

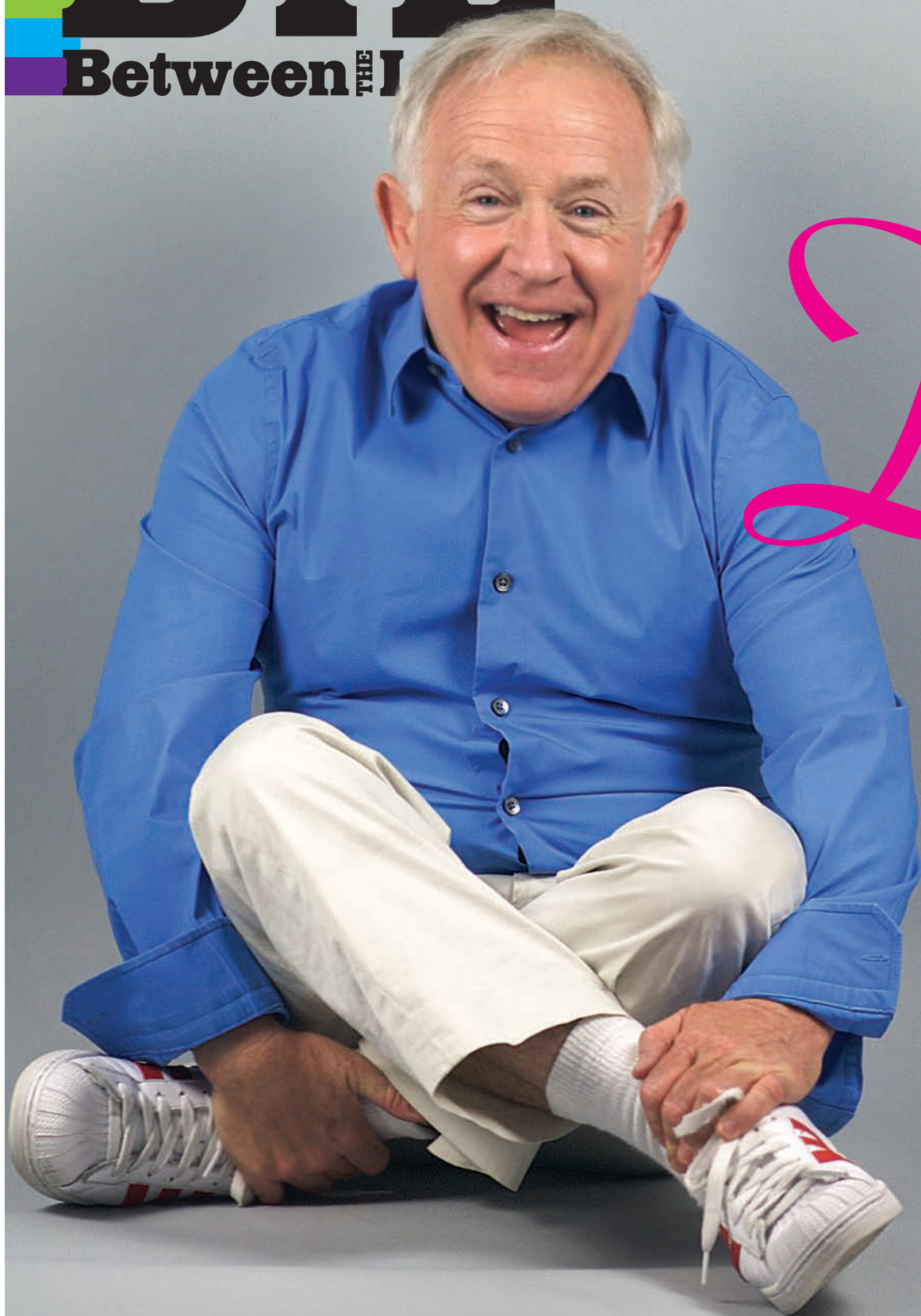
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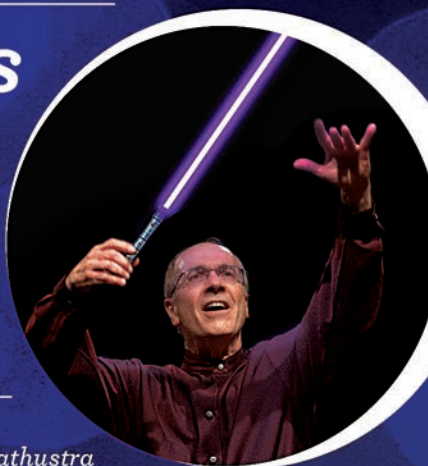
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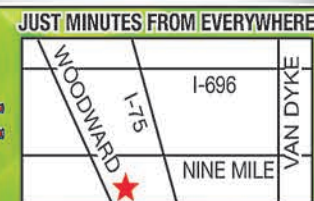
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16 Damaged & divine
Photo: Kelly Smith



“The gay community – that was my world.”

–Lea Michele, pg. 14

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IT'S DECISION TIME



Get The Latest Updates On DeBoer V. Snyder Online

Judge Friedman will release his decision this week in the historic DeBoer V. Snyder case. Go to PrideSource.com for the latest news, updates and analysis.

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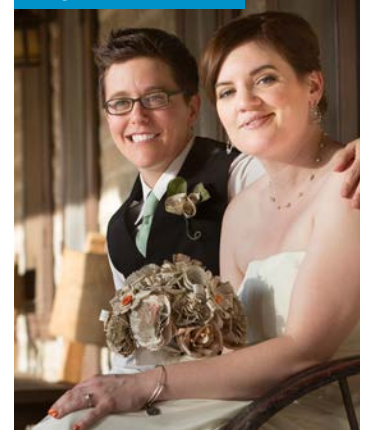


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On March 7 and 8, a peaceful vigil was held protesting the Courage workshops put on by Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in Detroit.

RESOURCES

To Help Bring Inclusivity To Places Of Faith

>> Call to Action Michigan: www.cta-mi.org
Fortunate Families: www.fortunatefamilies.com
Inclusive Justice: www.inclusivejustice.org
Affirmations Faith Alliance:
www.goaffirmations.org/

Standing Up For Gay Catholics

Peaceful Vigil Counters 'Courage' Training

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

DETROIT – When Tom Nelson and Linda Karle-Nelson learned that Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in Detroit was holding classes on how to minister to potential LGBT members of congregations by asking that they be celibate, the couple knew they had to do something. They rallied supporters through various inclusive faith-based organizations and held a prayer vigil in front of the church. The Nelsons also went inside for the class.

“Friday was for clergy and Saturday was for parents, educators and therapists,” Karle-Nelson said. “We had 20-25 people each day doing a peaceful prayer out front. We had very positive signs and a very positive message ‘standing on the side of love.’”

Among the LGBT-positive people of faith were people from groups such as Call to Action Michigan, Fortunate Families, Inclusive Justice and Affirmations Faith Alliance. The aim of these groups is to create change from within religious institutions. Their philosophy of inclusion is different than what was taught at the Courage workshops last weekend.

Judy Lewis, coordinator of Affirmations Faith Alliance explained that, “Their teaching is basically ‘we can’t change the sexual orientation,

but we can ask people to tell gay parishioners to be celibate.”

Nelson nearly lost his gay son to suicide. He has seen first-hand the pain rejection can cause. Now he is very active in support groups for parents and organizations that fight to create change from within. Karle-Nelson, who he met in PFLAG, has a gay son of her own and an equal passion for standing up for LGBT rights.

“The reason Linda and I go to these things is because it is important. In our work with PFLAG and Fortunate Families we see the consequences first-hand. They are blind to how it affects LGBT people when they judge and discriminate.

“We see broken families. We see kids that are close to suicide and in depression. We see families that are torn apart. A large number of homosexual people do not come out of the closet.”

Nelson shared the story about a young man who came out to his mother, and the mother took some time to collect her thoughts. She ultimately chose her faith

over the child. “Think of the suffering for both of them. The anguish the mother feels about her son, and the son about his mother. This is the fear instilled by the Catholic doctrine. They refuse to see the consequences,” he said.

“We see broken families. We see kids that are close to suicide and in depression. We see families that are torn apart.”

- Tom Nelson, Fortunate Families

When the Nelsons went to the class, they found themselves in a group of over 100 people. They listened to the psychologists talk about how homosexuality is not natural, and that it is the result

of childhood trauma or bad parenting. “They hold antiquated beliefs,” Nelson said. “They had a psychologist there, supposedly he was, but he was ludicrous. The church is living in the dark ages.” Such views contradict every major health and psychological organizations’ stances on being LGBT.

Karle-Nelson was dubious of the church’s good intentions. “We felt like these kinds of classes are because the conservatives and churches are laying the groundwork to strike out against marriage. They know its coming and they want to get the word out through the churches in case it goes to a vote,” she said.

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Affirmations Silver Jubilee Coming Up

Kick-Off Event Begins A Year Of Activities Honoring 25 Years Of Work

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

What started as a helpline in a Detroit basement back in 1989, is now the largest LGBT community center in Michigan. Affirmations is getting ready to celebrate its 25th anniversary, kicking off a year of events with their Silver Jubilee on Saturday, April 5.

“The Silver Jubilee is both a theme for us this year and it sums up the celebration overall since it’s our 25th year of service to the LGBT community,” says Director of Development Angela Gabridge. “This is a yearlong celebration of thanks, and a way to invite more allies to be a part of the center.”

As an ally, Gabridge had long been a donor to the center before coming to work there late last year. Yet she always felt unsure about coming to events at the center and fundraisers like their annual bash. The Silver Jubilee is a great opportunity for allies to have an introduction to what the center is all about. “Even if you don’t know anybody, you want to be there you’ll meet people and it will be fun. We need to make it clear that we want to see you and want to meet you,” Gabridge said. “There’s a staff member or table captain at each table. The table captains make it fun and make sure everyone is comfortable.”

The formal event takes place at the recently renovated Cobo Center in downtown Detroit. Jazz music will play during the reception and after the meal there will be a DJ and a party atmosphere. There is also a silent auction, including 50-60 high end items, and a live auction during dinner.

Gabridge said visitors will be impressed with the new Cobo Center. “I thought it was going to be a box but it’s not. There are majestic windows looking out over the river and Canada,” she said. The decor is also very sleek and modern, with a clear nod to the automotive and other manufacturing industries.

As development director, Gabridge has only been with Affirmations for a few months, but her impressions of the organization’s past, present and future are telling about the role it’s played in the both the gay community and the ally community. “You always have a general sense that organizations like Affirmations don’t spring up out of nowhere, but was created by the community and supported by the community. It continues to grow and change based on the needs and wants of the people involved. I think the communal effort



Cass Varner joined Affirmations staff when it was still housed at the Frontier Building. She is currently working on a number of activities to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Center. File photo: Andrew Potter

is really cool.”

As Affirmations prepares to launch an ally fundraising campaign, Gabridge notes they have always been a part of the center and the movement. “Carolyn Burdi has been involved 23 years, and she’s an ally. Allies have been around from the beginning as well. We know it’s a diverse community, but you don’t know until you get into it what that means. It’s lots of different people from different places, and that’s what makes Affirmations unique. It’s for everyone.”

Cass Varner remembers the days when Affirmations was housed in an apartment building across the street from the current location. “I’m from up north but I had known that Affirmations was here when I was younger and when I was in college. When I first moved here I was excited to see it and be here because it was famous.

“I immediately applied for the Youth Services Coordinator position. In the old building we had two spaces reserved for the youth, it wasn’t really designed in a functional way, just places to hang out, dance, watch movies. Sometimes groups would be held, but back in that time they were really interested in coming to dance and hang out. On an average weekend we’d have 100 to 150 kids. When I first came to Affirmations the whole street was wig and nail shops and there wasn’t much for kids to do. Affirmations gave them a safe place.”

Youth programming has always been an important part of the Affirmations mission,

and has grown by offering groups and activities for youths as well as for adults. Eventually the focus turned to creating a long-term home for the center.

“When we moved over we went through a few years of recession and cut backs,” Varner said. “The youth program was cut back and nearly cut away, so the programming we used to offer was limited, and for a while we couldn’t offer a lot. It’s just now getting back to a place with two employees. We also have Cross the Line, a peer outreach program that created a theatre troupe to go to high schools and GSAs and let them know about the dangers of substance abuse. In January 150 kids came in to be part of that.”

