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Leaves Equality Michigan

Pride Night At
Detroit Tigers Planned

Policing Gender &
Sexuality In 2015

Getting FROOT-Y

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COVER

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“ I take what I know from Equality Michigan, and that’s my LGBT half, and then I have to transfer it to my blue half and explain it to the officers. Some understand and carry on; others understand but don’t agree. It’s going to be sticky until it (different gender identities and sexualities) becomes the norm.”

– Dani Woods, pg. 6



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Emily Dievendorf at Michigan Pride 2013

Dievendorf Leaves Equality Michigan

BY TODD HEYWOOD

For the fifth time in less than a decade, Equality Michigan is without an executive director. Last week, Emily Dievendorf left the organization. She has led the agency since the departure of Denise Brogan-Kator in July 2012. Dievendorf's leadership role has worn many titles, but all were, effectively, executive director of the agency.

Between The Lines has learned that Bill Greene, the former board chair of Ruth Ellis Center and current REC board member, will step in as interim executive director in the near future. Greene is President of the W.K. Greene and Associates Consulting Company where he advises businesses and non-profits. Sources close to the organization said a national search for a new executive director will be conducted, and Greene – unlike previous interim executive directors – will not be a candidate to fill the open position.

Since the 2007 retirement of founding executive director Jeffrey Montgomery – who led Equality Michigan's predecessor agency, the Triangle Foundation – the agency has witnessed a parade of leaders brought in with great fanfare, then let go in short order. In 2010, Michigan Equality and the Triangle Foundation merged to form Equality Michigan.

In 2008, board member Kate Runyon moved over to the position of interim executive director of Triangle while the agency sought a permanent executive director. She left to run Equality Maryland and now lives in Germany. In 2008, Alicia Skillman was hired by the board and was in charge until her resignation at the end of 2010. Skillman was replaced by board member Denise Brogan-Kator, first as interim executive director, then for 10 months as permanent executive director. Brogan-Kator left in July 2012, and Dievendorf was formally appointed to managing director of the agency in April 2013 and then as executive director beginning in March 2014.

The board will announce an executive search in the coming weeks. For all inquiries about Equality Michigan's day-to-day operations, contact Bill Greene by emailing wgreene@equalitymi.org. For inquiries about the transition or executive director position, contact board chair Dave Wait by emailing dwait@equalitymi.org.

Extended briefs are available online at:
 >> www.PrideSource.com

Pride Night At Detroit Tigers Planned

LGBT Chamber Of Commerce To Host Event June 3

BY BTL STAFF

DETROIT – Just in time for Pride, the Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce will host a Pride Night at an upcoming Tigers game in June. Two days after it was announced, ticket sales for the event reached initial capacity and community interest continued to expand.

On June 3 the Tigers play the Oakland Athletics. The first batch of requested 150 seats were sold out in under 48 hours, causing the Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce to reserve additional seats for the game.

“A couple months ago at a chamber meeting we had discussed getting all four of the sports teams involved. I suggested the Tigers, Red Wings, Pistons and the Lions. We wanted to have something towards the later half of June, but then we decided it would be best to have something in between the two prides, Ferndale and Motor City Pride,” DRLGBTCC board member Kevin Dombrow said.

The chamber hopes to establish stronger LGBT inclusions in the Detroit regional workplace, and the collaborations with the major Detroit sports teams helps that initiative.

In the past few months, other sports teams in the Detroit area have hosted similar evenings; a Pride Night with the Pistons was held in December and a Pride Night with the Red Wings was held earlier this month. The Tigers event is sponsored by the DRLGBTCC.

“Many families and groups purchase tickets and host their groups at the ballpark,” said Ron Colangelo, vice president of communications for the Tigers. “Groups purchase the tickets and then they host their party. This is consistent with some of the other teams in town.”

The Los Angeles Dodgers and the San Francisco Giants will host their own LGBT night this year, as well as the Chicago Cubs who have held pride nights since 2001.

“I’ve been in contact with Major League Baseball now. The Cubs have had a night, the Giants have had a couple nights, but according to MLB there has only been one official team, which was in San Francisco. That’s why I’ve been keen on obtaining

official hosting status. You have to crawl before you walk,” said Dombrow. The DRLGBTCC is also planning on providing T-shirts for a small price to raise additional funds. “I think it will be so amazing to have 500 some odd people all in matching T-shirts.”

While the Red Wings LGBT night proved

Comerica has been a longtime sponsor of BTL's Same-Sex Wedding and Anniversary Expo. “Equality and inclusion are cornerstones of Comerica’s commitment to the communities it serves. This and other LGBT Pride Month activities around the country help remove the walls of fear and prejudice, while recognizing the



Visit the Facebook Event page and RSVP at <https://www.facebook.com/events/855687081155846/>

to be less of a success than Dombrow had hoped, the Tiger's Pride Night has already sold nearly 400 tickets in just the first week. LGBT and ally Employee Resource Groups are encouraged to purchase group tickets; so far, the Metro Detroit Gay and Lesbian Softball League, Ford, Ally Financial and the Sheraton Novi Hotel have all purchased group tickets.

“I saw the message out on Facebook, and brought it to my group of friends, and immediately got responses from friends who wanted to go. I put out the message on Monday night and interest was instantaneous,” said Philip Silvio, a software technician who works at Ally Financial downtown, who purchased a total of 22 tickets.

“There have been hundreds of tickets sold. It shows that they (the Tigers) support the LGBT community and our community is out there supporting the Tigers. We are people who are out there and want to be there and support the Tigers and the city,” he said.

More than 800 people signed up on the Facebook event page in the first three days and the number continues to climb.

“We are pleased by the announcement of LGBT Pride Night at Comerica Park,” said Linda Forte, senior vice president of Business Affairs for Comerica Bank;

accomplishments that LGBT individuals have made to American society.”

“It’s about the game. Just like having a Hispanic night, I go to support that community. We are part of the community too, and we’d like to support,” Silvio said. “I’m glad they’re doing it (the pride night). Hopefully there will be more of them in the future.”

Former Detroit Tiger and only openly gay Major League Baseball player (current or former) alive today, Billy Bean, said, “I’m very happy to hear that the Detroit Tigers and the Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce have worked together to bring their first ever LGBT Pride Night to Comerica Park on Wednesday, June 3. As a former Tiger, I feel especially proud of the organization’s willingness to recognize an important and very loyal part of their fan base. I look forward to attending and to offering my support as well.”

Seating for the group tickets are on either side of the field in lower baseline rows 142-144 and 112-114. Tickets cost \$40.

To purchase tickets, visit http://purchase.tickets.com/buy/MLBEventInfo?agency=TGEV_B2B42&pid=7930295.

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Policing Gender And Sexuality In 2015

A recent 2015 report released by the Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law documents ongoing and pervasive discrimination and harassment by law enforcement of the LGBT community, especially among LGBT people of color and transgender individuals.

BY AJ TRAGER

DETROIT – Historically, the LGBT community has had a long and sometimes very violent track record with law enforcement. Throughout the United States, laws requiring people wear two to three items of gender appropriate clothing were common all the way up until the 1960s. These laws most significantly impacted LGBT people, particularly transgender and gender non-conforming individuals. This version of policing gender and sexuality often resulted in police entrapment, police harassment, police raids, violent arrests, beatings, sexual assaults and corrective rape. Perhaps the most famous police harassment event was the one that led to the Stonewall riots in June 1969 in NYC, an event often seen as the tipping point to the modern LGBT rights movement.

Today Michigan enforces gender and sexuality by maintaining the assumption that heterosexual and cis-gender people are better than lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender individuals. With marriage equality currently absent in the state and no state laws protecting LGBT individuals, discrimination against LGBT people is perfectly legal despite strong efforts from advocacy and ally groups to educate and change this.

“These laws are civil in nature and they affect every aspect of our lives. They collaterally result in criminal consequences for the most targeted and marginalized among us,” said Yvonne Siferd at a recent criminal justice symposium held at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. Siferd is director of victim services at Equality Michigan. “This vehement belief in the superiority of heterosexual relationships is heavily rooted in our insistence on the gender binary and underlines our belief that we are entitled to police transgender bodies as well as queer people’s sexuality, criminally and socially.”

In the U.S. laws born out of religious doctrine often prohibited specific sex acts such as sodomy or “un-natural” acts. Even though it was illegal for a married couple to commit



Dani Woods, the LGBT liaison for the Detroit Police Department, is a member of the LGBT community and lives in Detroit with her wife. Woods says that her biggest fight is getting people who are victimized to come forward. BTL photo: AJ Trager

sodomy or have oral intercourse too, the effect was solely to police gay and sometimes lesbian sexuality. In the early years of the country, the punishment for these acts was sometimes death. These two laws are still on the books in Michigan despite being struck down in 2003 by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Thirty-four years after Stonewall, in 2003, the Wayne County Sheriff’s Department raided the Power Plant, a private LGBT club in Detroit, whose members were primarily black gay men, lesbians and trans women. Between 50 and 100 officers entered the club and over 350 people were handcuffed, forced to lie down on the floor and detained for up to 12 hours. They were left to sit in their and others’ urine and waste, and some were kicked in the head and back, slammed into walls and verbally assaulted. Officers on the scene were heard saying things like, ‘It’s a bunch of fags’ and, ‘Those fags in here make me sick.’ Like the Stonewall police officers, these officers claimed to be enforcing building and liquor codes.

Discrimination, harassment and abuses like the one at the Power Plant undermine effective policing by weakening community trust, reducing reporting of crimes by victims

in the LGBT community and challenging law enforcement’s ability to effectively meet the needs of members of their communities.

Reports And Statistics

According to the 2013 FBI Hate Crimes statistics, LGBT communities were the second most impacted population for the second year in a row. First place went to people where the hate crime involved their race, the third their religion. These numbers are actually lower than what was reported by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, which reported 2,001 victims and survivors of hate violence in 2013 compared to the FBI’s statistic of 1,402. The FBI relies on local law enforcement agencies to report hate crimes and keep up with the federal law, however, the NCAVP relies on the reporting from LGBT community organizations. LGBT survivors of hate crimes prefer to report to LGBT organizations over law enforcement.

“Given the LGBTQ community’s past and present issues with law enforcement, it isn’t all that surprising,” Siferd said. “Another reason for the discrepancy is the ignorance and bias of law enforcement regarding LGBTQ

communities, particularly when it comes to trans issues. There is often a culture of victim blaming. ‘If you didn’t act like that,’ or, ‘Maybe you were asking for it by dressing like that.’ There is also a significant lack of training about LGBT people, culture and issues for law enforcement.”

A recent 2015 report released by the Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law documents ongoing and pervasive discrimination and harassment by law enforcement of the LGBT community, especially among LGBT people of color and transgender individuals.

Key findings from the report have found that more than one-fifth of LGBT people who interacted with police reported encountering hostile attitudes from officers and 14 percent reported verbal assault by the police. Nearly half, 48 percent, of the LGBT violence survivors who interacted with police reported that they had experienced police misconduct, including unjustified arrest, use of excessive force and entrapment. Forty-six percent of transgender respondents reported being uncomfortable seeking police assistance, 22 percent reported that they had been harassed

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by law enforcement because of bias and 6 percent reported having been physically assaulted by an officer.

“Many law enforcement officers do not understand transgender people at all,” said Rachel Crandall, director of Transgender Michigan. “Very often transgender people are treated like they are trying to hide something.”

To address such discrimination, President Obama’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing issued recommendations to build stronger and more collaborative relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

“Bringing gender and sexuality based experiences of violence by the hands of the law enforcement into the center of our conversations around criminal justice is important. It shows that gender and sexuality are a central axis on which policing takes place both alongside and in service of race and poverty based policing. In other words, the kinds of gender and sexuality based violence by law enforcement is not an isolated instance; it’s not a rogue cop,” Andrea Ritchie said. “It’s fundamental to the institution and history of policing.”

Ritchie is a police misconduct attorney and organizer from New York City. She is co-author of “Queer (In)Justice: The Criminalization of LGBT People in the United States,” and was an expert consultant and lead researcher for Amnesty International’s 2005 report, “Stonewalled: Police Abuse and Misconduct Against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People in the United States.”

“Sometimes the aggression is more subtle and it’s more about perceiving someone’s

The Williams Institute report singled out Michigan as one of four areas in the country that is training police departments in sensitivity trainings and LGBT awareness, focused on reducing police discrimination and harassment of the LGBT community.

gender non-conformity, not being able to put them in a box, someone identifying with a different box than the one they (the police officer) thought they should be in or acting in a way that the police doesn’t think a woman should act. It is then subconsciously framed as suspicious or disorderly. And there is so much about policing that is about guts or how you feel about something or someone. And that’s how policing gender happens,” Ritchie said.

