

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

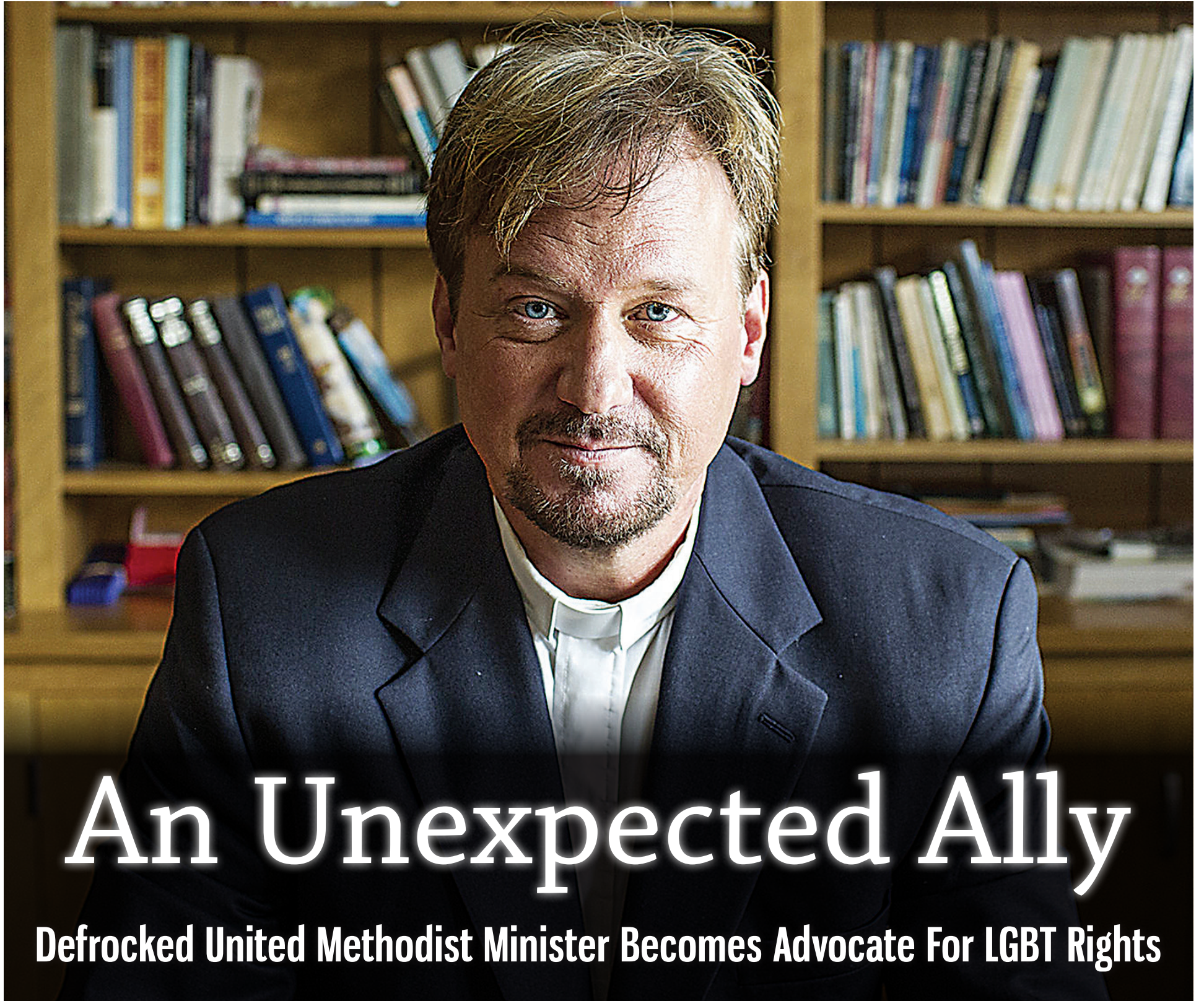
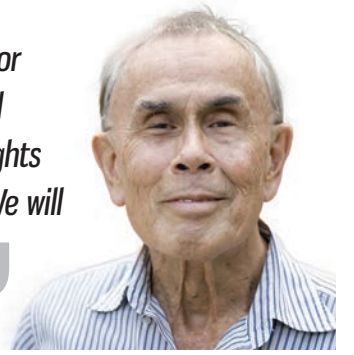


Remembering An Ally For Life: Linda Lee

'Sister Act' Makes A Joyful Noise

“(John) represents, for me, the epitome of political service in advancing the rights and liberties of everyone. We will not see his like again.”

– Jim Toy on Rep. Dingell, pg. 11



An Unexpected Ally

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COVER STORY

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“It means a lot to the party leadership that our caucus can deliver and show up.”

– Mark LaChey, pg. 4

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LGBT Presence Strong At Mich. Democratic Party Dinner

BY JAN STEVENSON

DETROIT – The energy and enthusiasm to win elections this fall was palpable at the sold-out Jefferson Jackson Dinner April 26 at Cobo Hall’s Riverfront Ballroom. The largest annual fundraiser for the Michigan Democratic Party had over 2,000 people who cheered Democratic candidates and honored long-time public servants U.S. Rep. John Dingell and U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, both of whom are retiring this year after decades of representing Michigan in Washington.

Not to be overlooked was the large LGBT presence at the dinner. There were almost seven rainbow adorned tables filled with people from the LGBT Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party. Mark LaChey, chair of the caucus, was pleased and proud that so many LGBT people were at the dinner. “This is really amazing. Last year we had one table, and this year almost seven. It means a lot to the party leadership that our caucus can deliver and show up.”

All seven tables erupted in loud cheers when Nancy Katz was awarded the Neil Staebler Award, one of the four prestigious awards presented at the annual dinner. Katz, the former president of Affirmations Community Center, commits significant time and resources to the Democratic Party, serving as an at-large officer of the Party and helping Democratic candidates financially. “It was an honor to be recognized by the Michigan Democratic Party. The party is a strong supporter of the LGBT community, and it is paramount that the LGBT community support the party and Democratic candidates,” said Katz. “Only then will we have laws that protect our rights, whether to marry, to adopt, and to have equal access to jobs and housing.”

Four LGBT candidates running for the Michigan legislature, Jon Hoadley, Rudy Serra, Garnet Lewis and Jeremy Moss, sat with the LGBT Caucus members after long days of canvassing their districts. All four are endorsed by The Victory Fund, the national organization committed to electing out, LGBT candidates. LaChey, a board member of The Victory Fund, has also initiated a local campaign called “Four in 2014” in support of these LGBT candidates, which encourages financial donations from caucus members and allies.

The campaign had been “Five in



Mark LaChey, second from left, is the chair of the LGBT Caucus of Michigan Democratic Party, joined here by the three vice chairs Toni Sessoms, Jan Stevenson and Dave Coulter. There were a record seven tables representing the LGBT Caucus at the Jefferson Jackson Dinner. Nancy Katz, right, received the Neil Staebler Award, one of the four prestigious awards presented at the annual Jefferson Jackson Dinner.

2014” before Aaryn Richard of Owasso dropped out of his race for the Michigan house. Richard was at a LGBT Caucus table and said he intends to work hard on the campaigns for the remaining four LGBT candidates.

“I am really excited about how my campaign is going,” said Lewis, who is running for state senate in the Midland area. “This is traditionally a pretty conservative district, but as I go door-to-door, I hear lots of people telling me they can’t support Republicans because of their policies and actions. It’s surprising and I’m very encouraged.”

The new chairman of the Michigan Democratic Party, Lon Johnson, said the dinner had raised over \$500,000. He said voter turnout is the secret to electing Mark Schauer the next governor, Gary Peters the next U.S. senator from Michigan and capturing a majority of the seats in the Michigan legislature. “Michigan is a blue state, and we should start acting like it,” Johnson said.

Oakland County Clerk Lisa Brown, the newly named candidate for lieutenant



governor, introduced her running mate Mark Schauer. In a rousing campaign style speech, Schauer said that as Governor he would fight discrimination in any form - whether based on who you love, the color of your skin, where you live or anything else. Brown was one of four county clerks that opened their offices to marry same-sex couples in the window of opportunity created after a federal judge ruled Michigan’s marriage ban constitutional and before a stay was imposed the next day.

U.S. Rep Gary Peters (D-14), running for the seat being vacated by retiring U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, said the billionaire Koch brothers are pouring millions of dollars into the campaign to reclaim that Senate seat for the Republicans. “This

See Dinner, page 13

Pastor's 'Act Of Love' For His Gay Son Leads To Defrocking And Advocacy

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Rev. Frank Schaefer never envisioned himself becoming a champion for gay rights, especially not as he ministered in the small country church of Zion United Methodist in Iona, Penn. But that's exactly what happened. It's been a long journey that began some 14 years ago.

"It all started in the year 2000," Schaefer recalled. "I received an anonymous phone call from a lady in the community and she told me on the phone, in the church office, 'Your son Tim is gay and struggling with his sexual identity and I know that he is considering suicide.' So of course my wife and I talked about it and we asked our son. We were very concerned."

Schaefer and his wife talked to their eldest son Tim, and discovered he was in a great deal of pain.

"He thought it would be better for his dad, the minister and for his family if he'd just be gone and, he told us, actually already had a plan in place. He told us, 'I cried myself to sleep many, many nights praying to God please take this away from me.' When it didn't happen, he just thought it would be better for everybody concerned if he just took his own life."

Schaefer and his wife were devastated.

"My wife and I just hugged him and rallied around him and told him, 'We love you, son, no matter what, you are our son and we love you,'" Schaefer said. "We felt terrible and we expressed that to him. It was a horrible feeling to know all this was going on and we couldn't be there for him. So we really affirmed him and said things like, 'Obviously, you didn't choose this for yourself. You prayed to be different. You didn't want to be homosexual.' So we told him, 'Look, if anything, this is proof that this is not a choice. You did not choose this. You need to learn to accept yourself for who you are. God has created you the way you are. You are created in the image of God just like everyone else.'"

Fast-forward six years.

"Tim met Bobby and he got engaged," said Schaefer. "He asked me later that year if I were willing to do the wedding for him. Without hesitation, I said, 'Absolutely, son.' I really meant it. It was an honor for me to be asked by him."

Schaefer made the decision knowing full well it was against UM church policy.

"I did wrestle with it," he confessed. "Not with the decision, but after I said yes I really thought at that time I was going to lose my job."

Schaefer chose to be honest. He wrote to

his bishop and district superintendent and told them what he planned to do. And nothing happened – until last year.

"One of my members found out about the wedding somehow and filed a complaint," Schaefer said.

Soon after, he found himself facing a church trial.

"I tried to defend myself by saying this is not right," said Schaefer. "The fact is we do allow [gays] to come to church, to become members

cost me my job and my career," he said. "I was defrocked on December 19, 2013."

What Schaefer didn't know at the time was that God had a plan for him. The following day he received a call from a bishop in another district, offering him a position there.

"Another thing that happened was I got phone calls from all across the country, mostly UM churches and a few other denominations as well, inviting me to speak and to preach and to share my story," Schaefer said. "So



Tim Schaefer with his dad Rev. Frank Schaefer. Tim is the oldest of four children, three of whom are gay. When he asked his father to officiate his wedding, Rev. Schaefer said yes knowing it might well lead to losing his job. Photo courtesy of Schaefer family.

“I tried to defend myself by saying this is not right. The fact is we do allow [gays] to come to church, to become members and to even become active members. But we do not allow them to get married or become ministers in our church. And I said that's treating people like second-class Christians.”

- Rev. Frank Schaefer

and to even become active members. But we do not allow them to get married or become ministers in our church. And I said that's treating people like second-class Christians."

As his trial came to a close, Schaefer was direct.

"I cannot go back to being a silent supporter," he said in his closing statement. "I must continue to be in ministry with all people and speak for LGBT people. Members of the jury, before you decide my penalty, you need to know that I wear this rainbow stole as a visible sign that this is who I am called to be."

It was a bold move.

"I took a stand at my trial and it basically

I've been busier than ever before in my life."

It's clear to Schaefer now how God's hand was at work even as he thought he was losing it all.

"It's just amazing how God sort of confirmed my call even though the church took my credentials away," he said. "Now I'm involved in a ministry that is so much more powerful, and so much more far-reaching, than what I ever had in my little country church. I'm reaching thousands of people now. It's just incredible how things that people meant for harm, God turned around and turned into a beautiful moment of healing for so many across the nation."

Defrocked

The Pennsylvania United Methodist pastor Frank Schaefer made national news when he was defrocked in December for performing the 2007 same-sex wedding of his eldest son. The United Methodist Book of Discipline expressly forbids such unions, maintaining that "the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching." Ministers are barred from blessing same-sex unions.

