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A SUPREME MOMENT

SCOTUS Marriage Case Arguments Begin – What's On The Line?



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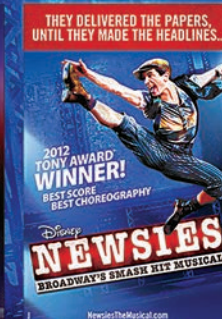
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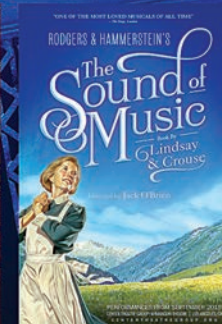
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“There is no one more fitting to be standing before the court on behalf of all of us than Mary (Bonauto). We couldn't be in better hands.”

— Evan Wolfson, President of Freedom to Marry, pg. 10



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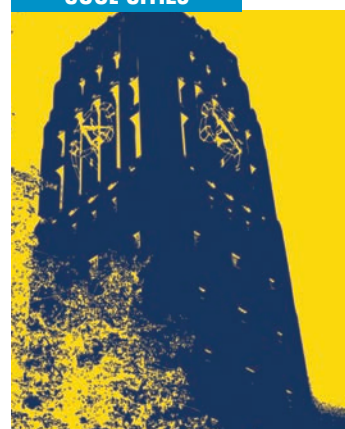
THIS WEEK'S COVER



This Week's Cover Shot: Jim Obergefell Calls For Equality

Jim Obergefell, center, speaks to members of the media as he joins the Human Rights Campaign to deliver what they say are 207,551 copies of the “People’s Brief” that calls for full nationwide marriage equality, to the U.S. Supreme Court on March 6 in Washington. Obergefell is the named plaintiff in Obergefell v. Hodges, a marriage equality case set to be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court on April 28. Obergefell hadn’t thought about being one of the most visible figures in the marriage-equality movement. He just wanted to marry the love of his life for 21 years. Obergefell remembers watching the news on TV with John Arthur after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down part of the Defense of Marriage Act in 2013. “I just leaned over, hugged and kissed John, and said, ‘Let’s get married,’” he recalls. AP Photo/Andrew Harnik

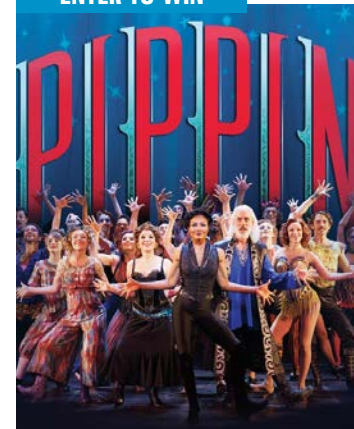
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A Quick Guide To The Supreme Court Arguments



Historic April 28 Case For Marriage's Equality Arrives

Jim Obergefell, center, speaks to members of the media as he joins the Human Rights Campaign to deliver what they say are 207,551 copies of the "People's Brief" that calls for full nationwide marriage equality, to the U.S. Supreme Court on March 6 in Washington. Obergefell is the named plaintiff in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, a marriage equality case set to be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court on April 28. Obergefell hadn't thought about being one of the most visible figures in the marriage-equality movement. He just wanted to marry the love of his life for 21 years. Obergefell remembers watching the news on TV with John Arthur after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down part of the Defense of Marriage Act in 2013. "I just leaned over, hugged and kissed John, and said, 'Let's get married,'" he recalls. AP Photo/Andrew Harnik

BY LISA KEEN

When the Supreme Court of the United States hears arguments Tuesday about marriage for same-sex couples, there is much more on the line than whether states can ban the licensing and recognition of marriage for same-sex couples. The court could also decide what level of judicial scrutiny must be applied to laws that seek to disadvantage LGBT people. At a time when some states are seeking to pass laws that enable people to discriminate by simply expressing a "religious" motivation, such a ruling could have far-reaching implications. And even beyond the law, a ruling that allowed discrimination against LGBT people under some circumstances or in some places could stall momentum that has been clearly building in favor of greater acceptance of LGBT people and their families.

To help readers prep for the April 28 argument and the crush of media reporting on the case, the following is a quick guide to the issues, the attorneys and what to listen for:

When

Beginning at 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 28. The oral arguments are not broadcast, but there will be many television and radio news

outlets reporting on the arguments as soon as they are completed at 12:30 p.m. An audio recording and transcript of the arguments will be available on the Supreme Court's website www.supremecourt.gov by 2 p.m.

Case name: The appeal being heard is

a consolidation of four cases, *Obergefell v. Hodges* (Case No. 14-556) from Ohio; *Tanco v. Haslam* (Case No. 14-562) from Tennessee; *DeBoer v. Snyder* (Case No. 14-571) from Michigan; and *Bourke v. Beshear* (Case No. 14-574) from Kentucky.

Issue In Play

Whether states can discriminate against same-sex couples in the licensing and recognition of marriage.

The court broke the issue into two questions. Question 1: Does the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution require a state to license a marriage between two people of the same sex? Question 2: Does the 14th Amendment require a state to recognize a marriage between two people of the same sex when their marriage was lawfully licensed and performed out-of-state?

Petitioners bringing the appeal: There are 28 plaintiffs (called "petitioners" when appealing to the Supreme Court) from four states. The Michigan case arose when a lesbian couple, Jayne Rowse and April DeBoer, sought to adopt children together but were prevented from doing so because that state's law allows only married persons to adopt children. The Ohio lawsuit involves 12 plaintiffs denied rights in three different circumstances: while seeking a death certificate that identified the deceased's spouse, while seeking a birth certificate that listed both legal parents and while seeking recognition of marriage licenses obtained in other states. The Tennessee lawsuit was brought by three same-sex couples who married while living in other states, then moved to Tennessee. And the Kentucky lawsuit was filed on behalf of four same-sex couples married in other states who sought recognition from Kentucky.

States defending the bans: Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee. They are among the 13 states that still enforce bans against same-sex marriage. But if the bans are upheld, another 10 states would likely re-start enforcement of bans that have been struck by other circuits.

Attorneys Arguing Question 1

For same-sex couple plaintiffs: Mary Bonauto, civil rights director of Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders. Bonauto led the successful lawsuit that established the right to marry for same-sex couples in Massachusetts, the first state to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. This is her first time arguing before the Supreme Court. (She has 30 minutes)

For the United States: U.S. Solicitor General Donald Verrilli is expected to present the U.S.'s position against state bans on same-sex marriage. In 2013, Verrilli argued against the Defense of Marriage Act in *U.S. v. Windsor* and against California's ban on same-sex marriage in *Hollingsworth v. Perry*. (15 minutes)

For states seeking to retain the bans: Joseph Whalen is one of two associate solicitors general for Tennessee. Whalen argued for Tennessee's ban before the 6th Circuit, saying it is rational to limit marriage to opposite-sex couples because only opposite-sex couples can procreate accidentally. This is his first time arguing before the Supreme Court. (45 minutes)

Attorneys Arguing Question 2

For same-sex couple plaintiffs: Douglas Hallward-Driemeier, partner at prominent

See Guide, next page

When the Supreme Court of the United States hears arguments Tuesday about marriage for same-sex couples, there is much more on the line than whether states can ban the licensing and recognition of marriage for same-sex couples. The court could also decide what level of judicial scrutiny must be applied to laws that seek to disadvantage LGBT people.

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conservative-leaning Ropes & Gray and head of its Supreme Court practice. He served as Assistant to Republican Solicitor General Paul Clement during the administration of President George W. Bush and handled Supreme Court litigation for the U.S. Department of Justice. An article in the Journal of Law for Emory University School of Law said Hallward-Driemeier ranked 26th among the most frequent Supreme Court advocates between 2000 and 2012, having argued 13 cases. (30 minutes)

For states seeking to retain the bans: John Bursch, special assistant attorney general and former solicitor general of Michigan. Bursch did not argue the case before the 6th Circuit. Michigan's primary argument has been that the democratic process allows "the people (to) get to decide what marriage is." Bursch has argued eight cases before the Supreme Court and is fond of bow ties. (30 minutes)

History Behind The Appeal

In early June 2013, only 12 states had paved the way for same-sex couples to obtain marriage licenses. On June 26 of that year, the high court made that 13 by letting stand a 9th Circuit ruling against California's ban. It did not rule whether California's ban was unconstitutional; it ruled only that the party who brought an

appeal seeking to defend the ban did not have legal standing to do so. That prompted marriage equality supporters to file lawsuits in every other state that had a ban, with the aim of putting another case in front of the Supreme Court seeking a ruling on merits.