That is where Dani Woods comes in.

Dani Woods

“People tend to tense up when they see the uniform, and they know you’re an officer. They throw up the defensive wall,” said Dani Woods, the LGBT liaison for the Detroit Police Department.

Woods is a member of the LGBT community and lives in Detroit with her wife. They met in 2005 in the Eastern District, which now consists of the 7th and 9th Districts, and have collaboratively served the force for over 20 years.

“When I was trying to get this position up and running, I was talking to a lot of deaf ears. Nobody really wants to ‘deal with it’ (the LGBT issue). It is so sensitive that people didn’t really want to come near or touch,” Woods said.

Many of the cases that the department faces are LGBT related. Woods worked closely with Commander Chuck Wilson and Chief Chester Logan to establish a LGBT liaison position. When Chief James Craig took over for Logan in May of 2013, he made sure that the liaison position at the DPD was a key player in the department.

“He is supportive and very passionate about the community,” Woods said. “That opened so many avenues. He has an open door policy, but if someone has an issue, he says, ‘Come see me,’ and I love that. It’s awesome that he’s so attentive to the LGBT community.”

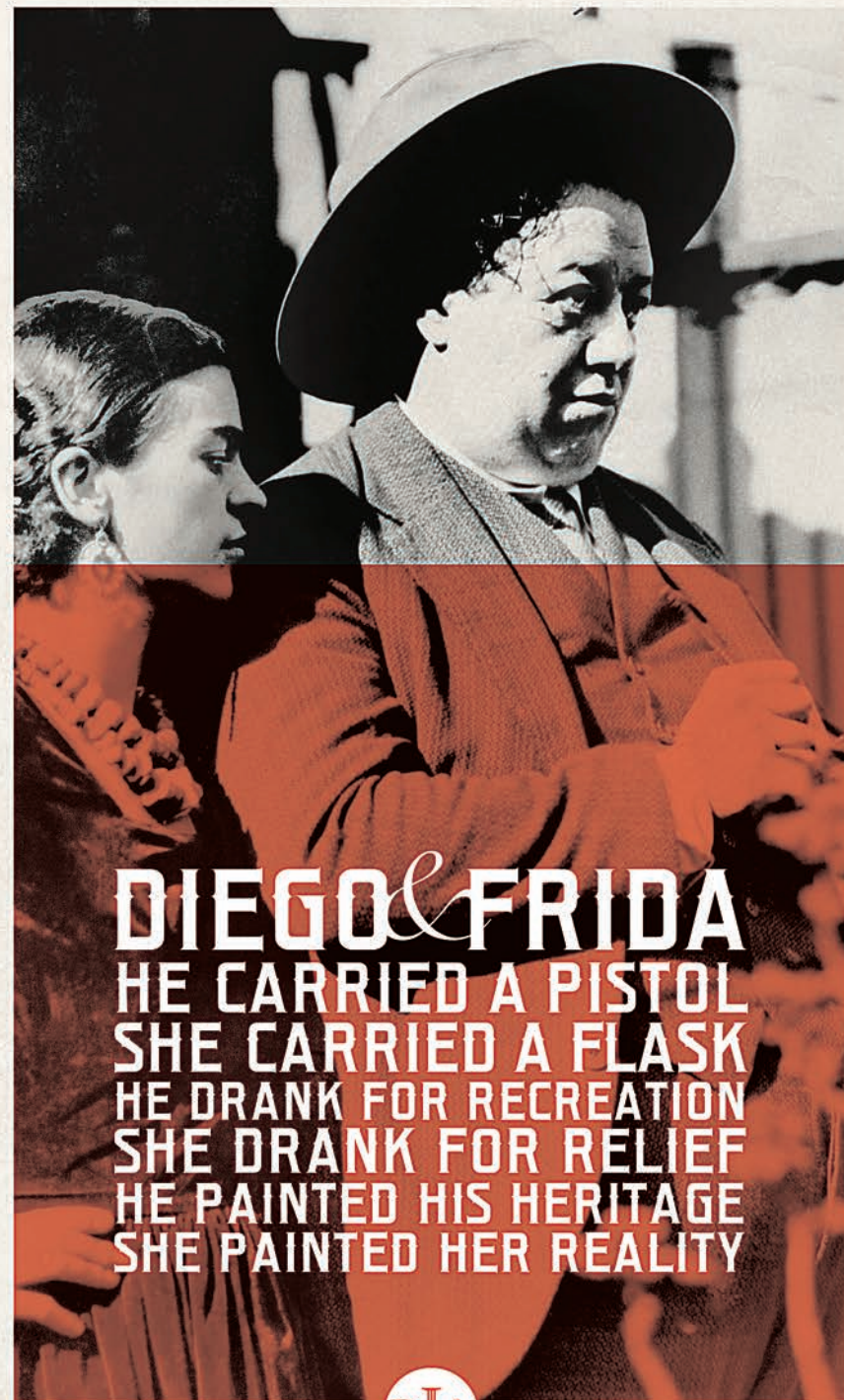
Woods personally handled the hate crime attack that happened during Motor City Pride in 2014, where a young black man named Christin Howard was beaten by a group of individuals. She also worked closely with other members of the force to bring justice for the body of the trans woman found in Palmer Park last year.

Woods says that her biggest fight is getting

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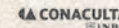


NYC police restraining a protestor during the 1969 Stonewall riots.



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► Policing

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people who are victimized to come forward. Some, because they've participated in certain illegal activities like prostitution, feel that they won't be treated fairly by the police.

"I just want to say, 'You're a victim. Something happened to you. Nobody deserves that,'" Woods said. "I can't make them make a statement, and that's one of the hardest parts of my job. Because they are already in a box, they already had their guards up about past interactions with the police or are just feeling as if, 'Because I'm gay, they aren't going to take it seriously.'"

Detroit LGBT Police Training

In a collaboration between Jay Kaplan of the ACLU and Equality Michigan, sensitivity and LGBT training has begun for one supervisor and two public officers in precincts across Detroit. Around 13 percent of the DPD has gone through LGBT trainings, Woods says, and attributes the small number to lack of general LGBT knowledge within the force when she was first hired in as the liaison. Woods hopes to get the whole department trained by 2016.

"At the beginning, everybody's face is turned up and you can see that they don't want to be there. But it's not just because it's LGBT training, it's because it's hard to get police officers to go to trainings," said Woods.

The DPD goes through what they call a 40-hour block, a week long training that every officer attends annually which involves culture, diversity, legal updates, defensive tactics, the gun range and other activities.

The sensitivity training gives the officers a lot of background of what LGBT means, what the community has gone through, what it's trying to evolve into, what it's like to be LGBT in today's society and provides a description on identities and life experiences. Woods addresses preferred gender pronouns and gender roles in same-sex partnerships and how in LGBT relationships the more masculine presenting partner isn't always the dominant one.

"I take what I know from Equality Michigan, and that's my LGBT half, and then I have to transfer it to my blue half and explain it to the officers. Some understand and carry on; others understand but don't agree. It's going to be sticky until it becomes the norm," Woods said. "We're not robots, but what we're taught is what we're taught. And sometimes gray doesn't fit in. Sometimes it's this or that. Sometimes it's not a possibility for this or that. And some people are stuck in that."

Woods opens her trainings by saying she doesn't want to change the officers and instead is focused on opening their eyes to identities that are evolving in their communities.

"Everybody has an Uncle Larry or an Auntie Sue in their family," Woods said. "Some

choose to talk about it, some don't. But at the end of the training, everybody expresses that much of the information was new to them. They get excited learning something new."

Recommendations

The Williams Report suggests policy recommendations for state and city governments in order to improve LGBT and law enforcement relationships, including: non-discrimination policies and zero tolerance harassment policies, LGBT trainings, outreach and liaisons to the LGBT community, citizens complaint review boards and prohibition

"The kinds of gender and sexuality based violence by law enforcement is not an isolated instance; it's not a rogue cop. It's fundamental to the institution and history of policing."

— Andrea Ritchie, a police misconduct attorney and organizer and co-author of "Queer (In)Justice: The Criminalization of LGBT People in the United States"

of discrimination against law enforcement personnel.

The President's Task Force On Policing, at the urging of dozens of women's and LGBT organizations, gave some answers and offered some key recommendations to local law enforcement that would begin to address profiling, not just on the basis of race, religion and ethnicity, but also on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation. It would include a ban on tools of profiling that are particularly used against women and LGBT people of color, like the use of condoms as evidence of intent to engage in prostitution related offenses. It's also recommended that departments adopt policies for interactions with LGBT folks to eliminate another kind of sexual violence, like when a police officer cannot decide what gender someone is and they search to determine anatomy.

"Coded laws have been used to effectively police gender and sexuality — disorderly conduct, for example. Here in Detroit it was the annoying persons ordinance that was favored by police in their un-officially named 'Bag-a-fag' operation; that was a sting operation that targeted gay men up until the 21st century," Siferd said. "When someone dares to step outside of what is considered the norm for men and women of the time, and that does change, we punish them socially — sometimes criminally — and readily excuse and rationalize discrimination."

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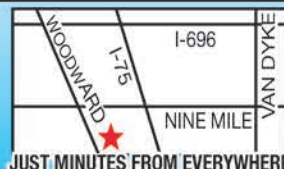
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Michigan Clergy Prepare For LGBT Weddings In Upcoming Workshop

BY BTL STAFF

LANSING - In preparation for the U.S. Supreme Court decision this June on same-sex marriage, clergy in Michigan will gather in East Lansing April 27, the day before the case is heard by SCOTUS, in a discussion that will build clergy and faith-based wedding officiant skills in support of a possible affirmative decision from the courts.

"Marriage Equality: Is Your Congregation Ready? A Workshop for Clergy and Planners" will address critical topics to support clergy, officiants and wedding service people from all faith traditions who plan to celebrate marriage equality when it becomes legal in the state.

Jim Toy, MSW and an Episcopalian, will present his topic, "LGBTQ101 for Clergy: What we need to know about gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation"; Jay Kaplan of the ACLU LGBT Project will speak towards legal issues and legal updates on the case; Rev. Beth Rakestraw of Divine Peace Metropolitan Community Church will discuss marriage counseling and the special issues for working with LGBT couples; and Rev. Dr. Bill Lyons from the United Church of Christ will speak on considerations for marriage ceremonies and wedding policies.

An affirming decision from the high court justices will provide same-sex couples from across the country the legal backing to get married. Marriage equality will require very few changes to the actual wedding vows but will call for special clergy considerations. For example, there are couples in the LGBT community that have been effectively married for decades; how should clergy support their needs?

Some of these needs include questions of gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation, and how these factors can make the difference between a welcoming and a disappointing celebration. Other considerations include questions surrounding special challenges that must be considered when doing pre-marriage counseling and how clergy should address family who refuse to accept these vows.

Following an affirmative ruling, congregations will need to update their marriage policies and procedures to support these marriages. Churches that have not officially come out in support of the LGBT community will have a different set of challenges than those who already have, particularly when the congregation and clergy are not in agreement.

The workshop will be held at the Edgewood United Church, UCC at 469 N. Hagadorn Road in East Lansing, beginning at 10 a.m. and running until 2:30 p.m. Registration is \$10 and includes lunch. For those interested in attending, visit <http://www.MichUCC.org>; registration ends April 21.

Sponsors for the event include the Michigan UCC Open & Affirming Coalition, Inclusive Justice "Together in Faith" Michigan, Michigan for Marriage, Michigan Conference United Church of Christ, Michigan Unitarian Universalist Clergy Caucus and Oasis TBLG Outreach Ministry Michigan.

Extended briefs are available online at:
 >> www.PrideSource.com

'Enchanted' Evening Presents Affirmations' New Prince Charming

BY AJ TRAGER

DETROIT – In a sold out Spring Bash fundraising event on April 11, Affirmations presented their new "Prince Charming" and executive director, Darrious Hilmon, to the local LGBT community.

Last year was a time of tradition and growth for Affirmations as it actively searched for an executive director to lead the organization while maintaining its daily services, providing support and development for the LGBT community in metro Detroit.

"Unlike the Disney-fied fairytales that you're used to, here we are going to do away with archetypes. Like any good fairytale, there is good versus evil. Evil of alienation and shame that can be placed on individuals based on their sexual orientation and gender identity. And those that fear our equality and continue to be against it. In this story good does conquer evil and there are many, many heroes." Affirmations board president Frank Aiello said while introducing Hilmon to event-goers at the Fillmore Detroit. "I know I said I would do away with the traditional archetypes of the fairytale, but I do need to introduce you to our new prince charming."