Schaefer's situation was difficult, and the denomination offered a reprieve of sorts. However avoiding punishment was contingent on his agreement to not officiate any further same-sex ceremonies. Schaefer flatly refused, noting three of his four children are gay.

In a statement released through the Reconciling Ministries Network, Schaefer expressed difficulty in following the Book of Discipline's "competing and contradictory statements." "Frankly, my conscience does not allow me to uphold the entire Discipline," Schaefer said, "because it contains discriminatory provisions and language that is hurtful and harmful to our homosexual brothers and sisters. It denies them their full humanity."

But Schaefer wants people to remain in the church. "My message is an appeal to all LGBT members, as well as their friends and supporters, to remain in the United Methodist Church because we're taking our church back ... We're at a tipping point, and we can work for changes," Schaefer said.

Documentary In The Making

A successful Kickstarter campaign has raised enough money to begin production on a documentary "An Act of Love - The Story of Rev. Frank Schaefer," that will be directed, edited and produced by Scott Sheppard, who was raised the son of a small-town United Methodist pastor in Michigan. He has a bachelor's degree in film and video production from Grand Valley State University and currently resides in Los Angeles. The documentary is projected to take approximately 18 months. You can help in the film's creation by donating www.anactoflovefilm.com.

SAVE THE DATES

Upcoming Michigan Appearances

Rev. Frank Schaefer will be in Ann Arbor May 10-11th, speaking Saturday at 7 p.m. at an event sponsored by Rainbow Crossing at the First United Methodist Church on State St. He will also be speaking at the church during Sunday service at 7 p.m. On Monday, May 12, 6:30 - 9 p.m., Schaefer will speak at the Equality Connections Banquet which supports The Center for the Study of Equality and Human Rights at Eastern Michigan University. This event will take place in Grosse Pointe Farms.

For more details on these dates, visit

>> www.javacasa.com/frankschaefer

DETROIT

Michigan Marriage Update: ‘No’ To Skipping A Step

The Sixth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals also issued an order Monday, denying the state of Michigan’s request to skip over a three-judge panel and go straight to the full appeals court with its appeal of a district court ruling that its ban on same-sex marriages is unconstitutional. The one-page order stated simply that “no judge of this court” voted to send the case directly to the full bench.

The court says the state’s appeal of a decision overturning a ban on same-sex marriage will follow the usual course. The case will be heard by a three-judge panel, probably later this year.

Attorney General Bill Schuette wanted the full court to leapfrog the panel and take the appeal. But there’s no interest from judges at the Cincinnati-based court.

FARMINGTON HILLS

Barney Frank To Honor Gay Victims Of The Holocaust At May 4 Event

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

Openly gay politician, Barney Frank, will be in metro-Detroit this week.

Considered the most prominent gay politician in the U.S., Frank served as a U.S. Congressman from Massachusetts from 1981 to 2013. He came out in 1987 and married his longtime partner in 2012. Frank is known for his advocacy for LGBT rights, fight against discrimination and work on financial regulations aimed at preventing a recurrence of the recent financial crisis.

Frank will give a keynote address at the closing of the Holocaust Memorial Center’s exhibit that covers the lives and deaths of LGBT people during the Holocaust. The exhibit contains stories, artifacts, and more highlighting the treatment of homosexuals before and during WWII in “Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals: 1933-1945.” History has documented the Nazi campaign against homosexuality that targeted more than one million German men, who under the guise of “degeneracy” threatened the “disciplined masculinity” of Germany. Denounced as “antisocial parasites” and “enemies of the state,” more than 100,000 men were arrested under a vague law against homosexuality.

According to Executive Director of the Holocaust Memorial Center, Stephen M. Goldman, “During the Holocaust, it was not just the Jews who were persecuted, but everyone who did not fit the Nazis’ description of the ‘perfect race.’ Through exhibits like Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals, our goal is to demonstrate how we can work with one another to make sure that something like this never happens again.”

Congressman Frank will present at 2 p.m. and again at 7 p.m. at the center. The Holocaust Memorial Center is located at 28123 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills.

Tickets are \$10 for Holocaust Memorial Center members, \$18 general admission. Tickets from the originally scheduled event on Jan. 5 will be honored. Light refreshments will be provided. For more information, call 248-553-2300, ext. 24 or visit www.holocaustcenter.org.

Visit BTL’s calendar at www.pridesource.com/calendar.html for more LGBT events and exhibits at local museums.



U.S. Rep. Barney Frank

Empowerment Day Seeks Solutions To Transgender Discrimination

BY PAULETTE NIEMIEC

Every year, the Detroit area Transgender Day of Empowerment event held at Affirmations Community Center in Ferndale, presents educational lectures, workshops, group discussions, and business and organizational displays designed to offer information, support and hope to the transgender community.

For eight hours last Saturday, people filled two floors of the center listening to lectures, speeches and presentations given by a variety of professionals. Also present were tables, displays and exhibits of businesses, churches and organizations all promoting their support for those who identify as a gender other than their natural born sex.

One workshop stood out entitled, “Transphobia and Overcoming Intermarginalization.” A group discussion focused on the topic of how transphobia can lead to those in the transgender community feeling marginalized and left out of society, sharing ways to transcend those feelings of inferiority and have a positive experience when out in the world.

Approximately 25 people filled the second floor room to capacity for this discussion, facilitated by Dr. Sandra Samons, Dr. Stephen Rassi and Dr. Kofi Adoma. Rassi gave important advice on how people can achieve this goal. “The safest thing to do is find a therapist and have at least one person to share your fears, feelings and any negative thoughts which hold you back from becoming the best person you can be,” she said. Rassi works at the University of Michigan-Flint, Eastern Michigan University and serves on the Council of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Expression since 2011.

Those who participated in the “roundtable discussion” spoke of their experiences when exposed to the public and made suggestions on how to improve the current situation. “I was impressed with how many people spoke of ways to make a change, including educating the general public and other means,” said Samons following the workshop. “Last year, all the talk focused on discrimination. This year it seems many are more focused on what we can do about it.”

Several others with doctoral degrees,

masters degrees and transgender specializations, provided guidance and education, including a popular workshop presented by Andre Wilson entitled, “The Affordable Care Act and Trans Community.” Wilson provided the audience with information on the impact the new healthcare law has had on those who are transgender.

“The bad news is many of the medical procedures sought by transsexuals, like sexual reassignment surgery, facial surgeries and breast augmentation are not covered by insurance companies and the ACA doesn’t force them to,”



Rose Mary Priest, board member of PFLAG, said “My philosophy is to get out there and advocate, not just for my children, but for all those who are transgender.” BTL photo: Paulette Niemiec

Wilson said. “The good news is, since gender dysphoria is considered to be a pre-existing condition and the ACA mandates that all pre-existing conditions must be covered by insurance companies, transsexuals can now receive basic insurance for affordable rates versus not being able to in the past.”

If lectures, presentations, workshops, speeches and group discussions weren’t enough, there were plenty of tables and booths available for people to visit and start a conversation.

“I am the mother of two transgender daughters,” said Rose Mary Priest, board member of PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbian And Gays). “My philosophy is to get out there and advocate, not just for my children, but for all those who are transgender,” she added.

Priest admits it is highly unique and rare to have two children who consider themselves transgender (both desire to remain anonymous). Unlike many parents, Priest voices her pride in both

of them and stated she does everything she can to be supportive. She joined the PFLAG organization, has served on the board for three years and attends as many transgender related events as she can.

As an advocate, Priest stressed the importance of getting one’s children involved in the process of transition (living full-time as the gender of identity). It’s a controversial subject in the transgender community. Many fear transition while their children are still young, worrying it could confuse them.

“I feel that education is the top priority. Introduce the topic to your children at an early age. If you are someone who is a parent and you are one of two moms or two dads, don’t be afraid to tell your children what’s going on with you,” she said.

Equality Michigan was one of the exhibitors at the event. “We know in the past we have not done the best job of advocating for the transgender community,” said Executive Director Emily Dievendorf. “However, we are recommitting ourselves to the transgender community and will, moving forward, do all we can to support the legal rights and social justice related issues regarding those who are trans.”

Dievendorf presented along with her “partner in crime,” attorney and Equality Michigan staffer Yvonne Siferd, an early morning workshop entitled “Trans Inclusion at the Table.”

Siferd echoed Dievendorf’s sentiments and reassurance that the transgender community will be more visible in the future. “I think right now more than at any other time in history, we are seeing transgender people in the media and this gives people someone to look up to,” Siferd said in reference to celebrities coming out as transgender. “This gives more people opportunities and courage to come out.”

Both Siferd and Dievendorf wanted to emphasize that as more transgender people come out – especially those who begin to transition – they become more exposed and can become victims of hate crimes.

“With increased visibility we become targets of violence and discrimination,” said Dievendorf. “That’s where Equality Michigan comes in to give support to all those in the LGBT community.”

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BRIEFS

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Veteran's Cemetery Won't Bury Gay Spouse

(AP) – A 74-year-old Boise woman wants to overturn a constitutional amendment that says Idaho doesn't recognize same-sex marriage after learning the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery won't allow her to be buried with her partner's ashes.

Madelynn Taylor served in the U.S. Navy for six years. She says after her spouse Jean Mixner died in 2012 she went to the veteran's cemetery to make arrangements for them to be buried together, but cemetery rules require a valid marriage certificate. The state of Idaho does not recognize their 2008 marriage in California.

Taylor keeps Mixner's ashes in her closet. She says if she dies without both being accepted into the state veteran's cemetery, someone will keep their ashes together until they are allowed to be buried in that cemetery.

MISSISSIPPI

Business Window Stickers Protest Law

(AP) – In conservative Mississippi, some business owners who support equal treatment for gays and lesbians are pushing back against a new law that bans government from limiting the free practice of religion. Hundreds of businesses, from hair salons to bakeries and art galleries, have started displaying round blue window stickers that declare: "We don't discriminate."

The sticker campaign started this month in response to Republican Gov. Phil Bryant's signing the Mississippi Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

The law says government cannot put a substantial burden on religious practices, without a compelling reason.

Bryant said the Mississippi act mirrors a federal law President Bill Clinton signed in 1993 and that 18 other states have enacted since the mid-1990s

"It is the same discussion of not burdening someone's religious freedom _ that the government, government should not burden someone's religious freedom without a compelling interest."

OREGON

Gay Marriage Ban Gets Day In Court

Lawyers for four gay and lesbian couples and the state of Oregon urged a federal judge April 23 to strike down Oregon's voter-approved ban on same-sex marriage.

Since the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a portion of the federal Defense of Marriage Act, federal judges have struck down as unconstitutional voter-approved bans on same-sex marriage in five states: Utah, Oklahoma, Michigan, Texas and Virginia. In three other states – Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee – federal judges have ordered the recognition of same-sex marriages that occurred out-of-state.

Like Rosenblum, Democratic attorneys general in at least seven states have refused to defend their state bans on same-sex marriage.

Oregon law has long prohibited same-sex marriage, and voters added the ban to the state constitution in 2004. About 3,000 gay couples were allowed to marry before a judge halted the practice. The marriages were later invalidated by the Oregon Supreme Court.

Extended briefs are available online at:

>> www.PrideSource.com

Remembering Linda Lee: An Ally For Life

BY JAN STEVENSON

We've lost a champion.

Long before others were willing to stand up for LGBT people, Linda Lee was there – out and proud – as an ally for LGBT issues and people living with HIV/AIDS. Linda died March 31, just five weeks after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

When Linda first got involved with the LGBT community in the early 1990s, people wondered why she was so committed to a cause that appeared so tangential to her daily life. What motivated this straight, Jewish woman with no obvious connection to the gay community to become not only an ally, but a leader in the fight for LGBT civil rights and compassionate care for people with HIV/AIDS? It soon became clear to those who worked beside her that what drove Linda was her extraordinary heart and passion for justice.

She became involved in LGBT rights after she and her husband, Henry, attended the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations in San Francisco in 1990. She went to a session focused on what was being done with families that have a gay member. Linda was outraged by what she learned and came back to Detroit determined to do something about it.

She became involved in the Michigan Jewish AIDS Coalition in 1991, eventually becoming its president in 1995.

"I first met Linda over 20 years ago when she was part of an effort in the metro Detroit Jewish community to ensure that there were HIV/AIDS services available to members of the community living with HIV/AIDS," said Jay Kaplan, staff attorney of the LGBT Project at the Michigan ACLU. In the 1990s, Kaplan was an attorney with the Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service, an organization that provides legal services for people living with HIV/AIDS.

"Linda had heard about a gay Jewish man who had died from AIDS in a Christian nursing home, because no Jewish facility was willing to take him at the time," said Kaplan. "Linda worked tirelessly on behalf of MJAC to not only increase awareness and education in the Jewish community regarding HIV and AIDS, but to also to ensure that Jewish institutions - synagogues, social services, and the Jewish Center - were both accepting and welcoming to LGBT people."