Four federal appeals courts ruled that the state bans are unconstitutional, and the Supreme Court declined to hear those appeals last fall. But then one circuit, the 6th Circuit, ruled the bans to be constitutional, and that essentially forced the Supreme Court to step in and resolve the conflict among the appeals courts.

What Are The Stakes?

The decision in this case has the potential to reach far beyond marriage in two ways. First, if equal protection applies to same-sex couples under marriage laws, then LGBT people could presumably rely on existing laws for equal protection in other arenas, including employment, public accommodations and adoption. And, second, in deciding this case, the court dictates what level of judicial scrutiny all courts must apply to laws that discriminate against people based on sexual orientation. The argument brief submitted by Verrilli and the Department of Justice urges the court to use "heightened scrutiny," an intermediate level of judicial review that is easier to meet than "strict scrutiny," but much more difficult to satisfy than mere "rational" review, which most courts use now.

SCOTUS Case Spurs Local Gatherings

All across the state, supporters of same-sex marriage, legal scholars, community members, faith leaders and movement leaders will join together in celebration of the historic trial to be heard before the U.S. Supreme Court regarding same-sex marriage.

Beginning on Friday, April 24, faith leaders and advocates have called for a National Weekend of Prayer for the Freedom to Marry. During that weekend, as marriage supporters gather in Washington, D.C. for the hearing, Freedom to Marry, the Religious Institute and many partners are organizing supportive congregations across the country to include in their regular services a prayer or moment of intention for the success of the cause and for same-sex families everywhere.

To sign up, visit: www.freedomtomarry.org/pages/faith-leaders-will-you-join-us-for-prayer-weekend

Day Before Trial

Beginning at **10 a.m. on April 27, Clergy in Michigan** will begin marriage equality training in preparation for a decision this summer. They will gather at the Edgewood United Church, UCC, located at 469 N. Hagadorn Road in East Lansing. Registration for the event is \$10 and includes lunch and four hours of faith-based wedding officiant skill training in support of an affirmative decision from the courts. Visit the following link to register: www.MichUCC.org

A Marriage Equality Candlelight Vigil will be held at 6:30 p.m. April 27 on the Michigan Capitol steps, located at 100 N. Capitol Ave. in Lansing. It will be an opportunity to reflect and celebrate on how far the LGBT community has come in securing the freedom to marry, as well as what still remains to be done. RSVP at: <http://action.marriagemi.org/page/s/vigil>

Day Of The Trial

Beginning at **11:30 a.m. on April 28, the Flint UU Congregation will host a Marriage Equality Rally** in honor of the historic day and will march through the streets of Flint to show their support. The group will begin at the Genesee County Courthouse and walk down the side of Saginaw Street. Participants are encouraged to carry banners and placards with them as they march. The courthouse is located at 900 S. Saginaw St. in Flint.

The **ACLU will hold a debriefing conference call at 4 p.m. April 28** after the high court hears the case. Join legal experts from the ACLU of Michigan to hear what happened and what to expect next. Sign up now to receive the information directly: <http://marriageMI.org/Debrief>

In **downtown Ann Arbor, /aut/BAR** will host a discussion with local legal experts and advocacy

See SCOTUS Gatherings, page 6



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The Road After The SCOTUS Decision

For Michigan LGBT People, Discrimination Battle Continues

BY AJ TRAGER

“ I predict: June 26 at 4:30 p.m. there will be a decision. And I predict that marriage will be available nationwide. The issue, however – and this is what I think we all need to focus on – is: will the court expand the level of scrutiny using an equal protection analysis to determine whether gay and lesbian people are to be a discrete minority and eligible for the criteria for heightened scrutiny analysis? If this is the case, it will be a revolution. It would allow for LGBT issues to be discussed as a protected class for the first time. ”

- Attorney Angie Martell

► SCOTUS Gatherings

Continued from p. 5

leaders beginning at 5:30 p.m. Join the conversation and celebrate the historic day that the U.S. Supreme Court heard same-sex marriage arguments. /aut/BAR is located at 315 Braun Ct.

Ferndale's Affirmations encourages folks to gather at the center as the arguments are heard on April 28. They plan to live-stream SCOTUSblog on Twitter, along with any news stations getting live coverage. Affirmations' new executive director, Darrious Hillmon, will be available for interviews; staff plans to be on-site to answer any questions.

A national community call will be held at 9 p.m. April 28 and will include panelists: Kathleen Perrin, director of Equality Case Files; Larry Dupuis, legal director of the ACLU of Wisconsin; and host John Lewis, director of legal and policy from Marriage Equality USA. The call will be moderated by Brian Silva, executive director of Marriage Equality USA. Gain access to the teleconference by going to https://docs.google.com/a/pridesource.com/forms/d/1_ZgjkWnHWqH1bbLQCN8GxDninhES7Imv4Nu1ujUEnME/viewform.

Audio Recording

All audio recordings will be available after 2 p.m. on April 28 and transcripts of the arguments heard by SCOTUS will be available to the public on May 1. They can be found at www.supremecourt.gov

ANN ARBOR — The U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments regarding the constitutionality of legal recognition of same-sex marriage April 28. In the event that the high court issues an affirming decision, thousands of same-sex couples who have been waiting years (even decades) to get married will finally walk down the aisle and have access to equal opportunities that have been provided to opposite-sex couples for years. However, marriage equality is not the only legal and social fight affecting the LGBT community. Many more changes will have to take place before LGBT individuals hold equal standing under state and federal laws.

In an April 15 conversation held at the University of Michigan Law School, Jay Kaplan, LGBT special projects staff attorney for the ACLU; Lisa Ruby of Michigan Poverty Law Program; and Angie Martell and S. Kerene Moore, co-chairs of the Washtenaw County Bar Association LGBTQ Rights Section, met to discuss the rocky legal road ahead for the LGBT community.

Some in Michigan's legal community have already been working on chipping away at the state's same-sex marriage ban and working to achieve justice for same-sex families. Moore has been able to get a same-sex couple divorced in Washtenaw County and on occasion has been able to get second-parent adoptions for same-sex couples. Some judges are granting annulments, an unfavored avenue for same-sex couples as it doesn't provide the same rights and benefits as divorces. Moore and the panel would prefer to see legal marriage finalized in the state.

“We are having larger and louder conversations in the legal community about how to give same-sex families the access that is much needed. Nobody wants to see children limited to one parent, simply because there is a ban in the state of Michigan,” Moore said. “What we are seeing is a movement where many attorneys and judges are doing whatever they can. They are willing to look at alternative legal doctrine so that they can give us status, some legal remedies, give us some access to the courthouse. We are all very excited that the U.S. Supreme Court has decided to take up the DeBoer case because that will clarify matters. That will make (providing legal protections for LGBT individuals) so much easier.”

Civil Rights Law

Assuming SCOTUS issues a favorable decision, many systems and policies will



Panelists (L-R) Lisa Ruby, Jay Kaplan, Angie Martell and S. Kerene Moore discussing the future of LGBT issues post-SCOTUS on April 15 at the University of Michigan Law School. BTL Photo: AJ Trager

need to be changed to include benefits and protections for LGBT individuals. Without adding protections for sexual orientation and gender identity to the Michigan civil rights law, it is still legal for an LGBT individual to be fired from their job, denied housing or denied public accommodations. Kaplan emphasized that amending the state's civil rights law is an imperative that needs swift attention.

Religious Freedom Restoration Acts are popping up all over the country in what Kaplan describes as a “reaction to the reality that marriage equality for same-sex couples is coming” and that this kind of legislation is a “last gasp (for opponents) to try and find a way around this (LGBT equality).” Legislation in Michigan identical to the original RFRA law passed in Indiana has been introduced.

Michigan has already seen examples of discrimination with the pediatrician in Roseville who refused to treat a week-old child because she has lesbian parents, or with the auto mechanic in Grandville who publicly claimed that he would deny services to openly gay people.

A bill that would allow discrimination by adoption agencies that receive state funding is currently working its way through the Michigan legislature. Similar bills have been introduced around the country and LGBT advocates are working to raise awareness of how this type of legislation harms children, not just LGBT parents.

