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– David Fink, left with Kim Clark, right, co-owners of Acorn Theater, pg. 26



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# Motor City Pride Celebrates Generations Of Pride

BY AJ TRAGER

**DETROIT**— LGBT people and allies took Hart Plaza, filled it with Pride and brought the party to the Motor City this weekend for the 43rd Annual Motor City Pride Festival (MCP). There was no shortage of attendees or excitement. The theme of the event was “Generations,” celebrating the many different groups that make up the LGBT community. Pioneers of the movement who marched after the Stonewall riots were honored, as was the medical treatment at the start of the AIDS crises, and attendees got excited for the next group of LGBT people carrying the torch for equality.

And how many were there? In a press conference Sunday morning, Chair of Motor City Pride Dave Wait announced that on Saturday alone, Pride had nearly reached 34,000 people -- just shy of the total attendance for last year. All in just one day!

“It is about connecting our community to each other and giving support to everybody providing a safe space for all members of our community as we are working to reduce the discrimination,” Wait said. “There are people who are still not comfortable in being out and who they are. And we provide a space for them to do that, to be more comfortable individuals as they are working with that.”

Saturday rocked with bikini lines, pledge to vote stickers, rainbow ribbon dancers and plenty of Pride beads. Festival started off with a wedding ceremony at 2 p.m. directly followed by a Harvey Milk stamp presentation. Pride had five stages with over 100 local and national acts. This entertainment featured back-to-back performances rich with the glamour of local drag queens to a headline performance by Andy Bell of Erasure. Sunday saw some clouds, but that wasn’t enough to stop the excitement. The Pride Parade swept the streets and took the clouds with it.

But it was the attendees, signing up for different organizational newsletters and adding their names to volunteer lists before joining the dance party in the back half of Hart Plaza, that really made Pride as bright as it was.

“I think it is super cool that you can be as fluid as you want here,” Lindsay Paupert said. “With everywhere else out there, you have to fit into this stereotype and it’s not cool.”

Paupert was at pride with her friends Kate Bickley, Paul Flood, Drew Empson and Alexis LaFaramboise, each one of them brand new to Pride.

Bickley and Paupert are partners and have been together for just a month. They laughed at the admittance of that, claiming that they’re “still in the baby stage” and that they have a long way to go. But they were in good company on Saturday, and they knew it.

“I like seeing all sorts of people. I’m not sexual, I’m as close to Ace as they come,”



BTL photos: Jenna Belevender



Paupert said. “I’m more romantic than anything. And it’s so refreshing that there are those kinds of people here who get it. Most people are like, ‘What do you mean you don’t have a sex drive?’”

Empson wore a grey tank top with a sticker from Affirmations that read “Extra Gay.” He liked the Drag representation and the different forms of personal expression.

“What attracts me is it’s a way of expressing yourself with your body. It’s not on a piece of paper; it’s not on a canvass. I find the transformation itself, and having the



confidence to go outside in drag, amazing; to see how much confidence you have in the other persona. I love it,” Empson said. “I love Drag.”

He describes his home life as something much of the LGBT community can relate to; he doesn’t have the adult resources to openly talk to someone and he wants to experience how he is in the world as a person instead of “calmed down” at home. He came out to his parents a year ago and says they are still coming to terms with it.

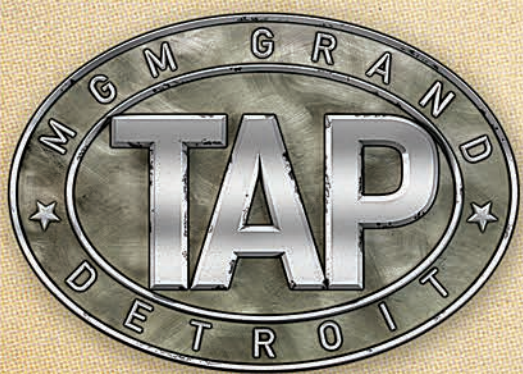
“Here I can be myself and be as flamboyant and as queeny as I want. It’s just here I can

be more masculine and as feminine as I want. And I won’t get clocked for it. I won’t get like heads turning,” Empson said.

BTL ran into Vagner Witehead, Amir Brown, John Maguire, Darius Wheeler and Michael Einheuser on their second cocktail by a spirits pavilion. They want to see Pride do away with the “State Fair-like” booth food, moving in more bars, Detroit restaurants and more upscale food vendors instead of elephant ears. Oh, and more dance floors. These boys were on a mission to have fun.

See Pride, page 12

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# Hate Crime At Motor City Pride

## Help Identify Assailants

BY AJ TRAGER

**DETROIT** – Sunday at Motor City Pride, a 20-year-old man fell victim to a hate crime for being a member of the LGBT community, according to reports by WXYZ. Between The Lines joins the local media in search of those who took part in this attack.

Christin Howard, a hairstylist, walked away from the traumatic event but is suffering from bruises, abrasions and a broken finger. He will not be able to return to work until his hand has healed.

The attack started with verbal assaults and escalated into physical violence with all the men pushing Howard to the ground, each taking turns on Howard as he lay helpless.

“Violence directed at LGBT people because they are LGBT is disproportionately high in this country, and LGBT people of color are at an even higher risk of more brutal and vicious attacks,” Director of Victim Services at Equality Michigan, Yvonne Siferd said. “It never ceases to amaze me that others are so concerned with how we live our lives that they feel emboldened to violently attack us for simply being ourselves. Our elected officials can send a powerful message that this type of hate is not tolerated in Michigan by speaking out against attacks like these and amending Michigan’s hate crimes law to include LGBT victims.”

He was walking along Detroit’s Riverwalk when a group of five to eight men, none of whom have been identified yet, attacked him, beat him to the ground and then left. This is the first instance of a hate crime reported at Motor City Pride since it was moved into Hart Plaza four years ago.

The entire incident lasted less than two minutes, but Howard says he is shaken and is skeptical if he will return to Pride next year, worried the same perpetrators will be there.

WXYZ reports that the attack was unprovoked and started with comments about Howard’s long hair, escalating into homophobic slurs and violent threats. The Howard family has requested that any and all media inquiries be directed to Equality Michigan.

If you recognize any of the abusers in the video, please contact the Detroit Police Department. *You can call the Detroit Police at 313-596-2200 or visit their headquarter location at 1301 Third St. Detroit, with any information.*

# Man Claims Anti-Gay Harassment At Detroit Receiving Hospital



Tor'Juan Sanders and his partner Decembur Jaymes were allegedly harassed by a Detroit Medical Center security officer June 3. BTL photo: Jason Michael

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

**DETROIT** - It was almost 3 a.m. on June 3. Tor'Juan Sanders had come to Detroit Receiving Hospital with his sick brother, mother and boyfriend. While his mother waited for her son to be admitted in the examination room, Sanders dozed off in the waiting room outside the Crisis Center. He fell asleep on his boyfriend’s shoulder with his boyfriend’s arm wrapped around him.

But, according to Sanders, his slumber was soon interrupted by a Detroit Medical Center

security officer who woke the pair up.

“He asked us who we were waiting on and then he asked me how we - meaning my boyfriend and I - were related to each other,” said Sanders. “I told him that we were waiting on my mother to come out, and then he asked for a second time whether we were related. I said, ‘No, he’s my boyfriend.’”

This news didn’t sit well with the security officer.

“He then told us we needed to sit a space or two apart because we couldn’t be ‘all bulked up like that in here.’”

“We didn’t argue with the security officer, but soon after, I began to think about the days of separation between blacks and whites; also the civil rights movement, how black people had to fight to be accepted and not discriminated against because of the color of their skin. Now here we are in 2014 and two black men who are in a relationship can’t even sit next to one another or rest our heads on one another because someone else has a problem with it. I felt violated and disrespected ... I felt degraded and belittled.”

Decembur Jaymes, Sanders’ boyfriend, was also shocked.

“Tor’Juan and I looked at each other like, ‘Did he really just say what we just heard?’” Jaymes said. “I was irritated because I was sleepy, and when we’re getting these questions I’m just thinking, why are you asking? Why does it matter? And why are you even bothering us?”

Between The Lines spoke with DMC security personnel and Sergeant Herndon identified the officer in question as Tom Phillips. He expressed skepticism, however, that the incident had occurred as described.

“I have a hard time believing he did it just like that,” Herndon said. Still, he pledged to look into the matter, though as of publication, he has not reached out to BTL to report what he discovered.

For his part, Sanders wrote a letter of complaint to Iris Taylor, the president of Detroit Receiving Hospital. BTL followed up on the complaint and spoke to Juanita Reed, the hospital’s vice president for service excellence and community affairs.

“I am acknowledging receiving it and will initiate an investigation,” Reed said of the complaint.

According to Kat LaTosch, project director for the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Health Equity Council of southeast Michigan, such harassment and discrimination is not unusual.

“This report is sadly all too familiar,” LaTosch said. “LGBT people are at higher risk for serious health concerns due, in part, because they are mistreated by healthcare professionals. Seventy percent of transgender people and 56 percent of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people have reported being mistreated, [including] refusal of care, refusal of touch, harsh/abusive language or health condition blamed on LGBT identity. At Affirmations (Community Center), we’re trying to change that with the Council, which includes healthcare administrators, research and policy experts, LGBT movement organizers and LGBT people coming together to make positive changes in our healthcare systems for our communities.”

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

# Sterling Heights Debates Anti-Discrimination Ordinance

BY PAULETTE NIEMIEC

An ordinance to amend the city code in Sterling Heights to protect the rights of citizens, including those who are gay, lesbian and transgender, was introduced June 3. A heated debate took place, and attendees were given more than three hours to present both support as well as opposition to the proposed ordinance. Arguments for sending the ordinance on persuaded the council, as it voted 4-3 in favor of a continuance at the next meeting June 17.

The ordinance to amend Chapter 25 of the (Sterling Heights) City Code to prohibit discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations of LGBT people was presented by Assistant City Attorney Donald P. DeNault Jr.

“This ordinance, if approved, will protect people from discrimination including sexual orientation, gender identity and age,” DeNault explained as the discussion began. “If discrimination occurs, the city can work with businesses to improve the situation and if not, a fine could be issued. Also, these citizens could go to court if necessary to enforce the law.”

An ordinance supporter included Julie Bondy, a Sterling Heights resident who gave several examples of discrimination in the workplace. “I have come out at work as gay. A few years ago, I couldn’t let people know I was gay. Many organizations would not give someone a promotion or would even fire them for being gay. My partner couldn’t be here tonight out of fear her employer will discover the truth regarding her sexual orientation,” Bondy said.

She explained that some have argued there’s no need for inclusion of gays, lesbians and transgender people because there’s no discrimination taking place or they are somehow already included in these laws. “If you’re racial, ethnic, religious or even overweight, these things are obvious to people. If you are gay or lesbian, you can hide. We can hide. We have to hide because there’s no law to protect us,” she explained.

Others gave emotionally charged arguments on both sides. None were more profound than that of Lisa Schultz, a Sterling Heights firefighter who identified herself as being “a member of the LGBT community” and Joanne Hill, a transgender woman.

Schultz read from a prepared written statement explaining her feelings of pride in the city and in the Fire Department. “It is exciting to me that we in Sterling Heights can be the first city in Macomb County to pass an anti-discrimination ordinance to include sexual orientation and gender identity,” Schultz said. “Not only do I believe it would help our city, but frankly it’s simply the right thing to do.”

Hill described her life accomplishments as a transgender woman, which includes three patents as a result of her work as an electrical engineer. “Why do I tell you this?” she asked rhetorically. “I tell you this to make the point that transgender people have value,” she said, voice cracking with held back tears.

“I am a transgender woman,” said Hill, “I lived stealthily. I lived my life in secret for many years. A few years ago, it became necessary for me to transition.”



Julie Bondy spoke in favor of the ordinance and said her partner could not be there tonight for fear of being identified and risk losing her job.

Hill went on to describe the accomplishments of many transgender people who have worked at prestigious jobs, earned graduate degrees and have had other major life accomplishments: “There are many transgender persons who have made a generous contribution to their communities... why do I speak of these things? Because right here at our company where I work, we have openings that can’t be filled because the college graduates perceive southeast Michigan as not a nice place to live. We need to change that. Most college students today recognize the LGBT community and they don’t want to live in a place that discriminates against the LGBT community and so they are taking jobs elsewhere. This has to change... by passing this ordinance you can make that change happen.”

Not all were in favor of passing the ordinance. More than a dozen opponents spoke out against it. Their views sounded contradictory and confusing. Some made statements describing how they didn’t believe in prejudice and discrimination, while seeming to contradict themselves by saying they opposed the proposed legislation that would fight discrimination.