Born May 28, 1944 in the Bronx,



Linda Lee with her beloved children, Sherry and Andy. This photo was taken just days before Linda's death. Photo courtesy of the Lee family by photographer Marla Michele.

NY, Linda was two years old when her family moved to the Detroit area. She graduated early from Mumford High School and went on to Wayne State University where she earned a degree in education. She taught for three years at the McKinley Elementary School in Southfield. Then in 1968 she met and married Henry Lee, a young tax attorney just starting out. Together they built a strong family and network of friends

extensive network within the Jewish community. JGN is housed at the JCC and produces arts, social, educational and cultural events. In 2012, JGN produced the "Twice Blessed" speakers' series that addressed issues of aging, lesbianism in the Jewish community, family issues and more. "I was so impressed with her drive and vision to make this series a success, and to secure the longevity of JGN as a minority

“The world was made a better place because she was here with us. Linda championed many causes including the Jewish Gay Network of Michigan and the Michigan Jewish AIDS Coalition. She truly embodied the spirit of 'Tikkun Olam.' With heavy hearts, we will miss this wonderful lady that touched so many of our lives.”

- Michael Phillips, JGN Committee Chair

and associates.

Linda dedicated herself to volunteering full time, making a positive difference in each organization in which she became involved. She was a dynamic leader at the Jewish Community Center becoming that group's first female president of the board in 1990. She continued her work at the JCC and with the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, serving on numerous committees including the Soviet Jewry Committee, the Women's Division and the Agency for Jewish Education, to name only a few.

In 2004, Linda used her considerable influence and energy to launch the Jewish Gay Network, a service organization for LGBT Jews, families and friends. Many of the original supporters and volunteers at JGN were recruited from Linda's

within a minority," said Susan Horowitz, BTL co-publisher. "She was able to get JGN housed at the Jewish Community Center and make it so JGN became an integrated part of the JCC's work."

"JGN was a concept we had talked about," said Beth Greenapple, the former president of JGN and a former MJAC board member. "Like many good ideas, once we MJAC board and committee members all dispersed in the various directions of our separate lives, it waited patiently. It would have continued to do so indefinitely had Linda Lee not insisted upon pursuing it, making it manifest. She had an unquenchable passion for justice, and could not sit quietly by while the Jewish LGBT community was not fully

See Linda Lee, next page

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► **Linda Lee**

Continued from p. 8

integrated into the larger Jewish community. In 2004, Linda called me and several other people together and started the ball rolling with meetings at her house. She never let the ball out of her sight either. She stuck with JGN through thick and thin. She supported us at every turn.”

“Linda Lee was committed, dedicated and passionate about equality,” said community activist Michelle Brown. “She loved her fellow man/woman and could see the best in us even when we couldn’t see it in ourselves. She pushed, pulled and sometimes dragged us, myself included, to the table – always with love. She once told me I needed to attend a JGN meeting, when I said ‘But Linda, I’m not Jewish.’ She said ‘And?’ then proceeded to tell me about the work we had to do. We lost a (s)hero, a giant and a friend.”

“The world was made a better place because she was here with us,” said Michael Phillips, JGN Committee Chair. “Linda championed many causes including the Jewish Gay Network of Michigan and the Michigan Jewish AIDS Coalition. She truly embodied the spirit of ‘Tikkun Olam.’ With heavy hearts, we will miss this wonderful lady that touched so many of our lives.”

Although deeply involved in LGBT issues, issues of HIV/AIDS, Jewish community activities, women’s organizations, Cranbrook School committees and boards and countless other outside activities, Linda’s primary focus was always her family. She and Henry’s two children, Andy and Sherry, traveled extensively with their mother who managed to visit every state in the union and all seven continents. When Sherry turned 30, she and her mother went to Southeast Asia, and for her 40th birthday they went to Guatemala. Linda and son Andy traveled to the Amazon. In December 2012, Linda even went to Antarctica.

Linda was a gourmet cook and opened their Bloomfield Hills home for frequent dinner parties and gatherings. Passover Seder always included people who needed a place to call home, at least for a little while.

“Linda Lee was always there,” said openly gay Rabbi Arnie Sleutelberg. “She could be counted on to be present, with open arms and heart, a sweet caring soul, a capable intellect, and a moral compass that helped her see and act upon what was right to do. Her influence on our community will be felt for decades to come. I will miss her inspiring leadership and reassuring smile.”

Linda lost her battle with cancer in just five short weeks. It was startling to those who knew how active and physically fit she was. She loved golf, which she learned to play in her 60s, and was an avid tennis player. Three years ago, out of a field of 200 women, she lost in the finals of the Senior Women’s Double Tennis Championship in Tuscon. Just a little over a month before her diagnosis, Linda was at Disneyworld in Orlando with Sherry, her husband and their two young sons Felix and Hugo. Linda was a devoted, involved grandparent to all four of her grandsons.

“I’m still in shock about Linda’s death,” said Judy Lewis, former executive director of JGN. “She always seemed so full of energy, so committed to human dignity. She was a wealth of ideas - and no matter when I emailed, she was quick to reply. The woman never slept!”

“Linda was an ally in every sense of the word,” said Kaplan. “She was always there, reliable, dependable and willing to help out in any way that she could, fueled by a passionate belief that people should be treated fairly and with dignity. She was a lovely person, inside and out, who truly sought to make a positive difference in the lives of other people and in this world.”

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Inclusive Justice is a statewide, faith-based coalition, inclusive of all traditions, that affirms the inherent dignity and worth of every human being as a matter of spiritual conviction. We therefore advocate for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex persons' acceptance within religious and spiritual communities and for the equitable treatment of all, especially sexual minorities, in local, state and federal public policy. Join us on Facebook at Inclusive Justice and visit our website.

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A Feast With Green Carnations



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Somewhere pressed in my book of memories is a green carnation, remarkably fresh with the passage of time.

It's there with a wrist corsage I hadn't the courage to wear to my high school senior prom and some daisy chains I linked together at my coming out party. The green carnation dates to 1991, when the Detroit Area Gay/Lesbian Council, an activist collective, held a fundraiser at Wayne State University's Hilberry Theater.

DAG/LC vanished into the sunset, as did Association of Suburban People, Michigan Organization for Human Rights, Motor City Business Forum (and, I'll add nostalgically, the Downtown YMCA). DAG/LC's legacy is Motor City Pride 2014.

The Hilberry Theater production was Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest." Seventy-five of us DAG/LCers wore green carnations as badges of honor that memorable evening. The boutonniere was Oscar's brainstorm, or so he led the "earnests" of his day to believe.

Oscar borrowed the idea from Parisian gais, and at the 1891 first night of "Lady Windermere's Fan" got London queens – lower case – to give new meaning to the "wearin' o' th' green." The effect was electric, as was Wilde's then shocking curtain call, gold-tipped cigarette in hand.

Some time ago I swore I'd never read another Wilde bio (ditto Radclyffe Hall), having read my fill of the Irish genius, playwright, poet, esthete, raconteur, iconoclast, fashion maven and 19th century martyr for gay rights.

However – armpit snoop that I am – I couldn't resist Neil McKenna's "The Secret Life of Oscar Wilde: An Intimate Biography" (Basic Books). Based on new Victorian documents, diaries and letters, it's unadorned tragedy glimpsed from several glory-hole perspectives.

According to McKenna, Oscar and Bosie burned their candles at both ends, more than once singeing hotel bed linen, to be sure. Together they indulged in a rarely interrupted orgy of boner escapades with clerks, waiters, bellhops, messengers, adoring gay groupies, stage door Johnnies and rent boys. Wilde called the latter act of noblesse oblige "feasting with panthers."

Oscar & Bosie were not exactly discrete in public as to whom they rubbed their velveteen kickers with; among close friends they boasted of their weekly conquests, providing salacious details of activity, sizes, positions, male brothel decor, hospitality and tea service.

One of Bosie's travel companions, journalist Robert Hichens, took copious shorthand notes while sailing down the Nile and turned these into a roman a clef, entitled – call FTD – "The Green Carnation," published anonymously in 1894, one year before Wilde's three notorious trials.

Thanks to Bosie's trash talk, Hichens' novel sold like holiday hot-cross buns. Though not mentioning O&B by name, it was clear to titillated readers just who did what, with which, to whom. "The Green Carnation" ran through four sizzling editions. It "ruined Oscar's character with the general public" and painted a lurid - and fascinating - picture of London's lavender set.

Wilde wrote to the Pall Mall Gazette: "I invented that magnificent flower. But . . . with the middle-class and mediocre book that usurps its strangely beautiful name, I have nothing whatsoever to do. The flower is a work of art. The book is not." Mary! Mary! Quite contrary!

Stopping Violence: Changing The World For Our Girls And Women

On Sunday May 4, we will gather in Palmer Park in Detroit for a Candlelight Vigil Against Violence on Women in the LGBTQ Community. This vigil will also honor the lives of Britney Crosby and Crystal Jackson who were murdered in Texas on March 6. Crosby's father is in custody awaiting trial for the dual murders.

As the LGBTQ community becomes more visible, attacks and murders of lesbians are being reported and making headlines. One of the benchmarks of the 2013 reauthorization of Violence Against Women's Act were new provisions to help more victims of domestic violence, including those in the LGBTQ community.

It is important to report these crimes and get more protections under the law, but it is also important to remember that violence against women is systemic and affects us long before we may or may not come out. It is a scourge affecting every female child from birth.

To stand against violence against women in the LGBTQ community, we must talk about the implied danger in being born female and what we must do to change this culture.

As a woman, even as a little girl, I've always been aware of the danger – the danger of being female. We don't come right out and tell our daughters about it. We dance around it, hint about it, give some veiled and even outright warnings about it, but we don't really talk about it so it continues to fester and perpetuate generation after generation.

When that female child is born, we wrap her in pink, tell her she's precious, saddle her with those unspoken expectations of femininity but we don't warn her of the shadow of violence lurking, waiting to rear its ugly head.

We all know of the danger from strangers – the fiends waiting in dark places, the invading forces who use sexual assault as weapons – but violence against women often isn't about sex.

It can be physical, psychological and emotional, leaving scars that not only hurt us but affect behaviors that we pass on to our children. The perpetrators may be a stranger, but too often it is the very person who is supposed to love and protect us.

No woman asks to be a victim, but we're prepared for it from childhood. Women are taught, often by our mothers, how to dance that fine line, how to pick the right words, how to avoid that argument that could end in verbal – even physical abuse.

Little girls, who do not conform to the sugar, spice and everything nice genre have been hit, spanked, slapped and verbally abused into conformity. Those who identify as, or are perceived as butch/stud/tomboys, have been subjected to corrective

rape to restore their "femininity."

Walking in the world female – a woman, I am acutely aware that there are those who perceive me not only as victim but feel my gender makes me particularly vulnerable and a target not just for crime, but rage. That not conforming to societal expectations will leave me exposed just because I am not being the woman "they" think I should be.

And you don't have to be hit upside the



Viewpoint

BY MICHELLE E. BROWN

We can no longer tolerate a society where some in our community ... feel that girls and women who live authentically, refusing to conform to outdated societal mores, "Had it coming."

head to be a victim of violence; sometimes the blows take place inside your head, rendered by abusive words and remarks. "Bitch, slut, whore, stupid, ugly," words that beat down the spirit often to the point where the physical blow is a relief.

We must do better. We can no longer tolerate a society where some in our community, in our law enforcement agencies, even in our churches, feel that girls and women who live authentically, refusing to conform to outdated societal mores "Had it coming."

We can no longer tolerate a society that does not value the individual, regardless of gender or sexual orientation.

We must say no to violence in words, actions and deeds. Mothers must teach a new dance – not how to walk the line but how to live authentically with respect. Our daughters and our sons are watching.

And within our own LGBTQ community, we must do better because not all violence against us is perpetrated by non-gays. We are hurting each other too.

Let's stop living our relationships using flawed heterosexual roles/relationships as models. We have taught the world a lesson about love in our fight for marriage equality, now let's teach them about providing a loving/nurturing world for our children.

At the vigil on May 4, we will also be remembering Britney Crosby and Crystal Jackson. Britney's father, James Crosby, who lived with Crosby and her grandmother was arrested for the killings reportedly because he disapproved of his daughter's "lifestyle."

Their story hit close to home. I too experienced intolerance from a place I least expected it – at home, when my father's reaction to my "life style" resulted in his brandishing a loaded shotgun and my escape into a life on the street.

It saddens me that we, members of the LGBTQ community and especially lesbians, are still facing violence from strangers and family in 2014.

We must do better. We must love, protect and empower our daughters and strive to build a world where they will be loved, protected and empowered so they can live authentically – whether LGBTQ or straight.

