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## COVER

Pictured: Marcus McGregor & Ken Bloink  
Photo Courtesy of A Thousand Words Photography



“It’s not a drudgery job. In the 80s, when I would work a party, I felt like the *kitchen dish slob*. And now I get to be a *peacock*. I like the creativity of it and how my work changes.”

– Jeff Zak, owner of  
Jeff Zak Catering, pg. 38

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### JOIN US SATURDAY



### BTL's LGBT Wedding Expo Returns March 21!

BTL's fifth annual Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo is March 21, 2015 at the Southfield Civic Pavilion! Find more information on the center spread.

### COVER PHOTO



### This Week's Cover: Marcus McGregor & Ken Bloink

This week's cover features Marcus McGregor (left) and Ken Bloink (right), one of the 323 couples married last year.

Special thanks to the couple, Samantha Cover at A Thousand Words Photography, and Josh Mayse at Thomas's Catering.

### YELLOW PAGES



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## Creep of the Week

### Dolce & Gabbana

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

As I write this I'm taking a box cutter to my collection of Dolce & Gabbana handbags, shoes and frocks (wait, are frocks a thing? It seems like something Dolce & Gabbana would put their name on). Take that very rich and famous fashion designers!

Now, you may be thinking, "What did Domenico Dolce & Stefano Gabbana ever do to you?" Or, if you're my wife, you may be thinking, "Hold on, her Dolce & Gabbana collection? Where did she get the money for this? I thought her favorite place to shop was Big Lots!"

**Needless to say, Dolce and Gabbana's remarks didn't go over very well with gays rich enough to actually wear and buy Dolce & Gabbana.**

Granted, Dolce & Gabbana didn't do anything to me personally. I don't know them (and don't own any Dolce & Gabbana paraphernalia. Even if I could afford it, buying a purse and shoes for thousands of dollars while people are starving to death is obscene).

But in a recent interview for Italy's Panorama magazine, the pair said some shitty things about the kids of lesbian and gay couples that would even make Tony Perkins blush.

"We oppose gay adoptions. The only family is the traditional one," one of them said according to the Telegraph.

Okay, so same-sex couples shouldn't be allowed to adopt kids and if they do it anyway, they're not a real family. Nice.

"No chemical offsprings and rented uterus: life has a natural flow, there are things that should not be changed," Dolce or Gabbana continued. "I call children of chemistry, synthetic children. Rented uterus, semen chosen from a catalog."

Chemical offsprings, huh? Synthetic children? They know the difference between an IVF clinic and a meth lab, right? Or perhaps they think Walter White fathers all children born using assisted reproduction.

Procreation, according to Dolce,

"must be an act of love," the Telegraph reports. "You are born to a mother and a father – or at least that's how it should be."

Any other way of forming a family besides doin' it missionary style doesn't count as an act of love, and you'll end up with fake-ass plastic children.

I need not point out how insulting such statements are to people who have children thanks to assisted reproduction, which, of course, is not limited solely to same-sex couples.

But Dolce thinks that if you're gay, you're out of luck on the child front.

"I am gay, I cannot have a child," Dolce said. "I guess you cannot have everything in life."

Easy for you to say, mister, considering you probably want for very little.

Needless to say, Dolce and Gabbana's remarks didn't go over very well with gays rich enough to actually wear and buy Dolce & Gabbana. Like Elton John.

"How dare you refer to my beautiful children as 'synthetic,'" John posted on Instagram. "And shame on you for wagging your judgmental little fingers at IVF – a miracle that has allowed legions of loving people, both straight and gay, to fulfill their dream of having children. Your archaic thinking is out of step with the times, just like your fashions. I shall never wear Dolce and Gabbana ever again."

Oh, snap!

Dolce ended up blaming the whole thing on how he grew up.

"I'm Sicilian and I grew up in a traditional family, made up of a mother, a father and children," he said. "I am very well aware of the fact that there are other types of families and they are as legitimate as the one I've known. But in my personal experience, family had a different configuration. That is the place where I learnt the values of love and family."

Get it? Since Dolce's family looked a certain way, everybody's family has to look that way. Don't blame him, he's Sicilian!

And those other families, well, they're "as legitimate as the one I've known" except for that whole thing when you called their kids "synthetic." Your family apparently skipped that part when teaching you about "the values of love and family."

# Defining The Post-Marriage LGBT Equality Movement

BY TODD HEYWOOD

With the U.S. Supreme Court set to hear oral arguments on four marriage cases in April and issue a decision by the end of June, LGBT activists are beginning to forge a new agenda for the post marriage world.

Topping that agenda is countering so-called religious freedom bills, like Michigan is facing with Senate Bill 04.

"This didn't come out of nowhere," says Katherine Grainger, a principal at the Civitas Public Affairs Group. "Anytime a group is moving towards access to rights, the first move is to try to block it... when that doesn't work they move to Plan B – it violates my religion."

Grainger made her comments at the 2015 LGBT Media Journalists Convening held in Philadelphia last weekend. The convening is funded by the Evelyn and Walter J. Haas, Jr. Foundation and brings reporters, activists and others, including Between The Lines, together annually to discuss the state of the LGBT equality movement and national trends. The Haas Foundation paid all the expense for BTL's attendance.

In support of her conjecture that the religious exemption argument is not new in responding to rights movements in the U.S., Grainger noted that following the landmark Brown v. Board of Education case, southern states moved to create religious schools to circumvent desegregation. Within the first year of desegregation in Holmes County, Mississippi, she said the number of white students enrolled in public education dropped from 771 to 28 students. The following year, no white students were enrolled in public education.

Adding to the growing cloud of religious freedom laws is the control of hospitals by the Catholic Church, she said. Right now, one in six hospital patients in the U.S. is attended by a Catholic hospital medical service. The church has been a vocal opponent of same-sex marriage, as well as condoms. The church is also an opponent to abortion.

In fact, in December 2013, a Muskegon woman

**The issue of excluding protections for LGBT people based on a person's faith is part of a larger assault on progressive movements.**

sued the U.S. Conference of Bishops alleging their policy of opposition to abortion resulted in medical negligence in her pregnancy care. Tamesha Means, represented by the ACLU and the ACLU of Michigan, filed suit in federal court alleging that because of Catholic doctrine, she was sent home twice from Catholic hospitals in the county following an early commencement of birth. The fetus was only about four months gestation and had no chance of survival. Despite this, Means alleges in her lawsuit, doctors failed to inform her that an abortion was an option to address the issues. As a result she developed a serious infection.

The issue of excluding protections for LGBT people based on a person's faith is part of a larger assault on progressive movements, Grainger says.

"Whether it is on voter rights, LGBT, reproductive rights or anything to move the country forward in a progressive way, it is something they're interested in destroying," she says.

"There's a huge multi-billion dollar machine holding that all up," says Matt Foreman, of the Haas Foundation.

And intersectionality is a key issue, says Rev. William Barber. Barber is a minister in North Carolina and driving force behind that state's "Moral Monday" movement. It has resulted in hundreds of days of protests at the state capitol in that state, challenging many legislative actions targeting progressive growth. Barber was the keynote speaker at the conference.

"Extreme policies that roll-back human rights hurt us all," Barber says. He noted that Moral Monday had been successful in large part because the coalition of progressive groups involved saw an attack on one member as an attack on all members.

## Financial Workshop 'My Money, Our Family'

Same-sex marriage may soon become the law of the land, so couples now need to learn about the financial realities of marriage and plan accordingly. Marriage creates new pooled resources and obligations. Questions inevitably arise about insurance, investments, financial security for children and other dependents, home ownership, retirement, education costs and more.

Financial experts from Comerica Bank will present a half-hour workshop to address many of these questions and concerns as part of the Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo. Comerica's Wealth Management Team has assisted countless couples and families as they have planned their financial future

in ways that maximize their resources, mitigate tax consequences and protect assets. It is important for same-sex couples to understand the impact of their new legal partnership in order to provide financial and emotional security for themselves and their loved ones.

See page 19 for information on a pre-expo workshop that will cover the Michigan marriage case.

*The workshop "My Money, Our Family" will be from 1:15 to 1:45 p.m. at the Southfield Civic Pavilion. Come hear how to prepare financially for married life. Admission is free and open to everyone.*

# Affirmations' Black Tie Gala Debuts New Executive Director Darrious Hilmon

Now in its 16th running, Affirmations will hosts its annual spring bash this year under the theme "Enchanted – a celebration of new beginnings and the promise of wonderful things to come."



Darrious Hilmon

One of those "wonderful things" is the premier of Affirmations' new Executive Director, Darrious D. Hilmon. A Detroit native and graduate of the University of Michigan,

Hilmon is also an Essence best-selling author and joins Affirmations as the next step in a celebrated nonprofit management career, most recently as the Chief Development Officer for the Chicago Urban League.

"I am awed by the passion and commitment of Affirmations' Board, staff and volunteers," said Hilmon. "The opportunity to help lead this incredible organization into its next chapter of service to metro Detroit's LGBTQ community is beyond exciting."

The event is being held this year at the Fillmore in downtown Detroit on Saturday, April 11. The creative black tie gala includes a gourmet meal, open bar, valet parking and entertainment during both the cocktail hour

and following the evening's program. A live and silent auction are also featured and new this year is the Afterglow after-party which provides a less expensive ticket option for young professionals and other community members. Other highlights include aerial performers, a Wine & Dine Raffle and a potential special appearance by a new model GM vehicle.

During the VIP hour that precedes the main event, awards are presented in three categories to members of the community that have played a part in creating more equal tomorrows for the LGBTQ community. This year's awardees include Mark Blanke, CFO of Delfingen Corporation, who is being recognized for his longstanding service to Affirmations as this year's Jan Stevenson Awardee. Also being recognized as the Lorna Utley Ally Awardee, Attorney Ken Mogill, who will be celebrated for his work on the DeBoer/Rowse legal team whose case is currently before the Supreme Court. Lastly, in a long overdue celebration of thanks, philanthropists Allan Gilmour & Eric Jirgens are being awarded the Chuck Moyer Philanthropy Award for all they have done and continue to do for Affirmations and the global LGBTQ community.

*Tickets for the fundraiser can be purchased at [www.GoAffirmations.org](http://www.GoAffirmations.org) or by calling 248-398-7105. Sponsorships inquiries may be directed to Angela Gabridge, Director of Development at: [agabridge@goaffirmations.org](mailto:agabridge@goaffirmations.org).*

## Music And Limber Legs For An LGBT Cause

BY BTL STAFF

In order to support the National Marriage Challenge, Ann Arbor's Necto will be hosting a variety show and fundraising event, "S.C.O.T.U.S or BUST!" presented by the Jim Toy Community Center and other community members.

The March 27 event will feature a VIP Happy Hour attended by special guests, Jayne Rowse and Aprile DeBoer, as well as local political officials and community members close to the cause of same-sex marriage equality. Hor d'oeuvres will be provided, and VIP guests will have early access to a silent auction.

The variety show will feature Michigan talent: The Understorey, Kate Peterson (of Nervous but Excited), Tyler Duncan (Ella Riot, Michelle Chamuel, s/he), Sam Slottow (Western Michigan University student songwriter) and the premier of Chris Good & The Sweet Insurrection's new music video,

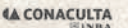
"Beautiful." In addition to these musical acts, burlesque, dance, drag and other performances will be presented. Maxi Chanel, Luna Legare of Tickled Fancy, A-Train and Freddie Cougar of Drag King Rebellion and Thrustin Beiber are other featured performers.

Mary Larkin, Eastern Michigan University's LGBTRC Program Coordinator, will emcee.

The special event will run from 5-9:45 p.m. on Friday, March 27 at Necto Nightclub, 516 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Tickets range from \$10-20 and can be purchased in advance at [necto.com](http://necto.com) or at the door. Eighteen and over are welcome. Necto's "Pride Friday" will follow the event; eventgoers are invited to stay and dance for free.

*More information about the event can be found on Facebook at <http://bit.ly/SCOTUSorburst>. Please use #SCOTUSorburst for tagging. Direct donations can be made at <http://bit.ly/1C9LY3c>.*

The exhibition has been organized by the Detroit Institute of Arts. Generous support for the exhibition has been provided by Bank of America. Additional support has been provided by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Henry and Mary Ellen Bellajmey Family Foundation. Above: *Untitled (Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera, Mexico City), 1933; Martin Munkácsi, Hungarian. ©The Estate of Martin Munkácsi, Courtesy Howard Greenberg Gallery, NY and International Center of Photography ©2014 Frida Kahlo Corporation. All rights reserved.*



COMPLERA is a prescription medicine for adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before and who have no more than 100,000 copies/mL of virus in their blood. COMPLERA can also replace current HIV-1 medicines for some adults who have an undetectable viral load (less than 50 copies/mL) and whose healthcare provider determines that they meet certain other requirements. COMPLERA combines 3 medicines into 1 pill to be taken once a day with food. COMPLERA should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.

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Pill shown is not actual size.



## COMPLERA does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS.

To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses you must keep taking COMPLERA. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

It is not known if COMPLERA is safe and effective in children under 18 years old.

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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

#### COMPLERA can cause serious side effects:

- **Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis)**, which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include feeling very weak or tired, unusual (not normal) muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold especially in your arms and legs, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Serious liver problems.** The liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and fatty (steatosis). Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice), dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored bowel movements (stools), loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach pain.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking COMPLERA for a long time. In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you also have HBV and stop taking COMPLERA, your hepatitis may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking COMPLERA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health. COMPLERA is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

### Who should not take COMPLERA?

#### Do not take COMPLERA if you:

- **Take a medicine that contains:** adefovir (Hepsera), lamivudine (Epivir-HBV), carbamazepine (Carbatrol, Equetro, Tegretol, Tegretol-XR, Teril, Epitol), oxcarbazepine (Trileptal), phenobarbital (Luminal), phenytoin (Dilantin, Dilantin-125, Phenytek), rifampin (Rifater, Rifamate, Rimactane, Rifadin), rifapentine (Priftin), dextansoprazole (Dexilant), esomeprazole (Nexium, Vimovo), lansoprazole (Prevacid), omeprazole (Prilosec, Zegerid), pantoprazole sodium (Protonix), rabeprazole (Aciphex), more than 1 dose of the steroid medicine dexamethasone or dexamethasone sodium phosphate, or the herbal supplement St. John’s wort.
- **Take any other medicines to treat HIV-1 infection**, unless recommended by your healthcare provider.

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

#### Serious side effects of COMPLERA may also include:

- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood tests to check your kidneys before starting treatment with COMPLERA. If you have had kidney problems, or take other medicines that may cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider may also check your kidneys during treatment with COMPLERA.
- **Depression or mood changes.** Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms: feeling sad or hopeless, feeling anxious or restless, have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself.

- **Changes in liver enzymes:** People who have had hepatitis B or C, or who have had changes in their liver function tests in the past may have an increased risk for liver problems while taking COMPLERA. Some people without prior liver disease may also be at risk. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your liver enzymes before and during treatment with COMPLERA.
- **Bone problems**, including bone pain or bones getting soft or thin, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV-1 medicines.
- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking COMPLERA.

The most common side effects of COMPLERA include trouble sleeping (insomnia), abnormal dreams, headache, dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, rash, tiredness, and depression. Other common side effects include vomiting, stomach pain or discomfort, skin discoloration (small spots or freckles), and pain. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

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

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or had any kidney, mental health, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- **All the medicines you take**, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. COMPLERA may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how COMPLERA works. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Do not start any new medicines while taking COMPLERA without first talking with your healthcare provider.
- **If you take rifabutin (Mycobutin).** Talk to your healthcare provider about the right amount of rilpivirine (Edurant) you should take.
- **If you take antacids.** Take antacids at least 2 hours before or at least 4 hours after you take COMPLERA.
- **If you take stomach acid blockers.** Take acid blockers at least 12 hours before or at least 4 hours after you take COMPLERA. Ask your healthcare provider if your acid blocker is okay to take, as some acid blockers should never be taken with COMPLERA.
- **If you are pregnant** or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if COMPLERA can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking COMPLERA.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk. Also, some medicines in COMPLERA can pass into breast milk, and it is not known if this can harm the baby.