Affirmations now offers a variety of programs and events, including counseling, an art gallery, meeting spaces that are available to rent, youth groups, support groups, and an alternative high school.

The Silver Jubilee will be a chance to raise money for the future, but also to celebrate the past. Varner says presentations and displays will teach people history about the organization. “This being our 25th year, it’s a bit of an exceptional situation. Being its 25th year there’s going to be a display set up recognizing those 25 years so folks can go and see images, founding members, read about landmark things that happened and really take themselves back.”

To learn more about the Silver Jubilee and to buy tickets, visit www.goaffirmations.org

Brief Agency History

1989-90: First board of directors assembled by Gary Roberts and Jeff Vitale. Roberts is the first president of the board which includes Sue Pittman, Christine Puckett, Brian Wootton, Judy Utley, Jan Stevenson, Michael Sharp, Cathy McGowan, Steve Wood, Scott Parker. Center is housed in a building owned by Pittman and Puckett in Detroit. The first programs are the hotline and coming out group.

1990-95: Jan Stevenson, board president and then first executive director. Center moves to Pioneer Building in Ferndale. Staff increases to eight, programming expands and includes youth group. Carl Rippberger bequeaths \$150,000 for youth programs. Pittmann and Puckett murdered May 1992.

1996-2000: Julie Enszer becomes executive director, followed by Cindy Woodbury. Board size decreases to under five with financial difficulties.

2000-2004: Leslie Thompson executive director and attorney Brian Cullin board president rebuild finances, staff and programming. First Big Bash 2003. Capital campaign launched in 2004.

2004-07: George Westerman and Thompson lead capital campaign, raising \$5.5 million for new center construction. Allan Gilmour and Eric Jirgens, and Nancy Katz and Margo Dichtelmiller co-chair with lead gifts. Move into the new center facility in 2007.

2007-10: Multicultural Advisory Board established, recession batters donations, staff and programming scaled back.

2010-11: Thompson leaves center. Consultant Kevin Howley leads board through restructuring of finances, staff, board, programming and management.

2011-13: Dave Garcia executive director. Mark Blanke, board president, becomes longest serving board member. Center launches Hunger for Equality Campaign, LGBT Community Center Network and Shore2Shore Ride. End of 2013 center received anonymous bequest of \$800,000, solidifying the center’s finances.

2014: Garcia leaves. Search for new executive director begins. Silver Jubilee moves to Cobo Hall. Future looks bright for Affirmations.



FERNDALE

MAC's March 'Bizarre Bazaar'

Michigan AIDS Coalition will hold an "eclectic" silent auction at the end of March titled "Bizarre/Bazaar." The auction will feature new and gently used items, ranging from holiday sweaters to lava lamps to more interesting trinkets. Minimum bids start as low as \$1.

Bizarre/Bazaar will be held from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 27 at Orchid in Ferndale. Tickets to the event are \$10 and include admission and food samples from local vendors, such as cookies, cake, cheese, bread, and more. A cash bar will also be at the event.

Orchid Dance Club is located at 141 Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. Michigan AIDS Coalition is headquartered at 429 Livernois, Ferndale. For more information, visit www.michiganaidcoalition.org or call MAC at 248-545-1435.

Counselors To Gain Expertise In LGBT Issues

Clinical issues and gender identity will be explored in depth in a special training for professional counselors Mar. 21 and 22 at Affirmations. The two day course, which qualifies for continuing education credits, is sponsored by the Michigan Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers and the Michigan School of Professional Psychology.

Topics will include an overview of working with transgender people, sexuality, clinical issues in intimate relationships, and professional and ethical considerations. Presenters include Dr. Antonia Carretto, Dr. Judith Kovach, Dr. John Randolph, Dr. Amorie Robinson and Dr. Sandra Samons. Social workers Andre Wilson and Stephen Rassi will present, as will attorney Jay Kaplan from the ACLU.

The training is open to all psychologists, school counselors, physicians and social workers. The cost is \$185 for professional and \$95 for students. To register go to www.goaffirmations.org/training

Health Care Coverage Deadline Draws Near

The March 31 deadline for signing up for health care coverage under the Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act is fast approaching.

Michiganders can enroll through the federal marketplace at www.healthcare.gov. Find a local Navigator who can help guide consumers through the enrollment process at www.enrollMichigan.com.

Those who have questions about how health insurance works, or how to price options that fit into the household budget, the Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service offers "Smart Choices for Health Insurance Coverage" webinars and workshops. Learn more at www.aca.msue.msu.edu.

Related Pridesource Stories Online:

What Healthcare Reform Means for LGBT Communities at www.pridesource.com/article.html?article=58612

Review Strong Families Guide for LGBT People Choosing Health Care Plans <http://strongfamiliesmovement.org/lgbt-health-care-guide>

Extended briefs are available online at:
>> www.PrideSource.com

REC And Ozone Leaders Named To National Project To Reduce Homelessness

BY BTL STAFF

Two local LGBT youth advocates, Ozone House Executive Director Katie Doyle and Ruth Ellis Center Executive Director Jerry Peterson, have been tapped to serve on an expert advisory committee for a national project aimed at reducing the 40 percent of homeless youth that identify as LGBT.

The project is the result of the collaboration among the University of Illinois at Chicago's Jane Addams College of Social Work, the Center for the Study of Social Policy, and the Human Rights Campaign Foundation. Over the next three years, the participants will gather as much information as possible about LGBTQ runaway and homeless youth, determine the best practices for serving them, and disseminate that information to all the transitional living programs in the United States in an effort to significantly reduce the LGBTQ youth homeless population.

Peterson, who joined Ruth Ellis Center as Executive Director last year, said he recognizes the significance of this project and the impact it will have on homeless and runaway LGBTQ youth nationally.

"We know that LGBTQ youth are disproportionately affected by homelessness and yet far too little has been done at the national level to establish how to better serve them," Peterson said. "While providing safe and affirming housing resources must be an absolute priority, we must also look at prevention and reunification models to ensure we are addressing the root cause of the problem. Partnering with The White House in 2012, Ruth Ellis Center has been recognized as a national leader in addressing LGBTQ youth homelessness and I could not be more thrilled to serve on the expert advisory committee. It is also a testament to the work that is happening here in

Michigan, when two organizations like Ruth Ellis Center and Ozone House have been asked to sit on a national advisory committee of thirteen."

"In a time when we are seeing unprecedented gains for LGBTQ people in our country, homeless LGBTQ youth still are not safe and supported sufficiently," Doyle said. "I am humbled

and Youth Services Bureau-funded project entitled 3/40 Blueprint to Reduce LGBTQ Youth Homelessness because of her expertise in the area of homeless and runaway youth, and Peterson for his expertise in the areas of runaway and homeless LGBTQ youth and family acceptance.



"In a time when we are seeing unprecedented gains for LGBTQ people in our country, homeless LGBTQ youth still are not safe and supported sufficiently,"

- Ozone House Executive Director Katie Doyle



"We know that LGBTQ youth are disproportionately affected by homelessness and yet far too little has been done at the national level to establish how to better serve them."

- REC Executive Director Jerry Peterson

to be involved with such important partners in the ambitious quest to reduce LGBTQ youth homelessness. Ozone House was invited to serve on this national committee not only because of our 45 year commitment to LGBTQ homeless youth, but also because we have gained national recognition for ensuring that our programming is safe for all youth who seek support here. We make sure that the 60-75 percent of youth who come to Ozone House who do not identify as LGBTQ are safe allies and advocates for their peers who identify as LGBTQ."

Doyle was selected to be part of the technical expert group for the Family

Since 1969, Ozone House has actively developed high quality housing and unique services that provide support, intervention, training, and assistance to runaway, homeless, and high-risk youth and their families. The Ruth Ellis Center, incorporated in 1999, is a youth social services agency that serves the needs of runaway, homeless and at-risk LGBTQ youth.

For more information about Ozone House visit: www.OzoneHouse.org. For more information about Ruth Ellis Center visit: www.RuthEllisCenter.org

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St. Patty's Day Unified Message?

COLOR-CODED IN BOSTON: The crowd along the St. Patrick's Day Parade route in Boston Sunday cheered loudly for a contingent of about 30 men who walked alongside a rainbow-colored float and tossed out green and rainbow-colored beads, reported the Boston Globe. Boston's new mayor didn't march in the parade organized by the Allied War Veterans (AWV), which continued to refuse to allow any contingent to identify itself as LGBT. The men, who the Globe identified as gay, marched as a neighborhood group, with AWV permission to display a banner saying "Celebrate the diversity of Boston."

UNIFORMED MESSAGE? New York City's new mayor, Bill de Blasio, decided not to participate in the St. Patrick's Day parade in Manhattan Saturday and attended a gay friendly one earlier in the month. But he still came under some criticism from LGBT community leaders for declining a request to bar city workers from marching in the exclusionary event in their city uniforms.

BEER BATTLES OVER PARADES: Two prominent beer producers pulled out of two high-profile St. Patrick's Day parades, citing the refusal of parade organizers to allow openly LGBT participation. The Boston Beer Company, best known for its Sam Adams beer, withdrew as the prime sponsor of the Boston parade organized by Allied War Veterans; Heineken withdrew from the New York City parade organized by the non-profit NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade group. Guinness remained a sponsor of the New York event, and today, GLAAD and a group called Irish Queers plan to dump Guinness beer from the shelves of the Stonewall Inn in protest.

SAN FRANCISCO, SEATTLE MARCH FORWARD:

An openly LGBT contingent participated in San Francisco St. Patrick's Day parade this year; and openly gay Seattle Mayor Ed Murray participated in Seattle's parade Saturday. The group that organizes the San Francisco parade said the SF Pride group wasn't invited but that the parade is "all-inclusive."

- Keen News Service

We Can Stop The HIV Epidemic – But Will We?



Viewpoint

TODD HEYWOOD

The time has come to admit three simple facts in the battle against HIV:

- The condom only message is an abject failure and has been for decades.

- HIV disproportionately impacts gay and bisexual men and transgender women in this county, this state and this country.

- Stigma, based in outdated understandings of HIV transmission, is driving this epidemic and resulting in new infections.

The fact is there is no excuse for the epidemic to be hitting as hard as it is in our county. Ingham has the highest HIV prevalence rate outside Detroit. One in five people diagnosed with HIV in the county is between 13 and 24. Forty percent of the identified cases of HIV in Ingham county are in people under the age of 30. Nationally, 10 percent of gay and bisexual men and transgender women are infected with HIV; 20 percent of Black college aged gay and bisexual men and transgender women are infected. At current transmission rates, half of college age gay and bi men as well as transgender women will be infected by age 50. For Black gay and bi men and transgender women, half will be infected by age 35.

So why is HIV so prevalent? The answers are complicated – a mix of flawed educational policies like abstinence-only sex education, outdated information about HIV which creates an illusion of a disease that no longer stalks us in the way it did in the 80s, and a flawed funding system that subsumes basic information with a flawed construction that people with HIV need to be treated as vectors, and the scientific ignorance of individuals which drives stigma, reduces HIV testing and ultimately results in more new infections.

Right now, 75 percent of HIV prevention funding from the federal government must be spent on teaching those of us who know we are living with HIV how to prevent transmitting the virus – even though studies have shown time and again that it is people living with HIV who are unaware of their status that are responsible for the majority of new infections. On top of that, while science has shown that many risk reduction options are significantly more effective at preventing HIV transmission than condoms, our state government has said clearly it will not fund any educational program that does not have condoms as the core element of messaging.

The failed construct of "sero-sorting" (which is where a person has sex only with

persons of the same HIV status) is the only risk reduction option less effective than condoms. Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), a daily dose of anti-HIV drugs; post exposure prophylaxis (PEP), a 28-day course of anti-HIV drugs after an exposure; Treatment as Prevention, which is where a person living with HIV uses treatment to keep their virus undetectable; and sexual position choice based on HIV status are all more effective than condoms. In fact, there has never been a documented case of HIV transmission from a person with a suppressed virus and PrEP is 99 percent effective in prevention infections.

Self-reported condom use 100 percent of the time results in a 70 percent reduction in risk of transmission of HIV. Using condoms inconsistently has no protective effect at all. And half of men who have sex with men have consistently reported they do not use condoms since 1988.

