

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE CELEBRATING 20 YEARS



Michigan For Marriage  
Launches New Campaign

Gearing Up For  
Ferndale Pride 2014

“ What f\*\*\*s  
with one f\*\*\*s with  
us all. ”

- Whoopi Goldberg, pg. 14



# PICKING SAM

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## COVER STORY

### 4 Picking Sam

Cover Photo: Missouri defensive lineman Michael Sam runs a drill at the NFL football scouting combine in Indianapolis, Monday, Feb. 24. AP Photo: Michael Conroy



“If we’re not the change, the change is not what we’re going to see.”

– Jon Hoadley, pg. 9

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Michael Sam kisses his partner upon learning he was drafted by Rams. AP photo.

# Rams Pick Sam, Welcoming 1st Openly Gay Football Player

BY RALPH D. RUSSO

NEW YORK (AP) – Michael Sam waited and waited. Hours passed, rounds came and went, and eventually, there were only eight more picks left on the third and final day of the NFL draft.

For just a moment, it looked as if his chance of being picked by a pro team and becoming the league's first openly gay player might take a detour. Or at least be delayed.

The call finally came in Saturday from the St. Louis Rams, the team right down the road from where Sam played his college ball at the University of Missouri.

Sam was selected in the seventh and final round and admitted it was a frustrating wait. He said teams that passed on him chickened out and he should have been drafted sooner.

"From last season alone, I should've been in the first three rounds. SEC Defensive Player of the Year, All-American," Sam said. He stopped short of directly saying his stock dropped in the draft because he came out.

"You know what, who knows? Who knows? Only the people who sit in the war room know," he said. "They saw Michael Sam, day after day they scratched it off the board. That was their loss. But St. Louis kept me on that board. And you know what I feel like I'm a (Jadeveon) Clowney, a first draft pick.

**“** *In the world of diversity we live in now, I'm honored to be a part of this.* **”**

- Rams coach Jeff Fisher said during an interview on ESPN.

I'm proud of where I am now."

Sam came out as gay in media interviews earlier this year. His team and coaches knew his secret and kept it for his final college season. He went on to have the best year of his career: He was the co-defensive player of the year in the nation's best college football conference and had 11.5 sacks.

The pick came after several rounds of suspense. The first round of the day, No. 4 overall, came and went, no Sam. Then the fifth and sixth, and finally, the day was down to just a handful of picks.

When Mike Kensil, the NFL's vice president of game operations, walked to the podium at Radio City Music Hall in the draft's final minutes to announce the Rams' second-to-last pick, the crowd got a sense something was up. Very few of the last day picks were announced at the podium. Twitter lit up with suggestions the Rams were about to make news.

When Kensil said: "The St. Louis Rams select ... Michael Sam..." the fans gave a hearty cheer, chanting "Yes! Yes! Yes!" and "Michael Sam!"

Sam was in San Diego watching with friends and

family at the home of his agent, Joe Barkett of Empire Athletes. ESPN and the NFL Network had cameras there and showed Sam's reaction.

Sam was on the phone bending over, with his boyfriend hugging him and rubbing his left bicep. When Sam got off the phone, the tears started. He gave his boyfriend a big kiss and a long hug as he cried and his eyes reddened. After, they shared cake - and another kiss.

"Thank you to the St. Louis Rams and the whole city of St. Louis. I'm using every once of this to achieve greatness!!" Sam tweeted with a frenzied typo moments after he was picked, with a picture of himself wearing a Rams cap and a pink polo shirt.

The 6-foot-2, 255-pound Sam was considered a mid-to-late round pick, far from a sure thing to be drafted. He played

See next page

## ► Picking Sam

Continued from p. 4

defensive end in college, but he's short for that position in the NFL and slower than most outside linebackers, the position he'll need to transition to at the professional level.

He was taken with the 249th overall pick out of 256. Players from Marist, Maine and McGill University in Canada were selected before Sam.

"In the world of diversity we live in now, I'm honored to be a part of this," Rams coach Jeff Fisher said during an interview on ESPN.

The NFL had no comment on Sam being drafted.

The impact of Sam's selection goes far beyond football. At a time when gay marriage is gaining acceptance among Americans, Sam's entry into the NFL is a huge step toward the integration of gay men into professional team sports. Pro sports have in many ways lagged behind the rest of society in acceptance.

"Michael Sam wouldn't have been drafted five years ago," said former Viking punter Chris Kluwe, who has accused Minnesota of cutting him in part because of his vocal support for gay rights.

In the last year, NBA veteran Jason Collins has come out publicly as gay, and is now playing for the Brooklyn Nets. Before the Nets' playoff game against the Heat, Collins said that he was watching the draft and texted Sam after he was picked.

"It's a great day for Michael and his family and for the NFL," Collins said.

Publicly, most people in and related to the NFL have been supportive of Sam. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell has said Sam would be welcome in the league and judged solely on his ability to play. A few wondered whether teams would be reluctant to draft Sam because of all the media attention that would come with it.

Fair or not, the NFL - coming off a season in which a bullying scandal involving players on the Miami Dolphins was one of the biggest stories in sports - was looking at a possible public relations hit if Sam was not drafted. He would likely have been signed as a free agent and given a chance to make a team in training camp, but to many it would have looked as if he was being rejected.

Now that he's there, it could be seen as an opportunity for the NFL to show that crass locker room culture is not as prevalent as it might have looked to those who followed the embarrassing Dolphins scandal. But all the reaction to Sam's news wasn't positive from the league.

Miami safety Don Jones posted a one-word tweet, "Horrible" shortly after Sam was drafted. It was later taken down. The team's general manager said he was aware, and was disappointed.

Wade Davis, a gay former NFL player who is now the executive director of the gay rights advocacy group "You Can Play," said that Sam only needs to do his job to have an impact beyond the field.

"Michael Sam doesn't have to be a vocal advocate (for gay rights)," Davis said. "His visibility is his advocacy."



# Historic First For NFL And Gay Community

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

The visual was stunning. There for all the (sports) world to see on ESPN stood Michael Sam, crying onto his boyfriend's shoulder and kissing him repeatedly after learning he had been drafted to the NFL by the St. Louis Rams. It was a shocking scene even for me, a very proud gay man who has been out since before Sam was born. We gays have been making huge strides as of late. State and federal judges have overturned gay marriage bans here in Michigan as well as in Oklahoma, Utah, Virginia and Texas, all but ensuring that the Supreme Court will take up the issue in their next session. But a gay man making an entrance into the NFL, now that's something we've never seen before.

Sam could have waited until after being drafted to come out, but that's not how he rolls. He's a brave man and, clearly, a man of integrity. When he learned that several scouts knew about his sexual orientation, he decided to make a public announcement so that any team interested in him would hear the news directly from his mouth.

"I was afraid that it would leak out without me actually owning my truth," Sam told ESPN's Chris Connelly in February. "I wanted to let the world know and tell them that, 'Hey, I'm gay. Let me tell my own story.'"

That story went instantly global with pundits weighing in from every angle. Though many said there was no room for an openly-gay player in the league, the NFL took the high road from the start.

"We admire Michael Sam's honesty and courage," NFL senior vice president of communications Greg Aiello said in a statement. "Michael is a football player. Any player with ability and determination can succeed in the NFL. We look forward to welcoming and supporting Michael Sam in 2014."

Then came the NFL Scouting Combine. At the week-long showcase where college football players perform

physical and mental tests in front of the NFL coaches and general managers, Sam failed to impress. This caused many to speculate whether he would be drafted at all, which opened up a new can of public relations worms. If

**“Michael Sam is the first openly-gay man ever to have been drafted to the NFL. Will he become the first openly-gay man to actually play for the NFL? Time will tell.”**

he wasn't, it would give the appearance that coming out had cost him and that the NFL was intolerant.

Tensions mounted as the draft began, especially after right wing Washington, DC lobbyist Jack Burkman vowed to unleash a "relentless" boycott against any team that chose to draft him. Nevertheless, Sam was drafted on day three in the seventh and final round - the 249th pick overall - by the Rams.

"I don't have any concern whatsoever," Rams coach Jeff Fisher told NFL Media columnist Michael Silver after the pick was announced. "We drafted a good football player. I'm excited to get him on the practice field and get him going. So yeah, there's gonna be a little extra tension for a couple days, but Michael was the SEC Co-Defensive Player of the Year."

It's worth noting that the last seven SEC Defensive Players of the Year were taken in the first round, while Sam almost went undrafted. But being a seventh round draft pick is better than not being picked at all. And St. Louis might very well be a good fit for Sam. He's played the past four years for the University of Missouri in Columbia, a mere two hours away, so he already has support in the state.

Sam took to his Twitter account shortly after he received the news.

"Thank you to the St. Louis Rams and the whole city of St. Louis," he tweeted. "I'm using every ounce of this to achieve greatness."

So now we wait and see if he can do just that: achieve greatness. Being drafted does not actually guarantee he will make the Rams. That depends on how well he does at the rookie minicamps that will follow. These camps

are basically extended tryouts for new players hoping to make the roster. But not all do. Michael Sam is the first openly-gay man ever to have been drafted to the NFL. Will he become the first openly-gay man to actually play for the NFL? Time will tell.

In the meantime, we LGBTs celebrate this initial victory. All the national gay groups have acknowledged Sam's accomplishment and alluded to what it means for our community.

"We congratulate Michael Sam and the St. Louis Rams on their terrific decision to draft him," said Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin. "Today, LGBT young people can look to Sam as proof that being open and proud of who you are doesn't keep you from achieving your dreams. Gay people are our neighbors and friends. They're our United States senators and, starting today, they're our professional football stars."

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation shared similar thoughts.

"Without a doubt, this is a game changer," said GLAAD President and CEO Sarah Kate Ellis. "Today, Michael Sam has redefined what it takes to be a champion. He's tackled stereotypes and joins the ranks of athletic trailblazers like Jason Collins and Brittney Griner in showing Americans that there's no place for homophobia on the field. As support for equality continues to surge, it's clear that sports fans are ready, football is ready and America is ready for its first openly gay NFL player."

If the statements seem a bit grandiose, consider this one by a Sam fan from Washington, D.C.

"The President congratulates Michael Sam, the Rams and the NFL for taking an important step forward in our nation's journey," the White House said in a statement released Sunday. "From the playing field to the corporate boardroom, LGBT Americans prove every day that you should be judged by what you do and not who you are."