“Michigan pretty much turns over the entire adoption process to adoption agencies,” Kaplan said. “These agencies that have been contracted through the state would be able to refuse services to particular families and

individuals based on their religious beliefs, even if a particular placement of a child in an adoptive home would be in the child's best interest. That religious belief would supersede what is in the best interest for the child.”

Identity, Multiple Licenses

Aside from the lack of civil rights protections, Michigan has many policies that are very harmful to transgender people. The state makes it incredibly difficult for transgender individuals to get accurate state issued identity documents and has one of the strictest policies in the country for aligning government issued documents with gender identity. Michigan requires that a transgender person have surgery before their gender marker can be changed on their birth certificate.

In reality, only 25 percent of transgender people obtain surgery because it's expensive, health insurance won't pay for it and/or many times it can be medically dangerous, Kaplan says. If born in another state that doesn't allow a birth certificate to be changed under any circumstances, such as Idaho, Ohio or Tennessee, a transgender person can never have a state ID card or driver's license that accurately reflects who they are.

“A lot of things are going to be clarified, especially regarding divorce, custody, parenting, visitation and support. These rights are going to be pretty clear for those who are planning on getting married or are already married. We do expect there to be other impacts,” Moore said.

The most direct impact is going to be for

See After SCOTUS, page 13

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Michigan Mechanic Makes Waves With Anti-LGBT Rhetoric

BY TODD HEYWOOD

This month, Brian Klawiter, owner of Dieseltec on Ottawa Avenue in Grandville, posted a comment on Facebook that announced he would not hesitate to provide service to gays.

“I am a Christian,” Klawiter writes on his Facebook page; grammar errors are Klawiter’s, by the way. “My company will be run in a way that reflects that. Dishonesty, thievery, immoral behavior, etc. will not be welcomed at MY place of business. (I would not hesitate to refuse service to an openly gay person or persons. Homosexuality is wrong, period. If you want to argue this fact with me then I will put your vehicle together with all bolts and no nuts and you can see how that works.)”

Not content to let the social media post fester, Klawiter eagerly went on WOOD-TV8 – which has had its own issues with airing anti-gay documentaries – to tout his new found bravery to stand up to the gays.

“I’ve chosen to put God first in my life and that he owns everything in me and my business and beyond,” Klawiter told the television station. “Since that becomes a priority, I can’t sacrifice on those morals.”

It is currently legal to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in Michigan, unless one resides in one of the local municipalities that has adopted a local human rights ordinance.

An amendment to Elliott-Larsen would address this issue, however. If Michigan’s odious Religious Freedom Restoration Act passes, Klawiter would be able to defend his discrimination in court, though whether he would win or not is another issue altogether.

“Klawiter’s post is emblematic of too many businesses in this state where LGBTQ people’s lives are constantly at risk for simply being who they are,” said Yvonne Siferd, director of victim services at Equality



Pro-LGBT and anti-LGBT protestors gathered in front of Dieseltec in Grandville Saturday, Brian Klawiter, owner of Dieseltec, posted an anti-gay comment on his Facebook page saying he would refuse service to openly gay persons. BTL photos: Todd Heywood. See photo gallery online at www.pridesource.com

Michigan, in a statement. “This is why we call for our representatives in Lansing to step up and modernize ELCRA to include sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression. Klawiter’s statement goes beyond the denial of service to LGBTQ people and our allies and includes a threat to our lives. That is contrary to our common values as Americans.”

The other interesting footnote to the Grandville story is that a man named Robert Snyder started a GoFundMe fundraiser for Klawiter and his business. The page has since been removed, but one can’t help but think that Klawiter was trying to cash in on the pizza crisis from Indiana. That’s the case where a business owner said they would never cater a gay wedding. A firestorm erupted, and the company ended up making close to \$1 million from supporters.

Klawiter’s behavior isn’t limited to refusal

of service to LGBT people and allies. Exhibit A in Klawiter’s checkered past is his apparent conviction in 1999 for assault.

He was charged in Grand Rapids Circuit Court in 1998 and convicted in 1999, according to online records. He was sentenced to probation. Of course, those pesky rules he was subjected to on probation were a bridge too far for him – he was convicted of violating his probation in March of 2001 and ordered to work release jail time for 15 days. He paid the courts \$490 in costs and fees for his assault conviction.

Note: Those who are tempted to do the ill-advised and try to get some “street justice” would be best served by recognizing this man has acted violently in the past and could do so in the future.

Exhibit B in Klawiter’s hate of the rules is his apparent fight with the city of Grandville.

His business is currently unregistered, which violates local ordinance. If he doesn’t register his business, Klawiter could face a \$50 fine, city officials told MLive.

Fred Woodhams, spokesman for Secretary of State Ruth Johnson, says the mechanic’s license expired in October and has not been renewed.

“Performing auto repair work as an unlicensed mechanic is a misdemeanor offense,” Woodhams tells Between The Lines by email.

The company, Dieseltec, does have a valid business license, Woodhams confirmed.

Woodhams also said the original post by Klawiter might raise concerns. In that post, Klawiter threatened to reassemble the vehicles of customers who argued with him on gay rights “with all bolts and no nuts.” He has since claimed that statement was not a threat, but rather an allusion to gay sex.

“The department is concerned about any work done in an improper or unsafe way by a mechanic and will take licensing action as appropriate when it receives a complaint,” Woodhams says. “As we discussed, Mr. Klawiter is not a licensed mechanic.”

“Equality Michigan is concerned by any business which is not operating within the law,” Siferd said of the new revelation. “Regardless of how Mr. Klawiter feels about our government and its LGBTQ citizens, he should not be working on people’s vehicles with an expired mechanic’s license. He does not have the right to pick and choose which laws he will follow. These licensing laws exist for the sake of public safety, and we believe it is telling that Mr. Klawiter does not seem to value these laws.”

Supporters of LGBT equality protested outside the facility in Grandville last week. In response, Klawiter and his allies are holding a barbecue to celebrate “our guns, our God our freedoms.”

See Mechanic, next page

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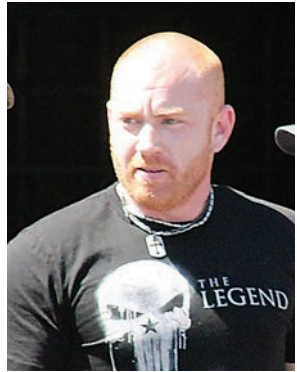
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► Mechanic

Continued from p. 8

As a sidenote, Klawiter's Facebook declaration may result in Grandville adopting a comprehensive human rights ordinance. Grandville Mayor Steve Maas tells Mlive he's not sure such an action would be supported by the town.

"That would surprise me if that (had no opposition) in Grandville," Maas said. "We had a lively, vigorous debate about whether the library should be open for a bit on Sunday," Maas told the online news outlet. "I don't think it would be bad to have a discussion about it. It's a discussion that every



Brian Klawiter, owner of Dieseltec on Ottawa Avenue in Grandville.

municipality is going to be having eventually, unless the state decides the issue (by amending the civil rights law)."

Maas told the outlet he thinks a move to adopt such a law should be citizen initiated. That sounds like a huge invitation to Grandville's progressive residents to throw caution to the wind and start advocating for such a law for economic as well as common human decency.

Progress Michigan called for a boycott of his business

last Thursday.

"Discriminating against people because of who they are or whom they love is wrong — period. That's true no matter what industry we are talking about. It's time that people start taking action not only with their votes and voices, but with their wallets," said Lonnie Scott, executive director of Progress Michigan. "We need to show both lawmakers and business owners that intolerance will not be welcome in our state. In the same way that this business owner shouldn't be threatening the LGBT community with refusal of service, we discourage people from threatening the business owner for his beliefs. Instead, we would encourage everyone who supports the LGBT community to show their solidarity by doing business at another establishment."

And Fortune 500 company Cummins is not pleased with Klawiter's attitude either. Klawiter's business website includes a logo from the company, and the company announced on social media last week that it is taking action to have Klawiter remove it.

"At Cummins, diversity is a core value. We strive to ensure all individuals are treated with dignity and respect throughout the company and in the communities where we are located. Cummins understands diversity creates stronger and more competitive work environments. Additionally, welcoming and inclusive communities help attract and retain top talent," Cummins officials wrote on their Facebook page according to Mlive.com. "Cummins has a long history of standing up for what is right, even in the face of adversity. Our leaders championed civil rights in the 1960s, took a stand against apartheid in the 1980s and in 2000 began offering domestic partner benefits to our employees, despite opposition in our community. We have also opposed efforts that were against marriage equality in Indiana, Minnesota and at the federal level. And this year, we opposed the Religious Freedom Restoration Act in Indiana. These measures run counter to our values and undermine our ideals of respecting diversity and demanding that we treat each other with mutual respect."

