in Massachusetts and sought recognition in Texas; the second couple sought to marry in Texas.

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott announced immediately that his office would appeal the decision to the Fifth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals. He expressed optimism that the bans would prevail on appeal.

"The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled over and over again that States have the authority to define and regulate marriage,"

said Abbott. "The Texas Constitution defines marriage as between one man and one woman. If the Fifth Circuit honors those precedents, then today's decision should be overturned and the Texas Constitution will

**A federal judge in San Antonio, Texas, ruled Feb. 26 that Texas' ban on same-sex marriage violates the U.S. Constitution and demeans the dignity of gay couples "for no legitimate reason."**

be upheld."

Texas Republican Governor Rick Perry was more defiant, saying, "it is not the role of the federal government to overturn the will of our citizens.

"The 10th Amendment guarantees Texas voters the freedom to make these decisions," said Perry, "and this is yet another attempt to achieve via the courts what couldn't be achieved at the ballot box. We will continue to fight for the rights of Texans to self-determine the laws of our state."

Supporters of marriage equality were, naturally, happy.

"This ruling is one more step toward the

inevitable end of official discrimination by the state of Texas," said Rebecca Robertson, legal director for ACLU-Texas. "Gay and lesbian couples want the same thing as other loving couples – to stand before

family and friends and declare their lifetime commitment to each other, and to enjoy the same recognition and protection for their families that only marriage can bring. We applaud the judge's preliminary ruling, but we also recognize that there is a great deal of hard work to do to bring full equality to every Texan."

Judge Garcia and at least five other federal judges to rule on state bans of marriage for same-sex couples in the past eight months have all cited the *U.S. v. Windsor* decision by the U.S. Supreme Court. In that decision, the nation's highest court said the federal government cannot refuse to recognize a

valid marriage license from a state. Garcia noted that lower courts must apply that ruling "and decide whether a state can do what the federal government cannot discriminate against same-sex couples."

As if anticipating Perry's reaction, Judge Garcia said, in the conclusion of his decision, that "Today's Court decision is not made in defiance of the great people of Texas or the Texas Legislature, but in compliance with the United State Constitution and Supreme Court precedent.

"Without a rational relation to a legitimate governmental purpose, state-imposed inequality can find no refuge in our United States Constitution. Furthermore, Supreme Court precedent prohibits states from passing legislation born out of animosity against homosexuals (*Romer*), has extended constitutional protection to the moral and sexual choices of homosexuals (*Lawrence*), and prohibits the federal government from treating state-sanctioned opposite-sex marriages and same-sex marriages differently (*Windsor*)."

Garcia ruled that the Texas bans violate the guarantees of due process and equal protection of the U.S. Constitution.

# Arizona Governor Brewer Vetoes Religious Bias Bill

BY LISA KEEN

Republican Arizona Governor Jan Brewer has vetoed the religious bias bill.

Nearly all political pundits were predicting she would veto the bill allowing people to discriminate based on self-claimed religious beliefs. On Feb 26., former Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney joined the chorus of prominent Republicans who said she should.

Brewer vetoed a similar bill last year but that was part of an overall threat to veto every bill until the legislature passed a budget.

Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin said Brewer's veto "spared her state from institutional discrimination and economic catastrophe."

The state is already paying a price for its legislature's willingness to back the religious bias bill. The Hispanic National Bar Association's board voted unanimously to pull its 2015 convention from the state – a conference of more than 2,000 lawyers. The National Football League had warned it might pull the 2015 Superbowl.

At a press conference late Feb. 26, Brewer said she spoke with lawmakers and citizens on both sides of the issue but she said

**Republican Arizona Governor Jan Brewer has vetoed the religious bias bill. Nearly all political pundits were predicting she would veto the bill allowing people to discriminate based on self-claimed religious beliefs. On Feb. 26, former Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney joined the chorus of prominent Republicans who said she should.**

little to suggest that she disagreed with the legislation – only that the issue had not been a priority for her.

"When I addressed the legislature earlier this year, I made my priorities for this session abundantly clear....Among them are passing a responsible budget that continues Arizona's economic comeback." She said she also wanted legislation to fix Arizona's "broken child protection system."

"Instead, this is the first policy bill to cross

my desk," said Brewer.

"Senate Bill 1062 does not address a specific and present concern related to

religious liberty in Arizona. I have not heard of one example in Arizona where a business owner's religious liberty has been violated. The bill is broadly worded and could result in unintended and negative consequences."

She reassured supporters of the bill that she understands that "long-held norms about marriage and family are being challenged as never before."

"Our society is undergoing many dramatic changes. However, I sincerely believe that

Senate Bill 1062 has the potential to create more problems than it purports to solve," said Brewer. "It could divide Arizona in ways we cannot even imagine and no one would ever want. Religious liberty is a core American and Arizona value, so is non-discrimination.

"Going forward," said Brewer, "let's turn the ugliness of the debate over Senate Bill 1062 into a renewed search for greater respect and understanding among ALL Arizonans and Americans."

In a letter to the president of the Arizona Senate, Brewer said the concerns that motivated the sponsors of the religious bias bill were "not unfounded." Without explaining, she cited "actions taken by the Obama Administration" and "some federal and out-of-state courts" for making her "increasingly concerned about government's encroachment upon religious freedoms." She also noted that some legislators that supported the bill's passage "now do not want this legislation to become law."

A Mississippi House committee was scheduled to take up a similar bill there Feb. 27 morning. The state senate has already passed the bill.

# Outside Michigan: Federal Marriage Case Decisions In The Circuit Court Of Appeals

RESEARCHED BY JAY KAPLAN,  
ATTORNEY ACLU, MICHIGAN

**1 The recent decision in Texas:** Judge Orlando Garcia held that Texas' prohibition on same-sex marriage violates equal protection and due process guaranteed under the constitution. He finds the rationale for denying the fundamental right to marry unpersuasive and that it demeans the dignity of same-sex couples for no legitimate reason. He granted a preliminary injunction enjoining the State from enforcing the ban, but also issued a stay on his decision pending an appeal. The State of Texas announced that it would immediately appeal to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals.

**2 Kentucky:** Federal district court Judge John Heyburn concludes that Kentucky's laws denying recognition of valid marriages between same-sex couples in other jurisdictions violates equal protection. Judge may later rule on the issue of the right to marry in Kentucky. Attorney General Jack Conway of Kentucky said Mar. 4 that he won't appeal the order.

**3 Virginia:** U.S. District Judge Arenda Wright struck down Virginia's marriage ban as denying gay and lesbian citizens the fundamental right to choose who to marry. The government interests of perpetuating traditions, shielding state matters from federal interference, and favoring one model of parenting over others "must yield to this country's

cherished protections that ensure the exercise of private choices of the individual citizen regarding love and family." Decision was stayed pending an appeal which will be before the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals.

**4 Oklahoma:** U.S. District Judge Terence Kern struck down Oklahoma's ban as violating equal protection, stating that even if a majority decided to deny the same right to same-sex couples, "equal protection is not a scarce commodity to be meted out begrudgingly or in short portions. Therefore, the majority view in Oklahoma must give way to individual constitutional rights." Decision stayed, pending an appeal in the 10th Circuit.

**5 Utah:** U.S. District Judge Robert Shelby ruled the State's denial of the right to marry denies same-sex couples their rights to due process and equal protection. He did not issue a stay and during an almost three week period, same-sex couples were married in Utah. A 10th Circuit Court of Appeals panel refused to grant a stay and the matter was appealed to the United States Supreme Court, where a majority granted a stay. Utah's governor and Attorney General indicated that the State would not recognize those marriages granted during this window period (although the federal government would) and the

ACLU has sued in federal court for recognition of those marriages granted before the stay.

**6 Ohio:** a narrower ruling by Judge Timothy Black ordered the State of Ohio to recognize valid out of state marriages between same-sex couples on Ohio death certificates. Ohio's refusal to do so because of its laws prohibiting same-sex couples to marry and to have their out of state marriages recognized violate equal protection. State has appealed matter to the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals.

## Follow Cases Online

For comprehensive information on the many different marriage cases see Equality on Trial at <http://equalityontrial.com>

ACLU

A PLAN FOR EQUALITY

OUT ★ FOR FREEDOM

Q: SO NOW THAT EDIE AND THE ACLU HAVE BEATEN DOMA, WHAT'S NEXT FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY?



A: ACROSS THE COUNTRY, THE ACLU IS ORGANIZING TO WIN FAIR MARRIAGE LAWS AND RELEGATE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST LGBT COUPLES TO THE DUSTBIN OF HISTORY. WITH OUR SUPPORTERS, WE STAND FOR EQUALITY. TOGETHER, WE CAN MOVE OUR STATE INTO THE FUTURE.

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY



JOIN AT [WWW.ACLUMICH.ORG](http://WWW.ACLUMICH.ORG)

## Peers Distance Themselves As Regnerus Takes The Stand

“Dr. Regnerus’ opinions are his own. They do not reflect the views of the university. Like all faculty, he has the right to pursue his areas of research and express his point of view. We encourage the community of scholars and society as a whole to evaluate his claims.”

—Statement issued Mar. 4 from The University of Texas at Austin and the College of Liberal Arts

“Dr. Regnerus’ opinions are his own. They do not reflect the views of the Sociology Department of The University of Texas at Austin. Nor do they reflect the views of the American Sociological Association, which takes the position that the conclusions he draws from his study of gay parenting are fundamentally flawed on conceptual and methodological grounds and that findings from Dr. Regnerus’ work have been cited inappropriately in efforts to diminish the civil rights and legitimacy of LGBTQ partners and their families.”

—Christine L. Williams, Chair of the Dept. Of Sociology, University of Texas

“It’s bullshit! ... Reviewers uniformly downplayed or ignored the fact that the study did not examine children of identifiably gay and lesbian parents, and none of the reviewers noticed that the marketing-research data were inappropriate for a top-tier social-scientific journal.”

—Dr. Darren E. Sherkat, a professor of sociology at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Dr. Sherkat, a member of the editorial board of Social Science Research, was assigned the task of auditing the publication’s peer review process.

“If gay marriage is perceived as legitimate by heterosexual women, it will eventually embolden boyfriends everywhere, and not a few husbands, to press for what men have always historically wanted but were rarely allowed: sexual novelty in the form of permission to stray without jeopardizing their primary relationship.”

—Dr. Mark Regnerus, Feb. 20

## Marriage Has Already Won, Laws To Play Catch Up



Viewpoint

BY JANE BASSETT

Since last summer when Windsor was decided by the United States Supreme Court, it seems that we have seen one court decision or executive policy change per week that overturns a marriage ban or moves federal policy closer to full recognition of marriages. This is an incredible time that we live in.

The case brought by Jayne and April in Michigan (DeBoer v Snyder) is different from the cases we have seen around the country in two different respects. First, it started off as a challenge to Michigan’s barriers to second parent adoption, and evolved to include marriage. Second, it has resulted in a full trial rather than a decision based on written expert reports and affidavits. Those of us who have been sitting in the courtroom listening to the attorneys’ arguments, plaintiffs’ expert testimony, the objections of the assistant attorney generals, and the rulings of Judge Friedman have had a lot to digest. It sometimes feels more like watching a ping-pong game than a process that will conclude with a decision that directly and profoundly affects individuals and families.

In speaking with others who are sharing this experience, many who have been around to see so much of the history of the LGBT community bounce between: “Yes, it is about time!” and a resigned, “Do you think the Judge might let the ban stand?” The younger people more often express disbelief that we even have to have a trial, because the whole thing is a no-brainer. The judge is cautious not to tip his hand, and has taken many of the issues raised by either side “under advisement,” delaying a decision until the testimony is all laid out. He is a veteran judge, and knows full the importance of allowing each side their full opportunity to make a record that, without doubt, will be headed to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. Having been in front of a variety of judges in my career, many whom could not be bothered with niceties, I am grateful for his approach.

The atmosphere at the courthouse and in the streets has been cordial. Judge Friedman has been welcoming to all the onlookers, has taken time

to give courthouse history during lulls in the testimony and explain procedure for those who are visitors. He is always gracious, yet there is a subtle change to his tone of voice when he needs to be authoritative with the participants. The security at the courthouse is thorough, although respectful to all of the people. Even the protestors outside, walking back and forth with their “Traditional

that could put me in bodily danger. This time I smiled and said, “Everyone deserves to be treated equally, and everyone deserves to be happy. It is about time that marriage was available to everyone.” The woman said, “Yea, you’re right. My two daughters are lesbians and I have a gay nephew. They deserve to marry and be happy.” We smiled in the unity of our viewpoints

“(Judge Friedman) is a veteran judge, and knows full the importance of allowing each side their full opportunity to make a record that, without doubt, will be headed to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. Having been in front of a variety of judges in my career, many whom could not be bothered with niceties, I am grateful for his approach.”

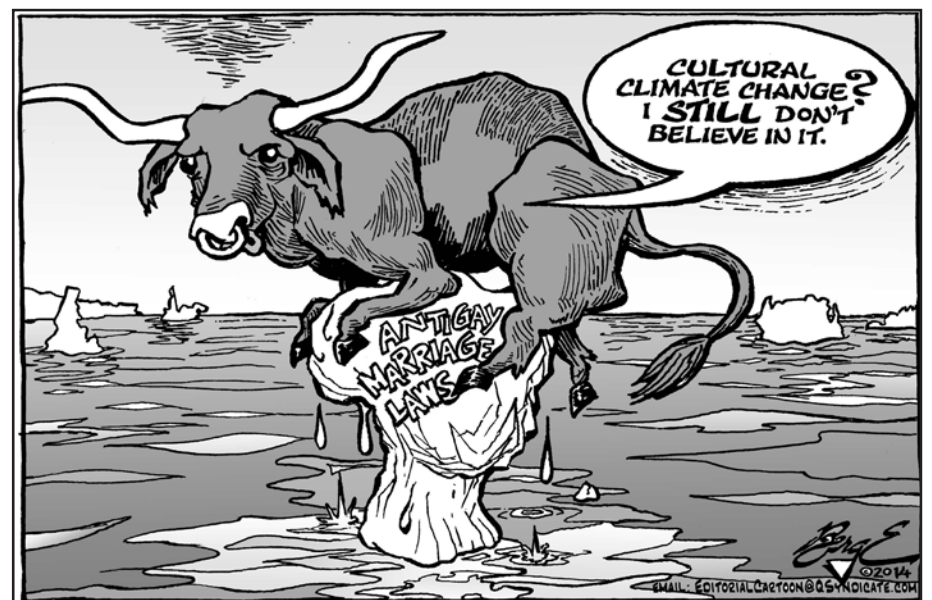
Marriage” message placards, have not been hostile. I even drew a couple of “good mornings” from them as I passed each day. It seems odd that they would fight against others who want the same thing they value – a traditional marriage.

On my way to the car one day, a forty-something couple passing by the courthouse asked me, pointing at the protestors, “what do you think of all this?” Twenty years ago, I would have probably glanced away and hurried to my car, not ever fully thinking through whether or not I was more scared of striking up a conversation with cigarette smoking strangers in downtown Detroit, or revealing something about myself

and wished each other a blessed day.

I don’t know how this trial will come out. No one does at this point. It is likely that it will be appealed to the Sixth Circuit no matter who wins. However, my conversation with these two people shored up my already growing belief: I am confident that win, lose or draw in this particular battle, we have, in fact, already won. It just hasn’t been written down fully in the law books yet.

