

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE CELEBRATING 20 YEARS



Couples Celebrate Love
At LGBT Wedding Expo

Cher Is God At The
Joe Louis Arena

“There is power in what
we do as artists. We can
reach people, and there is a
responsibility to show up.”

– Billy Porter
of “Kinky Boots,” pg. 18



ACLU SUES MICHIGAN

Same-Sex Couples Tell Snyder ‘Recognize Our Legal Marriages’

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CANADA

COVER STORY

6 Michigan same-sex couples demand respect and equal treatment

ACLU staff with several plaintiffs of Casper v. Snyder. BTL photo: Susan Horowitz



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“Homosexuals love their friends and *cannibals* love their victims, they taste good,” Kevin Swanson muses.

See? If you're going to claim you love your 'friend' then what's to stop you from *killing and eating him or her?*”

— D'Anne Witkowski,
on the Creep of the Week, Kevin Swanson, pg. 14



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ONLINE XTRA



Check Out The Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo Photo Gallery At Pridesource.com

Head over to Pridesource.com to access the Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo gallery. See the runway looks or find yourself in the crowd!

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Left: Kayla strutted down the runway in a fabulous gown from Paris, compliments of B. Ella Bridal, on the arm of Stephanie who wore a Calvin Klein Gray Legend tuxedo with a Mermaid Windsor tie from President Tuxedo. Upper Right: Mark Schauer, Democratic candidate for governor, joined in the fashion show fun by escorting one of the beautiful models in an ivory washed organza gown down the runway. Jan Stevenson helped emcee the fashion show. Lower Right: Planterra in West Bloomfield was one of the 90 vendors at the Expo, seen here discussing flower and event design options with one of the attendees. BTL Photos: Andrew Potter

Ultimate LGBT Wedding Expo A Smashing Success

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

SOUTHFIELD – It was a nice day for a white wedding at the fourth annual Ultimate LGBT Wedding and Anniversary Expo. More than 600 people attended the Expo, which took place Saturday at the Southfield Civic Pavilion.

Sponsored by Between The Lines and Pride Source Media Group, the event toppled all previous records for attendance and number of vendors.

“There were 90 vendors, up from 35 in 2013,” said Jan Stevenson, BTL co-publisher. “And attendance was up 150 percent from last year.”

One of the most exciting additions to this year’s Expo was the fashion show.

“Brittany Blase, owner of B. Ella Bridal in Plymouth, and President Tuxedo, provided absolutely gorgeous clothes,” said Stevenson. “The hair and makeup by Charmed Salon was beautiful.”

The show featured as models local activists and dignitaries such as Ferndale Mayor Dave Coulter, Southfield City Councilman and State House candidate Jeremy Moss, Flagstar Bank Senior Vice President Beth Correa, Kick President Antonio Johnson-Seals, attorney Alicia Skillman and BTL staffers Chris Azzopardi and Ben Jenkins.

“The models themselves added color of their own, especially when the Democratic candidate for governor of Michigan, Mark Schauer, hopped on stage and escorted one woman in a bridal gown down the runway,” Stevenson said.

Attendees agreed that the fashion show was a definite highlight of the Expo.

“The Expo was bigger and better this year, and I loved the fashion show,” said Paul Mattson. “It was probably the best addition they made.”

Mattson and his partner Roland Smith were married outside the Oakland County Courthouse by Rev. Roland Stringfellow of Metropolitan

Community Church-Detroit March 22, before the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals issued a stay of the DeBoer v. Snyder ruling. The two plan on having a church wedding as soon as same-sex marriage is legal again at the state level.

So did the two pick up any ideas at the Expo? “The photo booth and the pastry master,” Smith said. “We’ll probably use them both.”

Jessie and Layla have set June 7, 2015 as the date for their big day. Both said the Expo was useful to them in their planning.

“We are looking for a florist, so we found a couple of options,” said Jessie.

The couple said attending an Expo geared exclusively for same-sex couples was helpful.

“We went to a regular wedding expo and it was awkward, explaining that we were a couple,” said Jessie. “But here it was comfortable. We didn’t get any strange looks.”

Anthony Williams and his partner William Bincomb haven’t set a date yet, but they said they

do plan to tie the knot “eventually.”

So did the Expo give them any ideas?

“Are you kidding?” Williams asked. “We found a lot of possible places to hold the event and catering options. The best part of the Expo is the ability to network with so many different resources and it also gave us an opportunity to tell people who we are, because we are with Wings HIV Support Group.”

Stevenson said it was gratifying to see the Expo be so successful.

“It was wonderful to see so many people having fun, planning their wedding day and enjoying the vendors and the entertainment,” she said. “We were thrilled that April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse, along with their whole family, came to the Expo. Their inspirational story is changing the world for the better, and we were proud to have them join in the fun and excitement of the Expo.”

See Expo Success, page 17

Couples Celebrate Love And Acceptance At The 2014 Expo

BY AJ TRAGER

Southfield got glammed up and fancy this past Saturday, celebrating an LGBT Wedding and Anniversary Expo held at the Southfield Civic Pavilion. There was a big turnout ranging from newly married couples, long standing couples, to partners browsing the booths together getting ideas for how they want their celebration to look. The center was filled with balloons and smiling faces. Cake samples and copious amounts of coupons for local businesses, all there to show support for the LGBT community, were handed out to desiring attendees. The joy and celebration of romance was truly in the air Saturday as couples, holding hands, came together with the Metro Detroit community to showcase love in all its forms.

This August Jim Hortelano and Scott Algera will celebrate their 15th anniversary together after meeting one another on AOL. Hortelano was living on the mainland and was looking for a Hawaii guide for an upcoming trip that he wanted to take. He made sure to mention that the guide must be gay, familiar with Maui and be one of the first to respond. Algera was that man and they hit it off immediately. Hortelano went back two to three more times and the rest, as they say, is history. He moved down to Hawaii a few months later. They recently moved to Michigan from Hawaii, and are looking to get married within the next year.

"We're here for planning," Algera said patting Hortelano on his shoulder. "We're looking at photographers, big venues, caterers, but especially photographers."

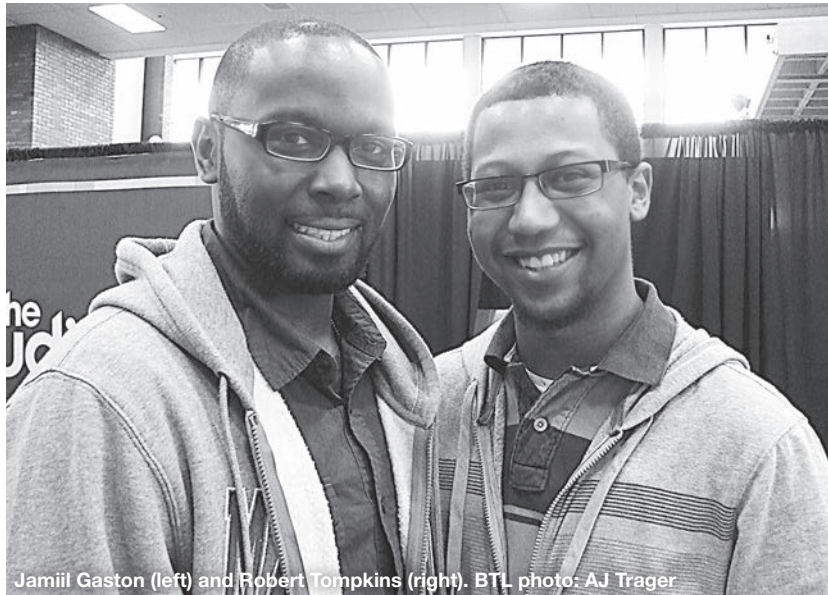
"It's one stop shopping," Hortelano said.

They would like to get married in Michigan but are considering other options due to the controversy in the Michigan Legislature.

"We might get married across the boarder, if not in Michigan," Hortelano said, "perhaps at Caesar's Windsor."

They left Hawaii just before the LGBT community could legally get married and were disheartened that they left the fighting just to come to Michigan and see it again.

Yet the two of them are keeping positive about equal marriage rights. "It's a step in the right direction,"



Jamiil Gaston (left) and Robert Tompkins (right). BTL photo: AJ Trager

“It's good to see things just for us. The Expo provides whole systems for LGBT couples. It's not a separate thing and adds to shaping the lives for LGBT.”

- Jamiil Gaston

Hortelano said, "and it's definitely better than never."

Robert Tompkins and Jamiil Gaston attended the Expo to get a stronger idea of what's available for LGBT couples. Their anniversary is June 18, and they are giving themselves time to plan, shooting for a future June 18 wedding date.

"It's good to see things just for us. The Expo provides whole systems for LGBT couples. It's not a separate thing and adds to shaping the lives for LGBT," Gaston said.

"But the free cake is a really good reason," Tompkins laughed. "It's nice to get face time with local vendors and other couples."

They are both really concerned with equality and changes Michigan is trying to make.

"Equality will come to the country. The Midwest is a conservative pocket and the discrimination laws will get knocked down. The state doesn't have

a chance," Gaston said.

"Without a doubt," Tompkins said, "someone had to go first then the rest will follow, it's only a matter of time."

Lorie Dahlberg and Angie Flores are from Flint and have been partners for the better part of nine years.

"I knew I had to have her," Flores said. "We are very much opposites, so things are never boring."

Marriage isn't quite a topic of conversation yet but Flores is looking out for accepting churches so that when the time comes she can hold onto her traditions. She laughed and said that might be because of her Mexican heritage but that the Church needs to be open minded and accepting. She doesn't want a standing ceremony with many other couples in the room. She wants her wedding to be specialized and focused solely on her and her partner.

Like many other couples they have had their ups and downs. After splitting up for a year and half they have now come back together.

"I don't see a future without her," Flores said.

"Two of our friends got married on

See Couples, page 16

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58 Local Artists Exhibiting

Michigan Same-Sex Couples Demand Respect And Equal Treatment

Snyder's Discriminatory Actions Center Of ACLU Lawsuit

BY SUSAN HOROWITZ

DETROIT - The discriminatory consequences of Gov. Rick Snyder's actions were recounted through the lives of eight Michigan same-sex couples during an emotional press conference Monday. The ACLU of Michigan filed a lawsuit, *Caspar v Snyder*, on behalf of the couples, who were legally married on March 22, after U.S. District Court Judge Bernard Friedman ruled the ban prohibiting same-sex couples from marrying was unconstitutional. The opportunity to marry was short-lived and took place in just four Michigan counties that opened on a Saturday, before a stay pursued by Attorney General Bill Schuette was issued preventing more same-sex couples from marrying.

ACLU Attorney Jay Kaplan was emphatic in his opening remarks saying, "Gov. Snyder's hands were not tied as he has repeatedly stated. All through this process he had a choice just like governors in California, Nevada, Oregon and Virginia who recognize that marriage is a matter of fundamental freedoms, economic security and family values. Gov. Snyder could have chosen not to defend the state ban on same-sex couples marrying. He, like the attorney general, did not have to appeal the DeBoer decision and like U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, he could have stated that all those married under Michigan law would be afforded full recognition and benefits. Instead he failed to take into account the hundreds of couples - real people and real families - that have been negatively impacted by this decision."

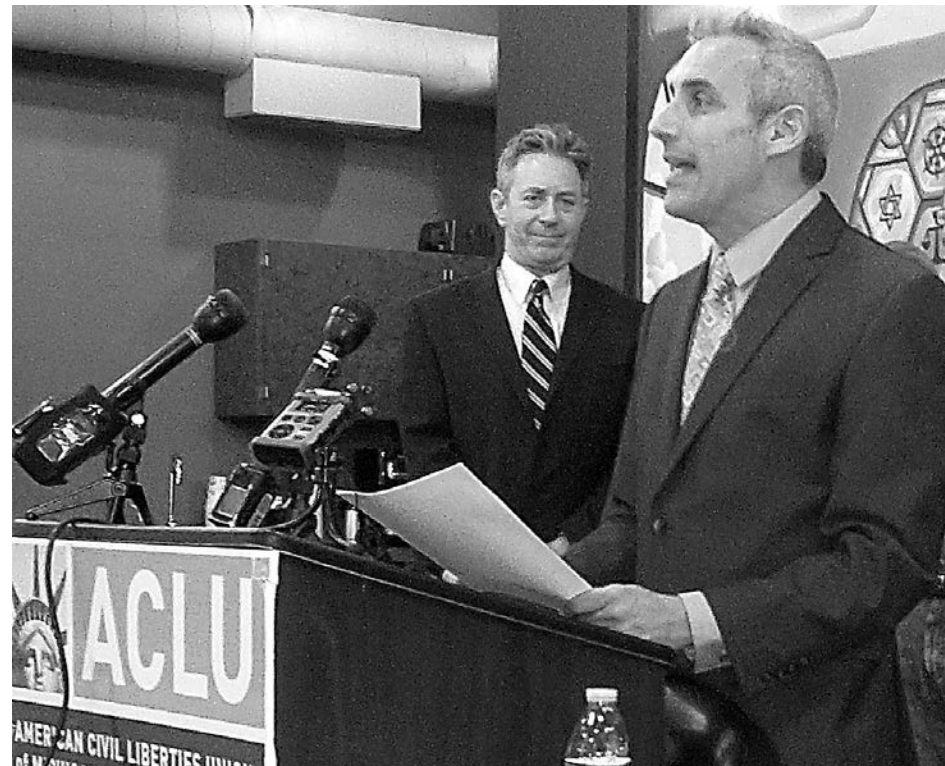
The ACLU is seeking a declaratory judgment that Gov. Snyder's failure to recognize these legally married same-sex couples with the benefits and recognition afforded opposite sex couples "violates their equal protection rights under the 14th amendment of our Constitution, as well as violates their right to due process," Kaplan said. The ACLU is also seeking a preliminary injunction requesting that the court order the state to stop denying these couples recognition and benefits.