Klawiter, through supporters, refused to be interviewed for this story, claiming unfair treatment by the media.

Obituary: Marvin Marks

DETROIT — In the 1960s, Marvin Marks worked as an accountant in the metro Detroit area. By the late 70s he was an out, gay, Jewish Detroit meeting with a gay Catholic group called Dignity Detroit. Just a few years later, in 1980, he became their treasurer and later president.

Throughout the 80s Marks served as treasurer of Dignity International. He was president of the Wellness Network (later known as AIDS Partnership Michigan) from 1983-1986, president of the Detroit Area Gay Lesbian Council, founder and president of the Motor City Business Forum and the first president of the Forum Foundation.

Marks decided to put his accounting practice in the forefront and, in 1991, made the announcement to let younger leaders take the helm. "I said, 'OK guys, it's time for you younger people to get into the trenches.

I've had my tour of duty,'" Marks said in an interview with BTL in 2009. "I felt very strongly about it — whatever they're going to do, let them do it. We planted the seeds, let's see what happens. When I said I'd step back and let them be in the trenches, I meant it."

In 1990, 1991 and 2009 Marvin Marks was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Pride Banquet for his lifelong commitment as an LGBT activist.

Marks passed away April 20, 2015 after a lifetime of giving back to his community. He will be remembered for his selflessness and his vigilant efforts in expanding and strengthening the Detroit LGBT community.

A graveside service will be held at his parents' plot at Machpelah Cemetery on Woodward between Eight and Nine Mile Roads, at a time and date yet to be determined. Arrangements are being handled by Ira Kaufman Chapel. Contact Robert G. Tighe at 586-552-5429 for more information.

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Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

There were lots of kids in the apartment complex I grew up in at 444 Peterboro, ZIPPER code 48202. And, although – through the careless grace of God – I was born an only child, I was never without friends to play Kick the Can, yell “first to see the streetlights go on!” and trade comic books with.

There were also living at Cassboro Arms what appeared to be “mannish” women (my grandmother’s description); and as a boy of 12, with little interest in sports (or girls), they fascinated me. Looking back, they were, of course, lesbians – or reasonable facsimiles.

One was the mother of an older guy, Jimmy (last name forgotten). She wore slacks (most women did during and after World War II), had close-cropped hair, sported a smart beret. Although I hadn’t the slightest clue about her sexuality – even though I was a reasonably savvy kid – she was attractive and friendly to me. I liked her.

If memory serves, Jimmy’s mother was often visited by a 30-something, femme brunette, a teacher at nearby Burton School where I attended kindergarten through sixth grade. I’m sure they had many pleasant lunches, leisurely discussed lesson plans, and, hopefully, held hands.

They were also living a few doors down and above us, “single mothers by choice,” each of three separately raising her son, without the guidance, consolation and mid-century respectability of a husband (who perhaps was killed in the war).

In spite of no “man around the house,” as far as I can determine, each son of these truncated nuclear families turned out straight-OK (not that I have anything against turning out gay-OK).

Now decades later, there’s a “groundbreaking” study by Cornell gender scholar Peggy Drexler, Ph.D., making the rounds, dealing with “single mothers by choice” and “maverick moms” (lesbians). In book form it’s called, “Raising Boys Without Men” (Rodale Press, 2005), and is being praised and damned by pundits on opposite sides of the white-picket suburban fence.

According to Ms. Drexler, boys raised by women without men are better off than boys raised with men – not the sort of message that Focus on the Family or the AFA is likely to take lying down (in the missionary position, of course, and on the living room floor, with reruns of “Leave It to Beaver” playing).

According to Drexler, the absence of a father removes macho performance pressures from young boys. They grow up without nagging paternal insistence that excellence in sport is the high-water mark of male adulthood. (She refers to overly aggressive adult males as “wounded rhinos.”)

Drexler maintains that the differences between men and women are genetic, and not that gender differences is a social construct shaped by culture.

She reports that lesbians (“maverick moms”), who are often above-average affluent and likely to adopt children, tend also to be above-average in intelligence and more likely to have professional and academic degrees and skills. As a result, boys raised by these same-sex pairings are more likely to feel relaxed and perform better socially and in school while less likely to get into trouble.

Caitlin Flanagan, a book reviewer for The Atlantic, refers to Drexler’s “Boys Will Be Boys” as part of a growing field of “You go, girl!” studies. (“I stopped dating losers and got myself inseminated.” “You go, girl!” etc.) He calls her book “preposterous” and unlikely to “raise a ripple beyond its intended audience. Yet the book is not without consequence beyond the tightly circumscribed world she describes.”

Ah, yes. Tight ends against the middle.



Evan Wolfson and Mary Bonauto. Photo courtesy Evan Wolfson

OPINION BY EVAN WOLFSON

The freedom to marry is back at the Supreme Court, our momentum is irrefutable and I couldn’t be prouder of the team of attorneys representing our movement on the marriage cases that the Supreme Court is now weighing. Local private attorneys, seasoned Supreme Court litigators and the familiar champions from our movement’s indispensable legal arm – the American Civil Liberties Union, Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, Lambda Legal and the National Center for Lesbian Rights – have done an extraordinary job in navigating the lower courts, banging out persuasive briefs making every conceivable and needed argument to the justices, and delivering, with Freedom to Marry’s assistance, an impressive cascade of friend-of-the-court briefs presenting evidence and manifesting support. Together, as planned, we are making a case to the court as compelling as the transformative case we’ve already made in the court of public opinion.

Now our advocates have smartly chosen to cap our movement’s epic collective presentation by choosing

Viewpoint

Mary Bonauto Is The Supreme Court Hero We Need And Deserve

two terrific lawyers to handle the oral argument on April 28, alongside the U.S. solicitor general. Arguing that states must equally respect the out-of-state marriages that same-sex couples celebrate will be experienced Supreme Court litigator Douglas Hallward-Driemeier of Ropes & Gray. And arguing the core question of whether states may deny loving and committed couples the freedom to marry is Mary L. Bonauto of GLAD, a movement hero and my dear friend.

There is no one more fitting to be standing before the court on behalf of all of us than Mary. We couldn’t be in better hands.

For 25 years, Mary has been a star lawyer at GLAD and for our movement. She has talked to thousands of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, and has a deep and wise understanding of the discrimination we face, our needs and our dreams.

Mary brought, argued, and won the historic Goodridge case in Massachusetts that led to the first state with the freedom to marry and the first same-sex couples marrying in the United States. It was Mary who first made a marriage

See Mary Bonauto, next page

► Mary Bonauto

Continued from p. 10

win stick. Before that, Mary played a central role in winning civil unions in Vermont. Mary and her Vermont co-counsel grasped the need for sustained public education and organizing to set the stage for success in litigation. And it was Mary who spearheaded the litigation strategy that brought down the central part of the federal so-called Defense of Marriage Act, racking up the first successful legal challenges to DOMA. Without Mary, there would not have been our movement's 2013 victory in Windsor v. United States.

Mary has rightly been acclaimed a giant, a superstar and even a genius; she even won a MacArthur award last year.

Mary brought, argued and won the historic Goodridge case in Massachusetts that led to the first state with the freedom to marry and the first same-sex couples marrying in the United States.

But when I think of Mary, what comes to mind are a flood of memories over 25 years of friendship and working hand in glove; reflecting on what lies behind these extraordinary accomplishments.

Mary and I became fast friends literally the first day we met 25 years ago, at Mary's first attendance at the civil rights litigators' roundtable. Back in the early days of those pivotal strategy meetings, I was a minority, often the lone voice advocating taking up the freedom to marry. Mary joined the fight with drive, and I knew that in her, I had a kindred spirit who would help get marriage squarely on the movement's agenda.

I remember the many phone calls. Wrestling over when to open a "second front" in Vermont alongside Hawaii, and then, later, how to handle the Vermont Supreme Court's ruling that paved the way to civil unions, though not yet marriage. Pressing together for the Maine campaign to embrace the full-throttle marriage messaging that previous ballot battles had feared to employ. Catching Mary as she was driving and I was in my office when the Goodridge opinion popped up, and getting to be the one who told her it was a

win. Encouraging her to take on the pressure of representing us all before the Supreme Court now.