So what's the answer?

In the 80s and 90s, it was the gay community that rallied together to address the AIDS crisis – we supported those dying, we fought for access to drugs, we changed the way the healthcare system dealt with us, and we developed innovative prevention strategies. We did it because the government wouldn't; and we are going to have to do it again today. The reality is, queer lives matter less; and queer people of color matter even less to our government.



While science has shown that many risk reduction options are significantly more effective at preventing HIV transmission than condoms, our state government has said clearly it will not fund any educational program that does not have condoms as the core element of messaging.

But to do that, we are going to have to stop treating HIV like the disease we knew in the early day of the epidemic. A person diagnosed with HIV today has every reason to expect to live a normal life span if they have access to medical care and medications. HIV is not the hyper-infectious monster we have been taught to believe; in fact, it is an incredibly difficult virus to transmit.

This means gay organizations have to stop seeing HIV as something separate from the gay community. This means we need to do educational programs that present the clear scientific facts about HIV transmission and risk reduction that the government does not want us to talk about. And it means we have to develop sex education programming for young queer men and transgender women that is not focused on heterosexual activity.

We have the knowledge to stop this epidemic. But to do that, the gay community is going to have to stop shoving HIV-positive people specifically, and HIV in general, into a viral ghetto and face the epidemic head first with facts, with education and with conversation.

Todd A. Heywood is an award-winning journalist who has been living with HIV since 2007. He presents a lecture "Raw Deal," that he regularly makes available to colleges and universities. -Editor's note: This op-ed originally appeared in City Pulse

Yo! Y'all. I'm 'Dude'!



Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

“. . . and I'm a gay basher . . .”

Beloved PG Friends: I'm sitting in on a meeting of Gay Basher's Anonymous with – unknown to the bashers – my pocket-size recording device surreptitiously “taking notes.”

I'm disguised as a Gay Basher: sporting a pair of very-pricey Maui Jim sunglasses (sorry, I can't resist a touch of glamour), and wearing polyester aqua-blue slacks with a forest green, God Hates Fags T-shirt.

Oh, yes: sandals with socks. I'm probably the best dressed basher here. I hope it doesn't blow my cool.

(NOTE: For those BTL readers who don't know about Fundie and Born-Again outreach programs, “GBA is designed 1) to alleviate guilt of those who by word, deed, or thought have been caught red-handed ‘casting the first stone,’ and 2) to reorient such embarrassed Holy Hurlers in more effective ways, ways less antithetical to passive/aggressive evangelism to win homosexual-by-choice sinners to the redeeming message of heterosexual-by-Christian Missionary Position faith.”

We are sitting in the basement of the Greater New Faith Temple-Church-Cathedral-Tabernacle of God's Last Days. There are 60 bashers here at ten tables decorated with lilies of the valley, a Scofield Bible with Holy Land picture maps, and a bowl of chocolate-covered, sabbath-blessed Goobers.

For some reason nearly all participants are guys, tho' Dude -- occasionally deep-kneeing me to my immediate right -- whispers there are two roller derby “big namer” broads at Step Four Table.

(NOTE: I vouchsafe an opinion under my breath to my tape recorder: “I estimate the collective intelligence at each table is in the neighborhood of IQ 90. My participant-observer presence at Step One Table ups that count by 30 points.”) Private transcription . . .

DUDE: “I knew I had a problem when I became aware that the first thing I wanted to do after church was beat up a homo. The urge just took over my whole life. I found myself spending all my evenings going to gay bars and all my days going to steam baths. I had one thing on my mind. Are you ready for the Rapture? I'd ask.

“I wouldn't take no for an answer. I twisted a few arms to get what I wanted. But, it was too damn time consuming. Honestly, I suppose I'm getting too old for bar ministry.”

ARTHUR: “I hate to confess it, but six of my seven kids are gay. The seventh is a married cross dresser. I gay bashed by kicking them all out onto the street -- which, now that the cost of suburban living has skyrocketed, turns out was a big theological mistake. With my reduced income I can't tithe to my church like I used to.

“My wife tells me call the black sheep home. What in hell does she know? She's a consarned feminist Wiccan. Oh, well. Live and learn.”

BRUNO: I loved the sinner and hated the sin in a very special way. I organized block-party gay bash stone ins. Just a few guys after brewskis. No big rocks. Just pebbles, marbles, vegetables, day-old hot-cross buns. At first it was alota laughs. We ‘stoned’ about a -- hahahahaha -- ‘baker's dozen’ of fruit-loopers.

“Unfortunately -- and that's why I'm here -- we pelted a pastor's son by mistake. Gawdongit! Who woulda thought . . . You know . . . Come on, who knows he's faggy at 14?”

ME (Removing my Maui Jims): “I swear I'll never, NEVER! Gay bash again. Criss cross my heart. I made the mistake of verbally bashing a drag queen. Lady Sybil Stingray was holy terror in high heels. See, I got two black eyes to prove it! Hell hath no fury like a lip-synching, bingo queen.”

Lesbian Judicial Nominee Among Four Judges Confirmed For Eastern District of Michigan

BY BTL STAFF

The U.S. Senate voted unanimously March 12 to confirm out lesbian Judith E. Levy to the federal bench. Voting 97-0, the Senate confirmed Levy, along with three other judicial nominees, to serve as federal judges for southeast Michigan. Levy, who has served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Eastern District of Michigan since 2000 and has served as chief of that office's civil rights unit for the past three years, will serve as a judge for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. President Obama nominated her for the seat July 25, 2013, upon the recommendation of Michigan U.S. Sens. Carl Levin (D) and Debbie Stabenow (D).

According to Levin, Levy, along with the three other judges confirmed has, “demonstrated a mastery of the law and the impartiality required of a judge, and

I know they will serve justice and the people of Michigan well.”

“Today's vote is great news for Michigan,” added Stabenow in a statement. “These four highly respected jurists have dedicated their careers to our community and to public service and will serve our state with great distinction.”

The American Bar Association weighed in on her nomination as well giving Levy a “unanimously qualified” rating.

Prior to becoming an assistant U.S. attorney, Levy was a trial attorney for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission from 1999 to 2000 and served as a law clerk to the Judge Bernard A. Friedman on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. (Judge Friedman recently oversaw the Michigan Marriage trial Feb. 25 - March 7. A decision on that case is expected shortly.) Levy attended

the University of Michigan Law School and the University of Michigan. She is the 2013-2014 Public Interest/Public Service Faculty Fellow Lecturer.

“Judith Levy will make an incredible addition to Michigan's judiciary,” said D'Arcy Kemnitz, executive director of the National LGBT Bar Association, in a statement. “LGBT representation in our courts is critical and speaks to the tremendous advocacy and support our community has received.”

Levy adds to the growing number of LGBT federal judges confirmed during Obama's presidency.

In fact Levy was not the only LGBT judicial nominee to be appointed on March 12. Staci Michelle Yandle, nominated for a seat on the U.S. District Court in the Southern District of Illinois, met with no opposition from Senate Judiciary Committee panel members.

Tennessee Judge's Ruling Orders State To Recognize Marriages Of Three Couples

BY LISA KEEN

In an important but narrow ruling, a U.S. district court judge in Nashville issued a preliminary injunction March 14, barring the state of Tennessee from denying recognition of marriage licenses obtained by three same-sex couples in other states.

The order applies only to these three couples and only while their lawsuit challenging the state's refusal to recognize marriage licenses obtained by same-sex couples else is pending, said Shannon Minter, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights. But it represents yet another important victory for marriage equality, and another advance in a southern state.

NCLR and long-time lesbian legal activist Abby Rubinfeld filed the lawsuit, Tanco v. Tennessee, on behalf of four couples last October. (One couple subsequently dropped out of the lawsuit.) It challenges both the state constitutional language and statutory laws that ban recognition of the marriages of same-sex couples. Like so many other lawsuits filed in more than two dozen states around the country, the Tennessee lawsuit argues that the bans violate the couples' rights

NCLR's Minter pointed out that the lawsuit which just concluded a two-week trial in Detroit, for instance, could be appealed to the Sixth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals relatively soon and potentially deciding the law for other Sixth Circuit states, such as Tennessee.

to due process and equal protection under the U.S. Constitution.

Judge Aleta Trauger (a Clinton appointee) said in the order she issued Friday that “all signs indicate that, in the eyes of the United States Constitution, the plaintiffs' marriages will be placed on an equal footing with those of heterosexual couples and that proscriptions against same-sex marriage will soon become a footnote in the annals of American history.”

Trauger also noted that other pending lawsuits in other states may well determine the ultimate outcome of the

Tanco challenge.

NCLR's Minter pointed out that the lawsuit which just concluded a two-week trial in Detroit, for instance, could be appealed to the Sixth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals relatively soon and potentially deciding the law for other Sixth Circuit states, such as Tennessee.

The lead plaintiffs, Drs. Valeria Tanco and Sophy Jesty are both professors of veterinary medicine who married in 2011, while living in New York. Other plaintiffs include Sergeant First Class Ijpe DeKoe and Thomas Kostura married while living in New York, and John Espejo and Matthew Mansell, who married in California.

Judge Trauger's order noted that each couple, “When they interact with Tennessee officials or fill out official forms to identify themselves as married, they brace themselves for degrading experiences that often occur because of Tennessee's refusal to recognize their marriages.”

The Tennessean newspaper reported Friday evening that the state's attorney general is expected to defend the state's ban; no word yet on whether the state will attempt to challenge Trauger's very limited order.

Creep of the Week Franklin Graham



Franklin Graham

There are a lot of things about the right-wing universe that don't make a lot of sense to me. The fanatical

obsession with the unborn paired with the callous disregard of poor children and their families, for example. The insistence that the Bible is literal and must be adhered to, and yet the careful cherry picking of what passages they actually want to follow. And, of course, there's the condemnation of gays and lesbians.

But the strangest thing, and one that seems to be a relatively recent phenomenon, is the right wing's infatuation with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Keep in mind that if Mitt Romney were president (shudder), the right wing would revile Putin, and rightly so. Putin is not a man who worships their Christian God. Nor does he give a shit about Democracy.

But Barack Obama is our president, and that makes conservatives in America go fucking

insane. Insane enough to compare our Democratically elected leader to the ham-fisted tyrant in charge of Russia, whether the people there like it or not, and declare Putin the winner.

If you ask Rudolph Giuliani, it's because Putin doesn't think before he acts and can force people to do whatever he wants. If you ask Sarah Palin (R-Moron), Putin wins because Obama wears "mom jeans" and Putin "wrestles bears." And if you ask Franklin Graham, son of the famous evangelist Billy Graham, it's because Putin is much better on the gay stuff.

In the March 2014 issue of *Decision* magazine, the official magazine of the Graham family fan club, Franklin himself penned an article titled, "Does Russia's Putin have it Right?" To which any thinking person would reply, "Fuck, no." Graham, on the other hand, replies, "Heavens, yes."

A big focus of his essay is—surprise!—the gays and how Obama surely loves them and how gross that is. "Our president and his attorney

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

general have turned their backs on God and His standards, and many in the Congress are following the administration's lead," Franklin writes. "This is shameful."

Putin, on the other hand... "In my opinion, Putin is right on these issues," Graham fawns. "Obviously, he may be wrong about many things, but he has taken a stand to protect his nation's children from the damaging effects of any gay and lesbian agenda."

That's right. Big, strong, shirtless Putin is protecting kids from the evil gays. Swoon. Somebody get Graham's fainting chair. In Graham's eyes, Putin might not be perfect, but he sure is close.

"Isn't it sad, though, that America's own morality has fallen so far that on this issue—protecting children from any homosexual agenda or propaganda—Russia's standard is higher than our own?" Graham laments.

In the March 2014 issue of *Decision* magazine,...Franklin himself penned an article titled, "Does Russia's Putin have it Right?" (about gays) To which any thinking person would reply, "Fuck, no." Graham, on the other hand, replies, "Heavens, yes."

Yes, actually, it is sad. But not for the reason Graham thinks. It's sad that a leader who oppresses his own people and has cracked down on a powerless minority under the guise of "protecting" children is being praised in our own country simply because those people have completely distorted views of President Obama and of LGBT people. Obama isn't coming after your guns and your Bibles. And LGBT people aren't coming after your kids.

