

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

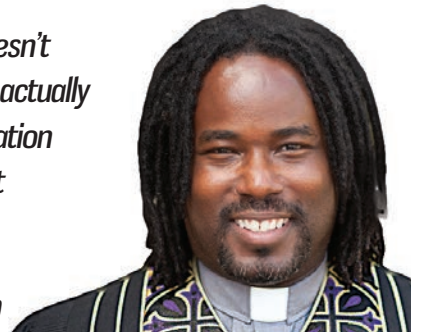


Students Want Schuette  
Off Albion Board

The Naked Truth  
About Pop Duo Karmin

“Gay marriage doesn’t  
destroy the family; it is actually  
the rejection and alienation  
of family members that  
destroys families.”

— Rev. Roland Stringfellow, p. 10



# The Wedding Issue

## LGBT Wedding Expo Returns April 12

# BREATHTAKING BIRMINGHAM CONTEMPORARIES



**750 BATES BIRMINGHAM**

**\$1,189,000**

Incredible opportunity to own 2012 Detroit Home Design Award winner. Only the finest materials were used including Arriscraft stone veneer, commercial brick, Kawneer commercial windows & doors, 2 story living room with floating fireplace, custom staircase supported by a glass wall & custom stainless steel railing, radiant heat flooring, state-of-the-art kitchen with Downsview cabinetry & Miele appliances.



**750 HAZELWOOD BIRMINGHAM**

**PRICE TBA**

Contemporary masterpiece, the epitome of sophistication and style with unparalleled level of architectural detail and design. Impressive 3 story home with window views overlooking downtown Birmingham. Cutting edge design incorporates mixed use of materials such warm woods, steel and glass, creating a symphony of warmth and interest. 3400 sq. ft. of spectacular space including spa-like bathrooms, large master bedroom, 3rd floor finished space, roof-top terrace, finished basement and 3 car garage. Walk to everything Birmingham has to offer.

WHEN IT COMES TO REAL ESTATE,  
LOOK NO FURTHER...



**DAN GUTFREUND**

A passion for families finding their dream home

Top producing agent for SKBK Sotheby's

SKBK

Sotheby's  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

415 S. Old Woodward  
Birmingham, MI 48009

248.731.1030  
dan@skbk.com





# The Polo Fields Golf & C.C.

ONE COUNTRY CLUB  
TWO LOCATIONS  
ONE AFFORDABLE PRICE

*Where affordability  
meets quality.*



THE POLO FIELDS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUBS, FEATURING WORLD-CLASS SERVICE AT OUR TWO LOCATIONS:

**THE POLO FIELDS—ANN ARBOR AND THE POLO FIELDS—WASHTENAW**

Simplifying the planning process for your wedding, reception or bridal shower.

The Choice is Yours...choose from one of our complete wedding packages or from our new  
"Design Your Own" wedding package. Wedding packages starting at \$40\*.

Now booking events at our two banquet facilities for 2014-2015. Two unique outdoor ceremony sites.



THE POLO FIELDS ANN ARBOR: 5200 POLO FIELDS DRIVE, ANN ARBOR MI 48103


THE POLO FIELDS WASHTENAW: 2955 PACKARD ROAD, YPSILANTI MI 48197

Contact Chris Chalmers, Catering Sales Director at 734.998.1555 or [cchalmers@polofieldscmi.com](mailto:cchalmers@polofieldscmi.com)



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

\*CERTAIN CONDITIONS APPLY



YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR  
THIS DAY YOUR WHOLE LIFE.  
SO HAVE WE.

From opulent ballrooms to breathtaking fountains, our AAA Four-Diamond rated resort boasts dozens of magnificent settings to make your wedding unforgettable for you and your guests. Luxurious suites. Indulgent dining. A world-class spa. Planning a wedding? Experience more at Soaring Eagle Properties.



Call 877.2.EAGLE.2 • [SoaringEagleCasino.com](http://SoaringEagleCasino.com)



## COVER STORY

18 The wedding issue

Photo: Mike Odom and Bruce Van Dyke



“I apologize for the years, the decades, of warfare that Christianity has waged against you. Most importantly, I apologize for choosing silence much too often while you and the people you love have been demonized and marginalized.”

— Rev. Deborah Dean-Ware, pastor of the Church of the Good Shepherd – United Church of Christ, pg. 16



## NEWS

- 6 Affirmations celebrates 25 years of service at Silver Jubilee event
- 8 Albion students demand Schuette resign from college board
- 14 Saginaw city to vote on ordinance
- 15 Clergy come out in support of Michigan same-sex couples
- 16 Leaping over the boundaries of traditional marriage

## OPINION

- 10 The winds of change for marriage
- 10 Parting Glances
- 11 Creep of the Week

## WEDDING

- 21 Our big day
- 25 No stopping happy from happening
- 26 Five ways to 'gay' your wedding cake
- 28 What to do about booze?

## LIFE

- 44 The naked truth about Karmin
- 46 Happenings
- 47 Hear Me Out
- 50 Spring has sprung at the Farmer's Market
- 51 Michigan premiere is quite 'A View' at MOT
- 54 Puzzle

## Join The Conversation @ PrideSource.com



### Access The Wedding Guide Online All Year-Round

Get this issue's great wedding-related content online at Pridesource.com in the Marriage Guide section. Find LGBT-friendly venues, read about couples from years prior and access online-exclusive DIY projects for your special day!



### Shop LGBT Friendly With The Pride Source Yellow Pages

Stop by your local community center or BTL distribution site and pick up the latest copy of our Pride Source Yellow Pages.

Don't forget! You can also access the directory anytime online at Pridesource.com.



### Win A \$50 Gift Certificate To Volare Ristorante

Go online to Pridesource.com and enter to win all kinds of prizes, including a \$50 gift certificate to Volare Ristorante!

Enter at [www.pridesource.com/tickets-contest.html](http://www.pridesource.com/tickets-contest.html)

VOL. 2215 • APRIL 10, 2014 • ISSUE 859

### PRIDE SOURCE MEDIA GROUP

20222 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48152  
Phone 734.293.7200

### PUBLISHERS

Susan Horowitz & Jan Stevenson

### MEMBER OF

Michigan Press Association  
National Gay Media Association  
Q Syndicate



Copyright 2014 Pride Source Media Group, LLC

### EDITORIAL

#### Editor in Chief

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

#### Entertainment Editor

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

#### Associate Editor

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

#### News Staff Writer

Crystal Proxmire

#### Arts & Theater Editor

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

#### Calendar Editor

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

### CREATIVE

#### Art Director

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

#### Webmaster & MIS Director

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

#### Contributing Writers

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

#### Cartoonists

Paul Berg, Dave Brousseau

#### Contributing Photographers

Andrew Potter

### ADVERTISING & SALES

#### Director of Sales

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

#### Sales Representatives

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

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

#### National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

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

### ONLINE AT



"Between The Lines Newspaper"



Follow us @YourBTL



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



Sign up online to receive our E-Digest

**Prism of Possibilities**  
**Psychotherapy**

**Christine Cantrell, PhD**  
 Fully Licensed Psychologist

Give yourself an extreme self makeover ...

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

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

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




Democratic gubernatorial candidate Mark Schauer and his newly-named running mate Oakland County Clerk Lisa Brown enjoyed an enthusiastic reception at the Silver Jubilee. Photo courtesy of Desiree Cooper and Detroit Snob

**WHOSOEVER** Ministry,  
 a Word Teaching, Life Application Ministry, presents:

**Ready for A BETTER LIFE?**  
 Jesus said, in John 10:10 Message Bible, "I have come that you might have a real and eternal life, a far BETTER LIFE."


**Sundays 11:00 am**

Hear what the Bible says about:

- How to know when God is talking to you
- How to break free from financial fears
- How to deal with problems and much more

Rev. Jeffrey Seals and Dr. Selma Massey, Pastors

2930 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48201  
 313-259-0000



# Affirmations Celebrates 25 Years Of Service At Silver Jubilee Event

BY SUSAN HOROWITZ

**DETROIT** – For 25 years, Affirmations has provided a home for the LGBT community of southeast Michigan. That history was celebrated by more than 500 people at the Silver Jubilee dinner April 5 at Cobo Hall's newly renovated Riverfront Ballroom. The evening raised well over \$100,000 for the community center in Ferndale.

The event opened with a moving video, created by M1 Studios in Royal Oak, that chronicled the history of the center from its humble beginnings as a helpline housed in the basement of board member Brian Wootton, to where it has evolved today - a professionally staffed social service agency housed in a new, LEED certified community center building in downtown Ferndale.

Julia Marsh, a former Affirmations Youth Group member and a transgender woman, then shared her story of growth and transition, and how Affirmations helped her by providing the support she needed to persevere through hard times. "When I was 19 years old I was living on the streets. I didn't have anywhere to go, so I went where I would always go - Affirmations," said Marsh. "It was the lowest point of my life and I was even considering suicide. But someone



Attorney Henry Grix, left, Desiree Cooper of Detroit Snob and Ferndale Mayor Dave Coulter at the Silver Jubilee. Photo courtesy of Desiree Cooper and Detroit Snob

there took the time to talk to me, and I made it through. Affirmations was my family - still is. I've come so far in my life from where I was, and I owe it all to Affirmations."

It was also an evening of transition. Board President Mark Blanke received a standing ovation as he announced he is stepping off the board after 12 years of dedicated service. "Without a doubt, we are all here this evening because we

believe in the mission and want to live in a region with a thriving community center," said Blanke.

The incoming board president, Frank Aiello, will ascend from his current position as vice president of the board in May. "We are very saddened to be losing [Blanke] on the board this spring as he completes his 12th year of service. His quiet, dedicated, insightful, and spreadsheet savvy leadership will greatly be missed," said Aiello.

Attendees included political luminaries such as Mark Schauer, the Democratic candidate for governor who will square off against Gov. Rick Snyder this November. The crowd cheered him warmly, as they did for U.S. Rep. Gary Peters (Dem-MI Dist. 14) who is running for the open U.S. Senate seat vacated by the retiring Sen. Carl Levin. Peters presented Blanke with a prestigious Congressional Commendation honoring Affirmations for a quarter century of service to the LGBT community in Michigan. "I have said all along that marriage equality is a civil right," said Peters. "We still have a lot of work to do to reach full equality for everyone, but together we will get there," he said.

The audience cheered loudly for

See Affirmations, next page

**ANCHOR FENCE**

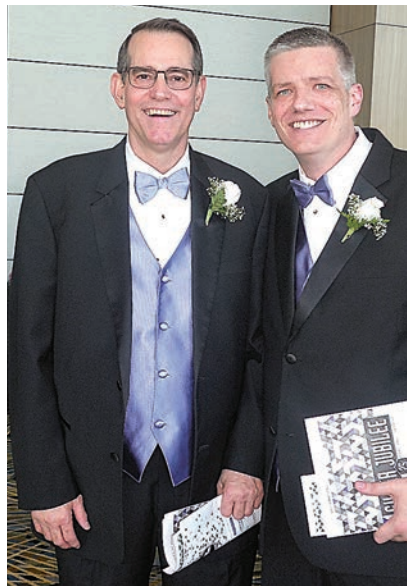
26345 Plymouth Road 313-937-0101  
 Redford, MI 48239 AnchorFenceOnline.com

*Get Your Free No-Hassle Estimate Today!*

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

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





Top left, and clockwise: Darin Lenhardt of Fleur Detroit, center, with friends Bryce and Kyle; Kevin Hogan and Paul Fugate plan to marry in Maryland this summer; Democratic candidate for governor Mark Schauer, center, greeted guests with former Executive Director Leslie Thompson, left, and Alan Semonian, right. Semonian and Schauer attended Albion College together in the 1980s; Comerica Bank's Loren Thal, center, and his partner Wesley with Beth Correa, SVP from Flagstar Bank; Former Board President Nancy Katz, left, and Margo Dichtelmiller at the VIP reception. BTL Photos by Susan Horowitz



Oakland County Clerk Lisa Brown who had opened her offices on the Saturday after U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman declared the marriage ban in Michigan to be unconstitutional. She was able to issue legal marriage licenses to 147 couples before the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals issued a stay. She was seated next to Schauer who had named her to be his running mate for lieutenant governor just two days earlier.

Awards were presented to three outstanding activists at the VIP reception prior to the main dinner. Kat LaTosch received the Jan Stevenson Award for her years of service to the center, both as a staff person and volunteer. LaTosch said she cherished the close mentor relationship she had with former Executive Director Leslie Thompson. "We didn't always agree, but we always could talk it out with respect until we could reach some common ground," said LaTosch in a moving tribute to Thompson.

Ron Northrup was presented with the Chuck Moyer and Tim Cavanaugh Philanthropy Award for his work organizing the Affirmations team each year at AIDS Walk Detroit. He told

his story of coming out and meeting the man who would become his husband, only to lose him nine months later to complications from AIDS. "I do this in memory of him," said Northrup.

The Lorna Utley Outstanding Ally Award was presented to Darnell Jones, a new board member at Affirmations. Jones was recognized for his dedication as an advocate for the health needs of the transgender community; Jones offers free hormone consulting sessions every week at Affirmations.

The evening ended with a live auction that raised thousands of dollars, capped off by a spirited bidding war between Adam Powell and Jeff Grim, both Affirmations board members. Powell finally won the weekend trip to Chicago with his final bid of \$6,200.

To see the video about Affirmations history go to [www.pridesource.com](http://www.pridesource.com).

**AUGUST:** APRIL 18 - MAY 10, 2014  
**OSAGE COUNTY**  
 by TRACY LETTS

313.577.2972  
**HILBERRY.COM**

HILBERRY THEATRE

**MOMMY  
 POPS  
 PILLS**

WAYNE STATE

THEATRE AND DANCE AT WAYNE

The Subaru Forester.  
 Motor Trend's 2014  
 Sport/Utility of the Year.

When you consider that Subaru is the only brand to win Motor Trend's Sport/Utility of the Year\* award three times, even the faithful can't help but be impressed.

**SUBARU**  
 Confidence in Motion

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

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

## Suspect Sketch Released In Ypsi Anti-Gay Attack



### Washtenaw LGBT Center Decries Assault, Asks Public For Help

YPSILANTI - The Jim Toy Community Center condemned the attack on an Ypsilanti resident in an anti-gay hate crime that took place March 31.

Three men beat a woman after saying they recognized her from news coverage as one of the people who got married on March 22 while the Washtenaw County Clerk was issuing marriage licenses to same-

sex couples.

"This attack was clearly an attempt not only to harm this woman, but to frighten the entire gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. We have made tremendous strides for equality this year, which upsets those who would prefer we remain in the closet," Jim Toy Community Center President Sandi Smith said. "We deplore this violence, but it will not deter our community's struggle for equal protection under the law."

"The assault also underscores the fact that our work is not only for marriage equality, but for basic safety for many members of our community. The men who beat her did so because of their homophobia, yet Michigan's hate crime law does not cover LGBT people. This is just one of the many things that need to change," said Smith.

The Ann Arbor-based Jim Toy Community Center serves Washtenaw's LGBT community. The Center echoes the call by police for anyone with information to call the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office's confidential tip line at 734-973-7711.

A larger sketch of one of the men involved in the attack can be found here <http://blog.equalitymi.org>

## HRC Raps White House On Discrimination Order

WASHINGTON (AP) - The nation's largest gay rights group is criticizing the White House for saying that an executive order barring discrimination against federal contractors would be redundant if Congress passes a White House-supported bill.

The Human Rights Campaign generally supports President Barack Obama and endorsed his campaign. But the group says it "couldn't disagree more" with comments this week from Obama's press secretary, Jay Carney.

Gay rights advocates want Obama to sign an executive order granting employment discrimination protections to gays and lesbians working for federal contractors. The White House wants the House to approve a Senate-passed bill extending those protections to all Americans.

Carney said if that bill passed, it would make an executive order redundant. But the Human Rights Campaign says unique protections for federal contractors would still be needed.

Extended briefs are available online at:

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



BTL photo: Todd Heywood

# Albion Students Demand Schuette Resign From College Board

BY TODD A. HEYWOOD

ALBION - Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette was targeted Apr. 4 by student protesters demanding his resignation from the board of Albion College.

Albion College students say they want Schuette to resign from the Board of Trustees of the small liberal arts college in Calhoun county. They say Schuette's decision to appeal last month's federal court ruling striking down Michigan's ban on same-sex marriage violates the college's non-discrimination policy and mission statement.

"Sadly, Trustee Schuette, in his capacity as the Attorney General of Michigan, has proven that he does not share the value of deep mutual respect, nor does he celebrate or support equality of all members of the Albion community," a statement distributed by the students reads. "Through his deliberate exclusion of gender and sexuality minority students in his discussion of discrimination policies, our Trustee Schuette has contributed to the erasure of LGBTQI community and proven time and again that he is out of

step with the community, our values and our needs."

The statement further notes that Schuette is not a good "ally" and should resign.

The protest lasted several hours in 40 degree weather and cold drizzle. The group ranged from 12 to 20 participants throughout the protest.

Shortly before 3 p.m. Albion College Interim President Mike Frandsen stopped to talk to protesters. He told them "your concerns have been shared with [the Board of Trustees]."

Sarah Briggs, associate vice president of communications for Albion College, declined to answer any questions about the protest, or Schuette's position on the board. She did, however, note that Schuette was appointed in 1998, several years after the College adopted its non-discrimination policy in the 1991-92 academic year.

Katelyn Tonge is one of the students who helped organize the protest.

"I think we were heard, especially by our fellow students, which was the most important thing. After hearing so much about this issue around campus, I

was surprised how many students asked for more information and seemed really receptive to our message," Tonge said by email following the protests. "We had an amazing group of students, who were and continue to be extremely committed to our cause."

Tonge, however, says the group is concerned about the response from the administration.

"They haven't talked about it to the campus either. That is one of the many reasons we had the protest. Students and alumni were vocally upset and the college just hasn't addressed it," Tonge said. "It doesn't bode well that they haven't participated in the discussion. We have been told that the board has heard our concerns, but what does that mean?"

Equality Michigan Executive Director Emily Dievendorf was on hand for part of the protest. She praised the student organized and executed protests.

"Our students are our future leaders and scholars. In openly demonstrating against Schuette holding a leadership position at the school, Albion students were saying that his role at Albion is in conflict with the stated values of the learning institution and is a threat to Albion's ability to be an affirming environment that can produce leaders that can compete and thrive in the world," Dievendorf said. "Albion students see that the attorney general has quite clearly deemed them 'less than' and yet he is making decisions on their behalf. They are, appropriately, fighting for themselves as their own board member has declared himself a roadblock to their most basic human rights."

## MI Marriage: Schuette Asks For Full Appeals Court Review

The Michigan attorney general filed a petition with the Sixth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals Friday, asking the court to bypass the usual three-judge panel hearing and go straight to a full appeals court review.

"Advancing our case to a hearing before the entire panel of Sixth Circuit judges will move us forward more quickly, and minimize delays in ultimately reaching the U.S. Supreme Court," explained Attorney General Bill Schuette in a press statement. "This move also offers the added benefit of conserving taxpayer resources by shortening the timeline of the litigation." Cases are moving quickly through two other circuits, both of which will be heard by three-judge panels in the coming days. If the Sixth Circuit grants Michigan's request, it could make DeBoer v. Snyder the first to reach the U.S. Supreme Court, but that doesn't guarantee that the Supreme Court would agree to hear that case.



# Judge To Strike Down Part Of Ohio Gay Marriage Law

BY AMANDA LEE MYERS

CINCINNATI (AP) - A federal judge said Friday that he will order Ohio to recognize out-of-state gay marriages, a move that would strike down part of the state's ban on gay marriages but stop short of forcing it to perform same-sex weddings.

Judge Timothy Black announced his intentions in federal court in Cincinnati following final arguments in a lawsuit that challenged the constitutionality of the marriage ban.

"I intend to issue a declaration that Ohio's recognition bans, that have been relied upon to deny legal recognition to same-sex couples validly entered in other states where legal, violates the rights secured by the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution," Black said. "(They're) denied their fundamental right to marry a person of their choosing and the right to remain married."

Black said he'll issue the ruling April 14. The civil rights attorneys who filed the February lawsuit did not ask Black to order the state to perform gay marriages, and he did not say he would do so.

Gay marriage is legal in 17 states and the District of Columbia. Federal judges have also struck down bans in Michigan, Utah, Texas, Oklahoma and Virginia, and ordered Kentucky and Tennessee to recognize out-of-state gay marriages, though stays have been issued pending appeals.

Pam and Nicole Yorksmith, a Cincinnati couple who married in California in 2008 and have a 3-year-old son, were among the four couples who filed the lawsuit challenging the gay marriage ban and said Black's comments gave them validation.

"It also validates to our kids that we're bringing into our marriage that their parents are recognized by the state that we live

in, and that's extremely important," Pam Yorksmith said. "We're teaching kids of future generations that all families are different and just because our family doesn't look like your family doesn't mean that ours shouldn't be recognized."

Nicole Yorksmith is pregnant through artificial insemination with the couple's second child and is due in June.

The Cincinnati-based legal team asked Black to declare that Ohio's gay marriage ban is "facially unconstitutional, invalid and unenforceable," and indicated that following such a ruling, the window would be open for additional litigation seeking to force the state to allow gay couples to marry in Ohio.

"This is a serious problem at the basic level of human dignity," civil rights attorney Al Gerhardstein told Black during Friday's arguments. "That human dignity is denied by the way Ohio treats same-sex couples. This is central to our whole commitment as a nation to equality."

Dan Tierney, a spokesman for Ohio's attorney general, said the state will appeal Black's order when it comes out but declined to comment further.

Attorneys for the state argued that it's Ohio's sole province to define marriage as between a man and a woman, that the statewide gay marriage ban doesn't violate any fundamental rights, and that attorneys improperly expanded their originally narrow lawsuit.

"Ohio has made its own decision regarding marriage, deciding to preserve the traditional definition," state's attorneys argued in court filings ahead of Friday's hearing.

They argued that striking down the law would "disregard the will of Ohio voters, and undercut the democratic process."

Black didn't say why he made the

See Ohio, page 12

**Epicurean Catering & Events**

An **EPIC** Moment Starts With You and Ends With Us

WEDDINGS  
REHEARSAL DINNERS  
OFF-SITE CATERING  
SHOWERS  
KOSHER CATERING  
ENGAGEMENT PARTIES  
ANNIVERSARIES  
LIFE CELEBRATIONS

a member of the **The Epicurean Group**

|  |                                       |  |   |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|
|  |                                       |  |   |  |
| GM Renaissance Center<br>Detroit<br>313.567.2622 | The Met Hotel<br>Troy<br>248.646.7900 | Crowne Plaza Hotel<br>Novi<br>248.305.5210 | Adat Shalom<br>Farmington Hills<br>248.432.5509 | Jewish Comm. Center<br>West Bloomfield<br>248.432.5509 |

Toll Free 855.543.EPIC    EpicureanCateringAndEvents.com

/ therapy for today's world

**Birmingham Maple Clinic**

Ronnie Hormel,  
MA, LLPC

2075 West Big Beaver Road / Suite 520 /  
Somerset Corridor /  
Troy, Michigan 48084 / 248 646 6659 /  
[www.birminghammaple.com/](http://www.birminghammaple.com/)

## JHVH's Rainbow Scapegoats



### Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

It's something of a psychological truism that when problems seem insurmountable - too overwhelming to cope with - "smaller" problems are created as a distraction.

It happens in life. It certainly happens in American religion.

These so-called, more manageable strategies become an automatic postponement to avoid facing alarming, bedeviling, subliminal truths that just won't go away. The Devil in the details, sort of thing.

For fundamentalist and evangelical Christians, gays, same-sex marriage, reparative therapy - masturbation, abortion, sex itself - have all taken center stage as today's rallying causes to keep true believers - biGODts - from facings some troubling sociological truths about their brand of Christianity.

For starters, America's fundygelicals are facing competition from a growing number of religious and spiritual competitors. Islamic faiths are making inroads. The Mormon Latter Day Saints is now considered the fastest growing church in America. Then there's yoga, Scientology, Jehovah Witnesses, cults galore! All tax-free competitors for tithe-paying members. Hence, mega-churches. Safety in numbers.

As for missionary work, fundygelicals are increasingly being excluded from preaching in a number of countries: India, Russia, China, Antarctica. (Mormons, who had a special - and most convenient - "revelation" in 1978 that black males could at last be members of its set-apart priesthood, are winning converts big time in South America.) Unfortunately, Uganda is an egregious LGBT hate-mongering outreach, thanks to fundygelical biGODts.

According to these theocrats, JHVH created Adam & Eve & Serpent 5,000 years ago. New archeological and paleontological findings almost daily expose this nonsense to millions of Americans by way of the internet. Scientific literacy is available at the touch of a keyboard, or by iPhone. Science versus mythology.  $E = mc^2$ !

The internet has also made possible another bugaboo for fundygelicals: x-rated sites. There are now about 90,000; some, non-missionary-position to be sure, play no small part in the appearance of a new religious sharing phenomenon: support groups for Christians guilty of watching porn. Biology versus belief.

Fundygelicals say all this social unrest, all this spiritual upheaval, is because we're living in the Last Days. Such anxious saved souls expect Jesus to return and 'rapture' all true believers heavenward. After 2000 years, it hasn't happened. (The New Testament says Jesus is to return to those living in his day.) Such pressure is psychologically stressful. Especially without sex.

The winter issue of The American Scholar features an in-depth article, "The Empty Cathedral: Why Evangelical Christianity is going the way of the drive-in movie theater." Highlight quote, "Young people complain that churches are too focused on sexual issues and their own institutional development. Christianity no longer looks like Jesus."

"Many of these same youth are leaving because of anti-gay preaching." Amen.

Charles@pridesource.com

# The Winds Of Change For Marriage

As a family prepares for a wedding it's common to say, "You are not losing a daughter. You are gaining a son-in-law". Yet, when that new family member is of

"Does this mean we now will share one another's debt?" "What will my family think if I get legally married?" "What will I call him/her afterward?" "My spouse, my husband/wife?" "Are we ready to be so public with our relationship after spending so much time keeping it incognito for so long?"



### Viewpoint

REV. ROLAND STRINGFELLOW

the same gender as the one getting married, then some families feel as if they are in effect losing their son or daughter for good.