I remember stumping together in New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, etc. — and so many meetings and speeches to make the case back in the 1990s and early 2000s, working for that first freedom to marry breakthrough. Brainstorming over how to push beyond civil unions to marriage itself. Debating the right time to move forward on the challenge to DOMA that Mary had teed up. Watching tiny Mary lug giant briefcases of supporting materials to presentations that she obviously could do (and had done a million times) by heart.

I remember the personal times together. Mary crashing on my couch and me on hers when we found ourselves in each other's cities during conferences and meetings around the Hawaii and Vermont cases and DOMA battles. Sharing our coming-out stories, the frustrations of the internal movement divides, the best ways to frame our best case. Taking her kids kite-flying on one special visit to their home. Seeing Mary's beautiful smile as I looked out on the friends and family gathered for my wedding.

Through all of this, over so many years, I've gotten to know and cherish and count on Mary's fierce dedication and thoroughness, her thrumming with intensity, integrity and intelligence. Her far-sightedness and close attention to detail. Her kindness and her doggedness. Her brilliance as an advocate and beauty as a wife, mother, colleague and friend.

When Mary stands before the Supreme Court, she will not only be able to skillfully answer the justices' questions, she will herself embody our answer. We are strong and good. We are part of families and we build them. We love, we contribute, we dream. We have made the case, and we deserve the liberty and justice for all that America promises. It's time for equal protection under the laws for all. It's time for the freedom to marry.

Evan Wolfson is founder and president of Freedom to Marry, the campaign to win marriage nationwide. Citing his national leadership on marriage and his appearance before the U.S. Supreme Court in Boy Scouts of America v. James Dale, the National Law Journal in 2000 named Evan one of "the 100 most influential lawyers in America." Newsweek/The Daily Beast dubbed Evan "the godfather of gay marriage" and Time Magazine named him one of "the 100 most influential people in the world." In 2012, Evan received the Barnard Medal of Distinction alongside President Barack Obama.



Bonauto and Wolfson at Wolfson's wedding in 2011. Wolfson and Bonauto (front) in the 1990s.

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Creep of the Week

Scott Walker

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Think of the last time you've gotten an invitation to a wedding and thought to yourself, "Ugh. These people. I totally don't think they should be getting married, and if I could stop it I would. I'm not going to that!"



Scott Walker

But then you think, "But I am totally going to the reception. Free cake! Free wine! I'm in."

If you've done that then you are a terrible person, and it's highly possible your name is Scott Walker. And if you're Scott Walker that means you also – really, really, really, oh please, oh please, oh please – want to be president. Which explains this "I went to a celebration of a same-sex couple's marriage but I did not inhale" explanation.

The media has been very into asking GOP presidential hopefuls if they would attend a wedding for a same-sex couple. Some would

(Rubio, for instance) and others wouldn't (Santorum, duh).

When Walker, currently the governor of Wisconsin, was asked a similar question, he came up with a "have your cake and eat it, too" kind of response.

"That's certainly a personal issue. For a family member, (my wife) Tonette and I and our family have already had a family member who's had a reception. I haven't been at a wedding," Walker told msnbc. "That's true even though my position on marriage is still that it's defined between a man and a woman, and I support the constitution of the state. But for someone I love, we've been at a reception." Aww. How sweet. If Walker loves you, he will show that love by skipping your vows because he thinks you're immoral. But he'll totally come dance to "Old Time Rock and Roll" at your reception. Because love.

But your love for each other will not change Walker's stance that marriage is strictly a one penis plus one vagina thing. So there.

Way to pander to the majority of the country who supports marriage equality while still throwing a bone to the anti-gay right groveling under the table.

According to Mediaite, the wedding Walker didn't attend was for Walker's wife's cousin, Shelli Marquardt, and her co-lesbian in crime Cathy Priem.

Walker just happened to be "away on business when the wedding occurred," according to the New York Times. How convenient.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reports that while Walker might have skipped the nuptials, his son Alex, 19, was there in full support, and even "scribbled his signature on the marriage certificate as one of two adult witnesses to the wedding."

In fact, both of Walker's sons have a more evolved view of marriage equality than Dad. His wife seems to as well.

But Walker, who is on record time and time again speaking against marriage equality, doesn't seem to be changing his mind. In fact, he's recently been claiming that due to recent court rulings striking down an anti-gay marriage ban in his state, the whole gay marriage issue is out of his hands, so who cares what he thinks anyway?

If you've gotten an invitation to a wedding and thought to yourself, "Ugh. These people. I totally don't think they should be getting married, and if I could stop it I would. I'm not going to that!" then you are a terrible person, and it's highly possible your name is Scott Walker.

Advocates And Academics Advance Equality At Inaugural Research To Action Conference

BY BTL STAFF

Ypsilanti – Eastern Michigan University's Equality Research Center will host its "Equality Research to Action Conference 2015," the first LGBT research conference bringing academics and advocates together to advance equality. The conference will take place from May 1-2 at The Henry, Autograph Collection in Dearborn, Michigan. Equality Research to Action 2015 will be an unprecedented gathering of the nation's most influential and creative thought leaders in education and the practitioners, policy makers and researchers who are best equipped to progress the equality movement.

"We are ecstatic to welcome the most dynamic speakers in education in this one-of-a-kind effort to tackle some of the biggest issues in equality," said Director of the Equality Research Center, Michael Tew. "Attendees can expect to hear about new findings to expand public education, receive information and tools for advancing

social justice and learn about current and upcoming research to create aware and inclusive social policies and practice."

Confirmed speakers include:

Tommy Adams, associate professor and chair of the department of communication, media and theatre at Northeastern Illinois University.

Natasha "T" Miller, poet, author of "Coming Out of Nowhere" and activist.

John Corvino, Ph.D., chair of the philosophy department at Wayne State University.

Featured workshops will include: Trans*Ally Training presented by Eastern Michigan University; Safe School Training by the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network; and Know Us Project Training by Michigan Project for Informed Public Policy.

Equality Research to Action 2015 will feature more than new applied research projects on LGBT youth, civil rights and wellness from leading and emerging scholars. Through

three dynamic plenary sessions, three featured speaker sessions and more than 12 "In the Classroom" sessions, speakers will help reimagine the most innovative solutions to a wide range of critical topics in education, health care, public policy and community building for universities, movement organizations and community advocacy groups. The Equality Research Center encourages teachers, administrators, policy makers and students to register now to secure their spot at Equality Research to Action 2015.

To register and learn more about the conference, a complete list of presentations and a complete conference schedule, please visit www.er2a.org or contact Michael Tew, director of the Equality Research Center at 734-487-3032.

The Equality Research Center offers extensive public programming to bring credible research on LGBT social justice issues to a wide spectrum of audiences.

Study to Michigan Lawmakers: 'Don't Repeat The Mistakes Of Indiana'

BY BTL STAFF

WASHINGTON — A new case study is being sent by the Human Rights Campaign to Michigan lawmakers urging them to reject anti-LGBT bills like the religious freedom bill in Indiana that would put LGBT people at risk for discrimination. The case study comes after the Indianapolis Star reported this week that the state "plans to spend millions to repair (its) image after RFRA."

The document showcases a new poll conducted by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research. The poll found 75 percent of 500 Hoosier participants described the controversy as bad for business; 61 percent said it has negative impact on business; 42 percent of weekly churchgoers say that they should not be allowed to refuse service; and 62 percent rejected discrimination based on religious ground with 32 percent reporting that someone should be allowed to refuse services based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

"The lesson from Indiana is clear. Voters are rejecting lawmakers who are willing to put their state economy at risk in an attempt to

further discrimination," said Fred Sainz, HRC's vice president of communications. "Elected officials, and governors specifically, who continue to experiment with these anti-LGBT bills that allow businesses to discriminate are going to find out that a \$2 million PR campaign only scratches the surface when it comes to the cost taxpayers will have to bear for bills that enable discrimination."

The document will be sent to state leaders in 12 states: Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina and Texas. It will also be sent to Iowa, New Hampshire and Nevada.

Read the whole study at http://hrc-assets.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/files/assets/resources/IndianaCaseStudy_Document.pdf.

Oakland University To Offer Gender Studies Minor

ROCHESTER – A metro Detroit college will soon add an LGBT studies minor to its list of provided course study.

Oakland University will add a new LGBT studies minor program for Fall 2015. Coursework material will focus on LGBT lives and the academic contributions made in the field of queer theory.