Plaintiffs and family members spoke about the lack of respect and disappointment they felt when Gov. Snyder described their marriages as legal, yet would not allow the state to recognize the over 300 marriages that

took place.

Glenna DeJong and Marsha Caspar were the first couple to be legally wed when the Ingham County Clerk's offices opened at 8 a.m. March 22.

"After 27 years of waiting, on Saturday March 22 Glenna and I were the first couple to be married in Michigan. In all, over 300 couples across Michigan were married that



ACLU Attorney Jay Kaplan outlines the lawsuit brought on behalf of eight Michigan couples, asking the court for a declaratory judgment that Gov. Snyder's failure to recognize these legally married same sex couples with the benefits and recognition afforded opposite sex couples "violates their equal protection rights under the 14th amendment of our Constitution, as well as violates their right to due process." BTL photos: Susan Horowitz.

historic day. But now we must wait again. We were stunned when we heard the state was trying to make a distinction where there is no difference. It was declared that we are legally married but cannot reap the benefits and protections of our marriage," said Caspar who is the lead plaintiff in the lawsuit. DeJong described how the federal government was recognizing their marriage but "sadly Michigan was not" adding, "it's unacceptable that our own state continues to resist treating our family equally and with respect."

Clint McCormack and his partner Bryan Reamer have been together for 21 years and are raising 13 children. They jointly adopted nine of the children while they lived in New Jersey; however the remaining four were adopted in Michigan and in accordance with state law can only be adopted by one of them. McCormack, in a very emotional and teary statement, described how upset one of their

going to be recognized, my partner and I began considering joining this legal challenge. Our children are our first priority. So we called a family meeting and we talked about it. All of our children said they wanted us to fight, not just for our family, but for all the families like ours. That's why we are here today."

McCormack had three of his children by his side at Monday's press conference and Keegan, his 15 year-old said, "I hate the thought that the law doesn't see us as a whole family. When my dads got married I was really happy for them cause they finally got what was theirs."

In addressing a question about whether couples had "rushed" to marry knowing the state intended to appeal the decision Kaplan said, "Many of these couples have been waiting decades for the opportunity to marry. And when the DeBoer decision came down it was a wonderful day and something that had been anticipated for a long time, so if they were able to marry why wouldn't these couples go down as soon as the county clerk's office was open and solemnize their vow? This wasn't done on a whim - it was thought out for many years."

Then Caspar pointed out, "We were going to take the opportunity to get married whether there was a one hour window or ten hour window or a lifetime window. We actually had a marriage license already filled out and we were waiting."

Keith Orr and Martin Contreras also had their marriage application filled out and were just waiting for the opportunity to legally marry. "One of the things I said about this after 27 years of dating, it did feel a little bit like a shotgun wedding ...But indeed it was not a shotgun wedding because there was no secondary pressure out there, but indeed there had been 27 years of waiting." The two men are well known in the Ann Arbor community as owners of the popular *Aut\ Bar and Common Language Bookstore*.

When asked about Attorney General Schutte's claims of protecting the people of Michigan, Orr said, "It seems to me that Schuette is picking and choosing who he wants to protect. He certainly is not working on protecting the families in the 322 marriages that took place along with all of the other

sons became when he found out one of them was not his legal parent. "When our fifteen year old son Keegan realized that both of his dads were not legally recognized he felt like the rug was pulled out from underneath him. The distress that he felt was so hard to watch. It was like the state was punishing my child and for what?"

McCormack described what it was like to learn that the state was refusing to recognize their legally performed marriage.

"After we realized that our marriage was not

See next page

couples who would like to get married.”

Some of the couples spoke about the discriminatory consequences Snyder’s decision has had by not granting them the full legal recognition their marriage should provide.

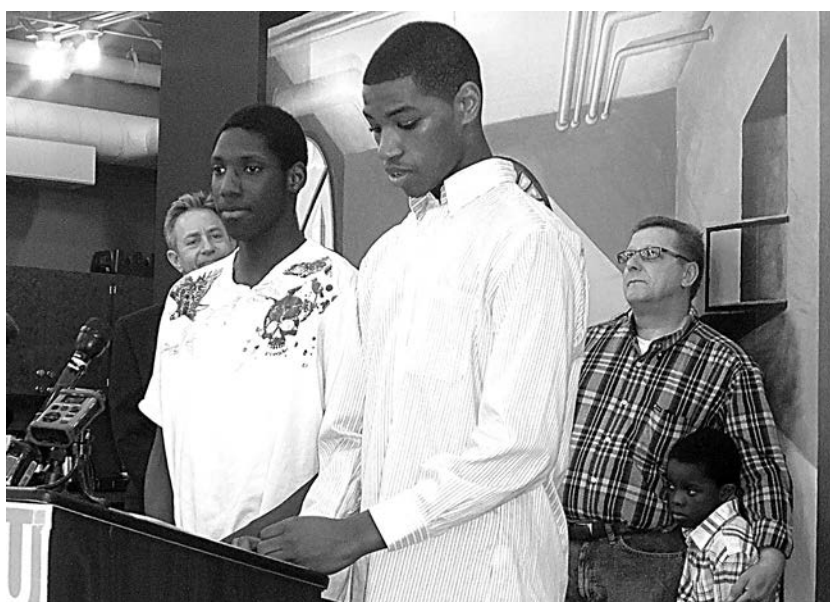
Frank Colasonti, Jr. married his husband, James Ryder. They were the first couple in Oakland County to be married by County Clerk Lisa Brown, arriving at the courthouse at 6 a.m. March 22 waiting for the doors to open. Colasonti, a retired school counselor, wants to insure that Ryder is properly provided for under his state pension if Colasonti should pass away before him. Under the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System, the state of Michigan’s Office of Retirement Services allows newly married retirees to adjust their pension disbursements to a lower monthly amount received in order to preserve future pension payments and health benefits for a surviving spouse. This option is available only for legally married spouses, and it must be exercised within one year of marriage. An internal memo issued by ORS staff says that unless Gov. Snyder changes his position, they can only recognize marriages between one man and one woman.

“I am very frustrated because I believe that I spent 30 years putting into the retirement system and that other couples – heterosexual couples – can then pass some of that money on to their spouses and I could not. I am no different or worth any less than any of the other employees of the retirement system,” said Colasonti.

Samantha Wolf who works for the Michigan Department of Community Health would like to have her wife, Martha Rutledge, covered as her spouse under her health insurance policy so that she can get far more comprehensive coverage for an ongoing injury sustained from a car accident.

“I went to work and asked to sign my legal wife up for benefits – health, dental and vision. While I originally was told that I could sign her up by someone on the phone, a supervisor came over later and said that given Gov. Snyder’s position that the legal marriages are legal except for legal rights - that I could not sign my wife up for insurance benefits.”

Other plaintiffs include Bianca Racine, a member of the National Guard who served for two years in Kosovo,



The lead plaintiff in the lawsuit, Marsha Gaspar, addresses the idea that couples “rushed” to marry, noting that waiting 27 years did not compute with rushing. Below Keegan McCormack, 15, center, describes how difficult it has been to experience the discrimination his loving family has gone through. With his brother Seth, 19, at his side and his father Clint McCormack behind him holding his 8 year old brother Hayden.

and wants to ensure that her wife is eligible for Michigan veteran funded services programs; Jim Anteau and Jared Haddock who have been together for 16 years and want to insure that Jared can be covered as his spouse by Jim’s employer; and Kelly and Anne Callison who have been together for five years and want to insure that their son, who they have raised together, have the legal protection of both parents.

Asked about any legal precedents, Kaplan pointed to Utah where same-sex couples find themselves in a similar situation as couples here in Michigan. For several weeks, earlier this year, after Utah struck down its ban on same sex marriage without issuing a stay, over 1,300 couples married. After the stay was issued the Governor of Utah said he would not recognize the marriages that

had been legally performed.

“I think as a principle, the law was that same-sex couples could marry and when the stay was put in effect - even if that is viewed as the law changing - it doesn’t retroactively void the marriages that took place,” said Kaplan.

What’s Next?

In a few weeks the ACLU of Michigan will file the preliminary injunction and the state has 21 days to respond. The ACLU will issue its response to the state and the court will then set a hearing date. The ACLU will request the earliest possible date, “because this discriminatory action of the governor is having very real effects on all of our clients,” said ACLU attorney Michael Steinberg.

BRIEFS

DETROIT

LGBT Caucus Seating Available At Upcoming MDP Dinner, Bill Clinton To Keynote

Former President Bill Clinton will keynote the Michigan Democratic party’s annual Jefferson-Jackson Dinner April 26 at Cobo Center in downtown Detroit.

“I’m thrilled to welcome one of the great leaders of our time to Michigan to boost Democratic efforts to win in 2014,” said Michigan Democratic Party Chair Lon Johnson in a statement released Sunday.

“We’re very much looking forward to hearing from President Clinton on how Democratic leaders can continue to work to create opportunity for all.”

At press time three tables with LGBT people were filled according to Mark LaChey, chair of the LGBT Caucus of the MDP. LaChey is hoping to fill a fourth. “Even though this event is headed toward a sell-out, the Caucus currently remains able to seat together as many of us who want to attend and not only see, hear and cheer Bill, but also help honor two of our greatest allies, Senator Carl Levin and Congressman John Dingell,” said LaChey in an email.

Individual tickets for the event are \$175. To purchase tickets go to <http://michigandems.eventbrite.com>. To be seated with the LGBT caucus please let Mark LaChey know you are attending by sending an email to mwlachey@comcast.net.

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

Dine Out For Life April 24

The Michigan AIDS Coalition will hold its annual Dining Out For Life event April 24 at area restaurants in southeast Michigan. From Sweet Lorraines, to Seva to Novi Chop House, 16 eateries will generously donate 25 percent of all food and non alcohol sales to MAC. So gather up friends and family and plan a night out where you know dinner is not just going to your waistline. Contact MAC at 248-545-1435 or visit the website www.michiganaidcoalition.org to learn more.

You can also visit BTL’s sponsor ad on page 24 of this issue.

FERDALE

2014 Good Neighbors = Strong Community Award Recipients Announced

Citizens for a Fair Ferndale announced its 2014 Good Neighbor = Strong Community Award winners. The recipients represent individuals, organizations and businesses committed to building, preserving and improving the quality of life in the community.

The 2014 honorees include Andrea Johns and Rachel Heller; Angela Lippard and Paul Collom; David Dominic; Jacki Smith; Kelly and Steve Kachnowski; Mary Ellen Rollins; Pamela Bellaver; Rebecca Phoenix; Ron Owens and Shannon O’Brien. In addition, Kelly Farrah will be honored with the Dennis Hoeppner Legacy Award.

“This group of citizens represents what makes Ferndale so special,” said Kat Bruner James, chair of CFF. “Their passions and commitments range from animal rescues and running clubs to championing GLBT rights and student concerns.”

The Good Neighbors = Strong Community Awards will be presented at private event May 6 at 7 p.m. at Local Kitchen and Bar in Ferndale.

CFF’s mission is to foster a community that is dedicated to the fair and equal treatment of all residents and visitors regardless of sexual orientation, race, color, religion, gender, age, height, weight, familial status, national origin, physical or mental disability.

INFO

300 Families For Marriage Equality

Find more information about the families and follow the case online

>> www.aclumich.org/300Families

What is STRIBILD?

STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before. It combines 4 medicines into 1 pill to be taken once a day with food. STRIBILD is a complete single-tablet regimen and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.

STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS. To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses you must keep taking STRIBILD. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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

STRIBILD can cause serious side effects:

- **Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include feeling very weak or tired, unusual (not normal) muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold especially in your arms and legs, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Serious liver problems.** The liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and fatty (steatosis). Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice), dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored bowel movements (stools), loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach pain.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking STRIBILD for a long time. In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you also have HBV and stop taking STRIBILD, your hepatitis may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking STRIBILD without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health. STRIBILD is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

Who should not take STRIBILD?