Many Michigan residents are experiencing anxiety upon hearing that marriage is increasingly available to lesbian and gay couples. It is just a matter of time when there will be no need to rush to a courthouse without hair being combed or cut, without wedding rings, and without the people most significant to you by your side celebrating your love. All this racing so couples could slide into a rapidly closing window of opportunity on March 22.

Opponents to marriage equality are experiencing high anxiety because they feel the institution of marriage they have come to recognize is deteriorating. Some same-gender couples who will be afforded the opportunity to wed are now faced with pressing questions. "Do I really want to marry this person?"

Rev. Roland Stringfellow the newly elected Senior Pastor of the Metropolitan Church of Detroit along with MCCD Associate Pastor Deb Dysert performed 30 same-sex weddings during the window of opportunity in Michigan. His formal installation is scheduled for May 24, 2014 at 2:00 pm at the Drayton Ave Presbyterian Church.

While we are in the heat of this moment, for many opponents and supporters, it can feel as if change is coming too, too fast. But, as we look back on all the changes for progress that our cities, state and nation have gone through, we have learned from experience that people adapt, get over changes, and move forward with their lives.

I witnessed this first hand from my time in California as a marriage equality advocate among religious communities involved in the Prop

**Gay marriage doesn't destroy the family; it is actually the rejection and alienation of family members that destroys families.**

8 campaign. I worked with people in Catholic, Mormon and African-American congregations, which is what many considered to be the "Big Three" who are resistant to LGBT equality. I felt their passion as they spoke in favor of their religious-based definition of marriage being between one man and one woman. Of course, they feel that they received this definition from their sacred text. The

strategy needed to help change hearts and minds on this issue is to focus on the family. (Pun intended).

The heart of the matter is getting these opposing parents and clergy to look beyond their convictions and see their loved one once again. In other words, family should always be stronger than any doctrine or opinion. Gay marriage doesn't destroy the family; it is actually the rejection and alienation of family members that destroys families.

A person cannot say on one hand, "I stand for 'traditional marriage' because it protects children"; while on the other, condemn and shame a child or teen when they come out of the closet.

People will justify their actions based upon their religious convictions. Yet, it is practicing bad religion to strip a son or daughter of their membership

in the family based upon doctrine or opinion.

The winds of change are coming. Let us anticipate the anxiety that will surely come from having marriage equality. Let us not overstate the situation that our world is ending. Let us reframe it as not an ending, but a beautiful new beginning. We will not lose, but will gain when respect is given to all families.



# Preview: Utah Same Sex Marriage Case Before U.S. Court of Appeals This Week

BY LISA KEEN

The Tenth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals this week will become the second federal appeals court to tackle the question of whether statewide laws banning same-sex couples from marrying violate the U.S. Constitution.

The Denver-based court will hear oral arguments Thursday, April 10, at 10 a.m. MDT in the Utah same-sex marriage case *Herbert v. Kitchen*.

By order of the court, there will be no audio or video recording, broadcasting, photography, blogging, tweeting, emailing or any other broadcast mechanism or wireless communication anywhere in the courthouse during oral arguments.

In that crowded courtroom, a three-judge panel will scrutinize the decision last December of U.S. District Court Judge Robert Shelby (an Obama appointee). Shelby ruled that the state constitution's definition of marriage as being only between "a man and a woman" is not permissible under the U.S. Constitution. He said the law's prohibition of same-sex couples marrying violates the due process and equal protection guarantees of the U.S. Constitution. He said the ban denies gay and lesbian citizens their "fundamental right to marry and, in doing so, demean[s] the dignity of these same-sex couples for no rational reason."

While this case is the first to reach a federal appeals court since the Ninth Circuit heard *Brown v. Perry* in 2012, it is just one of almost a dozen that have reached the federal appeals level. They are spread across five circuits. The Utah *Kitchen* case is a pacesetter at the moment. And here's a look at the players in Thursday's hearing:

**The judges:** The three-judge panel tasked with hearing the appeal includes two Republican and one Democratic appointee.

Judge Paul Kelly (an appointee of President George H.W. Bush) is considered conservative.

Judge Carlos Lucero (a Clinton appointee) is considered liberal. But both judges voted with the majority at the Tenth Circuit in the *Hobby Lobby v. Sebelius* case. They said the owners of the retail store were allowed, under the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act and the First Amendment free exercise clause, to cite their religious beliefs in order to deny contraceptive services in their health plans under the Affordable Care Act.

Judge Jerome Holmes (a George W. Bush appointee) is the wild card. He was recused from the *Hobby Lobby* case. He was one of two judges in the Tenth Circuit to deny an emergency request from the state of Utah to stay a district court decision pending appeal. They said a stay was "not warranted."

**The attorneys:** Attorneys for the two parties in the case - the state of Utah and the plaintiff couples--have 30 minutes each to present their arguments.

Peggy Tomsic, a lawyer at the private Salt Lake City firm of Magleby & Greenwood, will be presenting arguments for the plaintiff couples. According to the Salt Lake City Tribune, Tomsic

asked her life partner Cindy Bateman to marry her shortly after Shelby issued his decision. She and her law firm partner Jim Magleby (straight and married) are known for taking on large, complicated cases. Most recently, they won a \$134 million award against PacificCorp, one of the leading utility companies on the west coast.

Gene Schaerr, who was hired by the state attorney general's in January specifically to lead Utah's defense of the marriage ban, will argue for the state and Governor Gary Herbert. Schaerr resigned his partnership at a private law firm to become Special Assistant Attorney General for Utah. In a memo to his firm upon his departure, Schaerr said he was leaving to "fulfill what I have come to see as a religious and family duty: defending the constitutionality of traditional marriage in the state where my church is headquartered and where most of my family resides." Schaerr has been a sometimes contributor to the Mormon magazine *Meridian*, including an article urging opposition to a marriage equality ballot measure *Thein Maryland* in 2012.

See Preview: Utah, page 12

## Upcoming Marriage Proceedings Around US

### Michigan And 6th Circuit Schedule

April 10: The Tenth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals this week will become the second federal appeals court to tackle the question of whether statewide laws banning same-sex couples from marrying violate the U.S. Constitution. The Denver-based court will hear oral arguments April 10, at 10 a.m. MDT in the Utah same-sex marriage case *Herbert v. Kitchen*.

April 17: The 10th Circuit has also scheduled oral arguments in another marriage equality case: *Bishop v. Smith* out of Oklahoma.

May 12: The Fourth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals will hear oral argument in *Bostic v. Schaeffer*, a case led by Ted Olson and David Boies for the American Foundation for AIDS Research and a team of attorneys against Virginia's ban.

Michigan And The Sixth Circuit: There are four marriage equality appeals pending before the Sixth Circuit, and one of those, Michigan, just asked the court to skip over the three-judge panel phase and go directly to a full "en banc" review. If the Sixth Circuit agreed, that could enable the Michigan case to reach the U.S. Supreme Court before Utah. But getting to the high court first does not guarantee the justices will choose that case to decide the issue at stake in all these cases: whether states can deny same-sex couples the right to marry.

## Creep of the Week

### Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

If you live in a state where something shitty is happening, you always have the reassurance that, hey, at least you don't live in Mississippi.

When it comes to losing, Mississippi really goes all out.



According to MSNBC's Melissa Harris-Perry, "Mississippi [is] where more than one in five people live in poverty, more than any other state in the country. The state where more people struggle to afford food than in any other. The state with the shortest life expectancy and the highest infant mortality rate. The state with the second-lowest high school graduation rate and the lowest math and reading scores."

Wow. Congratulations. That is really terrible!

And maybe you thought that Mississippi, with all its crooked letters, couldn't possibly get any more terrible. And, hey, since real people actually live there and it is part of the United States after all, no one really wants it to get worse, do they?

Enter Governor Phil Bryant (Republican, duh) who just signed into law the Mississippi Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which will enshrine the words "In God We Trust" on the state seal. Just like on money! Maybe the state's poor can use the state seal to buy food now. Just kidding. Bryant wouldn't have signed it if it helped the poor.

Besides making the state seal godlier, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act will also allow people to discriminate like a boss! See, the RFRA is a lot like that anti-gay measure that Arizona Governor Jan Brewer vetoed in February, meaning it will make it easier to discriminate against LGBT people in a state that already is pretty fast and loose with that sort of thing. For one thing, Mississippi has an anti-gay marriage amendment carved right into its constitution. Also, like so many other states, it's perfectly legal to fire someone or refuse them accommodations just for being gay.

So why pass the RFRA then? Are religious folks really being trampled on in Mississippi? Uh, no. Especially not the Christian ones who dominate the state. "Religious freedom" has

"Religious freedom" has become a dog whistle for "anti-gay" in places that are totally freaked about the possibility of marriage equality becoming law. The goal is to protect someone's "religious freedom" to call a same-sex couple dirty sinners and refuse to make a cake to celebrate their sodomy celebration.

become a dog whistle for "anti-gay" in places that are totally freaked about the possibility of marriage equality becoming law. The goal is to protect someone's "religious freedom" to call a same-sex couple dirty sinners and refuse to make a cake to celebrate their sodomy celebration.

Granted it's already legal to say, "Gay? No way!" in Mississippi if you don't want to bake cakes or take photos or officiate or do any other kind of wedding thing someone might want to hire you to do. Sexual orientation isn't covered under the state's discrimination laws. So the RFRA is really just another "fuck you" to LGBT people living in the state.

One person who is totally hard for this law is Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council. On the FRC website he fawns over "leaders refused to be bullied by homosexual activists" and passed the bill.

According to MSNBC's Harris-Perry, Perkins was "at [Gov. Bryant's] side during the private bill signing." Probably fellating him. I mean, the ceremony was private, after all, which means we are all free to make up whatever we want.

"I am proud to sign the Mississippi Religious Freedom Restoration Act," Bryant said in a statement. Because I guess if you're the Governor of Mississippi, you need to have something to be proud of. It's just sad he can't be proud of *something* a little more substantial like, say, life expectancy rates.

# Saginaw City To Vote On Ordinance

BTL STAFF REPORT

## Supreme Rejection

The U.S. Supreme Court declined Monday to review a decision by the New Mexico Supreme Court that said the state human rights law does not violate the free speech rights of a wedding photographer who refused services to a same-sex couple. By not taking the case, *Elane v. Willock*, the Supreme Court leaves intact the state court ruling that said businesses that “choose to be public accommodations must comply” with the non-discrimination law. The photographer had claimed that she had religious beliefs that compelled her to refuse accommodations to the lesbian couple, and the case was viewed as one of many disputes heading to the U.S. high court that pitted religious beliefs against non-discrimination laws. But the case was never pitched as a free exercise case and that may be why the Supreme Court didn’t take it, said Lambda Legal Senior Counsel Jenny Pizer. Tobias Wolff, an attorney helping represent the lesbian couple, said, “No court in the United States has ever found that a business selling commercial services to the general public has a First Amendment right to turn away customers on a discriminatory basis.”

- Keennewsservice.com

## Kansas Gay-Rights Group Opposes Tenure Proposal

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) - The leading gay-rights group in Kansas also is lobbying against a proposal in a school funding bill to end tenure for teachers.

Equality Kansas Executive Director Tom Witt said Sunday the group opposes the proposal because it would allow administrators to fire teachers because they are gay or lesbian.

State law says that after three years on the job, a teacher who’s facing dismissal must be told why in writing and has the right to challenge the decision and have a hearing officer review the case.

The school funding bill strips teachers of those rights.

Witt said those protections have kept gay and lesbian teachers from losing their jobs.

“There are gay and lesbian teachers in this state who are perfectly good teachers, but the only reason they still have their jobs is, even though their administrators wanted to get rid of them because of their sexual orientation, they couldn’t,” said Tom Witt, the group’s executive director. “You take away this protection - it’s not like people can go back in the closet.”

## Some Hear Race Echo In Virginia Gay Marriage Ban

WASHINGTON (AP) - To some people in Virginia, the fight over legalization of same-sex marriage echoes a decades-old battle over the state’s 1924 law banning marriage between white and black people.

As a young lawyer in the 1960s, Philip J. Hirschkop represented an interracial couple that successfully challenged Virginia’s interracial ban. He argues that prejudice was the basis for both that prohibition and the gay marriage ban.

But opponents of gay marriage reject the comparison.

Brian Brown is president of the National Organization for Marriage, a Washington-based group that opposes same-sex marriage. He calls it “a slur and a slander” to say people are prejudiced if they believe marriage should be between a man and a woman.

A federal judge has declared Virginia’s ban on same-sex marriage unconstitutional. The ruling has been appealed.

Extended briefs are available online at:

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

Plus Catch Our New Daily Speed Read

SAGINAW - Saginaw City is posed to become the next municipality in Michigan to pass a non-discrimination ordinance that protects LGBT people in employment and public accommodation. The push for passage of a non-discrimination ordinance is being led by Councilwoman Annie Boensch.

“When I found out that the city did not have an ordinance in place protecting the LGBT community when it came to public accommodation and employment, I thought it was something very obvious that needed to change,” Boensch told MLive.

The proposed ordinance had its first read before Saginaw city council April 7. It will come up for an actual vote by the council at their second meeting later this month.

The ordinance would ban discrimination against someone based

on that person’s “actual or perceived sex, sexual orientation or gender identity.” Violations of the ordinance would be considered civil infractions and violators could face a fine of up to \$500.

Boensch explained that the ordinance would prevent a business owner from denying service to someone because they are gay, lesbian or transgender. It would ensure that gender identity and sexual orientation cannot be a factor for employers when making hiring, firing and promotion decisions, she said.

Gary Glenn, president of the American Family Association of Michigan and a full time anti-LGBT activist, has been outspoken in his opposition this ordinance. Glenn announced late last year his intention to seek a seat on the Michigan House of Representatives, and Saginaw City would be within the district he would represent if he wins.

The ordinance proposed in Saginaw is different than the question that recently

came before Bay County leaders, Boensch explained. The Bay County proposal, defeated narrowly in a 4-3 vote, sought to ban any discriminatory practices in county employment and contract practices.

Saginaw’s ordinance would be much more inclusive, Boensch said, applying to any businesses or organizations providing employment or “public accommodations” within Saginaw city limits.

“This is not what Bay County was looking at,” she said. “This is citywide.”

Most members of Saginaw City Council said they are open to the idea, though few have made up their minds about how they feel about the proposed ordinance.

“I think we need to introduce it before we discuss it in depth,” Mayor Dennis Browning said. “I’m open-minded and am certainly willing to have some debate on it.”

## ► Ohio

Continued from p. 9

announcement on his ruling before he issues it. But by stating his intention ahead of his ruling, Black gave time for the state to prepare an appeal that can be filed as soon as he does. The state can also work on asking Black for a stay in his ruling pending appeal.

Gay rights organizations praised Friday’s development.

“It’s only a matter of time before marriage equality is the law of the land in not just Ohio, but every corner of America,” said Chad Griffin, president of the Washington, D.C.-based Human Rights Campaign.

“The court’s forthcoming action shines a bright light on the fact that same-sex couples are denied their 14th Amendment guarantee of equal protection,” said Ian James of FreedomOhio, a group working

to have voters overturn the state’s ban as soon as this fall.

Phil Burress, who chaired the 2004 effort to ban same-sex marriage and is the president of Citizens for Community Values, said his group is prepared to fight any ballot initiative to repeal the ban.

He said he’s confident the Cincinnati-based 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and other courts will overturn Black’s coming order and the seven recent rulings overturning statewide gay marriage bans elsewhere or ordering states to recognize out-of-state gay marriages.

“The domino effect you’re talking about is going to be short-lived,” he said. “This is not the will of the people. This is a Hail Mary pass to get everyone forced to recognize same-sex marriage by having the courts do their dirty work.”

The lawsuit originally only asked Black to force Ohio to recognize out-of-state gay marriages on birth certificates. Attorneys later expanded it for a broader

and more significant ruling, a move that irked the state’s attorneys.

“It could require a sea change in the way numerous government agencies and departments (not parties to this litigation) fulfill their duties,” they wrote in court documents, referring to a ripple effect that could encompass Ohio statutes on insurance, mortgages, child guardianship and property.

The lawsuit built on the success of another one also filed by Gerhardstein that sought to force Ohio to recognize out-of-state gay marriages on death certificates.

In December, Black granted that request, saying that Ohio’s ban on gay marriage demeans “the dignity of same-sex couples in the eyes of the state and the wider community.”

The state appealed that ruling, and the case is pending in the 6th Circuit appeals court.

## ► Preview: Utah

Continued from p. 11

**The plaintiffs:** The three plaintiff couples are Derek Kitchen and Moudi Sbeity, who have not yet married; Laurie Wood and Kody Partridge, who married in Utah during the brief window of opportunity this year; and Kate Call and Karen Archer, who obtained a marriage certificate in Iowa.

The organizer behind the lawsuit is Mark Lawrence, director of Restore Our Humanity ([www.restoreourhumanity.org](http://www.restoreourhumanity.org)), a group established specifically to mount this lawsuit. According to a profile in the Salt Lake City Tribune, Lawrence, an information technology specialist who lives with his parents to care for his father who has Alzheimer’s, was inspired by the Proposition 8 lawsuit to tackle something similar here.

After Thursday’s hearing, the 10th Circuit has also scheduled oral arguments in another marriage equality case: *Bishop v. Smith* out of Oklahoma. That will be on April 17.

On May 12, the Fourth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals will hear oral argument in *Bostic v. Schaeffer*, a case led by Ted

Olson and David Boies for the American Foundation for AIDS Research and a team of attorneys against Virginia’s ban.

The Sixth Circuit has four marriage equality appeals pending before it, and one of those, Michigan, just asked the court to skip over the three-judge panel phase and go directly to a full “en banc” review. If the Sixth Circuit agreed, that could enable the Michigan case to reach the U.S. Supreme Court before Utah. But getting to the high court first does not guarantee the justices will choose that case to decide the issue at stake in all these cases: whether states can deny same-sex couples the right to marry.

# Clergy Come Out In Support Of Michigan Same Sex Couples

BY JASON MICHAEL

In the wake of the ruling in favor of marriage equality by Judge Bernard Friedman in the DeBoer v. Snyder case March 21, a number faith-based expressions of inclusion were released by local clergy. This is reaffirming to the LGBT community, and even though the 6th U.S. Court of Appeals has issued a stay on Friedman's ruling for the moment, it's still good news just in time for the Ultimate 2014 LGBT Wedding and Anniversary Expo sponsored by Between The Lines and slated for April 12.

The Episcopal Diocese of Michigan issued the following joint statement on March 22:

"As Christians and leaders in the Episcopal Church, we applaud Judge Friedman's decision to overturn Michigan's ban on equal marriage as a step on the right side of history," the statement read. "As the case of DeBoer v. Snyder continues to work its way through our judicial system, it is our hope that future judges will continue to find that the denial of marriage to same-sex couples is a denial of human dignity and a denial of rights under the law. We look forward in hopeful anticipation to the day when we can recognize all faithful and covenantal relationships between any two people regardless of sex, both within the Church and within our society."

The statement was signed by the Rt. Rev. Wendell Gibbs, Jr., bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan, Rt. Rev. Todd Ousley, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan, Rt. Rev. Rayford Ray, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan and the Rt. Rev. Wayne Hougland, Jr., bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan.

Even before the ruling was released, statements of support emerged. In an open letter to the LGBT community of Michigan, Rev. Deborah Dean-Ware, pastor of the Church of the Good Shepherd—United Church of Christ, apologized for the pain caused by anti-gay church leaders.

"I apologize for the harm that has been and continues to be done in the name of Christ," the letter read. "I apologize for your deep pain inflicted upon you by the weaponizing of the Bible. I apologize for the political and theological rhetoric that gives subtle – and not-so subtle – permission for violence. I apologize for the years, the decades, of warfare that Christianity has waged against you. Most importantly, I apologize for choosing silence much too often while you and the people you love have been demonized and marginalized."



In an open letter to the LGBT community of Michigan, Rev. Deborah Dean-Ware, pastor of the Church of the Good Shepherd – United Church of Christ, apologized for the pain caused by anti-gay church leaders. Dean-Ware attended the trial in Detroit, sometimes protesting outside and attending the court proceedings inside. BTL photo: Andrew Potter

Dean-Ware actually attended much of the DeBoer v. Snyder trial and performed same-sex marriage ceremonies in the wake of Friedman's ruling outside the Washtenaw County courthouse. In addition to Dean-Ware's letter, Rev. Dr. Michael C. R. Nabors, senior pastor of New Calvary Baptist Church in Detroit, penned an op-ed for BTL.

"I am coming out of the closet as a heterosexual, male pastor, with all the privileges this has afforded me in more than 30 years of ministry, to say that I do believe in gay rights," read a part of Nabors' column. "I also believe that if gays love each other in the way I love my wife, in the way that any man-husband loves his woman-wife, it is perfectly fine for them to be married."

In addition to clergy, ceremonies were also performed by elected officials, including East Lansing Mayor Nathan Triplett and Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum, Oakland County Clerk Lisa Brown and Ferndale Mayor Dave Coulter, Washtenaw County Clerk Lawrence Kestenbaum and Muskegon County Clerk Nancy Waters.

*Welcoming congregations exhibiting at the Ultimate LGBT Wedding and Anniversary Expo April 12 are MCC Detroit, Grace Episcopal Church, Northwestern Unitarian Universalist Church, Blessed John XXIII Community Church and Community of Christ the Good Shepherd.*

## PartridgeCreek

Obstetrics & Gynecology

Beth Mutch, FNP,  
Tanya Vaughn, CNM

Rhonda Kobold, D.O.  
Teresa Kuz, WHNP

[www.partridgecreekobgyn.com](http://www.partridgecreekobgyn.com)  
 15959 Hall Road, Suite 301 • Macomb Twp. • 48044  
 586.247.8609  
 Comprehensive Women's Health Services • 3D & 4D Ultrasound Imaging  
 On Staff at William Beaumont-Troy

### COAST-TO-COAST ECOBOOST CHALLENGE

See why people are choosing  
America's favorite brand.\*

**Randy Woods**  
New & Used Car Sales  
855-301-3673  
rwoods@fairlaneFord.com

"The Fusion has a younger vibe than the Camry."  
— Paula, Honda owner

# FAIRLANE

14585 Michigan Avenue • Dearborn 1 MILE EAST OF THE SOUTHFIELD FWY ON MICHIGAN AVE.  
[www.FairlaneFord.com](http://www.FairlaneFord.com) Toll Free: **1-855-301-FORD**

**Divine Peace**  
Metropolitan Community Church

**Holy Week Schedule**  
Palm Sunday 10 a.m.  
Maundy Thursday 7 p.m.  
Good Friday 7 p.m.

**Easter Sunday April 20, 2013**  
Easter Morning Breakfast 8 a.m.  
Easter Morning Service 10:00 a.m.

**MCC**  
DIVINE PEACE  
METROPOLITAN  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

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



**DIGNITY  
DETROIT**

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

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



**First Congregational  
United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti, MI**

~ a small boldly progressive congregation, physically  
located in the downtown area of Ypsilanti, Michigan.

We welcome YOU—all ages, all colors, all sexual orientations, all genders  
A place of worship, justice, and hospitality  
we seek to live out God's inclusive love

**Sunday Worship:** 10:00 am  
**218 N. Adams,  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

**Email:** info@ypsiucc.org **Website:** www.ypsiucc.org

**No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here.**

# Leaping Over The Boundaries Of Traditional Marriage

BY PAULETTE NIEMIEC

**TRENTON** – In a world where “traditional marriage” dominates the expected norms, along with all the legal challenges of same-sex marriage facing LGBT couples in Michigan, two individuals have crossed societal boundaries in more ways than one. Pastor Mike Meyer and husband Carson Anderson are not only a legally married couple, but with Meyer an ordained Lutheran Minister and Anderson an African American, the lines of racial, religious and traditional marriage have all been blown away by this happily married couple, who’ve been together for the past 15 years.

Ordained in 1994 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Long Beach, Calif., Meyer, 57, has been working as a Pastor for St. Phillips Evangelical Lutheran Church in Trenton since last June. Legally married to Anderson, 62, in 2008 in California (following a commitment ceremony in 1999), Meyer has relished the idea of the two being pioneers in this new world of same-sex marriage, racial integration and religious freedom since the two met in Los Angeles when Anderson posted an ad in The L.A. Times personals.

“I was working as a nurse (Meyer is also a registered nurse and has had several positions, including his current one in Troy) and someone came up to me with the Times opened to the page where Carson had his ad printed. It was before the Internet and all the famed dating websites we have today,” he said with a smile. “I took a look at what he wrote and thought, I have to meet this guy!”

Following two long phone conversations, they met and decided to see the movie “Breakfast At Tiffany’s,” a traditionally gay-supportive film that was screening at a local theater in a classic movie tribute to Audrey Hepburn. “The movie doesn’t depict a relationship between two gay men, since in those days (1961) it was highly unacceptable to do so. In the gay community we recognized the fact that Truman Capote (author of the book by the same title) was gay,” explained Meyer. “It was the gay thing to do.”

Those first conversations and eventual date to the movies led to a long-lasting relationship that has been filled with a deep sense of respect and a bonding



Pastor Mike Meyer and husband Carson Anderson are legally married and have been together for over 15 years. Meyer and Anderson live and work in Trenton with Meyer a pastor of a evangelical Lutheran Community that has embraced them both. BTL photo: Paulette Niemiec

love that has kept the couple together throughout the years.

“After those first few conversations and our first meeting I knew right away I wanted him to be a close friend,” said Meyer. Anderson spoke of his love and admiration for Meyer. “He has a big heart, and those unguarded moments of laughter and spontaneity is what I like.”

Anderson continued to describe the special bond between them and how their faith in God and Jesus Christ has helped keep them together. “This is a great opportunity for us to have deep conversations about theology. We both believe being Christian is not a contradiction to being LGBT,” he said. “We tell a different story than those who are conservative right-wing Christians.”

Meyer has spent most of his life and 20 years of active ministry in the Lutheran Church fighting against the bigotry and prejudice produced by Christians who follow a very narrow-minded view of the world’s most popular religion. “The arguments against homosexuality, gay marriage and being transgender are totally bogus theology and scripture interpretation,” he said. “There are hundreds of scriptures regarding love, compassion, etc., but only seven that can be twisted and read against homosexuals.”

Meyer is passionate when it comes to defending his faith. “How can you love a God you can’t see when you can’t love your brothers and sisters whom you can see?” he asked. “If they (traditional Christians) can bash us with misinterpreted and misunderstood verses of Leviticus scriptures than we need to bash them back with love!” Meyer exclaimed.