“You are so correct when you say LGBT people have value,” said Sonya Elias, a Sterling Heights resident of 24 years. “But that doesn’t mean you should have special rights to protect you from discrimination. When you have special rights for minority people, you strip away the constitutional rights of others, myself included.”

Elias and many others made similar statements, fearing that passing the ordinance would attack and discriminate against Christians who oppose homosexuality. Mayor Pro Tem, Mike Taylor, addressed these fears. “For those of you who are concerned that your ability to practice religion is being taken away, that is not the case,” Taylor said. “We can argue and debate many things but this is not one of them.”

Now it’s up to the council to decide on the ordinance. If passed, Sterling Heights will be added to the group of 33 cities and counties who have already passed such ordinances.

Learn more at *Don't Change Yourself: Change the Law* <http://dontchangeyourself.com>

## Creep of the Week

Bob McDermott **OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI**

If there’s one thing middle school students don’t need it’s sex education. Because sex is icky and makes some people uncomfortable. It also makes some people gay.



Bob McDermott

At least that’s the missionary position being taken by Hawaii Rep. Bob “Anus” McDermott, who was so freaked out by the state’s sex ed curriculum, which is called “Pono Choices,” for the tween set that he threw an 18 page tantrum over it which he titled “Sexualizing the Innocent.”

Let’s turn our attention to section 3.1 of his report: “Mischaracterization of the Human Anus.”

“The Pono Choices program defines the word ‘genitals’ to include the anus, and the term ‘oral sex’ to include ‘mouth on genitalia,’ with the anus included among ‘genitalia,’” McDermott writes. “The anus, however, is not a genital. The anus has no role in human reproduction.”

Ah, I see. If you can’t make a baby with your sexing, then it’s not sexing, it’s some kind of deviant act for perverts. Which is why McDermott is totally going to STOP ALL BUTT SEX FOREVER in Hawaii.

**It is likely that Hawaii middle school students will see a similar plunge in the number who receive crucial sex education, resulting in even more teenage pregnancies (the rate in Hawaii is pretty high already) and STD.**

For evidence, McDermott’s research skills mimic those of the 8th graders he is trying to save from a life of anal. “A simple search on WebMD.com reveals an article that plainly states that the anus was designed for feces, and that it lacks the natural lubrication for intercourse,” he writes.

Ah, yes. “A simple search on WebMD.com” is all you need as evidence that you are right about butts and the rest of Hawaii is wrong, so help you God. Not coincidentally, the phrase “a simple search on WebMD.com” likely appears in “reports” about why Obama Care is terrible and how folks had been doing just fine diagnosing their own cancer via “a simple search on WebMD.com.”

In any case, McDermott’s stink eventually ended up changing the middle school sex ed program from “opt out” to “opt in.” In other words, previously if a parent was also afraid of the anus and of “normalizing” homosexuality, that parent could exempt their child from having to learn about their bodies and a pretty big part of human life.

But now parents have to opt in, which means they need to tell the school that, yes, they don’t want their children to be uneducated and knocked up before they are 15.

This might not seem like a big deal on the surface, but “opt in” programs are much harder to manage than “opt out” ones. Compare it, for example, to this country’s organ donation program. If you want to donate your organs to help another human being stay alive, you have to opt in to the program. It isn’t hard, but there are a shit load of people who might be fine with donating their organs, but don’t bother to do it. Thus plenty of healthy organs are pitched, and we have plenty of people on organ transplant lists who die. Countries that use an opt out system for organ donation have a far higher rate of donors.

And so, it is likely that Hawaii middle school students will see a similar plunge in the number who receive crucial sex education, resulting in even more teenage pregnancies (the rate in Hawaii is pretty high already) and STD.

So congratulations, Bob “Anus” McDermott. You have earned your nickname.

## S-S Kissing AD 1300



### Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Speaking of contemporary bad times, global warming, world conflicts, trouble and turmoil, epidemics, on-going territorial elbowing - sound all too familiar? - there's large-scale European precedent dating back 700 years.

Curiously, the climactic catastrophe of abysmal year 1315 also marked the end of church-sanctioned, same-sex marriages that had been tolerated for previous decades. Yes, the blessing of same-sex marriage is nothing new.

Details are provided in a new history, "The Third Horseman: Climate Change and The Great Famine of the 14th Century," by William Rosen (Viking Group Press).

Writes Rosen, "In May 1315, it started to rain. It didn't stop anywhere in northern Europe until August. Next came the coldest winters in a millennium. Two separate animal epidemics killed nearly 80 percent of northern Europe's live stock. Wars between Scotland and England, France and Flanders and two rivals claimants to the rule of the Holy Roman Empire destroyed the remaining farm land.

"After seven years, the combination of lost harvests, warfare

### The end of same-sex marriages and blessings came in 1306 A.D.

and pestilence would claim six million lives - one eighth of Europe's total population."

As for same-sex marriages, Rosen comments, "Through the thirteenth century, ceremonies that can only be called homosexual marriages - so called spiritual brotherhoods that were sanctioned by priests, using the same prayers as 'traditional' marriage, including the joining of right hands at the altar, followed by the ceremonial kiss - were being performed in churches throughout the Mediterranean."

Quoted is a letter written by the most famous scholar in emperor Charlemagne's court, Alcuin, to a bishop with whom Alcuin was infatuated. "I think of your love and friendship with such sweet memories, reverend bishop, that I long for that lovely time when I may be able to clutch the neck of your sweetness with the fingers of my desires."

The most notorious same-sex scandal of that same period was between England's Edward II and his paramour, the beautiful courtier Piers Gaveston. Edward paid for his erotic worship and folly by banishment and eventually having a red-hot poker shoved up "his nether eye."

The end of same-sex marriages and blessings came in 1306, when the Byzantine emperor decreed that sex between men would officially become a forbidden activity like incest and sorcery. Humbuggery!

A full treatment of the early history of same-sex marriage in the early Christian Church is by Yale historian John E. Boswell. His book, "Same-Sex Unions in Pre-Modern Europe," was published in 1994, the same year that Boswell died from AIDS-related complications. It's the best reference source on the topic.

Might one ask, is it possible that the 21st Century global warming might harbinger the end of same-sex marriages? Who knows? What's past is unfortunately too often prologue.

Charles@pridesource.com



THE CAT CAME BACK

## Viewpoint: Respectful Care For All

BY LORI LAMERAND

On the day that he started his first real job, W. got a call from his college partner who had just tested positive for HIV. W. needed to get tested.

The news was a sobering wake-up call for W. As a teen, he'd received sexual health education as a part of the Planned Parenthood Mid and South Michigan (PPMSM) peer education program, a leadership development group that trains teens about how to talk to their peers about abstinence, safer sex, healthy sexuality and healthy relationships. It was within that context that he came to accept and embrace his own identity as a gay man.

"It was surreal that I'd spent so much of my time talking about safer sex, only to be faced with the consequences of my own unsafe choices," he said. "I got tested and I was HIV-negative. I was stunned. That experience has given me a second-chance. It's allowed me to recognize that even with all of the information and tools for safer sex, sometimes we still choose to be unsafe. We're all human."

W. epitomizes PPMSM's core belief that people deserve quality health care with respect and without judgment. We are tireless in our efforts to provide education and information so that

The LGBTQ community faces low rates of health insurance coverage, high rates of HIV/AIDS and cancer and high rates of discrimination from medical providers.

people can make their own health decisions.

We understand that the LGBTQ community faces greater obstacles to obtaining and benefiting from sexual and reproductive health services than the community at-large. In addition to high rates of stress due to systematic harassment and discrimination — which has been shown to effect physical and mental health — the LGBTQ community faces low rates of health insurance coverage, high rates of HIV/AIDS and cancer and high rates of discrimination from medical providers. LGBTQ people of color are at an even higher risk for these disparities.

This is why our 17 health centers from Detroit to Benton Harbor are safe spaces for LGBTQ patients who come to us for everyday health care, including annual exams, cancer screenings, breast health, testing and treatment of STDs and HIV tests. And it's why we touched more than 13,000 people last year with sensitive and accurate information, education and resources on sexual orientation, gender and gender identity

to youth, parents, and men and women of all ages.

Don't let the hetero name fool

you. Planned Parenthood is about safe, healthy sexuality for all. Our 61,000 patients annually don't comprise any one identity, and we're grateful for the many volunteers, staff and supporters of all genders and identities who work every day to ensure that people in Michigan get the health care and information they need—no matter what.

For appointments or more information on a health center near you, call 734-926-4800 or go to [ppmsm.org](http://ppmsm.org).

Lori Lamerand is the CEO of Planned Parenthood Mid and South Michigan. PPMSM offers affordable reproductive health care through medical services, education and advocacy. Ninety-seven percent of our services are focused on cancer screening, Pap tests, breast exams, birth control, vasectomies, sex education (including abstinence) and diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS. With 17 health centers serving 31 Michigan counties, PPMSM serves more than 61,000 women, men and teens each year.





Tim Retzloff graduated in May with a doctorate in history from Yale University.

# Time Capsule: Michigan's Dr. Tim Retzloff Chronicles Detroit's LGBT History

at Yale University producing the 680-page dissertation that includes 100 maps and images. The result was "City, Suburb, and the Changing Bounds of Lesbian and Gay Life and Politics in Metropolitan Detroit, 1945-1985."

The document presents a fascinating look at multiple facets of gay life in Detroit and its surrounding suburbs during those four decades: police crackdowns when gays met in cars or popular meeting spots during an era when homosexuality was looked at as a mental illness; the burgeoning bar scene when gay bars more than doubled from 1965-1985; an all-women commune called

Geneva House that served as sort of the nerve center for the lesbian community of metro Detroit for much of the 1970s; the popularity and acceptance of black drag performers; lively characters like Prophet Jones, who was featured regularly in the Saturday Evening Post, Time, Newsweek and Life magazines in the 1940s and 1950s.

Detroit, indeed, had no shortage of gay stories to tell from 1945-85, and Retzloff was committed to telling them. He just didn't always know how he was going to get it to print.

## The Long And Winding Road

Retzloff graduated from Flint Northern High School and went to University of Michigan-Flint, but when he came out, he felt isolated and alone like many gay people in that era. Depressed, he became a college dropout. He worked at the Flint Public Library and later the UM-Flint Library, and continued to work full-time (later at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor Library) even after returning to college on a part-time basis. It was there, in the information-rich halls of libraries, that he was able to indulge his love of LGBT history.

That love led him to connect cars and the LGBT lifestyle in Flint in a published contribution to a 1997 anthology on LGBT history, despite the fact that he was a college dropout at the time. It also guided him to write an institutional history of gays and lesbians at the three campuses of University of Michigan, his first paid history gig.

When he became a volunteer writer at Between The Lines in 1993, he was again able to fuel the passion that drove his life.

"Part of my motivation," he reflected, "was that it gave me an opportunity to write about history."

Retzloff, with his mountains of LGBT history research, began to realize that he needed to write a dissertation so that his research could find a home. And to write a dissertation, he had to finish his college degree and eventually get his doctorate. He moved to Ann Arbor in 1995 and went to UM-Ann Arbor, where he also worked at the UM-Ann Arbor Library.

Coming from a family that his mom described as "upper poor" required Retzloff to work his way through college and acquire the numerous grants, fellowships and financial assistance he received to get through Yale University, where for eight years he worked under the tutelage of well-known LGBT historian George Chauncey.

Somehow, between the college and the work, he also found time to be an LGBT advocate, though when asked about his advocacy work he initially draws a blank. Retzloff then recalls – "Oh yeah" – he was part of Dignity Flint in 1975, the Stonewall Forum and one of the initial gay and lesbian

groups at the University of Michigan-Flint. He attended his first PRIDE event in 1986, hence why he ended his dissertation in 1985 so as to not be part of the story.

"Tim has always been interested in the past, in cataloguing it and understanding it in relationship to what is happening right now," said longtime friend Julie Enszer, a visiting assistant professor at the University of Maryland. "He cares about our history and getting it right. I really admire the deep research he's done. It's an incredible array, and really, a gift to us all."

Indeed, Retzloff's dissertation leaves few parts of gay life untouched – city to suburban, white to black, female impersonators to tough lesbian bars, cop arrests in cars, outside bars and in popular gay hangouts and the politics that bloomed from all of it.

Welcome to a glimpse of Detroit, circa 1945-1985, via Retzloff's dissertation.

## Cops Focus On Gay Lifestyle

For much of the period Retzloff covered, homosexuality was still considered a mental

See Dr. Retzloff, page 10

BY JIM LARKIN

It wasn't a college degree or even a doctorate that led Tim Retzloff to compose his dissertation on gay life in metro Detroit from 1945-85, but rather his passion to write the dissertation that led him to get his doctorate at Yale last month.

Well, that and his keen desire for Detroit to have a gay introspective done on it, just as such other major cities as New York, San Francisco and Chicago have had done.

