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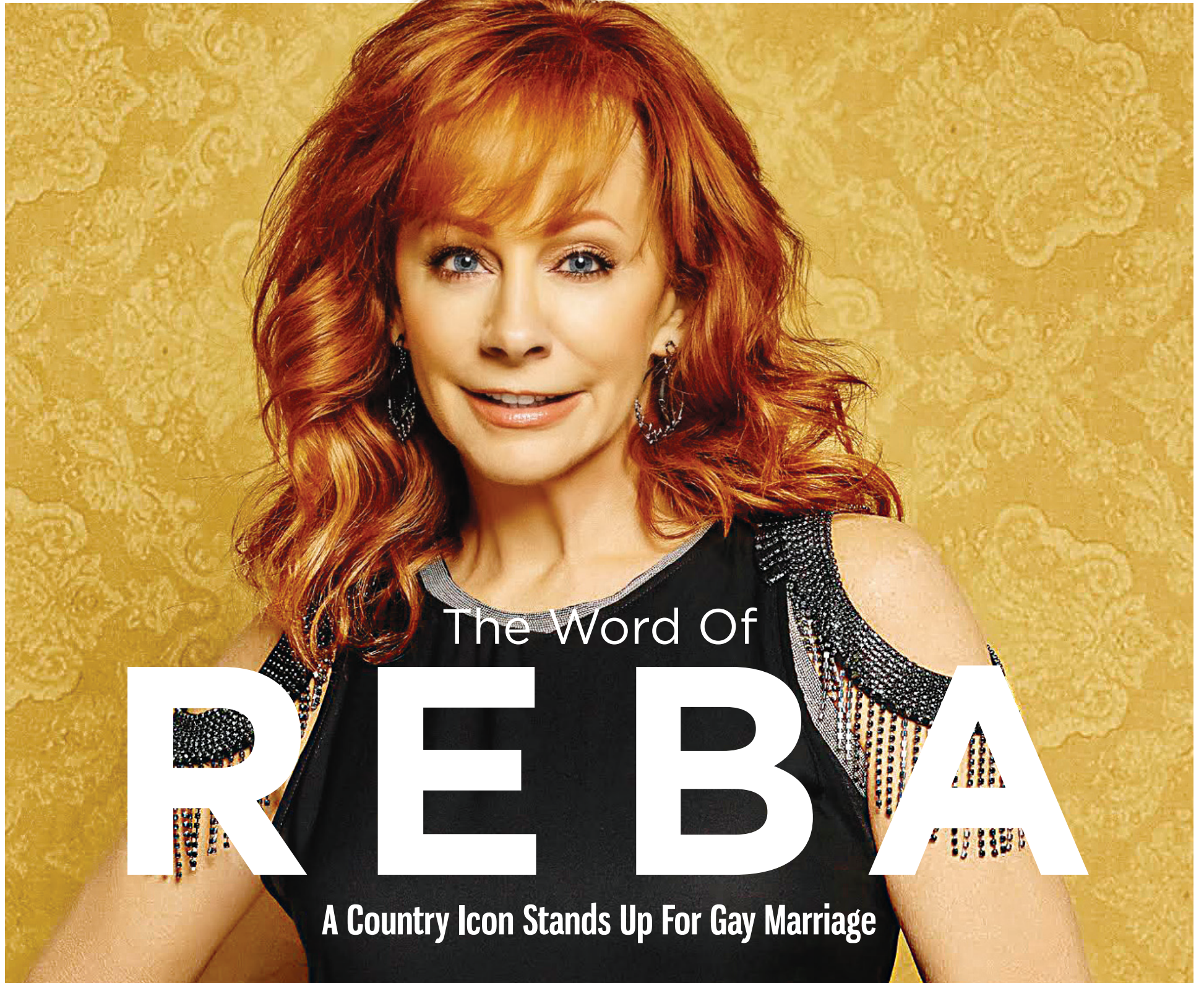


**After The Arguments:
How Will SCOTUS Rule?**

**Michigan Womyn's Fest
Says 2015 Is Last Year**

**GETTIN' SASSY WITH
GINGER MINJ**

- PG. 18



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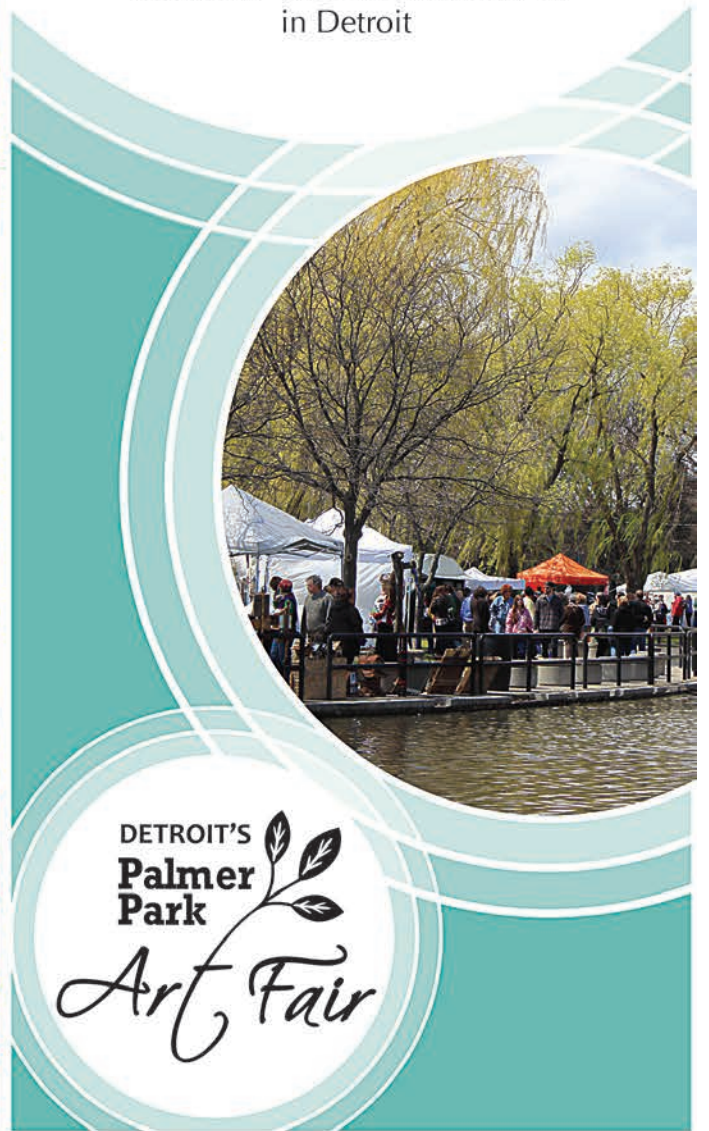
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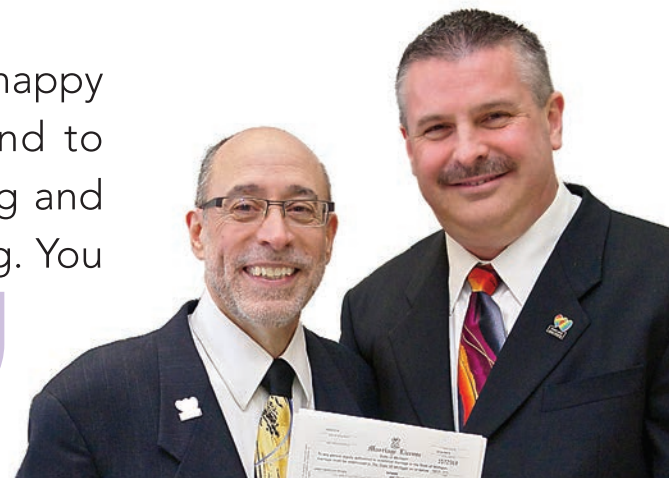
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“ It feels important and necessary. I'm happy to be able to be here to witness it and to actually see the wheels of justice turning and the movement in the country functioning. You really do see it here in Washington D.C.”

- Jim Ryder (right) on camping out in front of the Supreme Court with his husband, Frank Colasonti Jr. (left), pg. 6



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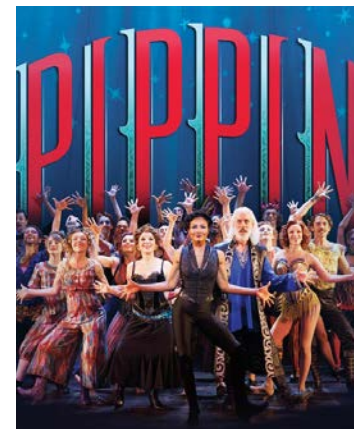
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PRIDE SOURCE MEDIA GROUP

20222 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48152
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PUBLISHERS

Susan Horowitz & Jan Stevenson

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EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief

Susan Horowitz, 734.293.7200 x 12
susanhorowitz@pridesource.com

Entertainment Editor

Chris Azzopardi, 734.293.7200 x 24
chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com

Assistant Editor

Shelby Clark Petkus, shelby@pridesource.com

Calendar Editor

Shelby Clark Petkus, shelby@pridesource.com

Staff Writers

AJ Trager, ajtrager@pridesource.com

CREATIVE

Art Director

Benjamin Jenkins, ben@pridesource.com

Webmaster & MIS Director

Kevin Bryant, kevinbryant@pridesource.com

Contributing Writers

Charles Alexander, Michelle E. Brown,
ED English, Todd Heywood, Jason Michaels,
Jerome Stuart Nichols, Gwendolyn Ann Smith,
Christopher J. Treacy

Cartoonists

Paul Berg, Dave Brousseau

Contributing Photographers

Andrew Potter

ADVERTISING & SALES

Director of Sales

Jan Stevenson, 734.293.7200 x 22
jan@pridesource.com

Sales Representatives

Ed Bohach, 734.293.7200 x 15
ed@pridesource.com

Ann Cox, 734.293.7200 x 13
anncox@pridesource.com

National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

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Supreme Court Hears Same-Sex Marriage Cases

BY LISA KEEN

The very first question from the U.S. Supreme Court bench Tuesday morning was about the rights of states to regulate marriage and, though attorneys for same-sex couples tried numerous times to refocus attention to the damage that bans on same-sex marriage inflict on the rights of LGBT people, the focus stayed largely on states' rights throughout the historic argument.

For two and a half hours – more than twice the time most cases get – an animated bench grilled attorneys for same-sex couples and the four states that seek to ban their marriages.

Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Stephen Breyer asked most of the tough questions to challenge the governmental interest served by banning same-sex couples from marriage. Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Antonin Scalia and Samuel Alito asked most of the tough questions to parties seeking to strike down those bans. Per his routine, Justice Clarence Thomas asked no questions, and true to his role as the court's most unpredictable vote, Justice Anthony Kennedy asked tough questions of both sides.

The packed courtroom was equally lively, laughing frequently, applauding once and, at one point, a man at the back of the courtroom jumped up and began ranting loudly and incessantly about the Bible, "abominations" and that gays would "burn in hell." Such outbursts have occurred in the court recently on other issues and the man's disruption seemed well-timed, given that it did not interrupt any attorney's allotted time before the bench.

But, as is also routine, the justices engaged in a great deal of interrupting attorneys throughout the proceeding.

Barely a minute into Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders' Mary Bonauto's opening comments about how laws banning same-sex couples from marrying convey a "stain of unworthiness," Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg asked how the "federal government's historic deference to states when it comes to matters of domestic relations" should influence the court's decision on whether the state bans are



GLAD Attorney Mary Bonauto, who argued question 1 for plaintiffs speaks to media immediately following the U.S. Supreme Court hearings Tuesday. Photo courtesy Freedom To Marry

unconstitutional. In asking her question, Ginsburg referred to the court's 2013 landmark decision in *U.S. v. Windsor*, in which the court emphasized states' rights to regulate marriage as it struck down the key provision of the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which had prohibited the federal government from recognizing marriages licensed to same-sex couples in some states.

