

WWW.PRIDESOURCE.COM



\*See dealer for details. Everyone Price on Buicks must be from dealer stock. All prices and payments are figured with GM employee or family member. GMC/Buick payments and prices are quoted with GM loyalty, only current 1999 or newer Buick, Cadillac, Chevy, GMC, Hummer, Oldsmobile, Pontiac, or Saturn owners/Lessees are eligible for this incentive. Payments calculated with \$1,999 down and 10,000 miles per year with approved S or A tier credit or tier S 1 and 2 – model specific. Security deposit only if required by lender. Payments are plus tax, tags, doc fee, cvr fee and first payment. Offers are transferrable to individuals residing in same household. Low APR in lieu of some rebates. Pictures may not represent actual vehicles. Expires 1/31/15

#### **COVER STORY**

Same-sex marriage heads to the 4 Supreme Court



**NEWS** 

- Federal judge rules marriage of 4 300 couples valid in Michigan
- 5 How Caspar decision impacts Michiganders
- Controversy over UMS award to 6 Russian orchestra
- U.S. syphilis rates increased by 10 8 percent in 2013
- Attention Michigan LGBT career 9 seekers
- 12 Political Hors d'oeuvres

#### **OPINION**

- 10 Parting Glances
- 10 The movement, Martin and marriage
- 12 Creep of the Week

#### **IIFF**

- 14 Underneath it all
- 16 Gay through time
- 18 Happenings
- 22 Puzzle



It's really important more than

anything else to not be talked

into something, to stand your

ground and to be able to be

strong about what you feel.

– Gwen Stefani, pg. 14

#### Submit Your Photos For The 'Pamper Your Pet' Issue

Submit your best photos of your furry, feathered and scaled friends in costume or clothing and we'll feature them in the upcoming Spring Pet issue of Between The Lines. Send photos to Shelby@ Pridesource.com.



#### Win Tickets To See A2SO's 'Mozart Birthday Bash'

Enter to win two tickets to see The Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra's "Mozart Birthday Bash" Jan. 31 at the Michigan Theater. Enter online at www.pridesource.com/tickets\_ contest.html.

## Pick Up Your Copy Of The Pride Source Yellow Pages

Pick up the latest Pride Source Yellow Pages at our drop sites throughout southeast Michigan. Don't forget! You can also access the directory anytime online at Pridesource.com.

**ONLINE AT** 

#### VOL. 2304 • JAN. 22, 2015 • ISSUE 899

**PRIDE SOURCE MEDIA GROUP** 20222 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48152 Phone 734.293.7200

PUBLISHERS Susan Horowitz & Jan Stevenson

MEMBER OF Michigan Press Assoication National Gay Media Association **O** Syndicate



Copyright 2015 Pride Source Media Group, LLC

#### **EDITORIAL Editor in Chief**

Susan Horowitz, 734.293.7200 x 12 susanhorowitz@pridesource.com

**Entertainment Editor** Chris Azzopardi, 734.293.7200 x 24 chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com

**Arts & Theater Editor** Donald V. Calamia, curtaincalls@pridesource.com

Staff Writers

Assistant Editor Shelby Clark Petkus, shelby@pridesource.com

**Calendar Editor** Shelby Clark Petkus, shelby@pridesource.com

AJ Trager, ajtrager@pridesource.com

#### CREATIVE Art Director

Benjamin Jenkins, ben@pridesource.com Webmaster & MIS Director

Kevin Bryant, kevinbryant@pridesource.com

**Contributing Writers** Charles Alexander, Michelle E. Brown, Todd Heywood, Jerome Stuart Nichols, Eric W. Rader, Gwendolyn Ann Smith, Christopher J. Treacy

Cartoonists Paul Berg, Dave Brousseau

**Contributing Photographers** Andrew Potter

#### **ADVERTISING & SALES Director of Sales**

Jan Stevenson, 734.293.7200 x 22 jan@pridesource.com

Sales Representatives Ed Bohach, 734.293.7200 x 15 ed@pridesource.com

Ann Cox. 734.293.7200 x 13 anncox@pridesource.com

#### National Advertising Representative Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

Our rate cards are available online. All material appearing in Between The Lines is protected by federal copyright law and may not be reproduced in whole or part without the permission of the publishers. Between The Lines is supported by many fine advertisers, but we cannot accept responsibility for claims made by our advertisers, nor can we accept responsibility for materials provided by advertisers or their agents.

# PRIDESOURCE PRIDES

YELLOW PAGES

3

'Between The Lines Newspaper'

Follow us @YourBTL

Email your op-eds to

editor@pridesource.com

Sign up online to receive our E-Digest

## Federal Judge Rules Marriages Of 300 Couples Valid In Michigan

#### **BY AJ TRAGER**

**DETROIT** – A Federal District court judge ruled on Jan. 15 that Michigan must respect the marriages of over 300 same-sex couples that were married in March 2014.

The case, Caspar v Snyder, was filed April 14, 2014 by the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan on behalf of eight same-sex couples who received marriage licenses during a window last March, when a federal judge struck down Michigan's same-sex marriage ban. The decision was stayed a day later but not before more than 300 couples were legally married in the state on March 22. Governor Rick Snyder said that the state would deny respect to the issued licenses even though the federal government said it would respect the rights of the newlywed couples.

Judge Goldsmith heard testimony on Aug. 21 when the state argued that the couples' marriages would become invalid if higher courts, such as the 6th Circuit which ruled in favor of the state's ban on Nov. 6, overturned the decision made by Judge Friedman in March.

In his ruling Goldsmith wrote, "The alleged harm of impaired human dignity and denial of at least some tangible benefits have already come about, thereby establishing that the factual record is sufficiently developed, such that there is no need to await future events for adjudication of the issues in this action. And delaying judicial resolution of these issues would serve no useful purpose. To the contrary, such delay would compound the harms these Plaintiffs suffer each day that their marital status remains unrecognized."

Federal Court Judge Mark Goldsmith's decision comes one day before the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) will hold a conference to decide whether to take up the issue of same-sex marriage. Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee all filed their request to be heard by SCOTUS directly after the 6th Circuit decision which created an appellate court split.

"Even though the court decision that required Michigan to allow same-sex couples to marry has now been reversed on appeal," Goldsmith wrote. "The same-sex couples who married in Michigan during the brief period when such marriages were authorized acquired a status that state officials may not ignore absent some compelling interest – a constitutional hurdle that the defense does not even attempt to surmount. In these circumstances, what the state has joined together, it may not put asunder."

Coalition Manager for Michigan for Marriage, Gina Calcagno, wrote on her twitter feed, "The ruling in Caspar sends a clear message, there is no good reason to deny #marriage to loving committed couples."

Goldsmith issued a 21 day stay with his decision, allowing for the state to appeal.

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette issued a statement after the ruling.

"We are reviewing Judge Goldsmith's decision but as I have said repeatedly, the sooner the United States Supreme Court makes a decision on this issue the better it will be for Michigan and America," he said.

Read the decision by Goldsmith at http://freemarry.3cdn.net/ a23500c04c85189d47\_50m6b90fz.pdf.

## **Same-Sex Marriage Heads To The Supreme Court**

#### BY AJ TRAGER

The Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) has granted review of four petitions from each state from the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals requesting the court to decide if same-sex marriage is recognized and protected under the U.S Constitution.

Michigan, Kentucky, Tennessee and Ohio will argue two issues before the Court: Does the 14th Amendment require a state to license a marriage between two people of the same sex and does the 14th Amendment require a state to recognize a marriage between

two people of the same sex when their marriage was lawfully licensed and performed out-ofstate? The review by SCOTUS is scheduled for April 27, 28 or 29.

The legal teams from the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals will present their cases to SCOTUS in two sections. Michigan and Kentucky will share a 45-minute slot to argue for the constitutionality of samesex marriage. And Tennessee, Ohio and Kentucky will share a 30-minute window arguing for the recognition of same-sex marriages performed out-of-state. States' attorneys will have the same amount of time to argue in favor of withholding the bans on same-sex marriage.

Kentucky consolidated two cases for arguments, presented by all four states, heard by the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in August 2014. In the first case, Bourke v Beshear, plaintiffs who were married in Canada filed a lawsuit against the state in July of 2013, challenging Kentucky's refusal to recognize their marriage. The second case, Love v Beshear, was filed in February 2012 by a couple who were denied a marriage license in Kentucky. A judge ruled that the state must recognize the marriages from other jurisdictions and shall allow for same-sex couples to marry because withholding access to same-sex marriage violates the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of equal protection under the law. Kentucky is the only case that will argue both questions posed before the court.

The Ohio case, Obergefell v Hodges, was filed in July 2013 as plaintiffs Jim Obergefell and John Arthur sought recognition of their marriage performed in Maryland to be on Arthur's death certificate before he passed. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Ohio filed on behalf of Obergefell and five other couples, among which were three widowers and a funeral director. If customary practice is followed, the first case listed in the order – the Ohio case – will become the historic title for the final ruling, SCOTUSblog.com reports.

In Tennessee, four couples came together in March 2014, represented by the National Center for Lesbian Rights, to argue that the state's refusal to recognize their out-of-state marriages constitutes discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and violates their rights to due process and equal protection.



Currently 160,000 same-sex couples and their 60,000 children live in the 14 states and Puerto Rico where same-sex marriage bans are currently being enforced, the Williams Institute reports.

DeBoer v Snyder, the Michigan case arguing that the state ban on samesex marriage is unconstitutional, was originally filed in 2012 as an adoption case. Plaintiffs April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse were denied second-parent adoption rights on the grounds that they weren't married. Since they couldn't get married legally in Michigan, they filed a lawsuit that was later changed, per judge's request, to include arguments for same-sex marriage. On March 21, 2014, Federal Judge Bernard Friedman ruled that Michigan's ban on same-sex marriage was unconstitutional. The decision was stayed later the next day, but only after more than 300 same-sex couples were married in the state.

"Taking both marriage and marriage recognition means that the court is ready now to answer the issue broadly," Carole M. Stanyar, lawyer for the DeBoer team, said in a press conference directly following the announcement to hear same-sex marriage.

In a decision made in October, SCOTUS refused to hear appeals from rulings allowing same-sex marriage in five states. The decision expanded the number of states with same-sex marriage from 19 to 24, along with the District of Columbia.

That decision paved the way for marriage equality throughout the country as federal judges from 12 other states found same-sex marriage bans unconstitutional.

In November, the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the states' ban on same-sex marriage creating an Appellate Court split which, many have speculated, added pressure for SCOTUS to take up the same-sex marriage issue in its 2015 term.

> Currently 160,000 samesex couples and their 60,000 children live in the 14 states and Puerto Rico where same-sex marriage bans are currently being enforced, the Williams Institute reports.