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

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



**COMPLERA**<sup>®</sup>

emtricitabine 200mg/rilpivirine 25mg/  
tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300mg tablets



## Brief Summary of full Prescribing Information

### COMPLERA® (kom-PLĒH-rah)

(emtricitabine 200 mg, rilpivirine 25 mg, tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg) tablets

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

#### What is COMPLERA?

- **COMPLERA** is a prescription medicine used as a complete HIV-1 treatment in one pill a day. COMPLERA is for adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before and who have no more than 100,000 copies/mL of virus in their blood (this is called ‘viral load’). Complera can also replace current HIV-1 medicines for some adults who have an undetectable viral load (less than 50 copies/mL) and whose healthcare provider determines that they meet certain other requirements.
- COMPLERA is a complete regimen and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines. HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS. When used properly, COMPLERA may reduce the amount of HIV-1 virus in your blood and increase the amount of CD4 T-cells, which may help improve your immune system. This may reduce your risk of death or getting infections that can happen when your immune system is weak.
- **COMPLERA does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** You must stay on continuous HIV-1 therapy to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.
- **Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.** Do not share or reuse needles, injection equipment, or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them. Do not have sex without protection. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

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

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

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

- **Worsening of Hepatitis B infection.** If you have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and take COMPLERA, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking COMPLERA. A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before. COMPLERA is not approved for the treatment of HBV, so you must discuss your HBV with your healthcare provider.

- Do not run out of COMPLERA. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your COMPLERA is all gone.
- Do not stop taking COMPLERA without first talking to your healthcare provider.
- If you stop taking COMPLERA, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking COMPLERA.

#### Who should not take COMPLERA?

##### Do not take COMPLERA if you also take any of the following medicines:

- **Medicines used for seizures:** carbamazepine (Carbatrol, Equetro, Tegretol, Tegretol-XR, Teril, Eptol); oxcarbazepine (Trileptal); phenobarbital (Luminal); phenytoin (Dilantin, Dilantin-125, Phenytek)
- **Medicines used for tuberculosis:** rifampin (Rifater, Rifamate, Rimactane, Rifadin); rifapentine (Priftin)
- **Certain medicines used to block stomach acid called proton pump inhibitors (PPIs):** dexlansoprazole (Dexilant); esomeprazole (Nexium, Vimovo); lansoprazole (Prevacid); omeprazole (Prilosec, Zegerid); pantoprazole sodium (Protonix); rabeprazole (Aciphex)
- **Certain steroid medicines:** More than 1 dose of dexamethasone or dexamethasone sodium phosphate
- **Certain herbal supplements:** St. John’s wort
- **Certain hepatitis medicines:** adefovir (Hepsera), lamivudine (Epivir-HBV)

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

- Other medicines that contain tenofovir (ATRIPLA, STRIBILD, TRUVADA, VIREAD)
- Other medicines that contain emtricitabine or lamivudine (ATRIPLA, Combivir, EMTRIVA, Epivir, Epzicom, STRIBILD, Trizivir, TRUVADA)
- rilpivirine (Edurant), unless you are taking rifabutin (Mycobutin)

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

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

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

- **See “What is the most important information I should know about COMPLERA?”**
- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before you start and while you are taking COMPLERA. If you have had kidney problems in the past or need to take another medicine that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider may need to do blood tests to check your kidneys during your treatment with COMPLERA.
- **Depression or mood changes. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms:**
  - feeling sad or hopeless
  - feeling anxious or restless
  - have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself
- **Change in liver enzymes.** People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus infection or who have certain liver enzyme changes may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening liver problems during treatment with COMPLERA. Liver problems can also happen during treatment with COMPLERA in people without a history of liver disease. Your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your liver enzymes before and during treatment with COMPLERA.

- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV-1 medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the main part of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effect of these conditions are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider if you start having any new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.

**The most common side effects of COMPLERA include:**

- Trouble sleeping (insomnia), abnormal dreams, headache, dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, rash, tiredness, depression

**Additional common side effects include:**

- Vomiting, stomach pain or discomfort, skin discoloration (small spots or freckles), pain

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

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

**What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking COMPLERA?**

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

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

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

- COMPLERA may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how COMPLERA works.
- If you take certain medicines with COMPLERA, the amount of COMPLERA in your body may be too low and it may not work to help control your HIV-1 infection. The HIV-1 virus in your body may become resistant to COMPLERA or other HIV-1 medicines that are like it.
- Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you take any of the following medicines:
  - Rifabutin (Mycobutin), a medicine to treat some bacterial infections. Talk to

your healthcare provider about the right amount of rilpivirine (Eduvant) you should take.

- Antacid medicines that contain aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate. Take antacids **at least 2 hours before or at least 4 hours after** you take COMPLERA.
- Certain medicines to block the acid in your stomach, including cimetidine (Tagamet), famotidine (Pepcid), nizatidine (Axid), or ranitidine hydrochloride (Zantac). Take the acid blocker **at least 12 hours before or at least 4 hours after** you take COMPLERA. Some acid blocking medicines should never be taken with COMPLERA (see “Who should not take COMPLERA?” for a list of these medicines).
- Medicines that can affect how your kidneys work, including acyclovir (Zovirax), cidofovir (Vistide), ganciclovir (Cytovene IV, Vitrasert), valganciclovir (Valtrex), and valganciclovir (Valcyte).
- clarithromycin (Biaxin)
- erythromycin (E-Mycin, Eryc, Ery-Tab, PCE, Pediazole, Ilosone)
- fluconazole (Diflucan)
- itraconazole (Sporanox)
- ketoconazole (Nizoral)
- methadone (Dolophine)
- posaconazole (Noxafil)
- telithromycin (Ketek)
- voriconazole (Vfend)

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

**How should I take COMPLERA?**

- Stay under the care of your healthcare provider during treatment with COMPLERA.
- Take COMPLERA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it.
- Always take COMPLERA with food. Taking COMPLERA with food is important to help get the right amount of medicine in your body. A protein drink is not a substitute for food. If your healthcare provider decides to stop COMPLERA and you are switched to new medicines to treat HIV-1 that includes rilpivirine tablets, the rilpivirine tablets should be taken only with a meal.

**Keep COMPLERA and all medicines out of reach of children.**

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

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# Our Apostle Of S-S Marriage



## Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Unions, weddings, ceremonies, celebrations uniting same-sex couples are not uncommon in the ancient world. Written records in Ancient Egypt, Babylonia, Persia, India, Greece, Rome tell of honored pairing of important, regal, occasionally commoner personages.

One well-known example of many – perhaps not the most auspicious – is Emperor Nero, who during his notorious 14-year reign was wed on three separate occasions to male paramours. (Rightwing gossip mongers take note: Caligula, another emperor, in a moment of demonic perversity, wed his horse.)

Same-sex sanctioned commitments continued unmolested until Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire. A variety of laws passed in the third and fourth centuries made homosexual acts illegal.

In spite of such prohibition there are instances of same-sex commitments among church clerics, priests, various order brethren during early and later centuries of growth of the expanding Christian Faith. (Whether such commitments were spiritual, celibate, rather than intimate, physical is conjecture, perhaps wishful thinking.)

Same-sex sanctioned commitments continued unmolested until Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire. A variety of laws passed in the third and fourth centuries made homosexual acts illegal.

In 1994, a book by College of William & Mary medieval philologist, John Eastburn Boswell, brought the topic of Church-sanctioned same-sex blessings or, possibly, marriages to the forefront for discussion among progressive theologians, laypersons and – gay damnation! – conservative theology detractors.

Boswell's groundbreaker is "The Marriage of Likeness: Same-Sex Unions in Pre-Modern Europe" (New York: Villard Press.) An earlier scholarly bombshell of his, "The Kindness of Strangers: Child Abandonment in Western Europe from Late Antiquity to the Renaissance," was published in 1988.

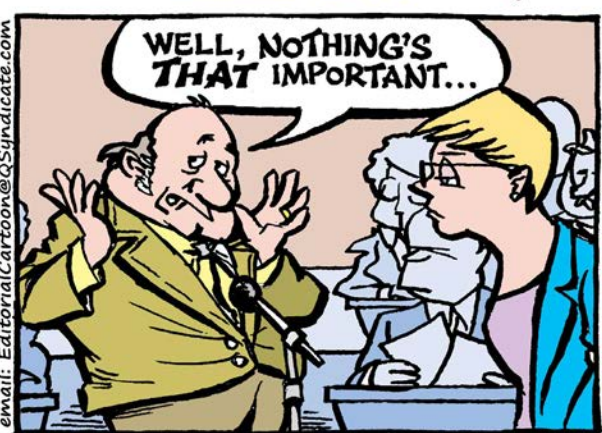
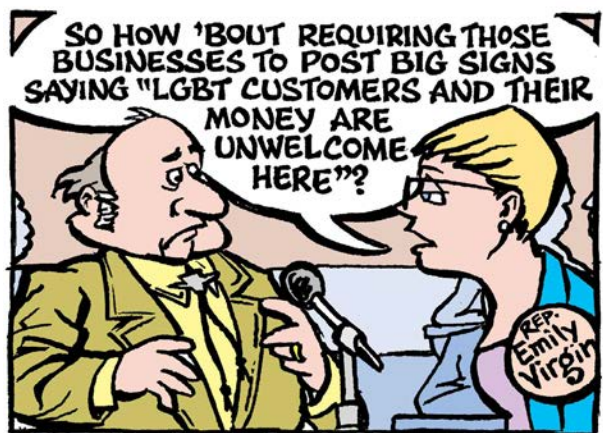
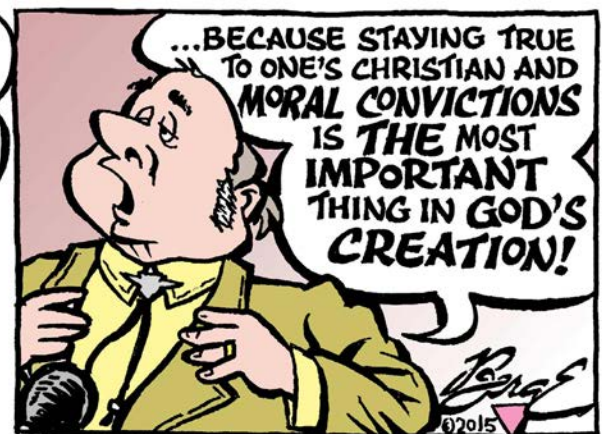
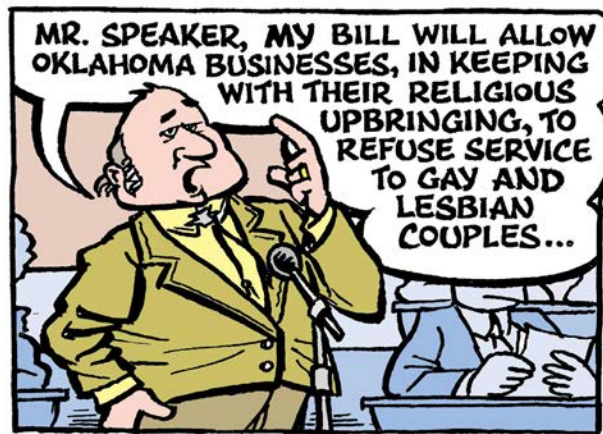
"Marriage of Likeness" focuses specifically on a little-known Church ritual of blessing for same-sex partners. The ritual is called adelphopoiesis, Greek for "the making of brothers."

Boswell does offer the observation that the ritual perhaps was not a carnal one. But, even so, the very idea of such sanctioned blessing is viewed as anathema among the devout, even to this day.

According to Boswell there was even one such mass "gay wedding" about 200 years ago in the Archbasilica of St. John Lateran, the cathedral seat of the Pope as Bishop of Rome. And, as Boswell reveals there is to be found an icon of two saints so pledged one to the other, Sergius and Bacchus, at St. Catherine's Church, on – are you ready? – Mount Sinai.

Scholarly detractors claim the Koine Greek ritual is nothing more than one of bonding, a glorified way of creating "blood brothers" (without, one supposes, the pin pricking of fingers, followed by the mingling of red-blooded essence, in a slightly S/M nuanced sharing of chaste intent. Oh, my.)

See Parting Glances, next page



# Marriage Equality And Judge Sutton's Hero Analysis



OPINION BY CHRISTINE A. YARED

In April 2015, the United States Supreme Court will hear oral arguments of an appeal of the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals decision in *DeBoer, et al.*, upholding the ban on same-sex marriage in Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee and Kentucky, the four states in the 6th Circuit. Sixth Circuit Court Judge Jeffrey Sutton, writing for the majority, explained the court's reasoning for ruling against marriage equality, stating:

"When the courts do not let people resolve new social issues like this one, they perpetuate the idea that the heroes in these change events are judges and lawyers. Better in this instance, we think, to allow change through customary political processes, in which the people, gay and straight alike, become the heroes of their own stories by meeting each other not as adversaries in a court system but as

fellow citizens seeking to resolve a new social issue in a fair minded way."

The court's job in this case was to decide a case about states' rights, which affected the legal rights and well-being of lesbian and gay families in four states. Instead, two federal judges placed the labeling of hero status as a more important legal consideration than the rights of these families and their children. The court's "hero" framework is condescending, misleading and an abrogation of judicial responsibility. It is not the job of a federal judge to be concerned with who might later be viewed as a hero in the underlying social issue, or to decide cases based on a desire to influence ultimate hero status.

Instead of contributing to the advancement of social justice, Judge Sutton used irrelevant, inaccurate hero and social change analysis to avoid addressing the lesbian and gay litigants' rights to equal protection and due process, while admonishing them to be thankful that the court was giving them additional time to engage in free speech with straight people and compete for hero status.

Dissenting Judge Martha Craig Daughtrey recognized this point, writing that Judge Sutton's majority opinion "would make an engrossing TED Talk or, possibly, an introductory lecture in Political Philosophy," noting that he treated the families as abstractions, and concluding that the opinion failed to grapple with the case's constitutional questions. The court's assertion that change occurs through "customary political processes... by meeting each other not as adversaries in a court system but as fellow citizens seeking to resolve a new social issue in a fair minded way" is not accurate.

It is difficult to think of a time

See Marriage Equality, next page

## ► Marriage Equality

Continued from p. 12

in our nation's history where "new social issues" such as desegregation in schools and public accommodations; voting rights for women and African-Americans; discrimination; sexual harassment; disability accommodations; the right of married and single people to use contraception; and other issues were resolved without litigation playing a significant role in the social change. The court's concern that a victory for the gay litigants would "perpetuate the idea that the heroes in these change events are judges and lawyers" implies that people are unable to identify their heroes and need the court's assistance in doing so.

People who have been oppressed by society because of their race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability or other condition are capable of distinguishing among the actual heroes of their movement; the people, including judges and politicians who did the right thing when given an opportunity; the judges and politicians who only took action when it was politically expedient and those who continue to fight against progress. Some federal judges have achieved the status of greatness because of the quality and significance of their work.

Chief Justice Earl Warren worked hard to convince his colleagues that a unanimous vote in *Brown v Board of Education* was in the best interest of our nation. His wisdom and action in this regard made him a great Chief Justice. Instead of contributing to the advancement of social justice, Judge Sutton used irrelevant, inaccurate hero and social change analysis to avoid addressing the lesbian and gay litigants' rights to equal protection and due process, while admonishing them to be thankful that the court was giving them additional time to engage in free speech with straight people and compete for hero status.

There is a saying among lawyers: When the facts are on your side, pound the facts; when the law is on your side, pound the law; when neither the facts nor law are on your side, pound the table. Judge Sutton's hero analysis sounded like a loud pound on the table.

*Christine A. Yared has a law practice in Grand Rapids specializing in family, employment and criminal law and civil rights issues. She also teaches Sexual Orientation and the Law, a course she developed in the 1990s at Grand Valley State University. She can be reached at [www.christineyared.com](http://www.christineyared.com) or [cayared@comcast.net](mailto:cayared@comcast.net).*

## ► Parting Glances

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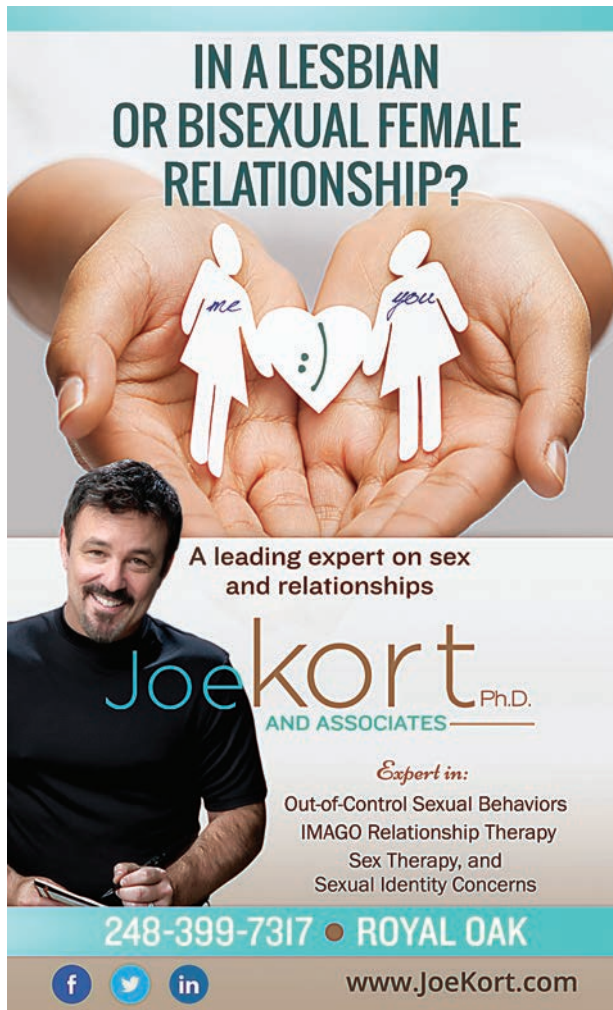
A typical criticism is offered by scholar James Brundage, professor of history and law at the University of Kansas: "The mainstream reaction is that Boswell raised some interesting questions, but hadn't proved his case." Or, did he?