Hilmon joins Affirmations at a pivotal time in LGBT history. The U.S. Supreme Court is scheduled to hear arguments regarding same-sex marriage, the Michigan economy is growing stronger and the majority opinion across the country is in support of LGBT equality.

"I'm excited to come out tonight to support Affirmations and their event. They do such critical work across the community in so many different facets," said Jon Hoadley, openly gay state representative from Kalamazoo. "Supporting Affirmations in an event like tonight is a great way both to celebrate their work and to allow it to continue in the future. To me it is so amazing to see such a growing amount of support for an event like this, but I also think it's a sign that things are turning around here in Michigan. We need to make sure that that economic recovery benefits places like Affirmations and middle-class Michiganders."

Affirmations continues to facilitate support groups, provide HIV/AIDS testing and counseling, host youth programs, mental health counseling, "senior coffee klatch" and many other services and every year continues to grow and develop.

The "Enchanted" Spring Bash gathered 400 LGBT and allied individuals including Hoadley; Ken Mogill, co-counsel for the DeBoer-Rowse family in the case that will be presented before SCOTUS; Nancy Katz, former Jan Stevenson Award winner; current and former Affirmations board members and Oakland County Clerk Lisa Brown, among



Above, Affirmations Executive Director Darrious Hilmon addresses attendees in his first public appearance on behalf of the agency. Right, Mark Blanke, current CFO of Delfingen, was presented with the Jan Stevenson Award for his tireless contributions to the center after serving 12 years on the board. BTL photo: AJ Trager.

many others.

From 2000-2003, Alice McKeage, a Ford retiree and recipient of the 2004 Jan Stevenson Award, served as a board member of Affirmations. She has only missed one Spring Bash event in the past 15 years and was catching up with her friend, the event D.J. for the Afterglow party, when she spoke with BTL.

"It's a different event every year. It has a different flavor every year. I was happy to see they were sold out. The economy is picking up, and that makes a big difference. One of the complaints that I've heard over the years is that this event is too expensive for a lot of people, especially if you have a partner or a spouse," McKeage said.

"Being a board member was more than just being enthusiastic about Affirmations," McKeage noted. "Now, I do the things that I like to do for Affirmations, which is speak up for them and encourage people to be center partners and donate money."

Awards

Mark Blanke, current CFO of Delfingen, was presented with the Jan Stevenson Award for his tireless contributions to the center after serving 12 years on the board, working as a volunteer and spearheading fundraising initiatives that greatly benefited Affirmations.

"The staff of Affirmations is just remarkable. They are there day in and day out changing lives, impacting lives, just making the world survivable for so many people," Blanke said while accepting the award.

Kenneth Mogill, co-counsel for the DeBoer-



Rowse family in *DeBoer v. Snyder*, was presented with The Lorna Utley Outstanding Ally Award for his work on the case and his continued support as a strong ally.

"In so many ways what Affirmations is about and what this case is about are the same: dignity, respect, about people being who they are, and that just makes it all the more wonderful to me to be the lucky recipient of this award," Mogill said. "As a lawyer, to be able to do something that I care about deeply and can use my legal training to help further, it's impossible to express just how good that makes me feel. I went to law school because I wanted to work for progressive social change, and here we are 44 years later and I'm still able to do that."

Allan Gilmour and Eric Jirgens were presented with The Charles Moyer Philanthropy Award for contributing beyond typical financial support for the center and setting examples for others to be philanthropic. They will formally receive their award later this year at a donor appreciation event

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The 2016 Presidential Campaign Shapes Up As Exciting One for LGBT People

BY LISA KEEN

The 2016 presidential campaign is shaping up to be a particularly exciting and meaningful one for LGBT people. Here are just a few reasons why:

The campaign manager for Democrat Hillary Clinton, who announced her intent to run Sunday (April 12), is an openly gay man and her video campaign announcement prominently featured gay citizens.

The announced and expected Republican candidates for president are either against equal rights for LGBT people or struggling to find a comfortable position that satisfies the more conservative Republican primary voters while supporting the majority general public's belief that the law should treat gay people fairly.

The legality of state bans on marriage for same-sex couples will be a major news story during these first few months of the presidential campaign, at least until the Supreme Court of the United States rules on the matter in June.

And the clash between religious beliefs and anti-discrimination laws has reached a new apex in the public's attention with the passage in some states of legislation seeking to enable people to discriminate against LGBT people.

But the Clinton campaign is clearly the focus of the most attention right now.

The former first lady, U.S. senator and Secretary of State just announced her plans to run for president in a video posted on Youtube Sunday. The video includes a gay male couple walking down a street hand-in-hand, while one partner explains that the men plan to get married this summer. They, along with two women snuggling on a couch, are among more than a dozen different people talking about getting ready for a new phase in life – a new job, a new school, a new business.

"I'm getting ready for something, too," says Clinton on the video.

At a later point in the video, just after Clinton says, "When families are strong, America is strong," the video shows two women snuggling on a couch.

Clinton and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, have always enjoyed strong support from the LGBT community. But this time around, Hillary Clinton has an openly gay man as her campaign manager.

Thirty-five-year-old Robby Mook is a former head of the Democratic



Hillary Clinton officially announced she will run for president via video Sunday. It includes clips of gay couples including the one above. She also announced that 35-year-old Robby Mook, right, a gay man, will be her campaign manager.

Congressional Campaign Committee and served as campaign manager for Democrat Terry McAuliffe's gubernatorial victory in Virginia in 2013. He worked on the Democratic presidential campaigns of Hillary Clinton in 2008 and Howard Dean in 2004.

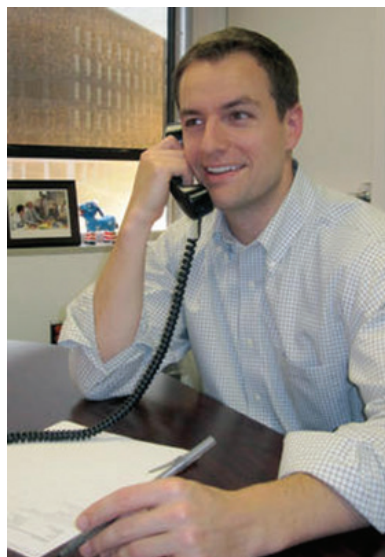
Richard Socarides, a longtime Democratic gay activist who served as liaison to the LGBT community during President Clinton's White House, praised both Hillary Clinton's decision to run and her choice of Mook.

"As someone who has worked with both Bill and Hillary Clinton for over 20 years, I'm excited to support her and will do everything I can to help get her elected," said Socarides. "I think it's terrific that she's hired the most talented person to run her campaign and that he happens to be gay."

The Human Rights Campaign posted a notice on its website Sunday, identifying the gay couple in Clinton's video announcement as HRC members Jared Milrad and Nathan Johnson. HRC also noted that Clinton announced her support for same-sex marriages in 2013.

Log Cabin Republicans, a national gay Republican group, issued an email Sunday saying the "gay left may be willing to make assumptions about Mrs. Clinton's support for the LGBT community, but Log Cabin Republicans will not."

The email posed nine questions for Clinton to answer, including "did Mrs. Clinton support the original Religious Freedom Restoration Act signed into law by her husband while she was First Lady upon which this new crop of RFRA legislation is based?" The question was



a reference to recent and controversial legislation passed in Indiana and other states that would enable citizens and businesses to claim their religious beliefs require them to discriminate against LGBT people.

Gregory Angelo, Log Cabin's executive director, said his group would expect answers from Republican presidential candidates, too.

Three Republican U.S. senators have formally announced their campaigns for president: Ted Cruz of Texas on March 23, Rand Paul of Kentucky on April 7 and, most recently, Marco Rubio of Florida on April 13.

After the Supreme Court of the United States struck down a key provision of the Defense of Marriage Act, Cruz introduced a bill to block federal benefits to same-sex couples in states that refuse to recognize or license their marriages. (The bill has not moved.)

Paul and Rubio have both tried to walk a tricky line between pro "traditional marriage" but not against same-sex marriage.

See Presidential Race, page 16

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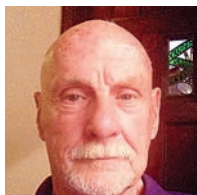
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What's Past Is Pretense



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

You can't judge a gay book by its cover. Its author. Or, its nom de plume.

Case in point: Groundbreaking 1951 sociological expose, "The Homosexual in America." Gay name: Donald Webster Cory. Real name: Edward Sagarin.

Cory's expose came three years after Alfred Kinsey's shelf-shocker, "Sexual Behavior in the Human Male." Both authors provide in-your-face facts, focus, insights on a previously little discussed and statistically undocumented subject – male homosexuality.

Kinsey, a biologist and an authority on gall wasps, turns his scientific cataloging to humans. His research institute colleagues interviewed 5,940 men about their sex lives. The result: 804 pages of tables, charts, dull but very shocking statistics.

Data show 37 percent of the population had at least some overt gay experience to ejaculation; 4 percent of whites are exclusively homosexual after adolescence. Statistics for blacks, undocumented.

Sixty-seven years ago your average Joe believed he had never met a homosexual; that fags, fairies, fruits were rare. But, even so: queers were perverts, mentally unbalanced, to be incarcerated, punished, justifiably shunned by church, family, employers, military, government; to be dealt with by psychiatrists and/or police. (Sound just vaguely familiar?)

Sagarin, a married bisexual sociologist and trained criminologist (and perfume authority), documents gay life as a social phenomenon and also as a participant observer in his "The Homosexual in America."

He provides a fair-minded understanding of gay persons, their subculture, slang, sexual acts, their basic contrast to the so-called heterosexual "norm."

"As a minority homosexuals are caught in a particularly vicious circle," says Sagarin, writing as Donald Webster Cory, a pen name gleaned from Andre Gide's 1924 gay novel "Corydon," first published in America in 1950.

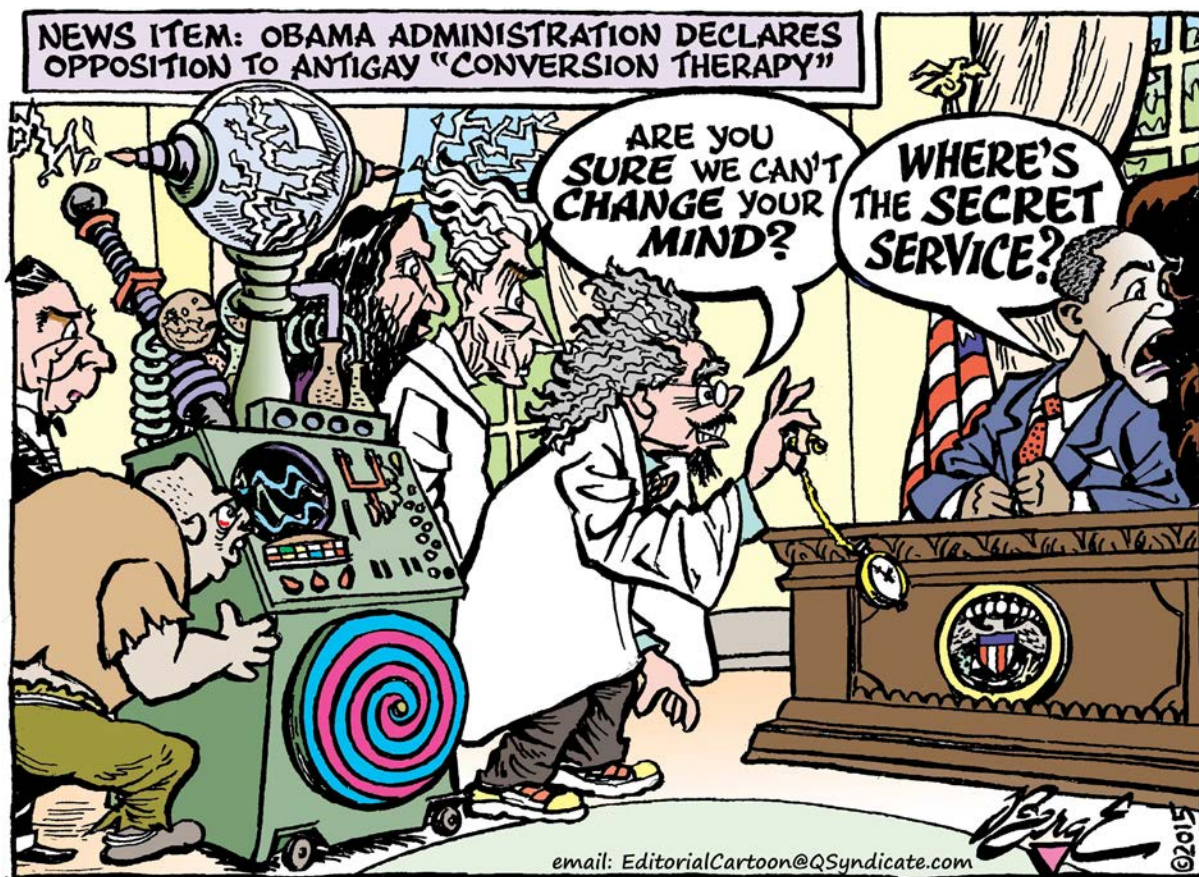
"The shame of belonging and the social punishment of exposure are so great that pretense is universal. Until we are willing to speak out openly and frankly in defense of our sexuality, and to identify ourselves with the millions pursuing these activities, we are unlikely to find the attitudes of the world undergoing any significant change."