Virtually every court up until this point, including the 4th, 7th, 9th and 10th Circuits and 59 percent of the American people (which includes Republicans under age 45), support the freedom to marry.

"After the Justice Department's decision not to defend the constitutionality of Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act, the Supreme

Court sent a powerful message that Americans in same-sex marriages are entitled to equal protection and equal treatment under the law. This landmark decision marked a historic step toward equality for all American families," Attorney General for the United States Eric Holder said in a statement made Jan. 16.

"As these cases proceed, the Department of Justice will remain committed to ensuring that the benefits of marriage are available as broadly as possible. And we will keep striving to secure equal treatment for all members of society – regardless of sexual orientation."

Preparing to present before SCOTUS will cost upwards of \$1 million. The organization National Marriage Challenge, formally known as Michigan Marriage Challenge, is accepting donations that will go directly towards strengthening the provisions of the Michigan legal team. Go to www. michiganmarriagechallenge.com to donate and help the DeBoer-Rowse family argue marriage equality for the entire nation.

## **How Caspar Decision Impacts Michiganders**

#### BY JAY KAPLAN

n Jan. 15, Federal District Judge Mark Goldsmith held that the state of Michigan's refusal to recognize the legal marriages of more than 300 same-sex couples who legally wed on March 22, 2014 (during the window period of the DeBoer decision when Michigan's prohibition on same-sex couples was struck down) is unconstitutional. He issued a preliminary injunction, ordering the state to recognize those marriages and accord them with state benefits associated with Michigan legal marriages.

The following are some questions and answers about the case and the decision.

## How does Caspar v Snyder differ from the DeBoer v Snyder marriage case?

The DeBoer case focuses on the right of same-sex couples to marry. In Caspar, the couples in the case are already legally married. Caspar focuses on the right of samesex couples who legally married under state law to stay married.

## Does the Caspar decision apply to same-sex couples in Michigan who were legally wed in other states?

No – the issue of whether Michigan must recognize out of state marriages between same-sex couples is being addressed in the DeBoer case, which challenges Michigan laws that not only prohibit same-sex couples from marrying, but also deny recognition of out of state marriages.

## What's the practical effect of the Caspar decision?

That the legal marriages of the 300-plus same-sex couples have to be recognized by the state of Michigan and that they have to be provided with state benefits associated with legal marriages. The state cannot undo a marriage that was legal at the time it was solemnized.

## The Judge issued a stay of his decision for 21 days. What does this mean?

This means he put his decision on hold for 21 days to allow the state to decide whether it wishes to appeal the decision to the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals. This means that the state does not have to begin recognizing these 300 marriages for at least 21 days.

## What could happen in the next 21 days? What are the different scenarios?

Under the best scenario, the state of Michigan will not appeal and in 21 days will begin recognizing the 300 legal marriages and

Under the best scenario, the state of Michigan will not appeal and in 21 days will begin recognizing the 300 legal marriages and providing these couples with benefits. The state could appeal and could request that the 6th Circuit stay Judge Goldsmith's ruling, pending the appeal.

providing these couples with benefits.

The state could appeal and request that the 6th Circuit stay Judge Goldsmith's ruling, pending the appeal. If the 6th Circuit refuses to grant the stay, the state would still have to recognize the marriages while the appeal is pending (absent the United States Supreme Court issuing a stay). If the 6th Circuit does grant a stay of the decision, it will be put on hold while the appeal is pending. That would be the worst scenario.

#### The United States Supreme Court may be taking a marriage equality case(s) this term. DeBoer v Snyder could be the case that the Court decides to hear. How does this impact the marriages of the 300-plus couples in Michigan?

We both hope and believe that the Supreme Court will take a marriage case and render a favorable case on marriage equality that will provide finality on the issue of the right of same-sex couples to marry. However, regardless of how the United States Supreme Court decides the right of same-sex couples to marry, this will not impact the legal validity of the Michigan marriages of the 300-plus same-sex couples. They were legally married in Michigan and the law said that they could marry at the time they wed. A change in law or a change in court decision does not invalidate that which was legal. There is a long line of legal decisions that support this principle with regards to marriages.

## What should the 300-plus couples do right now with regards to applying for state benefits, filing for stepparent adoptions, state income taxes, etc.?

They should wait until the 21 days are up to see what happens before requesting any state recognition or benefits associated with their marriage. In the meantime they can contact the ACLU of Michigan (313-578-6812) with questions regarding their marriage and the impact of the Caspar decision.

Jay Kaplan is the staff attorney at the ACLU of Michigan's LGBT Project.



Table and sponsorship information at: www.goaffirmations.org/Sponsors

## Prism of Possibilities **Psychotherapy**

#### **Christine Cantrell, PhD Fully Licensed Psychologist**

Give yourself an extreme self makeover ....

- Speak Your Truth
- ▼ Discover What You Want
- ▼ Create Your True Self
- Heal Old Hurts, Find Wholeness

#### **CALL NOW!** 248-591-2888

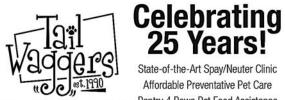
Located in Royal Oak www.christinecantrell.com christineccantrellphd@gmail.com



Joan M Warner Ins Agcv Inc Joan Warner, Agent joan@warneragency.com Toll Free: 888-298-8020 www.warneragency.com

FREE Discount Double Check. Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there." CALL ME TODAY.

**& State Farm**\*\*



Affordable Preventative Pet Care Pantry 4 Paws Pet Food Assistance "Helping People Help Animals" **Rescue and Adoption Efforts** 



Tail Wagger's 1990 is a unique animal welfare organization focusing on the needs of animals in the community. "Helping People Help Animals" is what we do best!

State-of-the-Art Spay/Neuter Clinic

Because you do NOT need to qualify to use our services, we provide affordable services to EVERYONE in ANY city so that animals and their owners can stay healthy and together!

28402 Five Mile Rd. • Livonia, MI 48154 waggers.1990@yahoo.com • www.tailwaggers1990.org • 734-855-4077

## **Controversy Over UMS Award To Russian Orchestra**

Conductor Criticized As Anti-Gay Putin Supporter Subject Of Protests

#### **BY AJ TRAGER**

**ANN ARBOR** – Internationally known Russian conductor Valery Gergiev returns to Ann Arbor for two performances with the Mariinsky Orchestra and to receive, in collaboration with the Orchestra, the 2015 UMS Distinguished Artist Award. But his visit comes with much controversy.

Gergiev, born in 1953, is most known for his work with the Mariinsky Orchestra and Theatre in Russia and has spent his life in and around music. He was in Ann Arbor when the Mariinsky Orchestra, then the Kirov Orchestra, performed in 1992 and has been involved with 11 University Music Society (UMS) performances since that date.

Max Lepler, a longtime supporter of the arts in southeast Michigan who bought season subscriptions to UMS programming every year and regularly gave donations, has revoked his subscription and will no longer be attending any UMS productions because of the involvement and honor of Gergiev.

Lepler criticizes Gergiev for the crimes committed by Russia against the world and for his support of Russia's President, Vladimir Putin, whom he has supported since Putin ran as a candidate.

'When people are being killed. When there is a genocide against gays and lesbians; when they are being beaten up; when sexual sodomy is committed, in this case more on the men; when there is a bigger influx of gays and lesbians coming to the U.S. because their lives have been torn apart; when the artists are leaving Russia because they fear if they create something they will wind up in prison; when there is the anti-driving law-it's like the Jews before World War II," Lepler said.

subject to various forms of harassment and discrimination. In September 2014 a new law to remove children from LGBT families and individuals was drafted; additionally, there is the internationally known anti-LGBT propaganda law which seeks to penalize LGBT propaganda to "protect minors," but the definition of propaganda is vague.

Lepler sent messages to many people about his concerns that Gergiev would be honored: the LGBT group at Ford Motor Company, U of M regents, administrators and the board of UMS; he received no reply.

"I thought that they (the University) would be on stronger moral grounds," Lepler said with concern. "Let me just say, the University Music Society is a great institution. If they would just stand up and say 'due to the controversy of what we have here, we must take the best stance possible, so we are canceling this..."

Gergiev is no stranger to awards; he has received dozens from around the world, including the Laureate of the Foundation of American-Russian Cultural Cooperation in 2006. This year he will be awarded the 2015 UMS Distinguished Artist Award at the Ford Honors Program concert on Jan. 25.

This isn't the first time the conductor has been criticized for being an anti-LGBT, Putin supporter. In 2013, at a performance in New York with the London Symphony Orchestra, gay rights campaigner Peter Tatchell interrupted the beginning of a performance by going on stage. "Gergiev defends the new homophobic law that persecutes gay Russians," he said before being removed.

"I have said before that I do not discriminate against anyone, gay or otherwise, and never have done, and as head of the Mariinsky Theatre this is

Let me just say, the University Music Society is a great institution. If they would just stand up and say 'due to the controversy of what we have here, we must take the best stance possible, so we are canceling this...'

- Season ticket holder Max Lepler

our policy," Gergiev said in response to the protest. "It is wrong to suggest that I have ever supported anti-gay legislation and in all my work I have upheld equal rights for all people. I am an artist and have for over three decades worked with tens of thousands of people in dozens of countries from all walks of life, and many of them are indeed my friends.'

Lepler is disappointed in how UMS handled his protests. Lepler said that the University removed Gergiev's name from official documents and from the award: however, as of Jan. 20, the UMS website for the event still reads that Gergiev – along with the Mariinsky Orchestra - will be awarded the 2015 UMS Distinguished Artist Award at the Ford Honors Program concert on Jan. 25. Lepler will consequently not be obtaining a 2015 subscription to UMS performances.

"He (Gergiev) hasn't stood up and said that he regrets his position (to support Putin) and that we have to get rid of that law," Lepler said. "He isn't taking a change there. And then he keeps saying that the Russians are different. Even though he has said that, it's just a copout."

LGBT people living in Russia are

## Filmmaker To Speak On LGBT, Black Intersectionality

Award-winning documentary filmmaker and scholar, Yoruba Richen, will be speaking in Ann Arbor as part of an event co-sponsored by the University of Michigan's College of Literature, Science and the Arts (LSA). Richen's speech, "The New Black: The Intersection of Race, LGBT Rights and the Fight for Equality," will draw elements from her latest project, "The New Black," a film that tells the story of how the African-American community is grappling with the gay rights issue in light of the recent gay marriage movement and the fight over civil rights. The speech will help the community engage matters of race, sexuality, gender and



Yoruba Richen

marginalization, particularly in light of recent tragic events, like those in Ferguson, Missouri and New York, that continue to shape the lives of all people.

The LSA Campus Climate Committee hopes that these events, in conjunction with Richen's speech, provoke much-needed conversation about the school's campus climate and how students can work together to make the campus more welcoming for all.

Richen's speech will be at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 27 at the Lydia Mendelssohn Theater, 911 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor.



