

Jeremy Moss won a seat to serve in the Michigan community members in response to a severe Michigan One of his main priorities once he sits down

# MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993

# BILL Between the Lines

next state elected official in the 60th District. He has a five point plan that includes 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. 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 and a strong majority of the American people. The Department of Labor published a new rule to prohibit businesses that contract with the federal government from engaging in workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. The rule implements the historic LGBT non-discrimination Executive Order 13672 that was signed by President Obama in July, prohibiting federal contractors and subcontractors from discriminating in employment practices on the bases of gender identity and sexual orientation. The rule continues

originally created to inform the community of specific issues, garnered local and national support; this success led to "Hotter Than July!" in the mid-90s, the black LGBT pride event in Detroit held every summer. In 2003, KICK finally became a Michigan non-profit, dedicating itself fully to not just informative publications, but also affirming programs, services, projects and special events. KICK opened their center in 2011, offering a safe space for the LGBT and allied community. KICK can now be found at 31 Burroughs St., Suite 109, Detroit. In addition to the bill that excludes transgender people from anti-discrimination protections under Michigan's Elliott-Larsen's Civil Rights Act, the Michigan Republican leadership has introduced House Bill 5958, the Michigan Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA). Although not tie barred (making it a condition of passing another piece of legislation) to the Elliott-Larsen bill, the proposed RFRA legislation is being touted by House Speaker John Whitbeck as somehow necessary to protect the religious liberties of individuals who may not believe that LGBT people deserve equal treatment under the law. An estimated 35.3 million people are living with HIV worldwide, but despite recent improved access to antiretroviral treatments, the disease continues to claim an approximate two million lives a year. A study published in the journal *AIDS* found that there is a significant disparity in HIV prevalence between black and white men who have sex with men. The study was conducted in Nov. 2014 and found a startling 48 percent prevalence rate for black men who have sex with men, compared with only eight percent for white men who have sex with men. The study also found a significant disparity along the continuum of care for HIV-positive persons. While 51 percent of white MSM are retained on viral suppression, just 16 percent of black MSM were retained. Achieving viral suppression saw even greater disparities; just over one third of white MSM had achieved

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# POSTPONED

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over one third of white MSM had achieved viral suppression compared with just 16 percent of black MSM. Jeremy Moss won a seat to serve in the Michigan State House for

and at-risk lesbian, gay, bi-attractional, transgender and questioning youth. REC was formed by concerned community members in response to a severe

Democratic, candidate Jon Hoadley and CEO of Badlands Strategies, LLC, celebrated a victory

community since the early 1990s. Hoadley has been active as a supporter of LGBT African-Americans since they were first a publishing company back in 1994. The organization, originally created to inform the community of specific issues, garnered local and national support; this success led to "Hotter Than July!" in the mid-90s, the black LGBT pride event in Detroit held every summer. In 2003, KICK finally became a Michigan non-profit, dedicating itself fully to not just informative publications, but also affirming programs, services, projects and special events. KICK opened their Center in 2011, offering a safe space for the LGBT and allied community. KICK can now be found at 31 Burroughs St., Suite 109, Detroit. In addition to the bill that excludes transgender people from anti-

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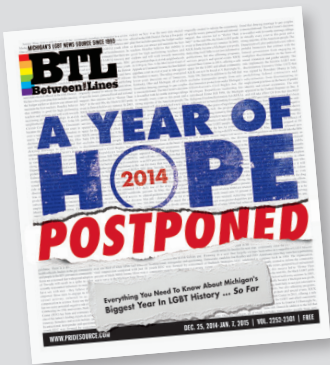
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*To read that the prevalence will likely persist for decades due to an alarmingly high concentration of HIV in black gay men frightens me.*

— Curtis Lipscomb, page 18



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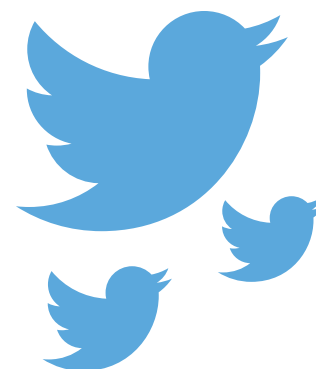
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20

Years the HOPE Fund's pioneering funding of LGBT agencies has taken place

36

Municipalities across the state that have now passed ordinances banning LGBT discrimination.



77

At least the number of countries, according to the United Nations, that currently ban homosexuality. In five of these it's punishable by death.

5959 & 5804

Bills the Michigan House failed to take up to amend the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include LGBT citizens.

19

Years that KICK - the Agency for LGBT African Americans has been serving the Detroit area.

25

Years Affirmations Community Center celebrates a quarter century of service

21

Years Between The Lines has covered the Michigan LGBT community

# MICHIGAN 2014

## By The Numbers

32

Percent of all black men in the U.S. who have sex with men infected with HIV.

50,000

New HIV infections occur in the U.S. each year.

8

Percent of all white men in the U.S. who have sex with men infected with HIV

3

Years in January (2015) since April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse first pursued legal action to co-adopt their children. Their case would lead to highs and lows in 2014 for Michigan marriage equality, and may well be the case before the U.S. Supreme Court in 2015.

2

Openly gay men, Jon Hoadly and Jeremy Moss, are elected to Michigan State House



Jayne Rowse and April DeBoer

300+

Michigan Same-Sex Couples Legally Marry



Keith Orr and Martin Contreras

6<sup>th</sup>

Circuit setback for marriage equality Nov. 6, signals likelihood that SCOTUS will take up issue in 2015.

35

At the close of 2014, the number of states where same-sex marriage is now legal

29

states you can legally be fired based on sexual orientation

42.7

Percent of eligible Michigan voters who turned out in November (Ranked #17 out of 50 states).

15

Years Ruth Ellis Center has been serving the Detroit area LGBT community and providing national leadership on addressing homelessness

92%

Effectiveness of PrEP in HIV prevention

# Looking Ahead: 2015 A Year Of Justice

BTL EDITORIAL

Failure to amend Elliott-Larsen. Fast passage of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

The re-election of Attorney General Bill Schuette and Gov. Rick Snyder.

The U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals upholding of Michigan's marriage ban.

Passage of legislation to allow religious based discrimination against otherwise qualified adopters by adoption agencies.

It's easy to feel overwhelmed and as if Michigan has lost its way as a progressive beacon of hope when it comes to LGBT

by political expediency. We reminded the state that our community will protect each other, even when others want us to sell out.

Despite a move to pass a "license to discriminate" law in Michigan, our citizens fought back. They simply refused to sit back and allow the out of control legislative orgy we call "lame duck" become a weapon to harm the least among us. Despite a heartbreaking win by anti-marriage equality advocates at the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals, marriage equality is almost certainly on the docket for the Supreme Court before it ends in June. And every indication is that, yes, we are likely to see marriage equality as the law of this country in 2015.

Let us allow the losses of 2014 to become the catalyst to creating a Michigan that is just and fair; a Michigan where the wishes of the majority of the state are represented and honored; a Michigan where our contributions as a community are valued.

equality. In fact, 2014 can be summed up by many quite simply: heartbreaking.

Despite these sometimes overwhelming and emotionally painful moments in our history, there is an important silver lining to keep in mind.

Most Michiganders believe LGBT people should be able to hold a job, participate in society, rent a home and love whom we choose to love without discrimination or legal obstacles. It's easy to forget that when an out-of-touch legislature and Republican dominated government continues to target us. But it's true. And we can't forget that.

And it is important to remember that despite these painful moments in history, they have served as a social catalyst. For the first time since 1981 – when the state legislature tried to amend our civil rights act to include the LGBT community – a Committee of the House held hearings. For the first time, a coalition of Michigan's largest employers came together and told the Republican dominated government in Michigan that LGBT equality is not just the right thing to do, it is essential to the economic recovery of our state.

It is also important to remember that then the GOP sought to break our community apart, offering only some of us equality; we as a community said, "No." We refused to take the easy way out, leaving our transgender brothers and sisters behind. We told the GOP we are one community, and we shall not be divided

On the HIV front, Michigan health officials reported the lowest number of AIDS-related deaths since 1985. Also, in 2013, the most recent report we have numbers for, the state reported the lowest number of new infections in a decade. The federal government has come out against HIV criminalization, encouraging states like Michigan to repeal their laws. And the feds also released broad new clinical guidance to prescribe Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP). PrEP is a once a day pill that can prevent HIV infection. Taken daily, it's at least 92 percent effective, with some models putting it at 99 percent efficacy.

"The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice," Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. told us. And Michigan is showing that as truth. Let us allow the losses of 2014 to become the catalyst to creating a Michigan that is just and fair; a Michigan where the wishes of the majority of the state are represented and honored; a Michigan where our contributions as a community are valued. Let us recommit ourselves to our community, to our state, to each other. Because no matter what the government does, we are one community – forged in repression, oppression and discrimination; secured by love, justice and equality.

2015 shall be the year our community continues to show our state the way to a more perfect union. We will do it with love, with passion, and yes, with anger. But always in the name of justice.

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# A Year In Michigan Marriage

BY AJ TRAGER

This year saw big advances in the DeBoer v Snyder case as it moved through the federal courts.

April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse began their legal fight for second parent adoption (and LGBT marriage equality) in January 2012. They filed a federal lawsuit against Oakland County requesting second parent adoption rights of their three (now four) children granted to them.

In 2013, Federal District Judge Bernard Friedman requested that the suit be amended to include same-sex marriage rights. Arguments were heard in October 2013 by Friedman, who decided the case was too large to proceed via summary judgement and requested that the issue be given a full trial, setting the date to Feb. 25, 2014.

“Jayne and I made this choice – the decision to fight the second parent adoption ban – and we are happy to be representing everybody in the marriage case as well. We love our children. This started out as about our children; this is still about our children. Although we’d reap the benefits of being able to get married in the state of Michigan, we want to be recognized like everybody else. Nothing says family like a marriage license; that says we are legally a family. And that’s what we are hoping for and – I think – what we’re going to get,” DeBoer said on the first day of the trial.

Held at the Theodore Levin U.S. Court House, the trial ran for nine days. A large protest from 200 Baptist pastors was planned for March 2 but only a handful showed up; support for the DeBoer family was only growing stronger.

In a historic ruling on March 21, Judge

“*Nothing says family like a marriage license; that says we are legally a family. And that’s what we are hoping for and – I think – what we’re going to get.*”

– April DeBoer

Friedman, for the first time in Michigan’s history, declared the 2004 state ban on same-sex marriage unconstitutional.

“No court record of this proceeding could ever fully convey,” the decision reads, “the personal sacrifice of these two plaintiffs who seek to ensure that the state may no longer impair the rights of their children and the thousands of others now being raised by same-sex couples.”

The following day, a handful of county clerk offices in four counties uncharacteristically opened their doors at 9 a.m. on a Saturday and 315 same-sex couples were married. Attorney General Bill Schuette was granted his requested stay later that day by the 6th Circuit. The case was then appealed to the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals requesting a review of the case.

The DeBoer-Rowse family spent the summer appearing at Pride festivals around the state and on Aug. 6 headed to Cincinnati, Ohio for the 6th Circuit Court hearing. The Michigan case was consolidated with other same-sex marriage cases from Kentucky, Tennessee and Ohio, all located within the jurisdiction of the 6th Circuit Court.

On Oct. 6 the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) refused to hear same-sex marriage cases from 11 states that filed petitions, thus effectively determining

the states’ bans on same-sex marriage as unconstitutional.

Two days after the election on Nov. 6, the 6th Circuit court (in a 2-1 decision) became the first federal appellate court in over a year to rule against the freedom to marry, overturning lower court decisions in the four states of the 6th Circuit. The decision 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.

In her dissent, Judge Martha Craig Daughtrey wrote 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.”

The 6th Circuit decision, splitting the Appellate courts, now forces SCOTUS’ hand in hearing same-sex marriage cases. Ten days after the ruling on Nov. 17, the legal team representing the DeBoer family filed a petition with SCOTUS requesting a review of their case in the upcoming 2015 cycle. The country may know if the court will review the case as early as Jan. 9, 2015.

## Caspar v Snyder

In April, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Michigan, on behalf of eight couples that were married in March, filed a lawsuit against the state arguing that because the couples are legally married in the state, they are entitled to all of the protections of marriage and that those protections cannot be taken away.

On Aug. 21, arguments were heard before Federal Judge Mark. A. Goldsmith of the Eastern District of Michigan. Marsha Caspar and Glenna DeJong were the first couple married on March 22, the day after Friedman ruled on the DeBoer case.

“We just want to be treated equally,” DeJong said before the trial. “I truly don’t understand people’s rabid resistance to treating each other equally and with respect. We waited 27 years to get married, not by choice, but by exclusion – we simply weren’t allowed to marry.”

The state’s decision to not recognize same-sex marriage hurts children everyday. Two of the couples have kids; under current state law, both parents are prohibited from being listed as legal guardians of the children. These instances have significant effects on children and come with emotional confusion, uncertainty and insecurity.

Mid-November, Gov. Snyder filed a brief requesting that the marriage licenses be voided due to the 6th Circuit ruling in March. No ruling has yet to be made by Goldsmith.



# Michigan: 2014 In Review

BY TODD HEYWOOD

## Elliott-Larsen Amendment

This was almost the year that the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act was amended to include the LGBT community. Almost. A broad coalition of business leaders formed in the spring to help lead the way on the process, arguing amending the law was good for business. But from the start, co-chair of the Competitive Workforce Coalition, AT&T Michigan President and openly gay man, Jim Murray, started undermining the legislation. He went off script from the coalition, which supported and continues to support legislation which includes the entire LGBT community. Murray, however, lobbied for a bill that excluded the transgender community. After the November election, Republican lawmaker Frank Foster of Petosky introduced a sexual orientation only bill to amend the civil rights act. Activists opposed the Foster bill, referred to as the “two word solution,” opting instead for the fully inclusive legislation introduced earlier in the year by East Lansing Democrat Sam Singh. The House Commerce Committee heard testimony on the bills in November but adjourned without a vote. House Speaker Jase Bolger (R-Marshall) said the legislation was dead because of “leftists” opposition. Bolger had previously stated he would not support a fully inclusive bill and would oppose inclusion of the transgender community.