"Detroit has never been done – nothing on the scale as your San Francisco or New York – and I thought it important that it should be," said Retzloff, a Flint native and former Ann Arbor and current East Lansing resident. "It has played a pioneering role in gay liberation, particularly in the early 1970s when Detroit had the first city charter that included protections for gay people."

Detroit was also home to a Catholic conscientious objector by the name of Brian McNaught who staged a hunger fast to call attention to the plight of gay Catholics in 1974, which drew national attention. It was home to an all-male revue of female impersonators who toured the country from Denver and Seattle to Casper, Wyoming and Orange, Conn. from 1935-1940, before returning home to play in the bars in Detroit and suburban Hazel Park – "A testament to the raging popularity of men transgressing gender for nightclub audiences on the eve of World War II."

Retzloff was fascinated. And he went over and beyond to provide that four-decade plus look at gay life before same-sex marriage was even whispered. He conducted 408 interviews, went through 100,000 court records over a span of eight months and spent eight years



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# Pugh Update: Civil Suit Filed

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

**DETROIT** - A week after a federal judge ruled that he could not sue the city of Detroit outside of bankruptcy court, a former high school student has filed a lawsuit against former Detroit City Council President Charles Pugh seeking \$1 million in damages. The suit also lists as defendants Detroit Public Schools, former Emergency Managers Robert Bobb and Roy Roberts, high school principal Berry Greer and assistant principal Monique McMurry.

In his complaint, Khody Sanford, who was a member of the Charles Pugh Leadership Forum at Frederick Douglass Academy for Young Men, said DPS "was aware of Defendant Pugh's physicality, favoritism and sexual harassment toward certain students, and particularly plaintiff."

As previously reported in *Between The Lines*, Pugh took Sanford to Madison Heights on the last day of school last year where he bought him dress clothes and a cell phone. Once Sanford had the phone, he began exchanging explicit text messages with Pugh and, at the politician's request, filmed a video of himself masturbating in exchange for \$160 to be used toward prom expenses.

The relationship ended when Sanford's mother, Tamu Gaines, discovered the messages. She filed a report with the Madison Heights Police Department, but Oakland County Prosecutor Jessica Cooper found no evidence that a crime had been committed and declined to file charges.

Now the civil suit alleges sexual harassment. But a look at the text messages included in the Madison Heights police report show Sanford, who was 18 at the time, as a willing participant in the relationship.

"I need games and money," Sanford said in one text message.

"I got you," Pugh replied, encouraging him again to make a video. "Just quit being so damn scared."

"I'm making the vid when I get home," Sanford said. "I'm serious as f\*\*\*."

"You guys need to know how to WORK the guys with power and money who have crushes on y'all," Pugh responded. "You got the HOOKUP, bro. You just don't know how to work it. You could get anything you want from me."

According to the lawsuit, Pugh's behavior in the matter was "intentional, extreme, outrageous and of such character as to be intolerable in a civilized society."

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- Stonewall activists dies at 93

## ► Dr. Tim Retzlloff

Continued from p. 9

illness by most. It wasn't until 1974 that the American Psychiatric Association stopped classifying it as a mental illness. The social and legal attitudes were decidedly anti-gay, unlike today's mounting acceptance of same-sex marriage and anti-discrimination protections of LGBT residents.

So the gay men in most of the period Retzlloff studied took great risks in going to gay bars or other hangouts and took even greater risks in approaching anyone for sex.

The most famous incident: The 1959 arrest of music idol Johnnie Ray as he was leaving the Brass Rail bar on Adams St. across from Grand Circus Park.

"Court cases from the mid-1940s to the mid-1960s help document the individual trauma of the men who underwent arrest. Court cases also give some glimpses of who patronized Detroit's gay bars during the first decades after the war," Retzlloff wrote.

"Those who were prosecuted ranged in age from 19 to 69, with an average age of 38. Eighty-five percent lived inside the city and 15 percent in the suburbs. Nearly a third resided in apartments or rooming houses, all in Detroit. Their occupations included a steelworker, a funeral director, two accountants, a mechanic, a teacher, a welder, a nurse, a dressmaker and several clerks.

"[For the cases where marital status was documented] more than half of the men were single and living independently, more than a quarter lived with their parents and close to 20 percent lived with female wives. Such statistics suggest trends that were likely common among bar-going gays in metropolitan Detroit in the early postwar decades."

## The Girls Bar

Although Detroit's gay bars were primarily male, there were some for women, and the most infamous may have been The Palais, which opened in 1949 at 655 Beaubien, three blocks from police headquarters. It was nicknamed The Pit because of all the fights there, and for the fierce way in which lesbians

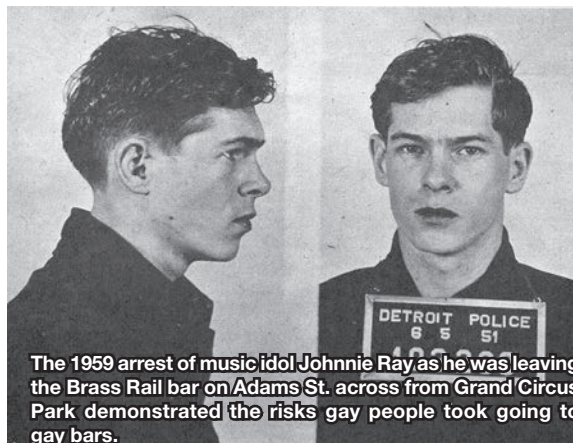
would physically defend their turf.

"Stories abound of straight men showing up to pick a fight," Retzlloff wrote.

"And they would have the shock of their lives when this great big huge woman would grab them and throw them through the fu... window," said Jerry Moore, who Retzlloff interviewed.

The Palais was the first gay bar Brandy Maguire ever went to in 1961, when she was 21.

"I'm sitting there at this table, and I had never seen people dancing together



and I'd never seen people kissing like this," Maguire told Retzlloff. "And this was so traumatic for me. Then all of a sudden a fight broke out, and I mean a fight. These girls were hitting each other, they were knocking tables over, chairs, shoving across the room, they even fought out into the streets."

Because of its closeness to police headquarters, The Palais frequently garnered their attention. It racked up unspecified liquor violations, liquor license renewals were denied and oddly enough—several men were placed under arrest for accosting and soliciting a plainclothes vice officer.

"Gay men," Moore said, "knew not to go there without a female chaperone."

## A Lesbian Commune

Lesbians also made their mark in gay housing. While commune style living may be more synonymous with San Francisco, the Detroit area had its own lesbian commune in the early 1970s when a small group of women took an ordinary wood-frame house at 96 Geneva St. at the corner of Second Blvd. in Highland Park and turned it into a lesbian-feminist sanctuary.

Geneva House had its origins with a feminist guerilla street theater troupe that performed on the Wayne State University campus and around downtown Detroit, but soon shifted to an all-lesbian commune that founder Jaye Spiro said housed the "Dyke House Gang."

Generally, five women lived at Geneva House at any given time, along with several pets, in an area that was racially mixed. There were four bedrooms, with one resident putting up a hammock to sleep in. One of those residents, Merilee Melvin, said "We all had very bad haircuts and there was a lot of no bra stuff and cotton T-shirts, baggy jeans; there was no dressing up. No girly stuff, it was a very anti-femme scene. And the Geneva House was sort of that thing."

"It kind of became, to some extent, a kind of lesbian community center," Melvin explained. "The Wayne State Gay Liberation Front would refer calls from women to our phone number. So we became this sort of informal lesbian helpline. And I remember talking to people on the phone. Man! Because in the early '70s, it was really hard to get information about what it means to be a lesbian."

## A Look At Black Gay Life

Gay African Americans, meanwhile, had widely different options because they were largely unwelcome at the white working-class gay bars around Farmer and Bates during the 1940s and 1950s. Female impersonation became perhaps the most visible and celebrated aspect of black gay culture in the early 1950s and was presented by several nightclubs, including Uncle Tom's Plantation, Club Casbah, the Old time Café, later known as Al's Castle Rock Night Club and Sportree's Music Bar.

The performers became local celebrities, among them being Prescilla

See next page



Prophet Jones leaving Vice Squad

Dean, Baby Jean Ray, Princess DeCarlo, LaMarr Lyons and Valerie Compton.

Gala drag balls created a world of shared fantasy and opulence and were important and distinct to Detroit's black gay subculture. Yet, oddly enough, the Michigan Chronicle abruptly stopped reporting on black drag after its coverage of a 1953 Halloween ball.

Some black gay and lesbian Detroiters,

meanwhile, enjoyed private house parties such as those thrown by Ruth Ellis and her partner Ceciline "Babe" Franklin in their East side home, where Ellis ran a printing business.

"Ellis' parties filled a void," Retzloff explained. "For one, it was a place where black gay people could dance, which particularly appealed to lesbian attendees who could avoid the social pressure to dance with men that they felt when they visited Detroit's black nightclubs. The parties were also where black gay people would have fun together without pretense or fear."

And then there was Detroit religious leader Prophet Jones, whose arrest and acquittal on morals charges garnered national attention. Even before then, his flamboyant ways drew followers in the thousands and articles in national publications. And it suggested a conflict among middle class blacks and black gay people.

"As attested by the sudden press blackout on black performance and by the negative response of some in the black middle class to Prophet Jones in the early and mid 1950s, those embracing middle-class propriety often put gay African Americans in messy tension with their straight black neighbors," Retzloff wrote.

## What Happens Now?

As Tim Retzloff looks at the two bound volumes of his dissertation, he notes that eight years of his life is tied up in them, but actually his work on Michigan LGBT history goes back decades more and bits and pieces of his life are scattered throughout the dissertation. It's scattered in the love of LGBT history he has fostered, in the research he has picked up along the way and in his hardline attention to detail.

Now that it is complete, he knows it is soon to be out of his hands and into the hands of a publisher. A huge phase of his life will be over and he will continue teaching LGBT history at Michigan State University and living in East Lansing with his partner of 14 years and husband of four years, Rick Yuille. What will he do then?

"I want to see it through to publication," Retzloff said, adding later, "I'd like to eventually be teaching on a tenure track."

Ah, but that's not what his friend Julie Enszer sees him doing. She sees the dissertation, which she has read portions of, as much too valuable.

"He cannot rest," Enszer said. "I will not let him rest until I see it in book form."

## 'Raising The Steaks' To Support Affirmations

Logan's Roadhouse will be supporting the LGBT community of metro Detroit every first Thursday for the rest of the year in their "Raising the Steaks" effort. In support of Ferndale's LGBT community and resource center, Affirmations, all seven Metro Detroit locations will donate 20 percent of every dine-in and carry out purchase from 4 p.m. until close on the specified Thursdays to the center and the LGBTQ community. The percent of these purchases, pre-tax, includes beverages. To participate, customers need to print out a specially coded ticket or pull it up on their smartphones. The ticket can be found at [www.goaffirmations.org/logans](http://www.goaffirmations.org/logans).

"It feels great to have our local Logan's Roadhouse team reach out in support of equality by providing such a generous opportunity," said Jon Fitzgerald, Interim Executive Director at Affirmations. Logan's Roadhouses can be found in Roseville, Shelby Township, Troy, Southgate, Canton, Livonia and Auburn Hills.

## Pints Of Pride: Support Jim Toy Community Center

Bill's Beer Garden will be hosting "Equality on Tap!" in support of the Jim Toy Community Center this Thursday. The new Ann Arbor beer garden will generously donate \$1 of every beer sold to JTCC, which is known for its service and support of all LGBTQA people in Washtenaw county.

Bill's Beer Garden is a seasonal beer garden that is open six days a week in the spring and summer. The Ann Arbor establishment has been fully open since 2013, serving a range of Michigan craft beers and wine, including a current selection of Bell's, Founder's, New Holland Brewing and Wolverine State Brewing ales, among more. Food can be brought into the garden from Mark's Carts, eight different food carts adjacent to Bill's.

Equality on Tap will run from 5 until 11 p.m. on Thursday, June 12 at Bill's Beer Garden, 218 S. Ashley St., Ann Arbor. For more information, call 734-369-8001 or visit [www.jimtoycenter.org](http://www.jimtoycenter.org).