After seven years of negotiating and planning, Valerie Palmer-Mehta, interim director of the Women and Gender Studies program at OU, was able to guide the proposal through committees to be approved by the college administration while Jo Reger, director of the Women and Gender Studies program, was away on sabbatical, The Oakland Post reports.

The minor will require 20 credits of course work, including three core classes titled: "Introduction to LGBTQ Studies," "Queer Social Theory" and "Field Experience in Women and Gender Studies," as well as two elective courses.

Many other Michigan universities also offer course material in Women and Gender Studies. The University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University, Western Michigan University, Michigan State University, Central Michigan University, Wayne State University, Northern Michigan University and many other private and community colleges offer gender study course work.

► After SCOTUS

Continued from p. 6

those who are planning on obtaining marriage licenses or who have already obtained one out of state or out of country.

Ruby specializes in public benefits that come from state or federal office applications. These benefits are allocated by who is considered in a “group.” Who is in a group determines what benefits can be distributed and whose assets count. Any same-sex couple living in the state who is married, and not among the 323 couples legally married in the state last year, was never considered married under Michigan law and is not a member of that group receiving marriage benefits.

Due to the varying laws around the country, some couples have been married multiple times. An upcoming issue, in the result of an affirming SCOTUS decision, is determining which one of those marriages holds the most legal weight. State agencies will soon look at name changes, joint rights of survivorship, estate planning and what monetary benefits or penalties can be applied from all the years couples have been married or together.

Social Security has two different programs: one that is needs based with income and assets, and one that is not which includes retirement, survivors and disability insurance, Ruby said. Money is paid in and then when something happens, the money can be taken out; without a marital status, a partner cannot collect on those benefits. If a couple is not legally married and one or both parties reaches retirement age, the other partner is unable to access their partner’s retirement benefits. The same thing happens if one half of the couple dies; the status of the marriage is not legally recognized and hospital visitation rights, for example, can be denied to the surviving spouse. Many of these benefits will be redistributed in the event of nationwide same-sex marriage.

Social Security has tried to keep up with the influx of same-sex marriages and is currently encouraging people to apply for benefits now if they’ve been legally married, but their marriage hasn’t been recognized in their state of residence.

Predictions And Scrutiny

“I predict: June 26 at 4:30 p.m. there will be a decision. And I predict that marriage will be available nationwide. The issue, however – and this is what I think we all need to focus on – is: will the court expand the level of scrutiny using an equal protection analysis to determine whether gay and lesbian people are to be a discrete minority and eligible for the criteria for heightened scrutiny analysis? If this is the case, it will be a revolution. It would allow for LGBT issues to be discussed as a protected class for the first time,” Martell said.

Kaplan mirrored Martell’s thoughts on the SCOTUS ruling.

“I don’t know the exact date, but I tend to agree. I think we will have a favorable decision from the U.S. Supreme Court and finally have some finality on the marriage issue for all 50 states,” Kaplan said.

Any possible outcome prediction is, at this point, reading tea leaves. The justices’ history will have to speak for them until they issue a final decision by the end of June.

Levels of scrutiny include strict scrutiny, where the government must show the challenged classification serves a compelling state interest and is necessary to serve that interest such as race or religion; middle-tier scrutiny, where the government must show that the challenged classification is at least substantially related to the interest; and the minimum scrutiny level where the government must show that the challenged classification is rationally related to serving state interest.

“We’ve been denied equal participation in an institution that gives legal expression and protection to people. That is second class citizenship. So for me, the first question is an easy one,”

Martell said in discussing one of the two questions the justices will explore on April 28: Does the 14th Amendment require a state to license a marriage between two people of the same sex?

Martell is concerned that there hasn’t been a change in heightened scrutiny since 1970, and even then the courts only gave it a quasi-suspect classification, she said. After 1970, many groups rejected the heightened scrutiny analysis because, “Justice Phelps thought the floodgates would open and there wouldn’t be any distinguishing factors from race,” Martell explained.

The U.S. Supreme Court has never explicitly set a standard regarding sexual orientation. Martell believes that LGBT issues are Justice Kennedy’s legacy. He ruled in favor of LGBT rights in *Lawrence v. Texas* and *Windsor v. The United States*. Kennedy’s ruling in *Windsor* says, “To single out a class of persons and exclude them from a vital institution on a basis of classification alone imposes a disability on the class.”

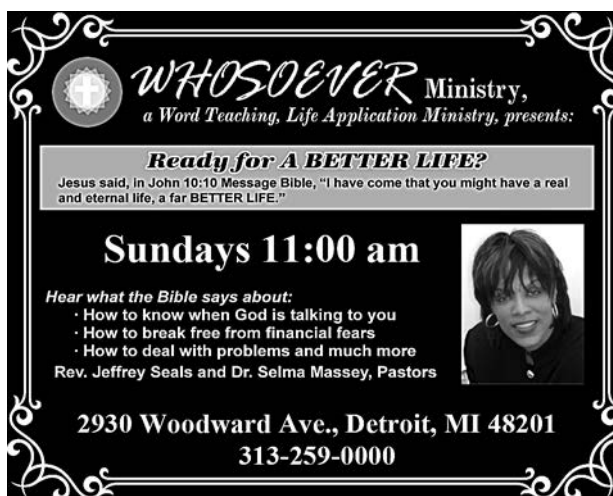


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Religious Freedom Restoration Acts are popping up all over the country in what ACLU attorney Jay Kaplan describes as a “reaction to the reality that marriage equality for same-sex couples is coming” and that this kind of legislation is a “last gasp (for opponents) to try and find a way around this (LGBT equality).”

“When the states came into the business of marriage, it was a registration to figure out how many people were married. But when they extended the plethora of benefits to people because of marriage, it created a right,” Martell said.



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A BISEXUAL LUMINARY FRIDA KAHLO

Historian Dishes On Famed Artist's Legacy In The LGBT Community

BY CHRISTOPHER TREACY

Frida Kahlo may have been concerned with what people thought of her artwork, but she didn't much care what they thought of her.

Perhaps one reason for this is because the two things were so deeply intertwined: the Mexican native's work is – quite literally – the face she showed the world. Out of 143 formally recognized paintings, 55 of them are self portraits. Despite the dreamlike narratives they imply, Kahlo insisted they were true depictions of her reality. So, as she saw it, she shared her most personal self with the world through her work... anything else was irrelevant.

Kahlo's legacy pulses vibrantly through a new exhibit going up at the Detroit Institute of Arts, entitled "Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo in Detroit," which features her work and that of Rivera, her significantly older husband and initial patron. The couple spent time together in Detroit when Rivera was commissioned by Ford Motor Company to produce the famed Detroit Industry Murals.

In conjunction with the new show, author/Kahlo biographer and art historian Hayden Herrera will talk about the artist's life and art at 7 p.m April 28 in the Detroit Film Theatre auditorium. Herrera took time out to chat with us amid an onslaught of media requests related to newly auctioned love letters that Kahlo wrote to Catalan artist Jose Bartoli in the wake of a rather steamy affair.

Kahlo was known for her affairs with both men and women. One of the more famous was with dancer Josephine Baker.

"Both of them had affairs," Herrera clarified over the phone from New York City. "Diego was jealous if they were with





Hayden Herrera. Photo by Susanna Findley

INFO

Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo in Detroit

with art historian Hayden Herrera

7 p.m. April 28

Detroit Institute of Arts

5200 Woodward Avenue, Detroit

dia.org

men, like her much discussed affair with Leon Trotsky... but he didn't seem to mind if it was with a woman."

Kahlo's tryst with Trotsky, who was also married at the time, is thought to have been a revenge tactic for a romantic entanglement that transpired between Rivera and Kahlo's younger sister, Cristina. A pointed retaliation, much of it played out in the Kahlo/Rivera Mexican compound, where Trotsky and his wife stayed while in exile. Eventually Trotsky's wife and Rivera realized what was going on and an alternate living scenario was devised.

In fact, to look over a timeline of Kahlo's marriage to Rivera, which resulted in divorce and eventual remarriage, one or both of them was almost always seeing someone else on the side. Despite this, Herrera says the marriage was strong.

"I think they loved each other very much and shared a deep, intense bond," she said. "I think they became quite dependent on one another. She loved some of the feminine parts of him, he loved the masculine parts of her... and they shared their leftist/Marxist political ideals."