"States do have primacy over domestic relations except that their laws must respect the constitutional rights of persons, and *Windsor* couldn't have been clearer about that," said Bonauto. "And here we have a whole class of people who are denied the equal right to be able to join in this very extensive government institution that provides protection for families."

Chief Justice John Roberts jumped on Bonauto's choice of words, saying same-sex couples weren't seeking the right to "join" marriage but to "redefine" them. The comment echoed his remarks in 2013 and hinted early on that Roberts is not a likely vote in favor of striking down state bans on same-sex marriage.

Bonauto attempted to make the point that many things have changed for society over time, such

True to his role as the court's most unpredictable vote, Justice Anthony Kennedy asked tough questions of both sides.

as the role of women, but that the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution provides "enduring guarantees" to citizens.

Kennedy jumped in next, first noting that it has been about 10 years since the Supreme Court struck down sodomy laws – an amount of time comparable to the time between when the court struck down state mandated racial segregation of schools and when it struck down state laws banning interracial marriages. It was an initial ray of hope that Kennedy was heading in the direction of striking down state laws. But then he compared 10 years to the "millennia" of years during which people thought of marriage as being between a man and a woman.

"This definition has been with us for millennia. And it's very difficult for the Court to say, 'Oh, well, we know better.'"

Within just a few minutes,

Ginsburg seemed to respond to Kennedy's comment when she said to Bonauto:

"You wouldn't be asking for this relief if the law of marriage was what it was a millennium ago. I mean, it wasn't possible," said Ginsburg. "Same-sex unions would not have opted into that pattern of marriage, which was a dominant and a subordinate relationship. Yes, it was marriage between a man and a woman, but the man decided where the couple would be domiciled; it was her obligation to follow him."

"There was a change in the institution of marriage," said Ginsburg, "to make it egalitarian when it wasn't egalitarian."

Justice Scalia soon entered the fray to say the question "is not whether there should be same-sex marriage, but who should decide the point."

"And you're asking us to decide it for this society when no other

society until 2001 ever had it," Scalia told Bonauto.

Justice Alito took the discussion back even further than Ginsburg and Scalia, to ancient Greece, noting that same-sex relationships were accepted then but that there were no marriages between same-sex couples.

"So their limiting marriage to couples of the opposite sex was not based on prejudice against gay people, was it?" asked Alito.

Bonauto tried to make the point that a big difference between other cultures and other times is that the United States, from its inception, made "a commitment to individual liberty and equality."

Justice Breyer brought up the states' "wait and see" rationale for denying marriage to same-sex couples, to which Bonauto noted that states, including Virginia in *Loving v. Virginia*, offered that rationale to justify miscegenation laws. The Supreme Court struck down those laws, noted Bonauto, even though 80 percent of the public supported such bans and the Supreme Court's striking down of those laws was considered a "profound change."

Solicitor General Don Verrilli repeatedly reminded the court that a "wait and see" approach to the issue leaves "the nation as a house divided" in the same way racial segregation did. And leaving the issue to voters, he said, "will be saying is that the demeaning, second-class status that gay and lesbian couples now inhabit in states that do not provide for marriage is consistent with the equal protection of the laws. That is not a wait-and-see," said Verrilli. "That is a validation."

John Bursch, a special assistant attorney general from Michigan, urged the court to affirm "every individual's fundamental liberty interest" to decide the meaning of marriage by ensuring that voters be able to define marriage through the democratic process. The state's marriage laws, he said, were developed "to serve purposes that, by their nature, arise from biology."

Just as the question of whether states can ban same-sex marriage seemed to rely largely on how Kennedy will ultimately vote, the court seemed split on the question of whether a state can refuse to

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► Supreme Court

Continued from p. 4

recognize a marriage license from another state. But the overriding concern Tuesday was how the court would rule on the first question: Does the 14th Amendment require a state to license a marriage between two people of the same sex?

Gay legal activists at the argument Tuesday expressed optimism that Kennedy will come through with the majority vote.

Now The Wait Begins

Today, same-sex couples can obtain marriage licenses in 37 states. In June, that could quickly become 50. Or the court might split the baby and decide states can ban same-sex marriage but must recognize marriage licenses lawfully obtained in marriage equality states. That would enable the 13 states which currently enforce bans to continue to do so and another 10 states which had to temporarily suspend their bans to reinstate them.

On NBC's "Meet the Press" Sunday, Ted Olson, who argued the Proposition 8 case against California's ban on same-sex marriage, said he doesn't believe the Supreme Court will issue such a split decision. And if the court follows the precedent of *Loving v. Virginia*, it won't do a split. That 1967 decision said that state laws banning marriage between persons solely on the basis of racial classifications violated the 14th Amendment's guarantees of equal protection and due process. The question now is whether state laws banning marriage between persons solely on the basis of sexual orientation or gender violate the 14th

Amendment's guarantees of equal protection and due process.

The Supreme Court will most likely take until the end of June to issue its decision. Until then, legal scholars and media will analyze the two and a half hours of arguments to find clues for how each justice is leaning on both questions posed and to speculate how the majority will rule.

The fact that six justices agreed last year not to hear appeals from states seeking to keep their bans will prompt most to predict a victory for marriage equality. (It takes the support of at least four of the nine justices to take an appeal. The court did not take an appeal until it accepted the appeal of plaintiffs challenging the same-sex marriage bans.) The fact that Kennedy has written three of the court's decisions treating LGBT people with respect (*Romer*, *Lawrence* and *Windsor*) gives marriage equality supporters hope that he'll forge the majority once again. But his historic support for state sovereignty and his recent bond with the conservative justices to strike down the Voting Rights Act, saying the states "retain broad autonomy," will give hope to those who support the state bans.

The Washington Post reported last week that its poll with ABC found 61 percent support gay marriage, 35 percent oppose and 4 percent had no opinion. Essentially that same percentage also opposed allowing individual states to ban same-sex marriage. NBC reported Sunday that its poll with the Wall Street Journal found 59 percent of Americans support marriage equality – up 18 points over 2009.

Keen News Service



Sixteen anti-gay protesters gathered on Lansing Capitol steps Monday to speak out against marriage equality. BTL photo: Todd Heywood.

Pro And Anti-LGBT Activists Hit Capitol Steps

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Michigan's SCOTUS Courtside Campers

BY AJ TRAGER

WASHINGTON D.C. – Dozens of people have been camping out in front of the U.S. Supreme Court since Friday, enduring cold temperatures and rain, in order to ensure that they get a seat in the room when the high court hears testimony from supporters and opponents of marriage equality.

They began lining up at 6 a.m. on April 24, four days before the hearing. With 100 hours to go before the nine justices will hear arguments over the constitutionality of state bans on same-sex marriage, Frank Colasonti Jr. and his husband Jim Ryder joined the queue of dedicated individuals in front of the courthouse.

Colasonti and Ryder are 17th and 18th in line at SCOTUS. In March of 2014, they were the first couple in Oakland county to get married following a court ruling that struck down Michigan's voter-approved ban on same-sex marriage. Over 300 couples were legally married in the state before a stay was placed on the decision by the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals. This year, after 26 years of being together, they celebrated their first wedding anniversary.

"The rest of the people can't get married in Michigan. We feel an obligation, a duty, until everyone can get married, that we need to fight for everybody else still," Ryder said. "We just got lucky, that's all."

Just two spots ahead of them, Kathleen Perrin holds spot number 15. Perrin runs the website Equality Case Files which she started in 2010 to provide easy, online access to legal documents surrounding the same-sex marriage lawsuits that have been rapidly moving through federal and state courts since 2013 (United States v. Windsor).

Perrin, Colasonti and Ryder are no strangers to camping out in front of courthouses. They met in California during the 2013 trial on Prop 8 and are now among the first group of people who intend on sitting in the SCOTUS courtroom.

Unlike the last time the couple camped out before the California court, legal professionals and the public must hold a spot in line since no one but the plaintiffs are guaranteed a seat before the justices. There are two lines forming: one side for the public and one side for the lawyers. Many people have professionally paid spot-sitters holding a place in line during the wait. As of 9 a.m. Monday morning, Colasonti reported 67 people were waiting in line.

Colasonti and Ryder brought fleece



Frank Colasonti, Jr. and James Ryder were one of 323 couples legally married March 22, 2014 in Michigan. They camped out over 100 hours in order to secure a seat inside the U.S. Supreme Court hearings on same-sex marriage Tuesday. Photo courtesy of Colasonti-Ryder

"The rest of the people can't get married in Michigan. We feel an obligation, a duty, until everyone can get married, that we need to fight for everybody else still."

—James Ryder

blankets, sleeping bags, chairs and tarps to protect themselves from the rain, a plethora of snacks to keep their energy up and even a bottle of bubbles for entertainment.

"It's an experience that you can tell people about, but it is something to be felt and seen," Colasonti said. "We had scores of elderly people who were walking through our area, and a lot of the elderly women were yelling, 'Yay, go for it!' People are very supportive."

With less than 24 hours before the doors opened, Colasonti and Ryder were sleep deprived but full of excitement and energy as the hours dwindled down, drawing nearer to the historic day in U.S. history.

"It feels important and necessary. I'm happy to be able to be here to witness it and to actually see the wheels of justice turning and the movement in the country functioning. You really do see it here in Washington D.C.," Ryder explained.

Over the course of the weekend they met many of the marriage plaintiffs and their legal teams as well as public supporters and anti-marriage equality

protestors. They attended a reception hosted by the Michigan delegation for DeBoer and Rowse and attended a plaintiffs' reception, hosted by the Freedom to Marry and the Human Rights Campaign.

"It's people like (Michigan plaintiffs) Jayne and April who have a public face of loving, caring parents. Everybody can relate to it," Colasonti said.

"And the courage to speak up. People don't necessarily have that courage or feel afraid that they can be out," Ryder said.

The day of the trial, Colasonti and Ryder woke up early, packed up their SCOTUS campsite and stored it at a local hotel along with Perrin's materials. After such a long wait, they were finally able to head into the courthouse. Before the rest of the country even had access to the arguments and the justices responses, this Michigan couple was among a small group of individuals in the nation lucky enough to see history take place. No electronics were allowed in the courtroom and lockers were provided to store jackets and other materials. Audio from the two-and-a-half-hour arguments was made available to the public at 2 p.m. April 28 at www.supremecourt.gov.

"I asked my coworkers the other day how their marriages were fairing since we got married, and surprisingly nobody is divorced, nobody is having any marital problems," Ryder joked. "For all the negative things that we've heard about gay marriage and how it breaks down the morals of society and destroys the whole of other people's families, it's nice to know that Frank and I don't have the power to destroy marriages."