## Religious Freedom

While House Speaker Jase Bolger (R-Marshall) was pushing the sexual orientation only legislation to amend the state’s civil rights act, he was also introducing legislation to “balance” the rights of religious persons in the state. The bill, titled the Michigan Religious Freedom Restoration Act (MiRFRA), is modeled after legislation on the federal level as well as many states. It would allow a person to assert a government law or regulation to be a burden to the free exercise of “sincerely held religious beliefs.” The civil rights amendment went down in Committee; two days later, MiRFRA came up for a vote in the House Judiciary Committee. It was adopted and sent to the House floor, where it was approved by the full Republican controlled House and sent over to the Republican Super Majority controlled state Senate. The bill passed with only minor corrections. Nine amendments were offered, and only one was adopted. Some rejected language includes amendments to limit the use of MiRFRA as a defense in child

abuse cases – including genital mutilation and incest – and exempting local and state civil rights laws from the application of the law. The end result of the rejection of the amendments, should the law be passed by the state senate? An abuser could claim a defense for child abuse under MiRFRA, and local nondiscrimination ordinances would be gutted, allowing discrimination to occur under the guise of “sincerely held religious beliefs.” As of this writing, the bill has not been taken up by the Senate and Republican Gov. Rick Snyder has stated he will take “a hard look” at the bill since it was supposed to be passed as part of a “package deal” to protect the LGBT community.



## Election Highs and Lows

While Michigan returned a Democrat (Gary Peters) to the US Senate (replacing retiring Democrat Carl Levin) and managed to elect two openly gay men to the state House, the elections were generally dismal for LGBT equality. Despite what many thought would be significant turn out for the election, there wasn’t – in fact, turnout was the lowest for a gubernatorial election since 1998, reported Michigan Public Radio. The result is that the Michigan House became more firmly controlled by the GOP, while the state Senate remains controlled by a Republican super majority. Voters also returned Rick Snyder to the governor’s office, Bill Schuette to the Attorney General’s office and Ruth Johnson to the Secretary of State’s office. Schuette and Snyder continue to defend Michigan’s marriage ban. In the House, voters saw fit to install a trio of tea party activists – Gary Glenn, Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat – to the lower chamber. The trio are stridently anti-gay, particularly evident with Glenn’s past as the president of the American Family Association of Michigan – an affiliate of the nationally recognized anti-LGBT hate group, the American Family Association. Joining the trio will be Brighton Republican Lana Theis, who wants the state to avoid allowing marriage equality by claiming a states’ rights defense.

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# GIVING BACK

## From Front Page News To Respected Charity HOPE Fund Celebrates 20 Years Helping Strengthen Community

BY JAN STEVENSON

Twenty years ago, the HOPE Fund started as a financial challenge to the LGBT community of Detroit. But over the past two decades it has evolved into so much more: an important funder of LGBT programs and services, an invaluable partner in the philanthropic community and a teacher of both fundraising for and investing in LGBT organizations. The staff at the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan have become friends and mentors to dozens of community leaders who learned about organizational development and how to make their groups sustainable.

The numbers are impressive. The HOPE Fund has raised a total of over \$3.6 million, granted out more than \$1.8 million and established an endowment fund of \$2.4 million, thereby ensuring that the HOPE Fund will continue for many years to come.

It all started in 1994 when Lynette Campbell, then a program officer at the Community Foundation, received a letter from the Funders for LGBTQ Issues, a consortium of funders, mostly in New York City. They proposed that if the Community Foundation started an LGBT fund, the Funders for LGBTQ Issues would match 50 cents of every dollar raised, up to \$86,000.

The call went out and Allan Gilmour answered with an initial pledge of \$10,000. He then spearheaded the successful fundraising campaign in the first year, chairing the committee and networking with donors until the goal was reached. That first year, the HOPE Fund granted out \$130,000 – by far the most granted to Detroit area LGBT community organizations from any one source to that point.

Gilmour has remained a constant leader of the HOPE Fund ever since he answered that first call 20 years ago. His status as one of Detroit's most respected business and charitable leaders brought credibility to the project and attracted the attention of business leaders and other funding agencies. He is the former vice chairman of Ford Motor Company, from May 2002 to February 2005. In August 2010 he accepted a position as interim president at Wayne State University and then a position as the trustees' permanent president from 2011 to 2014. He serves on many corporate boards such as Dow Chemical, Whirlpool, the Hertz Corporation and Comcast. He also is a director or trustee of many community organizations, including the Community Foundation, serving as its chairman of the board for two years. Perhaps



Allan Gilmour.

the only thing Gilmour has not succeeded at is retiring.

By talking openly about the HOPE Fund to business and foundation leaders, Gilmour has played an important role in the LGBT community "coming out" to the broader Detroit area leadership. In his many public roles, Gilmour has shared his experiences with the HOPE Fund, its impact on the LGBT community and the opportunities that other funders can seize to help LGBT organizations thrive.

Gilmour said he learned a lot in the early days of the HOPE Fund about the local LGBT community and how to resource it.

"There were not many organizations and they were fragile organizations," said Gilmour about the metro Detroit LGBT community in 1994. "That was no one's fault; they were all relatively new. It was a little more acceptable in 1994 to be gay or lesbian than in 1964 or 1974 – but not a lot," he said. "We also found that it was hard to raise the money. We started in 1994 and completed our work in 1995, so it took almost a year and a half to raise the \$86,000 to get the two-for-one-match from New York. But we did get it done."

When asked what most pleases him about the HOPE Fund, Gilmour said with a laugh, "Starting! Mariam Noland told us about going to the board at the Community Foundation to inform them that they are involved in setting up a new gay fund. And there was dead silence on the board. I was not on the board at that

time – that was before my time. And Frank Stella was a big Republican who owned a restaurant supply company, and he apparently said in the meeting, 'Well, we're here for all people. I think it's a good idea,' or words to that effect. And then some other committee people like George Fadiga did a heck of a lot of work getting the thing started. It would've been easy to say, 'Oh my God, this isn't New York and this isn't San Francisco' and just quit. But we didn't."

Katie Brisson, vice president of programming at the Community Foundation, said the HOPE Fund has had a profound impact on the Community Foundation and the funding community as a whole.

"When the HOPE Fund was launched, there were people who feared damage it may do to the Community Foundation. The fact that it was front page news in The Detroit News in January 1995 demonstrates the weight of this decision at the time," she said. "The initial fears were put aside long ago as we had some wins with our strategies and were able to keep growing the fund. The numerous grant reviews helped to educate our board and community leaders about the needs of the LGBT community."

Relationships built through the HOPE Fund have allowed the Community Foundation to help organizations create additional support vehicles. "Five LGBT nonprofit organizations, for example, decided to build their own endowment

See HOPE Fund, page 20



Curtis Lipscomb. BTL photo: Andrew Potter

The HOPE Fund has awarded several grants to KICK, the agency for LGBT African-Americans, both directly and from the Racial Equity Initiative, an offshoot of the HOPE Fund targeting the needs of LGBT people of color.

"It is well known that gays and lesbians nationally lack financial support to LGBT institutions," said Curtis Lipscomb, KICK's executive director and a HOPE Fund donor. "So to have the HOPE Fund located here sends a powerful message that, locally, people do care about the institutions that are founded here. And it is wonderful that we have people we can talk to about our organizations. So many grantors don't talk to their grantees – everything is all online. But with the Community Foundation and the HOPE Fund, there's an opportunity to connect with the staff and donors. That's great news!"

# New Fund Helps LGBT Youth In West Michigan

BY CAROL TANIS

When Shelley Padnos and Carol Sarosik, a West Michigan couple, attended a conference about LGBT philanthropy, they were powerfully moved. Based on the conference, they took home the feeling that the LGBT community needs to initiate support for its own LGBT issues. "They said if you don't take care of your own, no one else will, and unfortunately there's a lot of truth to that," said Sarosik. "There were some presentations and conversations about LGBT homeless youth, and suicide is an issue. These are 13-14 and 15-year-olds and that just kind of struck us both."

After thinking about what they could do, they decided to establish a fund to support programs to help vulnerable and homeless LGBT youth in West Michigan. In August, the couple and the Grand Rapids Community Foundation announced the formation of a fund titled "Our LGBT Fund" to be administrated by the Foundation. Padnos and Sarosik donated \$100,000 to be matched one-on-one with contributions from the community. Following a campaign to match their donation, the effort exceeded its original goal, and today the Fund has more than \$300,000 in it. Matching gifts to the Fund were made by individuals, couples and organizations throughout West Michigan.

"We're beyond pleased that the campaign was successful so quickly," said Padnos. "It shows me that not only was the time right to ask the LGBT community and its allies to help, but that the issue of homeless and marginalized gay youth also matters to people here. The goal of the fund is to focus on the members of our community who are most at risk and least protected. In the short term, we will be looking to help improve the situation for LGBT kids who find themselves homeless and without support, but as the fund grows, it is our intention to expand the focus to include other areas of need."

In this age of greater acceptance, legal protections and same sex marriage, many LGBT youth are still being ostracized, bullied or thrown out of their homes because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. If they are homeless, they are more likely to succumb to substance abuse and/or suicide.

A press release from the Grand Rapids Community Foundation cites research from the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law, which reported



In August, a West Michigan couple, Carol Sarosik and Shelley Padnos, and the Grand Rapids Community Foundation announced the formation of a fund titled "Our LGBT Fund" to be administrated by the Foundation.

*"We're anxious to see how we can change things here in West Michigan when it comes to how young LGBT people are regarded."*

- Carol Sarosik

in 2012 that LGBT youth make up about 40 percent of the youth homeless population. LGBT youth are 7.4 times more likely to experience sexual violence than heterosexual homeless youth. LGBT youth, once homeless, are at higher risk for victimization, mental health problems and unsafe sexual practices. Additionally, LGBT homeless youth commit suicide at twice the rate of straight homeless youth.

"We're anxious to see how we can change things here in West Michigan when it comes to how young LGBT people are regarded," said Sarosik. She added that they are in the process of learning more about the issue in West

Michigan and have been speaking with local social service providers. "We'll be talking with stakeholders in this, including perhaps parents, the courts, teachers and police departments. Reasons why there's such a high rate of homelessness among LGBT youth include parents who say, 'You can't be here if you're going to live like that.' We'll want to have an emphasis on education for parents and for perhaps churches."

Diana Sieger, president of the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, said the LGBT Fund fits well with the work the organization already does. "The Community Foundation is supportive of Our LGBT Fund because of our focus on diversity and inclusion. We also have a history of work in housing and ending homelessness and we value bringing equity to underserved populations including youth."

She said the funds will support programs in metro Grand Rapids, as well as those in counties adjacent to Kent County. "We hope to serve West Michigan," said Sieger. "The funds are targeted for the homeless LGBT youth population, and the committee reviewing the requests will decide what areas to be funded. The group that formed to create the fund was adamant that the focus, at least initially, should be on the vulnerable homeless youth who have been alienated

See West Michigan Fund page 20

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# U.S.

# Top Ten LGBT News Stories Of 2014

BY LISA KEEN

The U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear appeals seeking to preserve bans on marriage for same-sex couples. President Obama finally signed a long-sought executive order protecting LGBT people who work for federal contractors. And an openly gay college football player kissed his boyfriend in front of a television camera after becoming the first openly gay player to be hired by a professional team.

Oh, yes, and the Republican Party won a majority in the U.S. Senate.

Those are likely to be the most remembered events for LGBT people for 2014 – a year packed with many important events, both symbolic and significant, but a year that nonetheless played second fiddle to 2013. Many of the LGBT headlines in 2014 centered on marriage because, in 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the key provision of the federal Defense of Marriage Act was unconstitutional. That prompted court after court to echo that decision, in *U.S. v Windsor*, while striking down state bans on such marriages around the country.

Polls indicated that public opinion about same-sex relationships improved more dramatically this year than on any other controversial issue, with 58 percent telling Gallup that “gay and lesbian relations” are

“morally acceptable.”

And a federal district court judge appointed by Republican President George W. Bush declared a marriage ban in Pennsylvania unconstitutional, adding, “We are a better people than what these laws represent, and it is time to discard (such bans) into the ash heap of history.”

By this time next year, there’s a good chance that bans on same-sex marriage will be on the ash heap of history, and the Supreme Court could make that happen as early as next month.

But, first, here’s a look back on what the LGBT history books will likely record as the political and legal events of 2014 which had the greatest impact on LGBT lives:

**1** The U.S. Supreme Court issued an Orders List Oct. 6, the first day of its 2014-15 session, denying petitions from five states seeking to preserve bans on same-sex marriage. The refusal to take up the appeals meant that at least six justices did not feel the appeals merited consideration (it takes four justices to agree to hear an appeal before it can be taken up by the full court). And, given that the refusal to hear the appeals meant that same-sex couples could suddenly get married in a whole host of new states, it signaled that those six justices will almost certainly vote to overturn state bans on same-sex marriage once the court does take a case. Just one month after the Supreme Court denied to hear the appeals, the 6th



Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals became the only federal appeals court to have upheld the constitutionality of such bans. In doing so, it prompted a new round of appeals, ones seeking to strike down the state bans and ones the high court will now almost certainly review or reverse without argument. Meanwhile, by year’s end, same-sex couples could obtain marriage licenses in 36 states (though appeals were still alive in eight of those states). By Jan. 5, couples can obtain marriage licenses in Florida, while that state’s appeal continues. By comparison, at the end of 2013, same-sex couples could marry in only 17 states.

**2** President Obama signed an executive order in July prohibiting businesses that hold contracts with the federal government from discriminating against employees or potential employees based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Almost as important as the executive order itself, the new executive order neither expanded nor removed a relatively narrow exemption put in place by President George W. Bush – an exemption that allowed “a religious corporation, association,

educational institution or society” to discriminate. A small group of religious leaders has urged the president to include a “robust religious exemption.” On Dec. 3, the Department of Labor issued its final rule for implementing the new executive order, Executive Order 13672, and the Federal Register published that rule on Dec. 9. It will take effect on April 8, 2015, and is expected to help as many as 14 million workers.

**3** The U.S. Department of Education released guidelines in May to clarify for schools receiving federal aid that Title IX of the Civil Rights Act’s prohibition against sex discrimination “extends to claims of discrimination based on gender identity or failure to conform to stereotypical notions of masculinity or femininity.” The DOE’s guidance made clear that its Office of Civil Rights “accepts such complaints for investigation.”

**4** The U.S. Supreme Court allowed a family company, Hobby Lobby, to deny specific health coverage for employees under the company’s health plan by saying the owners have religious objections

to providing the coverage. LGBT legal activists called the decision a “dangerous and radical departure from existing law,” saying it could provide a means for employers to discriminate against LGBT people by denying coverage for such things as reproductive insemination, gender reassignment treatments or HIV prevention efforts.

**5** Several state legislatures attempted to adopt new bills to allow people to claim that discriminatory treatment of others is an exercise of their religious beliefs. The bills in those states were clearly aimed at allowing discrimination based on sexual orientation, but most fizzled out under pressure from major corporations, such as Coca-Cola, Delta and Home Depot.