Jane Bassett is an Ann Arbor attorney and candidate for Washtenaw County Probate Judge. You can follow her daily blog from the courthouse at <http://deboervsnyder.wordpress.com>





# Pox Vobiscum \$\$\$\$



## Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

It was a year ago last week that Pope Benedict XVI resigned from Holy Office to spend his last days in prayer and contemplation. Some say not a moment too soon.

His Germanic reign as Christ's Vicar on Earth is overcast by clouds of Vatican Bank corruption, annoying whispers of a powerful high-level, homosexual internal cabal, and rampant sexual abuse cases involving priests, parish youth and acolytes, costing the Church billions of dollars. His Holiness defrocked 400 priests for such immoral improprieties..

Suffice it to say, Benedict's successor, Pope Francis – a man of refreshing humility and simple compassion, in contrast to previous papal hauteur and doctrinal rigidity – is having his

**How serious is the sexual abuse problem in the Catholic Church? According to Bishopaccountability.org, a blog that has been kept by former religion journalist/writer Kathy Shaw since 2002, the problem is worldwide, and in some large American cities involving as many as 300 priests.**

hands full. No untoward pun intended.

How serious is the sexual abuse problem in the Catholic Church? According to Bishopaccountability.org, a blog that has been kept by former religion journalist/writer Kathy Shaw since 2002, the problem is worldwide, and in some large American cities involving as many as 300 priests, many of whom have been quietly - perhaps shamefully - yet rarely reported to law enforcement authorities - moved from parish to parish.

Ms. Shaw's blog presents newspaper reports, media commentary in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish. Among English-speaking countries dealing with major and alarming abuse revelations are England, Australia, and Ireland. (Sample American lawsuit tally: Alaska \$50 million. Massachusetts \$85 million. Oregon \$53 million. California \$660 million.)

In Ireland, mental and physical abuse dating back for several decades involves nuns and girls - young women deemed incorrigible because of unladylike attitudes or out-of-wedlock births - who have been sent sometimes for life to work in Church-sponsored, claustrophobic, unsanitary laundries. (Judi Dench's recent movie "Philomena" concerns this issue.)

Protestant faiths are also now focusing on abuse issues. Boz Tchividjian, a law professor, grandson of Evangelist Billy Graham, founder and executive director of GRACE (Godly Response to Abuse in the Christian Environment), says "Christian mission field is a 'magnet' for sexual abusers. The Protestant culture is defined by independence."

The implication is that such Protestant ministerial independence shortcuts accountability on egregious, internal moral issues. Tchividjian himself was a child-abuse victim.

A report published in 2000 by the Baptist Convention of Texas notes, "The incidence of sexual abuse by clergy has reached 'horrific proportions.'" Studies revealed that 40 percent

of those interviewed had acknowledged "sexual inappropriate behavior." To what extent the problem has been addressed by the BCT is still not forthcoming 14 years later.

It is the nature of patriarchal, fundamentalist, evangelical religions to treat sexuality outside of a church-sanctioned marriage as sinful. Subliminally wicked at best. For many such faiths the sight of the undressed body is a visual embarrassment. Masturbation is ungodly. Naked women are an insurmountable temptation to be avoided. The celibate state is to be preferred.

Maybe it's spiritually axiomatic for these misguided true believers that "the less said about sex, the better." Little wonder then that with the predatory, importuning libidos of so many priests and clergy - given their unmonitored opportunities, ignorance, lack of positive understanding of healthy human sexuality - the vulnerable are preyed upon instead of lovingly prayed and cared for.

Litigation for sexual abuse keeps Bishopaccountability.org up and running. Dollar sign panic in the pews.

Charles@pridesource.com

### Peacefully Protest Catholic Conference In Detroit

Affirmations' Faith Alliance, Supportive Families and PFLAG are looking for individuals to speak up for true acceptance, love and equality for LGBTQ people by holding vigil outside 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 is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 7 and 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. March 8. The sessions will be at Sacred Heart Seminary, 2701 W. Chicago Blvd., Detroit.

To counter the anti-LGBT words within, Catholic Parents 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. March 8.

RSVP to Tom and Linda Nelson of Supportive Families at lindakarle@earthlink.net.

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

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

NOW OFFERING VEGAN OPTIONS!

Free WiFi

**Good Cakes and Bakes**

**Divine Peace**  
Metropolitan Community Church

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

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

**NEW LOCATION**

**MCC**  
DIVINE PEACE  
METROPOLITAN  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

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

**Many Happy Returns!**

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

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

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

**AMERITAX**  
\*\*\* PLUS \*\*\*

**FERNDALE**

**Out2Enroll: Obamacare Education And Enrollment Event**

On March 8 from 12-3 p.m., Affirmations along with Advantage Health Centers, MichUHCAN and Jamison & Green Associates presents an Obamacare Education and Enrollment event. It is part of a larger effort to encourage the LGBT community to get Out2Enroll.

“The LGBT community can no longer be denied coverage based on who they love or how they identify,” said Affirmations Sexual Health Coordinator, Rose Idzior. “Taking the step to enroll in health care coverage ensures the right to security and wellbeing our community deserves.”

Health care reform through Obamacare ensures equal access to health care coverage for LGBT individuals. Insurance companies can no longer discriminate against individuals based on pre-existing conditions, sexual orientation or gender identity.

Certified application counselors will be on hand to talk about and answer questions regarding Medicaid expansion beginning in Michigan on April 1, along with enrolling participants in private healthcare plans. Andre Wilson, Senior Associate of Jamison Green & Associates, will lend his advice and expertise on transgender health care coverage. This event will provide the LGBT community space to address personal health care coverage concerns.

Participants are encouraged to review Strong Families Guide for LGBT People Choosing Health Care Plans (<http://strongfamiliesmovement.org/lgbt-health-care-guide>), prior to attending the event. Hard copies are available at Affirmations. Those considering enrolling in health care plans must bring an income statement (e.g. W2, 2013 Final YTD pay stub) and any additional cost information relating to coverage you may be eligible for or have through an employer. Please register for this free event online at [www.GoAffirmations.org](http://www.GoAffirmations.org)

**HIV Criminalization Forum Planned**

A community forum is planned March 29, 2 - 4 p.m. at Affirmations Community Center, 290 W. Nine Mile, looking at HIV criminalization in Michigan. Speakers will look at how HIV specific laws hurt public health and what you can do about it.

Extended briefs are available online at:  
 >> [www.PrideSource.com](http://www.PrideSource.com)

**Detroit Police Announce LGBT Liaison Department Reaches Out To Community In Forum**

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Standing before about two-dozen LGBT community members from various organizations, Detroit Police Officer Danni Woods had an announcement that brought joy to those who looked on. “Just so the community knows, DPD is my family and you guys are my family. I’ve been married to my wife almost eight years, who is also a police officer. And I am just ready to get this going, because just like you guys need us, we need you in order to make Detroit a better place and beyond. So get used to this face.”

Woods was recently appointed to be the first LGBT liaison for the Detroit Police Department. On Feb. 26, she and Commander Charles Wilson met with members of the LGBT community for a panel discussion about continuing to build a strong relationship. In 2012 the DPD and KICK began a year-long project which resulted in an LGBT relations policy and a plan for building community on an ongoing basis. Wednesday’s panel was the first of several they plan to have as a way of building trust and regular dialogue.

Jerry Peterson, executive director of the Ruth Ellis Center, expressed the spirit of the event and the hope that the LGBT community would be open to moving forward with the police. “We can become reflections of that trust, because trust is hard to come by,” Peterson said. “It’s going to take a while. Words are words at first, until actions really make them real. But I hope that all of us have the ability, being advocates for the community, we can also help nurture some appropriate levels of trust based on the teaching that happens. Those are two-way roles we need to play together.”

Curtis Lipscomb, executive director for KICK explained the tumultuous history between DPD and the LGBT community that led up to this week’s forum and the drastic changes that have happened in the level of respect between police and the community.

“Since the 1940s, Detroit has had a significant population of people who identified as homosexuals. Gay people sought to live in the areas along the Woodward corridor, ultimately landing and placing roots in the gay neighborhood of Palmer Park historic district. Palmer Park became the center of culture and community development. Night clubs, bars, restaurants, and public events flooded the intersection of 6 mile and Woodward Avenue. As a recent dissertation shows, before the 1970s, the relationship with Detroit Police and



Left, Detroit police officer Danni Woods meets LGBT community leaders. She is the new LGBT liaison for the Detroit Police Department. She and Commander Charles Wilson met with leaders from KICK!, Equality Michigan, Ruth Ellis Center, GINA and the ACLU at the first in a series of panel discussion events. BTL photo: Crystal Proxmire



the gay community was highly antagonistic. Police not only targeted gays for accosting and soliciting, but they also targeted bars for being meeting places for homosexuals.” While such harsh treatment is no longer prevalent, the legacy of those times remains in the memories of those still living according to Lipscomb.

Wilson fielded questions about a variety of concerns.

“When we met Mr. Lipscomb some of the issues we did not even understand or know they were there and they were brought to the forefront,” he said. “And one of the first things we did was enact this police policy so we can have some specific guidelines for our officers and how they interact with the LGBT community.”

**Some Specifics**

Access to hormones while incarcerated was a concern for those speaking on transgender issues, along with the use of proper pronouns. Wilson said that

many people confuse Detroit with Wayne County. In Detroit people can only be held up to 48 hours without a warrant. He said that if people need medication they are accommodating, but that people are generally not in the holding cells for long.

As for names used he said, “We work with the perpetrator or the victim to determine what is the proper way to address the person.” The policy also prohibits profiling based on sexual orientation or gender expression.

One area that Wilson asked for more assistance with, were cases of intimate partner violence. “A lot of time when officers arrive on a scene we have a very finite description of what is domestic violence, trying to determine a sexual relationship when you’re living together. But a lot of times in the LGBT community, they have domestic violence but it doesn’t fit within those parameters so how do we better

define these parameters moving forward so they we can definitely constitute domestic violence as opposed to what looks like simple assault," he said.

Peterson brought to the table a concern that some of the youth at Ruth Ellis see while living on the streets: sex work.

"It's a very difficult topic for us to talk about, to get to understand, but I think it's important we remove all the barriers and decriminalize sex work, and understand, for example, if having condoms is evidence of prostitution, and what happens as a result of that and how destructive and harmful some of these kinds of policies are."

Rudy Serra, former judge and county commissioner, talked about a law that remains on the books that affects the entire state. "Stigma is an interesting concept. The laws that we enact tend to show what we accept and what we don't accept, so in the important case of Lawrence v. Texas, one of the things the United States Supreme Court said was the very existence of sodomy or gross indecency law stigmatizes

LGBT people. Sodomy is still a felony in Michigan today. There is a statute called the abominable and detestable crime against nature [statute]. Michigan was not included in Lawrence v. Texas. There are men in prison today after Lawrence v. Texas under Michigan's sodomy felony. The Supreme Court says it stigmatizes us. The legislature needs to repeal it," Serra said.

**Commander Wilson assured the public that the years of targeting LGBT people are over, but if anyone feels they are being treated unfairly there is a way to handle it.**

Wilson assured the public that the years of targeting LGBT people are over, but if anyone feels they are being treated unfairly there is a way to handle it. "Any time you engage with an officer you feel is

violating your rights or you feel is not doing his or her duties appropriately, first thing is to ask for a supervisor, always ask for a supervisor to respond to the scene," he said. He added that complaints are handled by an outside agency, not within the department.

Organizations included in the discussion were KICK, Equality Michigan, Ruth Ellis Center, Gender Identity Network Alliance, and the ACLU. Future forums will be announced through these organizations.

AFFIRMATIONS CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

# SILVER JUBILEE

25

APRIL 5, 2014 COBO HALL, DETROIT

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

*All ticket levels open bar and dinner.*

**Tickets at [www.GoAffirmations.org](http://www.GoAffirmations.org)**

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

# BTL

Between THE Lines™  
ONLINE AT PRIDESOURCE.COM

# 20 Years

THANK YOU FOR TWENTY YEARS.

# PartridgeCreek

Obstetrics & Gynecology

Beth Mutch, FNP,  
Tanya Vaughn, CNM

Rhonda Kobold, D.O.  
Teressa Kuz, WHNP

[www.partridgecreekobgyn.com](http://www.partridgecreekobgyn.com)  
15959 Hall Road, Suite 301 • Macomb Twp. • 48044  
586.247.8609

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

# Creep of the Week

## Steve King



represents thousands of people in Congress.”

It’s a hard thing to do. And with good reason. King (R-Iowa) has a long, sordid history of being anti-gay, anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim, anti-reproductive rights, and basically anti-critical thinking.

So it’s no wonder he was sad about Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer vetoing a bill that would have allowed anybody with a “religious” objection to deny service to gays and lesbians or, really, anybody they thought was some kind of queer so long as they felt that God was personally instructing them to be assholes.

In a recent interview with WHO TV, King lamented the fact that gay people continue to be allowed to buy, have, and eat cake.

“When you’re in the private sector and you’re an individual entrepreneur with God-given rights that our founding fathers defined in the Declaration, you should be able to make your own decisions on what you do in that private business,” King declared.

In other words, just because you open a business doesn’t mean you should be forced to do business with people God tells you to hate. (For reference: see the lunch counter sit-ins during the 1960s and how well that worked out for everybody.)

King continued, saying he was “uneasy” that just “because you have a door that’s open that anybody can walk in, that doesn’t mean that you have to perform any kind of service that they demand.”

Well, who can argue with that? I mean, if I walk into a tailor’s shop and demand that he make me a cake for my big gay wedding, why, I wouldn’t blame him one bit for refusing me. It’s when I want to have a dress altered and he says, “No homo” and points to a cross pendant around his neck as

OPINION BY D’ANNE WITKOWSKI

evidence that I am not worthy of his precious needle and thread that I have a problem because that is some fucked up bullshit to use a legal term.

“It’s clear in the civil rights section of the code that you can’t discriminate against people based upon, and I’m not sure I have the list right but, race, creed, religion, color of skin, those kinds of things,” King continued. “And there’s nothing mentioned in there on self-professed behavior, and that’s what they’re trying to protect: special rights for self-professed behavior.”

“The one thing that I’ve referenced when I say ‘self-professed’ is: how do you know who to discriminate

### In a recent interview with WHO TV, King lamented the fact that gay people continue to be allowed to buy, have, and eat cake.

against?” King asks. “They about have to tell you.

So if gays and lesbians would just STFU already and get back into the closet where they belong, no one would have to go through the trouble of discriminating against them.

As far as discrimination protection goes, King says, “If it’s not specifically protected in the Constitution, then it’s got to be an immutable characteristic, that being a characteristic that can be independently verified and can’t be willfully changed.”

Using King’s logic, if homosexuality isn’t worthy of protection because there’s no way to “prove” that someone is gay and not, like, just pretending or something (because that’s a thing apparently) and it can be changed (i.e. “prayed away”), then what does that mean for religion? Isn’t the very definition of religious faith that it can’t be proven but you just believe anyway? And what to make of the fact that King’s Wikipedia page states, “[R]aised a Methodist, King became a Catholic, his wife’s faith, several years after marrying her.”

By King’s own criteria, religion is the most self-professed of all protected classes. So forgive me if I bristle at the idea of my civil rights being trumped by someone else’s imaginary friend.