There is nothing moral about what is happening in Russia to LGBT people, and to say otherwise is to completely ignore reality, not to mention the teachings of Jesus.

"Today [in America], we've abdicated our moral leadership," Graham writes. And sadly he isn't talking about himself or the hate his church preaches for LGBT people or Muslims or women who use birth control. He thinks he's got that part right. It's America that has it all wrong for not hating enough.

U.S. Supreme Court: Lambda, Others To Weigh In On 'Religious Employers'

BY LISA KEEN

The U.S. Supreme Court will hear two cases next week that test the degree to which employers may use their personal religious beliefs to deny certain health coverage for employees. Neither case involves any LGBT-related health coverage; but the decisions in both may affect whether employers will be able to cite religious beliefs to deny such services as alternative insemination and gender reassignment.

The cases, *Sebelius v. Hobby Lobby Stores* and *Conestoga Wood v. HHS*, involve employers asserting religious beliefs as grounds for denying health insurance coverage for birth control. Both take issue with the Affordable Care Act. *Hobby Lobby* challenges the ACA implementing regulations that require employer health coverage plans provide women on their plans with the "full range" of "contraceptive methods." Those regulations also authorize an exemption for "religious employer" and "religious non-profit organizations that have religious objections to providing coverage for some or all contraceptive services."

"A religious employer," noted HHS's brief to the Supreme Court, "is defined as a non-profit organization described in the Internal Revenue Code provision that refers to churches, their integrated auxiliaries, conventions or associations of churches, and the exclusively religious activities of any religious order."

Hobby Lobby Stores and *Mardel* are two stores challenging the regulations. *Hobby Lobby* is a national chain of arts and craft supply stores; *Mardel* is an affiliated chain of Christian bookstores. Both stores are owned by five people (referred to as *The Greens*) who excluded contraceptive coverage from the health plans for their combined

13,372 employees, saying contraception goes against their religious belief that life begins "when sperm fertilizes an egg."

The *Hobby Lobby-Mardel* owners filed the lawsuit, arguing that the 1993 Religious Freedom Restoration Act prohibits government from "substantially burden[ing] a person's exercise of religion" unless the need to do so addresses a "compelling governmental interest" and is applied in the "least restrictive" way.

The Tenth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals ruled for the *Hobby Lobby-Mardel*, saying they do count, under the Restoration Act, as "persons exercising religion" and that requiring them to provide contraceptive coverage does "compromise their religious beliefs."

HHS is appealing, saying the beliefs held by the owners of the two companies do not justify an exemption for the companies to a "generally applicable law that regulates only those corporations and not their individual owners."

The second case before the Supreme Court on Tuesday, March 25, *Conestoga Wood v. Sebelius*, is essentially the same, except that HHS won that case in the Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

The *Conestoga Wood* company is represented by the Alliance Defending Freedom, which has been involved in pressing a number of lawsuits opposing equal treatment of same-sex couples with marriage licenses. In its brief, the Alliance argues that the ACA is "requiring private citizens to buy contraceptive insurance coverage for other citizens." Their arguments often echo those used

The *Conestoga Wood* company is represented by the Alliance Defending Freedom, which has been involved in pressing a number of lawsuits opposing equal treatment of same-sex couples with marriage licenses.

to defend recent efforts to pass bills in various states to allow citizens to discriminate based on various categories (including race, sexual orientation, and gender identity).

"Because citizens exercise religion in every area of their lives," wrote the Alliance in its brief to the high court, "this Court has recognized that individuals may exercise religion in business and that citizens may join together to exercise religion through corporations."

The family of Mennonite Christians Norman and Elizabeth Hahn operate *Conestoga Wood* in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, employing 950 employees making doors and cabinets. The family believes it is immoral to take a human life, including through abortion. Their health plan for employees excluded contraception. The company filed suit, asking for an injunction to avoid the contraception requirement. The Third Circuit identified *Conestoga* as a "for-profit secular corporation" and said such corporations "cannot engage in religious exercise."

What LGBT Groups Say

Lambda Legal and two other groups filed a friend-of-the-court brief in the two cases, saying they agree with the Obama administration that the ACA's contraception coverage mandate

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► **Religious Employers**

Continued from p. 10

“serve[s] compelling interests in public health and gender equality.” They also argue that allowing commercial enterprises, such as the Hobby Lobby Stores and Conestoga Wood, to be vested with religious protections could be harmful.

“[C]orporate entities do not hold religious beliefs and do not engage in worship,” states the Lambda brief. And paying for health coverage “is not exercise of religion.”

“This Court should reject the Companies’ demands for exemption from rules that protect employees’ ability to make for themselves ‘the most intimate and personal choices a person may make in a lifetime,’” including “decisions concerning intimate adult relationships....”

Allowing these commercial employers to claim a religious exemption, said Lambda, “would open the door to increased use of religion to deny LGBT persons, those with HIV, and other vulnerable minorities equal compensation, health care access, and other equitable treatment in commercial interactions.”

Joining Lambda in the brief were the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association and AFL-CIO group Pride at Work.

The National Center for Lesbian Rights and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force signed onto a brief filed by the National Women’s Law Center.

U.S. Reps. David Cicilline (D-RIs.), Mark Pocan (D-Wisc.), and Mark Takano (D-Calif.) joined a brief signed by 91 members of the U.S. House.

Marty Lederman, a Georgetown Law professor and regular contributor to scotusblog.com, tackled the potential impact of the Hobby Lobby and Conestoga cases on such things as the “religious freedom” bills that have been springing up in Arizona, Mississippi, and other state legislatures. Lederman said the eventual decisions are likely to have a “profound effect upon how other courts treat state and federal [Religious Freedom Restoration Act, RFRA] claims in the commercial sector going forward.”

“If the Court were to hold that RFRA requires an exemption in these cases – and were to hold, in particular, in the case brought by a very large for-profit employer, that the law substantially burdens plaintiffs’ religious exercise and that the government lacks a compelling interest in denying religious exemptions – that would be a groundbreaking departure from the judiciary’s (and Congress’s) historical practice, one that could pave the way for claims for ‘myriad exceptions flowing from a wide variety of religious beliefs’ (Lee) by commercial enterprises with respect to many other statutes, including nondiscrimination requirements, zoning regulations, taxes, and so on.”

The Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in the cases on March 25.

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Body Counts: A Memoir of Politics, Sex, AIDS, and Survival

BY TODD HEYWOOD

In the opening pages of Sean Strub's *Body Counts: A Memoir of Politics, Sex, AIDS and Survival*, he thrusts the readers into the crucible of the controversial 1989 ACT UP protest at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. Strub paints a picture that is historically accurate, and searing in its emotional honesty. It defines this fine book, where the personal is political and the political is personal.

The AIDS epidemic of the 80s and 90s is, for many, a memory - for more, an historical moment gone and of no concern. But Strub's book brings this history back to us, in both the emotional and raw realities of the horrors that were those years, and at the same time captures the rallying of a community to fight for its own. It marks the very powerful, slightly hidden story of how a community was forged in the fires of adversity. At the end of the day, Strub reminds the readers that the AIDS epidemic was both a uniquely, powerfully personal and communal experience. A crisis writ large with the singular stories of thousands, told in the din of the crowd. He makes the history the personal and the personal history.

But lest anyone think this book is exclusively about the AIDS epidemic, this book is about so much more. Through his simple and elegant prose, Strub delivers us to a time before AIDS. A time before marriage equality. A time before the LGBT community was more than a whispered upon secret. He takes the reader on his own journey from the Iowa boy obsessed with politics, to an out gay man. His travels take the reader to the secret bars of the 70s queer culture in Washington DC, to the drug fueled den of Studio 54. Along the way, he introduces the reader to a colorful cast of people, and shows how life can accidentally place a person at the nexus of history.

While Strub is quite talented in unpacking much of the emotional constructions of his life, he falls short in only one area, but even then creates a human story worthy of inclusion. His reflections on the sexual abuse he endured at a Catholic boarding school is much more fragmented and much less anchored in the emotional reality of life. As a result, they have a dream like quality which ultimately serves to support the memories he shares, while at the same time anchoring the remembrances to his fog clouded battle with kaposi sarcoma.

Strub's book lays bare his emotions and connects them in time and place. It is a key document for the history of AIDS that until now, had yet to be written. It is also a key story in the history of the LGBT community which remains murky. His book is a story that simply, powerfully and elegantly shows us the power of queer lives, queer loves and queer losses in making a life.

Body Counts: A Memoir of Politics, Sex, AIDS, and Survival By Sean Strub (Scribner; 420 pages; \$30) Available at <http://gltbooks.com>

Activist, Author Hits Michigan

BY TODD HEYWOOD

Sean Strub has played witness to the aftermath of the murder of John Lennon, the rise of the AIDS epidemic in New York City and the battles of ACT UP. He can now add a whirlwind tour of three Michigan cities to his list of accomplishments.

Strub toured Ann Arbor, Lansing and Kalamazoo last week in a swing of the state to discuss his new book, *Body Counts: A Memoir of Politics, Sex, AIDS and Survival*. He also used the tour as an opportunity to discuss HIV criminalization - a topic he is an expert in as the executive director of Sero Project.

"Michigan is one of the epicenters of an epidemic of HIV criminalization, with more than 60 prosecutions to date, often for situations where there was not only no HIV transmission, but no measurable or significant risk of HIV transmission," Strub said of the importance of discussing the issue in Michigan. "There is an awareness of the phenomenon in Michigan and a growing core of experts and activists willing to work for

reform. It is possible that over the next couple of years Michigan could go from being a leader in criminalization to becoming a leader in criminalization reform."

He said the book was important to write because so few of the men and women who served on the front lines of the AIDS epidemic in those early years remain.

"I realized there were fewer and fewer of us around who were on the front lines from the beginning," he said. "We're dying off and it is important that our stories be documented, particularly as we've seen how easily epidemic history can be forgotten, whitewashed, heterosexualized or manipulated for the agenda of others."

Strub said it is important to remember the epidemic in those early years was a very different manifestation than what is seen today.

"As important as it is that we remember and document our history - the pain and agony of so much loss - that conversation isn't a very good gateway into a conversation with young people today about HIV prevention," Strub



Emily Horvath, co-director of Michigan Pride, looks on as Sean Strub reads from his book *Body Counts*. BTL photo Todd Heywood

“They don't want to hear grandpa's stories about his service during the war. The consequences of HIV infection in the U.S. today are profoundly different than they were years ago; we need to respond to the epidemic they face, not the one we survived.”

- Sean Strub

said. "They don't want to hear grandpa's stories about his service during the war. The consequences of HIV infection in the U.S. today are profoundly different than they were years ago; we need to respond to the epidemic they face, not the one we survived. To get the attention of young people and establish some credibility, when I speak about HIV prevention, I sometimes start with a bold statement: None of you are likely to die of AIDS if you contract HIV! Shocking to hear out loud, but it is true."

Strub's appearance in Lansing was sponsored by the Lansing Area AIDS Network, City Pulse Newspaper and Michigan Pride. The Lansing City Council voted unanimously to honor Strub with a resolution congratulating him on his work to combat the AIDS epidemic, as well as the publication of his

new book. The resolution also committed the Council to battling governmental policies which increase stigma against those living with HIV.

During his stop in Lansing, Strub spent an hour on the radio with Tim Barron, and spent time at MSU. There he spoke to Bonnie Bucqueruox's Advanced Writing and Reporting class, where he shared his experiences and knowledge related to media reporting on under-represented populations. Bucqueruox said students were able to learn how important reporting on policy issues is and how it has wide ranging impact on informing a broad, diverse group of people about the issues at play for any given minority group.

Jake Distel, executive director of

See Author, next page

www.PrideSource.com

When Sex Is A Crime And Spit Is A Dangerous Weapon

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

FERNDALE -The criminalization of HIV is a reality with far-reaching consequences, and it's time to have a serious discussion about it. A coalition of LGBT and HIV specific groups are hosting a community forum called "When Sex is a Crime and Spit is a Dangerous Weapon: HIV Criminalization in Michigan."

The forum takes place March 29 from 2 - 4 p.m. at Affirmations Community Center in Ferndale. There is no charge for the event.