If nothing else, however, Boswell's ground-breaking book is responsible for opening up discussion of a topic that is Federal Supreme Court knock about. Nine years after Boswell's brave scholarly notoriety for himself and the subject, Massachusetts became the first state to legalize same-sex marriages in 2003. (Denmark was the first country in 1989.)

Boswell died on Christmas Eve, 1994, from AIDS-related causes. He was 47. In 2006, he was honored with full online resources as an LGBT History Month Icon.

Perhaps he is our first modern-day Apostle of Same-Sex Marriages. (Sts. Sergius and Bacchus, be praised!)

*Charles@pridesource.com*



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# Marriage Timeline & DeBoer Case

## Jan. 23, 2012:

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

*At this time 6 states and the District of Columbia allow same-sex marriage.*

## Sept. 2012:

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

## March 2013:

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

## June 2013:

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

## Oct. 2013:

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

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

See Timeline page 16

Support The Legal Challenge

>> [www.NationalMarriageChallenge.com](http://www.NationalMarriageChallenge.com)

# Love Is Love: First Couples To Marry In The Mitten

BY AJ TRAGER AND BTL STAFF

One year ago, four out of 83 counties in the state opened up on a Saturday to issue 323 same-sex marriage licenses. That day, March 22, 2014, will be a historic anniversary in Michigan's history books, especially for the state's LGBT community.

April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse are two metro Detroit nurses who challenged the ban after they were denied the right to co-adopt their (now) four children on the grounds that they weren't married. Since the state barred them that civil right based on the 2004 voter approved Michigan Marriage Amendment, they decided, upon Judge Bernard Friedman's request, to broaden their lawsuit filed against Gov. Snyder to include same-sex marriage.

Then in March of 2014, Friedman announced his ruling in DeBoer v Snyder overturning the state's ban on same-sex marriage. At 5:02 p.m. on March 21, 2014, Oakland County Clerk Lisa Brown received her first phone call of many.

"I started crying, I was so happy! My phone didn't stop ringing, and there was this wonderful madness happening," Brown said. "It then came to the point of, 'What are we going to do?' It was 10:30 at night when we realized that we could open the office and that we could have the number of staff available in order to make it happen."

County Clerks Barb Byrum of Ingham county, Lawrence Kestenbaum of Washtenaw County, Nancy Waters of Muskegon County and Brown opened on an off-schedule day to issue same-sex marriage licenses, some of them doing so without any compensation.

"I couldn't sleep knowing that so many loving couples had to wait decades and I had to make them wait two more days," Byrum said. "Friends were texting throughout the night and around three in the morning I sent a text to all of my staff to see if they wanted to come to work."

By 6 a.m. Byrum's entire staff, save one person who had to attend a funeral, said they would come into the office.

Kestenbaum was closely following national same-sex marriage cases, especially the DeBoer case, and was on the phone nonstop once Friedman announced his ruling.

"I immediately got calls from people asking if I was going to open the office. There were some practical issues with having the building open and so forth. I was working on some of those things, and then the question became not will we be open, but how can we not be open?" Kestenbaum recounted.

Some leaders in the state anticipated the events of March 22. Michigan requires that all marriage licenses come from the state. Back in October of 2013 when it looked like Friedman was going to make an early decision



Oakland County Clerk notarizes one of the over 140 couples that she married March 22, 2014. BTL file photo: Andrew Potter

on the case, Kestenbaum, Brown and other county clerks consulted with the Bureau of Vital Statistics and had a committee work out a gender neutral form for counties to use. The PDF was sent out and was available so that no roadblocks for forms would be present when families were finally able to legally join.

## Ingham County - 7:45 A.M.

"I was at work and Glenna (DeJong) called me to let me know that Friedman had ruled and that the ban was unconstitutional. I was elated. We were waiting to see what was going to happen in terms of Barb's office," Marsha Caspar said. "We were waiting all night and kept looking at tweets and Ingham county's



Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum marrying a couple March 22, 2014.

website. I wanted the first opportunity."

Caspar and her wife Glenna DeJong have been together for decades and were the first couple to be legally married in Michigan. They arrived at the county clerk's office early so that they could make it to a baking class later that morning. They hadn't intended to be the first, but they jumped at the first opportunity they had.

"It was really exciting. After we got married, more and more couples kept coming in to get married," Caspar said. "Families were coming in with their kids with parents and friends. We hung around for awhile and were witnesses at a couple of them. We stayed until noon. It was just an exciting, fun day."

"As a county clerk I have the unique opportunity to issue licenses and perform marriages. It was amazing," Byrum said.

Byrum and her team issued a total of 57 same-sex marriage licenses that day. Two unidentified women passed out carnations. Marriage ceremonies were performed on all three floors of the courthouse by members of faith, the mayor and Byrum, who ended up performing a mass ceremony.

## Oakland County - 9 A.M.

Members of the LGBT community celebrated at many locations including Affirmations and /aut/Bar the evening of Friedman's decision. Frank Colasanti, Jr. and his husband James Ryder were sipping their cocktails with the Deboer family at /aut/Bar when Colasanti received a text that read "Open 9 a.m." He knew it was Brown. The pair arrived at the Oakland County Clerk's office at 6 a.m. the following morning after a quick power nap.

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“I Do!”



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## ► Marriage & DeBoer Timeline

Continued from p. 14

### Feb. 25, 2014:

A nine-day trial begins in Detroit.

### March 21, 2014:

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



April DeBoer with her partner Jayne Rowse after the historic decision March 21, 2014, when Federal Judge Bernard Friedman struck down Michigan's marriage ban.

### March 22, 2014:

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

### Oct. 6, 2014:

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

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

*As of March 4, **37** states and the District of Columbia now allow same-sex couples to marry.*

### Nov. 6, 2014:

The 6th Circuit ruling allows the same-sex marriage ban in Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee to continue. It stops a recent trend in the 4th, 7th, 9th and 10th Circuit Courts that declared marriage bans unconstitutional in the states under their jurisdiction.

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

## What happens now?

In January the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear the cases denied equality in Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee. Oral arguments are set for April 28 and a ruling from SCOTUS is expected by the end of June.

## ► Firsts

Continued from p. 14

"We were at the nine day court hearing. Whenever we saw Lisa we told her that we were going to be the first couple in Oakland county that she was going to marry," Colasonti said. "She'd laugh and say, 'You and a hundred other couples.' We got to know her."

It wasn't yet 9 a.m. when security escorted them to Brown's office where they officially signed their documents and became the first same-sex married couple in Oakland county. They stayed around for awhile to watch other people wed but said it was also heartbreaking because so many couples couldn't be shown on TV because of intolerance in their family or their work.

"We were both quite elated that, finally, the dream we had came true and we could marry our soul mates," Colasonti said. "We were thrilled."

Brown officiated over 80 marriages and her office issued 142 licenses, but only received 133 back.

"There were couples who have been together for 25 years and didn't know when they were going to be able to get married," Brown said. "And people weren't guaranteed to have their family and friends around them for the big day. Being in a room filled with so much love was overpowering. It will always be one of the best days of my life. I'm honored to be a part of it."

### Washtenaw County - 9 A.M.

Kestenbaum estimated that his office could process 60 licenses over the course of four hours; at the end of the day, they issued 75. He has been a longtime supporter of marriage equality and was waiting for the moment where he could act.

"Coming into office with that constitutional amendment over my head, I certainly didn't expect to play as big of a role as I did in bringing it about. I attended a speech by Mark Schauer last year. He was talking about the various issues, and he mentioned same-sex marriage and mentioned me. Obviously I had a role in it, but I'm merely a facilitator, not a main character. I am glad that I had a chance to help and encourage others to help," Kestenbaum said.

Elizabeth Patten and Jonnie Terry were together for 28 years before they were legally married. After receiving their marriage license, they were officiated by Judge Judy Levy, the first openly gay judge to serve on



Jonnie Terry (second from left) and Elizabeth Patten (fourth from left) with their family, were together for 28 years before they were legally married March 22, 2014. After receiving their marriage license, they were officiated by Judge Judy Levy, the first openly gay judge to serve on Michigan's Federal Bench. They attended the trial in Detroit and were the first couple married in Washtenaw County. BTL file photo: Adnrew Potter

Michigan's Federal Bench.

"We didn't know how much it would mean to us," Patten said, "to finally have that peace. We feel honored and lucky to be married that day. It doesn't go without notice that it's great for us, but everybody behind us is still fighting. We are fortunate, but the fight still continues."

"When it comes to the treatment of any minority group, leaders in the community set the tone for that. We have a group that is unpopular and leaders who express bigoted views who give permission for violence and things like that," Kestenbaum said. "Being an official, I take it very seriously that it is my way to promote tolerance, but it's not my job to sit back and be quiet – it's my job to promote tolerance in any way that I have."

### Muskegon County - 10 A.M.

Forty-eight same-sex couples legally married in Muskegon county between 10 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., many at Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Jere Clausen and Bruce Walters, together for 14 years at the time, became the first couple to be married. "I believe things happen for a reason," Clausen had said. "It's not a forced thing."

The church's part-time pastor, Bill Freeman, performed many of the ceremonies. He noted, "I think God looks down on this and smiles."

When county clerk Nancy Waters received notice of the stay, she unfortunately had to turn away a

couple yet to be married. Nonetheless, Waters stood behind the marriages performed on March 22 as legal. "Our policy is that these are all legal, and we're moving forward," she said. "I'm going to go exactly by the law."

According to mlive, Waters was quoted as feeling "good about the experience" at the time. "I know none of these people," she said. "This is the type of thing that you would never think would be pulled off with such short notice."

## The Future

Michigan may be forced to recognize the legal union of 323 same-sex couples, but marriages performed out of state are not currently acknowledged by the state government. Movement in the courts has placed Michigan and three other states before the Supreme Court in April to argue for the constitutionality of same-sex marriage and why out of state marriages should be recognized. A decision is expected in June.

"The work isn't done yet because there are a lot of other people besides the 300 who didn't get married," Ryder said. "In my mind it isn't done for us. Friedman is an amazing judge and needs to be given more credit than he has received. He took it to a level that the legal teams didn't anticipate. The ruling is so solid that its before the Supreme Court to be decided upon. He is a hero for us. He should be recognized as a hero in the Michigan LGBT movement."



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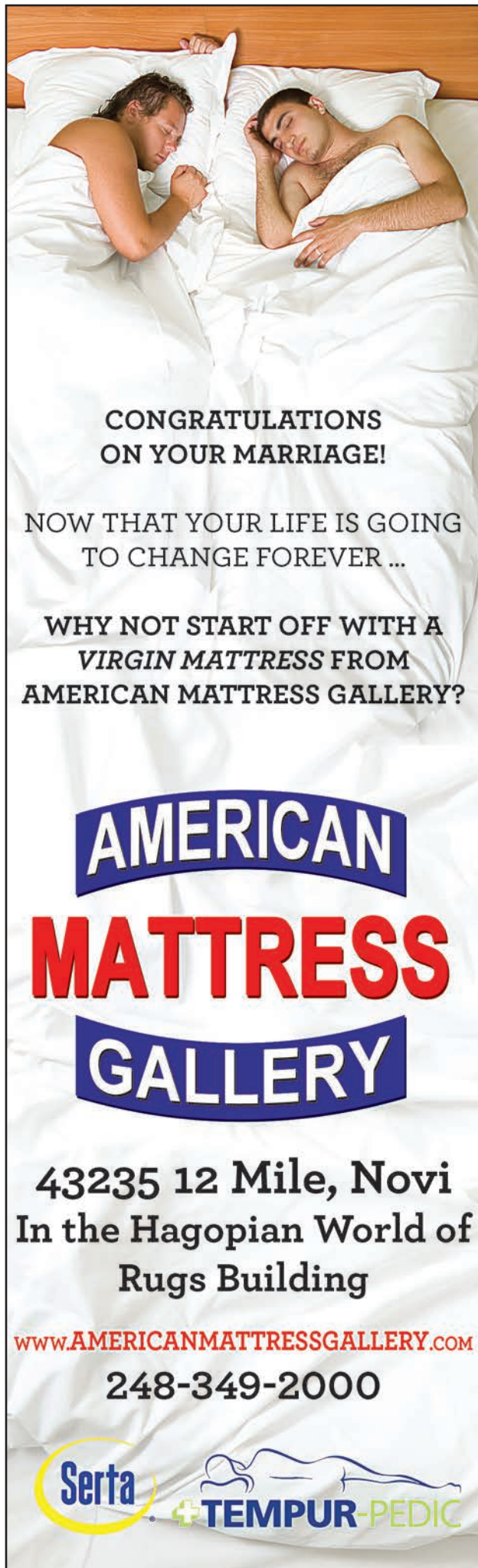
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# Meet Marriage Equality 'Poster Children'

## Couple Married At Oakland County Courthouse Reminisce About Viral Photo

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

It all happened in a rush. On March 21 of last year, a Friday, Circuit Court Judge Bernard A. Friedman ruled that Michigan's ban on same-sex marriage was unconstitutional. He declined, however, to issue a stay of his ruling pending appeal.

Following the ruling, four of Michigan's 83 county clerks announced they would open their offices on Saturday, March 22, to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette immediately filed an emergency motion with the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals requesting a stay of the ruling. Suddenly, the clock was ticking. Same-sex marriage was legal, but that status could change at any minute.

Realizing their window of opportunity might not remain open for long, Roland Smith and Paul Mattson of Farmington Hills, a couple who had been together for six years, sprang into action.

"Roland was actually in New Orleans at the time and that evening, when he got home, we talked about the possibility of getting married on Saturday," Mattson recalled. "We decided at first we were not going to get married. We were going to get the marriage license and get married later. But once we realized it might be such a short window, we decided to go through with it. We called our pastors on the way and said, 'Let's do it.'"

The couple first met at Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit, which is actually located in Ferndale. "It wasn't love at first sight," Mattson explained with a laugh. "But I think I can safely say that there was a mutual interest. We were both singing in the choir, and we went out a few times with the choir and kind of got to know each other that way. Then our first official date together was March 18 of 2008, and the rest is pretty much history."

Fast forward to 2014. Mattson and Smith were one of 323 couples who received marriage licenses on March 22

before the 6th Circuit issued an indefinite stay on Friedman's ruling later that same day. "When we called our ministers, we had originally intended for them to be there just for us," said Mattson. "But they ended up marrying over 30 couples that day from MCC-Detroit."

After the ceremony, life initially went on as normal for the couple. The two spent the evening of their wedding visiting Mattson's aunt in the hospital. Then, on Sunday, they went to church. "They had a nice little celebration that Sunday, a cake and some hor d'oeuvres," Smith said. Mattson and Smith thought

the marriage equality poster children."

Suddenly everyone knew that the couple had jumped the broom and the news spread far and wide. "We were flooded with phone calls, cards, well wishes and Facebook messages," said Mattson. "Being a social worker, I work with families. I don't hide my sexual orientation, but it's not something that's discussed on the job. So when the media got a hold of our story and it got put out there, I knew that some of my families would likely see it."

Mattson worried he might face a backlash, but that proved not to be the case. "I was amazed at the overwhelming positivity that was displayed toward me," he said. "There were no negative comments at all from any of the families that I worked with professionally."

Smith also received his fair share of well wishes on his job. "Going back to my job at the local courthouse, they were overwhelming supportive," he said. "They just kept calling me. They came down to my office. They were congratulatory. It opened the door on my job for me to speak to some of my co-workers about issues that they were having with some of their family members and loved ones."

Today, as their first anniversary approaches, Mattson and Smith look back at that photo and feel a multitude of emotions. "For me, the photo is a very personal thing," said Mattson. "It captures the feeling that permeated throughout the courthouse that day. There was so much joy. Even with

the county workers that were there to process all the paperwork, they were just so supportive and happy to be a part of history in the making. So not only did it capture the joy of us as a couple, but it also captured the joy of so many others, too."