Anderson takes a more subtle and calmer view, but with similar conviction. “I grew up Methodist and Episcopal, two Christian Churches which implement the conservative views regarding scripture interpretation and religious practices listed above. When I discovered my sexual orientation while teenager, I realized I could no longer practice my faith without feeling unwelcome and judged. This made me sad and I went through my early years of college without any faith,” said Anderson.

“I was relieved when the local Episcopal Church in L.A. began to acknowledge the AIDS crisis in the ‘80s and began to embrace the gay community. By the time I met Mike, I was able to practice my faith again, and it made for much more engaging and interesting conversations between us.”

See Leaping, page 16

# Easter Greetings! Alleluia!



Join the celebration of Easter and Holy Week services at these **metro Detroit Lutheran churches** – churches that have made a public affirmation of welcome to **YOU**, the **GLBTQ community**.

Please contact the individual churches for their schedule of services.

- **Ann Arbor**  
**Lord of Light Lutheran Church**  
801 S. Forest Ave.  
www.lordoflight.org
- **Port Huron**  
**St. Martin Lutheran Church**  
805 Chestnut St.  
phone: 810.982.9261
- **Detroit**  
**Spirit of Hope Church**  
1519 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
www.spiritofhopedetroit.org
- **Saline**  
**Holy Faith Church**  
6299 Saline-Ann Arbor Rd.  
www.holy-faith-church.org
- **Ferndale**  
**Zion Lutheran Church**  
143 Albany St.  
www.ferzion.org
- **Trenton**  
**St. Philip Lutheran Church**  
1790 Fort St.  
www.stphillipelca.org
- **Livonia**  
**Timothy Lutheran Church**  
8820 Wayne Rd.  
www.timothylutheranchrch.com



**MCC**  
METROPOLITAN  
COMMUNITY CHURCH  
OF DETROIT

2441 Pincrest  
Ferndale, MI  
248-399-7741  
Find us on Facebook  
(search: MCC Detroit)



**Palm Sunday Service 11AM**  
**Good Friday Service 7PM**  
**Easter Sunday,**  
**Almost Sunrise Service 9AM**  
**Easter Worship 11AM**  
Easter Brunch Following Each Service



## HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL CENTER ZEKELMAN FAMILY CAMPUS

February 20 • 7:00 PM

### ALLY TRAINING PROGRAM

**Out as an Ally:  
A Step Forward in  
Understanding**

Examine the concepts of gender, sexual orientation, and human rights while learning how Allies, some of the most effective and powerful voices of the LGBT movement, help convey the importance of equality, fairness, acceptance, and mutual respect.

- **ADMISSION:** Free
- **REFRESHMENTS:** Pizza dinner
- **RSVP to** Lawrence Willim 248.553.2400, ext. 24 or lawrence.willim@holocaustcenter.org



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

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

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



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

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

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

### SPONSORS



Henry M. Grix and  
Howard W. Israel Fund

Brian Kutinsky and  
Michael Neumann

Mindell Malin, Kutinsky, Stone,  
Blatnikoff, Oliver & Mindell



Questions on events? Call Lawrence Willim at 248.553.2400, ext. 24



**HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL CENTER ZEKELMAN FAMILY CAMPUS**  
28123 Orchard Lake Road • Farmington Hills, MI 48334-3738  
For questions, please call 248.553.2400, ext. 24 www.holocaustcenter.org

**Together We Will Preserve Memories and Build a Better World.**

# Beautiful Wedding Celebrations and Anniversaries for all!

## Ceremonies designed for you!



At our beautiful Cathedral, or at your choice of venue!  
English, Spanish, German, Italian  
28 years of Experience

For more information, please contact us at: [ceremoniesforyou@yahoo.com](mailto:ceremoniesforyou@yahoo.com)

PH: 313-279-5561

5247 Sheridan Street, Detroit, MI 48213

[www.cathedralofstanthonydetroit.org](http://www.cathedralofstanthonydetroit.org)

### ► Leaping

Continued from p. 14

Anderson explained how his religious faith and his love for Meyer were connected.

Now Meyer and Anderson live and work in Trenton, where Meyer is a pastor of an evangelical Lutheran Community that embraces them both. "They knew I was gay and had a partner when I interviewed for the job and was voted in by the church council in June of 2013," said Meyer. "The first thing I did was re-write the mission statement."

This statement reads as follows:

"We, the members of St. Phillip Lutheran Church, welcome all who are seeking God. Further, we welcome into membership all who are, or wish to be baptized into Christ. We encourage and welcome active participation, growing in Discipleship to Jesus Christ. As a 'reconciling in Christ Congregation,' we welcome people of all sexual orientations (straight, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning) and all gender identities/expressions as fully participating members at St. Phillip Lutheran Church, Trenton, Michigan.

Believing that all are one in Christ Jesus, we welcome all regardless of race, color, age, gender, ethnic background, physical/emotional/mental abilities, or marital/economic/medical/political/social status. We pledge to ourselves and to all others that we strive to live as a reconciling people, in our life together and in our outreach to the world.

We affirm that this Ministry of Reconciliation calls us to be good stewards of all of God's Creation."

Meyer strongly recommended the printing of this Church Mission Statement to show "all people that we here at St. Phillips truly are a welcoming community of Christians."

As church service ended April 6, several volunteers came forward to claim their roles in a passion play coming April 13. Traditionally regarded as "Palm Sunday," and known in many Christian faiths as "Passion Sunday," the performance depicts the last few hours in the life of Jesus Christ. Keeping in line with the philosophical views of Pastor Meyer, the play consists of an all female cast, including the part of Jesus to be portrayed by a 12 year-old girl.

The one exception: Anderson, the only male cast for the reading of the "Passion of Christ." Anderson will be performing in the role of Pontius Pilate. "I can't believe I chose such a controversial role," he laughed. The irony of the moment was unmistakable, as Anderson has demonstrated a great love for Christ throughout his life and now he had chosen to portray the person who tradition states judged Christ and condemned him to death by crucifixion.

On the other hand, it demonstrates how Anderson and Meyer's roles in life always seem to revolve around a theme of contradictory and highly controversial issues. "We really do tell a different story of Christianity," said Anderson. One might say they tell a different story in life, period.

SATURDAY  
MAY 10 2014



"Equality in Diversity"

# FRANK SCHAEFER

TALK  
FOLLOWED BY  
Q & A  
& RECEPTION

7:00 P.M.  
120 S. STATE  
ANN ARBOR  
(bet. Huron & Washington)

Everyone is welcome to hear  
Frank Schaefer, recently defrocked  
as a United Methodist Pastor in  
Pennsylvania because he performed  
the same-gender marriage of his son

Sponsored by Rainbow Crossing  
of First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor  
[WWW.FUMC-A2.ORG](http://WWW.FUMC-A2.ORG)







# Tie the Knot IN Grand Style

MGM GRAND  
DETROIT

For Weddings and Bridal Events Call: 1.877.MGM.EVNT (646.3868)



Excludes Michigan Disassociated Persons

If you bet more than you can afford to lose, you've got a problem. Call 1-800-270-7117 for confidential help.



Live the M life at this MGM Resorts International™ Destination

©2014 MGM Grand Detroit

1777 Third Street, Detroit, Michigan 48226 | mgmgranddetroit.com | 877.888.2121



## Say 'I Do' To The Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo This Saturday

**SOUTHFIELD** – Pride Source Media Group, publisher of *Between The Lines*, will host its fourth-annual Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo from 12 to 6 p.m. April 12 at the Southfield Civic Pavilion. The wedding expo moved to a larger location to accommodate more couples, vendors, presentations and activities.

“Even though we’ll have to wait a little longer for more couples to legally marry in Michigan, more than 300 couples were recently married in just a few hours,” says Jan Stevenson, co-publisher of BTL. “Thousands more will marry once the window of opportunity opens again – and it will! The day is coming when we will see full marriage equality in Michigan. And we’re ready with cakes, fashions and everything needed to plan a great event,” she explains.

The Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo will feature local businesses that provide wedding services to same-sex couples. A couture bridal

fashion show, presented by B. Ella Bridal and President Tuxedo, will start at 1 p.m. and will present cutting-edge wedding fashions, and in a nod to the political significance of marriage, models for the fashion show will include a number of LGBT political leaders and allies such as Ferndale Mayor Dave Coulter, attorney Alicia Skillman, Flagstar Bank SVP Beth Correa, MI House of Representatives candidates Aaryn Richard and Jeremy Moss.

Be sure to come hungry because at the Fabulous Food Court, created by Bill Hamilton Designs, guests will enjoy delicious delectables from Jeff Zak Catering, Oye Crepes, D’Amato’s Italian Restaurant and Catering, Dino’s Custom Catering and The Epicurean Group. Then top off your taste adventure with sweets and wedding cake from AG Chocolates, The Pastry Palace and Dessert Diva.

But a wedding is not all about the food – its about the drinks too! Barefoot Wine & Bubbly will serve complimentary wine and

a full cash bar will be available for all to enjoy, and you can get your photo taken at one of the photos booths.

Star Trax entertainers will emcee the afternoon with music and dancing, and for the last hour of the expo Star Trax will shift the event into a high-energy dance party so all can celebrate the enormous progress we have seen in the movement toward full marriage equality in Michigan.

Prizes, prizes and more prizes will be given away through raffles and games. You can grab all you can in the Prize Cube, or

win a great gift in the Twisted Love game. Caesar’s Windsor is giving away a complete wedding ceremony in their beautiful riverfront reception hall to one lucky couple. There will be vacation getaway packages, jewelry, dining and theater tickets, sports memorabilia and other exciting gifts and prizes.

Select the perfect setting for your wedding, reception, party or any other event by talking to one of the experts on hand from The Detroit Marriott, Embassy Suites, The Westin, Laurel Manor, Vassel’s Banquet Hall, The Scarab Club in Detroit or the Polo Fields and Country Club in Ann Arbor. Florists, event planners and photographers can help complete your party to make it as beautiful and memorable as possible.

Tickets are \$10 (\$15 at the door) with a portion of the proceeds to benefit the Michigan Marriage Challenge, a fund created to raise money for the legal fees and expenses in the DeBoer v. Snyder case. Purchase tickets at [www.btlweddingexpo.com](http://www.btlweddingexpo.com).

### INFO

#### Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo

Noon - 6 p.m. April 12  
 Southfield Civic Pavilion  
 26000 Evergreen Road, Southfield  
[www.BTLWeddingExpo.com](http://www.BTLWeddingExpo.com)

# ULTIMATE COMMITMENT



An engaging assortment of wedding bands and engagement rings  
to take you from tying the knot to eternity

*Visit our booth at the Expo this weekend!*

West Bloomfield  
248.932.7700

Somerset Collection  
248.649.2000

Twelve Oaks Mall  
248.465.1800

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

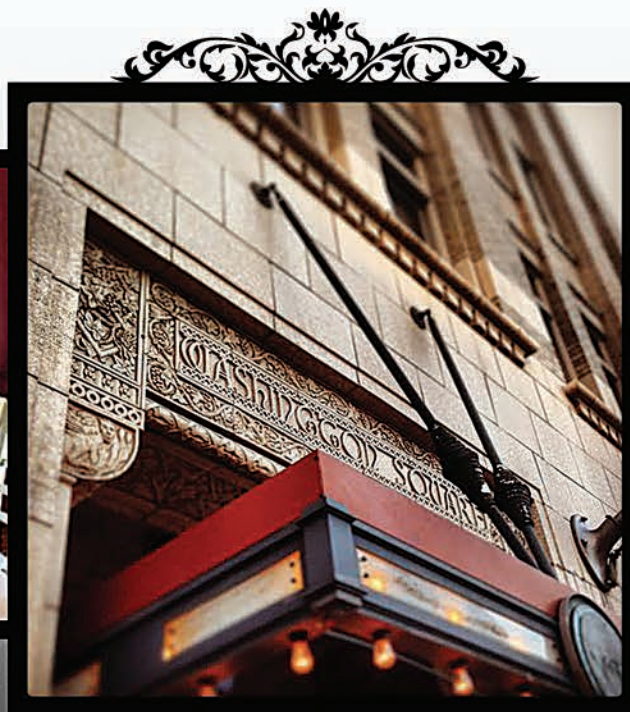


*Tappers's*  
DIAMONDS & FINE JEWELRY

# SAY, I DO!

*To celebrating with us ...*

Let us make your party historic at D'Amato's and Goodnite Gracie. Impress your guests in downtown Royal Oak's Washington Square Building, built in 1927 in romantic art deco style. From an intimate group of 20 to a gathering of 300 – we'll make it a time to remember.



**D'AMATO'S**



222 SHERMAN, ROYAL OAK MI 48067 / 248-584-7400 / DAMATOS.COM / LIKE US ON FACEBOOK / DAMATOSRO



# Our Big Day: Local Couples On Their Weddings

BY SHELBY CLARK  
PETKUS

With the advent of same-sex marriage in Michigan, couples are

looking for relevant inspiration for both local and destination weddings. These Michigan couples shared their wedding stories, vendors and advice with BTL.

this was an incredible moment for Bruce and me to see the love that was filling the room just for us.”

The intimate ceremony was followed by a family dinner at La Dolce Vita. The restaurant, formerly Salute, was the site of the couple’s first date.

A reception with over 200 guests was held the next evening at Motor City Casino’s Club Amnesia. Guests were greeted with champagne, and Odom and

events planned, Odom and Van Dyke had a fantastic event. Odom advises LGBT couples getting married to “take multiple moments to take everything in - it goes very fast!” He also recommends photography be a focus, particularly for “fly on the wall” shots that will be surprising later on. Ultimately, he says, “Make your night fit your personalities and the style of event you want to have.”

**Vendors Used:**

to marry with the overturning of DOMA.

Betsy and Julie had a quickly arranged civil ceremony in California after Betsy’s sister and her sister’s then-fiancee announced they would be “tying the knot” in Lake Tahoe. Deciding to wed in San Francisco, “the heart of the LGBT rights movement,” Betsy and Julie had a civil ceremony in a downtown rotunda, just feet away from statues of Harvey Milk, Sen. Diane Feinstein and Mayor George Moscone.

Betsy’s sister and her sister’s wife were witnesses, along with Betsy and Julie’s two children. The group drove through Castro Street following the downtown ceremony and took pictures near the Golden Gate Bridge. Betsy and Julie joke, “If you need to have a

ours!” says Betsy.

The couple plans to bring unique twists to their wedding, such as a soft-serve ice cream bar instead of a cake, food trucks or a burger bar instead of a banquet, etc. Betsy’s hoping for a “flash mob,” but Julie isn’t quite on board yet.

Aside from recommending BTL’s Same-Sex Wedding Expo, the couple suggests LGBT couples be patient, ask lots of questions and stay open and honest with each other about plans and ideas. “Don’t worry if you disagree with each other - hire a wedding planner if you need to!” notes Betsy. “Most of all, have fun - we finally get to marry!”

**Vendors To Be Used:**

Ceremony: Renaissance Unity Church, Warren

Reception: The Rust Belt Market, Ferndale

Food: Food Truck, Local

Cake: Friends, Local



Michael and Bruce

## Michael and Bruce

Michael Odom and Bruce Van Dyke celebrated their 20th anniversary on Nov. 16, 2012 by getting married in Windsor, Ontario where same-sex marriage is legally recognized. “This allowed our immediate family and close friends to join us for the occasion. Windsor is just across the river.”

Their small ceremony was held at Metropolitan Community Church of Windsor. The couple had a “ring blessing” as part of their wedding. According to Odom, “Before we placed the rings on each other’s hands, the minister passed the rings to the guests in the church. As each person held them together... they said a prayer or wish for me and Bruce. Because the ceremony was small (just close friends and immediate family),

Van Dyke, who stood at the entryway for nearly an hour, personally welcomed guests.

Throughout the night, Motor City Casino provided top-shelf alcohol, multiple waves of food and more. Some food highlights included sliders and pizza as midnight snacks. Entertainment included dancing and a drag queen performance by Big Ambition. Odom’s best man - his sister - gave a toast that the couple considers a fond memory as well.

Challenges the couple faced when planning the wedding included getting the guest list to fit within their budget, starting with 300 guests before whittling it down to 200. Coordinating the multiple details of two days worth of events, especially between two countries, also left the couple with extra hurdles to hop.

Despite the stress in getting the

Rings: Kramar Jewelry  
Keepsake Watch (Couple Gift): Miner’s Den,  
Decor, Coordination, Beverages and Food: Motor City Casino, Detroit.  
Wedding Favors: Godiva Chocolates, Multiple Locations.

## Betsy and Julie

Julie and Betsy McKeeman were married on July 15, 2013 in San Francisco, Calif. Julie, of Eastpointe, and Betsy, Livonia, had been engaged for over 10 years. The couple wanted to wait until either Michigan or the federal government officially recognized same-sex marriage; hoping to have only one ceremony, the couple decided



Betsy and Julie

civil ceremony, why not have one in the ‘gayest’ place on earth? Go big or go home, right?”

With the recent changes in same-sex marriage in Michigan, the couple has planned a full religious ceremony for July 17, 2015. Some challenges for their upcoming wedding include finding vendors and services that are LGBT-friendly. “This is why the BTL Wedding Expo is so important to us and families like

## Tom and Keith

Tom Hitchmann, of Beverly Hills, and Keith Hewitt, of Lapeer, were one of the 300-plus couples married on Saturday, March 22 after Michigan’s same-sex marriage ban was ruled unconstitutional. However, the two had married earlier last year in Windsor, influenced by the U.S. vs. Windsor case and the IRS announcement that same-sex marriages would be granted federal benefits.

Together for 24 years, the two decided to marry in Windsor after seeing the Windsor exhibit at BTL’s Same-Sex Wedding Expo in 2013.

With two witnesses, Hewitt’s cousin and Hitchman’s friend from

high school, the men married with a simple civil ceremony at Windsor City Hall. The four members of the “wedding party” celebrated the wedding with dinner at Coach Insignia at the Renaissance Center. A dinner with family was later held at Eddie Merlot’s in Bloomfield Hills.

The couple luckily experienced no challenges in their small event, recommending the City Clerk’s office

See Real Weddings, page 22

VOTED BEST FINE JEWELRY  
**ABRACADABRA**  
 Jewelry/Gem Gallery

Palladium  
 & Opal Inlay

LIMITED TIME!  
 \$100 OFF  
 ABRA  
 CUSTOM  
 DESIGN  
 WITH AD



Made in Michigan  
 CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

205 E. LIBERTY  
 ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN  
 WWW.ABRAGEM.COM  
 734.994.4848



Tom and Keith

► **Real Weddings**

Continued from p. 21

in Windsor as being “friendly, inclusive and efficient.” Hitchman recalls a memorable highlight of their day: “Driving back through the Windsor tunnel, the U.S. Homeland Security agent was emotionless until he asked us the purpose of our visit to Windsor. When we told him we just got married, he smiled warmly and said congratulations. We think we were the highlight of his day!”

Hitchman and Hewitt plan to have a ceremony and reception in the future utilizing Michigan vendors, especially local Michigan-made products, vendors and more.

**Vendors Used:**

Food: Coach Insignia, Detroit and Eddie Merlot’s, Bloomfield Hills  
 Flowers and Corsages: Ashley’s Flowers, Detroit  
 Clothing: Macy’s at The Somerset Collection, Troy

**Nancy and Margo**

Nancy Katz, originally from Indianapolis, Ind., and Margo Dichtelmiller, from Cleveland, Ohio, met at Oberlin College and moved to Michigan in 1977 when Katz began law school.

Together for over 30 years, Nancy proposed to Margo following a fundraiser for Affirmations at their home. Columnist Deb Price was a featured guest who encouraged people to get married even if it wasn’t recognized, because “‘I’m married, but I don’t have equal rights’ is a stronger statement than ‘I’m gay and I can’t get married.’” The message moved the couple to begin planning a wedding following Nancy’s proposal.

The women got legally married in July in Provincetown, Mass., renting a home for other couples to join them. The couple faced the

challenges of a destination wedding, including renting and using vendors without meeting with them or even seeing things before the wedding date. Furthering complications, Nancy sprained her ankle the first day in Massachusetts. Despite all this, the couple had a wonderful wedding, including a personalized ceremony with their own vows, as well as poems ready by friends and family in attendance. A major highlight included a “pedicab” decorated with “Just Married,” leading to cheers from people as they drove through Provincetown.

In September, Margo and Nancy held a local wedding at Affirmations. With over 100 people, it was the first time the LGBT Center had held

such an event. The couple used Michigan vendors, including gay vendor Jeff Zak Catering, who they highly recommend. To include everyone they cared about in their special day, Nancy and Margo played a video of their wedding in Massachusetts.

The couple advises LGBT looking to marry out of state to start planning as soon as possible and to check for different waiting periods and marriage requirements. They definitely recommend having a celebration here in Michigan, though:

“Celebrating here in Michigan made us feel like it was a ‘real’ wedding when we were able to share it with everyone.”

**Vendors Used:**

Reception: Affirmations, Ferndale  
 Food: Jeff Zak Catering, Plymouth Township Design, Lighting, Flowers and Table Settings: Mary Toriglia, Recommended Vendor through Jeff Zak  
 Photography: Emily Locklear, Metro-Detroit



Nancy and Margo



**Amy Claeys**  
Photography

Full Wedding Day Coverage  
Engagement  
Post Wedding Shoot  
Bridal Boudoir



Full Service Wedding Photography  
[www.amyclaeysphotography.com](http://www.amyclaeysphotography.com)

**PROUD  
TO BE YOUR  
PARTNER  
IN GETTING QUALITY  
PROTECTION  
FOR YOU & YOUR PARTNER**

**Equality is my policy.**

Building a life together brings up many questions. With my experience serving the LGBT community, I can help make sure you're both protected from whatever life brings your way. Call or stop by my office today.

**Nicholas Schrock**  
(248) 547-4010  
23225 Woodward Ave.  
Ferndale  
nschrock@allstate.com



**Allstate**  
You're in good hands.

Auto Home Life Retirement

Call me to put yourself in Good Hands®.

Subject to terms, conditions and availability. Savings vary. Allstate Property and Casualty Insurance Company, Allstate Insurance Company  
© 2011 Allstate Insurance Company

**FINAL DAYS!**

**ANNIVERSARY SALE**

RUG CLEANING

**2 FOR 1**

Bring your rugs to any of our drop-off centers and we'll clean every other one **FREE!**

**Ask about our expert rug repair!**

Expires 4/19/14

IN-HOME CLEANING

**4 ROOMS \$99.99**

**2 ROOMS \$59.99**

**7' SOFA OR 2 CHAIRS \$59.99**

Some restrictions apply

Expires 4/19/14



**HAGOPIAN**

Expect the Best... Expect the Purple Truck!  
Oak Park • Birmingham • Novi • Utica • Ann Arbor

**1-800-HAGOPIAN (424-6742)**  
[www.originalhagopian.com](http://www.originalhagopian.com)

*Celebrate your special day surrounded by family, friends, and fine art!*

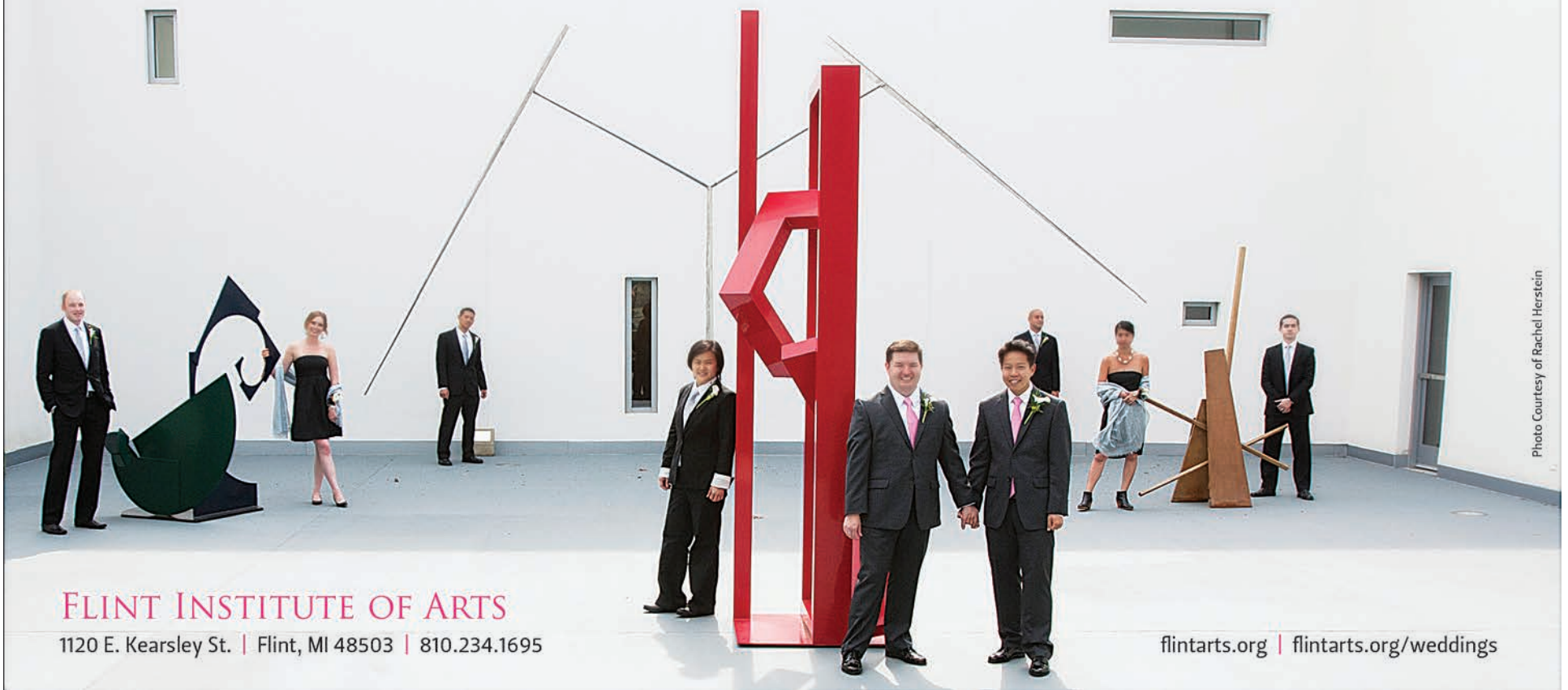


Photo Courtesy of Rachel Herstein

**FLINT INSTITUTE OF ARTS**

1120 E. Kearsley St. | Flint, MI 48503 | 810.234.1695

flintarts.org | flintarts.org/weddings



**crust**

a baking company

**Custom Cakes  
for all Occasions**

Tiered Cakes, Cupcakes,  
Truffles, Fondant, Fillings

Call to schedule a consultation  
for your Special Event



**CUSTOM CAKE COUPON**

Take \$50 off an event cake from CRUST (Minimum cake order of \$350)  
Coupon has no cash value and cannot be used in combination  
with any other coupon, discount or special. Expires December 31, 2014.