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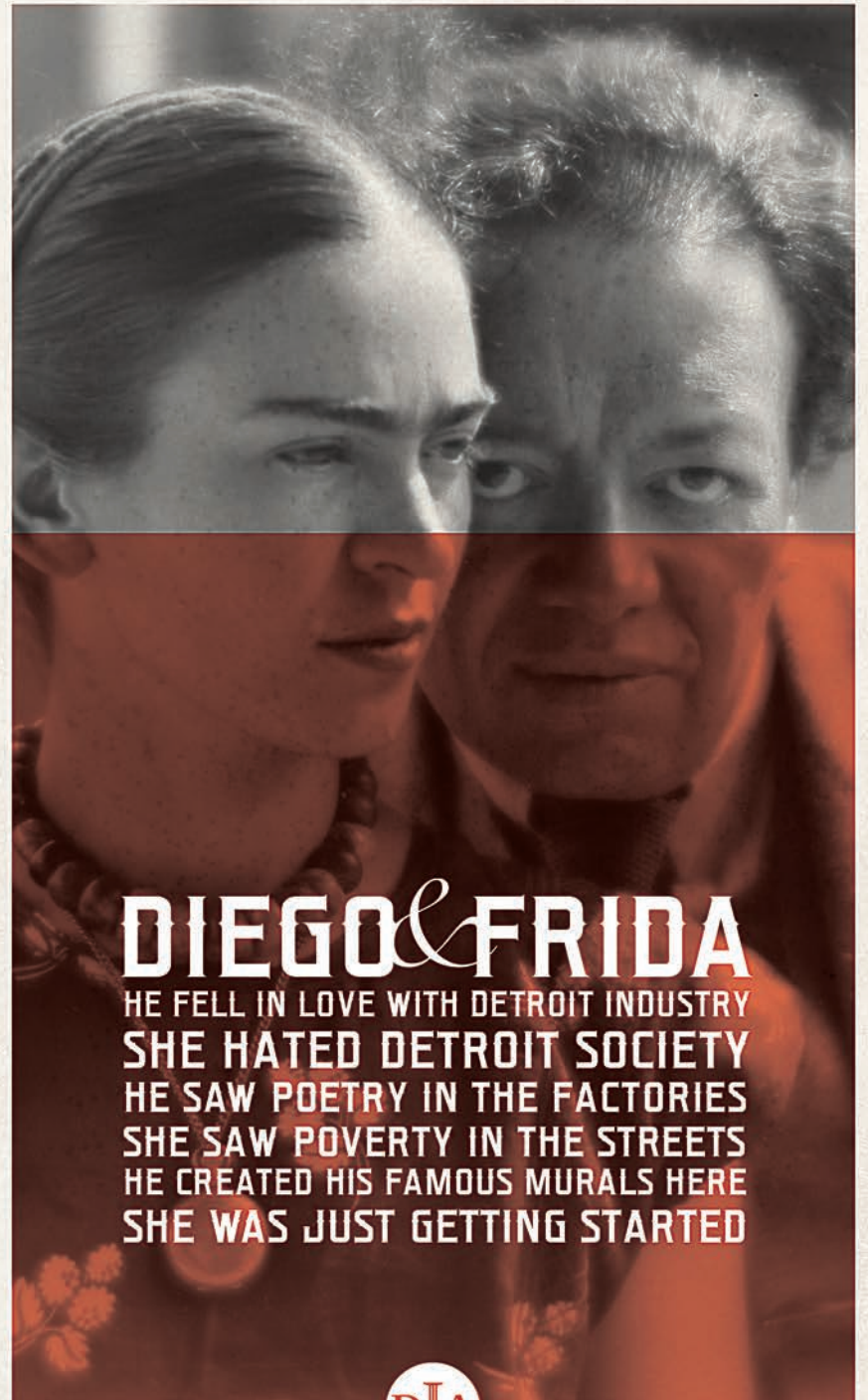


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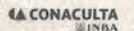
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Michigan ACLU Discusses SCOTUS Arguments

BY AJ TRAGER

Mary Bonauto of Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders and Doug Hallward-Driemeier of Ropes & Gray LLP made their arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court in a two and a half hour debate, arguing the constitutionality of same-sex marriage, and thus the future of same-sex couples nationwide.

In January 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court granted review of an aberrant 6th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling that upheld discriminatory marriage bans in Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee, the first Federal court to do so after the Supreme Court's 2013 Windsor decision.

The high court questioned why same-sex couples should be denied freedoms that provide benefits and stability to families but kept in mind that they were seeking a change to an institution defined the same way for a millennia.

In her opening statement for the consolidated case, *Obergefell v. Hodges*, Bonauto noted that the love, commitment and mutual support shared by married same-sex couples is equal to that of opposite-sex spouses but that same-sex couples are denied the legal protection afforded to opposite-sex couples.

"When you talk about marriage as a fundamental right, and it is found to be a fundamental right by the court, that means the scrutiny that they will provide to the states' arguments -- wanting to deny same-sex couples the right to marry -- is going to have a higher standard for the state to meet," explained Jay Kaplan, staff attorney with the ACLU of Michigan LGBT Project. "If they don't find it is a fundamental right and they look to it on equal protection grounds, traditionally with LGBT cases in the past, the court has provided the most deferential level of scrutiny on rational basis to laws and policies."

Kaplan followed the Supreme Court Blog throughout the morning arguments and was surrounded by analysis and transcripts of the historic trial in marriage equality history.

"It's been an exciting and a historic day before the United States Supreme Court looking at both the issue of the right to marry and whether or states are obligated to recognize legal marriage between same-sex couples," he said.

Tremendous progress has been made for LGBT equality. Kaplan, in a teleconference following the SCOTUS trial, reminded listeners that, in 2013, the Supreme Court found a section of the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional: that the federal government would not recognize legal marriages between same-sex couples. At that time the United States had 13 states that permitted same-sex couples to get married.

"You can't always predict how the court is going to decide the case," Kaplan pressed. "When you look at the configuration of SCOTUS, I think it is safe to say that we have four progressive justices on the court, all three

See ACLU page 11

MiRFRA Heard Before Senate Judiciary Committee

BY BTL STAFF

LANSING – The controversial Michigan Religious Freedom Restoration Act (MiRFRA) – introduced as SB 0004 by GOP Sen. Mike Shirkey, R-Clark Lake – was heard before the Senate Judiciary committee April 28, the same day that the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments regarding same-sex marriage. No vote is expected.

The MiRFRA law is similar to that of the Indiana RFRA which would allow businesses and corporations to discriminate against the LGBT community using "deeply held religious beliefs." However, Shirkey said that the Michigan law would be different because it would not extend to lawsuits involving individual parties.

There was widespread backlash from the public and the business community shortly after Gov. Mike Pence signed the Indiana RFRA into law late March. Large companies like Apple, Salesforce and Yelp all spoke out, with Salesforce openly saying that it would no longer pursue expanding in Indiana.

"Passing RFRA could hinder the ability of all Michigan businesses to recruit and retain a talented workforce," Steelcase Senior Vice President Lizbeth O'Shaughnessy said in a letter to Senate Judiciary Chairman Rick Jones. "The direct immediate negative economic impact of such legislation was made clear recently in Indiana."

Last year in the lame duck session, the Michigan Competitive Workforce Coalition pushed lawmakers to update the state's non-discrimination Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include protections for LGBT residents. Now as the judiciary committee will look at MiRFRA, Steelcase, Kellogg and Herman Miller – all members of the workforce coalition – have vocalized their displeasure through letters to legislators and Gov. Rick Snyder.

The judiciary committee could take MiRFRA up at any time and send the bill to the full Senate for approval. Members of

the state Senate can file a discharge petition seeking to force a vote on the legislation.

Progress Michigan, a liberal advocacy group opposed to the legislation, slammed the plans to hold a hearing.

"Clearly, the Michigan GOP has not learned anything from what happened in Indiana," said Sam Ingot, communications specialist for Progress Michigan. "Conservatives in the legislature are so blinded by their ideology that they'll push for a bill that would hurt families, harm businesses and make us the laughing stock of the entire nation. The fact that this bill is even getting a committee hearing shows how out of line these far-right elected officials are with reality, public opinion and basic human decency."

Gov. Rick Snyder has told lawmakers he will not sign MiRFRA if the legislature doesn't amend the state's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity as protected classes. He has even gone so far as to issue a public veto threat.

Sen. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge, is chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee. He supports MiRFRA and said in an interview that he thinks the LGBT community should as well. Jones also thinks the controversy of

similar legislation in Indiana was a political move meant to undercut the presidential aspirations of Gov. Mike Pence.

"I believe this recent uproar was a political attack on Gov. Pence because he is a Republican and mentioned he might run for president," Jones said.

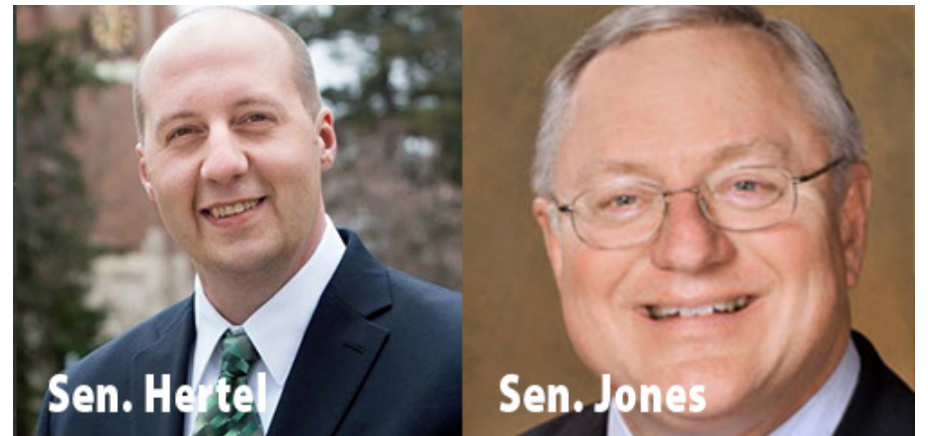
Sen. Steve Bieda, the only Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, said he is a firm "no" vote on MiRFRA and believes there are other committee members who would vote no as well.

"Their base – their radical right-wing base – really likes this," Bieda said of the GOP's push.

The committee heard arguments at 3 p.m. just hours after the Supreme Court concluded arguments in four marriage cases which will dramatically alter the future of marriage equality in the U.S. no later than the end of June.

Sen. Rick Jones is chair of the Judiciary Committee. In addition to the Chair, other Senate Judiciary Committee members include Sen. Rocca, Sen. Bieda, Sen. Colbeck and Sen. Schuitmaker.

Online Extra: State Senators Debate MiRFRA @ PrideSource.com



State Senate Committee Passes Adoption Discrimination Bills

BY TODD HEYWOOD

A Michigan Senate Committee has approved, on a party line vote, a three bill package opponents say would codify discrimination by adoption agencies.

The committee – Family, Seniors and Human Services – voted the three bills out 4-1 after rejection amendments offered by the only Democrat on the panel.

Sen. Bert Johnson, D-Highland Park, offered six amendments, the Detroit News

reports. Some of those amendments would have prohibited agencies from denying services if it is not in the best interest of the child, require agencies to post online in what situations they would deny services and require agencies to follow federal and state civil rights laws.

Supporters of the legislation – including the bills' sponsor State Rep. Eric Leutheuser, R-Hillsdale – say the bills do not allow agencies to deny services and have characterized the legislation as "rescue and

refer" rules.

The bills are headed to the full state Senate, which has a super majority control by the GOP. But Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof's spokesperson Amber McCann told MLive that there is no rush to approve the bills in the Senate.

McCann said the leader wanted to make sure Gov. Rick Snyder, also a Republican, would sign the bill. His office has said there are concerns the bills could lead to lawsuits.

Michigan Womyn's Fest Says 2015 Is Last Year

BY BTL STAFF

HART – Two weeks after national LGBT rights organizations pulled their names from a petition calling for a ban on the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival (Michfest), founder Lisa Vogel announced the festival will be coming to an end.

The 40th and final Michigan Womyn's Music Festival will be held in August of this year. Since its start in 1976, the festival has been built, staffed, attended and run entirely by women but has been at the center of controversy for its exclusion of transgender women.

The National LGBTQ Task Force and the National Center for Lesbian Rights removed their signatures from a petition drafted by Equality Michigan in 2014 that seeks to: end the "womyn-born-womyn" intention at Michigan Womyn's Music Festival; have Lisa Vogel, as co-founder and owner, meet with leaders of the transgender community and LGBT leaders and agree that transgender women are women/womyn too; ask vendors and workshop leaders to publicly declare support of an end to the festival's antiquated and anti-business policy of exclusion; request that artists, attendees and vendors act in harmony with their equal rights values and not attend the festival until the transgender discrimination ends; and support other women's events which are creating a safe space for transgender women.

"We are writing to state clearly our commitment to the full inclusion and welcome of transgender women, as women, in the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival (Michfest). We will continue to actively work to fulfill that goal," wrote Kate Kendell, executive director of the NCLR, and Rea Carey, executive director of the National LGBTQ Task Force. "After a number of conversations, we do not believe the petition/boycott is going to be ultimately productive in achieving the goal of a fully inclusive Michfest."

