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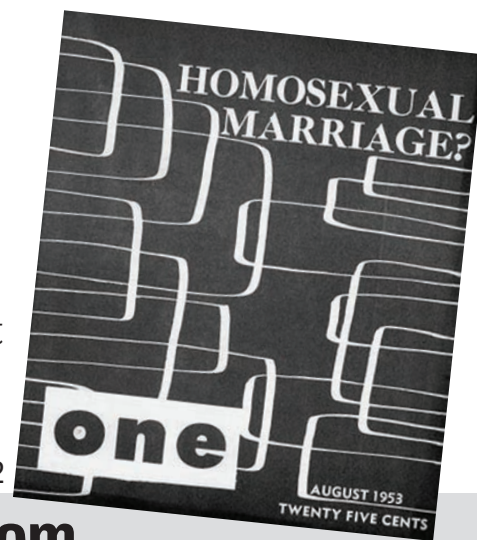
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ONE debuted in January 1953, and quickly caught the attention gays and lesbians across the country. Circulation jumped to nearly 2,000 within a few months, with most subscribers paying extra to have their magazine delivered in an unmarked wrapper. The F.B.I. tried to shut the publication down and the case would eventually reach the U.S. Supreme Court where an important first SCOTUS win set the stage for future victories including the win for marriage equality.

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COMMUNITY RESOURCE



In the past year, throughout the marriage equality movement, Michigan for Marriage has provided countless LGBT stories, maintained an up-to-date website full of reference material and community activism and served as a community hub for the marriage movement in the state. BTL has excerpted some of the key information couples will need to know.

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UPCOMING



50th Anniversary: Reminder Days Coming July 2-5

As we celebrate an historic victory for marriage equality, learn about the first 40 people who marched for equality 50 years ago.

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June 26: Marriage Equality Now Law Of The Land

BY LISA KEEN

In a widely expected yet stunning victory for LGBT people nationally, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled today (June 26) that state bans on marriage for same-sex couples are unconstitutional. The decision requires states to both issue marriage licenses to couples and to recognize marriage licenses obtained in other states by same-sex couples.

The 5 to 4 decision, authored by Justice Anthony Kennedy, strikes down bans that have been enforced in 13 states and is expected to secure the lower court decisions that struck down bans in nine other states.

Kennedy wrote that "the right to marry is a fundamental right inherent in the liberty of the person, and under the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment couples of the same-sex may not be deprived of that right and that liberty."

"The Court now holds that same-sex couples may exercise the fundamental right to marry. No longer may this liberty be denied to them."

President Obama, at an impromptu press conference outside the oval office, said the decision was "justice that arrives like a thunderbolt."

"Today, we can say in no uncertain terms that we've made our union a little more perfect," said the president, in remarks that seemed unscripted. He said the decision "affirms what millions of Americans already believe in their hearts: that when all Americans are treated equal, we're all more free."

LGBT organizations all over the country began issuing press releases declaring the decision "historic," "amazing," and "landmark." Rallies planned in advance are due to take place on the day the decision, including outside New York City's historic Stonewall Inn at 6 p.m.

Kennedy was joined in the majority opinion by the court's four more liberal justices: Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor, and Elena Kagan.

Chief Justice John Roberts led the dissent, joined by Justices Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas, and Samuel Alito.

Chief Justice Roberts, who read from his dissent on the bench Friday morning, said "a State's decision to maintain the meaning of marriage that has persisted in every culture throughout human history can hardly be called irrational."

"In short, our Constitution does not enact any one theory of marriage," wrote Roberts. "The people of a State are free to expand marriage to include same-sex couples, or to retain the historic definition."

Justice Scalia, who is known for his harshly worded disagreements, derided Kennedy's majority opinion, characterized it as "pretentious" and "egotistic" and said it "has to diminish this Court's reputation for clear

thinking and sober analysis" and caused him to want to "hide my head in a bag."

Openly gay U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin called the majority decision a "huge, huge milestone in our quest for freedom and human equality." On MSNBC just minutes after the decision was released at 10 Friday morning, she called the decision "sweeping" and predicted it would help promote "full equality" for LGBT people in other arenas, including employment and public accommodations.

"We've always known that discrimination is wrong," said Baldwin, "but to have the Supreme Court in such a bold fashion say that it is now unconstitutional is just remarkable progress."

A large crowd of LGBT people and supporters and media crowded the steps before the Supreme Court building plaza Friday morning. A male chorus could be heard singing the national anthem at 10:35, with onlookers

Bonauto said it was important that all people be treated equally and protected from violent acts of discrimination. She told MSNBC that the court's decision shows "we do have a fundamental right to marriage" but that the "nation remains divided about this even as a majority of people support loving and committed couples taking this step to marry."

"Today is a monumental victory and a giant leap towards full equality," said Human Rights Campaign Executive Director Chad Griffin, to an MSNBC reporter on the steps of the Supreme Court. But he, too, added that there is much more to do.

"While we're all out here celebrating today because marriage equality has come to every state in the country," said Griffin, "we also have to remember that still today in America, in this country, in a majority of states, the moment this decision is realized and couples get married, in a majority of states, they can

passed a bill to let public officials who issue marriage licenses and can conduct ceremonies to refuse to administer the paperwork or perform the ceremony by claiming "sincerely held religious objections." The governor vetoed the measure but on June 11, the legislature overrode the veto.

In Arkansas, the state supreme court ordered marriage clerks to stop issuing licenses to same-sex couples, but on June 9, a state judge declared that more than 500 licenses issued to same-sex couples before the state supreme court order was issued would be considered valid. The Texas Supreme Court has taken a similar tact.

But Shannon Minter, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights who was involved in one of the four cases under appeal, said the majority opinion includes discussions that are likely to help equality for LGBT people in many other arenas.



Jim Obergefell is the named plaintiff in the winning same-sex marriage case heard by the U.S. Supreme Court. President Obama called him June 26 to congratulate him and all the plaintiffs including April DeBoer. Photo:AP

waving rainbow and Human Rights Campaign equal-sign flags.

Mary Bonauto, the openly gay attorney who argued against the state bans on marriage for same-sex couples, told the Supreme Court gathering that the decision is "momentous" and "a landmark ruling for love and for justice." In her remarks to the crowd, and then later to a reporter, Bonauto noted the decision was released on a day when the country is in deep mourning over the racially motivated killings of nine African Americans at a Bible study inside Charleston, South Carolina's historic Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

be married at 10 a.m., fired from their jobs by noon, and evicted from their homes by 2 simply because there are no explicit federal protections as it relates to non-discrimination in this country."

The Human Rights Campaign announced it was sending letters to each governor of the 13 states plus Missouri (which allows marriage but only in certain jurisdictions) to urge "immediate" and "full compliance with the law."

In some of those states, efforts have been underway for some time to find a way to defy the widely anticipated Supreme Court decision. The North Carolina legislature

"The court's ruling that fundamental rights cannot be limited based on historical patterns of discrimination will be helpful to LGBT people in other fundamental rights cases, such as those involving the fundamental right to procreative freedom, to vote, to create a family, and to travel," said Minter. "The court's emphasis that the constitution protects a broad liberty to self-determination and expression will be helpful to transgender litigants in many contexts." And Minter said the majority's discussion of parenting will be "enormously helpful in other parenting cases."



April DeBoer and her soon to be wife, Jayne Rowse addressing media June 26 after the historic victory for marriage equality. BTL photo: AJ Trager

June 26: Affirmations Of Love And Family In Braun Court

BY AJ TRAGER

ANN ARBOR – June 26 will officially be known as a day of love, devotion, sacrifice, fidelity and above all else family. In an historic 5-4 ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court has determined that the thousands of LGBT couples living in Michigan waiting to get married or who have already been married in another state are just as equal as their heterosexual counterparts.

At 10 a.m. the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of marriage equality and the celebrations began. April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse, the Hazle Park couple fighting for marriage equality since 2011, spent the night in Ann Arbor as they, along with the rest of the nation, awaited a decision from SCOTUS.

"I really don't know what to say right now. It's been a long, long road - 4.5 years in the making - that we sought protection for our children. We would not be here if it weren't for so many of you," DeBoer said before listing the large number of people who have offered support over the years.

"My last comment is to my beautiful children, we did this is for you," DeBoer said tearing up on stage in Braun Court.

Hundreds were in attendance, filling the cobble stones of the LGBT gayborhood in Ann Arbor. It was difficult to walk through from /aut/Bar to the Jim Toy Community Center without bumping shoulders with someone wearing a rainbow boa, rainbow beads or a pin that read "Day of the Decision Braun Court Making Marriage Equality A Reality."

“ *We were an army. Private citizens and grassroots - good people trying to do the right thing. I am tremendously proud of the legal system today. I am so proud of Judge Friedman who ordered a trial. I am so proud of Judge Martha Daughtrey who wrote that valiant dissent (in the 6th Circuit decision). I am proud of the five justices that authored the majority opinion in this case, for resolving issues of enormous importance in our society.* **”**

- Carole Stanyar, attorney for the DeBoer family

For so many people within the LGBT community who have fought for LGBT representation, LGBT voices and LGBT recognition, this marriage equality "reality" has been a concept so far out of reach that the morning of June 26 felt more like a dream than reality.

"As everyone has said and for anyone who has followed this case knows, we never anticipated, in a

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Michigan Politicians Quick To Respond To Supreme Court Marriage Ruling

BY TODD HEYWOOD

LANSING – Within hours of the release of a decision by the U.S. Supreme Court legalizing same-sex marriages across the country, Michigan politicians on both sides of the issue were commenting on it.

"Same-sex marriage has been a divisive issue in Michigan and across our country. Recognizing that there are strong feelings on both sides, it is important for everyone to respect the judicial process and the decision today from the U.S. Supreme Court," Republican Gov. Rick Snyder said in a press statement released less than 30 minutes after the decision was announced. "Our state government will follow the law and our state agencies will make the necessary changes to ensure that we will fully comply."

By 10:30 a.m., the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services - which oversees marriage licensing - had issued new, gender neutral marriage forms as well as guidance to all county clerks in Michigan, said Jennifer Smith, a spokesperson for the department.

"By way of this notification, please be advised that, in accordance with MCL 333.2815(2)(b), the state registrar hereby approves the use of the revised marriage forms attached to this message, approves the use of computer generated forms that conform to the attached documents in form and content and also approves hand modifications to the current marriage forms to appropriately record the sexes of the couple," wrote Glenn Copeland, the state registrar, in an email to all county clerks. "This approval will extend through this transition period and until necessary forms supplies and computer systems changes are in place. The state vital records office will make every effort to assist county and city clerks during this period of transition. A small supply of these revised marriage license and affidavit for license to marry forms is being sent by overnight mail to your office."

Less than hour after the ruling

was released, Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum was already performing marriages for same-sex couples.

"Today's U.S. Supreme Court ruling is a tremendous victory for all of the same-sex couples who have been waiting for the chance to be legally wed in Michigan, as well as for their friends, family and all who support equal rights," said Rep. Tim Greimel, D-Auburn Hills, Democratic leader in the state House. "With this historic decision, the Supreme Court has established that the joys, responsibilities and rights of marriage are open to everyone. I celebrate this decision along with all who worked so hard for so many years to make marriage equality a reality."

Openly gay State Rep. Jeremy Moss, D-Southfield, also hailed the decision, although he called on his colleagues to fix Michigan's civil rights act to protect the LGBT community.

"I'm so proud that Michiganders April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse played a historic role in today's U.S. Supreme Court ruling that recognizes marriage equality across this country," Moss said. "I'm glad this issue reached its ultimate conclusion through our judicial system because minority communities shouldn't be forced to wage campaigns and depend upon a public vote to earn equal protection under the law. Civil rights should be self-evident and unalienable, not dictated by popular opinion on a given Election Day. Even though the Supreme Court, at long last, has declared that the 2004 vote to ban same-sex marriage in Michigan is unconstitutional, the struggle for full equality for LGBT Michiganders is sadly far from over. A gay Michigan couple could get married this weekend and be fired next week because of it. It is time that the State Legislature expand the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include legal protections for those facing discrimination based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. I call on my colleagues to

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► Braun Court

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million years, that this case could go where it ended up going. That the case would become the seminal marriage case for marriage equality throughout the United States," Dana Nessel said.

"We were an army. Private citizens and grassroots - good people trying to do the right thing," Carole Stanyar, attorney for the DeBoer family, said. "I am tremendously



Longtime community activist Jim Toy watching the celebrations from the entrance to the Ann Arbor Community Cne BTL photo: AJ Trager

proud of the legal system today. I am so proud of Judge Friedman who ordered a trial. I am so proud of Judge Martha Daughtrey who wrote that valiant dissent (in the 6th Circuit decision). I am proud of the five justices that authored the majority opinion in this case, for resolving issues of enormous importance in our society."

Megan and Sarah Street were there with their child Addison. The couple married in December 2013 after the Friedman case was set to go to trial and have been waiting to second-parent adopt their child for roughly seven months. They have been holding onto their paperwork for a long time and are prepared to file for second-parent adoption the moment they can, ideally on June 29.

"I feel really overwhelmed," Megan said.

"It feels really good because our daughter is now protected. Because now we can officially both adopt her," Sarah added.

For April and Jayne, the decision to approach Dana Nessel, attorney at law, back when it all began was to write out a will if one of them were to pass. Their fight has always been about their children and the injustices they faced because they were not granted the right to co-adopt.

"Again, thanks to the Supreme Court, everybody who is affected by this I am truly honored to be one of the people in this case to bring this home. Not only for Michigan but for all of the United States. I know none of us thought that this day would come, at least not in our lifetime," Rowse said. "We want to thank Ken, Bob, Dana, Carole, Mary, the National



Sarah and Megan Street with their child Addison celebrate in Braun Court June 26. The couple married in December 2013 after the Friedman case was set to go to trial and have been waiting to second-parent adopt their child for roughly seven months. They have been holding onto their paperwork for a long time and are prepared to file for second-parent adoption the moment they can, ideally on June 29. BTL photo: AJ Trager

Marriage Challenge people and everyone out there who has helped us, supported us... The Jim Toy Community Center, Linda, Sandi... And you (signaling to DeBoer). Thank you for standing by me."

Nessel and the rest of the legal counsel spent June 26 with April and Jayne in Braun Court celebrating and addressed members of the press at noon.

"I want to say one more important note, and it's nothing to take away from our happiness today, but we all know that this is only a step in the struggle for full LGBT equality," Bob

Sedler, co-counsel, said. "The Brown decision was the catalyst of the civil rights movement of the 1960s. I strongly hope that today's decision will be the catalyst for a sweeping move for LGBT equality."

And what of the happy couple, April and Jayne? Well they're planning a wedding of course!

"Not that it comes as a shock but we are still settling into this and I would venture to say there will be a wedding by the end of the summer but don't quote me on that," DeBoer said."

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join me and demand swift action on House Bill 4538."

"I neither agree or disagree with the ruling," said Sen. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge, chair of the State Senate Judiciary Committee. "I accept that it is now the law of the land."

"Today is a monumental day in our history!" exclaimed Sen. Curtis Hertel, Jr., D-East Lansing. "The heroes of this movement are not the politicians, rather they are the everyday people who just wanted to live their lives with the freedoms that so many of us take for granted. It is those that live their lives out loud that changed the hearts and minds of the American people and effectively changed the world we live in. Those are the people we celebrate today. It's time for Michigan's

“ Let’s also recognize while this issue has stirred passionate debate, we now should focus on the values we share. With this matter now settled, as Michiganders we should move forward positively, embracing our state’s diversity and striving to treat everyone with the respect and dignity they deserve. ”

- Gov. Rick Snyder

elected officials to follow suit and start passing sensible and inclusive legislation that welcomes people to our state instead of pushing them away."

Not all of the state's political leaders are

happy with the decision. Former State Rep. and current GOP National Committeeman, Dave Agema, slammed the ruling on Facebook.

"Traditional marriage is a key pillar of the Republican Party platform and we stand

behind keeping it that way as opposed to the Democrat party," Agema wrote. "As early as 2013 the RNC confirmed the 5 Core Principles of the party as a resolution and part of that resolution was traditional marriage. It is truly sad that 5 men and women in black robes can destroy what our nation has understood since it was founded. Now the destruction of the family begins. No nation can long survive when it loses its moral compass."

For his part, Snyder did not mince words for those like Agema.

"Let's also recognize while this issue has stirred passionate debate, we now should focus on the values we share," he said in a press statement. "With this matter now settled, as Michiganders we should move forward positively, embracing our state's diversity and striving to treat everyone with the respect and dignity they deserve."

BTL Op-Ed: A Huge Win Towards Full Equality

BY JAN STEVENSON AND SUSAN HOROWITZ

Forty-six years after the Stonewall Rebellion, almost to the day, marriage equality has finally become the law of the land. In some ways it feels lightening fast. And yet it also feels that it took way too long, with decades of struggle, setbacks, losses and challenges. Today our lives, loves and families are finally being acknowledged and honored by a society that has taken way too long to recognize us as fellow American citizens, deserving of full equality.

At BTL we are thrilled! We celebrate this historic leap forward and thank each and every Michigander that stood up and fought for this moment. Marriage equality will afford millions of LGBT people the opportunities and responsibilities that come with marriage, including the rights and duties that come with parenting. No longer will LGBT families fear that their children may be yanked away by an unfriendly legal system, and no longer will it be possible for LGBT parents to walk away with no legal consequences from their full responsibilities to dependent children. Proudly, we can marry and accept our roles and responsibilities as full participants in the larger society.

We are grateful to April DeBoer, Jayne Rowse and their legal team led by Dana Nessel. Without their tenacity and willingness to put themselves and their family into the harsh glare of the public eye the case would not have reached the nation's highest court. As Nessel told BTL, "You can't win a case that you never file."

The sacrifices along the way have been enormous. Pioneers who are now gone and who did not live to see this moment but predicted it would arrive should never be forgotten. We especially note the late Frank Kameny and the late Barbara Gittings, who organized 40 people who marched in front of Philadelphia's Independence Hall every July 4th from 1965 to 1969. The 50th anniversary of these events will take place July 2-5 this year.

Thankfully there have been many thousands of courageous people who risked everything, including the loss of love from their own families, the loss of jobs, to the loss of raising their own children. They built a path to justice that cannot be overstated, across all the states of these United States. They stood up over the past five decades against all odds, demanding dignity and equal protection under the law. Too many died alone, isolated and denied the justice they deserved.