That's all that Sam has asked for, and no less than he deserves.

## BRIEFS

### FERNDALE

#### LGBT Health And Wellness Fair Coming May 17

Affirmations will host its 11th annual Health and Wellness Fair for the LGBT community May 17 from 1-5 p.m. This free event includes educational workshops and free and low-cost health services, including screenings for weight, vision, dental, blood pressure, glucose, cholesterol, HIV and more. This year, the health fair will once again feature Project Healthy Living, but welcomes the U of M School of Dentistry and the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry, who will provide dental screenings and referrals onsite. Workshops to be offered include: hormone therapy for gender transition, the impact of minority stress on heart health and ways to combat its negative affect and information about Michigan's expanded Medicaid plan, Healthy Michigan.

"Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people often face numerous barriers in accessing health services. Our annual Health & Wellness Fair represents Affirmations' commitment to a strong and healthy community and is part of our ongoing effort to provide a safe space for the LGBT community to access basic health screenings and important information," said Lydia Ahlum Hanson, health and wellness manager. "Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend."

Other features this year include hormone therapy consultations with a pharmacist, and the vendor marketplace that will showcase various health related agencies including Blue Care Network of Michigan, Thrive Therapy Group, Michigan Educational Partnership, Wentworth & Associates and the Children's Center. Other perks include free, healthy snacks, a live DJ and a special J-Sette performance by DRAMA. Attendees will also be entered into a free raffle that includes prizes from Inn Season Cafe, Changez Salon & Spa, Body Morph and the grand prize of a three-month membership from Snap Fitness.

### REMINDER FOR MAY 15

#### Local LGBTQ Services Look For Support On Give OUT Day

May 15th is the second annual national Give OUT Day! The national initiative engages hundreds of organizations and people to give in support of the LGBTQ community. LGBTQ groups across the United States are given a chance to "work across the wide range of issues and activities that matter to the LGBTQ community from sports to policy change, families to the arts."

For the 24 hour period of May 15, LGBTQ and allies can not only come together to support their local and national LGBTQ organizations, but also help their groups get a chance to win additional prizes. Groups receiving donations from the greatest number of unique donors will be in the running.

The event is hosted by Bolder Giving, which makes no profit from the fundraising event. Since 2007, the non-profit has supported all members and groups in the LGBTQ community and has publicly celebrated would-be givers and those who give to charities. Funds are collected through Razoo, an online crowdfunding platform that has partnered with Bolder Giving. Razoo is a tax-exempt organization, and over 95% of contributions through Razoo are regranted to nonprofits.

Some local nonprofits eligible for Give OUT Day contributions and the possibility to achieve more are: the Ruth Ellis Center, the Kalamazoo Gay-Lesbian Resource Center (KGLRC), Elsie Publishing Institute, KICK, AFF and more (some may not appear on Give Out Day's website).

Minimum donations are \$10. For more information, visit [www.giveoutday.org](http://www.giveoutday.org).

# Michigan For Marriage Launches Statewide Public Education Effort

## Focus On Sharing Stories Of Love, Freedom And Commitment

### BTL STAFF

In an effort to win the freedom to marry for all couples in Michigan, Equality Michigan, the ACLU of Michigan and Freedom to Marry launched a grassroots public education effort called Michigan For Marriage on May 8. The move comes as the DeBoer v. Snyder marriage equality case advances through the federal judicial system. For now the group is not circulating petitions - rather, they are focused on conversations with the public about the importance of marriage equality.

"Marriage equality, two words that mean so much to so many. For us, marriage equality means protection for our family and in reality our children," said April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse, plaintiffs in the DeBoer v. Snyder case. "It means waking up each day knowing if something were to happen to one of us that our children would remain in the only family they have ever known... Nothing says that you are a family in the eyes of the law, a true legal family, like a marriage license. A certificate with our names on it and a state seal that everyone recognizes, finally gives our family the legal safeties and securities afforded by a marriage license that all families should enjoy."

In March, a federal judge ruled that Michigan's ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional. The ruling, coupled with the prospect of a 2016 ballot measure on the issue, shows that Michigan is ready for marriage.

"Michiganders believe that our home state should be a place where every family is treated fairly and equally under the law and where every child can be raised in a home unharmed by discrimination," said Emily Dievendorf, executive director of Equality Michigan. "The Michigan for Marriage campaign will share with our friends, neighbors and leadership across Michigan the need for marriage equality and remind them that, while love makes a successful marriage possible, families also need the laws to support them."

The landscape for marriage is shifting rapidly. A February 2014 poll of Michigan voters showed strong majority support for marriage equality, with 56



On May 8, a statewide grassroots effort was launched to educate the public about same sex couples. Photo courtesy of Michigan For Marriage

percent endorsing marriage equality for all couples.

Michigan For Marriage will promote and share supporters' personal stories about why marriage matters to them and their families. This public education campaign is dedicated to changing hearts and minds to move marriage forward for all loving and committed couples. It aims to generate public discussion about family, freedom and personal liberty.

"We haven't become officially engaged yet because we don't want to get our hopes up just yet. It would break my heart to formally ask (my partner) Jamiil to marry me, and then be told again and again we cannot wed," Robert Tompkins of Oak Park said. "We have already picked out wedding dates and looked at rings, but are waiting on Michigan to let us move forward. We believe that Michigan will do the right thing, and respect our family and love for one another. This is our home state, and we don't want to have to move just to say 'I do.'"

"We have been together for 18 years," said Tom and Tod McMillen-Oakley of Jackson. "Love may have made the family, but the laws of our state are

working against us to keep us a family. However, we have faith that one day we will be a legal family in our home state of Michigan."

Community and faith leaders from across the state have already pledged their commitment to winning marriage for all, including Rev. Stanley Jenkins of First Presbyterian Lansing Church.

"My support for Marriage Equality is rooted in my faith in a loving God who calls us into loving relationships of commitment and reciprocity," stated Rev. Jenkins. "Love is the great equalizer."

Other supporters throughout Michigan have come together to voice their support for marriage and the belief that everyone deserves the right to marry the person they love. This campaign is an effort supported by representatives from all of Michigan's political parties.

"Republicans must support all the core freedoms our Constitution protects, including the 14th Amendment's guarantee that laws must apply equally to every citizen. Republicans should not support state laws that deny equal protection by singling out gay citizens

See Michigan For Marriage, page 8



Jennifer Rambo, right, smiles as her partner Kristin Seaton, center, hugs Sheryl Maples, left, the lead attorney who filed the Wright v. the State of Arkansas lawsuit on May 10 in Eureka Springs, Ark. A judge overturned amendment 83 Friday, which banned same-sex marriage in the state of Arkansas. Rambo, 26, and Seaton, 27, were the first gay couple to be legally married in the old Confederacy. They arrived about 2 a.m., slept in a Ford Focus and awoke every half-hour to make sure no one else would take a spot at the head of the line. AP photo.

# Gay Couples Line Up For Arkansas Marriage Licenses

BY CHRISTINA HUYNH

**LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (AP)** – Couples lined up outside a courthouse before dawn Monday as Arkansas' largest county began issuing same sex marriage licenses following a judge's ruling overturning the southern state's constitutional ban on same-sex marriage.

"Thank God," Jennifer Rambo said after Carroll County Deputy Clerk Jane Osborn issued a marriage license to her and Kristin Seaton, a former volleyball player at the University of Arkansas. The Fort Smith couple had traveled overnight to ensure they'd be first in line, and wed moments later on a sidewalk near the courthouse.

Carroll County was believed to be the only county that issued marriage licenses Saturday. Several courthouses were open for early primary-election voting but staffers said they were not prepared to issue marriage licenses.

The Pulaski County clerk's office issued its first same-sex marriage license shortly after 8 a.m. After business hours closed Friday, Pulaski County Circuit Judge Chris Piazza ruled that Arkansas' voter-approved ban on gay marriage was unconstitutional - heralding the arrival of gay marriage in the conservative Bible Belt in the South.

More than 100 people gathered outside the courthouse in the state capital, Little Rock, before doors opened Monday. The first license went to Shelly Butler, 51, and Susan Barr, 48, of Dallas, Texas, who have been together since they met at Southern Arkansas University in 1985.

"When we heard the news in Arkansas, we had to jump in the car to get here," Butler said shortly before receiving the license. "I'm just excited to marry my best friend of almost 30 years, finally."

Using language similar to that from the Supreme Court, state and federal judges nationwide have struck down some same-sex marriage bans that were enacted in many states after Massachusetts became the first state to recognize gay marriage in 2004.

Later Monday morning, Arkansas Attorney General Dustin McDaniel asked the state's Supreme Court to suspend Piazza's ruling. McDaniel, a Democrat, has said he supports same-sex marriage but has vowed to continue defending the ban because he believes it's his duty to do so.

Last year the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that a law forbidding the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriages was unconstitutional. That ruling stopped short of declaring same-sex marriage legal across the country, but momentum has swung toward gay marriage ever since.

Using language similar to that from the Supreme Court, state and federal judges nationwide have struck down some same-sex

See Arkansas, page 12

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# Gearing Up For Ferndale Pride '14

**AT THE FOURTH CIRCUIT MAY 14**

One of the fastest moving cases among the 60 or so lawsuits challenging state bans on same-sex couples marrying is the *Bostic v. Schaefer* case from Virginia. This morning, that case will be argued before a panel of one of the nation's most conservative federal appeals courts, the Fourth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals in Richmond, Virginia. The identity of the three-judge panel is to be released this morning. The argument begins at 9:30 and Equality Virginia says it expects to have more than 100 people at a rally outside. The Fourth Circuit says an audio recording of proceedings will be available on its website.

**CLAY AIKEN CHALLENGER DIES:**

Businessman Keith Crisco, who was fewer than 400 votes behind openly gay candidate Clay Aiken in the Democratic primary race for North Carolina's Second Congressional District, died Monday. The News and Observer reported the Crisco family as saying the 71-year-old succumbed from injuries he sustained in a fall at home around midday. He reportedly planned to concede the primary to Aiken on Tuesday. Aiken issued a statement calling Crisco "a gentleman, a good and honorable man, and an extraordinary public servant." Aiken will now face incumbent Tea Party Republican U.S. Rep. Renee Ellmers in November.