**6** The Vatican under Pope Francis continued to send out occasional pro-LGBT messages, following on his comment last year that it wasn’t his duty to judge a gay person who was seeking to follow Christ’s word. A Vatican document released in June called on the church to treat LGBT people with more respect, and four months later, another document produced by a Catholic leaders

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Continued On Next Page





meeting in Rome noted that the support gay partners provide each other is worthy of respect. But the final report issued from the Extraordinary Synod of Bishops eliminated all such language, saying there were “no ground whatsoever... for assimilating” gay relationships into the church.

**7** Several African nations, including Uganda and Nigeria, passed archaic laws against the existence of gay people, making same-sex relationships and activities punishable by death. In February, a mob in Nigeria dragged 40 men it believed to be gay out of their beds and into the streets where they were beaten with wooden clubs. President Obama issued a statement saying Uganda’s law would “complicate” the relationship between Uganda and the U.S. But when the White House held a Summit on Africa in August, leaders of these countries were included.

**8** The Winter Olympics, held in Russia, drew international attention to that country’s newly passed and harsh laws aimed at silencing LGBT people. The laws made it a crime to “promote LGBT equality in public.” The U.S. conveyed its more positive message for LGBT people: President Obama named openly gay athletes as three out of his ten-member official delegation to the event, and he canceled a one-on-one with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Though the International Olympic Committee did little

at the time but voice its principle of non-discrimination generally, on Dec. 8, it quietly passed an amendment to its Olympic Charter Principle 6, explicitly prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation.

**9** Houston, the fourth largest city in the nation and the only one with an openly lesbian mayor, finally passed a long-sought human rights ordinance prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Mayor Annise Parker pushed for the measure and, when it passed, was threatened with a recall. But neither the recall nor a promised referendum on the measure ever made it to the ballot.

**10** The Republicans won control of the U.S. Senate in November, giving the GOP control of both chambers of Congress and making the prospects for passage of any pro-LGBT legislation – including the Employment Non-Discrimination Act – virtually nil. But the truth is: ENDA and other pro-LGBT legislation had virtually no chance of passage while Democrats controlled the Senate, because Republican House Speaker John Boehner made clear, and made good, his promise not to give such legislation floor time. Meanwhile, a Human Rights Campaign survey this year found that 53 percent of LGBT people still hide their sexual orientation from almost everybody at work.

# Creep of the Week

## Pat Robertson

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

**S**ound the alarms, everybody! Crazy old televangelist Pat Robertson has gone and exposed the deep dark secret of lesbian and gay people and there’s no putting that genie back in the bottle now.



Pat Robertson

On the Dec. 17 episode of the “700 Club,” a show that old people watch when they need to take a break from the whippersnappers at Fox News, Robertson dropped the following bombshell:

“You know, those who are homosexual will die out because they don’t reproduce. You know, you have to have heterosexual sex to reproduce,” he explained to his co-host Wendy Griffith.

And as Griffith nodded yes in agreement, I shook my head in shock and dismay.

No! This cannot be! What do you mean homos are going to die out? Why didn’t anyone tell us about this? And to think of

all of those poor, dumb homos over the years trying in vain to reproduce. All of that sex for nothing! What a waste.

I almost started to weep, but then I remembered, “Hey, wait a minute. My parents are heterosexual. And, oh my god, they might have even had heterosexual sex in order to conceive me – and my twin sister, who is also gay. Which means my parents are terrible at this! No wonder they had three additional children. To atone! It all makes so much sense now.”

Come to think of it, the majority of the gay and lesbian people I know have heterosexual parents. But if, by following Robertson’s logic, heterosexual sex produces heterosexual people, what the hell is happening? It can only mean one thing: homo body snatchers are invading the wombs of God-fearing heterosexual missionary-position-sex-having women and implanting them with homo demon seed ensuring that straight people will give birth to and raise as their own gay and lesbian spawn. In other words, homos are basically cuckolding straight people.

Either that or Robertson is wrong.

But that can’t be. He knows things. He speaks the truth! Why, this is a man who declared on Nov. 26 that racism was over so “racial agitators” should just shut up about it already.

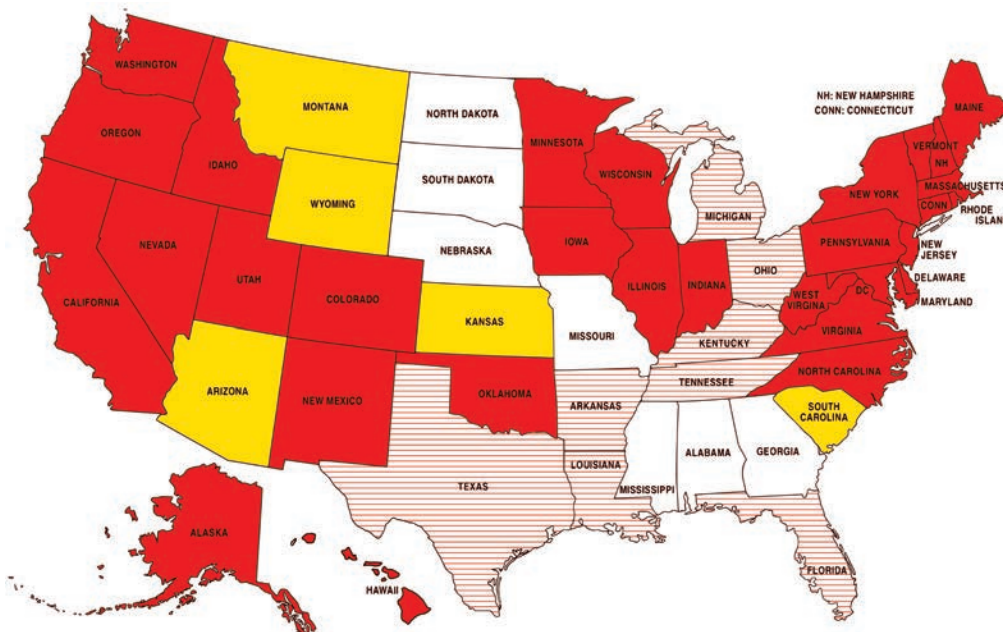
“Police are very careful in dealing with people. They’re trained to be careful with minorities and the abuses of the past are pretty much a thing of the past,” Robertson said. And he should know since he’s a white man who was born in 1930.

This is the man who told us we could get AIDS from towels. This is the man who told us that feminism was “a socialist, anti-family political movement that encourages women to leave their husbands, kill their children, practice witchcraft, destroy capitalism and become lesbians.” This is a man who believes in a worldwide Jewish conspiracy. This is the man who dared to speak out about the razor sharp AIDS rings that homos wear to infect unsuspecting people they shake hands with. This is the man who wanted to know if macaroni and cheese was “a black thing.” This is a man who is cool with first cousins marrying so long as they don’t have “mongoloid” children. This is the man who was personally told by the Lord that Mitt Romney would win the 2012 election.

Oh, wait. I guess he got some bad intel about that last one. But the rest of them are all Truth! At least in his mind!

This is a man who, at this point in his life, seems like a caricature of a crazy right-wing grandpa losing his mind. Except Robertson’s reach is long and his influence is deep and he has been reaping the rewards of hate speech for decades. But at least Robertson and his ilk will eventually die out.

*If, by following Robertson’s logic, heterosexual sex produces heterosexual people, what the hell is happening? It can only mean one thing: homo body snatchers are invading the wombs of God-fearing heterosexual missionary-position-sex-having women and implanting them with homo demon seed ensuring that straight people will give birth to and raise as their own gay and lesbian spawn.*



BY TODD HEYWOOD

**H**IV continues to disproportionately impact men who have sex with men – nationally and in Michigan. Here are the top HIV-related stories of 2014

## First International Conference To End HIV Criminalization

For the first time, nearly two hundred national and international advocates to eradicate HIV criminalization gathered to create a strategy to address the growing use of criminal laws as a way to address the HIV epidemic. The gathering was held in June in Grinnell, Iowa and was organized by The Sero Project. Sero Project was founded by HIV activist and founding publisher of POZ Magazine, Sean Strub.

The gathering happened just days after the Iowa legislature became the first state in the nation to revamp its state law. In a special ceremony, Nick Rhoades, who had been convicted under Iowa's law for a one night stand in which he did not transmit HIV and took many actions to prevent such a transmission, had his GPS tracking ankle bracelet cut off with garden shears by openly gay Iowa State Sen. Matt McCoy. In addition to Rhoades having his bracelet removed, Donald Bogardus also had his bracelet removed. Bogardus had also been convicted under Iowa's law for failing to disclose his HIV status to a sexual partner.

Shortly after the gathering, Rhoades' conviction was overturned by the Iowa State Supreme Court based on an appeal challenging the law and arguing that it required proof of intent to transmit – something the prosecution failed to prove.

Michigan was well represented at the conference. Among those in attendance was Jon Hoadley, now a representative elect to the state house for Kalamazoo.

"Michigan is engaging in cutting edge advocacy on HIV criminalization reform, and I was proud to be a first in the country conference to learn from success in other states," Hoadley said.

Michigan continues to be a leader in prosecutions of people living with HIV.

## Feds Call On States To Revamp HIV Criminal Laws

Shortly after the June gathering of anti-criminalization advocates in Iowa, the federal Department of Justice released a guide for states to modernize HIV criminal laws and prosecutions.

"The majority of these laws were enacted



Nick Rhoades, a gay man convicted of criminal transmission of HIV in Iowa and sentenced to 25 years in prison, despite the virus not being transmitted, talks to activists at the national HIV is Not a Crime Conference held in Grinnell, Iowa in June. BTL photo: Todd A. Heywood

at a time when far less was known about risk, likelihood and mode of transmission of the virus and at a time when the quality of life and lifespan of an individual with the virus was vastly different than it is currently," the guide says. "As a result, certain of these laws do not accurately reflect the current science of transmission, do not account for risk reduction behaviors and medical protocols that greatly reduce transmission risk and do not reflect that, with testing and treatment, HIV may be a manageable medical condition."

Among the recommendations, the DOJ guide noted states should remove HIV-specific criminal laws, and rely instead on traditional criminal laws for prosecution of persons with HIV for rape related crimes and crimes where it can be proven the person living with HIV intended to transmit the infection. If states want to keep HIV specific laws, the report continued, states should amend the laws to reflect the current knowledge of HIV transmission, risk and health of persons infected.

Advocates hailed the move.

"The DOJ's recommendations are an important step towards reforming these outdated and problematic laws. As I found in Michigan, many of the criminal cases brought under such laws involve sexual behavior that is not actually blameworthy," says Trevor Hoppe, who graduated this spring with a doctorate in sociology from the University of Michigan.

His dissertation evaluated criminal prosecutions under Michigan's law in the past two decades. "In Michigan, I could not find a case in which it was clear that the defendant maliciously intended to infect their partners. While defenders of HIV-specific criminal statutes often invoke stories of malicious offenders who wreak havoc by attempting to

infect as many innocent, unwitting partners as possible, this narrative does not accurately reflect the cases brought under these laws. The HIV-positive monster in many people's minds is a product of stigma and has no basis in reality."

The Michigan Department of Community Health was working on researching whether or not to repeal Michigan's law but suspended the process in November 2012. Internal drafts of reports and recommendations show state health officials were prepared to recommend lawmakers amend the law to require proof of intent to transmit the infection. MDCH officials did not explain why the process was suspended.

## CDC Expands Clinical Recommendations For PrEP

In May, the CDC released a new clinical guidance for prescribing Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP). The new guidance, the New York Times estimated, could extend prescriptions of the once-a-day HIV prevention to 500,000 men who have sex with men. The intervention was approved by the FDA in July 2012 but was slow to be taken up as a prevention option, despite having been shown in clinical studies to be at least 92 percent effective in preventing an HIV negative person from being infected with the virus. A National Institutes of Health (NIH) study found that the intervention could actually be 99 percent effective in preventing infections.

"While a vaccine or cure may one day end the HIV epidemic, PrEP is a powerful tool that has the potential to alter the course of the U.S. HIV epidemic today," a press release from the CDC quoted Jonathan Mermin, M.D., M.P.H., director of CDC's National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention, as saying.

"These guidelines represent an important step toward fully realizing the promise of PrEP. We should add to this momentum, working to ensure that PrEP is used by the right people, in the right way, in the right circumstances."

The Michigan Department of Community Health, which had been resisting adoption of PrEP as a prevention option since its adoption by the FDA, announced the week after the CDC guidance was released that it would adopt the CDC guidance in whole. Prior to that, while the state had no clear PrEP policy, the state's Medicaid program – health insurance for low income residents – could have the drug covered. The state in December is holding two trainings for HIV test counselors – one in Detroit and one in Lansing – on how to discuss PrEP with HIV test subjects.

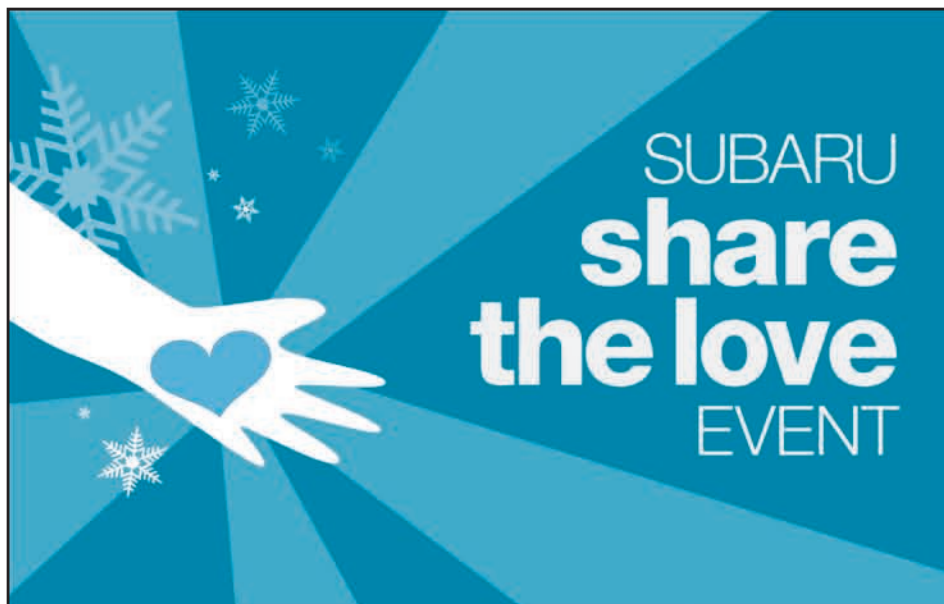
## HIV In Men Who Have Sex With Men Fraught With Racial Disparities

In November, a new study found significant racial disparities among men who have sex with men. While only eight percent of all white men in the U.S. who have sex with men were infected, 32 percent of all black men in the U.S. who have sex with men were infected. The disparity didn't stop there. The study found access to care and treatment was also poorer for black men who have sex with men.