## SAVE THE DATE · MARCH 21 HE UHMATE LGBT EDDING EXPO & ANNIVERSARY EXPO WWW.BTLWEDDINGEXPO.COM





A COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED ORCHESTRA

#### UPCOMING CONCERTS AT ORCHESTRA HALL

CLASSICAL SERIES THE FIREBIRD!

Robert Treviño, conductor
Yoonshin Song, violin

Fri., Jan. 30 at 10:45 a.m. Sat., Jan. 31 at 8 p.m.

n.

Strauss Don Juan Prokofiev Violin Concerto No. 1 Guillaume Connesson Aleph Stravinsky Suite from Firebird

'One of the most admired alto saxophonists in jazz after Charlie Parker.'' — The New York Times

## PARADISE JAZZ SERIES

Fri., Jan. 30 at 8 p.m.\*

\*DSO does not appear on this program

Detroit native Kenny Garrett comes home, along with his quintet, in what's sure to be an unforgettable evening of music!



#### POPS SERIES THE NAT KING COLE SONGBOOK Jeff Tyzik, conductor

Denzal Sinclaire, vocals Fri., Feb. 6 at 10:45 a.m. & 8 p.m.

Sat., Feb. 7 at 8 p.m.

Sponsored by MASCO GREEKTOWN

Sun., Feb. 8 at 3 p.m. With songs like "Too Young," "Nature Boy," "Get Your Kicks," "Mona Lisa," and many more, this celebration of Nat King Cole and his crooning contemporaries is guaranteed to be a hit.



## **COMING UP**

## Warren To Speak At Upcoming ELCRA Panel

#### **BY BTL STAFF**

**YPSILANTI** – As part of an upcoming event for Eastern Michigan University's Equality Research Center, State Senator Rebekah Warren (D-Ann Arbor) will speak about pending legislation in the Michigan Legislature that will amend the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act (ELCRA) to include protections for sexuality, gender identity and gender expression.

The discussion on workplace equality is scheduled for 9 a.m. on Jan. 26 in the Guild Room of McKenny Hall at Eastern Michigan University, located in Ypsilanti. The event is free and open to the public.

Warren's latest attempt to get an amendment to ELCRA passed in the Michigan government came in September 2014, when she and State Rep. Sam Singh (D-East Lansing) introduced identical bills into both the House and Senate. Efforts to get the ELCRA amended were up against road blocks and much controversy as Republican members introduced their own legislation without gender identity protections. The Michigan legislature did not make a final decision on ELCRA by the end of the 2014 cycle.

Warren believes that adding sexual orientation to the list of protected characteristics would provide immediate protections for people in their every day lives. Singh has stated that he plans on reintroducing his expansion of ELCRA in the 2015 term.

Warren joins the EMU panel with human resource professionals who will talk about strategies for creating corporate policies that prompt inclusion and diversity. Together they will examine the impact of workplace discrimination. Human resource executives will share the best practices and the benefits of inclusive policies.

The presentation is the second part of the university's Equality Leadership Series, a collection of seminars, colloquiums, roundtables, dialogues and symposiums established to bring academics, advocates and practitioners together in order to move equality forward.

## **U.S. Syphilis Rates Increased By 10 Percent In 2013**

#### BY TODD HEYWOOD

The final numbers for syphilis infections in the U.S. during 2013 were released in December 2014, and they aren't good news – particularly for men who have sex with men. Just over 17,000 people were diagnosed with primary or secondary syphilis in the U.S. in 2013, the new report shows. This

bumped the national incidence rate of syphilis infection to 5.5 per 100,000 - a 10 percent increase.

"This national rate increase was only among men, particularly gay and bisexual men," the CDC reports in a fact sheet released by the agency. "Trend data show that men who have sex with men (MSM)\* account for three quarters (75 percent) of all primary and secondary syphilis cases," the CDC reports. "Primary and secondary syphilis are the most infectious stages of the disease, and if not adequately treated, can lead to long-term infection which can cause visual impairment and stroke. Syphilis infection can also place a person at increased risk for

acquiring or transmitting HIV infection. Available surveillance data indicate that an average of half of MSM with syphilis are also infected with HIV."

That assessment is shown in syphilis numbers for Michigan, as well. Jennifer Smith, a spokesperson for the Michigan Department of Community Health, says in 2013 there were 498 cases of primary and secondary syphilis identified in Michigan, and 347 of those cases were in men who have sex with men. Among the men who have sex with men, 178 were co-infected with HIV. Co-infection with HIV and syphilis increases the risk of transmission of the virus by 2.5 times, studies have determined. This is because the immune system launches a response at the location of the syphilis invasion, which in turn causes an opening in the skin. As a result, the syphilis infection location is a target for HIV to infect. As the immune system also floods the area with responsive immune cells when a person is infected with syphilis, it also increases the likelihood a person with

Jennifer Smith, a spokesperson for the Michigan Department of Community Health, says in 2013 there were 498 cases of primary and secondary syphilis identified in Michigan, and 347 of those cases were in men who have sex with men. Among the men who have sex with men, 178 were co-infected with HIV. Coinfection with HIV and syphilis increases the risk of transmission of the virus by 2.5 times, studies have determined.

HIV will shed the virus from the location, infecting their partner.

Despite years of increasing reports of syphilis, diagnosis has required a blood test, often requiring a visit to a doctor and a vial of blood to be drawn. But the day before the CDC released the 2013 report, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the use of a rapid test for syphilis in non-laboratory settings. The test, which is similar to rapid tests for Hepatitis C and HIV, requires a drop of blood drawn from a finger prick. It had been approved in 2011 for use only in certified labs. The Dec. 15 announcement now makes the test available for non-laboratory settings - including community based organizations like AIDS service organizations.

"The recent announcement by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that it has granted the first-ever waiver, under certain laboratory regulations, for a rapid screening test for syphilis is very welcome news," Smith said in an email statement to Between The

Lines. "The Michigan Department of Community Health looks forward to having a rapid screening test for syphilis available and will follow CDC guidance on implementation when that becomes available."

At least one AIDS service organization thinks the new test availability will be helpful in their work. "Provided it follows the same standards we have for HIV (which I would suspect it does), there wouldn't really be an obstacle that I can think of to adding this to our CTR (Counseling, Testing, Referral) protocol (we've already successfully added HepC)," Kevin Gierman, a prevention manager at Red Project Grand Rapids, says. "We would need to make sure we're connected to community partners (particularly medical) ready to respond when we

identify someone as positive for syphilis and that our test counselors are all trained on syphilis testing and information (the training process could be the biggest challenge as scheduling the entire team would take time). We're already doing a great job of connecting with the MSM community and I suspect there would be a strong response if the option to test for syphilis was offered." Gierman says finding funding for the testing could be an obstacle. Currently, HIV testing, prevention and counseling are funded through HIV specific funding streams, while syphilis funding comes through CDC sexually transmitted disease funding streams.

a Euro-bistro restaurant serving the most unique collection of Incredible Edibles and



 CENTON-MICHIGAN
 Notable Potables in southeastern Michigan.

 Active Antipart A

## **Attention Michigan LGBT Career Seekers**

#### BY BTL STAFF

**DEARBORN** – The University of Michigan-Dearborn, in collaboration with various LGBT sponsors, is hosting an upcoming LGBTQ Career Fair to help connect young LGBT professionals with businesses from around the state.

LGBT and allied students from all majors will have a chance to speak with over 30 companies to discuss internships, part-time positions and full-time professional careers and learn what working professionals are looking for in the next generation of employees.

Companies such as Thomas Reuters, the Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Department of State, The Auto Club Group, Comerica, American Cancer Society, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, LEAR Corporation, Emerson ASCO Numatics, DTE Energy, Ford Motor Company, EY, Herman Miller and General Motors are just a few on the list in attendance to speak with up and coming graduates.

The event will be held from 1-4 p.m. on March 5 in the Fairlane Center North building at University of Michigan-Dearborn's campus, located at 19000 Hubbard Drive, Dearborn. The event is free and open to everyone.

The LGBT Career Fair is supported by

more than a dozen Michigan colleges and universities and is sponsored by Affirmations, the Detroit LGBT Regional Chamber of Commerce, Out & Equal Detroit Affiliate and Pride Source Media Group.

#### SAVE THE DATE March 5 LGBTQ Career Fair

Helping connect young professionals with companies looking for the next generation of employees. The event is free and open to all. It will be held from 1 - 4 p.m. at UofM Dearborn located at 19000 Hubbard Drive.

>> preregister @ http://umdearborn.edu/careerservices

Those interested in attending the LGBT Career Fair are asked to pre-register at http:// umdearborn.edu/careerservices.

Services aimed at guiding students towards better interview skills and more succinct resumes will also be available for interested career seekers in February. Each session will cover the same material. The University of Michigan-Dearborn will hold the first two sessions at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Feb. 18 at the University Center. Affirmations will host the third session at 3 p.m. on Feb. 19.

#### "Best Investment we've ever made!"



We hear that a lot. Many customer's wish they'd replace their old heating and cooling systems sooner!

You may think a new system is "too much' until you realize your old system's real cost.

Just like an old car may be cheap, but after adding repairs, unreliability, and poor mileage, is it worth it? The same is true for a heating and cooling system's real cost.

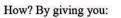
Can pay for itself, plus more!

Left:

Tanya M. Vaughn, MS, CNM, FNP-BC

Teressa C. Kuz, MSN, WHNP-BC

A new system from Hinson Home Comfort can save you money, time, and trouble.



- Guaranteed Energy Savings
- Up to 10 Year Parts & Labor Warranty
- Whisper Quiet and reliable
- Greater Comfort
- Increased Property value

#### The Best for Last

With one of our great finance plans, you may save more than you're spending?

Now you see how this can be your best investment too! Invest a moment now and call **248-541-7007** for your **FREE ENERGY ANALYSIS**. The call and survey are free, but your returns may be great!





ridge reek is pleased to welcome (C) Gynecology Obstetrics Hina Javaid, MD We have expanded our practice to provide exceptional care for women of all ages, from care of the adolescent girl, through pregnancy and menopausal women We are proud to offer a comprehensive range of obstetric and gynecologic services as well as full scope Midwifery Care. WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP 58851 Van Dyke, Suite 100, Washington Twp., MI 48094 MACOMB TOWNSHIP 15959 Hall Road, Suite 301, Macomb Twp., MI 48044 Center: Rhonda L. Kobold, DO, FACOOG

Contact our main office at 586-247-8609 to make your appointment today.



Beth K. Mutch, MSN, FNP-BC

**Right:** 

Hina Javaid, MD

## **Art History Gets In Drag**



Parting Glances

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

ne of the most sensational art heists in history took place Aug. 11, 1911. It was spontaneous rather than planned. The theft – the most famous picture in the world – Leonardo Da Vinci's "Mona Lisa," valued at over \$100 million.