BTL, Positive Justice Project, AIDS Partnership Michigan, American Civil Liberties Union, Badland Strategies, Michigan AIDS Coalition and Equality Michigan have come together to create the forum, hosted by longtime patient advocate and journalist Todd Heywood.

Heywood's research has found that there have been at least 60 prosecutions of people living with HIV in Michigan under MCL 333.5210, and his goal is to help the public better understand why this law is unfair and ineffective. He plans on discussing the many flaws in Michigan law, including:

First, the law is extremely broad to include any sexual penetration "however slight." This has been used for some pretty ridiculous prosecutions where risk of transmission did not exist.

Second, the law provides zero protection for people who know their status, but have taken all the requisite health moves to protect themselves and others.

Three, Michigan's law criminalizes sex while HIV positive, but does nothing to address needle sharing while HIV-positive.

Four, HIV is the only disease in Michigan with a felony attached to it.

Five, the law flies in the face of public health reality. The vast majority of cases of

new infections are caused by people who are infected, but unaware of that infection. The transmissions are occurring early in infection - called acute infection - when viral loads are very high (meaning the person is very infectious).

Six, scientists who have been studying the laws say if the laws really had an impact on transmission, the purported reasoning for the law when passed in 1989, then we would see significantly reduced rates of new infections in states with such laws. That is simply not the case. The rates remain stable regardless of the laws.

Seven, the law prevents people from taking control of their own health, and places the onus on the person living with HIV and knows they are living with the virus to disclose the infection as a prevention method. It simply does not work - for a host of social reasons.

Heywood is a leading investigative journalist reporting on the HIV crisis in Michigan and the U.S. His work has appeared in BTL, The American Independent, The Advocate, POZ Magazine and HIV Plus Magazine. He is a regular visitor to Michigan colleges where he discusses the history of HIV criminalization as well as new prevention science that could lead to the end of the epidemic. He was named one of the POZ 100 in 2011 by POZ Magazine, and a person making a difference by TheBody.com that same year. He has been living with HIV since 2007.

Other presenters include Dr. Gregory Popp, Jay Kaplan, LGBT project staff attorney at ACLU Michigan, attorney Rudy Serra, Lydia Hansons from Affirmations and experts from local AIDS Service Organizations.

For more information visit Affirmation's website at www.goaffirmations.org

level of reassurance relative to the extent to which a younger generation find themselves engaged in the battle against HIV and a vital part of the discourse during the evening's event."

"It was such an honor to have Sean Strub, a nationally recognized advocate for people living with HIV and AIDS, in Kalamazoo," said Jon Hoadley, who helped coordinate Strub's activities in Kalamazoo. "His visit was both inspirational and educational. I know we can turn his visit into on-going momentum [in the battle against HIV in our state]."

► Author

Continued from p. 12

LAAN, said the evening was important.

"The evening was informative, engaging, and especially poignant as Sean shared his own early experiences with his HIV diagnoses and the manner in which HIV impacted the gay community and the lives of friends and colleagues," Distel said. "His experiences mirrored my own as well as others in the intimate space. The evening also provided a

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Photo: Peggy Sirota

Heart Spoken

Lea Michele On 'Glee' Legacy, Being Called 'Diva' & Going Lesbian

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

“No personal questions” is the caveat before getting on the phone with Lea Michele, TV’s Rachel Berry. It’s an acceptable exception given the “Glee” star’s painfully tragic last year: Her on- and off-screen boyfriend, Cory

Monteith, died suddenly on July 13, 2013 from a drug overdose.

Recorded around the time of Monteith’s passing, those feelings of loss are still raw on “Louder,” Michele’s debut album. The singer dedicated “You’re Mine” to Monteith, and the crushingly beautiful “If You Say So” was inspired by his last

words to her. “I can’t believe it’s true,” she laments on the latter. “I keep looking for you.”

How much of “Louder” is a reflection of your life and your own heartbreaks?

I did not sing one word on the record that I could not incorporate into some experience in my life.

Whether it be current or past, every single song that I recorded is about me. It’s a peek into my life, past and present. Maybe it’s coming from my theater and performance background, but nothing felt right unless I could relate to it. I think it comes from being an actor too. It had to be real for me. And not every

song is about a current relationship or a current moment – I have songs on the album that I wrote about past relationships and past memories – but they all mean something to me.

The album is a throwback to an era when it was just about the voice, when Celine, Mariah and Whitney

ruled the world. Were you inspired by any of these women while recording it?

I don't think I've gone a day in my life without being inspired by Celine Dion. If you would've seen me at her concert in Las Vegas – like, I'm surprised I didn't get kicked out. I was literally sitting at the edge of my seat like the happiest girl in the entire universe. But no – I've always been inspired by female performers and artists who really surround who they are around their voice. For me, it's always been about the voice. I wanna hear someone just sit by a piano, on a stool, and just sing – and that's it! It's never been about anything other than that for me. I always really wanted to make an album, and it was so important to me that I could be current and relevant and still fun, but at the same time show that I'm a singer – that's what I pride myself on first and foremost.

Some of your closest relationships are with gay men. You work with Chris Colfer and Ryan Murphy on "Glee," and Jonathan Groff, who's also starred on "Glee," is one of your best friends. What is it about gay men that really jibes with you?

I don't see anyone as being different than anyone else, whether you're gay or straight or whatever – everyone's the same. That's how I was raised. I lived in New York my entire life. I worked in theater and I was exposed to tons of different types of people, and from a very young age there was never anything that was black and white for me. Everyone was always accepted and always around me ever since I was a little girl. I've just been really blessed to have great people in my life, and among them just happen to be people like Jonathan and Ryan – but not *because* they're gay. Just because they're amazing people.

What does the support of the gay community mean to you?

It means so much. I was working for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS ever since I was a little girl. I've always been in theater, and so the gay community – that was my world. That's where I come from, and so it just feels like a part of who I am. To be where I am right now, and to still have that support and to still have that safety net, it really just means a lot to me.

So Broadway really is as gay as people say it is?

(Laughs) Uh, I mean, I don't know about that!

Jonathan said he wants to get you on his HBO show "Looking." Would you be up for it?

Oh my god! First of all, I went to San Francisco when they were filming the show and I ate dinner with all the guys and with Andrew (Haigh), their director, and before anything I said to them, "You

guys, let's get me on the show," and then I watched the entire series because Jonathan gave me all the episodes.

Right – he said you watched it with your mother.

Well, first I watched them with Jonathan when we went on vacation and then I watched them with my mom. And she's so obsessed, it's crazy! Once I saw the entire series, I emailed Andrew Haigh and I was like, "Look, I loved it before, but I love it even more now. You gotta get me on the show. I'll do anything. Anything you want me to play, even if I'm in the background, I'll do it."

Can we get you on there as a lesbian?

One-hundred percent!

What kind of lesbian would you be?

I mean, I just wanna get to work with Jonathan. I love Jon. I feel like everything that we've gotten to do together, whether it was "Spring Awakening" or working on "Glee" together, I just love working with him. Every time we get to play different characters together it's so fun, so I'll do anything that they want.

Since the beginning, "Glee" has been such a friend to the gay community. How does it feel being part of a show that's so bold in how it addresses issues regarding the gay community?

What I've always loved about "Glee" the most is that while we're making people laugh – and while we're singing and entertaining people – we are delivering a very important message and opening up people's minds, even though they might not know it's happening. I get letters from fans, parents and kids. "Glee" has really helped a lot of people, and I'm not just saying that. It really has.

I'm so honored to be a part of a show that has made a big movement not only for the gay community but also for kids who just love music and have a passion for doing that. It's opened so many doors for girls and boys that don't look like everybody else – to make them feel beautiful in their skin no matter what they look like or where they're from. There are so many aspects of the show that have been really amazing, and I'll forever be grateful to have been a part of "Glee."

I really believe the significance it's had in the gay community will be part of its legacy.

I agree.

Cory, who played Finn, really had a big part in that – he became one of the show's biggest allies. How do you reflect on him as an ally to the gay community?

Look at the relationship between Finn and Kurt – how it grew over time, that they became brothers. There's a really

interesting episode where Kurt and Finn move in together, and (Kurt) decorates the room and Finn says the "f" word ("faggy"). Kurt's father defends him and really kind of puts Finn in his place and, for me, that was such a pivotal episode for the show and just their relationship alone.

One of my favorite episodes of "Glee" was "Preggers" – our fourth episode – and it's where Kurt joins the football team. The way he gets on the team is by doing the "Single Ladies" dance, and he ends up kicking the winning football goal – it's such a great episode. There are lots of relationships throughout "Glee" that have been really big turning points, and it just makes me even more proud to have been involved in the show.

How much pressure did you put on yourself knowing that you'd be slipping into Judy Garland's ruby slippers to voice Dorothy in the upcoming animated film "Legends of Oz: Dorothy's Return"?

Honestly, to get to be Dorothy is so cool. I didn't go a day in my childhood without watching "The Wizard of Oz." I watched "The Wizard of Oz" in my house so much that my mother had to hide the videotape at one point. I wore my ruby slippers, and I have this crazy Christmas video of me where every year for 10 years I'm still wearing my ruby slippers because I thought I *was* Dorothy.

What's your favorite chapter in your upcoming memoir, "Brunette Ambition"?

Oh my god, well, the book comes out in May and I'm really proud of it. It's a really crazy story of how I went from Broadway to being on this television show, and how I was told so much throughout my life that I wasn't pretty enough and I wouldn't make it to television – all of these people telling me what I could and couldn't be. It's about how I really overcame that and gave a big middle finger to those people and made my way to Los Angeles onto a television show.

The book really is about harnessing your tenacity, your drive and your ambition and getting to where you wanna be despite what people say you can or can't accomplish. Also mixed in there are really fun chapters on beauty, health and fitness. I love it. I think it's a fun book. I have some copies in my office and my girlfriends will pick it up and they'll be like, "When can I get a copy of the book? I want to make your pizza!" Because there's recipes in it. I'm really proud of it and I think, whether or not you're a Lea Michele fan, people can pick up the book and really get something good out of it.

Do you give everyone who calls you a diva the finger too?

Oh no. I applaud them when they call me a diva!

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Damaged & Divine

Actor Leslie Jordan Talks 'Southern Baptist Sissies,' His Journey To Sobriety

BY CHRISTOPHER TREACY

When it came to playing the role of Preston "Peanut" Leroy in the Emerson Collins-produced film of Del Shores' GLAAD Award-winning play, "Southern Baptist Sissies," Leslie Jordan didn't have much of a choice: the part was written for him.

Shores, who has worked with Jordan many times, took the part of Peanut – an aging, lonely barfly with a storied past – straight from Jordan's formative years in California. See for yourself when the film screens at Cinema Detroit March 21-27, when you can experience who Jordan might have become had he not opted to make some important lifestyle changes along the way.

"I've been sober for 17 years," Jordan says over the phone from a West Coast Starbucks patio where he waited on a nearby car repair. "But

years before that happened, I used to spend afternoons around this hustler bar on Santa Monica Boulevard. These rent boys would hang on the boulevard, and sometimes I'd take them home. We never heard anything about syphilis back then, but it was nothing to catch the clap – you'd know 'cause it'd sting when you tee-tee'd. For me, though, the attraction was more to hear their stories, several of which Del used in shaping Peanut's past. I've known Del since he was 'straight.' I attended his wedding, I'm a godfather to his children. So he wrote the part for me."

Jordan has maintained a high profile for the last 15 years, with his recurring character Beverley Leslie on NBC's "Will & Grace," plus memorable appearances on "Boston Legal," "Ugly Betty" and in the "The Help," among others. There's also his memoir, "My Trip



Photo: Kelly Smith

Down the Pink Carpet," and several one-man shows, one of which was produced by friend and comedic peer Lily Tomlin. His collaboration with Shores on the play, film and spinoff Logo series "Sordid Lives" inspired his successful self-penned film "Brother Boy."

Now he's hosting "The Hookies," the annual male escort awards ceremony presented by Rentboy.com for the second time and premiering

his new comedy performance, "Fruit Fly," which considers the question, "Do gay men really become their mothers?" In truth, Jordan's been busy enough recently where we needed to clarify which project I was calling to discuss. Sobriety has been good to him.