One part of the history behind this

The tide has now turned in our favor. We have momentum on our side. Now we must continue the march forward with renewed confidence and finish the work that was started decades ago to secure our full equality.

remarkable moment goes back to 1958 when the very first gay rights case was heard by the U.S. Supreme Court. In *ONE Magazine v. The U.S. Post Office*, SCOTUS ruled that a gay publication was not "inherently pornography" and could therefore be sent through the U.S. mail. From this seemingly small recognition giving voice to gay people and allowing us to communicate with one another, we have progressed to this historic day, where we celebrate our most intimate familial relationships in broad daylight under the full recognition of the law.

We know there will be backlash, of that we are certain. Some of it has already come from our state capitol where anti-gay bills seem to be introduced and signed into law way to frequently. So before we complete our exuberant victory laps and go home for good, there remains more work to do to achieve full equality. Our adversaries will try to chip away at our rightful place in society – they have already made moves to make it harder for us to adopt, to keep our jobs, to get appropriate healthcare and even to marry.

Currently Michigan's civil rights legislation, the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, does not include sexual orientation or gender identity as protected classes. Right now it remains legal in Michigan to fire someone because they are perceived to be LGBT or refuse them housing or public accommodations, such as service in a restaurant. You could get married, put a picture of you and your spouse on your desk - and then get fired for doing so. Our elected officials must amend Elliott-Larsen to include sexual orientation and gender identity, and we have to work together to hold reluctant politicians accountable if they prove unwilling to do so, including Gov. Snyder.

The tide has now turned in our favor. We have momentum on our side. Now we must continue the march forward with renewed confidence and finish the work that was started decades ago to secure our full equality.



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Legal Activists Poised To Fight Back As Some States, Including Mich., Face New Hurdles

BY LISA KEEN

The Supreme Court of the United States has ruled that it is a violation of the federal constitution for states to bar same-sex couples from marrying. But for weeks, in apparent anticipation that the court would strike down such bans, states that still have or want to keep their bans have been passing legislation aimed at trying to circumvent such a ruling.

North Carolina's legislature this month overrode its governor's veto and enacted legislation that permits public magistrates and registrars to refuse to process marriage license applications for any couple by claiming to have a "sincerely held religious objection" to the marriage.

Indiana passed a law to allow any person, organization or business being sued for discrimination to claim he or it is exercising religious beliefs as a defense in any proceeding against him or it. The aim of the measure was to enable businesses, including restaurants, bakers and florists, to deny service to same-sex couples. There was such a backlash nationally

against the law, the legislature amended it within days to state that the law did not mean businesses could refuse service based on sexual orientation.

Texas legislators, who missed a deadline to introduce a bill this year, will no doubt try again next year to prohibit the use of state funds to process and issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. The Alabama Supreme Court ordered state clerks to defy a federal court ruling to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

And the Michigan legislature passed bills that allow adoption agencies to refuse child placement services to anyone by claiming to be motivated by "sincerely held religious beliefs." The bills were motivated by agencies seeking to deny services to same-sex couples.

Denying Equal Treatment

While some of these specific tactics are novel, efforts to avoid complying with a court order to provide equal protection to same-sex couples – including efforts to deny adoptions

“Bills seeking to expand religious exemptions in inappropriate ways are likely to continue to be among the most pernicious. I hope we'll continue to be able to stop most of them if not all... (or) of those that pass, at least to narrow them substantially.”

- Lambda Senior Attorney Jenny Pizer

– were tried in Massachusetts after the state Supreme Judicial Court ruled in 2003, in *Goodridge v. Department of Public Health*, that the state constitution requires equal treatment of same-sex couples in marriage licensing.

The SJC gave Massachusetts 180 days to comply with its order, but the legislature instead held a special session to vote on proposals to amend the state constitution to ban same-sex couples from marrying and to offer them only civil unions. One proposal passed its first vote but was killed the following year. There were also four different lawsuits (three in state court, one in federal court) to challenge whether the SJC had jurisdiction to decide the marriage issue. None succeeded.

Then Gov. Mitt Romney pushed for a stay of the SJC decision. That failed too. For a few years, Romney did succeed in blocking the state from issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples from other states who might travel there seeking a license. He did this by reviving an obscure law passed in 1913 to block interracial couples from marrying in Massachusetts.

And there were rumors that Romney might order town clerks to defy the court's ruling and refuse to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Although the governor

did not issue such an order, Mary Bonauto, the attorney who argued *Goodridge* and also argued the current appeal at the U.S. Supreme Court, recalls that some marriage clerks in Massachusetts were reluctant to comply with the SJC ruling and "a few resigned."

But despite its initial vigorous resistance, Massachusetts did ultimately comply with the decision, the legislature repealed the 1913 law, and though opponents still exist, the fighting in Massachusetts has long been over. The U.S. Supreme Court decision this month – if it does strike down state bans – will only reinforce the SJC's landmark decision.

Last Ditch Efforts

As for the states who are now trying to resist compliance preemptively with the Supreme Court decision striking down their bans on marriage for same-sex couples: LGBT legal activists are clearly ready.

"State or local authorities who refuse to comply, they should expect to be sued," said Jon Davidson, national legal director for Lambda Legal. "Public officials will need to keep in mind that the right of same-sex couples to marry (has) been clearly established at that point, and any interference with that right likely would subject government officials to personal liability for damages and attorneys' fees.

"In addition, refusal to comply with court orders that will control them in some jurisdictions may lead to them being held in contempt of court and the imposition of sanctions," said Davidson. "I think there will be less resistance than some are predicting, but we are ready to hold officials responsible for failure to comply with the law – indeed, we're looking forward to it."

Lambda Senior Attorney Jenny Pizer says it's possible "obnoxious – even outrageous – measures will be proposed."

"Bills seeking to expand religious exemptions in inappropriate ways are likely to continue to be among the most pernicious," said Pizer. "I hope we'll continue to be able to stop most of them if not all... (or) of those that pass, at least to narrow them substantially."

Pizer says it may be "essential" that the LGBT community and friends "be prepared to help from all corners of the country much more than we've done up to this point."

But legal activists also expect that resistance will follow the same course it did in Massachusetts.

"I think it is fair to expect that there will be a few last ditch efforts to block marriages. They will fizzle," said Bonauto.

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Michigan Couples, Clerks Anticipate Hurdles To Same-Sex Marriage

BY TODD HEYWOOD

ADRIAN – Patch Harrison and Jessi Fox are in love. Now that the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that marriage equality is the law of the land, the couple wants to get married.

“We were discussing how history will be made that day, and both decided that we’d like to be part of that,” Harrison, 27, told BTL this week in a Facebook chat interview. “Through mutual conversation, we decided we should just get married, and, ‘Why wait?’ We went to the jewelry store and there just happened to be a ring that she loved in her size. So, I bought it for her.”

That happened June 13. On June 15, the newly engaged couple, excited about their pending nuptials, called the offices of Hillsdale County Clerk Marney Kast. That’s when elation turned to frustration as they realized that while marriage equality was right around the corner, some government agencies may use bureaucratic wrangling to delay implementing the court’s decision.

“I stated that I was calling to find out if there was a plan in place for when the U.S. Supreme Court issues their ruling on same-sex marriage,” Harrison said. “I wanted to know if I would be able to apply for my marriage license that day. The lady then told me that she would follow the law, and when she took an oath, she took it to follow the laws. I again asked her if there would be any issues with applying for and getting a marriage license on the day the ruling is made. She told me should wait for the proper paperwork and forms to be in place, and that she would also wait for a direct order from the state of Michigan. She also told me that while she doesn’t agree with it, or support that in any way, she will follow the laws.”

Harrison said the unidentified clerk’s official would not provide any answer as to whether or not she and Fox, 23, would have been able to get their marriage license the day of the ruling.

Kast declined to answer specific questions from BTL.

“I am President of the Michigan Association of County Clerks and we are in constant contact with the Bureau of Vital Statistics in Lansing and will follow the law accordingly,” Kast wrote in an email to BTL. “This is the only statement I am prepared to give at this time.”

How quickly county clerks will be able to implement a favorable ruling by the Supreme

See Hurdles, page 14

Pushback: GOP Dominated Legislature, Marriage Equality And Mini-RFRAs

BY TODD HEYWOOD

LANSING – Now that the U. S. Supreme Court has ruled that same-sex couples have a constitutional right to marry, lawmakers on both sides of the aisle are buckling down for a battle over how expansive marriage rights will be and whether or not people will be able to opt out of services related to same-sex marriages.

The ruling is also setting up a showdown in the state capitol over religious rights and the rights of same sex couples.

“There will be small RFRAs designed to chip away at the hard won rights of the LGBT community,” said Rep. Jon Hoadley, D-Kalamazoo. Hoadley is one of two openly gay state lawmakers serving in the current legislature.

RFRA refers to a federal law known as the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. On a federal level, the law is designed to prohibit the government from creating obstacles to the expression of religious faith. The government must prove that any rule or enforcement of law has a rational basis for a government interest. But a federal court has ruled the federal law does not apply to states, which has resulted in a series of bills introduced across the nation.

One such bill in Indiana caused a national uproar over its potential to open the door to discrimination against LGBT people. Republican Gov. Mike Pence had to force the GOP majority in that state’s legislature to amend the law to explicitly ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

A similar law is pending in the Michigan Senate, although Gov. Rick Snyder has said he would veto the bill if it is passed. In Michigan, unless a person lives in a community with a local non-discrimination law, discrimination on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation is legal.

But advocates and lawmakers said in interviews last week that if the Supreme Court rules in favor of marriage equality, the state has already seen one bill that is designed to allow religious people to opt out of the law. Earlier this month, the legislature approved a series of bills which would place the “sincerely held religious beliefs” of private, faith-based adoption agencies receiving state funding over the “best interests of the child.” The so-called “best interests” measure has been a long standing legal measure in placements in Michigan.

State Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr., D-East Lansing, has introduced legislation to modernize Michigan’s marriage laws. Under the legislation, Senate Bill 227 of 2015, the prohibition on same-sex marriage as well as



State Rep. Andy Schor, (D-Lansing) and State Sen. Curtis Hertel, (D-23rd District) at the April 28 marriage equality vigil in Lansing. BTL photo: Todd Heywood

The State Senators Hertel and Warren package is not the only marriage-related legislative package in the legislature. On June 17, Republican lawmakers Reps. Cindy Gamrat, R-Plainwell, and Todd Courser, R-Lapeer, introduced a package of bills which would eliminate the ability of civil servants – such as judges, mayors and county clerks – to conduct marriages, and instead leave such ceremonies exclusively in the hands of religious officials and organizations.

gender specific language would be stricken from Michigan law. The legislation would also create a list of family relations prohibited from marriage under the law.

Hertel’s legislation is tied to passage with Senate Bill 229 of 2015 introduced by Sen. Rebekah Warren, D-Ann Arbor. This legislation would recognize out of state same-sex marriages and strike the statutory prohibition on recognition of such marriages. The bill also replaces gender specific language with neutral language.

“These bills would remove the state prohibition on same-sex marriage,” said Hertel in a phone interview. “There will be a lot of other laws that will need to be looked at and fixed.”

But the Hertel and Warren package is not the only marriage-related legislative package in the legislature. On June 17, Republican lawmakers Reps. Cindy Gamrat, R-Plainwell, and Todd Courser, R-Lapeer, introduced a package of bills which would eliminate the ability of civil servants -- such as judges,

mayors and county clerks -- to conduct marriages, and instead leave such ceremonies exclusively in the hands of religious officials and organizations. The package would also limit secret marriages -- long legal in Michigan -- to only opposite sex couples. Marriage licenses and applications are public information in Michigan.

Barb Byrum, the Democratic County Clerk in Ingham, said she was concerned about the impact of excluding same-sex couples from secret marriage options.

“In Michigan, I can marry a couple on Monday, and on Tuesday they can be fired for being gay,” she said. “This bill would expose my couples to discrimination.”

“The Supreme Court, in this decision on marriage will be redefining marriage to being a contract between individuals and their government, and that will simply be a changing definition based on the needs and whims of government,” Courser wrote in a blog post on his website Thursday. The

See Pushback, page 14



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► Pushback

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post explained why he introduced the bills. “Regardless of which way the Supreme Court decides, from here forward marriage will be whatever our Supreme Court decides. The contract that had been in place was between the man and wife on one side and God and His Holy word on the other side of the contract. I stand absolutely and completely behind the idea that marriage is between one man and one woman. This U.S. Supreme Court decision will potentially throw out thousands of years of Judeo Christian history and will be used as a massive hammer from the progressive movement over many areas of religious liberty and freedom of expression, within churches, within commerce and throughout society in general. It is one more step in the tearing down of the Judeo Christian foundation of our country.”

Courser claims he requested the bills “to protect pastors from being forced to perform gay marriages.”

“These proposed laws all appear to make clergy the exclusive gatekeepers for access to certain state laws and benefits,” said Tobias Barrington Wolff, a law professor at the University of Pennsylvania. He also served as a legal advisor on LGBT issues to President Barack Obama’s 2008 presidential campaign.

“That is inconsistent with the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Clergy can participate on equal terms in functions like the celebration of a marriage, but they cannot be made the exclusive gatekeepers. That would make access to civil marriage depend upon a couple’s ability to find favor with a religious officiant. The government cannot do that.”

Chris Savage, writing at Electablog, points out that this “forced to perform gay marriages” message was debunked in the Supreme Court hearings earlier this year. Under questioning from conservative Justice Antonin Scalia, Mary Bonuato, arguing in favor of marriage equality, explained that the First Amendment would prevent any clergy member from being forced to marry a couple in violation of their religious beliefs.

“Ms. Bonuato, maybe I’m just not understanding Justice Scalia’s question, but for example, there are many rabbis that will not conduct a marriage between Jews and non-Jews, notwithstanding that we have a constitutional prohibition against religious discrimination,” Justice Elena Kagan said from the bench. “And those rabbis get all the powers and privileges of the State, even if they have that rule, most -- many, many, many rabbis won’t do that.”

That rhetoric, however, feeds into a growing

concern from religious conservatives that recognition of marriage equality will somehow result in people being forced to violate their “religious conscience” as Courser explained. And that concern is driven by a very real, and very delicate balancing act between religious expression and discrimination. The opposition to marriage equality, underlined with a moral belief that homosexuality is wrong, drives a rhetorical conversation about fears. Similar religion-based push back happened as African-Americans solidified their rights during the 50s and 60s, experts have explained to *Between The Lines* previously.

“This type of rhetoric represents the new wave of discrimination tactics designed to divide people into classes,” said Gina Calcagno of Michigan for Marriage. “The Courser bills represent state sanctioned discrimination and rewrites what religious freedom and equal protection under the law means. Equality and fairness are not principles that are decided on a case-by-case basis.”

This all plays out in a public arena where the majority of Michigan voters opposed religious objections bills and support LGBT equality, but the GOP majority in the state legislature opposes legislation to address discrimination against the LGBT community, and supports religious objections laws.

That disconnect, said Calcagno, is going to

require voters to engage.

“Most elected officials, even those who may disagree with you, will sit down and talk with you or take your phone call,” she said. “Keep calling. Tweet at them. Send them an email. Write them a letter. Visit them in their district. Visit them at the Capitol. We can turn this around. Michigan can be the next success story in defeating these harmful bills, but it’s going to take every single one of us.”

Indeed, some states have crushed anti-gay legislation. She points to Texas and Florida -- where lawmakers failed to pass multiple anti-gay measures -- before adjourning for the session this year.

“I am dismayed that we continue to see Republican efforts to discriminate against and restrict the freedoms of people across Michigan simply because they do not hold the same religious beliefs as they do,” said Rep. Tim Greimel, House Democratic Leader, in a statement. “This bill would have government discriminate not only against the LGBT community (which would be deplorable enough), but also against anyone who chooses to be married by someone other than a member of the clergy. We have roads to fix, kids to educate and a middle class to grow -- no legislator should be wasting his or her time contemplating these ideas motivated by bigotry.”

► Hurdles

Continued from p. 14

Court is unclear. State officials tell BTL that the necessary new forms and policies are stuck in a bureaucratic quagmire and in, some instances, a holding pattern.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (the newly combined departments of human services and community health) oversees marriages and deaths through the Bureau of Vital Statistics. The agency creates the standard forms for birth, death and marriage records used throughout the state.

Despite marriage equality being on the radar screen for years, Jennifer Smith, a spokesperson for DHHS, said the agency has a new form draft prepared, but is awaiting a final ruling from the Supreme Court until an official from the Office of the Attorney General signs off on it.

Gisgie Davila Gendreau, a spokesperson for the Secretary of State’s office, said that agency, which oversees issuance of driver’s licenses and car registration to reflect new marriages, has no draft policies prepared for a ruling supporting nationwide marriage equality.

“Not knowing how the court will rule, we’re not in a position to answer hypothetical questions,” Gendreau wrote to BTL in an email responding to questions about ruling preparations by the agency. “What I can tell you is that the Michigan Department of State will continue to follow the law. We don’t have any policy drafts because we’re awaiting the

court’s ruling. As for current policy, staff follows current law, which allows a name change when a customer presents a valid marriage license.”

While state officials scramble to prepare forms and implement new policies in the event of a ruling that changes Michigan’s law, Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum -- one of four county clerks in the state to conduct more than 300 same-sex marriages during a brief 24 hour period in March 2014 when same-sex marriage was legal -- said she is ready to roll with the forms she has on hand.

“If (the state) isn’t prepared to follow the law, I certainly will be,” she said. She noted that the state had not issued new license applications in March 2014, but the marriages performed in a short window that month were deemed legal by the state. While those marriage were deemed legal, Gov. Rick Snyder said they would not be recognized. A federal court has ruled the state must recognize those marriages, and the state has not appealed that decision.