The study also represents the epidemic issues in Michigan, the Michigan Department of Community Health said.

For Curtis Lipscomb, executive director of KICK, the study shows that HIV education programming has to be scaled up "right now," and LGBT organizations have a significant role to play. "We have seen the dominate issue of marriage equality front and center in our movement. Although marriage is important to the stability of households, it is one of many issues we must organize around – such as poverty, housing and employment," Lipscomb says. "The LGBT organizations must challenge significant racial disparities in HIV. To read that the prevalence will likely persist for decades due to an alarmingly high concentration of HIV in black gay men frightens me. It suggests a further disappearance of my population and the return of the 80s scare of homosexual men – a time when someone died daily and despair took over emotional wellbeing."

"If black, gay and bi men continue to die disproportionately, matrimony will mean nothing. This impacts all of us," Lipscomb continues. "How can we move together if one of our segmented community is disengaged? Marriage will then only become a luxury 'for those that can afford it.'"



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## ► West Michigan Fund

Continued from p. 15

possibly from their families, friends and others. We need to reach this population and gain their trust.”

Richard Roane is a long time donor to the Community Foundation and a member of its LGBT Advisory Committee. His husband, Leandro Robles, served on the cabinet campaign for the Fund. Roane said they’re both excited about being able to focus their contributions directly in an area that is close to their hearts. “Shelley and Carol have provided inspiration and leadership to our community by establishing the Fund, and we hope that through their inspiration, many others in the community will follow their lead and help grow the Fund,” Roane said. “We hope to see awareness raised concerning LGBT youth in our city and see money raised to meet these needs as they are identified.”

He added that West Michigan is known nationally as one

## Mira Krishnan, CEO of The LGBT Network in Grand Rapids, said the Fund signals a new phase in LGBT advocacy.

of the most philanthropic communities in the country and he hopes to see the Fund grow along those lines of established and historic levels of giving.

Mira Krishnan, CEO of The LGBT Network in Grand Rapids, said the Fund signals a new phase in LGBT advocacy. “We have an opportunity not just to have things done for our community by others in power, but to improve the welfare of some of the most at-risk LGBT people in a way that is done by, from and of LGBT people,” Krishnan said.

“The Network is proud to support Our LGBT Fund in a number of ways,” she continued. “Many of our members are donors and we will continue to help promote it to the community and raise awareness. We also have a role in making sure that the broad continuum of LGBT voices are heard in the funding process, from creation and endowment to grant-making and stewardship. Additionally, we believe that, although a continuum of services are required to tackle tough problems like LGBT youth homelessness, we are uniquely poised to contribute to primary prevention, which will be the most important tool in progressing to a world where no youth has to be homeless.”

She added that many LGBT youth are homeless because they don’t receive support for the development of their gender or sexual identities from their families. “We are tackling this already, and we will continue to do more through our active group programming, including our LGBT youth group and our support groups for parents.”

Sarosik said while they’ve reached their initial financial goal, they will continue to actively solicit funds. “The next phase of the project will be writing letters to businesses, other foundations, universities and affinity groups that are gay-friendly,” she said. “Our goal is to raise a million dollars in order to do something about this problem and make it go away. It’s a very ambitious project for us and West Michigan. It’s going to take a lot of people and effort, but we’re going to do it!”

To contribute to the Our LGBT Fund, go to [www.grfoundation.org/lgbtfund](http://www.grfoundation.org/lgbtfund).

# The HOPE Fund Grantmaking

To date, the HOPE Fund has distributed over \$1.8 million through 131 grants to nonprofit organizations serving southeast Michigan’s LGBT communities. The following organizations have benefitted:

Al-Gamea – Serving Southeast Michigan’s Middle Eastern LGBT Community  
AIDS Partnership Michigan, Inc.  
Affirmations Community Center Inc.  
Alternatives for Girls  
Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders – Greater Michigan Chapter  
American Civil Liberties Union Fund of Michigan  
American Friends Service Committee  
Ann Arbor Teen Center  
Asians and Friends  
Citizens for Better Care Institute  
Community Health Outreach Workers  
Detroit Latin@z  
Detroit Parent Network  
Detroit Women’s Coffeehouse  
Eastern Michigan University – LGBT Resource Center  
Elder Law of Michigan  
Equality Michigan  
Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network Inc. (GLSEN)  
Gilda’s Club – Metro Detroit  
Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley  
Haven, Inc.  
HelpSource

House of Infinity  
KICK-The Agency for LGBT African-Americans  
Lake Orion Community Schools  
Lakeshore Legal Aid  
Lesbian-A-Sisters  
LGBT Older Adult Coalition  
Men of Color Motivational Group Inc.  
Michigan Jewish AIDS Coalition  
Michigan Network for Youth and Families  
Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service  
Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion  
Midwest AIDS Project  
Neutral Zone (Ann Arbor Teen Center)  
Nonprofit Enterprise at Work  
Oakland University  
Ozone House  
Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays-Detroit  
Ruth Ellis Center, Inc.  
SPICE  
The Peninsula Group  
TransGender Michigan  
Triangle Foundation  
Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network  
University of Michigan – LGBT Programs Office  
Walk and Squawk Performance Project  
Washtenaw Rainbow Action Project  
Wayne State University

## ► HOPE Fund

Continued from p. 14

funds with us along the way,” said Brisson. “You’ve seen the fruits of that labor recently when a \$2 million bequest came into the Equality Michigan Fund through Dr. Messer’s estate. I’d like to think that HOPE’s education of donors in the community about estate planning, and education of nonprofits on the importance of endowment, had some small part to do with that.”

The HOPE Fund committee and staff of the Community Foundation have committed substantial time, energy and resources into making the HOPE Fund a success.

“Building the HOPE Fund has been hard work,” said Brisson. “Many of the committee members and donors of the HOPE Fund have been involved with us the entire 20 years.”

Howard Israel and his husband,

attorney Henry Grix, have been mainstays of the HOPE Fund since almost the very beginning. In the early years, Israel spent hours at the foundation’s Detroit offices entering HOPE Fund donors into a database. But something strange kept happening with one pair. Israel entered the two men as a couple, but someone kept separating them into individual listings. “Something weird is happening,” Israel said to the administrative assistant, a pleasant, older woman from Macomb County who said she changed them to individual listings. “She told me they broke up, and I said ‘Did you ever in your life think you’d be the one who knows who is a couple and who has broken up in the gay community?’ Here is this woman who never had this much contact with gays and lesbians before getting a real education. The HOPE Fund has changed people’s attitudes all around – the recipients, the board, donors, staff – everyone.”

Israel credits the Community

Foundation staff and leadership for boosting the LGBT community’s credibility. “The foundation’s stature and organizational skills,” he says, “to have that behind the idea of granting money to LGBT organizations is monumental recognition that not only LGBT people exist and need funding, but (that) we’re even capable of doing it ourselves.”

“Some days, especially in light of recent Michigan rulings, it is hard to see progress,” said Brisson. “But then, something great happens like the momentum of the LGBT seniors project or the fact that our recent matching campaign received mainstream media press across the country. We celebrate these moments, knowing that the community needs to keep putting one foot in front of the other and making progress happen, no matter if it’s moving slow or fast.”

For more information about the HOPE Fund or to make a tax deductible donation, go to <https://cfsem.org/hope-fund>.



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Reflecting on her life, Elaine Stritch raised the curtain during our tell-all interview just before it went down again for the last time. It wasn't the only highlight of 2014, but it was certainly one of them. Dolly Parton shared words of wisdom, Whoopi Goldberg kept it real and Nick Jonas blamed alcohol on his much-publicized striptease. Here's a look back at what these celebs – and a bunch more – told BTL's own entertainment editor Chris Azzopardi this past year:



*“I think gay men are superior beings in my mind. I do believe that.”*

– Lisa Kudrow

*“I've been asked to autograph my body parts. And some are, um, very parts. I'll let your imagination go.”*

– George Takei

*“I'm old enough not to be going by my dick. It's not about what gets my dick hard or not.”*

– Sinead O'Connor



*“All these little who can't sing called **DIVAS!**”*

– Patti LaBelle

*“(Paul Rudd) tastes like chicken, and James Franco tastes like cinnamon.”*

– Bill Hader

# A YEAR IN REVIEW: WHA

*“It's true that your life can be, ugh, not good at all – sad – and yet hysterically funny. I don't think sad is contradictory to funny.”*

– Elaine Stritch

*“I would call that ‘feminist lite.’ L-I-T-E. I'm sorry. It's tokenistic to me. ... I see a lot of it as them taking the word hostage and using it to promote themselves, but I don't think they necessarily represent wholeheartedly the depths of feminism – no, I don't.”*

– Annie Lennox



*“I hope we shed light on a subject that needs light, love and warmth.”*

– Jeffrey Tambor talking “Transparent”

*“If I have a short haircut and that makes me gay or straight or whatever to someone else, I don't care.”*

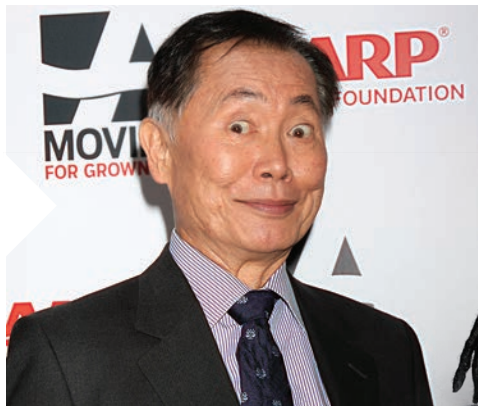
– Jennifer Nettles

*“If we just allowed people to be themselves and to be open to it and not have to be absolute one way or another, life could be really full.”*

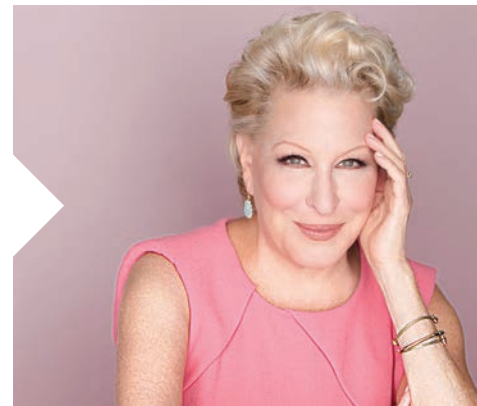
– Cameron Diaz



various  
private  
there."  
akei



“Cher has 55 wigs; why can't I?”  
– Bette Midler



HEIFERS  
are



“People keep trying to divide us up into ‘you’re gay, you’re black, you’re white,’ but we’re all one people. What fucks with one fucks with us all.”  
– Whoopi Goldberg

“There is prejudice, and then there's tolerance, and then there's acceptance, but the best of all is simply taking something for granted as if there's nothing unusual about it.”  
– John Lithgow

# AT THE CELEBS SAID



“It was a few drinks in at that point. **ALL BETS WERE OFF.**”

– Nick Jonas on stripping at a NYC gay bar

“We’re supposed to accept and love one another. Whether we do or not, that’s a different story. But that’s what we’re supposed to do.”  
– Dolly Parton



“I’ve known and loved many lesbians in my life ... but I don’t know if I’ve ever gotten them all into the same room at the same time!”  
– Kathy Bates



“I’m not a fake lesbian. Straight’s cool too, you know!”  
– Iggy Azalea



# The Frivolist

## The Gay Year In Review: 7 Hot Topics That Had Us Talking In 2014

BY MIKEY ROX

This year the LGBT community laughed together, cried together, and celebrated together as news broke on issues important to us all. To refresh your memory, here are my picks for the top headlines that had us talking in 2014.

### Michael Sam becomes first openly gay NFL player – then quickly gets the boot

American football defensive end Michael Sam rocked the sports world when he publicly addressed his sexuality while still a player at the University of Missouri, an admission that spread like wildfire through mainstream media. An NFL draft contender nonetheless, Sam eventually became the first openly gay athlete drafted into the NFL as the 249th overall pick selected by the St. Louis Rams. Sam's good fortune was short-lived, however, as the Rams cut the buzzed-about athlete at the end of training camp,

and the Dallas Cowboys – who picked up Sam after his release from the Rams – sent him packing from the practice team after the first seven weeks of the season. Currently, Sam is a free agent who likely won't ever play an NFL game – but at least he has a cute shoulder to cry on in boyfriend Vito Cammisano.

### World protests Russia's anti-gay policies ahead of the 2014 Winter Olympics

As early as 2012, the ire of equal-rights advocates was drawn when the notoriously anti-gay Russian government blocked the establishment of Pride House – a designated sanctuary for LGBT athletes, volunteers and other visitors – at the 2014 Winter Olympics. The reason for the smackdown? A Russian judge ruled that “propaganda of non-traditional sexual relationships” would “undermine the security of Russian society.” Mmmkay, Felicia. By June 2013, Russian lawmakers passed a law to “impose fines for providing information

about the gay community to minors,” and foreign citizens were being taken into custody for violating the bans. It all – pardon the pun – sort of snowballed from there. Thankfully, the world wasn't taking any B.S. from Putin and his henchmen, and a show of solidarity for LGBT athletes (and the community as a whole) was displayed throughout the games across the globe.

### Country music had its own Coming Out Day – but nobody got the memo

Country crooner Ty Herndon – who rose to the top of the charts in the mid-1990s – unexpectedly shook things up in Nashville and beyond when he came out in an interview in People magazine this past November to promote his aptly-titled new album, “Lies I Told Myself.” In the interview, Herndon, who was married twice before to women, came clean about his troubled past (his rap sheet is cray, y'all) and revealed that he's been all booed up with a man named Matt for

the past few years – all the while inspiring another country singer to breakthrough the closet doors the very same day. Fellow artist Billy Gilman, who you might remember as the 11-year-old who wowed the world with his debut single “One Voice” back in 2000, revealed his sexuality in a YouTube video, giving credit for his newfound confidence to Herndon. Country icons Ricky Scaggs and LeAnn Rimes have since publicly supported the duo, who will hopefully inspire other entertainers to step out from the shadows.

### Straight dudes anonymously admit that they secretly watch gay porn

As if you didn't already suspect, heterosexual men are watching gay porn in droves – even if they won't publicly admit it. According to Queerty, Reddit user “father”fig” posted a question to the community asking straight dudes if they “watch gay porn as a fetish rather than an aspect of your sexual orientation.” It didn't take long for the thread to explode with anonymous admissions from horny bros who sometimes like to get off watching other dudes get it on. The thread received more than 75 comments/confessions, the awesomest of which came from this straight shooter: “I watch gay porn because my dick tells me that's what I want to be watching. I'm not gay; I just sometimes get this urge that says ‘watch a man rail another dude in the ass.’” Touché; welcome to the club, buddy.

