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The Good, The Bad & The Ugly Of The 2014 Midterms

Out Candidates Hoadley, Moss Win State House Seats The thing I've learned is just never read comments about yourself on any gay websites.

– Andy Cohen, pg. 20





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#### **COVER STORY**

Marriage ban upheld by 6th



The Court is well aware of the injury they've caused with this decision. The majority opinion acknowledged that this decision 'deprives (gay couples) of benefits that range from the profound to the mundane.'

- Gina Calcagno, page 14



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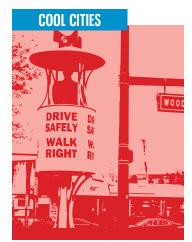
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# **Michigan Marriage Equality**

# Marriage Timeline & DeBoer Case

Jan. 23, 2012:

April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse file a lawsuit to try and secure second parent adoption rights — rights denied to LGBT partners under Michigan law.

At this time  $oldsymbol{6}$  states and the District of Columbia allow same-sex marriage.

# Sept. 2012: The lawsuit is amended, at the encouragement

The lawsuit is amended, at the encouragement of U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman, to challenge the Michigan marriage ban. Friedman states that the ban is what is prohibiting the couple from being able to legally adopt one another's children.

## March 2013:

U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman says he wants to wait for guidance from the U.S. Supreme Court (then considering the Prop. 8 and Windsor cases) saying "They're going to give us something to hang our hat on," while holding court in front of students at Wayne State University law school.

## June 2013:

The U.S. Supreme Court issues two positive same-sex rulings in the Prop. 8 and the Windsor cases. The Windsor case strikes down a critical piece of DOMA, the Defense of Marriage Act, paving the way for a wave of lawsuits across the country.

## Oct. 2013:

Judge Friedman tells both parties in the DeBoer v Snyder case that he wants to proceed to a full trial and does not issue a summary judgment that both sides had been pursuing.

By the end of 2013, **14** states and the District of Columbia allow same-sex marriage.

See Timeline page 6



April DeBoer with her partner Jayne Rowse and attorney Dana Nessel Nov. 6 at Affirmations Community Center. The 6th Circuit setback was a disappointment, however they and the legal team are moving quickly to take the case before the U.S. Supreme Court in 2015, BTL photo: A.I. Trager

# Marriage Ban Upheld By 6th Circuit

# Plaintiffs Will Seek Ruling From US Supreme Court

#### BY SUSAN HOROWITZ, JAN STEVENSON, AJ TRAGER AND TODD HEYWOOD

At 4:40 p.m. Nov. 6 the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati became the first federal appellate court in over a year to rule against the freedom to marry. The ruling overturned lower court decisions out of Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio and Michigan, all of which found that denying marriage to gay couples is unconstitutional. The 6th Circuit's decision is in conflict with favorable marriage rulings in virtually every court to this point, including the 4th, 7th, 9th and 10th Circuits and a strong majority of the American people.

The Michigan plaintiffs, April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse, who challenged the voter-approved ban on gay marriage, have been fighting for more than two years for the right to marry and adopt each other's special

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needs children.
They and Dana
Nessel and their
legal team gathered
at Affirmations
Community Center
in Ferndale last
Thursday, saying
they will now appeal
to the U.S. Supreme
Court.

"The decision that

we got today was a little bit on the disappointing side but we stand before you to tell you that we are going to continue to fight, and fight for the rights of our children. We will do whatever it takes to ensure that our children have rights here in Michigan and children like ours all over the states," April DeBoer said. "We were hopeful that the decision would come back in our favor. But we were also prepared, in the event that it didn't."

Rowse, the devoted parter of DeBoer, followed in a statement for the LGBT community, "There are many people out there who are in Ann Arbor, Lansing and all the other places that I'm sure are gathering and are behind us saying their prayers and knowing that this is going to go forward. We are so proud to represent all of you, all of your families that are just like our family."

Nessel said, "We're going straight to the Supreme Court." Nessel is the lead attorney for the two Michigan women. "We feel absolutely confident that the U.S. Supreme Court will accept one of the cases out of the 6th Circuit, most likely Michigan's or Kentucky's.

"We feel the Supreme Court was waiting for this," Nessel continued. "We're looking forward to this issue being resolved once and for all in this country, and I have every confidence that by the end of June 2015, there will be marriage equality in all 50 states."

In March, U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman declared the Michigan ban unconstitutional, but Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette appealed, arguing traditional marriage and the will of the voters needing to be upheld.

#### **Ruling**

The 2-1 vote by the 6th Circuit concluded that the definition of marriage should be left to the voters – not judges – and that voters should be allowed to decide whether gay marriage is a good idea or not.

"Of all the ways to resolve this question, one option is not available: a poll of the three judges on this panel... Our judicial commissions did not come with such a sweeping grant of authority, one that would allow just three of us – just two of us in truth – to make such a vital policy call for 32 million citizens who live within the four states of the 6th Circuit," the federal appeals court wrote in its 68-page opinion.

The panel called the same-sex marriage dispute a "case about change – and how to best handle it under the United States Constitution."

"From the vantage point of 2014, it would now seem, the question is not whether American law will allow gay couples to marry; it is when and how that will happen," the appeals court wrote. "... for better, for worse ... marriage has long been a social institution defined by relationships between men and women. So long defined, the tradition is measured in millenia, not centuries or decades."

In a scathing dissent, Judge Martha Craig Daughtrey wrote, "The author of the majority opinion has drafted what would make an engrossing TED Talk or, possibly, an introductory lecture in Political Philosophy."

Daughtrey said that the court's decision "wholly fails to grapple with the relevant constitutional question in this appeal: whether a state's constitutional prohibition of same-sex marriage violates equal protection under the Fourteenth Amendment."

She concluded her remarks by saying, "If we in the judiciary do not have the authority, and indeed the responsibility, to right fundamental wrongs left excused by a majority of the electorate, our whole intricate, constitutional system of checks and balances, as well as the oaths to which we swore, prove to be nothing but shams."

## **Reactions Swift, Strong**

Reactions have been strong and swift, including from U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee (D-Flint). "Today's ruling stands contrary to over two dozen recent court rulings in favor of marriage equality," said Kildee in a press release posted minutes after the ruling was announced. "From trial courts to federal appeals courts, judges across our nation have reached the same conclusion: that marriage is a fundamental right that cannot be denied to same-sex couples. Yet Michigan Governor Rick Snyder and Attorney General Bill Schuette continue their ideological crusade against loving Michigan families at taxpayer's expense."

Gov. Snyder issued a statement saying, "When I became governor, I took an oath to support and defend our state constitution, without exceptions. My obligation to carry out that oath is not a matter of personal preference. As I have said throughout this process, I will respect the court's decision as it examines the legality of same-sex marriage.

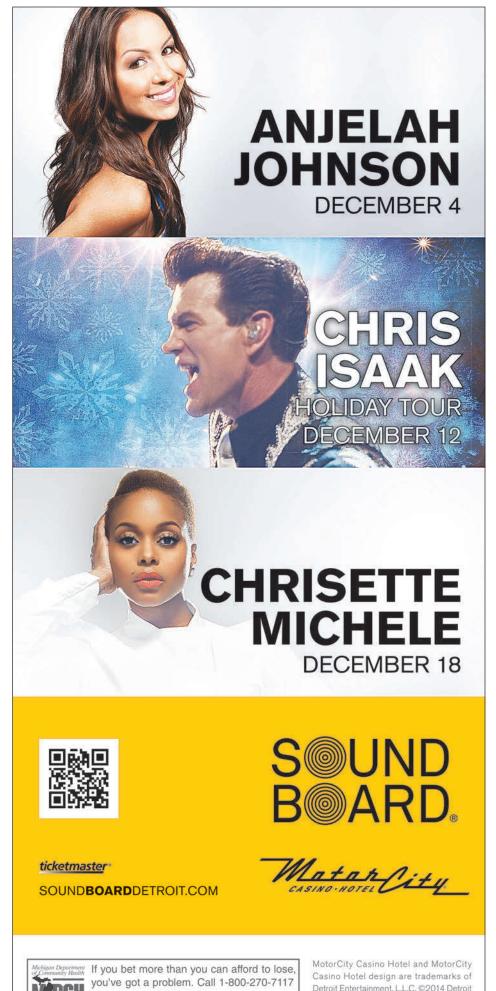
"The 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has upheld the language in our state's constitution. This means there is no change in Michigan's marriage laws. As I have previously stated, the same-sex couples who married at county clerk offices in the period between U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman's ruling in March and the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals' temporary stay of that ruling, were legally married. However, the Court of Appeals decision does not allow for state benefits of marriage for those same-sex couples in accordance with our state constitution. That decision only can be changed if today's Appeals Court ruling is overturned."

Jay Kaplan, staff attorney with the Michigan ACLU LGBT Project, said the 6th Circuit Court's decision should not have an impact on Casper v Snyder, a lawsuit filed by the ACLU against the State of Michigan that argues the state must recognize the over 300 legal same-sex marriages performed Mar. 22 immediately after the ban was struck down. "DeBoer is about the right of same-sex couples to marry. Casper is about the due process right of same-sex couples to stay married," said Kaplan who blasted the 6th Circuit's decision. "Judge Sutton's main premise is that the courts should not be the ones looking at the constitutionality of these marriage bans, that this is for the legislature and the people to decide. He seems to forget that we have three branches of government, including the judiciary that provides checks and balances, and that one of the most important functions of the judiciary is to protect people from the tyranny of the majority."

Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum, who married the first same-sex couple in the state on March 22, arrived at at the Lansing gathering. "I'm actually shocked that our appeals court would uphold discrimination," Byrum said. "One of my brides has passed away while waiting for her marriage to be recognized by the state."

Dan Levy, director of law and policy at the Michigan Department of Civil rights, was also on hand at the Lansing gathering and told BTL he was disgusted. "Clearly there are enough politicians who think that the majority overrules the constitution. I had hoped the same could not be said of judges."

Michigan For Marriage is a broad coalition that has formed to educate and raise awareness about the marriage ban and has been working on a plan to fight it. Learn more at www. michiganformarriage.org



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# **Michigan Marriage Equality**

#### ► Marriage & DeBoer Timeline

Continued from p. 6

Feb. 25, 2014:

A nine-day trial begins in Detroit.

#### March 21, 2014: U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman declares

U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman declares that Michigan's marriage ban is unconstitutional. He does not issue a stay, which had been widely anticipated.

# March 22, 2014:

Four counties in Michigan open their county clerk offices on a Saturday in order to allow same-sex couples to marry. Over 300 couples successfully marry this day before Michigan's Attorney General Bill Schuette is granted an emergency stay at 4 p.m. from the 6th Circuit in Cincinnati, Ohio.

# Oct. 6, 2014: The U.S. Supreme Court declines to take any of the

The U.S. Supreme Court declines to take any of the marriage cases before it, which essentially allows all the states represented by those cases to start allowing same-sex marriage.

Prior to this ruling, 19 states allowed same-sex marriage.

## Nov. 6, 2014:

The Sixth Circuit ruling allows the same-sex marriage ban in Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee to continue. It stops a recent trend in the 4th, 7th, 9th and 10th Circuit Courts that declared marriage bans unconstitutional in the states under their jurisdiction.

As of the 6th Circuit ruling, 32 states and the District of Columbia now allow same-sex couples to marry.

## What happens now?

Both the plaintiffs' legal team and the Attorney General have agreed to expedite their legal briefs and request that the U.S. Supreme Court take the case during the 2015 term. SCOTUS has until mid-January 2015 to decide whether and which cases it will take from the Sixth Circuit ruling.



The first gay couple is seen above married in Oakland County by Oakland County Clerk Lisa Brown on March 22. During a short window when no stay had yet been issued, allowed over 300 couples in four counties to marry. James Ryder, left, and his husband Frank Colasonti, Jr., seen with their marriage license. Attorney Dana Nessel who is representing the DeBoer-Rowse couple, celebrated the historic moment with them. Gov. Snyder has acknowledged that these couples are legally married, however until the legal challenges are resolved, will not allow them the full benefits of marriage that heterosexual couples have. A separate lawsuit Casper v Snyder has been filed on the couples' behalf by the ACLU of Michigan. BTL photo file photo: Andrew Potter

# Michigan's Marriage Ban Draws Strong Reaction Across State

# Dissent Says 6th Circuit Has Failed To Do Its Job

BY TODD HEYWOOD

**LANSING** - Adding months, perhaps years, for same-sex couples to receive recognition from the state of Michigan for their marriages, the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals late last Thursday afternoon ruled that Michigan's ban on same-sex marriages was legal.

The move breaks a series of federal court rulings which have found marriage bans unconstitutional.

The ACLU announced it would immediately seek a hearing before the U.S. Supreme Court, and attorney Dana Nessel, who represents April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse, the plaintiffs in Michigan's challenge to the marriage ban, said before the ruling came down that she would be going directly to the Supreme Court. The losing sides could ask for a rehearing before the entire 6th Circuit Appeals Court.

The ruling applies to Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee.

Because this ruling upholds a marriage ban, experts expect the high court to take it up. Traditionally the court takes up issues only when the various appeals courts across the country have come to different conclusions. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg told an audience in Minnesota in September that "there will be some

urgency" if a court upheld a marriage ban.

"There are people in a precarious situation," said Emily Horvath, an adjunct law professor at WMU Cooley Law school. She called the ruling a "cop out."