At a press conference outside the courthouse Mar. 3 Sandi Smith, center, president of the Jim Toy Center in Ann Arbor presented a \$17,500 check to the plaintiffs in the DeBoer V. Snyder federal case. The money was raised at the Equality Cabaret at The Ark in Ann Arbor the week before. Smith is flanked by plaintiffs Jayne Rowse, left, and April DeBoer, right and Smith’s life partner Linda Lombardini appears behind her. BTL photo: Andrew Potter

### ► Equality Rally

Continued from p. 5

building singing hymns and saying Bible verses. The arrived around 11 a.m., in time to catch the noon news programs and enjoy slightly warmer weather.

Pastor Colwell of First Baptist World Changers in Detroit was among those walking with Bible in hand. “We are here for our voting rights and to protect the marriage amendment. 2.5 million voters went to the polls and voted to protect the marriage right. One man one woman. And we believe that we want to protect it and not change it. There are pastors surrounding all over the Michigan region that support, over 100+ pastors and congregants standing for our rights,” he said.

Marriage equality supporter M<sup>o</sup>nt<sup>e</sup> <sup>Á</sup>lb<sup>e</sup>rt of Ferndale came with a large sign telling protestors that marriage pre-dated their Bible. “I feel like state and church should be separate. Founding fathers made it very clear,” he said. “All the opposition to marriage equality was only on a Biblical basis, not on any other religion or any other religious basis.”

<sup>Á</sup>lb<sup>e</sup>rt said that protesting, even with the “traditional marriage” people, “was a very pleasant experience.” He got thumbs up from supporters, and was grateful for a woman who had come prepared with an extra hand-made scarf to give away. Despite the cold temperatures, it was ultimately the caring and looking out for each other that kept the LGBT community warm.

Debra Baldwin and Amy Lavairre of Flint were among those in the court room. For them, end of life issues are a concern.

“We’ve been together almost 20 years,” Baldwin said, “and we would like to have the ability to get married and make it legal. I’ve had a lot of health issues, and what I would like is protection for my partner.”

Lavairre added, “for us, we don’t have kids. So for us it’s not so much the adoption issue as the marriage issue. With us getting older and having compromised health and stuff, we need to ensure that we can make health decisions for each other... And when we die, we can’t have everything planned, down and paid for, but it doesn’t matter. Our families can override what we’ve said.”

Baldwin would like to be cremated when the time comes, but in Michigan only a legal family member or spouse can give permission. The couple also faces tax penalties for not being married should there be any inheritance. There can also be restrictions on health coverage and retirement benefits.

Tanya Herman of Kalamazoo was one of the pro-equality supporters in front of the courthouse. She drove in for the trial along with Stephanie Kurt and Emily Kimball of Lansing, who are the godmothers of her 18-month-old daughter. She was dismayed at the lack of demonstrators, but toughed out several hours in the cold holding a sign identifying herself and her daughter as allies.

“This is a huge thing. It’s for my daughter’s future. I want her to be here and live the life she’s going to live. She’s already going to have a tough enough life... I want her to be as happy as she can be, and these people [who oppose marriage equality] are making it so hard for her. And they are so ignorant. And I cannot believe how harsh they are and they just don’t care... The people here are going to make a difference. And it’s going to work. It’s just going to work,” Herman said.

The opening days have been emotional as well as educational. Cindy Clardy of Southfield has sat through each day’s testimony. “I wanted to see the trial,” Clardy said. “I thought it was really interesting... The real nitty-gritty comes down to listening to the testimony of the experts... A lot of the questions are sort of statements asked as questions. ‘Well, you do agree that such and such...’ And sort of expecting a yes or no answer, but the testimony was usually more than the state attorney was looking for.” Clardy and her partner have followed the case from the beginning. They have children and grandchildren whom they hope will have more rights than they have in their lives.

The trial is expected to end by Mar. 7, and it could be hours to weeks before Judge Friedman makes his final decision. Once his decision is made, it is likely that the state will appeal and the ruling could be put on hold in a “stay” until the appeal is heard.

## ► Equality Trial

Continued from p. 5

Stanford University sociology professor Michael Rosenfeld, the second witnesses for the plaintiffs. “The scholarly consensus is that children raised by same-sex couples are at no disadvantage.”

Rosenfeld attacked the state’s premise that heterosexual households are more desirable and gay couples should be excluded. “If we excluded people by what group would most likely make the best progress, we would be excluding all but the Asian children,” based on academic success, said Rosenfeld.

Prof. Vivek Sankaran, a clinical professor at the University of Michigan Law School’s Child Advocacy Law Clinic, told the court that DeBoer and Rowse have done a “tremendous job” raising their special needs children. He also explained the challenges facing same-sex

couples who are raising children together but unable to have both partners become legal parents. Current law, he said, “leaves one parent in relationship without any legal rights to the child.”

The plaintiff’s fourth witness, Gary Gates, Ph.D., a demographer and distinguished

scholar at the Williams Institute of the UCLA School of Law, has analyzed U.S. Census data about the LGBT population. He testified that same-sex couples give the same reasons for wanting to marry as do other U.S. adults; love, companionship and making a lifetime commitment. He also testified that more than half of LGBT Americans already have children or want to have children, and same-sex couples are twice as likely to raise a foster child as opposite-sex couples.

The last witness for the plaintiff’s was Harvard historian Nancy Cott. The author of *Public Vows*, a study of marriage as a public institution, she served as an expert in the historic marriage equality cases before the U.S. Supreme Court.

“History shows that changes in marriage to bring it up to date with changing social, economic and ethical standards, have only made the institution stronger,” said Cott. She explained that marriage has changed over time to become a more equalitarian institution between two spouses, based on consent, with the definition of roles within the marriage left up to individuals. “By the mid and late 20th century,” said Cott, “the state had stepped out of prescribing how a couple conducts a marriage.”

“Previous changes in marriage law were

frequently responded to with a great deal of alarm and opposition about the future of marriage,” said Cott. “But the institution has proved to be resilient and flexible enough to respond to changing social needs.”

## State’s Witnesses Begin

The state got off to a rocky start March 3 when their first expert witness was rejected. Sherif Girgis, a 27-year-old Yale law student, was dismissed by Judge Friedman who ruled Girgis does not have the necessary credentials to be an expert witness. “I have no doubt that someday you will make a very good expert witness, but for now you only have your opinion,” said the judge.

Regnerus then took the stand as the state’s second witness. He presented his discredited research on same-sex parents poor child outcomes, and tried to convince the court that it is only prudent to restrict marriage to one man and one woman until more longitudinal studies can be conducted.

The same day Regnerus testified in Detroit, the American Sociological Association submitted amicus briefs specifically criticizing Regnerus’ work in suits to overturn marriage bans in Oklahoma and Utah.

“The claim that same-sex parents produce less positive child outcomes than heterosexual parents is simply unsupported,” said ASA Executive Officer Sally T. Hillsman. “As I have stated before — and as I will continue to state — the Regnerus papers and other sources gay marriage opponents often rely on provide no basis for their arguments because this research does not directly examine the well-being of children raised by same-sex parents. Therefore, these analyses do not undermine the social science research consensus and do not establish a legitimate basis for gay marriage bans,” said Hillsman.

At press time, plaintiff’s attorneys were preparing to cross examine Regnerus. This is the first time Regnerus faces cross examination by opposing counsel. In previous trials his research was presented either in depositions or amicus briefs.

## Closing Arguments and the Decision

Closing arguments are scheduled for Mar. 6. It is not clear when Judge Friedman will issue his final opinion.

“History shows that changes in marriage to bring it up to date with changing social, economic and ethical standards, have only made the institution stronger.”

—Harvard historian Nancy Cott

# RON T. WILLIAMSON DDS

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

## Zoom Special \$149 One-hour Teeth Whitening

\*Must mention this-BTL ad - Expires 3/31/14

Nitrous Oxide (relaxing air)  
Proud participants in the Ryan White Program  
No charges for emergency examinations and consultations.  
Uninsured? No problem. Significant savings with our in-office club.

Care Credit  
MasterCard VISA  
1964 W. 11 Mile Road, Suite 4,  
Berkley, MI 48072  
www.rontwilliamsondds.com  
Find us on  
facebook

## “Best Investment we’ve ever made!”



How? By giving you:

- Guaranteed Energy Savings
- Up to 10 Year Parts & Labor Warranty
- Whisper Quiet and reliable
- Greater Comfort
- Increased Property value

The Best for Last

We hear that a lot. Many customer’s wish they’d replace their old heating and cooling systems sooner!

You may think a new system is “too much” until you realize your old system’s real cost.

Just like an old car may be cheap, but after adding repairs, unreliability, and poor mileage, is it worth it? The same is true for a heating and cooling system’s real cost.

Can pay for itself, plus more!

A new system from Hinson Home Comfort can save you money, time, and trouble.

With one of our great finance plans, you may save more than you’re spending?

Now you see how this can be your best investment too! Invest a moment now and call 248-541-7007 for your **FREE ENERGY ANALYSIS**. The call and survey are free, but your returns may be great!

**Hinson**  
HOME COMFORT SERVICE  
**(248) 541-7007**

**PATTERSON  
DOG  
&  
CAT  
HOSPITAL**  
*Established in 1844*

**Glynes D. Graham, DVM**  
*Doctor of Veterinary Medicine*

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

[www.pattersondogandcat.com](http://www.pattersondogandcat.com)

Find us on:  
**facebook.**

**Ashley's  
FLOWERS**

GM WORLD HEADQUARTERS at Renaissance Center      MILLENDER CENTER Downtown Detroit

[www.AshleysFlowers.com](http://www.AshleysFlowers.com)  
**313-259-5000**  
*We Deliver Around the World.*

**CO-OP TAX & ACCOUNTING**

**Chris Perry**  
Owner/Tax Professional

**Cherie Mascarello**  
Tax Professional

8252 E. Twelve Mile Rd.  
Warren, MI 48093

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

**Over 20 Years Of Experience**

# Between Ourselves: Meet Affirmations Development Director Angela Gabridge

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

**A**fter 13 years working in the nonprofit world, 36-year-old Angela Gabridge has landed her dream job as the Director of Development for Affirmations Community Center. She joins at a time when ally involvement is becoming a much more visible and vital part of the fight for LGBT equality.



**1 Although you are straight, LGBT equality is an important issue to you. Was there anything in your life that made you take this issue to heart?**

I don't know if there is any one defining moment. My parents had LGBT friends growing up, and I was raised to believe people are people and we should all be treated the same. Anything that deviates from that feels unjust and patently un-right. I am just not wired to hate anyone, and I can't understand why anyone would think that way. Several years after it came out, I finally watched [the movie] Milk and at the end I couldn't believe it, that we are still there. This was activism that was going on 40 years ago. There has been some progress that's been made, but in a lot of ways we're still there. And that is not right.

I've been a donor at Affirmations for at least seven years. This is a place that is near and dear to my heart. My goal was always to be more involved. I had a lot of LGBT friends and donated, but what could I do to support the community? As a fundraiser I knew donating was one way to support Affirmations. But now, (in my job) my thought is how can we get more allies involved.

It's my number one issue. We all have something that makes our heart beat faster and encourages us to push for change. I am incredibly excited to be part of this team.

**2 As Director of Development, what do you do?**

Director of Development means that I am charged with all the fundraising for the organization, overseeing events, grants, individual giving, connecting donors with the mission and opportunities to get involved, seeking corporate sponsorships and government grants.

**3 Any specific fundraising plans?**

For 2014 the biggest focus is an ally campaign, getting the message

out to individuals outside the LGBT community, helping people understand there is a way they can make a difference. Donors can get complacent because they see a state has marriage equality, and another state has it (now 17 states have it). But that's not the end of the work. There is so much more to be done. We want to get allies involved in the community and reaching across the aisle. Telling stories is a big part of it as well. It's easy to speak in terms of 'we started this program,' or 'we have this challenge,' but we have to tell the stories of people who use the center. We have to show people the human impact it has.

The Shore-to-Shore Equality Ride is another big plan. We're doing it during Pride month in June, and hoping to get allies involved in that as well. We're raising money, but we're also messaging things outside where we have gone. We're going into communities, talking to bike shops and other small business owners and shoring up those outreach efforts. We'll work with corporate contacts to get teams together. Things like that are important. It's important to see there is a critical mass that is willing to stand up and say it's okay to support equality.

And then there's the Spring Bash and Fall Bash. We're really excited about Spring Bash this year. Brad Bell and Christopher Keys are chairing the event at the new Cobo Center. The ballrooms are really impressive – the ceiling heights and the windows are really sharp. It's our 25th year so we want to make it the biggest event yet. And we're encouraging people to bring their allies. We've done three-tier ticket pricing. And what's also different - it's an open bar. That's something important and fun to getting people there. We're also working on a more exciting presentation, really bringing alive the history of affirmations in the last 25 years for attendees.

**4 What background do you bring to the development position?**

I grew up in Dearborn and went to Crestwood High. I started at U of M in an administrative and event planning role. I did a lot of coordination of conferences. I knew what I really wanted to do was work with a nonprofit. I took a job with Detroit Central City Community Mental Health in a support role. They helped people transitioning from incarceration

to a more stable situation. From there I moved over to the development department, working with donors and creating their first volunteer program. I was looking for more of a challenge so I went to Accounting Aid Society, where they do tax returns for low income people. I learned a tremendous amount from the director of development there.

Then I went to Services for Older Citizens in Grosse Pointe, which is a community center, focused on seniors. It is the same kind of thing as Affirmations, with social and recreation programming and social services. I loved that job and was very happy to be where I was, but then I saw the posting of the position here. Within 10 minutes of Affirmations sending out the email [about the job] I had at least ten people send it to me saying 'you're going to apply right?'

I like being a fundraiser, it's a lot of work, and not a lot of people like to do it, but I knew this is where I wanted to be.

**5 Besides Affirmations, what are you passionate about?**

My family. I am married. There is my husband Jason, and I have two little girls, Sophia and Veronica. We lived in downtown Detroit for the first half of our marriage, then moved to Grosse Pointe Woods to send the girls to school, but our hearts are in the city.

And I really love pugs! I'm a volunteer for Michigan Pug Rescue, and I volunteer there for fundraising. I've got two pugs, Sweeney Gene and Trixie Lu, and one beagle mix named Harwell James. And I love to run.

To learn more about Affirmations go to [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org).

**GOLD SPONSORS**



**SILVER SPONSORS**



*B. Ella Bridal*

Barefoot Wine & Bubbly

Elite Party Rentals



**BRONZE SPONSORS**



*The Village Chapel, LLC*

**Between<sup>THE</sup>Lines PRESENTS**

# THE ULTIMATE **LGBT** WEDDING EXPO & ANNIVERSARY

**APRIL 12, 2014 | 12 P.M.** 26000 Evergreen Rd., Southfield, MI 48076  
**SOUTHFIELD CIVIC PAVILION** Tickets: \$10 Advance, \$15 Door



[WWW.BTLWEDDINGEXPO.COM](http://WWW.BTLWEDDINGEXPO.COM) | 734-293-7200 x15



# Straight Talk

# With Jennifer Nettles

Photo: James Minchin III

## Sugarland Frontwoman On Lesbian Rumors, Coming Out Straight & The Gay Movement In Country Music

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Jennifer Nettles is the voice of one of country's biggest acts, but it wasn't always that way. Before Sugarland, in the late '90s, the Atlanta singer was fronting two little-known bands, Soul Miner's Daughter and the Jennifer Nettles Band, performing at dive bars and not caring if her short hair made her look like a lesbian.