### Nineteen more states license gay marriage, bringing total to 35

Since 2004 – when Massachusetts became the first state to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples – the fight for marriage equality steadily made progress, giving homosexual couples in certain states access to wedded bliss. Fast forward 10 years later and the campaign moves along at bullet speed, picking up 19 more states with legalized gay marriage on the books this year alone. As of press time, the total number of states that allow same-sex marriage stood at 35, and five more with stayed rulings will likely follow suit in the near future. At this rate, it won't be long

before the same-sex couples can say ‘I do’ all over the United States, and then go home and fight about who emptied the dishwasher last.

### Seemingly straight celebs get super gay-friendly to woo demographic

If it seems like everywhere you went on the Internet over the past few months, Nick Jonas – former boy-bander and purity-ring wearer – was pining for your attention (like grabbing his crotch; don't act like you didn't look), you're not alone. The now-solo artist launched a very gay-friendly campaign to promote his eponymous new album, but while he was winning over some of the LGBT community with his new singles (but mostly his abs), he offended others for his alleged gay-baiting marketing tactics. And he's not the only one. TV host Mario Lopez, actor James Franco, One Direction's Harry Styles, and up-and-coming Australian actor Brenton Thwaites have all been accused of the offense recently – which, let's get real here, if they're showing a little skin while they're at it, is it really “that” offensive?

### Petition created to end the Duggars' reality reign after anti-gay actions

Scientific anomalies and self-contained cult the Duggar Family, whose reality show “19 Kids and Counting” is a huge hit for TV's TLC, came under fire for a number of alleged anti-LGBT moves over the past year. Matriarch Michelle Duggar was accused of recording an automated call urging her hometown voters to repeal a law that would protect LGBT people from being evicted or fired based on their sexual orientation; son Josh has taken a job with the notoriously anti-gay Family Research Center; and the most recent eyebrow-raiser includes accusations that the family deleted Facebook photos of same-sex couples kissing each other, despite the Duggars' call for Facebook users to post such images to celebrate their daughter Jessa's marriage. The latter sparked a petition that calls for TLC to cancel the Duggars' TV show – which probably won't make a lick of difference considering that that backwoods “Duck Dynasty” quack is still spreading his hateful gospel all over the airwaves.



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# Hear Me Out

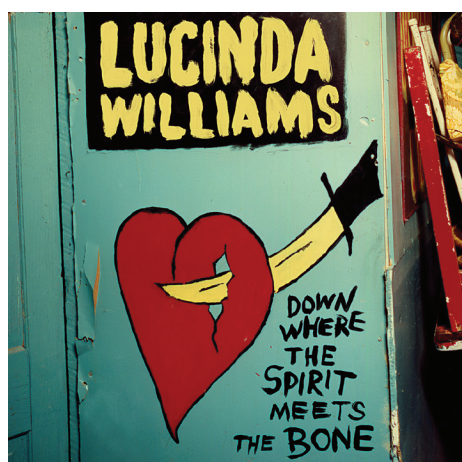
BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

## The Best Albums Of 2014



### 10. Against Me!, 'Transgender Dysphoria Blues'

Breaking from the aggressive rock roar of Against Me!'s sixth LP is "Two Coffins," a whisper among the glorious chaos of "Transgender Dysphoria Blues." Its simplicity might stand out sonically, but it shares a familiar characteristic: It's emotionally exposed. The complex "Transgender Dysphoria Blues" is a powerful breakthrough not just personally for front-woman Laura Jane Grace, but for the entire band.



### 9. Lucinda Williams, 'Down Where the Spirit Meets the Bone'

Demonstrating a rare knack for pulling off a double album, Lucinda Williams treats every note like it's her last on "Down Where the Spirit Meets the Bone." Her songwriting is vivid and life-affirming (see the optimistic

"When I Look at the World"); the Americana sound is pure and authentic. This, one of Williams' greatest, is music that meets the bone, the heart and everything in between.



### 8. Lana Del Rey, 'Ultraviolence'

"If you don't like it, you can beat it, baby" isn't just a line from Lana Del Rey's "Brooklyn Baby," a song off her third album – it's a career motto. Withdrawing from the commercialized sound of "Born to Die," Del Rey shed the hip-hop image and traded it in for the cinematic elegance heard on songs like "Fucked My Way Up to the Top" and "Old Money," a cinematic daydream.



### 7. Miranda Lambert, 'Platinum'

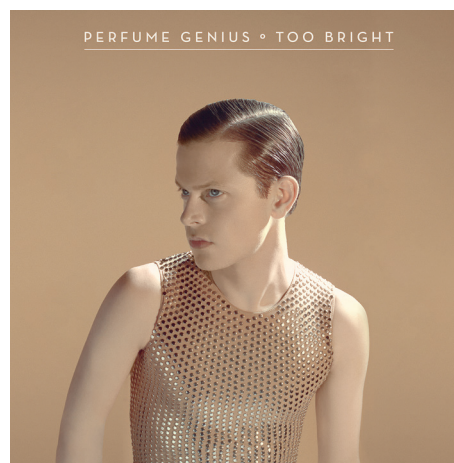
There's no big move to NYC in Miranda Lambert's future. On the country singer's latest, "Platinum," her cowboy boots are

pressed firmly in Nashville soil. Twanging her way through a clever set of outrageous Dolly-influenced ditties about boobs, illegitimate babies and blonde ambition, and pairing them with sweet moments of quiet reflection ("Holding on to You"), Lambert lathers on another layer of veteran polish.



### 6. Lee Ann Womack, 'The Way I'm Livin''

After a seven-year hiatus, the honeyed twang of Lee Ann Womack returned with "The Way I'm Livin'," one of the singer's finest to date. Sticking to the purist form of yesteryear country, the "I Hope You Dance" vocalist taps into the complexities of the human spirit via some of the best-written songs on Music Row. "Send It on Down," for instance, is a first-person narrative also serving as an affecting prayer for the masses.



### 5. Perfume Genius, 'Too Bright'

Shattering the perception that he's merely a

sonic softie, Seattle's Mike Hadreas summoned his strut for this celebration of life, liberty and the pursuit of homo happiness. Hadreas' most self-assured release thus far, which has him proclaiming "no family is safe when I sashay," "Too Bright" is a musically potent manifesto split between two people: himself, and the person he strives to be.



### 4. Mariah Carey, 'Me. I Am Mariah... The Elusive Chanteuse'

In a just world, "Elusive Chanteuse" would have emancipated Mariah Carey back to the top of the charts. Not just because her voice soars higher with every awe-inspiring key change on the gospel stunner "Heavenly (No Ways Tired / Can't Give Up Now)," but, altogether, the diva hasn't made an album this consistently sublime in years. The hit-worthy "Fantasy" redux "You Don't Know What to Do" and old-school ballad "Cry" evoked classic Carey vibes, and even her emotional "One More Try" remake impressed. Nostalgia has rarely sounded so divine.



### 3. Lykke Li, 'I Never Learn'

Swedish songstress Lykke Li's personal low produced a professional high as she let

See Hear Me Out, page 28

# The Best Books Of 2014

BY COMMON LANGUAGE STAFF

Best-of-lists are ultimately personal choices. Part of our bias is for local authors, and we have three on our list for 2014 – the “Year of the Memoir.” We started with about 30 books, and worked to whittle it down to a dozen. At some point we realized that half of the books were memoirs. In the name of diversity, many great books ended on the cutting-room floor. So here are the dozen we settled on at Common Language Bookstore:

## Trans Bodies, Trans Selves

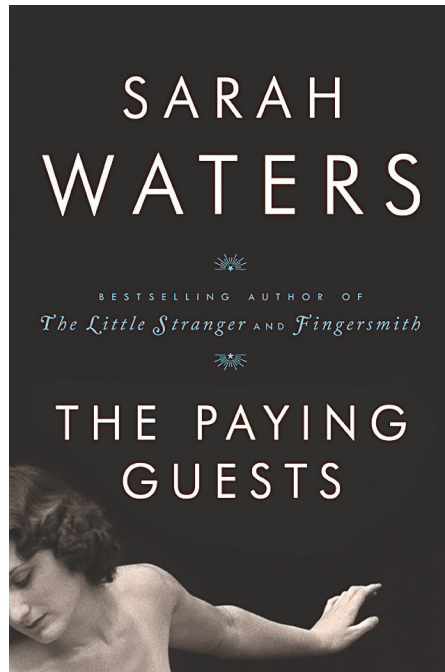
edited by Laura Erickson-Schroth, Introduction by Jennifer Finney Boylan University Press (\$39.95)

This comprehensive book investigates social history, health, law, politics and more. Inspired by the women’s health classic, “Our Bodies, Ourselves,” it’s as radical and affirming as that earlier tome.

## The Days of Anna Madrigal

by Armistead Maupin HarperTorch (\$26.99)

Twenty-five years ago we thought Maupin ended the “Tales of the City” series. We thought wrong. This year, the renowned author returned with a trilogy updating us on his story’s central characters. In the book, the final volume in the series, he focuses his



gaze on the heart and spirit of “Tales of the City,” Ann Madrigal. For those who have followed the entire series, Anna probably feels real enough that you could be forgiven for counting this work of fiction as another memoir in this list.

## Not My Father's Son: A Memoir

by Alan Cumming Dey Street Books (\$26.99)

The Scottish-born star of stage and screen is also an author of fiction and non-fiction. He takes all that talent and writes a memoir in his unique voice and shares the emotional story of his complicated relationship with his father and the deeply buried family secrets that shaped his life and career.

## The Paying Guests

by Sarah Waters Riverhead Books (\$28.95)

Sarah Waters’ control of writing, character development, narrative flow, sense of time and place are all so spot-on. The only problem? Her fans are always reading faster than she can write. “The Paying Guests” is set in post-WWI London. Frances Wray’s father and two brothers do not survive the Great War, and she and her mother must take in lodgers

(“paying guests”) to meet the bills. This story of class will satisfy her fans while also making her some new ones.

## Rednecks, Queers, and Country Music

by Nadine Hubbs University of California Press (\$34.95)

In “Rednecks, Queers, and Country Music,” music and sexual orientation scribe Nadine Hubbs looks at how class and gender identity play out in one of America’s most culturally and politically charged forms of popular music. A tight, rich and entertaining read, Hubbs confronts the shifting and deeply entangled workings of taste, sexuality and class politics.

## I Am Jazz

by Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings, illustrated by Shelagh McNicholas Dial Books (\$17.99)

“I Am Jazz,” simply the best transgender kids book since “10,000 Dresses,” is based on the true story of one of the authors. Illustrations engage, but there’s also an immense takeaway for both kids and families alike.

## Gender Failure

by Ivan E. Coyote and Rae Spoon Arsenal Pulp Press (\$17.95)

Based on their acclaimed 2012 European and North American tour, “Gender Failure” is a collection of autobiographical essays, lyrics and images documenting authors

See Books of 2014, page 28



## ARMISTEAD MAUPIN

*The Days of Anna Madrigal*





T.S. 1989

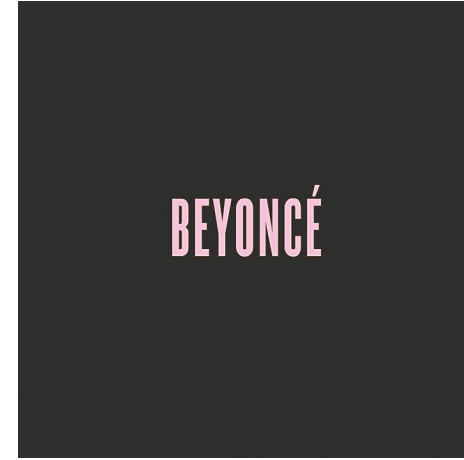
## ► Hear Me Out

Continued from p. 26

sadness lead her through a ceaseless parade of crestfallen sentiments: forlorn “Never Gonna Love Again,” the ethereal guitar-driven title track, and the chilly “Silverline.” Cathartic in its own right, Li’s intimate “I Never Learn” was the year’s greatest outpouring of breakup woe.

## 2. Beyoncé, ‘Beyoncé’

Bey’s impromptu opus just missed last year’s rankings when it descended from the music gods without warning at the arrival of 2014. From the moralistic “Pretty Hurts” to the bootylicious “Partition,” onto the heartfelt ballad “Heaven,” the icon’s latest creation is the best of her career, a vision so grandiose and avant-garde it evaded radio altogether. A rare evolution for such a



megastar, the collection wasn’t just sexually and sonically uninhibited – it was bold on all levels.

## 1. Taylor Swift, ‘1989’

For her fifth album, Taylor Swift put down the guitar, moved to the Big Apple and decided to own the world. Cut to “1989,” a sophisticated smack of irresistibility that broke records for all the right reasons, but mostly because no one could shake, shake, shake it off. Self-aware (“Blank Space”), experimental (that’s Imogen Heap working her magic on “Clean”) and uncharacteristically confrontational (“Bad Blood”), the Swift behemoth set a new precedent for pop.

Chris Azzopardi is the editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service. Reach him via his website at [www.chris-azzopardi.com](http://www.chris-azzopardi.com).

## ► Books of 2014

Continued from p. 27

Ivan E. Coyote and Rae Spoon’s journeys from gender failure to gender enlightenment with humor and thoughtfulness.

### Redefining Realness: My Path to Womanhood, Identity, Love & So Much More

by Janet Mock  
Atria Books (\$15)

You’ll be hooked from the start of “Redefining Realness,” the first major memoir by an African-American transgender woman. Journalist / advocate Janet Mock’s book is open and unapologetic, and every page breathes, well, realness.

### Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out

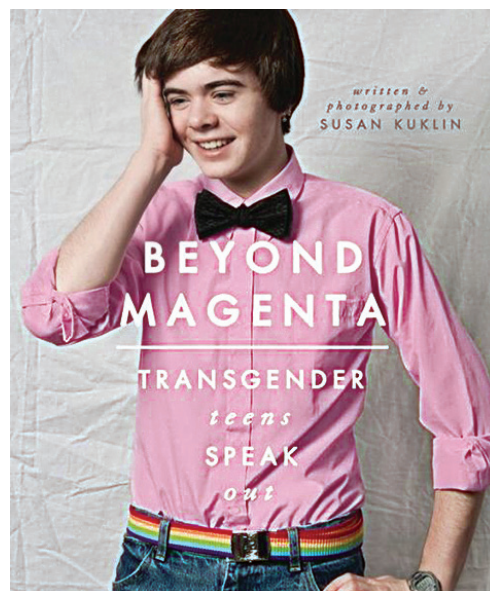
by Susan Kuklin  
Candlewick Press (\$22.99)

Susan Kuklin photographs and interviews transgender and gender-neutral teens and includes portraits of the teens and their families before, during and after their gender acknowledgment. The teens are presented with respect and thoughtfulness. An excellent resource for any teen questioning gender.