Smith concurred. "There is just no way that I could possibly put into words the support and the elation that was felt that day at the Oakland County courthouse," he said. "It was like this is the way I envisioned the world to be... totally supportive."



While not the "famous photo" Paul Mattson and Roland Smith pose at the Oakland County Courthouse March 22, 2014. BTL photo: Andrew Potter

all the fuss was over. But then came the picture that changed it all.

The couple had been snapped by an Associated Press photographer outside the courthouse. And in no time at all, the photo had gone viral. "I don't know where it appeared first, but I know that it appeared everywhere from the Huffington Post to the Advocate and the Los Angeles Times," said Mattson.

"It was also shown on CNN and, locally, on WXYZ," added Smith. "It's been repeatedly used for the last year." Mattson went on. "It's almost like we're



### Erin Trame And Carrie Turner, Married In Washtenaw County

“My wife and I were one of the lucky couples to get married in Washtenaw County during the 4 hours it was legal.

“We got married last year for a variety of reasons: 1) we love each other; 2) we’ve been together for over 20 years and wanted our relationship to have the same recognition and rights as our married heterosexual counterparts; and, 3) we wanted to make a political statement that, despite the Republicans’ best efforts, we will not be denied our equal rights!

“Since Erin and I have been together so long, I didn’t really expect to feel different after we got married but in fact, I did. Marriage has such cultural significance in terms of commitment and celebration. I didn’t really appreciate what I had been missing until I became part of the club. When I was standing there, exchanging vows with Erin in front of friends and family and then filing our license with the clerk, it was such an incredibly profound and fulfilling event in our lives together that I never would have predicted the effect it had on us.”

“ I didn’t really appreciate what I had been missing until I became part of the club. ”

### Jill Calvin-Pimlott and Lori Pimlott-Calvin Married in Oakland county

“Marriage equality is important to us because it validates that our love is just as important and equal as our heterosexual counterparts. When we were able to marry on March 22, 2014, it was bittersweet. It was a great moment for us but also sad because not everyone, especially Jayne and April, was able to marry that day. We want to be able to celebrate love when every same-sex couple has the opportunity to marry.”

“ When we were able to marry on March 22, 2014, it was bittersweet. It was a great moment for us but also sad because not everyone, especially Jayne and April, was able to marry that day. ”



## Pre-Expo Workshop: ‘The Case, Its Impact, The Future’

Come hear one of the area’s most respected legal experts discuss the legal status of same-sex couples in Michigan, and how the current cases working through the courts will impact couples in Michigan and across the country. Robert A. Sedler, a distinguished professor at Wayne State University Law School, is also a valued consultant to the attorneys in the DeBoer v Snyder lawsuit. He has worked with them since the case was first filed three years ago and now as they prepare to go before the U.S. Supreme Court. He has extensive first-hand knowledge of the case and its ramifications.

Professor Sedler has litigated a large number of civil rights and civil liberties cases in Michigan, Kentucky and elsewhere, mostly as a volunteer lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union. Cases he has litigated in Michigan include the Dearborn Parks case, the racial discrimination in adoption and foster care case and a challenge to the suspicionless drug testing of welfare recipients. He served as a member of the Social Action Commission of the Union for Reform Judaism from 2003 to 2009 and is a member of its Amicus Brief Committee.

Professor Sedler was the chairperson

of the Michigan State Bar Constitutional Law Committee from 1981 to 1987 and of the Legal Education Committee from 1988 to 1994. In 2012, he was awarded the State Bar of Michigan John W. Reed Michigan Lawyer Legacy Award, which is presented periodically to an educator from a Michigan law school whose influence on lawyers has elevated the quality of legal practice in the state.


*The Pre-Expo Workshop “The Case, Its Impact, The Future” will be held from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at the Southfield Civic Pavilion. Admission is free.*

### Chelsie and Dana Plotner

“My name is Chelsie Plotner and my wife Dana and I had our wedding in Ann Arbor (not legally) on July 6, 2013. We actually went to city hall in October and anxiously awaited the decision which was not immediate; however, we received our number! We were lucky enough to be able to also come back for the small gap in March to legally get married!


“My wife has currently changed her name to Dana Plotner. Marriage equality is very important to us because we feel that all couples deserve the right to have their love legally recognized. With legal recognition couples could more easily share benefits like insurance, child guardianship and pensions. Recently we have brought a beautiful baby girl into the world and we would love nothing more than to be legally recognized as a family.”





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# Caspar Recap: Married Is Married

BY AJ TRAGER

“ We were the first ones to walk in. Barb Byrum started processing our license. When we were at the window and raised our right hand and took the oath we could hear behind us a bunch of clicks. We turned around and it was all the press. There were probably 15 people taking photos of us. They told us at that point that we were the first in the state of Michigan. We looked at each other and were in shock. They confirmed it. ”

– Marsha Caspar

“ At one point the celebration sunk in, but then when the stay happened we realized that we had become accidental activists and that we were going to be in the spotlight whether we wanted to or not. ”

– Glenna DeJong

In April 2014, the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan, on behalf of eight couples that were married on March 22, 2014 during the small window following the Friedman decision in *DeBoer v Snyder*, filed a lawsuit against the state. It argued that the couples are legally married and should be legally recognized in the state, entitled to all of the protections of marriage and that those protections cannot be taken away.

Arguments were heard before Federal Judge Mark A. Goldsmith of the Eastern District of Michigan on Aug. 21, 2014. Marsha Caspar and Glenna DeJong were the first couple married on March 22 in Ingham county a few minutes before 8 a.m.

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

“I got up early on Saturday like I normally do and checked my tablet and saw that Barb (Byrum) tweeted that she was going to be open,” DeJong said recounting that historic Saturday morning. “I woke Marsha up, and I’ve never seen her get up so quickly.”

Barb Byrum, the Ingham county clerk and former Michigan House Representative for the 67th District, was restless the night of Friedman’s decision, trying to find a way that she could open her doors.

“I didn’t know how I was going to open the office,” Byrum said. “I couldn’t sleep knowing that so many loving couples had to wait decades to get married and I had to make them wait two more days.”

She texted her staff to see who would want to come in on a Saturday and then went to social media sites, like Twitter and Facebook, to get the word out that she was going to open.

“My staff all knew that there were many people denied the right to marry the person they love; why would we



ACLU attorneys and plaintiffs in the Caspar v Snyder case in April 2014.

make them wait a couple more days? Mason is in the rural portion of the county, but we had hundreds of people here. There were so many couples. And my staff were amazing; we were slammed,” Byrum said.

DeJong said that the process of getting married was actually quite confusing. She and Caspar didn’t know the ceremony that was required or just how much paperwork needed to be filled out to complete the process.

“We walked up to the doors and saw a light on in the window. We were

**Barb Byrum, the Ingham county clerk and former Michigan House Representative for the 67th District, was restless the night of Friedman’s decision, trying to find a way that she could open her doors.**

the first ones to walk in. She started processing our license. When we were at the window and raised our right hand to take the oath, we could hear behind us a bunch of clicks. I turned around, and it was the press. There were probably 15 people taking photos of us. They told us at that point that we were the first in the state. We looked at each other and were in shock,” Caspar said.

“At one point the celebration sunk in, but then when the stay happened we realized that we had become accidental

activists and that we were going to be in the spotlight whether we wanted to or not,” DeJong added.

Mid-November of 2014, Gov. Snyder filed a brief requesting that the marriage licenses be voided due to the 6th Circuit ruling in *DeBoer v Snyder* earlier that month. However, Goldsmith ruled on Jan. 15 that Michigan must respect the marriages of the 323 same-sex couples that were legally married in the state.

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.”

Goldsmith issued a 21 day stay with his decision, allowing for the state to appeal, but Gov. Snyder never issued one. The legal unions of the 323 same-sex couples were to be recognized by the state and start receiving same-sex benefits beginning Feb. 6.

“I can’t wrap my head around hatred in the name of Christianity,” Byrum said. “There was no question in my mind that they (the marriage licences) were validly issued. I took an oath to uphold the constitution. It’s unfortunate the Michigan Attorney General had to waste so many tax payer dollars fighting marriage equality.”



Oakland County Clerk Lisa Brown signs the first marriage license issued in Oakland County to Frank Colasonti, Jr. and James B. Ryder March 22, 2014. Publishers of *Between The Lines* and friends of the couple, Susan Horowitz and Jan Stevenson signed as witnesses. Stevenson and Horowitz were married in Canada in 2005 and are hoping Michigan will finally recognize their marriage with the SCOTUS decision this June. BTL photo: Andrew Potter.

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# Rapid National Progress On Marriage Equality

BY AJ TRAGER

In the past year the United States has seen a large shift in marriage equality and the momentum isn't letting up – it's only getting stronger. This time last year 17 states had legalized same-sex marriage compared with 37 states today.

Nearly 40 marriage lawsuits were pending in the courts including Texas, Virginia and Idaho; marriage equality for Oklahoma and Nevada was just around the corner and Judge Bernard Friedman ruled in favor of April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse in *DeBoer v Snyder*, determining that Michigan's 2004 ban on same-sex marriage was unconstitutional. Public support for marriage equality has been on the rise at an almost unprecedented pace and national polls show that a solid majority of voters, roughly 63 percent as of February, now support the freedom to marry.

The country watched as states' bans dropped like flies as courts ruled in favor of marriage equality during 2014. The shift began with favorable federal court rulings in Oklahoma in January; Kentucky, Virginia and Texas followed in February; Michigan in March and Ohio in April; Arkansas, Idaho, Oregon and Pennsylvania in May; Wisconsin and Utah joined in June; Colorado, Florida, the 10th Circuit Court ruling for Oklahoma and the 4th Circuit Court ruling for Virginia in July; the 7th Circuit Court for Indiana and Wisconsin in September; the 9th Circuit Court ruling in October; and Mississippi and a District Court ruling for Arkansas in November. South Dakota and Alabama followed in January of 2015 and with Nebraska in March.

Today, 37 states and our nation's capital have marriage equality with nearly 72 percent of the U.S. population living in a state currently issuing marriage licenses for same-sex partners. Momentum for marriage equality has moved so



## SCOTUS TIMELINE

**Feb. 27:** Plaintiffs' briefs were due to the U.S. Supreme Court

**March 27:** Defendants' briefs are due to the U.S. Supreme Court

**April 17:** Final reply briefs are due to the U.S. Supreme Court

**April 28:** Oral argument scheduled for this day

**June 2015:** Expected ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court that most hope will bring marriage equality to all 50 states.

fast in the last 12 months that 43 rulings have been issued mostly in favor of marriage equality – a number that couldn't have been predicted when the United States Supreme Court ruled in *Windsor v United States*, which shot down portions of the Defense of Marriage Act, a decision which many believe sped marriage equality up nationwide.

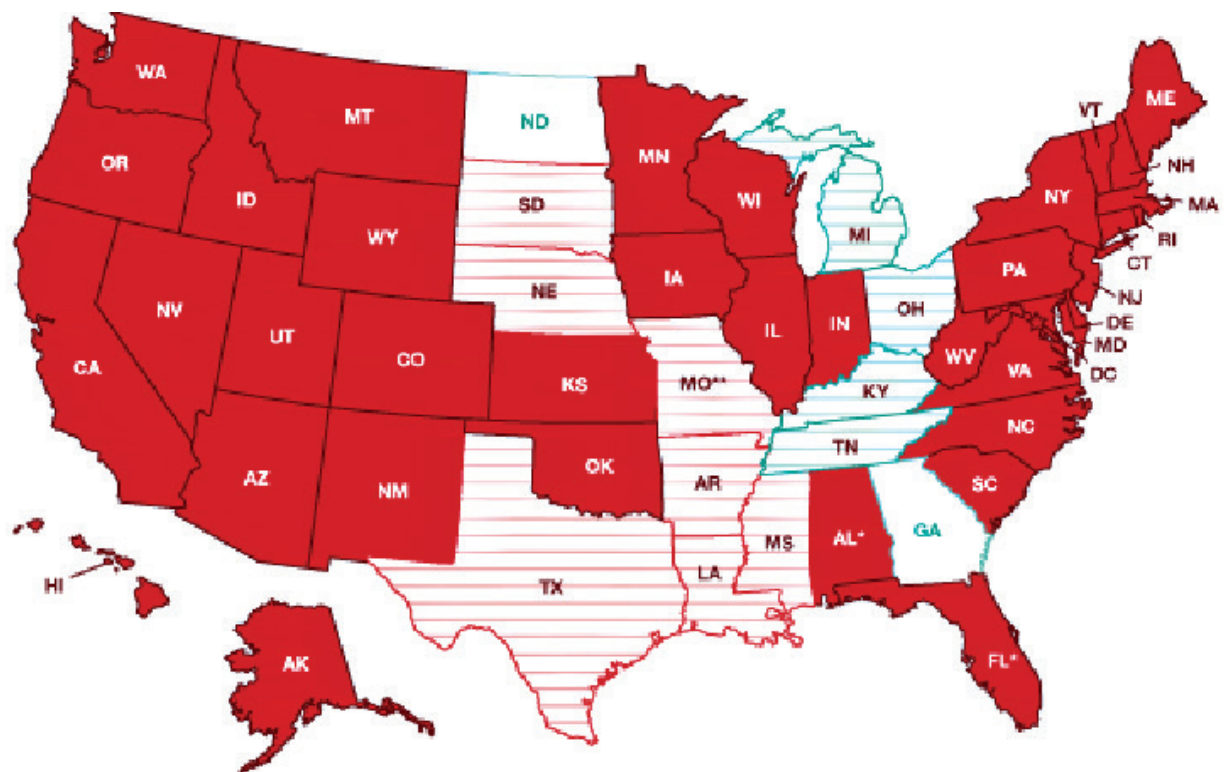
Legal teams from Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee will present oral arguments at Supreme Court on April 28. The number of amicus briefs filed to SCOTUS shows how much support there is behind the legal teams. Over 200 first responders, 2,000 faith leaders from all 50 states and 226 mayors from 40 cities gathered to sign the amicus brief compiled by Freedom To Marry through its Mayors for the Freedom to Marry campaign. Efforts by the Human Rights Campaign through the "People's Brief" gathered signatures by 207,551 individuals from across the country calling for marriage equality to be the law of the land. Michigan and Ohio Democratic parties, along with 156 elected officials, former

place holders and political organizations, filed a joint amicus brief in favor of same-sex marriages. Top names such as Coca-Cola Company, Goldman Sachs, Google and Morgan Stanley, Ben & Jerry's and sports teams such as the New England Patriots, the San Francisco Giants and the Tampa Bay Rays, were among the 379 companies in a business amicus brief.

March 21 marks the historic anniversary of Federal Judge Bernard Friedman's ruling in *DeBoer v Snyder* declaring Michigan's ban unconstitutional. In the wake of that decision, over 300 couples were married in Ingham, Muskegon, Oakland and Washtenaw counties before a stay was issued – a day that will be widely celebrated by the LGBT and ally communities around the state. In spite of the setback at the 6th Circuit in a Nov. 6, 2014 ruling, Michiganders are hopeful that the SCOTUS ruling will bring equality to all 50 states.

The ruling on the constitutionality of same-sex marriage is expected by the end June.

## Winning the Freedom to Marry: Progress In The States



- Freedom to Marry
- Pro-marriage court ruling; pending further action
- Marriage ban, lawsuit filed awaiting ruling
- Marriage case pending before the U.S. Supreme Court

Resource [www.freedomtomarry.org](http://www.freedomtomarry.org)  
Last updated 3/4/2015

\*In Florida, the freedom to marry is in effect statewide while an appeal is considered by the 11th Circuit. In Alabama, a federal court has affirmed the freedom to marry - and both the 11th Circuit and Supreme Court have declined to impose a stay, but the Alabama Supreme Court has interfered and couples are now seeking a class-action in federal court.

\*\* Respects marriages legally performed in other states.

# Gatherings To Celebrate One Year Anniversary Of Same-Sex Marriages

In honor of the one year anniversary of Judge Bernard Friedman's overturning of the Michigan same-sex marriage ban, various places throughout the state will host gatherings. This includes The BTL Ultimate LGBT Wedding and Anniversary Expo offering LGBTQ and allied couples the chance to find inclusive vendors for their weddings, anniversaries and other celebrations. The free expo will begin at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 21 at the Southfield Civic Pavilion, 26000 Evergreen Road. To pre-register, visit [www.BTLweddingexpo.com](http://www.BTLweddingexpo.com).

"As thousands wait in anticipation of the Supreme Court decision in June, this anniversary marks a special day for these couples and for the many who are fighting for the same basic right to marry and live as a family," said Regina Calcagno, Public Education Campaign Director, Michigan for Marriage.