"The 6th Circuit has forced the hand of the Supreme Court – 'Now you've got to decide," she says of the ruling, noting Ginsburg's earlier statements, and the fact the court refused to grant a hearing in the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals case earlier this year.

"A decision could come out as soon as June 30," Horvath said, noting the high court is still reviewing cases to be heard for the current session.

"There are many ways, as these lower court decisions confirm, to look at this question: originalism; rational basis review; animus; fundamental rights; suspect classifications; evolving meaning. The parties in one way or another have invoked them all. Not one of the plaintiffs' theories, however, makes the case for constitutionalizing the definition of marriage and for removing the issue from the place it has been since the founding: in the hands of state voters," Appeals Court Judges Jeffrey Sutton and Deborah Cook wrote in the majority opinion. Both judges are appointees of President George W. Bush.

#### **Dissent**

In a blistering dissent, Judge Martha Craig Daughtrey ripped the majority opinion apart.

"These four cases from our sister circuits provide a rich mine of responses to every rationale raised by the defendants in the 6th Circuit cases as a basis for excluding same-sex couples from contracting valid marriages," she writes after explaining the findings in four other court rulings on marriage equality. "Indeed, it would seem unnecessary for this court to do more than cite those cases in affirming the district courts' decisions in the six cases now before us. Because the correct result is so obvious, one is tempted to speculate that the majority has purposefully taken the contrary position to create the circuit split regarding the legality of samesex marriage that could prompt a grant of certiorari by the Supreme Court and an end to the uncertainty of status and the interstate chaos that the current discrepancy in state laws threatens. Perhaps that is the case, but it does not relieve the dissenting member of the panel from the obligation of a rejoinder."

Equality Michigan and others in support of marriage equality have promised residents a ballot initiative to place the repeal of the state's amendment on the ballot in 2016.

Since the majority appeared to be advocating for a voter driven referendum on the amendment, BTL asked some if the legislature should move an amendment to place such an initiative on the ballot in 2015 – circumventing a lengthy and costly signature collection process.

Democratic House Leader Tim Greimel (D-Auburn Hills) said such a move was not out of the question, but there was a matter of timing. He said he would want it to be on the ballot for a high voter turn out election, such as the 2016 Presidential election.

Emily Dievendorf, executive director of Equality Michigan, was hesitant to allow the Republican legislature the opportunity to author a ballot initiative.

"I don't trust that a legislature that embraced Gary Glenn would also responsibly put a marriage equality question on the ballot in a fair and balanced way, and not harmful in some way," she said.

## **Political Response**

Shortly after the opinion was issued, Michigan legislative and executive branch leaders began weighing in.

After citing his oath of office, Gov. Rick Snyder – a Republican who won re-election – said the state was prohibited from recognizing marriages of same-sex couples.

"The 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has upheld the language in our state's constitution. This means there is no change in Michigan's marriage laws. As I have previously stated, the same-sex couples who married at county clerk

offices in the period between U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman's ruling in March and the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals' temporary stay of that ruling, were legally married," Snyder said in a press statement. "However, the Court of Appeals decision does not allow for state benefits of marriage for those same-sex couples in accordance with our state constitution. That decision only can be changed if today's Appeals Court ruling is overturned."

Republican Attorney General Bill Schuette, who appealed the original decision by District Court Judge Bernard Friedman, issued a statement calling on the Supreme Court to take up the case quickly.

"The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit has ruled, and Michigan's constitution remains in full effect," said Schuette in a statement. "As I have stated repeatedly, the U.S. Supreme Court will have the final word on this issue. The sooner they rule, the better, for Michigan and the country."

Schuette was also re-elected to serve another four-year term as the state's top lawyer.

Democrats also weighed in on the ruling.

"It's very disappointing," said Greimel, who was selected to serve in as Democratic leader in the state house for another two years last Thursday.

He called for the state to move quickly towards marriage equality.

"This ruling runs counter to the findings of three other Courts of Appeal, findings the Supreme Court validated in their refusal to review them," said State Rep. Sam Singh of East Lansing. "In both their rulings overturning DOMA and decision to let lower court rulings stand, the Supreme Court sent a very clear message that bans on same-sex marriage run afoul of the Constitution. The decision by the 6th Circuit is disappointing, but it now likely means the Supreme Court will finally settle this matter. I look forward to celebrating full marriage equality in all 50 states in the not too distant future."

Dievendorf was decidedly more strident in her response to the ruling.

"In March, we saw couples that had been together 30 to 50 years finally have their marriages recognized and respected by the government," she said in an interview with BTL. "To us, that was an acknowledgement of our humanity. Revoking that recognition is a slap in the face."

For Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum the decision was even more bitter. Byrum was one of the county clerks who opened their offices on a Saturday in March to perform marriages for same-sex couples. She was the first clerk in the state to marry a same-sex couple that day. But this ruling comes after she learned one of the women in one of the couples she married had passed away.

"One of the brides I married has passed away while waiting for her marriage to be recognized by the state," Bryum said. "It's wrong. It's sick."





# **Analysis: The Silver Linings In A Disheartening Week**

BY JAY KAPLAN

hat a disheartening week last week seemed for LGBT equality and civil rights. In Michigan,



one-third of all eligible voters voted in the 2014 election and selected and retained both policy makers and judges whose positions on LGBT issues have been anything but friendly. The same can be said for the U.S. Congress, where

majority control is now in the hands of conservatives. And then just two days later, the federal 6th Circuit Court of Appeals, in a 2-1 decision, overturned lower court decisions favorable to marriage equality in cases from Michigan (DeBoer v Snyder), Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee.

This decision is an outlier, in that it goes against four other federal court of appeals decisions upholding striking down marriage bans for same-sex couples as unconstitutional. It also goes against, and is incompatible with, the 50 state and federal lower court decisions that uphold fairness for LGBT families, and with the U.S. Supreme Court decision Oct. 6 to let marriage equality decisions stand in Indiana, Wisconsin, Utah, Oklahoma and Virginia.

This majority decision written by Judge Jeffrey Sutton (appointed by President George W. Bush and a former clerk to the most conservative of Supreme Court justices, Justice Antonin Scalia) is not only fundamentally misguided, wrong and unfair in terms of its result, but it is also based on the flawed and false assumptions that same-sex couples should have the right to marry left up to the people or the state legislatures, and that the courts should stay out of it. Anyone with a basic knowledge of American government and the federal Constitution can tell you that there is no "will of the majority" exception to this Constitution. We have three branches of government; the executive, the legislative and the judiciary, each of which provides checks and balances regarding the overreach of constitutional authority.

The Constitution protects equal rights for all and gives the job to the courts of preventing the oppression of minorities at the hands of the majority. Leaving constitutional safeguards to the popular vote would place our most precious constitutional guarantees in jeopardy and subject them to the whim of majority rule. Sutton's opinion promotes the notion that voters can discriminate against disfavored minorities, here LGBT people, denying them one of

I am heartened by the dissent of Judge Martha Daughtrey, who characterized the Sutton opinion as a "TED Talk or possible lecture in Political Philosophy," which totally fails to address the basic question of whether denying same-sex couples the right to marry violates the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment. She chides the majority for its failure to consider the real harm done to families like April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse and their children when they are denied both the respect and protections afforded by legal civil marriage.

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Freedom Michigan is a coalition of business leaders, lawmakers, faith leaders, grassroots activists, members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community and concerned residents who have come together across party lines for one goal: To update the landmark Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act (ELCRA) to protect LGBT Michiganders from discrimination.

#### What's at stake

It's hard to believe, but in Michigan it is perfectly legal to fire or refuse to hire someone -- our colleagues, friends and family -- because they are gay or transgender. First, this is simply unfair. No hardworking American, including those who are gay or transgender, should have to live in fear that they can be fired for reasons that have nothing to do with their job performance or qualifications.

Second, this is bad for business and bad for Michigan as we compete with other states for talented, well-educated and hardworking employees to help drive Michigan's economic comeback.

#### **Take Action**

Visit the website, www.freedommichigan.org, to learn about volunteer opportunities and to sign the petition reaching out to our Governor and legislators. Tell them you support amending Elliott-Larsen to include protections for sexual orientation and gender identity.

the core aspects of liberty. Under the 14th Amendment states cannot treat any group of people as second-class citizens, denying them fundamental rights. A judge's job is to review discriminatory laws, like the marriage bans that deny LGBT people and their families both dignity and respect, and to apply the meaning of the 14th amendment. Sutton's decision, joined by Judge Deborah Cook (another George W. Bush appointee), abdicated that responsibility.

I am heartened by the dissent of Judge Martha Daughtrey (appointed by President Bill Clinton), who characterized the Sutton opinion as a "TED Talk or possible lecture in Political Philosophy," which totally fails to address the basic question of whether denying same-sex couples the right to marry violates the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment. She chides the majority for its failure to consider the real harm done to families like April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse and their children when they are denied both the respect and protections afforded by legal civil marriage.

Is there a silver lining here? Yes, and it could be found in the U.S Supreme Court. When the Court refused to take up appeals in favor of marriage equality from four other federal appellate courts, it was most likely for two reasons: 1) that the Court appears to be comfortable with idea of same-sex couples marrying (as of this date, couples can marry in 32 states plus the District of Columbia, with three states pending, to likely bring that total to 35 states); 2) that up to that time, there was not a split among the Circuit Court of Appeals on the issue of marriage equality. Indeed, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was quoted as saying that the Court was not in a hurry to decide marriage equality until there might be a split in the circuit courts. So what could happen next?

Plaintiffs in these marriage cases have two options. They could request an en banc hearing before the 6th Circuit, which means that their case would be heard by all the judges on the 6th Circuit. If an en banc hearing was granted, Judge Sutton's opinion would be vacated and a new hearing would be held. However, since ten out of

the fifteen active judges on the 6th Circuit were appointed by Republican presidents, this appears to be a pointless, time-wasting gesture. Lawyers for the plaintiffs in the six different marriage cases (including DeBoer) have conferred and have agreed to file petitions for certiorari with the Supreme Court, skipping the en banc option. Indeed, the DeBoer legal team plans to file their petition within the next week. One or more of these cases could end up on the Supreme Court's active docket for a decision during the current term, which ends in June 2015. According to law professor Art Leonard, of New York Law School, the best candidate for such review would be the Michigan DeBoer decision, the only one decided after a trial with a full factual record. Ultimately, the Supreme Court needs to decide this issue once and for all, for the nation and for the remaining 15 states, including Michigan, that deny equality to same-sex couples. Given the fact that, by that time, at least 35 states will have permitted same-sex couples to marry, it is thought unlikely that the Supreme Court would issue a decision reversing this progress.

And is there a silver lining to the election results in Michigan? Yes. During the next six weeks (termed the lame duck period of the Michigan legislature), the legislature will consider a bill to amend our state civil rights law, Elliott-Larsen, to finally include both sexual orientation and gender identity and expression, which would protect LGBT against discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations. These current legislators, and our re-elected Governor, need to hear from you in support of a fully-inclusive bill which does not carve out exceptions to discriminate based on religious belief.

Check out the Freedom Michigan website at www.freedommi.org and sign up to do your part. The time is short, but this can happen with everyone's participation.

Jay Kaplan is a staff attorney with the ACLU of Michigan LGBT Project. He can be reached at jkaplan@aclumich.org

# The Long Shot Move **To Pass Inclusive Civil Rights Amendment**

# **Transgender Community Targeted With GOP Move To Kill Elliott-Larsen Changes**

#### **POLITICAL HORS D'OEUVRES**

#### BY TODD HEYWOOD

LANSING - The state legislature is about to roll into the wild west of the legislative session - the lame duck. It's the period between the November election and the seating of the new legislature in January. In previous years, the state saw lawmakers pass referendum proof emergency manager legislation - after voters resoundingly killed a similar law - and the controversial passage of so-called "right-towork" legislation.

High on the lame duck agenda this year: finding a funding solution for Michigan's crumbling roads and amending Michigan's civil rights act, Elliott-Larsen, to include sexual orientation and gender identity and expression. Republican Gov. Rick Snyder has called road funding a priority, while saying he hopes the legislature will take up amending Elliott-Larsen in the lame duck as well.

But the road to an inclusive Elliott-Larsen is as pothole filled and treacherous as Michigan's roads.

#### Where We Are Now

Rep. Tim Greimel (D-Auburn Hills) is leader of the House Democratic Caucus. He tells BTL that he believes the GOP majority will bring legislation to the floor which will amend Elliott-Larsen to include sexual orientation, but not gender identity.

"The latest indication is that they do not want to prohibit discrimination based on gender identity," Greimel said in a phone interview. He said he also believed the Republicans would include a broad religious exemption which would effectively gut the

But Ari Adler, communications director for Speaker of the House Jase Bolger (R-Marshall), says that's not exactly accurate.

"With all due respect to Rep. Greimel, he is not involved in the frequent discussions that

If gender identity or gender expression is removed from the bill, all support from LGBTQ advocacy groups, including Equality Michigan, will be revoked.

> - Emily Dievendorf, executive director of Equality Michigan

are occurring around this issue so he's not the best source of information on what we are discussing. There is no discussion about putting some kind of exemption into Elliott-Larsen regarding religion as that would not be possible," Adler said in an emailed statement to BTL. "However, we are researching if there is a way we can legislatively protect religious freedom in Michigan the way it is at the federal level. As it stands today, prisoners in Michigan have greater protection for religious freedom than law-abiding citizens who are not incarcerated. As for gender identity, various court cases involving discrimination based on sex have proven that somebody's gender identity is already covered under existing law, which is why the Speaker has not been inclined to add gender identity specifically to

Jim Murray, co-chair of the Competitive Workforce Coalition, a group of Michigan business leaders advocating for amending the state's civil rights law, said gender identity is unlikely to make the cut as lawmakers crash through the lame duck session.