Visit us in Downtown Fenton for our full selection  
of hand-crafted breads, pies and pastries.  
Serving Breakfast and Lunch daily.



104 W. Caroline at River  
Fenton, Michigan 48843

810-629-8882

crustandbeyond.com



see everything we have to offer  
at shutterbooth.com

Get in Touch 248.545.6460  
jenny@shutterbooth.com

shutter  
booth.com sb

Our professional  
photo booths are  
designed with you  
in mind so you and  
your guests can capture memories  
that will last a lifetime. Call today  
to see how you can enjoy your  
own one-of-a-kind ShutterBooth  
experience at your next event.



Now available  
with Green Screen!

**open**  
BY SHUTTERBOOTH

Enjoy the endless  
possibilities of an open  
air style photo booth  
complete with your own  
custom backdrop with  
Open by ShutterBooth

Learn more today at  
openbys shutterbooth.com





# No Stopping Happy From Happening

## The Story Of Jay Elbrecht & Carla Manion

BY PAULA NIEMIEC

Once in awhile you run into a person or a couple whose story is truly unique. On March 26, at the Transgender Day of Visibility celebration at the Five15 in Royal Oak, one speaker in particular described a story which is both rare and in need of recognition. Carla Manion is a natural-born (sometimes called "cisgender") woman who is legally married to Jay Elbrecht, a trans-man who became legally male while living in Oregon.

Although he has obtained legal status as a male here in Michigan, it was not without incident. The state would not recognize the fact that Elbrecht had his name and gender legally changed while living in Oregon and the couple needed to go through many legal procedures, including having his sex and gender changed on his passport to reflect his male status. "It's so frustrating here in Michigan what one has to go through to be recognized as the gender and sex (you identify with)," said Elbrecht.

And despite all the legal and technical challenges, Elbrecht and Manion are now a very happy couple. "I'm here to support my husband in every way I can," she cried out to the audience. "I want him and you all to know how proud I am of him. I support all those who are transgender."

Afterwards, Manion spoke about what life is like for the couple. "For me, I guess it was love at first sight. I met him and that was it. I knew I'd be with him. We met at



a 'Dark Lady' event in Portland, Ore. Nine months later, we were married."

They have remained married for three years. Manion described how Elbrecht has been involved in the LGBT community for 25 years. "I play the role of advocate as often as I can," she said with a smile. "It matters to me that I'm there to help."

As for any advice Manion might have for others who marry a transgender person, she said it can be hard but well worth it. "I would say choose your words carefully. Jay is fragile and has been jaded by others in society. I don't want to say

anything that would hurt his feelings or his cause," she explained.

Manion is the mother of two children from previous relationships, and although Elbrecht has not officially adopted them, Manion said he is "a very fatherly person and treats them both as if they were his own." The four of them live in a county they ask not be revealed due to Elbrecht's work and life situation. They are both very happy now that everything has been worked out legally here in the state, and at the end of the evening the smiles on their faces said it all.



**GM WORLD HEADQUARTERS** at Renaissance Center  
**MILLENDER CENTER** Downtown Detroit

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

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE CELEBRATING 20 YEARS



**5K LIKES ON FACEBOOK**

*Thank you!*



**Duneswood Resort**

*Plan your Honeymoon in the Most Beautiful Place in America!*

Wedding Packages Available


**Along the New Sleeping Bear Heritage Bike Trail**  
7194 S. Dune Highway (M-109), Empire MI 49630

Seven wooded acres near Glen Lake and Lake Michigan – Bike, hike, swim, kayak, climb, ski, snowshoe – or just take in the incredible sunsets and romance. Call... **231-668-6789**

**BTL**

**Between the Lines**

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



**Rhonna Nelson**  
LMSW, ACSW, CAADC, PC

Specializing in:  
Chemical Dependency, Couples, EMDR, Eating Disorders, Adult Sexual Abuse, Survivors & Life Coaching

31000 Telegraph Rd., Suite 150  
Bingham Farms, MI 48025  
(NE corner of Telegraph & 13 Mile)  
Evening and Saturday Hours Available

**248-723-4114**  
Most forms of insurance accepted.

[HTTP://RHONNA.HOMESTEAD.COM/RHONNA.HTML](http://rhonna.homestead.com/rhonna.html)



Make-up Artist « 866-223-2331 » [www.cmichellestyles.com](http://www.cmichellestyles.com)



*fleur*detroit  
object • floral • styling • events

248.953.3840 • [fleurdetroit.com](http://fleurdetroit.com) • an urbanscapesdetroit company

**Village**  
CONFERENCE  
CENTER



**MENTION THE ULTIMATE LGBT WEDDING & ANNIVERSARY EXPO FOR 10% OFF YOUR 2014 WEDDING!**



- Weddings up to 275 guests
- Fabulous on-site chef and kitchen
- Flexible menus & all inclusive wedding packages
- Ceremonies on-site

**Chelsea Comfort Inn & Village Conference Center**

**1645 Commerce Park Drive Chelsea, MI 48118 (15 Minutes Outside Ann Arbor!)**  
**P: 734-433-8000 | F: 734-433-9565 | [www.comfortinnchelsea.com](http://www.comfortinnchelsea.com)**



Pastry Palace. BTL photo: Andrew Potter



## Five Ways to 'Gay' Your Wedding Cake

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

One of the most talked about things after a wedding is the cake. Was it good? Bad? Was it a sheet cake from a grocery store? Was there even cake?

There are several ways to make sure your cake is remembered fondly, but the best way: make it gay.

### Rainbow

Though it may seem like an obvious move, incorporating the all-inclusive coloring of the LGBT rainbow can be a "tasteful" nod to LGBT rights and culture. Many bakers are familiar with the concept of "layering" different colored batter on top of each other to form the multi-color layers. If you're making the cake yourself, look into the many tutorials online for "patterned" cakes. Brightly colored cake a bit too much? Opt for the subtleness of multicolored blossoms to accent a traditionally white or ivory cake.

### Use a gay(-friendly) baker

It seems like there's yet another case of a wedding vendor refusing to serve an LGBT couple in the news every week. Support accepting bakers and keep money away from intolerant businesses. BTL offers their Pride Source Yellow Pages to help you track down an accepting baker who works in the metro Detroit, Ann Arbor and Windsor areas.

### Invest in same-sex wedding toppers

Don't get turned off from the heteronormative offerings from many mainstream wedding vendors. Multiple options exist online. Check out Etsy for independent artists who can make toppers that look like you and your partner. TwoBrides.com and TwoGrooms.com are also good resources for same-sex wedding toppers.

See Wedding Cake, page 28

**Serving the Real Estate Needs of Michigan's  
Gay and Lesbian Community for 30 Years!**



- Full Service Residential Real Estate
- Nationwide Gay Friendly Agent Referrals
- Foreclosures, Short Sales, First Time Buyers.



**Lynn L. Stange**  
Realtor Associate  
2100W. Big Beaver #100  
Troy, MI 48084  
**248.561.6967**  
or 248.879.6448  
email: LLStange@aol.com



*"There really is a difference"*

Handcrafted his & his rings  
you won't find anywhere else.

Palladium handmade stamped bands



www.grinsteinjewelry.com

**GRINSTEIN  
JEWELRY & DESIGN**

162 South Old Woodward  
Birmingham, MI



**LAW OFFICES OF  
ARMENE KAYE, PC**

**ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW**  
*"A general practice serving all your legal needs"*

**Serving Our Community with the pride,  
honor and dedication it deserves.**

- ▼ Auto Accidents
- ▼ Estate Planning
- ▼ Civil & Criminal Litigation
- ▼ No Recovery = No Fee
- ▼ Personal Injury
- ▼ Domestic Partnership & Family Law Matters
- ▼ 10% Off with mention of Ad

**Don't put off your legal matters  
another day. Call for a free consultation.**

**248-496-9500**

**www.armenekaye.com**

Serving Oakland, Macomb, Wayne, Genesee and Washtenaw counties.

Email: [goodlawyer@comcast.net](mailto:goodlawyer@comcast.net)



**Vassels**  
BANQUET HALL ♦ CATERING

*Amazing Food! Outstanding Service!*

26750 W. EIGHT MILE RD.  
(1 1/2 MILE WEST OF TELEGRAPH)

SOUTHFIELD, MI 48003

WWW.VASSELSATERING.COM

248-354-0121  
COCKTAIL BAR AVAILABLE



The Print **STOP** Inc.

If you can think it, we can ink it

888-345-8010

- ❖ Invitations
- ❖ Newsletters
- ❖ Menus
- ❖ Color Copies
- ❖ Typesetting
- ❖ Letterhead
- ❖ Brochures
- ❖ Business Forms
- ❖ Fax Service
- ❖ Business Cards

3172 W. 12 Mile Road, Berkley  
Serving the community since 2001

ypsi **L**OVE  
SAY YES

Contact us today for complimentary assistance booking your special day.

visit **ypsinow**  
ypsilanti area convention & visitors bureau

Taryn Sulkes  
Convention Sales & Service Manager

www.visitypsinow.com

office 734.483.4444  
email tsulkes@ypsilanti.org



## What To Do About Booze At Your Wedding?

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

Did you and your partner spend over an hour deliberating over cake choices? Have you spent days on Etsy looking for the perfect veil?

If you're unsure of how to approach the "bar" at your wedding, be it full of alcohol or lemonade, here are some ideas to help you with your wedding "writer's block."

### Keep it simple

Big liquor packages can cost big bucks. Work with your venue, or on your own, to feature one or two "signature" cocktails to save on money and supplies. Try picking you and your partner's favorite drinks as the only alcohol: for example, feature Gin and Tonics or Rum and Cokes if you and your partner favor those drinks. Did your significant other propose over Mai Tais? Feature both the drink and the story as part of your reception!

### Look to local liquor

Interested in supporting a cause in addition to celebrating your LGBT nuptials? Buy local! While some venues won't let you bring in outside alcohol, many will work with you to select certain choices. Some venues allow you to bring in your own alcohol as well! With any of these options, aim for Michigan craft beer or wine, both famous nationally and internationally. Many local spirits are award-

### ► Wedding Cake

Continued from p. 26

### Nix the groom's cake

The groom's cake originated in Victorian England and made its way to the American South before taking over the whole U.S. wedding market in recent years. The groom cake essentially served as the cake to be cut for groomsmen and bridesmaids. If you bristle at the term "groom," plan on going without attendants, or if you see no reason to keep up this tradition, stick with the main wedding cake. Or alter the tradition even further -

winning as well, including Hard Luck Vodka out of Grosse Pointe Park, Valentine Distilling Co. of Ferndale or Ugly Dog out of Chelsea. Jolly Pumpkin (known for their beer) offers many different spirits, as well.

### Match your color scheme

Make your entire event a cohesive wonderland by keeping to the same colors you use throughout your wedding. Having a blue and gold wedding? Serve drinks with Curaco or sparkling wine. Are your attendants

coming in different shades of purple? Use food coloring to brighten up a signature cocktail with a matching violet.

### Stick to beer and wine

Many venues will offer cheaper alcohol packages by only serving beer and wine, even if it's not always advertised. If you're hosting the event yourself in a rented space, {URL bulk bottles of wine, or individual bottles of wine, can be found cheaply at bulk stores and grocers. Working with individual

liquor stores can also get you a discount on beer.

### Party sober

Opting to keep alcohol out of your wedding completely? Many go this route due to personal views, money, etc. Opt for unique "mocktails" or non-alcoholic beverages. Some ideas include serving limeade with tonic water, lemonade with sparkling water, and mimosas made of orange juice and sparkling grape juice.

include two groom's cakes or two bride's cakes. After all, who doesn't want more cake?

### Nix the cake completely

Many LGBT couples choose to go the non-traditional route after years of the term "traditional marriage" being used to take away LGBT rights. In light of more offbeat ventures, such as different clothing, food and more, bring it to the cake as well! Opt for more individual items, such as cupcakes or cake pops for guests, or break away from cake altogether. Pies, donuts and donut holes are some of the many different dessert choices landing on LGBT wedding dessert tables.



**Miner's Den**  
JEWELERS

FOREVER BEGINS HERE...



Cheryl & Jenny  
Together Since 2004

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

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

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

# THE ULTIMATE LGBT WEDDING & ANNIVERSARY EXPO

NOON TO 6 P.M. APRIL 12 | [www.BTLWeddingExpo.com](http://www.BTLWeddingExpo.com)

## Top Reasons To Come To The Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo

The Ultimate LGBT Wedding and Anniversary Expo April 12 at the Southfield Civic Pavilion has moved to a much larger space to accommodate more vendors, couples activities, presentations and fun!

What makes this event so special - besides the chance to meet with dozens of LGBT-affirming wedding vendors and other service providers in one convenient place?

We thought you'd ask. That's why we've put together this list of the Top Reasons to put this year's Expo in your calendar:

**1. Prizes, Prizes and more Prizes!** Start your life of wedded bliss off right with gift certificates for florists, jewelers, bakers, and more, including a free tax rental (spiffy!) and a Miner's Den's gift card. We have dozens of giveaways available, and all you have to do to qualify for a chance at winning is register and have fun at our party.

**2. Don't miss the runway fashion show,** starting at 1 p.m. and featuring gowns from B. Ella Bridal in Plymouth and President Tuxedo. And look who is modeling! Nope - you gotta come and see for yourself who our celebrity models will be, but you can be sure that they will be as beautiful as you've ever seen them look!

**3. Games and Fun!** An exciting game, Twisted Love, gives you and your partner a chance get close and score big - for prizes of course. And don't miss your chance to catch unique treasures in the Prize Box - catch as many valuable prizes and coupons as you can as they twirl around in the wind dome!

**4. Yes, there is such a thing as a free lunch -** and we have it for you at the Expo, including complimentary wine from Barefoot Wine & Bubbly. Put your diet on hold, or get in an extra few workouts, because our caterers and bakers will be tempting you with samples. Oh - and did we mention the return of AG Chocolates' amazing chocolate fountain for your treat-dipping pleasure?

**5. Come dance your heart out with the fabulous DJs** from Star Trax. They'll be spinning throughout the show, and then around 5 p.m. they'll let it rip with a full out dance party. Dance to celebrate the HUGE progress towards marriage equality in Michigan!

**6. This party isn't just for LGBT people . Or couples.** If you're an ally, LGBTQIAO(ETC), single and hoping, single and not caring, engaged or disengaged, you're still welcome to join the fun. Many of our vendors offer essential services all year round - where else can you interview a prospective attorney or caterer over a glass of champagne?

**7. Support the businesses that support you!** When we spend money on LGBT and allied companies, those companies return the favor.

**8. Can't wait for Pride in June?** The Same-Sex Wedding Expo is like Pride in April! Because, really: who wants to wait until June for a great party?

## PARKING & DIRECTIONS

The Southfield Civic Pavilion is located at 26000 Evergreen Road, Southfield - just south of I696 on the east side of the Evergreen. There is plenty of free parking in the underground garage structure and adjacent parking lots - just follow the festive signs to the entrance.

## PRIZES

Simply by attending, you are entered to win these great prizes:

**A complete wedding ceremony at the beautiful riverfront reception hall at Caesar's Windsor**

**A \$1000 gift certificate to Miner's Den**

**A free overnight stay at Detroit-area Marriotts**

**And dozens more!**



## VENDORS

Everything you need for the very best wedding ceremony, reception, anniversary party or any special event will be on hand at the ultimate LGBT Wedding and Anniversary Expo. Browse the vendors, talk to the experts in event planning, flower arrangements, catering, venues, photography and videography, entertainment and more.



## PRIZE CUBE

Prizes, prizes and more prizes will be given away as you can grab all you can in the Prize Cube. It's fun, it's windy (my hair!) and the coupons are fantastic!



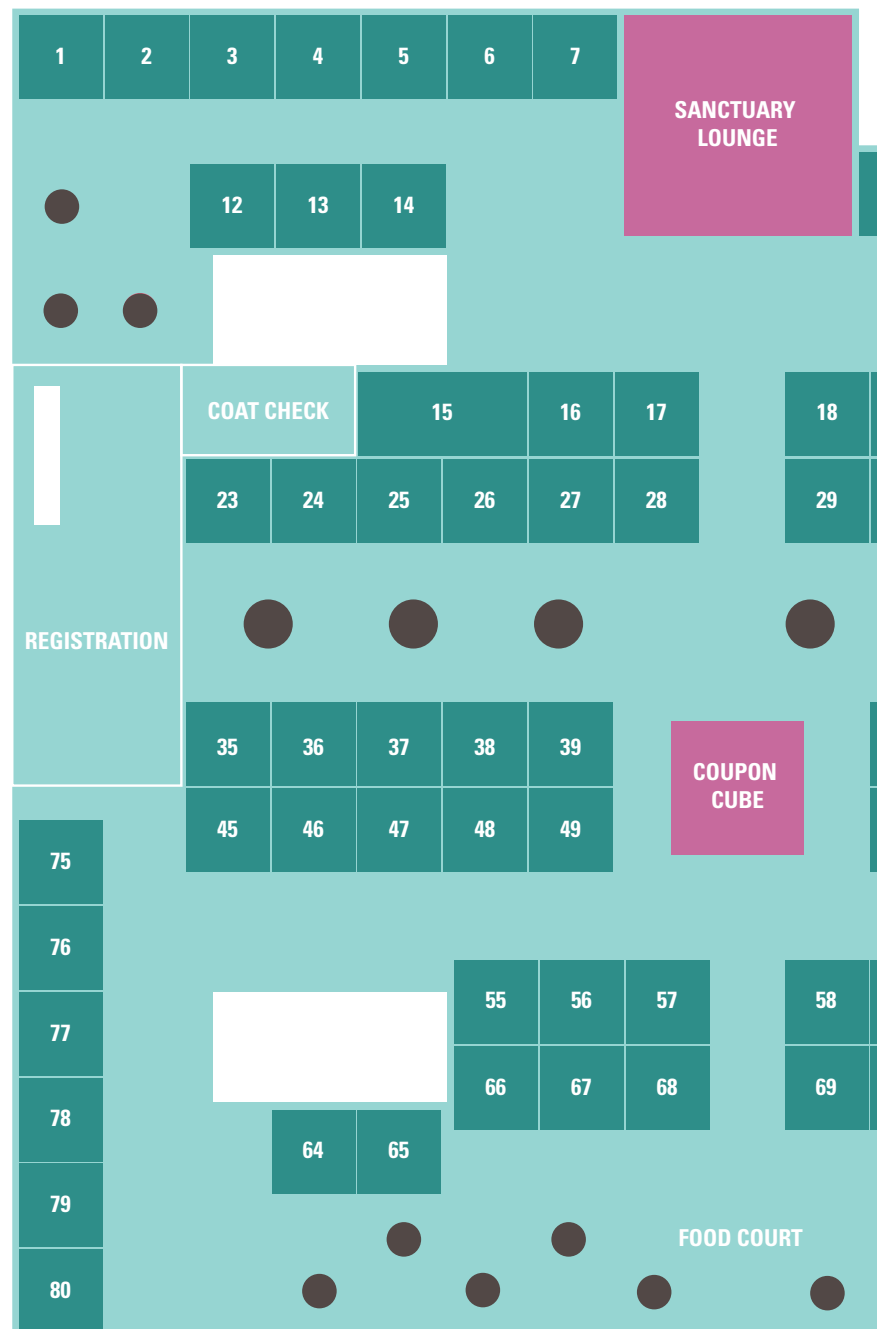
## FOOD COURT

Enjoy a stroll through the street scene created by Bill Hamilton Designs at the Fabulous Food Court. Jeff Zak Catering, Oye Crepes, D'Amato's Italian Restaurant and Catering, Dino's Custom Catering and The Epicurean Group. Then top of your taste adventure with sweets and wedding cake from AG Chocolates, The Pastry Palace and Dessert Diva.



## SANCTUARY LOUNGE

Ommm... Here's where you relax, lounge and get in touch with your quieter side. Created by talented designers at Spec Events, the Sanctuary Lounge offers you a chance to see your event could include a place for guests to sit and



E  
u can  
ch with  
y the  
alty  
ge  
how  
quiet  
relax.

## WINE BAR

Barefoot Wine & Bubbly hosts the wine bar area with complimentary tastings of some of their very best premium vintages. So come on in, relax, take a load off and enjoy a glass of excellent wine.

Barefoot Wines, based out of California, has launched a large Michigan presence in the last several years and is a strong supporter of marriage equality nationwide.



## THE MAIN STAGE

Star Trax Event Production creates a complete stage and runway – the perfect setting for the fabulous fashion show and other entertainment.

The Fashion Show begins at 1 p.m. and features the fashions of B. Ella Bridal and President Tuxedo. Some of the models will be familiar to many in the crowd, including BTL's very own art director Ben Jenkins and entertainment writer Chris Azzopardi. They'll sashay down the runway with Michigan House of Representative candidates Jeremy Moss and Aaryn Richard, attorney and activist Alicia Skillman, Ferndale Mayor Dave Coulter, Flagstar Bank SVP Beth Correa and Director of the EMU LGBT student center, Mary Larkin. It's up to you to guess who will be wearing the gowns and who the tuxedos!

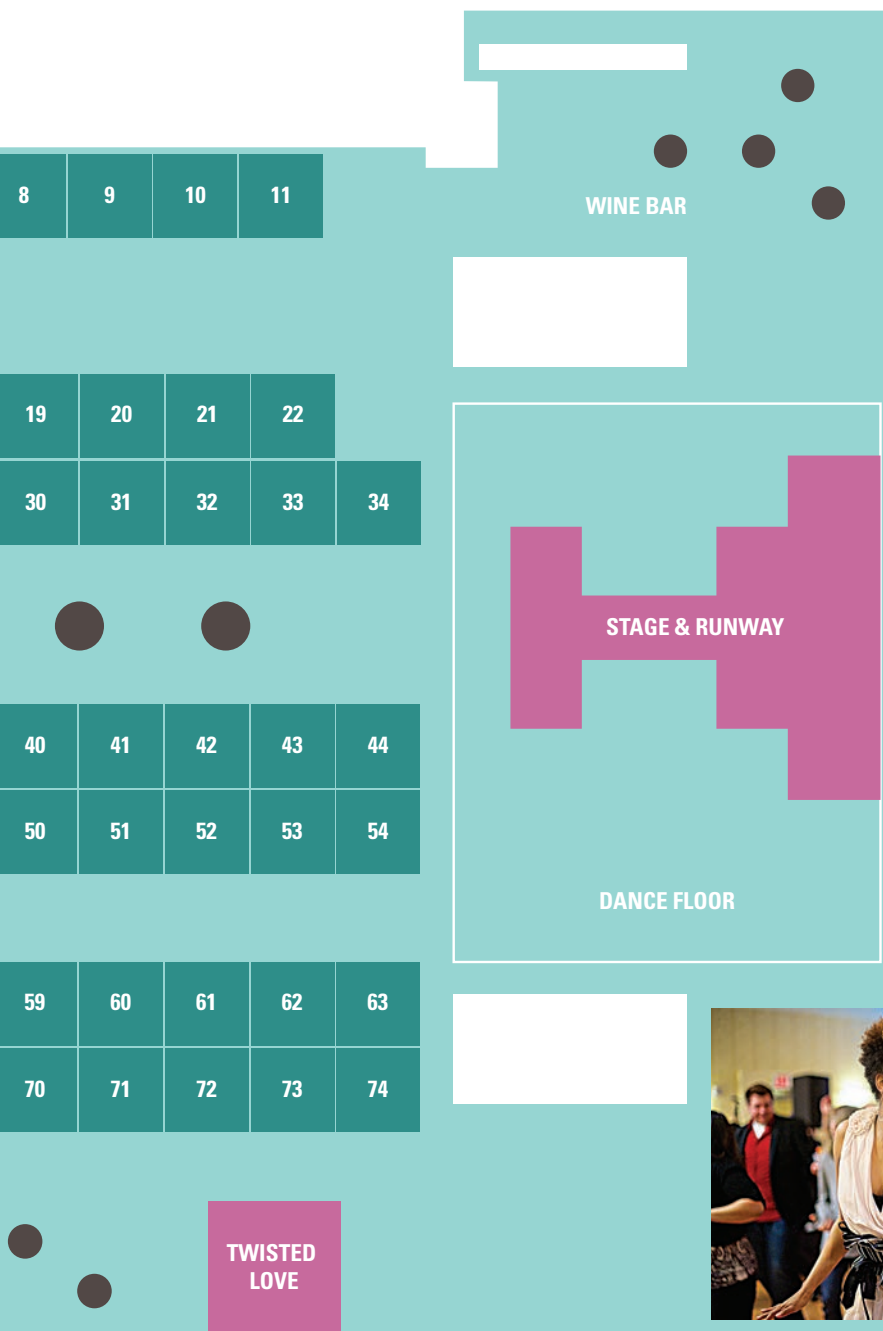
Raffles and special prizes are being given away from the stage throughout the afternoon. VIPs in attendance will greet the crowd, so be sure to listen up for special announcements from the stage.

At 5 p.m. Star Trax entertainers will turn up the musical heat and launch into a celebratory dance party. So come and enjoy the fun and dance to the great sounds of Star Trax.



## TWISTED LOVE

Ever been in a relationship that feels like a pretzel? He's your chance to act it all out in Twisted Love, a romantic, team version of the famous game of Twister. Winners will receive fabulous prizes, and the chance to get up close and personal with their team members – and added bonus!



## GOLD SPONSORS



## SILVER SPONSORS



## BRONZE SPONSORS





# C & N PARTY RENTALS

**5140 Meijer Drive,  
Royal Oak, MI 48073**

**Marquees, Canopies and Tents • Tables • Chairs • Linens  
Dinnerware • Glassware • Flatware • Silver Service  
Food Service & Cooking Equipment • Convention & Meeting Equipment**

*We have Beautiful Linens for all events and budgets!*

**248-435-3580 • 800-351-0031 • [www.cnparty.com](http://www.cnparty.com)**



## BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

LGBT couples celebrated the ruling in the DeBoer v. Snyder case on Saturday, March 22 by getting legally married in Michigan. Over 300 couples from Washtenaw, Oakland and other Michigan counties filled County Clerk Offices. Here are a few local couples who shared their March nuptials with Between the Lines.