**HUCKABEE IMPLEORES IMPEACHMENT:**

Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee called on current Governor Mike Beebe, a Democrat who opposes same-sex marriage, to call a special session of the Arkansas legislature to impeach county circuit Judge Chris Piazza. Huckabee, according to The Hill newspaper, said Piazza usurped the authority of the legislature and the voters when he declared the state's ban on same-sex marriage to be unconstitutional. The state attorney general filed a motion with the state supreme court Monday morning, seeking a stay of Piazza's decision; at deadline, the state high court had yet to respond. Only five out of Arkansas' 75 counties have issued licenses to same-sex couples.

**HAGEL OPEN TO DOD TRANS REVIEW:**

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said on ABC's This Week program Sunday that he is open to having DOD review its policy banning transgender people from the military, but that it's a "bit more complicated" than gays because of special medical needs. He made his comment in response to a question from reporter Martha Raddatz, adding "every qualified American who wants to serve our country should have an opportunity if they fit the qualifications and can do it."

- By Keen News Service



**BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS**

Ferndale Pride is a yearly event in Downtown Ferndale celebrating all LGBTQA, featuring food, entertainment, shopping and more; over 10,000 people attend each year. This year's event will be emceed by Gay Billy, Nina Ross and Natalie Cole. Multiple DJs, rallies and entertainment will be held throughout the downtown area, include a wedding and commitment ceremony on the main stage of the event. Food trucks, such as Shimmy Shack and Treat Dreams, will be serving throughout the festival. Blue Care Network is presenting a Children's Area, and a variety of retail and nonprofit booths will be present.

Ferndale Pride will take over the downtown Ferndale area this year on Saturday, May 31, but festivities don't have to wait until then.

All proceeds raised for Ferndale Pride during May and at Pride will stay within the community, supporting Affirmations, Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC) and the Ferndale Community Foundation. Rosie O'Grady's is at 279 W. Nine Mile, Ferndale and will be hosting a variety of pride-related events throughout May and June, including a drag show and brunch the Sunday after pride.

Another event putting the "fun" in

"fundraiser" will be held at 9 p.m. on Friday, May 16 at SOHO Ferndale, 205 W. Nine Mile. The no-cover event will feature a contest for all males, 35 and older, to be crowned the "Hottest Daddy" of Ferndale. Those not eligible or interested in entering the contest are invited to vote for their favorite, applying \$1 for every vote. Together with raffle tickets, the proceeds from the event will benefit Ferndale Pride, helping to keep the event free.

Outside of nights on the town, Ferndale Pride is promoting preparation for their May 31 as well.

**Volunteer**

To get more involved in the organization of the main event itself, Ferndale Pride Planning Meetings will be from 7 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, May 15 and Wednesday, May 28 at Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale.

On May 17, the Ferndale Community Foundation will host their annual "Clean the Ferndale Up!" event. The all day, downtown Ferndale event works to clean up the city right before the big LGBT event. Clean the Ferndale Up! brings volunteers, groups, businesses and more to help improve public spaces for the

community, repairing and restoring neglected, vandalized or misused areas. To help beautify the city before Ferndale Pride, visit [www.cleantheferndaleup.com](http://www.cleantheferndaleup.com) or call 248-672-4067.

**Pride Prom, Rainbow Run**

Pride Prom will be held on the eve of the event on 8 p.m., May 30, at the Ferndale Public Library, 222 E. Nine Mile Road. The 21+ event will feature a DJ, cash bar, refreshments, photos and more. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door.

The morning of Ferndale Pride will kick off the high-energy day with the Rainbow Run. The annual 2k and 5k walk and run winds through downtown Ferndale, where participants wearing white t-shirts are splattered with non-toxic powdered paint. By the end of the race, a rainbow of runners and walkers show their very visible pride.

All who support diversity, acceptance, anti-bullying programs and more are welcome to join the inclusive, fun and family-friendly event. The proceeds benefit area non-profits including Affirmations, the anti-bullying program, Upstander, the Ferndale Community Foundation and the Ferndale Area Chamber of Commerce.

To register for the event, call 248-542-2160 or visit [www.rainbow-run.com](http://www.rainbow-run.com). Registration for the May 31 event begins at 8:45 a.m. the day of, and rates range from \$15-35 per person. Run and walk times are staggered beginning at 10:30 a.m.

**Brunch**

If running seems a bit tiring before the all-day party of Pride, Dino's Lounge will be hosting a bottomless Bloody Mary and Mimosa brunch for pride from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 31. Dino's is located at 22740 Woodward Ave., Ferndale.

*For more information, including an expanding list of pre- and post-pride events, visit [www.ferndalepride.com](http://www.ferndalepride.com) or check out Ferndale Pride's Facebook page.*

**► Michigan For Marriage**

Continued from p. 6

for unequal treatment," said former state Rep. Leon Drolet, "True conservatives support the Constitution."

"With our partners in Michigan for Marriage, Freedom to Marry is eager to make the strongest case in the court of public opinion just as our movement's attorneys are making

a powerful case in the court of law," said Marc Solomon, national campaign director of Freedom to Marry. "Our campaign will drive the case for why the state's discriminatory ban is untrue to Michigan's - and America's - values. All committed couples in Michigan should be treated with respect and dignity under the law and fully able to share in the freedom to marry."

All committed couples should have the

freedom to marry in the state that they call home, and that includes same-sex couples in Michigan.

*For more information about the Michigan For Marriage coalition, including how to make a financial contribution, pledge to win the freedom to marry in Michigan and share a story about why marriage matters, visit [www.MichiganForMarriage.org](http://www.MichiganForMarriage.org)*



# Gathering Looks To Foster Greater LGBT Involvement With Religious Communities

BY PAULETTE NIEMIEC

Several speakers gathered at the Bethlehem United Church of Christ in downtown Ann Arbor Saturday for the Inclusive Justice Conference. The goal of the meeting was to facilitate work between the LGBT and religious communities in order to fight the prejudice, discrimination and hateful attitude that exists today towards lesbians, gays and transgender people. The religious themed workshop featured politicians, equal rights activists, pastors and laity of a variety of faiths including Christianity and Judaism.

“Sacred Activism’ is what we are calling it,” said Rev. Roland Stringfellow, one of four panelists chosen to speak to the audience of approximately 50 people who attended the conference. Stringfellow, Senior Pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church in Ferndale, spoke out boldly throughout the day in favor of educating those in the community on scriptures and religious arguments to combat those that have been used to demonize homosexuality. “Organizing in faith communities is important to the LGBT community because it’s the laity who are articulating the issues,” he explained.

This theme of sacred activism resonated throughout the seven hour event and summed up what most of the speakers and educators were attempting to achieve at this year’s summit. Emotionally charged speeches, education workshops and informative presentations dominated the day. One of the most heartwarming speeches during a workshop was presented by Tom Nelson, entitled “Building Relationships and Allies in Faith Communities.”

Nelson, author of “An Ordinary Catholic: A View from the Pew” and graduate of Notre Dame University, shared the story of realizing his son was gay, as well as recounting his son’s suicide attempt. Nelson explained how he had lived his life following the strict teachings on homosexuality in the Roman Catholic Church. He maintained conservative views until he learned of his son’s brush with death. By writing his book, appearing at religious themed conferences and speaking to other Catholics every chance he gets, Nelson feels he now is doing all he can to be an advocate for the gay community.

“I reflected and realized it was my ignorance that fueled my former beliefs,” Nelson tearfully explained following the seminar. “I spent six months in the library researching the subject of homosexuality before I came to this realization. All my years of education at Notre Dame and my Catholic upbringing didn’t do me any good when I had to confront the fact that it was my failure as a father, and ignorance on the subject of homosexuality, that led to me pushing my son so far away from me that he attempted suicide.”

Now as Co-President of PFLAG Detroit (an



Michigan Roundtable’s Kevin Hogan, Equality Michigan’s Executive Director Emily Dievendorf, Badland’s President Jon Hoadley (who is running for State Rep. from Kalamazoo) and MCCD Rev. Stringfellow, who reminded the crowd of the purpose for the conference and theme: “We have here a Coalition of Welcoming Community a Unity Coalition.” BTL photo: Paulette Niemiec

honor he shares with his wife Linda), Nelson feels he is living a much better example of what it means to be a parent, especially a parent of a gay son. “If it weren’t for my son, I would have stayed in a world of ignorance and never learned the most important thing in life is to love.”

Another lay person, Ryan Haywood of the Methodist faith, taught the gathered assembly how to build relationships in the religious community in the same workshop as Nelson. “Finding allies, pastors, government/political figures, the LGBT community, friends, family, anyone and everyone who’s willing to fight for our cause is what’s important,” said Haywood, founder of “Rainbow Crossing,” a support group for gays and lesbians at the First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor. “Women didn’t get the right to vote by talking to women, African Americans didn’t gain Civil Rights by talking to other African Americans; you must talk to and educate the straight people in order to get any real justice in this world.”

As morning passed into afternoon, the panel of experts – Jon Hoadley, Kevin Hogan, Emily Dievendorf and Rev. Stringfellow – reminded the crowd of the purpose for the conference and theme. “We have here a Coalition of Welcoming Community, a Unity Coalition,” said Stringfellow. “That’s what’s necessary for us to have any success. We must stay unified in our efforts to educate the public and inform all that it’s religiously not a contradiction to support the LGBT community.”

Hoadley, a Democrat running for State Representative in Kalamazoo, echoed Stringfellow’s sentiments, “This is where we’ve made mistakes in the past. We had situations where the religious right spoke out against homosexuality and we had no voice to contradict what was being preached. The LGBT community ignored the efforts and mobilization of the conservative religious, and it wasn’t

taken seriously, thus resulting in us losing or not winning in places like Royal Oak, where we should have won by a much wider margin.”

Hoadley acknowledged the fact that religious views (especially those of the conservative right-wing) have fueled the fire for arguments that have ultimately destroyed legislation geared towards protecting the rights of gays, lesbians and those considered transgender. He noted that religious groups organize and attend political rallies, raising concerns of would be voters and legislators to vote against proposed laws, often resulting in failed propositions that leave the LGBT community unprotected. Because of many religious groups’ tendency to rally against the LGBT community, Hoadley said he feels LGBT persons need to be more educated on religious issues and understand them as a threat to their cause.