Nonetheless, for all Cory/Sagarin's advocacy on the behalf of America's gay population, Sagarin very cautiously, quietly, only in 1962, joined the homophile Mattachine Society. His participation was supportive but "please don't rock my boat." He wanted no militant advocacy for gay civil rights.

As a sociologist undergoing psychotherapy himself, Sagarin believed that homosexuality was a pathology; that homosexuals should seek Freudian analysis. Few of his friends or colleagues knew that he was the famous – at least to a handful of like closet-cases – Donald Webster Cory. (His second gay book is "21 Variations on a Theme.")

Sagarin's identity remained "hush hush" until a 1974 American Sociological Society convention held in Montreal. He appeared on a panel, "Theoretical Perspectives on Homosexuality," speaking strongly against liberationist scholarship. A colleague, Laud Humphreys, took umbrage – and perhaps some polymorphous perverse delight – and blew Sagarin's cover by repeatedly ad libbing, "If you say so, Mr. Cory."

Sagarin broke down in tears; withdrew shortly thereafter from all issues concerning homosexual advocacy. He died in 1986, age 73. Both of his books remain classics.



BTL Editorial Crisis Of Leadership At Equality Michigan

Equality Michigan is a mess. There. We said it.

This is not a new state of affairs for the agency, which has struggled to find its footing since before the 2010 merger between the state's two statewide political agencies: The Triangle Foundation and Michigan Equality. It is an unacceptable position to find ourselves in. Right at an historic crossroads for our state and the U.S. LGBT community, when SCOTUS is taking up same-sex marriage, we will be without leadership from our state organization again. And with less than two years until another U.S. presidential election, our statewide political organization is in disarray – a pattern that has been repeated since before the 2008 election.

The agency's leadership track record is one of appointing a new executive director, then replacing them within two years. That's bad for the LGBT community, and it's bad for the stability of any long-term political strategy.

There is one group of people directly and fully responsible for this ongoing turmoil: the Board of Directors. These are good people on an individual level, dedicated to making Michigan a better place for the LGBT community. We

don't doubt this. We also acknowledge that they are in these positions of leadership – which are often thankless and invisible – as volunteers.

However, the common denominator in this executive leadership crisis is a crisis in board leadership. If Equality Michigan's Board is truly intent on attracting the best and the brightest

There is far too much at stake to allow a rudderless statewide LGBT equality agency bob from one issue to another without any strategic priority while waiting for a new captain.

to lead the agency and the LGBT community, there are things the board must do to lay the groundwork for an effective organization and successful executive directorship.

Equality Michigan's board of directors must develop a clear and measurable plan for the agency.

This roadmap, to borrow the popular vernacular, must include specific and attainable goals. Where does this board envision Michigan's LGBT community in five years? What will the political landscape look like and why? How, specifically, will this agency deliver these measurables? And, in our opinion, the board of directors must grow in size and talent if it is ever going to stop this spiral of ineffectiveness.

The agency must identify exactly how to amend the state's Elliott-Larsen Act (the civil rights act) to include sexual orientation and gender identity and expression. What role will the agency play in the coming year educating voters on our issues? We need specific planned outcomes to address the continuing disempowerment of the transgender community. The plan must clearly define how the agency will take ownership in, and leadership of, addressing LGBT health disparities in the state. What is the plan to mobilize LGBT people and our allies to elect more LGBT friendly people to public office at all levels of government? What are the greatest political risks facing Michigan's LGBT population and how can they be thwarted?

See BTL Editorial, next page



Discrimination In The Lord's Name

OPINION BY YORUBA RICHEN

When I began documenting the same-sex marriage quest in Maryland which ultimately became the award-winning film, "The New Black," I was intrigued by the many nuances explored and positions justified when people were taking a stance either for or against. Of particular note were those against same-sex marriage in the name of their religious platforms (e.g. "I can't support this because the Bible says it's wrong.") Even now, that viewpoint resonates with me because it is laced with such innuendo, assumption and, in some instances, downright fiction.

Today there are 37 states with legal same-sex marriage laws which demonstrates a quantum leap since "The New Black" premiered. To give you an idea of how far we've come, in February 2014 there were only 17 states with such laws. And to hopefully further progress, the U.S. Supreme Court is set to render a decision on whether states can institute a gay marriage ban. If victorious in favor of the LGBT community, it will overthrow existing bans in the remaining 13 states, declaring them unconstitutional. That would be a civil rights coup in the name of love and justice.

It brings to mind less than 50 years ago, when a similar civil rights battle was presented before the U.S. Supreme Court: Loving v. Virginia (1967). This landmark ruling overturned Virginia's ban on interracial marriage and was subsequently applied to the remaining 15 states that outlawed matrimony between people of different ethnicities. The similarities between today's quest and the Loving story are astounding:

1. Today, 13 states still have bans on gay marriage; during the Loving battle, there were 16 declaring interracial unions illegal.

2. Today, the LGBT community simply wants the right to a legal marriage in the states where they reside; Richard and Mildred Loving wanted to live in wedlock in their home state of Virginia.

3. Both battles call into question whether bans violate human and civil rights.

While similarities are stark, today's challenge facing the LGBT population has an additional layer which is cloaked in the

Bible. Some who oppose legalizing same-sex marriage cite their belief that it is forbidden according to the "Good Book." Though we are making great strides, choosing to discriminate against the LGBT community for sacred reasons continues to create a convenient, thorny cross for us all to bear – pun intended.

Let's take the resurgence of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which has recently passed in Indiana and Arkansas with a potentially blaring version being contemplated in Louisiana. Even with revisions to the language in Indiana, RFRA's blatant legislation affords people legal legs to discriminate – and they can do so by applying sketchy and selective interpretation of religious doctrine.

For instance, a small business refuses to cater a wedding for a lesbian couple because Christian beliefs don't support the lifestyle. In the Old Testament, it states that sex with the same gender is an abomination. It also applies this same judgement to any sexual acts other than those between husband and wife. The New Testament condemns all forms of sexual immorality. There is no reference in the Bible admonishing gay marriage. So, I'll argue that unless this establishment inquired about the lesbian couple's sexual behavior and based its service refusal on the answer, it is unconstitutional to stand on religion. And for that matter, a heterosexual couple would also have to be polled to glean whether they've had premarital sex. Or, what if a heterosexual couple samples cake and the husband exclaims, "Oh my God, that is delicious"? Will they be escorted from the building since one of the Ten Commandments reads, "Thou shall not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain"?

In order to base service decisions on religious freedom, one would have to investigate each customer and determine if they've violated doctrine in any way. Anything short of this is cherry-picking, exercising selective rights-of-refusal. In other words, it is *discrimination*, and enacting legislation which makes such behavior legal is the real abomination.

As we continue the quest for the LGBT population's right to legally marry in every state, we must also be vigilant about opposing legislation that allows someone to discriminate in the name of the Lord.

"The New Black" is scheduled for Video-On-Demand and DVD release in June.

to dump this quagmire in their lap and wish them luck. This board must step up to the plate and create a clear, achievable plan for victory, equality and safety in Michigan, and it must do so immediately. If it cannot, the board should be prepared to step aside. Anything less is a betrayal of the agency, the community and our state.

► BTL Editorial

Continued from p. 14

There is far too much at stake to allow a rudderless statewide LGBT equality agency bob from one issue to another without any strategic priority while waiting for a new captain. It is unfair to any incoming leader

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Creep of the Week Ted Cruz

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Before I begin this week's column I'd like to first offer an apology. You see, I have a bad habit of referring to anti-gay politicians and talking heads using terms like "ass," "asshole," "dick" and "dickhead" in the pejorative. I've done some soul-searching and realized that I can no longer do this in good conscience and I sincerely apologize to anyone I have offended. After all, butts and penises serve a legitimate purpose in the lives of so many people. In other words: there are plenty of people, straight and gay alike, who like backsides and wieners. Not only for the sexing, mind you, but also for the very essential bodily functions they allow for. I hope that each and every booty and schlong and the people who love them can forgive me.



Ted Cruz

Which leads me to this week's Creep: United States Senator Ted Cruz, R-Texas, the first Republican to throw his hate in the ring (no,

I did not spell "hat" wrong) to run for president.

On April 9, Cruz spoke in Iowa to a gathering of The Network of Iowa Christian Home Educators and – surprise! – said something anti-gay.

More specifically, he was expressing his support for the so-called "religious liberty" laws being passed across the country, the most notably recent in Indiana. He also expressed his frustration that anyone would dare challenge such laws just because they can be used to discriminate against LGBT people in states where there are no anti-discrimination protections for LGBT people (like in Indiana).

"We look at the jihad that is being waged right now, in Indiana, and Arkansas," he said, "going after people of faith who respect the biblical teaching that marriage is the union of one man and one woman."

It is, of course, a mischaracterization, at best, to describe the opposition to so-called religious freedom laws as "jihad." But there's no reason to give Cruz the benefit of the doubt here. He's clearly using "jihad" intentionally in order to arouse his audience's inherent dislike and distrust in Muslims in order to make them even more mad at those "dern homosexers." And while the definition of "jihad" is open to some debate, no doubt Cruz and his ilk believe that it means "gay married terrorists killing Jesus lovers for sport." And since he's speaking to a group of homeschoolers, said gay married terrorists were clearly trained in the public schools.

Because Cruz is apparently unaware of irony, after he laments the fact that LGBT people are kicking up a fuss over being singled out for discrimination, he then issues a call for unity. Against gay people.

"We need to bring people together to the religious liberty values that built this country. It wasn't long ago when this was an area of bipartisan agreement," he said. "It used to be Democrats and Republicans, they might disagree on marginal tax rates, but when it came to the First Amendment, we all stood together and said, 'Of course every one of us has a God-given right to seek out and worship God and to live according to our faith and our conscience and our belief.'"

Mind you, when he's talking about the First Amendment, he means the right to the free exercise of religion, which specifically means the right to discriminate against icky LGBT people because Jesus said so. He's claiming discrimination as a God given right.

And this is where the old me would have called Cruz a dick. But the new me will not stoop so low. The new me declares that Cruz is a cancer. He is a tumor in the asshole of America, full of shit and recklessly multiplying and growing without regard to his host's life or well-being. The good news is that he's been detected fairly early. The bad news is that he's convinced a lot of Americans, for whom religion trumps science, that he's actually good for them. And so he grows.

Local LGBT-Supportive Catholic Group Conducts Survey On Marriage, Sexuality

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

DETROIT – Two years ago, Pope Francis called for a two-year consultation on the family. As part of that consultation, an extraordinary Synod of Bishops met last October and an ordinary Synod of Bishops will meet this fall at the Vatican. The theme of the synod, or assembly, is "The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and Contemporary World."

In advance of the synod, the Vatican sent bishops worldwide a report on the 2014 assembly along with a list of 46 questions on a range of topics that includes marriage and sexuality. The news of the synod, as well as the soliciting of opinions from the laity, was met with great encouragement from Fortunate Families Detroit, a group that calls for the inclusion of LGBT people in the Catholic church.

"I think it's fantastic," said Linda Karle-Nelson of FFD. "I think it's something that we've needed for a long time. Pope Francis has really opened up the ears of the church through the bishops to listen to people who have been marginalized for a long time. This is their time to be heard, and hopefully what they hear will help them to gradually make some changes in the way that they take care of some of these marginalized people."

Sadly, while the Vatican asked the bishops to consult clergy as well as laity, not every diocese across the country elected to make the questionnaire available to all of their parishioners. The Archdiocese of Detroit is one that did not originally solicit the opinions of the laity and when it eventually did, did not do so in an organized manner.