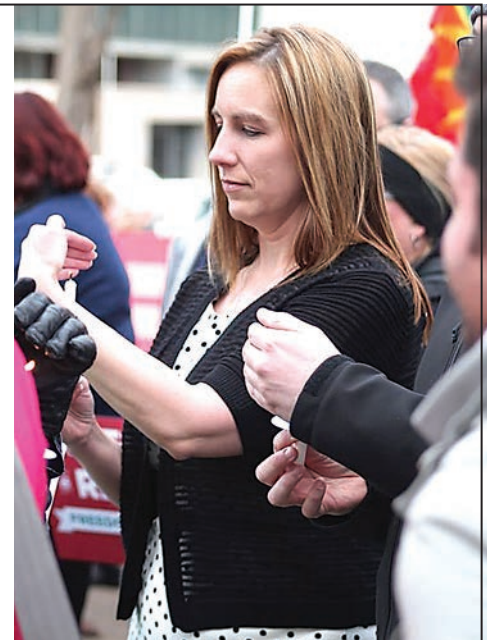
Byrum said she is also planning to waive the three day waiting period for same-sex marriages.

“In this case, I know so many couples have waited decades to get married,” she said. “I see no reason to make them wait three more days.”

She said she is not holding her breath for Bill Schuette, the state’s Republican Attorney

Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum said she is not holding her breath for Bill Schuette, the state’s Republican Attorney General and a likely 2018 GOP candidate for governor, to move swiftly in issuing policy guidance to clerks and state offices.

“I believe the attorney general is not in support of love and loving couples, and he has a history of bullying local clerks. I won’t be looking for guidance from him.”

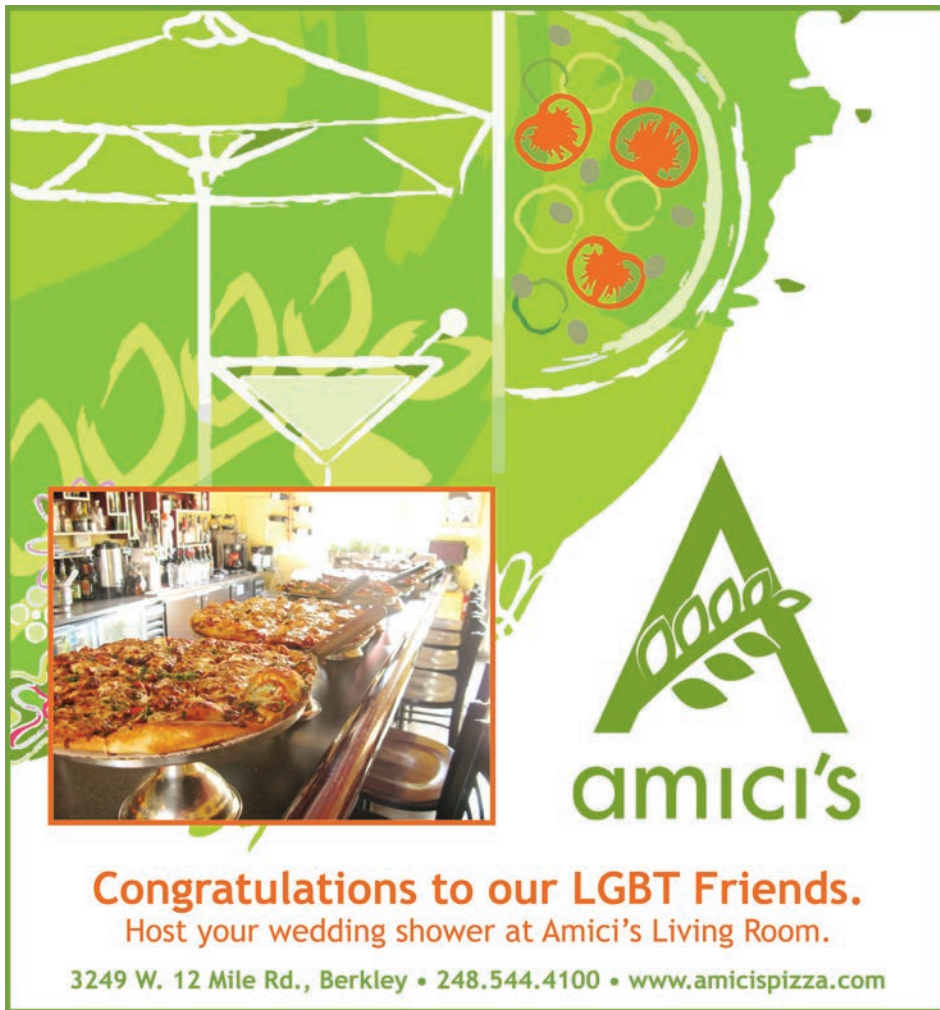


Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum at an April 28 marriage equality vigil at the state capitol. On June 26, Byrum married the first couple in the state of Michigan moments after the SCOTUS ruling in favor of marriage equality was announced. BTL photo: Todd Heywood

General and a likely 2018 GOP candidate for governor, to move swiftly in issuing policy guidance to clerks and state offices.

“I believe the attorney general is not in

support of love and loving couples, and he has a history of bullying local clerks,” Byrum said in a phone interview. “I won’t be looking for guidance from him.”



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Attorney Dana Nessel holds up affirming SCOTUS decision June 26. BTL photo: Donelle Kremke

‘You Can’t Win A Case That You Never File’

BY AJ TRAGER

DETROIT – In 2011, when April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse approached Dana Nessel for legal counsel they primarily sought to change Michigan’s adoption code, one of the most restrictive in the country as it pertains to same-sex couples and their ability to adopt children.

In Michigan the applicant seeking to adopt must be either a single person or a couple that is legally married. According to the Williams Institute, almost 20 percent of all same-sex couples in the U.S. are raising children under the age of 18, totaling 220,000 youth nationwide. Many LGBT couples in Michigan who decided to adopt have only one parent listed as the legal guardian. The other is a complete legal stranger to their own child. In contrast, Michigan’s foster care system allows LGBT couples to foster children, with both parents maintaining legal status over the youth.

By the time DeBoer and Rowse had reached out to Nessel for help, the Michigan Marriage Amendment had been in place for seven years. It was voted into law in 2004 after a voter-approved initiative. Ten other similar initiatives were also approved throughout the country in concert with the 2004 presidential election. The change in state law reads: “To secure and preserve the benefits of marriage for our society and for our future generations of children, the union of one man and one woman in marriage shall be the only agreement

recognized as a marriage or similar union for any purpose.”

Adoption

Nessel’s first dip into challenging the Michigan Custody Act (MCA) was representing Renee Harmon in 2011, a lesbian seeking to be recognized as the mother of the children Harmon and her former partner had raised for 19 years. Tammy Davis was the birth mother of their children and following a relationship split was able to legally refuse Harmon rights to see the children. Nessel won the case but lost on appeal in the Michigan Supreme Court, where the ruling fell along partisan lines. The court determined Harmon had no legal rights to their children.

Nessel met DeBoer and Rowse later that year. The Hazel Park couple had at that time been together for 11 years and are jointly-certified foster parents. Rowse is an ER nurse and DeBoer works as a neonatal intensive care nurse. Between the two of them, they (now) have five children.

“DeBoer v. Snyder is by far the most interesting case that I have ever had the chance to work on,” Nessel said.

“The Department of Human Services just keeps calling them up and asking if they will take more children, knowing that they have these special skills. They are nurses and their job all day, every day, is to take care of the

sick. Knowing this, they (DHS) are constantly calling up saying, ‘We don’t have anyone to take care of these needy children who nobody else can take care of — will you?’ And they have a hard time refusing a child in need and that is why they will have five children, aged 6 and under, by the end of this year. Some people would call that masochism, but I just call them loving people,” Nessel said.

DeBoer and Rowse were forced to independently adopt each of the children, despite the fact that they are a committed couple, because of Michigan’s adoption laws. Due to the state’s custody act and the anti-gay marriage amendment, there is no mechanism for both moms to share parental rights of the children they are raising.

Nessel filed the initial complaint in early 2012, suing the attorney general and governor of Michigan, challenging the Michigan Adoption Code with the claim that it violates the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment. The state constitution reads: “No state shall deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the law.”

A motion for summary judgment was held in August 2012 when Judge Bernard Friedman, a Reagan appointee, indicated that the proper argument to be made wasn’t arguing against the adoption code; the problem was with the MMA, redefining marriage as “a one man and

one woman” union. Friedman then gave both legal teams 10 days to construct their next arguments and refile.

“There are so many people that are injured so badly as a result of these types of laws. But you can never point to a single person who was helped by these laws,” Nessel said, referring to the MMA. “There are so many lawsuits, but there are no gains by anyone. And if that isn’t true discrimination, then I don’t know what is. So we proceeded on that basis.”

Marriage Movement

By this time, SCOTUS accepted petitions on Proposition 8 in California and Windsor v. United States in 2013, and a stay was placed on DeBoer v. Snyder awaiting the court’s decision.

Cross motions of summary judgement were held Oct. 16, 2013 in Federal District Court in Detroit. It was the first case of its kind heard before the courts after the Windsor decision.

The state’s arguments included majority rules; the MMA protects couples that procreate biologically; discussion on tradition and marriage; and that “heterosexuals make better parents.”

Nessel and her team argued that the rules put in place by the majority infringed upon the constitutional rights of minorities and that tradition and being heterosexual don’t equate

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to better parenting.

Judge Friedman found an issue of “fact” existed. Both parties were arguing on the validity of tradition and heterosexuality playing a role in the success of parenting and Friedman determined the case would go to trial, set for Feb. 25, 2014. Nessel, Carole Stanyar and Ken Mogill had four months to prepare for what would turn out to be an eight day trial focusing on marital tradition and an in-depth look into the parenting capabilities of LGBT people and same-sex couples.

The Trial

Four months later, Nessel and her team presented witness testimony from: experts on child welfare, sociologists, psychologists, an attorney/law professor, an expert on LGBT demography, a expert on tradition of marriage, an expert on history of discrimination against LGBT people in the U.S. and “defendant” Lisa Brown, newly elected Oakland County Clerk who self-identified as a hostile witness for the state.

DeBoer and Rowse did not take the stand because the state decided it would not contest their parenting skills and “stipulated the fact that they were marvelous parents who do a wonderful job raising their children,” Nessel said.

The defense presented many witnesses, some from out of the state, including testimony from Mark Regnerus, a discredited sociology professor, whose research on the impact of same-sex parenting on children was delivered in court but later thrown out for the lack of validity, including a disavowal by the department chair where Regnerus’ worked and has tenure.

Friedman issued his ruling March 21, 2014, indicating that the MMA and all of its implementing statues were unconstitutional because they violated the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

The next day, clerks — all Democrats — from four counties began issuing same-sex marriage licenses. Three-hundred and twenty three same-sex couples were married and in less than 24 hours the 6th Circuit stayed the decision pending appeal. The 6th Circuit decided to hold a hearing over same-sex marriage, consolidating six cases from Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee which all fall under the 6th Circuit jurisdiction. The cases were presented before three judges of the 6th Circuit Court on Aug. 6, 2014 in Cincinnati, Ohio.



From left, April DeBoer, Sandi Smith and Jayne Rowse outside Federal District Court in Detroit in February 2014. Smith was president of the Jim Toy Community Center and helped fundraise for the trial. She presented a check to the couple in sub-zero degree weather. It could not keep smiles away. BTL file photo.

{HEADER Marriage Grows}

“In the meantime, monumental events occurred in the U.S.: four U.S. Circuit Courts that ruled on this, all of which upheld their district courts in striking down bans on same-sex marriage just as Judge Friedman had done,” Nessel explained. “Then not only did all of these circuits strike down their respective bans in their circuits, but when (state) applications were made for certiorari or petitions to have their cases heard before the Supreme Court, SCOTUS did what we all thought was really unthinkable — they turned them all down.”

In one fell swoop, marriage equality became legal in 36 states. One by one over the course of the summer of 2014, district, circuit and local courts ruled in favor of marriage equality.

6th Circuit Court

It wasn’t until the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against marriage equality on Nov. 6, 2014, that the high court had reason to consider the constitutionality of marriage bans. Petitions were filed to SCOTUS on behalf of the plaintiffs in Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee.

On Jan. 16 SCOTUS announced that it would hear oral arguments on whether state bans on same-sex marriage were unconstitutional, consolidating the two major questions posed before the 6th Circuit: does equal protection require a state to issue same-sex marriage licenses and does equal protection require a state to recognize a same-sex marriage performed out-of-state?

In the following months, Nessel and the legal teams partnered with attorney Mary Bonauto, a longtime civil rights and LGBT advocate and defender most known for her lead counsel in Goodridge v. Department of Public Health, which

made Massachusetts the first state with legal same-sex marriage. Her co-counsel contributions in Baker v. State of Vermont, which led to the nation’s first civil union law in 1999, are also notable.

SCOTUS heard oral arguments on April 28. With two questions posed before the court, SCOTUS split the time. Bonauto presented the case before the high court for the first question and attorney Douglas Hallward-Driemeier argued for the second question.

“Whatever your plan is in life, don’t think that you can’t make a difference because you can. And that goes for everyone, and it goes for anything,” Nessel said. “If you see something out there that you think is unjust, don’t think you can’t work hard, and that your hard work can’t pay off to right wrong in our communities, in our state and across our country — because you can. There were a lot of people who said, ‘Don’t bring this case because you will lose.’ And I said, ‘Well, if we lose, then we are right back to where we are right now. If we have no rights for LGBT people in this state, we can’t have negative rights. We are at zero, so what is worse than zero?’”

“So as my old law professor said to me: ‘You can’t win a case that you never file.’ I look back at that Harmon case; I said, ‘I’ll give it a shot, the worst I can do it try and get your kids back.’ Had we not lost Harmon v. Davis, we would not have won DeBoer v. Snyder.

Nessel received her law degree from Wayne State School of Law. She has been in practice for 18 years and got her start as an assistant prosecutor for Wayne County representing the county and state in child and physical sexual abuse cases. Nessel started her own private practice in 2005 and is now one of the top criminal defense attorneys in the state and continues to represent civil rights cases and family law cases.



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April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse with three of their children during Ferndale Pride May 30. BTL photo: AJ Trager

DeBoer-Rowse: The Journey To Equality Always About The Children

BY AJ TRAGER

HAZEL PARK – April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse describe “actively stumbling” into their lawsuit against the state of Michigan. The case launched Michigan into the center of the marriage equality debate.

The couple originally sought joint legal rights of their (then) three adopted children in 2011. Since making their first claim against the state of Michigan and the Oakland County Clerk’s Office, the case has blossomed with complexities and connections beyond what anyone could imagine would happen to one family. Almost overnight, these two nurses went from spending long hours in the hospital to the center of a media storm as they became national celebrities.

“It’s been a crazy journey. We did not plan to challenge the marriage amendment, but we stood up and did what we had to do to protect our kids and our family. In the long run, the marriage

challenge is going to affect more of our lives beyond the kids. It’s going to affect our relationship and everything. But it’s been a long journey of ups and downs, and we’re proud of what we’ve done.”

“ *I think we are very proud of what we’ve done. We didn’t start out to do this. We didn’t start out to be pioneers or leaders or the face of gay marriage.* ”

– Jayne Rowse

said DeBoer.

In 2011, with the assistance of a strong legal team, the couple sued the state of Michigan seeking to second-parent adopt their kids. Michigan prohibits second-parent adoptions for anyone who isn’t married, and following a voter-

approved law from 2004 that defined marriage as “a union between one man and one woman,” same-sex marriage was not permitted in the state. When they went into court, the couple expected an immediate affirming decision and a quick return to their daily lives. Little did they know that their simple request from the state to have joint legal custody of their children would lead to such a big historic journey.

“We fell backwards into a basket and got pushed down the way. We didn’t start out looking for this at all. We started out to just adopt our kids, and here we are at the verge of possible change for the country with the possibility of being able to marry,” Rowse said just before the SCOTUS decision. “So I think we are very proud of what we’ve done. We didn’t start out to do this. We didn’t start out to be pioneers or leaders or the face of gay marriage.”

Rowse and DeBoer are by no means the first pioneers for LGBT rights. Activists and politicians of today stand on

See DeBoer-Rowse: Journey, page 18

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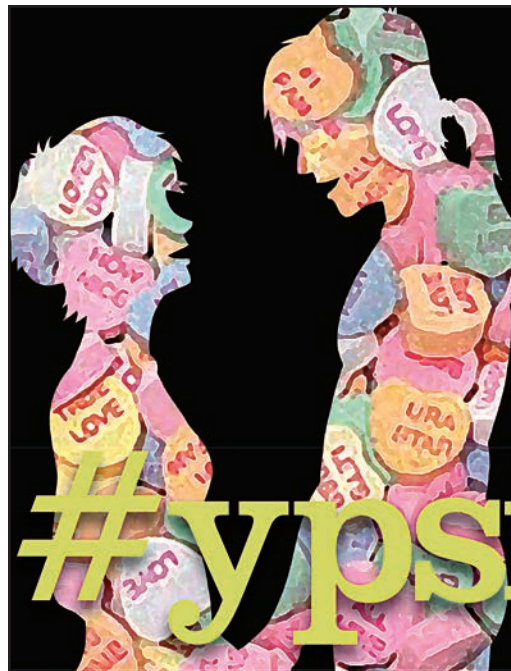
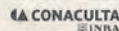
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-FRIDA KAHLO



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Above: *Diego and Frida Caught Kissing New Workers School, NY 1933*; Photograph by Lucienne Bloch (1909-1999) Courtesy Old Stage Studios. www.LucienneBloch.com © 2014 Frida Kahlo Corporation. All Rights Reserved.



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DeBoer-Rowse shortly after the conclusion of the marriage trial in Federal Court in 2014. Federal Judge Friedman would soon strike down Michigan's anti-gay marriage ban. The case would eventually move to the 6th Circuit and then on to SCOTUS. BTL file photo.

► **DeBoer Rowse: Journey**
Continued from p. 20

the backs of national, historic giants such as Harvey Milk, Cleve Jones, Danielle Egnew and Bayard Rustin as well as the Michigan legends like Jim Toy, Kathy Kozachenko and

Ruth Ellis who paved the way for LGBT rights.

They have learned a lot about activism and the legal system through their journey into the push and shove of being proactively LGBT.

"I think in a lot of ways we found

out there is way more complexity to the system than we really knew, with the legislature and the politics that goes into a lot of this," said Rowse. "We've met so many people from various groups that are fighting for the right to have equality, safety in the workplace or safety in housing.