"The cold hard fact is the votes don't exist," Murray, who is also president of AT&T Michigan, said. "I've heard from several legislators - from both sides of the

See Elliott-Larsen, page 18

# **Creep of the Week**

# **Jeffrey Sutton and Deborah Cook**

#### **OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI**





Judge Jeffrey Sutton

Judge Deborah Cook

was driving home after picking up my son from school when I heard the news that the 6th Circuit Court had upheld the anti-gay marriage bans in Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee. It felt like a punch in the gut.

I looked in the rearview mirror at my 5-year-old boy and thought, "Well, it'll be at least a couple of more years now before you have two legal parents."

Of course, I didn't say this out loud. As far as he is concerned he has two parents. Two moms, to be specific.

But only one of us is legally recognized since Michigan, the state we live in, doesn't recognize my wife and I as legally married (we are and have the documents from San Diego to prove it) and thus we are not allowed to adopt jointly as a couple. Thus, according to the state of Michigan, and just affirmed by the 6th Circuit, I'm just some stranger who lives with a woman and her

Considering this legal-parent-limbo was just the issue that prompted the plaintiffs in the Michigan marriage case, April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse, to file suit in the first place, the 6th Circuit ruling is especially galling.

The majority opinion by Judges Deborah Cook and by Jeffrey Sutton asserts that the anti-gay marriage side is ultimately going to be the losing side in this battle. Which I believe to be true. But in the opinion, written by Sutton, he goes on to say that the decision to let same-sex couples get legally married should be left up to the people, not to judges.

When addressing whether anti-gay marriage laws were inspired by animus (a.k.a. hostility toward icky gays), Sutton wrote, "Animus? Hardly! Who can blame all of these decent people for thinking that bull dykes and fags were going to use the courts to take marriage away from heterosexuals forever?" (I'm paraphrasing a little bit.)

And at the end of his ruling he paints a fantastical picture of a world where gays and straights assemble on a hilltop together and sing, "I'd like to buy the world a Coke."

Which, of course, leads me to point out that civil rights should not be subject to popular vote. But to Sutton, the issue of civil rights doesn't seem to register. In fact, he doesn't seem to notice that there are people involved in these matters at all.

Personally, I'm a little in love with Judge Martha Craig Daughtrey who wrote a scathing dissent to the majority opinion.

"Instead of recognizing the plaintiffs as persons, suffering actual harm as a result of being denied the right to marry

When addressing whether anti-gay marriage laws were inspired by animus (a.k.a. hostility toward icky gays), Sutton wrote, "Animus? Hardly! Who can blame all of these decent people for thinking that bull dykes and fags were going to use the courts to take marriage away from heterosexuals forever?" (I'm paraphrasing a little bit.)

where they reside or the right to have their valid marriages recognized there, my colleagues (Sutton and Deborah Cook) view the plaintiffs as social activists who have somehow stumbled into federal court, inadvisably, when they should be out campaigning to win 'the hearts and minds' of Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee voters to their cause."

In other words, Daughtrey understands that there are real people being harmed by discriminatory laws here and dismisses Sutton's claim that homos who want to marry should be campaigning (a.k.a. "begging") their neighbors to let them.

Daughtrey goes on to destroy the totally bullshit reasoning of the majority. So much of the anti-gay argument rests on hypothetical harm done to hypothetical children by hypothetical heterosexuals. But the real harm being done to real children by real same-sex couples is ignored.

And while the 6th Circuit ruling means that the Supreme Court will finally settle the matter, families like mine are left in an unprotected limbo. And it sucks.

www.PrideSource.com Nov. 13, 2014 | BTL

#### What is STRIBILD?

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

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

# IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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

STRIBILD can cause serious side effects:

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

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

#### Who should not take STRIBILD?

#### Do not take STRIBILD if you:

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

## What are the other possible side effects of STRIBILD?

Serious side effects of STRIBILD may also include:

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

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

# What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking STRIBILD?

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

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

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





#### **Patient Information**

STRIBILD® (STRY-bild)

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

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

#### What is STRIBILD?

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

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

#### STRIBILD can cause serious side effects, including:

- 1. Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis). Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take STRIBILD or similar (nucleoside analogs) medicines. Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms which could be signs of lactic acidosis:
  - · feel very weak or tired
  - have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
- · have trouble breathing
- · have stomach pain with nausea or vomiting
- · feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
- · feel dizzy or lightheaded
- · have a fast or irregular heartbeat
- 2. Severe liver problems. Severe liver problems can happen in people who take STRIBILD. In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis). Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms of liver problems:
  - your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
  - dark "tea-colored" urine
  - light-colored bowel movements (stools)
  - loss of appetite for several days or longer
  - nausea
  - · stomach pain

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

- 3. Worsening of Hepatitis B infection. If you have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and take STRIBILD, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking STRIBILD. A "flare-up" is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before.
- Do not run out of STRIBILD. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your STRIBILD is all gone

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

#### Who should not take STRIBILD?

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

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

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

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

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

#### What are the possible side effects of STRIBILD?

#### STRIBILD may cause the following serious side effects:

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

#### The most common side effects of STRIBILD include:

- Nausea
- Diarrhea

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

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

#### What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking STRIBILD?

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Keep STRIBILD and all medicines out of reach of children.

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

Issued: October 2013



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# **Getting Oral For Jesus**



# Parting Glances

#### **OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER**

an unequal and contrary minus reaction. It's called the Castor Oil Law of Physics.

Case in point. Word comes from the Washington, D.C. based Family Ex-Cathedra Council that a Thanksgiving Day protest is planned at each of the nationwide 1,430 schools and 146 colleges that took part in the 2014 "Day of Silence" in support of LGBT equal rights.

Says Peter A. Priggon, FECC spokesperson, "When gays and their supporters go silent, we get vocal. At first we wanted to call our protest, 'A Day of Speaking Out,' but for strategy reasons, we decided to called it, 'A Day of

"Planners argued for days over which version of the Bible to use.

"Six wanted the King James Version. Four wanted the Re-Revised Standard Version. Others wanted The Prosperity Thinkers Bible, the X-Rated New Testament, the Weight-Watchers Annotated Old Testament, the Douay Bible and, a few of the FECC more militant members, The Marching As To War Scofield Bible (with maps of the Holy Land).

"The King James lost. Plain and simple. Probably because he was a fag," says Michigan FECC Southern Baptist Rev. Dillwort Twelvetubbs, when contacted by BTL.

"The whole thing's blown

# "If 83 percent of these gays kids are verbally zapped, so what? Give them earplugs or earmuffs. Hey, sticks and stones, and hot cross buns!"

Going Oral.' That's our ecumenical motto

"Our plan's simple as the collective noses on unsaved LGBT faces. Ex-Gays will visit high schools and colleges with bullhorns, taking daylong turns reading from Deuteronomy and Leviticus. (Zealous Exs will bullhorn in Septuagint Greek – but only on campuses with law schools, graduate social work departments, gay frats and lesbian car – and U-Haul pools).

"If we can get college deans and football coaches to participate, there'll be a mock 'stone in' with symbolic day-old hot cross buns. The problem is that too many faculty members are morally lax about taking time off for important family values action.

"As for college deans, well, the less said about these Darwinian, secularist, egghead basket cases the better."

According to an FECC mole, A Day of Going Oral almost didn't get off the ground. This courageous, anonymous whistle blower – a covert member of America's 10,000-member-strong Dykes for Jesus – reports,

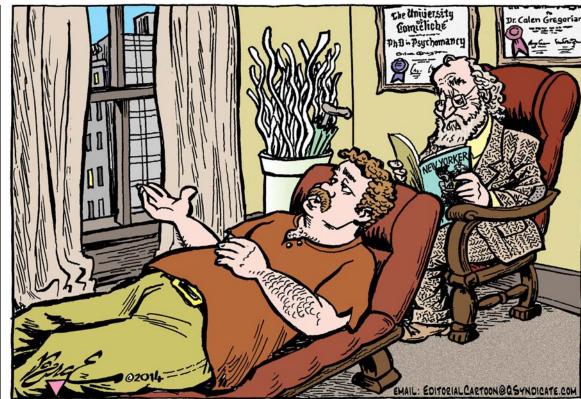
out of proportion," shrugs FECC spokesperson Priggon, in a recent Fox U News TV interview. "If 83 percent of these gays kids are verbally zapped, so what? Give them earplugs or earmuffs. Hey, sticks and stones, and hot cross burs!

"As for the 41 percent of teens who just might get upset, and the 21 percent percent who just might get verbally kicked in the saggers, so to speak, tell them to carry a Bible in their left behinds. That'll keep them out of harm's way (as long as it's not the King James Version)

"One more thing: let them repent on lunch hours. It's good for the soul and for digesting those gawdawful government subsidized, saltpeter french fries and prunes.

"If the 10 percent of teens who are 'that way' were home schooled or, better still, locked up in the attic or an actual closet, there'd be no problem. It's eye-for-an-eye; tooth-for-a-tooth. That simple. America, Wake Up! It's our buns or theirs."

Charles@pridesource.com



"I THINK I TURNED OUT GAY BECAUSE I NEVER CAUGHT COOTIES AS A CHILD."



# **6th Circuit Reflection**

#### OPINION BY GINA CALCAGNO

ince DeBoer v Snyder was first filed on Jan. 23, 2012, the landscape of marriage equality in the United States has changed significantly. At that time, six states and the District of Columbia allowed same-sex marriage. By the end of 2013, 14 states had embraced marriage equality. In the past year, we watched that number more than double. In the past month it seemed like every day a new state was hearing wedding bells. At the time of this writing, 32 states in the union recognize marriage equality and more than 61 percent of Americans live in marriage equality states.

Given the remarkable progress that our country has made on this issue, many were caught off guard by a decision that seemed so backwards, especially given that the State's arguments had been thoroughly debunked and dismissed by other courts around the nation. I heard from people across the state who expressed anger, disbelief and sadness when the ruling was announced. Despite the rapid progress around the country, Michigan straggles behind as the people of our state wait for justice. It is difficult to wait patiently when our families are experiencing real harm.

The Court is well aware of the injury they've caused with this decision. The majority opinion acknowledged that this decision "deprives (gay couples) of benefits that range from the profound (the right to visit someone in a hospital as a spouse or parent) to the mundane (the right to file joint tax returns). These harms affect not only gay couples but also their children."

The Court is well aware of the injury they've caused with this decision. The majority opinion acknowledged that this decision "deprives (gay couples) of benefits that range from the profound (the right to visit someone in a hospital as a spouse or parent) to the mundane (the right to file joint tax returns). These harms affect not only gay couples but also their children."

Although many were surprised by a ruling that was so out of step with the rest of the country, the outcome was always uncertain. For months, pundits speculated about which way the inevitable 2-1 decision would

See 6th Circuit Reflection, next page

#### ► 6th Circuit Reflection

Continued from p. 14

It has been predicted by seasoned Court watchers that DeBoer v Snyder will be added to the long list of 6th Circuit cases that have been reversed and the Supreme Court will rule in favor of marriage equality. The 6th Circuit's record before the Supreme Court is dismal and has the distinction of having more cases overturned than any other circuit.

come down. Some felt that the 6h Circuit had to continue the long road toward equality and, like the 4th, 7th, 9th and 10th Circuits, find the states' bans on same-sex marriage unconstitutional. Others (correctly) predicted that Judge Sutton would ignore the Fourteenth Amendment in favor of what the dissent called "a largely irrelevant discourse on democracy and federalism."

Judge Sutton's refusal to answer the question that was before the court — whether the state's constitutional prohibition of same-sex marriage was in fact unconstitutional — is a blessing. This ruling has presented the Supreme Court with the sharp circuit split that Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg practically cried out for last month. The path to the highest court in the nation has been cleared and the legal team is expected to file their petition for certiorari this week.

It has been predicted by seasoned Court watchers that DeBoer v Snyder will be added to the long list of 6th Circuit cases that have been reversed and the Supreme Court will rule in favor of marriage equality. The 6th Circuit's record before the Supreme Court is dismal and has the distinction of having more cases overturned than any other circuit. In the meantime, we must continue to advocate for same-sex marriage here in Michigan. It is imperative that we support the DeBoer family and their legal team as they fight, not only for their family, but for all families throughout the state and perhaps, the nation.

The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said that, "Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable." He reminded advocates that social justice "requires sacrifice, suffering and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals." Time can weaken some in their quest, but Dr. King challenged those who felt daunted saying, "This is no time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous and positive action."

We must work to secure the rights of all Michigan families. We must talk about the values of marriage love, commitment, responsibility. We will fight because the possibility of surrender or defeat is too much to bear. When I think about the people who have been fighting for decades, and the families who remain unprotected under Michigan law, my determination is renewed. I hope that you are inspired to embrace this challenge and connect with Michigan for Marriage as advocates throughout the state as we strive toward justice.

Gina Calcagno is the coalition manager of Michigan for Marriage. For more information on this grassroots public education campaign, please visit www.michiganformarriage.org.



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Bible Study 9 am Children's Sunday School at 11 am Service at 11am





Senior Pastor Rev. Roland Stringfellow Associate Pastor Rev. Deb Dysert

Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Sunday Worship 11 a.m. Children's Ministry 11 a.m.