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## ► Pride

Continued from p. 4

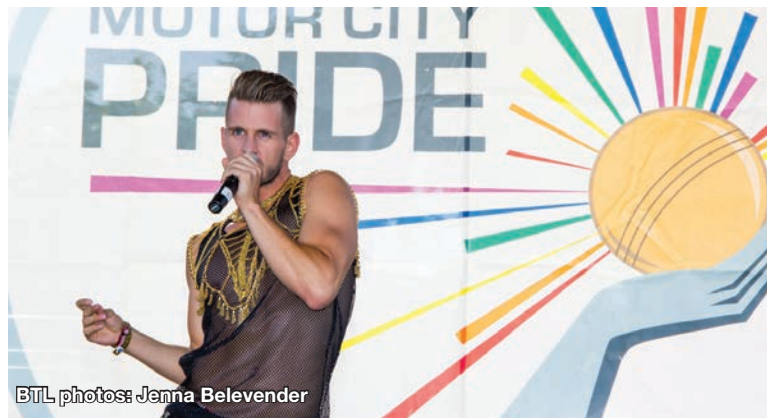
“It’s such a revelation of the different communities. It’s nice to have slices of different cultures and different groups, different whatever expressions. It’s wonderful,” Whitehead smiled. “And it’s such a huge place, and it’s nice to see that everybody is here.”

The group debated whether or not Motor City Pride should have a country music stage. Even though, according to Maguire, that’s what L.A. has, Brown disagreed firmly. But they would like to see more dance floors, perhaps featuring Hip Hop or Disco.

“I would like to see more shade, literally and figuratively,” Brown said.

“What I am impressed with most at Pride is the people. And how it is so easy to be in one area without a lot of arguing and bickering, and that you can actually show a positive image of the community instead of the negative situations and the stereotypes that you see. So the community has done themselves proud,” Wheeler nodded.

While Pride is a place of excitement and joy, it’s also a time to remember those in the community that we have lost. Shannon Hill was there with her kids and boyfriend, Kasey. This past week there was a death in Hill’s family. After taking her time to grieve, Hill came out to celebrate Pride. Her loved ones and family were all surprised to find her at the festival this weekend but Hill, posted at the



exit, wanted to be nowhere else.

“I’ve been allied all my life. I was raised by a gay man. People are astonished that I’m actually here today because my father passed away on Wednesday. But I couldn’t figure any other way to honor him than to be here supporting what he worked for as well. And supporting my trans boyfriend,” Hill said smiling.

She reached for his hand as they both passed out bags with the other one. The pair has been together for just over three years and plan to stay together for a while longer, enjoying the journey of life-together.

“Supporting pride is the only right thing to do. I raised my daughters, over here passing out bags for us, like that, too. She’s an ally and a part of the Gay Straight Alliance at school. I raised my kids that you don’t judge people and

that you love everybody for everybody,” Hill smiled.

## Pride Parade

For 35 collective years Dann Federico, Rick Farrand and Bob Enszer have been coming to MCP. They are Michigan natives and traveled all the way from Saginaw to celebrate this past weekend.

They were standing on the corner of Fort and Griswold waiting for the parade to start. Parade walkers and floats could be seen at the starting area in front of the Chrysler building, lined up and poised for action. You could hear the Equality Michigan chant all the way down Griswold.

“What do we want?”

“Equality!”

“When do we want it?”

“Now!”

“I just hope that Michigan will accept marriage equality for everybody,” Farrand said. “It’s so disappointing that we aren’t there yet and we got so close. Just didn’t make it.”

His two friends both nodded. “Even with all the rain. It’s still bringing us out. We got close, but still not there yet, but hopefully soon,” Farrand said.

Parade Grand Marshals were the DeBoer-Rowse family. Parade special guest star and Detroit’s own comedian Robert M. Nelson also hyped up the town. The parade had everything that one would expect: flying rainbow beads and tootsie rolls -- one practically had to duck to not get hit. Candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives, Nancy Skinner, walked with her team and shook the hands of attendees. Drag Queens fanned the flames of excitement for the parade. And bringing up the rear was the Detroit Derby Girls who skated along flying a huge rainbow flag, each one of them with a big smile on their face.

This year, the family area was expanded to include face painting, visits by a Dr. Dinosaur, puppet shows and a petting zoo. Organizers put in an Elder Pavilion providing seniors a place to rest and get some shade. 120 different organizations came out in support including



Top: Vagner Whitehead, Amir Brown, John Maguire, Darius Wheeler and Michael Einheuser. Bottom: Alexis Lafaramboise, Drew Empson, Paul Flood, Kate Bickley and Lindsay Paupert. BTL photos: Jenna Belevender

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Me, Myself &

# Lily Tomlin

The Interview Even She Can't Wait To Read

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

It's nearing the end of my 40-minute chat with Lily Tomlin when she steps off her feminist soapbox and wonders what just happened.

"I can't wait to see what you make of this conversation," says the Cass Tech grad, who performs June 14 at Hill Auditorium as part of the Ann Arbor Summer Festival. Along with the sexual ambiguity of Ms. Frizzle and the hope she has for her hometown, the 74-year-old comedian is referring to the broad scope of our interview: the Rolling Stones diatribe that provoked someone to attack her with a hairbrush, her favorite "dick painting" as a kid and, naturally, "The Beygency."

**So, Lily, you're kicking off the Ann Arbor Summer Fest on June 14.**

Oh, am I kicking it off?

**You and Edith Ann.**

Edith Ann – that little bitch.

**As a Detroit native, have you been keeping tabs on what's going on here?**

I have, yeah, quite a bit.

**What's your hope for Detroit?**

My hope for it is that it's gonna rise. It can't get much more beat down, and I think with all the young people and artists moving there, I pray to God something happens, that life comes back to it. I mean, Detroit was – how old are you?

**I'm 31. I didn't experience it like a lot of people did, but my generation is helping to revive it.**

Oh, that's so fabulous! I'll tell you, it was such

a great city. It was really a good-looking city too. It was fun, it was gritty, it was political. I grew up near Clairmount and 12th Street – those are my old haunts. The old apartment house I grew up in was burned in the '67 riots – that was where I spent my whole early life.

**When you return to Michigan, do you drive around your old stomping grounds?**

Yeah, I actually do. I usually try to go to the art museum. There's a painting there – Bruegel's *The Wedding Dance* – that hangs low on the wall. It's really a beautiful painting, and all the townspeople are dancing and the men have codpieces so they look like they have erections. When you're a grade school kid going there on a field trip, it hangs right at eye level for a 7- or 8-year-old. It was the most fantastic dick painting I had ever seen. (Laughs) I shouldn't have done it, but I did steal a snapshot of me in front of the *Wedding Dance* – with the flash!

**A selfie before selfies were a thing?**

Well, I had someone else take it. We were covert. Anyways, Detroit was fabulous. Maybe everybody feels that way about their hometown, but I do think Detroit was special. To see what's happened, it kind of ruins your heart. It just ... it holds so many memories for me, so much sensory stuff, that it's hard for me to get that it's not the way that it was, even though I know empirically it isn't – I've been there many times. If I come to Detroit, you can turn me on to some places to go by.

**Is your wife, Jane Wagner, coming with you?**

Most likely she won't. She's not from Detroit at all – she's from Tennessee – but she doesn't like to travel that much.

**Even though you two just got married last year, you've been together for 150 years.**

(Laughs)

**How much did taking that step change your**

relationship? Did it change it at all?

We've been together 43 years and it changes in the sense that, "Yeah, we're married, that's right." But what changed most is, we got letters from relatives. Pretty much everybody (in our family) is Christian Fundamentalist, and I grew up in the Baptist church, so I'm acquainted with all that stuff, and we got a lot of letters from our relatives congratulating us. That was pretty surprising.

**You never made a big to-do about your sexuality, but have you noticed how much pressure the media puts on celebrities to come out? What are your thoughts on the media's obsession with outing people?**

I just talked to somebody not even two or three days ago and they were saying, "Don't you think celebrities should come out? All of them!" I said, "No, because I don't know what their circumstances are." They can't be responsible to everybody. As far as making a big declaration about your own sexuality, I'm not gonna be the one to judge what other people do unless they're doing something really horrible and destructive and ugly. They can still support the gay issues and gay causes and women issues and so on, and they can support positive constructive things in the society, but I'm not gonna stand in judgment of another individual.

**In the upcoming Netflix series "Grace and Frankie" you're back together with Jane Fonda, your "9 to 5" co-star. What's it like working with Jane again?**

Jane and I are good friends. I email, talk to her, see her, but we don't work together formally until August. Right now the writers are all writing. They've chosen a director. They've chosen Tate (Taylor), who directed "The Help." We don't know who the husbands are gonna be yet - we're still waiting. But everybody's throwing names in the hopper.

**Dolly Parton recently expressed interest in reuniting with her "9 to 5" co-stars on the series, as well.**

I think that would be fabulous, glorious - the three of us! You know, we tried forever to get another "9 to 5" script together before we all got older, so yeah, I would love her to be on the show.

**Whatever happened to the sequel?**

I guess one of us might have agreed and someone didn't, or they wanted this change or they wanted that change. We shouldn't have been so fussy. It could've been managers. Who in the hell knows. You know, (director) Colin Higgins died - that put a wrench in the work.

**Were you surprised "Malibu Country" didn't get a second season pickup?**

Yeah, I thought it would just because of Reba, if nothing else. The thing is, it was replaced by "Neighbors."

**And "Neighbors" was recently canceled.**

"Neighbors" didn't even do as well as we

## INFO

### An Evening with Lily Tomlin

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did in the time slot, but I heard it was (ABC executive) Paul Lee's favorite show. He chose "Neighbors" over us.

**Ah, that's disappointing.**

(Laughs) You said it. I loved Reba as a person. I had so much fun being her mother, because she's like a 10-year-old when she gets to talking to you. Oh, Jesus - she kills me.

**Did you at least get to keep your custom-made grandma wig?**

Well, I paid for it, I reckon so.

**Then, yeah, you better be keeping it.**

I always pay for my own wigs because I don't wanna give them up.

**As a feminist trailblazer, what do you think of modern examples of feminism, like Beyoncé and "Girls," for instance?**

Well, how do you represent that? What does that mean to you?

**Yeah, well, I guess that's what I'm asking you.**

(Laughs) You mean Beyoncé's total use of her body? Is that what you mean?

**Yeah, a lot of people think of Beyoncé as a feminist, as somebody who embraces herself as a powerful woman - she's even called herself a "modern-day feminist" - and I was curious to know your thoughts on that.**

Yeah, well, I think that's great, and what can I say? She is a pretty popular woman and she's married to a very powerful man, but she's still selling sex. She's selling a lot of sex to teenyboppers. I don't know. Who are her fans? Everybody?

**Everybody loves Beyoncé, Lily, and if you don't there's "The Beygency," which is, according to "Saturday Night Live," a secret government agency who takes down anyone who doesn't.**

Oh, shit. I like her! I don't dislike her! But I don't pay any attention to that because - I mean, she's fantastically beautiful and dances, but, you know, it's very suggestive. If I was a 10-year-old, I would try to emulate her like most 10-year-olds do.

For me, young girls are too sexually available! I got in trouble with the show "Girls" because I was doing a junket and 80 people come through from different publications or networks or whatever to interview you. So, this girl comes in and she goes, "What do you think of 'Girls'?" I said, "I haven't really watched it that much." That was the truth!

So, I shouldn't even talk about Beyoncé

See Lily, page 23

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Photo: Epic Records

# It's A Sad World After All

## Duo Talks Crying, Christina & Being Queer

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

You're still crying, aren't you? And that's OK. We all are.

That's just the kind of reaction "Say Something," the sleeper hit by A Great Big World featuring Christina Aguilera, rouses every time it's on, and I do mean *every time*. Because it's on a lot. Peaking at No. 4 on the Billboard Hot 100, the brutally honest, heart-wrecking weepie became a surprise smash, leading the way for Ian Axel and Chad Vaccarino's debut, "Is There Anybody Out There?"

Before their June 26 performance

at the Royal Oak Music Theatre, the New York duo chatted about making you cry, nabbing Neil Patrick Harris for a musical they're writing and being more gay than straight ... for now anyway.

**There's probably not a single person who hasn't heard "Say Something." On that song, you pretty much opened your diary up to the world. What's it like sharing a song that's so personal to you with so many people?**

**Ian:** You know, to think there's not a person in the world who hasn't heard the song, that's crazy. That's just crazy. That just hit me.

When we wrote this song we were both going through a really dark place. We wrote it four years ago, and I'm speaking for Chad too, and though it's still a part of us, we're in a completely new place emotionally and spiritually. It almost feels like the song moved through us from some greater place and helped us,

and now it doesn't feel like ours anymore. It feels like it does belong to everyone. It feels bigger than us, so I feel slightly removed. It's hard to process what it's like sharing your diary with the world, and I don't know if it's a defense mechanism, but I almost feel like I'm removed from it. It's hard to explain.

**Chad:** We write as therapy for ourselves. That song in particular was definitely, for me, a moment of closure in my personal life and, yeah, I like that the song ends unsettled. I actually found a new perspective and I did find resolution for what I was going through, so it's amazing that other people are relating to it.

**Ian:** I feel like it's a long-winded answer, but it's an important question that you asked. It's just magical, everything that's happening. It really is. There's no other word for it.