## Grace and Jess Wojcik

Grace and Jess were married as part of a group ceremony conducted by Lisa Brown. The Wojciks had a ceremony and reception on Aug. 3, 2012 at Indian Springs Metropark in White Lake Township. They plan to have a future gathering with friends and family to celebrate the legality of their marriage.

## EXPO VENDORS

[WWW.PRIDESOURCE.COM/DIRECTORY.HTML](http://WWW.PRIDESOURCE.COM/DIRECTORY.HTML)

### ACCOMMODATIONS

#### Caesars Windsor Hotel & Casino

377 Riverside Drive East  
Windsor, ON N9A 7H7  
800-991-7777

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

#### Courtyard by Marriott Detroit Downtown

333 East Jefferson Ave.  
Detroit, MI 48226  
313-222-7700  
[www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/dtwcdc-courtyard-detroit-downtown/](http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/dtwcdc-courtyard-detroit-downtown/)

#### The Dearborn Inn

20301 Oakwood Blvd  
Dearborn, MI 48124  
313-271-2700

#### Detroit Marriott Livonia

17100 Laurel Park  
Livonia, MI 48152  
734-462-3100  
[www.livoniamarriott.com](http://www.livoniamarriott.com)

#### Detroit Marriott at the

#### Renaissance Center

Renaissance Center  
Detroit, MI 48243  
888-253-1328

#### Detroit Marriott Troy

200 W. Big Beaver Rd.  
Troy, MI 48084  
248-680-9797  
[www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/dtttdetroit-marriott-troy/](http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/dtttdetroit-marriott-troy/)

#### Doubletree Guest Suites/ Fort Shelby Hotel

525 W. Lafayette Street  
Detroit, MI 48226  
(313) 963-5600  
[doubletree3.hilton.com/](http://doubletree3.hilton.com/)

#### Duneswood Resort

7194 South Dune Hwy.  
Empire, MI 49630  
231-668-6789  
[www.duneswood.org](http://www.duneswood.org)

#### Embassy Suites Troy

850 Tower Drive  
Troy, MI 48098  
248-879-7500

[www.detroit.embassysuites.com](http://www.detroit.embassysuites.com)

#### Mission Point Resort

One Lakeshore Drive  
Mackinac Island, MI 49757  
906-847-3312  
[www.missionpoint.com/weddings](http://www.missionpoint.com/weddings)

#### Westin Detroit Metropolitan Airport

2501 Worldgateway Place  
Detroit, MI 48242  
800-937-8461  
[westindetroitmetroairport.com](http://westindetroitmetroairport.com)

### ADOPTION SERVICES

#### Hands Across The Water

781 Avis Dr., Ste. 200  
Ann Arbor, MI 48108  
734-477-0135  
[www.hatw.org](http://www.hatw.org)

### ADULT NOVELTIES

#### Pure Romance

Allison Henry  
Troy, MI  
248-404-0940  
[allisonhenry.pureromance.com](http://allisonhenry.pureromance.com)

### ALARM SYSTEMS

#### ADT Security Services

44720 Helm St  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
734-451-4582

### ATTORNEYS

#### Attorney at Law

Louise L. Labadie, PLLC  
900 Victors Way, Ste. 300  
Ann Arbor, MI 48108  
734-668-4100  
office 734-668-4101  
[www.labadielaw.net](http://www.labadielaw.net)

## SILVER SPONSOR

Comerica Bank is a financial services company headquartered in Dallas. Having roots in the state, Comerica also serves as Michigan's largest bank. Committed to Michigan, Comerica is also committed to serving the LGBT community. Comerica has stepped up as a major corporate sponsor LGBT events including the Affirmations Spring Bash and Motor City Pride.

**Comerica Bank**

Comerica's inclusive dedication and support includes 24/7 web banking, tax help, loan opportunities and more. Look to Comerica for help tackling joint bank accounts, loans for a new home or car, and more as you pursue a shared life together with your partner.

See Vendors, page 34



Planning your wedding can be stressful.  
Buying your house doesn't have to be.

For local, helpful mortgage assistance, contact Ted Efras:  
(NMLS #131200) 248-561-6001 or [tefras@levelonebank.com](mailto:tefras@levelonebank.com)

**LevelOne**  
BANK



22635 Woodward Avenue | Ferndale, MI 48220 | 248-414-6500  
[levelonebank.com](http://levelonebank.com)



**IGLESIA MARTELL**  
Law Firm, PLLC

*Practicing From The Heart.*

Angie Martell, Partner

Experienced attorney and mediator with  
over 23 years of legal experience.

Specializes in:

Divorce & Family Law • Criminal Defense  
Estate Planning & Elder Law • LGBT Issues  
Mediation • Civil Litigation • Civil Rights  
Workers' Compensation • Business Law  
Litigation • Employee Rights



117 N. First St., Suite 111, Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
[www.iglesiamartell.com](http://www.iglesiamartell.com) | (734) 369-2331

**CONGRATULATIONS  
ON YOUR MARRIAGE!**

NOW THAT YOUR LIFE IS GOING  
TO CHANGE FOREVER ...

WHY NOT START OFF WITH A  
VIRGIN MATTRESS FROM  
AMERICAN MATTRESS GALLERY?

**AMERICAN  
MATTRESS  
GALLERY**

43235 12 Mile, Novi  
In the Hagopian World of  
Rugs Building

[www.AMERICANMATTRESSGALLERY.COM](http://www.AMERICANMATTRESSGALLERY.COM)  
248-349-2000

## ® Vendors

Continued from p.33

### Iglesia Martell Law Firm PLLC

Angie Martell  
117 N. First St., Ste. 111  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
734-369-2331  
[www.iglesiamartell.com](http://www.iglesiamartell.com)

### BAKERIES

Dessert Diva  
6610 Franklin Rd.  
Bloomfield, MI 48301  
248-417-0067  
[www.dessertdivallc.com](http://www.dessertdivallc.com)

Pastry Palace Bakeries  
28525 Beck Rd. #117  
Wixom, MI 48393  
248-380-2810  
[www.thepastrypalace.com](http://www.thepastrypalace.com)

### BANKS

Comerica Bank  
tollfree 800-266-3742  
[www.comerica.com](http://www.comerica.com)

Flagstar Bank  
800-642-0039  
[www.flagstar.com](http://www.flagstar.com)

Level One Bank  
32991 Hamilton Court  
Farmington Hills, MI 48334  
248-538-0700  
[www.levelonebk.com](http://www.levelonebk.com)

### BANQUET HALL/ CATERING

D'Amato's Neighborhood  
Restaurant  
222 S. Sherman Dr.  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
248-584-7400

## Lena Thompson and Debora Pond

Thompson and Pond plan to have an open house/reception for their friends and family at their home this summer.



Dino's Lounge  
22740 Woodward Ave.  
Ferndale, MI 48220  
248-591-3466

Detroit Marriott Livonia  
Julie Emerson  
17100 Laurel Park  
Livonia, MI 48152  
734-953-7362  
[www.livoniamarriott.com](http://www.livoniamarriott.com)

Epicurean Catering  
and Events  
5500 Crooks Rd.  
Troy, MI 48098  
248-646-0370  
[www.theepicureangroup.com/  
index.html](http://www.theepicureangroup.com/index.html)

The Gem & Colony Club  
333 Madison Ave.  
313-963-9800  
[www.gemtheatre.com](http://www.gemtheatre.com)

Jeff Zak Catering, Inc.  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
734-459-7125  
fax 734-459-7134  
[www.jeffzakcatering.com](http://www.jeffzakcatering.com)

Laurel Manor  
39000 Schoolcraft  
Livonia, MI 48150  
734-462-0770  
[www.laurelmanor.com](http://www.laurelmanor.com)

Oye Crepes  
6632 Telegraph Rd.  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301  
888-610-6603

The Polo Fields Golf &  
Country Club  
5200 Polo Fields Dr.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
734-998-1555

Vassel's Banquets &  
Catering  
26750 W. Eight Mile Rd.  
Southfield, MI 48033  
248-354-0121  
[www.vasselscatering.com](http://www.vasselscatering.com)

Village Conference Center  
of Chelsea  
1645 Commerce Park Dr.  
Chelsea, MI 48118  
734-433-8000

### BRIDAL SHOPS

B. Ella Bridal  
570 S. Main  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
734-459-0000  
[b-ella-bridal.com/](http://b-ella-bridal.com/)

The Wedding Shoppe  
27333 Woodward  
Berkley, MI 48072  
248-541-1988  
[www.theweddingshoppe.net](http://www.theweddingshoppe.net)

### CHOCOLATES

AG Chocolates  
Chris Kitley  
1920 West North St.  
Jackson, MI 49202  
517-917-3385  
[www.agchocolates.com](http://www.agchocolates.com)

### ENTERTAINMENT

Elton Lookalike  
John Sheffield  
[www.eltonlookalike.com](http://www.eltonlookalike.com)

Elysium Experience  
43939 Manitou Dr.  
Charter Twp., MI 48038  
586-203-8575  
fax 586-203-8206  
[www.elysiumexp.com/](http://www.elysiumexp.com/)

The Studios Events Group  
Paris Jones  
32255 Northwest Hwy. 196  
Farmington Hills, MI 48334  
248-419-6212  
fax 248-419-6220

### EVENT DESIGNER

Bill Hamilton Design  
Bill Hamilton  
248-506-970  
[www.billhamiltondesigns.com](http://www.billhamiltondesigns.com)

### EVENT PLANNERS

C & N Party Rentals  
5140 Meijer Dr.  
Royal Oak, MI 48073  
main 248-435-3580  
[www.cnparty.com](http://www.cnparty.com)

Miriam Jerris / Stephen  
Stawicki  
The Wedding Connection  
10544 Lincoln Dr.  
Huntington Woods, MI 48070  
248-543-7396  
[www.theweddingconnection.net](http://www.theweddingconnection.net)

Star Trax Event  
Productions  
24463 W. Ten Mile Rd  
Southfield, MI 48033  
248-263-6300  
[www.startrax.com](http://www.startrax.com)

Will U Party Event  
Planning  
313-530-8405  
[www.willuparty.com](http://www.willuparty.com)

Ypsilanti Area Convention  
& Visitors Bureau  
106 W. Michigan Ave.  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197  
734-483-4444  
fax 734-483-0400  
[www.ypsilanti.org](http://www.ypsilanti.org)

### GOLD SPONSOR

C&N Party Rentals can serve as the nuts and bolts of any event, especially weddings. Specializing in equipment rental, C&N offers free site estimates for frame canopies and tents. In addition to marquees and other portable shelter, C&N can provide a wedding with tables, chairs, linens, dinnerware, glassware, flatware, silver service, food service, cooking equipment and more.

The rental business initially started out as a catering company before evolving into an entire event service. Since 1993, C&N has been providing a "one stop shopping experience" to prospective renters. C&N is able to provide services for any event, indoors or out, small or large.

C&N also prides itself on its support of the LGBT community, including support of Affirmations, HAVEN and Midwest AIDS Prevention.



## GOLD SPONSOR

Star Trax Event Productions brings just about everything to LGBT weddings and events.

Started in Ann Arbor in 1987 by Marc Shechter, the company began with providing a version of karaoke machines to events years before the karaoke craze hit the world. DJs, dancers and emcees came to the company when Renee Cherrin Erlich joined as a partner in 1993, and Geoff Kretchmer became partner and president in 2003, bringing even more passionate entertainment.

Star Trax service includes event lighting, staging and flooring, and even valet service. The company is able to put together multiple visions for clients with their skills in video software and digital photography. Entertainment is one of the largest facets of Star Trax; they've provided everything from airbrush tattoo artists to sports simulators and small race tracks for slot car racing. A wedding with a unique activity will be remembered by guests for years to come.

Sought-after entertainment can be found in the extensive list of DJs, emcees and dancers that Star Trax provides. All entertainers are highly trained and able to interact with any crowd, be it an engagement or anniversary party or a wedding. Star Trax specifically sends an emcee entertainer as DJs for weddings so that the wedding couple can focus on enjoying their night and letting the DJ keep the party going.



## FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROGRAM

### International Experience

317 Lincoln Ave.  
Lansing, MI 48910  
[www.International-experience.net](http://www.International-experience.net)

## FINANCIAL SERVICES

### MassMutual Southeast Michigan

Judy Weld-Cooper  
28411 Northwestern Hwy.  
Southfield, MI 48034  
248-208-2758  
[www.massmutual.com/](http://www.massmutual.com/)

### Morgan Stanley

Cory Kroneman  
220 S. Park St., Ste 220  
Birmingham, MI 48009  
248-258-1697

## FLORIST/FLORAL DESIGN

### Affordable Flowers Gift Baskets & Sweets

33289 Woodward Ave  
Birmingham, MI 48009  
248-644-2244  
[www.affordableflowershops.com](http://www.affordableflowershops.com)

### Fleur Detroit

1507 Old Telegraph  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302  
248-953-3840

### Fleurtech Floral Architecture Designs

855-553-5387  
[www.fleurtechdesigns.com](http://www.fleurtechdesigns.com)

## FOSTER CARE

**Vista Maria**  
20651 West Warren Avenue  
Dearborn Hts., MI 48127  
313-271-3050

## GIFT SHOPS

**Five 15**  
515 S. Washington  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
248-515-2551  
[five15.net](http://five15.net)

## GUTTER GUARD SYSTEMS

**LeafFilter North of  
Michigan Inc.**  
1595 Georgetown Rd. Ste. G  
Hudson, MI 44236  
330-655-7950  
[www.leafilter.com](http://www.leafilter.com)

## HAIR CUTTING & STYLING

**Charmed Salon and  
Boutique**  
42303 Ann Arbor Rd.  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
734-416-0400

## HALL / RECEPTION VENUE

**Burgh Historical Park**  
26000 Evergreen Rd.  
Southfield, MI 48076  
248-796-4624

**Flint Institute Of Arts**  
1120 E Kearsley St.  
Flint, MI 48503  
810-234-1695  
[www.flintarts.org](http://www.flintarts.org)

### Planterra

7315 Drake Rd. W  
West Bloomfield, MI 48322  
248-661-1515  
[www.planterra.com](http://www.planterra.com)

**Westborn Farm Market**  
27659 Woodward Ave.  
Berkley, MI 48072

**Dearborn**  
21755 Michigan Ave.  
Dearborn, MI 48124

**Livonia**  
14925 Middlebelt Rd.  
Livonia, MI 48154  
[www.westbornmarket.com](http://www.westbornmarket.com)

See Vendors, page 37

## SILVER SPONSOR

One of the area's leading experts in tax preparation and planning, Ameritax Plus' owner Alan Semonian is a CPA and a recognized leader in the LGBT community. He has served on the boards of many LGBT organizations, including Affirmations and Equality Michigan. With a Master's Degree from Harvard Business School, Semonian is often quoted in the press on accounting questions, and more recently on financial issues for LGBT couples since the repeal of DOMA and federal recognition of same-sex marriages for the purposes of taxes and other federal benefits.

Ameritax Plus is also affiliated with Raymond James Financial, thereby offering clients a full array of financial and investment services. Along with his Harvard MBA, Semonian earned his undergraduate degree from Albion College. A Certified Public Accountant since 1987, he is a member of the AICPA, MACPA, NSTP and NATP.



Love is Love,  
it photographs the same.

**Rawlinson  
Photography**  
734-453-8872  
[www.rawlinsonphoto.com](http://www.rawlinsonphoto.com)

SHOP LGBT

**Thomas's CATERING**  
734.525.5610 WWW.THOMASCATERING.COM

Like us on Facebook

WHEN IT HAS TO BE PERFECT ...



## YOUR WEDDING DAY

Of all of life's greatest moments, this is one of the greatest of all. A celebration that will stay within your memories for a lifetime to come.

Let Thomas's Catering be your guide through the entire planning process. From choosing your linens and china, to creating that personalized, custom menu you and your guests will truly enjoy!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR OUR SAMPLE MENUS AND SERVICES.  
[thomascatering.com](http://thomascatering.com) • Main: 734.525.5610

Sacred Heart Conference Center Main: 734.261.8560  
[facebook.com/thomascatering](http://facebook.com/thomascatering) • [facebook.com/sacredheartbanquetconferencecenter](http://facebook.com/sacredheartbanquetconferencecenter)  
Preferred and Exclusive Venues Available

Photography Courtesy of Special Moments Photography

*"On this day, I thee wed..."*



**EMBASSY SUITES®**

Detroit - Troy/Auburn Hills  
850 Tower Dr, Troy, MI 48098  
248-879-7500

- ⊗ 2 room suites
- ⊗ Made-to-order breakfast
- ⊗ Evening Reception
- ⊗ Indoor Pool/Whirlpool
- ⊗ Open-Air Atrium
- ⊗ Complimentary shuttle
- ⊗ Banquet Space
- ⊗ On-site Catering
- ⊗ Group Rates
- ⊗ Bridal Showers
- ⊗ Brunches
- ⊗ Rehearsal Dinners
- ⊗ Receptions up to 100 ppl.
- ⊗ Free Parking

# MEN ON THE MOVE



**YOUR MOVING INDUSTRY EXPERTS!**

- ♥ NO MINIMUMS
- ♥ LICENSED & INSURED
- ♥ INDOOR STORAGE
- ♥ SENIOR DISCOUNT
- ♥ 7 DAYS
- ♥ LOCAL & LONG DISTANCE
- ♥ "A" RATING WITH THE BBB
- ♥ SHORT NOTICE WELCOMED

as featured on WJR's  
**Real Estate 411**

MPSC # L25824 USDOT #623948



Wayne County  
(734) 729-MOVE

Downriver  
(313) 292-MOVE

Oakland County  
(248) 354-2525

Visit us on the Web: [www.michiganmovers.com](http://www.michiganmovers.com)



## OUR HEALTHY

**RELATIONSHIPS**

Yes, you are living with HIV, but that doesn't have to mean that dating, a meaningful relationship, or having sex is off limits.

HR is an exciting and interactive program which can help gay and bi-sexual men who are living with HIV to deal with some of that fear and stress and can help to build safer and healthier relationships.

For more information contact:  
Leon Golson at [lgolson@hivaidresource.org](mailto:lgolson@hivaidresource.org)  
Anthony Jenkins at [ajenkins@hivaidresource.org](mailto:ajenkins@hivaidresource.org)  
Give us call at 734-572-9355

Purchase your Wedding/Commitment chocolates at  
**AGCHOCOLATES.COM**

*AG* Chocolates  
by cek

see us at the  
**ULTIMATE LGBT WEDDING  
& ANNIVERSARY EXPO**



*Hand-Crafted Chocolates*

Chris E. Kitley • 517.917.3385

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

## Jill Calvin and Lori Pimlott-Calvin

Lori and Jill will be having a private ceremony and reception with family and friends this summer. They plan to attend BTL's Wedding Expo for ideas and vendors.



### ► Vendors

Continued from p.34

#### The Rust Belt Market

22801 Woodward Avenue  
Ferndale, MI 48220  
810-441-0956  
www.rustbeltmarket.com

#### The Village Chapel

123 Second St.  
Fowlerville, MI 48836  
517-798-3653  
www.loveislovechapel.com/

### HEALTH & BEAUTY

#### It Works Global - Ultimate Body Applicator

Genesis Boyd

4890 Pinehill Dr  
Pottersville, MI 48876  
517-488-1502  
517-488-1501  
www.getfitcouple.com

### INSURANCE

#### AIG Financial Network

Wanda Paige  
2800 Livernois Rd. Bldg E.  
#165  
Troy, MI 48083  
248-431-4520

### JEWELERS

#### Astrein's Creative Jewelers

120 West Maple Road  
Birmingham, MI 48009  
248-644-1651  
www.astreins.com

#### Miner's Den Jewelers

3417 Rochester Rd.  
Royal Oak, MI 48073  
248-585-6950  
www.minersden.com

#### Rainbow Jewelers

27453 Gratiot Ave.  
Roseville, MI 48066  
586-777-7588  
www.rainbowjewelers.com

#### Tapper's Diamonds & Fine Jewelry

6337 Orchard Lake Rd.  
West Bloomfield, MI 48322  
Twelve Oaks Mall  
Novi, MI  
248-932-7700  
www.tappers.com

### PHOTO BOOTH

#### Rock the Booth

734-237-1269  
www.rockthebooth.com

#### Shutter Booth

1225 E. Eleven Mile Rd.  
Royal Oak, MI 48068  
248-545-6460  
www.shutterbooth.com

### PHOTOGRAPHY

#### Amy Claeys Photography

Amy Claeys

1302 N. Crooks Suite I  
Clawson, MI 48017  
248-885-6603

#### Moto Photo

2121 Celebration Drive NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49525  
616-447-6686  
www.motophotoknappscorner.com/

#### Rawlinson Photography

1365 South St  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
734-453-8872  
www.rawlinsonphoto.com

### REAL ESTATE/AGENT

#### Red Door Realty

1500 N Stephenson Hwy.  
#242  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
248-250-4736  
www.OpenRedDoor.com

### RELIGIOUS & SPIRITUAL

#### Blessed John XXIII Community

Bishop Jerry Brohl, COSF  
2130 Ford Avenue  
Wyandotte, MI 48192  
office 734-250-4052  
734-486-3041  
www.sjxxiiiichurch.org

## SILVER SPONSOR

One of the original sponsors of BTL's Same-Sex Wedding Expo, B. Ella

*B. Ella Bridal*

provides wedding attire from the traditional to the eccentric. Supplying brides and bridesmaid gowns and accessories, as well as mother of the bride/groom gowns, B. Ella is a full service bridal retailer. Accessories include jewelry (ranging from earrings to brooches), veils, headpieces, and more. Owner Brittany Blasé and her friendly and knowledgeable staff are on hand to provide visitors with a comfortable, welcoming experience. B. Ella carries a wide variety of designers, including Dessy, Paloma Blanca and Mori Lee.

The shop also carries a variety of evening and prom gowns, perfect for an LGBT soiree or prom, many of which are offered through local LGBT organizations throughout the year.

#### Community of Christ the Good Shepherd

Rev. Kevin Kinsel

22331 Woodward Ave.  
Ferndale, MI 48220  
248-677-5700

#### Grace Episcopal Church

115 S. Street  
Mount Clemens, MI 48043  
586-465-4573  
www.gracemtclemens.org/

#### Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church

23925 Northwestern Hwy.  
Southfield, MI 48075

248-354-4488  
fax 248-354-0634  
www.northwestuu.com

See Vendors, page 43

**SWEET LORRAINE'S**  
CAFE & BAR

**The Way Life Should Be...  
Fresh,, Fun & Delicious!**

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

Make your Party Plans Soon!  
Private Dining Rooms Available

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

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

**robert kidd gallery**  
107 TOWNSEND, BIRMINGHAM, MI 48009 248.642.3909 ROBERTKIDDGALLERY.COM

**Strike A Pose....**

Bring tons of fun to your event -- without breaking the bank! Customize our photo booths to fit your own style, while capturing memories to last a lifetime. Remember your special day through the grins and goofy fish faces of all your family and friends!

*Contact us now to reserve your date!*

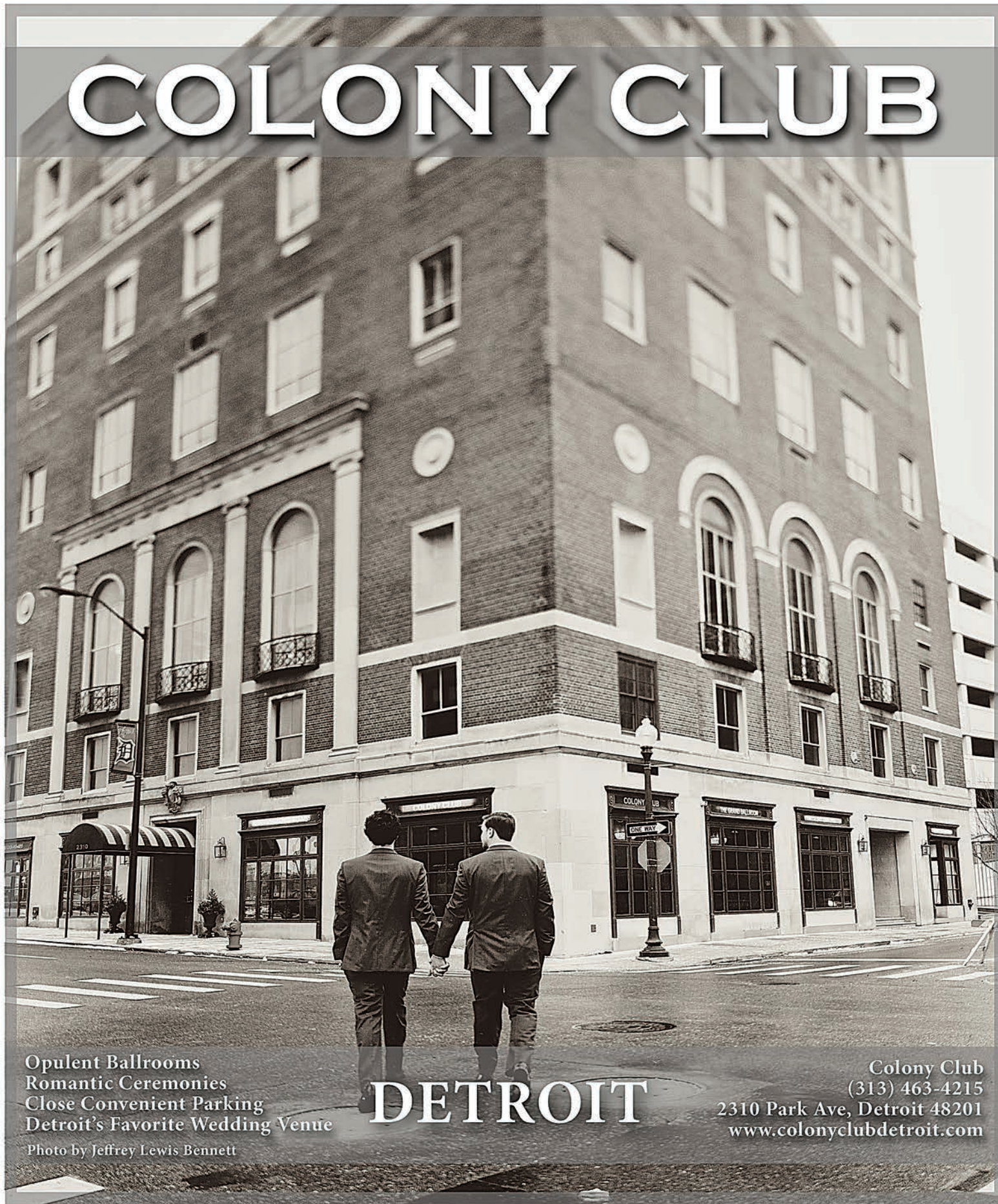
**Rock the Booth**  
Michigan's Photo Booth Company  
(734) 237-1269 rockthebooth.com

*Available at Pride*

MICHIGAN'S LGBT YELLOW PAGES  
**PRIDESOURCE**

2012/2013  
Published in May  
**ONLINE & IN PRINT**

# COLONY CLUB



Opulent Ballrooms  
Romantic Ceremonies  
Close Convenient Parking  
Detroit's Favorite Wedding Venue

Photo by Jeffrey Lewis Bennett

## DETROIT

Colony Club  
(313) 463-4215  
2310 Park Ave, Detroit 48201  
[www.colonyclubdetroit.com](http://www.colonyclubdetroit.com)

# COLONY CLUB

Opulent Ballrooms  
Romantic Ceremonies  
Close Convenient Parking  
Detroit's Favorite Wedding Venue  
Bill McDad Photography



Colony Club  
(313) 463-4215  
2310 Park Ave, Detroit 48201  
[www.colonyclubdetroit.com](http://www.colonyclubdetroit.com)

# GEM THEATRE



Two stages for Corporate Events  
Full Service Food & Beverage  
Charming Garden Patio  
Attached Convenient Parking

## DETROIT

Gem Theatre  
(313) 463-4215  
333 Madison Ave, Detroit  
[www.gemtheatre.com](http://www.gemtheatre.com)



# GEM THEATRE



Two Stages for Corporate Events  
Full Service Food & Beverage  
Charming Garden Patio  
Attached Convenient Parking  
E. C. Campbell Photography

THE HISTORIC  
**GEM**  
&  
**CENTURY**  
THEATRES

Gem Theatre  
(313) 463-4215  
333 Madison Ave, Detroit  
[www.gemtheatre.com](http://www.gemtheatre.com)

# RED DOOR *Realty*

**BUILD YOUR DREAM**

It's Your Move ...  
**OpenRedDoor.com**



**CALL PAUL  
248-790-0500**

**Paul Curtis Host of Michigan Real Talk Radio**



The Inn On  
**Ferry Street**

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



Included in your rate is  
Breakfast in the Scott  
House, WIFI, Parking,  
& Shuttle Service  
anywhere within a five  
mile radius of the Inn.