"I can't say 'no' to Del, especially after the success of 'Brother Boy,'" he says. "The play 'Southern Baptist Sissies' is 10 years old, and I'm glad

it held up so well. My initial concern was that it's really two plays: one about these four boys struggling with their respective identities, and another about a pair of barflies dealing with years of internalized shame. But the two stories actually relate very well. I told Del, 'Honey, I don't want to just end up pitiful,' so he allowed me to have a moment with one of the four young boys

See Leslie Jordan, page 19

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Lansing Ladies Raise Funds For Jazz Festival

BY SHELBY CLARK

The Avenue Cafe in downtown Lansing will host a fundraiser this Friday, “Nightingales: An Intimate Evening with Lansing’s Ladies of Jazz,” for the Summer Solstice Jazz Festival.

Accompanied by the Reggie Thomas Trio, Lansing’s “purest female jazz voices” will hit the stage. The jazz stylings will be from multiple women, including Betty Baxter.

Considered Michigan Historical Museum’s “Michigan popular music historian,” Baxter is also a founding member of the Jazz Association of Mid-Michigan. Lansing vocalist Twyla Birdsong will also be performing, as well as Mardra Thomas, who’s known for her realistic interpretation of Billie Holiday and her position as a featured performer on the MSU Professors of Jazz album, “Better than Alright.”

Other local performers include Jackson-native Betty Joplin, a Grammy-nominated singer and vocalist for the Duke Ellington Orchestra. Ursula Walker of Detroit will also be performing (Walker received a Lifetime Achievement Award in the 2012 Detroit Black Music Awards for her 60-year jazz career). The singer has opened



for many greats, including Dizzy Gillespie, Oscar Peterson and Tania Maria.

Internationally-renowned Shahida Nurallah, known for her vocal work on pianist Gerri Allen’s album “Open On All Sides,” will also perform.

The SSJF is presented by the City of East Lansing, Wharton Center for Performing Arts and the Michigan State University College of Music. Since 1996, these organizations have been bringing cool

jazz to the hot summer nights of June to celebrate the longest days of the year.

SSJF started out small, with its inaugural evening being moved from MSU’s campus to the Erickson Kiva roof. The festival stayed at this location until it moved to downtown East Lansing to attract more people into the business district. Popularity skyrocketed from 800 people to thousands.

This year’s festival features not just jazz performances but a “Jazz Kids” children’s activity area, food, jazz cafes and, special this year, the MSU Outreach and Engagement Educational Stage and After Glow Performances. The free outdoor festival, June 20-21, will take place in Parking Lot 1, 230 Albert Ave., East Lansing. More than 8,000 people are expected to attend.

“Nightingales: An Intimate Evening with Lansing’s Ladies of Jazz” is 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, March 21. Tickets are \$25 for general admission and \$50 for VIP selected seating. The Avenue Cafe is located at 2021 E Michigan Ave., Lansing. For further details, visit www.eljazzfest.com or call 517-319-6980.

For more events in Lansing and East Lansing, check out BTL’s calendar at www.pridesource.com/calendar.html.



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Dale Dickey and Leslie Jordan star in "Southern Baptist Sissies."

► Leslie Jordan

Continued from p. 16

toward the end of the production that better cements the two plot lines."

The scene Jordan's referring to is a dramatic pinnacle wherein Peanut – having a rare moment of clarity – warns one of the central youth characters not to become like him. It brings the story full circle, linking the choices of youth to the regrets that often come with age.

The Emerson Collins film production of "Southern Baptist Sissies," which also features Collins in the lead role, takes a striking approach in the transition to film by using live-to-film stage scenes mixed with close-ups recorded after the fact. The finished result preserves the intensity of a live theater performance and marries it with the technical savvy of a fully produced film; very little, if anything, is lost in translation, and it's easy to see why Jordan's stage performance won him an Ovation Award, the Garland Award and the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award. Collins and Jordan are joined by Dale Dickey ("True Blood," "Winter's Bone"), Willam Belli ("RuPaul's Drag Race"), Bobbie Eakes ("All My Children") and Ann Walker, Rosemary Alexander and Newell Alexander, all from "Sordid Lives." The story itself chronicles several young men coming to terms with being homosexual in a church that demands nothing less than complete devotion. Since Jordan was raised in Chattanooga, Tenn., and Shores originally hails from Texas, both men (now in their 50s) have shouldered their own personal struggles with the confusing contradictions in organized religions; empathy for the characters wasn't hard to find.

"Del and I are both what I would call 'spiritually damaged.' I clearly remember wanting to be a good Christian, to follow the teachings," Jordan says. "I was spoon fed the Bible. The Baptist church requires a public profession of devotion, which is

“ *The first night we did it as a play, I came off stage and freaked out because I could swear I'd tasted vodka in that glass. You put me in that environment, under those dim lights, and it all becomes very real to me.* **”**

immediately followed by a baptism. I tell people I was baptized 14 times; it didn't take! But, y'know, I've had to have my own journey to find sobriety and learn to put my faith in something else. Del and I and so many others were faced with that conflict – wanting to be good, to do 'the right thing' but confused by the message that we're somehow defective merchandise. I can see parts of myself in all of those boys."

Playing Peanut has been cathartic for Jordan in some unexpected ways. Every time his character appears, he's either perched on a barstool or teetering his way onto or off of one, highball in hand and ice cubes clinking.

"It's my dark understory," he admits. "The first night we did it as a play, I came off stage and freaked out because I could swear I'd tasted vodka in that glass. You put me in that environment, under those dim lights, and it all becomes very real to me. In subsequent performances, however, I found immeasurable strength in being able to act out certain aspects of my real story, knowing how different my life is now – and then (I'd) walk out of that theater levitating on air."

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Thursday, March 20

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

Detroit Elders 5 p.m. Discuss and address issues specific to the LGBT community as we "age in the D." Detroit Elders, 4750 Woodward, Detroit. 313-833-1300. belcrest5440@yahoo.com

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

Polyamory Network 7:30 p.m. Open and inclusive community of people living polyamorously, people interested in polyamory and people of, friendly to and curious about polyamory. Welcomes diversity of sexual orientation and gender identity. Meets the third Thursday of every month. Polyamory Network, 319 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. jimtoycenr.org

An Evening of Molly Ringwald 8 p.m. Tickets: \$52-57. The Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. 248-661-1900. Theberman.org

Friday, March 21

HIV and AIDS Forum 5 p.m. Guest Speakers Todd A. Heywood and Lansing Association for Human Rights Interns. They will be speaking about issues related to HIV and AIDS. There is also a showing of United in Anger which has the history of ACT UP. We encourage students, faculty, staff, and public to especially come during the open mic. For two minutes share an inspirational story about someone dear. Lansing Community College Main Campus Room Health Human Services Room 006 (Subject to change). Free. LCC GSA/LAHR, 515 N. Washington Square, Lansing. str2@lcc.edu Facebook.com/events/633164956719077/

Pets and Pajamas Movie Night 5 p.m. Adoptable animal interactions, cheese pizza dinner, and an animal-themed movie with popcorn. Appropriate for ages 5 and up. Tickets: \$15-35. Humane Society of Huron Valley, 3100 Cherry Hill Road, Ann Arbor. 734-662-5585. Hshv.convio.net

Nightingales: An Intimate Evening with Lansing's Ladies of Jazz 7 p.m. Tickets: \$25-50. Summer Solstice Jazz Festival (SSJF), 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. Eljazzfest.com

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

Saturday, March 22

Clinical Issues & Sexual Orientation: A Training for Therapists 8:30 a.m. Registration includes: Lunch, refreshments, and training materials. Cost: \$95-185. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

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

Detroit Derby Girls - Allstars vs. Tampa Bay 4:45 p.m. First internationally ranked travel team bout

of the season. Tickets: \$12-15. Detroit Derby Girls, 500 Temple St., Detroit. 313-444-4841. pr@detroitderbygirls.com Detroitderbygirls.com

Wine Tasting 7 p.m. A superb selection of fine wines, live musical entertainment, and delicious gourmet fare from area restaurants and bakeries. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 810-234-1695. Flintarts.org

Sunday, March 23

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 northwestuu.org

Community Cat Training 11 a.m. Learn why HSHV believes that Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) offers the greatest chance of success for feral cats. Humane Society of Huron Valley, 3100 Cherry Hill Road, Ann Arbor. 734-662-5585. Hshv.convio.net

Court, Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. Jimtoycenr.org

Mad Hatter's Writing Group 7 p.m. This group meets the fourth Monday of each month. It's a working group focused on using various tools and techniques to move any current project forward toward completion. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Tuesday, March 25

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

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



20. The Berman Center is located at 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Tickets range from \$52 to \$57. For more information, call 248-661-1900 or visit www.theberman.org.

Editor's Pick

One of the country's most famous redheads comes to the stage this Thursday during "An Evening with Molly Ringwald." Molly Ringwald will perform American standards, jazz and other songs off of her debut album, "Except Sometimes." She will be accompanied by a live jazz band.

Ringwald is best known for her role in '80s movies such as "Sixteen Candles," "Pretty in Pink" and "The Breakfast Club." More recently, Ringwald starred in ABC Family's "The Secret Life of the American Teenager."

The event will begin at 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 20. The Berman Center is located at 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Tickets range from \$52 to \$57. For more information, call 248-661-1900 or visit www.theberman.org.

Lezhike - Highland Lakes Recreation Area 11 a.m. Meet at main entrance. Lezhike, 4754 Highland Road, White Lake. Meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

Outpouring 12:30 p.m. LGBT-affirming service. Non-denominational Christian. Affirming Love Ministries, 9550 Oakland Ave., Detroit. Affirmingloveministries.webs.com

Ostara Celebration 2 p.m. Universal Society of Ancient Ministry, 37084 Huron River Dr., New Boston. Meetup.com/michiganpagans

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

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

Monday, March 24

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

Center Open - Drop In 7 p.m. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun

Transgender Life Support 7 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

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

Wednesday, March 26

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

HIV Support Group 5:30 p.m. Battle Creek Pride Resource Center, 16 E. Van Buren St., Battle Creek. 262-385-7031. Battlecreekpride.org

International Transgender Day of Visibility 6 p.m. Poetry Night to celebrate. Transgender Michigan, 515 S. Washington Ave., Royal Oak. 248-515-2551. Five15.net

Mid-Week Meditation 6 p.m. Suggested Donation: \$3. Michigan Pagans, 195 W. Nine Mile Road,

Suite 1B, Ferndale. Meetup.com/michiganpagans

Out Night: Films in Competition 9:30 p.m. LGBTQ films in the Ann Arbor Film Festival. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397. Michtheater.org

Out Night Afterparty 11 p.m. Free. aut Bar, 315 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-994-3677. Autbar.com

Thursday, March 27

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

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

Relationship Skills Class 6 p.m. Topics include: exploring personal and cultural relationships, arguments and making agreements, accountability and building community connections. Tickets: \$35 per person. 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Bizarre/Bazaar 6:30 p.m. Eclectic silent auction, food samples from local vendors, cash bar, and more. Tickets: \$10. Michigan AIDS Coalition, 141 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-545-1435. Michiganaidcoalition.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

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

MUSIC & MORE

Classical

Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra "Beethoven and Beyond" Adams: Short Ride in a Fast Machine. Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 2 in B Flat major, Op. 19. Strauss: Also sprach Zarathustra. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann

See Happenings, page 22

Your Gay Guide To The Ann Arbor Film Festival

The 13th edition of Out Night at the Ann Arbor Film Festival includes short animated, narrative and documentary films from Morocco, Turkey, Canada and the U.S. Besides the recent work from Chris Vargas, whose "Liberacion" was awarded Funniest Film at the 51st AAFF, here's what else you shouldn't miss:

Steve Anker Juror Presentation, 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 26 (Free)

Includes a very rare screening on Super 8mm of Luther Price's "Sodom" the subject of a retrospective at the 2012 Whitney Biennial. "Sodom" uses found footage gay porn and physical carvings into the small 8mm material itself to create a horrifying glimpse into a particular imaginary hell. Price's sensational imagery is both confrontational and meditative, and "Sodom" recalls such earlier films as Jack Smith's "Flaming Creatures" and Barbara Rubin's "Christmas on Earth."