Last summer, Vogel wrote in a letter addressed to the community, "Over 20 years ago, we asked Nancy Burkholder, a trans woman, to leave the Land. That was wrong, and for that, we are sorry. We, alongside the rest of the LGBTQ community, have learned and changed a great deal over our 39-year history."

The letter continued, "The truth is, trans womyn and trans men attend the Festival, blog about their experiences and work on crew. Again, it is not the inclusion of trans womyn at Festival that we resist; it is the erasure of the



“ It has been my honor and privilege to produce the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival for 40 years. It has been my life's work, my deepest commitment, my constant challenge and my most profound joy. Every single thing of value I have learned in the world I have learned in the process of being part of building this beloved community. **”**

- Lisa Vogel

specificity of female experience in the discussion of the space itself that stifles progress in this conversation.”

Over the past four decades, the week-long summer festival has been a place for women to celebrate their womanhood. The festival has seen performances from the Indigo Girls to Tribe 8 and has included performances from classical to hard rock. Vogel founded the festival when she was just 19; Vogel, her sister Kristie and their friend, Mary Kindig, planned an event similar to one held in Boston. Seven years after it began, the event moved to its current spot on a 650-acre plot of land, attracting upwards of 8,000 campers in the first year of its new location.

"It has been my honor and privilege to produce the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival for 40 years. It has been my life's work, my deepest commitment, my constant challenge and my most profound joy. Every single thing of value I have learned in the world I have learned in the process of being part of building this beloved community," Vogel wrote in a Facebook post announcing the decision.

"We have known in our hearts for some years that the life cycle of the Festival was coming to a time of closure," Vogel wrote. "Too often in our culture, change is met only with fear, the true cycle of life is denied to avoid the grief of loss.

But change is the ultimate truth of life.”

Vogel discusses the struggles the festival has faced, though she makes no specific mention. Instead, she describes each struggle as "a beautiful part of our collective strength; they have never been a weakness." She then urged the festival family to "take what you love about Michigan and use it to create something new and beautiful."

Those planning on attending the final Michfest Aug. 4-9 will see performances by C.C. Carter, Laura Love with Big Bad Gina, Skip The Needle, Round Robin, Marga Gomez, Elvira Kurt, Holly Near, Bitch, Mouths of Babes and many more, with a closing ceremony by Ruth Barrett.

"For those of us who will be gathering for our 40th anniversary this August – let's joyously hold up our incredible community and allow ourselves to be strong enough to consciously let go of this incarnation of her, with all the love we each hold in our beautiful hearts," Vogel wrote in a final goodbye. "Let us gather this August knowing that what we truly cherish about the Festival lives on in each of us, and more will come from this fertile ground. Let's do this up together – Amazon proud!"

Visit the festival's website for more information on the final goodbye bash at <http://michfest.com/>

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Inner Office Memorandum 2050



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Well, there was Jay Hovah, CEO, minding his own damn corporate – military/industrial complex – business when along comes a cataclysmic stock market crash (Red, White, Blue Chip Shares wiped out) and, wouldn't you know it, Mr. Big Guy gets frantic calls to give directions to various and sundry – er, sundry – boards of tax-exempt directors.

But, as we know all too well what happens in the game of “The Big Buck Stops Here,” somebody several floors below executive penthouse gets the blame. Usually it's someone who works on the mezzanine and has the last name of Pariah, Outsider or Them. First name Bruce, Rusty or Ellen.

And as Jay Hovah is away most of the time touring the Milky Way, showing up fashionably late at nova openings, Big Bang bashes, parallel universe debutante balls, interstellar raves uncharted, his PR Department (floors 3 through 16, one John flush for all) scrambles to provide spin when bad things happen to shareholders.

Seems these coverups date back to humankind's creation, which we are led to believe by Jay Hovah's spinsters was a mere 6,000 years ago when Eve – a ribbon File Clerk II, with no marketable shorthand or typing skills – was fall guy; and hubby Adam lost life insurance, DP benefits, visitation rights and in-the-buff landscaping privileges. (Go figure.)

Today's fig leaf specialists needn't worry. If Jay Hovah's credibility can survive the Great Holocaust Debacle (6 million premium shares), the World War II Crash (50 million) and Iraq (25,500-plus), it's more than likely there'll be “strategies of reassessment” delegated for a long time to come.

Oh, yea verily, a footnote: Jay Hovah lists as CEO under aliases to a plethora of corporations – The Twin Towers of Babel Conglomerate – most of which have conflicting interests, services, products, with varying guarantees and liabilities.

Read the small print before you sign on the dotted line or mortgage your air-conditioned mental lifestyle.

A sampling from the PR bucket brigade is worth sharing, as there's every reason to believe that us LGBT types are being set up for several more pokes in the eye. (We can either duck, poke back or unite to remove the beam in our adversary's overly dilated pupils.)

Here's one past-the-bucket item: “A leading Muslim cleric says that the tsunamis which devastated South Asia were Allah's punishment for allowing gays into affected countries.” (ReligionJournal.Com)

This comes from LifeSiteNews.Com: “Israel's Chief Rabbi Shlomo Amar commented on a recent catastrophe saying, ‘G-d is angry’ and ‘We must pray more and ask for mercy. The nations of the world are obligated to observe prohibitions against murder and illicit sexual relations.’”

LifeSiteNews offers a baa-baa black sheep excuse: “In the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 13, Jesus himself spoke of a disaster, noting that those who perished were not more evil than others – (Isn't that special!) – but that it was a warning for all to repent.”

And, lest we forget, there's this 9/11 myopia from Dumbo ear flapper Rev. Franklin Robertson Falwell: “I really believe that the pagans, and the abortionists, and the feminists, and the gays and the lesbians who are trying to make an alternative life style, the ACLU, People for the American Way – all of them have tried to secularize America. I point my finger in their face and say, ‘You helped this happen.’”

And who, pray tell, are you to point a sticky finger at anyone, Rev. FRF? CEO Jay Hovah? Aka G-D?

Charles@pridesource.com



Viewpoint

MWMF: 40 Year Journey Of Transformation And Inspiration On ‘The Land’

OPINION BY MICHELLE E. BROWN

I'm always surprised by the reactions of people when I tell them I have been (more than once) to the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival.

Most often the response is either, “You went?” “You camped?” or, after thinking about me/my life while shaking their head, “Of course, you would go!” Then the real questions begin – were there many black women there? You slept in a tent? Did you get naked? But most often, the question asked is why I, a self-proclaimed lover of all things urban who considers “roughing it” staying at a hotel without room service, would go the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival. My response generally involves telling the story of my first MWMF!

I went primarily because Shea Howell was going. Everyone has one of those friends who they would follow anywhere, who strongly impacts their life and who they straight-up, unashamedly, unconditionally love. Shea is my person. The Meredith

Grey to my Cristina Yang, you might say. We've worked on many things together. We marched together. We summered together. So when she said I needed to go to the festival, I was ready.

Shea and the rest of our group went up before I did earlier in the week. I was supposed to drive up with a mutual friend on the weekend who had attended before and knew the location of the spot Shea et al. camped at every year. The festival is on over 600 acres; I needed a guide.

That Friday, when we were supposed to leave, my guide was nowhere to be found. Made a few calls and discovered that she had left without me. Undaunted, I threw my gear into the car and headed toward Hart – a little cranky, but I had plenty of time to get there before dark.

When I arrived, culture shock kicked in. I was a “Festie Virgin.” I had no idea where Shea was camped, and I had all this junk to lug across a huge parking lot into the woods and I didn't know where I was going!

I walked, and as I walked, I got

angry. Angry at my guide who had left me and angry at myself, but then the magic of “The Land” began. Women came up to see what was wrong. They took my bags. They set about finding my friends. They comforted me and made me feel welcome. I was part of the sisterhood.

We came from different socio-economic classes. I was African-American while most of them were white. We had each experienced patriarchy, but many of them had also experienced a privilege I never would because of their race. But on “the Land” it didn't matter – we were all womyn/sisters.

They didn't just drop me at the campsite and forget about me. They checked in on me, helped me navigate the showers, pathways and workshops. We danced naked under the moonlight.

That weekend and at the other festivals I attended in later years, I learned what it was like to be in a space created by, for and about women. It was empowering.

See Brown, next page

► Brown: Womyn's Fest

Continued from p. 10

After I tell people about my first trip, I go on to tell them about the women who build everything! The women who not only make sure the land is handicap accessible but help women with disabilities experience the festival fully – pushing wheelchairs, getting meals, etc.

I tell them about the marvelous feeling of walking clothed or naked amongst your sisters, feeling truly beautiful just as you are with no “body shaming.” I tell them about the acceptance and respect for each other and different lifestyles. And how being in this space opened my eyes and helped me evolve as a person of color, a woman and a lesbian – to think differently, to challenge patriarchy and to, more than ever, stand in my truth.

I had experienced a freedom that every girl/woman should have the opportunity to experience in their life – a freedom that can gird us for the fight that continues for full equality. However, it was because of the lessons learned that I stopped attending.

The lessons you learn on “the Land” go home with you, some short-term while others for a life time. It was during these years that my LGBTQ family increased as I met and became friends with many transgender sisters and brothers. One day while having coffee with a friend, she said, “I just want to be accepted as me. You have no idea what it’s like to be judged by how you look.”

I thought back to that day wandering around in the woods. Someone could have looked and seen this angry black woman wandering about, turned and walked away. Instead, they saw our commonality, our womanhood, our humanity.

When I arrived on “the Land” I was welcomed as a woman with the understanding

that my path to womanhood was unique, but we shared a humanity.

We were different, yes. My path had been different from my Trans Sister, but here we sat sisters in struggle. Here was a member of my community facing the challenges in our woods of oppression, trans-phobia and discrimination. Her safety, her protection, her equality was on the same path as mine. We – all of us in the LGBTQ community – are on that path.

The times they are a changing. We know that gender is more than chromosomes. More of our children are declaring that they are transgender at an earlier age. Too many of these children are dying often at their own hand because we are still defining masculine and feminine by what’s between their legs.

We are one community – LGBTQ – still discriminated against, still under attack. It’s time we have dialogue on the core values our community will embrace for ourselves, our children and generations to come that must include respect for our diversity and inclusiveness for all members of our community.

I was deeply saddened to hear this is the last Michigan Womyn’s Music Festival. It has changed hearts, minds and lives. It provided a transformative space for women to grow as women where we can find and live our truth. Strong, empowered women can not only change the world but also the boys/men who live in the world. The loss of this space and its potential for transformation, growth and change is a loss to our entire community.

Michelle E. Brown is a public speaker, activist and author. Her books are available at bookstore. authorhouse.com or www.mychangeiam.com. You can also follow her at www.twitter.com/mychangeiam.

► ACLU on SCOTUS

Continued from p. 8

females on the court as well as Justice Breyer.”

An estimated 122,000 same-sex couples are raising 210,000 children under age 18, of whom 58,000 are adopted or foster children. Same-sex couples are nearly three times as likely as their different-sex counterparts to be raising an adopted or foster child. Married same-sex couples are five times more likely to have these children when compared to their married different-sex counterparts. In Michigan, Kentucky, Ohio and Tennessee -- the four states at the center of the debate before SCOTUS -- 19 percent (nearly 11,000) of the 56,000 same-sex couples are raising more than 18,000 children under 18 years old.

“Many times in these oral arguments the court doesn’t address all the different issues. They are familiar with the arguments from the many amicus briefs, so they raise more philosophical questions. Today was less about law and more philosophical in nature,” Kaplan explained.

Kaplan suggests that there could be three

possible scenarios: the court majority could decide that states don’t have to provide recognition for marriages out of state and don’t have to recognize marriages since 26 of the 37 states that currently recognize same-sex marriage had recognized same-sex marriage as a result of court rulings; another scenario is a majority of justices would be in favor of the second question and would have individual states recognize same-sex marriage, and couples could go out of state to marry and return to their residence where the the state would have to recognize it; or the court could decide that marriage equality would be the law of the land.