2441 Pinecrest Ferndale, MI 248-399-7741 www.mccdetroit.org





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## People Of Faith Invited To Community Conversation

#### BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

Michigan Roundtable for Diversity & Inclusion and the ACLU of Michigan will present a community conversation on the proposed amendment to the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights bill this month. The amendment aims to add protections in work, housing, etc. for LGBT individuals living in Michigan, specifically by adding "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" to the act. The Nov. 20 program, dubbed "Panel Discussion: Granting Equal Rights - Valuing Religious Liberty," will have discussions by Kary Moss and Jay Kaplan of the ACLU, Emily Dievendorf of Equality Michigan, Rev. Dr. Campbell Lovett of the United Church of Christ in Michigan, Rev. Dr. Michael Nabors, Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray of the Ecumenical Theological Seminary (ETS) and other high profile clergy. Dr. Butler's seminary is considered a very pro-LGBT seminary, while Dr. Lovett is the head of the United Church of Christ denomination for the entire state.

Kevin Hogan, manager of Michigan Roundtable's "Faith & LGBT Equality Project," says this event is "the last big opportunity for 'people of faith' to get on the same page as we work to amend this law during the lame duck session.

"Michigan Roundtable has been hosting conversations on issues of equality since 1941, usually racial equality, issues of white privilege, etc. We got involved in LGBT issues over the last five years or so, and decided to host this conversation so that people interested in how faith can support the Elliot-Larsen movement could talk."

All are urged to attend, particularly after the recent election results. "This conversation is a way to engage certain Christian folks, like Episcopalians, Presbyterians and UCC members, with Catholics, Mormons, etc.," Hogan notes, adding. "Following the election, some people we expected to attend (like the Mormon bishop) have fallen on the dissenting side."

The community conversation will run from 4-7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 20 at the First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, located at 1669 W. Maple Road. The program, which is free and open to the public, will be interpreted in American Sign Language for the deaf and hard of hearing. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP by calling Kevin Hogan at 313-870-1500 x115, 248-709-3703 or emailing him at khogan@miroundtable.org. For more information, visit www.miroundtable.org/lgbtfaith.html.

## Trans In Michigan? The ACLU Wants To Hear From You

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Michigan is seeking support for its advocacy in changing State policy regarding gender markers on State IDs.

For several years the group has advocated for a change in the gender marker on State IDs or Driver's Licenses from the current policy to an updated form allowing for transgender Michiganders to have proper representation on their identification card.

Current policy states that transgender residents must first have the gender marker on their birth certificate amended, which means presenting an affidavit from a surgeon post-sexual reassignment surgery, even though no specific surgical procedure is required.

"Despite three years of conversations and discussions, the Secretary of State's office is refusing to change its current policy, despite the fact that it results in most transgender persons in Michigan having incorrect ID, creating a myriad of problems for them in their daily lives," Jay Kaplan, LGBT project lawyer for the ACLU Michigan chapter, said.

Thirty-three Social Security and State Departments from around the nation do not require sexual reassignment surgery to change the gender marker on state IDs. However, the Michigan policy does. This creates several problems for the trans communities.

This practice eliminates a majority of trans identified individuals who cannot have surgery because of the cost and the fact that most insurance companies do not currently cover the procedure.

Second, for individuals born out of state, their birth state may require them to file a lawsuit requesting a court order to have their gender marker changed on their birth certificate; this process requires both travel and additional expenses.

Third, for those born in Ohio, Tennessee and Idaho, their birth certificates cannot be altered or amended under any circumstance.

"We are exploring what other options may be available to have the policy changed, including possible legal action," Kaplan wrote in a press release earlier this month.

Kaplan and his team want to hear from trans identified individuals in the state who are unable to obtain gender marker changes on their IDs and who have been harmed by their inability to have accurate identity documents.

Reach out to Kaplan by email at kaplan@ aclumich.com or by phone at 313-578-6812.



The Good: Gary Peters elected to the U.S. Senate. The Bad: Anti-gay activist Gary Glenn elected to the State House. The Udiv: Attorney General Bill Schuette re-elected.

# Michigan: The Good, The Bad and Ugly Of The 2014 Midterm Election

BY TODD HEYWOOD

#### The Good

As expected, Congressman Gary Peters (D) walked over Republican challenger Terri Lynn Land to keep the open Senate seat Democratic. Land's campaign had been failing for months, and about a month ago the National Republican Senatorial Committee pulled nearly a million dollars in advertising for Land – a death knell for a national campaign.

Michigan voters also voted to send two openly gay men to the State House in January. Jon Hoadley won the 60th House District contest in Kalamazoo, capturing nearly 70 percent of the vote. Meanwhile, in Southeast Michigan, Jeremy Moss handily won election to the state house representing Southfield.

The 14th Congressional District, vacated by Peters, will now be represented by Southfield Mayor Brenda Lawrence.

Richard Bernstein, of the 1-800-Call-Sam clan, was elected to the Michigan Supreme Court. While his election doesn't change the ideological makeup of the court, it does place a strong progressive voice on the court to issue dissents to the Court's conservative majority's rightwing pontifications.

#### The Bad

You can expect with the new Republican majority in the state house to see more political games played. A group of newly elected Republican representatives, including Gary Glenn, Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat, have made it clear they want a change in leadership in the House.

They specifically are looking for the Republican caucus leadership to agree to only bring legislation to the floor if the votes exist in the GOP majority to pass the legislation without any Democratic support – the so-called Hastert rule, named after former Speaker of the U.S. House Dennis Hastert. With the even larger majority in the house, the GOP could isolate and sideline Democrats for the next two years.

On top of that, the GOP maintains a rock solid super majority in the state Senate.

Add to this mixture the promises by the GOP to not raise revenues, and you have a disaster in the making for road funding. If revenues aren't raised to cover the \$1 billion in necessary road repairs, that money is going to have to come out of the general fund. That will impact local revenue sharing, education funding, health funding and more.

On a federal level, the GOP captured a majority in the U.S. Senate. This means the GOP now controls both chambers of Congress, which will likely push the Obama presidency further to the right from the center. You can expect more showdowns with Congress over the next two years.

## The Ugly

Marriage equality supporters will really face an uphill battle, even if the 6th U.S. District Court of Appeals upholds Judge Bernard Friedman's ruling overturning Michigan's marriage ban. Bill Schuette, the right-wing Attorney General, has won a second term as Michigan's top lawyer, besting his Democratic challenger Mark Totten. Expect to see him charging off for pet rightwing projects like fighting marriage equality,

See Good, Bad, Ugly, page 19

# Jon Hoadley: Next State House Rep. District 60



Jon Hoadley, who won his seat for the Michigan State House, District 60, seen here on election night

BY AJ TRAGER

**KALAMAZOO** - Running in a seat that largely swings Democratic, candidate Jon Hoadley and CEO of Badlands Strategies, LLC, celebrated a victory on Nov. 4 as the next state elected official in the 60th District.

Along with friends, loved ones and campaign workers, Hoadley celebrated his victory at Metro, the LGBT friendly bar in Kalamazoo. He had spent the few months since the primary working hard to get Reverend John Fisher, running in the 61st District next to Hoadley, elected. Hoadley shot to personally knock on 50-100 doors a day before the election.

"When we are out talking to voters – it gets them elected," Hoadley said in an interview with BTL before the election. "In gubernatorial years we have significantly less voters; we change that by having real conversations with people."

Hoadley isn't wrong. This midterm election saw just over 30 percent of Michigan's population come out to vote. While the number is similar to other

midterm election turnouts, Hoadley and his campaign wanted to see the "Get Out The Vote" stronger than in previous years.

"Every candidate will tell you, you take nothing for granted," Hoadley said after being asked how confident he was in winning. "This is a choice in the voter's hands. It is a democracy. This is what democracy looks like."

#### **Key Issues**

The voters turned out to elect Hoadley with 70 percent of the vote and a lead of 8,900 votes over his Republican challenger, Mike Perrin. Even though the Republicans hold a majority in the state house, Hoadley is going to work on improving his top priority, Michigan's education.

"I am excited to meet with other legislators and build up Michigan. I want to invest in Michigan's people and their needs," Hoadley said.

He has a five point plan that includes doubling down in early childhood education and passing the budget earlier so districts can attract and maintain the best teachers. Hoadley believes that stability is good for high performing teachers and students and will work towards increasing private partnerships in at-risk neighborhoods.

Currently House Bill 5269, which deals with cost per individual student, is sitting in committee in Lansing. According to Hoadley, this is an opportunity to answer the question of how much it costs to adequately educate Michigan's children.

"It's easy to get lost in Gov. Snyder's billion more for education idea. The question isn't more or less here, the question is how much more do we need? We need to make it a priority to achieve," Hoadley pressed. "Like a home improvement budget, just ask how much it is going to cost. It seems like some people are aware."

College affordability has been a big topic of conversation since the recession hit. Michigan has seen tuition prices continue to rise and college graduates leave the state in large numbers because they cannot find work in their degree field.

See Hoadley, page 19

# Jeremy Moss: Next State House Rep. District 35

BY AJ TRAGER

**SOUTHFIELD** – Jeremy Moss won a seat to serve in the State House for the 35th district Nov. 4, a district that includes Southfield. He joins Jon Hoadley of Kalamazoo as one of two openly gay candidates elected into state office.

Moss has served Michigan for nearly a decade, when he started as a state intern, which turned into a staff position, for the representative for Southfield. Starting in January, Moss will be relieved as a Southfield City Councilman and join the ranks of the Michigan Legislature.

"This has been an incredibly long journey from when I first walked into this office, room 799 of the House office building in August of 2005," Moss said. "It is remarkable that I sat in every desk in that office except for one. And it's incredible that I will sit there in January. I have built my professional career in that office in many capacities."

There is a lot of work ahead. The Republican party dominates control in the Michigan government as Moss joins the 45-member House minority.

"As a City Councilman in Southfield, issues that Democrats and Republicans have with the

state are one in the same. There is a lack of money that has come down from Lansing; it is our tax payer dollars that we pay to Lansing that are supposed to come to the community that have been cut. Which is money for roads, firefighters and police," Moss firmly stated.

One of his main priorities once he sits down in January is to work in a bipartisan model to get a predictable stream of money to come to Michigan communities. There is no doubt that he would like to see Lansing pass an amendment to the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights act, but Moss plans to wait and see what can happen in the lame duck session before he decides his next step.

"There are people in Michigan who I think are not embracing of the LGBT community because they claim they don't know anybody who is gay. No state legislator can say they don't know anybody who is gay. I think Jon (Hoadley) and I will put a face to the gay community in everything we do," Moss said. Moss doesn't want to be known for his sexuality before his achievements, which reach far beyond the LGBT community. But there are plenty of people who still judge him based on his sexuality, beyond anything he has been involved in politically.



Jeremy Moss, center, with friends Jeffrey Beyer, Ian Edwards, Jenny Suidan and Andy Meisner the Oakland County Treasurer and former State Rep. for Ferndale, at their celebration party on Nov. 4. BTL Photo AJ Trager

One of those people is Gary Glenn, candidate elect for the 98th District in the State House. Glenn is known for his work as the former president of the Michigan chapter of the American Family Association

and his militant negative view of the LGBT community. Moss may have to work together with Glen on Michigan legislation when in Lansing. Moss says the two of them have

See Moss, page 19

www.PrideSource.com Nov. 13, 2014 | BTL 17

# **Obituary: Ernest B. Gutierrez 'Tito'**

Tito Gutierrez, former Affirmations supporter and board member, died peacefully at his home in Arlington, Virginia of

lymphoma on Nov. 3.



Born in Guayaquil, Ecuador on Feb. 15, 1944, he lived in Ecuador, Mexico, Venezuela and Washington D.C. While his father served in the Foreign Service, he studied his junior and senior years of high school at the Notre Dame Internacional School in Rome.

He returned to the U.S. and entered Columbia University in New York City with a four year scholarship from the New York Times.

With his fluency in languages, he guided foreign visitors to the U.S. He earned a Masters Degree from American University while teaching languages at Woodrow Wilson High School in Washington D.C. He started his career in social justice efforts when he was hired as Program Officer of the Campaign of Human Development. He became the director of Grants and Loans.

He then worked in Boston Fair Housing office at the Whitney Foundation in New York, and for nearly 20 years at the Kresge Foundation based in Troy, Michigan.

In a statement to all Kresge employees, President and CEO of The Kresge Foundation Rip Rapson said, "When I arrived at Kresge in 2006, Ernie was already a legend in our field. He was an ardent champion of GLBT issues and issues of diversity, helping shape our institutional commitment to these issues well before many other philanthropic institutions. Ernie was gracious, generous, thoughtful and consummately professional. He leaves the world a far better place for his compassion and commitment. I will miss him."

Nancy Katz, former board president of Affirmations, remembered Gutierrez fondly and with great respect for his contributions to the Affirmations Capital Campaign that raised \$5.3 million to build the new community center in downtown Ferndale. "I loved him," said Katz. "The big thing about Tito is, without him, I really believe we would not have had a successful capital campaign. He provided guidance, advice that was really critical. He really knew how to do it and he led us through the whole process, and he was clearly instrumental in getting the Kresge Foundation's matching grant of over \$600,000."