Penelope Spheeris Retrospective Program, 9:15 p.m. Thursday, March 27

A program of short films of independent films by Penelope Spheeris, who will be in attendance. The program includes her early films "I Don't Know" and "Hats Off to Hollywood,"



"Cakes Da Killa: No Homo" will screen during "Out Night: Films in Competition" at 9:30 p.m. March 26.

which screened at the AAFF in the early 1970s. Spheeris's early work was ahead of its time in playing with the boundaries of fiction and documentary as well as depicting the emerging queer culture of the 1970s.

Touch, 7 p.m. Saturday, March 29

After 50 years away, a gay man returns to his old neighborhood – New York City's Chinatown – to care for his dying mother. Like him, the city has changed and yet the past still haunts his familiar streets. Bradford Nordeen of OutFest says "Touch" is a poignant and lyrical video diary, a tapestry of vérité camerawork, stolen moments

and probing observations, challenging the manner in which we engage with the communities that created us and how we embrace and chronicle images of the everyday.

The recent feature film by Shelly Silver has been screened at prominent film festivals including Rotterdam, the Cinéma du Réel in Paris, France (where it won the Grand Prize) and Los Angeles OutFest, where it premiered in their Platinum section.

For more information, visit http://aaafilmfest.org/52/events/out_night_films_in_competition

A variety of shorts will be shown during "Out Night: Films in Competition" starting at 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 26 in the Michigan Theater's Main Auditorium. The screening will be followed by an afterparty at [vautBAR](#) at 11 p.m. And now for a peek at the films:

The Thing

Rhys Ernst
Los Angeles, CA | 2013 | 15 minutes | Video
A woman, a transgender man and their cat travel toward a mysterious roadside attraction known as "The Thing."

100 Butches #9: Ruby

Elisha Lim
Toronto, Canada | 2012 | 1 minute | Video
A catholic convent schoolgirl remembers her first gay crush.

Falling in Love ... with Chris and Greg:

"Work of Art! Reality TV Special

Chris E. Vargas and Greg Youmans
Hamilton, NY | 2012 | 14 min | Video
Through the magic of DIY video effects and voice redubbing, Chris and Greg become contestants in a reality-TV competition to be The Next Great Artist. The challenge: "Make a successful piece of queer art about failure." Can they make it through a double elimination?

Cakes Da Killa: No Homo

Ja'Tovia M. Gary
Brooklyn, NY | 2013 | 13 minutes | Video
An electrifying portrait of a young artist determined to create and live life on his own terms.

Ghost Syndrome

Rita Piffer
US | 2013 | 7 minutes | Video
A portrait of a Moroccan lesbian who

immigrated to the United States, and the emotional resonances of living in-between cultures.

Off-White Tulips

Aykan Safoglu
Berlin, Germany | 2013 | 24 minutes | Video
North American Premiere
Concentrating on James Baldwin's extended stays in Istanbul in '60s and '70s, the film explores the limits of an autobiography mostly relying on found materials such as Sedat Pakay's photography.

Akin

Chase Joynt
Toronto, Canada | 2012 | 8 minutes | Video
"Akin" powerfully engages in a relationship between an Orthodox Jewish mother and her transgender son as they navigate silent secrets of a shared past.

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Editor's Pick



The world premiere of Jim Henry's suspenseful drama "Brother of All" will have a champagne celebration at 8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 27 at the Detroit Repertory Theatre. Guests are invited to join in a champagne toast in the elegant lobby gallery after the show with the cast, crew and playwright who is flying in for the premiere of his play.

Leonard was just 8 years old when he, his brother Jonathan and their friend, Wohali, rubbed bloody palms together and took a Cherokee Blood Brothers forever oath. It was the greatest day of his life. Now he is being interrogated by a forensic psychologist and all three are suspects in a mysterious death.

Tickets are \$17 advance or \$20 day of performance, and may be purchased by calling 313-868-1347. The production will run Thursdays through Sundays until May 18.

Detroit Repertory Theatre is located at 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit.

Happenings

Continued from p. 34

Arbor. 8 p.m. March 22. 734-668-8397. A2so.com

Kerrytown Concert House "All About the Trio" Tickets: \$5-25. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. March 23 - April 13. 734-763-4186. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Comedy

Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase "Comedy Jamm" It's cut-loose comedy as we present the comedy of 12 of the current rising stars in the Detroit Metro area and beyond. Tickets: \$5. Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 8 - June 25. 734-996-9080. Aacomedy.com

Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase "Nick Gaza" Tickets: \$8-13. Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. March 20 - March 22. 734-996-9080. Aacomedy.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Jim Jefferies". Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. March 21. 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre.com

Concerts

Blind Pig "Sunday Best" 18+. Tickets: \$7. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. March 26. 734-996-8555. Blindpigmusic.com

Blind Pig "The Internet (Odd Future)" 18+. Tickets: \$15-17. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 9 p.m. March 21. 734-996-8555. Blindpigmusic.com

Blind Pig "T. Mills with ModSun" All ages. Tickets: \$18-20. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. March 23. 734-996-8555. Blindpigmusic.com

Blind Pig "Johnette Napolitano of Concrete Blonde" 18+. Tickets: \$25. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. March 25. 734-996-8555. Blindpigmusic.com

Blind Pig "Miniature Tigers & Bear Hands" With special guest Total Slacker. 18+. Tickets: \$12. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 9 p.m. March 20. 734-996-8555. Blindpigmusic.com

Blind Pig "Electric Six" With Yip Deceiver & Alexis. 18+. Tickets: \$15. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 9 p.m. March 22. 734-996-8555. Blindpigmusic.com

Blind Pig "Ron Pope" With special guest: Von Grey. 18+. Tickets: \$15. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. March 24. 734-996-8555. Blindpigmusic.com

Cathedral Choir "Choral Evensong" An organ recital by a guest organist follows

Evensong at 5:10 p.m. Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 4800 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Feb. 23 - March 23. 313-833-7547. Facebook.com/detroitcathedralmusic

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Mix @ The Max: Hammer & Key". Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. March 26. 313-576-5111. Dso.org

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Scheherazade". Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. March 21 - March 23. 313-576-5111. Dso.org

Royal Oak Arts Council "13th Annual Royal Oak Baroque Festival Concert" The annual festival of all things Baroque will bring together vocal and instrumental artists to share their talents and interpretations of the Baroque period music. First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak, 529 Hendrie Blvd., Royal Oak. 4 p.m. March 23. 248-709-0714.

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Ethan Bortnick". Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. March 21. 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre.com

St. Cecilia Music Center "Regina Carter" Hot Jazz. St. Cecilia Music Center, 24 Ransom NE., Grand Rapids. 7:30 p.m. March 20. 616-459-2224. Scmc-online.org

The Ark "Cabinet" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. March 24. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Crosswell "Out of Jeopardy and Into the Spotlight" Tickets: \$25. The Crosswell, 129 E. Maumee St., Adrian. March 14 - March 22. 517-264-SHOW. Crosswell.org

University Musical Society (UMS) "Asif Ali Khan Qawwali Ensemble" Tickets: \$20-46. Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. March 21. 734-763-3333. Ums.org

Dance

Detroit Opera House "Geneva Ballet" Tickets: \$25-80. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. March 21 - March 22. 313-237-SING. Michiganopera.org

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

Michigan Opera Theatre "Ballet du Grand Theatre de Geneve" Tickets: \$25-125. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. March 21 - March 22. 313-237-SING. Motopera.org

Film & Video

Saugatuck Center for the Arts "SOMM" Wine tasting an hour before film with Mike Gustaitis from Wine Sellers of Saugatuck.

Tickets: \$5-15. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. 7 p.m. March 20. 269-857-2399. Sc4a.org

Ann Arbor Film Festival "Ann Arbor Film Festival" Includes many LGBT works. Tickets: \$7-9. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. March 26 - March 29. 734-668-8397. Mocadoetroit.org

THEATER

Civic/Community Theater

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

Confessions of the Easter Bunny \$10-12. Emergent Arts at The Mix Studio Theatre, 8 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti. March 26 - April 6. 734-985-0875. emergentarts.com

The Awesome 80s Prom \$30-50. The Downriver Actors Guild at Biddle Hall, 3239 Biddle Ave., Wyandotte. Through March 22. Downriveractorsguild.net

Torch Song Trilogy \$18-20. Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. March 28 - April 13. 248-541-6430. Stagecrafters.org

Tribes \$10-15. Peppermint Creek Theatre at Miller Performing Arts Center, 6025 Curry Lane, South Lansing. March 27 - April 5. 517-927-3016. peppermintcreek.org

College/University Theater

Dylan \$5-10. Lansing Community College Performing Arts at LCC Black Box Theatre, Room 168, Gannon Building, LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. Through March 22. 517-483-1488. lcc.edu/showinfo

SubUrbia \$10-12. Theatre and Dance at Wayne at Studio Theatre, 4743 Cass Avenue, Detroit. March 27 - April 5. 313-577-2972. finearts.wayne.edu

Professional

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

Birdhouse Factor \$25-52. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 7:30 p.m. March 21. 810-237-8689. thewhiting.com

Brother of All \$17-20. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. March 27 - May 18. 313-868-1347. detroitreptheatre.com

Cirque de Light Savings \$7-10. Crawlspace Theatre Productions at Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers

See Happenings, page 25

www.PrideSource.com

Recycle Here! Strips Down For Shakespeare

BY JOHN QUINN

For theater to happen, one needs only two elements – an artist to communicate and an audience to comprehend. For drama one also needs a playwright to provide the means of communication. When the dramatist is William Shakespeare, other elements associated with theater are superfluous. As a professor of literature once told his classes, “We don’t go to the theater to *see* Shakespeare; we go to the theater to *hear* Shakespeare.”

A few local companies have taken a minimalist approach to the Shakespearian canon, but few have explored the extremes as boldly as Shakespeare in Detroit. Its current production, “Antony and Cleopatra,” demonstrates a company can play Shakespeare with only non-descript, recycled costumes, junk for props, no lighting, set or stage speak of. Even adequate heat isn’t necessary; as long as patrons dress warmly (boots are recommended). The lightly clad actors are on their own.

“Antony and Cleopatra” is staged in the warehouse of Recycle Here! at the corner of Holden and Lincoln near Detroit’s New Center. The “theater” is delineated by cargo vans drawn up in a semicircle; the back wall of the stage is a line of commercial dumpsters decked in brilliant murals, painted by the artists’ colony that calls this place home. While chairs and benches ring the playing area, the “stage,” merely a clear space on the concrete floor, is defined by moody lighting.

Ah, but as Shakespeare wrote elsewhere, “The play’s the thing!” “Antony and Cleopatra” is one of three works drawn from the biographical study “Lives of the Noble Grecians and Romans Compared Together” by the Roman historian Plutarch. That work appeared in a 1759 English translation by Sir Thomas North and is considered one of the masterpieces of the Elizabethan Era. Everybody who was anybody had read it. Those who couldn’t read absorbed the stories second hand. Thus in writing “Coriolanus,” “Julius Caesar” and “Antony and Cleopatra,” Shakespeare pretty much stuck to Plutarch’s history. But that didn’t stop him from tackling this work in his inimitable style, beginning with telescoping 11 years of actual history into his traditional five act format.

“Antony and Cleopatra” takes up the Roman civil wars where “Julius Caesar” leaves off. Having successfully avenged the assassination of Caesar, the victors establish the Second Triumvirate; the Roman Republic will be administered by three leaders, each taking control of a specific region. Octavius, Caesar’s grand-nephew,

REVIEW

Antony and Cleopatra

Shakespeare in Detroit at Recycle Here! in Detroit’s New Center, 1331 Holden St., Detroit. 3 hours, 5 minutes. \$10. 7 p.m. March 21-22.

www.Shakespeareindetroit.com

governs the West from Rome; Marcus Lepidus is tossed the bone of Carthage and its surrounding territory. Mark Antony takes the eastern provinces and chooses Alexandria as his capital. That puts him in danger of being ensnared, as was Julius Caesar before him, by the entrancing Queen of Egypt, Cleopatra VII.