"They finally sent out a letter to pastors inviting them to ask their parishioners to answer the questions, but there was no structured way to respond," explained Karle-Nelson. "So the responses that were received would have mostly been from regular Catholics who go to church every week, and probably the majority of them would not think the way that marginalized people, or people who are not coming to church because they are angry or hurt, would feel."

As a result, FFD conducted their own survey. Fortunate Families is comprised primarily of Catholic parents of gay, lesbian and transgender individuals. Their survey therefore focused on issues of concern to Catholic families with LGBT members.

"The results say that LGBT Catholics generally are feeling very alienated," said Karle-Nelson. "They're feeling that they aren't

understood by the church."

The survey found that a majority (55 percent) of Catholic LGBT allies said they had "seriously considered" leaving the Roman Catholic Church because of its treatment of LGBT people, while another 3 percent have left the church for that reason. Asked how the church can respond better to people who are LGBT and their families, respondents chose helping families accept their LGBT kids with love, compassion, support and respect and fully accepting out LGBT people as parishioners, teachers and lay leaders as their top two priorities.

Karle-Nelson said that while the group is encouraged that Pope Francis took this move, their expectations are tempered.

"We're hoping that he'll listen," she said, "in terms of making significant changes, certainly not in terms of same-sex marriage – we're not expecting that. But just that the Pope would instruct his bishops to listen to the stories of gay and lesbian people, the stories that they have are stories that are from their heart. And if you have an opportunity to share those stories with a pastor or a church official, it makes a big difference in the way that they perceive LGBT people. So hopefully pastors will begin to listen."

► Presidential Race

Continued from p. 13

Last July, Rubio told a Catholic University audience that "we have come a long way" since the days when government banned gays from jobs, bars and restaurants. And he lamented that "many committed gay and lesbian couples feel humiliated by the law's failure to recognize their relationship as marriage." But Rubio said he personally supports the man-woman marriage tradition "not because I seek to discriminate against people who love someone of the same sex, but because I believe that the union of one man and one woman is a special relationship that has proven to be of great benefit to our society... and therefore deserves to be elevated in our laws."

In an interview Sunday with CNN, Paul took a similar position.

"I think that there's a religious connotation to marriage. I believe in

the traditional religious connotation to this. But I also believe people should be treated fairly under the law," Paul told CNN's Dana Bash. "I see no reason why, if the marriage contract conveys certain things that, if you want to marry another woman, you can do that and have a contract. But the thing is the religious connotation of marriage that has been going on for thousands of years – I still want to preserve that. You probably could have both. You could have both traditional marriage, which I believe in, and then you could also have the neutrality of the law that allows people to have contracts with another."

Paul also took the opportunity Sunday to criticize the Clintons for accepting donations for their charitable Clinton Foundation from the Sultan of Brunei. He suggested the donations

call into question Hillary Clinton's commitment to women's rights, given that Brunei stones women to death for adultery. He did not mention that gays can be stoned to death in Brunei.

Most of the focus right now, however, is on Clinton – the first Democratic candidate to formally enter the 2016 presidential race. Log Cabin leader Angelo said his organization has "the same questions for Republicans as we have for Mrs. Clinton – the only difference is Log Cabin Republicans is the only organization with the guts to demand answers from Mrs. Clinton on these extremely important issues."

"Every other gay organization out there – every single one," said Angelo, "is cheerleading for Mrs. Clinton rather than doing their duty of seeking clarity on policy issues that will affect members of the LGBT community for years to come."



Hillary Clinton




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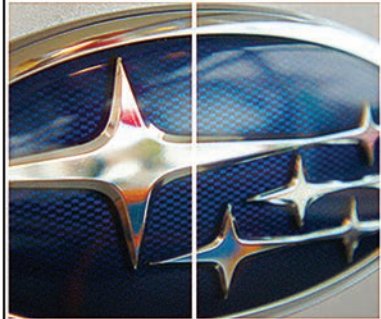

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Photo: Charlotte Rutherford

Welsh Superstar Talks Gay Pandering, Lesbian Rumors & 'Uncomfortable' Pop Phase

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

“This line is so sketchy!” says Marina Lambrini Diamandis (better known by her stage name, Marina and the Diamonds). But despite the fallible international phone connection, the Welsh indie-pop artist’s refreshing truthfulness is not impeded as she promotes her latest album, “FROOT.”

Marina can be heard loud and clear while serving major dish on a variety of hot topics: lesbian rumors, Katy Perry parties, interviews she calls “complete shit” and what she thinks of artists who pander to the gay community (Hint: “It’s insulting”).

So, your new album, Marina: I cried.

Noooo! (Laughs)

Was the experience of creating the music as emotional of an experience for you?

Yeah. I mean, maybe in a less intense way because I was writing it for over 18 months. With everything (I’m) very kind of exposed, but particularly so with this one.

How did you end up making an album that’s very much about self-confidence and loving yourself first?

I can’t really tell you. There’s not an answer for

the way I got to that point. The relationship you have with yourself – you can’t really orchestrate that or make that happen. It’s more than just a point you get to in your life. It was very gradual. Obviously, I must’ve got to a point where I was inspired enough to write about it for songs like “Happy,” but that was quite late in (the recording stage), so songs like “Immortal” and “Gold” were written on the way to getting to that point, if that makes sense.

So you were working yourself out as you went along?

Yeah, totally.

INFO

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The album really resonates with me in a way that I think will also resonate with a lot of people in the LGBT community.

A lot of the reason I think I have a gay fan

base is because a lot of the themes, and the core of the songs, are usually stemming from something to do with identity or acceptance. I know that I always felt like that and I don't anymore. "FROOT" definitely focuses on that, but I suppose, yeah, it is a lot about letting go of certain things. Anyone who feels rejection, prejudice or discrimination in some way would connect to that.

When we spoke in 2012, you were reluctant to gush too much about your gay fan base. At the time you said, "I don't want to be a cliché pop star saying, 'I love my gays!'" When does talking about one's gay fan base become a cliché?

It's not that it's a cliché – it's more that, perhaps, I was cynical about it. I felt that people in pop use that to express themselves in that way for calculated means because they know the gay fan base is extremely loyal and extremely expressive and is a tastemaker demographic. You know what I mean? It's like, "Oh, god." It's insulting to both sides.

I kind of feel the same way now, because, yeah, of course I have a really strong gay fan base, and the fact is that it is a really enjoyable factor for me to have a really strong demographic because it makes the shows a lot more fun, for one, and because they are really expressive. But all types of people should be appreciated. I'm sure the gays would back me up on that! (Laughs)

Do you think the appreciation of one's following can morph into pandering?

On Twitter, I don't really like it when I see loads of messages from an artist saying (talks in baby voice) "I love you guys! I love you guys! I love you guys!" because I don't think there's any kind of intelligence in that. Also, how can you be genuine and say that so many times? Maybe that's when it becomes pandering, when you're dumbing down your fan base.

You've opened up for some big names, including Coldplay and Katy Perry. What is the extent of your interactions with these people when you're on tour with them? Did Katy invite you to hang out with her?

(Laughs) She did actually! She invited me to a Fourth of July celebration; it was really nice. She looks after her supports nicely, but I didn't hang out with her personally loads. And then with Coldplay – Chris (Martin) came and said hi a few times, but just as much as you're busy, they're busy. I do promo, and Coldplay has to do god knows what. I mean, they have bloody kids to look after! To be honest, even with the supports that I've had, you don't really get to talk to each other that much. Sometimes you might get to hang out, but it's pretty common to not really see each other that much.

Could you see yourself working with Katy at some point?

You never know! With collaborations, I've been very picky in that I've only ever done one, so I'm kind of looking forward to doing more. Now that I've done this album and

created what I want, I feel much more open to doing other stuff.

"FROOT" has more in common musically with your debut than its follow up, "Electra Heart." It's very DIY, less mainstream pop. Why the change?

Because I felt like this is the essence of who I am as an artist. Pre getting signed, that was the music I was creating, and it's not like "this is the real me." It's more that I feel like with "Electra Heart" it was very conceptual and I wholeheartedly embraced working with big writers and big producers in American pop to further my fan base and to expose me to a lot of new people. I did that because you literally can't get on the radio in any other way.

So, for me, doing another album like that again would not make sense because I didn't enjoy the experience of trying to try to fit into this mold. I felt that, though there were so many really enjoyable parts to "Electra Heart," particularly with the visuals that we were creating, there were also parts – the everyday stuff, the kind of interviews that I was having to do, and the perception that people had of me – that I just felt really uncomfortable. With this one, I just wanted to try it on my own.

What about the interviews during the "Electra Heart" period made you feel uncomfortable?

Just uncomfortable in that they were complete shit. Actually, I have to say, for whatever reason, except the ones that were for gay publications, it seemed like everything was very surface layer because of the music that I was making. Like, "You're making pop songs, so of course you're this kind of person."

I'm guessing you won't be returning to mainstream pop in that way, then.

Umm, probably not. Not for myself, no.

There are many theories about "FROOT" on the Internet. One is that this is allegedly your coming out album.

(Laughs) No, sorry, it is not. It certainly isn't.

Are you aware of how many lesbians wish you were gay, though?

Actually, I'm not. Interesting! I'm afraid to disappoint.

The other is that the double Os in "FROOT" are actually a pair of tits.

(Laughs) I'm happy to back that rumor!

Was that really the intention?

(Laughs) No – it's just that I liked the double O because it looks almost a bit synthetic and playful. It gave (the album) a playful edge, so that's why the two Os happened. But also, when we came to design the logo, I actually liked it from a design aspect, because when you interlink the Os you can form a little diamond.

Plus, spelling it "fruit" is so boring.

It's too serious.

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This show was controversial when it premiered and the battle against this “lewd and lascivious” masterpiece went all the way to the Supreme Court. Far from being dusty or irrelevant, these themes are as significant today as ever. This wild and masterful ride still asks us to question our beliefs, and its hopeful message of peace and love continues to rock our hearts and minds.

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A director pre-show discussion will be

held at 1:15 p.m. on Sunday, April 19; a post-show discussion will follow the Thursday, April 23 performance.

The Wharton Center is located at Michigan State University, 750 E. West Shaw Lane, East Lansing, 48824. For tickets or more information, call 1-800-WHARTON or visit www.whartoncenter.com.

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8 Free Ways to Bond With Mom This Mother's Day

BY MIKEY ROX

True, moms don't mind jewelry or other trinkets on Mother's Day – but that's what husbands are for. All mom wants from you, her little angel, is the gift of quality time. Grant her wish this May 10 by planning an activity that gets you two together, talking and having fun. Here are a few no-cost, easy-to-plan ideas.

1. Polish your green thumb and get in the garden

If your mom is the kind of lady who likes to put on those cute little hats, aprons and gloves while she gets down and dirty in the garden, offer to lend a hand. She'll probably want you to pull weeds (because nobody wants to pull weeds if they don't have to) while she plants the pretty flowers, but this outdoor activity is an ideal way to catch up on each other's lives while giving back to nature. As a special treat, bring over a pitcher of homemade lemonade to quench your thirsts after a few hours of manual labor.

2. Grab a bottle of wine for a picnic in the park

When was the last time you enjoyed a picnic in the park... with your mom? Twenty years ago? Ever? Close that gap by planning a picnic in a shady spot within your favorite green space. Pack mom's favorite foods along with a bottle of wine, then kick back, nosh and chat while enjoying the flora *and* the fauna.

3. Offer to help with a small project around the house

There are probably a million little things that mom needs someone to do around the house (Dad's not gettin' any younger, after all). On Mother's Day, ring mom to ask what projects she'd like help with. She'll probably tell you not to worry about it, but let her know that this is your gift to her and it's something you'd like to do. Bring your supplies and tools and get started.

See Frivolist, page 22

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► Frivolist

Continued from p. 21

4. Invite her over for a one-on-one brunch

Family brunches are fun, but they can get chaotic. This year, take mom out for a one-on-one brunch so you can connect with one another without interruption. If you have a large family that prohibits this on Mother's Day because they're planning on celebrating together, schedule another date and time so you and mom have the best of both worlds.

5. Pick up a pair of tickets for a free show around town

Free shows are hard to come by, but you might find something that mom will enjoy with stealthy Internet research. If you can't lock down a show that's free, dig a little deeper for venues that may be running a Mother's Day special where mom gets in gratis. Those are fairly common in lieu of a totally free event.

6. Reminisce over old home movies

Give the movie marathon idea a twist by screening your own home movies. They've



probably been hidden away for a decent amount of time at this point, so it'll be a treat for you both to look back on happy times. Just make sure you bring the tissues; there's no way you're getting out there with dry eyes on mom.