The brazen thief was an Italian, Vincenzo Peruggia, who had been newly hired as a Louvre Museum guard. He found the "Mona Lisa" gallery empty that infamous day, and, yielding to the temptation of her enigmatic smile, stole her. He kept her hidden for two years.

It was a secret he couldn't live with. Foolishly, he tried to sell the Da Vinci masterpiece for \$500,000. He was soon caught and the painting returned to a very grateful museum and a very relieved Parisian public.

It is perhaps smug LGBT aesthetic consolation to know that Leonardo DaVinci's equally famous painting of Jesus dining with his disciples, "The Last Supper," is the work of a gay artist and inventive Renaissance genius.

The "Mona Lisa" was back in the news a few years later with a new twist. Marcel Duchamp, a French artist whose 1912 painting, "Nude Descending a Staircase," had made him world famous over night, decided "Mona Lisa" needed a radical new transgender look. He gave her a mustache and a goatee.

Duchamp called his portrait, painted on a postcard reproduction he had come across in a bookshop, "L.H.O.O.Q." It doesn't stand for anything, but when the letters are pronounced it comes across in French as "elle a chaud au cul." ("She has a hot ass.")

Although Duchamp was straight, he enjoyed a visual gender bender. He also had a drag portrait taken of himself by the famous photographer Man Ray. His drag name was Rrose Selavy. ("Cest la vie." ). One of his later Dada Period sculptures is actually an inverted men's v-shaped urinal.

"The curious thing about the mustache and goatee," explained Duchamp, "is that when you look at the 'Mona Lisa' it becomes a man. Truth be known, it is a real man, and that is my discovery."

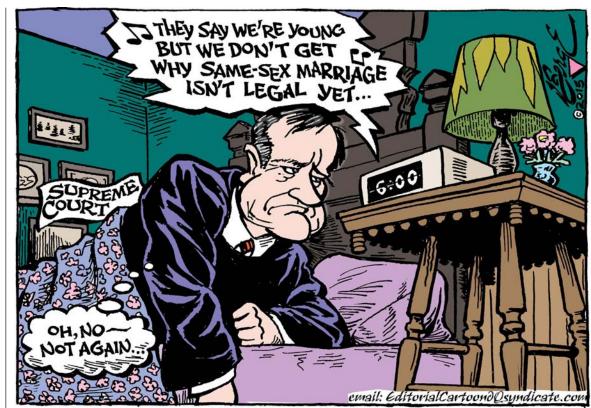
Was this indeed a discovery? Dr. Lillian Schwartz, a Bell Laboratories computer analyst and author of "The Computer Artist's Handbook," says yes and offers proof. She juxtaposed an image of the only known selfportrait of DaVinci on top of that of the "Mona Lisa." A perfect match! The "Mona Lisa" is none other than the artist. (Sly puss.)

Art historians say this is debatable. What is not is that this Renaissance Italian Painter (1452 - 1519) was a genius and the inventor of the parachute, the helicopter, the submarine, the machine gun and a prototype automobile. His 5,000 page notebook – where he wrote script backwards, from left to right for privacy – touches on secrets of anatomy, botany, geology, mechanics and astronomy.

It is perhaps smug LGBT aesthetic consolation to know that Leonardo DaVinci's equally famous painting of Jesus dining with his disciples, "The Last Supper," is the work of a gay artist and inventive Renaissance genius.

As one of my favorite mustachioed heroes from detective fiction, Hercule Poirot, would say – with a touch of redeeming punctuation added for clarity – "It's all a matter of those little GrAY cells, mon ami." Ah, oui! And with a smug transgender "Mona Lisa" smile to prove it.

Charles@pridesource.com.



GROUND HOG DAY



## The Movement, Martin And Marriage

OPINION BY MICHELLE E. BROWN

ovement is about change. Sometimes the causes change, the tactics change – even the leadership changes – but the constant in all of our movements is our quest to become more human: to change our communities and our societies to treat all of humanity fairly, justly and equally.

This especially holds true for this country which was formed by declaring that all individuals are created equal and are endowed with certain inalienable rights, including life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

A pretty lofty bar right from the start. More like a moving target, but a dream so bright, so noble, that people have fought, been imprisoned and died fighting for equality.

Across time there have been messengers that spoke of our core belief in equality, but perhaps one of the most powerful voices was that of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. His words and actions sparked a movement that continues to inspire today.

There is often speculation as to what Dr. King would think of today's world – an African-American president, the attack on voter rights, economic disparity, Ferguson, LGBTQ rights and marriage equality

I believe he would look at the loss of Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Eric Garner and the protests in Ferguson and remind us that, "As a country we have learned that we are not defined by race, but we still must learn that race is defined by us." In his vision and wisdom I believe he would expand on his original words to include sexual orientation/gender expression and demand justice for our transgender sisters and brothers.

He would look at the growing gap between the haves and have-nots, the economic disparity, and wonder why today this nation "continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift." Would he be part of the "OCCUPY" movement or march in Detroit against water shut-offs? Probably.

On Jan. 15, 2015, Dr. King would have been 86. I am willing to bet his birthday wish would be that dream – the dream he had for his four children back in 1963. But just as his vision evolved from those days in Selma to his days in Chicago, I believe his dream would have expanded to include not just his children but all people: black, white, brown, immigrant, transgender, gay or straight. His wish: His dream that we all would one day live in a nation where we wouldn't be judged by the color of our skin, ethnicity, gender, immigration status, sexual orientation or gender expression, but by the content of our character.

As a nation, we celebrated Dr. King's birthday on Jan. 19, 2015. For many, the actual date of his birth goes by

See The Movement, next page

unnoticed as we wait for that long holiday week-end. But this year, I like to believe that on Jan. 15, somewhere in the cosmos, Dr. King's spirit once again made that "BIG" wish – the wish for this country to fulfill its destiny as a nation where all are created equal and endowed with the unalienable rights that include life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. And as he made that wish, to the list he added the LGBTQ families for whom justice has been denied and/or delayed.

When the sun set on Jan. 15, families across Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee and the rest of the nation were wishing, hoping and praying for a decision by the highest court of the land. In our struggle for equality, the righteousness of King's words rang true for our community too. Inspired and encouraged by the struggles of movements including the civil rights movement, we pressed on.

On Jan. 16 we moved one step closer to the dream's fulfilment with the Supreme Court of the United States decision to hear arguments from the four states (including Michigan) arguing against states' bans on same-sex marriage. Once and for all our families will have their day in court and SCOTUS will determine if all families matter.

On Jan. 16 we moved one step closer to the dream's fulfilment with the Supreme Court of the United States decision to hear arguments from the four states (including Michigan) arguing against states' bans on same-sex marriage. Once and for all our families will have their day in court and SCOTUS will determine if all families matter.

I think Dr. King would acknowledge and congratulate this step in ending the second class status of LGBTQ couples and families. He might say that the marching of time, of truth and of men has brought us closer to a world that accepts all of God's children.

But he would also caution us against complacency, against sitting upon our laurels for this victory and turning a blind eye to the challenges, inequities and disparities affecting our HUMAN family. Knowing the indignities, hatred and discrimination the LGBTQ community has experienced, we must look beyond our community in solidarity with others who are disenfranchised, always remembering what Emma Lazarus said: "Until we are all free, we are none of us free."

So as we celebrate this important step in our struggle for equality, let's use this past holiday weekend as an opportunity to pick up King's mantle, to be the change; through our love, let us be the light in the movement for all human rights.

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that." – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Michelle E. Brown is a public speaker, activist and author. Her latest book of poetry, "Three Layers and A Brassiere," is available at bookstore.authorhouse.com or www.mychangeiam.com. You can also follow her at www.twitter.com/mychangeiam.





## When it's tax time, it's time to call Kuderik at 248 835 7755.

- Specialist in Individual Returns
- Over 20 years Small Business experience
- Maximize your deductions and returns
- · Electronic filing for fast refund
- · Call today to begin tax planning now





## **Creep of the Week**

## C.B. Embry Jr.

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



don't like public restrooms. There's just something really, well, icky about sharing a space with strangers where everybody does their grossest business. I don't want to hear the woman in the next stall evacuate her gaseous bowels or have random children poke their heads under the door while I'm trying to pee. And then there's that space between the wall and the door where people can totally see in and you can totally see out and every so

C.B. Embry, Jr.

often you accidentally make eye contact with someone while you're on the toilet and that moment gets burned into both of your retinas forever.

On the other hand, I am so thankful that public restrooms exist. Granted, I prefer my own private home bathroom with its circa 1960s powder blue toilet and a door I can shut and lock,

but that's only practical if I'm not at home. And because I'm not a shut-in, I do occasionally leave the house. And I have a bladder like an infant, so without public restrooms I would be doomed.

Embry is so incensed by the idea of trans students using the restroom appropriate for their gender identity that he thinks there oughta be a law against it. And dog gonnit, he done proposed one.

I have, in my time, used a men's

room or two, either because the line to the women's room was too long, or because the women's room was closed for cleaning. If it's a choice between peeing my pants or using the toilet designated for the opposite sex, well, I'm not going to pee my pants, damn it.

And how lucky I am that this has never been a problem for me. The same cannot be said of trans men and women. And somehow, whenever someone mentions "The T Word," the subject of restrooms is never far behind.

Just ask Kentucky Senator C.B. Embry Jr., who is so incensed by the idea of trans students using the restroom appropriate for their gender identity that he thinks there oughta be a law against it. And dog gonnit, he done proposed one.

He's introduced what he calls the Kentucky Student Privacy Act, but what might more aptly be called the Trans Students Can Pee In the Janitorial Closet for All I Care Act. He wants all students to be categorically identified by "biological sex" and make sure that the sexes (the only two he recognizes, anyway) stay separate. Because cooties. Under this act schools cannot accommodate trans students in the bathroom department. They may answer the same call of nature that everybody else does, but there will be no place for them to go.

Best of all, Embry would like to start a new fun game for high schoolers: spot the tranny in the restroom. Students who "catch" one of these biological sex blasphemers could get a \$2,500 cash prize! That doesn't sound like incentivized bullying at all.

Not that Embry is much worried about bullying. In 2013, to explain why he voted against a bullying bill that would protect LGBT students, he told the Lexington Herald-Leader, "We have a death penalty against rape and murder but they still happen."

Embry has a message for transgender students in Kentucky: "Let the games begin! And may the odds be ever in your favor."

## **Political Hors D'oeuvres**

BY TODD HEYWOOD

### Agema Censured By National GOP, **Refuses To Resign**

Embattled GOP National Committeeman from Michigan Dave Agema is under fire from his own party – again.

This time Agema is in hot water for re-posting a testament from a public defender. In this essay, published in the white nationalist American Renaissance magazine, the author argues that African-Americans are inferior to all "other

people."