Michelle E. Brown is a public speaker, author, poet and activist. You can follow her at www.mychangeiam.com or www.twitter.com/mychangeiam



Big Happy Birthday To Jim Toy

BY AJ TRAGER

Washtenaw County celebrated a big birthday for local community member and activist Jim Toy, namesake of the Jim Toy Community Center April 25 at the Arbor Brewing Company Microbrewery in Ypsilanti.

Toy is well known for being the first publically out gay man in Michigan and for his hard work cofounding the Ann Arbor Gay Liberation Front, Detroit Gay Liberation Movement and the first office at the university level devoted to sexual orientation concerns; the Lesbian-Gay Male Programs Office at the University of Michigan, today known as the Spectrum Center.

Toy, who will be 84 this year, started off his celebration with both U.S. Rep. John Dingell (D) of the Michigan 12th Congressional District and Washtenaw County Commissioner Andy LaBarre in attendance.

Chris Osborn works on JTCC's Public Policy and spent most of his evening working the welcome table donned in gay pride flags and buttons available for pickup by guests.

"I am overwhelmed with the turnout. There is so much support in the community. And what a great night to bring everyone together," Osborn said.

The event was informal with JTCC and local residents comingling and sharing hugs with Arbor Brewing beer or hard cider in their hands. There was a DJ, a photo booth, a raffle, and, of course, plenty of dancing.

Before sunset, everyone paused for Dingell. "Thank you all for your friendship," Dingell said. "I always appreciate the opportunity to meet with friends."

"Dingell has always been a big supporter of LGBT causes and is happy to help fundraise for the cause," Osborn mentioned. "He is a great public servant which is shown throughout his career."

Dingell took a quick exit. But not until Jason Morgan, director of government and media relations for Washtenaw Community College in Ann Arbor, placed a purple tiara on Jim Toy's head that read "Happy Birthday."

"I am most gracious Rep. Dingell was able to attend the celebration. I am amazed he has survived congress for so long," Toy joked, adjusting his hairpiece.

"He represents for me the epitome of political service in advancing the rights and liberties of everyone. We will not see his like again," Toy said.

Spread out in the back of the room was a timeline, reaching before the 1970s, where attendees were encouraged to post important moments of their life in any color of their choosing next to big events such as the



Jaason Morgan, director of government and media relations for Washtenaw Community College presents Jim Toy with a tiara. Retiring U.S. Rep. John Dingell dropped by to say, "Thanks for your friendship," and celebrate with JTCC supporters. BTL photos: AJ Traeger

Civil Rights Movement, President Obama's reelection or the recent same-sex marriages in Michigan.

In attendance, Alexi and Jen Chapin-Smith were one of the 300 LGBT couples to get legally married March 22. They held hands and danced near the photo booth for much of the evening. Alexi and Jen are regular volunteers at the Jim Toy Community Center and wanted to spend their Friday evening honoring Jim Toy and his achievements.

"It's good to see Dingell here and it's good for the community," Jen said. "Dingell has voted against anti-discrimination laws and has, in the past, worked against the Bush Administration."

"Yeah and it's great to see so many community members here, especially the County Commissioner, Andy Labarre," Alexi agreed.

"I had a lot of fun. Jim's tiara is adorable," Jen Chapin-Smith laughed.

Felicia Brabec heard about the event through

See Jim Toy, page 13

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Creep of the Week

Idaho Division Of Veterans Services

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Imagine that your spouse is dead. You spent 17 years of your lives together, caring for and loving each other. Now her ashes are in a box in your closet. It is your wish that when you die, her ashes will be interred alongside you in your state's veterans' cemetery because you are a veteran and she is your spouse. Sounds like pretty standard end of life planning, doesn't it?

Ah, yes. But there's a catch. The thing is, you are a woman. And that complicates things.

This is, unfortunately, the situation 74-year-old Madelynn Taylor finds herself in after the Idaho Division of Veterans Services refused her request to be buried with her late spouse, Jean Mixner, because Idaho doesn't recognize their marriage.

In 2006 Idaho voters passed Amendment 2, which reads, "A marriage between a man and a woman is the only domestic legal union that shall be valid or recognized in this state."

And thank heavens voters added that to the state's constitution, otherwise Idaho's dead veterans might have to face the injustice of two dead lesbians fouling up their cemetery.

Granted, Taylor could just go be buried someplace else. It's not like the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery is her only option. Except for the fact that Taylor is an Idaho veteran who wants to be buried there.

"I just feel that it's the right place for me. You know, I'm a veteran. So they should let me," Taylor told KTVB. "In fact they would let me alone, be in that crypt... But I don't want to be alone. I want Jean with me."

(I'll pause here so you can get some tissues.)

To add insult to injury, Taylor served in the Navy from 1958-1964. Coming as she does from a military family ("It's what we did. When we were 18, you picked a service and joined," she told KTVB), she likely would have served for longer had they not kicked her out for — you guessed it — being gay.

Taylor told KBOI that she wasn't surprised by the state's refusal, "I've been discriminated against for 70 years, and they might as well discriminate against me in death as well as life."

Make no mistake, she doesn't really mean the "might as well" part. Despite her friendly disposition in her TV news interviews, she's fighting back. She's joined the Add the Words campaign, which seeks to get "sexual orientation and gender identity" added to Idaho's nondiscrimination law. Hopefully, too, Idaho's anti-gay marriage amendment will be overturned like so many others across the country have been.

What Taylor is asking for is hardly extravagant. Her partner was cremated. She wants to be cremated. Which means that burying them together is logistically very easy. It's not like the cemetery has to dig two six-foot holes in the ground. All they have to do is put two containers in one drawer. Something they do for opposite sex spouses all the time.

"It's not taking up any more space to have both of us in there," she told KBOI. "And I don't see where the ashes of a couple old lesbians is going to hurt anybody."

According to news reports, Taylor, who has health problems and worries she might die before this injustice is righted, plans to have someone hang on to both her ashes and her wife's ashes until they can rest, together, in peace.

And thank heavens voters added that to the state's constitution, otherwise Idaho's dead veterans might have to face the injustice of two dead lesbians fouling up their cemetery.

Lawsuit Seeks To Overturn NC Same-Sex Marriage Ban

BY MITCH WEISS

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — A coalition of clergy members filed a federal lawsuit Monday challenging North Carolina's constitutional ban on gay marriage, saying it violated their religious freedom.

The clergy members said that they'd like to perform same-sex marriage ceremonies in their congregations, but that they can't because of the "unjust law."

"North Carolina's marriage laws are a direct affront to freedom of religion," said the Rev. J. Bennett Guess, executive minister with the Cleveland-based United Church of Christ, which is a plaintiff in the lawsuit. "We feel that it is important that any person that comes into community life of a United Church of Christ congregation be afforded equal pastoral care and equal opportunity to religious services that clergy provide."

But in North Carolina, clergy are often faced with a troubling decision: "whether to provide those services or break the law," he said. "That's something no clergy member should be faced with."

Along with United Church of Christ, which has more than 1 million parishioners, a dozen clergy members and same sex-couples who want to marry were listed as plaintiffs. The defendants included North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper and several county

district attorneys and register of deeds.

Noelle Talley, a spokeswoman with the Attorney General's office, said officials there hadn't seen the lawsuit yet.

This isn't the first legal challenge to North Carolina's law banning same-sex marriage, which was approved by voters in 2012.

The American Civil Liberties Union earlier this month launched a new legal assault on the state's ban on recognizing same-sex marriage, urging a federal judge to quickly negate it to help children and gay couples suffering from urgent health problems. The civil rights group said it was seeking to speed up a decision in a lawsuit filed in 2012 by citing the urgent health needs of a child who suffers from cerebral palsy who was adopted by one of the lesbian couples involved in the case.

The ACLU also filed a new lawsuit on behalf of three other lesbian couples struggling with health conditions made more difficult because they lack legal recognition of their marriages performed in other states, said ACLU staff attorney Elizabeth Gill.

The ACLU and the same-sex couples they represent argue a judge should act quickly to suspend North Carolina's marriage ban because they are suffering immediate and irreparable harm.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled last year that the federal government

must recognize marriages of same-sex couples.

Seventeen states allow gay marriage, and federal judges have struck down bans in Michigan, Utah, Texas, Oklahoma and Virginia.

Jake Sussman, an attorney for the coalition of clergy members, said their lawsuit opens a new front in marriage equality litigation.

"This lawsuit introduces a First Amendment claim that the marriage ban in North Carolina violates the right to the free exercise of religious beliefs by denominations, clergy, and congregants who believe that same sex marriages are theologically valid and want to perform marriage ceremonies," he said.

But NC Values Coalition executive director Tami Fitzgerald, who helped lead a coalition of Christian and conservative groups supporting the state's 2012 constitutional amendment, said the lawsuit is an attempt to void the will of voters who backed traditional marriage. Six in 10 voters backed changing North Carolina's constitution.

"This is sadly, and predictably, the 'lawsuit of the week' filed by those who want to impose same-sex marriage on North Carolina," Fitzgerald said. "Moreover, it's both ironic and sad that an entire religious denomination and its clergy who purport holding to Christian teachings on marriage would look to the courts to justify their errant beliefs."

Same-Sex Marriages In Tenn. Case Again Invalid

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The marriages of three same-sex Tennessee couples who are suing the state have been invalidated, at least temporarily, by a federal appeals court panel.

The couples were married in other states but live in Tennessee, where the constitution and state law recognize only marriages between one man and one woman. In March, a U.S. district court judge in Nashville granted a temporary injunction, forcing the state to recognize the marriages of the three couples.

But on Friday, the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati put the lower court's order on hold because it says "the law in this area is so unsettled." The court ordered that Tennessee's appeal of the injunction receive

an expedited hearing.

The ruling throws into question the status of a 1-month-old girl, born to plaintiffs Valeria Tanco and Sophy Jesty in March, days after the district judge forced the state to recognize their marriage while the lawsuit made its way through the courts. Tanco and Jesty's baby became the first in the state to have parents of the same gender listed on her birth certificate.

Plaintiffs' attorney Regina Lambert said in a telephone interview that Tanco and Jesty are not discouraged by the 6th Circuit's ruling. All four states in the 6th Circuit face challenges to their laws prohibiting same sex marriage.

"The 6th Circuit is realizing this is a critical, crucial issue," Lambert said. "It's

happening all over the U.S. now at a very swift pace."

Lambert said she does not expect Tennessee to challenge the birth certificate of Tanco and Jesty's baby while the lawsuit is ongoing. The injunction "got them through the birth," she said, "and that's a big deal."

The state Attorney General's office said attorneys there are reviewing the effect of the ruling but did not comment further.

Seventeen states allow gay marriage, and federal judges have struck down bans in Michigan, Utah, Texas, Oklahoma and Virginia. Last year, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the federal government must recognize marriages of same-sex couples.

► Jim Toy

Continued from p. 11

her friend Jason Morgan and was there with her two children, Alex and Viviann. Felicia and her family regularly come out to support the JTCC, and she was very excited to get the chance to celebrate Toy's birthday with the community.

"Every opportunity we have to come out and support Jim, we'll take it. Especially when I can bring the family to celebrate equal rights," Brabec said passing a napkin to her kids as they chowed down on chocolate cupcakes. "The kids are excited. We like to promote that everyone can love who they want to love."

Even though Jim Toy turns 84 on Tuesday April 29, he and the Community Center still have a lot in store for 2014. They are currently planning upcoming events such as the Pride Picnic in May and Outfest in October.

Jim Toy Day

Last year, for the first event marking Jim Toy's birthday, Ann Arbor city council honored him with a Mayor's proclamation declaring April 29 Jim Toy Day. At the Ann Arbor gathering, Toy shared the following remarks which took place shortly after the bombing at the Boston Marathon:

Mr. Mayor, members of council, staff of the city of Ann Arbor, my comrades, and our allies, I am more grateful and humbled than I can say for this recognition – the recognition of the work of our entire constituency and of our allies. The city has advanced freedom and justice without ceasing for many oppressed individuals and groups and will continue to do so.

We thank everyone in our inter-sex, transgender, bi-sexual, lesbian, gay male, queer community, and we thank our allies for your support and advocacy through these two score years of working for justice and freedom – justice and freedom compromised and stained by the blood that has been shed by countless victims of anti-TBLGQ violence, violence generated by fear and hatred, as blood has been shed today in Boston.

Let me thank you all with deep gratitude for your patient support since 1971. I thank you for enduring my inadequacies, my prejudices, my isms, and my fear. I beg forgiveness of all whom I have ignored, neglected and wounded during these 40 years.

And now let's look around us.

We see our past, we see our present, we see our future. As we move into our future I think of our sister, Audre Lorde. Our sister Audre said, "If we wait until we are unafraid to speak, we will be speaking from our graves. It is not difference that immobilizes us, it is silence." And Audre continues, "When I dare to be powerful – to use my strength in the service of my vision – then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid."