The following March 22 events will be held to commemorate the more than 300 same-sex marriages that took place the day following Friedman's ruling:

## Ingham County

2-5 p.m.  
Midtown Brewing Company  
402 S. Washington Square  
Lansing

## Muskegon County

12:30-3:30 p.m.  
Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
1296 Montgomery Ave.  
Muskegon



Martin Contreras and Keith Orr, owners of \aut\ Bar in Ann Arbor, were married March 22, 2014. One of the anniversary parties taking place Sunday will be held at \aut\ Bar.

## Oakland County

2-5 p.m.  
Affirmations Community Center  
290 W. Nine Mile Road  
Ferndale

## Washtenaw County

2-5 p.m.  
Church of the Good Shepherd  
2145 Independence Boulevard  
Ann Arbor

6 p.m.  
Champagne toast at \aut\ Bar  
315 Braun Court  
Ann Arbor

## What Polls Are Showing

A February 2015 poll from CNN/ORC found that 63 percent of Americans believe that same-sex couples have a constitutional freedom to marry. The poll also showed that there is a majority support for marriage in every region of the country, as well as majority support in every age group (with 52 percent of Americans over the age of 65 saying they support marriage for same-sex couples and 70 percent of respondents under 50).

### Bipartisan Momentum:

A February 2014 poll from The Washington Post/ABC News shows that support for the freedom to marry crosses party lines, with 40 percent of Republicans

favoring marriage for same-sex couples, with 23 percent strongly supportive. A 2013 poll tracks support among Republicans and GOP-leaning Independents ages 18-49 at 52 percent.

### Coast-to-Coast Support:

The CNN/ORC poll also tracked unprecedented levels of support for marriage in every region of the country, with support at 67 percent in the West, 60 percent in the Midwest, 70 percent in the Northeast and a record 57 percent in the South.

**63 percent of Americans believe that same-sex couples have a constitutional freedom to marry.**

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Kevin Dombrow of Sheraton Detroit Novi. BTL Photo: Andrew Potter

# RISKY BUSINESS

## Even In 2015, LGBT People Are Being Denied Services – But Not By These Michigan Pro-Gay Brands

BY CHRISTOPHER TREACY

It's difficult to believe that anyone can afford to say no.

Our economy may be wobbling toward some semblance of stability, but the last eight years have been challenging for even the most savvy business people. And yet, that hasn't stopped some vendors from refusing to participate in the same-sex wedding industry.

On the eve of BTL's upcoming Ultimate Wedding & Anniversary Expo, not to mention the anticipated Supreme Court ruling this summer, we spoke with a trio of regional business people about incorporating same-sex weddings into their spectrum of services. But first, a quick recap...

As recently as earlier this month, an Ohio videography business made headlines by turning down a lesbian wedding. No particular reason was

given, just, "...Unfortunately at this time I do not offer services for same-sex weddings, but thank you for your inquiry!" As veiled business kiss-offs go, it's – friendly enough. But it's also a distressing sign that, despite high-profile debate and the onslaught of negative publicity that refusing wedding-related services to gays and lesbians can incur, some folks obviously feel very comfortable saying no. No explanation necessary.

Looking back to 2013, Washington state florist Barronelle Stutzman refused to design arrangements for the wedding of longtime customers Robert Ingersoll and Curt Freed. Stutzman told reporters that her decision was faith-based. Then, last year, the Indianapolis bakery 111 Cakery came under fire for refusing to prepare a wedding cake for a marrying gay couple. And most remember the case of New Mexico

photographer Elaine Huguenin, who also used a faith-based defense to decline working a same-sex wedding.

Two out of these three scenarios involved making a distinction that really stung: both Stutzman and 111 Cakery owners Randy and Trish McGrath had no problem taking money from LGBT customers on a regular basis, including those that inquired about wedding services. As casual, ongoing point-of-sale customers, both couples felt an intense sense of betrayal for that reason in particular, because they'd made the unfortunate assumption that they were frequenting LGBT-friendly businesses. And if you'd asked the owners, they probably would have told you they were gay-friendly – friendly enough to take your money, but not friendly enough to co-sign for "...a commitment to sin," which is how the McGrath's – a

devoted Baptist couple – phrased it.

It's a slippery slope. Faith and religion are ongoing, hot-button LGBT issues – and whether we like it or not, they have longstanding ties to the concept and process of marriage. It's almost too easy to label the actions of the above-mentioned business owners as hateful, and it all begs the question (laws aside for the moment): Do business and faith-based beliefs share any reasonable common ground?

For companies with an eye on the almighty prize, the answer is no – at least, not insofar as same-sex weddings are concerned.

Kevin Dombrow, 44, handles Business Transient sales and manages social media for the Sheraton Detroit Novi, the hotel that hosted an LGBT wedding expo. He's also half of one of the 323 couples married in Michigan during the original four-hour window last March.

"When we were trying to find vendors for (the Sheraton's) expo, many of the reactions we got were appalling," he said. "'Remove me from this list' and 'you people are disgusting' – just outrageous emails and phone calls. We tend to think they're going to have to get over it and do business with us, but look what happened in Utah. Social media makes it harder to get away with discriminatory behavior, though – you should be able to do whatever you want to do if you own the business, but there are swift consequences for every action."

Dombrow comes from an unusually sensitive position, having repeatedly suffered through discriminatory behavior from customs officers at the Canadian border not long ago. His patience was tested on numerous occasions

See Risky Business, page 26



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Beth Correa of Flagstar Bank. BTL Photo: Andrew Potter

### ► Risky Business

Continued from p. 24

while traveling to Windsor-Ontario where his husband – a native of Madrid, Spain – was able to achieve work status.

“They’d say, ‘What do you mean you’re married? Two men can’t be married!’ They inferred we’d been deceitful about our purposes. It was horrible.”

All the more reason that he’s proud to say that his company has a great plan ready for implementation when the Supreme Court ruling comes down, including a budget specifically for LGBT outreach.

Sheraton properties fall under the Starwood umbrella, which maintains a 100 percent score with the HRC nearly all across the board. On a business trip last fall, Dombrow learned that same-sex weddings account for 20 percent of business at the Sheraton Commander, located in Cambridge, Massachusetts’ Harvard Square.

“I doubt we’ll see numbers like that in Detroit, but to have over 200 couples come in for last year’s Expo when it’s not even legal yet is very promising,” he said. “This is definitely the premiere venue in SE Michigan for LGBT weddings.”

Flagstar Bank’s Beth Correa made it clear that her company is more than happy to help LGBT couples financially plan their lives, weddings included.

“Flagstar is headquartered in Michigan and it’s really important for us to provide banking services to the whole community, not just a part of it,” she said, during a three-way chat with the bank’s Corporate Communications Representative, Susan Ferguson.

Both Correa and Ferguson advised using caution with regard to wedding expenses, however, mainly because of the staggering debt that accumulates. They cited a home equity loan as a potential way for current homeowners to finance a big wedding, but would encourage renters who’ll be looking to buy a home after the wedding to concentrate

on the bigger picture. They also mentioned emerging new mortgage programs from FHA and Fannie Mae – signs of economic recovery – as incentives.

“Credit card debt can be so difficult to dig out of, because the rates are so high,” Correa said. “As a banker, I see how people become burdened with these things, so I’d say that if you’ve got your heart set on a really extravagant wedding, you should include your wedding day as part of a longer-term savings plan. It’s something you should save ahead for, because buying a home and planning for retirement are more important in the long run”

CNN Party Rental co-owner Roy Mason has a refreshingly straightforward take on the role his party rental operation plays in the various events for which it gets hired: “How can we help?”

“We like all customers,” said Mason, a happily married straight man with kids. “As long as we can help people, it doesn’t much matter what the event is: corporate lunch, graduation party, same-sex wedding, same-sex adoption party or baby shower... we just do whatever we can to be a quality rental experience.”

Perhaps folks thinking about starting a business that might get asked to participate in same-sex weddings should take a lesson from Mason, who sounds like he really understands his role in this unnecessarily complicated scenario.

“I try to represent with what makes sense from a business perspective, increases revenues and provides service to all communities,” he said. “I know there are others that don’t feel that way, but this is a tough business and we’ve been successful by sticking with an equal policy. I go from the perspective that everyone should have the right to marry if they feel that’s right for them – human to human. It’s a right to love... just be sure to celebrate with a lot of tent tables and linen!”

A woman with her hair styled up, wearing a white wedding dress with a beaded bodice and a full, ruffled skirt. She is holding a large bouquet of white flowers. The background is a dark, solid color.

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# Say 'I Do:' Support Equality At This Year's Wedding Expo

## Event To Showcase Vendors, Celebrate Same-Sex Marriage, Toast Court Decision

BY BTL STAFF

The 2015 Ultimate LGBT Wedding and Anniversary Expo March 21 at the Southfield Civic Pavilion comes at a historic crossroad. As we celebrate momentous progress for marriage equality, here in Michigan we watch and wait for a decision from the highest court that could grant full marriage rights to same-sex couples nationwide.

The anticipation is palpable. The U.S. Supreme Court appears poised to legalize same-sex marriage in the case that encompasses Michigan's DeBoer v Snyder lawsuit along with cases in Ohio, Tennessee and Kentucky. Their decision, expected this June, will determine the fate of millions of loving, same-sex couples. To help support that legal challenge, BTL is waiving the entrance fee to the expo and instead asking attendees to make a donation to the National Marriage Challenge, the group supporting the attorneys in the DeBoer case.

This year's expo falls exactly on the one year anniversary of U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman's sweeping decision declaring Michigan's marriage ban unconstitutional. On March 22, 2014, the day after he handed down his ruling, over 300 same-sex couples were legally married in four Michigan counties. The expo celebrates this historic occasion by throwing an Anniversary Party, complete with cake, singing and a toast to the same-sex couples now legally married in Michigan, those still waiting to marry or those waiting for their marriages to finally be recognized.

Sarah Warbelow, the Human Rights Campaign's legal director, said the Supreme Court, "has telegraphed there is virtually zero risk that they will issue an anti-equality ruling this summer." She added that couples in Michigan and the other 12 states where same-sex marriage is banned should "start



your wedding plans now."

The Fifth Annual Ultimate LGBT Wedding and Anniversary Expo is the perfect place to do just that on March 21! With over 100 vendors in every wedding category, couples can do one-stop shopping for everything they need. These are the companies that "get it" – that want the same-sex wedding industry to flourish in Michigan because it is the right

thing to do, and because it will have a profoundly positive effect on our state's economy.

"The businesses represented at the expo are affirmatively LGBT-friendly," said event organizer and BTL co-publisher Jan Stevenson. "No one has to worry about a negative reaction when they shop for wedding rings, or gowns and tuxes, and they don't have to wonder if the caterer is

homophobic. That negative stress is completely removed from the conversation at this expo."

The expo kicks off at 12:30 p.m. with a fully catered champagne brunch provided by Jeff Zak Catering in Plymouth. Barefoot Wine & Bubbly is providing the champagne for the mimosas – but don't dawdle. The brunch will serve the first 200 people to arrive, ending at 2 p.m.

**“The businesses represented at the Expo are affirmatively LGBT-friendly. No one has to worry about a negative reaction when they shop for wedding rings, or gowns and tuxes, and they don't have to wonder if the caterer is homophobic. That negative stress is completely removed from the conversation at this Expo.”**

- Event organizer and BTL co-publisher Jan Stevenson

**SATURDAY**

**BTL presents  
The Ultimate LGBT  
Wedding  
& Anniversary Expo**

The Expo is March 21. The Expo opens at 12:30 and runs to 4 p.m. A pre-Expo workshop from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. titled "The Case, Its Impact, The Future" is presented by Wayne State Law Professor Robert Sedler. Comerica Bank is presenting a workshop from 1:15 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. titled "My Family, Our Money."

>> [www.BTLWeddingExpo.com](http://www.BTLWeddingExpo.com).

Then, a Fashion Show at 2 p.m., with gowns from B. Ella Bridal in Plymouth and tuxedos and other formal wear from The Tux Shop in Birmingham. Modeling the beautiful clothes will be heroes and heroines of the movement including Oakland County Clerk Lisa Brown; State Reps. Kristy Pagan, Jeremy Moss and Jon Hoadley; political candidates Ken Siver and Brian Stone; and community activists Emily Dievendorf, Kevin Heard, Alicia Skillman, Tashi Acket, David Nelson, Austin Williams, Ramon Harris and Ethan Best. The models will be assisted by bridesmaids on skates: members of the Detroit Derby Girls roller derby team!

What's an anniversary party without a cake? Sweet Dreams Bakery is providing a delicious and fabulous Anniversary Cake to kick off the dance party at 3 p.m. Singers from Motif will "rev it up" while the Argentine Salsa Dancers give demonstrations and even a quick lesson for the adventurous and light-footed among us.

The expo is a great way to celebrate our victories, prepare for the next phase of the struggle and to thank the businesses that already support us by shopping for the perfect ring, venue, cake, limo service, flowers, invitations, gowns and tuxes, officiant or church, photographer, event planner, wedding band, honeymoon destination and more.

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April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse with their family. The DeBoer v Snyder case will be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court on April 28. A decision that will impact marriage equality for all 50 states is expected by the end of June.

This year BTL's 5th Annual Expo falls on the one year anniversary of the historic decision by Federal Judge Bernard Friedman which struck down the Michigan anti-gay marriage amendment, declaring it unconstitutional.

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Detroit Derby Girls for Fashion Show  
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Cocktails & Dreams for food service

# This Saturday, March 21

*Come Join In Celebrating The Historic One Year Anniversary When Michigan's Anti-Gay Marriage Ban Was Struck Down!*

## The Marriage Case, Its Impact, The Future 11 a.m. A Pre-Expo Presentation

Three years ago, April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse just wanted to co-adopt their three children. But since it is not legal for unmarried couples to co-adopt in Michigan, they sued the state. That simple case has now evolved into one of the biggest civil rights cases in American history, and certainly the one that is having the greatest impact on LGBT equality. Come learn about the case, the issues impacting marriage equality, what the impending decision from the U.S. Supreme Court really means for same-sex couples and what the future holds for our families, our work lives and our status as LGBT Americans.

**Professor Robert Sedler** is a leading expert on constitutional law and an engaging speaker. Sedler has litigated a large number of civil rights and civil liberties cases, mostly as a volunteer lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union. A distinguished professor at Wayne State University, Sedler has consulted with the attorneys in the DeBoer case and can explain what it all means when the U.S. Supreme Court decision comes down this June.

## Complimentary Champagne Brunch 12:30 - 2 p.m. Bon Appétit! Expo Opens

**Expo Gold Sponsor Jeff Zak Catering** is generously providing the first 200 people to enter the Expo with a complimentary brunch. Barefoot Wine & Bubbly is providing the champagne for the mimosas. Brunch will be served from 12:30 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. So don't dawdle – get to the Expo!

Jeff Zak Catering has two in house chefs, a floral designer, a fabulous wait staff and bartenders. They are able to do any size and type of event from formal events, such as weddings and rehearsal dinners, to more relaxed events as showers, birthday parties and holiday celebrations, to professional corporate luncheons and parties.

**Here's the Champagne Brunch menu from Jeff Zak Catering – yum!**

Breakfast Quesadillas  
Cherry Chocolate Bread Pudding  
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Healthful Protein Smoothie Shots  
Overnight Refrigerator Oatmeal Cups  
Dutch Butter Cake "Bites"  
Peanut Butter, Grape Jelly and White Chocolate Panini

**BTLWeddingExpo.com**

# What's Happening When

## Pre-Expo Presentation

**11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**  
**The Case, Its Impact, The Future**

Everything you ever wanted to know about marriage equality, the DeBoer v Snyder lawsuit, what the U.S. Supreme Court is up to now and how their decision will impact LGBT people this year and for decades to come.

Presented by Robert Sedler, Wayne State Distinguished Professor of Law.

**12:30 p.m. – 4 p.m. Expo Opens**  
**Over 100 Vendors On Hand!**

LBGTA friendly vendors will be available to help you with your event planning. A child play area is provided too!

**12:30 – 2 p.m. Champagne Brunch**

Catered by Jeff Zak catering of Plymouth MI, a delicious and complimentary brunch. Served to the first 200 people who arrive at the Expo.

**1:15 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. My Family, Our Money**

An enlightening workshop to help build and maintain your family's assets.

Presented by Wealth Management Professionals from Comerica Bank.

**2 p.m. – 3 p.m. The Fashion Show**

Celebrity models strut the runway in beautiful gowns from B. Ella Bridal in Plymouth and exquisite tuxedos from The Tux Shop in Birmingham. The Detroit Derby Girls, on skates, assist as bridesmaids!