Do not take STRIBILD if you:

- **Take a medicine that contains:** alfuzosin, dihydroergotamine, ergotamine, methylergonovine, cisapride, lovastatin, simvastatin, pimozone, sildenafil when used for lung problems (Revatio®), triazolam, oral midazolam, rifampin or the herb St. John’s wort.
- **For a list of brand names for these medicines,** please see the Brief Summary on the following pages.
- **Take any other medicines to treat HIV-1 infection,** or the medicine adefovir (Hepsera®).

What are the other possible side effects of STRIBILD?

Serious side effects of STRIBILD may also include:

- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do regular blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with STRIBILD. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking STRIBILD.
- **Bone problems,** including bone pain or bones getting soft or thin, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV-1 medicines.
- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking STRIBILD.

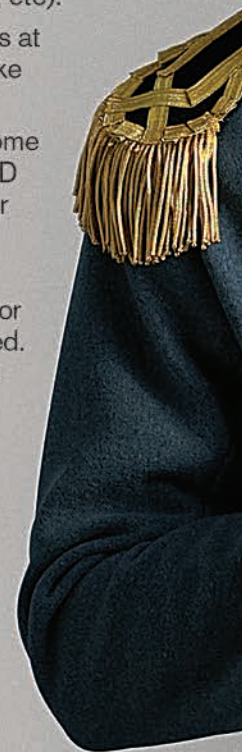
The most common side effects of STRIBILD include nausea and diarrhea. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or don’t go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking STRIBILD?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. STRIBILD may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how STRIBILD works. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Do not start any new medicines while taking STRIBILD without first talking with your healthcare provider.
- **If you take hormone-based birth control** (pills, patches, rings, shots, etc).
- **If you take antacids.** Take antacids at least 2 hours before or after you take STRIBILD.
- **If you are pregnant** or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if STRIBILD can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking STRIBILD.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk. Also, some medicines in STRIBILD can pass into breast milk, and it is not known if this can harm the baby.

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

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





STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used as a complete single-tablet regimen to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before. STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.

I started my personal revolution

Talk to your healthcare provider about starting treatment.

STRIBILD is a complete HIV-1 treatment in **1 pill**, once a day.

Ask if it's right for you.

STRIBILD[®] 

elvitegravir 150mg/ cobicistat 150mg/ emtricitabine 200mg/ tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300mg tablets

Patient Information

STRIBILD® (STRY-bild) (elvitegravir 150 mg/cobicistat 150 mg/emtricitabine 200 mg/ tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg) tablets

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

What is STRIBILD?

- **STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before.** STRIBILD is a complete regimen and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.
- **STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** You must stay on continuous HIV-1 therapy to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.
- **Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.** Do not share or reuse needles, injection equipment, or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them. Do not have sex without protection. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

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

STRIBILD can cause serious side effects, including:

1. **Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take STRIBILD or similar (nucleoside analogs) medicines. Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**

- feel very weak or tired
- have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
- have trouble breathing
- have stomach pain with nausea or vomiting
- feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
- feel dizzy or lightheaded
- have a fast or irregular heartbeat

2. **Severe liver problems.** Severe liver problems can happen in people who take STRIBILD. In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis). **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms of liver problems:**

- your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
- dark “tea-colored” urine
- light-colored bowel movements (stools)
- loss of appetite for several days or longer
- nausea
- stomach pain

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking STRIBILD for a long time.

3. **Worsening of Hepatitis B infection.** If you have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and take STRIBILD, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking STRIBILD. A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before.

- Do not run out of STRIBILD. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your STRIBILD is all gone

- Do not stop taking STRIBILD without first talking to your healthcare provider
- If you stop taking STRIBILD, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly for several months to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking STRIBILD

Who should not take STRIBILD?

Do not take STRIBILD if you also take a medicine that contains:

- adefovir (Hepsera®)
- alfuzosin hydrochloride (Uroxatral®)
- cisapride (Propulsid®, Propulsid Quicksolv®)
- ergot-containing medicines, including: dihydroergotamine mesylate (D.H.E. 45®, Migranal®), ergotamine tartrate (Cafergot®, Migergot®, Ergostat®, Medihaler Ergotamine®, Wigraine®, Wigrettes®), and methylergonovine maleate (Ergotrate®, Methergine®)
- lovastatin (Advicor®, Altoprev®, Mevacor®)
- oral midazolam
- pimozide (Orap®)
- rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifamate®, Rifater®, Rimactane®)
- sildenafil (Revatio®), when used for treating lung problems
- simvastatin (Simcor®, Vytorin®, Zocor®)
- triazolam (Halcion®)
- the herb St. John’s wort

Do not take STRIBILD if you also take any other HIV-1 medicines, including:

- Other medicines that contain tenofovir (Atripla®, Complera®, Viread®, Truvada®)
- Other medicines that contain emtricitabine, lamivudine, or ritonavir (Atripla®, Combivir®, Complera®, Emtriva®, EpiVir® or EpiVir-HBV®, Epzicom®, Kaletra®, Norvir®, Trizivir®, Truvada®)

STRIBILD is not for use in people who are less than 18 years old.

What are the possible side effects of STRIBILD?

STRIBILD may cause the following serious side effects:

- **See “What is the most important information I should know about STRIBILD?”**
- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before you start and while you are taking STRIBILD. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking STRIBILD if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take STRIBILD. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people who take HIV-1 medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the middle of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The exact cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system** (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome) can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having any new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.

The most common side effects of STRIBILD include:

- Nausea
- Diarrhea

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

- These are not all the possible side effects of STRIBILD. For more information, ask your healthcare provider.
- Call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking STRIBILD?

Tell your healthcare provider about all your medical conditions, including:

- If you have or had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis B infection
- If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if STRIBILD can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking STRIBILD.
 - There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk with your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.
- If you are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you take STRIBILD.
 - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
 - Two of the medicines in STRIBILD can pass to your baby in your breast milk. It is not known if the other medicines in STRIBILD can pass into your breast milk.
 - Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

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

- STRIBILD may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how STRIBILD works.
- Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you take any of the following medicines:
 - Hormone-based birth control (pills, patches, rings, shots, etc)
 - Antacid medicines that contain aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate. Take antacids at least 2 hours before or after you take STRIBILD
 - Medicines to treat depression, organ transplant rejection, or high blood pressure
 - amiodarone (Cordarone[®], Pacerone[®])
 - atorvastatin (Lipitor[®], Caduet[®])
 - bepridil hydrochloride (Vascor[®], Bepadin[®])
 - bosentan (Tracleer[®])
 - buspirone
 - carbamazepine (Carbatrol[®], Eptol[®], Equetro[®], Tegretol[®])
 - clarithromycin (Biaxin[®], Prevpac[®])
 - clonazepam (Klonopin[®])
 - clorazepate (Gen-xene[®], Tranxene[®])
 - colchicine (Colcrys[®])
 - medicines that contain dexamethasone
 - diazepam (Valium[®])

- digoxin (Lanoxin[®])
- disopyramide (Norpace[®])
- estazolam
- ethosuximide (Zarontin[®])
- flecainide (Tambocor[®])
- flurazepam
- fluticasone (Flovent[®], Flonase[®], Flovent[®] Diskus[®], Flovent[®] HFA, Veramyst[®])
- itraconazole (Sporanox[®])
- ketoconazole (Nizoral[®])
- lidocaine (Xylocaine[®])
- mexiletine
- oxcarbazepine (Trileptal[®])
- perphenazine
- phenobarbital (Luminal[®])
- phenytoin (Dilantin[®], Phenytek[®])
- propafenone (Rythmol[®])
- quinidine (Neudexta[®])
- rifabutin (Mycobutin[®])
- rifapentine (Priftin[®])
- risperidone (Risperdal[®], Risperdal Consta[®])
- salmeterol (Serevent[®]) or salmeterol when taken in combination with fluticasone (Advair Diskus[®], Advair HFA[®])
- sildenafil (Viagra[®]), tadalafil (Cialis[®]) or vardenafil (Levitra[®], Staxyn[®]), for the treatment of erectile dysfunction (ED). If you get dizzy or faint (low blood pressure), have vision changes or have an erection that last longer than 4 hours, call your healthcare provider or get medical help right away.
- tadalafil (Adcirca[®]), for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension
- telithromycin (Ketek[®])
- thioridazine
- voriconazole (Vfend[®])
- warfarin (Coumadin[®], Jantoven[®])
- zolpidem (Ambien[®], Edlular[®], Intermezzo[®], Zolpimist[®])

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine. Do not start any new medicines while you are taking STRIBILD without first talking with your healthcare provider.

Keep STRIBILD and all medicines out of reach of children.

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

Issued: October 2013



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Heard At The ACLU Press Conference

“*These couples did not get married on a mere whim or a desire to beat the clock. It was a decision made after years and for some couples decades of patiently waiting for their committed, loving relationship to be accorded the same dignity and recognition under law that has been accorded to opposite sex couples.*”

- Michigan ACLU Attorney Jay Kaplan discussing the lawsuit filed this week on behalf of eight Michigan couples who were legally married and are now being denied the benefits they are entitled to because of Gov. Snyder's refusal to recognize their marriages.

“When I was growing up I knew that I could always count on my family to be there for me. My dads have made a huge difference in my life and they protect me and my brothers just like any other family would.”

- Keegan McCormack, 15 year old son of plaintiffs Clint McCormack and Bryan Reamer

“We didn't need marriage to make a lifetime commitment or to have the love and acceptance of our families. We had been by each other in sickness and in health, when times were good and when times were tough, but we know now that we need marriage more than we had expected. We did not realize the joy we would feel, while having the opportunity for friends, family and even strangers to celebrate and honor our public vow.”

- Glenna DeJong, wife of lead plaintiff Marsha Caspar

“I think as a principle the law was that same sex couples could get married and when the stay was put into effect - even if that is viewed as law changing - it doesn't retroactively void the marriages.”

- Attorney Jay Kaplan



Viewpoint

BY SEAN KOSOFSKY

2010 was just awful. Economic fear, racism, Citizens United and Tea Party ideology created a devastating blow to our democracy. Legislative chambers all over the country changed control and the redistricting process cemented this reality for years to come. In my new home of North Carolina, this meant big change. We braced ourselves for 40 years of progress to be erased.

North Carolina is the most progressive state in the South. Voters here are very proud of investments in education, election reform and other innovations. We have benefitted from forward thinking lawmakers who positioned our state far ahead of the rest of the South. We passed trans-inclusive anti-bullying legislation in 2008 and were the first southern state to pass comprehensive sex-education (both efforts I was proud to be a part of). So you can understand why many of us would not stand by and watch our gains be taken from us easily.

Even though we knew 2013 would be hard, we still wanted to fight. An annual, Black-led, multi-racial coalition had been forming for years, called HK on J (Historic Thousands on Jones Street). "Jones Street" is where our state legislature meets. This coalition, led by the North Carolina NAACP, hatched the plan for the "Moral Monday" movement.

The forces of regression had us outgunned and out funded; but we had warm bodies and public opinion on our side. Moral Mondays was a focused and brilliant tactical assault on the special interest agenda of the new Raleigh regime. From April until the end of session, activists from around the state would gather, every Monday to demonstrate against the horrible bills being proposed and passed. Republicans were rolling back reproductive rights, environmental protections, voting access, criminal justice reforms and attacking teachers and our vulnerable citizens. This broad and aggressive campaign against the people of North Carolina galvanized the public in ways we have never seen.

With each passing Monday, crowds grew larger and our coalition expanded, earning us national attention and making our new governor unpopular. What we could not do in the general assembly we did in the court of opinion. We drew attention to the radical actions of our lawmakers by descending on the seat of government and demanding fairness, transparency and accountability.

I was actually on vacation, at a North Carolina beach with friends on Monday, June 3rd, 2013 when I decided that it was

Carolina On My Record 'I declined. So I was arrested'

time for me to attend Moral Monday. I told me friends, "we need to go in a few hours so I can be home in time to participate. This matters a lot to me." Despite the relaxing combination of cocktails, sunbathing and people watching, we hopped in the car and hustled back to Raleigh. At 6 p.m. I gathered with thousands of people on the lawn near Jones Street. Hundreds of us decided to go in to the building to make the lawmakers face

The forces of regression had us outgunned and out funded; but we had warm bodies and public opinion on our side. Moral Mondays was a focused and brilliant tactical assault on the special interest agenda

us and hear us.

By this point hundreds of people had been arrested since April. My goal was not to get arrested by to participate in free speech. I couldn't believe people were getting arrested for simply petitioning their government, but it indeed was happening. Within an hour of stepping inside Capitol Police began filming us as they began arresting us. The Chief approached me and asked me if I would disperse. I declined. So I was arrested. As were over 200 others.

The next six hours were uncomfortable, but it was a small price to pay for raising awareness about the incalculable discomfort

being caused to North Carolina families. Uncomfortable was the least I could do. I was charged with three misdemeanors, even though I believe I broke no laws. By July, nearly 1,000 people had been arrested. Hundreds of arrestees have taken a plea bargain, but the rest of us are fighting the charges. As of this printing, I am awaiting trial. My legal representation has been provided for free by the NAACP.