### The Nearness of Others

by David Caron  
University of Minnesota Press (\$24.95)

David Caron has written more expressively than anyone else about being HIV-positive within the gay community. Part memoir, part examination of society, this radical, genre-bending narrative tells the story of David’s 2006 HIV diagnosis and its aftermath. “The Nearness of Others” examines popular culture and politics, as well as literary memoirs and



film, to ask deeper philosophical questions about our relationships with others. Ultimately, Caron demonstrates a form of disclosure, sharing and contact that stands against the forces working to separate us.

### Body Counts: A Memoir of Politics, Sex, AIDS, and Survival

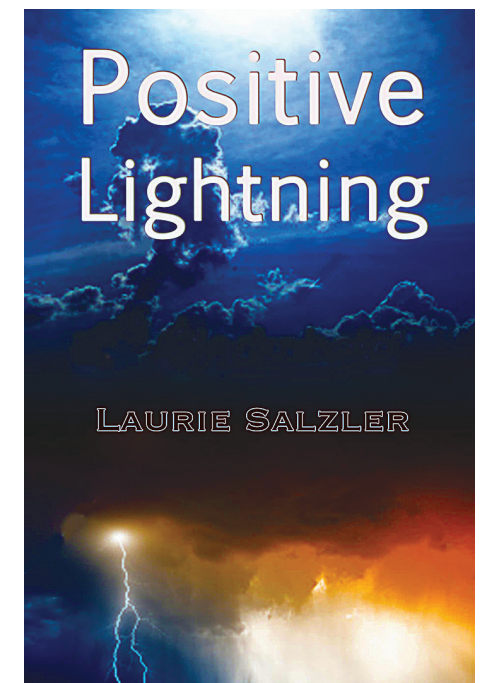
by Sean Strub  
Scribner Book Company (\$17)

Sean Strub seems to have lived every major event in recent LGBT history ... and then some. He was with ACT UP when the group covered Jesse Helms’ home in a giant condom. He founded and published POZ magazine. He produced “The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me.” Also, oddly and coincidentally, he was the first on the scene at the shooting of John Lennon. A fascinating story of AIDS, politics and survival.

### Positive Lightning

by Laurie Salzler  
Blue Feather Books (\$16.50)

The lesbian romance genre is a crowded field, but local author Laurie Salzler is a standout. Quickly becoming a force in lesbian lit, the author’s crisp style brings this romance alive. Characters from her earlier book, “A Kiss Before Dawn,” return and discover lightning can indeed strike twice.



Books are available at Common Language at 317 Braun Court in Ann Arbor. For more information or to order any of these titles, visit [glbtbooks.com](http://glbtbooks.com). And remember: support local.

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# Sizzling New Year's Eve At Spiral



BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

Spiral Dance Bar, the Lansing area's premier LGBT club, gets ready to welcome 2015 in an epic 18-and-over evening. Considered the best outdoor patio in Lansing, the bar is known for its festive events, including the recent anti-Ugly Sweater Party with their "Bad Santa and Naughty Elves" night. Their upcoming

New Year's Eve event is themed around "Leather & Lace," sponsored by Deja Vu Love Boutique.

Leather & Lace will celebrate the "ball drop" with gogo dancers, an aerial dancer, a champagne toast at midnight and more. Other festivities include a special balloon drop, an event photographer, "insane" drink specials, DJ Sizl spinning the evening's sounds and special drag

performances. "Want to go to the sexiest New Year's Eve party in Michigan?" asks Spiral. "Yeah, we thought so. We know you don't want to go to the same old NYE party, so celebrate with us and let your freaky side out." Leather and lace attire recommended.

Merchandise from the event's sponsor will also be on hand, so an interesting evening can be expected. Deja Vu Love Boutique is a national boutique of erotic toys, adult workshops and more. Under the tagline "where couples love to shop," the anything-goes shop offers bedroom toys, vibrators, sexual stimulants, intimate lingerie, club wear and the hottest fashions for dancers.

Lansing's location at 1000 W. Jolly Road is open as late as 4 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and open late other days of the week. For more information, visit [www.dejavuonline.com](http://www.dejavuonline.com).

Spiral's Leather & Lace New Year's Eve party will run from Dec. 31 until 4 a.m. on Jan. 1., 2015. Cover is \$10 for ages 21 and over, \$15 for guests 18-20. Spiral is located at 1247 Center St., Lansing. Presale tickets are available. For more information, visit [www.spiraldancebar.com](http://www.spiraldancebar.com) or text "SPIRAL" to 83361.

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Mittenfest performers Shigeto.

# Mittens For Michigan

## Music Fest Features Over 30 Acts, Raises Funds For Ann Arbor Non-Profit

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

Washtenaw County's annual music festival, Mittenfest, comes to Ann Arbor this January. Blind Pig will host 2015's event from Jan. 1-4. The yearly event hosts a variety of different music acts in support of 826Michigan, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting students ages 6 to 18 with their creative and expository writing skills, while also helping teachers to inspire students to write.

Mittenfest, which has taken place in other Washtenaw County venues such as Corner Brewery, The Elbow Room and Woodruff's, has spent the last eight years fundraising for 826Michigan in the form of a "good-time holiday get-together." Since its creation by Brandon Zwagerman in 2006, the event has been featuring over 60 bands and garnered at least 1,500 attendees. Zwagerman conceived of the event to help service 826Michigan after seeing the success he had with the backyard and campus shows he organized while still a student at the University of Michigan. The event has not only helped support the metro Detroit and Ann Arbor factions of 826 but also paved the way for spin-offs of the event, like "S'Mittenfest," a summer version of the fundraising concert that took up two stages of Detroit's the

Magic Stick in 2013.

This year's Mittenfest features over 30 acts, including Ann Arbor's own Shigeto. Shigeto ([www.ghostly.com/artists/shigeto](http://www.ghostly.com/artists/shigeto)) is known for combining a variety of sounds and genres that form a "bridge between the past and present." Raised in the Detroit/Ann Arbor music scene, Shigeto - pseudonym of Zach Saginaw - has crafted vividly beautiful electronic music that shows Saginaw's musical influences, ranging from the Motown he grew up with to the jazz he studied for three years at NYC's New School.

Mittenfest's performing artists are primarily local, with the most far-reaching act hailing from nearby Chicago (Emily Jane Powers). Other Ann Arbor area acts include Casual Sweetheart ([www.casualsweetheart.tumblr.com](http://www.casualsweetheart.tumblr.com)), a psychedelic punk and avant-garde garage rock band that's been performing throughout Southeast Michigan. Composed of Lauren Rossi Harroun on bass/vocals, Dina Bankole on drums/vocals and Erin Norris on guitar/vocals, the all-girl band funnels their feminism into their raucous sounds.

Other Washtenaw-based acts include Child Sleep, Congress, Disinformants, Loose Teeth, Matt Jones and The Reconstruction,

See Mittens, page 33

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826Michigan drop-in tutoring at Beezy's Cafe.

► **Mittens**

Continued from p. 31

Minihorse, and Misty Lyn & The Big Beautiful, all of Ypsilanti. Other Ann Arbor-based acts include Fred Thomas, Rebel Kind and Shells. For the full line-

up of the festival, check out Mittenfest's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/events/480468815425889](http://www.facebook.com/events/480468815425889).

The services of 826Michigan are structured around their belief that "great leaps in learning can happen with one-on-one attention, and that strong writing skills are fundamental to

future success." 826Michigan is a part of a nationwide network of non-profits under the 826 moniker, beginning in San Francisco with writer and editor Dave Eggers; he created the non-profit as a means to mentor kids in creative writing.

Steven Gillis, a writer, founded the Michigan chapter in Ann Arbor. Through after-school programs, drop-in tutoring, field trips, workshops, writing rooms and other methods, 826Michigan works to inspire local young people and foster their creativity. As programs are free of charge, fundraisers like Mittenfest are vital to the charity's continued work in the community. 826Michigan is housed in the Liberty Street Robot Supply & Repair, 115 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. For further details on the non-profit, call 734-761-3463 or visit [www.826michigan.org](http://www.826michigan.org).

Mittenfest 2015, an 18-and-over event, opens at 7 p.m. each night of the festival, which runs from Jan. 1-4, 2015. The Bling Pig is located at 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. A \$10 minimum donation is required for entrance to Mittenfest. Tickets and more information are available at [www.blindpigmusic.com](http://www.blindpigmusic.com).

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Nelson

Directed by Barbara Busby

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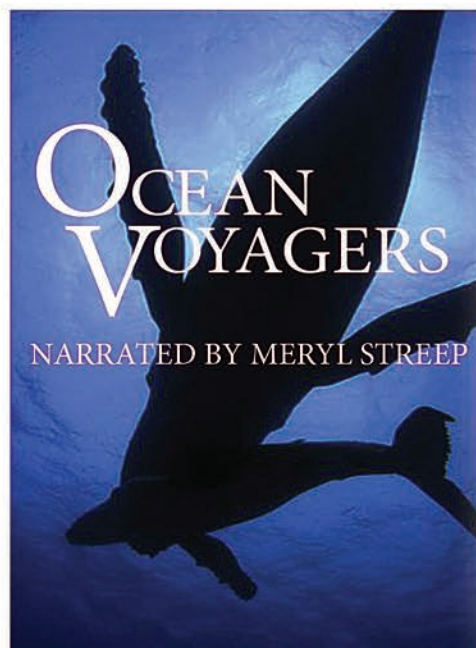
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# World Premiere At The Rep Explores Racial Dignity

BY BTL STAFF

“Sweet Pea’s Mama” by Robert Lawrence Nelson, a timely story about racial dignity, will have its world premiere at 8:30 p.m. Jan. 8, 2015 at the Detroit Repertory Theatre. Nelson will attend opening night, and, as is tradition for opening nights at the Rep, a complimentary champagne afterglow with cast and crew will follow the play.

Coralee is a maid for Abigail and her family. Among other things she cares for: Georgie, Abigail’s grown developmentally challenged son whom she affectionately calls Sweet Pea. On the day Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated, a tragedy occurs in Abigail’s home as well that has a devastating effect on everyone, including Coralee’s angry young son Jerome. In the end racial dignity and familial love are put to an ultimate test.

Robert Lawrence Nelson’s play puts racial indignity and mental challenge in striking juxtaposition. The effect is both disturbing and enlightening. Rare insights occur and stereotypes get jarred. You will not leave the theater unscathed.

Barbara Busby, a founder of the Rep and resident company member, is the director of “Sweet Pea’s Mama.” Last year she directed the amusing and highly regarded production “A Facility for Living.”

Her cast for “Sweet Pea’s Mama” features two performers familiar to Repertory audiences and two newcomers. Jenaya Jones Reynolds will portray Coralee. She was last seen at the Rep as the troubled daughter in “A Thousand Circlets.” Aaron Kottke will portray Abigail’s developmentally challenged son Georgie. He was seen at the Rep last season as the kookie activist in “Endangered Species.” Newcomer Emily Rose Merrell will portray Georgie’s mother, Abigail, and



Jenaya Jones-Reynolds and Aaron Kottke in “Sweet Pea’s Mama.” Photo: Lance Luce

## INFO

### Sweet Pea’s Mama

8:30 p.m. Jan. 8, 2015  
Detroit Repertory Theatre  
13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit  
313-868-1347  
www.detroitreptheatre.com

newcomer Chris Jakob will portray Jerome, Coralee’s rebellious son.

The show will run Thursdays through Sundays until March 15.

Tickets, fundraisers, Bargain Booklets and Subscriptions remain the most affordable for not-for-profit professional theater in the region. Advance admission is \$17; same

day tickets are \$20. The Rep’s Gold Double Subscription for two people is still the unmatched price of \$100 and a Silver Single Subscription is \$50. Ten-ticket Bargain Booklets, regular and matinee, are \$110 and \$100, respectively. The theater is now also offering free champagne to large group fundraisers for the rest of the 2014-15 season.

Purchase tickets by calling the Box Office at 313-868-1347; visit [www.detroitreptheatre.com](http://www.detroitreptheatre.com) for more information.

The Detroit Rep has been located in the geographical heart of the city for over 57 years at 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. It has lighted, adjacent and attended free parking.

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## Editor's Pick

Some of the biggest LGBT community groups have teamed up for a special New Year's Eve event for queer women in metro Detroit! Hustle & Flo, GOAL and Women Out And About have come together to host a New Year's Eve dance expected to sell out.

The event will feature music, dancing, line-dancing lessons and more. Other special features of the event include dinner stations, a champagne toast at midnight, raffles for prizes like a trip to Cancun, valet parking and more.

The New Year's Eve bash will begin at 8 p.m. on Dec. 31 at Emagine Royal Oak, 200 N. Main St. The event will run until 1 a.m. Tickets are \$50 and include dinner, wine and beer. For more information, check out [www.womenoutandabout.net/nye-dance](http://www.womenoutandabout.net/nye-dance).



# Happenings

## OUTINGS

### Thursday, Dec. 25

**Mitzvah Project** Will bring and heat up Christmas dinner for REC residents, then go out at 6 p.m. after for annual Chinese restaurant gathering. The Jewish Gay Network of Michigan (JGN), 77 Victor St., **Highland Park**. 248-342-5661. [jgnmi@jccdet.org](mailto:jgnmi@jccdet.org) [jgnmi.org](http://jgnmi.org)

### Friday, Dec. 26

**Mini Farmers Market** 11 a.m. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., **Saugatuck**. 269-857-2399. [Sc4a.org](http://Sc4a.org)

**Kwanzaa Celebration-Unity** 6 p.m. KICK, 41 Burroughs St. 109, **Detroit**. 313-285-9733. [E-kick.org](http://E-kick.org)

**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](http://Thenecto.com)

### Saturday, Dec. 27

**Kwanzaa - Shabbat Celebration** 10 a.m. Celebrate Shabbat and Kwanzaa with song and service, Torah reading and discussion. Light refreshments will follow. Congregation Tchiyah, 15000 W. 10 Mile Road, Mondry Bldg., **Oak Park**. 248-542-0900. [tchiyahorg@gmail.com](mailto:tchiyahorg@gmail.com)

**LGBTQ-Friendly Yoga Class** Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., **Lansing**. [Justbyoga.com](http://Justbyoga.com)

**TransCend** TransCend provides support and resources to the Southwest Michigan transgender community, their significant others, family, friends, and allies. Meetings occur twice per month on the 2nd Wednesday and 4th Sunday. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. [Kglrc.org](http://Kglrc.org)

**Own Your Gender** 7 p.m. The Network, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids**. 616-458-3511. [Grlgbt.org](http://Grlgbt.org)

### Sunday, Dec. 28

**Queer Women's Community** 1 p.m. All lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer and ally women are welcome. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 3636 Lowden, **Kalamazoo**. [Kglrc.org](http://Kglrc.org)

**Transitions** 2 p.m. Free transgender support group. Transitions, 1055 E. South Blvd., **Rochester Hills**. 586-838-0825.