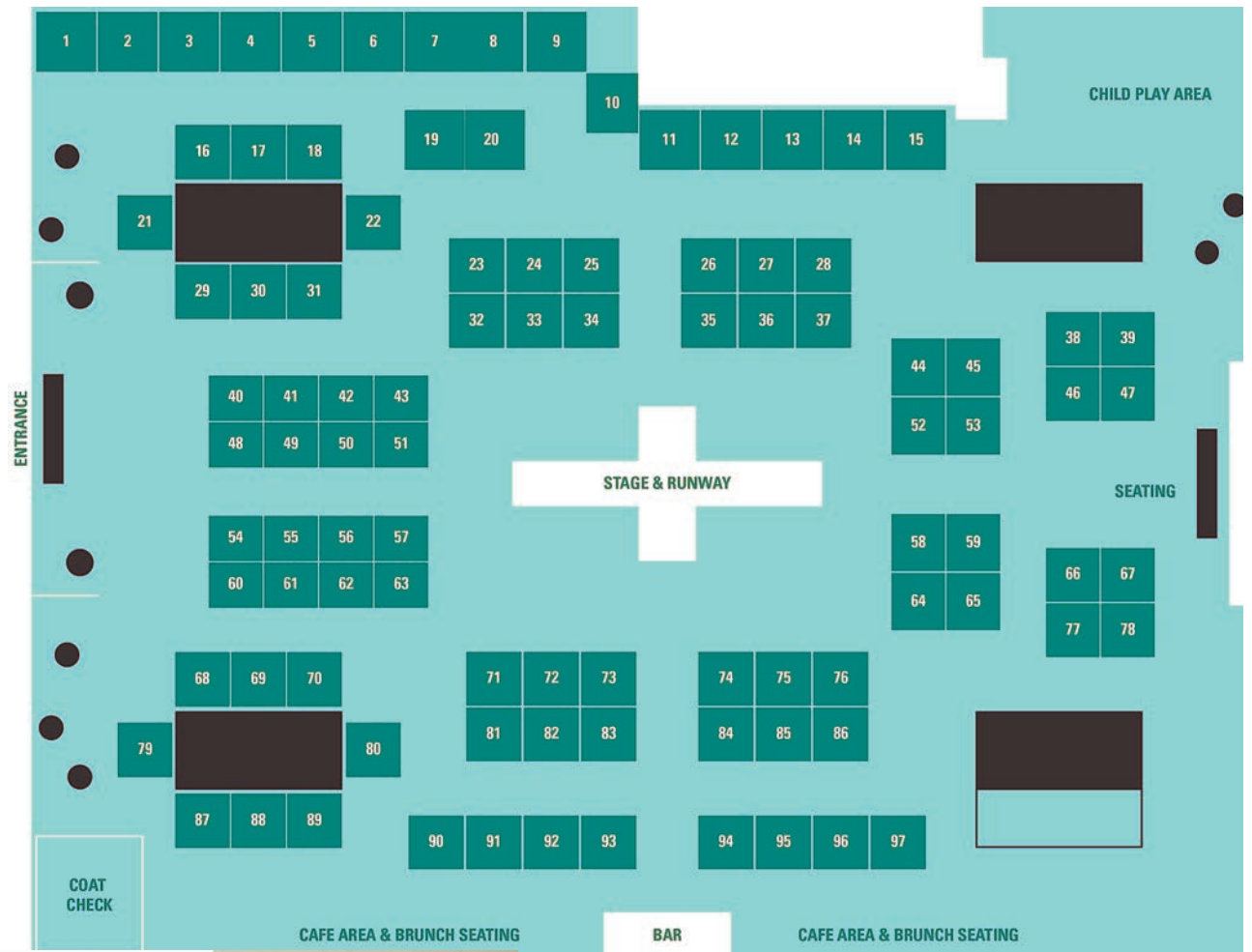
**3 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. The Anniversary Party**

Celebrate the one year anniversary of Judge Bernard Friedman's historic decision that declared Michigan's marriage ban to be unconstitutional. Over 300 same-sex couples were legally married in Michigan on March 22, 2014. Anniversary cake provided by Sweet Dreams Bakery. There will be singing and – of course – dancing!

**3 p.m. – 4 p.m. Salsa Dance Party**

The celebration revs up with the vivacious Motif singers and the salsa dancers of Argentine Tango Detroit.

## Southfield Civic Pavilion Floor Plan



One of this year's fashion models will be Oakland County Clerk Lisa Brown who married over 140 couples on March 22, 2014. The first couple she married was Frank Colasonti, Jr. and James B. Ryder. BTL file photo: Andrew Potter

## Motif Singers & Salsa Dancing 3 p.m.



Expo Dance Party 2013



Detroit Derby Girls will return as model escorts this year!

Plenty of free parking around and under the building.

## The Fashion Show 2 p.m.

**Expo Gold Sponsors B. Ella Bridal & The Tux Shop** in Birmingham are pulling out all the stops to present an edgy, exquisite and unexpected fashion show that is sure to delight and surprise. Skaters from the Detroit Derby Girls will be dressed as bridesmaids assisting the models as they negotiate the stage – on skates!

And as a nod to the challenging legal realities of LGBT life in Michigan, several political celebrities will model the fantastic gowns and tuxes. Modeling gowns will be Oakland County Clerk Lisa Brown, who opened her offices on Saturday, March 22, 2014 and married as many same-sex couples as she could before Attorney General Bill Schuette was able to get an emergency stay imposed. As a candidate last year for Lieutenant Governor, Brown was a vocal champion for marriage equality.

Last November we elected two openly gay men to the Michigan House of Representatives. Jon Hoadley and Jeremy Moss will both be modeling (gowns or tuxes??) as will State Rep. Kristy Pagan and Brian Stone, who is running next year for a seat in the House. Community activists Emily Dievendorf, Kevin Heard and Alicia Skillman will also be strutting the runway in formal attire.



Plenty of free parking around and under the building.  
(Register online or at the door)

# 2015 Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo Vendors

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**Michigan Humane Society**  
www.michiganhumane.org  
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**Vista Maria**  
313-271-3050

## ADULT NOVELTIES

**Pure Romance**  
pureromancebyjoannepierce@gmail.com

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248-380-2810

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www.jeffzakcatering.com  
734-459-7125

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## COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

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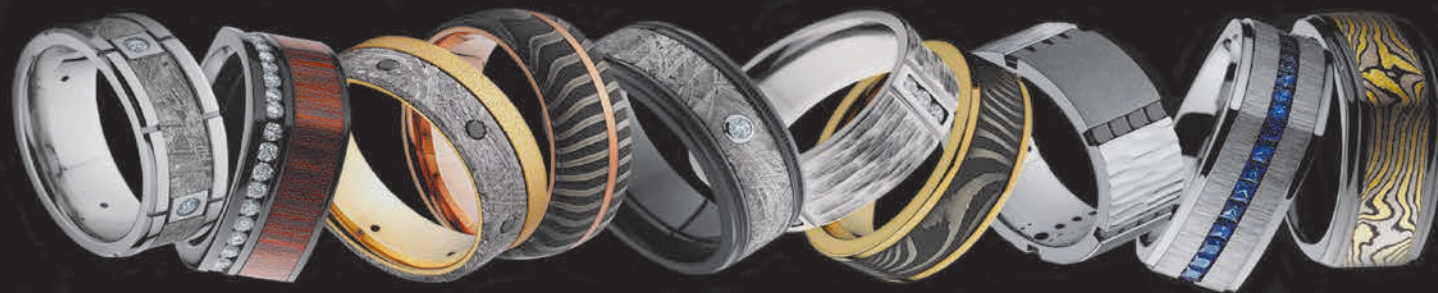
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# The 'Fairy Godmother' Of Weddings

BY AJ TRAGER

**PLYMOUTH** - Fifteen models will walk down the Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo runway March 21 donning elegant dresses paired with creative hair and make up, all thanks to longtime vendor B. Ella Bridal.

Brittany Blase comes from a background in sales and was in the design program during her time in art school. Blase spent a few years in Los Angeles training to be a voice actor; however, the pull of Michigan was too great. Shortly after returning to Michigan and with the help of her mother, Blase decided to start a family business dedicated to helping dress the women that walked through her door.

In the past, Blase has worked for David's Bridal, Demetrios and other couture style salons. In late 2003, she and her mother took ownership of a salon in Ann Arbor and turned it around in 2004. Two years later Blase opened a second location in Northville which was later consolidated with the Ann Arbor location in 2012 and moved to Plymouth.

"I wanted to go into costume design when I was in high school. My mom suggested that I try to sell dresses instead of designing things that people may want to buy so that I know what the public wants. And since I've always been in sales, it was a natural fit. Selling is faster paced and I can help more people. I can still do the creative process but in a more user friendly way for me," Blase said.



Brittany Blase, owner of B. Ella Bridal. BTL Photo: AJ Trager

The storefront of B. Ella Bridal is elegant with mannequins positioned to show off some stock. The racks are lined with hundreds of dresses of all colors, from traditional white with pearl rhinestones to other shades adorned with sequins.

Over the course of a year, Blase and her team dress more than 300 brides for their big day. With the average wedding's bridesmaids numbering between four and six, Blase has helped to fit thousands of women throughout the metro Detroit area.

"It's hard for us to know how many same-sex couples we've helped because I don't feel too many people announce it," Blase said.

In the past year she has fit three or four same-sex brides but expects that number to be much higher since.

"I'm for love, and in this country you should be able to do whatever it is that you want to do. It (same-sex marriage) is the modern civil rights," Blase discussed. "Closed-minded people offend me, so anything that I can do to open minds and facilitate comfortable

change – change to what is right – that's what I want to do. If you need a dress for a wedding or something, I can be your fairy godmother. I'm here for you."

Blase describes herself as empathetic to a fault and has been an ally to the LGBT community her entire life. She truly believes that any couple should be able to get married and exercise their civil rights in a way that they see fit.

"There is so much involvement in the community that people don't realize designers are usually

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gay men; they don't think about wedding planners or florists," Blase said. "And it's strange to think that it's okay for them to help out a heterosexual wedding, but it's not okay for them to have one themselves. It just doesn't seem right to me."

B. Ella Bridal has been a part of the LGBT Wedding Expo since its start five years ago.

"When we started, it was just a little event over at the Marriott in Livonia and we had a little table and we brought dresses and we dressed some ladies to walk around. Now that it is in an expanded venue, it feels like a much bigger show. It's been an opportunity to expand our business and to feel like you're doing some good. You feel like you're supporting an underdog. And it's such a fun show!"

Blase will do a runway show, similar to what they presented at last year's expo. This year's fashion show will include hair and make up provided by Blase's friend Mindi who owns Charmed Salon in Plymouth. Designs for the runway show will be simpatico, says Blase, who really enjoys the creativity and collaboration in joining her dresses with Mindi's salon experience. Blase says that Mindi is a problem solving



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hair dresser and she is a “problem solving dress sales person.”

“There is a far less serious vibe than there is in a traditional show. I feel like there is a little bit of a renegade aspect to it this year because of the political stance in the country right now,” she adds. “There is almost like a fun, punkier feeling about it this year.”

Blase has assisted with non-traditional themes, like Halloween-themed weddings and pagan weddings, and says pink is really popular right now. She thinks women are starting to get braver in their dress choices and believes that with the crash of the economy and the progression of gay marriages, that marriage is becoming even more personal for loving couples – moving away from the platinum wedding and the “Say Yes To The Dress” feel.

“I definitely have to get to know my customers, and my empathy to a fault definitely helps with that. I am not a high pressure sales person; I try to ascertain what your needs are, facilitate what your needs are

and make it easier for you,” Blase described. “I am honest and straight forward, and I will tell you if a dress is not good. As much as it is your decision, I will not let you leave in something that I would be embarrassed to say we put on your body.”

This year, Blase intends to showcase more “costumey” things than she did last year. The shop tends to have unusual items, according to Blase, sometimes having black colored dresses or dresses that come with a tulle cape. If a dress comes in blue, and Blase prefers it in that color, she’ll order it in blue instead of the more traditional white. She seeks out interesting looks to provide a diverse offering for brides-to-be.

“The fun part about the renegade aspect this year is, until it (same-sex marriage) is widely accepted, and someone slaps the tradition on it, same-sex weddings are whatever you want it to be. If you want to wear a green dress that makes you look like a mermaid, I’ll find you that dress!”



Oakland County Clerk Lisa Brown, who opened her offices on Saturday, March 22, 2014 and married as many same-sex couples as she could before Attorney General Bill Schuette was able to get an emergency stay imposed, being fitted for a gown to wear in the runway show. BTL Photo: Jan Stevenson



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# Planning, Catering And More

## Longtime BTL Expo Vendor Serves Up More Than Just Hors D'oeuvres

BY AJ TRAGER

**PLYMOUTH** – Jeff Zak has been in the food industry his whole life and spent many years working up the “food chain” before opening up his very own catering business called Jeff Zak Catering 16 years ago.

It started on “the right side of the tracks,” as Zak puts it, in downtown Plymouth vs the Old Village divide. Having moved from Forest Street to the main drag of Old Village, Zak works year-round providing butler passed appetizers, full plated dinners, contemporary family style meals and gourmet buffets. This year will be his third year at the LGBT Wedding Expo and Zak is very excited for what he has planned to showcase. This year he is expanding his role at the expo and is providing a fully catered champagne brunch.

Working as a full time caterer, Zak provides unique and dynamic meals for celebrating relationships, recent graduations, business meetings and many more types of venues and events. He takes his time to understand the desired look and feel of the event through the eyes of the planner and the host.

Zak’s early culinary career began with working in fast food, as a dish boy, as a



Jeff Zak. BTL Photo: AJ Trager

line cook in a family restaurant and then in catering jobs.

“It’s fun and really exciting,” Zak said about being a full time chef. “It’s not a drudgery job. In the 80s, when I would work a party, I felt like the kitchen dish slob. And now I get to be a peacock. I like the creativity

of it and how my work changes.”

Zak cannot get enough of food. That is to say, that after spending all day preparing and organizing a kitchen, he returns home and watches cooking shows from PBS and the Food Network, constantly seeking out new and exciting dishes.

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It takes around two hours for Zak and his team to prepare the dishes and pack them up for transportation. But when they arrive at the event location, Zak and his team immediately go about integrating their part of the celebration.

“There are so many variables to choose from plastics for cake and china for the rest. And where the event is located, and how much does the client want to do for preparation? How much do they want my staff to set up in addition to food?” Zak explains.

Every event is guaranteed to have the Jeff Zak Catering touch. Zak prefers to meet the hosts of an event and get a feel of their likes and dislikes. He says that bigger events involve a lot of negotiating, but that’s what he likes to do – he likes to plan.

“I usually have people leaving here with their heads about to burst, because they

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“It’s not a drudgery job. In the 80s, when I would work a party, I felt like the kitchen dish slob. And now I get to be a peacock. I like the creativity of it and how my work changes.”

– Jeff Zak

thought they could come in and get a quick price, and I end up unloading with questions about layout and blocking of the event,” Zak said. “Are they going to go right from the ceremony to cocktails; are they going to have pictures? I do wedding planning stuff along with catering.”

He has contacts for rentals, flowers and beverages and is even able to make these cheaper. Zak will provide suggestions on layout and table covers so that the look and feel of the event matches the intention of the organizer.

During a recent interview with BTL, Zak recounted a story where he and his crew worked a wedding and upon arriving found out that the linens were not placed on the tables and the dining chairs. They had to work extra diligently to maintain time structure and have everything prepared for the start of the event.

In order to avoid that type of setback for his crew, Zak discusses the intimate details of his food experience and what his vision of the room looks like. Big events, like theater or expos, are all about collaborating with other members of the design team.

Zak would like to expand his business and eventually own a space like the old Plymouth Market. One part of the space would have a New York loft feel and would be a blank canvas, another would be set up like a cooking class with layer seating, a third would include a more bridal shower-esque layout and the final room would be a tall counter with stools to be used as a space for wine tastings or bachelorette parties.

“I like things to be perfect for someone,” Zak said. “I guess I really like the whole experience of my part to come from the heart. I want it to be ‘so good.’”

For The Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo on March 21, Zak will provide a all the food for a Gourmet Champagne Brunch to the first 200 people who arrive at the expo. Those lucky 200 will have a chance to sample healthful protein smoothie shots, overnight refrigerator oatmeal cups, Dutch butter cake bites and much more.



Jeff Zak Catering chefs. BTL Photo: AJ Trager



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# You're Cordially Invited: How To Be A (Gay) Wedding Guest

BY ED ENGLISH

Mazel tov! Two kindred gays have decided to make it official and get married (as married as they can get in the state of Michigan), and you've been invited to see their love's freak flag fly.

In the gay world, coming to the ceremony is considered the ultimate cosign of a relationship and union. And the invitation arrives with as much pretext as a subpoena – be there or you don't support us and we can no longer be brunch buddies.