It's back to that stripped-down sound on Nettles' first solo album, "That Girl," a side project produced by Rick Rubin. Touring in support of the album, Nettles performs at 8

p.m. March 11 at Sound Board at MotorCity Casino Hotel.

In a recent chat, the singer talked "keeping it in the gay family" musically, her thoughts on LGBT issues in the country community and the sweet words for her son should he ever come out to her.

**When we chatted a few years ago, the joke was that you have the musical taste of a gay man.**

I do! (Laughs)

**But "That Girl" is raw and, in the sense that it has that girl-with-guitar vibe, it's very Ani DiFranco- and**

**Indigo Girls-ish.**

I'm still keeping it in the gay family!

**So this album is your lesbian phase?**

(Laughs) We should be so lucky.

**I've been following you since Soul Miner's Daughter.**

Oh, well then, honey, you know this isn't my lesbian phase. I started that way long ago!

**You did! I recall the line, "It's crotch propaganda / bat for both teams / and it's me not choosing sides**

**standing in between" from the song "On the Shoulders of Giants." Were those lyrics as personal as they sound? Did you relate to the words?**

I did completely in the sense that I have my dear, dear friend – a longtime friend and now my personal assistant, and she's gay – who said to me, "Jennifer, you're the only person I've ever known that had to come out as a straight person," which I thought was hilarious. (Laughs) I had such a strong lesbian following, and in the gay community as a whole, I've always had so much support

from them. I think a lot of people assumed, too. Whenever they heard a woman with an alto voice playing an acoustic instrument stylistically reminiscent of those wonderful icons you counted, Ani DiFranco and Indigo Girls – and especially with the audience I had in my 20s – I think a lot of people just assumed that (I was lesbian). So those lyrics – "crotch propaganda / bat for both teams / and it's me not choosing sides standing in between" – I definitely related to because it's like, who cares? Why choose sides? And why do you have to?



**Jennifer Nettles**

8 p.m. March 11

Sound Board at MotorCity Casino Hotel  
2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit  
www.soundboarddetroit.com

**The short, punky hair you had then only reinforced those assumptions, I'm sure.**

Oh yeah. But you know what, the cool thing is, I've really found that everybody just wants to be authentic. That's all I've ever wanted to do, and so what if I have a short haircut and someone assumes something one way or another. It doesn't bother me. I don't care. A lot of times we're just trying to relate to each other and trying to figure out where we fit in. So if I have a short haircut and that makes me gay or straight or whatever to someone else, I don't care.

**So you recognized a gay following even before Sugarland?**

Oh yeah. It was pretty obvious, to me at least, and I was so grateful for that support. I don't know if it was because I went to a women's college – again, I think there was a whole slew of different influences pieced together that allowed for my support within the gay community – but I like to think that it's just because it's good music, and everybody likes good music.

**And there's every type at a Sugarland show.**

Which I like.

**Sugarland has been known to push traditional country boundaries; the last album, "The Incredible Machine," went arena rock. For this solo project, you're doing something that sounds nothing like what people are used to hearing you do. Do you look at these ventures as career risks? And why is it important to take them?**

What is important for me to do is to make sure I stay authentic to myself as an artist, and that I don't stagnate and that I think fresh – not only for myself but for my fans. It's super easy, especially in this business when one gets to a level of success, to become a caricature of yourself. They say, "Oh my god, that's perfect. Stay just like that but bigger," and things get exaggerated and you become a caricature. So I wanted to shake it up for myself and I wanted to show my fans something different. I don't really look at it as a career risk, but if that happens to be the result of being authentic to myself as an artist, so be it. To me, it's an even greater risk to stagnate.

**You've described Sugarland as "the weird**

**kids in the corner." Do you think the gay community can relate to you more because you identify as being on the fringe?**

The resounding message here is authenticity. Within the gay community, the courage it takes to be one's authentic self – even if you're viewed as different – is inspiring. Consequently there is definitely a connection in that degree of authenticity – and doing it because you gotta be who you are – that connects my music with the gay community.

**You've expressed interest in playing Elphaba in "Wicked," and she's an outsider as well. How do you relate to these feelings of being an outsider?**

I'll be honest, I don't know if I'm comfortable with the discomfort and prefer to be there or if that's just how I relate, but I end up in that role so much. I've always sort of been that way – an outside floater. I have lots of friends among diverse groups and diverse demographics and yet, at the same time, I can relate to what it feels like to be the outsider.

**Has the gay community ever inspired a song you wrote?**

I would have to think about that specifically, but I would say what I do as a writer is to speak to overarching human themes, and that tends to resonate regardless. If it's something that is empowering, it can be empowering within a smaller specific group or it can be empowering overall.

A song like "Stand Up," for example: I had a woman at a radio show meet-and-greet last week who came up and said, "Your song 'Stand Up' inspired me to come out completely after college," and I was super touched and moved by that because that's what you want to do as an artist and that's what you want to do as a writer – you want to inspire people to connect with themselves and to be their best selves. So while there's never a consciousness of, "OK, let me write a song that has a certain message for one specific kind of person," there is a message for people in general – and it resonates with everybody.

**Country music doesn't have a history of embracing the gay community, so how does it feel to see the genre make progress on that frontier?**

It's exciting to see within the country genre, yet at the same time, for me in terms of social motivation and evolution and moving forward, I always feel – be it within a music genre or a religious movement or whatever – like, "OK, come on, let's move faster. Let's get there faster. Let's get it done." This should have already been behind us. So

I am excited about it, but I want it to continue and be more.

**Have you ever received flak for your support of the gay community?**

No. I think people know better. In the sense that I definitely try to live as authentically and honestly as I can, I think it's known that I am supportive of human rights, gay rights and civil rights across the board. It's pretty well known where I stand.

**What did you think of all the same-sex marriages during Macklemore's performance at the Grammys?**

I saw Queen Latifah the next day – and obviously she was the officiant at the mass wedding – and she and I were chatting about it. I was like, "I'm just so blown away." I mean, number one, if Queen Latifah was the officiant at my wedding, amazing, OK?! And two: She said, and very rightfully so, that a few years from now this won't even be a conversation. And wouldn't that be nice to be able to look back at history and, like we have any time there's a violation of civil rights and human rights, go, "God, I can't even believe we were there, ever."

It was exciting, it was moving, it was emotional – and to see people in the audience who were moved was emotional as well. And it was unexpected. I think that was part of it – just the surprise of what an image it was and what a punctuation it was on a very supportive statement that Macklemore and Ryan Lewis made with their "Same Love" song. I thought it was beautiful.

**What would you tell your son if he came out to you as gay one day?**

I would say, "Be happy." Look, he can be anything he wants in any fashion, be it by his job or who he loves or whatever. He won't be an asshole, and I hope he doesn't go to the dark side in any kind of addiction, but otherwise (I'd say), "Love and live and just be happy – and I hope you find your true prince."

**Please tell me you really have poured whiskey down the back of a girl's dress like you do on the song "Jealousy."**

God, I wish I had. The fun part of that song – and what I enjoy a whole lot as a writer – is exploring some of the more shadowy characters and stories, things we may not be as comfortable with and behaviors that may not make us feel as good about ourselves. I keep myself in check, but that's not to say I don't feel the emotions that would inspire that. So that song "Jealousy" – have I ever poured whiskey down someone's dress? No. Have I ever been at someone's house and called the bitch out? No. Would I like to at times? You damn right!



**KEY**  
FINANCIAL SERVICES  
TAX & CREDIT SPECIALIST

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

CHECKOUT [WWW.GOODCREDITCOURSE.COM](http://WWW.GOODCREDITCOURSE.COM) FOR MORE INFO ABOUT OUR PROFESSIONAL CREDIT RESTORATION PROGRAM.

17515 W NINE MILE RD SUITE 445  
SOUTHFIELD, MI 48075  
(248) 569-9120 • [WWW.KEYFINANCIALONLINE.COM](http://WWW.KEYFINANCIALONLINE.COM)



**ANCHOR FENCE**

26345 Plymouth Road 313-937-0101  
Redford, MI 48239 [AnchorFenceOnline.com](http://AnchorFenceOnline.com)

*Get Your Free No-Hassle Estimate Today!*

**Michigan's #1 Fence and Railing Company Since 1892!**

Offering top quality fence installation and supplies for all vinyl, wood, chain link, steel and aluminum fencing.

**Prism of Possibilities**  
Psychotherapy

**Christine Cantrell, PhD**  
Fully Licensed Psychologist

Give yourself an extreme self makeover ...

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

**CALL NOW!**  
248-591-2888

Located in Royal Oak  
[www.christinecantrell.com](http://www.christinecantrell.com)  
[christinecantrellphd@gmail.com](mailto:christinecantrellphd@gmail.com)

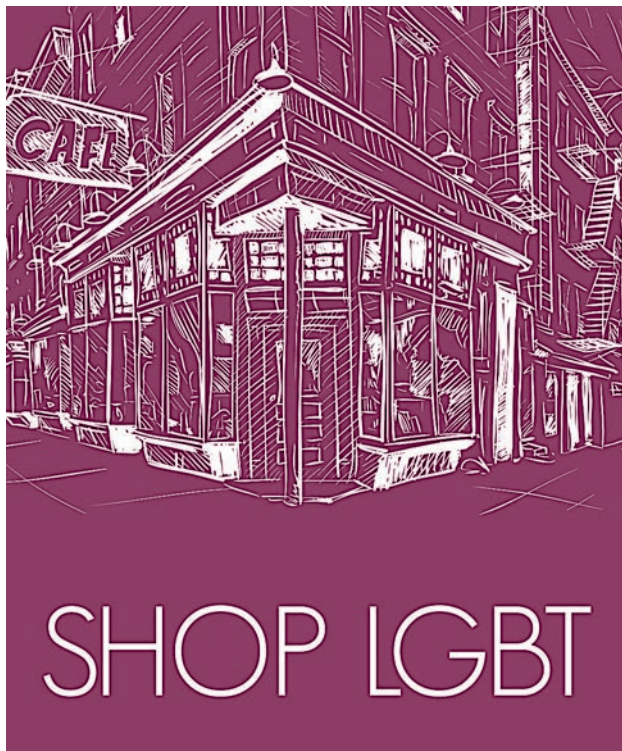


Otha Williams  
(248) 626-6300

5640 West Maple Ste. 202  
West Bloomfield  
othawilliamsagency@allstate.com



© 2011 Allstate Insurance Company.



# The OutField

## The Ultimate Game

BY DAN WOOG

So how gay is frisbee?

Pretty gay.

It's a sport – which is actually called “Ultimate” and played with a “disc,” because “Frisbee” is a registered trademark – that has traditionally attracted “outsiders.” Some are good athletes who have been turned off by the rigid rules and militaristic manner of mainstream sports. Others are people who always considered themselves non-athletes, but finally realized the joy that can be found running, throwing and catching.

And plenty are gay. Ultimate welcomes everyone (except referees – there are none). It's a big gay sport.

And it has spawned Big Gay Frisbee teams.

There's one in Los Angeles. Another in San Francisco. Those names – originally tongue-in-cheek – stuck. And they've stuck all the way to Las Vegas, where this month ultimate was played as part of the Sin City Shootout.

More on that later. First, the ultimate background.

Around 2007, Seth Harrington was searching for a team sport. Rejecting what he calls the “macho paternalism” of sports like football, basketball and baseball, he had not been particularly athletic while growing up. But in his 20s he wanted to do something sports-like. Randomly, he picked up a disc.

He discovered a “level playing field.” Ultimate was athletic and fun, without being judgmental or exclusionary. Harrington roped in gay and lesbian friends (and his own lesbian sister). They became as enraptured as he was.

The men and women who initially gathered with Harrington to play in Los Angeles parks were, like him, “non-athletes.” But younger players soon joined, many with backgrounds in traditional team sports. They did not feel as excluded from sports as Harrington had been, but they also enjoyed the easy-going camaraderie of the ultimate players.

“It's a generational thing,” Harrington says, referring to a new group of LGBT people who have grown up playing sports. He's only 28, but he recognizes the difference.

Ultimate is “super easy to pick up,” Harrington notes in explaining its

“Some are good athletes who have been turned off by the rigid rules and militaristic manner of mainstream sports. Others are people who always considered themselves non-athletes, but finally realized the joy that can be found running, throwing and catching. And plenty are gay.”

appeal. “All you need is a disc. In two minutes, you understand the rules.”

Just as quickly, newcomers catch the spirit. “It's an easy camaraderie. Everyone respects everyone else,” he says. “There's no ref, so everyone sorts out and resolves issues together.”

It's also “a way to have fun without a drink in your hand. It's a way to come out without the bar scene.”

Those qualities make “Big Gay Frisbee” attractive to the LGBT community, Harrington thinks. And they extend to straight players who join. Harrington has been surprised several times when, after playing for months, someone casually announces he has a girlfriend. “These are straight guys who are very at ease with the LGBT community. They don't feel this big necessity to identify as straight right from the start.”

(About that Big Gay Frisbee name. It started as a joke, Harrington says. “It was just part of the fun. It sounds non-threatening, welcoming and ironic.” Eventually it stuck. Now it's official.)

In 2011 – four years after the first dozen or so players gathered – there were enough for a legit tournament. Flyers, a Facebook page and website drew a crowd of 60. Today there's an email list of 250. The Facebook page has 280 members.

That's enough for a real Big Gay Frisbee league. Each season lasts several weeks, with six or so teams. “It's almost like a real sport,” Harrington laughs.

He adds proudly that although a lot of players are first “dragged in by friends,” or arrive looking for a boyfriend, after just a couple of games they realize the ultimate attraction:

Frisbee is fun.

“They stop boyfriend-shopping,” Harrington says. Meanwhile – with the pressure off – relationships do form and flourish.

Which leads to the Sin City Shootout. Held annually in Las Vegas (duh) over Martin Luther King Day weekend, it draws over 6,750 participants. They compete in basketball, bowling, bridge, darts and 12 other sports. (They also party. But that stays in Vegas.)

This year, the Shootout included what Harrington calls “the one and only national LGBT ultimate tournament.” Eight teams participated, from Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago and Cincinnati.

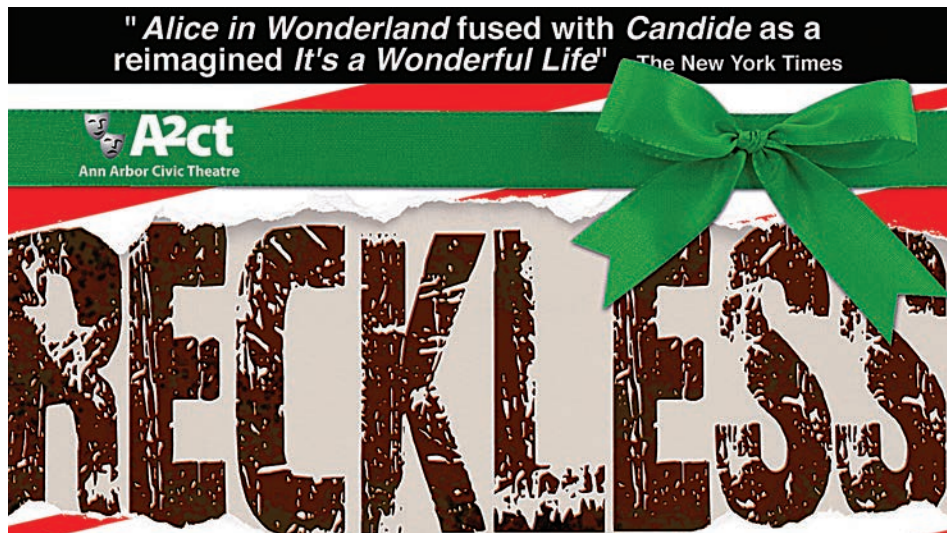
The San Francisco group is an outgrowth of the original L.A. teams and league. First organized this past October, it's already grown to 60 members. Befitting the Bay Area, many ultimate players there are startup-types. In Southern California, Big Gay Frisbee players are a mix of ages (early 20s to late 40s) and backgrounds: professionals from West Hollywood; plenty of doctors, lawyers and entertainment people; younger folks from across the city, a few from South L.A. There are a number of Asians and Latinos plus, Harrington laughs, “a lot of Jews. I did a lot of recruiting from my gay synagogue.”