Dievendorf’s views reflected these facts. “We have been trying for 30 years to pass an amendment through state legislation to protect people’s rights in regards to sexual orientation and gender identity and it still hasn’t passed,” she said, confirming that only 20 percent of the cities and commonwealths of Michigan have laws protecting the rights of gays, lesbians and transgender people. Both Hoadley and Dievendorf agreed that these protections failing to pass stems from the lack of education and participation of the LGBT community in the religious community and vice-versa.

“If we’re not the change, the change is not what we’re going to see,” said Hoadley. With more religious workshops and seminars planned in the future, and with more churches, pastors and laity joining Inclusive Justice, perhaps that change will come.

Visit [www.inclusivejustice.org](http://www.inclusivejustice.org) for more information.

## BRIEFS

**SCORECARD ON VICTORIES:** Counting Arkansas, there are currently 18 states and the District of Columbia with laws that provide for marriage equality. Another nine states have had courts strike down their laws banning same-sex marriage. Eight of the nine are on appeal before federal appeals courts. Only cases for two states have been argued at the appeals level – both before the Tenth Circuit. Tuesday, a case from Virginia was argued before the Fourth Circuit. A case from a 10th state, Hawaii, is still pending before the Ninth Circuit which has asked for briefs by early June on why the case should not be considered moot. Hawaii’s legislature passed a bill last year, eliminating its ban on same-sex marriages.

**DIFFERENTLY SITUATED:** The Kentucky governor filed a brief May 7, asking the Sixth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals to reverse a district court’s ruling that struck down the state’s ban on same-sex marriage. In the brief for *Bourke v. Beshear*, Kentucky argues that same-sex couples who want to marry are not “similarly situated” as man-woman couples who want to marry, but are “materially different.”

**53 PERCENT CLOSETED ON THE JOB:** A report released Wednesday by the Human Rights Campaign’s educational arm says that 53 percent of LGBT people keep their sexual orientation secret at their places of employment. According to the report, only 17 states and Washington, D.C. have laws that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Another four states prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation only. The report, “The Cost of the Closet and the Rewards of Inclusion,” surveyed 800 LGBT workers and an unspecified number of non-LGBT workers.

**REPORT URGES DOJ ACTION:** A May 7 report from a coalition of groups working on fair treatment of people by the criminal justice system recommends the U.S. Department of Justice amend its guidelines to stop profiling of LGBT people and people with HIV by federal law enforcement agents. The “Roadmap for Change: Federal Policy Recommendations for Addressing the Criminalization of LGBT People and People with HIV,” was developed by former NGLTF Executive Director Urvasi Vaid and former AIDS Project Director at Lambda Legal, Catherine Hanssens, among others. In January, DOJ announced it would revise its rules for federal agents to prohibit the use of sexual orientation and other characteristics to prompt investigations. In April, Attorney General Eric Holder said the department would begin to collect data on people stopped or arrested to “reduce” the possible effects of bias, but he did not make specific mention of LGBT bias. In a preface to the coalition report, former NAACP President Benjamin Jealous notes that New York City police have used “stop and frisk” practices against LGBT people. Another of the Roadmap’s authors, Andrea Ritchie, co-coordinator of the LGBT group Streetwise and Safe, said the coalition members have spoken with DOJ about some of their recommendations and look forward to conversations in the future.

– By Keen News Service



## Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

My cellphone says 12:03 a.m. My second afterlife minute in heaven. (This brief account is probably an LGBT first.) **DISCLAIMER:** Unlike many straight accounts, my intent is not to make big bucks on the New York Times Book List. Tho' I'm tempted.

I'm now in front of the Many Mansions One-On-One Temple, greeted by some diva-like creature who by beatific Botox, turns looks like the Red Queen from Alice in Wonderland, Christine Jorgensen, Lady T Tempest and Tallulah Bankhead. (But not necessarily in that angelic order.)

Archangel Diva DeLuxe, as she I.D.s herself, has a thousand radiant stars in her tiara, and as she speaks, she scatters patchouli scented daisy chains around me.

She kisses me gently on my forehead, says "May the Eternal Mary be with you! Glitter and be gay! Enjoy your stay, however brief your afterlife taste of things to come! Oh, yes! Cloud 9 Drag Queen Bingo is 24/7 here!"

As I drape a daisy chain around my neck, I suddenly,

**My instructions are to go to the Seventh Heaven Condos, corner Oscar Wilde Boulevard and Alice B. Toklas Avenue.**

exhilaratingly, feel transformed. I selfie myself, pleased to discover I now look a svelte, youthful 25, am 75 pounds lighter and underneath my ever-so-radiant, designer D & G (David & Goliath) choir gown with snow-white angel wings, I - it's too good to be true - have a 32-inch waist.

I'm sure it's a habit I haven't outgrown yet, but even here in the afterlife I have to check my cellphone. Weather: Eternally sunny. Caressing winds. San Diego 75 til noon. Palms Springs 80 til 5. Ferndale 70 for Evening Vespers.

My instructions are to go to the Seventh Heaven Condos, corner Oscar Wilde Boulevard and Alice B. Toklas Avenue. Winks Archangel DeLuxe, "Ask concierge Bobby Short for an Alice B. Toklas brownie when you check in. They're heavenly!"

My euphoric mood as I float above the afterlife streets of this sparkling, rainbow glowing, technicolor, Blue Ray, 3-D, surround sound, stereophonic, multi-Broadway, YMCA! chorus enhanced, dreamlike extravaganza, somehow is momentarily jolted.

Below me is a lone personage, appearance nondescript, dressed in what appears to be a drab, gray striped suit. He's busy polishing the gold, engraved cobblestone memorial markers of which there are thousands upon thousands.

He looks up. Ever so world weary. Embarrassed. His name tag reads, F. Phelps. Purgatory 10,000 years. I wave.

Charles@pridesource.com

# Job Protections: It's Time For Michigan To Make Our Values Clear

BY SOMMER FOSTER

Michael Sam just became the NFL's first openly gay professional football player. The league doesn't discriminate – the only thing that matters is whether you can play football.

But that's not the case in 29 states where – no matter how talented you are – you can still be fired just because you're gay (and in 32 states, you can still be fired just because you're transgender).

It's hard to believe that in today's day and age, it's legal to fire a hardworking employee from their job or refuse to hire someone who's qualified for a position simply because they're LGBT. Most of us, 75 percent according to latest polling, agree that people who work hard and play by the rules should be judged on the same terms – by our credentials, experience, education and performance. No hardworking employee should have to live in fear that they can be fired for reasons that have nothing to do with their job performance.

In Michigan, non-discrimination ordinances passed in 33 cities and municipalities show that Michiganders will no longer stand for discrimination based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Every passing day and every victory indicate that we are building momentum for change. Each municipality that has stood up for human rights has made the road to amending the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, to include protections for sexual orientation and/or gender identity, a little easier.

Due to local ordinances, we have been able to bring issues of LGBT discrimination to the forefront and shape the conversation like never before. These ordinances educate people and communities about the rights that LGBT people are missing. They help point out the unsettling fact that someone who lives in Royal Oak, but who works in Southfield, would have protections at home but not at work. That instance alone makes a great case for the need for statewide protection.

Local ordinances have also served another purpose: they've offered legislators and local leaders over 40 years of evidence that prove that these ordinances make communities more welcoming to both businesses and families.

Legislators and local leaders should make note of a fact pointed out in the Michigan Department of Civil Rights report on LGBT Inclusion that all of the cities in the Lower Peninsula that house our major universities "have local

nondiscrimination ordinances (Ann Arbor, East Lansing, Detroit, Kalamazoo, Mount Pleasant and Ypsilanti). Similarly, Michigan's largest urban cities and business hubs have enacted such ordinances (Ann Arbor, Detroit, Flint,

anytime we are reducing harm, on any level, it is important. But, it is not enough. We need uniformity and we need to fill in the gaps. There are too many Michiganders who lack protections, and it is time for that to change.

Michael Sam just got hired for what he does. And because of the NFL's policy, he can't be fired for who he is. The NFL has made their values clear. Their nondiscrimination policy is simple: if you've got the talent, you've got a job. It is time for Michigan to make our values clear. It is time for Michigan legislators to step up and protect ALL Michiganders. It is time for our laws to reflect who we are, and our belief in fairness and equality for everyone, regardless of sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

In the NFL, it only matters how well you do your job. Sign the petition at the link below if you think Michigan should follow that example.

<http://equalityfederation.org>

[salsalabs.com/o/35001/p/dia/action/public/?action\\_KEY=1444](http://salsalabs.com/o/35001/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=1444)

Equality Michigan works on non-discrimination in conjunction with our partners in Unity Michigan. For more information on how to push for an ordinance in your community, please visit <http://dontchangeyourself.com>.

*Sommer Foster is Director of Political Advocacy for Equality Michigan. Foster organizes Equality Michigan's local human rights ordinance efforts throughout the state and supports activists working for policy change.*



## Viewpoint

BY SOMMER FOSTER

**Michael Sam just got hired for what he does. And because of the NFL's policy, he can't be fired for who he is. The NFL has made their values clear. Their nondiscrimination policy is simple: if you've got the talent, you've got a job.**

Grand Rapids and Lansing), as have many of our most frequented tourist destinations such as Detroit, Traverse City and Saugatuck." These areas have reputations for attracting more young people, businesses and families. We see people choosing to make their lives in many of these areas and choosing to spend their free time in these cities.

In the process of passing these ordinances, we are not only creating momentum, changing the conversation and building a welcoming Michigan, we are protecting people. We currently have about 20 percent of our population protected. This is wonderful, and important, because



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## Tom Cotton

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Okay, let's get one thing straight here. If you are an everyday American citizen (a commoner, let's say), you have very little legal power in the United States. Oh, it might seem like you have power in theory. But most of us, should we be harmed by a company, are basically fucked. Sure you read about huge class action lawsuits with zillion dollar settlements, but those are the exception, not the rule.



So when people start whining about "frivolous lawsuits," I get suspicious. Especially since so many use the story about the old lady suing McDonald's because she spilled hot coffee on herself as the perfect example of someone trying

Since homos are already barred from taking their cases to the court, Cotton is basically saying that any discrimination case brought by an LGBT employee against a business is automatically "frivolous."

to make a quick buck off of a company with deep pockets.