"However, my experience has also taught me that blacks are different by almost any measure to all other people. They cannot reason as well. They cannot communicate as well. They cannot control their impulses as well. They are a threat to all who cross their paths, black and non-black alike," the author writes.

"Very interesting article by a public defender," Agema's public status said. "We are in a cultural battle.

Dave Agema

Very enlightening for anyone who is concerned about crime in America..." The post is signed "LARRY," and was likely a complete repost from someone else's status. However, Agema says he was simply sharing an article posted by Alan West, a former Republican Congressman from Florida and lieutenant colonel. West is black and called the article "the most racist article you will read."

"To take a sentence out of an article that Col. West calls a racist article and use it to call myself and Col. West a racist is ridiculous and deceptive reporting," Agema says in his defense. Agema's defense then is, "I did what he did." That post came to light in a Jan. 7 column by conservative writer Ken Braun on MLive. That resulted in a tidal wave of condemnation and a renewed call for his resignation. GOP leaders have held they cannot remove Agema from the national committee - but that appears to be a specious argument. The entity is governed by Robert's Rules of Order, which provides for the removal of any member of a board after a due process hearing. Instead of taking the steps to

remove him, the national committee censured him. What that really means is that they told him, "You were a bad boy."

This is not, of course, the first time Agema has been under fire for his terrible use of social media. He has been chastised for republishing claims about gays authored by a member of the KKK and for attacking Arab fighter pilots.



Former Assistant Attorney General Andrew Shirvell seen above stalking UofM student body president Chris Armstrong. BTL file photo

## **Michigan Court Of Appeals Smacks** Former Anti-gay Assistant Attorney General Down For Homophobic Bullying

As if a \$4.5 million civil judgment hanging over his head wasn't bad enough, Andrew Shirvell, the disgraced former assistant Attorney General fired by former Attorney General Mike Cox, was told by the Michigan Court of Appeals that he was fired for cause, thus preventing him from collecting unemployment benefits.

"To summarize, we conclude that Shirvell's speech was not protected under the First Amendment for purposes of these proceedings. Although Shirvell may have spoken as a private citizen on a matter of public concern, the Department introduced evidence at both proceedings to show that its interests in the efficient provision of governmental services outweighed Shirvell's speech interests," the three judge panel wrote in a unanimous decision published on Jan. 8. The decision is 33 pages long and details Shirvell's behavior in stalking former University of Michigan student body president, Chris Armstrong. The court ordered he not receive unemployment benefits, overturning a lower court decision by Judge Joyce Dragunchuk of the Ingham County Circuit Court.

## **Equality Michigan Accepting Applications For Internships**

The statewide advocacy and anti-violence organization serving the LGBT community is looking to fill internship positions.

Students in any field of study can apply to be an intern for Equality Michigan (EQMI) in either the Detroit or the Lansing office. Current internships available include: communications, development and fundraising, field and advocacy and public policy.

Each student will gain experience working with an LGBT rights organization, developing a broad set of skills that range from working with the media and lobbying elected officials to victim assistance and advocacy and event and issue organizing. Interns will also participate in staff meetings.

EQMI interns may be invited to attend various speaking arrangements and outreach activities in other locations in

addition to any responsibilities they will hold in their specific position.

The student's institution is responsible for setting the number of credits for the position and whether or not they will receive monetary compensation for their work done at Equality Michigan. Each intern is expected to meet the requirements for their educational institution and EQMI.

To apply, submit a cover letter stating approximate dates and times of availability, including information as to why EQMI is an interest, what can be brought to the organization in terms of skills or experiences and what is to be gained by working with EQMI.

Send applications to : Equality Michigan Field Office, 19641 W. Seven Mile Road, Detroit, MI 48219-2721.



**VIBRANT, VIVID AND ORIGINAL** 



ALL NEW PRODUCTION!

EISENHOWER DANCE

## LIGHT SHOW

A visually striking evening of dance from Michigan's premiere contemporary dance company that cleverly matches choreographers with lighting designers for 5 electrifying pieces incorporating lasers, light and innovative dance!

FREE DANCE TALK one hour prior to performance.

### ONE PERFORMANCE ONLY! SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2015 - 7:30 PM

Presented at The Detroit Opera House



TICKETS & PRE-PAID PARKING CALL 313.237.SING or visit michiganopera.org



FOOD Addicted?

> Call Now For Our Free Confidential Assessment

Breathe offers 21st Century solutions to treat Binge Eating Disorder, Compulsive Overeating + Obesity.

**b r e a t h e**<sup>™</sup> Life Healing Centers

> BreatheLifeHealingCenters.com Insurance Accepted



## Gwen Stefani On Why She Paints Her Sons' Nails, Meeting Gays 'Late In Life' & Her (Lack Of) Girl Crushes

#### **BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI**

From bed in her Los Angeles home, Gwen Stefani insists she doesn't mind doing her first gay press interview in a decade on her day off. "I love talking about myself," the No Doubt frontwoman says, giggling.

Set to release her third solo album this spring, Stefani rang to open up about her "late in life" introduction to the gay community, the lesson she's teaching her boys when she paints their nails and how hubby Gavin Rossdale has broadened her worldview.

You were raised Roman Catholic in infamously conservative Orange County. Considering this upbringing, what was your introduction to the gay community? Oh, that's a really good question. I'm going back in my brain. When did I get introduced? I think my first friend that I had was Mathu Andersen – that was pretty late in life. He's a makeup artist that I met doing the "Ex-Girlfriend" video (in 2000), and he was with this guy Zaldy, a designer who'd eventually work on L.A.M.B. with me. Then Mathu introduced me to Danilo, who ended up

being my hairdresser, who introduced me to Gregory Arlt, my (current) makeup artist.

These guys have become some of my closest friends over the years, and also the team that have helped me creatively on so many levels. It's interesting how it feels. All the people that I've met in the gay community in my particular life have just been very creative people and people that have just been friends to me in a way that I haven't had in my life before that. It's hard to put into words. I don't know how to describe it, but it's interesting because we can talk about so many things that we are all interested in and yet it's different from having a guy friend or a girlfriend. It's like having a creative partner.

#### When No Doubt first hit the scene, you were known for your tomboy image. Because of your style, were there times you were mistaken as a lesbian?

I don't remember there ever being too many rumors about that. I think everybody knew my story, because when "Tragic Kingdom" came out I had broken up with Tony (Kanal), so everybody knew that "Don't Speak" and all those songs were about that, so I think that's probably why (there weren't rumors). I was so young when all that started. I mean, I started the band when I was 17.

The way you've personally subverted gender norms seems to have influenced your three boys. You've gone with your oldest, Kingston, to get manis; also, he wore a tutu on his birthday. As a parent, how important is it to you to show your kids that there's no wrong way to express themselves?

It's one of those things where, it's not like I don't think about it, but they're used to being around me, and I'm always doing my hair, makeup, nails. Their whole life is, like, sitting on my lap while I'm doing that surrounded by three gay men who are on me the entire time. (Laughs)

It's just normal for them. What I like to say is that being unique and original is what makes me happy, and I think that rubs off on them. My sons did nails just the other day, and the only reason was because their nails were so disgusting! Like, they were in the mud and I was like, "We have got to do your nails! Why don't we do 'Nail Salon'?!"

I literally have 400 bottles of nail polish, so they took them all out and put them all over the bathroom. We really played "Salon" and we did tiger stripe nails. I said to Kingston, "Are you sure you wanna do pink, because you're gonna go to school tomorrow? Are you sure you're not gonna be embarrassed?" He said, "No, I don't care; it's a cool color."

I just love that. It's really important more than anything else to *not* be talked into something, to stand your ground and to be able to be strong about what you feel. That's what I like and that's what I want them to learn – that being individual and being unique is important. Don't be scared of that. I don't want them to try to be like everyone else, and at that age, everybody just wants to have the same shoes everybody else has, and I don't really like that. If they do want to, I'll support that as well. You just want them to be happy. It's a short life and it goes by so quick.

In 2012 you designed a marriage equality shirt for Target that said "Love Is Love." What inspired you to raise awareness for marriage equality? Overall in my life I've been shy to be too politically active in any kind of way. I'm a Libra. I'm all about balance; I'm not about confrontation. I feel like I'm sort of rebellious, but you said it – I grew up in a Catholic family. I was the peacemaker of the family. I just wanted everybody to be happy. So, taking a stand was – I mean, obviously I have my feelings about things, but I'm subtle about it.

That shirt was not meant to be a big statement. It can work for that, but it doesn't have to be for that. It wasn't meant to be like, "Oh, I'm making a huge statement here." What I'm saying is that this shirt can work for anybody. It doesn't matter who you are, what you do and what you think – love is love. Take it whichever way you want to take it.

## In the spirit of the emoji-filled "Spark the Fire" single, what's your most used emoji?

These days, luckily, they have a little spark and fire and cloud emoji, so I've been using those a lot. The thing is, they're right up my alley. Emojis are the perfect thing. Like, of course we have to have those!

#### I'm surprised you didn't invent them, actually.

I wish that I did. I feel like they invented them *for* me. (Laughs)

#### Pharrell called "Spark the Fire," which he cowrote and produced, a feminist anthem, but you say otherwise. What does that song mean to you?

Yeah, for me, it's not a feminist anthem. Our relationship is so interesting. I say to him, "You are so talented and incredible; how do you come up with this stuff? It's blowing my mind." And he'll say to me, "It's you. I wouldn't have come up with this unless I got the energy you gave me that night." And I didn't do anything! It's so weird. His interpretation of me is: He thinks that I need to be the torch for feminism. (But the song) was so perfect for my story – for what I was feeling in my own personal life – that I didn't even get it as a feminist anthem. I thought it was just about me! I was just feeling me.

What's so weird is, it works on two levels, but it's very personal for me. If it's working for (feminism) as well, that's awesome. But with "Just a Girl," too, I wasn't trying to make a statement at all when I wrote that song. I never even thought that anyone would hear the song. I was just making a personal statement about my life, about me, and I feel like this is the same thing. It's really about me, my journey and where I'm at in my life. It's just very personal. I love the fact that it kind of has two faces. But it's funny, because he's so fired up about it. Watching my journey, he knows a lot about me personally that maybe not everyone knows, so he sees me in a different way as well. He sees me as being really strong, and I don't really see that as much. It's really an incredible relationship

See Gwen, page 17

## Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra MOZART BIRTHDAY BASH

Saturday, January 31 8:00 p.m. Michigan Theater Arie Lipsky, Conductor Co-Sponsored by Rebecca Horvat!

With support from: ART WORKS.