John Tsakos, a Grosse Pointe chiropractor and one of Gutierrez's closest friends, described him as high energy, active and someone who loved to travel. "He went down the Amazon, to Africa and the Galapagos Island," said Tsakos. "He was always upbeat and positive. He was great emotional support for me personally. He was brilliant and humble and willing to share and not take credit for it."

He is survived by his mother, Maria Guevara Gutierrez; his brother, Richard and sister-in-law, Nancy; his sister, Sonia of Tucson, Arizona; two nephews - Michael and his wife Linda and Stephan Gutierrez. Tito was predeceased by his father, Ernest B. Gutierrez Sr.

A memorial service is planned for Jan. 9, 2015 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Affirmations Community Center, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale MI 48220.

#### **► Elliott-Larsen**

Continued from p. 9

aisle – 'I can support sexual orientation, but I am just not comfortable with transgender protections.'"

"If gender identity or gender expression is removed from the bill, all support from LGBTQ advocacy groups, including Equality Michigan, will be revoked," said Emily Dievendorf, executive director of Equality Michigan. "We have no intention of leaving the transgender community behind. The transgender community is the most vulnerable part of the larger LGBTQ community and finding safety and fairness at every level and in every sphere for the transgender community must be as much a priority for the movement as anything. "

For his part, Greimel, the Democratic leader in the House, says the majority of the caucus will oppose a non-inclusive bill.

Kary Moss, executive director of ACLU of Michigan, said "a lot can happen in six weeks," and believes that Murray's head count is off.

"We have many reasons to be optimistic," Moss said. "There is a game plan and a lot of resources are being mobilized."

## **Shifting Political Winds**

The long road to amending Elliott-Larsen begins in 1981, when then Republican lawmaker Jim Dressel of Holland introduced the first legislation to amend the state's civil rights act. He was promptly shown the door by voters. Since then, various lawmakers, always Democrats, have introduced legislation to extend protections in housing and employment to the LGBT community. But it has never gotten anywhere.

This year was supposed to be different. Rep. Frank Foster, a northern Michigan Republican, made it clear he would introduce legislation to amend the law and extend protections to the entire community.

With a Republican leading the charge in a Republican controlled legislature, a new coalition of business leaders from across the state calling for the move and an extensive report from the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, amending the law seemed a likely thing.

That was before Foster was taken out by a conservative Christian in a primary challenge in August. That was before voters re-elected Gov. Snyder and installed several anti-gay extreme conservatives in the incoming legislature including Gary Glenn, the former president of the American Family Association of Michigan.

While Snyder has said he would like the legislature to take up amending Elliott-Larsen in the lame duck session, his communications team was unwilling to discuss the Republican governor's stance on inclusion of gender identity in any legislation.

In an extensive back and forth email



The public is asked to contact their state legislators and voice support for Elliott-Larsen being amended. By visiting www.freedommichigan.org you can sign the petition and learn about volunteer opportunities during the next six weeks.

exchange with Snyder spokesman Dave Murray, the governor's office was unwilling to answer two direct questions from BTL.

First, "Does the governor believe the transgender community is discriminated against, yes or no?" The second, "Does the governor believe that gender identity should be included in any legislation to expand Elliott-Larsen, yes or no?"

"Gov. Snyder has said that he believes discrimination is wrong, period," Murray said in his email responses, ignoring the specific questions. "He's looking forward to discussing potential changes to the Elliott-Larson Civil Rights Act with our partners in the Legislature."

#### **Trans Community Nervous**

With gender identity on the proverbial chopping block, the transgender community in Michigan is feeling particularly vulnerable.

"I'm not at all sure we can hold the GOP caucus to pass an inclusive bill," says Amy Hunter, a transgender activist based in Kalamazoo. She is also president of the Kalamazoo Alliance for Equality. "In which case, it would be a mistake to pass a half bill. History is replete with examples where one group was left out. It then takes years, if ever, for lawmakers to come back and add the transgender community."

"It leaves the group most susceptible to discrimination stranded," she added.

And she notes excluding gender identity and expression, as the political tea leaves are indicating, harms the larger LGB movement as well

"Gender identity and expression don't just cover trans people," she notes. "It helps the LGBT community combat perceived sexual orientation. But if you leave it out, it makes that more difficult."

Dievendorf and Moss also note that the logic being used by the Speaker is flawed.

The EEOC ruling cited by Adler only applies to employment. Amending Elliott Larsen would extend non-discrimination protections to housing and public accommodations as well. And leaving the cases up to the whim of the courts can add

years to the fight to remedy discrimination situations, and relies on who is sitting on the bench, both argue.

# The Hail Mary That Could Save An Inclusive Elliott Larsen

Despite the gathering storm clouds and what appears to be a rubble-strewn path forward, at least one veteran political strategist and activist says there is a possibility of a last minute save for an inclusive amendment to the civil rights act.

In this scenario, the activist who is not involved in current negotiations or strategy sessions, says the Democratic caucus holds out for an inclusive Elliott-Larsen bill and trades votes to support a legislative move to fund road repairs. In that scenario, the GOP is going to be looking for votes on the Democratic side of the aisle in order to raise revenues to pay for the governor's \$1 billion funding request. Democrats could trade yes votes to raise revenue for a slim majority to pass an inclusive Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act amendment.

With Snyder pushing hard for a road funding solution to be found before January, such a horse trade might be more likely.

Sitting on the cusp of passing such an amendment for the first time in Michigan history, ACLU's Moss says now is the time for equality activists to pick up their phones, hit their emails and join the Michigan Freedom coalition website to tell lawmakers they support an inclusive civil rights act.

Moss has been putting the full court press on this. On Friday during her organization's annual dinner, she pushed over 500 supporters to act. During that event, Moss had attendees fill out hundreds of postcards supporting amending the law - postcards that will soon be delivered to the legislature and the governor. But that alone is not enough, she says.

"Now is the time for the governor and the Speaker to hear from everyone that cares about equality," Moss said.

#### ► Hoadley

Continued from p. 17

"The amount of student debt that they are leaving undergraduates with is crippling. We've created this as the type of debt that follows you after you die. We have a significant problem in America: wanting students to obtain more and more education with more debt. It's only gotten worse under the Republican legislature."

That Republican legislature is going to continue for at least the next two years. Gubernatorial candidate Rick Snyder was re-elected along with Attorney General Bill Schuette. Michigan Republicans still hold majority in both the state house and state

Before the election, the Kalamazoo Gazette held a forum between Hoadley and his opponents during which they were asked a speed round of questions covering the Right to Work, road funding and the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act. Hoadley was disappointed that nearly every Republican had some form of "I need more information" statement on the Elliott-Larsen question.

"Poll after poll show that voters support equality. So they want to support candidates who share the same idea," Hoadley said. "We want First Amendment voices included. We owe this to Michigan residents."

Hoadley was encouraged to see Rep. Frank Foster's original civil rights act amendment bill and will continue to support any bill that has protections for gender identity and sexual orientation, not just one of them.

"Now the question will be if the community makes legislature for everybody," he said.

What is going to happen to his company, Badland Strategies, LLC, once Hoadley takes office in January? It will change, but not significantly. Hoadley hopes that they will be looking for jobs in other quotients and exploring other ways to help advocates and serve Kalamazoo "first and foremost." Hoadley promises that his clients will be well looked after and experience a smooth transition.

The 110 members of the newly elected Michigan House of Representatives will begin their new term in January 2015 and will see the inclusion of two openly gay representatives, Jon Hoadley and Jeremy Moss.





Beth K. Mutch, MSN, FNP-BC Tanya M. Vaughn, MS, CNM, FNP-BC

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#### ► Moss

Continued from p. 17

never met and wonders how a legislator compromises with another when there is a big difference in acceptance of others.

"I can disagree with anybody on any policy issue and still find room for compromise and commonalities," Moss said. "At what point will we compromise because he won't interact with us? I'm not sure, and we will soon find out. I am hopeful that he is one of those people that just needs to realize that Jon and I are just like everybody else."

Moss is hopeful that Glenn can turn around and realize that decades of hatred can be relinquished and acceptance can fill that space instead.

"Gay people can function and do function in everyday society and are an important piece in the American dialogue. Maybe he'll open his eyes. I assume he didn't become anti-LGBT over night."

With two months left as a city councilman, Moss will be focusing on road funding and getting the roads fixed. He will work right up to the end of his elected term, adding to the conversation about electing Southfield's new Mayor and figuring out how to smooth the transition to the new city council session in 2015.

Moss adds, "I think the ignorant will realize that Jon and I are like everybody else. I think that will be the most important thing we will bring to the legislature."

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#### ► Good, Bad, Ugly

Continued from p. 16

challenging the Affordable Care Act where he can and continuing to protect drug companies.

Now, however, Schuette is going to have some back up in the state legislature. Gary Glenn, the former head of the American Family Association of Michigan – an affiliate of the nationally recognized hate group American Family Association - won his election in Midland, besting Democrat Joan Brausch despite a huge push by LGBT and labor groups. Glenn is proud to have authored the marriage ban, and you can bet he will support Schuette trying to avoid recognizing same-sex marriages should the federal courts approve of them.

Joining Glenn is Lana Theis of Brighton. She thinks that legislators should be prepared to resist marriage equality under a state's rights agenda, the Detroit Free Press' Brian Dickerson reported.

Glenn will oppose any movement to protect the LGBT community from discrimination. In July 2011, he said that employers shouldn't hire members of the community because of "health risks." And just for good measure, Glenn wants to criminalize consensual, noncommercial homosexual activity.

Adding to the mess, Todd Courser won his election, as did Cindy Gamrat. Both oppose equality for the LGBT community.

Courser and Glenn have even hinted at a possible run for the speaker by Glenn.

# ANDY COHEN AN OPEN BOOK

# **Bravo's Power** Gay Talks Haters, Being Out On TV & Britney Spears

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

ndy Cohen isn't used to sitting in the hot seat. As host of Bravo's Watch What Happens Live," and also executive producer of "The Real Housewives," Cohen spends his nights schmoozing with the likes of Oprah, Lady Gaga and Neil Patrick Harris. But today, ahead of his appearance at the 63rd Jewish Book Fair at 2 p.m. on Nov. 16, he's talking about himself and his new memoir, "The Andy Cohen Diaries: A Deep Look at a Shallow Year."

#### As an interviewer, what's it like having the tables turned?

It's hard! I'm a control freak, so yeah, it's difficult. It's awkward, because when you write a book, it's so different than doing press for your own show or anything else. It's personal, and you spend so much time on it, and pore over it and think about it so much, so it's more intense doing book press and getting out there with the book. But I'm very excited about it. I think it's really fun and name-drop-y and very pop

culture heavy, but it's also really personal.

Would you say you're doing exactly what you wanted to do as a pop cultureobsessed kid?

For sure. I'm getting to be myself on TV, which is just incredible, and have fun every night hosting a cocktail party in my little clubhouse. It's great. I love my life and I love what I'm able to do, absolutely.

As a kid, did you ever imagine you could be out on television?

I never thought that I could do that, and someone pointed out recently that I'm the only gay late-night talk show host. I never thought I'd be that guy, so it's cool to be there.

> Who was your first celebrity obsession?

God, I had so many. I was obsessed with Cher, Charlie's Angels, and Donnie and

I'm assuming Madonna, too, since you mention her at least 150 times in the

(Laughs) Yeah, I know; she's in there a lot, right?

In the beginning of the book you



#### INFO

#### **Andy Cohen**

2 p.m. Nov. 16 (Sold out)
The Berman Center for the Performing Arts
6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield
www.jccdet.org/bookfair
www.theberman.org

# say, "I've left the identities of a few people opaque because I don't want to embarrass anyone too much – or be sued or fired." How difficult is it to speak your truth but also maintain your career integrity?

It's definitely a dance that I have to do. I wanted to be true to myself, and I wanted to give the reader something on every page — whether it was a laugh or some dish, or just a smirk or something warm — so I knew that I had to deliver. If you're gonna write a diary, you just have to do it, but, on the other hand, I gotta do the show every night and I wanna keep getting big guests. For this, I just wrote on my laptop every day, basically.

Didn't you also call an assistant to give her a run through of your day?

I know that I'm not a superficial person; I know that I'm a deep person. But I'm also very self-deprecating, and I love to make fun of myself – that's why I call it 'A Deep Look at a Shallow Year.'

Well, the first few months started with me calling my friend and she was writing down what I was doing, yes.

# Which celebrity required you to jump through the most hoops?

Oprah. It was a period of years where I was trying, and Gayle King really helped me with that booking. So, Oprah was years in the making.

# Who are you most concerned will read the book and be bothered by your revelations?

Oh, that is a good question. Um, I think maybe Britney (Spears') people. I definitely didn't hold back there. I felt like when I originally wrote it, I really held back, and then I was like, "I just want to

be true to this experience." I'm still a fan – everything I write, I'm still writing from the perspective of a fan – so I think you'll see that I really like her.

# When has a face-to-face interaction with a celebrity turned awkward because of something you said about that person previously?

You know, I saw Khloe Kardashian at J. Lo's birthday party, and originally when I saw her I felt like, "Oh, did I say something about her?" And then there was that moment where I saw will.i.am and I was like, "Did I say something about him?" I think I'm always kind of wondering if I've said things about people, but I'm not that bad of a shit-talker.

# You are a shameless flirt, however. But who can blame you with Nick Jonas sitting right across from you?

I know; it's bad! I was really shamelessly flirty with Ricky Martin and I was like, "Oh god, what did I do? Why am I doing this?" But what can I tell you? (Laughs)

## When a gay stops you on the street, what do they say to you?

When gay guys stop me on the street, it's typically to pitch some reality show. The thing I've learned is just never read comments about yourself on any gay websites. They're so brutal and nasty.