Public opinion had dramatically shifted against our new governor and another rare thing happened; there is more public support for protesters than there is for the legislature. To be clear, I take no credit for Moral Monday's movement. It was hatched by others and I was mostly on the margins, I feel invested in telling the story of those of us

who were arrested.

Activists across the country are now trying to export the Moral Monday model. We can recreate this in Michigan and Mississippi and Montana if need be. For those in Michigan tired of looking inward, and focusing on your own well-being, I urge you to face outward... engage civically. It matters.

Sean Kosofsky is a longtime community activist and former staffer with the Triangle Foundation (Equality Michigan). He lives with his partner in North Carolina where he continues to work on social justice issues.



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How Long Ago It Seems ...



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

In the mid-50s there weren't any nationwide advocacy groups. No newspapers like *Between The Lines*. No gay-friendly churches. No out homosexual celebrities. Zero.

Gays and lesbians - considered a psychologically aberrant, innately suspect, very small minority - lived in the closet at home, at college, at work, and especially in public. In fact, the closet as a concept didn't exist.

Bisexuals, it was said among us gays and lesbians, lacked the guts to admit who they honestly were. Crossdressing was forbidden except on Halloween; and in 1956, Christine Jorgensen made big news for - whisper, whisper - "having the, you know, sex-change operation."

Being "out" was being secretive. One shared a same-sex status or attraction only with trusted queer friends. Nicknames were a given. I was known as Big Al. (Big, for tall, by the way.) Survival strategy was passing for straight. Play the game. If need be date. If really need be, get married. If you can, fake it. I couldn't.

Detroit, as the Arsenal of Democracy, was "the" center for war work, and attracted thousands of World War II workers, soldiers, sailors, WAVEs, and WACs. Gay bars thrived and continued on through succeeding decades.

There were several crowded clubs in the 1950s, and a couple of notorious restaurants in the city's downtown area where teenagers hung out and learned from gay peers how to cope with a hostile world. It was a viable gay community.

Gay life back then was exciting, varied, nurturing, sophisticated, trashy, unsegregated, segregated, colorful, drab, fulfilling, energetic, dangerous, sheltering, sustaining, fun, wild, crazy, frustrating, boring, exhausting, and damned less expensive. Beer 50 cents a bottle. Martini, \$1.25. Jail bail, \$25. Looking back . . .

. . . I was 19 the summer I graduated from Cass Tech. Free from studies, living at home, taking time off before job hunting, I was keen to explore the gay scene.

I heard from friends about the infamous Hub Grill, located at Farmer and Bates streets, inconveniently within a short trek (and a lock up) to the 1st Police Precinct Headquarters and Old City Hall,

in walking distance of the Renaissance Center.

The Hub Grill was a greasy spoon, knife and fork, with large windows, angled on the two street corners. To enter was to be gawked at. Queer! Faggots! Fruits! To stool sit in everybody's sight was thumb-your-nose brazen. "Flamers" - obvious queens - never seemed to mind. They thrived on the attention.

Two sisters, Fran and Flo, and a scruffy cook, Uncle Jimmy, held bicarbonate-of-soda court. Fran rarely smiled, and smoked nonstop. Flo, her hair worn in Rosie the Riveter upsweep, was all winks and confidential tease: "Miss Thing, don't you look all Hollywood. You gonna snag husband number five tonight, or is it six?"

I hadn't sat down more than a few minutes, when a talkative number at my elbow - "she" called "herself" Marshmallow - decades later transitioning to leather butch - asked, "Are you a Browning King or Queen?" Not knowing anybody's top from my nobody's bottom, and wanting to be newcomer polite, I asked, "Is there such a thing as a Browning Prince?" "How about Princess?" she clucked.

I soon got to know the regulars by face and nickname. There were a spate of Miss this, Miss that. Names like Little Bobby, Estralita, Taboo, Little Laura Findlove. Butch Bob. Lady Chrysler. The Empress. I made friends and, importantly, I realized as a gay teenager I was not alone. My world was much bigger than I thought.

It was custom summer nights to stroll onto the streets to see who paraded in and out of the bars: The 1011, Silver Dollar, Barrel Bar, the dykes galore, Palais, LaRosa's. (I had heard about LaRosa's when I was 15. "It's a queer bar. Fairies go there," confided a buddy one Halloween night when we spotted some men in skag drag getting into a Checker Cab. If there was one thing I hated as a kid it was being called a fairy.)

I weighed 175 lb., buff in my penny loafers, 6' 2", and had a 30-inch Levi's waist. I was told I looked like actor Carleton Carpenter, later gay mystery writer, who starred opposite Debbie Reynolds in a no-brainer B- movie then current, singing "Abba Dabba Honeymoon."

Standing on the corner during those carefree, adventuresome nights, we underage teenagers flirted and flaunted, hoping to meet someone special. Preferably someone older and reasonably butch, when the bars closed. Unfortunately, most nights I had to be home by eleven sharp.

My folks never asked where I had been. Or, fortunately, who I was not dating.

National Briefs

BY LISA KEEN

Utah Arguments

The three judges of the Tenth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals hearing a case challenging Utah's ban on same-sex couples marrying asked about comparisons between the current conflict and those in such historic cases as *Dred Scott*, *Loving*, and *Windsor*. They challenged attorneys to define animus and marriage. And in the end, at least one LGBT legal activist in the Denver federal courtroom felt "things went extremely well" for marriage equality supporters. Shannon Minter, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, said the state's hired counsel "was not really able to supply a satisfactory answer" when pressed to explain why the Supreme Court's precedent in *Loving v. Virginia* would not apply in this case, *Herbert v. Kitchen*. The judges will hear one more lawsuit challenging a statewide ban - *Smith v. Bishop* from Oklahoma. In both cases the district court struck down state ban as unconstitutional. An audio recording of the one-hour proceeding in *Kitchen* is available on the Tenth Circuit's website. The *Bishop* case will be heard April 17.

Tax Day Protest

Equality South Carolina staged a tax day protest in Columbia, the state capital, April 15 to show support for same-sex couples in South Carolina who have married in other states but must lie on their state tax returns and claim to be single. South Carolina is one of a number of states which are requiring legitimately married same-sex couples to file as single, even though the federal government requires such couples to file as married on their federal returns. The Human Rights Campaign has created a guide to the basics of what each state requires concerning same-sex married couples. Some states, like Texas, don't have a state income tax. Others, like South Carolina and Michigan, require that, if couples file married for federal income tax purposes, they have to then recalculate their incomes as two single people on a federal return and fill out their state income tax return with that information.

DOJ Clarifies Coverage

The U.S. Department of Justice issued guidelines April 9 to clarify the reauthorized Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) covers victims of domestic violence, regardless of sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Among the specific guidelines is one saying that any entity receiving VAWA funds, including faith-based organizations, cannot discriminate based on various factors, including gender identity and sexual orientation. "Gender identity is a person's internal view of the individual's gender. Transgender can be used to describe a person whose gender identity is different from the individual's assigned sex at birth," notes DOJ. "... best practices dictate that the [grant] recipient should ask a transgender beneficiary which group or service the beneficiary wishes to join."

Court Rules For Indiana Couple

A federal judge in Indiana April 10 granted a motion by Lambda Legal to secure a temporary restraining order that will require the state to give recognition to the out-of-state marriage of one of their plaintiff couples. Lambda sought the emergency order on behalf of Niki Quasney and Amy Sandler to protect Sandler's rights to care for and make decisions for Quasney who has late stage ovarian cancer. The couple, who were married in Massachusetts and have two children,

is part of a pending lawsuit Lambda has filed on behalf of a number of same-sex couples in Indiana. Judge Richard Young (a Clinton appointee) is expected to consider a request for a preliminary injunction against the state ban and then to rule on the ban's constitutionality.

'We Won't Discriminate'

A Mississippi newspaper, the *Clarion Ledger*, reports that some businesses are posting signs "We Don't Discriminate," in response to the governor's signing a religious bias bill. The bill takes effect July 1.

Nevada GOP Stakes Bigger Tent

The Republican Party of Nevada, at its annual convention Saturday, overwhelmingly voted for a platform that removes previous language defining marriage as being only between a man and a woman. Ed Williams, president of Log Cabin Republicans of Nevada and a delegate at the convention, said the state party "has made it clear that they want a 'bigger tent' and has welcomed us into it." National Log Cabin Executive Director Gregory Angelo praised the Nevada Log Cabin chapter for making a "critical difference pushing the GOP toward the right side of history."

Minimum Wage Impact

The UCLA-based think tank and research center for LGBT issues released a report Thursday saying that an increase in the minimum wage could help more than 300,000 LGBT people. The Williams Institute analysis concludes that "at least 20,000 people in same-sex couples would no longer be poor" if the minimum wage were to be increased to \$10.10, as President Obama has proposed.

Two Gay House Dems Vote No

Two of seven openly LGBT members of the U.S. House voted "No" on increasing the minimum wage. In the vote, taken Thursday, Reps. Kyrsten Sinema (D-Ariz.) and Sean Maloney (D-NY) were among 31 Democrats to oppose the increase, included as part of an overall budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2015. All seven voted against a smaller Republican proposed budget, which passed.

Commentator Decries Double Standard

Conservative pundit Charles Krauthammer had this to say in a column Thursday regarding the push by LGBT activists to oust Mozilla CEO Brenden Eich because he donated \$1,000 in 2008 to support California's Proposition 8: "...why stop with Brenden Eich...., Six million Californians joined Eich in the crime of 'privileging' traditional marriage. So did Barack Obama.... In that same year, he declared that his Christian beliefs made him oppose gay marriage... the man whom the left so ecstatically carried to the White House in 2008 was equally a bigot."

- Keen News Service. You can find *Daily Speed Read* online at www.pridesource.com.

Judge To Ohio: Recognize Out-Of-State Same-Sex Marriages

BY AMANDA LEE MYERS

CINCINNATI (AP) – A federal judge on Monday ordered Ohio to recognize the marriages of same-sex couples performed in other states, and civil rights attorneys and gay marriage supporters immediately began looking ahead to their next fight: a lawsuit seeking to force Ohio to allow gay couples to marry.

Judge Timothy Black's ruling was a partial but significant victory for gay rights supporters, who called it a stepping stone for full marriage equality in Ohio.

Black ruled that Ohio's refusal to recognize gay marriage is a violation of constitutional rights and "unenforceable in all circumstances."

"The record before this court ... is staggeringly devoid of any legitimate justification for the state's ongoing arbitrary discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation," Black wrote.

Gay marriage is legal in 17 states and Washington, D.C. Federal judges recently have struck down gay marriage bans in Michigan, Utah, Texas, Oklahoma and Virginia, though stays have been issued pending appeals.

Similar to Ohio's ruling, judges in Kentucky and Tennessee have ordered state officials to recognize out-of-state gay marriages. The Kentucky decision has been stayed pending appeal, while Tennessee's ruling applies to only three couples.

The state will appeal Black's ruling, arguing that Ohio has a sovereign right to ban gay marriage, which voters did overwhelmingly in 2004.

Al Gerhardstein, the Cincinnati civil rights attorney who filed the lawsuit that led to Black's ruling, said Monday that he's been speaking with several gay couples who want to win the right to marry in Ohio. He plans to file a lawsuit in the matter in the next couple weeks.

He called Black's ruling "a sweeping declaration" in favor of gay marriage and thinks the judge has given a clear indication that he would rule in favor of forcing Ohio to allow gay couples to marry in the state.

Black delayed deciding whether to issue a stay of Monday's ruling pending appeal until after attorneys on both sides present arguments on the issue by Tuesday.

Al Gerhardstein, the Cincinnati civil rights attorney who filed the lawsuit that led to Black's ruling, called Black's ruling "a sweeping declaration" in favor of gay marriage and thinks the judge has given a clear indication that he would rule in favor of forcing Ohio to allow gay couples to marry in the state.

However, Black said he's inclined to put the ruling on hold pending appeal, except for a portion that applies to the four gay couples who filed the February lawsuit that led to the court case. That would mean the state would immediately have to recognize their marriages and list both spouses as parents on their children's birth certificates.

If Black declines to stay his ruling, that would allow gay couples in Ohio to obtain the same benefits as any other married couple in the state, including property rights and the right to make some medical decisions for their partner.

Ed FitzGerald, the presumptive Democratic nominee for governor in the November election, said Black's ruling "begins to open the door to full marriage equality in Ohio" and criticized Republican Gov. John Kasich for opposing equal rights.

Kasich spokesman Rob Nichols said in a statement: "The governor believes that marriage is between a man and a woman, he supports Ohio's constitutional ban on same-sex marriage, and we're glad the attorney general is appealing the ruling."

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine told The Associated Press last week that his job is to defend Ohio's statutes and constitutional provisions and that he will continue to do so.

He declined to speculate what the outcome of the state's appeal will be or the future of gay marriage rights as a whole.

Ian James, co-founder of the pro-gay marriage group FreedomOhio, called Black's ruling a landmark decision that brings Ohio closer to marriage equality but said "there is still more work to be done."