Not to mention every special day has its own special guidelines. Want to make it through a big gay day alive? Here are six essential steps for doing just that.

## What to give

On the spectrum of wedding gift ideas, "thoughtful" is the worst. Don't waste your time



digging up old mementos. The newlyweds are trying to start a home, not a trash fire.

It's my firm belief that the delivery and style of the invitation should dictate the grandiose of the gift.

If the wedding invite arrives by way of horse and carriage with trumpets and doves then you know you can't afford to be friends with the couple anymore. If it's your standard card with

ribbon, a trip to Williams-Sonoma will do. If you get a verbal invite, give them money – they're obviously trying to save money. If you received one of those shitty off-the-cuff invites

to their wedding by way of Facebook event, send them one of those equally shitty Facebook gifts. See how they like it!

## What to wear

If there's anything I've learned from the pain and punishment of wedding ceremonies, it's that the term "bridezilla" transcends gender. And even more so, if it's a union between two gay men, the last thing you want to do as a guest is piss off the two queens.

Your outfit should be the perfect blend of flash and fun – a rainbow cufflink here, some colorful pinstripes there. Avoid looking like you're paying tribute to the leather bar where the groom and groom met.

And if you have a real diva of a bride or bridegroom on your hands, any outfit that draws attention is simply just a bad idea. Like handling a T-Rex, keep movements to a minimum and just blend.

Sure, weddings have come a long way since the traditional stuffy walk down the aisle. In fact, same-sex weddings are considered "untraditional" – just ask the state of Michigan. Still, breaking away from tradition can be fun. As a guest, you should do it without flash.

## Who to bring

Bringing a close friend as your wedding date is a guaranteed way to have a good time. Friends are safe and predictable. They also help you avoid any awkward questions about your real relationship, (such as why haven't you proposed!).

The last thing you want to do at a wedding is to get to know your date. Maybe you've known them for a week, or since last night! Regardless, the absolute last thing a couple wants to do on their wedding day is be introduced to your latest hookup. If this is often your case, let your hookup sleep in and attend the wedding stag. Besides, weddings are the best place to meet more people.

## Where to sit

I once found myself at a reception table where all the place cards read "guests." I didn't know anyone at my table except my date and the banquet server who was taking a break to eat. By the end of the night, I was calling the table the island of misfits.

Learn from my mistakes and RSVP as early as possible. Let the wedding party know

See *Wedding Guests*, page 44

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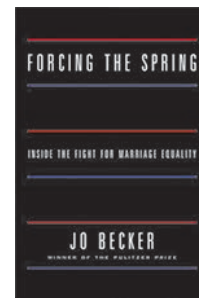
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# Here Come The Books

## The Ins And Outs Of LGBT Wedding & Marriage

BY KEITH ORR

In the not-too-distant past, all that spring weddings signified for the LGBT community were jobs: musicians, florists, bakers, caterers. But now, in 37 states, we're finally getting married. To plan for the occasion, or just to learn more about how we got this far, here are a few reads worth checking out.



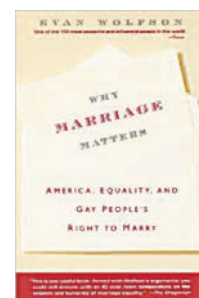
### Forcing The Spring: Inside the Fight For Marriage Equality

by Jo Becker  
Penguin Press

Jo Becker's book, "Forcing the Spring: Inside the Fight For Marriage Equality," tells the remarkable story of the legal battle over California's Proposition 8. In the process, she documents the "evolution" of President Obama and the cultural shift which moved marriage equality from a partisan issue to a civil rights issue.

The book reads like a novel, following political consultant Chad Griffin. The election of 2008 was bittersweet; the nation elected its first African-American president, and California passed Proposition 8 in the same night. Proposition 8 barred gay men and lesbians from marrying their same-sex partners. It also set into motion a legal battle which would end up at the Supreme Court.

The cast of characters includes everyone from Hollywood director Dustin Lance Black to conservative attorney Ted Olson. The unlikely pairings of Hollywood and Washington, conservative and liberal, plays out in the court, in the White House and in the media.



### Why Marriage Matters: America, Equality, and Gay People's Right to Marry

by Evan Wolfson  
Simon & Schuster

One of the characters not given a starring role in "Forcing the Spring" is Evan Wolfson – yet without Wolfson the stage would never have been set. Marriage Equality has been Wolfson's life work. His doctoral thesis mapped out a strategy for

implementing marriage equality during a time when it was on no one's radar. Even as his work became well-known, most activists were concerned with other rights, specifically discrimination in housing and in the workplace. Wolfson saw marriage as the pathway to those rights. And as it happens, that is the way history seems to be unfolding.

"Why Marriage Matters" was originally published in 2004, but the book is still an excellent outline of the case for marriage equality. He starts at the most basic question – "What is marriage?" – and answers the historical question of why marriage equality matters now. He slices the arguments about procreation, concern for the children, religious objections and whether marriage equality will harm society. About the only chapter that seems dated is the question of civil unions vs. marriage. That alternative has long been scuttled.

The book really shines as he reframes the issue as a civil rights question. He ends with his personal reasons of why the Freedom to Marry matters to him. "Why Marriage Matters" is an eloquent statement of the promise of America, and the eternal struggle for civil rights and justice.



### A Legal Guide for Lesbian and Gay Couples (17th edition)

Denis Clifford,  
Emily Doskow, and  
Frederick Hertz  
NOLO

Even as our community hurtles toward marriage equality, we still have to navigate the legal minefields. NOLO has been providing self-help legal advice since 1971. They have been providing legal resources to the LGBT community for nearly that same amount of time. In the 17th edition of the "Legal Guide for Lesbian and Gay Couples," the authors help you define and protect your relationship. They cover what the Supreme Court Windsor decision means, as well as the resulting policies from the Department of Justice, IRS and Customs and Immigration.

Learn about domestic partner benefits, buying property together and even planning for each other after death. NOLO has a long and well-deserved reputation for providing accurate, no-nonsense and comprehensible advice. In a fast-changing legal environment, this volume is invaluable.

See Here Come The Books, page 44

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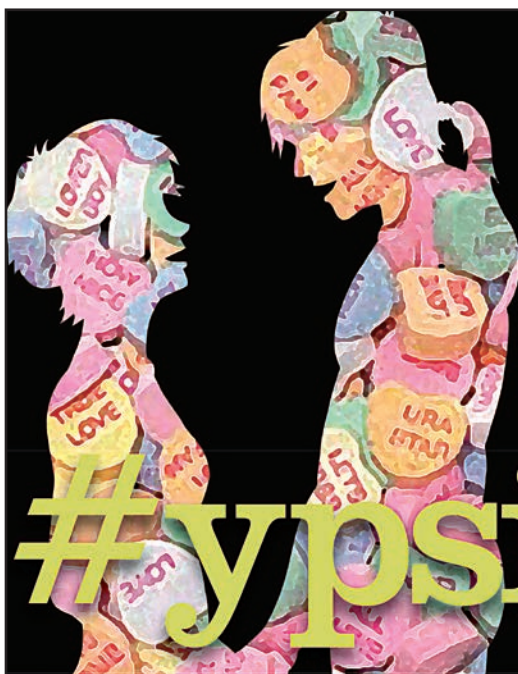
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### ► Wedding Guests

Continued from p. 40

how excited you are about being invited to their special day. Sometimes, though, all the ass-kissing in the world won't save you from being banished to the "guests" table. Maybe someone in the wedding party doesn't like you or you used to date the groom. In that case, a wedding gift in the form of a gift card will do just fine.

### What to talk about

Your first priority come reception time is to say something nice to the newlyweds. Tell them the ceremony was great or you did not realize the color white came in so many shades.

Keep your mingling with the other guests superficial and avoid these topics: adoption questions, breakups, cheating and politics. Yes, we all have know couples who will have so many elephants in the room on their wedding day that there won't be a place to sit. But as an honored wedding guest, it's your job to not wonder why or how. Like that classical music quartet in "Titanic," just keep playing along even though you know the ship is sinking. Your go-to greeting for anyone's special day should be: I am so happy for them. Even though everyone knows you can't be truly happy for a marriage unless you're married. Just kidding! (Probably.)

### What to drink

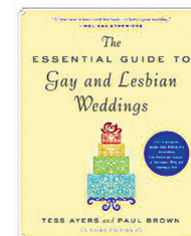
It's a wedding ceremony, so why are you drinking like it's a funeral? Don't be that type of guest who came for the free booze. White wines and liquors are for celebrations and darks are for mourning. If your ex is getting married, it's especially important to maintain the veil that your life is in order and to avoid any word vomit (or, for that matter, real vomit).

### ► Here Come The Books

Continued from p. 42

#### **The Essential Guide to Gay & Lesbian Weddings (3rd edition)**

by Tess Ayers and Paul Brown  
Experiment Press



Once we have the right to marry, and we protect ourselves and our relationship legally, we still have to navigate the actual wedding. And for gay and lesbian couples, we have all of the challenges of a heterosexual wedding, and a few fresh challenges. How do you answer the relatives who ask, "Why?" How do you pick a venue? Who can perform the wedding? How do you word the invitations? What happens when traditions don't work for you? How do you

wrangle a family?

The answer to these questions and more are answered in the third edition of this original gay and lesbian wedding planner. The first edition came out when LGBT weddings represented commitments to each other, but had no legal backing. Each subsequent edition has recognized the latest in legal status, as well as recognizing the changing needs of the wedding itself. Planning the wedding shouldn't be as hard as winning marriage equality. There are several

LGBT wedding planners on the market. This is both a classic and an up-to-date volume to help you plan your special day.

Keith Orr is one of the owners of Common Language, Ann Arbor's LGBT Bookstore. For more info, go to [www.glbttbooks.com](http://www.glbttbooks.com)

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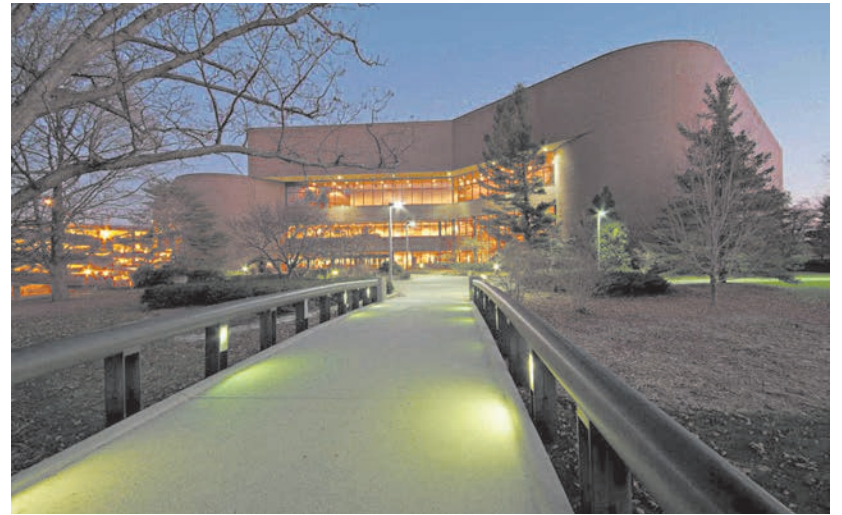
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# Make A Move With East Lansing's 'Chess – A Staged Concert'

BY BTL STAFF

East Lansing's Wharton Center will host the inaugural "EmáGen project" production this month: "Chess – A Staged Concert." Jen Werner, the associate director of "The Book of Mormon," has been hired to direct the work.

Broadway lyricist Tim Rice had long wanted to create a musical about the Cold War. He was fascinated by the political intrigues of the 1972 Chess "Match of the Century" between American Bobby Fischer and Russian Boris Spassky. Typically he would work with his famous collaborator, Andrew Lloyd Webber, with whom he wrote "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," "Jesus Christ Superstar" and "Evita," but at the time (1979) Lloyd Webber was already working on "CATS." American producer Richard Vos suggested Rice work with Benny



Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus, formerly of the rock group ABBA. The three hit it off and created "Chess."

The story is about two great chess masters, one American and one Russian, who compete to be the best in the

world. But, their greatest contest is for the love of the same woman. This cult rock musical explores love, loss and betrayal, and features the hit "One Night in Bangkok," along with songs "Heaven Help My Heart," "I Know Him



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So Well,” “Pity the Child” and “Nobody’s Side.” “Chess has a monumental score that will challenge students and entertain audiences,” says Wharton Center’s Associate Education Director Kris Koop Ouellette. “This is all very exciting. There’s no program like it anywhere else in the country, and we are proud to offer it in Michigan first.” “Chess” is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

The project behind Wharton hosting the play is EmáGen. A key part of both the Wharton Center’s and the MSU Department of Theatre’s missions are focused on creative collaboration. This idea has sparked a new artistic endeavor called the EmáGen project. imáGen partners with the MSU Federal Credit Union Institute for Arts & Creativity at Wharton Center with the MSU College of Arts and Letters’ Department of Theatre and local high schools. Kirk Domer, chair of the MSU Department of Theatre, says, “It’s a revolutionary program for MSU and high school students! It will allow them to work with Broadway professionals who regularly visit Wharton Center, and it will attract the highest-quality students providing them exposure to the discipline, focus and creative strength needed to nurture and sustain a thriving performing arts career.”

“Chess – A Stage Concert” plays at 7:30 p.m. on March 27 and 28 at the Wharton Center’s Pasant Theatre in East Lansing. Tickets are \$15 plus applicable fees. For more information, call 1-800-WHARTON or visit [www.whartoncenter.com](http://www.whartoncenter.com).

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# Out of Town: Weekend in Charleston, South Carolina

BY ANDREW COLLINS

There aren't many places in the United States that suggest romance more palpably than the jewel of southeastern lowcountry, Charleston. This beautifully preserved bastion of pre-Colonial commerce lies at the confluence of the Ashley and Cooper rivers and is flanked by barrier islands famed for gated golf resorts and swanky condo complexes. Inland, you'll find some of the most over-the-top plantation homes, many of them now open for tours. But it's the city's historic heart, with its palm-shaded lanes and pastel-hued 18th- and 19th-century residences, churches and converted shipping warehouses that provide visitors with the uncanny sensation that they're strolling through a fairy tale.

What may surprise, either if you're a first-time visitor or you haven't been in the past decade or so, is that this rather button-down, traditional city of about 120,000 – the cultural heart of one of the country's most politically and socially conservative states – has a pronounced gay scene. Since same-sex marriage was legalized statewide in November 2014, the wedding-centric city has also hosted more than its share of gay nuptials and honeymoons.

Perhaps even more surprising is the recent ascent of Charleston ([charlestoncvb.com](http://charlestoncvb.com)) among the ranks of farm-to-table foodies, craft-beverage aficionados, edgy artists and hipsters. The northern end of downtown, particularly along Upper King Street, contains one of the coolest concentrations of chef-driven, locavore-minded bars and restaurants of any small city in the country. If you're in town for the weekend, do make a point of visiting the traditional attractions: the opulently decorated house-museums, antebellum churches and prominent military historic sites. But also set aside time to check out the new, independent-spirited side of this dynamic metropolis.

## Friday Night

Stick around downtown your first night, supping at one of the dozens of superb restaurants in the central core, many of them set in historic homes. One favorite for both the stunningly prepared modern Southern fare and the gorgeous location inside a glorious 19th-century mansion is Husk ([huskrestaurant.com](http://huskrestaurant.com)), the domain of James Beard-winning chef Sean Brock. The farm-to-table menu changes often but has included buffalo-style pig's ear lettuce wraps with spiced peanuts, and slow-cooked heritage pork with red peas, farro and smoky tomatoes.

If it's late in the evening, and you're more in the mood for an expertly poured craft cocktail and some lighter snacks, venture into the cozy and hip Gin Joint ([theginjoint.com](http://theginjoint.com)), which



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serves delish cheese plates and tasty snacks like duck empanadas and hoisin-glazed pork buns. The Card Shark cocktail, with Mata Hari Absinthe, Fernet and smoked honey will warm your soul on a cool evening.

## Saturday

Spend the better part of your first full day in town touring the downtown historic district. You might begin with a visit to the Historic Charleston Foundation, which sponsors several renowned events, including late spring's famed Spoleto Festival, and operates such noteworthy museums as Aiken-Rhett House and the Nathaniel Russell House. From the latter you can stroll to nearby Waterfront Park, with gardens and a promenade overlooking the Ashley and Cooper rivers.