And you got Christina Aguilera on

### INFO

#### A Great Big World

7 p.m. June 26  
Royal Oak Music Theatre  
318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak  
royaloakmusictheatre.com

**the track. What was it like meeting her? Not just recording with her, but getting to know her. Was she more or less the diva that you expected? Do you call her Xtina?**

**Chad:** (Both laugh) We call her Christina, but I'm pretty sure Ian and I talked about that before going into the studio with her – whether we should call her Christina or Xtina. We didn't know!

**Ian:** Or, when we wrote an email to her, do we address it to Xtina? (Laughs) We were scared to meet her because we had no idea what to expect, but she's totally chilled out and she invited us over her house

a couple of times and we played paintball with her in her backyard. We just shot the shit. She's an amazing human being and you really get to know that when she's in that relaxed off-mode. It's been really cool to see both sides.

**How aware are you of a gay following?**

**Chad:** We definitely have their support and I feel like it's growing.

**Ian:** We have a song called "Everyone Is Gay" and when we play that at shows it really seems to be resonating in a positive way, so whether our audience is gay, straight, bi, the people that come to our shows are open-minded and have huge hearts.

**That track in particular sounds very Broadway. What inspired the actual music on that song?**

**Ian:** When we got asked to write

See Great Big World, page 19



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# Sunrise, Sunset: Lansing Celebrates Summer Solstice

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

Downtown Lansing's Old Town district plays host to "celestial" events this June with the Festivals of the Sun and Moon.

Hosted by I Love Old Town, each festival plays tribute to the summer solstice in unique and exciting ways. The first of the festivals, the Festival of the Moon, celebrates one of the shortest nights of the year with its 10th-year running. The event features music, fine wine, craft beer and food from some of the Lansing area's best restaurants, bars and more. Mark Grinnell and Parade of Lights serve as some of the night's entertainment.

The party continues into the following day with the Festival of the Sun. Celebrating the solstice for 15 years, the event features two stages of entertainment. Similar to the prior night's event, Festival of the Sun includes fine wine and craft beer, as well as a gourmet food tasting event. Bell's Brewing will provide much of the beer while Mark's Gourmet Dogs and Aggie

Mae's Bakery will be some of the featured food vendors.

The two-day event also features an artistic addition to the solstice parties: Old Town Scrapfest. The competition showcases art composed of scrap metal collected by various teams. Each team has an hour to collect up to 500 pounds of scrap from Friedland Industries' scrap facility, then two weeks to construct a masterpiece. The finished artworks are then displayed at the Festival of the Moon and auctioned off at the Festival of the Sun. Accomplished artists and community members serve as judges in the contest. Forty percent of the proceeds from Scrapfest go to the artist, with another portion donated to the Old Town Commercial Association (OTCA) to "further their mission of community and economic development in Lansing's historic and artistic Old Town."

I Love Old Town is a feature of OTCA, a non-profit organization dedicated to the revitalization of Lansing's Old Town.

Through socioeconomic development, historic preservation, community outreach and business recruitment, the group works on providing livable, walkable and friendly streetscapes. The group hosts other Lansing events throughout the year, including Lansing JazzFest and the Old Town Chocolate Walk.

The Festival of the Moon begins at 6 p.m. on Friday, June 20. The Festival of the Sun will run from 2 to 11 p.m. Both events will be held at Parking Lot 56 and Burchard Park on the corner of Grand River Avenue and Turner Street in Lansing's Old Town district. Tickets are \$17 in advance, \$20 at the door for each individual festival. A weekend pass for both events is \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door. Tickets can be purchased at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com).

Both events are 21 and over, held rain or shine, and are fundraising for OTCA.

Visit [www.festivalofthemoonandsun.com](http://www.festivalofthemoonandsun.com) or [www.iloveoldtown.org](http://www.iloveoldtown.org) for more information, or call Grace Guerra, festival director, at 517-485-4283.



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## ► Great Big World

Continued from p. 16

that song (for EveryoneIsGay.com), we sat down at the piano and that's really the first thing that came out. I feel like we're both influenced by musical theater and there's a couple of songs on the album that are more theatrical than others, but it was our original intention to write a musical together and we just ended up singing the song.

**Chad:** That song in particular was definitely an effort to finally write a song that we would've loved to have heard when we were kids, when we were growing up. I was bullied in middle school and I would've loved to have heard someone tell me that it's OK and your confusion is absolutely OK and you don't need to define yourself and label yourself right now. We were coming from that perspective when we were writing it, and we're hoping that it does resonate with kids and everyone. We wanted to have fun, but we wanted it to be a sort of anthem.

**Chad, you recently told Entertainment Weekly, "Why do you have to label yourself at all? We're all somewhere in the middle and we're all on this spectrum of sexuality." Does that mean you fall in the middle of the Kinsey scale?**

**Chad:** Yeah. I mean, I don't know if I'm in the middle. (Laughs) I feel like I'm more gay than I am straight, and I've been with girls in my life and I've been with guys. I'm drawn to a human being, so it's hard. You're so used to defining yourself and labeling yourself, and you kind of want to because it's easier – it gives you a path or a direction – but you don't need to. I think we both believe that you love who you love.

**Tell me something about the musical you're working on.**

**Chad:** (Laughs) Well, we're working on a musical and, um, Neil Patrick Harris – and uh, that's it.

**Ian:** Yeah, no, no, no!

**Chad:** It's a heartwarming comedy and it's our music on steroids. Also: Sorry, I just wanted to say that I mentioned Neil Patrick Harris as a dream actor/singer in this musical. That's who we're aiming for.

**The first time I heard "Say Something," and even the third and fourth time, I bawled my eyes out. While writing or performing the song, have you just lost it?**

**Ian:** Absolutely. We cried like babies. At least I did. I don't think I ever cried more (than I did while) writing this song. I'm not a religious person but it was like a religious experience and it changed my perspective on everything. It felt like I was praying writing that song.


**Chad:** Yeah, like I said before, it feels like I didn't actually know I was heartbroken until halfway through the songwriting process of that and I gained a new perspective on a toxic relationship I was in, and by the end of writing that song I finally found closure.

**How does it make you feel knowing you've broken so many hearts with that song but also mended many of them too?**

**Chad:** I know that Ian is gonna disagree with me, but it really hurts me knowing that people relate to the song in a similar way. I know that pain and Ian knows that pain and it hurts and it sucks, and to know that other people are going through that, it's amazing because we're not alone but it's also painful to know that other people are hurting.

**Ian:** You need to feel the pain to heal. It's just part of the process, and the fact that people can feel what we felt, I mean, we're all in this thing together.

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# Escapism, Meet The Inescapable

BY CAROLYN HAYES

The Germans of the early 1930s had suffered war (and the loss thereof) as well as economic desperation; they were ready for a cause and a champion to unite them in optimism and national pride, and they found one. Anyone with even a fleeting grasp of history knows this is a most generous spin on a power surge that soared to indescribable levels of terror and viciousness. But the musical “Cabaret” (music and lyrics by John Kander and Fred Ebb; book by Joe Masteroff) aims to provide an enticing explanation for the inadvertent complicity of a population. In the production now at Farmers Alley Theatre, director Kathy Mulay leads the denizens of one provocative Berlin nightclub blindly toward the inevitable, but gives in to the hindsight shared by the audience, increasingly hinting at the evils to come.

Protagonist Clifford Bradshaw (Colin Woodside), an insolvent American novelist, arrives in Berlin on the eve of a new year, seeking inspiration. What he finds is the Kit Kat Club, a seedy cabaret infamous for its onstage depravation and offstage extension of sexual freedom and fluidity. There, he meets headliner Sally Bowles (Elizabeth Swearingen), a perennially social English gamine with vague ambitions of stardom – and a sudden, pressing need for a place to live. In a tumult of scenes inside and outside the club, Clifford, Sally and the people surrounding them alternately herald, decry or ignore the encroaching political storm, which increasingly interrupts and stampedes over private lives in service of its “higher” purpose.

For this production, Farmers Alley has reconfigured its seating to be fully in the round, with entrances on all sides. It’s a challenge especially well met by choreographer Melissa Sparks, who maneuvers a lot of skimpily clad bodies into spinning patterns in the club’s splashy, exciting production numbers. Notably, there’s a sort of wholesome raciness to the high kicks and pelvic gyrations here, executed with vigor by the athletic octet of Kit Kat Girls and Boys; wiggling in hot pants notwithstanding, this feels a little more like a dance troupe than a herd of try-anything degenerates in the sex trade. Given the puzzle of an empty space and no back wall, scenic designer W. Douglas Bickle configures a handful of lightweight, easy-moving furniture pieces and doorways into countless scenarios that never impede the view. (Also visible are strategically placed television monitors showing offstage conductor and co-music



“Cabaret” continues at Farmers Alley Theatre through June 29. Photo: Farmers Alley

## REVIEW

### Cabaret

Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday & 2 p.m. Sunday through June 29. 2 hours, 40 minutes. \$33-35. 269-343-2727.

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

director Cynthia Hunter, from whom the actors take their cues – not a perfect solution, but one that plainly helps to optimize a sophisticated sound design by Les Batts and show off the array of vocal talent.) The transitions are blindingly efficient, helping this long show move along briskly, and even making room for a generous allotment of properties, which make a veritable grocer of designer Tony Holewinski.

The single, malleable space also makes it possible for Mulay to introduce unconventional conceptual choices that push the unspoken Adolf Hitler and his oncoming reign toward the foreground. This leads to a dissonant blend of the furtive, seeming safety of “in here” with the unrestricted ominousness of “out there”; additionally, lighting designer Lanford J. Potts lends dramatic flourishes to scenes outside the club as well as in, maximizing the overlapping hubbub. These bold interpretations add dark underlines to the intimations of the scripted fare, and even an exclamation point or two, trumpeting the broad-strokes progress of this community from goosing to goose-stepping.

Critically, the obviousness of the impending moral atrocity requires the characters to be willfully ignorant to the point of complete self-involvement. This is most poorly homed in the grim

Swearingen, whose unmatched selfishness calls into question how she ingratiates herself to anyone, let alone lives off of others’ good graces. Opposite the smiling blankness of Woodside’s observant spectator, the central duo seems to find each other chemically and physically repellent, distancing themselves from each other as vehemently as they do from what Germany is becoming.

In point of fact, the pinnacle of the production concerns people interacting not with the political landscape, but primarily with each other. In Barbara Marineau (as the aging landlady Fraulein Schneider) and Dirk Lumbard (as the widower and German Jew Herr Schultz), the show delivers a sparkling romance, reveling in the joyous highs of life and love proceeding despite the outside world, and lamenting the pitiful, tragic lows beyond their control. The actors play and sing together with exuberance, even as they make heartfelt decisions based on the information available, as well as their own experience and flawed convictions. Theirs is the most touching story arc on the basis of its gentle humanity, but the exceptional performances and touches of sweet humor lend it stratospheric impact.

This “Cabaret” aims to clearly track the descent of everyday German people – the upstanding and decent, as well as the fringe and degenerate – into the innocuous trap of Nazism and the abominations that followed. The production’s subtext is overt, its condemnation clear. The musically decadent show delivers on its promise of nightclub pizzazz and titillation, but the viewer is not permitted to slip into pure escapism, as the deadly historical endgame is always lurking at the periphery.

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# Happenings

## OUTINGS

### Thursday, June 12

**Twisted Games** Party games and fully nude strippers. 18+. Spiral Dance Bar, 1247 Center St., **Lansing**. 517-894-1315. [Spiraldancebar.com](http://Spiraldancebar.com)

**Nerds Under the Rainbow** 6:30 p.m. This month, Nerd Nite Detroit will be contributing to metro Detroit's LGBTQ+ celebrations with a night filled with science and discussion. We invite you to come out and hear some great speakers as they help us understand some of the issues, history, and biology of gender, sexual orientation, and LGBTQ+ communities. Cover: \$5. Nerd Nite Detroit, 715 E. Milwaukee, **Detroit**. [nerdnite313@gmail.com](mailto:nerdnite313@gmail.com) [Detroit.nerdnite.com](http://Detroit.nerdnite.com)

### Friday, June 13

**Cereal City Grand Cereal Parade** 6 p.m. BCPRC will participate. Battle Creek Pride Resource Center (BCPRC), **Battle Creek**. 269-924-9035. [battlecreekpride@yahoo.com](mailto:battlecreekpride@yahoo.com)

**Drag Queen Bingo** 7 p.m. A fun alternative to your usual weekend hot spots. Shows get out just early enough for you to hit the local clubs or bars! Refreshments from our full coffee bar (coffees, teas, smoothies), sodas, water, and more. Tickets: \$20. 18+. Five15, 515 S. Washington Ave., **Royal Oak**. 248-515-2551. [Five15.net](http://Five15.net)

**Womyn's Film Night** 7 p.m. Film: Bully- Exploring the subject of school bullying from a personal angle, this eye-opening documentary tracks the stories of five different families whose children are struggling to defend themselves on a near-daily basis. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [Goaffirmations.org/](http://Goaffirmations.org/)

**Free, Confidential HIV Testing** 7:30 p.m. Provided by licensed professionals from C. A. R. E. S. If this service is not used at the Pride Center, it cannot be continued so please come out and be

tested and support this program. Battle Creek Pride Resource Center, 16 E. Van Buren, **Battle Creek**.