“ We hope that our kids learn tolerance. Just complete tolerance of anybody who is different than you, for whatever reason. We also hope that they are proud of us and of what we've done, really for them. ”

– April DeBoer

I think our eyes have been open to a lot more of the stuff that people are putting their hard work into and what it entails.”

Over the course of the past four years, the couple and their children have all grown up in the media spotlight. The kids have ridden in parades and travelled with their moms to many different press releases, wedding expos, pride festivals and even the courthouse.

“The kids show up to these things. They get to do cool things and play with their friends, but other than that they don't have any idea (what's really going on),” said DeBoer.

While the center of attention may be exciting, the couple is ready to return to their daily lives away from

the camera, but DeBoer doesn't expect the energy to subside until mid-July.

DeBoer and Rowse have some short-term and long-term goals. The firsts of many will be planning their wedding and finally co-adopting their children. To finally adopt their children will be a huge relief and will eliminate some stress and worry in their lives — “The what ifs of every day life,” said DeBoer.

“We hope that our kids learn tolerance,” adds DeBoer. “Just complete tolerance of anybody who is different than you, for whatever reason. We also hope that they are proud of us and of what we've done, really for them.”

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International Perspective On Marriage Equality

BY AJ TRAGER

Article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights reads: “Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.” The declaration was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on Dec. 10, 1948 which was drafted directly following World War II and represents the first global expression of rights to which all human beings are inherently entitled.

Nearly two dozen countries from around the world currently have national laws allowing same-sex marriage, mostly in Europe and the Americas.

According to the Pew Research Center, 20 countries from around the world support marriage equality, eight of them having done so since 2010, with a growing number added every year. In many countries, attitudes towards the LGBT community have been stable, but same-sex marriage has advanced the most in countries and regions where acceptance of homosexuality is highest.



In 2001 the Netherlands was the first European country to legalize same-sex marriage. Reporter Rex Wockner covered the event live for the regional LGBT media, including BTL.

The timeline of international marriage equality starts in 2001 with the Netherlands granting nationwide same-sex marriage; Belgium, 2003; Canada and Spain, 2005; South Africa, 2006; Norway and Sweden, 2009; Argentina, Iceland and Portugal, 2010; Denmark, 2012; Brazil, New Zealand, France and Uruguay, 2013; most of the United Kingdom in 2014; and Finland, Luxembourg and Ireland in 2015.

Countries that offer protections for same-sex couples including many rights but excluding the right to marry include:

Chile, Ecuador, Germany, Greenland, Hungary, Northern Ireland and Malta.

According to Freedom To Marry, many other countries offer some spousal rights to same-sex couples, but those rights are far from the full protections and rights provided through marriage. Those countries include: Andorra, Austria, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Liechtenstein, Slovenia and Switzerland.

Israel and Mexico recognize marriages between same-sex couples performed in other countries but do not perform same-sex marriages for nationals.

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Creep of the Week

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

National Organization for Marriage

Oh, NOM. NOM, NOM, NOM, NOM. You are so freaked out right now. And if you weren't so hateful, I might actually feel some compassion for you. Though probably not. Because you are terrible in every way.

I've made NOM my Creep of the Week many times over the years. And some of you may be thinking, "Come on. It's just too easy. Like shooting fish in a barrel." But I would never shoot fish. For one thing, I do not eat fish and wish them no harm. For another, even if I did eat fish, shooting them seems like a really ineffective way to procure dinner. And another thing: how did they get into that barrel? There are just so many questions.

NOM is frequently called out in this column not just because it is easy for me, but because they have become a sort of clearing house for creeps.

You would think, too, that no politician or public figure in their right mind would board NOM's sinking ship, what with polls showing a majority support for marriage equality in this country. Not to mention the expected Supreme Court ruling in favor of equality that's supposed to come any day now.

The GOP field is full of loons who are more than happy to make hurting LGBT people part of their platform.

But NOM is hard at work trying to wrangle Republican candidates for president to sign an "I Promise to Hate the Gays and Make their Lives Hell" pledge.

It's a five point pledge, as Think Progress reports. First, candidates have to support a constitutional amendment damning marriage equality and promise to appoint anti-gay judges to thwart whatever pro-gay thing the Supreme Court may do. They also have to trash all the LGBT protections that pesky Obama put in place. Candidates have to be totally gay for a "religious freedom" bill that would allow anti-gay discrimination in the name of Jesus. And the Justice Department would need to stop looking into "anti-LGBT discrimination" (as if that's a thing) and focus on the much more pressing issue of flower shops being forced to make bouquets for dykes.

The pledge is like a look back in time, really; a sort of hate-filled time capsule. Only some Republicans who are running for president in 2015, not 2005, will probably sign it. Or else, warns NOM President Brian Brown.

"Our hope is that as many candidates as possible sign, but at the end of the day what we want is a champion for marriage, someone who will stand up and do what is necessary to protect it," Brown told CNN. "So whether we end up having four candidates or 15, we are going to support the candidates that stand up and sign the pledge."

The GOP field is full of loons who are more than happy to make hurting LGBT people part of their platform. According to Think Progress, Ted Cruz, Scott Walker, Rick Santorum, Bobby Jindal, Ben Carson, Mike Huckabee, Rick Perry and Marco Rubio have at some point said that they're cool with a Federal Marriage Amendment. Never mind that the issue makes most Americans yawn at this point.

"Republicans need to not just give lip service to marriage," Brown told CNN. "By signing the pledge they are committing to concrete steps to protect marriage."

By signing the pledge they're actually making clear how desperate they are for support from the far-right fringe and how out of touch they are with the majority of the country. So, you know, good luck with that.



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Decision Day (And Beyond) Resource Center

BY BTL STAFF

In the past year, throughout the marriage equality movement, Michigan for Marriage has provided countless LGBT stories, maintained an up-to-date website full of reference material and community activism and served as a community hub for the marriage movement. In anticipation of the June 26 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that extended full marriage rights to same-sex couples, Michigan for Marriage has created a Michigan Decision Day Resource Center to help LGBT couples across the state navigate their marriage in upcoming months.

The Decision Day Resource Center is a one-stop shop for everything there is to know about the high court's ruling on marriage equality and features a Q&A that discusses common questions faced by same-sex couples when applying for their marriage licenses, including where to get the marriage license, what documentation is needed when applying, when and where a couple can apply, cost and who can officiate the ceremony for their day of love.

The live blog and updates section will stay updated to make sure that users have the most recent status regarding marriage equality. Follow the latest SCOTUS news on the Michigan for Marriage Twitter page located under "Live Twitter Feed."

The guide contains information many Michiganders will need to get married but isn't exhaustive. For full details on how and when to apply for a marriage license in Michigan, please contact the local county clerk's office.

The following information is excerpted from the site.

Where can I get a marriage license?

Michigan marriage licenses are available at a Michigan County Clerk's office and many county applications can be found online. Note: At least one of the applicants must go to the clerk's office to pick up the license in person and provide for both applicants proof of age, identity and residence (Michigan residents must apply in the county of their current address). For any applicant not present, a copy of their birth certificate, driver's license along with their social security number must be provided. Call ahead before going to apply for a marriage license.

Can we marry the day we obtain and submit our marriage license application?

There is a three day waiting period for marriages after the couple applies for a license — that means the marriage license becomes valid on the third day following application. This waiting period may be waived at the



clerk's discretion. The license is not available for pick up on weekends or legal holidays. If married on Thursday or Friday, pick up the marriage license on the following Monday.

How long does the marriage license stay valid?

The marriage ceremony must be performed within 33 days of application.

What identification will we need to provide the county clerk?

The following is required of both persons at the time of application:

Valid driver's license or state-issued ID showing a correct address; birth certificate (only certificates issued by a government office, not a hospital certificate); and social security card (if an applicant does not have a social security number they must appear in person).

In addition to state-issued ID or driver's license (if available), foreign born persons must have one of the following: valid passport, U.S. or Foreign (with acceptable visa status, if applicable); green card; naturalization papers; Canadian or Mexican-born persons may use their birth certificates (if translated).

How much does it cost?

Marriage license applications cost \$20 for Michigan residents and \$30 for non-Michigan residents.

Can I get a license in a different county than where I live?

One or both parties must reside in a county for a marriage application to be filed correctly. In other words, a couple cannot apply for a license in a county neither future spouse

currently has residency in, as determined by a current, valid driver's license or state issued ID card. The license is valid throughout the state.

If both persons are out-of-state residents, they must apply in the county where they are to be married. The license is valid in that county only.

Do we both have to be present to receive a marriage license?

One or both applicants must appear to apply for the marriage license. If only one applicant is present, they must have all items listed below for both persons. Photocopies (front and back) of driver's license and birth certificate for applicant that is not present will be accepted.

The following is required of both persons at the time of application:

A valid driver's license or state-issued ID showing a correct address; birth certificate (only certificates issued by a government office; not a hospital certificate); social security card (if an applicant does not have a social security number they must appear in person); each parties parents' full names, including mother's maiden names and the state where each parent was born;

If we were married in another state or country, can we get married in Michigan?

No. If you were legally married in another state or jurisdiction, congratulations! You are already legally married and you do not need to get married in Michigan. Once the freedom to marry is won, Michigan will recognize legal marriages performed in other

jurisdictions. Many couples may choose to renew their vows in Michigan, but a renewal of vows does not require a marriage license.

What if one of us was previously married?

If one, or both parties, has been married before, the application must include the number of times previously married. It is advised to bring a certified copy of the most recent divorce decree when applying. (If the former spouse has passed, bring a certified copy of the death certificate.)

We have a civil union or domestic partnership in another state; do we need to get married in Michigan?

Yes. Michigan does not recognize civil unions or domestic partnerships. A couple must be officially recognized by the state of Michigan.

Do I have to be a resident of Michigan to get a marriage license in Michigan?

No. You do not have to be a resident of Michigan to receive a marriage license in Michigan. If neither party is an Michigan resident, you must apply in the county where the marriage will be solemnized.

Who is qualified to officiate a ceremony?

Pursuant to Michigan Compiled Law 551.7 — Marriages may be solemnized by any of the following:

A judge of the district court, anywhere in this state, a district court magistrate; a municipal judge, in the city in which the judge is serving or in a township over which a municipal court has jurisdiction under section 9928 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.9928; a judge of probate; a judge of a federal court; a mayor of a city, anywhere in a county in which that city is located; a county clerk, in counties having more than 2,000,000 in population, by a county clerk employee; minister of the gospel or cleric or religious practitioner, anywhere in this state, if the minister or cleric or religious practitioner is ordained or authorized to solemnize marriages according to the usages of the denomination; a minister of the gospel or cleric or religious practitioner, anywhere in this state, if the minister or cleric or religious practitioner is not a resident of this state but is authorized to solemnize marriages under the laws of the state in which the minister or cleric or religious practitioner resides.

Read more about how marriage looks under the law and how to apply by going to www.MichiganForMarriage.org



M4M's Gina Calcagno in Cincinnati Aug. 5, 2014 at a rally before the 6th Circuit trial. BTL file photo: AJ Trager

The End Of Michigan For Marriage?

BY AJ TRAGER

Michigan For Marriage was organized as a collaborative public education campaign to build support for marriage equality in Michigan and has spent the last few years gathering communities together to talk about same-sex marriage. Gina Calcagno joined M4M in 2014 as coalition manager after working on establishing non-discrimination ordinances in Michigan municipalities with (now) Rep. Jon Hoadley.

Calcagno is in charge of the day to day advocacy for the campaign, management of press statements, organizing community conversations and connecting with LGBT couples in the state.

Having been continuously involved with the marriage equality movement for the past year, Calcagno sat down with BTL for a final one-on-one to discuss her journey with the Michigan For Marriage campaign.

What have your responsibilities been?

I'm in charge of the day to day that sort of goes on with an advocacy campaign. I serve as the main spokesperson for the campaign; I was recently in charge of hiring a team of folks to help out with the campaign and managing them. I hired four consultants, each from a different group in the area. The other thing that I'm largely responsible for is just talking to people across the state, collecting stories, getting face to face with these couples who have been striving for marriage equality and are looking to protect their families. I am a story collector and that's awesome.

How many couples have you spoken to?

Over a hundred, closer to 200. I have spoken to people who I am pretty sure met at the Pride festival that we (M4M) were at, and I've spoken to couples who have been together for 47 years. I have spoken to couples who talked to me about the activism scene from the 1970s. I've heard a lot from our older couples: 'We never imagined that we would be able to get married in our lifetime.' Couples who say, 'We don't understand why we cannot get married in our lifetime.' There

See M4M, page 38

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Fourth Of July Marks Anniversary Of Philadelphia Protest

BY NATALIE POMPILIO

PHILADELPHIA (AP) – On the Fourth of July 50 years ago, when homosexuality was considered a mental illness and a same-sex couple’s public declaration of love put their lives and livelihoods at risk, about 40 people took a stand by staging a peaceful protest in front of Independence Hall.

Philadelphia’s Independence Day festivities this year will include the usual concert, fireworks, parade and public reading of the Declaration of Independence, but will also mark the city’s important place in the history of America’s gay rights movement with events billed as the 50th anniversary of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights movement.

While these weren’t the first public protests for gay rights, nor were they very large when compared with demonstrations that came later, many LGBT activists say they are worthy of being celebrated as stepping stones to 1969’s Stonewall riots in New York City, a turning point in gay rights.

Philadelphia participant John S. James, now 74, said he was relieved when no one staged a counterprotest that day. Still, the mood of the time was summed up by the comments an ice cream vendor made to him.

“He said something like, ‘I never thought I’d be doing this,’ and it was obvious he meant doing business with homosexuals,” said James, who now lives in an LGBT-friendly senior apartment building in Philadelphia.

James didn’t want his photo taken that day for fear of losing his government job. Yet among the images is one of James holding a sign that says, “Homosexual citizens want their right to make their maximum contribution to society.” James kept his position -- possibly because there was very little media attention given to that march and the ones that followed.

“What they were potentially subjecting themselves to far outweighed the benefits,” said Malcolm Lazin, executive director of the nonprofit LGBT rights organization Equality Forum. “At the time, there were at most 200 people in the U.S. who identified as gay activists. Very few gay people were willing to rock the boat, because it could always get worse.”

Over the four years that followed the protest, a growing number of people took part in the “Annual Reminders” outside America’s birthplace, where both the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution were debated and signed.

Even their supporters thought they “were out of their minds,” said Lazin, who is organizing a series of events over the holiday week to mark the half-century anniversary of the protest, which is also recalled in a state historical marker that went up a decade ago.

Protest organizer Frank Kameny set the



The organized LGBT civil rights movement was galvanized when activists from New York, Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia staged demonstrations at Independence Hall for equality each Fourth of July from 1965 to 1969. When 40 activists picketed in front of Independence Hall in 1965, it was the largest demonstration for gay equality in world history. Organized by Frank Kameny and Barbara Gittings, the father and mother of the LGBT civil rights movement, these “Annual Reminders” laid the groundwork for the Stonewall riot in 1969. After Stonewall, the Gay Pioneers suspended the Annual Reminders and turned their energies to help organize the 1970 march from Greenwich Village to Central Park marking the first anniversary of Stonewall.

The Philadelphia celebration comes at a momentous time in gay history and is a stark reminder of how different things were just 50 years ago.

rules that “men had to wear suits and women had to wear similar formal wear,” James said.

“We had to show respectability because of the public sentiment towards gay people at that time,” he said.

The Associated Press covered the third Annual Reminder in 1967. It noted the

protesters were “neatly-dressed” and carried “hand-painted signs saying, ‘Homosexual American citizens, our last oppressed minority’ and ‘Fifteen million U.S. homosexuals ask for redress of grievances.’”

Some of the planned events this Fourth include a ceremony in front of Independence

Hall, parties and legal panels. There will also be a VIP lunch with Judy Shepard, the mother of slain gay man Matthew Shepard, and Edie Windsor, the plaintiff in the Supreme Court case that struck down parts of the Defense of Marriage Act. Museums are also showing special exhibits.

The Philadelphia celebration comes at a momentous time in gay history and is a stark reminder of how different things were just 50 years ago.

Same-sex couples can now marry in a majority of states. Hate crimes based on sexual orientation or gender identity are punishable by federal law. States, counties and cities are adding the LGBT community to the list of those protected under employment discrimination statutes. Openly gay candidates are regularly elected to public office.

In Philadelphia, just a stone’s throw from the protest site, lies the area everyone knows as the Gayborhood, the heartbeat of the city’s LGBT culture, where gay bars line the streets and rainbow “pride” symbols pepper storefronts and street signs. Crosswalks will be painted in rainbow colors to commemorate the protest.

But back in 1965, gays and lesbians were prohibited from working in federal government under an order signed by President Dwight Eisenhower a dozen years earlier. Those kinds of rules were one reason Marj McCann, who worked for the city of Philadelphia at the time, watched that first protest but didn’t participate.

“I was hiding behind a tree,” said McCann, 75, who lives in the Philadelphia suburbs with her partner. “We were all hiding, passing in the way we dressed and carried ourselves.”

The Rev. Robert Wood took part in the 1965 protest and many others wearing his clerical collar. While most were peaceful, there were always name-callers, he said, and he never got fully used to being denounced with words like “sinner” and other derogatory terms.

“Men and women, you could see the viciousness in their faces and their voices,” said Wood, now 92 and living in New Hampshire. “But we expected it. We survived it.”

For more, visit <http://lgbt50.org>



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History Of LGBT Cases Before U.S. Supreme Court

COMPILED BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

The consolidation of four same-sex marriage cases before the U.S. Supreme Court is not the first example of LGBT issues making it to Washington D.C. Those cases -- *Obergefell v. Hodges* (Case No. 14-556) from Ohio; *Tanco v. Haslam* (Case No. 14-562) from Tennessee; *DeBoer v. Snyder* (Case No. 14-571) from Michigan; and *Bourke v. Beshear* (Case No. 14-574) from Kentucky -- have several cases that paved their way to SCOTUS.

One, Inc. v. Olesen (1958) The first U.S. Supreme Court ruling to deal with homosexuality, as well as the first to deal with free speech rights surrounding LGBT issues, this case involved obscenity. Speech “in favor of homosexuals” was ruled as not inherently obscene.

Bowers v. Hardwick (1986) A decision overturned by 2003’s *Lawrence v. Texas*, this sodomy case found that there was no constitutional right to private homosexual acts. In a 5-4 ruling, the majority said the “right of privacy” under the Due Process Clause does not give homosexuals the right to engage in sodomy.