But not so fast. To proclaim Stella Liebeck's suit against McDonald's frivolous, is to proclaim that you're an ignorant shit. I dare you to take a look at pictures of this woman's injuries. She needed skin grafts and multiple surgeries. And while the corporate media would have you believe that she walked away with millions, she did not. Hundreds of thousands? Probably. Does that make her greedy? Fuck no. You know how much she asked for initially? \$20,000. The difference between what insurance covered and what she had to pay out of pocket for her grievous injuries. McDonald's had offered her a paltry \$800. So she sued.

Liebeck's case is a shining example of the civil justice system working. Unfortunately, it's often used to support the lie of jackpot justice, the myth that the American people use the courtroom as a casino.

Businesses don't like to be sued. Big surprise. Which is why, even though it is your constitutional right to seek damages for harm, it's actually hard to sue a giant. And just about every company you do business with wants to keep it that way.

Which is why it's no surprise that one of the arguments against the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would protect LGBT people against job discrimination, is that it will result in a bunch of frivolous lawsuits.

Rep. Tom Cotton, a Republican from Arkansas, made that argument in a letter sent to a constituent, according to ThinkProgress.

"[ENDA] might encourage frivolous lawsuits designed to win big legal fees, not to promote equality before the law," Cotton writes. "To that end, it would increase the cost of doing business, partly because of the cost of these lawsuits."

That's right. Businesses would be harmed if they weren't allowed to legally discriminate against LGBT employees, which they are perfectly allowed to do in 32 states (yes, Michigan). Since homos are already barred from taking their cases to the court, Cotton is basically saying that any discrimination case brought by an LGBT employee against a business is automatically "frivolous."

Cotton's argument is that businesses are more important than people, which is basically Republican Party gospel. Make no mistake, when he says "frivolous lawsuits," he's calling LGBT folks frivolous people. People who are not worthy of protections, who have always been denied their constitutional right to sue, who deserve to have both the office door and the courtroom door slammed in their faces.

# Gay Marriage Opponents Invoke Justice Kennedy

BY MARK SHERMAN

WASHINGTON (AP) — The pro-gay rights rulings of Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy have been a key spark in the march toward legalized gay marriage. To counter the trend, same-sex marriage opponents now are seizing upon other opinions by Kennedy himself.

It was Kennedy who last month defended the right of voters to decide sensitive issues, in a ruling that upheld Michigan's ban on taking race into account in college admissions.

At least five states have invoked Kennedy's opinion in the Michigan case to argue that voters and elected officials, not judges, should choose whether same-sex couples can be married or have their marriages recognized within their borders.

"This case is not about how the debate about same-sex marriage should be resolved. It is about who may resolve it," Tennessee's governor and attorney general said in an appellate brief filed Thursday, using language lifted almost word for word from Kennedy's Michigan opinion.

The sentence merely substituted "same-sex marriage" for "racial preferences." Tennessee is asking the Cincinnati-based 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to undo a preliminary ruling that forced the state to recognize same-sex marriages from other states.

Michigan Attorney General Bill

Schuette, who also defended the ban on consideration of race, said in a filing with the same appellate court on Wednesday, "As Justice Kennedy recently explained, 'it is demeaning to the democratic process to presume that the voters are not capable of deciding an issue of this sensitivity on decent and rational grounds.'"

Schuette added, "There is no authority in the Constitution of the United States or in this court's precedents for the judiciary to set aside Michigan laws that commit this policy determination to the voters."

Lawyers in support of state and county officials in Oklahoma, Utah and Virginia have made similar arguments.

But fighting Kennedy with Kennedy may be an uphill battle. The 77-year-old justice has also written the high court's three strongly pro-gay rights decisions in the past 18 years, with powerful language about the dignity of gay and lesbian Americans and the humiliation felt by children who are being brought up by same-sex parents who may face discrimination.

In the most recent case, the court struck down part of the federal anti-gay marriage law in June, and Kennedy's opinion has since been cited in an unbroken string of lower-court rulings in support of same-sex marriage.

To be sure, Kennedy's opinion in that case, *U.S. v. Windsor*, did not strike down state laws against same-sex unions. It dealt only with

a federal law that denied a range of marriage benefits to same-sex couples who were legally married. But federal judges have leaned heavily on its reasoning to strike down restrictive marriage laws, as have lawyers for same-sex couples.

Peggy Tomsic, representing same-sex couples in Utah, said the Michigan case confirms the distinction between policy, where deference to the voters by courts is appropriate, and individual constitutional rights. The Michigan case "did not and could not hold that voters can deny constitutional rights," Tomsic said in a letter to appellate judges in Denver. The Supreme Court has held that in regulating marriage, states must respect constitutional rights.

"That principle remains true whether marriage is regulated by state ballot initiatives or through ordinary legislation," Tomsic said.

In the first of the three high court rulings, in 1996, Kennedy wrote for the court's majority when it overturned a voter-approved Colorado constitutional amendment forbidding laws to protect gays and lesbians in the state. In the second, the court overturned state laws making gay sex a crime.

Judges on the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Virginia, will weigh the competing writings of Kennedy when they hear argument on Tuesday over the Virginia prohibition on same-sex marriage.

## ► Arkansas

Continued from p. 7

marriage bans that were enacted in many states after Massachusetts became the first state to recognize gay marriage in 2004.

In Arkansas, Piazza did not issue a stay in her ruling, and 75 county clerks were left to decide for themselves whether to grant marriage licenses.

If Piazza's ruling is upheld, Arkansas would join 17 other states and Washington, D.C., where same-sex marriages have been legalized.

On Saturday, 15 same-sex couples obtained marriage licenses in the left-leaning tourist town of Eureka Springs. Other Arkansas counties have refused to issue same-sex marriage licenses, saying the

Arkansas Supreme Court must weigh in.

Rambo, 26, and Seaton, 27, arrived in Eureka Springs about 2 a.m., slept in a Ford Focus and awoke every half-hour to make sure no one else would be at the head of the line.

Initially, deputy clerk Lana Gordon said she wasn't sure she had the authority and shooed people from her office.

"We just walked out of here crying," Rambo said.

When Osborn intervened, other same-sex couples let Rambo and Seaton return to their place in line.

"And some of these people here have been waiting 50 years and they still instructed us to come up front," Rambo said.

Eureka Springs, an Ozark Mountain town of about 2,000, is known for its arts environment and liberal

policies in the otherwise conservative northwest Arkansas. In 2007, the city council unanimously approved a proposal to create a domestic partner registry. The partnerships confer no special legal status.

Among those who let Rambo and Seaton back up front were Zeek Taylor, 67, and Dick Titus, 65, who have been together 40 years.

Taylor confronted Gordon, the deputy clerk, about closing the office, saying "Your job is to issue marriage license to everyone that's here."

Paul Wank, 80, of Eureka Springs, interrupted the exchange, pointing his black cane at Gordon.

"You don't have to be hateful sir," the deputy clerk said.

"You've been hateful to people like me for years. So keep up," Wank said. "You're doing everything you can to stall."

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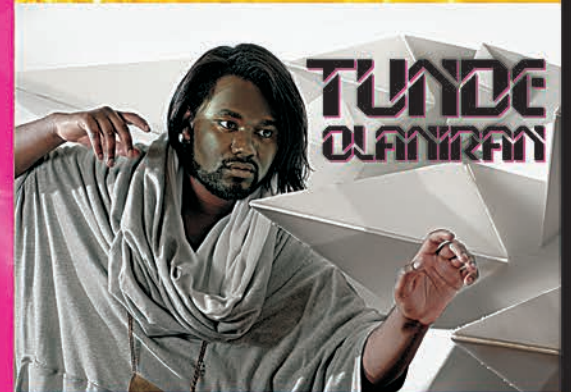
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Getting Blunt With

# WHOOPI

Photo: HBO

## Entertainer Shrugs Off Gay Rumors, Talks Being ‘Claimed’ By The LGBT Community

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Never one to give a flying you-know-what, Whoopi Goldberg has made a career out of not caring. Ask her about her sexuality – to some, a lingering enigma since the '70s, when Goldberg made lots of lesbians laugh at San Francisco comedy clubs – and she doesn't get all the fuss. Ask her what she thinks about

pot – actually, don't even bother. She just wrote a column about it. Whoopi loves a blunt.

It makes a lot of sense, then, that one of Goldberg's earliest comedy heroes is veteran standup Jackie “Moms” Mabley, the 20th-century trailblazer – and later, a civil rights activist – known for a so-what attitude, her edgy humor and dressing like your grandma. The first female comedian to be featured at

the Apollo, Mabley was also known to be a lesbian, a topic discussed in “Whoopi Goldberg Presents Moms Mabley,” a Goldberg-funded documentary featuring a roster of comedy big shots: Joan Rivers, Eddie Murphy, Bill Cosby and Kathy Griffin.

In this recent interview with Whoopi, the comedian-actress talked about how being a lesbian had no effect on Moms becoming “the

funniest woman in the world,” the longstanding rumors of Goldberg's own sexuality and her commitment to the fight for gay rights.

**How do you think a black lesbian like Moms managed to have such a following in the '20s and '30s, a time when homosexuality would've likely been a career breaker?**

Nobody was thinking about it.

If you weren't funny, you didn't work. Your sexuality, who you were – whether you were a man or a woman – didn't matter. Funny trumps everything.

**You were an early ally of the LGBT community at a time when identifying as such was a much bigger risk. At that point in time, people would automatically assume**

**an ally was someone who just did not want to come out of the closet.**

(Laughs) That's what people thought! It was ridiculous. I was like, "Uh, no." People just didn't understand. You see bad situations or stupid situations, like folks having an issue with who you cared about, who you wanna be with, all that kind of stuff that has nothing to do with the realities of our world. The realities of the world I grew up in was: It was nobody's business. If you're not doing your job, then I'm gonna bitch. But I'm not gonna bitch at anybody 'cause they're gay, or because they weigh a lot more than me. At the time, it just seemed so stupid to me that this was what people's issues were.

**As an ally and as someone with a long history in the movement, what's your take on the role you played then and the evolving nature of being identified as an ally?**

I don't know yet. There was nothing anybody could do to me then, because I felt that these were my friends and my people, and no one had a right to judge them. I don't want people messing with me, so I defend everybody's right to be themselves. That has always been my battle cry. I think now, people get it. They understand it because they're looking at themselves saying, "This is how I am." I know if somebody's messing with me, I don't wanna hear it. I have to stand up. Get off my stage.