Special Guests



e Tin ne Mio

Timothy Michling

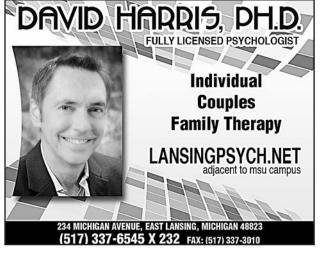
(734) 994-4801 • a2so.com



# Lansing



YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD • YOUR MARKET Pinpoint your ad dollars where they will do the most good ... Advertise in the next Cool Cities **TO PLACE AN AD CALL 734.293.7200** 



January 29 - March 1, 2015 The Best **Brothers** by Daniel MacIvor

A bittersweet comedy that explores the many ways in which we grieve and the love we find in unexpected places.

#### **Directed by Lynn Lammers**

Featuring: Tony Caselli and John Lepard



Cool Cities Gay Through Time

Peppermint Creek Takes On LGBT Rights, Aging In Couple's Story



#### **BY BRIDGETTE REDMAN**

A lot can happen in 65 years – both in the life of a couple and in the world at large.

Lansing's Peppermint Creek Theatre Company launches the U.S. premiere of a play by Neil Bartlett and the Handspring Puppet Company, the latter being the creators of the acclaimed "War Horse." Like the latter, "Or You Could Kiss Me" features life-sized puppets to tell the more intimate story of a same-sex couple living in South Africa as they remember seeking the courage to fall in love in the oppressive period of 1971 and imagining the future of 2036 when they are facing the death of one of the couple's members.

Director Scott Crandell found both the story and the way it was told compelling and something he wanted to stage when he was approached by Peppermint Creek's artistic director Chad Badgero to direct as part of PCTC's "Launching Pad" initiative, which sponsors recent graduates from college directing programs.

"It spoke to me because there is so much going on at once and it is distilled into a simple and intimate



**Could Kiss Me** Jan. 22-Feb. 1 Peppermint Creek Theatre Company Miller Performing Arts Center 6025 Curry Lane, Lansing www.peppermintcreek.org

**Or You** 

story," Crandell says. "There is a lot of political undertones of South Africa and gay rights and themes of memory and aging and of death and of love and of love beginning and love enduring. It's all told through a relatively simple story of a couple facing death. The story is told through, in part, puppets - that is how it is facilitated, and the show gives us an opportunity to look at this through a lens we don't often see (through)."

Badgero was intrigued by the way the story covers so much time and tells of how things are changing in our world, particularly for same-sex couples.

We've done quite a number of plays that jump in time, showing

how ideologies have changed, particularly homosexuality. 'Pride' is a recent one," Badgero says. "We see the difference in these two men from when they were younger to when they were older."

He said that Michigan is a perfect place to tell this story because of its social and legal status concerning same-sex marriage.

"I still have living grandparents who remember the '50s, when no one talked about it," Badgero says. "That's changed. And for audiences, it will resonate how the issues of same-sex marriage and couples is so quickly changing before our eyes."

Whereas the risk of being in love in 1972 is dangerous in South Africa and could result in death, their life changes in 2036, when same-sex relationships are a non-issue.

"In South Africa in the '70s, they were more militant about same-sex couples," says Badgero." In that regard, the two guys have a lot more secrecy and fear and danger in developing a relationship."

The puppets used in the PCTC show were designed and created by Crandell, something Badgero said was ideal because he got to design them specifically to fit his vision for the play.

"(The playwright) was so articulate in this script about why the puppets were being used and why it has to be a puppet," says Badgero.

Crandell agreed, saying the puppets become the medium by which the middle-aged couple can remember the past and imagine the future. The puppets embody the concepts of memory and imagination.

"There are scenes in this play that are important to everyone," Crandell says. "They are important and timely in terms of our rights, and it gives us the chance to reflect on our lives.



Gwen Continued from p. 15

that we have and a surprise that I would be hanging out with him so much again (after "Hollaback Girl" in 2004).

#### There are obviously lots of gays who adore you, but how aware are you of all the gay love for your hubby, Gavin Rossdale?

Girls and guys love him because he's a beautiful person. The thing about him is, growing up in London - it's such a cool place to grow up because there is so much freedom there, and there's so much exposure to so many different people and art. It's just a different way of growing up compared to (my) growing up in Anaheim. With all the music that we grew up to - and the British invasion and Vivienne Westwood and everything that I love about London in the '80s - it's been really amazing to be able to have a friend and lover like Gavin because he is from London. He's a smart, interesting person, and he's this connection to something I was a fan of growing up and getting to know London, where I think so much music and fashion has come out of, and which has so much history for me.

#### Let's take it back to No Doubt's "Staring Problem" and all those "cute girls" who made you jealous. These days, who can't you stop staring at? Who are your girl crushes?

I'm not feeling a girl crush right now. I really am not. I'm sorry! There's nobody. But I have to say that I like a lot of the new Taylor Swift. There's a few songs on that record that I like and she's a good songwriter. Charli XCX is a very good songwriter too - she wrote songs for my record - and who else? I mean, my favorite all-time girl songwriter is

Joni Mitchell, but I wouldn't say I have a girl crush on her. (Laughs)

#### After 2012's "Push and Shove," No Doubt postponed their tour to make new music because you said you were feeling inspired at that time. But then there was no new music and no tour the following year. What's the story there? What derailed plans for a new No Doubt album and tour?

I got pregnant, so I was blessed by my little Apollo. That was something that I wasn't planning. We were in the studio, I got pregnant, and I was very sick during the pregnancy so I didn't do anything. I was designing and doing stuff from home, and then I had the baby, and then four weeks later "The Voice" called.

So, you're caught up to date to today: I did the (upcoming) record because I couldn't do a No Doubt record that quick - there was no way - so I was like, "Let's do some new music with being on ('The Voice')," and then Pharrell happened to be there and then we had a song.

Everything that happened since I got pregnant, including getting pregnant, has been a complete surprise, and it's awesome. I love that I didn't know any of this was gonna happen, and now I'm plopped into this new chapter. I feel like I'm on a journey and I'm at a totally different point in my life, and it just feels good to be doing something completely different, new and unexpected.

#### Everyone's always surprised you're 45. And it's true – you look half your age. What's your secret?

(Laughs) Thank you! I do not have any secrets. I'm doing what everyone else is doing - just trying to make it last as long as possible on all levels.



most fuel-efficient midsize crossover in America.<sup>11</sup> Also new is a surprisingly spacious, upgraded interior featuring the SUBARU STARLINK™ infotainment system



### Williams Subaru

525 N Howard St. Lansing, MI 48912 517-484-1341 www.williamssubaru.com



## Happenings

### **OUTINGS**

#### Thursday, Jan. 22

Kathy Griffin 8 p.m. Tickets: \$43-63. Olympia Entertainment, 2901 Grand River Ave., **Detroit.** 800-745-3000. Olympiaentertainment.com

#### Friday, Jan. 23

Black HIV Awareness Day Gallery Opening Reception 7 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

DJ Fudgie Jamming at Esquire 10 p.m. Lansing Lesbians-L2L, 1250 Turner St., Lansing. Meetup.com/Lansing-Lesbians-L2L

#### Saturday, Jan. 24

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

Michigan Pride Euchre 4 p.m. Pre-registration required. \$15 per person. Michigan Pride and L2L, 404 N. Verlinden Ave., Lansing. Meetup.com/ Lansing-Lesbians-L2L

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

Benefit Concert for PFLAG-Ann

Arbor 7 p.m. Progressive Christian and LBGTQ ally singer/songwriter Jonathan Talmadge will perform. PFLAG-Ann Arbor, 5484 Webster Church Road, Dexter. Jonathantalmadge.com

Own Your Gender 7 p.m. The Network, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, Grand Rapids. 616-458-3511. Grigbt.org

Saturday Night (Non-) Drinks 7 p.m. Queer Young Professionals of Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti, 217 N. Main St., Ann Arbor. meetup.com/queer-youngprofessionals-ann-arbor-ypsi/events/

#### Sunday, Jan. 25

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

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

Lansing Capital Roller Derby: Winter Boot Camp 3:30 p.m. Mitten Mavens, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing . Mittenmavens.net

Drumming with Pele 4 p.m. Contact PJ (pele) for more information. Lansing Lesbians-L2L, Lansing. pelehemaya@ gmail.com Meetup.com/Lansing-Lesbians-L2L

Monday, Jan. 26 Faith Alliance Movie Night 7 p.m. Light refreshments (popcorn and soft

ALL IN THE TIMING

Hilberry.com 313.577.2972

"Hilberry's 'All in the Timing' a comic delight"

drinks). Free. Affirmations Faith Alliance, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. jlewis@goaffirmations.org Goaffirmations.org

TransPeace 7 p.m. Ruth Ellis Center, 77 Victor St., Highland Park. 313-867-6932. Ruthelliscenter.org

Whole Lives, Healthy Lives Adult Support Group 7 p.m. This one-of-akind 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

Gender Explorers 8 p.m. Spectrum Center, Ann Arbor. 734-763-4186. spectrumcenter.umich.edu

#### Tuesday, Jan. 27

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

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

#### Wednesday, Jan. 28

Free to be Me Group 12:30 p.m. This is a support group for people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning. The Jewish Gay Network of Michigan (JGN), 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. 248-432-5467. Jgnmi.org

Trans & Gender Queer Group 12:30 p.m. Eastern Michigan University,

by David Ives

Hilberry

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Seefferty &

- Dearborn Times-Herald



## **Editor's Pick**

Affirmations and statussexy.com will host the opening reception for an exhibit honoring black experience and HIV/AIDS awareness this Friday. This exhibit will be held in the Pittmann-Puckett Gallery located inside Affirmations.

Artists were encouraged to submit entries that explore black experiences of sexuality,

pleasure, sex and sexual health as well as entries related to HIV infection, HIV stigma, living with AIDS and other HIV/AIDS-related topics. For the exhibit, artists have submitted entries in different forms of media.

The opening reception is scheduled to run from 7 to 9 p.m. this Friday, Jan. 30. The Pittmann-Puckett Gallery is at Affirmations, located at 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. For more information, contact Lydia Ahlum Hanson, MSE, MPH, at 248-677-7223, visit www.goaffirmations.org or check out www.statussexy.com.

Ypsilanti. 734-487-4149. Emich.edu/ lgbtrc

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

M3: Michigan Membership Mixer Encore Event 6 p.m. Detroit Regional LGBT Chaber of Commerce and GM, Detroit.

**Sistrum Weekly Rehearsal** 6:30 p.m. Sistrum, Lansing Women's Chorus, 215 N. Capital Ave., Lansing. Sistrum.org An Evening with Neil DeGrasse Tyson 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$65. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. 313-237-SING. Motopera.org

## MUSIC & MORE

#### **Concerts**

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

**DS0** "Symphonie Fantastique." Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jan. 22-Jan. 25. 313-576-5111. Dso.org M. F. Production "Latin Jazz All Stars" Tickets: \$25+. Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit. Jan. 23-Jan. 24. 313-887-8500. Musichall.org

Michigan Theater "Noir Film Series." Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Jan. 12-April 27. 734-668-8397. Michtheater.org

The Ark "Black Jake & The Carnies" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 25. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Chamber Music Society of Detroit "Jeremy Denk" Tickets: \$10-60. Seligman Performing Arts Center, 22305 W. 13 Mile Road, Beverly Hills. 3 p.m. Jan. 25. 248-855-6070.