Romer v. Evans (1996) Colorado’s Amendment 2 was struck down in a 6-3 decision. The amendment had denied gays and lesbians protections against discrimination, but Justice Anthony Kennedy stated, “We find nothing special in the protections Amendment 2 withholds. These protections... constitute ordinary civil life in a free society.”

Boy Scouts of America v Dale (2000) Like *Bowers v. Hardwick*, this decision proved a setback for the gay-rights movement. In yet another 5-4 ruling, SCOTUS found that that Boy Scouts of America have a constitutional right to ban gays.

Lawrence v. Texas (2003) This case overruled the earlier *Bowers v. Hardwick* decision in a 5-4 vote. Justice Kennedy wrote of the overturned Texas sodomy law, “The state cannot demean their [gays] existence or control their destiny by making their private sexual conduct a crime.”

United States v. Windsor (2013) The 1996 Defense of Marriage Act was found unconstitutional in this 5-4 decision. It was ruled that DOMA violated the rights of gays and lesbians, and that the law interfered with states’ rights to define marriage. This case was the first specific “gay marriage” case to face the Supreme Court.

Hollingsworth v. Perry (2013) This decision overturned California’s controversial state ban on same-sex marriage: Proposition 8. The ruling would allow same-sex couples to marry in California, though it did not affect other states with bans.

1958: Gay Press Wins In SCOTUS’ First-Ever Pro-Gay Ruling ONE Magazine v. The U.S. Post Office

BY JAN STEVENSON

On Jan. 13, 1958, the U.S. Supreme Court delivered its first ever pro-gay ruling in *ONE Inc. v. Olesen*, a landmark decision that allowed a magazine for gays and lesbians to be sent through the U.S. mail.

ONE, Inc. was founded by four Los Angeles Mattachine Society members who set out to pioneer a strong nationwide voice for education and advocacy. According to ONE, Inc.’s articles of incorporation, “...the specific and primary purposes ... are to publish and disseminate a magazine dealing primarily with homosexuality from the scientific, historical and critical point of view, and to aid in the social integration and rehabilitation of the sexual variant.”

ONE debuted in January 1953, and quickly caught the attention gays and lesbians across the country. Circulation jumped to nearly 2,000 within a few months, with most subscribers paying extra to have their magazine delivered in an unmarked wrapper.

ONE’s editorial tone was bold and unapologetic, covering politics, civil rights, legal issues, police harassment, employment and familial problems, and other social, philosophical, historical and psychological topics. Most importantly, ONE quickly became a voice for thousands of gays and lesbians across the U.S., many of whom wrote letters of deep gratitude to ONE’s editors.

ONE magazine filled a void during a harsh time for LGBT people. President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed Executive Order 10450 in April of that year barring gays and lesbians from federal employment with its “sexual perversion” clause. This followed a highly-publicized purge of more than 400 gays and lesbians from the civil service some three years earlier. Homosexuality was criminalized in every state and stigmatized as a mental illness by the psychiatric profession. The FBI launched a vicious crackdown on homosexuality across the U.S., with many gays and lesbians losing their jobs for merely receiving homophile publications in the mail.

ONE immediately caught the eye of

the FBI and they tried to shut it down. But when efforts failed to get the editors fired from their day jobs, the FBI decided to turn the job of shutting down ONE to the U.S. Post Office. In August 1953, postal authorities in Los Angeles held up that month’s issue for three weeks while deciding if it violated federal laws. The cover story for that issue was on “homosexual marriage.” Finally, officials in Washington decided the magazine didn’t

seized the October 1954 issue and charged the editors with violating the 1873 Comstock Act, which prohibited sending “obscene, lewd, and/or lascivious” material through the mail.

As chronicled in *Courting Justice: Gay Men and Lesbians v. the Supreme Court*, by Joyce Murdoch & Deb Price, ONE’s attorney Eric Julber, a young straight lawyer fresh out of law school, took the case for free. He looked for help from the ACLU, but they wouldn’t touch it. The ACLU was still defending anti-sodomy laws at the time. So it was up to young Julber to argue ONE’s case in federal district court arguing that the magazine was educational and not pornographic. It didn’t go well. The judge ruled for the Post Office in March 1956, and the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals agreed in February 1957, calling ONE “morally depraving and debasing” and saying that the magazine “has a primary purpose of exciting lust, lewd and lascivious thoughts and sensual desires in the minds of persons reading it.”

ONE then took its case to the U.S. Supreme Court. To everyone’s surprise, the Court agreed to take the case, its first ever dealing with homosexuality. Even more surprising, the Supreme Court issued its short, one-sentence decision on Jan. 13, 1958 without hearing oral arguments. That decision not only overturned the two lower courts, but the Court expanded the First Amendment’s free speech and press freedoms by effectively limiting the power of the Comstock Act to interfere

with the written word. As a result, lesbian and gay publications could be mailed without legal repercussions, though many continued to experience harassment from the Post Office and U.S. Customs.

True to its educational mission, ONE, Inc. founded the One Institute as an educational arm in 1956. In 1958, the ONE Institute Quarterly became the first academic journal on gay and lesbian studies in America. ONE magazine’s last issue was in 1967. Today, the ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives houses the world’s largest research library on LGBT history near the main campus of the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.



ONE debuted in January 1953, and quickly caught the attention gays and lesbians across the country. Circulation jumped to nearly 2,000 within a few months, with most subscribers paying extra to have their magazine delivered in an unmarked wrapper. The F.B.I. tried to shut the publication down and the case would eventually reach the U.S. Supreme Court.

violate federal laws and ordered the L.A. Post Office to release it for shipment.

The next attack came from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Alexander Wiley (R-WI), who wrote a letter of “vigorous protest against the use of the United States mails to transmit a so-called ‘magazine’ devoted to the advancement of sexual perversions.” Allowing a homosexual magazine to operate, he wrote, “(a) runs utterly contrary to every moral principle, (b) runs utterly contrary to our intentions to safeguard our nation’s youngsters, (c) likewise, it is the very opposite of the entire purpose of our governmental security program...”

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Signorile Speaks On Future Of LGBT Activism

BY TODD HEYWOOD

Gay rights activist, author and radio show host Michelangelo Signorile is not known for being a wallflower when it comes to LGBT equality issues. The former editor of Out Magazine gave birth to the construct of “outing” – revealing that certain people, usually conservative politicians, are engaged in same-sex sexual activity while opposing LGBT equality – and helped organize the public relations around some of the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power’s (ACT UP) most public protests, including one at the National Institutes of Health in May of 1990.

Now he is turning his pen and voice to the very community he has fought for for decades. In his new book, “It’s Not Over,” Signorile makes a compelling case that while wins for marriage equality have been astonishingly quick and overwhelming, the vast majority of LGBT equality issues, such as prohibiting discrimination in housing and employment, remain unfilled. He worries that “victory blindness” – a phrase he has coined to indicate that some see the likely Supreme Court ruling in favor of marriage rights for same-sex couples as evidence that all equality for the LGBT community will follow swiftly – has stopped many from seeing the growing backlash, under the guise of religious liberty laws and exemptions; as well as prohibiting some from seeing that LGBT equality still has not met many national benchmarks.

“It’s really a term I found myself using after seeing how for the past few years, we would see these great victories – and we’ve had enormous strikes, there’s no question about it,” Signorile said in a phone interview. “We’ve made history in such a short period of time. But I started to see that as we were celebrating these victories, there was an increasing disconnect between them and the facts on the ground, the discrimination that people were still experiencing.”

Experiences such as being thrown out of public spaces, employment discrimination and the continued epidemic of suicides by young LGBT – and mostly transgender – teens in the U.S., he said.

“We tend to focus on the victory almost as a salve, to blunt the bad news in a way,” he said. “We are a people who have been demonized, vilified, invisible for so long, only to find our voice and then be decimated by an epidemic. I think the victor started to be spelling binding and exhilarating – as they should be. But they shouldn’t have us lose sight

of the entrenched homophobia that’s still out there.”

As Signorile watched the nation move with lightning speed towards marriage equality, he said he also noticed a growing chorus of voices encouraging LGBT activists to be less celebratory with each win. He pointed to a column by David Brooks, in the New York Times, after wins in Indiana to overcome so-called religious liberty laws in that state. In that piece, Brooks encouraged the community and supporters to “lower your tone,” and noted, “You’re winning.”

That’s a dangerous move, Signorile argues.

“I think that’s just a real trap because it allows the backlash to grow,” he said. “It allows our enemies to exploit that idea.”

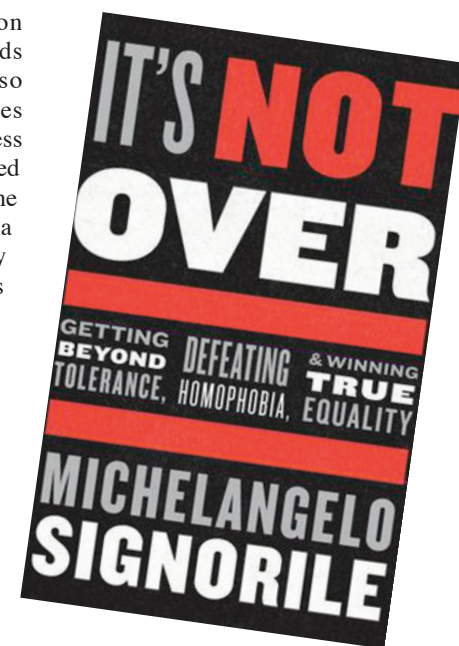
And opponents of LGBT equality are exploiting the idea. He points to recent battles over a state law provision in Arkansas which would strip local governments of the ability to adopt more restrictive nondiscrimination laws. The law was passed without much of a public fight, or public controversy, Signorile notes,



In his new book, “It’s Not Over,” Michaelangelo Signorile makes a compelling case that while wins for marriage equality have been astonishingly quick and overwhelming, the vast majority of LGBT equality issues, such as prohibiting discrimination in housing and employment, remain unfilled.

while so-called Religious Freedom Restoration Act legislation was vetoed after an outcry from national and local leaders.

Michigan’s House adopted a similar provision to limit local laws, however, it amended the legislation to exclude nondiscrimination laws. Currently, unless a person lives in one of the nearly 40 municipalities in the state which prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, it is legal to fire a person for being gay or transgender. The Michigan Senate, on the same day the Supreme Court heard oral arguments on Michigan’s same-sex marriage ban, held hearings to adopt a so-called Religious Freedom Restoration Act here. It did not get a vote and is pending in the Senate Judiciary



Committee, while GOP leaders negotiate with Gov. Rick Snyder over the legislation. He has said it should only come to his desk if paired with an

expansion of the state’s civil rights law which includes the LGBT community.


Combating the pushback, and driving for a full menu of equality measures for the LGBT community, requires more than piecemeal actions with exemptions “to the very people who would harm us” as the federal Employment Nondiscrimination Act (ENDA) would do, he argued. That law would allow exemptions based on religious beliefs.

“We should follow the marriage equality path, which was, ‘Ask for something big, captivate the public,’” Signorile said. “You don’t look like you really want your rights when asking for just a little bit. When you’re saying we need full equality, you are taken seriously. Yes, you’ll have pushback, but you are not seen as someone who will settle.”

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Supreme Court Upholds Health Insurance Subsidies Critical To People With HIV

BY LISA KEEN

The U.S. Supreme Court, in a 6 to 3 decision, upheld the right of the federal government to provide health care insurance subsidies to people with low income in states that have chosen not to participate in the Affordable Care Act by setting up insurance “exchanges.”

The decision, written by Chief Justice John Roberts, is a big political victory for the Obama administration and a big relief for people with low incomes, including many people with HIV. Lambda Legal, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, the National Center for Lesbian Rights joined briefs to the court urging it to uphold the subsidies.

The decision, *King v. Burwell*, upheld a decision from the Fourth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals that said the federal government’s subsidies to people with low incomes in all 50 states was consistent with the intent Congress had in passing the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Lambda, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, and other LGBT groups filed a brief urging the Supreme Court to uphold the lower court decision. The brief led by Lambda said that withholding the subsidies from people in the states that did not participate in ACA would “lead to an absurd and catastrophic public health result, especially in the context of HIV...”

Justices Anthony Kennedy, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor, and Elena Kagan joined the Chief Justice in the majority opinion.

Justice Antonin Scalia wrote the dissent, which was joined by Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito.

President Obama signed the Affordable Care Act into law in 2010 with the aim of providing health care insurance for all citizens. One aspect of the law required states to create health insurance “exchanges” through which citizens could do comparative shopping and find coverage they could afford. If states decided against creating their own exchange, the law provided for the federal government to set up an exchange for citizens in those states.

The ACA also provided for the federal government to provide subsidies for citizens with low incomes through the exchanges. Opponents of the ACA challenged those subsidies, saying the law meant them to be provided only through state-established exchanges, not through federal exchanges. A conflict arose over the law’s stipulation that the subsidy depended in part on whether the “applicable taxpayer” sought insurance through “an Exchange established by the state...” In writing the regulations to implement the ACA, the Internal Revenue Service said the subsidies were available to a taxpayer who enrolled through “an Exchange,”

Scott Schoettes, HIV Project Director for Lambda, called the majority decision “great news,” saying it protects “access for all” to health insurance, “including people living with HIV who are low-income, rural, southern, Black, and were - before the Affordable Care Act - largely uninsured.”

whether it was established by the state or the federal government.

The majority said “State Exchanges and Federal Exchanges are equivalent...”

“If a State chooses not to follow the directive in [the ACA] that it establish an Exchange, the Act tells the Secretary [of Health and Human Services] to establish ‘such Exchange.’ And by using the words ‘such Exchange,’ the Act indicates that State and Federal Exchanges should be the same,” wrote Chief Justice Roberts.

Justice Scalia called that conclusion “absurd” because “The Secretary of Health and Human Services is not a State.”

Scott Schoettes, HIV Project Director for Lambda, called the majority decision “great news,” saying it protects “access for all” to health insurance, “including people living with HIV who are low-income, rural, southern, Black, and were - before the Affordable Care Act - largely uninsured.”

“No one should be put at greater risk to the ravages of HIV simply because they live in one of the 34 states choosing not to set up its own health insurance exchange,” said Schoettes. Lambda noted that, when ACA was enacted in 2010, “only 17 percent of people living with HIV had private health insurance.” Schoettes said that, while Lambda doesn’t have statistics on the change since ACA, “we know that it has increased substantially, because we know that there are lots of people enrolled through the exchanges today that were not previously able to obtain private health insurance.”

The brief noted that the rate of uninsured LGBT adults with low income went down by eight percentage points during the first year of ACA enrollment.

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Continued from p. 27

are a few couples that I've spoken to who are surprised at how few rights they have. And that is always surprising for me. It's partially because I eat, sleep and breathe this stuff that I'm completely marinated in it.

What would you say is the hardest part of your job?

It is really difficult to see certain people actively working against the progress that we've made. It's difficult to see bills like the adoption RFRA being passed and to hear the words that are spoken by our elected officials who are supporting this. I know people who are impacted by these laws. I've spoken to them. I've seen their children; I've looked into these children's faces. To think that they might not have that life or the chance to have those parents — it's heartbreaking to hear people talking about our families that way.

What are you going to do after marriage equality?

There is still a lot to be tackled. There are still non-discrimination protections, defending against additional RFRA's and defeating the RFRA's that have already been passed and signed into law. In terms of my line of work that I really love doing, I am happy that I

will have a job. I am unhappy that my job is needed. But I am going to continue working to put myself out of business.

What would you say to members of the LGBT community who don't believe the most important issue for LGBT people is marriage equality?

I can understand why marriage equality might not be important to certain members; however, the fact of the matter is that we can do work on more than one issue. If we are truly going to be working at the intersections, then we need to be working on non-discrimination, youth homelessness, hate crimes, police brutality and economic injustice, and we need to be working on all of those things alongside marriage equality. And so, I don't think that you can really pull them apart. The conversations that I've had with couples tell me that they aren't that far apart because the same people who are striving to make ends meet also feel that their lives would be a little better if they could get married and wouldn't have to worry about health insurance on a joint plan opposed to an individual plan. You can't pick one issue out and say this is the most important issue, because they're all the most important issue. We are not going to advance unless we are always keeping those other issues in mind.

There is still a lot to be tackled. There are still non-discrimination protections, defending against additional RFRA's and defeating the RFRA's that have already been passed and signed into law.

How does the Supreme Court decision affect you personally?

I have a fifth and final wedding ceremony to plan. My partner and I have been together for 14.5 years, we have a domestic partnership from Cook County from 2005, a civil union from New Jersey from 2007, a church wedding in Illinois from 2008 and a domestic partnership in East Lansing from 2013, but we are single in the state of Michigan. We've been saying that the fifth time is the charm.

What are the major changes that will affect couples as a result of an affirming decision from SCOTUS?

So, there are all these rights and benefits that come along with marriage. And those are great, those are icing on the cake. But more so than that, it's going to be that affirmation that you are not less than. That the state does actually have to recognize your family and

that your family is recorded in the history books as being together. That you have come together and made this public commitment of responsibility and love. That is huge. I've heard from so many people who have been together for so long and didn't think that getting married was going to be a big deal. And then as the clerk was saying, 'I now pronounce you married,' they started crying and had no idea why. It's because it's a big deal. It's a really big deal.

Any Additional Thoughts?

I'd like to thank not just April (DeBoer) and Jayne (Rowse) and the legal team who have spent the last three years of their lives going through this battle, but I'd like to thank the other hands, heads and hearts in this battle that have come before. I think about the gentleman who lost his partner on the anniversary of the marriage decision, and I think about the people who have been doing this for 43 years and I know that I wouldn't be here without them. And I know that we collectively wouldn't be here without them. I am so grateful that I have been allowed to work with some of the big names, minds and hearts of the LGBT equality movement.

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Jackie Collins Dishes On Grindr, Closeted Hollywood Stars & Caitlyn Jenner

BY LAWRENCE FERBER

Novelist Jackie Collins may kick ass and take names, but she certainly knows how to keep those names secret... or at least thinly-veiled in her books.

"As long as I change the names to protect the not-so-innocent, I can basically write about anything," she chimes, "and I do."