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

**Second Parent Adoptions** 7:30 p.m.

different color of the rainbow. A portion of proceeds to benefit Battle Creek Pride. Partners Bar, **Battle Creek**. 269-964-7276. [Partnersbar.com](http://Partnersbar.com)

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**Kalamazoo Pride Brunch** 11 a.m. Dr. Sharon Groves of HRC speaks. Tickets: \$35. KGLRC, 125 S. Kalamazoo Mall, **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. [jay@kgirc.org](mailto:jay@kgirc.org) [kgirc.org](http://kgirc.org)

**West Michigan Pride Festival** 1 p.m. Parade at 12 p.m. The LGBT Network of West Michigan, **Grand Rapids**. [GrLgbt.org](http://GrLgbt.org)

**X the Line-Peer Educators** 2 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [dsmith@goaffirmations.org](mailto:dsmith@goaffirmations.org) [Goaffirmations.org](http://Goaffirmations.org)

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## Editor's Pick



It will be "anchors aweigh" when guests set sail on June 21 for a Detroit River cruise and tea dance aboard the Diamond Belle, a mini-ship that was built in 1958 and operated as a Mackinac Island Ferry until the 1980s. Guests alike will enjoy three levels of fun, light refreshments, a 50/50 raffle, two cash bars, dancing on the top deck under the sun and a special performance by Miss MIC 2014 Lisa Summers.

The three-hour cruise accommodates up to 250 guests and offers a summertime panoramic view of the Detroit and Windsor shorelines. Proceeds will benefit the Motown Invitational Classic (MIC), Michigan's oldest and largest LGBT bowling tournament. The cruise will run roughly four hours.

Boarding for the river cruise starts at 12:45 p.m. on Saturday, June 21 at Stroh's River Place, just south of Jefferson Avenue on Joseph Campau St. Tickets are \$25. For tickets and more information, call 2014 MIC Co-Director Bill Havican at 313-727-4101 or email [billhav2003@yahoo.com](mailto:billhav2003@yahoo.com).

The Federal Sixth Circuit Court in Cincinnati will be hearing arguments this summer not only on the right of Michigan same sex couples to marry, but also to adopt each others' children. Learn more about this issue, from both a legal and a personal perspective, at this event. Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Hwy, **Southfield**. 248-549-5170. [Uujustice.org/conferenceregistration2.html](http://Uujustice.org/conferenceregistration2.html)

### Saturday, June 14

**Color Party** Each party themed around a

Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, **Kalamazoo**. [kgirc.org/pride](http://kgirc.org/pride)

**World's Longest Breakfast Table** 8 a.m. Serving breakfast with community festivities. Battle Creek Pride Resource Center (BCPRC), **Battle Creek**. [battlecreekpride@yahoo.com](mailto:battlecreekpride@yahoo.com)

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

**Brufest** 6 p.m. Royal Oak Farmers Market, 316 E. 11 Mile Road, **Royal Oak**. 248-246-3276. [ci.royal-oak.mi.us](http://ci.royal-oak.mi.us)

**Motor City Bears Monthly Meeting** 6:30 p.m. Non-members welcome. Motor City Bears, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [Meetup.com/Motor-City-Bears/](http://Meetup.com/Motor-City-Bears/)

**Harmonies & Hues: A Chorus of Color** 7:30 p.m. An evening of

See Happenings, page 24

# Local Church Welcomes LGBT Community

BY AJ TRAGER

**TROY**—Central Woodward Christian Church (CWCC) will host Welcoming Diversity, a one-night event on June 21 showcasing two photography exhibits by Family Diversity Projects as well as a performance by The Detroit Together Men's Chorus.

CWCC seeks to be a religious voice of inclusion and support for diversity. Associate Pastor Rick Modglin-Green has been with CWCC for the last three years and says, as a gay man, he received a very warm welcome from the church.

"CWCC has had LGBT members in the past and the previous pastor was very open to the LGBT community," Modglin-Green said.

Modglin-Green and the CWCC chose to host an LGBT event because many places of worship struggle to include

LGBT persons of faith in the life of the church.

"Unfortunately, the voice that we hear often from the church isn't a positive one," Modglin-Green said. "We wanted to be a voice that is positive and inclusive. We want to demonstrate that to the LGBT community and the community at large."

The exhibit comes to CWCC by way of Family Diversity Projects, a non-profit organization devoted to educating the public about issues relating to the full range of diversity.

Two of seven award-winning photo exhibitions that FDP has on national and international tour include "We Have Faith," showcasing LGBT clergy and people of faith speaking out to help open minds and hearts, and "Love Makes A Family," which features diverse families.

Early childhood educator and photographer Gigi Kaeser captured

the exhibit photography and Peggy Gillespe the director of Family Diversity Projects provided the interview material strung up next to each of the individual photographs.

Modglin-Green has been with his partner for 19 years and really wants to see more LGBT representation in places of faith.

"Just having a voice to the LGBT community and the community at large will help. Not everyone is represented by those who seem to be the ones who speak out the most."

The event is free to the public, but CWCC will be accepting donations that will be given to the Ruth Ellis Center. Doors open at 6 p.m. to allow attendees to view the artwork. The Detroit Together Men's Chorus performs at 7 p.m. Central Woodward Christian Church is located at 3955 W. Big Beaver Road.

## ► Lily

Continued from p. 15

because, hard as it is to believe and as much as she is present in the culture, I'm not terribly conversant with Beyoncé. If you played her songs, I wouldn't necessarily recognize them. I'm familiar with her image and how incredibly vivacious and sexual she is to watch, so I just chalk it up to the culture. I don't pay any attention to it anymore.

The culture is so sexualized with girls and women. I was in a recording studio and a little girl who was about 4 years old was watching TV, and somebody's dancing on the TV in very elaborate sexually overt dance steps and the little girl goes, "Oh, she's hot." I'm thinking, this is a 4-year-old!

**She should be thinking about playing with her Barbies – wait, no, even Barbies are sexualized, so never mind.**

(Laughs) She should be thinking about penetrating the Barbie or something, or bringing Barbie and Ken – I don't know what she should be thinking about! But stop it right now! You're gonna put words in my mouth! The whole Beyoncé thing is gonna come after me. They'll send Solange after me. I'll be in the elevator and they'll beat the hell out of me.

Jay-Z and Beyoncé are their own thing. I mean, they come swathed in a culture that is wide and deep, and that's great. They make a lot of money. I don't know what else they do. I don't know about them.

Listen, I was one of those people all through the '60s. Because rock 'n' roll was a male-dominated culture, as a feminist, I railed against it. I railed against the fact that girls were used sexually, that they would just follow guys all over the planet. I cannot defend my state of my mind, that's what I was thinking at the time. Look, when the Rolling Stones had that album "Black and Blue And Lovin' It" – whatever it was called (editor's note: it was called "Black and Blue") – it showed a woman bound, sitting on a chair with her hands behind her back. She's black and blue, she has bruises all over her. I mean, this was part of marketing!

I got into a big fuss with someone. I had a hairdresser on a movie and she started railing against these teenage girls, the way they went around and behaved. I said, "They're an effect of the culture. Why do you support a culture?" She threw a hairbrush at me. She got so mad. She was mad at the girls, she was blaming me, the victim, the subject. I said, "How do you like the idea of a little 12-year-old girl down there at Tower Records going through those bins and seeing this cover with this girl bound and black and blue?" The Stones, a very powerful group, is extolling this as the ideal feminist image, like, "Yeah, yeah, this is how she should be: black and blue and loving it."

**What's the ideal feminist image to you?**

There is none. I'm totally existential. I have no investment in the society or anything. Anything that could happen – I'm way too

beyond that mark to think that I'm gonna change it.

**Well, you should know that one of my sheros is Ms. Frizzle of "The Magic School Bus," who you voiced in the '90s. There's an ideal feminist – am I right?**

(Laughs) Now you're talkin'! But we don't know – does Ms. Frizzle have a BF or a GF? We don't know.

**But you know she could take down Solange in an elevator.**

(Laughs). Say I said that. Get a whole thing going where Beyoncé's people are gonna come after me because I said, "Ms. Frizzle could take down Solange in an elevator."

**On it. But seriously: I grew up with Ms. Frizzle and my life motto's always been, "Take chances, make mistakes, get messy."**

Aw, see, that is so worth life.

**What an icon she is, though.**

Ann Richards, ex-governor in Texas – she's now dead – had a leadership school called Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders. They asked me to speak to the students who are all young girls. They had no idea who I was. Finally I thought, "What's wrong with you, Lily?" I said, "I do the voice of Ms. Frizzle on 'The Magic School Bus'!" They all cheered! They were so absolutely excited. I was home-free. Then, the most wonderful thing: This young girl stands up, she had to be 10 or 11 years old, and she goes: "Ms. Tomlin, what do you think you've contributed to the world with your work?" I stopped dead. I said, "I hope I've caused people to feel more connected." They thought that was admirable. To them, that was good enough.

**People don't make the connection that you voiced Ms. Frizzle, do they? When you're a kid, you think Ms. Frizzle voices Ms. Frizzle.**

We were at Jane's sister house a few years ago when her niece and nephew were little, and they're sitting on the couch with me and Ms. Frizzle was on. They didn't believe I'm Ms. Frizzle, so Ms. Frizzle would say something and then they'd turn real fast to me and say, "You say it!" I had to audition for Ms. Frizzle. (Laughs)

**I had a wonderful time chatting with you, Lily. Always do.**

Yes, yes. You were a lot of fun. I'm gonna write you right now. I've wanted to do something for Detroit, and I've been in touch with all these people but I have never done anything substantial. I'm not holding back here, Chris. Gonna dive in with both feet. You'll probably be leading the charge of the Beyoncé takedown.

**I promise you I'm not affiliated with The Beygency.**

Right. I'll think everything's cool and you'll lure me to a meeting place and they'll all be there waiting for me.

**If I get you in an elevator, you might wanna run.**

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## Editor's Pick



Diana Ross comes back home this week with her "In The Name Of Love" Tour. The Detroit native first rose to fame as part of The Supremes, one of the most successful Motown acts of all time. Her solo work later continued her place as a music legend.

The 70-year-old singer is touring in support of her wide collection of works. Ross will be performing the greatest hits from her career.

Ross will perform at 7 p.m. on Friday, June 13 at Freedom Hill Amphitheatre, 14900 Metropolitan Pkwy, Sterling Heights. Tickets are \$10-89.50. For more information, visit [www.aeglive.com](http://www.aeglive.com) or call 586-268-9700.