Walk north along Meeting Street, known as Charleston's "Museum Mile," and you'll find one iconic attraction after another. The Charleston Museum, which opened in 1773, is a must, as are the gallery-hopping and shopping along Meeting, King and Bay streets. For a high-octane caffeine pick-me-up, drop

by Collective Coffee ([collective-coffee.com](http://collective-coffee.com)), a sleek, contemporary café serving single-origin pour-over coffees, along with a good variety of sandwiches, wraps and salads.

As sun falls over Charleston, plan an evening of exploring the city's emerging restaurant row along Upper King Street. You'll find some cool touring and tasting opportunities in this part of the city, too, including High Wire Distilling, where you can sample acclaimed spirits, like Silver Rum, Hat Trick Extraordinarily Fine Botanical Gin and Quarter-Acre Sorghum Whiskey. And at the upper end of the neighborhood, two craft breweries are worth a visit, Palmetto Brewing Co. ([palmettobrewery.com](http://palmettobrewery.com)) and Revelry Brewing Co. ([revelrybrewingco.com](http://revelrybrewingco.com)).

A fun way of approaching the novel food scene on Upper King is by making a progressive meal out of the evening, stopping at a few hot spots, and enjoying an appetizer or two – along with drinks – at each one. Start at Kudu Coffee and Craft Beer ([kuducoffeeandcraftbeer.com](http://kuducoffeeandcraftbeer.com)), which specializes in two of Charleston's favorite artisan beverages. Then move up King Street

## INFO

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both inventive sushi rolls as well as sashimi, crudo, green tea soba noodles and other izakaya-inspired treats; and the amusingly named Closed For Business ([closed4business.com](http://closed4business.com)) "draught emporium," another top spot for interesting brews as well as decadent snacks, like poutine, beer-battered fish-and-chips and fried pork-cutlet sandwiches.

At see-and-be-seen Macintosh ([themacintoshcharleston.com](http://themacintoshcharleston.com)), sample the exceptional farm-to-table cooking of talented chef Jeremiah Bacon. The artful plates include a salad of fried duck skin with Asian pears and candied-ginger vinaigrette, and sautéed scallops with sunchoke and Brussels sprouts. Located in a landmark bank building, The Ordinary ([eattheordinary.com](http://eattheordinary.com)) is a gorgeous space serving beautifully arranged portions of fresh seafood. Consider the Jonah crab toast with lemon and basil,



and shad roe with bacon, potato and oyster mushrooms. Right next to High Wire, the Butcher & Bee ([butcherandbee.com](http://butcherandbee.com)) is fun both for lunch or late-night (open on Friday and Saturdays only) snacking and drinking. This high-ceilinged space turns out addictively tasty fare from pulled-squash barbecue sandwiches to fried chicken with roasted tomatoes, garlic mayo and dill-verde sauce.

The neighborhood is also home to a pair of popular gay nightspots, the intimate and friendly Dudley's Pub ([dudleysonann.com](http://dudleysonann.com)), where you can watch videos, shoot pool and mingle at a conversation-friendly decibel level, and nearby Pantheon ([clubpantheon.net](http://clubpantheon.net)), a pulsing dance club open on weekends only. Although not specifically gay establishments, urbane and trendy bars like the retro-cool Belmont ([thebelmontcharleston.com](http://thebelmontcharleston.com)) and the endearingly dive-y Recovery Room Tavern ([recoveryroomtavern.com](http://recoveryroomtavern.com)) are fun hangouts for kicking off or winding down the evening, and they both draw diverse crowds.

## Sunday

Start the day by crossing the modern Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge to Mount Pleasant, a suburb just east of the city with a lovely historic district. Enjoy brunch at Charleston's Cafe ([charlestonscafe.com](http://charlestonscafe.com)), which is set in a prosaic shopping center but serves anything-but-ordinary morning edibles, including lowcountry shrimp and grits with eggs, and a Southern Benedict with fried-green tomatoes and smoked bacon.

Mount Pleasant is a good jumping off point for exploring Boone Hall, one of the prettiest of the region's grand plantation museums and gardens, as well as the beaches of Sullivan's Island and historic Fort Moultrie, which is part of Fort Sumter National Monument. If plantation touring is high on your list of priorities, you might consider an alternate Sunday plan of driving northwest of the city along Hwy. 61 (Ashley River Road), where you can tour such legendary antebellum estates as Ashley Hall, Drayton Hall, Magnolia Plantation, and Middleton Place, which boasts the oldest formal gardens in the nation.

If you've spent the afternoon at Boone Hall or Sullivan's Island, backtrack to downtown Mount Pleasant for a stroll through the relatively new Shem Creek Park, a stunning wetland sanctuary traversed by more than 2,000 feet of boardwalk. Adjacent to the park, Vickery's ([vickerys.com](http://vickerys.com)) is an enjoyable place to wrap up your walk. This gay-friendly bar and grill has stunning water views, making it a favorite spot for watching the sunset and sipping a cocktail accompanied by, perhaps, a bowl of Vickery's signature oyster bisque.

The historic village of Mount Pleasant is also home to one of the most romantic restaurants in the region, the Old Village

Post House ([mavericksouthernkitchens.com/oldvillageposthouse](http://mavericksouthernkitchens.com/oldvillageposthouse)), which is part of the same illustrious group behind stellar eateries like High Cotton and Slight North of Broad. This handsome old inn also contains six charming, reasonably priced guest rooms. Weekend brunch and nightly dinner are both outstanding here, with dishes like Memphis dry-rubbed, bacon-wrapped pork tenderloin, and salt-and-pepper fried shrimp with smoky-blue sauce.

## Where to Stay

One of Charleston's most playful and interesting accommodations, the Vendue Inn ([thevendue.com](http://thevendue.com)) occupies a few connected 18th-century warehouse buildings near Waterfront Park and bills itself "Charleston's Art Hotel" – there's even an artist-in-residence program. The distinctive rooms feature original, often abstract contemporary works; many have large walk-in showers and gas fireplaces. Be sure to pop up to the sunny Rooftop for a cocktail, and to soak up some of the best views in the city.

The stately mid-19th-century Mills House—A Wyndham Grand Hotel ([millshouse.com](http://millshouse.com)) is a pink beauty that rises seven stories above the central intersection of Meeting and Queen streets. The classic but contemporary rooms sparkle with Charleston-inspired reproduction antiques and modern perks like 36-inch LCD TVs and ergonomic work desks and chairs; some rooms have balconies, and others have French doors that open to the stunning hotel pool and sundeck. Enjoy breakfast in the sunny Fountain Courtyard of the Barbadoes Room restaurant, which is also a romantic venue for dinner and drinks.

The city has a few gay-owned B&B, including 4 Unity Alley ([unitybb.com](http://unitybb.com)), a gem hidden down a tiny alley off historic Bay Street. This 18th-century former colonial warehouse contains airy, light-filled rooms with fine antiques. Keep in mind that the four guest rooms here often book up quickly, so it's wise to book well in advance.

Another of the swankiest addresses in town is the romantic Market Pavilion Hotel ([marketpavilion.com](http://marketpavilion.com)), which is close to the riverfront and abounds with cushy furnishings and fine artwork. Grill 225 turns out delicious lowcountry steak and seafood. Around the corner, the five-story Harbourview Inn ([harbourviewcharleston.com](http://harbourviewcharleston.com)) is a handsome property with soaring ceilings, exposed-brick walls and four-poster beds (many accommodations overlook the Cooper River). The complimentary perks are many: Continental breakfast delivered to your room, afternoon wine and cheese, evening milk and cookies, local walking tours and Wi-Fi.

*Andrew Collins produces the site GayTravel.About.com and contributes to many other travel magazines and websites. He can be reached care of this publication or at [OutofTown@qsyndicate.com](mailto:OutofTown@qsyndicate.com).*



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## The Frivolist

# 10 Ways To Gayify Your Honey Bunny's Easter Basket

BY MIKEY ROX

Even if you're not religious, you can still celebrate a fluffy pagan Easter with someone you love. But instead of the tiny trinkets and cavity-inviting candy that monopolize kids' baskets this time of year, put together a wicker-handled surprise that's decidedly more adult with these 10 LGBT-minded finds.

### Beekman 1802 Hand and Body Wash

Those Fabulous Beekman Boys – husband-and-husband team Josh Kilmer-Purcell and Brent Ridge – are still at it with Beekman 1802 (you've probably seen them hard at work in their very own American Express commercial recently), a lifestyle brand born on their sprawling Upstate New York farm. To give your partner a skincare pick-me-up this spring, pack his basket with the delightfully perky Honeyed Grapefruit Body Wash and Honey & Orange Blossom Hand Wash. \$20-\$25; beekman1802.com

### Blooming Crayons

Pride season is just around the corner – June will be here before you know it, gurl – and it's never too early to start one-upping yourself from last year's celebration. If you're the kind of couple who likes to bring your own signs to the big parade, Blooming Crayons' "Pride Flag" and multicolored rectangle crayons will help get

the party started with its ROYGBIV brand of chromatic diversity. \$6; etsy.com

### FattyCakesNY Cookies

While you're trying to avoid building a basket overloaded with empty calories – oh, to be a kid again – you don't have to shun sugar altogether. Satisfy his sweet tooth with FattyCakesNY's Sweet n' Salty Trio, six each of its three best-selling cookies, including Old Salt (triple chocolate with sea salt), The Norm (chocolate chip with sea salt), and PBCC (peanut butter with chocolate chips, pretzels and sea salt) – which, if it's possible, sound just as delicious as they taste. \$38; fattycakesny.com

### Bettyville: A Memoir

Chilly days and nights still linger this time of year, and it's perfect weather for a new novel. "Bettyville: A Memoir," author George Hodgman's literary debut, chronicles the former Vanity Fair columnist's journey home to care for his quick-tempered mother, who, despite her boisterousness, has never fully accepted that he's gay. The duo is forced to confront their past, present and future in this intimate but colorful look behind a family's closed doors. From \$11.99; amazon.com

See Frivolist, page 57

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MARCH 26, 2015

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Email: [ssivanandham@michiganaidcoalition.org](mailto:ssivanandham@michiganaidcoalition.org)

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We are looking for committee members who are between the ages of 13-39 and represent one or more of the following:

- Men Who Have Sex With Other Men
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## ► Frivolist

Continued from p. 50

### Ménage A Trois Vodka

Two's company, but three's a night to remember with Ménage à Trois. This gluten-free vodka (it's made from American corn) is distilled six times for a clean, smooth liquor, the high proof of which is brought down to 80 using pure mountain spring water. Flavors include original, citrus and berry, and cocktail recipes are available on the Ménage à Trois website. \$22.99; menageatroisvodka.com

### Elizabeth W Bath Fizz

A gift for both of you to kick back and relax – considering you have a tub suited for two – Elizabeth W aromatic bath-time effervescent tablets include six foil-wrapped tablets in assorted scents. To color coordinate with the other holiday goodies in your basket, opt for the Leaves, Rose, & Sweet Tea fizz or the special-edition fizz in the shape of festive eggs. \$20; elizabethw.com

### CelebriDucks

Rub-a-dub-dub, bring a duck to the tub (that otherwise ordinary soak is officially an event now) with CelebriDucks, collectible rubber fowl of the greatest icons of film, music, athletic and history. If your boy's a friend of Dorothy – and whose isn't? – his house will start to twitch with "Wizard of Oz"-themed selections, including the Wicked Witch, Scarecrow, Lion, Tin Woodman, Glinda and, of course, that little girl from Kansas and her little dog, too. \$11.99; celebri ducks.com



### aussieBum Swimwear

Heat waves are on the horizon, and that can only mean one thing: Time to hit the beach. You'll want him to look his best when he's sopping wet with surf and sweat – and aussieBum's got what he needs. Its Las Vegas short-leg boardie covers the junk but shows just enough leg to keep you excited, while the Speedo-style Superhero collection makes no bones about taking you up, up and away. \$28.40-\$31.95; aussiebum.com

### Illinois Nut & Candy

Illinois Nut & Candy offers a bevy of sweet selections (and plenty of nuts, too), but he'll go gaga for its LGBT-friendly personalized chocolate options, available in dipped pretzels rods and peppermint patties. Other put-it-in-my-mouth confections include taffy apples, popcorn balls, English toffee and Jordan almonds. From \$1.75; illinoisnut.com

### The Way He Looks DVD

End Easter on a high note with an LGBT DVD and a cuddle sesh. A new release of note, "The Way He Looks" – from LGBT film distributor Wolfe Video – is a coming-of-age story about friendship and young love set to the music of Belle and Sebastian. Plus, the boys are cute. Do you need a better description? \$19.95; wolfevideo.com

Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and blogger whose work has been published in more than 100 outlets across the world. He splits his time between homes in New York City and the Jersey Shore with his dog Jaxon. Connect with Mikey on Twitter @mikeyrox.

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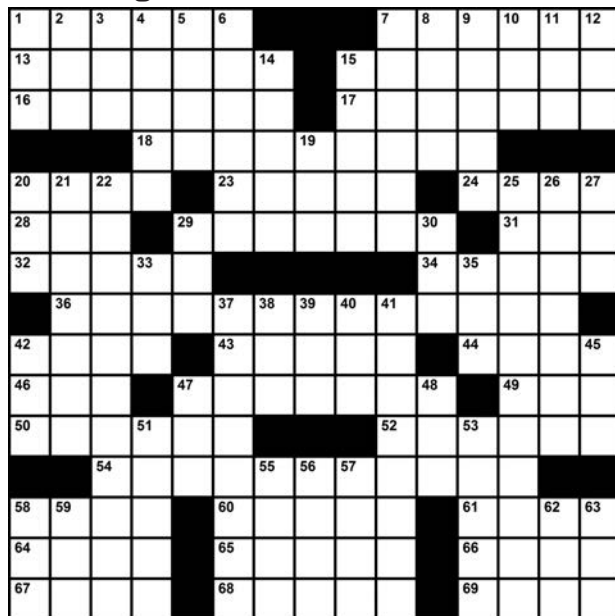
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# Q Puzzle

## Encouragement From Oscar



### Across

- 1 Supporters of pansies
- 7 Paul Rudnick's "Addams Family"
- 13 Kahlo's tongue
- 15 Margaret Mead interviewees
- 16 Public image
- 17 More like a day when "you can see forever"
- 18 Start of a message from the acceptance speech of 54-Across
- 20 Judy Garland concert persona
- 23 Adolescents
- 24 From C to D, to Debussy
- 28 Quid pro \_\_\_\_
- 29 Online exaggerated stat?
- 31 Childcare writer LeShan

- 32 Barneys, e.g.
- 34 Jodie Foster's " \_\_\_\_ Room"
- 36 End of the message
- 42 Bonehead
- 43 Sheik's land, in song
- 44 Men on top, perhaps
- 46 "Stick that bull!"
- 47 More like Springfield?
- 49 Wicks of the WNBA
- 50 Defeating by a small margin
- 52 Sleep with Kahlo?
- 54 Best Adapted Screenplay Oscar winner for "The Imitation Game"
- 58 Bicolor bite
- 60 "A League of \_\_\_\_ Own"
- 61 "A Beautiful Mind" mathematician
- 64 Broadway composer Jerome
- 65 "Dirty Dancing" director Ardolino
- 66 Sondheim's " \_\_\_\_ the Woods"
- 67 Give some lip
- 68 Splits
- 69 Locker room shower?

### Down

- 1 30-day mo.
- 2 "Cats" inspirer's monogram
- 3 Concern at gfn.com
- 4 Gay rodeo accessory
- 5 Seaman's unit of speed
- 6 Liberate piece, perhaps
- 7 Porter's burden
- 8 US citizen
- 9 Male deliveries?
- 10 Egypt and Syr., once
- 11 Carbon compound suffix
- 12 Outdated atlas abbr.
- 14 Put one on top of the other
- 15 Pumbaa's problem, in "The Lion King"
- 19 Become wife and wife, e.g.
- 20 C.O.'s hangouts
- 21 Surpassed other market bears
- 22 Roaring Twenties' characters
- 25 Family of Williams?
- 26 Cut
- 27 D.C. lobby group
- 29 "Take your hands off me!"
- 30 PBS relative
- 33 Sarah Schulman novel " \_\_\_\_ Bohemia"
- 35 Old nuclear power org.
- 37 Member of the Bilitis group
- 38 Apr. 15 letters
- 39 What Richard Simmons helps you to burn
- 40 G-man employer
- 41 They don't look good
- 42 Initial sound, in "The Sound of Music"
- 45 It'll float your boat
- 47 Sexual orientation determiner, some say
- 48 Carnival locale
- 51 Jeremy of "M. Butterfly"
- 53 Bert's longtime companion
- 55 Sighed aside, to the Bard
- 56 Lo follower
- 57 Salsa rating
- 58 Says, "Let's do it!"
- 59 "Breakfast on Pluto" actor Stephen
- 62 Gas additive
- 63 Tootsie

Solution on pg. 54



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