Separately from the court action, FreedomOhio is seeking to put gay marriage back on the Ohio ballot as early as November, asking voters to require that all legally valid marriages be treated equally under the law, while keeping clergy from being forced to perform same-sex marriages.

Phil Burrell, who chaired the 2004 effort to ban same-sex marriage, has said his group is prepared to fight any ballot initiative to repeal the ban.

He said he's confident that appeals courts will overturn Black's order and other recent rulings nationwide in favor of gay marriage.

Creep of the Week Kevin Swanson

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

The last time I was snacking on some Teddy Grahams I thought to myself, "These little bears sure are cute. Hey, the bear on the box has a t-shirt on, that's weird. He looks more like a human in a bear costume than a real bear. Hey, some gay men

cookies and crackers are, but I digress. First of all, Swanson's head exploded at the very idea of "homosexual families."

"Whatever that is," he said, laughing. "Maybe they had another family where a dog is the wife with a human husband."

Ha ha ha. Get it? Because there's no difference between bestiality and homosexuality!

Swanson's prediction is that because of this commercial Nabisco is going to lose "28 percent, 38 percent, 47 percent of the market," because math.

"Corporations can't afford to lose 2% or 4% of their market," he said. "You start doing stuff like this and you're going to lose America. Because this is not wholesome."

And don't try to play the "love is wholesome" card with Swanson. He sees through your little ruse.

"See the problem with this 'love' thing is you can define it anyway you want," he muses. "Homosexuals love their friends and cannibals love their victims, they taste good."

See? If you're going to claim you love your "friend" (presumably Swanson would be okay if you substituted the word "roommate"), then what's to stop you from killing and eating him or her?

Because, as I've already mentioned, homosexuality and murder are virtually interchangeable! In fact, Nabisco could have used either one in their commercial and evoked the exact same reaction.

According to Swanson's flawless logic, "When you come down to things like axe murder or homosexuality and you say, 'We're really going to promote it and we're going to encourage everybody in America to engage in this or at least support this thing,' there will be people on the other side who will take an adamantly opposed position to your support of axe murdering or homosexuality."

So true! As in "truly insane." I am not a social scientist, but I am willing to bet that people would be more than just "adamantly opposed" if Nabisco made a commercial in which, instead of one man holding a baby while another man kisses that baby's head, they presented a man swinging an axe and chopping off a baby's head while another man held that baby down.

And if that example was a little too graphic for you, don't complain to me about it, complain to Swanson who apparently would find either commercial equally offensive.



On the April 11 episode of his Generations Radio show, Swanson ranted and raved about Nabisco's recent advertisement for Honey Maid graham crackers, which included a gay couple and their baby along with various other families.

call themselves bears... OH MY GOD I'M A CANNIBAL!"

And then I got an axe and went out to murder people because I thought, "Well, I'm a homosexual, so I might as well be an axe murderer, because those things are so much alike that they're basically the same thing."

Now, you might be saying to yourself, "D'Anne, you're scaring us. You've just made some really fucked up connections that only someone with a truly sick mind would ever make. Now put this sleeveless jacket on..."

To which I would respond, "No! Take him!" as I frantically point at Kevin Swanson, a Colorado pastor who has made a name for himself saying totally insane things about LGBT people. Because these are all his ideas.

On the April 11 episode of his Generations Radio show, Swanson ranted and raved about Nabisco's recent advertisement for Honey Maid graham crackers, which included a gay couple and their baby along with various other families. The theme of the ad was that Honey Maid makes "wholesome" snacks. Granted, one could argue about how "wholesome" heavily processed

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► Couples

Continued from p. 5

that Saturday," Dahlberg said. "I burst into tears, it was a very emotional day." They held hands and cuddled for the photograph Dahlberg resting her head on Flores' shoulder.

"I want to see what can be sparked," Flores said. "Governmental acknowledgement is the first step." She thrives on comfort and is looking forward to a time where her relationship can be accepted and received outside of just the LGBT community.

Audrey Williams and Rhonda Lee walked the Expo linked at the shoulder; you could see their smiles from across the room. They've been together for seven years and are looking to get married within the next two years.

"I'm looking at the photography, it's really spectacular," Lee said.

"And extras for the ceremony, venues..." Williams said. "Creativity, really," Lee said.

They are considering Oliva Cruise liner as their marriage destination, given Michigan's current stance on gay marriage.

"Heterosexual relationships are recognized everywhere. And we have to crawl before we can walk; but we'd have to get married in eight states and hope wherever we move our union is recognized," Williams said.

"But they are realizing that our relationship is not affecting them. Their ideas are changing," Williams said.

"The vision is changing, opening up, and people are changing," Lee agreed.

Cindy Clardy and Jocelyn Walters, both in their early 60s, from Southfield, have been together since 1995. Their commitment ceremony was held in 2005 and are both hoping that they can be legally married around the age of 70.

Unlike younger couples Clardy and Walters are concerned about retirement and estate planning and how that will affect their partner. If they get married it may throw a monkey wrench into their plans due to how Michigan laws are carried out currently. They'd have to be married a year before they were to receive spousal benefits, for example.

"We are here and queer, so get used to it," Clardy jests. She doesn't want to go back into the closet for retirement and is strongly concerned with nursing home accommodations for LGBT couples.

"There is still a lot to be done," Clardy said. "You can still be fired from your job for being gay. The employment discrimination needs to stop."

"But it's good to see young families and young people who see gay people living normal lives," Clardy said. "They seem to be more accepting."

Walters' grandchildren are over often. Her face practically glows telling the story about her granddaughter and the accepting statements made from the young girl.

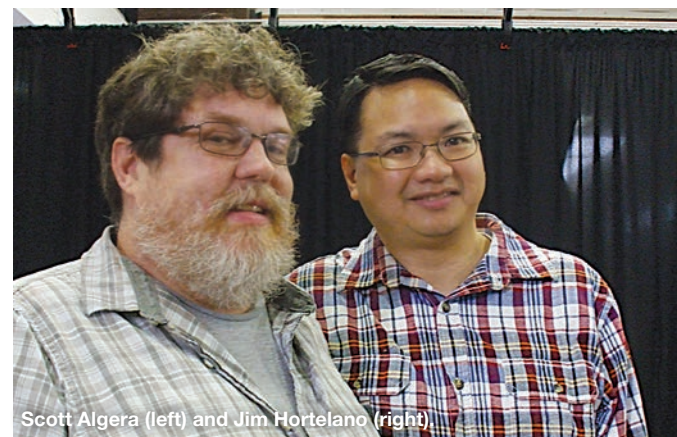
"So you're married to Mo-Mo," Walters speaks from the granddaughter's perspective. "Yes I am." The corners of Walters' eyes pinch together in a smile. "You're married to her because you love her."

They believe Michigan still has a long way to go and believe that there are progressive pockets in the state. Clardy was pleased to see the Southfield City Councilman, Jeremy Moss, attend the Expo and was happy to see all the vendors who are gay friendly. But she is displeased with Southfield City President Sylvia Jordan.

They are in no rush to get married, keeping concerned with how they will organize their estate and retirement planning as an LGBT couple, but are keeping venue, flowers and commitment rings in their minds for the upcoming celebration.



Audrey Williams (left) and Rhonda Lee (right).



Scott Algera (left) and Jim Hortelano (right).



Jocelyn Walters (left) and Cindy Clardy (right).



Lorie Dahlberg (left) and Angie Flores (right).

RESOURCES

Visit our dedicated website www.BTLWeddingExpo.com
>> Find vendors who want to work with same sex couples, ideas for planning your wedding, anniversary or any special party!

► Expo Success

Continued from p. 4

For his part, Schauer said meeting DeBoer and Rowse was an honor.

“I felt like I was in the presence of leaders,” he said, before volunteering to marry them once he was governor.

Asked what plans they’ve made for their own wedding, DeBoer said the details are few. For legal reasons, the couple has decided to wait until their case has made its way through the legal system – even if that means it should be taken to the U.S. Supreme Court – before they wed.

“Right now we haven’t been planning,” DeBoer said. “We don’t really know when this decision will come down, so it’s hard to make plans when you don’t know when you’re going to be able to be married. But at this rate, it’s going to be really big.”

Top Left: Kyle Burns and Jackie Rose displayed beautiful gems and jewelry from Miners Den, one of the Expo’s Bronze Sponsors.

Top Middle: Kaitlin from the Detroit Derby Girls wowed the crowd with her runway appearance on skates.

Top Right: Mindy Kasprzynski, owner of Charmed Salon in Plymouth, provided all the makeup and hair styling for the fashion show.

Bottom: Over 600 people talked to vendors, watched the fashion show, danced to the tunes spun by Star Trax DJs, enjoyed the food and wine offered in the food court area and won prizes.

BTL Photos: Andrew Potter



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APRIL 25, 2014 - MAY 17, 2014



Queen Of Hearts

'Kinky Boots' Star Billy Porter On Friend Cyndi Lauper, Inspiring Gay Youth & Finding Forgiveness

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

For his first solo album since becoming “Tony and Grammy award winner Billy Porter,” Broadway’s kinkiest drag queen is taking off the corset and stepping out of those iconic heels. With “Billy’s Back on Broadway,” the Pittsburgh-born crooner continues to honor his passion for musical theater, taking on songs made popular by some of the most revered legends: Liza Minnelli (“But the World Goes ’Round”), Judy Garland (“Happy Days Are Here Again / Get Happy”) and Barbra Streisand (“Don’t Rain On My Parade”).

During our chat, Porter, 44, talked about his fondness for strong women, how he aspires to be Cyndi Lauper (whom he calls “one of the godmothers of individuality”) and the personal catharsis he’s experienced while transforming into a woman for “Kinky Boots.”

Was winning the Tony for Best Performance by a Lead Actor in a Musical last year one of those

surreal moments where you give your speech, and then walk away and it all becomes a haze and you wonder what the hell you just said?

No – because I wrote it! (Laughs) I had to write it down. I have amazing people and friends, and my manager of 23 years, Bill Butler, and one of my dear friends Jordan Thaler, the casting director at Public Theater, both said to me before it happened, “Look, you have a one in five chance of winning. Write something down. Write it down!” And they know I’m not the kind of person who wants to come across as being cocky or anything, so they both were like, “It’s not being cocky; it’s honoring the moment. It’s better to be prepared and to be able to look back at this time and, if it happens, have had said something intelligent.” I said what I wanted to say as opposed to getting up there and fooling around, so I’m glad that they made me write it.

You’re right, though: Some people think it comes off as cocky when people prepare a speech.

And it’s actually really not that. It’s more about

the moment. Lemme write something down so I don’t look like Boo Boo the Clown up there.

Your first album, “Untitled,” was released 17 years ago. How do you reflect on that experience and compare it to recording “Billy’s Back on Broadway”?

It was a different time for me as a human being, as well as for the industry. I feel like I’ve always been this kind of hybrid artist that comes from a very Pentecostal church music background, along with R&B, soul and gospel music, and I sort of fell into the theater – and fell in love with the theater!

The market couldn’t support that before. They didn’t know what to do with me, and I just got lost. It was also very homophobic and very misogynistic at the time. And if you were black, you were an R&B soul artist. And if you weren’t putting out that kind of energy, there wasn’t a place for you, nobody was interested in seeing or hearing you, or speaking to you. So, it’s interesting now because, with, ultimately, the breakdown of the industry due to the digital era, the market has opened in a way that I, Billy

Porter, can show up and do a Broadway album with a full orchestra and a major record label actually wants to produce it and put it out. That’s a huge difference and a huge change from what it was like when I started in the industry. And it’s a welcome change for me! It’s where I feel most at home.

You collaborate with Cyndi Lauper on “Happy Days Are Here Again / Get Happy.” She, of course, wrote the “Kinky Boots” music, so she’s a colleague of yours. But what is she like as a friend?

I always say she has the biggest heart of anybody that I know. It’s been such a wonderful experience, because, for me, she is one of the godmothers of individuality. She understood really early on how to embrace the totality of who she is no matter what anybody thought or said. That’s a hard lesson to learn as a human being in general – and then trying to be an artist on top of that! So she’s always been that person to me, but then to have her in the room and to see just how

regular, normal and down to earth she is really refreshing and encouraging. That's the kind of person I want to be, and that's the kind of artist I want to be.

Do you not feel like you're already there?

Am I the kind of artist I want to be? I don't know. I think as artists we are our own worst critics, so I'm not sure that there is ever a scenario where I will feel like I have arrived or like I've made it, because that's just not in our nature. I also feel like there's always more to learn, there's always a deeper exploration, there's always a deeper growth point to reach in our consciousness, so I try to use my art and my talent to continue to explore that and to be the best version of myself I can be.

You've said that, in your own life, you could never be as bold as Lola, the character you play in "Kinky Boots," and dress as a woman. So, the first time you put the heels, the corset and the wig on, what did you feel?

It felt empowering. It's such an empowering thing, and Lola talks about it at the top of the second half with the song "What a Woman Wants." I think we live in a world that's so black and white sometimes that we forget that the majority of life is gray. It's the gray area that ultimately gives us our strength and our power.