**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>

### Monday, Dec. 29

**TransPeace** 7 p.m. Ruth Ellis Center, 77 Victor St., **Highland Park**. 313-867-6932. [Ruthelliscenter.org](http://Ruthelliscenter.org)

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

### Tuesday, Dec. 30

**Talk Tuesdays** 6 p.m. Free. KICK, 41 Burroughs St. 109, **Detroit**. 313-285-9733. [e-kick.org](http://e-kick.org)

**Transgender Life Support** 7 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [Goaffirmations.org](http://Goaffirmations.org)

### Wednesday, Dec. 31

**Family Fotos** Exhibition honoring all families. OutCenter, 132 Water St., **Benton Harbor**. 269-925-8330. [Outcenter.org](http://Outcenter.org)

**Leather & Lace New Year's Eve Party** Cover: \$10-15. Spiral, 1247 Center St., **Lansing**. 517-894-1315. [Spiraldancebar.com](http://Spiraldancebar.com)

**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](http://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](http://goaffirmations.org/events/event_details.asp?id=430531)

**New Year's Eve Dance** 8 p.m. Music, dancing, dinner stations, wine & beer included and more.Tickets: \$50. GOAL, Hustle & Flo and Women Out and About, 200 N. Main St., **Royal Oak**. 248-943-2411. [Womenoutandabout.net/nye-dance/](http://Womenoutandabout.net/nye-dance/)

**New Year's Eve Dance** 9:30 p.m. Lansing Lesbians - L2L, 4209 S. Pennsylvania Ave., **Lansing**. [Meetup.com/Lansing-Lesbians-L2L](http://Meetup.com/Lansing-Lesbians-L2L)

### Friday, Jan. 2

**First Friday @ The Bird and The Bread** 6:15 p.m. Gay Professionals Social Group, 210 S. Old Woodward Ave. Ste 100, **Birmingham**. [Meetup.com/Gay-Professionals-Social-Group-MI/events/](http://Meetup.com/Gay-Professionals-Social-Group-MI/events/)

**First Friday Potluck** 7 p.m. Lansing Lesbians - L2L, 1710 E. Michigan Ave. #1712, **Lansing**. [Meetup.com/Lansing-Lesbians-L2L](http://Meetup.com/Lansing-Lesbians-L2L)

### Tuesday, Jan. 6

**Teens Using Drugs: What to Know and What to Do** 7:30 p.m. A FREE, ongoing, two-part series designed to help participants learn to understand, identify and address adolescent alcohol/other drug problems. Dawn Farm, 5305 Elliot Dr., **Ypsilanti**. 734-485-8725. [info@dawnfarm.org](mailto:info@dawnfarm.org) [Dawnfarm.org](http://Dawnfarm.org)

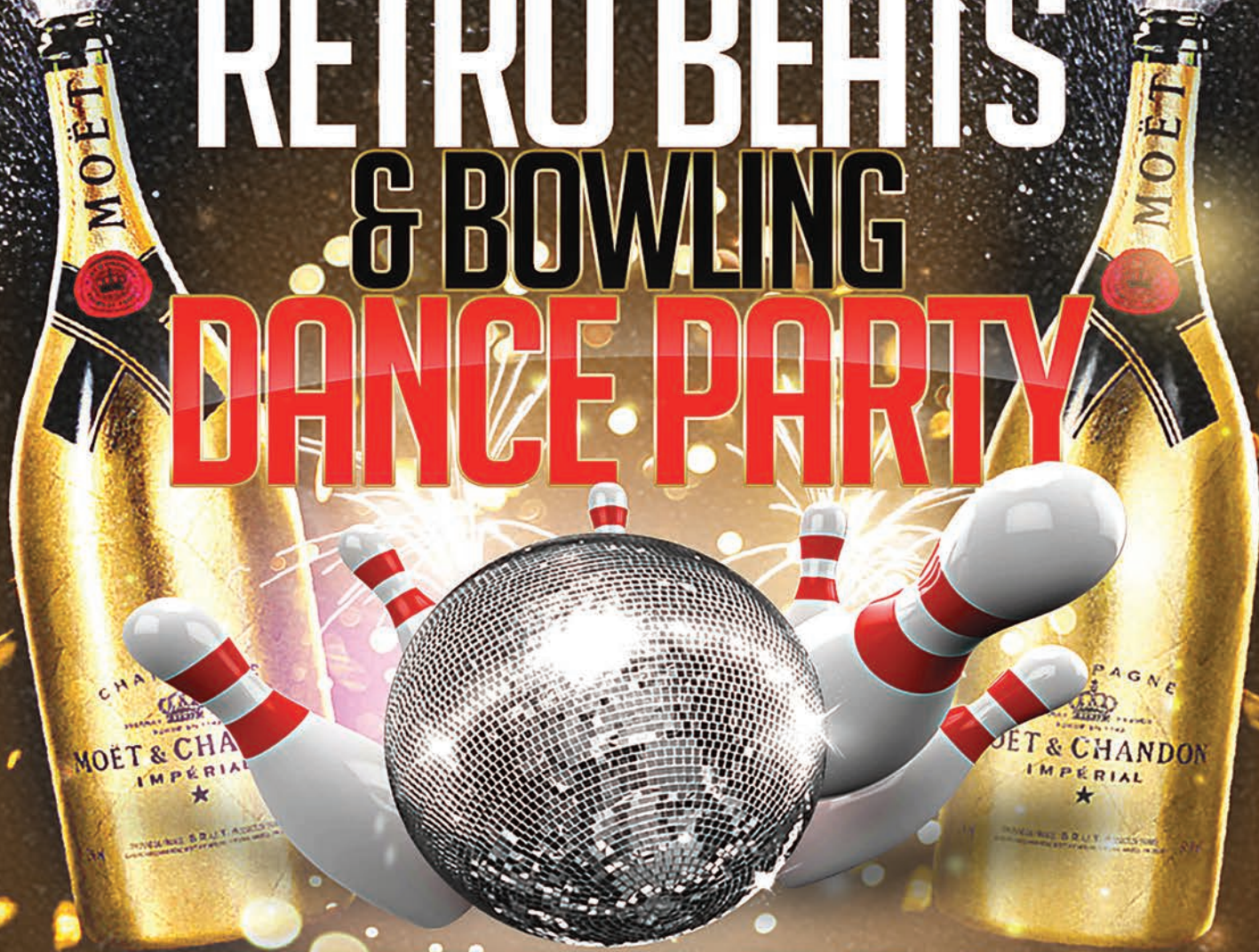
### Wednesday, Jan. 7

**Trans & Gender Queer Group** 12:30 p.m. Eastern Michigan University, **Ypsilanti**. 734-487-4149. [Emich.edu/lgbtrc](http://Emich.edu/lgbtrc)

See Happenings, page 39

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## Editor's Pick

Murder and chaos are pitted against love and virtue in the musical gothic masterpiece "Jekyll & Hyde the Musical," onstage Jan. 9 through Feb. 1, 2015 at the historic Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette in downtown Royal Oak.

The epic struggle between good and evil comes to life in the tale of the respectable Dr. Henry Jekyll, who is tormented by his secret transformations into the raging madman, Edward Hyde (both played by

Josh Allor). A devoted man of science, Jekyll is driven to find a chemical that can solve mankind's most challenging medical dilemmas. He decides to make himself the subject of his own experiment, accidentally unleashing his inner demons and the man the world comes to know as Mr. Hyde.

Advance tickets are \$20 on Thursdays, \$22 on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Tickets may be purchased by phone at 248-541-6430 using Visa or MasterCard.

month. Two local bands each playing a full set of music for an all-ages audience. Ferndale Public Library, 222 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale, Oct. 4 - Feb. 7. 248-547-6001. Facebook.com/FerndalePublicLibrary

**The Acorn Theater** "New Year's Eve with Super Happy Funtime Burlesque Show". The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 9 p.m. Dec. 30. 269-756-3879. Acorntheater.com

**The Ark** "50 First Jokes" Tickets: \$10. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Jan. 5. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

**The Magic Bag** "Spike and Mike's Sick and Twisted Animation Festival" This annual collection of the world's most bizarre and acclaimed animated shorts has been a Magic Bag tradition since 1992. Tickets: \$8. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Dec. 18 - Jan. 3. 248-544-3030. Themagicbag.com

**The Magic Bag** "We Are Twisted F\*\*\*\*\* Sister" Tickets: \$5-7. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Jan. 9. 248-544-3030. Themagicbag.com

City Players, 600 W. Glenford Road, St. Joseph. Jan. 9 - 18. 269-429-0400. www.twincityplayers.org

**Jekyll & Hyde the Musical** \$20-24. Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. Jan. 9 - Feb. 1. 248-541-6430. www.stagecrafters.org

**Lend Me a Tenor** \$13-24. The Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Jan. 9 - 24. 269-343-1313. www.kazoocivic.com

**The Sea Gull** Follows the romantic and artistic conflicts between four characters. \$8-15. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. Jan. 8 - Jan. 18. 517-482-5700. www.riverwalktheatre.com

### Professional

**And The World Goes 'Round** \$34-36. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Through Dec. 28. 269-343-2727. www.farmersalleytheatre.com

**Boogie Stomp! The Play** A dueling pianos production, celebrating 100 years of American piano music. \$35-100. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Dec. 30 - 31. 734-663-0681. www.pntheatre.org

**Bringing Up Baby New Year** \$10. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Dec. 26 - 31. 313-365-4948. www.Planetant.com

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

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

**Fridays and Saturdays at Go Comedy!** Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. www.gocomedy.net

**Go Comedy! For The Cure 24-Hour Improv Marathon** \$10 to \$100 festival pass. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 10 p.m. Dec. 27. 248-327-0575. www.gocomedy.net

**Home for the Holidays** \$35. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Through Dec. 27. 248-347-0003. www.tippingpointtheatre.com

**If You Give a Mouse a Cookie** \$15. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E.

See Happenings, page 40

## Happenings

Continued from p. 36

### Thursday, Jan. 8

**Ladies Night** 10 p.m. Third Thursdays: For women who love women. Pronto Video Bar, 608 S. Washington Ave., Royal Oak.

### Sunday, Jan. 11

**LGBT Brunch** 11 a.m. Location for brunch will be given with RSVP. The Jewish Gay Network of Michigan (JGN), TBD. 248-432-5661. jgnmi@jccdet.org Jgnmi.org

**L2L Book Club** 2 p.m. Lansing Lesbians - L2L, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing  
**Charter Township.** Meetup.com/Lansing-Lesbians-L2L

## MUSIC & MORE

### Concerts

**Blind Pig** "Mittenfest IX" 18+. Tickets:

\$10+. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. Jan. 1 - Jan. 4. 734-996-8555. Blindpigmusic.com

**Majestic Detroit** "Black Christmas featuring Suicide Machines and more". Majestic Theater, 4120-4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 6 p.m. Dec. 26. 313-833-9700. Majesticdetroit.com

**Majestic Detroit** "Minnesota with Exmag and Dopedelic". Majestic Theater, 4120-4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 9 p.m. Dec. 31. 313-833-9700. Majesticdetroit.com

**Music Hall** "Phredley Brown" Tickets: \$10. Jazz Cafe, Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Dec. 28. 313-887-8500. Jazzcafedetroit.com

**Royal Oak Music Theatre** "Greensky Bluegrass". Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. Dec. 31. 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre.com

**The Ark** "Breathe Owl Breathe" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Jan. 2. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

**The Ark** "Abigail Stauffer" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Jan. 8. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

**The Ark** "The Yellow Room Gang" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Jan. 3. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

**The Ark** "Crossroads Ceili" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. Dec. 26 - Dec. 27. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

**The Magic Bag** "The Mega 80s New Year's Eve Bash" Tickets: \$27+. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Dec. 31. 248-544-3030. Themagicbag.com

### Other

**Blind Pig** "Mittenfest" 18+. Tickets: \$10+. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. Jan. 1 - Jan. 4. 734-996-8555. Blindpigmusic.com

**Ferndale Public Library** "Start HERE Saturdays" Start HERE Saturdays will be hosted at the Ferndale Public Library after-hours on the first Saturday of the

## THEATER

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**Educating Rita** \$12-15. The Twin



and entertains," the group presents a variety of concerts throughout the year.

The Sistrum events will begin at 7 p.m. on Jan. 7 at Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. For more information, visit [www.sistrum.org](http://www.sistrum.org) or contact [info@sistrum.org](mailto:info@sistrum.org).

## Editor's Pick

Any LGBTQ women who enjoyed Sistrum's winter concerts on Dec. 20 and 21 ("Bright & Gay Cabaret") may be interested in the group's upcoming Jan. 7 events. The annual meeting, board elections and potluck for the group will be open to all interested.

Currently led by Artistic Director Meredith Bowen, Sistrum is the Lansing area's LGBTQ women's chorus. Built around the principles of "creating music that inspires, empowers

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## Puzzle solution on pg. 42



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## Editor's Pick



KICK, Detroit's agency for LGBT African Americans, is hosting a Kwanzaa celebration this December. Dubbed "Kwanzaa Celebration – Unity," the event is free for those attending.

Kwanzaa is observed this year between Dec. 26 and Jan. 1. The week-long celebration is built on seven principles: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith. Around 4.7 million black Americans and Canadians celebrate the holiday each year.

The Kwanzaa celebration will begin at 6 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 26 at KICK, 41 Burroughs St. 109, Detroit. For more information, contact KICK at 313-285-9733 or visit [www.e-kick.org](http://www.e-kick.org).

Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Nov. 1 - Jan. 4. 810-234-1695. [Flintarts.org](http://Flintarts.org)

**Flint Institute of Arts** "The Art of Video Games". Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Oct. 25 - Jan. 18. 810-234-1695. [Flintarts.org](http://Flintarts.org)

**Michigan State University Museum** "Evolution in Action" New exhibit explores evolution of biological systems and technologies - evolution in living things, and also in computers and engineering. A new exhibit, "50,000" reveals an ongoing experiment where scientists have observed bacteria growing, competing, and evolving for 50,000 generations in only 23 years. Michigan State University Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. Aug. 4 - Dec. 31. 517-355-7474. [museum.msu.edu](http://museum.msu.edu)

**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](http://museum.msu.edu)

**MOCAD** "DEPE Space Residency" Design Inquiry. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Oct. 1 - Jan. 4. 313-832-6622. [Mocadetroit.org](http://Mocadetroit.org)

**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. [Mocadetroit.org](http://Mocadetroit.org)

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

**River's Edge Gallery** "Virgo Rising" Patricia Izzo and Martine MacDonald. River's Edge Gallery, 3024 Biddle, Wyandotte. Nov. 22 - Dec. 31. 734-246-9880. [Artattheedge.com](http://Artattheedge.com)

**Saugatuck Center for the Arts** "Permeated Surfaces" Original works from three Chicago based artists. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. Dec. 12 - Feb. 6. 269-857-2399. [Sc4a.org](http://Sc4a.org)

1987+" Drawing from the world's preeminent collection of record covers by Andy Warhol, this exhibition showcases how Warhol used the record cover as a means to popularize his name and directly impact popular culture. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. June 21 - Feb. 28. 877-462-7262. [Cranbrookart.edu](http://Cranbrookart.edu)

**Detroit Artists Market (DAM)** "Art for the Holidays" The gallery transforms from a fine art exhibition space to a fun, energetic gift market. Detroit Artists Market, 4719 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Nov. 26 - Dec. 30. 313-832-8540. [Detroitartistsmarket.org](http://Detroitartistsmarket.org)

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

**Downriver Council for the Arts** "School District Art Exhibits" Students set forth to promote peace and friendship between the two schools through their art. Allen Park & Melvindale High Schools, Allen Park & Melvindale. Dec. 1 - Jan. 4. [Downriverarts.org](http://Downriverarts.org)

**Flint Institute of Arts** "Labyrinth" The circuitous life of a miniaturist.

## ▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 39

Huron St., Ann Arbor. Dec. 27 - Dec. 28. 734-663-0681. [www.pntheatre.org](http://www.pntheatre.org)

**Improv Mondays** \$5 at the door. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. 313-365-4948. [www.planetant.com](http://www.planetant.com)

**Miracle on South Division Street** \$15-35. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. Through Dec. 28. 517-655-SHOW. [www.williamstontheatre.org](http://www.williamstontheatre.org)

**New Year's Eve at Go Comedy!** \$35 (7:30 p.m.); \$50 (10 p.m.). Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. Dec. 31. 248-327-0575. [www.gocomedy.net](http://www.gocomedy.net)

**Onstage & Unplugged** \$90-175. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Dec. 26 - Dec. 31. 734-433-7673. [www.purplerosetheatre.org](http://www.purplerosetheatre.org)

**Snow Queen** \$10 adults, \$5 children. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit. Through Jan. 31. 313-961-7777. [www.puppetart.org](http://www.puppetart.org)

**Sundays at Go Comedy!** \$10 in advance or pay-what-you-can at the door. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. [www.gocomedy.net](http://www.gocomedy.net)

**Super Happy Funtime Burlesque New Year's Eve Show** \$25-50. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 9 p.m. Dec. 31. 269-756-3879. [www.acorntheater.com](http://www.acorntheater.com)

**Sweat Pea's Mama** \$17-20. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Jan. 8 - March 15. 313-868-1347. [www.detroitreptheatre.com](http://www.detroitreptheatre.com)

**The Holiday Improv Project** \$25. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 7:30 p.m. Dec. 23. [www.gocomedy.net](http://www.gocomedy.net)

**The Roast of 2014** \$10. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 8 p.m. Dec. 30. 248-327-0575.

**The Winter's Tale** \$10. Slipstream Theatre Initiative at Michigan Actors Studio, 648 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. Through Dec. 31. 248-298-9617. [www.slipstreamti.com](http://www.slipstreamti.com)

**Wicked** \$49+. Broadway in Detroit at Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. Through Jan. 4. 313-237-SING. [www.broadwayindetroit.com](http://www.broadwayindetroit.com)

## ART 'N' AROUND

**Cranbrook Art Museum** "Iris Eichenberg: Bend". Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Nov. 23 - Jan. 25. 877-462-7262. [Cranbrook.edu](http://Cranbrook.edu)

**Cranbrook Art Museum** "The Cranbrook Hall of Wonders: Artworks, Objects and Natural Curiosities". Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Nov. 23 - March 22. 877-462-7262. [Cranbrook.edu](http://Cranbrook.edu)

**Cranbrook Art Museum** "Theater of the Mind". Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Nov. 23 - March 29. 877-462-7262. [Cranbrook.edu](http://Cranbrook.edu)

**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](http://Cranbrookart.edu)

**Cranbrook Art Museum** "Warhol On Vinyl: The Record Covers, 1949-



Academy of Art & Art Museum is located at 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. For more information, visit [www.cranbrookartmuseum.org](http://www.cranbrookartmuseum.org).

## Editor's Pick

Have some time off this holiday season? Check out Cranbrook Art Museum's latest exhibit, "The Cranbrook Hall of Wonders: Artworks, Objects and Natural Curiosities." The exhibit capitalizes on what makes Cranbrook so special.

A featured piece in the exhibit is a life-sized "Cabinet of Curiosities." Also on display is "Wunderkammer," a 16th-century display technique in which art, ornate functional objects, natural oddities and anthropological discoveries co-exist.

"The Cranbrook Hall of Wonders" is currently on display until March 22, 2015. Hours for the museum are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Friday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. The Cranbrook



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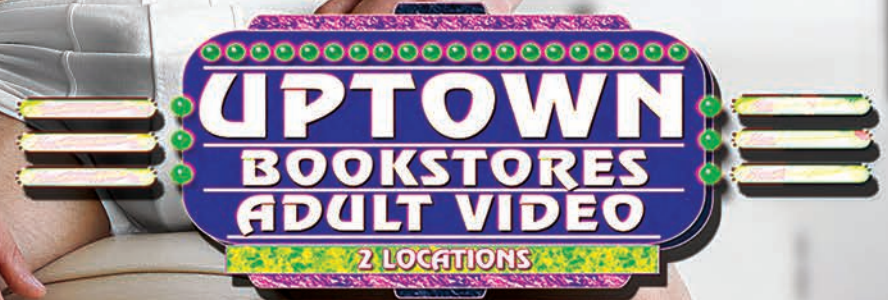
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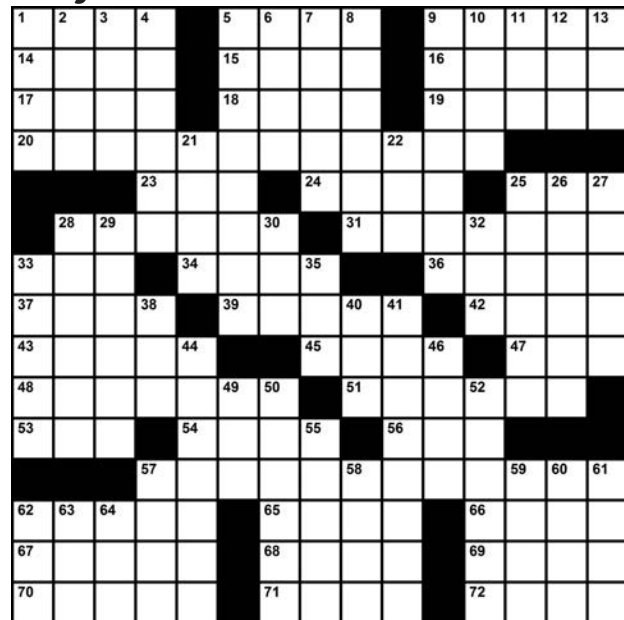
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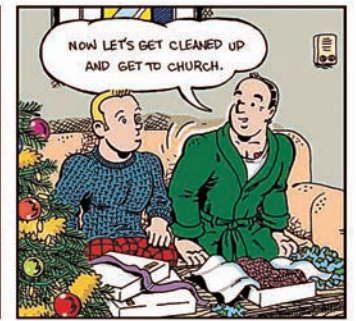
- 1 Bankhead's home, for short  
 5 Pesky kid  
 9 Fruit peel in a drink  
 14 Russian river  
 15 Luau dance  
 16 Path finder  
 17 Make a hole bigger
- 18 "Exotica" director Egoyan  
 19 Hostile state  
 20 Star of the 1925 silent version of "Ben-Hur"  
 23 "It's \_\_\_ for Me to Say" (Mathis)  
 24 Jazz singer James  
 25 Tax preparer, for short  
 28 Hollywood Rock  
 31 Katharine of "Sylvia Scarlett"

- 33 White or rose alternative  
 34 Disney's "\_\_\_ and the Detectives"  
 36 "Holy cow!"  
 37 Alan of "And the Band Played On"  
 39 Said with a sneer  
 42 Shore opening  
 43 Elton John wears them  
 45 Constellation bear  
 47 Adjective for Abner  
 48 Norman Bates portrayal Anthony  
 51 Civil rights advocate Barbara  
 53 NFL gains  
 54 "\_\_\_ I say ..."  
 56 Gaza Stripper assn.  
 57 Cross-dresser of the FBI  
 62 How sailors come  
 65 "Lord of the Rings" singer  
 66 Care beginning  
 67 Fruity-smelling compound  
 68 Six-pointer, sometimes  
 69 Cry of mock horror  
 70 It may arouse you in the sack  
 71 Collette of "The Hours"  
 72 "There Is Nothing Like a \_\_\_"

### Down

- 1 "Perry Mason" star Raymond  
 2 Kind of code or rug  
 3 Word to a dominatrix  
 4 Marc of pop music  
 5 Erik of the opera, and others  
 6 Station wagon, e.g.  
 7 "\_\_\_ Paris"  
 8 Football great Joe  
 9 Word after conversion
- 10 Otis of Mayberry, for one  
 11 Dick's running mate  
 12 Sch. for Rev. Spahr  
 13 Take a stab at  
 21 Narrow margin  
 22 No. 6 to P-town  
 25 Top of St. Peter's  
 26 Conductor André  
 27 Gay porn director Rainier  
 28 Gave a hand  
 29 Milk sources  
 30 Henry and June's Anais  
 32 Flick it  
 33 Like Harvey Fierstein's voice  
 35 Lucy of "Charlie's Angels"  
 38 Comics outburst  
 40 Erving, to fans  
 41 Places for really deepthroating?  
 44 Pull it out and shoot it off  
 46 Alice's Restaurant patron  
 49 Show agreement  
 50 Least foolish  
 52 Like The Bard's star-cross'd lovers  
 55 Holy, to Jose  
 57 Give a hoot, literally  
 58 Idol of porn  
 59 Don Diego de la \_\_\_ (Zorro)  
 60 Red rind contents  
 61 Sally who rode into space  
 62 Actress named Arthur  
 63 Big initials in fashion  
 64 B&O stop

Solution on pg. 40



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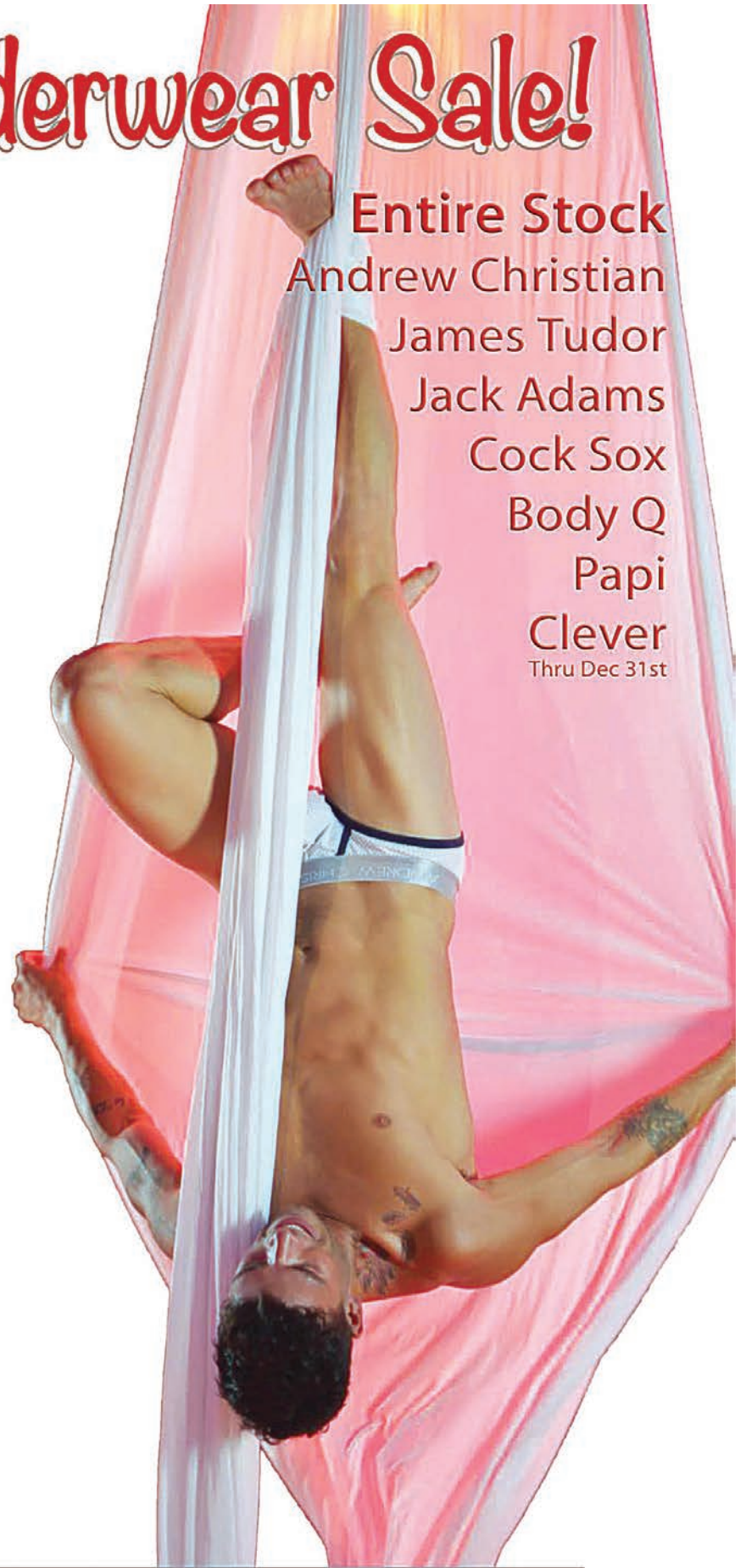
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