When I was in college, Robert Frost came to our campus to give a lecture and a poetry reading. And of course he read his poem, "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening." I've taken the liberty of changing the last stanza:

The closet's lonely, dark and deep,
So we have promises to keep,
And miles to go before we sleep,
And miles to go before we sleep.

Namaste. Walk in sunshine.

For more information on the Jim Toy Community Center and to see upcoming LGBT events in Ypsilanti go to www.jimtoycenter.org.

► Dinner

Continued from p. 4

Senate seat should not be for sale. The election should be determined not by a billionaire's purse strings, but by the people," said Peters.

The highlight of the evening was the keynote speech by former U.S. President Bill Clinton who rallied the crowd to embrace the importance of voter turnout in this November's mid-term elections.

"Shame on us if we can't convince the people who vote for us in presidential elections to show up in midterm elections," Clinton told the crowd. "If we don't show up, how can we expect to have anything but a profoundly divided country."

In his 50-minute speech, Clinton discussed topics from universal health care, poverty and raising the minimum wage, to his accomplishments while in office in the 1990s. He praised Michigan's legislators and candidates and lauded Sen. Levin's 36-year legacy in the U.S. Senate. "Senator Levin made his opinions known, whether they were popular at the time or not. But whether what he stood for was popular or unpopular, history has proven that Senator Levin's ideas were the right ones."

Editors Note: Jan Stevenson is one of the vice chairs of the LGBT Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party

MAY 30-JUNE 1

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Screen Queen

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

2014's Oscar-Celebrated Films



Frozen

Starring “the one and only” Adele Dazeem, better known to anyone who’s not John Travolta as Idina Menzel, “Frozen” is a flamboyant rush of grandiosity harking back to the old-school, princess-starring musical spectacles Disney once produced. Like a gift to the gays, the record-breaking, Oscar-winning behemoth has Menzel, a Broadway icon, and the kind of catchy sing-along soundtrack you can belt out in secret. But its story of a girl with a power so alarming she’s told to “conceal it, don’t feel it” abounds with gayness. Queer undertones are especially apparent when Elsa lets down her hair for “Let It Go,” an anthem of defiance and self-acceptance (it’s here when she’s pretty much made over into a fabulous drag queen). Speaking to a new generation of outsiders, “Frozen” isn’t just Disney’s most subliminally gay film ever – it’s a new Disney classic. One like “Snow White,” one like “Beauty and the Beast.” One we’ll be talking about in 50 years. For

a Disney release, the extras are shockingly light: a making-of, four deleted scenes and, because you can’t get enough, “Let It Go” in four different languages.



Philomena

Though it preaches love and compassion, the Catholic Church is a bad, bad place. That’s not universally upheld, of course, but it’s basically the stand that “Philomena” takes. Based on Martin Sixsmith’s book, this discerning tale – a true one – tells the story of a child taken from his mother by cruel nuns after a single indiscretion. Director Stephen Frears’ film knocks the church, obviously, but, through the eyes of Philomena, it also finds forgiveness when forgiving doesn’t seem possible. Now a half century later, Philomena is restless and ready to

find her child. A chance encounter with Martin (Steve Coogan), a disgruntled sourpuss getting back to his journalistic roots, leads them on an uproarious, engaging and bittersweet search full of redemption and revelations (one such discovery is her son’s partner). The final act pours sugar on top of religious hoey, but it doesn’t diminish the caliber of Dench’s dignified and powerfully acted matriarch. The dame herself talks about the role during the special features, which also includes “The Real Philomena Lee” and a Coogan/director commentary.



Gravity

Aesthetically speaking, it’s a stunner, but the space effects in “Gravity” are almost inconsequential to Alfonso

Cuarón’s spellbinding meditation on the indomitable human spirit. In an emotionally charged role where fear and perseverance meet, Sandra Bullock, as Dr. Ryan Stone, is the crux of Cuarón’s life-affirming odyssey, realizing every nuance of Stone and the mission she’s really on: the one that won’t just save her life, but her soul. Because beyond the cosmic surface – with its game-changing CGI and its impressive opening shot lasting 17 continuous minutes – is a poetic journey rich with ambiguities that give way to personal catharsis, spiritual tropes and the enveloping theme of rebirth. Winner of seven Oscars including Best Director, “Gravity” is, without question, the best film of 2013. It gets into your heart; it gets into your mind. It changes you. Four hours of in-depth coverage of the film, from shoot complications to the script’s subtleties (and Sandy’s “box”), supplement the 3D Blu-ray release. The clever companion short “Aningaaq” is also included.



Dallas Buyers Club

Despite taking on the AZT controversy of the ’80s, “Dallas

Buyers Club” – “the AIDS movie,” as it became known – isn’t just about HIV. Portraying the real-life Ron Woodruff as a staunch homophobe, the drama has more to do with the virus’s influence on a man who became an unlikely hero after contracting it. Up until his positive diagnosis, Ron coasts on by as a Texan bigot who drinks, drugs, scams and has his way with the ladies. Then he discovers he’s HIV-positive. Fighting to hang on, and stubbornly resisting the 30-day death sentence doctors warn of, Ron goes cross-country seeking the meds to keep him – and, in a surprisingly selfless move, other positive people – alive. The bond that develops between he and Rayon, a tough transgendered woman (Jared Leto), as they both try to defy death is an inspiring transformation of character in a film that’s boldly acted (both Leto and McConaughey won acting Oscars for their roles) and beautifully told. A doc on the real Ron Woodruff and a commentary would make illuminating additions, but the only extras are leftover scenes and a brief behind-the-scenes feature.

Also Out



12 Years a Slave

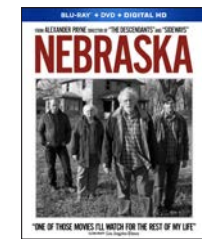
What does it say when something is so horrifically scarring you can’t bear to experience it again? It says that it’s done what it intended to. Shattering your everything with the raw, in-your-face brutality of one of the worst times in American history, filmmaker Steve McQueen doesn’t subdue the suffering, injustice and heartlessness when he tells the true story of Solomon Northup, a free black man from upstate New York who’s abducted and sold into slavery. Winner of Best Picture, McQueen’s overwhelming feat tears at the spirit like only a film this tragically real can. Featured among the extras is actor Chiwetel Ejiofor reading from Northup’s original book.



20 Feet from Stardom

Singing and shimmying on the sidelines of the star,

background singers are always, you know, in the background. But not anymore. Not with Best Doc winner “20 Feet from Stardom,” director Morgan Neville’s wonderfully inspiring documentary spotlighting the unsung heroes of song. Through archival footage and new interviews with Darlene Love, Bruce Springsteen and Mick Jagger, Neville finds heart in the history of the film’s starring ladies. Their poignant sisterhood will move you; their shattered dreams will break you. Extras include the girl-bonding feature “The Buddy System” and a New York Times-moderated Q&A.



Nebraska

Dementia’s no laughing matter ... except in “Nebraska,” a deadpan comedy about a man, Woody

Grant, convinced he’s won a million dollars via a sweepstakes mailing. Not even his own wife, Kate (June Squibb), a sassy spitfire, can convince him otherwise. When Woody guilties his son into going to his hometown of Lincoln, Neb. to claim his prize, the real father-son story starts to unfold: “Nebraska” is one man standing firm on his beliefs and finding strength in adversity, all to see his dream through. “Nebraska” necessitates repeat viewings, so it’s of little consequence that just a 30-minute doc on the film’s making is the only supplement.



August: Osage County

Seeing Julia Roberts and Meryl Streep smash their dinner plates and f-bomb each

other over fish is probably an experience you should have at least once in your life. That type of so-uncomfortable-you-cry-laughing family dysfunction is rife in playwright Tracy Letts’ dirty stage-to-screen drama “August: Osage County,” starring Streep as a grievous cancer-stricken wife corraling her children after her husband commits suicide. The woman is a monster, the family

See Screen Queen, page 22



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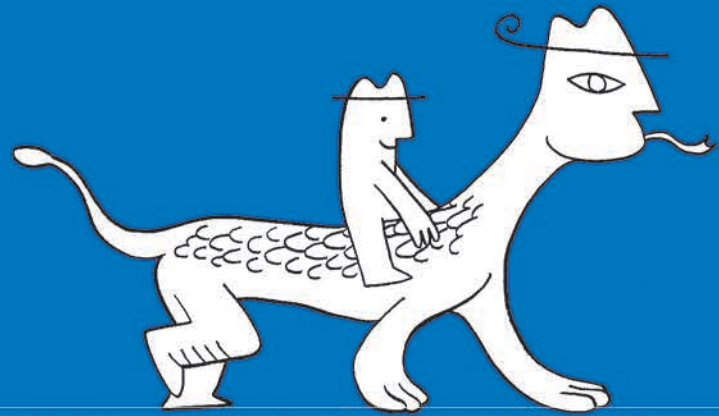
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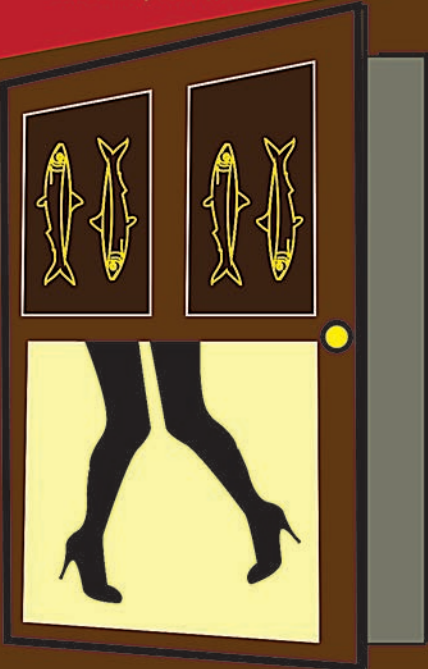


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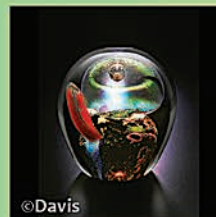
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Hollis Resnik and Ta'Rea Campbell in "Sister Act." Photo: Joan Marcus

'Sister Act' Makes A Joyful Noise

BY MARTIN F. KOHN

Deloris Van Cartier (born Doris Carter), a sassy, brassy, none-too-successful nightclub singer, witnesses a gang murder, runs for her life and makes it to the police station. Needing a safe place to stow her until she can testify, the cops hide Deloris in a convent, disguised as a nun.

There, she is put in charge of the convent's dismal choir with results that could justify "Sister Act" being called "The Miracle Worker" if that title weren't already taken.

Based on the popular 1992 movie, the musical "Sister Act," directed by Broadway luminary Jerry Zaks, strives mightily to please audiences and mostly succeeds. The cast is a high-energy delight. Ta'Rea Campbell's Deloris (Whoopi Goldberg's role in the movie) carries a truckload of attitude and a powerhouse voice. Hollis Resnik, in the Maggie Smith role of Mother Superior, has a gravitas all her own. If Deloris is brass, Mother Superior is steel and their clash resonates

INFO
<p>Sister Act</p> <p>Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. 8 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; 2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday; and 7:30 p.m. Sunday through May 4. 2 hours, 25 minutes. \$40+. 313-872-1000.</p> <p>www.broadwayindetroit.com</p>

throughout the show.

Mother Superior's intense dislike of Deloris seems disturbingly unholy, going well beyond the differences between an old-school nun and a would-be diva. The tension between Deloris and Mother Superior provides the musical with a third major story, the other two being the gangsters' pursuit of Deloris and Deloris' wondrous effect on the choir.

Still, all the main plots and subplots of "Sister Act" aren't substantial enough to justify as many songs as there are (including four reprises), and you feel the show sagging under the weight. The show is set in Philadelphia in the late '70s and the songs, all new,

by Alan Menken and Glenn Slater, frequently harken back to the era of disco and Philly soul.

On the plus side, everyone sings well and the show's secret weapon is its choreography by Anthony Van Last. The secret is there aren't any dance numbers per se, but there is a plethora of chorus movement and small-group choreography that conjures the late Cholly Atkins, Motown's house choreographer.

And underlying everything is a sweet and potent message about transformation. Except for the mob boss (played with malevolent consistency by Melvin Abston), everyone changes for better. Deloris learns to think about something other than herself; Mother Superior warms up; a timid nun (played sweetly by Ashley Moniz) discovers her backbone; and the cop (Chester Gregory) who has had a crush on Deloris since high school gains the confidence to declare it.

Maybe the show should be called "The Miracle Worker" after all.