See Happenings, page 20



of Fine, Performin

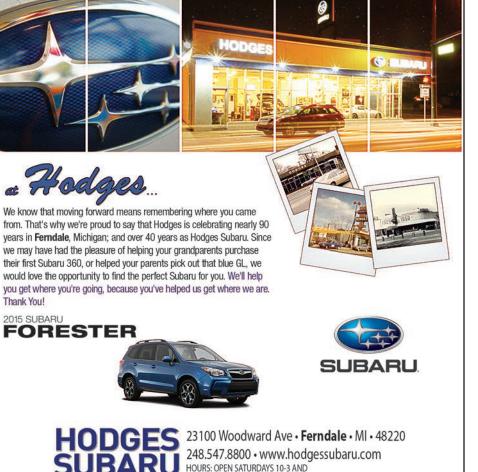
### February 7, 2015

Join the FIA in celebrating the 8th Annual Community Gala and the opening of the exhibition Common Ground: African American Art from the Flint Institute of Arts, the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts and the Muskegon Museum of Art.

For reservations & more information, call 810.234.1695 or visit flintarts.org.



1120 E Kearsley St • Flint, MI 48503 • 810.234.1695 • flintarts.org



EXTENDED HOURS TILL 9PM MONDAYS & THURSDAYS

iE international **EXPERIENCE** Friendships that Last a Lifetime

For more information on becoming a host family for a semester in 2015 contact

Joe Bissell TODAY!

j.bissell@international-experience.net

517-388-8948 COTO:

Host a High School Exchange Student



www.PrideSource.com

#### Puzzle solution on pg. 22



### Do you need professional help?

Experienced, innovative wedding & event planning Gay owned • Southeastern Michigan based





## Forum Foundation Valentine Dance & MCCD Auction.

#### Save the Date, February 13 at 7:00 PM!

The Forum Foundation's Dinner Dance, with an auction to benefit MCCD, will be at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Warren. The festivities include a silent auction, a 50/50 raffle, family style dinner, an open bar, and dancing. Tickets - \$45.00. Available after church, during social hour. Question call the office.

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

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

20



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

#### ► Happenings

Continued from p. 18

Chambermusicdetroit.org

#### Dance

Oakland University "The DDA Concert: Detroit Dance Artists Showcase," Varner Lab Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. Jan. 22-Jan. 24. 248-370-2030, Oakland.edu

The Whiting "Feet Don't Fail Me Now!" Tickets: \$35. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 3 p.m. Jan. 25. 810-237-8689. Thewhiting.com

University Musical Society-UMS "Compagnie Marie Chouinard." Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Jan. 23. 734-764-2538. Ums.ord

#### Other

Breslin Center "The Harlem Globetrotters." Breslin Center, East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 23. Msu.edu

Ruhala Performing Arts Center "Reiki for Teens" Fee: \$120. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. Jan. 28-March 25. 517-337-0464, Ruhalacenter.com

Trinity Divine Healing "Health & Wellness Classes" Cost: \$5-10, Grace is Sufficient Ministries Neighborhood enter, 13345 Joy Road, Detroit. Jan 12-May 30, 313-451-2472.

Shows Macomb Center for the Performing



Sweet Pea's Mama Tickets: \$17-20.

Wilson, Detroit. Through March 15. 313-

**Civic/Community Theater** 

Jekyll & Hyde the Musical Murder

and chaos are pitted against love and

virtue in the musical Gothic masterpiece.

Tickets: \$20-24. Stagecrafters, Baldwin

Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal

Oak. Through Feb. 1. 248-541-6430.

Lend Me a Tenor It's 1934, and the

Cleveland Grand Opera Company is

preparing to welcome world-famous

tenor Tito Morelli for a sold-out, one-

But when the star arrives desperately

late with his ego and his jealous wife in

tow, things don't go exactly according

Civic Theatre, Civic Auditorium, 329 S.

Park St., Kalamazoo, Through Jan, 24,

Little Women-The Broadway Musical

Auditorium, 32 Lakeshore Road, Grosse

Or You Could Kiss Me Set in the winter

Elizabeth, two old men search for a way

of 2036 in a shabby apartment in the

to say goodbye after a lifetime spent

together. Tickets: \$10-15.. Peppermint

Creek Theatre, Miller Performing Arts

Center, 6025 Curry Lane, Lansing. Jan.

22-Feb. 1. Peppermintcreek.org

South African seaside town of Port

Pointe Farms, Through Jan, 31, 313-

Tickets: \$24. Grosse Pointe Theatre,

Grosse Pointe War Memorial Fries

881-4004. Gpt.org

269-343-1313. kazoocivic.com

to plan. Tickets: \$13-24. The Kalamazoo

night-only performance of "Otello.

stagecrafters.org

868-1347. Detroitreptheatre.com

Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow

Ave., Detroit, Jan. 21-Jan. 25, 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

Sesame Street Live: Make a New Friend Tickets: \$15-35. Olympia Entertainment, Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave, Detroit. Jan. 23-Feb. 16. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

Snow Queen PuppetART's production of the classic tale uses a remarkable variety of techniques and effects in its telling of the tale, including marionettes. rod puppets, hand puppets, projections and costumes that double as scenery. CLICK HERE for complete show information. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$5 children. PuppetART, Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit Through Jan. 31. 313-961-7777. puppetart.org

Steel Magnolias . The Purple Rose Theatre Company, Purple Rose Theatre, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through March 14. 734-433-7673. Purplerosetheatre.org

Sweat Pea's Mama A timely story that puts racial indignity and mental challenge in striking juxtaposition. The effect is both disturbing and enlightening. Tickets: \$17-20. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Through March 15. 313-868-1347. detroitreptheatre.com

The Boys in the Band Premiering a year before the Stonewall riots cemented the gay rights movement, Mart Crowley's landmark play was the first time that gay men had been portrayed realistically onstage. Tickets \$10-20. The Ringwald Theatre. 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through Feb 2. 248-545-5545. theringwald.com

Things My Mother Taught Me See

## **Editor's Pick**

Picnic Club Detroit - an open group of artists, writers, urban planners, musicians and naturalists that use picnics as a platform to explore both place and the collaborative act of making - presents its first-ever exhibition. "Picnics in the Polar Vortex." in Hamtramck. The exhibit asks, "What better way to explore art,

ideas, perception, collaboration and making stuff than through picnics? By bringing it all to Public Pool, of course,'

The show, which opened with a party on Jan. 10, runs through Feb. 21. Featured are photos, artifacts and objects either found or made during the group's first year of picnics and other related club projects. Past picnic locations have included the wild backlands of a corporate shopping center, the Belle Isle Aquarium and the Detroit People Mover.

"Picnics in the Polar Vortex" is located at Public Pool Art Space, 3309 Caniff Ave., Hamtramck. The gallery is open from 1-6 p.m. every Saturday. The exhibit is free. Check out www.apublicpool.com for more information.

Arts "Centennial Sinatra" Tickets: \$43-59. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. 3 p.m. Jan. 25. 586-286-2222. Macombcenter.com

The Majestic "A Year in New York with Prima Vera." The Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Jan. 22. 313-833-9700. Majesticdetroit.com

### THEATER

BARE: a Pop Opera Tickets: \$24. Pontiac. Jan. 23-Jan. 24. 248-787-5365. Monsterboxtheatre.com

Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley, Detroit. Jan. 23-Feb. 1. 313-967-0999. Ruhala Students Show Boys only dance. musical theater, glee, tap and more. Tickets: \$10. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing, 7 p.m. Jan. 24. Ruhalacenter.com

#### **Professional**

All's Well That Ends Well Tickets: \$7-14. Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company, Seven Steps Up, 116 S. Jackson, Spring Lake. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 24 616-850-0916. Pcshakespeare.com

Kinky Boots Tickets: \$35+. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Through Jan. 25. 313-872-1000. Broadwayindetroit.com

Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus LIVE! Tickets: \$54. Olympia Entertainment, City Theatre, 2301 Woodward

what can happen when a whole lot of love comes together in a small apartment. Tickets: \$26-41. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. Through Feb. 1. 248-377-3300. mbtheatre.com

Tongues A dark farce exploring three socially taboo relationships, this new play by Bailey Boudreau takes uncouth to the next level. Tickets: \$10. Slipstream Theatre Initiative, Upstairs at Checkers Pub and Grille, 124 Cadillac Square, Detroit. Through Jan. 28. 248-298-9617. slipstreamti.com

Yellowman A two-person multicharacter drama about an African-American woman who dreams of life beyond the confines of her small town South Carolina upbringing and the lightskinned AfricanAmerican

man whose fate is tragically intertwined with hers. Tickets: \$25-41. Performance Network, Performance Network Theatre, 120 E, Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through Feb. 15. 734-663-0681. Pntheatre.org

#### ART 'N' AROUND

Ann Arbor Art Center "Allegorical Space" Featuring artists who use the landscape as a metaphor. Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Jan. 2-Feb. 22. 734-994-8004 Annarborartcenter.org

Cranbrook Art Museum "Warhol On Vinyl: The Record Covers, 1949-1987+" Drawing from the world's preeminent collection of record covers by Andy Warhol, this exhibition showcas 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

Detroit Artists Market (DAM) "It's Like Toys In Here" Three generations serious about play. Detroit Artists Market, 4719 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jan. 16-Feb. 14. 313-832-8540. Detroitartistsmarket.org

DIA "Ordinary People by Extraordinary Artists: Works on Paper by Degas, Renoir and Friends." Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jan. 1-March 29. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

**DIA** "Photographs from the Detroit Walk-In Portrait Studio by Corne Vermeulen." Detroit Institute of Arts. 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jan. 1-May 17. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

MOCAD "Young People's Biennial." Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave Detroit Jan. 1-Jan. 25. 313-832-6622. 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 orc

MOCAD and Creative Many "Creative Many Summit." MOCAD

and Creative Many, Detroit. Jan. 24. Creativemany.org

#### N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art "Michael Luchs, Christine Hagedorn and Anita Bates." N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, 52 E. Forest, Detroit. Jan. 16-March 14.