**People have long speculated about your sexuality, haven't they?**

(Laughs) Yeah! And it's like, there are a lot worse things people could have accused me of – things that would really be upsetting! That's not one of them. It never has been. I grew up in the theater. I grew up in a neighborhood where there was always gay folks. *Always!* So I never understood people's freak out about it. Everybody is so damn paranoid about everything. They're so concerned that (people) are gonna be like, "Oh, somebody's gonna think I'm gay." So what! What happens if they do?

**Considering how long people have wondered how you swing, watching "Moms Mabley" made me think: Should a documentary be made about your life one day, how do you want people to characterize your sexual identity?**

I don't care. Don't care! Because I'll probably be gone by then! (Laughs) With all the amazing people who have come out, if you're still talking about my sexuality – I'm the one you choose – you're not doing your job.

**But don't you think celebrities also play a role in the gay rights movement just by being themselves?**

They do now. But there was a time when people were like, "Oh, no, I'm not gonna

say anything. Somebody's gonna think I'm (gay)." It's like, you'd be lucky if somebody thought you were gay! That's my response to everybody. If that's what you're freaking out about, then you're concerned about the wrong thing.

**In 2008, you held up a sign that said "For My Friends – Equal Rights" during a Prop 8 protest in New York. In 2010, you joined Cyndi Lauper in the launch of her Give a Damn Campaign to raise awareness of LGBT discrimination. But your gay advocacy dates back even further than that: You pushed an AIDS-stricken man in a wheelchair in the 1987 March on Washington. What motivated you to become an ally?**

Well, sure, there's all of that, but I've always had gay people in my life. I mean, I grew up in Chelsea, a neighborhood that has all kinds of folks, because nobody had any money. We were all poor. There were men you'd call "uncle" who never seemed to have girlfriends, and they were your "uncle." Later on you learned what it meant. These guys didn't want to be with these girls. They had their love from their brothers. They wanted their men.

**And Moms, despite talking about young men in her act, had a thing for the ladies.**

Yeah, she worked a great game.

**She was all about living life on her own terms. Moms must remind you of yourself in that sense.**

It's crazy – she's very much like me. Very much! Like her, I'm always trying to get the gig, and it can be a bit difficult because I'm not conventional.

There's many things people can wonder about, but if you don't know by now, it's because you don't wanna know. I say to people, "Well, what do you think I am?" They say, "We think you're gay." I say, "If that's what you wanna think, OK!"

I have been gay in films. I've done two: "The Color Purple" and I always forget what the other one is. People assume they know because they've seen you in a movie or because they've seen you do something or they've heard you say something, and then they make assumptions. Quite honestly, I was glad to be claimed.

**We were happy to claim you.**

Yes! You know, no one was trying to claim me, nobody wanted me. Black folks didn't want me. Nobody wanted me. But I've always been claimed by the gay community. *Always.*

**And maybe that's why people have assumed you're anything but straight. Through the years you've even made some vague remarks regarding your sexuality. For instance, on "The View" in 2009 you told Barbara Walters, when**

See Whoopi, page 18

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# Drag Extravaganza Heads to Lansing

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

An “All Star” Drag Show is coming to Lansing’s Avenue Cafe this month, just in time to launch the Pride season.

The jam-packed event will feature over a dozen queens, including Bianca B Spectacula Swinford, Eva Angelica Stratton, Soranie Hirpo, Jalaya Gilante and many more. DJ Lipgloss will provide music.

Ace Deville will host the show. Known for emceeing many of Lansing’s Spiral Dance Bar events, Deville recently parted ways with the well-known club. She now brings her drag to multiple Lansing and West Michigan events.

A self-titled “eccentric bar,” The Avenue serves as a bar, live music venue, meeting space and cyber cafe. The cafe features a full bar with an emphasis on Michigan craft beer as well as a diverse menu with multiple

homemade vegan and vegetarian options. Outside of the upcoming drag show, check out the bar’s live music every day except Tuesday. Tuesdays become board game nights at the establishment.

The Avenue will also host Super Happy Funtime Burlesque on Saturday, May 31 at 9 p.m.. The 18-and-over show is \$10 and features a comedic burlesque performance that has made the group one of West Michigan’s more unique acts.

The drag show begins at 10 p.m. on Thursday, May 29 at The Avenue Cafe, 2021 Michigan Ave., Lansing. Doors open at 7 p.m.; it’s suggested to arrive early before the show for a seat. There is a \$5 cover. For more information, call the Avenue at 517-853-0550 or visit [www.avenuelansing.com](http://www.avenuelansing.com).

For more LGBT events in Lansing, check out BTL’s calendar at [www.pridesource.com/calendar.html](http://www.pridesource.com/calendar.html).



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# The Frivolist

## 10 Practical Wedding Gifts For Your Gay Buddies

BY MIKEY ROX

Wedding season unofficially kicks off this month, and with more and more states deeming same-sex marriages legal you're bound to receive an invitation to your friends' fabulous nuptials any minute. And that means you'll need to buy a gift. Instead of sticking to the registry, however – do they really need more *stuff*? – think outside the Crate and Barrel box and opt for a practical-but-still-thoughtful present that the happy couple can put to good use. Here are 10 ideas to get you started.

### 1. Date-Planning Subscription

Date-planning services – like HowAboutWe Couples and Kahnoodle Concierge – are tricky because they often only serve a limited area (New York City for the former; San Francisco and D.C. for the latter), but you may be able to find a similar concept in the area in which your newlywed friends live. Date options run the gamut of uncommon experiences like ring-smithing classes, fencing lessons and body-painting sessions to more tame outings like comedy shows and wine tastings. To help keep the first year of marriage fresh and fun for your friends, gift a year subscription to one of these services so the pair can enjoy quality time together while participating in an activity they may never have thought of themselves.

### 2. Moving Crew

Remember the last time you moved and you swore you'd never do it again without the help of (preferably hard-bodied, shirtless) movers? If your just-married pals are relocating soon, do them a solid and hire the same for them. Granted, this can be quite pricey, so if you can't afford to hire several hours of full-service moving, get your best group of gays to commit to helping the couple start anew. The only cost of going this route is time and energy, plus you'll get in a great workout

without having to go to the gym.

### 3. Dance Classes

If the two who are saying “I do” have four left feet, present them with a pre-wedding gift of dancing lessons. Attending several sessions a few months before the wedding will give the rug-cutting duo more confidence on the dance floor when they take center stage as husbands or wives for the first time. This comes with an additional cost, however: It will also be your responsibility to stay alert throughout the night so you can simmer 'em down when they start to get too jiggy with it after the fourth or fifth celebratory cocktail. Just wait; it'll happen.

### 4. Home Repair Supplies

Home repairs (even small ones) start to add up quickly – especially if you have to hire someone to do them for you. To help alleviate this necessity and the cost associated with it, surprise the lawfully wedded with a hodgepodge of tools and other household must-haves given in a nice toolbox for convenient and aesthetically pleasing storage. Another helpful around-the-house idea is to gift painting essentials – trays, rollers, brushes and drop cloths – with a gift certificate to a nearby hardware store so they can choose their favorite colors to freshen up their home.

### 5. Cooking Lessons

Cooking isn't everyone's favorite hobby (in most cases because they don't know how to do it well, so they avoid it), but it's one of those few daily opportunities of which spouses can take advantage to grow closer by creating something they'll both savor. If your friends aren't exactly kitchen savvy, introduce them to the wonderful world of from-scratch satisfaction with cooking lessons. Private lessons can be held in their home, or you can find a local establishment that offers lessons. The latter will be much less expensive than the former, and it'll give your friends an opportunity to mix and mingle with



other couples with whom they have something in common.

### 6. Home-Brewed Craft Beer

If your pals are known beer lovers, add a personal touch to one of their favorite beverages by brewing a case of homemade suds. To add even more flair, dress the bottles with custom labels that you can order online that celebrates their wedding day. The recipients will enjoy kicking back and relaxing with what you've made exclusively for them, and they'll likely think fondly of your creativity and care every time they crack off a cap.

### 7. HitchSwitch Gift Card

It's not as common in gay marriages as it is in straight unions for one partner to change their last name to the other partner's, but plenty of LGBT couples are

traditionalists – and more power to them. To make the name-changing process stress free, set them up with HitchSwitch, an online name-changing service that removes all the hassle of assembling, filling out and filing forms for just \$50. True, it's not a super exciting gift, but it's one less thing they'll have to worry about as they start their new life together – and they'll appreciate that sentiment very much.

### 8. Frisque Gay Box Membership

There are numerous sex-toy subscription services available these days, but most of them cater to the hetero crowd. Enter Frisque Box, a sensual subscription service that caters specifically to gay and lesbian couples. Boxes filled with bedroom toys and other pleasure products to keep the spark flickering and frolicsome are sent bimonthly, discreetly to their doorstep, for \$55 per cycle. If you

don't want to commit to a year's worth of service, there's also a Frisque Honeymoon Box, which is a one-time only purchase.

### 9. Deep Cleaning Service

We gays like to keep a clean house (most of us anyway), and while weekly spot cleaning is a breeze, the twice-yearly deep clean is a burden. Help ease it for your freshly married friends – who should be spending their first year having fun under the sheets instead of sweeping behind the stove – by surprising them with several hours of cleaning services scheduled for the beginning of spring and fall.

### 10. Language-Learning Software

One of the advantages of your friends being gay and bound by marital law is that they're likely a DINK (Dual Income No Kids) couple that has money to burn. (No offense to all you gay parents out there, of course, but your days of jet-setting are over for a while.) Thus, they have the incredible opportunity to see the world at their leisure if they're savvy savers. You can help make their vacation even more enriching and fulfilling by gifting them language-learning software. If you know them well, you probably know which language to choose; if not, pry for some information. The beauty of language-learning software – besides becoming part of an entire population of people with whom they can now converse – is that it's conducive to couples using it together, which will help fortify their relationship even more.

*Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and blogger whose work has been published in more than 100 outlets across the world, including CNN.com, The Huffington Post, The Advocate, Instinct magazine and Out.com, among many others. He lives in Manhattan with his husband and their cuddle-buddy furbaby. Connect with Mikey on Twitter @mikeyrox.*

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“ I don't want people messing with me, so I defend everybody's right to be themselves. That has always been my battle cry. I think now, people get it. ”

► **Whoopi**

Continued from p. 15

she made a comment about you coming out of the closet, “Please, that door's been open for years.” Is your sexuality something you prefer to leave ambiguous?

No, I'm pretty clear. You've never seen me with a woman. Pretty much been married to men the whoole time! Not the same, but a few of them. (Laughs) Nah, I'm straight, but what does it mean? What does it really mean?

It means you play a lesbian in “Boys on the Side” and people jump to conclusions.

Yes, that's the other one! Thank you. I love that movie. I always forget “Boys on the Side” because I did “The Color Purple” and I know people saw that first.

What's gayer: playing an actual lesbian or a singing nun?

It's all a challenge because you always have to find out what your sweet spot is in a piece. My sweet spot in “Boys on the Side” was how much I loved Mary-Louise (Parker, who played Robin). The sweet spot for “Sister Act” was really religion – that everybody can have some relationship to religion and it doesn't have to be what everybody else thinks that relationship should be.

I love that answer, but I think you misinterpreted my question.

I'm sorry. I'm on a cell phone. I can't hear shit, honey!

We'll just go with what you think I said.

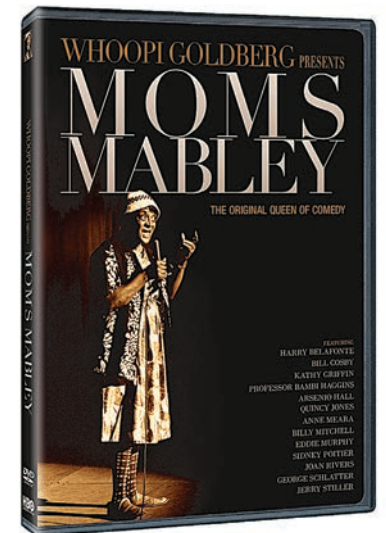
I love you already.

Whatever happened to your nun's habit from “Sister Act”?

I think I sent it to France. Everybody needs something for Halloween.

Thanks for chatting, Whoopi, and also for being an ally. Your advocacy in the gay community has meant a lot to a lot of people.

Well, we're all one people, baby. People keep trying to divide us up into “you're gay, you're black, you're white,” but we're all one people. What fucks with one fucks with us all. If we don't recognize that, we're in deep trouble.



# A Story For The Ages: Yet Again, Love Conquers All

BY JOHN QUINN

“Turandot” is an Italian opera based on a Persian folk tale set in China. Its multiculturalism is positively all-American. Michigan Opera Theatre closes its 43rd season with a stunning production of one of the grandest of grand operas.

“Turandot” was composer Giacomo Puccini’s last work and remained unfinished at the time of his death in 1924. (It is recorded that he died with the manuscript in his hands.) There’s universal appeal in the work, because Puccini and his librettists, Giuseppe Adami and Renato Simoni, chose a plot so basic, so “human” that its main device transcends cultures and is familiar everywhere – The Riddle Game.

Once upon a time in China, far, far away there lived a princess “beautiful as jade, cold as steel,” named Turandot. Heartless and cruel, she had sworn a sacred oath that no man would possess her unless he answered three riddles. The price of failure was death. On the night the unlucky Prince of Persia loses his head, Calaf is reunited with his elderly father, Timur, the deposed King of Tartary. Timur wanders through the lands, accompanied by one faithful servant, Liu, a slave girl who has secretly loved Prince Calaf since the time he once smiled at her.

Princess Turandot appears, and Calaf is immediately head over heels in love. Fortunately, he keeps that head; he answers the riddles. Turandot regrets her oath, and refuses to marry him. Calaf boldly offers her an out: If she discovers his name before dawn, she can chop off his head. There is tragedy, there is triumph, but all good folk tales end with “And they lived happily ever after.”

The MOT production is a visual and aural delight. Massive set pieces evoke the majesty of ancient Peking; a massive chorus under the direction of Suzanne Mallare Acton offers rich voices in keeping with their striking costumes. Conductor Valerio Galli, making his MOT debut, brings out a warm, lush sound from his orchestra. The tempo is sprightly, but romantic.

When discussing the principal singers, the first word that comes to mind is “power.” Soprano Lise Lindstrom and tenor Rudy Park making their MOT debut are extraordinarily well paired. The role of Turandot is considered one



“Turandot” closes Michigan Opera Theatre’s 43rd season. Photo: John Grigaitis

## REVIEW

### Turandot

Michigan Opera Theatre at Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. May 14, 16 & 17, and 2:30 p.m. May 18. 3 hours (with 2 intermissions). \$25-125. 313-237-SING.

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

of the most challenging in the repertoire, but Lindstrom soars through her aria, “In questa reggia,” brilliantly balancing the fire and ice of her character. Korean born and Italian trained, Rudy Park owns an exceptionally broad lower range, a relentless force beating down opposition. His third act aria, “Nessun dorma,” which has taken on a pop culture life of its own, is memorable; he easily rises above the musical crescendo to deliver the extended high “B” that marks the piece.

(As is common in productions with strenuous vocal scores, the principal

parts are double cast. On May 16 and 18, “Turandot” will be sung by soprano Othalie Graham and Calaf by tenor Giancarlo Monsalve.)

Soprano Donata D’Annunzio Lombardi sings the role of the fragile Liu; her aria, “Signore, ascolta!” is a wonder of inflection and modulation.

A gory story needs a little comic relief; in “Turandot,” that would be its three courtiers, Ping, Pang and Pong. And while a modern sensibility might find the names mildly racist, the roles are exuberantly rendered by Eugene Villanueva, Julius Ahn and Scott Ramsay with just the right touch of whimsy. The trio sings “Ho una casa nell honan” with such a sense of yearning it would touch the heart of the iciest princess.

Binding this complex project together is stage director Garnett Bruce, whose breadth of vision resulted in a memorable night at the opera. If “Turandot” is a reliable indication, Michigan Opera Theatre is in for a glorious Season 44.



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## Editor's Pick

Peppermint Creek Theatre Company announces the two-week run of "Clybourne Park," a humorous and insightful new play by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Bruce Norris.

The production takes its title from the white neighborhood mentioned in Lorraine Hansberry's groundbreaking 1959 drama "A Raisin in the Sun," about an African-American family busting the color

barrier in a white Chicago suburb. The sole white character of "Raisin," Karl Lindner, has been lifted from Hansberry's play. Here, he's trying to convince white neighbors not to sell their home to a black family. The play portrays fictional events set before and after the Hansberry play and is loosely based on historical events that took place in the city of Chicago.

The production will take place at Miller Performing Arts Center, 6025 Curry Lane, Lansing. The show will run May 15-18 and May 22-24. Tickets (\$10-15) can be ordered online at [www.peppermintcreek.org](http://www.peppermintcreek.org).

**Social** Hear the Choir in a program of music that they will sing during their residency in England this summer. Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 4800 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. May 17. 313-833-7547. [Facebook.com/detroitcathedralsmusic](http://facebook.com/detroitcathedralsmusic)

**Kerrytown Concert House** "Jesse Blumberg and Martin Katz" Winterreise. Tickets: \$5-35. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. May 17. 734-763-4186. [kerrytownconcerthouse.com](http://kerrytownconcerthouse.com)

**MOCAD** "Art + Science" Benefiting the life-saving science of the A. Alfred Taubman Medical Research Institute at U of M. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. May 22. 313-832-6622. [Mocadetroit.org](http://mocadetroit.org)

**The Acorn Theater** "Cathy Richardson Band". The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. May 17. 269-756-3879. [acorntheater.com](http://acorntheater.com)

**The Ark** "Hayes Caril" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. May 21. 734-761-1800. [Theark.org](http://theark.org)

**The Ark** "Lipbone Redding" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. May 20. 734-761-1800. [Theark.org](http://theark.org)

**The Ark** "Martin Hayes & Dennis Cahill" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. May 18. 734-761-1800. [Theark.org](http://theark.org)

**The Community Chorus of Detroit (CCD)** "Requiem" Tickets: \$35-40. Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament, 9844 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 4:30 p.m. May 18. [communitychorusofdetroit.com](http://communitychorusofdetroit.com)

**The Majestic** "Two Cow Garage" All ages. Tickets: \$8-10. The Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m.

May 21. 313-833-9700. [Majesticdetroit.com](http://Majesticdetroit.com)

**Woodside Church** "Monthly Jazz Vespers" Alternative worship service featuring local musicians from Flint and surrounding area. Presented in coffee house setting; refreshments will be served. Woodside Church, 1509 E. Court St., Flint. Sep. 20 - May 16. 810-767-4911. [woodsidechurch.net](http://woodsidechurch.net)

### Other

**Goodman Acker** "Community Law Day". Goodman Acker P. C., 17000 W. 10 Mile Road, Southfield. 10 a.m. May 18. [goodmanacker.com/our-firm/community-involvement/community-law-day-2014/](http://goodmanacker.com/our-firm/community-involvement/community-law-day-2014/)

**MOCAD** "Opening Night: 2014 MOCAD Summer Exhibitions" Tickets: \$0-7. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 6 p.m. May 16. 313-832-6622. [Mocadetroit.org](http://Mocadetroit.org)

**Saugatuck Center for the Arts** "Fatal Crossing: The Mysterious Disappearance of NWA Flight 2501 and the Quest for Answers" Free. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. 7 p.m. May 15. 269-857-2399. [Sc4a.org](http://Sc4a.org)

## ART 'N' AROUND

**Cranbrook Art Museum** "Saarinen House: A Total Work of Art" Designed in the late 1920s, the house served as the home and studio of Eliel Saarinen and Loja Saarinen from 1930 through 1950. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. May 1 - Oct. 31. 877-462-7262. [Cranbrookart.edu](http://Cranbrookart.edu)

**Detroit Artists Market (DAM) and CCS** "Biannual All Media Exhibition 2014". Detroit Artists Market, 4719 Woodward

Ave., Detroit. April 18 - May 23. 313-832-8540. [Detroitartistsmarket.org](http://Detroitartistsmarket.org)

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

**Downriver Council for the Arts** "Adult Oil & Acrylics Class" Tickets: \$10. Downriver Council for the Arts, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. Jan. 7 - June 24. 734-720-0671. [Downriverarts.org](http://Downriverarts.org)

**Downriver Council for the Arts** "Adult Pastels Class" Tickets: \$20. Downriver Council for the Arts, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. Jan. 4 - June 28. 734-720-0671. [Downriverarts.org](http://Downriverarts.org)

**Downriver Council for the Arts** "Adult Acrylic Class" Facilitated by Ken Barbb. Drop-in. Open to beginners to advanced. Students bring own supplies. Admission: \$15. Downriver Council for the Arts, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. Aug. 3 - June 28. 734-720-0671. [Downriverarts.org](http://Downriverarts.org)

**Flint Institute of Arts** "Kathleen Gilje: Portraits of Paintings" Meticulously rendered new incarnations of old masterpieces. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. May 2 - July 20. 810-234-1695. [Flintarts.org](http://Flintarts.org)

**James Pearson Duffy Department of Art and Art History** "scope: 2014 Wayne State University Undergraduate Exhibition" Features a wide range of approaches from which students derive their inspiration, ideas, and creations. Art Department Gallery, 150 Art Building, 5400 Gullen Mall, Detroit. April 18 - May 16. 313-577-2423.