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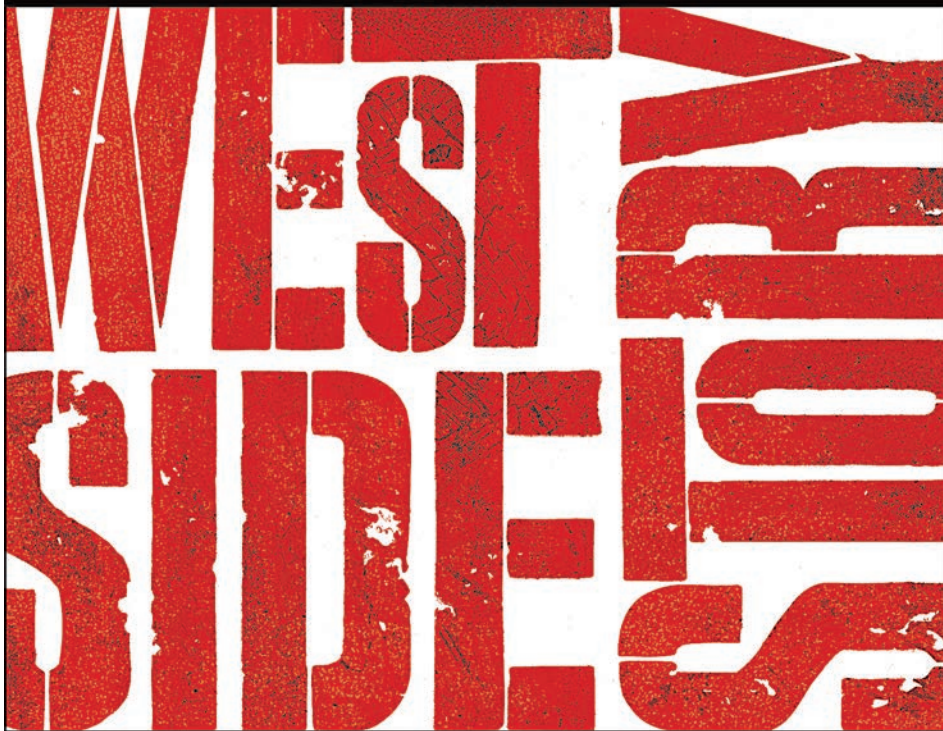
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The OutField

Gay Games 9 Builds On The Past

BY DAN WOOG

The past year marked a watershed for LGBT sports. Athletes at every level – professional, college, high school and amateur – at first ventured, then flooded out of the closet. Media attention no longer treats gay athletes as exotic creatures, all but unheard of in the real world; stories now focus on more nuanced aspects of their lives. Homophobes are increasingly marginalized, banished from the sidelines to the back row of the bleachers.

In some ways (though we're still waiting for that first huge-name pro male team-sport athlete to come out), LGBT athletics has reached the point we've long waited for: normalcy.

So does that mean there's no longer any need for the Gay Games?

Thousands of athletes, a hefty lineup of corporate sponsors, and hundreds of paid and volunteer organizers beg to differ.

Gay Games 9 – the next edition of the event first held 32 years ago in San Francisco – is set for Aug. 9-16 in Cleveland and Akron, Ohio. Patterned on the Olympic Games (but denied use of the "O" word by a legal challenge), the Gay Games are now an international spectacle.

Unlike the Olympics, anyone can participate. The Gay Games are open to all athletes 18 or older, "regardless of sexual orientation, race, gender, religion, nationality, ethnic origin, political beliefs, athletic or artistic ability, age, physical challenge or health status."

Realistically, of course, an event called "The Gay Games" draws competitors mostly from the LGBT community. Typically, about 10 percent are non-LGBT (most often, friends and family who participate to show support).

And, says Gay Games 9 marketing manager Matt Cordish, despite the increasing visibility, acceptance, even celebration of LGBT athletes in mainstream athletics, there remains a need for an event that is way gay.

"There are still people around the world who are ridiculed or hated for who they are," says Cordish. "In the Gay Games, there is no judgment. This is an eye-opening opportunity for people who don't have that acceptance or lack of judgment in the rest of their lives. We're getting near the point when gay sports is a non-story. But there are still parts of the world where you can be punished, or even executed, for being gay."

Cordish – who played soccer, lacrosse and baseball as a youth, and whose main sport is now ice hockey – spends a great deal of time on the road. Part of his job involves spreading the word about the Gay Games, urging individuals and teams to register. He hears stories every day about the power of athletics to change LGBT lives.

"One man told me how hard his life was

growing up," Cordish says. "He's HIV-positive. But he got involved with sports, and he's doing well. This is his reason to keep going."

As in previous Gay Games, some participants this year are not out at all at home. Traveling to Cleveland, and taking part in this event, marks an enormous step for them.

Cordish acknowledges the strides made in recent years. Gay Games 9 will draw upon the visibility of newly out athletes, empowering those who are not yet out, while providing one more opportunity to show the general public that LGBT people are indeed everywhere. And, Cordish adds, "We do need an event that showcases the ideal that Gay Games founder Tom Waddell worked so hard to create: an environment free of judgment, where all athletes can perform their best."

Those performances will take place in a broad array of sports: softball, track and field, soccer, swimming, rodeo, bowling, volleyball, rowing, even darts. Up to 9,000 participants are expected from around the world. Those numbers are on par with the number of athletes in the Summer Olympics. Like the Olympics, there are opening and closing ceremonies, a "Festival Village," and plenty of parties. Plus, of course, corporate sponsors: Wells Fargo, United Airlines, KeyBank and more.

Unlike the Olympics, there are also "cultural" competitions, in band and chorus.

Organizers expect 20,000 additional guests, performers, spectators and volunteers.

Regular Gay Games-goers may find a different environment than they're used to. Cleveland and Akron are not exactly San Francisco – where the first two Games were held – nor are they Vancouver, New York City, Amsterdam, Sydney, Chicago or Cologne, the hosts of following events.

"There's a thriving gay community in northeast Ohio," Cordish says. "There's no one defined area, like West Hollywood, the Castro or Boys Town. But we can go anywhere, and be ourselves."

And the region has something few other Gay Games venues can boast: a PGA Tour stop. That's Firestone Country Club, site of the golf competition.

Fore!

Registrations are still being accepted for Gay Games 9. Go to <http://gg2014.sportingpulse.com>; enter "GoAllOut" where prompted, for \$30 off the general registration price. Spectator packages are available too.

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

Out of Town

WorldPride 2014: Exploring Toronto & Beyond

BY ANDREW COLLINS

The annual Gay Pride celebration in Toronto has long been one of the biggest, boldest and best-attended around, but in 2014, get ready for the city's greatest festival yet: the annual WorldPride, which moves to a different city each year, taking place concurrently with Toronto Pride. For 10 days this summer, from June 20 through June 29, WorldPride will dominate the city's famed Church Street Gay Village. Adding the buzz is the fact that this year marks the first time that WorldPride takes place in a North American city.

The 10-day event will include concerts by a slew of A-listers, including Tegan and Sara, Chely Wright, Melissa Etheridge, Deborah Cox, Martha Wash and superstar DJs David Morales and Quentin Harris (expect the lineup to continue evolving between now and the big week). Official events are many, beginning with an opening ceremony on June 20, and culminating during the big weekend (June 27 through 29) with a Trans March, Dyke March, WorldPride Parade, Family Pride, Streetfair and Arts and Cultural Festival, and Closing Ceremony. Check the WorldPride website for further updates and details, and also on news about additional parties, gatherings and performances taking place during the big week.

If you're in town for WorldPride, you'll surely experience Toronto's lively, naughty and nice Church Street Gay Village. It's one of the largest and most centrally located LGBT business and entertainment districts on the globe, with dozens of bars, restaurants, shops and other establishments catering enthusiastically to the community.

But, of course, there's far more to both Toronto (seetorontonow.com/toronto-diversity) and surrounding Ontario (ontariotravel.net) than all the good fun you'll discover on or near Church Street. Here's a look at some cool neighborhoods elsewhere in Toronto as well as a few enchanting vacation spots within an easy drive that would make for charming pre- or post-Pride overnight getaways.



The historic downtown of Niagara-on-the-Lake, a charming Wine Country community 90 minutes southwest of Toronto by car. Photo: Andrew Collins

In Toronto

Hanlan's Point Beach and the Toronto Islands

In summer, Torontonians venture en masse to the small archipelago located just offshore from downtown and known as the Toronto Islands (torontoislands.org). Among the many lovely spots for sunning and socializing on the islands, Hanlan's Point Beach has the most ardent following among LGBT folks – it's an officially clothing-optional beach that faces the lake and is quite well-kept and picturesque. You can easily reach the beach via a frequently scheduled ferry service (the ride takes 15 minutes, costs \$7 round-trip, and affords passengers magnificent views of the city skyline – boats leave downtown from the foot of Bay Street, at Queens Quay).

Consider bringing a picnic lunch with you to Hanlan's Point, as amenities are minimal. However, you can also stroll along a paved trail to Centre Island, which contains

all sorts of amusements, restaurants and other things to see and do – from here there's also separate ferry service back to Toronto, if you'd rather not hoof it back to Hanlan's Point.

Queen Street West

Toronto's most colorful ethnic neighborhoods lie west of downtown, where the hipster-factor is also highest. Walk along Queen Street West to experience the heart of the city's alternative culture – you'll find everything from offbeat antiques stores to vintage clothing boutiques to shops specializing in witchcraft to divey tattoo parlors. Farther west, Queen Street intersects with yet another strip of trendy, hipster-infested bars, cafes and shops, Ossington Avenue, which is definitely worth a tour.

Up until the middle of the 20th century, Toronto endured a reputation as a hard-working, earnest, but rather dull metropolis. The incisive writer Jan Morris once

described it as “a small provincial city of almost absurdly British character.” A walk through the many bustling ethnic neighborhoods, around the vibrant Gay Village, and past the quirky, counter-cultural businesses along Queen Street West reveal just how dramatically times have changed.

Overnight getaways from Toronto

Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Shaw Festival

It's about a 90-minute drive around the southwestern edge of Lake Ontario to reach one of Canada's most celebrated winemaking regions and most charming historic colonial towns, Niagara-on-the-lake (niagaraonthelake.com), which is also a gateway for exploring Niagara Falls, just 15 miles to the south. Famous for its early military history (the town was a

key setting of the War of 1812), the town is home to several battlefields and related sites as well as the excellent RiverBrink Art Museum, and a compact, pedestrian-friendly downtown abounding with gay-friendly country inns and B&Bs, sophisticated restaurants with shaded courtyards and patios, and the prestigious Shaw Festival (shawfest.com), which presents a mix of works by the iconic 19th-century playwright George Bernard Shaw along with plays by other notables (both “Cabaret” and lesser-known Tennessee Williams play “A Lovely Sunday for Creve Coeur” are scheduled during the summer 2014 season) in four theaters.

More than two-dozen wineries are set throughout the Niagara-on-the-Lake region – you can view a full list here: wineriesofniagaraonthelake.com. Most have tasting rooms and some present concerts or other entertainment, especially during the summer months. The wine culture here has contributed to a superb dining scene, with many chefs in these parts sourcing locally and organically and turning out first-rate contemporary cuisine.

Niagara Falls

In some ways the aesthetic and pace of Niagara Falls (niagarafalls.ca), a small city of about 82,000, is the antithesis of Niagara-on-the-Lake, which is relatively quiet and quaint. Downtown Niagara Falls buzzes with souvenir shops and touristy diversions, and, of course, the community is beset all year long, and especially during the busy summer months, by visitors here to view the three immense waterfalls that cross the U.S.-Canadian international border: Horseshoe Falls (the largest, with a drop of 173 feet), American Falls and Bridal Veil Falls.

Stratford and the Shakespeare Festival

A mecca for theater aficionados, anchoring a largely agrarian swath of

See Out of Town, page 21

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Editor's Pick



At first glance the name of the show appears somewhat awkward, but once the comedic content is presented, the title reveals itself as absolutely appropriate. The contemporary musical-comedy "[title of show]" runs through May 4 on the 2nd Stage at the Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette in downtown Royal Oak.

"[title of show]" is a one-act musical about two nobodies, Hunter (Craig VanKempen) and Jeff (Jake Zinke), who decide to write a musical for

a theater festival. With the deadline for the musical looming just three weeks away, they cast themselves and their friends Heidi (Sara Rydzewski) and Susan (Bronwen Hupp) in the show. In the span of this 90-minute show, the characters journey through the process of creative self-expression and learn lessons about themselves. There are plenty of snappy one-liners, obscure Broadway insider references and a bit of "toilet humor" – all of which are delivered through both the dialogue and the lyrics.

Call 248-541-6430 for tickets.

Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, May 1

Bell's Fest First ever event, with shows, Bell's beer and more. 21+. Bell's Brewery, **Lansing**. Downtownlansing.org

Capital City Clean Sweep 12 p.m. Downtown Lansing, **Lansing**. Downtownlansing.org

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

Lavender Graduation 4:30 p.m. Spectrum Center, **Ann Arbor**. Spectrumcenter.umich.edu

Family & Friends 7 p.m. Topics vary from month to month. This is a gathering of people who have family or friends who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or who are questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity. Join us as we offer support, share our experiences, and learn about the issues impacting the LGBTQ and allied community. The Jewish Gay Network of Michigan (JGN), 6600 W. Maple Road, **West Bloomfield**. 248-432-5661. Jgnmi.org

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

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

Friday, May 2

Savor Detroit Five nights. 10 chefs. Hour Detroit, 24101 W. Nine Mile, **Southfield**. Hourdetroit.com

Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: Maria Bamford: Unwanted Thoughts Syndrome - Pug-loving, voice-impersonating Comedy Central staple Maria Bamford shares her offbeat insights on the underside of daily life in this diamond-sharp compilation of shorts drawn from her Web series "The Maria Bamford

Show. "From "Baby Jesus" to "Getting Older" to "Being a Good Person," these gently neurotic tales showcase the talent that has landed Bamford in "The Comedians of Comedy," "Adventure Time" and a pile of other animated shows. 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

2014 MDSL Kick Off Party 8 p.m. Join us for the start of the MDSL season with the Kick Off Party! Come hang out with fellow MDSL members and sponsors and have a GREAT time! MDSL LGBT, 608 S. Washington, **Royal Oak**. facebook.com/events/625167557559058/

Joni Mitchell Blue Album Tribute 8 p.m. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., **Three Oaks**. 269-756-3879. Acorntheater.com

Saturday, May 3

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

Ally Rush Week 10 a.m. Make new friends, participate in some fun activities like our "Ally4Equality" photo and video stations, sign up to participate as a member of one of our new cross-cultural teams that will spread the word about our Ally Campaign, or learn more about volunteering at Affirmations. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Outpouring 1 p.m. Every first Saturday. Affirming Love Ministries, **Ypsilanti**. Affirmingloveministries.webs.com

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

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

W. E. T. Detroit Monthly Party 10 p.m. Party for Queer Women. First Saturday of the month. Different theme for each event. Cover: \$5. W. E. T. Detroit, 2906 Cass Ave., **Detroit**. Facebook.com/W.E.T.Detroit

Sunday, May 4

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

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

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

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 Lippgloss, and more. Additional showtimes at 11 p.m. and 12 a.m. Spiral Dance Bar, 1247 Center St., **Lansing**. 517-894-1315. Spiraldancebar.com

Tuesday, May 6

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

Because We Are Worth It (Sex Addicts Anonymous LGBTQ Meeting) 6:30 p.m. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. 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, May 7

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

Tigers vs. Houston Astros 5:30 p.m. Let's meet at Bookies for dinner & a drink and get the shuttle bus to the game. Tickets: \$22. GOAL, 2208 Cass Ave., **Detroit**. Meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

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

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

Como's Patio 7 p.m. GOAL, 22812 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. Meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

Ladies Night 50/50 Fundraiser to benefit Ferndale Pride 7 p.m. All proceeds raised for Ferndale Pride will stay in our community, benefitting Affirmations, Michigan AIDS Coalition and the Ferndale Community Foundation. Ferndale Pride, 279 W. Nine Mile, **Ferndale**. Ferndalepride.com

Thursday, May 8

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

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

Gender Hormone Counseling Sessions 6 p.m. Darnell Jones, RPH

and GNA, will conduct one on one counseling sessions for the transgender community. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Relationship Skills Class 6 p.m. A series for LGBTQ people and their friends and loved ones. Topics include: exploring personal and cultural relationships, values, arguments and making agreements, accountability and building community connections. Tickets: \$5-35. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

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

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

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

Slamdance on the Road: Detroit 9 p.m. Featuring "Skanks," a drag musical. Tickets: \$7-10. Royal Oak Film Society, 118 N. Main St., **Royal Oak**. 248-542-5198. Royaloakfilmsociety.com

MUSIC & MORE

Comedy

Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase "David Dyer" Tickets: \$7-12. Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. May 1 - May 3. 734-996-9080. Aacomedy.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Miranda Sing's." Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., **Royal Oak**. May 2. 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre.com

Concerts

Blind Pig "The Slackers" With special guest Green Room Rockers. 18+. Tickets: \$12-15. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., **Ann Arbor**. 9 p.m. May 3. 734-996-

8555. Blindpigmusic.com

Blind Pig "The Both (Feat. Aimee Mann and Ted Leo)" 18+. Tickets: \$20. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. May 7. 734-996-8555. Blindpigmusic.com

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Eddie Palmieri Latin Jazz Band." Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. May 2. 313-576-5111. Dso.org

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Louis Lortie Plays Chopin." Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. May 1 - May 3. 313-576-5111. Dso.org

Fort Street Chorale and Chamber Orchestra "Mozart Requiem, Britten Serenade" W. A. Mozart's soaring, beloved Requiem (K. 626). Tickets: \$15-20. Fort Street Presbyterian Church, 631 W. Fort St., **Detroit**. 3 p.m. May 4. 313-961-4533. Fortstreet.org

Kerrytown Concert House "Heloisa Fernandes" Jazz. Tickets: \$5-30. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. May 2. 734-763-4186. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

The Ark "Priscilla Ahn" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. May 7. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "Cheryl Wheeler" Tickets: \$25. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. May 3. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Majestic "Baths" With Young Fathers. All ages. Tickets: \$12-14. The Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 8 p.m. May 4. 313-833-9700. Majesticdetroit.com

Shows

Royal Oak Music Theatre "The 1975." Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., **Royal Oak**. May 4. 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre.com

Saugatuck Center for the Arts "Creativity Revealed" Free. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. 7 p.m. May 7. 269-857-2399. Sc4a.org

The Ark "Joni Mitchell's Blue: A Celebration" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. May 1. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

THEATER

Civic/Community Theater

Annie Get Your Gun \$18-24. The Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park St., **Kalamazoo**. May 2 - 18. 269-343-1313. kazooocivic.com

Five Women Wearing the Same Dress \$15-20. Barefoot Productions, 240 N. Main St., **Plymouth**. Through May 4. 734-560-1493. justgobarefoot.com

Lady Grey \$10. Horn Rim Productions at The Mix Studio Theatre, 8 N. Washington St., **Ypsilanti**. May 9 - 11. emergentarts.com

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

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

Noises Off \$11-22. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin Ave, **Ann Arbor**. May 8 - 11. 734-971-2228. a2ct.org

Nonsense The Mega-Musical Version \$13-36. Starlight Dinner Theatre at Waverly East Cafetorium, 3131 W. Michigan Ave., **Lansing**. May 9 - 17. 517-243-6040. starlightdinnertheatre.com

Rumors \$14-16. Farmington Players, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, **Farmington Hills**. Through May 17. 248-553-2955. farmingtonplayers.org

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street \$13-15. Southgate Community Players at Davidson Middle School, 15800 Trenton Road, **Southgate**. May 2 - 10. 734-282-4727. sconstage.com

Telling Lives \$10-12. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., **Lansing**. May 9 - 18. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com

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

The Magical Adventures of Merlin \$7. Kalamazoo Civic Youth Theatre at Parish Theatre, 426 S. Park St., **Kalamazoo**. May 9 - 17. 269-343-1313. kazooocivic.com

[title of show] A 2nd Stage production. \$18 in advance; \$2 extra at the door

See Happenings, page 22

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► Out of Town

Continued from p. 19

southwestern Ontario, the friendly Canadian town of Stratford (stratfordcanada.ca) also abounds with art galleries and boutiques, cafes and romantic inns and B&Bs. The community, which is named for the town in England most associated with William Shakespeare, is famous for its theaters – the Avon, Studio, Tom Patterson and Festival – which present a mix of Shakespearean works and classics by both established and emerging playwrights during its April through October Shakespeare Festival (stratfordfestival.ca) season. You can also attend some great music concerts during the summer months. Just a 90-minute drive from Toronto, this spirited community is a must-see for anyone with a genuine love of the performing arts.

Ottawa

Canada's national capital, Ottawa (ottawatourism.ca), is a bit farther from Toronto than some of the other places mentioned here – it's a 4.5- to 5-hour drive. But this city of about 825,000 contains enough notable attractions and diverting neighborhoods to be worth a visit of at least a couple of days and ideally three or four. Also, it's a handy stopover en route to Montreal, which is roughly another two hours east. Keep in mind as well that Ottawa hosts its own well-attended Pride festival in mid to late August.

Downtown Ottawa and its regal government buildings occupy a high bluff looking over the Ottawa River – the picturesque Rideau Canal extends south through the city and is a lovely place for a summer stroll. Neighborhoods of note close to downtown include a compact but lively Gay Village along Bank Street, a hip and bustling dining and entertainment

precinct called Byward Market (there's even a great gay nightspot, Lookout Bar), and – a bit farther afield – the quirky and artsy Glebe neighborhood, which abounds with cafes, galleries, and retail establishments.

Top attractions in Ottawa include Parliament Hill, with its grand government buildings, most of them dating back to the mid-19th century; be sure to ascend the 300-foot-tall Peace Tower for stunning views of the city and surrounding countryside. The Canadian Museum of Civilization, National Gallery of Canada, Rideau Canal National Historic Site and Canada's National Arts Centre are also all well worth budgeting time for.

Andrew Collins covers gay travel for the New York Times-owned website About.com and is the author of "Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA." He can be reached care of this publication or at OutofTown@qsyndicate.com.

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Editor's Pick



Affirmations is hosting another round of Relationship Skills Classes. The classes center around a curriculum developed by the Northwest Network of Bisexual, Trans, Lesbian and Gay Survivors of Abuse. The classes were a great success this past winter.

Different topics explored in the classes include exploring personal and cultural relationships, values and arguments, and making agreements. Accountability and building community connections are other central themes to the courses.

Relationship Skills Classes will meet at 6 p.m. every Thursday from May 8 to June 19 at Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. Tickets for the Relationship Skills Classes range from \$5 per class to \$35 for all sessions. For more information, call 248-398-7105 or visit www.goaffirmations.org.

► Happenings

Continued from p. 21

(if available). Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. Through May 4. 248-541-6430. Stagecrafters.org

Professional

A Midsummer Night's Dream \$7-14. Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company at Seven Steps Up, 116 S. Jackson St., Spring Lake. 7:30 p.m. May 2. 616-850-0916.

A Steady Rain \$10-20. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. May 2 - 24. 313-365-4948. planetant.com

A Whale in Hilton Head and Conversations With a Chimpanzee \$8-12. The Stark Turn Players at Dog Story Theatre, 7 Jefferson SE, Grand Rapids. May 1 - 4. 616-425-9234. dogstorytheater.com

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

Breaking Legs \$15-18. Broadway Onstage Live Theatre, 21517 Kelly Road, Eastpointe. Through May 10. 586-771-6333. broadwayonstage.com

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

Country Roads: A Musical Journey \$35-41. The Dio - Dining & Entertainment, 177 E. Main St., Pinckney. Through May 11. 517-672-6009. diotheatre.com

Crossing 8 Mile \$16-24. Mosaic Youth Theatre at Detroit Film Theatre inside the

Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. May 9 - 18. 313-833-7900. mosaicdetroit.org

Into the Woods \$10-25. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. May 2 - June 2. 248-545-5545. thewingwald.com

Old Wicked Songs \$27-29. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Through May 18. 269-343-2727. farmersalleytheatre.com

Rhinoceros By donation. The Abreact, 1301 W. Lafayette #113, Detroit. May 9 - 31. 313-454-1542. theabreact.com

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

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

The Andrews Brothers \$25-40. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. Through May 18. 248-370-2030. mbtheatre.com

The Midtown Men \$29-49. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 8 p.m. May 10. 810-237-8689. thewhiting.com

The Wizard of Oz \$3-15. Wild Swan Theater at Towsley Auditorium in the Morris Lawrence Building on the campus of Washtenaw Community College, 4800 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor. May 1 - 4. 734-995-0530. wildswantheater.org

To Kill a Mockingbird \$20. What A Do Theatre, 4071 W. Dickman Road, Springfield. May 2 - 17. 269-282-1953. whatado.org

Turandot \$25-125. Michigan Opera Theatre at Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. May 10 - 18. 313-237-SING. michiganopera.org

Turtle Island \$5 children, \$10 adults. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit. May 3 - 18. 313-961-7777. puppetart.org

ART 'N' AROUND

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" 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. March 9 - June 1. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

Flint Institute of Arts "Kathleen Gilje: Portraits of Paintings" 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. May 2 - July 20. 810-234-1695. flintarts.org

MOCAD "James Lee Byars: I Cancel All My Works at Death." Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Feb. 7 - May 4. 313-832-6622. mocadetroit.org