## Happenings

Continued from p. 22

singing and rainbows. One-Voice Chorus, 1000 Cranbrook Road, Bloomfield Hills. Facebook.com/events/1381897745398895/

### Sunday, June 15

**Get Out Bike-Stony Creek Metropark** 10 a.m. Get Out Bike, 4300 Main Park Dr., Shelby Township. Meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

**Maybury Hike** 11 a.m. Lezlike, Northville. Meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

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

**Pet Loss Support Group** 1 p.m. Colleen O'Brien, founder of Blue Dog Counseling, is an expert at developing creative therapeutic interventions to support individuals, couples, families, and other groups with grief. Does not require an RSVP. Humane Society of Huron Valley, 3100 Cherry Hill Road, Ann Arbor. 734-662-5585. Hshv.convio.net

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

**Pride NA** 6:30 p.m. Confidential and anonymous. Open to all individuals impacted by addiction. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., Kalamazoo. 269-349-4234. Kglrc.org

**Bi Weekly Support Group** 7 p.m. This group is designed to give its participants an opportunity to brush up and practice the skills of the healthy self. Fee: \$60. GOAL, 1026 W. 11 Mile Road, Royal Oak. 248-613-9230. Denisejoseph.com

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

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

### Tuesday, June 17

**Foster Care Orientation** 5:30 p.m. Give Hope. Become a Foster Parent. Please join us in this training class to learn more about how you can help children

in need by becoming a licensed foster parent! Discussion includes the steps it takes to becoming a foster parent, the types of children that come into care, the rules of being a foster parent, and much more! We are currently in need of families to care for sibling groups, teens, and children with disabilities, however we welcome and appreciate all families that can provide care for our children. Free. Judson Center, 4410 W. 13 Mile Road, Royal Oak. 313-794-5653. Foster\_Care@judsoncenter.org Judsoncenter.org

**June Networking Night** 5:30 p.m. West Michigan's LGBT professionals group. OutPro, 2237 Wealthy St. SE, East Grand Rapids. Facebook.com/outpro

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

**Circle of Life: Pet Ownership Discussion and Support Group** 6:30 p.m. Led by a licensed counselor. Share stories, frustrations, grief and successes. Tail Waggers 1990, 28402 Five Mile Road, Livonia. 734-855-4077. Tailwaggers1990.org

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

**Public Issues Forum** 7 p.m. This group studies and profiles local and state political issues and candidates. Battle Creek Pride Resource Center, 16 E. Van Buren St., Battle Creek. Battlecreekpride.org

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

### Wednesday, June 18

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

**Taste of Dearborn** 5:30 p.m. Tickets: \$30-40. Taste of Dearborn, 22100 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. 313-584-6100. Bit.ly/TasteDearborn2014

**Toastmasters Meeting** 6 p.m. Do you have fear of public speaking? Well

never fear Toastmasters is here! Come join us and learn to how to get over that fear. Kick-The Agency for LGBT African Americans, 41 Burroughs St. Ste. 109, Detroit. 313-285-9733. rma411@gmail.com

### Thursday, June 19

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

**Free HIV Testing** 2 p.m. Free anonymous HIV testing offered at S3. Call ahead for an appointment, or walk-ins welcome. S3 Safe Sex Store and HARC, 1209 S. University, Ann Arbor. 734-741-1434. info@bak-inc.com S3safesexstore.com

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

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

**Gender Hormone Counseling Sessions** 6 p.m. Darnell Jones, RPH and GNA, will conduct one on one counseling sessions for the transgender community. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

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

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

## MUSIC & MORE

### Comedy

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

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**AEG Live** "The Kids in the Hall" Tickets: \$47.50. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 6 p.m. June 14. 248-399-2980. [royalokmusictheatre.com](http://royalokmusictheatre.com)

## Concerts

**822 Gallery** "Poetry Reading Series" Call gallery for exact times. 822 Gallery, 822 W. 11 Mile Road, Royal Oak. Feb. 14-July 11. 248-202-6073. [Soaklandart.com](http://Soaklandart.com)

**Ann Arbor Summer Festival** "Ann Arbor Summer Festival" A variety of entertainment, themes and more throughout the festival. Various, Ann Arbor. June 13-July 6. [A2sf.org](http://A2sf.org)

**AEG Live** "Diana Ross" Tickets: \$10-89.50+. Freedom Hill Amphitheatre, Sterling Heights. 7:30 p.m. June 13. [Aeglive.com](http://Aeglive.com)

**Arbor Opera Theater** "Jazz at the Mendelssohn" Tickets: \$10-25. Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 N. University, Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. June 16. 734-763-8587. [Arboropera.com](http://Arboropera.com)

**Blind Pig** "Saintseneca" 18+. Tickets: \$20. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 9 p.m. June 12. 734-996-8555. [Blindpigmusic.com](http://Blindpigmusic.com)

**Detroit Symphony Orchestra** "John Williams & Steven Spielberg: A Benefit Concert for the DSO" Tickets: \$30-250. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 14. 313-576-5111. [Dso.org](http://Dso.org)

**Flint Institute of Arts** "The Party" Expect the unexpected in theme, food, diversity of entertainment and transformed environment welcoming the beginning of summer. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 7 p.m. June 14. 810-234-1695. [Flintarts.org](http://Flintarts.org)

**Saugatuck Center for the Arts** "BJ Thomas" Tickets: \$40. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. 8 p.m. June 13. 269-857-2399. [Sc4a.org](http://Sc4a.org)

**The Ark** "Carolina Chocolate Drops" Tickets: \$35-60. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 18. 734-761-1800. [Theark.org](http://Theark.org)

## THEATER

### Civic/Community Theater

**Dead and Deader** \$17. Get A Clue Mystery Theater at Farmington Unitarian Universalist Church, 25301 Halstead Rd., Farmington. June 13 - 14. 248-536-2447. [www.Eventbrite.com/e/dead-and-deader-by-eileen-moushey-tickets-11747403801](http://www.Eventbrite.com/e/dead-and-deader-by-eileen-moushey-tickets-11747403801)

**Or** \$12. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at A2CT Studio, 322 W Ann St., Ann Arbor. June 20 - 22. 734-971-2228. [www.a2ct.org](http://www.a2ct.org)

**The King and I** \$7-15. The Twin City Players, 600 W. Glenford Road, St. Joseph. Through June 29. 269-429-0400. [www.twincityplayers.org](http://www.twincityplayers.org)

**The Sunshine Boys** \$7-24. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. June 13 - 22. 269-343-1313. [www.kazoocivic.com](http://www.kazoocivic.com)

**The Wizard of Oz** \$22-30 in advance; \$2 extra at the door (if available). Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. Through June 22. 248-541-6430. [www.stagecrafters.org](http://www.stagecrafters.org)

### Professional

**A Raisin in the Sun** \$15-24. Hope Sumer Repertory Theatre at Knickerbocker Theatre, 86 E. Eighth St., Holland. June 18 - July 1. 616-395-7890. [www.hope.edu/hsr](http://www.hope.edu/hsr)

**Boogie Woogie Swingtime** \$42 show and meal; \$37 show only. Cornwell's Dinner Theatre, 18935 15 1/2 Mile Rd,

Marshall. Through June 14. 269-781-4293. [www.turkeyville.com](http://www.turkeyville.com)

**Cabaret** \$33-35. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Through June 29. 269-343-2727. [www.farmersalleytheatre.com](http://www.farmersalleytheatre.com)

**Cole Porter's You Never Know** \$25-40. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. Through June 22. 248-377-3300. [www.mbttheatre.com](http://www.mbttheatre.com)

**ComedySportz** Michigan Actors Studio, 648 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. Through Aug. 30. 877-636-3320. [www.comedysportzdetroit.com](http://www.comedysportzdetroit.com)

**Coriolanus** \$7-14. Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company at Dog Story Theater, 7 Jefferson SE, Grand Rapids. June 19 - 28. [www.dogstorytheater.com](http://www.dogstorytheater.com)

Crane Maden \$10 adult, \$5 child. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit. June 7 - 28. 313-961-7777. [www.puppetart.org](http://www.puppetart.org)

**Detroit** Free. Summer Circle Theatre at Michigan State University Auditorium Building, Lawn by the Red Cedar River, Grand River and Auditorium Road, East Lansing. June 18 - 21. 517-355-6690. [www.theatre.msu.edu/index.php/productions/summer-circle-theatre/](http://www.theatre.msu.edu/index.php/productions/summer-circle-theatre/)

**Dirty Rotten Scoundrels** \$12-15. Great Escape Stage Company, 155 W. Michigan Ave., Marshall. Through June 14. 269-781-2700. [www.greatescapetheatre.com](http://www.greatescapetheatre.com)

**Endangered Species** \$17-20. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Through June 22. 313-868-1347. [www.detroitreptheatre.com](http://www.detroitreptheatre.com)

**Gay Play Series (GPS)** \$10-30. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. June 20 - 30. 248-545-5545. [www.theringwald.com](http://www.theringwald.com)

**Love, Loss And What I Wore** \$17-20. Two Muses Theatre at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. Through June 15. 248-850-9919. [www.twomusestheatre.org](http://www.twomusestheatre.org)

**My Dearest Friend** \$20. The Snug Theatre and Gem Theatrics at The Snug Theatre, 160 S. Water St., Marine City. June 12 - 22. 810-278-1749. [www.thesnugtheatre.com](http://www.thesnugtheatre.com)

**Old Love** \$20-25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. Through June 15. 517-655-SHOW. [www.williamstontheatre.org](http://www.williamstontheatre.org)

**Renegade Reading: Spoken Word** Free. Renegade Theatre Festival at Absolute Gallery, 307 E. Grand River, Lansing. 7:30 p.m. June 18. [www.renegadetheatrefestival.org](http://www.renegadetheatrefestival.org)

**Sandbox Play Festival** \$10-15. Tipping Point Theatre, Genittis Hole in the Wall, 108 E. Main St., Northville. June 20 - 22. 248-347-0003. [www.tippingpointtheatre.com](http://www.tippingpointtheatre.com)

**Shakespeare in Hollywood** \$35. Barn Theatre, 13351 W. M-96, Augusta. Through June 22. 269-731-4121. [www.barntheatre.com](http://www.barntheatre.com)

**So Long Until Tomorrow** Free staged reading. The AKT Theatre Project at James R. DeSana Center for Arts and Culture, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. June 14. 734-258-8370. [www.akttheatre.com](http://www.akttheatre.com)

**Stone Soup: A Wrap Opera** \$5-8. Wayne State Summer Children's Theatre at Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. June 19 - 29. 313-577-2972. [www.wsushows.com](http://www.wsushows.com)

**Storytelling in the New Leaf Lounge** Suggested for ages 18 and older. \$10. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8:30 p.m. June 19. 269-756-3879. [www.acorntheater.com](http://www.acorntheater.com)

**The Book of Mormon** From \$38.



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See Happenings, page 27

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Solution to puzzle from page 30

S	T	R	I	P		B	E	R	T		B	A	B	A	R
P	R	I	M	A		A	R	A	B		A	P	O	L	O
F	A	T	A	L		S	I	N	O		L	L	O	Y	D
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C	O	M	A		E	L	A	T	E	D		M	A	T	T
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B	R	E	T		A	T	H	E	N	A		E	I	R	E
B	E	D	E		B	E	E	P	E	R		C	A	N	E



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Partners in life and business: Kim Clark and David Fink, owners of The Acorn Theater in Three Oaks. Photo: Courtesy of David Fink

# Couple Transforms Small Town With Theatrical Entertainment

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

How do you get accepted in a small town pocketed in West Michigan if you're a gay couple? Simply have something they want and be willing to provide it.

That's the formula that Kim Clark and David Fink came to Three Oaks in Berrien County with, and they found themselves welcomed with great warmth and acceptance.

"They accepted us so immediately and warmly," Clark said. "They wanted what we had more than they wanted who we were. They became very close, warm friends almost immediately."

What they were offering was the renovation of a historic building in town that became The Acorn Theater, a place where professional acts come in every weekend offering high quality entertainment and a center for arts in Three Oaks.

In 2001, Clark and Fink began the process of renovating the 101-year-old corset factory building, eventually pouring \$300,000 into its refurbishing.

"We had a bed and breakfast at the

**“** *The world has changed a lot. Internet and television has had a lot to do with it. Gay people are not really as big a deal to the general public as it once was. So we just kind of live our lives and everything is OK.* **”**

- David Fink

time," Fink said. "We decided to do a variety show because there wasn't a lot to do in the area that didn't involve drinking. We produced a variety show that was cutting edge creative, and we sold out a bunch of shows."

That became the impetus for providing more entertainment in Three Oaks. Clark also said he was with Second City in Chicago at the time and wanted a place to rehearse.

"It was way less expensive to rehearse in Michigan than in Chicago," Clark said.

While renovating, they started out doing free theater in a park, involving a theater from Chicago. The shows targeted local high school students. All they had to do was pick up a ticket in a local restaurant or business and bring it to the park.