Pewabic Pottery "Opening Reception for Ware Wolves in Sheep's Clothing. Pewabic Pottery, 10125 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit. 6 p.m. Jan. 23. 313-626-2000. Pewabic.org

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

The Scarab Club "the MUNDANE show." The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. Jan. 1-Feb. 14. 313-831-1250. Scarabclub.org

UMMA "Guido van der Werve: Nummer veertien, home ." University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Jan. 1-April 26. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

UMMA "Flip Your Field: Objects from the Collection" An exhibition from the Museum's collection of threedimensional objects. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art. 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Jan. 24-June 30. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu



Monsterbox Theatre, Lafayette Grande,

Cain's Row Tickets: \$8-12. Matrix



Special Menu Every Friday Order a la Carte, or prix fixe four course meal for \$20

The staff dresses up and we dress up the dining room. Whether it's date night or just looking for great bistro food at a reasonable price, try us out every Friday.

Like Us On 🚺





THEBERMAN.ORG

315 Braun Ct, Ann Arbor (734) 994-3677 | www.AutBar.com





## January 24, 2015 The Broadway Hit At The Fisher Theater

Portion Of Ticket Sales To Benefit APM

### \*VIP Tickets Still Available\*

Visit www.aidspartnership.org For Tickets



## THE BERMAN center for the Performing of the

## SEARCHING FOR SUGARMAN (FILM)

Thursday, February 12 • 7:30 pm TICKETS \$12

With the bootleg recording of Detroit musician Rodriguez's album, "Cold Fact"; South Africa found a voice that would inspire a generation of disaffected Afrikaners. Once the album was banned by the government, his cult following was cemented and Rodriguez became a household name in South Africa as the belief spread that he had died under mysterious circumstances. This is the documentary that led two Afrikaners to the truth about Rodriguez.

> Supported by The Jewish Federation





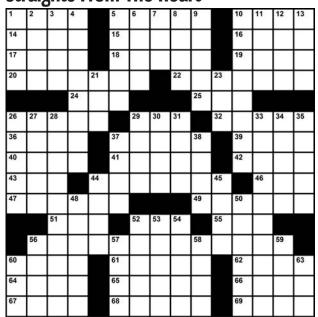
248.661.1900

THE BERMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit D. Dan & Betty Kahn Building Eugene & Marcia Applebaum Jewish Community Campus 6600 W. Maple Road • West Bloomfield, MI 48322

www.PrideSource.com

### **O** Puzzle

### **Straights From The Heart**



#### Across

- 1 Gay-friendly Hutcherson of "The Hunger Games" 5 'Enry's fair lady
- 10 Gay-friendly singer of the Jonas Brothers
- 14 Invitation to a top?
- 15 Bock's "Pillow Talk" costar

16 North Sea feede 17 Baudelaire's well 18 Gay-friendly comics creator Morrison 19 Capital of Österreich 20 With 22-Across, gay-friendly satirist and faux homophobe 22 See 20-Across 24 Canon camera 25 Colette's king

47 With 49-Across, gay-friendly "Scandal" creator 49 See 47-Across 51 Go head to head 52 Queen's "We \_\_\_\_ the Champions" 55 Fed. book balancers 56 Gay-friendly producer of "The Fosters" 60 Put in a position 61 Stars that shoot off 62 Love of Leshos 64 Connive with a con 65 "Don't even bother' 66 Title role for Jodie Foster 67 Delilah portraver Lamarr 68 Gay rodeo target 69 "Saving Private Ryan" event

26 Freddie Prinze role

32 Orderly display

39 Tubbies' prefix

42 Med. care grps.

46 WSW opposite

40 "Xena" deity

29 James Beard cookbook meas.

36 Mane, to "The Lion King"'s Nala

41 MacDowell of L'OrÈal ads

43 Where to find Trojans 44 Tough nuts to crack

37 Gay-friendly country singer Parton

#### Down

- 1 Blow \_\_\_\_ (oral encounters) 2 Like a top 3 Barrie buccaneer
- 4 Nags the hubby
- 5 Rims
- 6 Aftermath of love? 7 Broadway lyricist Gershwin

428 PROF. SERVICES -

MASSAGE

**GROUP MASSAGE** 

For Gay and Bisexual Men. Learn some massage techniques and

meet others in a safe and caring

environment. Tuesdays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. Thursdays at 2 p.m. \$10 per session. 209 West Kingsley in downtown Ann Arbor. (734) 662-

6282 or email Massage4@aol.com

**1102 EROTICA -**

MASSAGE

Hot Outcall Oral Massage

Soothing gentle massage with happy

endina. I am Jake, white, 42, dark

hair, mustache. I travel to you.

Weekdays in afternoon and evenings. Anytime Weekends. \$120 Hourly

Call 206-337-7422.

http://trymassage.com

- 8 Silverv metal
- 9 "The Maltese Falcon" actress Mary 10 Experience at the Cathedral of Hope
- 11 Eurythmics' "Would \_\_\_\_ to You?" 12 Good buddy 13 He got into Superman's pants 21 Boo's partner 23 Long, in Hawaii 26 An elf-made man? 27 Hard to bear 28 Like Button's blades, at times 29 Collette of "The Hours" 30 Construction co. project

A Couple

Dave Brows

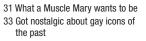
of guys

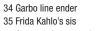
DISCUSSION

HAVE KIDS ...

0 8

I NEED TO ASK YOU





- 37 Carvey, who cross-dressed as the Church Lady 38 Linda Hunt's "The \_\_\_\_ of Living
- Dangerously' 44 Rosie O'Donnell's "Exit to \_ 45 "Beat it!" 48 Age of a new nonagenarian 50 Hover menacingly 52 Online exaggeration? 53 Stage show 54 Use a rubber 56 Agree 57 Chelsea Pines and others 58 Look at a hottie in a bar 59 Meredith Grey's kid



**AICHIGAN** 

PRIDE PRIDE

SOURCE

2014

60 Skeptical ejaculation

63 Cunning



MANY TIMES YOU'VE BROUGHT UP BUT I COULDN'T BEAR IT IF, THE SUBJECT OF RAISING & FAMILY SOMEDAY, YOU HELD IT AGAINST AND I'VE ALWAYS SHUT DOWN THE ME BECAUSE WE NEVER DID SO PLEASE, IF YOU HAVE ANY DOUBTS SWITCH SEATS WITH ME BOUT WHETHER OR NOT WE SHOULD

- 16%A - 5%

YOU EVER REGRET NOT HAN

SUE!

CHILDREN OF OUR OWNP



**A Tension Getter** Massage Therapy

#### by David Rosenberg (734) 662-6282

Therapeutic Massage gets rid of back, neck and shoulder pain

2 Downtown Locations Berklev Ann Arbor

209 West Kingsley

(Couple blocks west of main, between Ashley & 1st.)

W. 12 Mile Road (just west of Greenfield)

"I can bring my massage table to your home, too!"

#### Massage Class for Men

Sheets, showers and lotions provided

Learn some massage techniques. Meet others in a safe and caring environment.

Thursday at 2 pm. Tuesdays & Saturdays at 8pm \$10 per session 209 W. Kingsley St. Ann Arbor, MI (734) 662-6282

Find me on the Internet at http://www.trymassage.com

## YOUR HEALTH CARE TEAM FOR ALL THE RIGHT REASONS!

Specializing in Medicine for Our Lifestyle since 1980



Dr. Paul Benson's Be Well Medical Center (248) 544-9300 • doctorbewell.com Everything Has Changed ... We Can End HIV



CHECK OUT OUR STI & HIV PREVENTION WEBSITE

# HUGE 50% Off DVD Sale!!

Save BIG on 100's of Specially Marked DVD's! DISCOVER Buy One Get One Free \*(specially marked) VISA DILDOS PUMPS MERICAN PLUGS VIBRATORS BULLETS **C/RINGS FLESHJACKS** LUBES **CLEANING SOLVENTS** & MORE OPEN EVERYDAY MON - SAT 11AM - MIDNIGHT SUNDAY\_11AM 510PM 7041W. 8 MILE 1 MILE WEST OF WOODWARD 313=340=1730

## THE FINEST IN ADULT ENTERTAINMENT AT THE BEST PRICES!

ALL XXX DVD RENTALS AS LOW AS 99C EVERY DAYI



BUY DULT DVD'S Starting at \$5.95

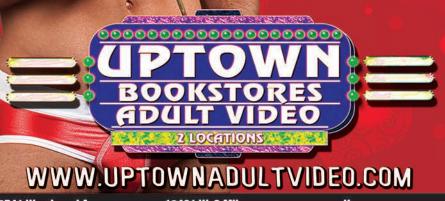


FEBRUARY 2015 SPECIAL 20% OFF All dvd's All lotions & novelties

FEB. 1-14, 2015 REGULAR PRICED DVD'S & NOVELTIES ONLY

UPTOWN SALE S10 OFF ANY S50 PURCHASE

S20 OFF ANY SIOO PURCHASE REGULAR PRICED MERCHANDISE ONLYI JAN. 16-31, 2015



16541 Woodward Ave. at McNichols next to "Deja Vu" Highland Park 313.869.9477

Rush - Jungle Juice Platinum - Maximum

Impact - Swiss Navy Lube Silicone -

Uninhibited 2-Ring Harness - Wii Vibe -

Lucid Dreams #14 - Dual Bunny Teaser -Butterfly Kiss Pink - Titan Englargment

System - The Exotic Water Garden Massager

16401 W. 8 Mile Between Greenfield & Southfield Detroit 313.836.0647 Hours: Mon-Sat 9am - 10pm Sun Noon - 8pm

## Inclusion. Equality. Opportunity.

1-4 p.m., March 5, 2015 University of Michigan – Dearborn Fairlane Center North 19000 Hubbard Rd., Dearborn MI 48126

AREER FAIR

MARCH 5

BQ

#### **Open To Everyone and All Majors**

Business, Engineering, Computer Science, Education, Science & Liberal Arts

Opportunities to apply for Co-op/Internships, Part-time positions and Full-time Professional Employment

Meet recruiters from over 30 companies who want YOU to join their workforce, including: General Motors, EY, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Lear Corporation, Herman Miller and dozens more!

**Sponsored by:** Affirmations, Detroit LGBT Chamber of Commerce, Out & Equal Detroit Affiliate, Pride Source Media Group, University of Michigan-Dearborn It is free to attend the LGBTQ&A Career Fair, but we ask that you pre-register at http://umdearborn.edu/careerservices

Affirmations and the University of Michigan-Dearborn are offering free, pre-career fair workshops for attendees to better prepare for the LGBTQ&A Career Fair, with professional advice on writing a resume, interviewing skills and negotations. Go to www.GoAffirmations.org to learn more about these workshops.

#### The LGBT Career Fair is supported by these universities:

Central Michigan University, Eastern Michigan University, Ferris State University, Michigan State University, Michigan Tech University, Northern Michigan University, Oakland University, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, University of Michigan-Flint, Wayne State University, Western Michigan University.

For more information, contact: Mai Qazzaz or Julie Kell at 313-593-5020 or email mqazzaz@umich.edu