For more information, visit [www.bgfultimate.com](http://www.bgfultimate.com).

Dan Woog is a journalist, educator, soccer coach and gay activist. His latest book is “We Kick Balls: True Stories from the Youth Soccer Wars.” He can be reached care of this publication or at [OutField@qsyndicate.com](mailto:OutField@qsyndicate.com).

"Alice in Wonderland fused with Candide as a reimagined *It's a Wonderful Life*" The New York Times

**A2ct**  
Ann Arbor Civic Theatre



# RECKLESS

by **Craig Lucas**  
directed by **Kevin Gilmartin**

**Arthur Miller Theatre**  
March 13-16, 2014  
Thurs.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 2pm

tickets & info: [www.a2ct.org](http://www.a2ct.org) 734-971-2228



**STOMP**  
THE INTERNATIONAL SENSATION

FIFTH THIRD BANK  
**FOX**  
THEATRE SERIES

**STOMP**  
THE INTERNATIONAL SENSATION  
STOMPONLINE.COM

**MARCH 14-16 • FOX THEATRE**

The Fox Theatre & Joe Louis Arena Box Offices  
Ticketmaster.com | Charge by phone 800.745.3000

OlympiaEntertainment.com

FROM THE PRODUCERS OF  
**RIVERDANCE**

# Heartbeat of home



**TICKETS AS LOW AS \$35**

**THE HIGH OCTANE DANCE EXTRAVAGANZA**  
Fisher Theatre • March 18-23

Tickets: [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com), 800-982-2787 & Fisher Theatre box office.  
Info: [BroadwayInDetroit.com](http://BroadwayInDetroit.com) & 313-872-1000. Groups (12+): 313-871-1132  
or e-mail [Groups@BroadwayInDetroit.com](mailto:Groups@BroadwayInDetroit.com).

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

**A celebration of local jazz, barbecue and soul food**

An impressive 25 food vendors participating  
Live non-stop music  
A selection of Michigan beers  
Best of metro Detroit rib & fried chicken competitions



**SMOKIN' JAZZ**

Thursday,  
**March 20**  
6 pm - 11 pm  
Royal Oak Farmers Market  
Certain to sell out • Advance tickets online  
[www.smokinjazzfest.com](http://www.smokinjazzfest.com)

A production of The Quintessential Event Co. • (248) 809-9644

# BTL Cool Cities Ferndale

**GERRY BANISTER**  
RE/MAX® Showcase Homes



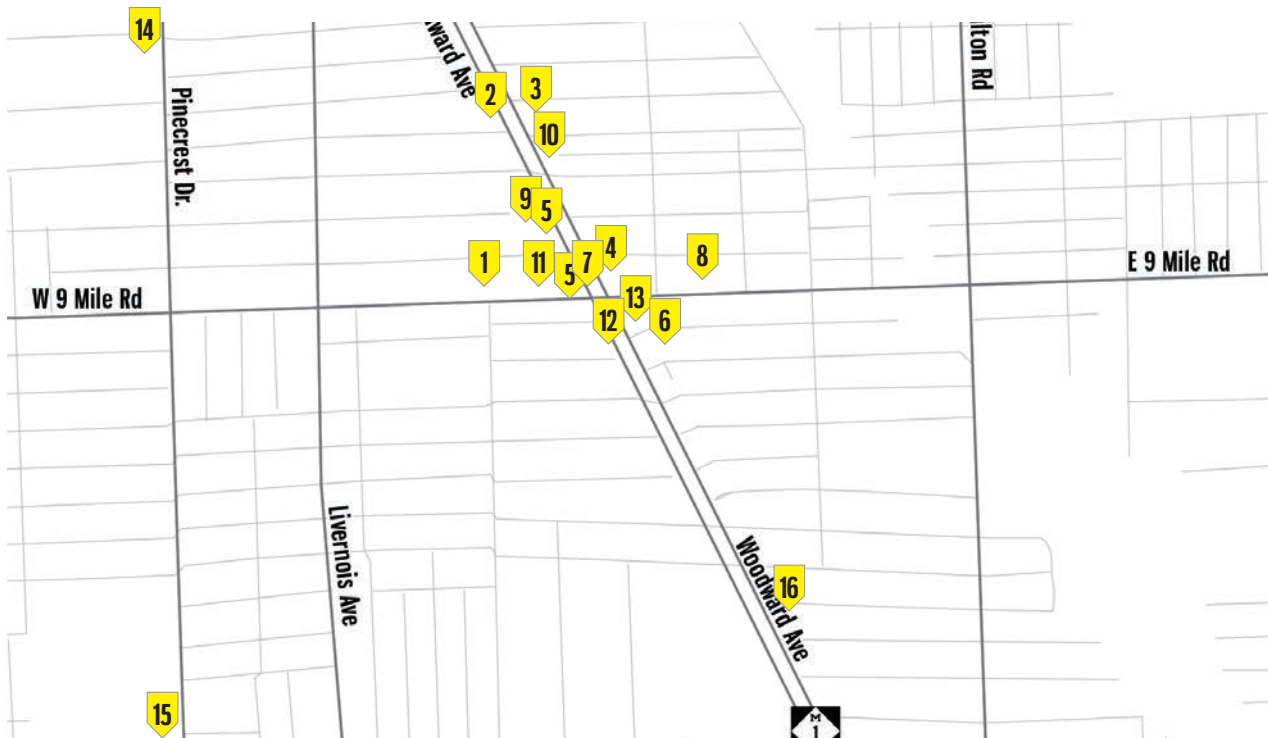
**Gerry Banister**  
RE/MAX Hall of Fame

Serving the residential real estate needs of our community for 25+ years. Buying, selling, leasing, investing, homes, condos, conventional, short sales, foreclosures.

**REAL ESTATE / REAL SERVICE / REAL RESULTS**

RE/MAX Showcase Homes  
912 S. Old Woodward, Birmingham, MI 48009  
248-645-1589 (24/7) • gerrybanister@aol.com

[www.GERRYBANISTER.com](http://www.GERRYBANISTER.com)



## BTL ADVERTISERS

Affirmations..... 1	Comos..... 4	Hodges..... 10	Schmidt Law Services..... 12
Allstate / Nick Schrock..... 2	Essential Massage..... 5	Just for Us..... 11	Premier Care Pharmacy..... *
Automatic Collision..... 3	Ferndale Chiropractic..... 6	Level One Bank..... 12	S.P.I.C.E..... 1
	Ferndale DDA..... 7	John D. Bistro..... 13	Suburban Buick GMC..... 16
	Go Comedy..... 8	MCC Detroit..... 14	
	Green Thumb Garden Center..... 9	Michigan AIDS Coalition..... 15	*Not shown above

## M & M Accounting Service

Mark G. Benner, CMA, EA, RTRP

Phone: 248-547-9436

Fax: 258-547-5165

[www.mmaccounting.net](http://www.mmaccounting.net)

[Taxes@mmaccounting.net](mailto:Taxes@mmaccounting.net)

Flexible Hours:

Day/Evenings & Weekends!

We Accept

Major Credit Cards!



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

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

Call and set up an appointment with us today!



Organic  
and  
All-Natural  
Gardening

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



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

# More Money, Less Problems

BY SHELBY CLARK

The Ferndale Downtown Development Authority recently released 2013 statistics based on their quarterly findings, and all signs point toward economic growth.

The city, long known for its openness to the LGBT community, is mirroring the United States' upward trend.

More than \$5 million was invested in the private and public sectors, resulting in more than 300 new jobs in the downtown Ferndale workforce. Counted amongst these investments is the 32 new businesses that found homes in the area, including Pet N Paw, Shine On Yoga, Ink Addict, Inspiration Uncorked and Lisa D's Divine Treats. For a complete list of new businesses, refer to [www.downtownferndale.com](http://www.downtownferndale.com).

Some of the new businesses completely renovated, making the new spots feel even newer. The new Public House was one such business, filling the space of a closed French restaurant; Dynasty Media revamped a space left empty by a graphic design firm.

Other investments include a new streetscape project on West Nine Mile Road that features a ground-up rebuild

of a Taco Bell and a 11,000-square-foot, single-use property revamped and leased to three businesses.

Smaller, quieter projects such as new signs, facade improvements and more are also part of Ferndale's continued improvement.

Executive director of the DDA, Cristina Sheppard-Decius, notes, "Entrepreneurs are investing in the district in big and small ways. Whether they grow in place or add a second business, make interior improvements or exterior changes, they are committed to downtown Ferndale."

The DDA was able to lead much of the city's downtown development last year. A \$500,000 grant was awarded to the authority to help finance the streetscape improvements on West Nine Mile Road, and the city of Ferndale matched the funds.

A popular improvement to the Ferndale area is the city's modern and more efficiently managed parking system. Now visitors to the area can pay for parking with cash, credit card or by phone, even extending their time at parking spots with their cell phone or at other "pay stations" throughout the city.

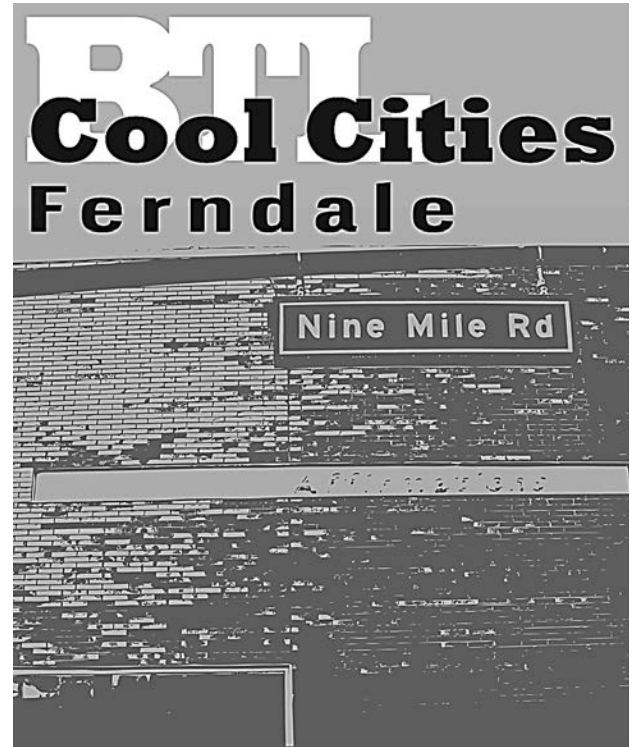
A stronger advertising presence was

also cited as a factor in Ferndale's upward growth. The city made itself known through print, radio, billboard and even social media presences on Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest.

The city will continue to throw more than two dozen events throughout the year to feature businesses both old and new. The DIY Street Fair, the Ferndale Dream Cruise and Ferndale Pride are just a few celebrations that attract thousands of visitors to the district.

Sheppard-Decius continues, "Each year we make a concerted effort to communicate the many messages of the district – whether we are establishing it as a great place to shop, to dine or to open a business – and our statistics reflect success in getting the word out," says Sheppard-Decius. "We have a mantra in downtown Ferndale: change is good. Our statistics are the proof."

Downtown Ferndale is managed by the Ferndale DDA. The area is composed of 3.9 linear miles along Woodward Avenue and Nile Mile Road and features roughly 350 businesses. For more information on the area and its businesses, call the DDA at 248-546-1632 or visit the city's Facebook page.



**SCHMIDT**  
LAW SERVICES

Civil Rights - Family - Criminal Defense



Lisa J. Schmidt

[www.SchmidtLawServices.com](http://www.SchmidtLawServices.com)

248-764-8584

Your ally in the courtroom.

**BTL**  
**Ferndale**  
YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD • YOUR MARKET  
Be included in our  
Ferndale Cool Cities  
Pages  
Call us today:  
734-293-7200 x13

**EVERY GOOD DEED  
DESERVES A MORTGAGE!**

For exceptional mortgage service call:

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

**ROSS MORTGAGE**  
CORPORATION

 **MCC**  
METROPOLITAN  
COMMUNITY CHURCH  
OF DETROIT

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



**Rev. Roland Stringfellow**  
joins MCCD as Senior Pastor!  
Join us for his sermon on March 2nd!

2441 Pinecrest Ferndale, MI  
248-399-7741 | [www.mccdetroit.org](http://www.mccdetroit.org)

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



Royal Oak's long running interactive comedy experience!



# Drag Queen BINGO

This Ain't your Grandmas Bingo!

Thursday,  
Friday,  
Saturday Nights  
& Sunday Brunch



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

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

## Editor's Pick



Equality Michigan's 18th Annual ComedyFest is this Saturday in Dearborn. The LGBT-themed event features comedians Julie Goldman, Andre Kelley, Dana Goldberg and Michele Balan.

Equality Michigan has been a long-time proponent of equality and respect for all people in Michigan, regardless of gender identity or expression or sexual orientation. Equality Michigan is responsible for other LGBT events, including an annual dinner, a women's golf outing and, most famously, Motor City Pride.

ComedyFest begins at 8 p.m. on Saturday, March 8 at the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center, 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. Tickets are \$35 and general admission. For more information, visit [www.comedyfest.org](http://www.comedyfest.org).

# Happenings

## OUTINGS

### 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](http://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](http://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](http://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, 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 (JGNM), 6600 W. Maple Road, **West Bloomfield**. 248-432-5661. [Jgnmi.org](http://Jgnmi.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](http://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](http://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](http://Five15.net)

### Friday, March 7

**Friday Night Socials at the AFF** 7 p.m. Join us every Friday 7pm-9pm. Euchre-First & Third Fridays. Open Mic-Second & Fourth Fridays. Hosted by Michelle Brown. Everyone Welcome! Food & Drink available. The AFF Store & More, 290 W Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [rickh@bsumi.com](mailto:rickh@bsumi.com) [GoAffirmations.org](http://GoAffirmations.org)

**Womyn's Film Night** 7 p.m. Film: Laughing Matters Next Gen Affirmations, 398 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [Goaffirmations.org](http://Goaffirmations.org)

### Saturday, March 8

**Low Cost Vaccination Clinic** 9 a.m. The Humane Society of Huron Valley Veterinary Clinic offers low-cost vaccinations, wellness testing, and prevention products for all public cats and dogs at our Low Cost Vaccination Clinics. Humane Society of Huron Valley, 3100 Cherry Hill Road, **Ann Arbor**. 734-662-5585. [Hshv.convio.net](http://Hshv.convio.net)

**Come Hungry, Leave Happy** Strolling and tasting food tour.meet at Rocky's or Mootown Ice Cream. Tickets: \$29. Feet on the Street Tours, 2489 Russell St., **Detroit**. 248-353-8687. [Enjoythed.com](http://Enjoythed.com)

**Out2Enroll** 12 p.m. An Obamacare Education and Enrollment event. Affirmations, MichUHCAn, and More, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [Goaffirmations.org](http://Goaffirmations.org)

**X the Line - Peer Educators** 2 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [dsmith@goaffirmations.org](mailto:dsmith@goaffirmations.org) [Goaffirmations.org](http://Goaffirmations.org)

**Michigan LGBT ComedyFest** 8 p.m. Equality Michigan, 15801 Michigan Ave., **Dearborn**. 313-537-7000. [info@equalitymi.org](http://info@equalitymi.org) [comedyfest.org](http://comedyfest.org)

**Drag Queen Bingo** 10 p.m. A fun alternative to your usual weekend hot spots. Shows get out just early enough for you to hit the local clubs or bars! Refreshments from our full coffee bar (coffees, teas, smoothies), sodas, water, and more. Tickets: \$20. 18+. Five15, 515 S. Washington Ave., **Royal Oak**. 248-515-2551. [Five15.net](http://Five15.net)

### Sunday, March 9

**Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church** 10 a.m. We are a welcoming congregation. Please join us for services every Sunday at 10am. Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Hwy, **Southfield**. 248-354-4488. [office@northwestuu.org](mailto:office@northwestuu.org) [northwestuu.org](http://northwestuu.org)

**Older Lesbians Organizing** 1 p.m. Provides older Lesbians with the chance to meet like minded women in their common struggles, to share mutual interests and to play and work together. Meets the 2nd Friday of every month. Older Lesbians Organizing, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. [Jasmithers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Jasmithers@sbcglobal.net) [JimToyCenter.org](http://JimToyCenter.org)

**Conversation Station** 5 p.m. A new topic is discussed each week. As always, if anyone has something they want to talk about, feel free to start a discussion.