**Liberal Arts Gallery** "Roberto Valentin" Guest artists: Jack Kenny and Charlene Uresy. Liberal Arts Gallery, 3361 Gratiot, Detroit. May 2 - May 17. 734-395-1265.

**Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum** "The President's Photographer: Fifty Years Inside the Oval Office" The exhibition features 50 framed images and a text panel with brief biographical information on each photographer. Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum, 7400 Bay Road, University Center. Feb. 3 - May 24. 989-964-7125. [Marshallfredericks.org/presidents](http://Marshallfredericks.org/presidents)

**MOCAD** "Dara Friedman: Projecting". Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. May 16 - July 27. 313-832-6622. [Mocadetroit.org](http://Mocadetroit.org)

**MOCAD** "Mobile Homestead" A permanent art work by the late Mike Kelley. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jan. 1 - June 30. 313-832-6622. [Mocadetroit.org](http://Mocadetroit.org)

**Museum of New Art (MONA)** "Rendering Carbon: The Art of Exploring an Element" A talk with Ian Boyden scheduled for 3 p.m. on May 18. Museum of New Art (MONA), 15655 33 Mile Road, Armada. May 16 - June 20. 248-210-7560. [Detroitmona.com](http://Detroitmona.com)

**Pewabic Pottery** "Feed Your Soul" Ticket: \$35. Arab American National Museum, 13624 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. 1 p.m. May 17. 313-582-2266. [Arabamericanmuseum.org](http://Arabamericanmuseum.org)

**Saugatuck Center for the Arts** "Material Girls: Fiber Exhibition" Quilts by Judith Jarzembowski. Rugs by Judy Bowman Anthop. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. April 11 - June 6. 269-857-2399. [Sc4a.org](http://Sc4a.org)

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

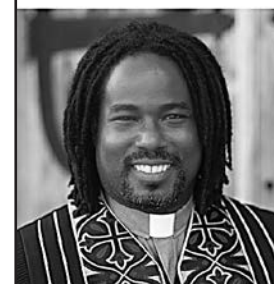
**University Of Michigan Museum Of Art (UMMA)** "An Eye on the Empire: Photographs of Colonial India and Egypt" The zenith of the British Empire in the later nineteenth century coincided with a unique convergence of cultural, technological, and economic forces. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. April 1 - June 29. 734-763-4186. [Umma.umich.edu](http://Umma.umich.edu)

**University Of Michigan Museum Of Art (UMMA)** "Three Michigan Architects: Part 2 - Robert Metcalf" Robert Metcalf's domestic and commercial buildings represent some of the most important and recognizable modern architecture in Michigan. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. April 1 - July 13. 734-763-4186. [Umma.umich.edu](http://Umma.umich.edu)



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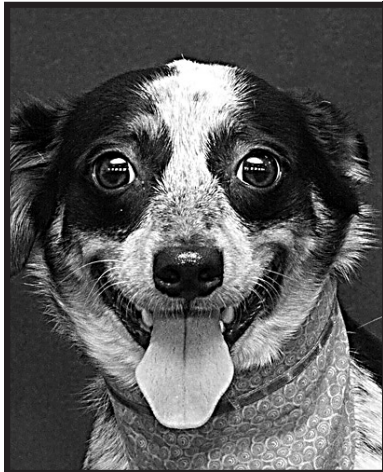


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# Classifieds

## 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.

**Livonia-Friday**  
 8 p.m., Go After Your Sobriety Gay AA, Drayton Ave Presbyterian Church, 2441 Pinecrest. 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**  
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 Drayton Ave. Presbyterian Church (in basement)  
 Pinecrest & Drayton, Ferndale  
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## 320 EMPLOYMENT - WANTED

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**Solution to puzzle from page 26**

A	G	A	R	A	W	A	R	D	S	S	H	A	W				
N	I	L	E	S	E	N	O	R	A	P	E	E	R				
A	N	T	I	S	A	N	D	A	L	A	R	G	O				
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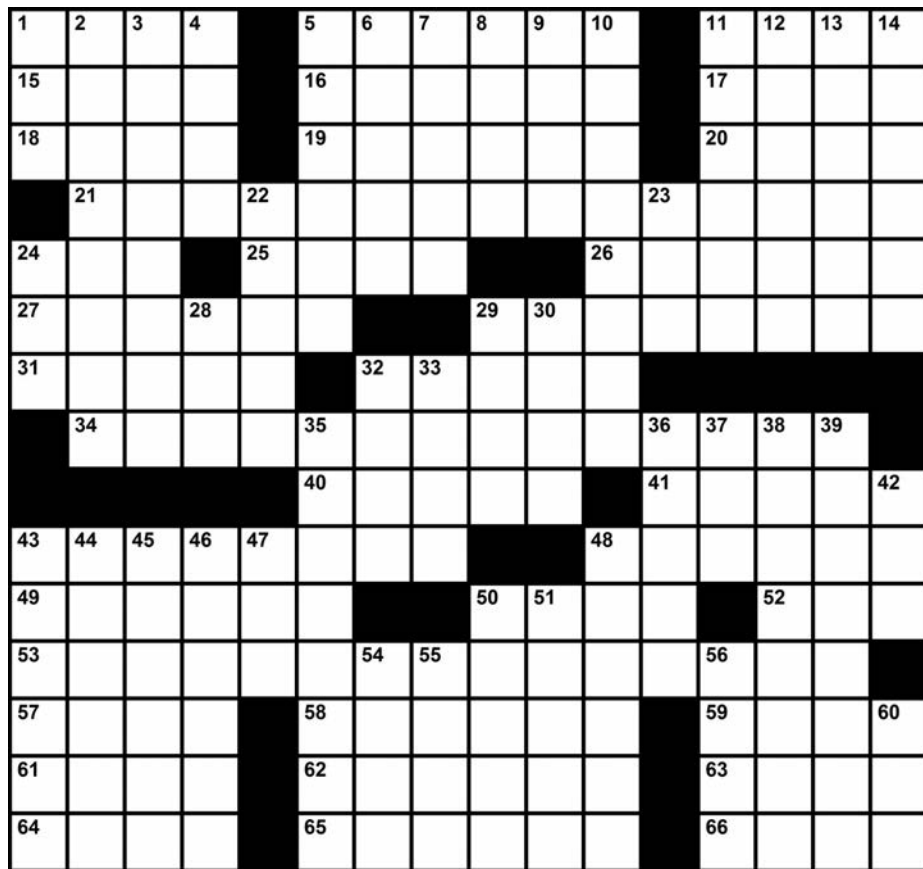
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# Chaz I Was Saying



## Across

- 1 Tutti-frutti ingredient
- 5 Lammies, e.g.
- 11 Peggy of Split Bitches
- 15 River of Memphis
- 16 Woman of La Mancha
- 17 Look intently
- 18 Start to climax
- 19 You wear it with a thong down low
- 20 Movie about a CIA rescue mission
- 21 Start of a Chaz Bono quote
- 24 For each one
- 25 Porn-watcher's comment?
- 26 "Notes on Camp" author Susan
- 27 Areas around holes
- 29 Homer's fam
- 31 Uninvited pool guests?
- 32 Ben Stiller's mother Anne
- 34 More of the quote
- 40 Sticks one's proboscis in
- 41 Stage show
- 43 Pool tool
- 48 Feeds a crowd
- 49 Lash out at
- 50 What you may do to your lover's back
- 52 Workers under Dr. Torres

- 53 End of the quote
- 57 Out and then some
- 58 David Hyde \_\_\_\_
- 59 Brisk pace
- 61 Minstrel's instrument
- 62 Patty Sheehan's position
- 63 Sightseeing journey
- 64 Vehicle for a snow queen?
- 65 Response of privates
- 66 Out of whack, off, etc.

## Down

- 1 Writer Castillo
- 2 How Rogers walked in "The Gay Divorcee"?
- 3 Clark Kent, to Superman
- 4 Jockey strap?
- 5 Take stock of
- 6 "\_\_\_\_ Family"
- 7 Lennox, once of the Eurythmics
- 8 Members at a sex club?
- 9 Military color
- 10 Pitching pro
- 11 Gives rise to
- 12 \_\_\_\_ stay (like a long-term partner)
- 13 Mediterranean arm
- 14 Unjust acts
- 22 Kevin Bacon movie of the '80s
- 23 Lover with a penetrating glance?
- 24 Org. that uses ball-washers
- 28 La mer, to Debussy
- 29 Letter enc.
- 30 Gershwin and Levin
- 32 "South Park" composer Shaiman
- 33 Debussy contemporary Satie
- 35 Julius Caesar suffered from it
- 36 Talk like Gomer
- 37 Mauresmo's court divider
- 38 What a bush that needs trimming may do
- 39 Become buttermilk
- 42 Tricky turn
- 43 Conspiracies that require balls?
- 44 Beneficial
- 45 Heirs split it
- 46 Got angry
- 47 Butch lesbian's fashion accessory
- 48 Life's work
- 50 Woes of toes
- 51 Soap star Susan
- 54 "Nick at \_\_\_\_"
- 55 Oral votes
- 56 Jazz singer James
- 60 Take a crack at

Solution on pg. 24

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