7. Dish the gossip over a couple board games

Just like you have a busy social life that keeps your quality time to a minimum,

mom likely has a social life, too. And what do people with active social lives like to do? Gossip, of course! So let's dish. Set up a board game, brew a pot of tea, and put out a plate of cookies for you two gab pals to nibble while you blab everybody's deepest, darkest secrets – in the strictest of confidence, of course.

8. Get in the kitchen and bake like you're a kid again

My best collection of memories including my mom and my grandmothers are baking goodies around the holidays or for special occasions. If you two like spending time in the kitchen, spend the day baking a few of your favorite cakes, pies and pastries that you can either eat yourself or give away to a few of your favorite people. Baking with mom is a great way to hark back to your childhood, recall favorite memories of your own, and act like you're a kid again as you lick the spoon – so long as it doesn't spoil your dinner.

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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The OutField: Hoosier Hullabaloo

BY DAN WOOG

The words “NCAA” and “moral high ground” seldom share the same sentence. Yet that lofty peak is exactly where college sport’s most influential body found itself recently, on the flat terrain of Indiana.

The reason was political. The Hoosier State – “The Crossroads of America,” according to its official motto – had just passed the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. Gov. Mike Pence wasted little time signing the bill, which would allow businesses and individuals to claim religion as a defense in discrimination lawsuits. Because sexual orientation is not protected under Indiana law, LGBT people could be refused services, or suffer other forms of mistreatment.

Indiana also happens to be the crossroads of many athletic events and organizations. The National Collegiate Athletic Association is headquartered there; so is the National Federation of State High School Associations. It’s the site of the annual Big Ten football championship game, through at least 2021. It’s home to NFL and NBA teams, as well as America’s most famous 500-mile automobile race.

Although sports and politics seldom mix, the sports world reacted quickly, and vehemently, to the governor’s signature.

In sports, timing is everything. Part of the reason for the nearly instant reaction is that just a few days after the legislation was passed, Indianapolis would host college basketball’s men’s Final Four tournament. The eyes of the nation would be fixed on a city in which, apparently, gay hoops fans – or players, coaches, staff members, sportswriters, and anyone else associated with the event – could now be denied service.

What’s more, the women’s Final Four is scheduled for the same city next year.

Mark Emmert – president of the NCAA, which has a \$1-a-year lease in Indianapolis that runs through 2060 (!) – issued a statement almost immediately. He said his organization would examine how the law “might affect future events, as well as our workforce.”

Emmert added, “The NCAA national office and our members are deeply

committed to providing an inclusive environment for all our events. We are especially concerned about how this legislation could affect our student-athletes and employees. We will work diligently to assure student-athletes



Jim Buzinski at his alma mater, Penn State.

competing in, and visitors attending, next week’s men’s Final Four in Indianapolis are not impacted negatively by this bill.”

Jim Buzinski had a front-row view of the Hoosier hullabaloo. The co-founder of OutSports, a website founded in 1999 that has become the go-to site for LGBT sports news and commentary, he was both surprised and impressed by the quick reaction of athletes and organizations.

“It wasn’t just the NCAA,” Buzinski said. “Charles Barkley spoke out too, on the eve of the biggest college (basketball) event.” The former NBA star – now an opinionated and controversial television analyst – forcefully declared that Indiana should no longer host any major sporting events.

The timing of the Final Four was an important “trigger” in the quick sports world reaction, Buzinski noted.

That trigger was pulled a year earlier, when Arizona passed its own Religious Freedom Restoration Act. As it became clear that the National Football League might remove the state from consideration as a Super Bowl host (no idle threat; the NFL moved the game from Tempe to the Rose Bowl in 1993, because the state never established an official Martin Luther King holiday) Gov. Jan Brewer refused to sign the bill.

“It seemed pretty spontaneous,” Buzinski said of the opposition to Indiana’s legislation. “There were no LGBT sports groups saying, ‘We have to make this an issue.’ People pay attention when sports figures speak up. The media asked questions, and it took off from there.”

Individuals acted too. University of Southern California athletic director Pat Haden chose not to attend a college football playoff meeting in Indianapolis. “I am the proud father of a gay son,” he tweeted. “#EmbraceDiversity.”

After a disastrous appearance by Gov. Pence on a Sunday talk show, the Indiana legislature went from defense to offense. It passed a revised version of the law, which prohibits businesses from using it in court as a refusal to offer services based on sexual orientation. (However, sexual orientation is still not a protected category in Indiana law.)

“The Final Four was a line in the sand they didn’t want to cross,” Buzinski said. “They didn’t want people talking about it when the games began. The situation was getting untenable. Once the revised bill was signed, they were off the hook.”

The issue is quiet – for now. But it won’t go away. Without specific mention of sexual orientation in Indiana’s anti-discrimination statutes, LGBT people in the state still lack legal protection.

That means NCAA employees – plus anyone associated with the Indianapolis Colts, Indiana Pacers and Indy 500 – must remain wary of the “Crossroads of America.”

Dan Woog is a journalist, educator, soccer coach and gay activist. His latest book is “We Kick Balls: True Stories from the Youth Soccer Wars.” He can be reached care of this publication or at OutField@qsyndicate.com.

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Puzzle solution on pg. 30

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Editor's Pick

"This American Life" host Ira Glass joins dancers Monica Bill Barnes and Anna Bass in a show that combines two art forms that, as Glass himself puts it, "have no business being together: dance and radio."

One is all words and no visuals; the other is all visuals and no words. The result – Three Acts, Two Dancers, One Radio Host – is a lively, funny, "talky" evening of stories and dance about love, about performing, and about losing what you love. Glass delivers his trademark narratives while Barnes and Bass, hailed by The Washington Post as "the Tina Fey of dance," evoke characters through dance.

"This American Life" is one of the most popular podcasts in America and has won the highest honors for broadcasting excellence. Monica Bill

Barnes and Company are dancers who celebrate individuality, humor and the innate theatricality of life. "It's just like a radio show," Ira Glass explains. "Um, if you picture dancers during all the stories."

Ira Glass performs at 8 p.m. April 18 in the Cobb Great Hall of the Wharton Center in Lansing. For more information, go to <http://www.whartoncenter.com/events/detail/ira-glass>.

26th Annual Bow Wow Brunch 11:30 a.m. Proceeds from the Bow Wow Brunch assist MHS in finding homes for animals in need, furthering innovative community outreach efforts, supporting critical spay/neuter programs, and most importantly, getting closer to the ultimate goal of ending animal homelessness. MadDog Technology, 1777 Third St., **Detroit**. 248-283-5628. ppoulos@michiganhumane.org

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

Cal Freeman, "The Brother Leaving" 2 p.m. The Gaelic League, 2068 Michigan Ave., **Detroit**.

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

Cirque Ziva 3 p.m. Tickets: \$24. 50-44. 50. Olympia Entertainment, 2211 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

Gourmet Italian Dinner Fundraiser for Ozone House 3 p.m. Come eat a gourmet Italian dinner in St. Mary's Newman Hall. Desserts also provided! All proceeds to benefit Ozone House to help local youth. Runs until 7 p.m. Donations suggested. All are welcome! Lesbian and Gay Outreach Ministry, 331 Thompson St., **Ann Arbor**. 734-663-0557. rleone@umich.edu Website

Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, April 16

Transgender Women of Color (TWOC) 7 p.m. Focused on embracing womanhood and developing sisterhood. TWOC, **Detroit**. 313-931-2975.

Friday, April 17

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

LGBT Dinner 6:30 p.m. Lansing Association for Human Rights, **Lansing**. Lahronline.org/

Whoopi Goldberg 8 p.m. Tickets: \$48-78. Sound Board, 2901 Grand River Ave., **Detroit**. 800-745-3000. Motorcitycasino.com

Saturday, April 18

Ira Glass Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, **East Lansing**. 800-WHARTON. Whartoncenter.com

LGBTQ Health & Wellness Fair for the LGBT Community 1 p.m. Includes free healthy snacks, raffle prizes and more. Affirmations' Health & Wellness Program, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Gay Straight Alliance in Berrien County 2 p.m. LGBTQ youth, friends and allies, ages 14-18. OutCenter, 124 Water St., **Benton Harbor**. 269-925-8330. Outcenter.org

Sunday, April 19

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

Tour Because Awesome 8 p.m. Hank Green, Harry and the Potters and more, 4120 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 313-833-9700. Majesticdetroit.com

Tuesday, April 21

LGBTQ+ Support Group 4 p.m. For teens age 14-18. Call number for location. True Teen Group, **East Lansing**. 725-222-TRUE. truegbtq@gmail.com

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

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

Wednesday, April 22

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

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

Sistrum Weekly Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Sistrum, Lansing Women's Chorus, 215 N. Capital Ave., **Lansing**. Sistrum.org

Above Ground: An Earth Day Celebration 6:45 p.m. Sacred Star Productions, 217 W. Michigan Ave., **Ypsilanti**. 734-547-5143. craigacombs@me.com

Earth Day Benefit Show 6:45 p.m. Free. Sacred Star Productions, 217 W. Michigan Ave., **Ypsilanti**. 734-547-5143.

Thursday, April 23

Free HIV Testing 2:30 p.m. Free anonymous HIV testing in-store at S3 every Thursday 2-8. Call to make an appointment, or walk-ins welcome.

S3 Safe Sex Store and HARC, 1209 S. University, **Ann Arbor**. 734-741-1434. info@bak-inc.com S3safesexstore.com

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

Friday, April 24

H&F Women's Spring Fling 3 p.m. Three Day event which includes three parties!!!! Guest speakers, speed dating and much, much more! Hustle & Flo Productions, 8599 N. Lilly Road, **Canton**. 734-678-9993. hustleflo4244@gmail.com Womenspringfling.weebly.com

Saturday, April 25

Women in Comedy with Margaret Smith The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., **Three Oaks**. 269-756-3879. Acorntheater.com

Alcohol Abuse Weekly Therapy Group 2 p.m. The Center for Relationship and Sexual Health, 25600 Woodward Ave., Ste. 215, **Royal Oak**. 248-399-7447. officemgr@crsh.com

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

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

Wine Tasting 7 p.m. A superb selection of fine wines, live musical entertainment, and delicious gourmet fare from area restaurants and bakeries. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., **Flint**. 810-234-1695. Flintarts.org

David Sedaris 8 p.m. WDET, 1526 Broadway St., **Detroit**. 313-237-SING. Motopera.org

Sunday, April 26

Monday, April 27

Building Michigan Communities Conference (BMCC) BMCC, **Lansing**. Buildingmicommunities.org

Re-imagining Gender 15 promising artists take on one of the thorniest challenges facing contemporary art: how to render the modern spectrum of gender, going beyond the simple male/female binary to include a wide variety of identities and sexualities. University of Michigan, Inst. for Research on Women and Gender, 204 S. State St., **Ann Arbor**. 734-764-9537. schwarde@umich.edu lrwg_research.umich.edu/events/exhibitions.html

Cultivating Taste of Place Workshop 9 a.m. Tickets: \$10. Tourism Windsor Essex, **Windsor Essex**.

Substance Abuse Weekly Therapy Group 6 p.m. The Center for Relationship and Sexual Health, 25600 Woodward Ave., Ste. 215, **Royal Oak**. 248-399-7447. officemgr@crsh.com

Interfaith Prayer Vigil 7 p.m. All God's Children Work Group, 21575 W. 10 Mile Road, **Southfield**. 248-721-1209. elysek@sbcglobal.net

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

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

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

MUSIC & MORE

Four Pianos "Walt Matzke's Four Pianos: A Tour de Force on Four Grand Pianos" Tickets: \$19-\$39. Fountain Street Church, 24 Fountain Street NE, **Grand Rapids**. 7:30 p.m. April 25. 1-800-585-3737. StarTickets.com

Italian Film Festival "Italian Film Festival" All films are free and open to the public. Various, Various. April 2 - April 26. italianfilmfestivals.org

Midtown Detroit Inc. "Art X Detroit". Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. April 9 - April 26. 313-832-6622. artxdetroit.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre "John Mulaney" 18+. Tickets: \$29. 50-35. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. Sep. 27 - April 16. 248-399-2980. royaloakmusictheatre.com

The Magic Bag "The English Beat" Featuring Dave Wakeling. Tickets: \$22+. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Dec. 5 - April 23. 248-544-3030. themagicbag.com

The Magic Bag "Dead Again (Grateful Dead Tribute)" Tickets: \$10. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Oct. 26 - April 18. 248-544-3030. themagicbag.com

Benefits/Social Events

Oakland University "16th Annual Matilda Awards" Tickets: \$22-42. Oakland Center Banquet Rooms, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. 6 p.m. April 20. 248-370-2030. oakland.edu

Comedy

Olympia Entertainment "Lewis Black: The Rant is Due Part Deux" Tickets: \$49. 50-75. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. April 25. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com

Sound Board - Motor City Casino "Wendy Williams". Sound Board, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. April 24. 800-745-3000. motorcitycasino.com

Concerts

Fox Theatre "Memphis The Musical" From the underground dance clubs of 1950s Memphis, where rock 'n' roll was born, comes a hot musical that bursts off the stage with explosive dancing, irresistible songs and a thrilling tale of fame and forbidden love. [CLICK HERE](#) for complete show information. Tickets: \$30-70. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. April 17. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com

Jazz Cafe "Omar Sosa". Jazz Cafe, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit. April 22 - April 22. 313-887-8500. musicchall.org

Michigan Theater "Noir Film Series".

Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Jan. 12 - April 27. 734-668-8397. michtheater.org

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Dan + Shay with Canaan Smith" Where It All Began Tour. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. April 24. 248-399-2980. royaloakmusictheatre.com

Saugatuck Center for the Arts "Hot Club of Cowtown" Tickets: \$36. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. 8 p.m. April 17. 269-857-2399. sc4a.org

The Ark "Madcat Midnight Blues Journey" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. April 23. 734-761-1800. theark.org

The Ark "Mr. B with Bob Seeley, Rick Roe & Silvan Vingg" Tickets: \$27. 50. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. April 18. 734-761-1800. theark.org

The Ark "Captain Ivory" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. April 16. 734-761-1800. theark.org

The Ark "The Dustbowl Revival" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. April 19. 734-761-1800. theark.org

The Ark "Billy Strings & Don Julin" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. April 24. 734-761-1800. theark.org

The Ark "Steve Poltz" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. April 17. 734-761-1800. theark.org

The Ark "Madeleine Peyroux" Tickets: \$47. 50. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. April 20. 734-761-1800. theark.org

The Ark "Portland Cello Project" Tickets: \$18. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. April 25. 734-761-1800. theark.org

The Ark "Alan Doyle" So Let's Go Tour. Tickets: \$21. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. April 22. 734-761-1800. theark.org

The Ark and AEG Live "Delta Rae". Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. April 23. 248-399-2980. royaloakmusictheatre.com

The Majestic "The Mountain Goats". Majestic Theater, 4120-4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. April 17. 313-833-9700. majesticdetroit.com

Unlimited Sky Production "Wednesday

Night Jazz & Soul Music Series" Every Wednesday Night Jazz & Soul Music Series featuring some of the best live music in Michigan. Cover: \$5. Harbor House, 440 Clinton, Detroit. Jan. 21 - June 24. 3139679900. harborhousemi.com

Dance

Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts "Jessica Lang Center" Tickets: \$15-50. Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. April 17. 313-887-8500. musicchall.org

Other

For a Day Foundation "Sixth Annual Charity Run with the Cops, Not From Them!" The 10K race begins at 9:30 a.m.; 5K race begins at 9:45 a.m.; 1 Mile walk/run begins at 10 a.m. Early entry fee (before April 17th) for 10 K and 5 K \$30, after \$35; 1 Mile walk/run early entry fee (before April 17), \$20 after \$25. Belle Isle State Park, Detroit. April 25. 313-719-6743. fadfdetroit.org

Brides Against Breast Cancer "Brides Against Breast Cancer Charity Bridal Event and Trunk Sale" Tickets: \$5. Fellows Creek Golf Club, 2936 S. Lotz Road, Canton. 2 p.m. April 18. 877-721-HOPE. bridesabc.org

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

Shows

Olympia Entertainment "Steve Martin & Martin Short" "A Very Stupid Conversation... With Music." Tickets: \$49-149. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. April 24. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com

Static Network "Detroit Zombie Apocalypse III" The Zombie Apocalypse is an entertainment extravaganza featuring music, burlesque, sideshow acts, an apocalyptic art gallery, vendors and more! \$10 benefits The American Cancer Society. Autographed items by the Walking Dead cast members for silent auction! The Tangent Gallery, 715 E. Milwaukee, Detroit. 8 p.m. April 18. 313-873-2955. facebook.com/DetroitZombieApocalypse

See Happenings, page 26

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Editor's Pick

Affirmations will host its LGBTQ+ Health & Wellness Fair this Saturday at the community center. This one-day event offers free one-on-one health consultations, educational workshops, healthy snacks, a Zumba class, raffle prizes and a special J-Sette performance. This year's fair will also feature a vendor marketplace where various health-related agencies and organizations will be offering services and resources.

Professionals involved include Oakland University School of Nursing students

and educational workshops facilitated by Dr. Elijah Silver and Dr. Kofi Adoma. Topics of the workshops include "Trans Health Care: Self Advocacy in a Medical Setting" and "Taking Care of Our Mental Health Needs as LGBTQs."

The health and wellness fair will run from 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 18. Affirmations is located at 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. For more information, visit www.goaffirmations.org.

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Editor's Pick



The April LGBT Dinner for the Lansing Association for Human Rights will be at the Embassy Restaurant. The establishment serves Middle Eastern and American food, with cod specials on Friday nights. After dinner, some diners plan to view a movie at a nearby theater.

These monthly dinners are usually held the third Friday of each month at a different restaurant in the greater Lansing area. Students from area colleges are also welcome to attend and socialize with the area's more permanent LGBT residents.

The dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 17. The Embassy Restaurant is located in the Target Plaza, across from the Lansing Mall. Please RSVP to Gary at hickslaw@gmail.com by 3 p.m. Friday if attending.

▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 25

The Magic Bag "Roxanna" From Exotica Live. Tickets: \$25. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 8 p.m. April 25. 248-544-3030. Themagicbag.com

Unlimited Sky Productions "A Musical Tribute Celebrating Billie Holiday's 100th Birthday" Featuring Sky Covington and Club Crescendo. Tickets: \$20-25. Tangent Gallery, 715 E. Milwaukee, Detroit. 6 p.m. April 17. 248-766-8332. Skycovington.net

THEATER

Thoroughly Modern Millie. DYPAC, Trenton Village Theater, 2447 W. Jefferson, Trenton. April 17 - April 26. 313-964-5050. Dypac.com

Civic/Community Theater

The Play's the Thing Playwrights hear their works read and the audience gives feedback to facilitate new play development. Tickets: Free. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, A2CT Studio Theater, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. Through April 19. 734-971-2228. A2ct.org

The Play's the Thing A2CT, in collaboration with Pass the Hat productions, presents a weekend of new works. All performances are free. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, A2CT Studio Theater, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. April 17 - April 19. 734-971-2228. A2ct.org/shows/the-play-s-the-thing-2015

College/University Theater

Hair Tickets: \$15-20. MSU Dept. of Theatre, Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan State University, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. April 17 - April 26. 800-WHARTON. Whartoncenter.com

Professional

All Star Showdown Go Comedy! brings its award-winning improv competition to downtown Detroit. CLICK HERE for complete show information. Tickets: \$15. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, The Elizabeth Theater, 2040 Park Ave., Detroit. April 18 - May 16. gocomedy.net

Blue Man Group A multi-media performances that features three bald and blue characters who take the audience on a journey that is funny, intelligent and visually stunning. Tickets: \$29-89. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. April 21 - April 26. 313-872-1000.

broadwayindetroit.com

BreakUps & Downs & Through Features five storytellers with musical and dance guests. CLICK HERE for complete show information. Tickets: \$16-20. The Secret Society of Twisted Storytellers, Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, 315 E. Warren, Detroit. 8 p.m. April 17. 313-744-6037. secretstorytellers.org

Crane Maiden Based on the ancient Japanese folktale of a poor but honest young man who saves the life of a wounded crane, the crane turns out to be a young beautiful woman with whom he falls in love. Tickets: \$5-10. PuppetART, Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit. Through April 16. 313-961-7777. puppetart.org

God of Carnage Who's being childish: The two 11-year-old boys from a private elite elementary school who duke it out on the playground, or their parents who go at it over coffee, rum and clafouti? CLICK HERE for complete show information. Tickets: \$18-20 in advance; \$2 additional at the door. Two Muses Theatre, Barnes & Noble, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. Through April 26. 248-850-9919. twomusestheatre.org

Harold and the Purple Crayon

Enchantment Theatre Company's production will take the audience on a wild ride as Harold jets to Mars, joins a circus and meets a princess. CLICK HERE for complete show information. Tickets: \$12. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. April 19 - April 19. 800-WHARTON. whartoncenter.com

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change

A series of vignettes connected by the central theme of love and relationships. Tickets: \$8-15. Thunder Bay Theatre, 400 N. Second Ave., Alpena. April 16 - May 3. 989-354-2267. thunderbaytheatre.com

Improv Mondays

At 8 p.m. the show kicks off with a guest improv troupe, followed by a performance by Planet Ant's resident Home Team. The night closes with The Ant Jam, an opportunity for anyone to improvise on the Planet Ant stage. CLICK HERE for complete show information. Tickets: \$5 at the door. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Through June 29. 313-365-4948. planetant.com

Julius Caesar Marcus Brutus, a Roman senator, is torn between his friendship with Caesar and his loyalty to Rome. CLICK HERE for complete show information. Tickets: \$14. Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company, Seven Steps Up, 116 S. Jackson, Spring Lake. 7:30 p.m. April 18. sevenstepsup.com

King Lear The Shakespeare classic is SID's first to be performed in a traditional proscenium-style venue. CLICK HERE for complete show information. Tickets: \$20-25. Shakespeare in Detroit, Marygrove College Theatre, 8425 W. McNichols Rd., Detroit. Through April 19. shakespeareindetroit.com

Love's Labour's Won. UMS, Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. April 22. 734-668-8397. Ums.org

Mary Poppins An enchanting, heartwarming show with an important message about love and cherishing what really matters. CLICK HERE for complete show information. Tickets: \$26. Riverbank Theatre, 358 S Water St., Marine City. Through April 26. 810-278-1749. riverbanktheatre.com

Memphis The Musical From the underground dance clubs of 1950s Memphis, where rock 'n' roll was born, comes a hot musical that bursts off the stage with explosive dancing, irresistible songs and a thrilling tale of fame and forbidden love. CLICK HERE for complete show information. Tickets: \$30-70. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. April 17. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com

My Heart in a Suitcase ArtsPower's compelling dramatic adaptation of Anne Lehmann Fox's courageous autobiographical account of her 1938 journey out of Germany. CLICK HERE for complete show information. Tickets: \$5-15. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. April 21 - April 21. 586-286-2222. macombcenter.com

On Golden Pond A heartwarming story about revisiting the past and forging new bonds across generations. CLICK HERE for complete show information. Tickets: \$30-32. The Encore Musical Theatre Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Through May 3. 734-268-6200. theencoretheatre.org

See You Next Doomsday A man finds himself stranded on a nightmarish future Earth, where he must fend off cannibals, racist robots and bloodthirsty mermen in order to escape a dying planet aboard the spaceship of a friendly alien named Richard Gere. CLICK HERE for complete show information. Tickets: \$10-20. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Through May 2. 313-365-4948. planetant.com

Sirens Tickets: \$10-35. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. Through April 26. 517-655-SHOW. Williamstontheatre.com

See Happenings, page 29

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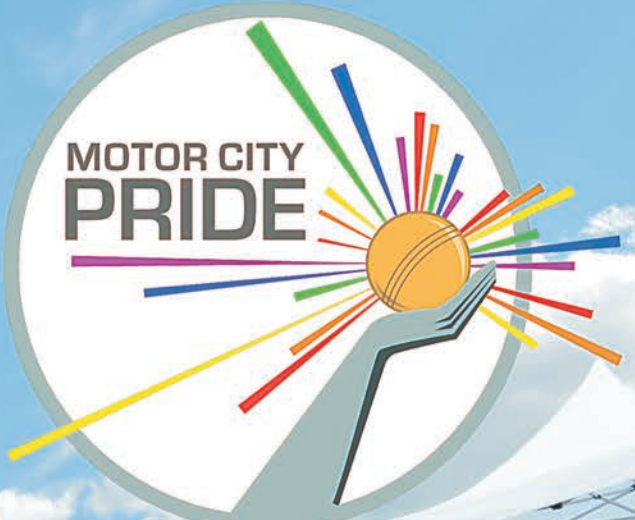


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SATURDAY, JUNE 6: NOON - 8 PM
SUNDAY, JUNE 7: NOON - 7 PM

**\$5
COVER**



For Festival Information Visit:

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▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 26