Justice Thomas never asked a question, but reliably votes for the conservative vote. In past LGBT cases, Kennedy has been the swing judge.

“Once again, these are guesses,” Kaplan said. “The court has to sit down and have a conference and take a vote for who is going to write the opinions; all of these are beyond our knowledge and prediction.”

A decision is expected in June 2015.

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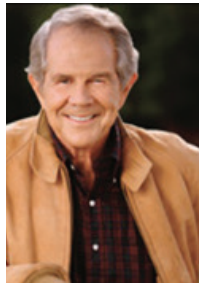

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Creep of the Week

Pat Robertson

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Back in the late 90s on “Saturday Night Live,” Will Ferrell played Neil Diamond in a spoof of VH1 Storytellers. After Diamond has told increasingly incriminating stories related to his hit songs while singing the song “Forever In Blue Jeans,” he says, “I put clown make-up on my penis.”



Pat Robertson

In the 17 or so years that have passed since I first saw the skit, I cannot begin to count how often this phrase pops into my head. I can't explain why. But I think about it a lot. And I laugh.

Granted, this isn't directly related to Pat Robertson, except that when I was watching clips of Robertson rambling on about homosexuals on the April 27, 2015 episode of “The 700 Club,” I thought of that old SNL skit for some reason.

It is very sad to me that people ask Robertson for advice about anything, but especially for advice about LGBT people.

One viewer wanted help with her daughter who recently came out of the closet.

“She's always been a good Christian,” the woman laments. “I've tried to talk her out of it (having a girlfriend) but she simply refuses to give up the LGBT lifestyle. What should I do?”

I'll tell you what you should do: Love your daughter and get over yourself. Try to get to know her girlfriend, even. Invite her to dinner. Help your daughter cultivate love because life is really fucking hard and love is the only thing that makes it bearable, besides drugs.

Robertson's advice is a little different, however. “I'll tell you, you ought to pray very hard. Just let her know you don't approve of it and let her know she's not following the commands of the Lord,” he says. “And just pray that God will straighten her out.”

Yes. Tell your daughter she's grossing you out. And then ask Jesus if he can flip your daughter's switch from Homo to Hetero. He will totally do it, but only if you “Pray Hard Enough.” See how that works out.

“It may be a phase she's going through,” Robertson offers. “I mean, a little teenage girl doesn't know what dress she's supposed to wear much less what kind of sex she's supposed to be.”

Yes, those poor little teenagers; if their tiny female brains can barely figure out if they are girls or boys, how on earth are they ever going to say yes to the dress?

It's clear who to blame here: the Liberal Media!

“There's so much pressure!” Robertson laments. “There's so much lesbian stuff. I mean, lesbian this, lesbian the other, so much homosexual — the media is pushing this as hard as they can possibly push it.”

Yeah. There's so much pressure to be a lesbian these days! So. Much. Pressure. Because of all the lesbian stuff. So homosexual! Much lesbian! The media is all: hey girls, vagina is the new penis! One day you, too, can get gay married!

Robertson then suggests the following: “But you might, I don't know what to do, maybe get her in a camp, a Christian camp in the summer where they are really on fire for the Lord and she'll straighten things out.”

First of all, I'd like to point out that the key phrase in that answer is, “I don't know what to do.” His answer should have begun and ended there.

Instead, he says, “Just send her to Jesus camp! Her heterosexual fire for the Lord will cancel out the homosexual fire in her loins.”

That's the ticket!

And then, if you listen really closely, you can almost hear Robertson mutter something about clown make-up.

Pro And Anti-LGBT Activists Hit Capitol Steps

BY TODD HEYWOOD

LANSING — As the Tuesday Supreme Court hearings neared, anti-gay activists vehemently opposed to marriage equality were ramping up in preparation for any ruling which would allow same-sex marriage to become the law of the land.

As the noon hour rolled out Monday afternoon, Darwin Jiles Jr., the ethnic vice chair of the Michigan Republican Party, called a small gathering of 16 anti-gay activists to order for a prayer vigil against marriage. Jiles, who has been convicted of several violent gun crimes according to reporter Chad Selweski, said during the rally that acknowledging and legalizing marriage for same-sex couples would violate the “Christian” values on which the country was founded.

Jiles and supporters opined that such a move would violate the Constitution and their right to vote. Their concerns are part of a massive push back against same-sex marriage, one which long-time activist James Toy told Between The Lines is not unexpected.

“That decision will also bring about a backlash, and I'm sure we'll try to counter it as best we can,” he said.

“The danger will continue to be present,” he continued. “It is certainly conceivable in more ‘conservative’ communities and neighborhoods that that danger may well increase. That's my guess, that's not my prediction.”

One of those examples of backlash was already underway. Only hours after the U.S. Supreme Court finished hearing oral arguments on marriage, the Michigan Senate Judiciary Committee, led by Republican Sen. Rick Jones of Grand Ledge, held hearings at the Capitol on legislation to protect so-called religious freedoms. The hearing took testimony on SB 0004, the “Religious Freedom Restoration Act,” which would allow people to deny service to others based on “sincerely held religious beliefs.” Similar legislation has been the subject of national debate and outrage when taken up in places like Indiana and Arkansas. In fact, Arkansas's governor vetoed similar legislation. Indiana's Republican Gov. Mike Pence, however, signed the legislation into law. But following

days of backlash from business leaders and the nation, he demanded the state legislature amend the new law to prohibit its use in defense of discrimination against LGBT people. Gov. Rick Snyder has told lawmakers he will veto MiRFRA if it is passed without amending the state's civil rights act to include the LGBT community.

Indeed, in the wake of previous high profile marriage battles in the U.S., there have been spikes in reported violence against the LGBT community.

And while none of the opponents of marriage equality are calling for

representative from Midland, has also encouraged supporters to ignore the ruling if it is adverse to marriage opponents.

This all comes as a Gallup poll released just before the Supreme Court hearings found nearly 2 million Americans are living in a same-sex relationship — about 780,000 of whom are married, the LA Times reported.

While anti-gay activists are preparing for a conflict, faith leaders are preparing for marriage equality. As Jiles and his group prayed at the Capitol building, over 60 clergy met at Edgewood United Church of Christ in East Lansing to prepare for a positive ruling from the Supreme Court.

“A number of couples within this community have been together 20 or 30 years without any sort of recognition,” said Rev. Michael Cooper. “In some instances this will be a very standard wedding without any differences. In other cases, there are a number of things we have to deal with that you don't normally run into. For instance, in a homosexual marriage, one person may be transgender. There's a number of situations that are special in this community and we want to honor those special circumstances in the

best way and the most faithful way possible.”

On Monday night, supporters of marriage equality rallied at the Capitol, in the same place anti-gay activists rallied only hours earlier. About 125 people were in attendance for the candlelight vigil. There LGBT movement leaders reminded supporters that marriage was a step towards equality but much work remained to be done.

“And I hope, in between all this celebration — and there's going to be a lot to celebrate about — we also keep in mind we need to channel some of the energy we have towards marriage equality towards other things that need to be done on behalf of the LGBT community,” Jay Kaplan, staff attorney at the ACLU of Michigan LGBT Project, told the rally attendees. “We need civil rights protections and we need to lift up all members of our community to make sure they're treated fairly, in particular our transgender community. So there's more work to be done.”



Michigan ACLU attorney Jay Kaplan speaks at a pro marriage equality rally Monday night. BTL photo: Todd Heywood

violence, national advocates have adopted the rhetoric of “resistance.” James Dobson has said a favorable ruling could lead to “civil war,” reports Brian Tashman of Right Wing Watch in a piece published last week on RawStory.com.

And others are calling for supporters to ignore the ruling, he reported.

“Mat Staver, chairman of the conservative legal advocacy group Liberty Counsel, has likened a potential pro-equality Supreme Court ruling to the infamous Dred Scott decision and urged people to defy such a ruling just as they would ‘if the government forced you turn over a Jew in Nazi Germany,’” Tashman reported. “Staver, who has warned about the prospect of ‘forced homosexuality’ and repeatedly compared gays to terrorists, insists that the Supreme Court could spark a new Civil Rights Movement, this time to oppose gay rights.”

Gary Glenn, president of the American Family Association of Michigan and a sitting state



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Photo: Big Machine

Country Icon On Attending Her First Same-Sex Wedding & Why She Fully Supports LGBT Rights

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Even by phone, Reba McEntire makes you feel right at home. “Thanks for the visit; I’ve enjoyed visitin’ with you!” the singer drawls, wrapping up our conversation as if I’d just stopped by for buttered grits and a cup of hot coffee.

A music, television, film and theater superstar with a trove of prestigious awards, Reba is enormously famous, but talking to her, you wouldn’t know it. She comes across more like a friend. Fancy? Not so much. And she certainly won’t let her rabid gay following down – she has delighted in a friendship with the LGBT community since the beginning of

her 40-year career.

Now, as she releases her 27th studio album, “Love Somebody,” the country icon’s ready to take some serious stands.

In our chat, Reba stresses the importance of gay marriage, how “sad” it is to know that some country artists feel they can’t come out, and her message to parents who can’t accept

a child who’s not straight.

You grew up in a town with, like, 16 people and lots of cows. I imagine there weren’t a lot of gay people in Chockie, Oklahoma.

Nope, nope. Not at all that I know of, or in high school. I guess in college was the first time I was around any gay people, and they

became my friends first and then I found out they were gay, so there ya go! Didn't change my opinion of 'em; I still liked 'em a lot.

One was a very dear friend of mine who helped me a lot with my singing and my music, and he was just a super sweet, gentle man who loved music with all his heart. I'm pretty sure that was my first introduction, the first time I met anyone who was gay.

As a longtime ally, how important are LGBT equality and same-sex marriage rights to you?

Very important. I just went to my first gay wedding a couple of months ago in California for Michael and Steven, my two great friends. They've been together for 20 years! I thought that it was not fair, and I didn't understand why they couldn't get married. It wasn't because they just wanted to get married. If one of them had gotten injured and gone to the hospital, the other one couldn't make decisions for them. It's very upsetting. It's not only for convenience or for romantic reasons – it's for practicality. For practical reasons! I get a kick out of what Dolly said: "Why shouldn't they get married and be as miserable as the rest of us?" (Laughs)

You don't seem so miserable in your marriage, though.

No, not at all. But I don't understand why people have a problem with it. I'm a very spiritual person, but I don't judge. I try not to; I'm only human. To each his own, and everybody is different. God did not make us all the same. So, I just pray for an open mind and a loving heart, and I think that's all I can do.

In your four decades as a country musician, how much progress do you think the genre has made when it comes to embracing LGBT fans with open arms?

Well, I've always embraced gay and lesbian fans with both arms. I have a huge gay following!

Absolutely. But country music as a whole – do you see progress when it comes to LGBT equality?

Yeah, I do. There are more (artists) speaking out about it, but I can't really speak for anyone else other than myself.

If Reba, Wynonna and Dolly drag queens were to compete, how would you mentor the Reba queen to ensure her victory?

Good lands – that's a hard question! Because Wynonna is such a character! I love her with all my heart. Dolly is bigger than life, and I love her with all my heart. So I'd say, get out there and work your tail off!

Throughout the years, there's been some pretty darn good Rebas. I'm sure you've encountered some yourself.

Totally, absolutely! I've had a Reba impersonator in my (touring) show before, and David (Lowman aka Coti Collins) came

off the stage one night and he said he'd done such a good job of impersonating me in the song "Fancy" that the limo driver opened the door for him.

Have you ever been mistaken for a fake Reba?

Not that I know of!

Female country artists aren't getting the same radio airplay as their male counterparts these days. Why aren't the ladies getting a fair shake?