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

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

UMMA "An Eye on the Empire: Photographs of Colonial India and Egypt" The zenith of the British Empire in the later nineteenth century coincided with a unique convergence of cultural, technological, and economic forces. 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. April 1 - June 29. 734-763-4186. umma.umich.edu

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► Screen Queen

Continued from p. 14

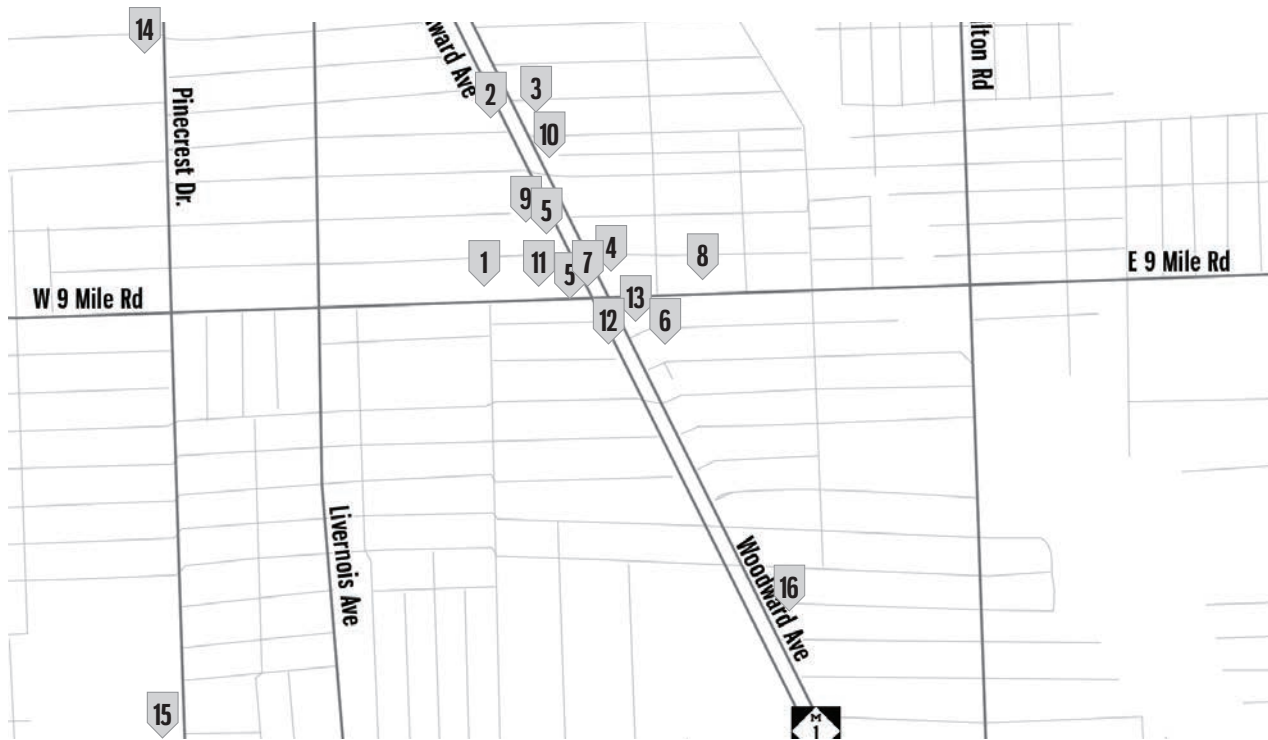
is a mess – and you won't forget that fish fight. Extras include a director commentary, interviews with the cast and a look at Letts' writing.

Captain Phillips

Tom Hanks gives a career-best performance in a wrenchingly powerful role as the real-life Captain Richard Phillips, who, while at sea in

the Indian Ocean in 2009, was held hostage by Somali pirates. Director Paul Greengrass (who unnerved you during "Flight 93") keeps the tension high-strung as Phillips fights to defend himself and his crew, leading to a harrowing standoff and a poignant resolution that Hanks gracefully conveys. A Greengrass commentary and a three-part feature provide context to the film and the real-life events behind it.





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	Green Thumb Garden Center..... 9	Michigan AIDS Coalition..... 15	*Not shown above

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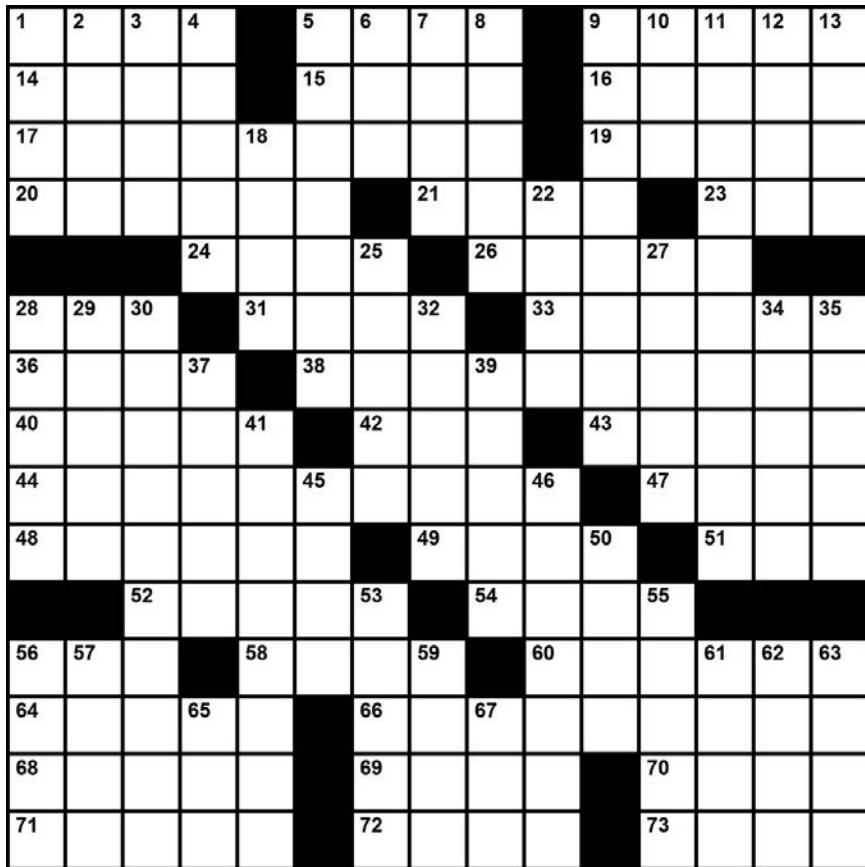
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Pink Soap



Across

- 1 Word for a sea wall that sounds LGBT
 5 Ginsberg's "In Back of the ____"
 9 Wore
 14 Burl of "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof"
 15 Bedfellow
 16 Become "husband and husband" on the fly
 17 With 19-Across, soap opera that will feature the first 38-Across on daytime TV
 19 See 17-Across
 20 Dildo, e.g.
 21 Skimpy skirt
 23 Dottermans of "Antonia's Line"
 24 Producer Meron
 26 Royal family of France
 28 "Teletubbies" ainer in the U.S.
 31 Stuffed shirt
 33 Get by somehow
 36 Chews the fat
 38 Ceremony for Sonny and Will, for example
 40 Speak off the cuff
 42 One + one, in Barrie's land
 43 Like rays caught at South Beach
 44 She plays Marlena, who will officiate at the 38-Across
 47 Human Rights Campaign fundraiser, e.g.
 48 Sign of horniness?
 49 Linda Hunt's "The ____ of Living

- Dangerously"
 51 P-town summer hrs.
 52 Prelims for Bruce Hayes
 54 Twosome
 56 "So, it's YOU!"
 58 It's hard and woody
 60 Ducks
 64 Sonny Kiriakis portrayed Freddie
 66 Will Horton portrayed
 68 Joe of baseball
 69 Carpet layer's calculation
 70 Poet Gidlow
 71 Targets of tops
 72 Choose not to come
 73 Bottomless

Down

- 1 Conn of "Grease"
 2 "Terrible" ruler
 3 Elton John's 88
 4 To eat, to Ulrichs
 5 Activity that may leave foam on your face
 6 "Xanadu" grp.
 7 Former senior
 8 Line from Lerner
 9 Chopper landing spots
 10 He worked where you see lots of boxers
 11 Fit perfectly
 12 Artist Robert
 13 Untouchable head
 18 Rock group?
 22 Dick, for one

- 25 Strongly opposed (to)
 27 R.E.M.'s "It's the ____ the World as We Know It"
 28 What the Devil wears, in a movie
 29 Former German state
 30 Be picky about a woman's pubes?
 32 Secluded road
 34 Responders to "Bite me!"
 35 White-plumed bird
 37 Come slowly closer
 39 Whipped
 41 Enjoys oxygen
 45 "Ziegfeld Follies" costume designer
 46 Put aside
 50 Shankar of sitar
 53 Heroic tales
 55 Put out
 56 Nick was his master
 57 Med. care groups
 59 Von Trapp youngster
 61 Man, as a cruising goal
 62 Antiviral drug measure
 63 Kirk Read's "How I Learned to ____"
 65 Threesome in "Roma"
 67 Positive vote

Solution on pg. 26

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11th ANNUAL "SHARING OUR DREAM, PREVENTING
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Date: Saturday, May 10, 2014

Time: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Location: Wayne State University
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Speakers: Dr. Jeffrey Harris and Dr. David H. Chae

Learn about stroke prevention; health disparities; diabetes; hypertension and smoking. Blood pressure screening; massages by Moody and music by WhatChuWant and more. Light lunch provided.

RSVP: Phone (313) 362-1927
info@hcsstrokefoundation.org

Contact: Barbara (313) 399-4247

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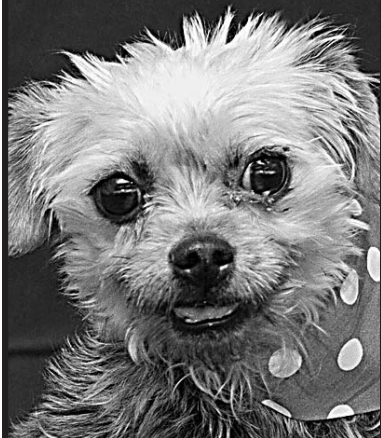
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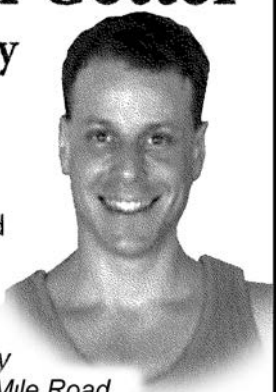
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Classifieds

01-ANNOUNCEMENTS LGBT AA MEETINGS

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

Bloomfield Hills-Sunday / Tuesday / Thursday

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

Detroit-Tuesday / Friday

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

Farmington Hills-Monday

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

Ferndale-Monday / Wednesday / Friday

11:30 a.m., Brown Baggers Gay AA, Affirmations, 290 West 9 Mile Rd. Closed/Discussion.

Ferndale-Saturday

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

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

Livonia-Friday

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

Warren-Monday

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

101-ANNOUNCEMENTS LGBT AL ANON

Diversity Wednesday Al-Anon Family Group

Wednesday 8pm
 St. Luke's Parrish Hall (in basement)
 Lewiston & Livernois, Ferndale MI
 Closed Meeting

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

Saturday's 8pm
 Drayton Ave. Presbyterian Church (in basement)
 Pinecrest & Drayton, Ferndale
 Closed Meeting

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We seek people for Ferndale, Motor City Pride, Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, Saginaw, Flint and Battle Creek Prides. Applicants must be able to do at least two of these events (or both days of Motor City Pride).

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 "Suited for it"

Panel 1: "YOU'RE STARTING THIS COSTUME NONSENSE AGAIN?"

Panel 2: "COSPLAY ISN'T NONSENSE, SUE!"

Panel 3: "YOU'RE A GROWN MAN, MIGUEL - AN ATTORNEY - YET YOU INSIST ON DRESSING UP IN TIGHTS AND RUNNING AROUND LIKE A COMIC BOOK CHARACTER!"

Panel 4: "YOU BROKE UP A GAY-BASHING WHILE IN COSTUME, AND THEN SPENT MONTHS WORRYING ABOUT THE POTENTIAL AFTERMATH:"

Panel 5: "REVENGE BY THE PERPETRATORS OR THEIR FRIENDS, NEGATIVE PUBLICITY, THE INVASION OF YOUR PRIVATE LIFE BY THE MEDIA... EVEN A POSSIBLE DISBARMENT!"

Panel 6: "WHY ON EARTH WOULD YOU WANT TO START DRESSING LIKE THAT AGAIN?!"

Panel 7: "IT RELAXES ME."

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Solution to puzzle from page 24

D	I	K	E		R	E	A	L		H	A	D	O	N		
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A	S	S	E	S		S	T	A	Y		D	E	E	P		

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