84 E Ferry Street  
Detroit, MI 48202  
313-871-6000



A WARM BED & BREAKFAST FEEL WITH LARGE HOTEL  
CONVENIENCE AND AMMENITIES IN THE HEART OF MIDTOWN

Plan to take care  
of each other

A wealth plan that is thoughtfully constructed can help you provide for those you love. For same-sex partners, a wealth plan has to take account of specific federal and state laws that can have a material impact on your financial well-being.

With the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) overturned, same-sex spouses may now be eligible for federal benefits.

**Cory Kroneman**

Chartered Retirement Plan  
Specialist  
Financial Advisor

220 Park Street, Suite 220  
Birmingham, MI 48009  
248-258-1697

[cory.kroneman@morganstanley.com](mailto:cory.kroneman@morganstanley.com)

<http://www.morganstanleyfa.com/cory.kroneman>

As a Morgan Stanley Financial Advisor, I have the experience, knowledge and resources to assist you in preparing for the future. Together, we can choose strategies for planning, saving and investing that are most appropriate to help protect you, your partner or spouse and your family.

Call me and let's arrange a meeting.

**Morgan Stanley**

Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC ("Morgan Stanley"), its affiliates and Morgan Stanley Financial Advisors do not provide tax or legal advice. Individuals should consult their tax advisor for matters involving taxation and tax planning and their attorney for matters involving trust and estate planning and other legal matters.

© 2013 Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC. Member SIPC.  
CRC713812 7673971 LGBT006 09/13



*The Pastry Palace*

28525 Beck Road  
Unit 117

Wixom, Michigan 48393  
**(248) 380-2810**

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



*Specializing in Award Winning Wedding Cakes and  
European Style Tortes and Pastries*

*Family Owned and Operated Since 1985*

## SILVER SPONSOR

Five15 is Royal Oak's LGBT shop of all trades, and can be a one-stop shop for a bachelor or bachelorette party.

The cafe and store features a variety of baked goods, teas, coffees and more to sip and snack on. Books, CDs, mugs with acerbic sayings and other LGBT-themed goods are available for purchase. Some novelty items are on hand to supply a bachelor or bachelorette party with gag gifts.

A bachelor or bachelorette party can become a roast at Five15's Drag Queen Bingo. With a variety of different times and themes (from weekend nights to Sunday brunch), it's hard to find a reason to miss the event. Different drag queens host games of bingo for those 18 and over. Prizes can be won, and egos can be crushed as queens talk with the crowd, always sure to dig extra deep at bachelor or bachelorette groups.



### Equality Michigan

19641 West 7 Mile Rd.  
Detroit, MI 48219  
313-537-7000  
www.equalitymi.org

### The Scarab Club

Christine Renner,  
Executive Director  
Treena Flannery Ericson,  
Gallery Director  
217 Farnsworth  
Detroit, MI 48202  
313-831-1250  
www.scarabclub.org

## T-SHIRTS

### Detroit Snob

7124 Westchester  
West Bloomfield, MI 48322  
313-570-1246  
www.detroitstnobs.com

## TAX PLANNING/ PREPARATION

### Ameritax Plus

Alan Semonian, CPA  
3336 W. Twelve Mile Rd.  
Berkley, MI 48072  
248-584-1040

## TUXEDO

### President Tuxedo

32185 Hollingsworth  
Warren, MI 48092  
313-492-2311  
www.ptux.com

## WATERPROOFING

### Everdry Waterproofing

33533 Mound Rd.  
Sterling Hts., MI 48310  
586-698-3030  
everdymichigan.com

## Megan Hoeffel D'Annunzio and Shannon D'Annunzio

Megan and Shannon got married in true "nerd" fashion by wearing Power Rangers hoodies during their March 22 nuptials (the couple met at a comic-con). They had been planning a summer wedding initially, but moved the date to April 19 because Megan's sister was planning to move out of state. They'll have a wedding "true to them," with a geeky Star Trek-themed event.



## ► Vendors

Continued from p.37

### MCCD

Rev. Roland Stringfellow  
- Pastor

Rev. Deb Dysert -  
Associate Pastor  
P.O. Box 836  
Royal Oak, MI 48068-0836  
office 248-399-7741  
fax 248-399-7693  
www.mccdetroit.org

## RENTAL SERVICE

### Acme Partyworks

41326 Vincent Court  
Novi, MI 48375  
248-477-3327  
www.acmepartyworks.com

### C & N Party Rentals

5140 Meijer Dr.  
Royal Oak, MI 48073  
main 248-435-3580  
www.cnparty.com

### Special Events Rentals

20801 Ryan  
Warren, MI 48091  
586-755-0000  
www.specialeventsrental.com

## SOCIAL/COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

### Affirmations

290 W. 9 Mile Rd.  
Ferndale, MI 48220  
248-398-7105  
800-398-GAYS (4297)  
www.GoAffirmations.org

## BRONZE SPONSORS

### Acme Partyworks

Looking for rental items beyond wedding-oriented pieces? Since 1992, Acme Partyworks has been lending a fun touch to unique weddings and at fabulous parties.

For an indoor or outdoor wedding, Acme offers chairs, tables, tents and more. A recent wedding trend includes presenting guests with games in addition to or instead of dancing; Acme offers rental items like Dance Dance Revolution Arcade Games, interactive "videos" and more.

Slides, moonwalks, concession machines and more are just a few of the rental items available for events including weddings. Work parties, birthday parties or even bachelor or bachelorette parties

can all be filled with festive fun. Entertainment, including clowns, can also be hired through Acme Partyworks.

### Bill Hamilton Designs

Feeling overwhelmed with planning a wedding, anniversary party or some other event? Bill Hamilton Designs is the solution. The event company offers full service in planning events, including design and floral portions of a wedding or party.

Clients are closely worked with so that all event planning is custom tailored to the creative needs of any LGBT or ally getting married. Bill Hamilton has experience working with other events as well, from social fundraisers to corporate functions.

He finds inspiration in many things around him and is able to bring any client's vision to reality.

### Detroit Marriott Livonia

A longtime sponsor, and previous host, of BTL's Wedding Expo, Detroit Marriott in Livonia is a fantastic spot to host a wedding -or even put up your wedding guests. Conveniently located next to or near major highways (I-275, I-96 and I-696), the Detroit Marriott is also connected to Laurel Park Place Mall.

The 3,000+ square foot ballroom allows for a wedding up to 200 guests, with catering done by the in-house restaurant, Sweet Lorraine's (with personalized menu planning available). An outdoor garden and gazebo provides a beautiful outdoor ceremony space, for the person wanting their wedding in one spot. Additional perks include a

complimentary suite and breakfast for two for the newlyweds, as well as special room rates for wedding party and guests.

### Miner's Den

Miner's Den has been reaching out to the LGBT community through BTL almost since the paper was founded in 1993. With a family history dating back to the California gold rush of the 1800's, Miner's Den offers unparalleled knowledge gathered from generations of experience. Beginning with a few tons of rock in 1971 the Schowalter family has built the Miner's Den into one of the leading suppliers of jewelry in the area. Their 4,000 sq. foot showroom contains the entire inventory in a comfortable and relaxed atmosphere.

The knowledgeable staff can help anyone select the perfect wedding gift, engagement and

wedding ring setting and, of course, the perfect stone. Because they started, literally, from the ground up they are able to work with just about any budget to make each couples' experience one filled with love, beauty and a lifetime of memories.

### The Village Chapel

Centrally located in mid-Michigan, The Village Chapel is a beautiful historic church structure, fully renovated to provide couples with that quaint, lovely setting forever memorable for them and their guests. Couples will find this the perfect place for their ceremony, whether they opt for a traditional religious service or a secular ceremony uniquely their own. The Village Chapel is available for ceremonies, concerts and seminars year round.

## WINDOWS

### Renewal By Andersen

37720 Amrhein Rd.  
Livonia, MI 48150  
313-769-2603  
www.renewalbyanderson.com

## WINE

### Barefoot Wine & Bubbly

Grand Rapids, MI  
616-304-2479  
barefootwine.com

## SILVER SPONSOR

Barefoot Wines, based out of California, has launched a large Michigan presence in the last several years. The line of wines is a good way to include LGBT-friendly alcohol at your wedding, as either libations or favors. Several items in the Barefoot collection are award winning, including their Merlot, Red Moscato, Malbec and their interesting "Tropical Fusion."

If going the traditional route at a wedding, Barefoot makes its own sparkling wine for the champagne toast, with its smooth "Extra Dry Champagne." Alternatively, their popular "Pinot Grigio Bubbly" is a surefire toasting beverage.

Barefoot can be found in many local Michigan groceries and liquor stores.



SEE MORE LGBT RESOURCES IN THE PRIDE  
SOURCE YELLOW PAGES, ONLINE AND IN PRINT



Photo: Epic Records

# THE NAKED TRUTH ABOUT KARMIN

## Duo On Wanting A Gay Wedding, Nick's Bulge & The Drag Queens Of Maine

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

**E**lectro-pop duo Karmin got their big break on YouTube when they – ah, never mind. Go to Wikipedia if you want their

bio. There are more pressing issues to address when Amy Heidemann, a former wedding singer, and Nick Noonan, who used to work at a boxing gym, get on the line: the pants Nick is unfortunately wearing on the

cover of their second album, Amy's hope for drag queen boobs and the gay wedding they're planning.

**Why isn't Nick also just wearing his panties on the "Pulses" cover?**

**Nick:** Are you opening a can of worms right now? We joked that we were gonna switch for the next take, but it never happened.

**Amy:** His bulge was so big that they Photoshopped pants back on.

**Nick:** It's quite the opposite of that, but whatever works. At least we know who's wearing the pants...

**So obviously you two are gonna make beautiful babies one day.**

**Nick:** Hopefully not for a number of years.

#### How many?

**Nick:** We're gonna start the conversation in five.

#### When you look in the mirror, do you see someone as hot as we do?

**Amy:** You're so sweet – and absolutely not.

**Nick:** Totally not.

**Amy:** We're always like we need to change our hair; we need to exercise more. There's a lot of people looking at us now!

**Nick:** We're kind of nerds.

#### What's your favorite duo?

**Nick:** Definitely Simon & Garfunkel. They're at the top of my list.

**Amy:** That was an inspiration when we started the band. Obviously, I'm Simon.

**Nick:** I have the G-fro, so I'm Garfunkel.

#### Is it fair to say you recognized a gay audience as soon as you hit YouTube?

**Nick:** We didn't recognize one. We didn't really go out and think, "We're gonna have the biggest gay audience." It just kind of happened that way. We noticed when a lot of people from the gay community were gravitating toward our performance style. And you know, it's amazing that we can stand up for something and have a voice. We were doing all these gay Pride events and those audiences actually kind of developed our performance style. It allowed us to be freer and, I mean, as cliché as it is –

**Amy:** They're the best audiences, for sure.

**Nick:** For sure.

#### Amy, you're from Seward, Neb.; Nick, you're from Old Town, Maine – both small towns. Did you know many gay people growing up?

**Amy:** There was, like, one who was out in each of our high schools.

**Nick:** There were a lot of kids we knew who were gay, but when we were in high school, which wasn't that long ago, it was still an unspoken thing.

**Amy:** Yeah, 2004 – nobody talked about it.

#### You've done the Pride circuit. What's that experience been like for you? I imagine there's not a lot of drag queens in Old Town, Maine.

**Nick:** (Laughs) Not that I know of. I'm not in the Maine drag circle – but maybe I could be!

**Amy:** Maybe it's pretty hopping!

No – but we've gotten to see a fair share of people dressed as Amy from Karmin with suicide roll hair doing "Brokenhearted" at karaoke.

**Nick:** Yeah, we are seeing a lot of clips of people in drag performing "I Want It All."

**Amy:** That's our favorite, by far.

#### What's it like seeing someone do you in drag, Amy?

**Amy:** It's very flattering. I get a little self-conscious because sometimes they look more attractive than I do. Better makeup. Better outfits. Better boobs. I need to shop where they shop.

#### Well, concerning the boobs, they probably stuff.

**Nick:** Oh, she does too, though.

#### Who gets hit on more often at these Pride events?

**Amy:** I guess a lot of people have a crush on me, but everybody's always chanting for Nick to take his shirt off.

**Nick:** Yeah, from a distance, me more. But when they get up close they just freak out over Amy.

#### Nick, have you ever taken your shirt off at Pride?

**Nick:** I have. It was Phoenix Pride.

**Amy:** Yeah, that was the night...

**Nick:** (Laughs) It was like 400 degrees and they kept chanting something and I couldn't understand. Finally, after the third time, it was so loud that I could hear it through my earbuds and I was like, "All right, screw it."

#### Well, it was hot. You don't want heat stroke!

**Nick:** Honestly, it sounds like I'm just being that guy, but I could wring my shirt out.

**Amy:** Yeah, we're usually drenched after. Have you ever been to a Karmin show?

#### Not yet. I'm only going if Nick takes his shirt off.

**Amy:** Yeaah!

**Nick:** It's gonna be like that, huh?

#### You started the trend, not me.

**Nick:** I'm just trying to be straight up.

**Amy:** We're just gonna forgo all of our marketing and tweet before the show that Nick is gonna take his shirt off.

#### You're gonna have to start playing arenas.

**Nick:** You think it's such a good thing that I take my shirt off, but wait till I take my shirt off – you're gonna be like, he should have left his shirt on.

#### So you two are planning on getting

## INFO

### Karmin

7 p.m. April 26

Ferris State University

West Intramural Fields by Lot 55, Big Rapids

facebook.com/FerrisFest

**married sometime soon. With gay marriage sweeping the country, what are your thoughts on the progress we're making?**

**Nick:** It's happening all kind of at once, and there are minor setbacks like in Arizona, but that bill (allowing businesses to deny service to LGBT people) was vetoed by the governor. So there's always gonna be two steps forward, one step back, but I think it's kind of been an explosion over the last decade. It went from a taboo to Obama, a sitting president, saying he was for it, which had never happened before. My home state has already approved gay marriage and more will down the road.

**Amy:** And I want our wedding to be a gay wedding. Gay weddings are more fun than straight weddings!

**"Pitch Perfect" partly inspired one of the album's singles, "Acapella." If you could be any character in "Pitch Perfect," who would you be?**

**Amy:** Fat Amy. That's who I would wanna be, but I have a feeling I'd be Aubrey – over organized and kind of annoying.

**Nick:** I'd be the Asian girl that nobody can understand.

**When has being a couple and working together – essentially seeing each other 24/7 – been a challenge?**

**Amy:** Every day.

**Nick:** Yeah, it comes and goes, man. It's real life when you can't turn it off. The hardest part is that Karmin becomes bigger than Amy and Nick sometimes and that's when stuff gets out of whack, so that's been the biggest challenge.

**If you weren't able to use YouTube as a platform for fame, what would have been your plan B?**

**Nick:** Sleeping around. Especially before. God, there must have been so much sleeping around before the Internet.

**Amy:** Before YouTube I guess you had to sleep with everyone!

**Speaking of using your body to get ahead, Nick, remember: Your shirt comes off at the next show I'm at.**

**Nick:** You are already off the guest list!

**Otha Williams**  
**(248) 626-6300**

5640 West Maple Ste. 202

West Bloomfield


othawilliamsagency@allstate.com



**Allstate**

You're in good hands.

© 2011 Allstate Insurance Company.

**BTL**    
Join The Conversation

Tax Time?



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

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



**KUDERIK**

AND ASSOCIATES

Kuderik and Associates PLLC  
Certified Public Accountants

32121 Woodward Ave Suite 202  
Royal Oak MI 48073

www.kuderikcpa.com



Royal Oak's long running interactive comedy experience!



# Drag Queen BINGO

This Ain't your Grandmas Bingo!

Thursday,  
Friday,  
Saturday Nights  
& Sunday Brunch



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

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

# Happenings

## Editor's Pick



Indie-rock sensation Caroline Smith comes to Ferndale this Saturday. Smith tours in support of her recent album, "Half About Being a Woman," about personal growth and self-acceptance. The new work merges '90s R&B and neo-soul with her indie roots.

Smith began her musical career in folk, transitioning into indie rock with her second album. Ever-evolving, Smith notes, "I feel I've finally created something that is a nod to some of my favorite records while being able to use my own voice to illustrate my personal transition into womanhood."

Doors open for Caroline Smith at 8 p.m. at The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave, Ferndale. Tickets are \$10 in advance.

For more information, call 248-544-1991 or visit [www.themagicbag.com](http://www.themagicbag.com).

## OUTINGS

### Thursday, April 10

**EPIC Diabetes Group Visit** 4:30 p.m. Group visits empower patients to better self-manage their diabetes. The visits provide a supportive setting where patients feel safe asking questions and expressing their concerns about their disease. Educational event is open to the public, but you must join practice to take advantage of lab tests, and doctor exam. EPIC Primary Care, 911 E. 9 Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-336-4000. [info@epicpc.com](mailto:info@epicpc.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](http://Goaffirmations.org)

**Gay Straight Alliance's 11th Annual Drag Show** 7 p.m. Part of OU's Pride Week. Gender & Sexuality Center at Oakland University, **Auburn Hills**. 248-370-4333. [Oakland.edu](http://Oakland.edu)

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

**Tease-A-Gogo** 9 p.m. One year anniversary. Burlesque, drag and more. Spiral-DanceBar, 1247 Center St., **Lansing**. 517-894-1315. [Spiraldancebar.com](http://Spiraldancebar.com)

### Friday, April 11

**Day of Silence** 12 p.m. Part of MSU's Pride Week. Trans\*Action, **East Lansing**. [Lgbtrc.msu.edu](http://Lgbtrc.msu.edu)

**International Coffee Hour** 4 p.m. Part of MSU's Pride Week. MSU LGBT Resource Center, **East Lansing**. [Lgbtrc.msu.edu](http://Lgbtrc.msu.edu)

**Womyn's Film Night** 7 p.m. Film: Antonia's Line - In an anonymous Dutch village, a sturdy, strong-willed matriarch looks back upon her life, the generations of family and friends gathered around her table, and ponders the cyclical nature of time. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [Goaffirmations.org/](http://Goaffirmations.org/)

**Free, Confidential HIV Testing** 7:30 p.m. Provided by licensed professionals from C. A. R. E. S. If this service is not

used at the Pride Center, it cannot be continued so please come out and be tested and support this program. Battle Creek Pride Resource Center, 16 E. Van Buren, **Battle Creek**.

**Drag Show** 8:30 p.m. Part of MSU's Pride Week. UAB, RHA and Delta Lambda Phi, **East Lansing**. [Lgbtrc.msu.edu](http://Lgbtrc.msu.edu)

### Saturday, April 12

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

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

**Bunny Hop** 10 a.m. Downtown Lansing, **Lansing**. [Downtownlansing.org](http://Downtownlansing.org)

**New Leaf Lounge Soft Opening** 11 a.m. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., **Three Oaks**. 269-756-3879. [Acorntheater.com](http://Acorntheater.com)

**Stomping Out** A free community health education program and resource fair for high school students. In a unique twist on traditional health fairs, attendees will also gain health-related information through a student talent show and competition. Cynthera McNeil, AIDS Partnership of Michigan and more, 19321 W. Chicago St., **Detroit**. 313-493-9129. [marie.ellis@wayne.edu](mailto:marie.ellis@wayne.edu) Media. [wayne.edu](http://wayne.edu)

**Taste & Tour** 12 p.m. Taste samplings from featured bars and restaurants in Old Town and from the local Lansing area along with exclusive tours of Old Town's historic architecture and uniquely designed and furnished loft apartments. Tickets: \$5-15. I Love Old Town, **Lansing**. [Iloveoldtown.org](http://Iloveoldtown.org)

**The Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo** 12 p.m. Workshops, speakers, presentations, food, dancing, and more. A portion of the proceeds from the Ultimate LGBT Wedding and Anniversary Expo will be donated to the Michigan Marriage Challenge. Tickets: \$5-15. Between the Lines Newspaper/PrideSource.com, 26000 Evergreen Road, **Southfield**. [janstevenson@pridesource.com](mailto:janstevenson@pridesource.com) [Btlweddingexpo.com](http://Btlweddingexpo.com)

**Speed Dating, Picnic & Gaymes** 2 p.m.

Part of MSU's Pride Week. Spectrum and PRIDE, **East Lansing**. [Lgbtrc.msu.edu](http://Lgbtrc.msu.edu)

**A Memory, a Monologue, a Rant and a Prayer** 6 p.m. A groundbreaking collection of monologues to raise awareness about domestic and sexual violence. Proceeds benefit E. V. E. and V-Day. Tickets: \$10-12. V-Day Lansing, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., **Lansing**. [Facebook.com/lansingvdaymmp](http://Facebook.com/lansingvdaymmp)

**Pride Prom** 7 p.m. Part of OU's Pride Week. Gender & Sexuality Center at Oakland University, **Auburn Hills**. 248-370-4333. [Oakland.edu](http://Oakland.edu)

**Spring Fling Burlesque Festival** 8 p.m. Michigan celebrates the second year of its original burlesque festival. Performers from all around the nation will be here to compete, showcase and titillate. Come out a support our boylesquers, groups, and solo variety artists. Tickets: \$25-40. Noir Leather, 2040 Park Ave., **Detroit**. 313-454-1286. [springflingburlesquefestival@gmail.com](mailto:springflingburlesquefestival@gmail.com) [Facebook.com/pages/Spring-Fling-Burlesque-Festival/628113733872595](http://Facebook.com/pages/Spring-Fling-Burlesque-Festival/628113733872595)

### Sunday, April 13

**Lavender Graduation Celebration** 1 p.m. Featuring a performance by Athens Boys Choir. Part of OU's Pride Week. Gender & Sexuality Center at Oakland University, **Auburn Hills**. 248-370-4333. [Oakland.edu](http://Oakland.edu)

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

**Lavender Reception & Mosaic Awards** 1:30 p.m. Part of MSU's Pride Week. MSU LGBT Resource Center & Alliance of Queer and Ally Students, **East Lansing**. [Lgbtrc.msu.edu](http://Lgbtrc.msu.edu)

### Monday, April 14

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

**LGBT Health Disparities - Community Forum** 7 p.m. Light refreshments. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [Goaffirmations.org](http://Goaffirmations.org)

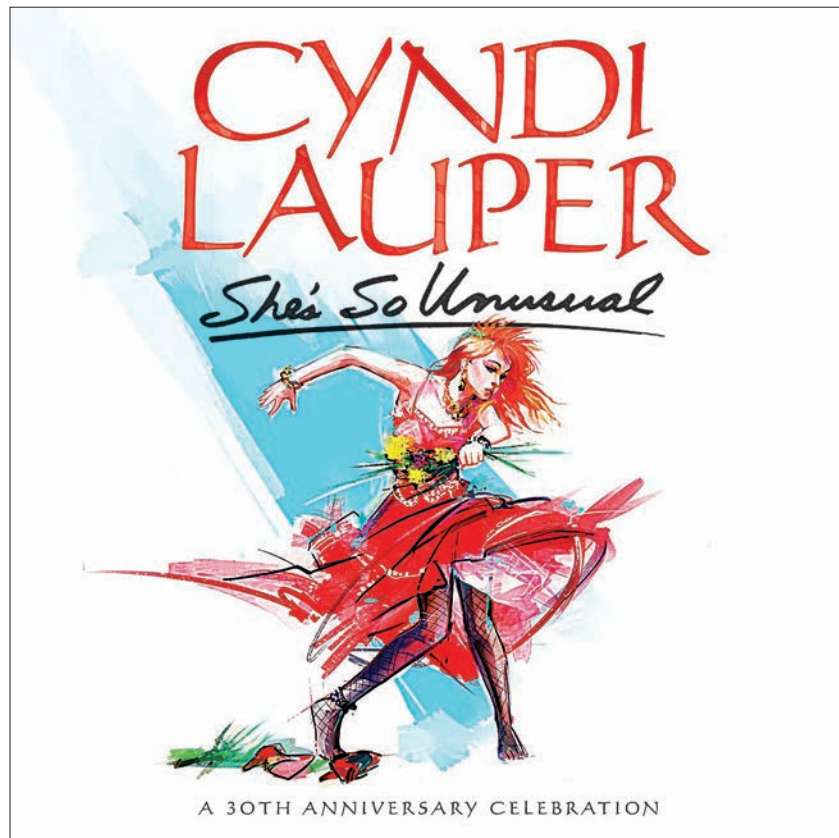
See Happenings, page 52

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

# Hear Me Out

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

## Queer Classics: Cyndi Lauper, Elton John



### Cyndi Lauper, 'She's So Unusual'

Essayist Jancee Dunn (co-author of "Cyndi Lauper: A Memoir") sums up the influence, reach and enduring relevance of Cyndi Lauper's 1983 debut "She's So Unusual" with a single thought: "How many albums can you name that can be heard at both Pride parades and preschooler's birthday parties?"