The UK-born Collins has mined Hollywood's labyrinths of secrets and scandal (and gays!) while researching and writing her litany of 30-plus books. "The Santangelos" (\$27.99, St. Martin's Press) – the latest and ninth entry in her series revolving around powerful gangster's daughter, Lucky Santangelo, and her family – sees a major character meet a gruesome end. Collins promises "secrets, revenge, murder, and of course sex, and that's just the first few chapters."

Speaking by phone from her Los Angeles home, the ever-saucy Collins dished about her book, helping gay friends use Grindr, closeted Hollywood stars and Caitlyn Jenner.

How has Lucky changed since you last wrote her exploits in 2013's "Confessions of a Wild Child"?

Well, she's a little calmer. She's still wanting to do everything herself and does. She's had a phase in her life where she had kids, they're grown; she's still with Lenny, her fabulous filmmaker husband, and they aren't on top of each other unless having tantric sex. She's changed in the way she can deal with things without getting out of control.

And there's a murder!

There is. A very gruesome murder, indeed. I like drama. I like bringing in new characters, so there's a new fabulous drug

dealer, Alejandro, and he runs a very sleazy nightclub in Hollywood and his father is one of the chief drug lords in Columbia. I think it's a very epic book because it brings one of the characters to an end and it sets up Lucky's children as my new heroes.

What about new LGBT characters?

I've always written gay characters. Lesbian, bisexual, whatever's going on, that's the kind of world I live in, so I write it. Lucky's assistant is gay, and he's been in several books now and got married to his boyfriend, but they're not major characters this time. We don't have a lot of new gay characters in the book but we're going to have plenty in the next. We're even going to have a transsexual or two.

Would you put a thinly-veiled version of Caitlyn

Jenner in there, perhaps? What are your thoughts on the Jenner affair?

Everybody is politically correct about it, and I think it's great she feels free enough to come out. It's sad she didn't do it maybe 20 years ago instead of hiding her real self, but I think it's a very brave thing to do and I think the Vanity Fair photos are majorly glamorous and look like something out of a Marilyn Monroe pin-up. In fact, I think I've seen Marilyn Monroe in that bathing suit. It's interesting, watching how people react to it in the media, because I think it was Jon Stewart who said now that she's a woman she's going to be criticized for her looks all the time. But I think she's looking amazing.

Would you ever write a fictionalized novel about the entire Kardashian clan?

I'm writing three books at the moment – a

serial killer book, a sequel to “The Power Trip,” and I’m still working on “Reform School or Hollywood,” my autobiography. If I had time I think it would be fun to do. I might (write it) as a tongue-in-cheek novel.

Are you looking forward to the moment that same-sex marriage is finally legal across every state in the U.S.?

Yeah, but I never stopped writing about gay characters. I think to delve into the fact they’re getting married and divorced, quite quickly I might add, will be very interesting and a good plotline to come up with.

Some of the first same-sex married couples have in fact already gotten divorced.

I know. They didn’t realize how lucky they had it before! (Laughs) If you’re with a partner and you’re not inclined to get married and they go, “We can get married now!” the partner’s going, “Shit, I didn’t want to get married.” They’re going to have all the problems single heterosexuals had.

Any updates regarding film versions of your books? I understand “The Power Trip,” which featured a pair of gay protagonists, is in some stage of development.

I’m getting lots of interest from the studios, so I’m hoping it will come off, but it’s development hell. I’m also working on getting “The Bitches of Beverly Hills,” which is a short story I put up on my website for free, and it’s very funny and I would love to see that made into a tongue-in-cheek movie. I’m also working on getting a movie of “The Love Killers.”

You’ve been writing books with steamy sexual content for years. Did you have any writer’s envy about “50 Shades of Grey” and its juggernaut success? Did you read it?

I read the first one. I don’t get writer’s envy. It sounds like penis envy. I think they’re wringing the life out of this series. Do we really care about his point of view now? If that’s what turns people on! But this goes way back to the ‘50s, with books like “The Story of O” and “Tropic of Capricorn.” Those were all about chains and spanking and dungeons. It’s nothing new. But I prefer my sex served by women who kick ass and don’t get their asses kicked.

Would you ever write a “50 Shades of Gay”?

When it first came out I was tempted. It would have been hilarious, but a lot of people were doing parodies and I thought, no. I would have posted it online – I love posting something for free online so people can read it.

The Duggars – any thoughts on the brouhaha?

It’s interesting, because I’m a pop culture junkie and watch everything. When I watched the shows, even before this happened, the moment they say the word “Duggars” I wind down. I thought, “Who is this boring family

with 8,000 kids?” I’m totally uninterested in them! Then this scandal happened and it’s like, “Oh yeah, there’s always something hidden under the blanket so to speak.” It’s very hypocritical that they should come forward with these messages about how you’ve got to behave and they knew all this time they had this son with this problem. I’m completely not interested in them.

Are there any closeted Hollywood actors that, if we learned the truth, it would actually make us drop our jaws? Dish!

I heard there are two very handsome leading men married to beautiful women who are very into getting it on on the side when nobody is watching. I built 32 books on never revealing actual names, although I know where a lot of bodies are buried because people tell me things! Drivers, makeup artists, stylists – they’re always ready to spill the beans on who’s nice, who’s not nice, who’s getting a blowjob on the set while their wife is in the dressing room – and I mean a male blowjob! I have so many gay friends and all of my gay friends think every man they meet is dying to jump into bed with them. They go, “Yeah, he’s secretly gay.” Every man can’t be secretly gay!

Grindr is very helpful for determining that.

I have a gay friend and he wasn’t on Grindr, and he asked, “Why should I be on it?” and I said, “You’re looking for somebody so we’ll put you on Grindr.” We were at a restaurant with a woman friend of mine from New York and we put it on his phone and he scrawled through and sees this gorgeous guy and I said, “All you have to do is swipe him and see where he is.” The guy on Grindr goes, “I’m very close,” and we’re all excited. So, I hand the photo of the guy to my friend and she looks at it and goes, “Holy shit, that’s my driver – he’s right outside the restaurant!” That’s a true story. I couldn’t make it up.

Have you ever ghost Grindr’d and actually texted on someone’s behalf to hook them up?

No, but I’d be good at it. I had a couple of gay friends who would go to Santa Barbara on weekends. They seemed to be getting a bit jaded in their relationship, so I came along one weekend and we were having dinner in a restaurant and I said, “Boys, before you go upstairs, I’m going to give you your instructions.” I gave them explicit instructions on roleplaying. One was going to be a FedEx delivery guy and the other was going to be an out-of-work cop. They came down the next morning and said, “We had the best night; thanks so much!”

Getting back to women who kick asses – are you looking forward to voting for Hilary Clinton in 2016?

I would vote for a woman, not particularly that woman. (But I would love) a female president. That would be great because we’d have the best of both worlds.

Happy Pride!

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The Frivolist



25 Perfect Summer Songs For Your Poolside Playlist

BY MIKEY ROX

Slip on your swimsuit, break out the blender and pump up the jams. Today you're kickin' it poolside with a freshly selected and eclectic playlist that screams fun in the sun.

'Summertime,' DJ Jazzy Jeff & The Fresh Prince

There's not a chance in hell you'll make it to Labor Day without this warm-weather classic infiltrating your ears. That goes double if you run in hipster circles where early-'90s nostalgia is all the rage. (You can thank BuzzFeed for that.)

'Amber,' 311

Laid back with reggae roots, this turn-of-the-century love note to Nicole Scherzinger remains 311's most popular song, despite it never cracking the Top 10.

'Fly,' Sugar Ray

Remember the time that Mark McGrath's SoCal surfer-meets-rockstar style made your loins quiver. That's a statement, not a question.

'Summer Girls,' Lyte Funkie Ones

The song is nonsensical and juvenile – but that's precisely what made it so popular the summer of '99. You're welcome, Abercrombie & Fitch.

'Jamaican Betel Nut,' Amit

Aside from the hook (an encouraging "Get up! Stand up!") and a reference to Bob Marley, the lyrics to this genre-bending T-Pop song are in Thai. But that's OK – because it's the beat that'll have you like, "Where the beach party at?"



'Good People,' Jack Johnson

J.J. asks, "Where'd all the good people go?" Put your phone down and acquaint yourself with a few that are near you.

'Summer of '69,' Bryan Adams

You may not remember it – for one of many reasons – but the summer of '69 had a lion's share of awesomeness. From the moon landing to Woodstock – and this quintessential summer song that captures the innocence of American adolescence –

it's no wonder why Adams belted out that this was "the best day of my life."

'One Love,' Lucky Dube

Life would be so much sweeter if we lived in a world according to Lucky Dube.

'Life in the Fast Lane,' Eagles

Enjoy the summer at a slower pace? Nah – that's what winter is for.

'Lovely Day,' Bill Withers

If you're by the pool with your besties, it is.

'Kokomo,' Beach Boys

You didn't think I'd create a sunshine-y playlist without the Beach Boys, did you? While "Kokomo" and its promises of "bodies in the sand, tropical drink melting in your hand" top our list of BB faves, close runners up include "Good Vibrations," "Surfin' U.S.A.," and (the likely relatable) "I Get Around."

'Shut Up and Dance,' Walk the Moon

Do what they say and nobody gets hurts.

'Can't Deny My Love,' Brandon Flowers

Admittedly there's somewhat of a stalker-ish vibe to this '80s-tinged lead single from Flowers' second studio album, but we've all been there. Especially when you're

See Frivolist, page 51

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Michigan Artist Earns Award, Will Be Featured In ArtWorks

Tony Roko was named Best Fine Artist by the readers of Hour Detroit magazine in its 2015 "Best of Detroit" contest. Roko also won the Best Fine Artist nod from the magazine in 2014.

Born Antoni Roko Ivezaj, Tony was the first Natural American Citizen in his family, which migrated from a refugee camp in Rome. English being Roko's second language, he immediately knew he had to rely on mannerisms and other non-verbal cues to gauge the orientation and sentiment of others.

At the age of 19, Roko went to work on the assembly line of Ford Motor Company. As a kid, he was always painting and drawing, a habit he took with him to the line. On his breaks, he would sketch in his notebook, sometimes making portraits of his co-workers. The union representatives and management took notice, pulled him aside and asked if he'd like to be part of a plant beautification project to boost the workers' morale. Roko was put to task, painting portraits and murals on plant walls, based on suggestions from the workers. An auto plant is a hot and gritty place, not exactly ideal conditions for a mural, which is unlikely to stand up to the wear of the environment. To combat this, Roko used materials he found around the factory that had already shown their resistance to such conditions: industrial coatings, auto enamels and scrap wood from pallets. He became the resident



Artist Tony Roko earns top award in Hour Detroit magazine's prestigious annual readers' poll.

artist for Ford and began beautifying other plants in the Detroit area.

Although Roko has since moved from factory floors to gallery walls, he still employs many of the techniques he learned during his years painting in factories, such as working with salvaged paints and woods, while adding floor stain, acrylics, linseed oil, varnish, leftover house paint and old windows to the list of media he works with today. He paints bold portraits of interesting subjects using bright, vivid colors.

Each year, Hour Detroit, metro Detroit's monthly magazine, asks its readers to vote for their favorite local personalities, athletes, businesses, philanthropists, restaurants and more. Readers can vote on ballots placed inside

the March issue of the magazine or at www.hourdetroit.com. Results of the popular contest are revealed in the magazine's June issue.

Roko, who has been commissioned to paint pieces for Lady Gaga, Jay Leno and Ford Motor Company as part of its Centennial Celebration of the Assembly Line, has recently received notoriety for his work, including a piece displayed in the permanent collection of Michigan's Holocaust Memorial Center.

"I'm thrilled to be able to do what I love as a career and honored to be acknowledged by the great people of Detroit and Hour Detroit magazine," says Roko. "Art has changed my life in ways I could have never imagined and I look forward to sharing my work with everyone."

Roko took part in Hour Detroit's Best of Detroit party on June 19 at Motor City Casino Hotel in Detroit. His work will be featured at the 20th Anniversary of ArtWorks Detroit Sept. 17, an event that benefits Ferndale's Michigan AIDS Coalition. Roko's work will also be on display at ArtPrize, an independently organized international art competition in Grand Rapids held Sept. 23-Oct. 11. His work is on display now at Lafontsee Galleries in Grand Rapids.

For more information, visit www.lafontsee.us. To learn more about Hour Detroit's Best of Detroit party, visit www.hourdetroit.com. To find out more about Tony Roko, please visit www.tonyroko.com.

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All-Male Production Of Wilde Play Comes To Slipstream

After a critically acclaimed and intensely bloody run of “Hamlet,” Slipstream Theatre Initiative says “goodbye” to death and “hello” to marriage in the most wickedly funny way!

“The Importance of Being Earnest,” by Oscar Wilde, features an all-male cast, is set in the deep South (Atlanta and Willacoochie, to be exact) and takes you on a thrill ride of side splitting laughter and a journey from the city to the country – quite literally. Filled with all the form and wit of Wilde’s original text and combined with the charm and hospitality of southerners, this “Earnest” takes every stab at marriage and society possible, and leaves no comic stone unturned. It promises to have you rolling on the floor... or at least wanting to take a ride in Lady Bracknell’s Hoveround!

This is Slipstream’s sixth and next to last show of their first season.

The show, which runs through July 7, paired with The Trevor Project for this production in Slipstream’s custom of “sharing is caring.” The Trevor Project, known for its nationwide work helping to prevent teen suicide in LGBTQ Youth, is also the creator of the “It Gets Better” Campaign, which features established and proud LGBTQ adults proclaiming the many ways life gets better, including

marriage equality.

It’s Pride season, and marriage equality is at a peak in international headlines. This production (though presented as an uproarious satire, as Wilde intended),

After a critically acclaimed and intensely bloody run of “Hamlet,” Slipstream Theatre Initiative says “goodbye” to death and “hello” to marriage.

dives deeply into the definition(s) of marriage and why the struggle for marriage equality in American society seems to be such an extraordinary battle. So bring some sweet tea, a couple of muffins and come “Bunburying.”

The cast features founding company member Steve Xander Carson as Algernon, Slipstream’s Artistic Director Bailey Boudreau as Cecily, Slipstream regular

Graham Todd as Mr. Jack Worthing, new company member Patrick Flanagan as Gwendolyn, founding company member and Slipstream’s Technical Director Ryan Ernst as Lane/Merriman, Wayne State graduate Carl Bentley as Miss Prism, the ever hilarious founding board member Jay Jolliffe as Dr. Chausible and founding company member & Metro Detroit Theatre regular Richard Payton in the coveted role of Lady Bracknell.

The production is directed by Slipstream’s Associate Artistic Director Luna Alexander (right off her triumphant run as Hamlet) and founding company member Eglá Kishta (coming off her highly acclaimed runs of Ophelia in “Hamlet” and Nora in “A Doll’s House”) as Assistant Director. Costumes and props are by Bailey Boudreau. Technical Direction is by Ryan Ernst.

The all-male play is presented with no intermission at Slipstream’s Summer Home: 20937 John R. Road in Hazel Park. All tickets are \$10 in advance only and all performances are at 7 p.m. Seating is limited and no walk-ins will be permitted. Run time for the play is 85 minutes.

Reserve tickets at www.SlipstreamTI.com or by emailing InsideTheSlipstream@gmail.com with a requested date.

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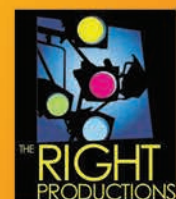


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Editor's Pick



Boy George's famous '80s band is coming to Ontario for a special concert at Caesars Windsor. One of the most successful and globally recognized musical groups of the '80s, Boy George and Culture Club are set to perform live for the first time on the Colosseum stage this August.

For the first time in more than 14 years, all of the original band members – Boy George, Mikey Craig, Roy Hay and Jon Moss – will take the

stage. Look for some of their greatest hits and new original songs, including favourites “Do You Really Want to Hurt Me,” “Karma Chameleon,” “Church of the Poison Mind,” “Miss Me Blind” and more.

Culture Club will perform at 9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7. Tickets start at \$55 Canadian. Caesars Windsor is located at 377 Riverside Dr. E., Windsor, ON, Canada. For more information, visit www.caesars.com/caesars-windsor.

Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, June 25

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 www.lrwg.research.umich.edu/events/exhibitions.html

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 www.bak-inc.com

S3safesexstore.com

Artist-guided tour of one-woman art show - Fun and interesting! FREE (Registration requested) Sophie Grillet's one-woman show with more than 30 paintings and several 3D pieces runs through June 25. Dexter District Library, 3255 Alpine St., **Dexter**. 734-757-3717. www.Sophieartist.com/#/dexter-library-show/cx/bd

Saturday, June 27

Holland Area Pride Featuring: Amy Armstrong & Freddy Allen, comedians Poppy Champlin and Scott Duff, Nobody's Darlin', Maciek the Magician, Motif, MSU Accafellas and a drag show. **Holland Pride, Holland**. www.Hollandareapride.com

LAAN Red Party 18+. For National Testing Day. Lansing Area AIDS Network, 1247 Center St., **Lansing**. 517-894-1315. www.Spiraldancebar.com

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

Flint Pride in the Park Suggested donation: \$5. Flint Pride in the Park, **Flint**. 810-232-0888. tspringer@wellnessaids.org

MIC 8th Annual Boat Cruise and Tea Dance 1 p.m. 21+. Tickets: \$25. Motown Invitational Classic, Jefferson Ave./Joseph Campau St., **Detroit**. 313-727-4101. www.Mictournament.org

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

Monday, June 29

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, June 30

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

Thursday, July 2

MAC Health 11 p.m. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), **Detroit**. www.Michiganaidcoalition.org

Monday, July 6

Lansing Capital Roller Derby Summer Boot Camp 6 p.m. Six week, 12 session Roller Derby basic skills training boot camp. \$60 due day 1 of camp, accepting cash or check. Open to both men and women. Lansing Capital Roller Derby, 7868 Old M-78, **East Lansing**. lcrdbbootcamp@mittenmavens.net www.Mittenmavens.net/join/bootcamp

Tuesday, July 7

MAC Health 2 p.m. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), **Detroit**. www.Michiganaidcoalition.org

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. www.Leonandlulu.com/girlsnightout

The Importance of Being Earnest 7 p.m. Tickets: \$10. Slipstream, 20937 John R. Road, **Hazel Park**. www.Slipstreamti.com

Wednesday, July 8

MAC Health 6 p.m. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.Michiganaidcoalition.org

Thursday, July 9

MAC Health 2 p.m. Mondays by appointment only. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), **Ferndale**. www.Michiganaidcoalition.org

MAC Health 11 p.m. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), 928 McNichols Road

W, **Detroit**. 313-863-3934. www.Michiganaidcoalition.org

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Comedy

Laugh It Off “LAUGH IT OFF COMEDY SHOW” Tickets: \$8-10. Laugh It Off, LAUGH IT OFF COMEDY SHOW, 2652 LOON LAKE ROAD WIXOM MI 48383.. 8:30 a.m. June 26. 248-821-7288.