#### How brutal?

They say, "He's a selfpromoting, queeny, bottomfeeding bottom and namedropping starfucker."

# What is the most common misconception about you?

The only people who have that perception are the people who are commenting on gay blogs. And probably that I drink too much. Part of that is just for the show. I'm not even always

drinking on the show!

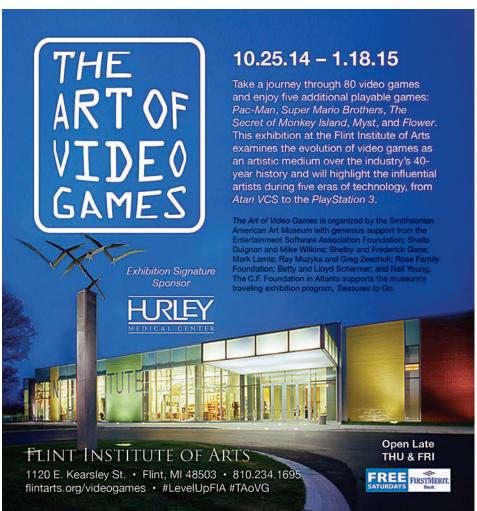
## What's your advice on being proud of superficiality?

You just have to be true to yourself. I know that I'm not a superficial person; I know that I'm a deep person. But I'm also very self-deprecating, and I love to make fun of myself – that's why I call it "A Deep Look at a Shallow Year." I'm trying to signal to people that this book is humorous – that's where I'm coming from with this book.

# When you retire from Bravo, how many stories will you have to tell in *that* book that are too juicy to print now?

Oh, I definitely have that book. That book will come.









BTL | Nov. 13, 2014



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# Detroit Rep Plunges Into New Season With 'Buzz'

#### BY JOHN QUINN

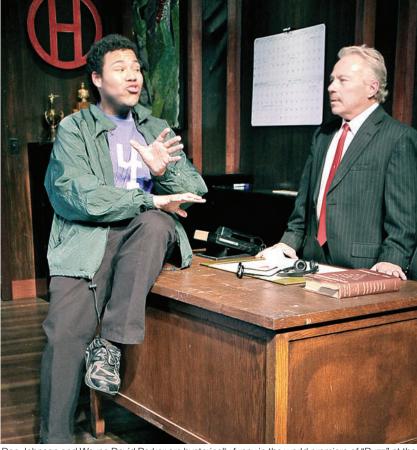
For good luck at a wedding, the bride assembles "something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue." The must be true, too, to assure good luck for an evening of classy comedy.

Something old would be the Detroit Repertory Theatre, the oldest alternative professional theater in Michigan. The "new" is Michiganian playwright Richard Strand's "Buzz," receiving its world premiere. Leah Smith, director of development for the Rep and stage manager for "Buzz," "borrows" artistic director Bruce E. Millan's iconic curtain speech, but that's a fitting homage as well as being practical. Except for a few off-color epithets, though, the only blue around is the title character's shirt. "Blue," as in "sad," won't be found at all.

It would seem that Ryan Hutchings (Wayne David Parker), CEO of Hutchings Enterprises Inc., is nefariously trying to duck an expensive workman compensation lawsuit by trying to find a possible witness to his employee's accident. Once he settles on a stock clerk, Buzz Gunderson (Dan Johnson), as his witness of choice, we find that Hutchings' offer of a sizable bribe in exchange for scripted testimony will also preserve a dark, mean secret. It's obvious before we even meet Buzz that the witless slacker is the wrong guy for the job. Our opinion won't change but our reasoning will, as Strand peels away each layer of his elegantly structured plot.

"Buzz" is a celebration of rapid repartee; Parker and Johnson function like a classic vaudeville team. It is appealing to discover how timing and inflection can enhance even the best written lines. Harry Wetzel, the Rep's man for all reasons, both directs "Buzz" and designed the expansive set, thus being doubly responsible for the easy flow of the production.

And although the bulk of the plot revolves around the unstable relations between the guys, Rita Montpetit Liegl and Kennikki Jones-Jones, each making her first appearance with the Rep, create memorable characters who are determined to undermine Ryan Hutchings schemes. Liegl plays



Dan Johnson and Wayne David Parker are hysterically funny in the world premiere of "Buzz" at the Detroit Repertory Theatre. Photo: Bruce Millan

#### REVIEW

# **Buzz**Detroit Repertory Theatre

13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit
8:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 13, 20, Dec.
4, 11, 18
8:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14, 21, 28, Dec.
5, 12, 19, 26
3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22, 29, Dec. 6,
13, 20, 27
8:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 15, 22, 29,
Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27
2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 16, 23,
30, Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28
2 hours 20 minutes
\$17-20; \$75 Black Tie Event on Nov. 15
313-868-1347
detroitreptheatre.com

Alyson Schrum, the buttoned-down, nononsense company board member who won't accept Hutchings' account without investigation. Alyson Schrum, at least, has lines; as the accident victim Shirley Greenberg, Kennikki Jones-Jones is mute. Shirley might have suffered brain damage in her fall from the loading dock and has difficulty communicating – which aids in Hutchings plan to sweep the whole affair under the rug. But even though Jones-Jones' face is largely obscured by bandages, she efficiently creates the image of a woman wronged largely by body language.

"Buzz" satisfies on many levels. It's a thoroughly original piece marked by crisp writing, seasoned by biting wit. It's presented by artists who clearly understand the fundamentals of comedy and ably employ them to best effect.

But perhaps the most satisfying element of this production is that it marks the beginning of the 58th season for the Detroit Rep. In an industry where companies have lifespans comparable to mayflies, it's good to reflect on the stability afforded by a proven winner.

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# A Prodigy Returns

# Pianist Anton Nel Heads Back To Ann Arbor To Perform Tchaikovsky

#### BY JAN STEVENSON

Anton Nel, the internationally acclaimed piano virtuoso and former head of the piano department at the University of Michigan, returns to Ann Arbor this weekend to perform the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1 with the Ann Arbor Symphony. A popular faculty member while at U-M in the mid-2000s, Nel's homecoming is at 8 p.m. Nov. 15 at the Michigan Theater, where he'll reconnect with a rich network of friends and fans in Ann Arbor, especially within the LGBT community.

Winner of the 1987 Naumberg International Piano Competition at Carnegie Hall, Nel has performed with many of the world's finest orchestras in the United States, Europe, Asia and South Africa. Born in 1961 in South Africa, he was a prodigy, performing the Beethoven C Major Concerto at the age of 12 after only two years of study. At 19, he came to the U.S. to study at the University of Cincinnati-College Conservatory of Music where he earned his Masters and Doctoral degrees in music. From there, his career catapulted as he appeared at major concert and recital halls around the globe.

Nel belongs to one of the most famous lines of pianists. Nel's teacher was South African virtuoso Adolph Hallis, who was taught by the most famous of the Romantic piano teachers, Theodor Leschetizky. He in turn was taught by Carl Czerny, a teacher whose studies most piano students still play today. Czerny was taught by none other than Ludwig van Beethoven, who for his part was taught by Mozart's composer friend, and rival, Joseph Haydn. Before that, the piano didn't even exist.

Nel now chairs the piano department at the University of Texas. BTL spoke with him from his Austin home on returning to Ann Arbor, growing up in South Africa and his passion for teaching.



You're known not only as one of the great pianists of our time, but also for your huge repertoire and prodigious memory and expertise on Beethoven. How does your connection with Beethoven impact your playing of Tchaikovsky?

That's a great question. Over the years I've always had a strong love for the German-Austrian classical romantic type of music and somehow, in all of that, I became the frontrunner for being known for the music that I play. All

the German music is, of course, so highly organized. The Tchaikovsky has a very good structure and you relate to it on that level. I think it's beautifully constructed. The only shame about it is that the great melody that you hear in the beginning that everybody knows never comes back again; it's there and then it goes away. It's bright while it lasts.

You were born and raised in South Africa. What was it like growing up in such a political storm with the INFO

# Tchaikovsky & Friends

8 p.m. Nov. 15 Michigan Theater 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor www.michtheater.org

#### wrenching end to apartheid?

Ihad the most wonderful upbringing. I was born in Johannesburg, but we lived on a farm for a large part of my childhood. It was very simple. Television hadn't come to South Africa until 1976, so all of our stimulation as children came from things that we made up ourselves. My family would gather around the radio to listen to something. There was always music in my house. My mother played. I remember music before I could speak. And it was natural for me to start piano lessons.

# They must've been astounded that they had a prodigy in the family.

My mother was amazing. She was not the typical kind of stage mother that one sometimes encounters these days. She just celebrated the fact that somebody was doing something that I think she had once upon a time dreamed of doing herself.

## Do you get back to South Africa much?

I very much do. I do a lot of playing there. South Africa has been extremely loyal to me all these years. So whenever I go back, it's wonderful and I am welcomed. I was there earlier this year for a three-week tour.

#### Have you toured Russia?

I've been there a couple of times.

# Would you go back now given the political environment there?

I'm a little nervous about that. I would rather not look for trouble. I'd rather wait. I'm a peaceful kind

of guy. I spend a lot of time trying to create calm and I don't think that would be such a good idea.

## What do you enjoy about teaching and the academic environment?

For me, I come from such a rich pedigree of people that I've studied with. I was always interested in teaching, to pass on this tradition. But now I am completely immersed and dedicated to it. First off, it is really good for your playing because you have to practice what you preach, but in another sense it is a huge responsibility. When I was in school, my teacher was the absolute most important person in my life, especially being a foreign student. As a teacher now, you do so much more for them than teach - you mentor and you are their guide. You're everything to them, really. My students are like my family.

#### Orchestras and all classical musicians are struggling to attract young people. What do you think is the future of classical music in America?

I think we have a lot of work to do. I needn't tell you that our audience is aging fast. It's interesting because it is part of a cycle. When you visit a place like Asia, it's completely different. Audiences are sort of young and excited, and they carry on at a classical concert like it is a rock concert.

I don't think there'll be a shortage of people that want to go into classical music; there are hundreds and thousands of people that want to pursue it, but you know, we need people to play for. The only way to do this is to educate the young people and get them excited about coming to concerts — to get away from the Internet and whatever, to get themselves out there, and to enjoy the real thing.



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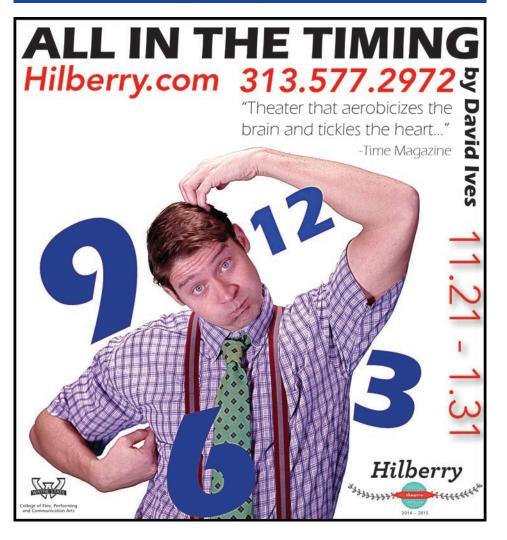
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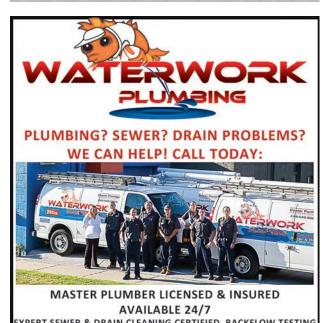


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# **Fine Art Show Celebrates** Fourth Year In Ferndale

#### BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

The 16th Annual Ridge Fine Art & Handmade Wares Show will bring buyable art to Ferndale for one day only this month. The show, marking its 16th year running and fourth year residing in "Fashionable Ferndale," brings one-of-a-kind handmade art to the city. Featuring over 25 Michigan artists, unique pieces of jewelry, ceramics, tile, wearables, sculpture, 2D collage, candles, soap, fiber, glass, handbags, wood, leather and journals are available to see and purchase, with price points ranging from \$3-\$200.

"This isn't your ordinary art fair, but one that focuses on quality, not quantity, when it comes to vendors," says Siouxsan Miller, the sole founder and leader of the event over the vision is to attract a community of artists to share their talent and (also to attract) dedicated customers

who really appreciate and support art." The show has come a long way over the years. "As an artist myself, I saw

the need back then, way before the 'Indie Craft Movement,'" Miller says of the show's creation, "and here it is 16 years later."

Customers at the fine art show are encouraged to interact, particularly by voting for their favorite artist for the "People's Choice" award. The

winning artist receives a cash prize and invitation to show again the next year, while the people who vote in turn get a chance to win one of many donated, handmade prizes.

The combination of returning and new artists each year helps keep the show both fresh and familiar. By combining veterans and "newbies" to the art scene, the event maintains a unique balance, as each year new artists are tapped to allow shoppers to discover something new.

The Ridge Fine Art & Handmade Wares Show will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 22 at the Drayton Avenue Presbyterian Church, 2441 Pinecrest, Ferndale. Admission is \$2. Parking and refreshments are free. For more information, call event organizer Miller at 248-398-8107 or visit www.siouxsan.com/ridgeshow.html.



last 16 years. "The longstanding Collage work by Detroit artist, Teresa Petersen.