While the track list represents much more than a re-release in its own right, Dunn's contribution sheds light on an era that would change pop music forever; her poignant essay is full of little-known history (she recalls Lauper sharing clothes and makeup with folks on the "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" video set, resulting in a pinkeye outbreak). Diehards will also delight in the myriad funnies: Colorforms for dressing Cyndi in a "Girls" bedroom replica, new remixes of "Time After Time" and all sorts of previously unreleased rarities.

Before gelling into the punk-pop, reggae-inspired dance party it would become, there was the grungy guitar demo of "Girls," rough studio rehearsals ("All Through the Night" and "Money Changes Everything") and a version of "Time After Time" akin to the one you've heard many a time during

a drunken night of karaoke, where some woman mumbles her way through everything but the chorus. But this isn't just some woman. This is the spunky spitfire herself, then already 30 years old, and she's a fantastic mess. When she drops what sounds like an f-bomb, it's completely emblematic of Cyndi's filterless character.

Those idiosyncrasies obviously manifest in the final studio version of Lauper's influential and monumental "She's So Unusual," so memorable and timeless, and bursting with loud colors, you sometimes forget the statements Lauper made: be yourself, be empowered, masturbate shamelessly. "She Bop," the then-controversial ode to self-pleasuring (Lauper actually did so during the recording of the song), was so fantastically coy it could have been a nursery rhyme. And, though many covers of it have come close to rivaling the original, there isn't a better version of "Time After Time" than Lauper's. From the bottom of her heart to ours, the ballad is testament

to what is, and what's always been, special about a girl who just wanted to have fun and ended up breaking ground in the process. *Grade: A*

### Elton John, 'Goodbye Yellow Brick Road'

When a work is so imbued into the fabric of pop culture, you forget how long it's been hanging around. Elton John's seminal "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road," the piano crooner's most successful recording, released in 1973, is over 40 years old. Yet, it feels like yesterday when you heard the jaunty celebrity satire "Bennie and the Jets" and his tribute to Marilyn Monroe, "Candle in the Wind."

Because you probably did just hear them then. Though the latter did experience a resurgence when it was popularized upon Princess Diana's death in 1997, the songs off "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road" are the epitome of timelessness. Exploring the big, bad fame monster, John's now-longtime writing partner, Bernie Taupin, would, with John, write nostalgic, melancholy musings foreshadowing the troubles of Elton's

later years (according to the liner notes, John cried upon hearing this reissue). Unknowingly foreboding, it would become a classic for the reason many of the best albums do: It was ahead of its time.

As John explains in an interview contained in the liner notes, some people still don't know that "All the Girls Love

Alice" is about a lesbian. Maybe they'll finally catch on after hearing a female – in this case, the great Emeli Sandé – sing it; disc two of this "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road" remaster rallies a broad talent circle for some wonderfully reimagined interpretations.

Particularly notable is out troubadour John Grant's "Sweet Painted Lady," his baritone a welcome departure, and Hunter Hayes' near-faithful rendition of the title track. Particularly bad is the rap Wale throws down on Miguel's actually not-bad take on "Bennie and the Jets." On that same disc are highlights from a live Elton show circa 1973, making for a comprehensive release that is, very possibly and even if he didn't know it, the most significant work of Elton John's dazzling career. *Grade: A-*



### Chris Perry

Owner/Tax Professional

### Cherie Mascarello

Tax Professional

8252 E. Twelve Mile Rd.  
Warren, MI 48093

Chris@coop-tax.com

P: (586) 573-7250

F: (586) 573-9901

Over 20 Years Of Experience

### Lynn B. D'Orio

ATTORNEY AT LAW

#### Family Law

#### Criminal Defense

Divorce: Pre & Post Judgment Felonies & Misdemeanors:

Powers of Attorney

Larceny / Burglary

Child Welfare Law

Homicide / Murder

Abuse & Neglect

Assault Offenses

Wills

Drug Offenses

lynndorio@comcast.net

330 E. Liberty, Ste. 3D, Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
phone: 1-734-913-5660 - fax: 1-734-913-5643

## PHARMACY UPGRADE

 **MEDCART**  
Pharmacy

248.542.2300

www.medcartpharmacy.com

1964 West 11 Mile Road, Berkley

Between Woodward & Coolidge

# BTL Cool Cities Royal Oak



## MANZO EYE CARE

David L. Manzo, M.D. Ophthalmologist  
Kathryn A. Baruch, O.D. Optometrist



\*Includes select frames and single vision lenses. Mention BTL when calling for your appointment. Some restrictions apply.

621 West 11 Mile Road  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
248-541-4200  
www.manzoeyecare.com

- General Ophthalmology
- Laser Vision Correction
- Cataract/Implant Surgery
- LASIK Eye Surgery
- Glaucoma
- Pediatric Exams
- Optical Shop
- Contact Lenses

**NEW PATIENTS**  
Get a Complete Exam & Glasses for only \$49.99!

**BTL READERS**  
\$250 SAVINGS ON LASIK  
Call Karen for Details.



### LGBT Non-Profits

- Common Ground.....A
- Gay/Lesbian Educators Association Of Michigan.....\*
- Higher Ground.....\*
- Lambda Car Club.....\*
- Sing Out Detroit Chorus.....B
- Steppin' Out AIDS Walk Detroit.....\*

### BTL ADVERTISERS

- Attorney Pierce.....1
- Automatic Body Shop.....\*
- B&B Collision.....2
- Bidwell Tovarez Pllc.....3
- Buttons Rent-it.....4
- C & N Party Rentals.....\*

- Christine Cantrell, Ph.D.....5
- Changez Salon.....\*
- Cloverleaf Fine Wine.....6
- Demi Kazanis, DDS.....\*
- D.J. Murray Plumbing.....\*
- Five 15.....7
- Fuller Life.....8
- Steven M Gittleman.....1
- Great Lakes Collision.....\*
- Harbour Tax & Accounting.....\*
- Thomas Herbst, Md.....9
- Ital Moda.....\*
- Denise Joseph, Ph.D.....5
- Rosemary A. Jozwiak.....10

- Joe Kort, Ph.D. & Associates, PC1
- Kuderik & Associates.....11
- Manzo Eye Care.....12
- Miner's Den.....\*
- Motor City Auto Spa.....13
- Namaste Yoga.....14
- New Beginnings Counseling Center.....15
- Noir Leather.....16
- North Main Animal Hospital.....\*
- Thane Ostroth Dds.....\*
- Dr. Bernadine Petzold PhD, L.P.C. B.C.P.C.....10
- The Print Stop.....\*
- Pronto! Restaurant

- & Video Bar.....17
- Razor Law Firm.....18
- RE/MAX Jim Shaffer.....19
- Royal Oak Farmer's Market...20
- Royal Oak Music Theatre.....21
- Runaway Bride.....\*
- Shelton & Dean Law Office 22
- Stagecrafters.....23
- Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors. 24
- Matt Sweet, MSW, PC.....1
- Susie Symons, Ma, LPC.....9
- Two Bags & A Mower.....\*
- Ron T. Williamson DDS.....25

## NEW STUDENT PASS

*New to Namaste yoga?*  
**One month of Unlimited Yoga \$39**

**Donation Classes**  
Saturday Afternoons  
1:30 - 2:30pm  
April 19 & May 17



309 S. Troy Steet, Royal Oak, MI 48067 / www.namaste-yoga.net / 248.399.9642

## NOIR LEATHER

Your Fantasy Awaits!

Luxury Adult Toys  
Intimate Lotions & Potions  
Haute Attire  
Dungeon Gear  
Stilettos, Boots & Stockings  
Tight Lacing Corsets  
Full Leather Line

124 W 4TH ST ROYAL OAK 248-541-3979  
MON-FRI 11-8 PM SAT 11-10 PM SUN 12-7 PM WWW.NOIRLEATHER.COM  
Media: Katie in North & Green Street City: Inj-Central 1st Ed Photo: Sean Graham

## EVERY GOOD DEED DESERVES A MORTGAGE!

For exceptional mortgage service call:

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







# Zoom Special \$149 One hour Teeth Whitening

\*Must mention this BTL ad - Expires 4/30/14

## RON T. WILLIAMSON DDS

Dedicated to make our community brighter

One Smile At A Time

### 248-399-4455

Nitrous Oxide (relaxing air)

Proud participants in the Ryan White Program

No charges for emergency examinations and consultations.

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

Care Credit



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

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

Find us on facebook

BIDWELL TOVAREZ PLLC

PROVIDING BANKRUPTCY SOLUTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES



For a Fresh Start and  
**A BRIGHTER TOMORROW**

Providing personal and compassionate assistance with financial problems including Chapter 7 and 13 bankruptcies, foreclosure, garnishments and elimination of second mortgages.

What clients say about Bidwell Tovarez:

*"Most trustworthy and experienced"*

*"Outstanding representation"*

*"Services with a personal touch"*



**Bidwell Tovarez PLLC**

333 W 7th St., Ste. 140

Royal Oak, MI 48067

248-270-3333

432 N. Saginaw, Suite 800

Flint, MI 48502

810-222-6422

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

[jennifer@bidwelltovarez.com](mailto:jennifer@bidwelltovarez.com)

[david@bidwelltovarez.com](mailto:david@bidwelltovarez.com)

**Call 248-270-3333**

We are a debt relief agency. We help people file for bankruptcy relief under the Bankruptcy code.



CLOVERLEAF  
FINE WINE



248-399-7166

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



711 South Main St.  
Royal Oak, MI

Come to  
**Royal Oak**  
Antiques & Collectables!

Located at  
Royal Oak Farmers Market!  
**Every Sunday 8am-3pm**  
Trinkets to treasures!  
Something for everyone!

Over 60 Dealers  
Indoors & Outdoors  
Vintage Resale  
Shabby Chic



Come to the **Royal Oak Farmers Market**  
and see what's new!

Seasonal Organic Vegetables  
Seasonal Fruits and Vegetables  
Many Local Specialty Food Vendors

Hormone FREE Meats &  
Free Range Eggs & Chicken  
Fresh Baked Bread

Full Service Cafe  
Gourmet  
Coffee Stand

Hours: Friday  
& Saturday  
7am - 1pm



316 East Eleven Mile Rd. 248-246-3276  
www.ci.royal-oak.mi.us, click on Farmers Market  
Like us on Facebook!



# Spring Has Sprung At The Farmer's Market

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

Royal Oak's Farmer's Market is preparing for the much-desired warm weather of spring with upcoming events, including The Gardenia & Bluegrass Roots Festival, co-sponsored by the Ark and Grand Circus Media, beginning at 7:30 p.m. April 11. The bill features cutting-edge roots and jam bands, including Keller & The Keels, The Ragbirds, Catfish Mafia and more. A cash-only bar will be featured.

A portion of proceeds will benefit Camp Casey, a Royal Oak-based nonprofit horseback riding program for children with cancer.

Tickets for the blues and roots festival are \$25-50 and can be purchased at the Royal Oak Farmer's Market and UHF Records in Royal Oak or The Ark and the Michigan Union Ticket Office in Ann Arbor. For further information, visit [www.grandcircusmedia.com/gardenia-bluegrass-roots-festival](http://www.grandcircusmedia.com/gardenia-bluegrass-roots-festival). An official afterparty with Whiskey Shivers will follow the event at Royal Oak Brewery, 215 E. Fourth St., Royal Oak.

The spring edition of the Royal Oak Beer Fest comes to the market on Saturday, April 26 with "The Spring Fever Beer Club." Like the winter beer fest, the festival aims to "promote craft beers and the brewers that create them," all while benefitting local charities. The beer fest will specifically benefit AIDS Walk: Detroit, Handy Hearts and Vista Maria.

It will feature over 150 beers from 54

different breweries, as well as host 11 ciders, two spirits, 12 wines and other libations. A DJ and Christina & Joey from Kaliedo will play music as festive games fill the market, including "birdy golf," giant Jenga and cornhole. Four food vendors and various food samples can also be found throughout the venue.

The Royal Oak Beer Fest begins at 7 p.m. for VIP ticketholders, 8 p.m. for general admission. Tickets are \$40-60, with \$10 tickets available for designated drivers. Call 248-202-4663 or visit [www.royaloakbeerfest.com](http://www.royaloakbeerfest.com) for further event details.

The Royal Oak Farmer's Market also features monthly "Food Truck Rallies" the second Wednesday of every month from 5 to 9 p.m. Each rally features some of Metro Detroit's finest food trucks. Sponsored by the Michigan Mobile Food Vendors Association, the family-friendly event brings affordable food and a variety of music to the market. The next rallies are Wednesday, May 14 and Wednesday, June 11.

When not hosting special events, the Farmer's Market is open year-round on Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Summer hours include Friday, with hours ranging from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The market is located at 316 E. 11 Mile Road, Royal Oak. For more information on the market, call 248-246-3276 or visit [www.ci.royal-oak.mi.us](http://www.ci.royal-oak.mi.us).

Check out more details on Royal Oak and other "Cool Cities" at [www.pridesource.com](http://www.pridesource.com).

**demi c. kazanis, dds**  
& associates  
family & cosmetic dentistry



4251 Coolidge Hwy.  
Royal Oak, MI 48073  
248/547.3700  
[www.kazanisdds.com](http://www.kazanisdds.com)



New Patients can choose:

**Complete Dental Visit**  
Adult or Child Cleaning,  
Bitewing X-rays & Exam **\$79**  
Does not apply to periodontal disease tx.

Free Consultation  
Have a toothache or  
just want a 2nd opinion  
on your treatment?

Visit our new 4000 sq. ft.  
State-of-the-Art  
Dental Practice in Royal Oak

We accept most insurances!

Have your dentistry done  
in our massage chairs while  
you nap!



# Michigan Premiere Is Quite 'A View' At MOT

BY JOHN QUINN

There are reliable signs that spring has returned to Michigan. Daffodils are poking through my unraked leaves, meaning Holland's tulips are not far behind. The Tigers are back in Comerica Park – and winning for a change. And just a couple of blocks over, Michigan Opera Theatre launches its 43rd spring season with something of a "Pure Michigan" production, "A View from the Bridge."

The 1999 opera is by composer William Bolcom, professor emeritus of the School of Music, Theatre and Dance at the University of Michigan and his long-time collaborator, librettist Arnold Weinstein. It is an adaptation of the 1956 play "A View from the Bridge" by Arthur Miller, who worked with the pair in adapting his tense urban tragedy. Miller was a University of Michigan graduate. A couple of Wolverines accomplished quite a feat, making grand opera accessible to contemporary tastes.

The time is the mid '50s; the place, Red Hook, a waterfront neighborhood of Brooklyn. The residents are a close-knit Sicilian community of immigrants and first generation Americans. The main occupation – when work is available – is longshoremen. One of them is Eddie Carbone, a man "good as he had to be," who has raised his wife's orphaned niece from infancy. Catherine is now 17 and ready to go out into the world. Eddie, however, won't let go. He's harboring an unholy passion for Catherine, which is crippling his marriage to Beatrice. They have agreed to shelter two of Beatrice's cousins who are entering the U.S. illegally, hoping to blend into the community. They are Marco, a big bull of a man, and his more sensitive brother, Rodolfo.

When his attempts to smear Rodolfo's character fail, Eddie is left with two choices. He can acquiesce to a wedding or get rid of the brothers by informing on them to immigration authorities. Such a breach of trust would be the ultimate evil in an enclave of immigrants. The crisis is worthy of Greek tragedy. Eddie's



Michigan Opera Theatre presents the Michigan premiere of "A View from the Bridge" through April 13. Photo: John Grigaitis

deadly sin is not pride, but jealousy. He "covets" Catherine. For what choice does a selfish man opt: his own happiness, or another's?

"A View from the Bridge" is a far more lyrical score than one expects in atonal music. Stylistically it's solidly opera, but Bolcom leavens the mixture with bursts of other musical genres: jazz and swing, even directly quoting the Mill's Brothers 1944 hit, "Paper Doll." The score demonstrates a difference between musical theater and opera that the seasoned patron recognizes, but the newbie might not. Opera scores reflect and augment the emotional beats to a much greater degree than musicals. You might say that one goes to "see" a musical, but one goes to "hear" an opera.

The program notes that this is a reduced orchestration commissioned by the University of Texas, but this edition lacks nothing. Conductor Suzanne Mallare Acton elicits a crisp, vibrant sound from the orchestra, and

as MOT's chorus master, provides an equally satisfying performance from the chorus. Stage direction is by Tazewell Thompson, who brings a natural flow to what could be uncomfortable staging.

Patrons of "A View from the Bridge" have the rare opportunity to hear the original voice of Eddie Cantore, baritone Kim Josephson. His ever-flexible voice suits the conflicting emotions of the tragic hero, and he looks the part, to boot.

If the plot didn't have Freudian subtext to begin with, it's provided by casting soprano Kiri Deonarine as Catherine. Deonarine is Josephson's daughter. Her crystal clear tone mirrors Catherine's exuberance in her newly discovered womanhood, yet still can portray the increasing hatred she feels for her uncle. As Beatrice, Beverly O'Regan Thiele is the third side of an unlikely triangle, deferential to her overbearing husband until her visceral aria, "When Am I Gonna Be a Wife Again?"

## REVIEW

### A View from the Bridge

Michigan Opera Theatre at Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. April 9, 11 & 12, and 2:30 p.m. April 13. This production is sung in English with English supertitles projected above the stage. 2 hours, 50 minutes; 1 25-minute intermission. \$25-125. 313-237-SING.

[www.michiganopera.org](http://www.michiganopera.org)

Rodolfo is sung by Eric Margiore, a powerful tenor in classic tradition. His performance of "New York Lights," an aria that has taken on a life of its own, is memorable. His brother, Marco, is played by Jonathan Lasch, who, although designated as a baritone, possesses extraordinary power well into bass range. The aria "A Ship Called Hunger" is literally a show-stopper.

Also of note is basso Ricardo Lugo; part-time lawyer, part time narrator, "Alfieri" not only provides segues between scenes, he brings a welcome hint of humor in the face of tragedy.

Opera has been the butt of too many jokes. It's considered elitist and out of touch. A new generation of art lovers should discover that grand opera isn't all Teutonic heroes and dying courtesans; it can be as timely as the fate of the illegal immigrant. Artists like William Bolcom and the late Arnold Weinstein are "bridging" the ever-narrowing gap between musical theater and opera without compromising the esthetics of the former.

With opera being such a tough sell, how did MOT manage to emerge, like a daffodil, every spring for 43 years? Well, its founder, David DiChiera, hasn't been adverse to risk. He dug into some really tough soil and grew a thing of beauty. He's stepping down as CEO to work as artistic director. The new man at the top, Wayne S. Brown, is yet another home-grown product, and odds are "the flowers that bloom in the spring, tra-la" will be back for years to come.

**TRIANGLE CHIROPRACTIC**  
GENTLE, EFFECTIVE  
Chiropractic, Massage, Nutrition



**JOHN TSAKOS, D.C.**  
MOST INSURANCES ACCEPTED



INTEGRATE MIND, BODY, AND SPIRIT  
VIA NATURE AND CHIROPRACTIC

GROSSE POINTE OFFICE PLAZA  
1-94 SERVICE DRIVE AT ALLARD EXIT

OPEN MONDAY - SATURDAY  
313-885-9496  
[WWW.TRIANGLECLINIC.COM](http://WWW.TRIANGLECLINIC.COM)

*Many Happy Returns!*

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

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

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




## ► Happenings

Continued from p. 46

**A Dialogue with Queer People of Faith** 7:30 p.m. Part of MSU's Pride Week. QCR0SS, **East Lansing**. Lgbtrc.msu.edu

**Let's Talk about Sex Positivity** 8 p.m. Part of MSU's Pride Week. Spectrum, **East Lansing**. Lgbtrc.msu.edu

### Tuesday, April 15

**Glitter Bomb the Rock** All day til midnight. Part of MSU's Pride Week. RING, **East Lansing**. Lgbtrc.msu.edu

**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

**Public Issues Forum** 7 p.m. This group studies and profiles local and state political issues and candidates. Battle Creek Pride Resource Center, 16 E. Van Buren St., **Battle Creek**. Battlecreekpride.org

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

### Wednesday, April 16

**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

**Robyn Ochs** 3 p.m. Part of MSU's Pride Week. The Alliance of Queer and Ally Students, **East Lansing**. Lgbtrc.msu.edu

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

**Toastmasters Meeting** 6 p.m. Do you have fear of public speaking? Well never fear Toastmasters is here! Come join us and learn to how to get over that fear. Kick - The Agency for LGBT African Americans, 41 Burroughs St. Ste. 109, **Detroit**. 313-285-9733. rma411@gmail.com

### Thursday, April 17

**Katie Wirsing - Spoken Word Poet** Part of MSU's Pride Week. PRIDE, LIGHT, RING and Spectrum, **East Lansing**. Lgbtrc.msu.edu

**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

**Bi 101 and Beyond with Robyn Ochs** 4 p.m. Part of OU's Pride Week. Gender & Sexuality Center at Oakland University, **Auburn Hills**. 248-370-4333. Oakland.edu

**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

**Comedy Extravaganza!** 7 p.m.



been featured at the gallery, including Milton Avery and Sam Gilliam. The 5,000-square-foot exhibition space allows art-viewers to browse several works of art over two levels.

"Deep Thaw" runs until Saturday, April 26 at the Robert Kidd Gallery, 107 Townsend St., Birmingham. The gallery is open 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. For further information, call 248-642-3909 or visit [www.robertkiddgallery.com](http://www.robertkiddgallery.com).

## Editor's Pick

An emergence of new and recent acquisitions comes to Birmingham this month with the Robert Kidd Gallery's new exhibition, "Deep Thaw." Like the thawing of winter, new and old works of art come to light, ranging from abstract painting to metalwork.

Since 1976, the Robert Kidd Gallery has brought a variety of abstract and realist paintings, drawings and sculpture to Southeast Michigan. Many 20th-century masters have

Fundraiser for PFLAG Genesee County. Featuring comedians Kathie Dunbar and Mike Neubecker. 18+. Tickets: \$10-15. PFLAG Flint, 2474 S. Ballenger Highway, **Flint**. Pflagflint.com

**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

**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. jimtoycenter.org

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

## MUSIC & MORE

### Classical

**Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra** "Brahms Festival" Brahms: Academic Festival Overture in C Minor, Op. 80. Symphony No. 1 in C minor, Op. 68. Violin & Violoncello Concert in A minor, Op. 102. "Double Concerto." Sheng: Black Swan for Orchestra after Brahms'

Intermezzo, Op. 118, No. 2. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. April 12. 734-668-8397. A2so.com

### Comedy

**Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase** "Karen Rontowski" Tickets: \$9-14. Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. April 10 - April 12. 734-996-9080. Aacomedy.com

**Emergent Arts** "Chilli Challis' Comedy Dojo" Coaching new and experienced standup comics. The Mix Studio Theatre, 8 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti. April 6 - April 27. 734-985-0875. Emergentarts.com

**Emergent Arts** "UNclub Open Mic" Emcee Mark Sweetman. Tickets: \$5. The Mix Studio Theatre, 8 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti. April 6 - April 27. 734-985-

0875. Emergentarts.com

### Concerts

**Blind Pig** "Guttermouth" With Against the Grain. 18+. Tickets: \$14. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 9:30 p.m. April 12. 734-996-8555. Blindpigmusic.com

**Christina Perri** "Christina Perri" All ages. Tickets: \$25-28. Majestic Theater, 4120-4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. April 11. 313-833-9700. Majesticdetroit.com

**Detroit Symphony Orchestra** "Pops: Bugs Bunny at the Symphony II". Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. April 11 - April 13. 313-576-5111. Dso.org

**Kerrytown Concert House** "Susan Chastain - A Birthday Extravaganza!" Kerrytown Club series. Tickets: \$10-30. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. April 11 - April 11. 734-763-4186. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

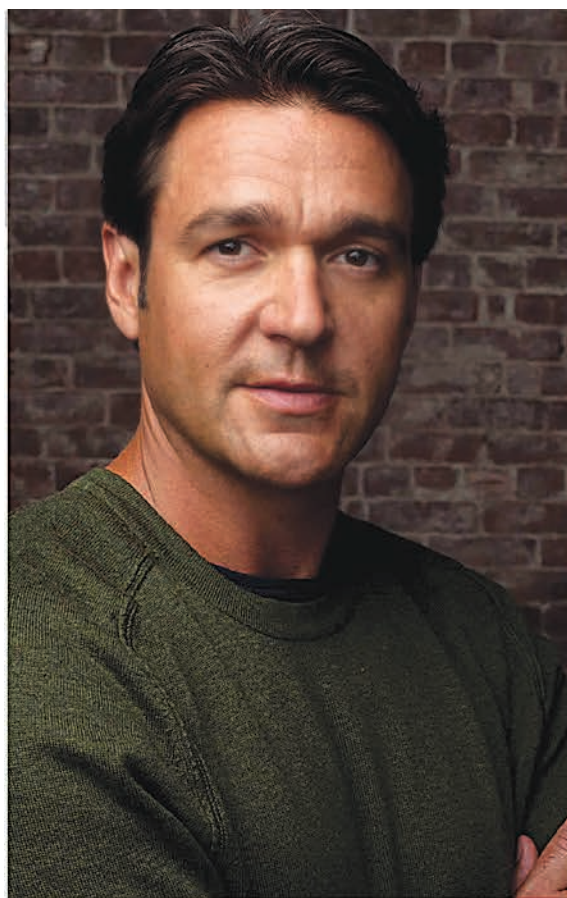
**The Ark** "Simon Townshend" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. April 16. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

**The Magic Bag** "Satisfaction" The International Rolling Stones Tribute. Tickets: \$18. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. April 11. 248-544-3030. Themagicbag.com

**The Majestic** "Sharon Jones & The Dap-Kings" All ages. Tickets: \$22. 50-25. Majestic Theater, 4120-4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. April 12. 313-833-9700. Majesticdetroit.com

**University Musical Society (UMS)** "Los Angeles Guitar Quartet" Tickets: \$22-50. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. April 10. 734-668-8397. Ums.org

See Happenings, page 55



**THE BERMAN**  
Center for the Performing Arts

## Signature Series

**NATHAN GUNN**  
WITH  
**JULIE JORDAN GUNN**  
ON PIANO

*Live Performance*  
Thursday, April 24  
7:30 p.m.  
\$67/Admission, \$62/JCC Member

Nathan Gunn is one of the most exciting performers in the world, a singer who mesmerizes audiences with his rich baritone and commanding stage presence.