It goes cyclical. It's always in phases, and it'll come back around. In my 40-year career I've seen it go from very contemporary country music to very traditional, and then it goes back to contemporary and then you can't get a male song recorded or a male on the radio, and then you can't get a female song recorded or a female on the radio.

It's gonna come back. It's been the good ol' boy season right now, but it'll change. It'll go back to more romantic, more females. But we've gotta promote these younger females coming on. I'm with ya. There's a bunch that have been lost in the shuffle – female singers – that I don't know they'll get a second chance, but they're out there. We just need to get them on the radio and get them out to the public to listen to.

Who comes to mind?

Brandy Clark. My gosh, that girl! I've got three or four songs of hers on my new album. She's got great material. I mean, Miranda's recorded them. All the girls have recorded her songs.

I have to know: When's the big hair coming back?

(Laughs) I can't get (my stylist) Brett Freedman to get it that high anymore! My good friend Shane Tarleton is always saying, "Get that big hair out. Jack it up to Jesus!"

Is that your real hair?

Yeah, it's my real hair now. I did wear wigs when I did "Annie Get Your Gun," and then on one tour where we went from Reba in 1974 to present Reba, I did wear the big wigs and had my short hair at the end. And I've done it on vacation, ya know. You go from the swimming pool to getting ready for dinner in 30 minutes when you're wearing wigs! They're great!

Redheads sometimes get a lot of flak when they're young. As a redhead in a small town, what was it like for you? Did you ever feel like an outsider?

No, absolutely not. I loved my red hair. My mom was a redhead, so I felt she gave me her red hair. I've always been very, very proud of it.

And people didn't treat you any differently because of it?

Oh, I didn't care!

See Reba McEntire, page 21

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Dine Out In Ferndale To Save Michigan Lives

Dining Out for Life, the international fundraiser that raises money for AIDS service organizations, takes place April 30 and will benefit the Michigan AIDS Coalition.

ActionAIDS in Philadelphia established Dining Out for Life in 1990. Since then, Dining Out for Life has grown into an internationally organized effort and an annual tradition. On the last Thursday of April, diners gather participating restaurants and a percentage of the bill is donated to a local HIV/AIDS services organization.

The Michigan AIDS Coalition seeks individuals and restaurants to participate in the one-night dining event, which will take place at participating restaurants across the metro area.

The Michigan AIDS Coalition (merged with former MAF and MAPP) is one of Michigan's largest non-profit, community-based organizations dedicated to health promotion, harm and risk reduction, HIV and sexually transmitted disease prevention education, grant making and public policy. MAC has conducted thousands of workshops and trainings, reaching more than a half a million people – 30,000 in the last year alone. With more than 30 years of combined experience in HIV/AIDS advocacy, education and outreach, MAC will continue its mission until it is no longer necessary. (Find more information at www.michiganaidcoalition.org.)

The concept is simple – dine at a participating restaurant April 30 and a portion of the proceeds will benefit MAC. Patrons can make additional donations, which will make a very real difference for people who are affected by HIV/AIDS in Michigan.

“Dining Out for Life is one of the simplest and most enjoyable fundraisers we host all year,” says Michigan AIDS Coalition CEO Terry Ryan. “Simply by sharing a meal with



Dining Out for Life, the international fundraiser that raises money for AIDS service organizations, takes place April 30 and will benefit the Michigan AIDS Coalition.

friends and family at a participating restaurant, metro-area residents can help raise funds to provide counseling and testing to those in our community who are most at risk.”

While the concept is simple, Dining Out for Life is a significant fundraiser that requires the hard work and generosity of volunteers, sponsors and restaurants. More than 40 cities throughout the U.S. and Canada participate in Dining Out for Life and collectively have raised millions of dollars for HIV/AIDS support services.

For more information, or to participate in Dining Out for Life, please contact Shanthi L. Sivanandham at 248-545-1435 x105 or ssivanandham@

michiganaidcoalition.org. For an updated list of participating restaurants, please visit www.diningoutforlife.com.

Participating Restaurants to Date

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Brady's Tavern
Christine's Cuisine
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A Taste Of Ginger Minj

'Drag Race' Star Dishes On Competition, Adele & Upcoming Royal Oak Gig

BY JEROME STUART NICHOLS

Season seven of "RuPaul's Drag Race" has a while to go before crowning a new queen, but of all the remaining competitors, it's Ginger Minj who seems to be poised – and just drunk enough – to find herself in first place.

Much like previous winners Raja, Jinkx Monsoon and Bianca Del Rio, Minj's sharp humor has been a primary highlight of her run on "Drag Race." That humor, and her impression of Adele, tied her for first place in the Snatch Game challenge during episode seven.

"I went in knowing that I wanted to do Adele for Snatch Game," Minj says. "Anybody who's watched an interview with Adele knows that she's a chain-smoking, alcoholic, foul-mouthed bitch, and basically that's me in a nutshell."

Although Minj shined during Snatch Game, her performance in the very next episode put her in the bottom two and she had to lip sync for her life. While no one, not even Ginger herself, denies she should have been in the bottom, she wasn't exactly worried she'd be going home.

"By the middle of that challenge, I knew I was going to be lip syncing for my life – I just knew it, 'cause I was struggling," she admits. "It never crossed my mind that I could ever go home, because I knew I was going to fight."

Though that's definitely not to say she didn't feel the pressure.

"It took (fellow contestant) Mrs. Kasha Davis telling me, 'If you go home, you gave up the fight because you're acting a damn fool. Snap out of it,' for me to go 'Oh my god, you're right. I've worked too hard to go home.'"

Luckily, Minj survived. And soon, not only will we see if she makes it to the top three, we'll see her in Royal Oak, where she'll host Drag Queen Bingo May 7-10 at Five15.

Get ready for some shade, Detroit, because as Minj puts it, "I've had the actual carpet ripped up. It's just hardwood floors now. Careful – you might get splinters."

Though her watchful demeanor and sweet-as-peach-cobbler accent might paint Minj as a Southern belle, don't be fooled.

"I'm a good Southern Christian



bitch," she says proudly. "I'm not really a Southern belle. A lot of people get the misconception that because of my accent and because I'm so short, tiny and round that I'm going to be the sweetest thing you've ever met. I try to be sweet, but it just doesn't always happen. I'm more of a Southern broad."

Still, she swears her faultless reading abilities and epic side-eye are meant with all the love

INFO
Ginger Minj hosts Drag Queen Bingo
May 7-10 Five15
515 S. Washington, Royal Oak www.five15.net 248-515-2551

in the world.

"I'm loud, and I can be blunt and abrasive, but it comes from a really good place; it's never malicious," she promises.

For her money, Ginger's hoping to see Katya, Kennedy Davenport and, of course, herself face off for the crown. Though it doesn't really matter who's in the final three – Minj is ready to wear that crown.

"Baby, I wouldn't have done the show if I wasn't ready to take it home," she says. "Other than one major slip up, I have been the most consistent this entire year."

If she does win, she's taking that \$100,000 and buying some more fashionable clothing, "because Lord knows I don't have enough of it."

While we wait to see which queens will come out on top (of the competition), Ginger is still touring across the country.

"I go into every show, no matter where it is or what it is, with the full intention of having fun," she says. "I'll sing, shake around and wear bright shiny things to distract you from the fact that I can't really dance."

"You never know what's going to happen. I've been known to start with 'Talk to the Animals' from 'Doctor Dolittle' and end with 'Anaconda' by Nicki Minaj."

Hosting, she says, is her favorite part of drag because "it's always a surprise."

"You never know what the hell is going to come out of my mouth," Minj confesses "... or go into it."

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Reba LOVE SOMEBODY

► Reba McEntire

Continued from p. 15

What has made you gravitate toward themes of empowerment, then?

Because I think they're important. To be encouraging. These songs are encouraging; they're encouraging to folks. Every song I sing has a message, and it might not be for me and I might not have experienced what's going on in the song, but I think it's for somebody who needs to hear it. I've had people come up to me before saying, "You have no idea how so-and-so song changed my life. It helped me through a bad situation." God knows what he's doing. He gives me the gut feeling to say yes to this song, yes to that song. And it might not have anything to do with my career, my lifestyle, but he's got somebody down the road who needs to hear it.

Would you consider recording a country song inspired by a gay person's story?

It just depends on the song. If it touches my heart, absolutely.

Your daughter-in-law, Kelly Clarkson, told me recently that she didn't care if one of her kids turned out to be gay. And then you actually backed her on that on Facebook, posting "amen!" on the article. As a grandparent, and a parent yourself, what kind of message do you hope to send by affirming your open-

mindfulness when it comes to loving and caring for a child regardless of sexual orientation?

What a child needs when they're growing up is support and love, mainly love. Love can go a long, long ways whether they're gay or not. All the troubles and the problems and the obstacles that they are going to face in their lives are going to be astronomical, especially in their very young, inexperienced minds. And if they do happen to be gay, that's going to be a harder hurdle to get over. What a parent needs to do more than anything is jump in there with love and support. You made 'em. They're a gift from God. Love 'em as they are.

With Billy Gilman, Ty Herndon and Brandy Clark, there's been a recent wave of country musicians coming out. What are your thoughts on these artists taking that step and coming out publicly?

It's really, really sad what they're living with before they decide to come out. And then why they decide to come out, and how they deal with it after they've come out – the pressure society puts upon them, their families and what they put upon them, whether they accept it or they don't. You know, my new album is called "Love Somebody" ... I wish it'd been called "Love Everybody." You gotta love people for who they are. Accept them, and then go on with life.

"Love Everybody" – the title of the next album.

I'm gonna work on that!



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Editor's Pick

The boys are back in town with the popular vocal group, Three Men and a Tenor. The men will make a surprise return visit to The Encore May 1-2. They've just returned from a recent performance with comedy legend Jay Leno. The group opened for Leno in Phoenix, Arizona in March.

The group performs a variety of music from the Mills Brothers, The Ink Spots, Elvis, The Beatles, Led Zeppelin, Eric Clapton, Bob Marley, Garth Brooks, The Zac Brown Band and original

music. All performed with humor and featuring the greatest instrument of all: the human voice. They are known for their clever blending of musical styles and unique presentations of familiar tunes.

The performances will run at 8 p.m. on May 1 and 2 at The Encore Musical Theatre Company, 3126 Broad St., Suite A, Dexter. All seats are \$25. For tickets or more information, call 734-268-6200 or visit www.theencoretheatre.org.

Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, April 30

Dining Out for Life When you eat out at any of the participating restaurants in the Metro Detroit area, a portion of your food bill will be donated to the Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC). Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), **Metro-Detroit**. Diningoutforlife.com

Arlo Guthrie: Alice's Restaurant 50th Anniversary Tour 7:30 p.m. Presented in memory of Linda Lee. Jewish Gay Network (JGN), 6600 W. Maple Road, **West Bloomfield**. 248-661-1900. Jccdet.org

BIANCA DEL RIO Rolodex Of Hate Comedy Special 8 p.m. Bianca Del Rio is a comedian, costume designer and was the Season 6 Winner of RuPaul's Drag Race. 18+. Tickets: \$35-75. Murray & Peter, 318 W. Fourth St., **Royal Oak**. 248-268-2840. hunterhodgson@aol.com Thebiancadelrio.com

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

Friday, May 1

HAVEN Gala 6:30 p.m. This signature event will celebrate HAVEN's 40th anniversary of serving victims of domestic and sexual violence as well as the construction of our new facility. In true celebratory fashion, the event will be a glamorous, fun-filled evening that incorporates a seated dinner, silent/live auction, entertainment and an exciting afterglow party. Sponsors will also be invited to join us for a benefactor reception held in the weeks preceding the Gala. HAVEN, 200 W. Big Beaver Road, **Troy**. 248-322-3706. ccopeland@haven-oakland.org events/gala-event

First Friday Potluck 7 p.m. Lansing Lesbians - L2L, 1710 E. Michigan Ave. #1712, **Lansing**. Meetup.com/Lansing-Lesbians-L2L

Haven Gala 7:30 p.m. HAVEN, Oakland County's only comprehensive program for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, is having a Gala in celebration of its 40th anniversary. The event will be a glamorous, fun-filled evening that incorporates a seated dinner, silent live auction, entertainment

and an exciting afterglow party. Young profession tickets are \$100, Supporters are \$150 and our sponsorship categories goes up to 25,000. HAVEN, 200 W Big Beaver Road, **Troy**. 248-334-1284. khasouna@haven-oakland.org Haven-oakland.org/events/gala-event

Guns N'Hoses 8 p.m. Tickets: \$12+-. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. 248-544-3030. Themagicbag.com

Saturday, May 2

Equality Research Action Tickets: \$35-135. E=Equality Research Center, **Dearborn**. Er2a.org

Polyamorous 'Mini' Relationship Skills Class 10 a.m. \$20. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Alex Sepkus Trunk Show 11 a.m. Abracadabra Jewlery/Gem Gallery, 205 E. Liberty St., **Ann Arbor**. 734-994-4848. Abragem.com

Nerd-A-Game-Day 12 p.m. In honor of International Tabletop Day & Free Comic Book Day. Nerdageddon, 117 E. Grand River Ave., **Brighton**. Nerdageddon.com

Sunday, May 3

Basic Astrology 2 p.m. Price: \$25. Michigan Pagans, 224 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. Meetup.com/michiganpagans

Monday, May 4

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

Tuesday, May 5

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

Leon & Lulu's Girls Night Out 6 p.m. Various events with wine, goodies and more for women. Leon & Lulu, 96 W. Fourteen Mile Road, **Clawson**. 248-288-3600. Leonandlulu.com/girlsnightout

Wednesday, May 6

Sistrum Weekly Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.

Sistrum, Lansing Women's Chorus, 215 N. Capital Ave., **Lansing**. Sistrum.org

Thursday, May 7



two new pieces of music they helped commission through the Women's Choir Commission Consortium and the Sister Singers Network, "Truth" and "Lineage," both by MSU alum and Sistrum friend Andrea Ramsey. Some old favorites such as "Ya Faraoule" and "Chili Con Carne" will also be performed.

The spring concert will also include a silent auction, beginning at 7 p.m. each night, with showtime at 8 p.m. Tickets are available on a sliding scale from \$15 to \$25 and can be purchased at www.sistrum.org or through a chorus member. ASL interpretation will be provided for both concerts. Central United Methodist Church, at 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing, is wheelchair accessible.

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

Ferndale Pride & ARCADE Pontiac LGBTQA Performance Art Fundraiser 7 p.m. Ferndale Pride, 10 W. Pike St., **Pontiac**. Ferndalepride.com

2015 Get Lucky Tour 8 p.m. Featuring the Chippendales dancers. Tickets: \$27-37. Sound Board - Motor City Casino, 2901 Grand River Ave., **Detroit**. 800-745-3000. Motorcitycasino.com

Friday, May 8

Spring Fling Dance 8 a.m. Tickets: \$15-20. Women Out And About, **Royal**

Oak. 248-943-2411. lindacbrin@gmail.com Womenoutandabout.net/nye-dance/spring-fling-dance/

Saturday, May 9

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 umich.edu/lrwg_research.umich.edu/events/exhibitions.html

Create Our Colors Flag Making Project 11 a.m. Ferndale Pride, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105.

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

Queereads 3 p.m. Lansing Lesbians - L2L, 2820 Towne Center Blvd., **Lansing**. Meetup.com/Lansing-Lesbians-L2L

Nourishing Our Community Spring Concert 8 p.m. Silent auction at 7 p.m. Sistrum, **Lansing**. Sistrum.org

Tuesday, May 12

Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival Each one of these films is like entering another world, a once-in-a-lifetime adventure. Jewish Community

Chene Park Ampitheater "Jazzy Nights". Chene Park Ampitheater, 2600 Atwater, Detroit. May 6 - Aug. 12. 313-393-7128. Cheneparkdetroit.com

Saugatuck Center for the Arts "Marc Cohn" Tickets: \$41-43. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. 8 p.m. May 2. 269-857-2399. Sc4a.org

The Acorn Theater "Corky Siegel's Chamber Blues Celebrate Sam!". The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. May 2. 269-756-3879. Acorntheater.com

The Ark "Hot Buttered Rum" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. May 1. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "David Lindley" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. May 5. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "Whitehorse" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. May 4. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Magic Bag "Guns N' Hoses" Tickets: \$12+. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. May 1. 248-544-3030. Themagicbag.com

The Palace of Auburn Hills "Iggy Azalea with Nick Jonas, Tinashe and DJ Wizz Kidd". The Palace of Auburn Hills, 5 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. 7:30 p.m. May 2. 248-377-0100. Palacenet.com

Unlimited Sky Production "Wednesday Night Jazz & Soul Music

Editor's Pick

The women of Sistrum, Lansing Women's Chorus, present their spring concert, "Nourishing Our Community." The concert will be presented on May 8 and 9. It will feature a full range of empowering and inspiring music designed to expand musical experiences and to get audiences thinking about how "we nourish our community, both figuratively and literally."

Sistrum will make a sizeable donation to the Greater Lansing Food Bank from concert proceeds. The chorus will also be premiering

Center, 6600 West Maple Road, **West Bloomfield**. 248-661-1900. info@theberman.org Theberman.org

MUSIC & MORE

Classical

Chamber Music Society of Detroit "Classical Jam" Tickets: \$15-30. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. May 1. 313-576-5111. Chambermusicdetroit.org

Concerts

Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra "2015 Michigan String Concert Competition". Wilson Violins, 725 S. Adams Road, Birmingham. May 6 - May 7. Bbso.org

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

Dance

Kristi Faulkner Dance "Kristi Faulkner Dance presents Cirque Noir & Four Letter Word" Tickets: \$15. Boll Theater (Located inside the Boll Family YMCA), 1401 Broadway, Detroit. May 1 - May 2. 419-509-4375. KristiFaulknerDance.com Film & Video

Michigan Theater "Wine & Film Series". Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. April 29 - May 27. 734-668-8397. Ticketweb.com

Other

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.

Wharton Center for the Performing Arts "America's Got Downton" A "remarkable, tour de force one-man show" in which Luke Kempner creates more than 30 characters in this parody, which blends celebrity visitors with well-known characters from the popular TV series. [CLICK HERE for complete show information](http://CLICK_HERE_for_complete_show_information). Tickets: \$40. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. April 30. 800-WHARTON. whartoncenter.com

THEATER

Civic/Community Theater

How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying. Farmington Players, Farmington Players Barn Theatre, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Through May 16. 248-473-1856. Farmingtonplayers.org

Professional

America's Got Downton A "remarkable, tour de force one-man show" in which Luke Kempner creates more than 30 characters in this parody, which blends celebrity visitors with well-known characters from the popular TV series. [CLICK HERE for complete show information](http://CLICK_HERE_for_complete_show_information). Tickets: \$40. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. April 30. 800-WHARTON. whartoncenter.com

Beanstalk - The Musical An original musical production based on the classic tale, "Jack and the Beanstalk." [CLICK HERE for complete show information](http://CLICK_HERE_for_complete_show_information). Wild Swan Theater, Towsley Auditorium inside the Morris Lawrence Building on the campus of Washtenaw Community College, 4800 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor. April 29 - May 3. 734-995-0530. wildswantheater.org

Drew Me Out Follow a shy, withdrawn teen suffering from bi-polar disorder through his days at school, relationships with his mom, sister and her friends, his new therapist, and a new friend named Suze who seems to be everything that Drew is not and pops up out of nowhere when he least expects her. [CLICK HERE for complete show information](http://CLICK_HERE_for_complete_show_information). Tickets: \$8-14. Stark Turn Players, Dog Story Theatre, 7 Jefferson SE, Grand Rapids. April 30 - May 3. dogstorytheater.com

Fly Guy and Other Stories This inventive musical revue from Theatreworks USA is based on favorite children's books. [CLICK HERE for complete show information](http://CLICK_HERE_for_complete_show_information). Tickets: \$9. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. May 2 - May 2. 800-WHARTON. whartoncenter.com

I and You On the night before a class assignment is due, two high school students - sickly, oddball Caroline and jockish, popular Anthony - plumb the mysteries of Walt Whitman's poem "Leaves of Grass." "Between poetry, teen angst and awkward overtures, a funny and warm relationship starts to form, until a shocking disclosure by Anthony reveals that all is not as it seems. [CLICK HERE for complete show information](http://CLICK_HERE_for_complete_show_information). Tickets: \$20 or pay-what-you-can. Theatre Nova, The Yellow Barn, 416 W. Huron St., Ann Arbor. May 1 - May 17. 734-635-8450. Theatrenova.org

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change A series of vignettes connected by the central theme of love and

See Happenings, page 25

www.PrideSource.com

Bookmarks: LGBTQ Highlights From National Poetry Month

BY KEITH ORR

Editor's Note: As we wrap up National Poetry Month, Keith Orr (owner of Ann Arbor's Common Language Bookstore) offers insight into the importance of poetry while recommending great works to both those old and new to the genre.

I had always thought April was National Poetry Month because of two major poems which contain "April" in their opening lines: "Whan that Aprille with his shoures soote" from Geoffrey Chaucer's "The Canterbury Tales" and "April is the cruelest month" from T.S. Eliot's "The Waste Land." Alas, the reason is far more prosaic. The Academy of American Poets wanted to play off the success of Black History Month (February) and Women's History Month (March). And the following month is April, ergo, April is National Poetry Month.

Stung with Love: Poems and Fragments

Sappho, translated by Aaron Poochigian with a preface by Carol Ann Duffy, Penguin Classics (2009)

Poetry is transformative. Poets play with language and create new meanings and new forms. LGBT artists, by their mere existence, are subversive. Poetry is the native language of gay people through the ages. The tradition of lesbian poetry goes back to Sappho, an ancient Greek poet from the Island of Lesbos. She lived around 600 B.C. Very little of her poetry remains, though her reputation has lived through the ages. Plato called her "the Tenth Muse," and she was widely regarded as one of antiquities finest lyric poets. There are many collections of the surviving fragments of her poetry. "Stung with Love" is a great introduction. The notes and explanations are informative and entertaining. They appear on facing pages, rather than as endnotes. Aaron Poochigian's translation aims to capture the spirit of the poetry, rather than being slave to the original form. The results are eminently readable and worth the exploration.

Howl and Other Poems

Allen Ginsberg, City Lights

City Lights Bookstore was founded in 1953 by poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti. Shortly after, the bookstore began a publishing arm focusing on the Beat Poets. In 1956 he published Allen Ginsberg's magnum opus, "Howl." San Francisco police raided the store and arrested Ferlinghetti for distributing obscenity. The trial resulted in acquittal, and established the precedent that "the slightest redeeming social importance" guarantees First Amendment protection.

From the opening line of "Howl," "I have seen the best minds of my generation destroyed by madness, starving, hysterical, naked." Ginsberg rails against a society which worships capitalism, war and greed. Get the book and read "Howl." Read it out loud (that's good advice for any poem). Normally, I would never recommend a movie to understand a book. However, Rob Epstein's "Howl" is an excellent biography of the poem. James Franco plays a young Allen Ginsberg. Over the course of the movie the entire poem is recited, with illustrations by Ginsberg collaborator Eric Drooker. It's a great way to experience one of the most amazing poems of the last century.