Sugarhill On a hot muggy night as we sit on the precipice of a new era, a stranger comes to Sugarhill, Louisiana setting off unimagined ripples that both fulfill a child's wish and test a family's love and strength. [CLICK HERE](#) for complete show information. Tickets: \$41-48. The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company, Aaron DeRoy Theatre on the campus of the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. April 15 - May 10. 248-788-2900. jetttheatre.org

Talley's Folly Lanford Wilson's romantic comedy about a pair of mismatched souls longing to find love after nearly giving up on the dream. [CLICK HERE](#) for complete show information. Tickets: \$12-42. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through May 23. 734-433-7673. purplerosetheatre.org

Tender Napalm A high-impact exploration of the relationship between two people and the violent world that surrounds them - and the place where these things meet. Tickets: \$10-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through May 4. 248-545-5545. theeringwald.com

The 39 Steps This hilarious spoof of the 1935 Hitchcock thriller blends frenzied performances and wildly inventive stagecraft with spies, murder and some good old-fashioned romance! [CLICK HERE](#) for complete show information. Tickets: \$10-30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through April 25. 313-577-2972. hilberry.com

The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds Two daughters struggle with their mother's volatile behavior while trying to navigate high school. [CLICK HERE](#) for complete show information. Tickets: \$15. Ixion, AA Creative Corridor, 1133 S Washington Ave., Lansing. April 18 - April 26. 517-775-4246. ixiontheatre.com

The Glass Menagerie Moving and powerful, tragic and poetic, come celebrate one of theater's greatest achievements, courtesy of iconic playwright Tennessee Williams. [CLICK HERE](#) for complete show information. Tickets: \$29-31. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Through April 26. 269-343-2727. farmersalleytheatre.com

The Heights In the industrial grit and sweep of the urban moors, Gallery 17 hosts nerve's passionate recreation of Emily Bronte's masterpiece. [CLICK HERE](#) for complete show information. Tickets: \$30 (pre-sale only). Nerve, Gallery 17 at Russell Industrial Center, 1600 Clay St., Detroit. April 17 - April 25. gonerve.com

The Kiss of the Sun For Pardon Tickets: \$17-20. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Through May 17. 313-868-1347. detroitreptheatre.com

The Merchant of Venice Shakespeare's classic play tells the story of a wealthy Christian merchant who mistakenly makes a deadly bond with his enemy, a Jewish money lender with nothing and everything to lose. [CLICK HERE](#) for complete show information. Tickets: \$10. Slipstream Theatre Initiative, Michigan Actors Studio, 648 E. 9 Mile Rd., Ferndale. Through April 30. 2483270575. slipstreamti.com

The Merry Widow A wealthy widow's

wealth, if she decides to remarry, will be transferred to her next husband. So her countrymen aim to keep her money in the country by meddling to find her the right local suitor. [CLICK HERE](#) for complete show information. Tickets: \$25-128. Michigan Opera Theatre, Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. Through April 19. 313-237-7464. michiganopera.org

The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley Stanley Lambchop is just like everyone else. That's the problem: For Stanley, life is TOO normal. [CLICK HERE](#) for complete show information. Tickets: \$15-25. Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit. 2 p.m. April 18. 313-887-8500. musichall.org

The Outgoing Tide Retired from his trucking business and now living in their summer home on the Chesapeake Bay with his wife of 50 years, a man has come up with an unorthodox plan to secure his family's future. [CLICK HERE](#) for complete show information. Tickets: \$27-32. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Through May 3. 248-347-0003. tippingpointtheatre.com

Three Acts, Two Dancers, One Radio Host The quirky multi-media show from NPR's host of "This American Life," Ira Glass, and dancers Monica Bill Barnes and Anna Bass. [CLICK HERE](#) for complete show information. Tickets: From \$28. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 8 p.m. April 18. 800-WHARTON. whartoncenter.com

Two Plays by Harold Pinter (with drinking in between) Two plays by the British master of intimidation: "One for the Road" and "The Dwarfs." [CLICK HERE](#) for complete show information. Tickets: By donation. The Abreact, 1301 W. Lafayette #113, Detroit. April 17 - May 9. 313-454-1542. theabreact.com

Violet As a girl, Violet was in an accident, leaving her with a visible scar across her face. With enough money finally saved, she's traveling across the 1964 Deep South towards a miracle - the healing touch of a TV evangelist that will make her beautiful. [CLICK HERE](#) for complete show information. Tickets: \$35-41 (includes meal). The Dio - Dining and Entertainment, 135 E. Main St., Pinckney. Through May 17. 517-672-6009. diotheatre.com

White People Issues of prejudice, racism and white privilege are examined in this controversial play by playwright J. T. Rogers. [CLICK HERE](#) for complete show information. Tickets: \$10-15. Puzzle Piece Theatre, Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, 17150 Maumee Ave., Grosse Pointe. 7:30 p.m. April 18. whitepeoplegpc. eventbrite.com

Yakety Yak -- A Fifties Tale Join us as Robert and Ray, two elderly men in their 80s, decide to buy a diner and use it as a class reunion dance. When the guys turn on the jukebox, they are transported back to the '50s and get a chance to relive the fun again. Remember: "Yakety Yak, don't talk back!" [CLICK HERE](#) for complete show information. Tickets: \$39-43. 50 (includes dinner). Cornwell's Dinner Theatre, 18935 15 1/2 Mile Rd., Marshall. Through May 2. 269-781-4293. turkeyville.com

ART 'N' AROUND

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

DIA "Make a Joyful Noise: Renaissance Art and Music at Florence Cathedral" A rare opportunity to see three exquisite marble carvings and other Italian Renaissance masterpieces by sculptor Luca della Robbia. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Feb. 6 - May 17. 313-833-7900. dia.org

DIA "Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo in Detroit" Tickets: \$24. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. March 15 - May 31. 313-833-7900. dia.org

Flint Institute of Arts "Common Ground: African American Art Exhibition". Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Feb. 8 - April 26. 810-234-1695. flintarts.org

MOCAD "Radical Scavengers: the MOCAD Quilting Bee Project" This winter the Mobile Homestead space transforms into a contemporary quilt making workshop for the community. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jan. 25 - May 24. 313-832-6622. mocadetroit.org

The Scarab Club "Lowriding: From Crenshaw to Woodward". The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. April 1 - May 16. 313-831-1250. scarabclub.org

The Scarab Club "Third Thursday". The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. March 19 - Aug. 20. 313-831-1250. scarabclub.org

UMMA "Hana Hamplova: Meditations on Paper". University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Feb. 21 - Aug. 9. 734-763-4186. umma.umich.edu

UMMA "HE: The Hergott Shepard Photography Collection". University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Feb. 14 - June 14. 734-763-4186. umma.umich.edu

UMMA "Medicinal Plants and Gardens: The Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum". University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Jan. 25 - May 3. 734-763-4186. umma.umich.edu

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

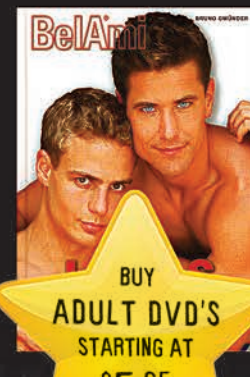
UMMA "Flip Your Field: Objects from the Collection" An exhibition from the Museum's collection of three-dimensional objects. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Jan. 24 - July 19. 734-763-4186. umma.umich.edu

University of Michigan, Inst. for Research on Women and Gender "Re-imagining Gender" 15 promising artists take on one of the thorniest challenges facing contemporary art: how to render the modern spectrum of gender, going beyond the simple male/female binary to include a wide variety of identities and sexualities. Lane Hall, 204 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Jan. 15 - June 26. 734-764-9537. lrwg.research.umich.edu/events/exhibitions.html

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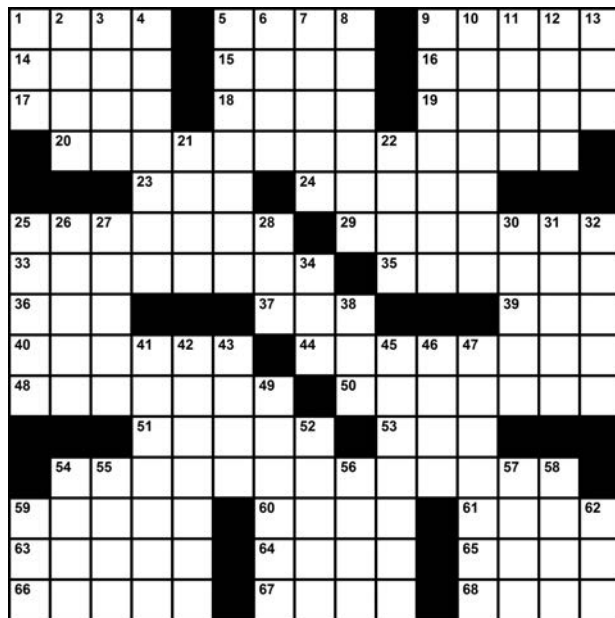
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SHOP LGBT



Q Puzzle

Actor/Actress



Across

- 1 Cole Porter's "Well, Did You ___"
 5 Word with top, for Mauresmo
 9 Name on a bomber
 14 Corleone head
 15 Loaf of Gomer's bread
 16 Pink fruit
 17 Birthright seller
 18 Skye on screens
 19 Safari head
 20 British actor to be cast as
 33-Across
 23 Having one sharp, to Bernstein
 24 What squirrels do with their nuts
 25 Emma Peel was one

- 29 Spasms in chasms?
 33 One of the first known to undergo gender-confirming surgery
 35 Language of Cho's ancestors
 36 "___ Love You" (Beatles hit)
 37 Lodging place
 39 Bowie collaborator
 40 Go on foot
 44 Illustrator Gerda who lived with
 33-Across
 48 Diana, to the Greeks
 50 Rulers like Caligula
 51 Ophelia and Hamlet or Claire
 53 Cock hammer
 54 Movie currently in production about
 33-Across
 59 "G.I. Jane" actress
 60 Margarine
 61 Some escorts want them up front
 63 Big name in Chinese history
 64 Photo process
 65 Sex type
 66 Distributed queens, perhaps
 67 NBA or NRA
 68 Lamarr of Hollywood
 11 Pearl Buck character
 12 Actor John of "M. Butterfly"
 13 Writer Castillo
 21 "Picnic" playwright
 22 Early Robin Williams role
 25 Male type
 26 Baseball cap part
 27 George, who was Mary Ann
 28 Sacrifice-fly stat
 30 Escort from the door
 31 Painter Edouard
 32 Some A-List gays
 34 Wilde's tongue, for short
 38 "We're ___ Gonna Take It"
 41 Kind of case or court
 42 Triumphant cry
 43 Ike's ex
 45 One that can blow you on the beach
 46 Math branch
 47 Queen of _Chicago_
 49 Lady of La Mancha
 52 Fodder figures?
 54 The sound of music
 55 "Hi" to Lorca
 56 Becomes Jell-o
 57 Actor Auberjonois
 58 Rock Hudson role, usually
 59 Dose of AZT, e.g.
 62 Cunning

Down

- 1 Beard for Adam and Steve?
 2 Tool with jaws
 3 Ever so slightly
 4 Guy often found in handcuffs
 5 Catalog giant
 6 "Alas! ___ Yorick"
 7 Laura of "ER"
 8 Can't help but
 9 Ban on commercial intercourse
 10 When k. d. sings Auld lang Syne

Solution on pg. 24



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Classifieds

113 ANNOUNCEMENTS - OPPORTUNITIES

Seeking LGBTQ Young Adults for Research Interviews

Seeking LGBTQ young adults ages 18-24 interested in discussing their experiences with bullying within the context of either an individual interview or a focus group (group interview). Please contact Melinda.m.mccormick@wmich.edu, Western Michigan University, PhD student in sociology, for more information.

308 EMPLOYMENT - COMMUNITY SERVICES

Position Available: Facilities Associate

Affirmations, the community center for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBTQ) people and their allies seeks a facilities associate available to work a staggered and flexible schedule. Essential Functions: Reporting to the Director of Operations, the facilities associate is responsible for maintaining the building is kept clean and orderly along with the scheduling of all meetings and events happening at the building. Contact by email. employment@goaffirmations.com. No phone calls.

Position Available: Director of Development

Affirmations, the community center for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBTQ) people and their allies seeks a Director of Development. Essential Functions: Reporting to and in partnership with the Executive Director (ED), the Director of Development (DD) will lead the design and implementation of a comprehensive and strategic fund development program that results in the securing of funding support in an excess of 1.5M annually. Contact by email. employment@goaffirmations.com. No phone calls.

428 PROF. SERVICES - MASSAGE

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