It’s bad enough that he’s diddling while his Roman provinces burn; he’s also ignoring that fact that “there can be only one.” Octavius wants total control. Plutarch’s history recounts the inevitable path leading to Sept. 2, 31 BCE, when the an outnumbered fleet fighting for Octavius took on Antony’s bigger ships so effectively that the Egyptian navy, commanded by Cleopatra, turned back to Alexandria without engaging in battle. The defeat heralded a decline that led to the suicide of the lovers. In world history, it also marked the end of Egyptian sovereignty, the death of the Roman Republic, and the rise of the Roman Empire.

In deconstructing Shakespeare’s play, director Kyle Grant successfully presents substance over style, even though the challenges are daunting.

While Shakespeare’s audience was familiar with the twists in the military and political plots, the 21st-century audience may only remember something about a snake. Thus, the story must be told clearly in a huge space, using barely adequate lighting and a minimum of costumes. Shakespeare’s big cast is represented by only 10 actors, assisted by two extras. It’s a case of “you can’t tell the players without a program,” but the main plotline is well serviced.

That is largely due to the trio portraying the participants in a complex dance of death. Jonathan Davidson and Jennifer Cole play the doomed lovers; Zack Hendrickson is the determined Octavius. It is noteworthy that this production highlights the political struggle between Queen and Emperor-to-be. This allows Cole to play a broad gambit of emotion, from her school-girlish infatuation with Davidson’s love-sick Antony, to the steely defense of her independence from all-conquering Caesar. But here’s a reminder to artists thrown into gigantic performance spaces without amplification: Trained voices will carry in even the worst circumstances when pitched in a lower register.

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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

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



Solution to puzzle from page 26

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

▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 22

Alley, Kalamazoo. March 21 - 22. 269-343-2727. Farmersalleytheatre.com

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

Disney's Beauty and the Beast \$29-89. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. March 25 - 30. 313-872-1000. broadwayindetroit.com

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

Falling \$25-40. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. March 19 - April 13. 248-377-3300. mbtheatre.com

Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune \$15-25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. March 20 - April 19. 517-655-SHOW. williamstontheatre.org

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

Heartbeat of Home \$35-85. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. March 18 - March 23. 313-872-1000. broadwayindetroit.com

Hell Hath No Fury Like a Woman Scorned \$44.50-52.50. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. March 29 - 30. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com

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

Jackie & Me \$12-18. Flint Youth Theatre, 1220 E. Kearsley St., Flint. March 21 - April 6. 810-237-1530. flintyouththeatre.org

Memory House \$10-20. UDM Theatre Company at Grounds Coffeehaus, 4001 W. McNichols Road, Detroit. March 28 - April 6. 313-993-3270. http://theatre.udmercy.edu

Memphis \$25-65. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. March 28 - 29. 586-286-2222. macombcenter.com

Men Are From Mars - Women Are From Venus Live! \$54. City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. March 28 - 30. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com

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

Oh, Ananse \$5-\$10. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit. Through March 23. 313-961-7777. puppetart.org

Once Upon a Time \$3-12. Wild Swan Theater at Towsley Auditorium in the Morris Lawrence Building on the campus of Washtenaw Community College, 4800 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor. March 27 - 29. 734-995-0530. wildswantheater.org

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

Small Hours Serenade \$20. Puzzle Piece Theatre at The Box Theater, 90 Macomb Place, Mt. Clemens. March 27 - April 13. 586-954-2677. puzzlestage.org

Staged Reading Festival. Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company at The Abrecht Performance Space, 1301 W. Lafayette #113, Detroit. March 21 - 23. 313-454-1542. magentagiraffe.org

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

The American Museum of Magic - On Stage \$15-17. The Franke Center for the Arts, 214 E. Mansion St., Marshall. 8 p.m. March 29. 269-781-0001. Frankecenterforthearts.org

The Current \$15-18. Two Muses Theatre at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. March 21 - April 13. 248-850-9919. twomusestheatre.org

The Foreigner \$20. The Snug Theatre, 160 S. Water St., Marine City. March 20 - April 5. 810-278-1749. thesnugtheatre.com

The Frog Bride \$9. Wharton Center's Pasant Theatre, 750 E Shaw Lane, East Lansing. March 30. 517-432-2000. whartoncenter.com

The Gershwin's Porgy and Bess \$25-32+. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. March 18 - 23. 800-WHARTON. whartoncenter.com

The Miracle Worker \$15-25. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. 7 p.m. March 27. 586-286-2222. macombcenter.com

The Motherfucker with the Hat \$15-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. March 28 - April 14. 248-545-5545. theeringwald.com

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

The Tempest \$10. What A Do Theatre, 4071 W. Dickman Road, Springfield. Through March 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

Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me! \$33-123. Miller Auditorium, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. 7:30 p.m. March 20. 269-387-2300. millerauditorium.com

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

ART 'N' AROUND

Art Detroit Now "3rd Thursdays in Detroit" 45+ local galleries and retail locations stay open until 9 p.m. to offer the best in contemporary art. Multiple, Detroit. Aug. 15 - March 20. Artdetroitnow.com

Cranbrook Academy of Art and Art Museum "The Islands of Benoit Mandelbrot: Fractals, Chaos, and the Materiality of Thinking" One of the most notable mathematicians of the twentieth century, this exhibition explores the role of images in scientific thinking. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Nov. 16 - 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

Downriver Council for the Arts "Artcycled" Reuse! Recycle! Rethink!

Downriver Council for the Arts, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. March 21 - April 25. 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. Flintarts.org

Goldner Walsh Garden & Home "Fergus Garrett, The View From Great Dixter Lecture and Book Signing" Great Dixter was the family home of gardener and gardening writer Christopher Lloyd--it was the focus of his energy and enthusiasm that fueled over 40 years of books and articles. Now under the stewardship of Fergus Garrett. \$30 per person for lecture. Book signing to follow. Goldner Walsh Garden & Home, 559 Orchard Lake Road, Pontiac. 6:30 p.m. March 20. 328-332-6430.

Holocaust Memorial Center "The Murderers Among Us: How We Elude and Confront Holocaust Perpetrators" With Dr. Thomas Kuhne. Holocaust Memorial Center, 48123 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. 2 p.m. March 23. 248-553-2400 x24. Holocaustcenter.org

Janice Charach Gallery "Breaking the Mold Glass and Clay Exhibit Sale Janice Charach Gallery" Opening Reception on Sunday, March 16th from 1-4 p.m. Refreshments will be served. This exhibit celebrates 25 cutting edge local artists. Janice Charach Gallery, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. March 16 - April 17. 248-432-5579. Charachgallery.org

Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum "The President's Photographer: Fifty Years Inside the Oval Office" The exhibition features 50 framed images and a text panel with brief biographical information on each photographer. Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum, 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. Mocadetroit.org

Pewabic Pottery "Dominance Lost". Pewabic Pottery, 10125 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit. 6 p.m. March 21. 313-626-2000.

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

robert kidd gallery "Deep Thaw" An emergence of new and recent acquisitions. robert kidd gallery, 107 Townsend St., Birmingham. March 22 - April 26. 248-642-3909. Robertkiddgallery.com

Saugatuck Center for the Arts "Balancing Point" This unique collaborative exhibition showcases a bold transdisciplinary display of work from some of the Kendall College of Art + Design's finest student and alumni artists. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. Feb. 7 - April 6. 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" Suggested donation: \$10. Workatite, 118 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. March 2 - March 30. 734-763-7550. Wonderfoolproductions.org

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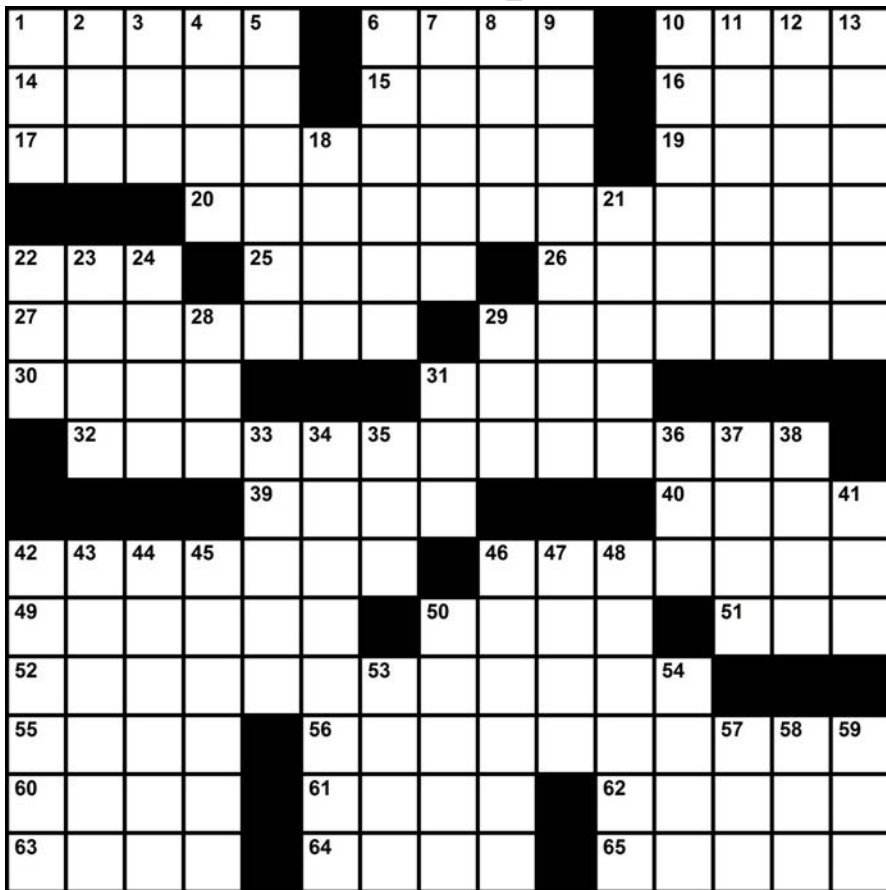
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Turn The Page



Across

- 1 Black key for Elton John
- 6 Door piece
- 10 Zipper problem
- 14 Area of Tennessee?
- 15 Race track shape
- 16 Went lickety-split
- 17 "Showboat" director with a "fishy" name
- 19 Count (on)
- 20 Start of a possible headline about Ellen Page
- 22 It bit Cleopatra
- 25 Melissa Etheridge's "___ It Heavy"
- 26 Triangle ratio
- 27 As anyone can see
- 29 Untrustworthy lawyer
- 30 Alternative to "Go straight"
- 31 Former Mets' stadium
- 32 More of the headline
- 39 Peter on the piano
- 40 Future queen of "Star Wars"
- 42 Paul Anka hit
- 46 Composer Aaron
- 49 Gay rodeo item
- 50 German industrial locale
- 51 Down in the mouth
- 52 End of the headline
- 55 Guitarist's tool

- 56 Contents of porn cassettes
- 60 Gardner of mystery
- 61 Perfect serves from Martina
- 62 Where fruits hang
- 63 Bambi, e.g.
- 64 It may come before we forget
- 65 Open-mouthed responses

Down

- 1 Gay or lesbian (abbr.)
- 2 Title for a man who avoids sex with women
- 3 Hasty flight
- 4 Financial page heading
- 5 Explorer of southern Australia
- 6 ___ Yuma (Nick Adams character)
- 7 Word used to stop seamen
- 8 Soda shop treat
- 9 Stadium seat
- 10 Second part of Shakespeare's iamb
- 11 Jean-Paul Sartre play
- 12 Artist Raven
- 13 It regularly blows its top
- 18 Mystic Simone
- 21 Like Di
- 22 In the cards
- 23 Run-down neighborhood
- 24 Strip a fruit
- 28 Lodging place

- 29 Brown's "Murder, ___ Meowed"
- 31 QAF network
- 33 "___ at time!" (No threesomes!)
- 34 Rio Carnival, for example
- 35 To's companion
- 36 Not in the pink
- 37 Salty bodies
- 38 Clothing designer Chow
- 41 Dipstick word
- 42 Split to unite
- 43 Man of words
- 44 Figure in Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel frescos
- 45 Quarrel
- 46 Most fetching
- 47 John Goodman's "Normal, ___"
- 48 "___ in Pink"
- 50 Amusement park features
- 53 Bad habit
- 54 Poet Teasdale
- 57 Supporter of bottoms
- 58 Velvet finish
- 59 Sound of an inflated doll with a leak

Solution on pg. 24

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