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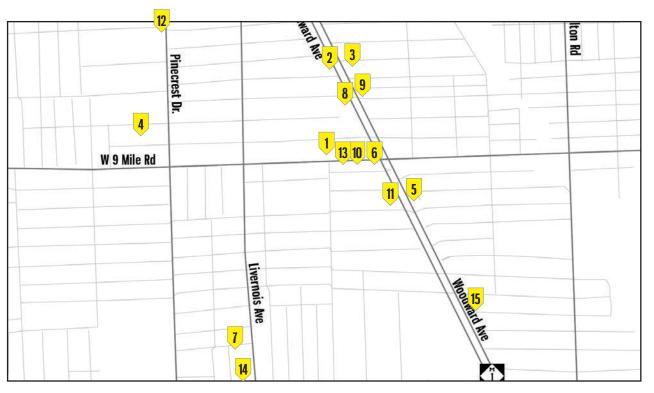


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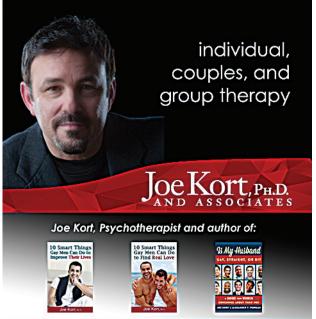
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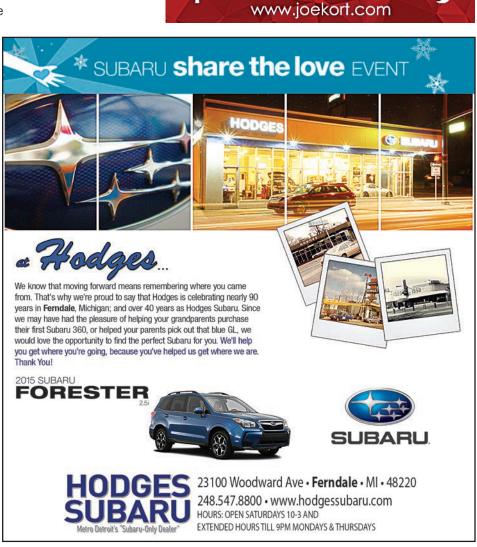


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#### **OUTINGS**

#### Thursday, Nov. 13

2014 Annual Dinner & Auction 5 p.m. Tickets: \$75-600. Freedom House, 1 Riverbank Dr., **Detroit.** Freedomhousedetroit.org

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

**Motor City Pride Planning Committee** 6:30 p.m. Motor City Pride, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Motorcitypride.org

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

Wine & Cheese Party 7:30 p.m. Ann Arbor LGBTQA Young Professionals' Social Meetup, 201 S. First St., Ann Arbor. Meetup.com/Ann-Arbor-LGBTQA-Young-Professionals-Social-Meetup

#### Friday, Nov. 14

Gay Business Networking (GBN) 8 a.m. Meets monthly to unite LGBT Business owners and professionals and encourage us to support each other by doing business together and referring our friends to

MIKE NEUBECKER Open mix after. Bring your A game - sing, recite poetry, tell some jokes, dance. We are looking for a co-host and will be holding open auditions. Suggested donation \$3-\$5 benefiting the artists and The Aff Stores food donations. Organization Name, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. jwtct@ aol.com Goaffirmations.org

Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: Mr. Angel - Enter the fascinating world of transgender activist and porn pioneer Buck Angel. Born female, he survived abuse, addiction and suicide attempts before searching for acceptance and reinventing himself as a transgender porn star and educator. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org/

#### Saturday, Nov. 15

A Holiday Pride Concert The West Michigan Gay Men's Chorus. The OutCenter, **St. Joseph.** Outcenter.org

Women in the Arts Festival (WITA) A celebration of regional women artists. Includes performances by Sistrum -Lansing's Women's Chorus, Readers Theater directed by Laurie Hollinger, a screening of the film Thunder about Canadian (and Michigan resident) Ferron, craft sale and more. Tickets: \$5-20. Circe Productions and Sistrum, 469 N. Hagadorn, East Lansing. producer@ witafestival com Witafestival com

The Wellness Code: a Health and **Healing Expo** 10 a.m. The Wellness Code Expo, 233 E. Fulton, **Grand Rapids**. Wellnesscode, weebly.com

PFLAG Greater Lansing Meeting 3 p.m. Free. PFLAG Greater Lansing, 210 W. Saginaw Hwy., **Grand Ledge.** 517-627-2336. PFLAGGreaterLansing@gmail.com

Bisexual Peer Group 4 p.m. Our group meets monthly on the third Friday & discussion relates to bisexual identity Building is handicap accessible using ramp to rear entrance. Bisexual Peer Group, 319 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-678-2478. Biprideannarbor@gmail.com Facebook.com/groups/110918256984/

Regardless Of (Narcotics Anonymous Meeting) 7 p.m. This is a closed meeting for addicts or those who think they might have a drug problem. This may be a Common Needs meeting, but any addict seeking recovery is welcome! The time has come that any addict seeking recovery in the Washtenaw area can find it. The more diverse the fellowship, the more members we are able to reach! The goal is to make the message of recovery available to all so that any addict can come to NA and feel that they too belong in this fellowship! Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor, 734-995-9867, iimtovcenter.org

Melissa Etheridge 7:30 p.m. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor, 734-668-8397. Michtheater.org

Drag Queen Addictions 10:30 p.m. LaBelle and Aretha Franklin impersonator April Summers brings her big personality to the stage as she introduces a lineup of drag stars. 18+. Inuendo Nightclub, Corner of Nevada St. and Southbound I-75. Detroit. https:// facebook.com/inuendo. nightclub?rf=118209121607517

6:30 p.m. Motor City Pride, 516 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Motorcitypride.org

A2 TNG (Next Generation of Kinkster) 8 p.m. A kink and fetish oriented group for younger kinksters. The group focuses on support, the sharing of information in the form of demonstrations or discussion groups and socializing. Meets on the third Tuesday of every month. Open to all. A2 TNG, 319 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-678-2478. CuteSubToy@Yahoo.com JimTovCenter.org

#### Wednesday, Nov. 19

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

Medicare 2015 Changes Educational Presentation for LGBT Only 3 p.m. Area Agency on Aging 1-B and Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

HIV Testing 6 p.m. Free. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. http:// goaffirmations.org/events/ event details. asp?id=430531

#### Thursday, Nov. 20

Free HIV Testing 2 p.m. Free anonymous HIV testing in-store at S3 every Thursday 2-8. Call to make 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

Michigan Round Table and ACLU **Community Conversation** 4 p.m. Michigan Round Table and ACLU, 1669 W. Maple Road, Birmingham. 248-644-2040. Miroundtable.org/lgbtfaith. html

Free HIV Testing 6 p.m. The AIDS Service

**HIVAIDS Resource Center (HARC) 11th** Annual Wine Cellar 6:30 p.m. Join HARC for an evening of live jazz, a tasting of the seasons best holiday wine courtesy of Everyday Wines, delicious hearty appetizers by Bona Sera and hand-crafted chocolates and confections by Sweet Gem Confections. At the heart of the event is a raffle of over 100 bottles of wine donated by celebrities, wine collectors, bon vivants, sports figures and chefs. Over 50 bottles of wine go to one lucky winner--an instant wine cellar!Tickets: \$50-60. HIVAIDS Resource Center (HARC), 2275 Platt Road, Ann Arbor. 7345729355. hdecker@ hivaidsresource.org Hivaidsresource.org

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

Friday, Nov. 21 Pioneering Voices: Portraits of **Transgender People** Photographs by Jack Pierson and Gigi Kaeser. Interviews by Jack Pierson and Peggy Gillespi. Museum-quality traveling exhibit including photographs and interviews with people of all ages who are transgender. Through first-person accounts and positive images this exhibit seeks to challenge damaging myths and stereotypes about transgender people and to educate people about this marginalized, and often invisible group of people. Congregational Church of Birmingham, 1000 Cranbrook Road, Bloomfield Hills, 248-646-4511. ccbinfo@ccbucc.org Ccbucc.org



## **Editor's Pick**

The Chamber Music Society of Detroit will present the young Dover Quartet this Saturday in Beverly Hills. (Pianist Jon Kimura Parker will perform throughout the weekend.) The group, which captured international attention after sweeping the 2013 Banff String Quartet Competition, will perform works by Josef Haydn and Viktor Ullman.

Parker will join the quartet for a performance

of Antonin Dvorak's "Piano Quintet No. 2" in A Major during Saturday's show. Parker will also perform a solo show the next day, featuring a virtuoso program of fantasies by Beethoven, Schubert and Schumann, plus music from films like "Psycho" and "The Wizard of Oz."

The Dover Quartet will play at 8 p.m. on Nov. 15 at the Seligman Performing Arts Center, 22305 W. 13 Mile Road, Beverly Hills. Parker's solo show begins at 3 p.m. on Sunday, also at the Seligman Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$10-60. For more information, visit chambermusicdetroit.org.

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www.mdsl.org www.facebook.com/MetroDetroitSoftball members of the networking group. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. Jimtoycenter.org

2014 Compassionate Feast 6 p.m. A vegetarian dinner and more to celebrate the bond between humans and animals. Tickets: \$125-200. Humane Society of Huron Valley, 8540 Island Lake Road, Dexter. Hshv. convio.net

Woman 2 Woman 6 p.m. Free. KICK, 41 Burroughs St. 109, Detroit. 313-285-9733. E-kick.org

EVolution @ The AFF Cafe, Store & More 6:30 p.m. With featured artist singersongwriter SANDY MULLIGAN & HER BAND THE GYPSIES and comedian

**Transgender Leadership Training** 10 a.m. Free. The ACLU of Michigan LGBT Project, 629 Pioneer St., Kalamazoo. 269-349-4234, Kalrc.org

LGBTQ-Friendly Yoga Class Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. Justbyoga.com

Lansing Capital Roller Derby - Mitten Mavens vs Central Michigan Mayhem 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$10-12. Lansing Capital Roller Derby, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing . Mittenmavens.net

#### Sunday, Nov. 16

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

#### Monday, Nov. 17

Center Open - Drop In 7 p.m. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor, 734-995-9867, Jimtovcenter.org

#### Tuesday, Nov. 18

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

Talk Tuesdays 6 p.m. Free. KICK, 41 Burroughs St. 109, Detroit. 313-285-9733. e-kick.org

Motor City Pride Planning Committee

www.PrideSource.com BTL | Nov. 13, 2014



## **Editor's Pick**

The University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance presents the opera "Dead Man Walking" by Jake Heggie and Terrence McNally, based on the novel by Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ. A powerful tale of compassion and the effect of crime on the families of both the victim and perpetrator, the production runs Nov. 13-16 at the Power Center for the Performing Arts in Ann Arbor.

The performance features the University Symphony Orchestra. The production is

double cast and will be sung in English with projected English supertitles.

Tickets are \$10-28. For tickets and information, call 734-764-2538.

Mini Farmers Market 11 a.m. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. 269-857-2399. Sc4a.org

Weekend Starts 6:15 p.m. Gay Professionals Social Group, 241 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale, Meetup.com/Gav-Professionals-Social-Group-MI/events/

Friday Night Vibe @ The AFF Cafe, Store & More 7 p.m. The Friday Night Vibe is your original open mic night in downtown Ferndale, whether your singing, acting dancing or showcasing your talent. DJ ACE will be here playing the hottest club hits. Free, Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. TylerBeltz@aol. com Goaffirmations.org

Wanda Sykes 8 p.m. Mature audiences only. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 810-237-8689. Thewhiting.com

Pride Friday 9 p.m. The one and only gay night. 18+. Guys with college ID get in free before 11 p.m. Cover: \$5+. Necto, 516 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-994-5835. Thenecto.com

Drag Queen Bingo 10 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

#### **MUSIC & MORE**

#### Classical

Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra "Tchaikovsky & Friends" Tickets: \$15-62. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Nov. 15. 734-668-8397

Chamber Music Society of Detroit "Jon Kimura Parker" Tickets: \$15-60. Seligman Performing Arts Center, 22305 W. 13 Mile Road, Beverly Hills. 3 p.m. Nov. 16. Chambermusicdetroit.org

**Chamber Music Society of Detroit** "Sunday Recital Series". Seligman Performing Arts Center, 22305 W. 13 Mile Road, Beverly Hills. Nov. 16 - Jan. 25. Chambermusicdetroit.org

#### **Concerts**

Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase "Mike Stanley". Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor, Nov. 13 - Nov. 15. 734-996-9080. Aacomedy.com

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Sounds of Simon & Garfunkel". Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Nov. 14 - Nov. 16. 313-576-5111. Dso.org

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "MIx @ The Max" Featuring different performers each month. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Sep. 27 -Nov. 19. 313-576-5111. Dso.org

Magic Stick Lounge "Gates". The Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Nov. 14. 313-833-9700. Majesticdetroit.

The Acorn Theater "Anna Nalick" The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. Nov. 15. 269-756-3879.