Named one of People magazine's "Sexiest Men Alive" in 2008, Gunn has appeared on stage at the Metropolitan Opera House and in concert around the world. During this one-night-only event at The Berman, Gunn will perform some of the most unforgettable music ever written, ranging from operatic favorites to American classics.



THEBERMAN.ORG | 248.661.1900

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

**"RIDICULOUSLY FUN!"**  
—New York Post

# SISTER ACT

A DIVINE MUSICAL COMEDY

**Fisher Theatre • April 22-May 4**

Tickets: ticketmaster.com, 800-982-2787 & Fisher Theatre box office.  
Kids' Night on Broadway Wed., April 23, 8PM. info: www.broadwayindetroit.com/kidsnight. Open Caption performance Sun., April 27, 7:30PM. Info: BroadwayInDetroit.com & 313-872-1000. Groups (12+): 313-871-1132 or e-mail Groups@BroadwayInDetroit.com.

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

TICKETS AS LOW AS \$40

BONSTELLE THEATRE  
WHERE WAYNE PLAYS.

# Guys & Dolls

A Musical Fable of Broadway  
Based on a Story and Characters of Damon Runyon

Music and Lyrics by Frank Loesser Book by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows

**April 11 - April 19, 2014**

THEATRE & DANCE AT WAYNE

**Bonstelle.com**  
**313-577-2960**

Guys & Dolls is presented through special arrangement with MUSIC Theatre International (MTI)



## Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra

Arie Lipsky, Conductor

Sponsored by Rebecca Horvath

*Season Finale*

# Brahms Festival

Saturday, April 12

8:00 p.m.

Michigan Theater

*special guest violinist*

Itamar Zorman ▶

*special guest cellist*

David Requiro ▼



Featuring  
selections by  
Brahms and Sheng

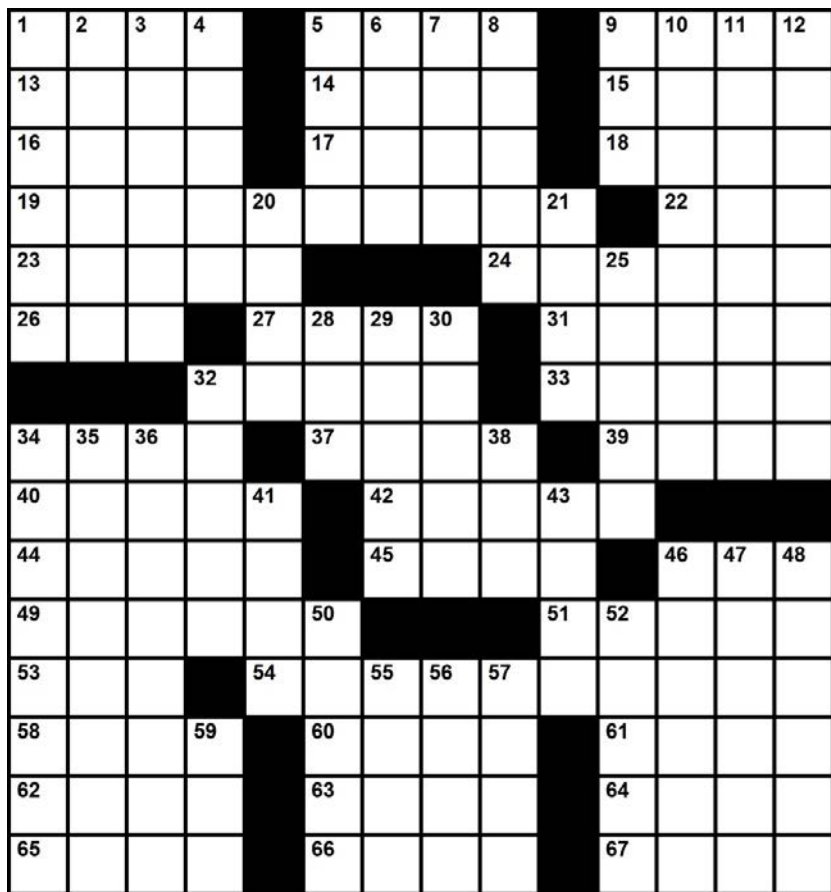
(734) 994-4801

a2so.com

with  
support from:



# Christian Name



## Across

- 1 Provincetown mementos
- 5 Boxers are visible here
- 9 Place for hay
- 13 Some guys do it nocturnally
- 14 Côte d'\_\_\_
- 15 Memo starter
- 16 "Tales of the City" character
- 17 Blast furnace fuel
- 18 Rip Torn's voice role in "Hercules"
- 19 With 37-Across, Christian Campbell musical comedy
- 22 Mar. basketball tourney
- 23 "See ya"
- 24 Destination of the Bounty
- 26 Tarzan portrayer Ron
- 27 Stats from "A League of Their Own"
- 31 Harry Potter's field
- 32 Bone to pick
- 33 Lucy's gal pal
- 34 Small rum cake
- 37 See 19-Across
- 39 Verb of Verlaine
- 40 On the ball
- 42 Skirt, as an issue
- 44 "Iron Mike" of football
- 45 Broadway light

- 46 Granola lesbian's bit
- 49 Official messenger
- 51 "The Family of Max Desir" author Robert
- 53 Latina writer Castillo
- 54 Campbell movie about a DC lobbyist
- 58 Birch of Indiana
- 60 End of Caesar's boast
- 61 Series ender
- 62 One at a checkout
- 63 Ryan of porn
- 64 Ending for Copland
- 65 Dancer Shawn and others
- 66 Animal abodes
- 67 Three of Frida's family

## Down

- 1 Part of the head
- 2 Lacking family values
- 3 Low A
- 4 Tennessee, but not Williams
- 5 Like many Mae West quotes
- 6 Shirt brand
- 7 Zap in the microwave
- 8 Alexander, with "the"
- 9 Nickname that Taylor disliked
- 10 Campbell movie of 2007
- 11 More gay?

- 12 Ball
- 20 Shoe holder
- 21 Title for Edna or Judi
- 25 Couldn't stomach
- 28 Gas station abbr.
- 29 For the birds
- 30 Start something with Mauresmo
- 32 Hooded jacket
- 34 Compulsive masturbation, e.g.
- 35 Cause hostility in
- 36 With "The," Campbell mystery movie of 2008
- 38 Gielgud's john
- 41 It might go right to the bottom
- 43 The lowdown
- 46 One with a gifted tongue
- 47 Game room
- 48 Stein steady
- 50 Michelangelo masterpiece
- 52 Tape deck button
- 55 "West \_\_\_ Story"
- 56 Windows' picture
- 57 Zips
- 59 "\_\_\_ Pinafore"

Solution on pg 57

**We speak  
LGBTQIA**

8 0 0 8 7 2 2 4 3 7

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

All calls with our live expert are free and anonymous.

A program of  
**AIDS PARTNERSHIP  
MICHIGAN**  
Funded by MDCH

**Buy Local - Buy Gay**  
**Braun Court**  
*Ann Arbor, MI*

out \aut\ adv: into the open

**\aut\ BAR**

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

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

Gallery and Cabaret

**SH \aut\**

*Cabaret and Gallery*

325 Braun Court  
Ann Arbor, MI

**Common  
Language  
Bookstore**

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

## ▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 52

### Festivals

**Downtown Lansing** "Capital City Film Festival". Greater Lansing, Lansing, April 10 - April 13. [downtownlansing.org](http://downtownlansing.org)

**Italian Film Festival** "Italian Film Festival" All films are free and open to the public. Various, Various. April 2 - April 30. [italianfilmfestivals.org](http://italianfilmfestivals.org)

**Royal Oak Farmers Market** "Gardenia Bluegrass & Roots Festival". Royal Oak Farmers Market, 316 E. 11 Mile Road, Royal Oak. 7 p.m. April 11. 246-246-3276. [ci.royal-oak.mi.us](http://ci.royal-oak.mi.us)

## THEATER

### Civic/Community Theater

**A Streetcar Named Desire** \$7-15. The Twin City Players, 600 W. Glenford Road, St. Joseph. Through April 27. 269-429-0400. [www.twincityplayers.org](http://www.twincityplayers.org)

**Are You Passing?** \$8-12. Teen Company of Matrix Theatre at Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley, Detroit. Through April 13. 313-967-0999. [www.matrixtheatre.org](http://www.matrixtheatre.org)

**Boeing Boeing** \$13-24. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Through April 19. 269-343-1313. [www.kazooconvic.com](http://www.kazooconvic.com)

**Cabaret for a Cause** \$35. Northville Sprouts at Genitti's Hole-in-the-Wall Dinner Theater, 108 E. Main St., Northville. 6:30 p.m. April 17. 248-349-0522. [www.genittis.com](http://www.genittis.com)

**The Improv Mixer** \$8. Emergent Arts at The Mix Studio Theatre, 8 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti. Through April 19. 734-985-0875. [www.emergentarts.com](http://www.emergentarts.com)

**Torch Song Trilogy** \$18-20. Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. Through April 13. 248-541-6430. [www.stagecrafters.org](http://www.stagecrafters.org)

### College/University

#### Theater

**Guys and Dolls** \$20-25. Bonstelle Theatre, 3424 Woodward Ave., Detroit. April 11 - 19. 313-577-2960. [www.bonstelle.com](http://www.bonstelle.com)

**King Stag** \$5-10. The University Theatre at Williams Theatre inside The Gilmore Theatre Complex, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. Through April 13. 269-387-7222. [www.wmutheatre.com](http://www.wmutheatre.com)

**Marisol** \$10-28. U-M Department of Theatre & Drama at Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin Ave., Ann Arbor. Through April 13. 734-763-3333. [tickets.music.umich.edu](http://tickets.music.umich.edu)

**The Three Musketeers** \$10-12. Henry Ford Community College Theatre Arts at Adray Auditorium, Henry Ford Community College, 5101 Evergreen Road, Dearborn. Through April 13. 313-845-9817. [www.theatre.hfcc.edu](http://www.theatre.hfcc.edu)

### Professional

**A Midsummer Night's Dream** \$7-14. Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company at Dog Story Theatre, 7 Jefferson SE, Grand Rapids. April 17 - 27. 616-425-9234. [www.dogstorytheater.com](http://www.dogstorytheater.com)

**A View from the Bridge** \$25-125. Michigan Opera Theatre at Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. April 5 - April 13. 313-237-SING. [www.michiganopera.org](http://www.michiganopera.org)

**August: Osage County** \$10-30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. April 18 - May 10. 313-577-2972. [www.hilberry.com](http://www.hilberry.com)

**Breaking Legs** \$15-18. Broadway Onstage Live Theatre, 21517 Kelly Road, Eastpointe. April 11 - May 10. 586-771-6333. [www.broadwayonstage.com](http://www.broadwayonstage.com)

**Brother of All** \$17-20. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Through May 18. 313-868-1347. [www.detroitreptheatre.com](http://www.detroitreptheatre.com)

**Country Roads: A Musical Journey** \$35-41. The Dio - Dining & Entertainment, 177 E. Main St., Pinckney. Through May 11. 517-672-6009. [www.diotheatre.com](http://www.diotheatre.com)

**Dark Night** \$10. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Through April 19. 313-365-4948. [www.planetant.com](http://www.planetant.com)

**Falling** \$25-40. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. Through April 13. 248-377-3300. [www.mbtheatre.com](http://www.mbtheatre.com)

**Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune** \$15-25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. Through April 19. 517-655-SHOW. [www.williamstontheatre.org](http://www.williamstontheatre.org)

**Fridays and Saturdays at Go Comedy!** Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. [www.gocomedy.net](http://www.gocomedy.net)

**Improv Mondays** \$5 at the door. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. 313-365-4948. [www.planetant.com](http://www.planetant.com)

**Life is Happening to Us Again** \$15. A Host of People at Play House, 12657 Moran St., Detroit. April 10 - 26. [www.ahostofpeople.org](http://www.ahostofpeople.org)

**Love is Strange** \$15-18. Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company at The Abrecht Performance Space, 1301 W. Lafayette #113, Detroit. Through April 26. 313-454-1542. [www.magentagiraffe.org](http://www.magentagiraffe.org)

**Menopause The Musical** \$34.50-64.50. GFour Productions at Macomb Music Theatre, 31 N. Walnut St., Mt. Clemens. April 11 - 12. 800-745-3000. [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

**Old Love** \$27-32. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Through May 4. 248-347-0003. [www.tippingpointtheatre.com](http://www.tippingpointtheatre.com)

**Small Hours Serenade** \$20. Puzzle Piece Theatre, The Box Theater, 90 Macomb Place, Mt. Clemens. Through April 13. 586-954-2677. [www.puzzlestage.org](http://www.puzzlestage.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. [www.gocomedy.net](http://www.gocomedy.net)

**The Current** \$15-18. Two Muses Theatre at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. Through April 13. 248-850-9919. [www.twomusetheatre.org](http://www.twomusetheatre.org)

**The Foreigner** \$22-32. The Encore Musical Theatre Company, The Encore Musical Theatre, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. April 10 - May 4. 734-268-6200. [www.theencoretheatre.org](http://www.theencoretheatre.org)

**The Motherfucker with the Hat** \$15-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through April 14. 248-545-5545. [www.theringwald.com](http://www.theringwald.com)

**The PRTC Spring Comedy Festival: Lovers, Liars & Lunatics** \$18.50-42. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through May 24. 734-433-7673. [www.purplerosetheatre.org](http://www.purplerosetheatre.org)

**Thursdays at Go Comedy!** Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. [www.gocomedy.net](http://www.gocomedy.net)

**Venus in Fur** \$22-41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through April 13. 734-663-0681. [www.performancenetwork.org](http://www.performancenetwork.org)

**We Will Rock You** \$35+. Fisher

Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Through April 13. 313-872-1000. [www.broadwayindetroit.com](http://www.broadwayindetroit.com)

**West Side Story** \$29.50-69.50. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint. April 18 - April 19. 810-237-8689. [www.thewhiting.com](http://www.thewhiting.com)

## ART 'N' AROUND

**Cranbrook Art Museum** "Guna Nadarajan" An Evening with Guna Nadarajan. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. 6 p.m. April 15. 877-462-7262. [Cranbrookart.edu](http://Cranbrookart.edu)

**Cranbrook Art Museum** "Enrico Riley" An Evening with Enrico Riley. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. 6 p.m. April 10. 877-462-7262. [Cranbrookart.edu](http://Cranbrookart.edu)

**Detroit Institute of Arts** "Let Me Show You What I Saw: American Views on City and Country, 1912-1963" Whether they were captivated by quiet fields or looming buildings, artists' visions were becoming increasingly personal and abstract, going beyond the merely visible to suggest a world filled with feeling and meaning. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Dec. 1 - June 29. 313-833-7900. [www.dia.org](http://www.dia.org)

**Downriver Council for the Arts** "Global Project for Peace" International Art Exchange for Peace. Downriver Council for the Arts, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. April 1 - April 21. 734-720-0671. [Downriverarts.org](http://Downriverarts.org)

**Downriver Council for the Arts** "Arctycled" Reuse! Recycle! Rethink! Downriver Council for the Arts, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. March 21 - April 25. 734-720-0671. [Downriverarts.org](http://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](http://Flintarts.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](http://Charachgallery.org)

**MOCAD** "James Lee Byars: I Cancel All My Works at Death". Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Feb. 7 - May 4. 313-832-6622. [Mocadetroit.org](http://Mocadetroit.org)

**Pewabic Pottery** "Dominance Lost". Pewabic Pottery, 10125 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit. March 21 - May 11. 313-626-2000.

**Riverside Arts Center** "10th Annual Decent Exhibit". Riverside Arts Center, 76 North Huron Street, Ypsilanti. April 3 - April 27. 734-483-7345. [Riversidearts.org](http://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](http://Robertkiddgallery.com)

**Saugatuck Center for the Arts** "Material Girls: Fiber Exhibition" Quilts by Judith Jarzembowski. Rugs by Judy Bowman Anthropol. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. April 11 - June 6. 269-857-2399. [Sc4a.org](http://Sc4a.org)

**UMMA** "Fragments from the Past: Islamic Art from the Collection of the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology". University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Nov. 30 - April 13. 734-763-4186. [Umma.umich.edu](http://Umma.umich.edu)

## "Best Investment we've ever made!"



How? By giving you:

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

### The Best for Last

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

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

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

You may think a new system is "too much" until you realize your old system's real cost.

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

Can pay for itself, plus more!

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

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

**ED SCHMID**

**FIRST TIME BUYERS PROGRAM STARTS APRIL 1ST**

**UP TO \$500 MATCHING DOWN PAYMENT ON FIESTA AND FOCUS**

**2014 C-MAX HYBRID SEL**

**\$235\* PER MONTH**

60 MONTH LEASE 1.9% FINANCING!

STK #55534 For current A/Z plan lessees, security deposit waived, \$2000 total down includes taxes and transfer,

**248-399-1000**

SHOWROOM HOURS Mon/Thurs 9am-8pm  
Tues/Weds/Fri 9am-6pm • Sat 9am-3pm  
SERVICE & PARTS HOURS: 7am-6pm • Sat 8am-3pm

**21600 WOODWARD, 1 MILE S OF I-696**

\*Payment based on A/Z plan pricing for ford employees, retirees and eligible family members. Leases based on 10500 miles per year. Pictures do not represent exact vehicle. Pricing Subject to change. All Ford factory rebates to dealer. Finance with approved credit, not all buyers will qualify. Offer expires July 7, 2014

**Do More. Feel Better. Live Longer.**



**Be Well**  
Medical Center

- ◆ Board Certified in Family Medicine
- ◆ Credentialed as a HIV Specialist by the American Academy of HIV Medicine
- ◆ Preventative Health Services ◆ Most Insurances Accepted
- ◆ Experienced in Your Lifestyle
  - HPV & Hepatitis Vaccinations
  - Rapid HIV & STD Testing
  - Anal PAP Smears
  - Treatment of HIV Facial Lipoatrophy



**A Healthcare Team  
Dedicated to Your Lifestyle**  
Led by Dr. Paul Benson,  
Supporting Our Community Since 1980

**Dr. Paul Benson** • 1964 W. 11 Mile Rd. • Berkley, MI  
**(248) 544-9300 • www.DoctorBeWell.com**

**THE FINEST IN ADULT ENTERTAINMENT AT THE BEST PRICES!**



ALL XXX  
DVD RENTALS  
AS LOW AS 99¢  
EVERY DAY!



BUY  
ADULT DVD'S  
STARTING AT  
\$5.95



EVERY TUES & FRIDAY  
NEW  
RELEASE  
DAY

**EASTER SPECIAL**

**XXX DVD'S**

**3/\$9.99**

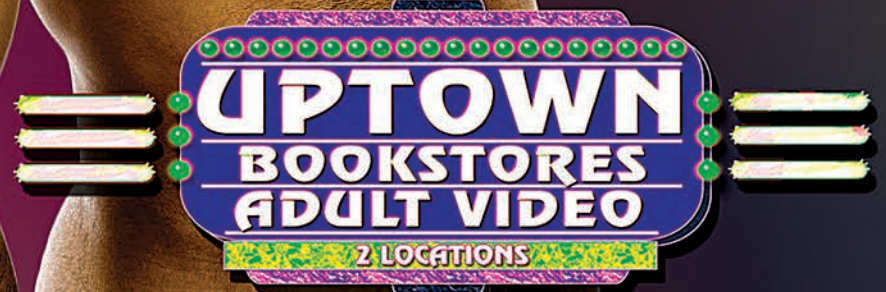
WHILE THEY LAST  
APRIL 18-21-2014

**APRIL SPECIAL**  
**20% OFF**

ALL DVD'S  
ALL LOTIONS & NOVELTIES  
APRIL 1-17, 2014  
REGULAR PRICED DVD'S & NOVELTIES ONLY!



Rush - Jungle Juice Platinum - Maximum Impact - Swiss Navy Lube Silicone - Uninhibited 2-Ring Harness - Wii Vibe - Lucid Dreams #14 - Dual Bunny Teaser - Butterfly Kiss Pink - Titan Enlargement System - The Exotic Water Garden Massager



**WWW.UPTOWNADULTVIDEO.COM**

16541 Woodward Ave.  
at McNichols next to "Deja Vu"  
Highland Park  
313.869.9477

16401 W. 8 Mile  
Between Greenfield & Southfield  
Detroit  
313.836.0647

Hours:  
Mon-Sat 9am - 10pm  
Sun Noon - 8pm

**THE BEST  
PORN SHOP  
IN THE D!**

**LUBES - CLEANING SOLVENTS - PUMPS  
FLESHJACKS - C/RINGS - BUTT PLUGS  
STROKERS & MUCH MORE**

Take an additional 10% Off  
all 1/2 Off DVD's thru April 30th

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



# 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

### Participate in the Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo

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

## 320 EMPLOYMENT - WANTED

### CASHIER WANTED

Uptown Adult Superstore (Dvd's, Toys, etc)  
Detroit area, must be 18yrs old  
Cashier, stock & cleaning  
Benefits-Hol/Vac/Health  
16541 Woodward Ave. or  
call (313)869-9477 to apply

## 428 PROF. SERVICES - MASSAGE

### GROUP MASSAGE

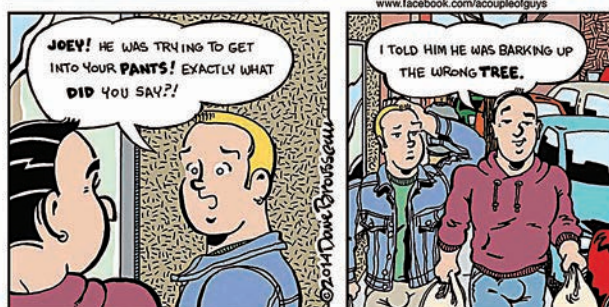
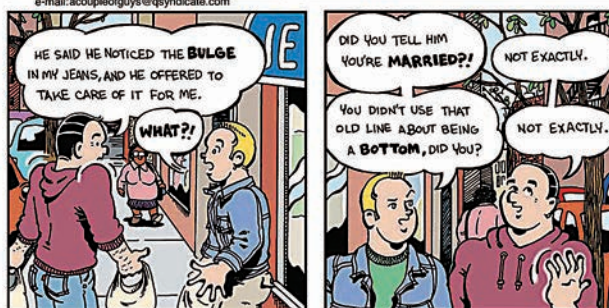
- For Gay and Bisexual Men.  
Learn some massage techniques and meet others in a safe and caring environment. Tuesdays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. Thursdays at 2 p.m. \$10 per session. 209 West Kingsley in downtown Ann Arbor. (734) 662-6282 or email Massage4@aol.com. <http://www.trymassage.com>

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

# Naked Men's YOGA

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

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



Solution to puzzle from page 54

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



Say Hi To Daisy!

Say Hi to Daisy! This 6-year-old Labrador/Shetland Sheepdog mix is a friendly and active girl. She loves to be pet and isn't shy about giving out kisses! The adoption fee includes sterilization, age-appropriate vaccinations, the MHS Adoption Guarantee and much more. For more information, please visit or call the MHS Berman Center for Animal Care in Westland at (734) 721-7300 and provide the pet ID number, 775750. Photo by Dave Sallberg.

MICHIGAN HUMANE SOCIETY



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

# A Tension Getter

## Massage Therapy

by David Rosenberg  
(734) 662-6282

Therapeutic Massage gets rid of back, neck and shoulder pain

### 2 Downtown Locations

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

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

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

## Massage Class

### for Men

Sheets, showers and lotions provided

Learn some massage techniques.

Meet others in a safe and caring environment.

Thursday at 2 pm.  
Tuesdays & Saturdays at 8pm

\$10 per session  
209 W. Kingsley St.  
Ann Arbor, MI  
(734) 662-6282

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

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

Celebrating

# GENERATIONS of Pride



**FESTIVAL AND PARADE**  
**HART PLAZA, DETROIT**  
SATURDAY, JUNE 7: 2PM – 10PM  
SUNDAY, JUNE 8: NOON – 7PM



\$5 COVER

For Festival Information Visit: [MOTORCITYPRIDE.ORG](http://MOTORCITYPRIDE.ORG)



# WE WANT YOU

  
worldpride

Under License from InterPride

2014 · toronto · ontario · canada

JUNE 20-29, 2014

[worldpridetoronto.com](http://worldpridetoronto.com)

## THIS ONE IS GOING TO BE **HUGE**

The world is coming together for a Pride to remember: provocative art, celebrated film and fierce divas, DJs and rockers spanning over 25 city blocks. An entire city embracing who you are.

Join us for a global celebration of LGBTQ culture. Streets will turn into parades, parks into parties and strangers into friends.

**YOUR PRIDE WILL KNOW NO BOUNDS**

**InterPride**

  
**Pride**  
TORONTO



**toronto\***


**ONTARIO**  
CANADA

*Not all brides wear white...*

*Beautiful, Unusual...*

*B. Ella Bridal*

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

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

**B. ELLA IS PROUD TO SPONSOR THE ULTIMATE LGBT WEDDING & ANNIVERSARY EXPO**