Understanding and embracing your masculinity as well as your femininity gives a person balance, and until one can be balanced you're... off balance. (Laughs) I was trying to find a sparkly word, but there's no other word. You're either balanced or you're not.

On "Billy's Back on Broadway" you cover songs from Liza, Barbra, Jennifer Holliday and Judy Garland. Isn't it a rule that gay men can only devote themselves to one diva?

Mmm, no! I don't live by those rules; don't you know that by now? (Laughs) I don't have no rules in my life. I live to break the rules.

Why are you drawn to these women?

It's less about the women and more about how empowered they are, whether it's the character that's empowered or the actual person that's empowered. I was raised by strong women, I respond to strong women and I think that's what it is. I just respond to that. It's not about masculine or feminine – it's about their survival instincts.

If you could invite any one woman to dinner, whom would you take out?

It's always been Oprah for me. I mean, to watch what she has done in her life is just like... I don't even know. Every time I turn on the OWN network and I watch her, I'm like, really?! Really?! OK, woman. OK, black woman from the thick of wherever you came from, wherever it was, with your outhouse. It's like, what?! Just the fact that her whole life is about paying it forward is something that I find really inspiring. I hope to harness that energy in myself someday.

Have you met Oprah?

I have met Oprah! I was on her show once about 10 years ago. But she would never remember. (Laughs)

She needs to get you back on.

She's a little busy.

On this album you include "Not My Father's Son," a pivotal song from "Kinky Boots." I know your relationship with your own fathers – your biological father and your stepfather – was strained, and even though it's Lola's song, what's its significance for you? Where does it take you every time you sing it?

It's really interesting because it was the first song that I learned. I had seen the movie, I had fallen in love with the movie and I heard that they were doing a musical. I knew if there were any role that's right for me, it would be this. I always knew that there was a story deeper than the surface of being a drag queen, which I think very often, when you have someone like Lola, when you have a character who's larger than life, it's very easy for the humanity to get lost in the interpretation.

I was concerned and nervous going in that, as a black, gay man, as a person who has experienced marginalization from all different directions, the truth and the power of this character's journey might get lost in the character's kind of fabulousness. I walked in and they played "Not My Father's Son" and all of those fears went away. These people knew exactly where the heart of this show was.

At its heart is a story of acceptance.

And forgiveness. For me, it's forgiveness. For me that song is about forgiveness, and every single time I sing it I feel a little bit more of that.

Toward your fathers?

Yeah. It's been a long journey, but it's interesting because it affects me, and it's lightened my load. Both my father and stepfather are now gone. They passed on. And you know, they both passed on before there was any real closure, so I've had to deal with the closure of these strained relationships after the fact.

So "Kinky Boots" has really helped you work through that?

Yes, very much so.

I'm betting other people have experienced a similar transcendence. What's a story that really stands out to you regarding the influence your role as Lola had on somebody?

The ones that really get me are the kids, the young 8- to 14-year-old little gay boys who write me and say, "I listen to you and I follow you because you give me strength – and you let me know that it's gonna be OK. I can go to school and I can get beat up and I can get harassed now but, at the end of the day, if I hold on, it's all gonna be good." Those are the ones that really get me, because there is power in what we do as artists. We can reach people, and there is a responsibility to show up.

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Spring In Lansing

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

From volunteer work to themed parties, downtown Lansing is hosting a variety of events this spring.

To celebrate the end of winter, the 2014 Lansing Microbrew & Music Festival will be 5-11 p.m. April 18-19 at Adado Riverfront Park in the city. The 21-and-over event will feature OAR and Dirty Heads as featured performers, over 200 different kinds of beer, wine, cider and mead, local food vendors, marching bands and a “silent disco DJ dance tent.” One-hundred percent of alcohol sales will benefit the Greater Lansing Food Bank and Xero Waste Events, both non-profits. Tickets start at \$40. More details can be found at www.microbrewandmusic.com.

For those who miss the April beer fest, Bell’s Fest in the Stadium District is at 4 p.m. Thursday, May 1 at Taps 25, 414 E. Michigan Ave. Sponsored by Bell’s Brewery, the event will feature over

26 beers. Other bars and restaurants will feature Bell’s beers on tap that night to support the festival. For further information, visit www.bellsbeer.com or www.taps25.com.

Lansing will also host an entire week of events dubbed “Lansing in the Pink Week.” From April 21-27, downtown Lansing will help support the Susan G. Komen Mid-Michigan Race for the Cure by filling the city with pink. Volunteers are asked to help hang pink ribbons throughout the district, while stores will be participating in a “Storefront Decorating Contest,” all decked out in the color pink. Many businesses will be offering specials throughout Pink Week in exchange for donations to support Komen Mid-Michigan. The Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure wraps at 2 p.m. April 27 on the Capitol Lawn.

After Lansing’s April events bring people outdoors to enjoy the city, events will be held to beautify the city

in preparation for summer. Lansing will hold a “Capital City Clean Sweep.” The city is looking for volunteers for the seventh annual event from 1-3 p.m. May 1. Lunch will be provided to all participants who work to make the city cleaner and greener. Grand Traverse Pie Company is a major sponsor of the event. E-mail jenn@downtownlansing.org to sign up.

For those with more of a green thumb, the Public Spaces Team of Downtown Lansing Inc. will host their Downtown Planting Day from 8 a.m. to noon on May 20. Volunteers will help “brighten” downtown Lansing by planting thousands of annuals.

For more information on events in the Lansing area, visit www.downtownlansing.org and www.iloveoldtown.org.

Visit BTL’s Calendar at www.pridesource.com/calendar.html for more Lansing and East Lansing events.



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"Lovers, Liars & Lunatics" continues at The Purple Rose Theatre Company through May 24. Photo: Sean Carter Photography

'Lovers, Liars & Lunatics' In Chelsea

BY JOHN QUINN

The arrival of spring brings a fresh outlook to winter-weary Michigan, and a little levity is as welcome as a bed of crocuses. The Purple Rose Theatre Company is happy to oblige. Guy Sanville directs six top-notch performers in "Lovers, Liars & Lunatics," a Spring Comedy Festival of new one-act plays. Like the opening night cocktail buffet The Purple Rose sets out for ink-stained wretches and legitimate patrons alike, the plays offer quite a variety. Some are sweet, some are spicy, and a couple of them are downright surreal. But the entire selection is delectable.

Six playwrights have contributed to "Lovers, Liars & Lunatics": Carey Crim, Jeff Daniels, Kirsten Knisely, Lauren Knox, David MacGregor and Craig Pospisil. There are 10 plays (plus "Prologue"), so it's obvious some authors contributed more than one work. There are only six actors in the ensemble: Lauren Knox, Michael Brian Ogden, Rusty Mewha, Michelle Mountain, Rhiannon Ragland and Tom Whalen. It's obvious, then, that each actor plays multiple roles. Yet the one-acts gracefully segue, due largely to Sanville's unifying vision. There is such harmony that "Lovers, Liars & Lunatics" is greater than the sum of its well-written parts.

It's no coincidence, then, that the evening comes full circle – "Prologue," the first vignette, is Kirsten Knisley's set-up for the last play, her "Don't Sit under the Apple Tree." Set in 1945, long before the women's liberation movements, it's a quiet little piece that turns the tables on the standard "boy meets girl" plot. Rich girl Lauren Knox successfully pursues poor, reluctant boy Rusty Mewha to provide a gentle coda to the evening. What comes in between those scenes runs from the sublime to the ridiculously funny.

Consider Purple Rose founder Jeff Daniel's "The Anatomy of an Argument," a sextet for warriors in the battle of the sexes. The deliveries are as sharp as the writing; insults and

REVIEW

Lovers, Liars & Lunatics

The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Wednesday-Sunday through May 24; no performance April 20. 2 hours. \$18.50-42. 734-433-7673.

www.purplerosetheatre.org

observations are fired like precision machine gun fire. It also comes with a moral for men: "Once you're down, you STAY down!" That's to avoid the attack of "Big Mama She-Bear Gargoyles."

As a counter-point to the sweet and salty, "Just Desserts" by David MacGregor features humor as dark as good chocolate. A fed-up office worker (Michelle Mountain) takes action to expose the Notorious Pig – the co-worker swiping lunches from the break room fridge. The wickedly funny build in this play is only enhanced by Tom Whalen's no-holds-barred physical humor.

The second act holds a surprise that heightens the unity of this production. We find that Carey Crim's three contributions, "WebMD," "OK Cupid" and "Realtor.com," while complete within themselves, are pieces of a larger narrative. They tell of love lost and found again – even in the face of opposition – and prove that lovers and lunatics aren't that different.

Performed on Vincent Mountain's elegantly spare set, "Lovers, Liars & Lunatics" offers no distractions from the performances. The actors are on top of their game, demonstrating uncanny flexibility in character study and voice control. There are no duplications; every character is unique. In addition, the cast is capable of what this critic thought was a lost art – the ability to speak softly and yet project one's voice to the entire audience.

They say comedy is all in the timing. If that's true, then "Lovers, Liars & Lunatics" is runnin' like a Rolex.

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Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, April 17

Katie Wirsing-Spoken Word Poet Part of MSU's Pride Week. PRIDE, LIGHT, RING and Spectrum, **East Lansing**. Lgbtrc.msu.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. Fundraiser for PFLAG Genesee County. Featuring comedians Kathie Dunbar and Mike Neubecker. 18+. Tickets: \$10-15. PFLAG Flint, 2474 S. Ballenger Highway,

Downtownlansing.org

Lansing Jaycees Egg Hunt 10 a.m. Downtown Lansing, **Lansing**. Downtownlansing.org

Queer & Trans Yoga 10 a.m. All-levels class. All are welcome. Tickets: \$10-25 (any amount accepted). Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Storytime with HSHV 11 a.m. This program pairs children ages 2-5 with animal interactions, as well as stories, activities and crafts. Humane Society of Huron Valley, 2513 Jackson Ave., **Ann Arbor**. 734-662-0600. Nicolasbooks.com

Gay Straight Alliance in Berrien County 2 p.m. LGBTQ youth, friends and

Ave., **Royal Oak**. 248-515-2551. Five15.net

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

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

Monday, April 21

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



www.pflagflint.com for more information.

Editor's Pick

PFLAG of Flint will host their Comedy Extravaganza tonight in Flint. The fundraiser for PFLAG Genesee County will feature Kathleen Dunbar and Mike Neubecker.

PFLAG Flint, or Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, "provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity." The organization hosts events throughout the year to help their mission of support, advocacy and education for the health and well-being of LGBT persons, families and friends.

Comedy Extravaganza begins at 7 p.m. April 17 at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint, 2474 S. Ballenger Highway, Flint. Tickets range from \$10-15. The event is for those 18 and older. Visit

Flint. Pflagflint.com

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

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

Friday, April 18

Pride Quilt Part of MSU's Pride Week. RING, **East Lansing**. Lgbtrc.msu.edu

Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: Breaking the Girls-College sophomores Sara and Alex, roommates who've become intimate, idly joke about killing each other's enemies. But now someone's been murdered. Was one of them taking things too far, or is someone else playing a deadly game with the lovers. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org/

Movie Night 7:30 p.m. Movies of an LGBT nature. Free. Battle Creek Pride Resource Center, 16 E. Van Buren St., **Battle Creek**. Battlecreekpride.org

Pride Prom 8 p.m. Hawaiian theme. Part of MSU's Pride Week. PRISM & Pride, **East Lansing**. Lgbtrc.msu.edu

Saturday, April 19

Lansing Microbrew & Music Festival Downtown Lansing, **Lansing**.

allies, ages 14-18. OutCenter, 124 Water St., **Benton Harbor**. 269-925-8330. Outcenter.org

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

Women's Music Fest 7 p.m. 21+. Tickets: \$10. Kalamazoo Pride, **Kalamazoo**. Kglrc.org/pride

GLBT AA 8 p.m. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. Jimtoycenter.org

Sunday, April 20

Easter Launch Service 11 a.m. Be a part of the Launch service of the newest church in Flint with an outreach to the GLBT community. Everyone welcome! Carriage Town Tabernacle, 321 University (at Mason), **Flint**. 810-433-2509. pastor@carriagetowntabernacle.org Carriagetowntabernacle.org

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

8th Annual Easter Potluck Dinner 1:30 p.m. GNA, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. msfjp@sbcglobal.net Goaffirmations.org

Monthly Support and Program Meeting 2 p.m. PFLAG, 306 N. Division, **Ann Arbor**. 734-741-0659. Pflagaa.org

Euchre Tournament 7 p.m. Battle Creek Pride Resource Center, 16 E. Van Buren St., **Battle Creek**. Battlecreekpride.org

Salon Sunday 7 p.m. Free cabaret concerts. Five 15, 515 S. Washington

GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

Tuesday, April 22

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

Speak Out 6 p.m. The team at SafeHouse is planning a Speak Out focused on providing domestic violence survivors within the LGBTIQ community an opportunity to share their experiences and receive support from the community. The Speak Out will focus on survivors' experiences with sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence, and/or intimate partner violence. Jim Toy Community Center and SafeHouse, 4100 Clark Road, **Ann Arbor**. Jimtoycenter.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

Life's a Stitch 6:30 p.m. Open to those who Crochet, Knit, Quilt, Needlepoint, Macrame and Jewelry. Free. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

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

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

Wednesday, April 23

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

Thursday, April 24

Dining Out for Life When you eat out at any of the participating restaurants in the Metro Detroit area, a portion of your food bill will be donated to the Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC). Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), **Metro-Detroit**. Diningoutforlife.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

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

MUSIC & MORE

Classical

Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra "Chamber Recital Series: Recital Season Finale" Tickets: \$10. Jewish Community Center of Ann Arbor, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr., **Ann Arbor**. 1 p.m. April 18. A2so.com

Palmer Woods Music in Homes "Music to Mesmerize: Classical & Chinese" Tickets: \$35-40. Palmer Woods Neighborhood, **Detroit**. 8 p.m. April 19. 313-891-2514. Palmerwoods.org

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 "The Werks" 18+. Tickets: \$10-12. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., **Ann Arbor**. 9 p.m. April 17. 734-996-8555. Blindpigmusic.com

Kerrytown Concert House "Paul VornHagen Quartet" CD release concert. Tickets: \$10-30. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. April 18. 734-763-4186. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Ingrid Michaelson" With special guests Storyman and The Alternate Routes. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., **Royal Oak**. April 23. 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre.com

The Ark "The Appleseed Collective" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. April 19. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

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

Boeing Boeing \$13-24. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre, Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park St., **Kalamazoo**. Through April 19.