Concerts

Ann Arbor Summer Festival “Ingrid Michaelson” Tickets: \$30-45. Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 Fletcher St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. June 25. 734-764-2538. www.A2sf.org

Ann Arbor Summer Festival “Robert Randolph and the Family Band” Tickets: \$30-35. Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 Fletcher St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. June 28. 734-764-2538. www.A2sf.org

Olympia Entertainment “Brian Wilson “No Pier Pressure Tour””. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. July 5. 313-471-6611. www.Olympiaentertainment.com

Olympia Entertainment “Jimmy Buffett”. West Riverfront Park, **Detroit**. 8 p.m. June 25. www.Olympiaentertainment.com

Quicken Loans “Free Summer in the Parks” Running through Sept. 2, will be held in: Campus Martius/Cadillac Square, Capitol Park, Grand Circus and Paradise Valley. Four historic parks, **Detroit**. June 4 - Sep. 2.

The Ark “Ashley MacIsaac” Tickets: \$26. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. July 1. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

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The Ark "Ana Popovic" Tickets: \$18. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 29. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

The Ark "Dave Mason's Traffic Jam" Tickets: \$45-195. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 27. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

The Ark "Ben Lee" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. July 3. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

The Ark "Charlie Parr" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 30. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

The Ark "Amy Speace & Michael

McDermott" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. June 28. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

The Ark "Gedeon Luke & The People" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 25. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

The Ark "An Open Book an evening with Justin Furstenfeld of Blue October w/sg Ashleigh Stone" Tickets: \$30. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 26. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

The Magic Bag "Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes" Tickets: \$25. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave.,

Ferndale. 8 p.m. June 25. 248-544-3030. www.Themagicbag.com

Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan State University "Joshua Davis and Steppin' In It" Tickets: \$28-53. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan State University, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. June 26. 800-WHARTON. www.Whartoncenter.com

Festivals

Ann Arbor Summer Festival "Ann Arbor Summer Festival" A variety of entertainment, themes and more

See Happenings, page 48

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Editor's Pick



The Lansing Mitten Mavens are sponsoring a basic skills boot camp for both men and women this summer. The six-week, 12-session camp will feature separate training sessions for men and women. There is no experience necessary to participate.

After completion of full boot camp, a minimum skills test will be taken. Those who pass will be eligible for full contact with either the Women's Flat Track team

(Lansing Mitten Mavens) or Men's Flat Track team (Lansing Michigan Manhandlers). Both teams are part of the Lansing Capital Roller Derby league. All participants are eligible to become LCRD members and begin to pay dues. Participants who do not pass can continue to practice and work towards completing skills with LCRD teams, and take skills test again during next testing cycle. LCRD has a rolling admissions policy and typically re-test skaters who have not yet passed 2-4 times per year.

The boot camp will run for two hours from 6 p.m. Mondays and 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays. The summer session runs until Aug. 3. Training sessions are \$60 (in cash or check) due at day one of camp. For more information, email lcrdbootcamp@mittenmavens.net.



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Bookmarks Why Gay Press (Still) Matters

BY KEITH ORR

A vibrant gay literary culture requires four elements: authors, readers, publishers and bookstores. This column regularly deals with the first two, and occasionally with the last. However, the forgotten third element of publishing is critical. Major houses regularly publish fiction by authors who have acquired a mainstream audience such as Michael Cunningham or Dan Savage. But they are less likely to take a chance on a debut novel or a poet whose bibliography consists of chapbooks.

Enter the need for LGBT presses. Literary gay presses have been around since at least 1977 when Felice Picano formed SeaHorse Press. Many great ones have come and gone: Alyson, Naiad and Firebrand to name a few. Over the next few months I'll be looking at some of the survivors and some of the newcomers.

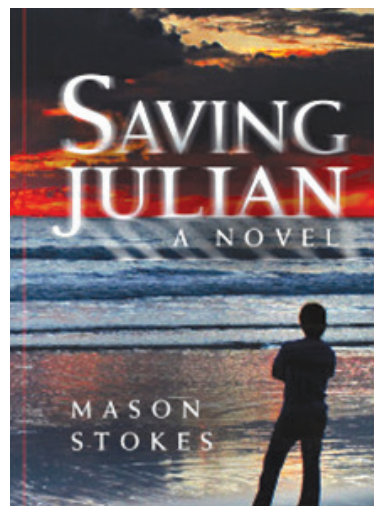
Wilde City Press has been one of the more prolific new presses. Gay romance and gay erotica were their first niches. They have since gained a reputation for mainstream gay literature with works like "Looking After Joey," the latest novel from Lambda Award Winner David Pratt, and Mark Abramson's Memoir, "Sex, Drugs, and Disco: San Francisco Diaries" from the pre-AIDS era.

There are very few presses which cross the continuum of lesbian, bisexual, transgender and gay men. Wilde City is primarily a gay press. (I'll be looking at other presses in coming months.) In the tradition of Felice Picano, the founders of Wilde City, and most of these presses, are authors who see a need not being met by mainstream presses. Geoffrey Knight and Ethan Day founded the press in 2013 to meet such a need.

'Saving Julian' by Mason Stokes

"Saving Julian" is the story of three men: Paul Drucker, Julian and Aaron. Aaron is a grad student who needs a roommate. Instead of the usual fellow grad student he comes across Julian. Julian is an escort who gets hired by Paul Drucker, famous leader of an ex-gay ministry. Incredibly, Julian is hired to carry Drucker's luggage. Nonetheless, when the press discover them travelling together, the story gets complicated. Julian has great sympathy for Drucker, perhaps because he treats him as a human being instead of a sex object, a unique experience for him.

Aaron is puzzled by it all and joins Drucker's class, ostensibly to cure himself of Same Sex Affective Disorder



(SADD), but actually he's there to study Drucker. Though Aaron can't remember the last time he had sex, his attendance in Drucker's class ends up creating sexual fireworks.

While the title suggests that Drucker is trying to save Julian from his gay lifestyle, it is just as true that Aaron is trying to save Julian from Drucker. The story line would be easy fodder for slapstick. Instead Stokes infuses the characters with humanity which would make slapstick ring false. While there is plenty of humor, the book is a darkly comic take on the world of ex-gay ministries.

'I'm The Guy You Hate' by Isa K

Your boyfriend is kinda crazy. It's a bit about commitment issues, or perhaps even commitment to a sexual orientation issue. But a lot of people have these issues. And you love him. All of your friends tell you he's crazy. But you love him.

But it turns out they are correct. It turns out he is mentally ill and is temporarily institutionalized after a very public suicide attempt. Your attentions may be making his condition worse. All of the people around the man you love treat him horribly. They only see what they distrust and dislike, unable to see that mental illness is at the heart of their hatred.



This is not an easy book to read. The author even states in a blog entry, "Obviously I was aware of the fact that the two

[main characters] were going to be difficult to like ... I mean, the title of the book is 'I'm The Guy You Hate.' Come on."

This is the life of Jonathan Ordell, PR guy by day and writer behind "Dear Fairy Gaymother" by night. However, Jonathan is not very good at taking the advice he dishes out.

Wilde City

Both of these books would have a hard time getting attention at Simon & Schuster or Penguin, but they are well served by Wilde City. Again from Isa K's blog:

"I'm The Guy You Hate' is M/M, it has some erotica in it, but it is fundamentally a book about mental illness and so I knew I couldn't send it to my normal editor because I knew they would want to stick a naked, headless torso on the cover. I felt pretty strongly that wasn't appropriate and I just didn't want to fight about it. So I went about looking for another publisher."

Those of us in the queer/LGBT community know we don't always fit in society the way society would like us to. Our authors are also part of a separate gay culture and need publishers which recognize their unique qualities.



See Mason Stokes at Common Language July 9

Keith Orr, with his husband Martin Contreras, own and operate Common Language Bookstore (glbtbooks.com). They are hosting Mason Stokes on Thursday, July 9 at 7 p.m. at the bookstore, located at 317 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. For questions call 734-663-0036. Mason Stokes is the author of "Saving Julian," reviewed above, and teaches at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs.

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RGF PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS



► **Frivolist**

Continued from p. 42

crushin' on that lifeguard who's sun-kissed and dripping wet.

'My Type,' **Saint Motel**

Let me guess, your type is the one over there with the beach-blond hair and abs that ripple like steam from a sidewalk. Full of surprises, aren't ya?

'Trap Queen,' **Fetty Wap**

Crank it up in the grotto. You won't regret it.

'Bad Blood,' **Taylor Swift feat. Kendrick Lamar**

Did you really think you'd get through this summer without a T. Swift banger on repeat? Don't resist this remix; submit to the overlords.

'Can't Keep Checking My Phone,' **Unknown Mortal Orchestra**

Make this your motto – stat! Enjoy... your... life... more.

'This Summer's Gonna Hurt,' **Maroon 5**

Skip the track and cue up the Vevo instead. Adam Levine's naked bum makes summer days brighter.

'On the Regular,' **Shamir**

If I had to choose just one song on this list, this would be it – hands down. Energetic, upbeat, sassy and fun, Shamir's "On the Regular"

puts your iPod on lock. Besides, anybody who describes himself as a "musician, comedian, singer, rapper, twerker, chef, writer, filmmaker, tumblr, skinny fat ass" is A-OK in my book.

'The Boys of Summer,' **Don Henley**

Government-mandated listening when the mercury is above 90.

'Fancy,' **Iggy Azalea**

Say what you will about Iggy – just don't pretend this song doesn't make you all swishy, gurl.

'Run,' **Coin**

For that extra pep you'll need to complete the canyon before you can get your dip on.

'Girls/Girls/Boys,' **Panic! At the Disco**

Because a bare-chested Brendon Urie is what dope summers are made of.

'Until We Can't Go (Let's Go),' **Passion Pit**

Wait for it... wait for it... Ah, there we go.

'And We Danced,' **Macklemore feat. Ziggy Stardust**

For that end-of-the-night pants off dance-off. It's been a looong day.

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



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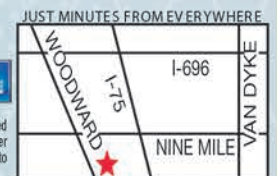
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(Detroit, MI)

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Happenings

Continued from p. 49

throughout the festival. Various, Ann Arbor. June 13 - July 5. www.A2sf.org

Shelbyvision Present LLC "Summer Magic Festival" Tickets: \$0-3. Shelbyvision Present LLC, Downtown Mt. Clemens. June 25 - June 28. www.Summermagicfestival.com

THEATER

2AZ Michael Brian Ogden's world premiere thriller digs deep into the recesses of our souls to face the monster that may be lurking in all of us. Tickets: \$12-42. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through Aug. 29. 734-433-7673. www.purplerosetheatre.org

A Lovely Sunday for Creve Coeur A lovely summer comedy for all ages written by Tennessee Williams. Tickets: \$20-32. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Through June 28. 248-347-0003. www.tippingpointtheatre.com

Adult Evening of Shel Silverstein The popular children's author takes a very adult look at life. Tickets: Free; for mature audiences only. Summer Circle Theatre, Summer Circle Courtyard, Auditorium Road between the Auditorium Building and the Kresge Art Center on the campus of Michigan State University, East Lansing. Through June 27. 517-355-6690. theatre.msu.edu/sct

Always a Bridesmaid Four friends have sworn to keep the promise they made on the night of their Senior Prom: to be in each other's weddings - no matter what. Tickets: \$35-41. The Dio - Dining & Entertainment, 135 E. Main St., Pinckney. Through Aug. 2. 517-672-6009. www.diotheatre.com

Cabaret At the provocative Kit Kat Klub in 1930s Berlin, an English performer and an American writer fall in love on the brink of World War II. Tickets: \$36-43. Mason Street Warehouse, Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St.,

Saugatuck. June 26 - July 12. 269-857-2399. www.sc4a.org

Cabaret Musical theater greats Kander and Ebb take us to the seedy Kit Kat Klub in Berlin, 1929, where a young American writer has just arrived and is immediately taken with Sally Bowles, an English cabaret performer. Tickets: \$26. Riverbank Theatre, 358 S. Water St., Marine City. Through June 28. 810-278-1749. www.riverbanktheatre.com

Gay Play Series This year, the wildly popular festival is getting a remix! Tickets: \$10 per event. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through June 29. 248-545-5545. www.theringwald.com

Grounded When a top fighter pilot unexpectedly finds that she's pregnant, she is reassigned to operate military drones from a windowless trailer outside Las Vegas. A one-woman show that takes a timely and powerful look at the ethics and costs of fighting wars by remote control. Tickets: \$20, or pay-what-you-can. Theatre Nova, The Yellow Barn, 416 W. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through June 28. 734-635-8450. www.theatrenova.org

Hatfield's & McCoy's We have all heard of this feud, but who knows the truth! No one, really. This musical comedy adaptation is sure to help you pick sides. Tickets: \$43.50; includes meal and show. Cornwell's Dinner Theatre, 18935 15 1/2 Mile Rd., Marshall. June 25 - Aug. 22. 269-781-4293. www.turkeyville.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. Tickets: \$5 at the door. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Through June 29. 313-365-4948. www.planetant.com

Jingle ARRGH the Way! A mysterious message left in the crow's nest of their ship brings Captain Braid Beard and his pirate mates back to North Beach to seek out young Jeremy Jacob to help solve a riddle and find the Christmas treasure. Tickets: \$15-24. Hope

Summer Repertory Theatre, DeWitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. Through Aug. 7. 616-395-7890. www.hope.edu/hsrt

Kolobok A Russian folktale about the adventures of a little butterball named Kolobok, who was baked by an elderly childless couple. Tickets: \$5-10. PuppetART, Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit. Through June 27. 313-961-7777. www.puppetart.org

Les Miserables Follow the journey of convict Jean Valjean who vows to redeem himself despite the obstacles that arise. Tickets: \$15-30. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre, DeWitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. Through June 30. 616-395-7890. www.hope.edu/hsrt

Mary Poppins Mary Poppins is the practically perfect nanny who helps us learn to take our medicine with a spoonful of sugar, find the silver lining in every situation, and realize that sometimes we should just use the winds of change to go fly a kite. Tickets: \$37. Barn Theatre, 13351 West M-96, Augusta. Through June 28. 269-731-4121. www.barntheatreschool.com

Miss Nelson is Missing Students in Miss Nelson's class don't realize how good their teacher is until she disappears - and they'll do anything to solve the mystery and bring her back. Tickets: \$8. Tibbits Popcorn Theatre, Tibbits Summer Theatre, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. Through June 27. 517-278-6029. www.tibbits.org

Other Desert Cities The story of a wounded family and the secrets they share. Tickets: \$25-41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through July 11. 734-663-0681. www.pnttheatre.org

Precious Little The unique story of a woman confronting a personal crisis and the part a gorilla in the zoo and an elderly woman play in offering her comfort. Tickets: \$15-20. Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley, Detroit. Through June 28. 313-967-0999. www.matrixtheatre.org

See Happenings, page 24

Always Something happening at the \aut\ BAR Weekly Events and Specials



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1/2 off beer and well drinks with Student ID



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Editor's Pick

In celebration of the summer season, and welcoming the whole family for food, music and fun, Shelbyvision Presents LLC brings Summer Magic Festival to downtown Mount Clemens from Thursday, June 25 through Sunday, June 28. A family-friendly experience, Summer Magic Festival highlights the warmer weather of late June, a carnival provided by Big Rock Amusements, street vendors and retailers

offering arts and crafts, food, fun, live music and multiple beverage stations featuring beer and spirits.

Greek, Mexican, Polish, and other foods will be available - and being that local business is a focus of the festival, many of the vendors and retailers are from the area. Furthermore, live musical acts featuring legendary performers Jack Russell's Great White, The Babys (reunited after three decades), Stephen Pearcy of RATT, Gilby Clarke, Stonebreed, The Ultimate Johnny Cash Tribute and more will entertain even the most discerning of music fans (including over three dozen local musicians and artists).

For further entertainment, Summer Magic Festival capitalizes on its proximity to the fireworks display over the Clinton River on Friday, June 26. The festival runs from 5-11 p.m. on Thursday; from 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. on Friday; 11 a.m.-midnight on Saturday; and 11 a.m.-9 p.m. on Sunday, June 28. Admission is \$3 daily, with the exception of Thursday being a free admission day. Children ages 12 and under are admitted free every day

An Enchanted Evening In Dexter

BY JOHN QUINN

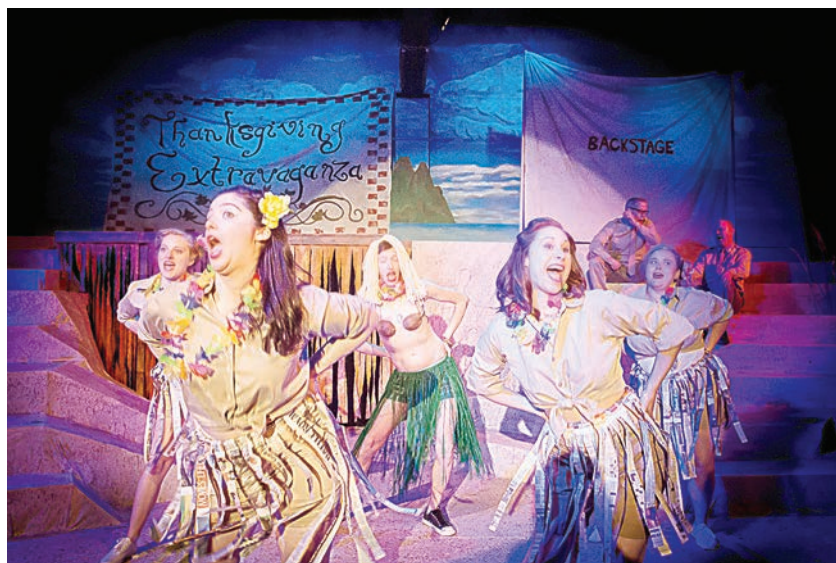
The “book musical” is as thoroughly American as baseball and apple pie. Other genres, notably operetta, incorporate song and dance into a production, but in a book musical they are not there as commentary or ornamentation. Song and dance are integrated with the story and drive the narration as powerfully as the written word. Arguably one of the best loved and most successful achievements in the field is Richard Rodgers & Oscar Hammerstein II’s “South Pacific.” So let’s move over to the “score” board and recap the highlights of The Encore Musical Theatre Company’s production.