We are not limited to the chosen topic. We are a group of friends who enjoy each others company and support each other in any way we can. GOAL, 714 S. Washington, **Royal Oak**. 248-981-4227. [MarciWilliams@yahoo.com](mailto:MarciWilliams@yahoo.com) [GetOutAndLive.me](http://GetOutAndLive.me)

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

**Maria Bamford** 8 p.m. Special comedy engagement. Tickets: \$20-22. Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty St., **Ann Arbor**. 734-996-9080. [Aacomedy.com](http://Aacomedy.com)

**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](http://Autbar.com)

**Showbiz Sunday** 10 p.m. Ace Deville, Delicious, Maria Mirelez, DJ Lippgloss, and more. Additional showtimes at 11 p.m. and 12 a.m. Spiral Dance Bar, 1247 Center St., **Lansing**. 517-894-1315. [Spiraldancebar.com](http://Spiraldancebar.com)

### Monday, March 10

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

**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](http://meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT)

### Tuesday, March 11

**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](http://Goaffirmations.org)

**Circle of Life: Pet Ownership Discussion and Support Group** 6:30 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](http://Tailwaggers1990.org)

**Transgender Life Support** 7 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [Goaffirmations.org](http://Goaffirmations.org)

See Happenings, page 24

[www.PrideSource.com](http://www.PrideSource.com)

# 'Daisy' Takes Slow Drive Through 25 Years

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

Some stories are touching and poignant no matter how you tell them.

Alfred Uhry's "Driving Miss Daisy" is one of those well-written scripts that takes three people through the years 1948 to 1973 and explores such themes as interdependence, personal growth and the way big things in the world affect the way we relate to each other.

It's one of the reasons the script has been a popular one among theaters since it came out in 1987.

Director Fran Rauth brings a fairly straight and sometimes flat interpretation of the play to the Great Escape Stage Company. The play is well-suited for their intimate, black box setting with a tight stage containing three separate locations.

It's also a good choice for a theater that is making its transition from a non-professional community theater to professional theater. "Driving Miss Daisy" marks its first time being reviewed by EncoreMichigan.com as a professional show. It is a challenging transition to make, and an evolution that takes time. This production still shows many signs of its community theater roots from which it sprang, even while having promise it will continue to grow and flourish.

Most promising is the performance put in by Laura Russell. Russell brings vim and great vocal quality to the title role of Daisy Werthan. She made Daisy a spunky elderly woman who is determined to keep her independence and hold tight to her views of the world the way it was. She is most delightful when she gets a mischievous glint in her eyes and reveals the warmth and vitality of a character who could otherwise be written off as curmudgeonly.

Her chauffeur, Hoke Coleburn, is played by Count Laws, an actor whose background lies primarily in musical theater. His voice is deep and he handles the Southern accent competently.

While the play runs only 90 minutes (15 minutes longer than the program claims), many of the directorial and acting choices slowed things down. The play lacked the crispness that ought to be present in such a tight script. Not enough attention was paid to the little moments, such as the extra steps actors took once they opened the invisible car doors and supposedly stepped into the car. It left the audience wondering whether the car had a platform between the door and the seats. Miss Daisy always entered on the same side as Hoke, forcing her to slide



Hoke (Count Laws) drives Miss Daisy (Laura Russell) in the Great Escape Stage Company's production of "Driving Miss Daisy." Photo: Randy Lake

## REVIEW

### Driving Miss Daisy

Great Escape Stage Company, 155 W. Michigan Ave., Marshall. 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday & 3 p.m. Sunday through March 9. 91 minutes; no intermission. \$12-15. 269-781-2700.

[www.greatescapestagecompany.com](http://www.greatescapestagecompany.com)

across the bench so the audience could see her, a choice that lacked motivation and was sloppy in execution.

Most harmful, though, was the lack of variety or commitment from Laws. He gives Russell very little to work with in key scenes, delivering everything in the same manner and with no vocal variation. It was sometimes necessary to strain to hear him, as he swallowed his lines rather than letting them float out over the audience.

All of his aging took place between the penultimate scene and the last one, rather than showing a gradual aging over the two and a half decades of the play. Nor does he ever show any animation or energy. If he wins Miss Daisy over, it is through pure bull-headed presence and not through any charisma or understanding of their shared humanity.

It isn't until the last scene where it is possible to feel any real connection

or affection between the two, though Russell tries to show the changing relationship before the final moment.

Randy Lake's Boolie Werthan serves his purpose of foil and comedic relief. He speaks clearly and lets his love for his mother show through his exasperation and actions.

Attention to such details are what can transform a play from mediocre to memorable. "Driving Miss Daisy" makes a start on that journey for the Great Escape Theatre Company and future productions hold the potential to arrive there.

If the cold weather continues, make sure you don't arrive too early to the production. Doors open a half hour before the show, and the black box space has no lobby, so audiences must wait outside or in nearby dining establishments in downtown Marshall.

Once inside, though, the theater and the staff are warm and inviting. There is a commitment to Marshall and to their audiences that defies the cold weather.

While this production is flawed in its execution, it captures the poignancy at the end and leaves the audience with a message of how much we continue to need each other and how much we have in common even when we are outwardly very different.

**DIGNITY  
DETROIT**

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

Box 558 - Royal Oak, MI 48068 - (313) 278-4786  
[www.dignitydetroit.org](http://www.dignitydetroit.org)

**PAFF  
THE  
ELECTRIC  
COMPANY**

**24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICES**

COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL  
RESIDENTIAL

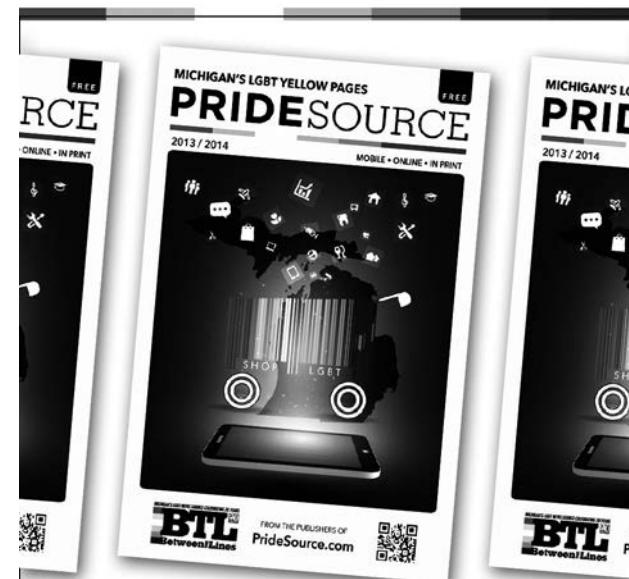
16350 Northville Rd. Plymouth

**248-735-5464**  
[www.paffelectric.com](http://www.paffelectric.com)

Electrical Wiring since 1947

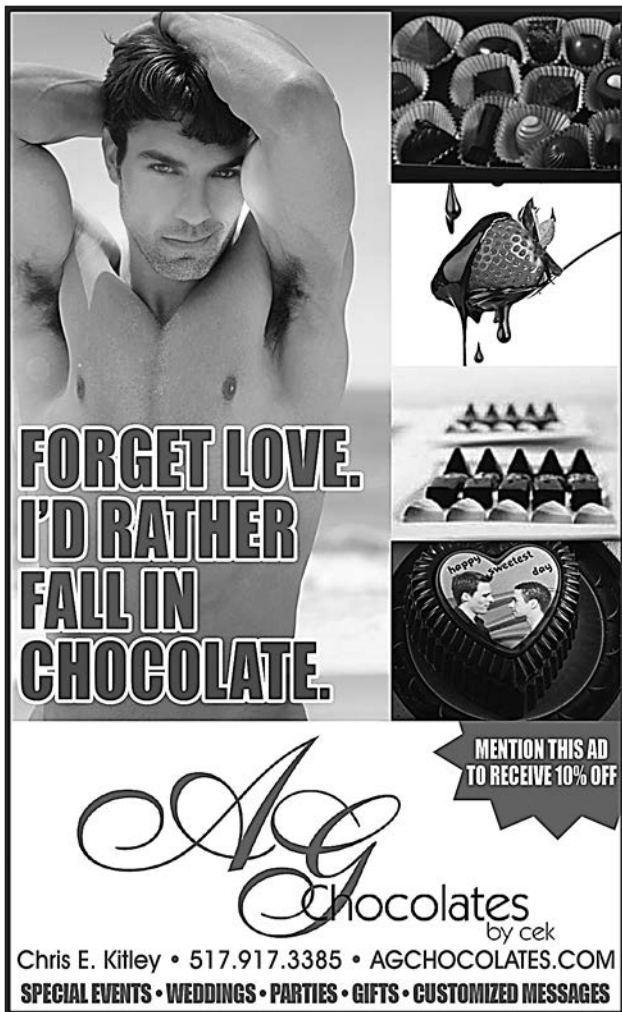
MICHIGAN'S LGBT YELLOW PAGES

## PRIDESOURCE



Available In Print & Online  
@ [www.Pridesource.com](http://www.Pridesource.com)

Over 1000 LGBT-Friendly  
Businesses and Organizations



**FORGET LOVE. I'D RATHER FALL IN CHOCOLATE.**

**AG Chocolates**  
by cek

Chris E. Kitley • 517.917.3385 • AGCHOCOLATES.COM  
SPECIAL EVENTS • WEDDINGS • PARTIES • GIFTS • CUSTOMIZED MESSAGES

MENTION THIS AD TO RECEIVE 10% OFF

**The Ark**  
where music lives  
316 S. Main, Ann Arbor  
www.theark.org

**CATIE CURTIS**  
w/sg Jenna Lindbo  
Sunday, March 9, 7:30 pm

New music from a "folk-rock goddess" (New Yorker)

**DIANA LAWRENCE**  
Wednesday, March 12, 8 p.m.

A versatile Michigan native, making a splash in the Windy City

**CALL FOR TICKETS (734) 763-TKTS**  
In person at Michigan Union Ticket Office and Online at TheArk.org. Doors open 1/2 hour before showtime.

## ▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 22

**Piston's Palace Pride Night** 7:30 p.m. The first ever Pride Night. The Pistons take on the Sacramento Kings. Tickets: \$10-45. Detroit Pistons, 5 Championship Dr., **Auburn Hills**. 248-377-0100. Equalitymi.org

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

### Wednesday, March 12

**Senior Koffee Klatch** 1 p.m. A lively, discussion and social group for LGBT adults over 45. Group covers topics



features a calendar for the organization's events.

The Low Cost Vaccination Clinic begins at 9 a.m. this Saturday, March 8 at the Humane Society of Huron Valley, 3100 Cherry Hill Road, Ann Arbor. For more information, call 734-662-5585 or visit <http://hshv.convio.net>.

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

**Food Truck Rally** 5 p.m. Royal Oak Farmers Market, 316 E. 11 Mile Road, **Royal Oak**. 248-246-3276. Ci. royal-oak.mi.us

**Mia McKenzie Black Girl Dangerous** 6 p.m. Mia McKenzie is the Founding Editor and Editor-in-Chief of the wildly popular blog, Black Girl Dangerous (blackgirldangerous.org). McKenzie is also the winner of the 2013 Lambda Literary Award for her novel The Summer We Got Free. Free. MSU Womens Resource Center, 49 Abbot Road, **East Lansing**. 517-353-1635. wrcc@msu.edu Wrc. msu.edu

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

**Sister Outsider Poetry** 7 p.m. Spectrum Center, **Ann Arbor**. Spectrumcenter.umich.edu

### Thursday, March 13

**Free HIV Testing** 2 p.m. Free, anonymous HIV testing is available at S3 Safe Sex Store every Thursday until 8 p.m. Testing is performed by HARC staff. Call to schedule an appointment, but walk-ins are more than welcome. S3 Safe Sex Store and HIV/AIDS Resource Center, 1209 S. University, **Ann Arbor**. 734-741-1434. Info@bak-inc.com S3safesexstore.com

**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

**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

## MUSIC & MORE

### Benefits/Social Events

**Detroit Symphony Orchestra** "Classical Roots Performance & Gala" Tickets: \$75+. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. March 8, 313-576-5111. Dso.org

**University Musical Society (UMS)** "Cabaret Dinner" Tickets: \$150. The Earle, 121 W. Washington St., Ann Arbor. 6 p.m. March 9. Ums.org

7:30 p.m. March 12. 313-471-6611. Olympiantertainment.com

**Royal Oak Music Theatre** "Keb' Mo". Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. March 12. 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre.com

**The Ark** "Diana Lawrence" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. March 12. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

**The Majestic** "Les Claypool's Duo De Twang" All ages. Tickets: \$23-25. Majestic Theater, 4120-4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. March 7. 313-833-9700. Majesticdetroit.com

**The Majestic** "Mayer Hawthorne" With Quadron. All ages. Tickets: \$25. The Garden Theater, 3929 Woodward Ave.,

riverwalk.com

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

**Reckless** \$11-22. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin Ave., Ann Arbor. March 13 - 16. 734-971-2228. A2ct.org

**The Cat in the Hat** \$7. The Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. March 14 - 21. 269-343-1313. Kazoocivic.com

**The Geezer Game** \$11-15. Spotlight Still Got it Players at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. March 5 - 9. 734-394-5300. Canton-mi.org/villageheater

### Professional

**Angels in America Part 1: Millennium Approaches** \$10-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through March 17. 248-545-5545. theeringwald.com

**Antony and Cleopatra** \$10. Shakespeare in Detroit at Recycle Here, New Center, 1331 Holden St., Detroit. March 15 - 22. Shakespeareindetroit.com

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

**Coming to America** \$10-15. Wild Swan Theater at Towsley Auditorium in the Morris Lawrence Building on the campus of Washtenaw Community College, 4800 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor. March 13 - 15. 734-995-0530. wildswantheater.org

**Dinosaur Zoo Live** \$19-39. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. March 12 - 16. 313-872-1000. broadwayindetroit.com

**Dreamtigers** \$5-10. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit. March 15 - 30. 313-961-7777. puppetart.org

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

**Fireside New Play Festival** Pay what you can. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. March 9 - 12. 734-663-0681. performancenetwork.org

**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

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

**Lightwire: The Show** \$26. Tibbits Opera House, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. 2 p.m. March 9. 517-278-6029. tibbits.org

**Lysistrata Jones** \$25-40. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. Through March 9. 248-377-3300. mbtheatre.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 Occasion of Sin** \$17-20. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Through March 16. 313-868-1347. detroitreptheatre.com

**Oh, Ananse** \$5-\$10. PuppetART at

## Editor's Pick

Are your pets feeling the pinch from tax season? Get your loyal critters vaccinated at low-cost at the Humane Society of Huron Valley. The clinic will offer reduced pricing on not only vaccinations but also wellness testing and prevention products. All cats and dogs are welcome at the clinic.