Herrera went on to explain that Kahlo reportedly enjoyed Rivera's ample bosom, given his chubby build, and he in turn had a fondness for Kahlo's sprouts of facial and body hair. Together they portray an unapologetic androgyny that speaks volumes to the current hot topic of gender queering

in our culture. But it's not something that Herrera discusses all that much in her book, "Frida: A Biography of Frida Kahlo," first published in 1983.

"In terms of the culture at that time, Mexico was very much a Catholic country," she said. "For my book, I was doing interviews in the mid-to-late '70s, and people were still very discreet and didn't really want to talk about that. But Kahlo lived in a highly sophisticated milieu of writers, artists and musicians, all of whom were very free about sexual behavior... affairs were common, and yet still, there's a lot we don't know."

One theory about Kahlo's affairs with women relates to her increasing fragility. Having suffered a very serious set of injuries in a 1925 bus accident - something that required 35 surgeries to correct and permanently impaired her ability to carry a child - Kahlo's adult physicality was weaker than average. It's thought that perhaps the more strenuous lovemaking with men became less attractive to her as she got older and she sought a gentler, more feminine touch.

Whatever the case, she made no apologies or excuses for her sexual choices. On the contrary, she and Rivera seemed to have fun with mixing genders, body parts and even species in a series of exquisite corpse-style drawings included in the new exhibit. Seen in that light, it's clear that they had a much deeper understanding of each other than what's implied when a more successful artist goes about bankrolling a struggling one.

"Looking back at the self-portraits, there's something about the carnality of them... a sense of desire and an energy that makes me wonder if it might be aimed a little toward women," Herrera said. "It's a feeling - totally subjective - that her intense expression seems motivated by desire. It's such a penetrating gaze, she bores right into you. She hits right inside the body for men and women both."

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Michigan Theater Presents New Wine & Film Series

Michigan Theater is partnering with Wine Enthusiast Magazine to offer a special film series focused on the world of wine on Wednesdays at 7 p.m., April 29-May 27. Both wine and film are full sensory experiences, transporting us to another place, offering enjoyment, education and discovery. The Michigan Theater presents five visually beautiful stories of wine and wine production, followed by tastings of special wines with special guests after each screening (for those 21 or over.) The overall series is sponsored by Cinzano, Ferrari and Alta Luna, with additional sponsors for each film.

Advance tickets available at ticketweb.com.

The schedule of films is:

April 29: "Somm"

With unprecedented access, "Somm" takes the viewer on humorous, emotional and illuminating look into a mysterious world – the Court of Master Sommeliers and the massively intimidating Master Sommelier Exam. The documentary was directed by Jason Wise. This screening is sponsored by Ann Arbor's own Taste Kitchen.

May 6: "You Will Be My Son (Tu seras mon fils)"

Passionate about wine and his work, Paul, the proprietor of his family's prestigious wine estate, is disheartened by the thought that his son will inherit the business and the fact that his hard-working estate manager is dying. Paul rejects his own son to groom another to

be the heir to the estate. Work, love and wine all play key roles in this family drama. French with subtitles.

May 13: "A Year in Champagne"

With renowned wine importer Martine Saunier as our guide, we get a rare glimpse behind the scenes into the real Champagne through six houses, from small independent makers like Champagne Saint-Chamant, where each bottle is still turned by hand in the cellars, to the illustrious houses of Gosset and Bollinger.

May 20: "Red Obsession"

For more than three centuries, Bordeaux wines have held an almost mythical status as symbols of wealth, power and influence. Recently the prices for the prestige red wines have been skyrocketing as something unprecedented happens to the Bordeaux fine wine market -- and that something is China. Narrated by Russell Crow, this documentary explores the Bordeaux phenomenon and what moves people to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on a single bottle of wine.

May 27: "Sideways"

A wine tasting road trip to salute Jack's (Thomas Haden Church) final days as a bachelor careens woefully sideways as he and Miles (Paul Giamatti) hit the gas en route to mid-life crises. The comically mismatched pair, who share little more than their history and a heady blend of failed potential and fading youth, soon find themselves drowning in wine and women (Sandra Oh and Virginia Madsen). Emerging from a

haze of Pinot Noir, wistful yearnings and trepidation about the future, the two inevitably collide with reality. Directed by Alexander Payne ("Election," "The Descendants").

Now celebrating its 88th year, the Michigan Theater is Ann Arbor's award-winning non-profit historic center for fine film and performing arts. The Michigan Theater welcomes more than 250,000 visitors each year to its art house films, concerts, lectures, live theater and special programs such as Sundance Film Festival USA and Cinetopia International Film Festival. The Michigan Theater also owns and operates the historic State Theater located just up the street at 233 State Street. The Michigan Theater is located in downtown Ann Arbor at 603 E. Liberty St. Visit michtheater.org or call the 24-hour information line at 734-668-TIME for schedule and ticket information.

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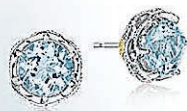
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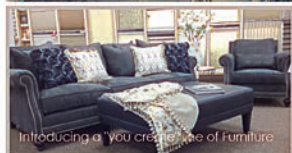
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Puzzle solution on pg. 26

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Hear Me Out BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Sufjan Stevens, Reba McEntire



Sufjan Stevens, 'Carrie & Lowell'

Grief guides Sufjan Stevens' muse on "Carrie & Lowell." It's a remarkably wrenching release from the indie darling. "The evil it spread like a fever ahead / It was night when you died, my firefly," a solemn Stevens laments, conjuring a place of peace and rest, and then delivering this stark reality like an afterthought: "We're all gonna die." A heartbreaking back-and-forth between Sufjan and his late mother, who died shortly after a surprise stomach cancer diagnosis, the song's simple piano progression enkindles a contrasting calmness to the intensity of this final exchange – a reconciliation of the past, the harsh truth of the future – that floats hypnotically, like a wind-blown feather making its final descent. His portrayal of the inevitable is tragically beautiful, and it's also uncharacteristically direct, a noticeable switch for the pressy, cryptically-prone Stevens. "Carrie & Lowell" is a memoir, capturing a life-changing tragedy with aching frankness and conveying it in its rawest guitar-rendered form. His despondency on the dreamy "Should Have Known Better," which acknowledges the trauma of being abandoned by his mother at "3, maybe 4," is spiked with hope – the promise of a new niece, a ray of light that cuts through the song's otherwise sullen sensibility. It evokes the cyclical nature

of humanity so beautifully, and in just five minutes. Stevens also lets in some light on "Drawn to the Blood," his call to a spiritual guide eventually ebbing into a lush, orchestral reprieve. Grief, in all its emotional complexities, has rarely been as fully embodied as it is on the compelling "Carrie & Lowell," a work rich in the reality of human nature, from life to death to life again. *Grade: A-*



Reba McEntire, 'Love Somebody'

Suffering through a recent breakup? Regretting a hookup? Reba's got you covered. The country diva sifts through a songwriting minefield of good ol'-fashioned country woe, worship and wine-drinking for "Love Somebody," the icon's first album in five years. And queens, brace yourselves: the rock-infused "Going Out Like That" is more fierce than an episode of "RuPaul's Drag Race." Taking aim at a mystified man, Reba lets him know what's up... and it's not what he expects. "He thought she'd be sitting home crying / she ain't going out like that," vows Reba, being all badass. The country queen's emotional plate is full on "Love Somebody," as she takes on impulsive rebound sex (the devastating Brandy Clark-written "She Got Drunk Last Night"),

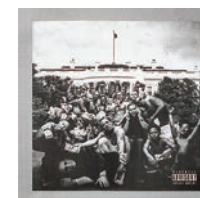
beating the odds (the snuffle-inducing "Love Land") and mortality ("Just Like Them Horses"). Inspired to record the ballad after it was played at her father's funeral, the latter is a hug from the heavens, and Reba sounds absolutely divine. She brings it on "Enough" as well. A duet with Jennifer Nettles, the powerhouse twosome touch the sky as they exchange lines about a two-timin', no-good cheat. Elsewhere, she's pledging her staying power (the growler "Livin' Ain't Killed Me Yet"), or re-envisioning "We Are the World" as "Pray for Peace," a rally call buoyed by an inspiring Celtic lift. Certainly Reba's genre-jumping is targeting anyone who's ever heard a Reba song, and why shouldn't it? For the most part, the more Rebas, the better. *Grade: B*

Also Out



Estelle, 'True Romance'

Estelle's been virtually hit-less since dropping "American Boy" in our laps, and with it, fueling our desire to hear more of her swaggering, Lauryn Hill-inspired R&B. "True Romance," though, won't do much to put her back on top. With a twinkly string intro, "Conqueror" takes off at the chorus, soaring to anthemic heights with its sky-shattering sound. It's listenable but derivative, a recurrent issue on "True Romance." Take the '90s house-influenced "Something Good / Devotion," during which Estelle turns up the disco heat (think Crystal Waters). The track is fine. It's filled with nostalgia. It's also only temporarily intoxicating. On the whole, the album suffers the same sorry fate.