See Happenings, page 25

www.PrideSource.com

'Twelfth Night' Gender Bends For Shakespeare's Birthday

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

Shakespeare's plays often lend themselves to modern treatments with some suggesting current themes more than others.

When it comes to plays about gender identity as a social construct, it's hard not to think of "Twelfth Night," Shakespeare's comedy in which male actors play women pretending to be men, and both male and female characters fall in love with the same mixed gender character.

It's the main reason that Emilio Rodriguez joined forces with Wicked Green Productions to put on a one-night showing of "Twelfth Night" to mark Shakespeare's 450th birthday on April 23. As co-director, producer, script editor and the actor who plays Olivia, Rodriguez wanted the play to both explore gender identity and to be a celebration of the Bard's birth.

"We're tying in the party element," said Rodriguez. "It brings in a cohesive, modern feel to the play, but doesn't go against the text. Because it is music and a party, we're doing it on Shakespeare's birthday. The core of the text perfectly aligns with a party."

Rodriguez brought his idea to Bailey Boudreau, and they decided to cast an all-male troupe just as was done in Shakespeare's time, but they'd add yet another twist to it.

"When Shakespeare did use males as females, they were dressed up with female powder face, but it was very clear they were males. His females are so much bolder than his males," Boudreau said. "So for Shakespeare in his time to be writing females that would never act that way, it makes us easy to bring it into the current age without modernizing it, but making it modern."

Boudreau said all of this idea originally came from Rodriguez, who had studied gender identity in college and how it was all a social construct. Rodriguez asked Boudreau to be an actor in the play, and the Wicked Green artistic director is playing the part of Viola, the woman who dresses as a man after being shipwrecked in a strange land. From there, Boudreau's role grew.

"I gladly took (Viola) on and costume design," Boudreau said. "In a lot of one-on-one discussions of his concept, I was going along with that and adding some ideas about the set and doing a lot of minimalistic things. I like to do theater



Ryan Ernst, Bailey Boudreau and Emilio Rodriguez in "Twelfth Night." Photo: Wicked Green Productions

PREVIEW

Twelfth Night

Wicked Green Productions at Michigan Actors Studio, 648 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale. 7:30 p.m. April 23. 75 minutes. \$10 adult, \$4.50 student.

www.facebook.com/wickedgreenproductions

that makes the audiences have to choose things. We don't give them much – they decide what things mean."

Boudreau's role grew to that of costumer and co-director, and the two began to collaborate on how to make this play a new experience for its audiences.

"It was great to have a co-director," Rodriguez said. "I loved all of Bailey's suggestions, and we connected right away with a vision. It's a very good partnership."

One change is that the play is cut down from three hours to 75 minutes. The other is that the male actors playing female characters are not in drag. They also took advantage of the Michigan Actors Studio space where they will be performing. Michigan Actors Studio hosts comedy sports and improv troupes. One side has a red wall and the other side has a blue wall.

"It is very bold," Boudreau said. "You have to design accordingly. It just aided in the male-female action. Roses are red. Violets are blue. The red is the female side, the male is the blue side and the set was built around that."

Rodriguez pointed out that when you

combine the red and blue backdrops, you get purple – or Violet – a color very similar to the name of the main character. He also said their set designer, Alexander Trice, worked with adding picture frames to the set that would suggest backgrounds like the sea or the count's courtroom.

"If we're going to have males playing females and not in drag and have the audience buy into that, we have to have a set that allows them to imagine it as well."

Since a one-night production leaves little time for news to spread about the show, Boudreau and Rodriguez said they're relying on social media and getting out a lot of posters in the Ferndale area. Also, all of their 10 actors are connected in the community. Since the performance is on a Wednesday, when other actors typically have the day off, they're hoping to see a lot of industry turn-out.

Rodriguez emphasizes that the performance is as much a party as it is a play.

"It is celebrating Shakespeare, and it still being alive so many years later," Rodriguez said. "Theater is a very viable art form, and we're celebrating one of its most accomplished places of origin. We're able to do that by bringing the idea of celebration, party and festivity and using a cast that is out-of-this-world funny. There are back flips and it is crazy. The idea of celebration is really what it is about. It's a celebration that we are in this art form together and it is a beautiful thing to think it has lasted this long."

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Cher Is God On 'Dressed To Kill Tour'

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

It wasn't even Easter, but on April 12 at the Joe Louis Arena in Detroit, a deity was resurrected. Towering above her disciples on a pillar, and in a headdress that resembled the most glamorous peacock you've ever seen, Cher made a glorious return to the stage after she bid farewell 12 years ago. And then after she bid farewell again. And again.

But when you look as fierce and museum piece-y as Cher – and when you're still relatively agile at 67 (the diva said recent foot surgery prevents her from keeping up with her background dancers) – you don't sit back in your granny jams and watch these other girlies take the throne. You show them who reigns.

"The D2K Tour" (named after "Dressed to Kill," a song from her latest album, "Closer to the Truth," released in 2013) was obviously jaw-dropping, frilly and elaborately produced – because, duh, that's

what a Cher show is – but it also made every effort to secure the half-century legacy of its star. Between songs were snippets from Cher's filmography, including "Mermaids" and "Mask," and, to mark the moment she finally felt embraced by the movie industry, a clip of her accepting her Oscar for "Moonstruck." Honoring her relationship with Sonny Bono, she sang alongside a video feed of her late ex-husband, turning "I Got You Babe" into a touching tribute to their time together. And though she's since condemned her 2010 camp-musical "Burlesque," the film's cabaret set was still constructed for two of the soundtrack's songs: "Welcome to Burlesque" and "You Haven't Seen the Last of Me," the latter a solo showstopper personifying Cher's survivor status. The gays lost their shit. Mothers wept. It was as holy a moment as watching Jesus rise from the dead.

Really, though, the whole show was divine, from the iconic biker getup she resurrected for "If I Could Turn Back Time"

See Cher, page 29

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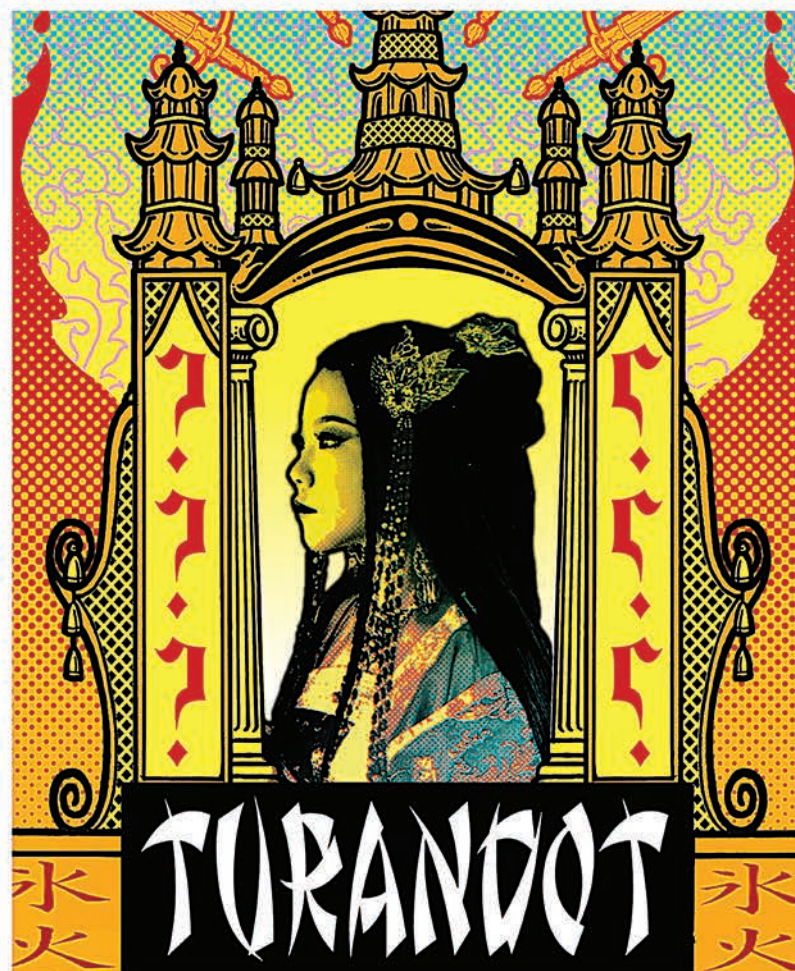
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► Happenings

Continued from p. 25

269-343-1313. www.kazoocivic.com

Cabaret for a Cause \$35. Northville Sprouts, 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

Life is a Dream \$5-15. Brass Tacks Ensemble at A2CT Studio Theater, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. April 24 - May 3. 734-971-2228.

Life is a Dream \$5-15. Brass Tacks Ensemble at Riverside Arts Center, 76 North Huron Street, Ypsilanti. April 17 - 20.

Moll \$25 dinner & theater (advanced only); \$13 show only. LowellArts! Players at Larkin's Other Place, 301 W. Main St., Lowell. April 25 - May 10. 616-897-8545. www.lowellartsmi.org

The Importance of Being Earnest \$10-15. Richmond Community Theatre, 69619 Parker St., Richmond. April 25 - May 11. 586-727-9518. www.richmondtheatre.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

The Laramie Project The Detroit Actor's Theatre Company at Ferndale United Methodist Church Social Hall Theatre, 22331 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. April 24 - 26. www.thedatc.org

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

August: Osage County \$10-30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. April 18 - May 10. 313-577-2972. 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

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

Dark Night \$10. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Through April 19. 313-365-4948. www.planetant.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

How I Became a Pirate \$19. Etico Productions at City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. April 25 - 27. 313-471-6611. www.olympiaentertainment.com

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

Life Is Happening To Us Again \$15. A Host of People at Play House, 12657 Moran St., Detroit. Through April 26. www.ahostofpeople.org

Love is Strange \$15-18. Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company at The Abreact Performance Space, 1301 W. Lafayette #113, Detroit. Through April 26. 313-454-1542. www.magentagiraffe.org

Nathan Gunn \$67. The Berman Center



Nathan's partner on stage and in life – brings along her sensitive and stylish pianistic work, as well as her expertise as a music director, vocal coach and song arranger.

Tickets are \$67 (JCC members \$62), which includes service fees. Ticket and additional information can be obtained by calling the ticket office at 248-661-1900.

The Berman is located at 6600 W. Maple Road on the campus of the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield.

for the Performing Arts, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. 7:30 p.m. April 24. 248-661-1900. www.theberman.org

Old Love \$27-32. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Through May 4. 248-347-0003. www.tippingpointtheatre.com

Old Wicked Songs \$27-29. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. April 25 - May 11. 269-343-2727. www.farmersalleytheatre.com

Richard III \$27-46. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. April 24 - June 1. 734-663-0681. www.performancenetwork.org

Editor's Pick

The Berman Center for the Performing Arts presents Nathan Gunn with Julie Jordan Gunn (piano) at 7:30 p.m. April 24.