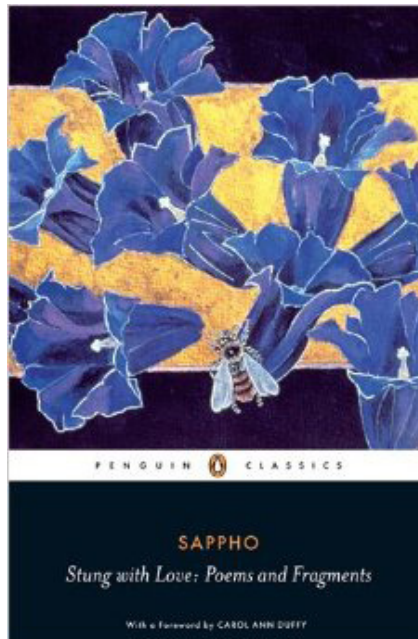
Haiti Glass

Lenelle Moise, City Lights (Sister Spit)

Sixty Years after the publication of "Howl," City Lights began a collaboration with poet and author Michelle Tea to publish two to three books a year under the imprint of Sister Spit. Tea is the author of "Valencia," founder of the Radar Reading series, co-founder of the legendary Sister Spit literary tours and cultural promoter. The imprint is grabbing the attention of the LGBT literary world.

The imprint's first collection of poetry already has received a Lambda Literary nomination. Lenelle Moise is a playwright and performance artist, and it comes through in her debut collection of poetry. Alternating rhythms of hip hop and Haiti drive these poems of identity. The vodou of Haiti is a constant point of reference in her grappling of a Haitian-American identity. Even in her ode to Michael Jackson, "a pump of bony pelvis" she calls him a ghede (spirit) and zombie:

*a hypnotist
dandy
sexy spirit of corpses
vodou's ghede in sunglasses
a pump of bony pelvis
he he was as pale
as a manga superhero
as smooth as zorro
a limber zombie
singing thriller*



Prelude to Bruise

Saeed Jones, Coffee House Press

Another current Lambda nominee is Saeed Jones' "Prelude to Bruise." In the tradition of Whitman's "Leaves of Grass," this collection would easily fall prey to a conservative moral judgment of obscenity. "Leaves of Grass" transcended the obscene to praise an open sexuality and the beauty of same-sex

love. "Prelude to Bruise" asks how we use people, and their bodies, to express ourselves. This is as purely transformative as poetry gets. Saeed leads us through discovery of self: racial and gendered, political and familial. Powerful joyous discovery of sex in "Pretending to Drown," followed by a father's discovery of women's clothing and undergarments filled with Old Testament wrath in "Boy in a

Whalebone Corset." The book is a dizzying journey through life. From "Kingdom of Trick, Kingdom of Drug":

*Four nights in, I still don't know his name.
And each kiss
is the aftertaste of pills, a white cloud on the tongue. He hates
the names I give him: Tantalus, Orestes,
Ganymede. I don't
need a name he says, sky-high in the shower,
the birds leaking
into stains on his stomach. Orange bottle in hand,
I answer Hyacinth and Vicodin. I answer
Xanax and Zephyr.*

Celebrate National Poetry Month. Grab a poem. Read it. Read it out loud. Better yet, take a hint from the gayest and most American of poets, Uncle Walt Whitman and let out a barbarous yawp:

*I too am not a bit tamed, I too am untranslatable,
I sound my barbaric yawp over the roofs of
the world.*

Keith Orr is an activist, musician and proprietor of Common Language Bookstore with his husband, Martin Contreras. He performed with Allen Ginsberg on the occasion of one of his last recitations of "Howl."

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BTL

Join The Conversation

Puzzle solution on pg. 26

T	R	O	Y	W	H	A	M	E	Y	E	S	
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▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 22

relationships. [CLICK HERE](#) for complete show information. Tickets: \$8-15. Thunder Bay Theatre, 400 N. Second Ave., Alpena. Through 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

Into the Wild Live America's most beloved animal expert, Jack Hanna, brings his three-time Emmy Award-winning television series to the live stage. [CLICK HERE](#) for complete show information. Tickets: \$19-45. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 7:30 p.m. May 1. 810-237-8689. thewhiting.com

Kimberly Akimbo A hilarious and heartrending play about a teenager with a rare condition causing her body to age faster than it should. [CLICK HERE](#) for complete show information. Tickets: \$15-20. Open Door Theatre Company, Penelope's Venue, 12219 Dix Toledo Rd., Southgate. May 1 - May 9. 734-288-7753. openbooktc.com

Meshuggah-Nuns The Little Sisters of Hoboken are taking an all-expense paid cruise to the Holy Land, but once again find themselves plunged into comedy, song and dance. [CLICK HERE](#) for complete show information. Tickets: \$26-41. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. Through May 17. 248-377-3300. mbtheatre.com

Mouk's Adventures A small, clumsy, misshapen guy is on his own for the first time. This production, inspired by the fairy tale by 19th century German author Wilhelm Hauff, incorporates many characteristics of Arabic folklore. Tickets: \$5-10. PuppetART, Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit. May 2 - May 31. 313-961-7777. puppetart.org

Potted Potter Two actors take on the ultimate challenge of condensing - or "potting" - all seven Harry Potter books into 75 madcap minutes, aided by multiple costume changes, brilliant songs, ridiculous props and a generous helping of Hogwarts magic. [CLICK HERE](#) for complete show information. Tickets: \$42. 50-52. 50. City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. April 28 - May 3. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.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. [CLICK HERE](#) for complete show information. Tickets: \$12. 50-41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through May 24. 734-663-0681. Pntheatre.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

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. Through 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. [CLICK HERE](#) for complete show information. Tickets: \$10-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through May 4.

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 Men and a Tenor Tickets: \$25. The Encore Musical Theatre, Encore Musical Theater Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. May 1 - May 2. 734-268-6200. Theencoretheatre.org

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. Through 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

March 15 - May 31. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

epiphany glass studio "Epiphany Glass Studio Spring Show & Sale" Partial Proceeds to Benefit Michigan Humane Society. epiphany glass studio, 770 Orchard Lake Road, Pontiac. May 2 - May 3.

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

South Oakland Art Association (SOAA) "Cindy Parsons Speaks at SOAA Meeting". Painty Party Royal Oak, 2554 Crooks Road, Royal Oak. 7 p.m. May 4. Soaklandart.com

The Scarab Club "Lowriding: From

Editor's Pick

The next South Oakland Art Association meeting features guest speaker Cindy Parsons, president of the Lawrence Street Gallery. Cindy will discuss what is going on in the art world and what opportunities are available for artists.

The Lawrence Street Gallery is a fine arts gallery exhibiting a new show every month, with a spotlight exhibit in the front of the gallery and a large member exhibit in the rest of the gallery. All Lawrence Street Gallery shows are free and open to the public. Twenty-eight



member artists volunteer their time and skills toward managing and working the gallery. The Lawrence Street Gallery is located at 22620 Woodward Ave., Ferndale.

SOAA's meeting and presentation takes place from 7 to 9 p.m. at Paint Party Royal Oak, 2554 Crooks Road at Webster. There is free lighted parking at the door.

248-545-5545. thewingwald.com

The Cross & the Light Musical theater meets rock concert meets multi-media spectacle in an epic, Broadway-style musical of Christ's Passion to Pentecost. [CLICK HERE](#) for complete show information. Tickets: \$10-35. Nieto Productions, Our Lady Star of the Sea, 467 Fairchild Rd., Grosse Pointe Woods. April 30 - May 2. crossandlight.com

The Diary of Anne Frank In Nazi-occupied Netherlands during World War II, a young Jewish girl receives a diary for her 13th birthday, a blank slate for her to record her thoughts, hopes and dreams. [CLICK HERE](#) for complete show information. Tickets: \$12-16. Flint Youth Theatre, 1220 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Through May 10. 810-237-1530. flintyouththeatre.org

The Kiss of the Sun For Pardon A comedic drama about two unlikely roommates. [CLICK HERE](#) for complete show information. Tickets: \$17-20. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Through May 17. 313-868-1347. Detroitreptheatre.com

The Merchant of Venice Shsakespeare'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 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

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

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.

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

UMMA "Sophie Calle: North Pole". University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. May 2 - Aug. 9. 734-763-4186. Umma. umich.edu

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 "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

Yourist Studio Gallery "Drink (c) up! Celebrating the Art and Ritual in Our Daily Life" Opening and Artists Reception for Drink (c)up!, an exhibit and sale of handmade ceramic cups by Yourist Studio Gallery Resident Artists. Free. Yourist Studio Gallery, 1133 Broadway, Ann Arbor. April 24 - May 24. 734-662-4914. Youristpottery.com

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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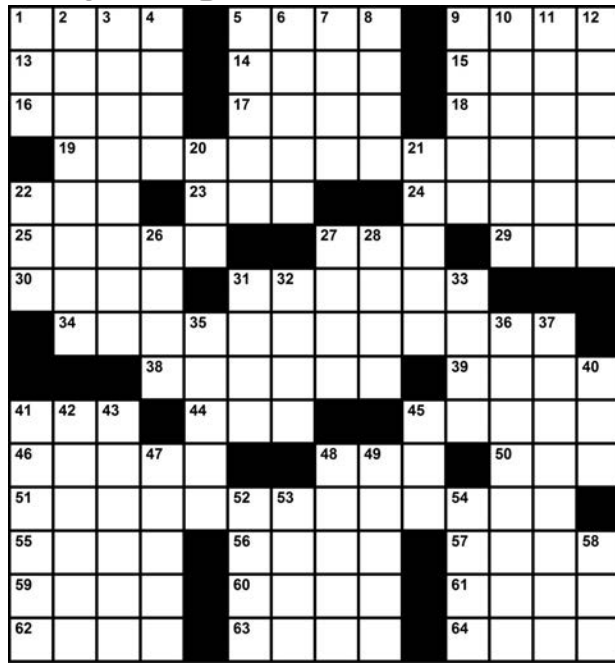
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Q Puzzle

Lady Sings The Blues



Across

- 1 Rev. Perry
- 5 George Michael's old band
- 9 Herbert's "Fortune and Men's"
- 19 New York college
- 14 Hoover hookup that sucks
- 15 Words after so
- 16 McKellen's Magneto movie
- 17 What's in the stallion's mouth?
- 18 Enchanted girl of film

- 22 Seven on the sundial
- 23 Month for Kahló
- 24 Hard to mount
- 25 Woody woe
- 27 Pax network, now
- 29 Dr. Kerry Weaver's helpers
- 30 Old fruit drink
- 31 Patty Sheehan, for one
- 34 Song by 51-Across that protested racism and lynching
- 38 Hurts a lot
- 39 Date for Caesar
- 41 Not a thing
- 44 Blow away
- 45 Make noise in bed
- 46 Take as one's own
- 48 Chiding sound
- 51 Singer born April 7, 1915
- 55 Garfield's whipping boy
- 56 Madonna's "Truth or ___"
- 57 Cockpit predictions
- 59 Novelist ___ Mae Brown
- 60 If that fails
- 61 Small pooch, briefly
- 62 Pronto, in the OR
- 63 Hidey-hole
- 64 Colette's price

Down

- 1 Passes on Broadway
- 2 Brooks with some lettuce heads?
- 3 Kind of stand
- 4 Cristina of "Grey's Anatomy"
- 5 "Gods and Monsters" subject
- 6 Migratory guys
- 7 "Yeah, right!"
- 8 The M in SMU (abbr.)
- 9 _Your Movie Sucks_ author Roger
- 10 Disney dog Old ___
- 11 Myles of lines of poetry
- 12 Terence's family
- 20 Mouth-to-mouth pro
- 21 Moore costar
- 22 Florist's wheels, often
- 26 Ian McKellen and Elton John
- 27 "Why should ___ you?"
- 28 Switch positions
- 31 Chew like a mouse
- 32 Fairy-tale monster
- 33 Screw royally
- 35 Valuable strings
- 36 Adorer of Clay Aiken?
- 37 Marinade type
- 40 "___ who?!"
- 41 Jim, who did a Pyle of acting?
- 42 Cry of success
- 43 Jeremy Irons flick of 1997
- 45 Glide on snow
- 47 Skirt fold
- 48 Porno mag on a trunk?
- 49 Trim and graceful
- 52 "East of ___"
- 53 Holy headgear
- 54 "Ed Wood" star Johnny
- 58 Leading cause of birth

Solution on pg. 24



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Classifieds

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