"They would have performers going behind trees and changing costumes," said Clark. "They were spectacular, and the kids laughed themselves silly. It was worth all the work we had to do. We still do free theater performances

See Acorn Theater, page 28

## ▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 25

Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 750 E Shaw Lane, East Lansing. Through June 15. 517-432-2000. www.whartoncenter.com/events/detail/the-book-of-mormon

**The Dixie Swim Club** \$35-41. The Dio - Dining and Entertainment, 135 E. Main St., Pinckney. Through July 6. 517-672-6009. www.diotheatre.com

**The Last Romance** \$18.50-42. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. June 12 - Aug. 30. 734-433-7673. www.purplerosetheatre.org

**The Red King's Dream** \$20-30. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Through June 29. 248-347-0003. www.tippingpointtheatre.com

**The Sound of Music** \$10-40. Arbor Opera Theater, Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 N. University, Ann Arbor. June 13 - 22. 734-763-8587. www.arboropera.com

**The Sound of Music** \$15-30. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre at DeWitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. June 13 - Aug. 7. 616-395-7890. www.hope.edu/hsrt

**The Summer Circle** Free. Summer Circle Theatre at Michigan State University Auditorium Building, Lawn by the Red Cedar River, Grand River and Auditorium Road, East Lansing. June 13 - 28. 517-355-6690. www.theatre.msu.edu/index.php/productions/summer-circle-theatre/

**The Weird** Free. Summer Circle Theatre at Michigan State University Auditorium Building, Lawn by the Red Cedar River, Grand River and Auditorium Road, East

Lansing. June 13 - 28. 517-355-6690. www.theatre.msu.edu/index.php/productions/summer-circle-theatre/

**The Wizard of Oz** \$24-79. Broadway in Detroit at Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. June 17 - 29. 313-237-SING. www.broadwayindetroit.com

## ART 'N' AROUND

**Berkley Chamber of Commerce** "Berkley Art Bash" Downtown Berkley on 12 Mile, 3117 W. 12 Mile, Berkley. June 14-June 14. 248-414-7222. BerkleyArtBash.com

**Cranbrook Art Museum** "Saarinen House: A Total Work of Art" 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. May 1-Oct. 31. 877-462-7262. Cranbrookart.edu

**Detroit Artists Market (DAM)** "Garden Party and Art Sale". Josephine F. Ford Sculpture Garden at the College for Creative Studies, Detroit. June 19. 313-832-8540. Detroitartistsmarket.org

**Detroit Institute of Arts** "Let Me Show You What I Saw: American Views on City and Country, 1912-1963" 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Dec. 1-June 29. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

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

**Henry Ford Museum** "Women Who Rock: Vision, Passion, Power" Women Who Rock is an unprecedented chance to revisit the musicians who helped shape the soundtrack of your life-innovators like Madonna and Aretha Franklin, Janis Joplin and Tina Turner and dozens of others. Henry Ford Museum, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. May 27-Aug. 17. 313-

982-6001. Thehenryford.org/events/womenWhoRock.aspx

**Level One Bank** "ART Exhibit Featuring Anthony Bacon" 22635 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. May 30-July 28. 248-414-6500.

**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


**Royal Oak** "Clay, Glass & Metal Show" One of the country's top art shows, the event features 125+ of the finest artists in clay, glass and metal work, who are selected by a jury process. The event also includes demonstrations and some specialty food choices. Downtown Royal Oak, Royal Oak. June 14-June 15. Ci. royal-oak.mi.us

**Saugatuck Center for the Arts** "The Lake Effect: Contemporary Art at Ox-Bow". Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. June 12-Aug. 23. 269-857-2399. Sc4a.org

**University Of Michigan Museum Of Art (UMMA)** "Three Michigan Architects: Part 2-Robert Metcalf" 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. April 1-July 13. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

**Womens National Farm and Garden Association** "Ann Arbor Garden Walk" This years Walk features seven private gardens with something for everyone-small space gardening, rain gardens, lush shade gardens, water features and more. 100 of proceeds from the Garden Walk benefit local organizations and projects related to horticulture, education agriculture and the environment. Several Gardens located on Devonshire Rd in Ann Arbor. Tickets: \$15. Ann Arbor, Devonshire Road, Ann Arbor. 10 a.m. June 14. Annarborfarmandgarden.org

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### ► Acorn Theater

Continued from p. 26

on Saturday afternoons in case people don't have money."

The couple, who have been together for more than 20 years, still split their time between Chicago and Three Oaks, which are approximately 70 miles apart. They also still have guestrooms as part of The Acorn Theater, where artists stay to work on artistic projects such as writing songs, novels or scripts. Clark and Fink share an apartment that is also in the former factory building.

The theater has 300 seats and brings in about 50 shows per year, along with regular weekly featured events. Along with the theater, there is a full Barton theater organ, a wine shop, bar and the guest rooms.

Clark said that novels have been started there, along with several albums, songs and two movies.

"It's just one of those places where

you almost can't believe it in action; it seems so normal, you take it for granted," Clark said. "If you are a performer or artist, there is no cost to any of this. You come and the only obligation is that you participate in life. You must not spectate in life. That's the only rule."

The Acorn also serves as a place for students from the local high school to meet and have gay-lesbian alliance meetings, with chaperones coming in from Benton Harbor and providing them with topics.

For the most part, no one mentions to them that their being a gay couple makes them stand out in any way. Fink says if people have a problem with them being a gay couple, they simply stay away, and he and Clark never hear about it. Even when Clark ran for Congress in southwestern Michigan, the issue of his being gay was never raised.

"The world has changed a lot," said Fink. "Internet and television has had a lot to do with it. Gay people are not really as big a deal to the general public

as they once were. So we just kind of live our lives and everything is OK."

They've also learned that a way to smooth things over with many performers is through their stomach.

"Performers are poor – they are really poor," Clark said. "If they have \$20 for dinner, that's huge. We now write it into the contract that they get a dinner. If they have any problems before about us being gay, they don't after. If you feed people, they are the most accepting people. Give them chicken and you have a friend forever. It's amazing."

The town has continued to grow into a downtown district that is warm and friendly to the arts, helping to transform this small farming community.

"We're helping audience members grow and discover new things and different things," Fink said. "They're learning about the world through entertainment. It's bringing a big world to a small town and taking away the fear of people who are a little different through exposure."

## DeBoer-Rowse Couple To Speak At Holland Pride

A lesbian couple that prompted the legal battle over same-sex marriage and adoption rights in Michigan will be coming to Holland on June 28 to help celebrate the second outdoor and 10th annual Holland Area PRIDE Festival.

Jayne Rowse and April DeBoer have committed to coming to the festival as a kickoff to the Holland Area PRIDE Committee's "LGBT Ally of the Year" award that will be awarded for the first time at the 2014 PRIDE Festival. The award and the criteria for it will be announced at this year's festival, which will be held on Saturday, June 28, from noon-6 p.m. in Centennial Park and 6-10 p.m. in The Armory.

"We couldn't think of a more deserving couple to help us announce the award than Jayne Rowse and April DeBoer, two ordinary people who have made a huge difference in the battle for LGBT equal

rights by having the courage to stand up for what is right," said Armi Scheving, who heads the committee's award panel.

Rowse and DeBoer, two Detroit-area nurses, filed a lawsuit last year attacking a Michigan law that prohibits them from jointly adopting children because they're not married. They expanded their challenge to the gay marriage ban approved by 58 percent of Michigan voters in 2004, which U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman overturned. His decision is currently under appeal.

Rowse and DeBoer have three adopted children and even Joseph Potchen, an assistant attorney general who argued against their case, said they are doing a "wonderful job" raising them.

Their coming to Holland, where they will give brief comments, will be the highlight of the 2014 Holland Area PRIDE Festival that will once again

include live entertainment throughout the day and night. During the day, booths by businesses and organizations supporting LGBT rights will be lined along Centennial Park and food and beverages will also be available. Some of the booths will hand out free prizes while others will sell wares and promote their organizations.

The noon-6 p.m. afternoon portion, which will feature many of the same live groups that made last year's festival successful, is free while a \$5 entry fee will be charged for the 6-10 p.m. evening portion, which will feature nationally known comedienne Jennie McNulty.

It will mark the second outdoor and 10th annual PRIDE Festival held in Holland. The premier rainbow sponsor is Herman Miller while other sponsors include West Shore Aware, Padnos, PNC and Hope Church.

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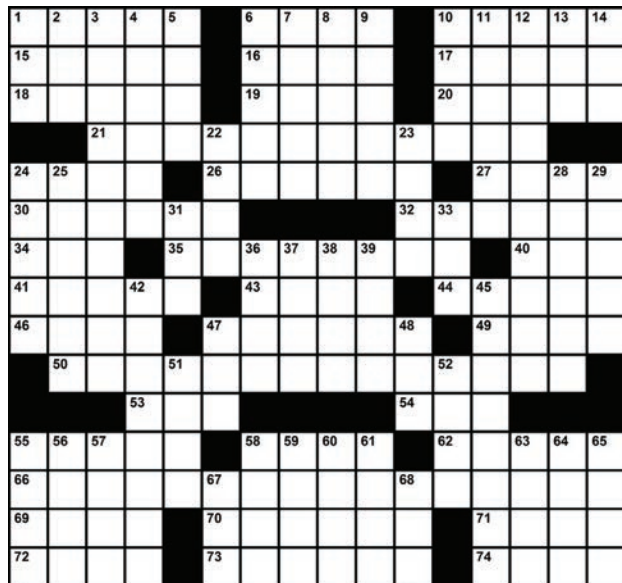
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# Q Puzzle Feat Of Clay



## Across

- 1 "Take it off!"
- 6 Lahr of "The Wizard of Oz"
- 10 Kid-lit elephant
- 15 \_\_\_ donna
- 16 Saudi or Iraqi
- 17 Speed skater Ohno
- 18 Glenn Close's "\_\_\_ Attraction"
- 19 Lorca's "but"
- 20 Andrew \_\_\_ Webber
- 21 Competition in which Clay Aiken sang
- 24 Unconsciousness
- 26 Ticked pink
- 27 LeBlanc of "Friends"
- 30 Girl in a Beach Boys song
- 32 Chatter, in Brit slang
- 34 Cry in a stuffy room
- 35 Start of Clay's comment on being in 21-Across
- 40 Rough stuff for miners
- 41 Shakespearean sonnets and such
- 43 What guns shoot off
- 44 "Return of the Jedi" creatures
- 46 Right in the head
- 47 Guy with a "third leg"
- 49 Stein fillers
- 50 More of the comment
- 53 Mission ending
- 54 Club for swingers
- 55 Hollow stone
- 58 Whale's "The Man in the Iron \_\_\_"
- 62 Rev devices
- 66 End of the comment
- 69 Mel's role with Jodie in \_\_\_Maverick\_
- 70 She sprang from the head of Zeus
- 71 Wilde country
- 72 Adam, created by a woman named George
- 73 It may vibrate when someone wants you to come
- 74 Fop prop

## Down

- 1 Lotion letters at South Beach
- 2 Sung syllable
- 3 "West Side Story" Oscar winner
- 4 Spencer Davis Group hit about Chaz?
- 5 Turn white
- 6 Spaghetti sauce ingredient
- 7 Lucci's Kane in "All My Children"
- 8 Tried to tackle tight ends, e.g.
- 9 Butcher's cut
- 10 Like Yul in "The King and I"
- 11 Grace under fire
- 12 Yalie's cheer
- 13 Hayworth's Khan
- 14 Fisherman's tool
- 22 Get juice from a fruit
- 23 Pastoral poem
- 24 Casino dice game
- 25 Drew Carey, e.g.
- 28 Studs of note
- 29 Strand in a drag queen's wig
- 31 Kit letters
- 33 Always, to Shakespeare
- 36 Uncommon, to Nero
- 37 Do a nocturnal activity
- 38 REM gear
- 39 Cloverleaf part
- 42 Plan to become wife and wife, e.g.
- 45 "Keep your pants on!"
- 47 Your, among Friends
- 48 Young lady coming out
- 51 Very, in Vichy
- 52 Cable syst.
- 55 Bee Gees family name
- 56 To be, in Toulon
- 57 Got a little behind
- 58 Not using the tongue
- 59 Queens tennis stadium
- 60 From A to B, to Debussy
- 61 Lucci in "All My Children"
- 63 "Pet" plant
- 64 One to blow on
- 65 Popeye's \_\_\_' Pea
- 67 A left or a right
- 68 Road topper

Solution on pg. 26

# Classifieds

## 01-ANNOUNCEMENTS LGBT AA MEETINGS

### Ann Arbor-Friday

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

### Bloomfield Hills-Sunday / Tuesday / Thursday

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

### Detroit-Tuesday / Friday

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

### Farmington Hills-Monday

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

### Ferndale-Monday / Wednesday / Friday

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

### Ferndale-Saturday

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

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

### Livonia-Friday

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

### Warren-Monday

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

## 101-ANNOUNCEMENTS LGBT AL ANON

### Diversity Wednesday Al- Anon Family Group

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

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

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

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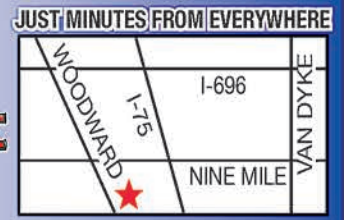
<p><b>2014 GMC TERRAIN</b></p>  <p><b>\$155*</b> month 24 MO. LEASE!</p> <p>SS. #00017</p>	<p><b>2014 BUICK REGAL TURBO</b></p>  <p><b>\$228*</b> month 24 MO. LEASE!</p> <p>SS. #00035</p>	<p><b>ALL NEW 2014 BUICK LACROSSE</b></p>  <p><b>32 MPG</b> <b>\$185*</b> month 24 MO. LEASE!</p> <p>SS. #00018</p>	<p><b>BUICK LUCERNE TO BUICK LACROSSE LEASE LOYALTY OFFER \$2000</b></p>	<p><b>2014 GMC SIERRA 1500 DBL CAB SLE 4WD</b></p>  <p><b>\$186*</b> month 24 MO. LEASE!</p> <p>SS. #000471</p>
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