Kendrick Lamar, 'To Pimp a Butterfly'

Kendrick Lamar's bringing the funk... and the spoken word, and the hip-hop, and the jazz. On "To Pimp a Butterfly," the Cali-born hotshot pulls from his multifaceted influences as he grapples with heavy of-the-zeitgeist matters, particularly heightened violence against blacks. "King Kunta" grooves a wonky female-assisted sound, and hope appears in the form of "Mortal Men," a moving 12-minute, posthumous conversation with Tupac. This is a powerful and empowering opus. An urban gospel, even. It's uncomfortable and challenging and, like the words from Lamar's mouth to our ears, tremendously important.

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▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 22

17360 Lahser Rd., Detroit. 7 p.m. April 25. 313-742-6441.

On Golden Pond Tickets: \$30-32. The Encore Musical Theatre Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Through April 26. 734-268-6200. theencoretheatre.org

Potted Potter - The Unauthorized Harry Experience Tickets: \$42. 50-52. 50. Detroit's City Theatre, City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. April 28 - May 3. 313-471-6611. Olympiantertainment.com

Salvage A shy owner of a collectables store in Detroit finds his staid existence turned topsy-turvy when a mysterious woman enters his life with valuable items that just should not exist anymore. Tickets: \$12. 50-41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. April 23 - May 24. 734-663-0681. Pntheatre.org

Talley's Folly Tickets: \$12-42. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through May 23. 734-433-7673. purplerosetheatre.org

Tender Napalm Tickets: \$10-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through May 4. 248-545-5545. theeringwald.com

The 39 Steps Tickets: \$30 (pre-sale only). Nerve, Gallery 17 at Russell Industrial Center, 1600 Clay St., Detroit. Through April 25. gonerve.com

The Merchant of Venice Tickets: \$10. Slipstream Theatre Initiative, Michigan Actors Studio, 648 E. 9 Mile Rd., Ferndale. Through April 30. 2483270575. slipstreamti.com

The Outgoing Tide Tickets: \$27-32. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Through May 3. 248-347-0003. tippingpointtheatre.com

Two Plays by Harold Pinter (with drinking in between) Tickets: By donation. The Abreact, 1301 W. Lafayette #113, Detroit. Through May 9. 313-454-1542. theabreact.com

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 Michigan Modernism Exposition Tickets: \$10-12. \$8 with BTL ad. Southfield Municipal Complex, 26000 Evergreen Road, Southfield. April 25 - April 26. Facebook.com/MichiganModernism

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

UMMA "Hana Hamplova: Meditations on Paper." University Of Michigan Museum



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Editor's Pick

"All God's Children Work Group" will host a indoor, interfaith prayer vigil the night before the Supreme Court is scheduled to hear arguments on same-sex marriage. The organization's chair, Elyse Kitrakis, states, "As you may know, the Supreme Court will hear arguments for and against gay marriage on April 28, 2015. The magnitude of the decision in this case is huge. It will be one of the major defining moments in the LGBT civil rights movement of the 21st century."

All God's Children is a work group under the Social Justice and Peacemaking Committee of the Presbytery of Detroit. Kitrakis notes, "We are committed to helping our denomination better understand the importance of offering a fully inclusive welcome to All of God's Children, especially our lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender brothers and sisters. In addition, we provide outreach to the LGBT community, to share the depth of God's unconditional love for those who have been hurt by the rhetoric of so many faith communities."

The vigil will be held from 7 p.m. until 7 a.m. beginning April 27 at the rear entrance of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 21575 W. 10 Mile Road, Southfield. Participants are urged to come for either a few minutes or a few hours. For more information, contact Elyse at 248-721-1209 or elysek@sbcglobal.net.

See You Next Domsday 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. Tickets: \$10-20. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Through May 2. 313-365-4948. planetant.com

Sirens When Sam first fell in love with Rose, he wrote her a song - a song that has been covered by every recording artist and translated into every language. For 25 years, Sam has been trying to write the next song - to no avail. Tickets: \$10-35. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. Through April 26. 517-655-SHOW. Williamstontheatre.com

Starting with Us Tickets: \$8-12. Matrix Theatre, Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley, Detroit. Through April 26. 313-967-0999. Matrixtheatre.org

Sugarhill The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company, Aaron DeRoy Theatre on the campus of the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Through May 10. 248-788-2900. jetttheatre.org

Violet Tickets: \$35-41 (includes meal). The Dio - Dining and Entertainment, 135 E. Main St., Pinckney. Through May 17. 517-672-6009. diotheatre.com

Yakety Yak -- A Fifties Tale Tickets: \$39-43. 50 (includes dinner). Cornwall'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.

Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Feb. 21 - Aug. 9. 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

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. Irwg.research.umich.edu/events/exhibitions.html

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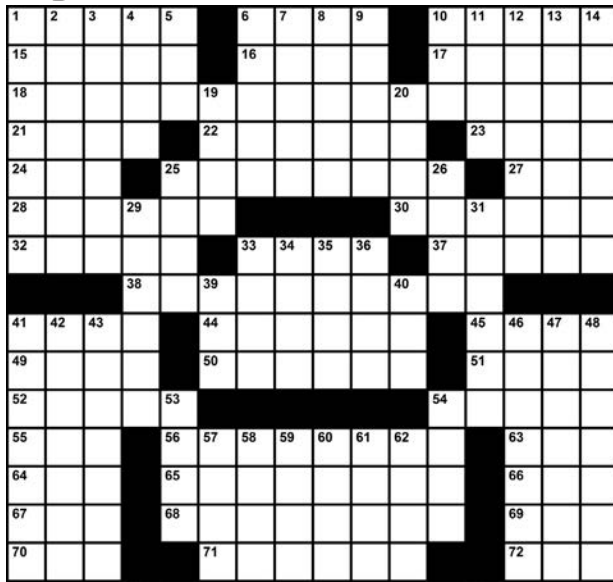
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Across

- 1 Race site in Auden's land
- 6 Express pleasure orally
- 10 "Rat Bohemia" author Schulman
- 15 Dutch resort isle
- 16 Painter Bonheur
- 17 Board material
- 18 What they call discrimination in Indiana

- 21 Test the weight of
- 22 "There ___ be a law!" (anti-gay motto of Indiana?)
- 23 Coldcock
- 24 Gasteyer of "SNL"
- 25 While you're doing it
- 27 Arkansas Gov. Hutchinson
- 28 Layer of some balls
- 30 Journalist Ted
- 32 River of Auden's land

Down

- 1 Swank, in a 2009 flick
- 2 Peacock, e.g.
- 3 Ingredient in dye or fertilizer
- 4 Memorial column
- 5 "The Advocate," briefly
- 6 Tile surround
- 7 Type of trade
- 8 Question about a cross-dresser, perhaps
- 9 1993 treaty acronym

- 10 Get a load of
- 11 City north of Des Moines
- 12 Bureaucratic tangle
- 13 Makes moist or hard
- 14 Pew books at Metropolitan Community Church
- 19 Burial site of Macbeth
- 20 Place for pool players' balls
- 25 "___ The Woods"
- 26 Deli request
- 29 Take into the body
- 31 Did not wait to exhale?
- 33 R.E.M.'s "The ___ Love"
- 34 Target of discrimination in Indiana
- 35 Buck's mates
- 36 George Takei's role on "Star Trek"
- 39 Apr. 15 letters
- 40 Cooking meas.
- 41 Package pouch
- 42 Beach of Bette's home state
- 43 "AIDS: Profile of an Epidemic" narrator
- 46 Aging first mate, perhaps
- 47 She loved Franklin and Lorena
- 48 Tin fish
- 53 In the sack
- 54 Cold War rival of the USA
- 57 Creator of Sal Mineo's ___ Exodus character
- 58 Letter enc.
- 59 "The doctor ___"
- 60 Whoopi and others in ___ Sister Act
- 61 Follies costume designer
- 62 Rank Mauresmo, e.g.



Solution on pg. 20

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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.

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