Nathan Gunn is one of the most exciting and in-demand baritones of the day. On opera and concert stages from the Met to Covent Garden to the Hollywood Bowl, Nathan's charisma, emotional range and resonant voice make immediate and lasting connections with audience members and colleagues. A frequent recitalist, Julie –

Sister Act \$40+. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. April 22 - May 4. 313-872-1000. www.broadwayindetroit.com

Steel Magnolias \$12-15. Great Escape Stage Company, 155 W. Michigan Ave., Marshall. Through April 27. 269-781-2700. www.greatescapestagecompany.com

The Giver \$12-30. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 7 p.m. April 22. 810-237-8689. www.thewhiting.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

Twelfth Night \$4.50-10. Wicked Green Productions at Michigan Actors Studio, 648 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale. 7:30 p.m. April 23. www.facebook.com/wickedgreenproductions

Veterans of SNL \$29-59. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 7:30 p.m. April 26. 810-237-8689. www.thewhiting.com

West Side Story \$29.50-69.50. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint. April 18 - April 19. 810-237-8689. thewhiting.com

ART 'N' AROUND

Cranbrook Art Museum "Tony Labat" I Broke It and I Don't Care. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. 6 p.m. April 22. 877-462-7262. Cranbrookart.edu

Detroit Artists Market (DAM) and CCS "Biannual All Media Exhibition 2014". Detroit Artists Market, 4719 Woodward Ave., Detroit. April 18-May 23. 313-832-8540. Detroitartistsmarket.org


Detroit Institute of Arts "Samurai: Beyond the Sword" The exhibition looks at how Japan's legendary warrior class sought balance between military and cultural pursuits. Tickets: \$8-16. 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. March 9-June 1. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

MOCAD "Tabernacle: A Metamorphic Healing Module" New York-based artist Sameer Reddy's practice aims to catalyze spiritual catharsis through aesthetic encounter, drawing on his parallel professional practice as a healer. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Feb. 7-May 4. 313-832-6622. Mocadetroit.org

Pewabic Pottery "Dominance Lost". Pewabic Pottery, 10125 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit. March 21-May 11. 313-626-2000.

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

Saugatuck Center for the Arts "Unplug + Go Green" Part of Intriguing Conversation Series. Travis Williams. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. 7 p.m. April 17. 269-857-2399. Sc4a.org



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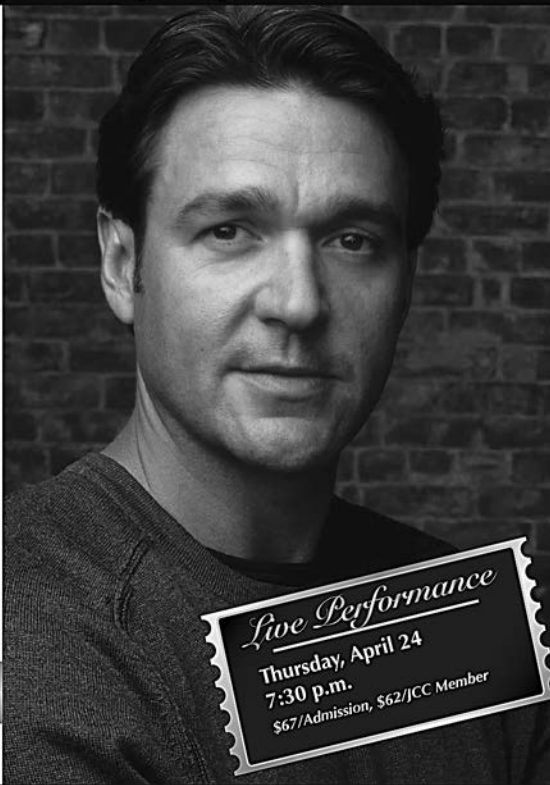
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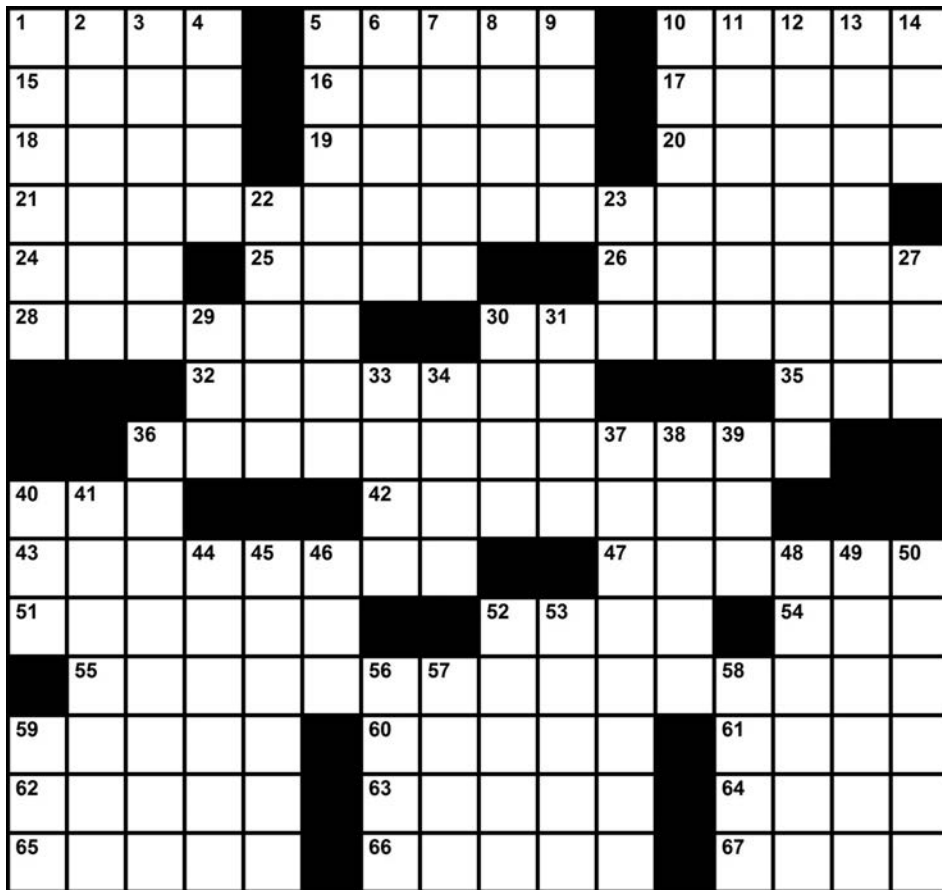
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Turn The Other Cheek



Across

- 1 What a knight takes to go clubbing?
 5 Discombobulates
 10 Vidal's "Visit to a ___ Planet"
 15 Camaro model
 16 Have the hots for
 17 One that can be paddled at the stern
 18 Omar in "The Mod Squad"
 19 Capote portrayal Robert
 20 Actress Susan
 21 Start of a comment on the death of Fred Phelps (Matthew 5)
 24 This, to Luis Zapata
 25 Erotic opening
 26 Card game with tricks
 28 The Queen and others
 30 Studio workers
 32 City burned in "Gone with the Wind"
 35 Poet who inspired "Cats," initially
 36 More of the comment
 40 It may top a queen
 42 Whys and wherefores
 43 Deserts
 47 Less messy
 51 Push over
 52 Elton John Broadway musical
 54 Salutation for Caesar
 55 End of the comment
 59 Make noise in bed

- 60 Place to become wife and wife
 61 "When ___ said and done ..."
 62 Lurer of phallic fish
 63 Unexpected help
 64 Travel around
 65 Take by force
 66 Chat room request
 67 A. Lincoln, e.g.

Down

- 1 "Patience and Sarah" author Isabel
 2 Like an opera melody
 3 Truck lineup
 4 Homo leader to toga-wearers?
 5 How good friends get along
 6 Deuce follower, for Mauresmo
 7 The Gay Blade
 8 Tongue of Wilde's land
 9 James Baldwin's "The Evidence of Things Not ___"
 10 Shrimp entree
 11 Rages
 12 Come before
 13 Eases up
 14 Spy novelist Deighton
 22 Site where Franklin, Winston, and Josef came together
 23 NY winter hrs.
 27 U-turn from NNW
 29 Rhine feeder
 30 Drag queen's leg scraper
 31 "Nuts!"

- 33 Kinky coil
 34 Coward of "Blithe Spirit"
 36 Voyeur's station
 37 Banana source
 38 "___ at time!" (No threesomes!)
 39 Fed. retirement agency
 40 Guy under J. Edgar, for short?
 41 One who shares a deed
 44 Future ferns
 45 Trumpet player Herb
 46 Pee-___ Herman
 48 AIDS activist Elizabeth
 49 Become men, perhaps
 50 Gets more mileage out of
 52 Allstate rival
 53 Impotence confession
 56 Butts
 57 Strip under the futon
 58 O.K. Corral gunfighter
 59 Work under Edith Head, perhaps

Solution on pg. 30

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BTL photo: Chris Azzopardi

► Cher

Continued from p. 24

“I can still get in my ‘Turn Back Time’ outfit and I’m almost 100,” she joked) to the neon-bright hip-hop dance party of “Believe,” when the diva donned a white wig and a nude bodysuit. With her stream-of-consciousness about Dr. Pepper, the time she was here and her wig fell off—and how her cat was rescued from under a tour bus during a previous Detroit show – even Cher’s banter delivered. It was as awesomely crazy as her Twitter page.

For the remainder of the nearly two-hour extravaganza, “D2K” impressed with loud shifting sets, fancy acrobats and, naturally,

an abundance of costume changes to honor Cher’s transformative eras. She did her ’70s hippie thing with the “Dark Lady” / “Half-Breed” / “Gypsies, Tramps & Thieves” trifecta, saluted Elvis during “Walking in Memphis” and sang “Just Like Jesse James,” though she admitted to absolutely hating the song. To exercise her dancey divaness, Cher had a ferocious troupe twirling and flipping around her during “Woman’s World,” “Dressed to Kill” and “Take It Like a Man,” all songs from her club-banger, “Closer to the Truth.”

It was gay heaven that night, and Cher was the golden goddess. Descending upon her children during the sweet send-off “I Hope You Find It,” Cher floated above them like an angel returning to bless her followers. I mean, why not? After all, she’s as eternal as one.

With her stream-of-consciousness about Dr. Pepper, the time she was here and her wig fell off – and how her cat was rescued from under a tour bus during a previous Detroit show – even Cher’s banter delivered. It was as awesomely crazy as her Twitter page.

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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 Holstead (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 Pincrest. 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.

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Go After Your Serenity (G.A.Y.S.) Al-Anon Family Group

Saturday's 8pm
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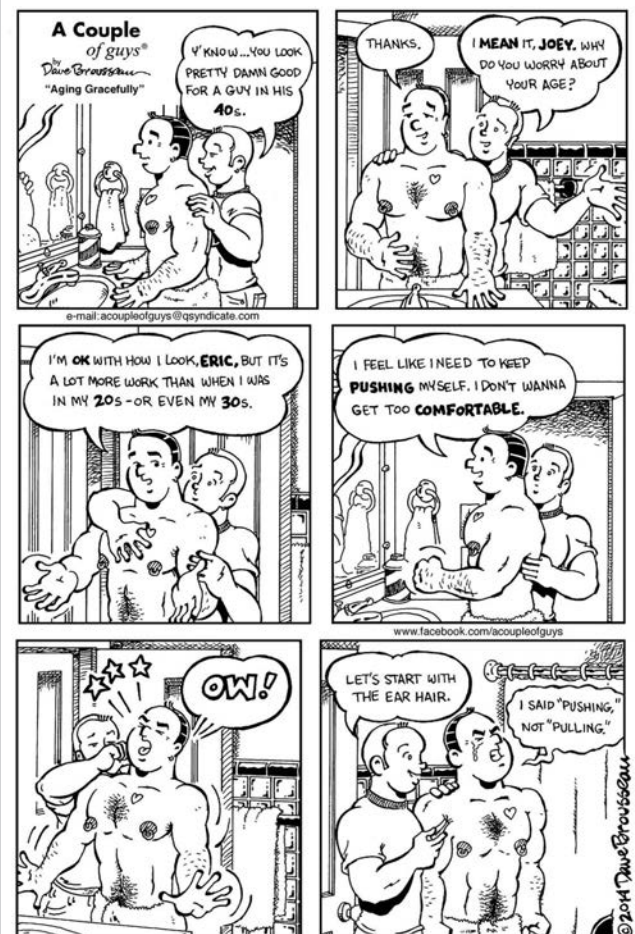
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Solution to puzzle from page 28

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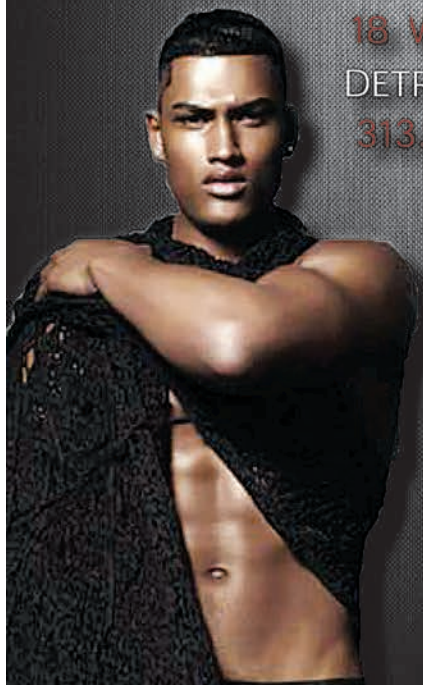
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