Huron Valley's Humane Society offers various pet related activities throughout the year. BTL's Pet Guide

### Classical

**Kerrytown Concert House** "Itamar Zorman and Pauline Martin" Tickets: \$5-30. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. March 8. 734-763-4186. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

**Michigan Philharmonic** "The Ives of March" Plymouth Oratorio Society, Dr. Richard Ingram, director. Martha Shell, soprano; Stephen Lusmann, baritone; Lee Actor, composer. First United Methodist Church, Plymouth. 2 p.m. March 9. Michiganphil.org

### Concerts

**Blind Pig** "Snow Tha Product" All ages. Tickets: \$14. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. March 11. 734-996-8555. Blindpigmusic.com

**Cathedral Music Society** "Le chemin de la croix" Organists Aaron Tan, Jeremy David Tarrant, and Richard Newman will present French composer Marcel Dupre's "Le chemin de la croix." Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 4800 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. March 7. 313-833-7547. Facebook.com/detroitcathedralmusic

**Detroit Symphony Orchestra** "Civic Showcase". Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7:15 p.m. March 6. 313-576-5111. Dso.org

**Kerrytown Concert House** "The Juanito Pascual Trio" Contemporary Flamenco. Tickets: \$5-25. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. March 6. 734-763-4186. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

**Michigan Theater** "Pat Metheny Unity Group" Tickets: \$39. 50-75. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. March 10. 734-668-8397. Michtheater.org

**Olympia Entertainment** "Robin Thicke" Tickets: \$29. 50-75. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit.

8 p.m. March 6. 313-833-9700. Majesticdetroit.com

**The Palace of Auburn Hills** "Arcade Fire: Reflektor Tour" Tickets: \$41. 20-74. 40. The Palace of Auburn Hills, 5 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. 7:30 p.m. March 10. 248-377-0100. Ticketmaster.com

### Dance

**Eisenhower Dance** "TranscenDance" Tickets: \$10-55. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. 8 p.m. March 7. 586-286-2222. Eisenhowerdance.org

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

**The Berman Center for the Performing Arts** "Gallim Dance - Sit, Kneel, Stand" Tickets: \$32-37. The Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. 7:30 p.m. March 12. 248-661-1900. Theberman.org

## THEATER

### Civic/Community Theater

**A Shot In The Dark** \$8-14. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. March 13 - 23. 517-482-5700. Riverwalk.com

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

**Father of the Bride** \$15-35. The Crowell, 129 E. Maumee St., Adrian. Through March 9. 517-263-6868. crowell.org

**Free Man of Color** \$10-12. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. Through March 9. 517-482-5700.

See Happenings, page 26

www.PrideSource.com



MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

**BTL**  
Between THE Lines™  
ONLINE AT PRIDESOURCE.COM

20  
Years

THANK YOU FOR  
TWENTY YEARS.

**JORGENSEN**



**We Are Metro Detroit's  
Premium Ford Dealer**

**Quality Parts & Service**



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



**Wide Selection of Pre-Owned Vehicles**

**We sell electric vehicles  
and plug-in hybrids**



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



**313-584-2250**

[www.JorgensenFord.com](http://www.JorgensenFord.com)

**Michigan at Lonyo**

THE BERMAN  
*Center for the Performing Arts*



*Signature Series*

An Evening with  
*Molly Ringwald*



"Molly Ringwald brings genius on her debut album"  
-The Huffington Post

Molly Ringwald became a teen idol with her roles in "Sixteen Candles," "Pretty in Pink" and "The Breakfast Club." Now, at age 44, she has released her debut album "Except Sometimes," which she will perform live with her jazz band. Don't miss this evening of American standards and jazz greats performed by America's sweetheart!

*Live Performance*  
Thursday, March 20 • 8 p.m.  
\$57/Admission, \$52/JCC Member  
Limited VIP meet and greet packages available.



THEBERMAN.ORG | 248.661.1900

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



100  
Degree Programs

Ranked  
#1

Safest 4-Year Public  
University in Michigan

Source: StateUniversity.com

700  
Co-op and Internship  
placements annually

160  
Student Organizations

The Degree  
that Makes the  
Difference™

**M**  
**DEARBORN**

umd.umich.edu  
313-593-5100

*The University of Michigan*

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

## ▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 24

**Detroit Puppet Theater**, 25 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit. Through March 23. 313-961-7777. puppetart.org

**Pinkalicious! the Musical** \$10-15. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. March 14 - 23. 269-343-2727. Farmersalleytheatre.com

**Puppet Up! - Uncensored** For adults only. \$35. Miller Auditorium, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. 8 p.m. March 15. 269-387-2300. Millerauditorium.com

**Purim Shpiel** \$5-10. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit. Through March 9. 313-961-7777. puppetart.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

**Spank! Harder** \$30.50-35.50. City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. March 11 - 16. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com

**Stomp** \$25-65. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. March 14 - 16. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com

**Sundays at Go Comedy!** Pay-what-you-can at the door. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. gocomey.net

**Tao: Phoenix Rising** \$15-38. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. March 15. 586-286-2222. macombcenter.com

**The Fantasticks** \$20-35. Miller Auditorium, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. 8 p.m. March 14. 269-387-2300. Millerauditorium.com

**The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess** \$29-87. Broadway in Detroit at Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. March 4 - 9. 313-237-SING. broadwayindetroit.com

**The Snail and the Whale** \$5-10. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. March 11. 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 Teacher from the Black Lagoon & Other Stories** \$12. Wharton Center's

Pasant Theatre, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. March 9. 800-WHARTON. whartoncenter.com

**The Tempest** \$10. What A Do Theatre, 4071 W. Dickman Road, Springfield. March 14 - 22. 269-282-1953. whatado.org

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

**We're Going on a Bear Hunt** \$10-20. Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit. 4 p.m. March 9. 313-887-8500. Musichall.org

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

## ART 'N' AROUND

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

**Cranbrook Academy of Art and Art Museum** "My Brain Is in My Inkstand: Drawing as Thinking and Process", 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Nov. 16 - March 30. 877-462-7262. Cranbrookart.edu

**Cranbrook Academy of Art and Art Museum** "A Driving Force: Cranbrook and the Car" 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Aug. 4 - March 30. 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** "Samurai: Beyond the Sword" The exhibition looks at how Japan's legendary warrior class sought balance between military and cultural pursuits. Tickets: \$8-16. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. March 9 - June 1. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

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

**Downriver Council for the Arts** "Mystic Sisters" 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. Feb. 21 - March 14. 734-720-0671. Downriverarts.org

**Flint Institute of Arts** "Point of View: Contemporary African American Art from the Elliot & Kimberly Perry Collection" Art from former NBA player and his wife.

Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Jan. 26 - April 13. 810-234-1695. Fiintarts.org

**Holocaust Memorial Center** "Brundibar: An Evening with Ela Stein Weissberger" Exclusive member event. Tickets: \$18-50. Holocaust Memorial Center, 48123 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. 7 p.m. March 12. 248-553-2400 x24. Holocaustcenter.org

**Holocaust Memorial Center** "Tectonic Leadership: A Roadmap to Systemic Change" Presentation and Roundtable Discussion. Holocaust Memorial Center, 48123 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. 3 p.m. March 9. 248-553-2400 x24. Holocaustcenter.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** "Mobile Homestead" A permanent art work by the late Mike Kelley. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jan. 1 - June 30. 313-832-6622. Mocadoetroit.org

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

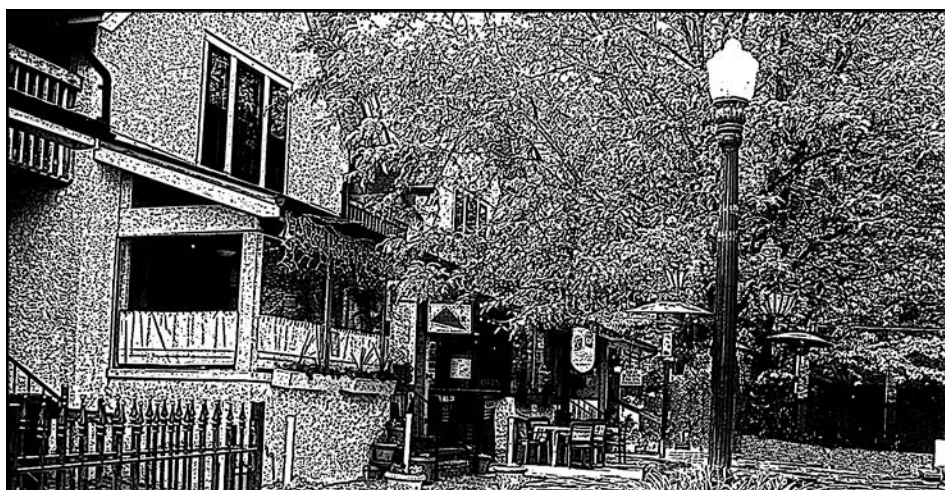
**Riverside Arts Center** "Mosaic Evolution" Both 2D and 3D creations. Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. March 6 - March 29. 734-483-7345. Riversidearts.org

**Saugatuck Center for the Arts** "John Peterson" Complex pen & ink drawings. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. Jan. 1 - March 22. 269-857-2399. Sc4a.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** "Three Michigan Architects: Part 1 - David Osler". University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Dec. 7 - March 31. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

**WonderFool Productions** "Luminary Workshops" Make your own luminary and join a processional into downtown Ann Arbor. Don't know how? Come to one our popular drop-in Make your Own Luminary Workshops and get hands on help from several of the region's most talented public art artists. Beverages provided by Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea. Suggested donation: \$10. Workatle, 118 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. March 2 - March 30. 734-763-7550. Wonderfoolproductions.org



**\aut\ BAR**  
Where LGBT Ann Arbor  
meets, eats, drinks, and plays!

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

**SH \aut\  
Cabaret and Gallery**

325 Braun Court  
Ann Arbor, MI

**Common  
Language  
Bookstore**

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



## Editor's Pick

Once again, the Spotlight Still Got It Players presents a new comedy, "The Geezer Game," which makes its premiere at the Biltmore Studio Theatre inside the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

Doc's depressed and his over-the-hill friends are out of shape. So when they're hustled to play a charity touch football game against a much younger team, where should the smart money bet? Laughs abound as age and arthritis battle youth for every yard in the miss-match bowl of the century.

Playwright Herb McCollom Jr of Pennsylvania will make the trip to be at the premiere of his new comedy. A senior himself, he felt his comedy would fit the troupe's mission of presenting works that only feature mature actors. According to artistic director Debbie Lannen, "Mr. McCollom's comedy fit the bill exactly. It is an entertaining new work with laughs abounding throughout."

Performances are March 5-9. For tickets, call 734-394-5300 ext. 3.

AFFIRMATIONS CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

# SILVER JUBILEE

25

APRIL 5, 2014

COBO HALL, DETROIT

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

*All ticket levels open bar and dinner.*

**Tickets at [www.GoAffirmations.org](http://www.GoAffirmations.org)**

SPONSORS:





## Say Hi To Eddard!

Say Hi to Eddard! This 1-year-old Shepherd/Lab mix is a very sweet, laid back guy. He loves to sit and cuddle! The adoption fee includes sterilization, age-appropriate vaccinations, the MHS Adoption Guarantee and much more. For more information, please visit or call the MHS Berman Center for Animal Care in Westland at (734) 721-7300 and provide the pet ID number, 772297. Photo by Timothy Wheeler.



Pet of the Week made possible by  
**Patterson Dog & Cat Hospital**  
 3800 Grand River Ave., Detroit  
**313-832-7282**  
[www.pattersondogandcat.com](http://www.pattersondogandcat.com)

## A Tension Getter Massage Therapy

by David Rosenberg  
**(734) 662-6282**

Therapeutic Massage gets rid of back, neck and shoulder pain



### 2 Downtown Locations

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

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

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

## Massage Class for Men

Sheets, showers and lotions provided

Learn some massage techniques.

Meet others in a safe and caring environment.

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

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

# Classifieds

## 01-ANNOUNCEMENTS LGBT AA MEETINGS

**Ann Arbor-Friday**  
 7:30 pm, St. Andrews Episcopal Church Gay AA, 306 N. Division St. Closed/Discussion.

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

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

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

**Ferndale-Monday / Wednesday / Friday**  
 11:30 a.m., Brown Baggers Gay AA, Affirmations, 290 West 9 Mile Rd. Closed/Discussion.

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

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

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

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

## 101-ANNOUNCEMENTS LGBT AL ANON

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

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

## 112 ANNOUNCEMENTS - VOLUNTEERING

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

**Participate in the Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo**  
 Looking for individuals to help out and have fun at the Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo April 12 at the Soufield Civic Pavilion. Please contact Bill at 248-809-9644 or bill@thequintessentialevent.com

## 428 PROF. SERVICES - MASSAGE

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

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

To place a classified ad with us, visit [pridesource.com/classifieds](http://pridesource.com/classifieds) or call us at 734-293-7200 x15

# Naked Men's YOGA

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

Contact Dave at [massage4@aol.com](mailto:massage4@aol.com)  
[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/michigan\\_mens\\_clothing\\_optional\\_yoga](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/michigan_mens_clothing_optional_yoga)



### Solution to puzzle from page 30

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

# Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

## Ellen Page, 'Freeheld' at last

Long in the works, the Ellen Page project "Freeheld" couldn't be coming together at a better moment. The actor has just gone public with her sexual orientation to the support of fans everywhere – and 2013's "Dallas Buyer's Club" has multiple Oscar nominations, making the climate a little more welcoming for gay-themed drama. Even better news: The film has a firm up casting sheet, with Julianne Moore attached to play Page's life partner and Zach Galifianakis ready to take on the role of a human rights activist. Based on the Oscar-winning 2007 documentary of the same name by Cynthia Wade, the true story revolves around Stacie Andree (Page) and New Jersey police detective Laurel Hester (Moore), a couple who face anti-gay laws when Hester becomes terminally ill and not allowed to assign her pension benefits to Andree. Ron Nyswaner (Philadelphia) is the screenwriter, Peter Sollett (Raising Victor Vargas) will handle directing duties, and it all starts shooting later this year for what is assumed to be a 2015 release.