The Acorn Theater "Miles Nielsen and the Rusted Hearts". The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks, 8 p.m. Nov. 14. 269-756-3879. Acorntheater.com

The Acorn Theater "Margaret Timmerman". The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks, 7:30 p.m. Nov. 13, 269-756-3879, Acorntheater.com

The Ark "Ryan Bingham" Tickets: \$25. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Nov. 18. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "Grant-Lee Phillips & Howe Gelb" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor, 8 p.m. Nov. 14, 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "Hot Rize" Tickets: \$35 The Ark 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Nov. 17. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "Willy Porter" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 16. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Crofoot "Chrissie Hynde and The Band Will Travel" Performing Pretenders and Stockholm. The Jack White Theatre at Masonic Temple, Detroit. Nov. 15. TheCrofoot com

**The Magic Bag** "Dave Davies" Tickets: \$37. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Nov. 14. 248-544-3030. Themagicbag.com

The Majestic "Sun Tribe feautring Trace of Lime, Jay Fry and more". The Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit, 8 p.m. Nov. 13. 313-833-9700. Majesticdetroit.com

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of** Flint "Cris Willamson Concert" Tickets: \$15. Unitarian Universalist Church of Flint, 2474 S. Ballenger Hwy., Flint, 7 p.m. Nov. 13. 810-232-4023. brownpapertickets. com/event896472

Wharton Center "Arturo Sandoval" Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan State University, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. Nov. 14. 800-WHARTON, Whartoncenter.com

#### THEATER

#### **Civic/Community Theater**

A View From the Bridge \$18. Grosse Pointe Theatre at Grosse Pointe War Memorial Fries Auditorium, 32 Lakeshore Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, Through Nov. 22. 313-881-4004. gpt.org

Old Times \$12 Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at A2CT Studio Theater, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. Nov. 21 - 23. 734-971-2228

a2ct.org

Other Desert Cities \$18-22. Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. Through Nov. 16. 248-541-6430. stagecrafters.org

Parade \$15-18. Peppermint Creek Theatre Company at Miller Performing Arts Center, 6025 Curry Lane, Lansing, Through Nov. 16. peppermintcreek.org

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) [revised] \$12-15. Emergent Arts at The Mix Studio Theatre, 8 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti. Through Nov. 16. 734-985-0875. emergentarts.com

The Frog Prince and The Truly Remarkable Puss-in-Boots \$5-7 All-of-us Express Children's Theatre at East Lansing Hannah Community Center 819 Abbot Road Fast Lansing Through Nov. 15. 517-333-2580 ext. 0. citvofeastlansing.com/allofus

#### **College/University Theater**

A Room With a View \$5-15. Lansing Community College Performing Arts at Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing, Through Nov. 16, 517-483-1488. Icc.edu/showinfo

A Song for Coretta \$10-12. The Studio Theatre, 4743 Cass Avenue, Detroit. Through Nov. 16. 313-577-2972. wsustudio com

Dead Man Walking \$10-28. U-M School of Music, Theatre & Dance at Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor, Nov. 13 - 16 734-764-2538. tickets.music.umich.edu

Hair Contains brief nudity. \$5-20. The University Theatre at Williams Theatre inside The Gilmore Theatre Complex at Western Michigan University, 2200 Auditorium Dr., Kalamazoo, Nov. 14 - 23. 269-387-7222. Wmutheatre.com

Peter Pan \$10-20. Bonstelle Theatre, 3424 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Nov. 14 -23. 313-577-2960. bonstelle.com

The Liar \$8-14. Oakland University Dept. of Music, Theatre and Dance at Varner Studio Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. Nov. 13 - 23. 248-370-2030, oakland.edu/mtd

#### **Professional**

A Christmas Carol \$19-42. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester, Nov. 14 - Dec. 21, 248-377-3300. mbtheatre.com

All in the Timing \$10-30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit, Nov. 21 - Jan. 31. 313-577-2972. hilberry.com

Annapurna \$12-42. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through Dec. 20. 734-433-7673 purplerosetheatre.org

See Happenings, page 31

#### \aut\ BAR & Common Language Bookstore



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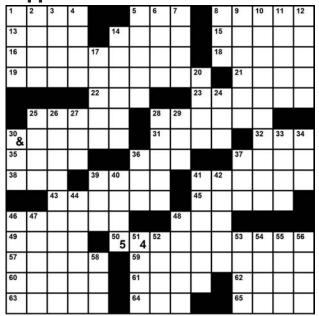


# **HUGE Inventory Blowout Sale!!**



## **O** Puzzle

## **Pepper's Parties**



#### Across

- 1 Band that goes either way?
- 5 Bear lair
- 8 Can't stomach
- 13 Pride member
- 14 Tutti-frutti holder
- 15 Juice for your pickle
- 16 Group with a mission

- 18 Toned down
- 19 With 30-Across and 9-Down, one of Pepper's parties
- 21 Chapel Hill's st.
- 22 Muscle Mary's pride
- 23 In the manner of Adrienne?
- 25 One who serves a dictator?
- 28 Latin dance
- 30 See 19-Across

- 31 S&M unit
- 32 Stimpy's partner
- 35 Fly like a falcon
- 36 "At Seventeen" singer
- 37 Type of straits
- 38 "A League of Their \_\_\_\_ "
- 39 TLC source
- 41 With 50-Across, holiday for one of Pepper's parties
- 43 Pussyfoots
- 45 It is but half
- 46 It may cream your face when you bite it
- 48 Mystery story pioneer
- 49 Excellent in sland
- 50 See 41-Across
- 57 Scout's recitation, and others
- 59 Da Vinci's eatery
- 60 Balkan native
- 61 Dame of the piano
- 62 Teri of "Tootsie"
- 63 Lena played Glinda in "The Wiz"
- 64 Match a poker bet
- 65 Tireless carrier

#### Down

- 1 Karen Carpenter, for one
- 2 Antigay prejudice, e.g.
- 3 Greenish-yellow fruit
- 4 "Diana" singer
- 5 Rock costar
- 6 Business letter abbr.
- 7 Have an opening for
- 8 SDI weapon
- 9 See 19-Across
- 10 Thumb successfully

- 11 Tatum of "The Bad News Bears"
- 12 Wipe over
- 14 Gay rodeo guy
- 17 Liszt of piano pieces
- 20 Pitcher stats
- 24 Rilke's I
- 25 One with a flat bottom
- 26 Tongue expert
- 27 Stud site
- 28 Junior or senior, e.g.
- 29 Solo among the stars
- 30 "\_\_\_ it goes"
- 33 Debussy contemporary Satie
- 34 Keanu in "The Matrix"
- 36 Pen contents
- 37 Expected to come soon
- 39 Island necklace
- 40 Standard for a long golf hole
- 41 Hauls ass
- 42 It's a steal
- 44 Lane, who plays Pepper on
- "Modern Family
- 46 Memorable period
- 47 Single-named singer
- 48 Moon position
- 51 Quarters
- 52 It can bear fruit
- 53 Runs around the track
- 54 Siberian river
- 55 Old money, to Pasolini
- 56 Male enhancement exaggeration?
- 58 Canadian map trigram

Solution on pg. 23













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atterson Dog & Cat Hospita 00 Grand River Ave., Detroi 313-832-7282

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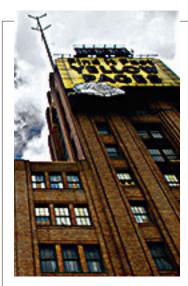
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## **Editor's Pick**



Neighborhood Service Organization (NSO) presents an emotional experience for metro Detroiters this month with their "Through Our Eyes" gallery exhibit. The Detroit art exhibit helps viewers see through the eyes of the homeless, as the NSO Bell Building tenants took to photography this past year in order to share their stories.

As part of the NSO Bell-Oakland University PhotoVoice Research Project, the tenants were able to capture their everyday lives through pictures. PhotoVoice is a research methodology that uses photography to empower people to show their journeys and struggles.

The opening of the exhibit will be at 6 p.m. Nov. 20 at the Swords into Plowshares Peace Center and Gallery, 33 E. Adams St., Detroit. The exhibit will run through Dec. 13. To RSVP to the opening reception, email dfigurski@nsomi.org or visit nso-mi.org for more information.

#### ► Happenings

Continued from p. 29

Anything Goes \$54-59. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township, Nov. 14 - 15. 586-286-2222. macombcenter.com

Buzz \$17-20: \$75 Black Tie Event on Nov. 15. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Through Dec. 28. 313-868-1347, detroitreptheatre.com

Christmas Caroled \$15-32. The Encore Musical Theatre Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Nov. 20 - Dec. 21. 734-268-6200. theencoretheatre.org

ComedySportz Michigan Actors Studio, 648 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 877-636-3320. comedysportzdetroit.com

Cornwell's Christmas Carol \$42 with meal; \$37 show only. Cornwell's Dinner Theatre, 18935 15 1/2 Mile Rd, Marshall. Through Dec. 20. 800-228-4315. turkevville.com

Dinosaurus \$8 adult, \$5 child. Henry Ford College's Virtual Theatricality Lab at Adray Auditorium, Henry Ford Community College, 5101 Evergreen Road, Dearborn. Through Nov. 23. 313-845-6478. theatre.

Enter Laughing \$41-48. The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company at Aaron DeRoy Theatre on the campus of the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road., West Bloomfield. Through Nov. 16. 248-788-2900. jettheatre.org

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

It's a Wonderful Life \$15 both days: \$40 VIP on Saturday, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. Nov. 20 - 22. 269-756-3879, acorntheater.com

Jake's Women \$18-20 in advance; \$2 extra at the door. Two Muses Theatre at Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. Nov. 14 - Dec. 7. 248-850-9919. twomusestheatre.org

Julian Sands In: A Celebration of Harold Pinter \$15-45. Wharton Center's Pasant Theatre, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing, 7 p.m. Nov. 16, 800-WHARTON

Madame Butterfly \$25-128, Michigan Opera Theatre at Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. Nov. 15 - 23. 313-237-SING, michiganopera.org

Motown the Musical \$39-95, Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Through Nov. 16. 313-872-1000. broadwavindetroit com

Nunsense Jamboree \$8-15. Thunder Bay Theatre, 400 N. Second Avenue, Alpena. Through Nov. 16. 989-354-2267. thunderbaytheatre.com

Pinkalicious The Musical \$15-22. City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Nov. 21 - 23. 313-471-6611.

Rapture, Blister, Burn \$15-20. Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley, Detroit. Nov. 14 - Dec. 7. 313-967-0999. matrixtheatre.org

Stupid Fucking Bird \$10-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave. Ferndale. Nov. 14 - Dec. 8. 248-545-5545. theringwald.com

The Fresh Beat Band's Greatest Hits Live \$35-59.50. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit, 4:30 p.m. Nov. 15, 313-471-

The Motherfucker with the Hat \$5-30. 4TheatrSake at Doubletree Hotel Fort-Shelby, Terrace Level, 525 W. Lafavette Blvd., Detroit. Nov. 14 - 29. 800-838-3006. drama4change.org

The Rainmaker \$27-32. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville Nov. 13 - Dec. 14, 248-347-0003. tippingpointtheatre com

Treasure Island \$10-15. Wild Swan Theater at Towsley Auditorium, Morris Lawrence Building, Washtenaw Community College, 4800 E. Huron Dr. Ann Arbor. Nov. 19 - 23. 734-995-0530.

Turtle Island \$5-10. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River Ave.. Detroit. Through Nov. 30. 313-961-7777. puppetart.org

#### art 'n' around

Cranbrook Art Museum "Cranbrook Goes to the Movies: Films and Their Objects, 1925-1975". Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. June 21 Feb. 28. 877-462-7262. Cranbrookart. edu

Detroit Institute of Arts "Guest of Honor: Monet's Waterlily Pond, Green Harmony". Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Oct. 1 - Jan. 4. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

Flint Institute of Arts "The Origins of Art & Its Implications" Harold Dibble Ph. D. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint, 6 p.m. Nov. 13. 810-234-1695. Flintarts.org

Flint Institute of Arts "Labvrinth" The circuitous life of a miniaturist. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Nov. 1 -Jan 4 810-234-1695 Flintarts org

Henry Ford College Ceramics Club "Third Annual Fall Pottery Boutique" Tickets: \$5. Sisson Art Gallery, Grant U. MacKenzie Fine Arts Center, Henry Ford College, Dearborn. Nov. 19 - Nov. 22. 313-845-6485. Hfcc. edu

James Pearson Duffy Department of Art and Art History "Menagerie, or Artwork Not About Love". Elaine L. Jacob Gallery, 480 W. Hancock, Detroit. Oct. 24 - Dec. 12. 313-577-2423. Wayne. edu

Janice Charach Gallery " Pictures of Resistance: The Wartime Photographs of Jewish Partisan Faye Schulman" This exhibition presents one partisan's wartime story. Joining the partisans was Fave Schulman's path to survival and her chance to avenge the deaths of her family members. Jewish Community Center of Metro Detroit. 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield Township. Oct. 19 - Dec. 14. 248-661-1000. Jccdet.org

Michigan State University Museum "Michigan and the Civil War" Exhibit highlights Michigan connections in the Civil War. Michigan State University Museum, 409 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. Aug. 4 - Dec. 31. 517-355-7474. museum. msu. edu

MOCAD "Detroit City: Detroit Affinities" Detroit: Affinities, Speaks and Stages. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Sep. 12 - Jan. 31. 313-832-6622.

MOCAD "The People's Biennial" It examines the work of artists and other creative individuals, who operate outside the conventional art world. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Sep. 12 - Dec. 31. 313-832-6622 Mocadetroit org

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The Guild of Artists "Holiday Art Fair" Discover unique gifts that will long be treasured by family and friends. Eastern Michigan University Convocation Center, Ypsilanti. Nov. 15 - Nov. 16. Thequild.org

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