Fetureflash / Shutterstock.com

## Alexis Bledel wants to marry Katherine Heigl. Won't you help?

OK, not in real life. But the producers of "Jenny's Wedding" are still hoping you'll donate to their Indiegogo fund to finish production on the romantic comedy-drama about two lesbians finding uncertain marriage plans. From director Mary Agnes Donoghue (screenwriter of "Beaches" and "White Oleander"), the film stars Katherine Heigl as Jenny, a lesbian who wants to marry her girlfriend (Alexis Bledel). Except Jenny never got around to telling her parents (Tom Wilkinson, Lindo Emond) that she's gay. Principal photography is finished but the production is looking to raise about 150,000 more dollars to complete the film. And that's where Indiegogo comes in. As of this writing, they've managed to come up with a little more than \$30K. So it boils down to this: You may never want to see Katherine Heigl do anything else in this life except make out with Rory Gilmore, but you know you do want to see that, so isn't it worth five bucks? Sure it is. Do it for the sake of lesbian wedding movies now and forevermore.

## Elton John props up 'Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat'

The Andrew Lloyd Webber/Tim Rice musical "Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," a touring stage vehicle for years – years! – for the likes of Donny Osmond and other former TV stars, is going to get a new lease on life from the man who has probably

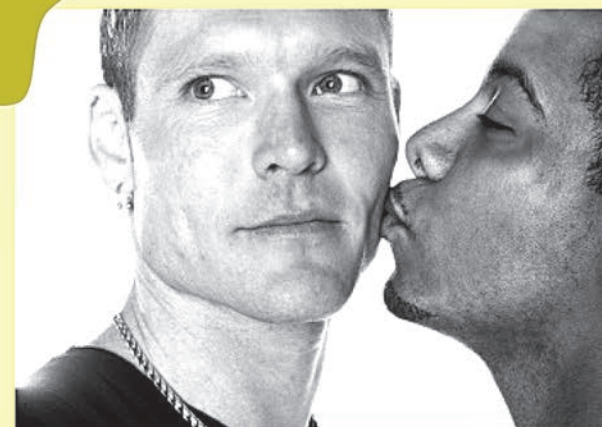
worn more real-life Technicolor dreamcoats than anyone else: Elton John. An animated musical feature film version is coming from the pop star's Rocket Pictures film production company, the people responsible for the weird cartoon musical "Gnomeo & Juliet" (you remember, it had all those gnomes singing "Crocodile Rock" and other John hits in the context of an upbeat, non-suicidal, children's version of the Shakespeare tragedy). And why not? It's weird, too: a Bible story about a young man whose multicolored cape interprets dreams for religious leaders amidst famine and imprisonment. It's singing, dancing fun for everyone. No cast yet, but we'll keep you posted when Justin Bieber signs on.

## 'Looking' for Charlotte Rampling and Tom Courtenay

"Looking" producer/director Andrew Haigh, the British filmmaker whose indie feature "Weekend" garnered him a landslide of critical acclaim, has lined up his next project, the Charlotte Rampling/Tom Courtenay-starring "45 Years." Adapted by Haigh from a short story by poet David Constantine, the story is a strange one: A man and woman are planning their 45th wedding anniversary party when the man learns that the body of his first love has been discovered, frozen and preserved in a glacier in the Swiss Alps. What happens next, as they say on Upworthy, will shock you. So, you know, not weird at all. And that makes it perfect for the adventurous Rampling, whose long career has been marked by a nifty streak and a willingness to work with interesting filmmakers, as well as for the Oscar-nominated Courtenay ("The Dresser," "Doctor Zhivago"). Even better, it gives Haigh the perfect opportunity to flex his not-gay storytelling muscles. Nobody likes to be typecast.

Romeo San Vicente realizes that "power top" is a limiting label, but he soldiers on bravely all the same. He can be reached care of this publication or at [DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com](mailto:DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com).

We speak  
LGBTQIA



8 0 0 8 7 2 2 4 3 7

The Michigan HIV/STD Hotline.

Live weekdays, 10 am - 6 pm.

All calls with our live expert are free and anonymous.

A program of  
AIDS PARTNERSHIP  
MICHIGAN  
Funded by MDCH



BUY 2 XXX DVD's  
GET A \$4.95 DVD FREE  
(excluding 50% Off & Specials)

## HARD CORE PORN

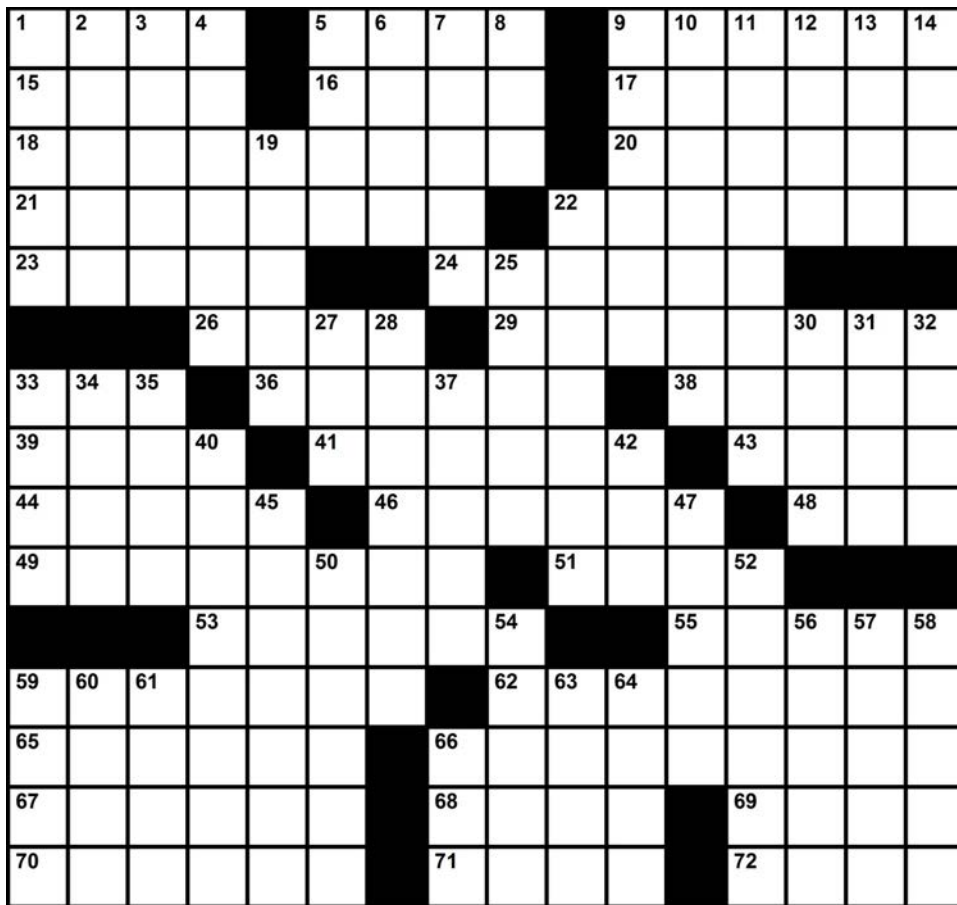
LUBES - CLENGING SOLVENTS  
ENHANCEMENT PILLS  
DILDOS - PUMPS - C/RINGS  
FLESHJACKS - VIBRATORS  
& MUCH MORE

JOIN OUR DVD RENTAL CLUB - FREE DAILY RENTALS!  
(see store or Facebook for details)

facebook.com/bmvdvd

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

# Michael Sam Comes Out



## Across

- 1 Soup from the Samurai's land
- 5 Elton John Broadway musical
- 9 Regained consciousness
- 15 Q \_\_\_ queen
- 16 Circumcision sound
- 17 Key with all white notes
- 18 Start of Michael Sam's 2013 SEC football honor
- 20 Save from going down at sea, e.g.
- 21 Becomes involved with
- 22 Smokers at St. Mary's
- 23 Stand next to Georgia O'Keefe
- 24 Cross-dresser Klingler's hometown
- 26 Men on top, perhaps
- 29 Become familiar with
- 33 Popular fruit drink
- 36 They may be blowing in the wind
- 38 Area of Tennessee?
- 39 Hacker's phrase
- 41 More of the honor
- 43 Treated a swollen member
- 44 Stick it to
- 46 It may be under the tongue
- 48 Bambi's aunt
- 49 Place to hang dildos?
- 51 Enjoy a hot tub

- 53 Untimely end
- 55 Hard to penetrate
- 59 Cracks up over
- 62 Education
- 65 Like a drag queen's bosom
- 66 End of the honor
- 67 Sit on, in a way
- 68 Gyro bread
- 69 160 rods
- 70 Got the bottom line
- 71 Give the cold shoulder
- 72 Application for drag queens' school?

## Down

- 1 Kim Novak's "Picnic" role
- 2 "\_\_\_ little silhouette of a man ..."
- 3 Examines carefully
- 4 "Keep your pants on!"
- 5 The A in GLARP
- 6 Pt. of B.D. Wong
- 7 Clod on the golf course
- 8 Ancestor of homo sapiens'
- 9 Go out of control
- 10 Changed a bill
- 11 Michael Sam played NCAA football at this school
- 12 Suffix with prefer
- 13 Madonna's Blonde Ambition, e.g.
- 14 Vein contents

- 19 David's "Frasier" role
- 22 Proverbial gay hiding places
- 25 Heeds a master
- 27 Pos., to neg.
- 28 Approach for sex
- 30 How quickly one comes
- 31 Foreboding sign
- 32 Lorca's zip
- 33 Branch of soc. studies
- 34 Online intro
- 35 "See you later"
- 37 Gay pride marchers close them
- 40 Michael Sam may be an early selection in this
- 42 \_\_\_ Speedwagon
- 45 Track support
- 47 Hombre of the cloth
- 50 Blown away
- 52 Nairobi native
- 54 Like a leprechaun
- 56 Dorothy, to Em
- 57 Catch in a trap
- 58 White-plumed bird
- 59 Silence for Copland
- 60 "\_\_\_ put it another way ..."
- 61 Words before were
- 63 Caesar's last question
- 64 Moby Dick chaser
- 66 Army missions

Solution on pg. 28

**#TIME2KNOW**  
CHECK US OUT

MPOWERMENT DETROIT  
18 W BETHUNE  
DETROIT 48202  
313.963.9402

Follow Us

Find Us

**HIV TESTING**  
**SAME DAY TESTING**  
**SAME DAY RESULTS**

**KNOW YOUR STATUS**

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

**TRANSITIONS**

**GIRLTALK**  
KNOWLEDGE  
DISCUSS  
TRANS  
ISSUES  
EMPOWERMENT  
COMMUNITY  
BETTERMENT  
VOLUNTEER  
OPPORTUNITIES  
AWARENESS  
NETWORK  
**SAFESEX**

MPOWERMENT  
18 BETHUNE  
DETROIT

Sponsored By:

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

# HOPE is



# Capacity

In 1999, a group of concerned community volunteers confronted a dire problem: LGBT teens were facing homelessness at nearly three times the rate of straight youth. They believed their fledgling nonprofit, the Ruth Ellis Center, could make a difference with this vulnerable population—and they had a business plan to back up that vision. An early investment from The HOPE Fund not only helped them address an immediate need, but also helped put them on the road to becoming an organization that today serves thousands of homeless LGBT youth each year.

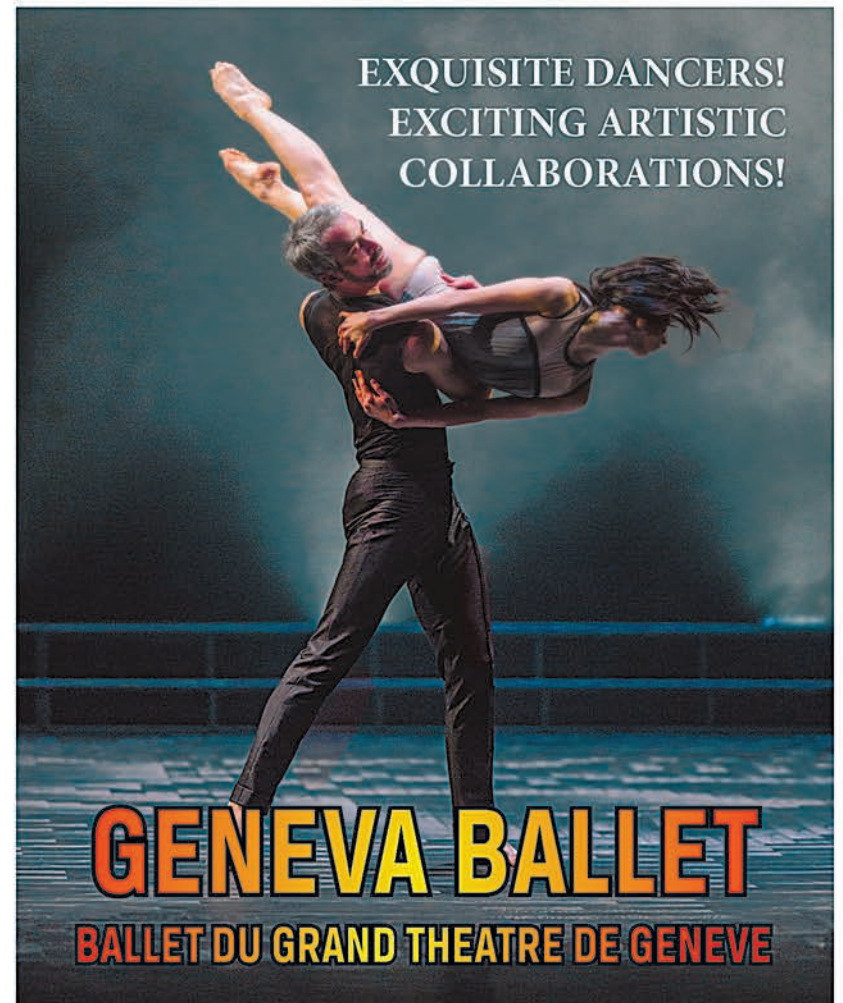
Over 20 years, through more than 128 investments, The HOPE Fund has helped to build capacity and sustainability among service providers to the LGBT community in southeast Michigan. Learn how you can help at [cfsem.org/hope-fund](http://cfsem.org/hope-fund)

## The HOPE Fund

Celebrating 20 years of Helping Others  
through Partnership and Education

**community**foundation  
FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

[cfsem.org/hope-fund](http://cfsem.org/hope-fund)



## access.dance

The Detroit Opera House invites young professionals, ages 18-40, to join us for one of the most ORIGINAL and INVENTIVE dance companies in Europe... directed by Philippe Cohen.

DANCE  
IN THE  
**D** Friday, March 21, 7:30 p.m.  
at the Detroit Opera House

**ACCESS TICKETS START AT JUST \$25 and include:**  
-Main-floor seats for over 50% off  
-A complimentary drink at an exclusive, post-performance reception  
-A chance to meet the cast!

To Purchase Access Tickets or Subscriptions  
Call the Detroit Opera House ticket office at **313.237.SING**  
Visit [www.MichiganOpera.org/access](http://www.MichiganOpera.org/access) for more information

Limit 2 tickets per person, per event; guests must be 18-40. All tickets held at will-call; valid ID required. Offer not valid on previously purchased tickets. No refunds.



2013-14 Access.Opera / Access Dance  
Media Sponsor



Access.Opera / Access. Dance is supported  
by the Masco Corporation Foundation



*See You On The Runway!*

*Proud Sponsor of*

THE ULTIMATE **LGBT**  
**WEDDING**  
& ANNIVERSARY **EXPO**

*Beautiful, Unusual...*

*B. Ella Bridal*

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

*Are you a B. Ella Bride?*

[www.b-ella-bridal.com](http://www.b-ella-bridal.com)