Hit: the book, by Oscar Hammerstein II and Joshua Logan. Working from James A. Michener’s epic collection of short stories, the Pulitzer Prize winning “Tales of the South Pacific,” the playwrights crafted a story so fundamental to the human condition it’s neither outdated nor irrelevant. It’s been 66 years since its Broadway debut, yet “South Pacific” remains, you should excuse the expression, “younger than springtime.”

The plot concerns the romance between Nellie Forbush (Marlene Inman), an American nurse stationed on a South Pacific island during World War II, and a middle-aged émigré with a past, French plantation owner Emile De Becque (Stephen West). Running parallel is the love affair between U.S. Lt. Joseph Cable (Sebastian Gerstner) and a fragile Tonkinese girl, Liat (Teola Lutsker). Cable is unaware his introduction to Liat is part of Bloody Mary’s (Gayle Martin) most devious financial deal ever. Mary is Liat’s mother, and she is scheming to find a Western husband for her child.

All is not heavenly, though, in paradise. Little Rock-born Nellie and Philadelphia Main Liner Joe suffer from the same blind spot; a bigotry toward “The Other” – anybody not like “us.” Nellie for a part of the story rejects Emile because his multi-racial children are the result of Emile’s marriage to a Polynesian woman; Cable won’t follow his love of Liat, because he knows he cannot take Liat home with him to “the city of brotherly love.” Prejudice and the heartache it causes is a major theme of “South Pacific.”

More hits? “Bali Ha’i,” “I’m Gonna Wash That Man Right Outa My Hair,” “Some Enchanted Evening,” “There Is Nothing Like a Dame,” “Happy Talk,” “Younger Than Springtime” and “I’m in Love with a Wonderful Guy.” Case closed.



INFO

South Pacific

Encore Musical Theatre
3126 Broad St., Dexter
June 4-July 3; check website for performance times
\$32-\$28
734-268-6200
www.TheEncoreTheatre.org

Foul right off the bat: musical direction and sound engineering. No one expects a theater company to hire a Broadway-sized orchestra – these days, not even Broadway can afford that. R. MacKenzie Lewis has four live musicians, as well as some recorded accompaniment. But the results needn’t sound as strange as it is here. The music is tinny; the strings and reeds are reduced to a sour whine. But is this the orchestration, or the result of sound engineering? It sure sounds like the pre-recorded music has been put through a processor and severely compressed to a very unpleasant end.

All star: Marlene Inman. Her Nellie is a bright, no-nonsense professional swept off her feet and into the arms of a charismatic lover. Inman’s warmth and vocals anchor the show and beautifully balances the woman and internal child in Nellie.

All star: Matthew Brennan. The always scheming, profit-driven Luther Billis is the comic foil for Bloody Mary’s similar tastes in trade. Lanky Brennan paired with petit Gayle Martin is a visual delight.

All star: Gayle E. Martin. There is no trace of stereotype in her performance. It’s tough to describe it as “clean,”

since Mary delights in picking up foul language from the Seabees. But Martin is entrusted with two iconic musical numbers; the ethereal “Bali-Ha’i” and “Happy Talk,” and simply knocks ‘em out of the park.

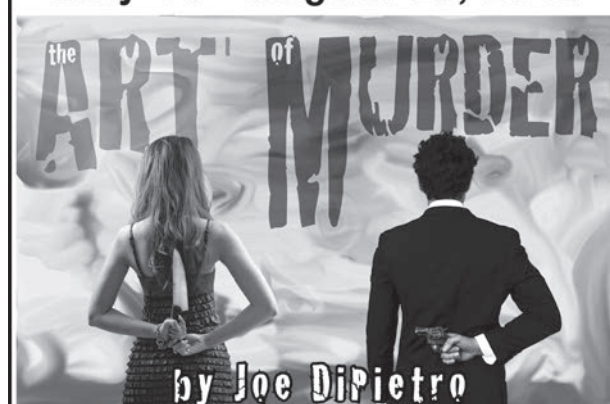
“Bass” hit: Stephen West. Although his thunderous, operatic basso kind of overwhelms “Some Enchanted Evening,” his tender, emotional rendition of “This Nearly Was Mine” is a show-stopper.

A grand slam home run: the women’s chorus: Cassi Mikat, Luciana Piazza, Karina Stribley and Maika van Oosterhout. Backing Marlene Inman, singing pitch-perfect close harmony while dancing barefoot in period bathing suits, the four helped make “I’m Gonna Wash That Man Right Outa My Hair” not only the most memorable number of the night, but perhaps of a whole season.

Unintentional walk: the talented Sebastian Gerstner as Lt. Cable. Cable is scripted to be not much more than a place holder, a second voice for a love duet. Fortunately, that ballad is “Younger than Springtime,” which Gerstner gloriously renders, albeit opening night he struggled just a little to find proper volume. Cable sticks around long enough to deliver “South Pacific’s” theme, wrapped up in his solo, “You’ve Got to be Carefully Taught,” before marching off to war and redemption.

Carla Milarch held the reins of this sprawling production. Some wise options have been taken in paring “South Pacific” down to size for the intimate Encore environment. Kudos all around. Daniel C. Walker rendered the bright, colorful island set. Sharon Larkey Urick designed costumes, and deserves recognition for dressing the nurses in perfect period splendor.

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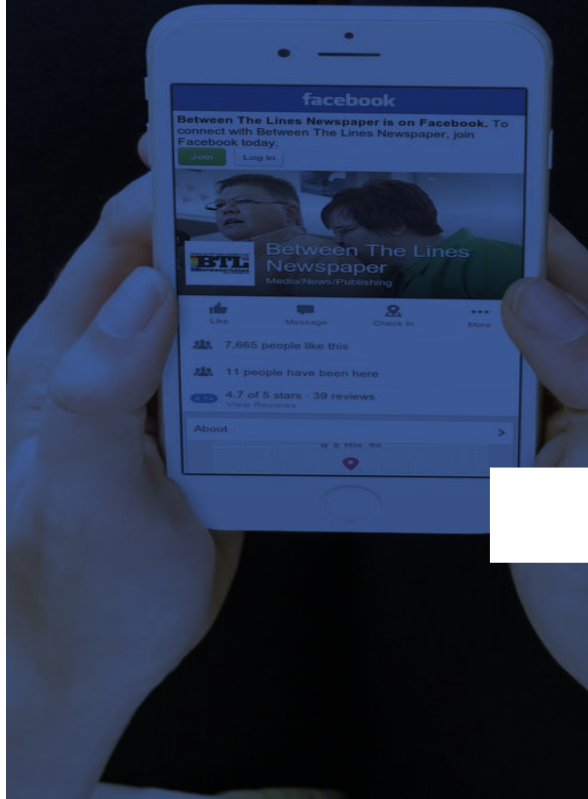


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248-399-7741 www.mccdetroit.org

Puzzle solution on pg. 56

A	L	M	A	W	H	O	M	S	E	I	Z	E					
S	O	A	P	H	A	N	A	U	L	N	A	S					
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N	E	L	L	I	E	L	E	E	E	E	E	E					
T	R	Y	G	O	P	H	E	R	T	A	B	S					
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www.michiganaidcoalition.org

▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 52

PRTC 25th Anniversary Script Preview Tour The tour is a five-stop live concert reading from five classic and world-premiere plays to be staged in The Purple Rose Theatre's 25th anniversary season. Tickets: Free; reservations suggested. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing, 7 p.m. June 28. 517-482-5700. www.purplerosetheatre.org

Thaddeus and Tila (A Crane and Frog Tale) A teenage crane with poor eyesight crashes into Thaddeus' pond, and a friendship quickly blossoms when he saves her life. Tickets: \$5-8. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through June 27. 313-577-2972. www.wsushows.com

The American Plan A 1960s Catskill's resort is the perfect setting for Lili to tell her "tales" in order to survive her overbearing mother. Tickets: Free. Summer Circle Theatre, Summer Circle Courtyard, Auditorium Road between the Auditorium Building and the Kresge Art Center on the campus of Michigan State University, East Lansing. June 24 - June 27. 517-355-6690. theatre.msu.edu/sct

The Drowsy Chaperone A man in a chair enters his apartment eager to put on a recording of his favorite Broadway musical, and as the musical comes to life, the audience is introduced to a crazy cast of characters that keeps the audience laughing from start to finish. Tickets: \$8-15. Thunder Bay Theatre, 400 N. Second Ave., Alpena. Through July 5. 989-354-2267. www.thunderbaytheatre.com

The Feast II A one-night-only event featuring a 3-course meal and a series of monologues written by Eric Bogosian. Limited to 40 patrons; reservations required. Tickets: \$40; cash bar. The Abreact, The Checker Bar, 124 Cadillac Square, Detroit. 7 p.m. June 27. 313-918-5283. mkt.com/2100catering

The Importance of Being Earnest Oscar Wilde's classic tale features an all-male cast and is set in the Deep South (Atlanta and Willacoochie, to be exact), where it takes you on a thrill ride of side splitting laughter and a journey from the city to the country - quite literally. Tickets: \$10 in advance only. Slipstream Theatre Initiative, Slipstream's Summer Home, 20937 John R., Hazel Park. Through July 7. www.slipstreamti.com

The Odd Couple The Neil Simon classic comedy about mismatched roommates, the uptight Felix Unger and his slovenly friend Oscar Madison. Tickets: \$12-33. Tibbits Summer Theatre, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. June 25 - July 3. 517-278-6029. www.tibbits.org

The Signal A true story in narrative and song - told at 45 rpm. Tickets: \$25-35. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. June 26. 269-756-3879. www.acorntheater.com

The Tail of Peter Rabbit Beatrix Potter's old tale/tail gets a makeover. Tickets: Free; for all ages. Summer Circle Theatre, Summer Circle Courtyard, Auditorium Road between the Auditorium Building and the Kresge Art Center on the campus of Michigan State University, East Lansing. Through June 27. 517-355-6690. theatre.msu.edu/sct

The Winter's Tale King Leontes of Sicilia brings tragedy on his family when he accuses his wife of infidelity with his best friend, King Polixenes of Bohemia. Tickets: \$7-14. Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company, Dog Story

Theater, 7 Jefferson SE, Grand Rapids. Through June 28. 616-425-9234. www.pcshakespeare.com

To Kill a Mockingbird Through courage and compassion, lawyer Atticus Finch seeks truth and justice, while his feisty daughter, Scout, learns what it means to be an instrument of hope. Tickets: \$15-24. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre, DeWitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. June 26 - Aug. 8. 616-395-7890. www.hope.edu/hrst

ART 'N' AROUND

N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art "Susan Aaron-Taylor: Journeying". N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, 52 E. Forest, Detroit. June 12 - Aug. 22.

Detroit Artists Market (DAM) "The Essential Self: Meditations on the Politics of Identity". Detroit Artists Market, 4719 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 12 - July 18. 313-832-8540. www.Detroitartistsmarket.org

Flint Institute of Arts "Beauty, Passion and Bliss: 19th Century Masterworks". Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. May 17 - Aug. 16. 810-234-1695. www.Flintarts.org

MOCAD "Detroit City: Detroit Affinities" Detroit: Affinities, Speaks and Stages. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Sep. 12 - Aug. 2. 313-832-6622. www.Mocadetroit.org

MOCAD "The Obama Paintings and the Lincoln Monument". Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. May 15 - Aug. 2. 313-832-6622. www.Mocadetroit.org

N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art "Sam Gilliam: Prints". N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, 52 E. Forest, Detroit. June 12 - Aug. 22.

N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art "Gregory Coates: Minutes". N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, 52 E. Forest, Detroit. June 12 - Aug. 23.

Riverside Arts Center Gallery "Light, Bronze and Pigment". Riverside Arts Center, 76 North Huron Street, Ypsilanti. June 4 - June 27. 734-483-7345. www.Riversidearts.org

robert kidd gallery "Kikuo Saito". robert kidd gallery, 107 Townsend St., Birmingham. May 29 - July 1. 248-642-3909. www.Robertkiddgallery.com

The Scarab Club "2015 Blooms, Bugs, Beasts Exhibition". The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. May 20 - June 27. 313-831-1250. www.Scarabclub.org

UMMA "In Focus: Lynn Davis, Iceberg". University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. May 1 - July 19. 734-763-4186. www.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. www.Umma.umich.edu

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

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

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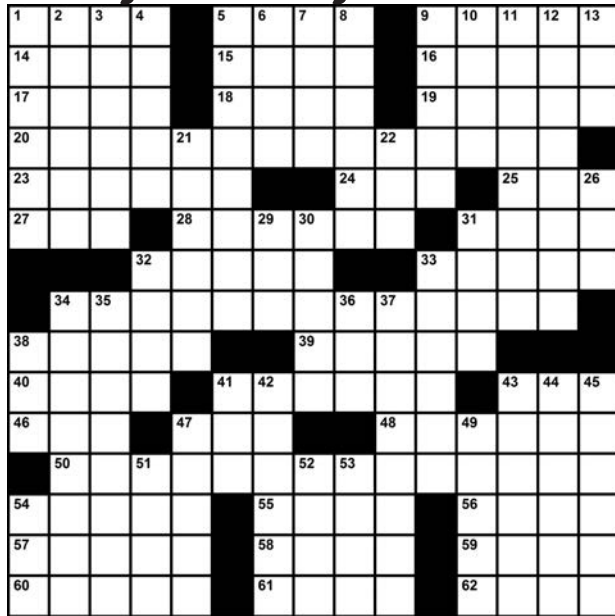
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Q Puzzle

Vanity Fair Lady



Across

- 1 Tennessee Williams "Summer and Smoke" heroine
- 5 To ___ it may concern
- 9 Snatch
- 14 Billy Crystal played gay on this sitcom

- 15 "The English Patient" nurse
- 16 Bones below elbows
- 17 Bear's hangout
- 18 Declare firmly
- 19 Drop ___ (flirt, perhaps)
- 20 Photographer who recently shot 34-Across for "Vanity Fair"
- 23 Nervous gay man?

- 24 Writer Harper
- 25 Caesar's threesome
- 27 Take a crack at
- 28 Hole dweller
- 31 Hunter and more
- 32 Easter Island's owner
- 33 Shankar's instrument
- 34 Transgender celeb, formerly known as Bruce
- 38 Grand lineup
- 39 Charged
- 40 Sport in which sweaty men embrace
- 41 Diagram with a nocturnal bear, perhaps
- 43 Telly network
- 46 Popular fruit drink
- 47 Verb ending
- 48 Ms. Baker's stage name
- 50 Reference preference of 34-Across
- 54 Anne Frank account
- 55 Casino call
- 56 Turner of records
- 57 Come together
- 58 Woods of "Legally Blonde"
- 59 Web surfer
- 60 Shrek and others
- 61 Told tales
- 62 Guitarist Townshend

Down

- 1 Not straight
- 2 Get it while you're being serviced
- 3 By and large
- 4 Time for a shower

- 5 Moby Dick's lubricant?
- 6 Possess sexually
- 7 R.E.M.'s "The ___ Love"
- 8 Two-toned cake
- 9 Like a metrosexual
- 10 K-12
- 11 New member
- 12 Hope-Crosby "Road" destination
- 13 P-town clock setting
- 21 Lincoln's four score
- 22 On top of, in poetry
- 26 A. Sharon's home
- 29 Try to seduce, with liquor, e.g.
- 30 Buck of "Eating Raoul"
- 31 Salon offering
- 32 "So long!"
- 33 Type of tool
- 34 Seeking hotties
- 35 Type of quarterback
- 36 Fruity spread
- 37 Bewitched
- 38 It hangs from your butt
- 41 Uey from NNW
- 42 Essential part of cornholing?
- 43 S&M reminder
- 44 Rupert Everett's hood
- 45 Son in Jeremy Irons' "The Borgias"
- 47 "But of course!"
- 49 Still in bed
- 51 Art deco illustrator
- 52 Type of sci, in college
- 53 Rub the wrong way
- 54 Half of a foursome

Solution on pg. 53



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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Tom Ford speaks, gets \$20 Million

At the recent Cannes Film Festival, Tom Ford announced his intention to make his next feature, "Nocturnal Animals," and Focus stepped in with \$20 million of confidence-building cash. The fashion designer/filmmaker's last movie, "A Single Man," earned strong reviews and Oscar nominations, which is exactly the kind of film Universal's Focus division loves to make, so this is a no-brainer for everyone. Ford will produce, direct and adapt the screenplay from Austin Wright's 1993 novel, "Tony and Susan," and the project is slated to star Amy Adams and Jake Gyllenhaal. As of right now, the plot is bare bones, revolving around a woman receiving her ex-husband's first novel in the mail, which then sets her on her own path of self-discovery. Vague-ish, true, but you never show your hand too early. More news as it develops, but for now, just know that it's pretty good to be Tom Ford.



Stewart. The Millennials aren't as into labels and the "event" nature of coming out as generations that paved the road before. And good for them, because that's freedom. So is K-Stew dating a woman now? It very well looks like it, and her mother has flip-flopped on talking about it in public. Is she bisexual? Probably. Maybe. Who knows. It only matters for our purposes because now we get to talk about her career as an actor in the same way we talk about Amber Heard, an entertainment figure whose

life involves same-sex relationships from time to time. Good for us, then, that Stewart's post-"Twilight" is turning out so well. She's shaken the Internet's fanboy disdain for that series and is currently getting rave reviews for her role in the acclaimed arthouse film "Clouds of Sils Maria," with Juliette Binoche. Stewart's currently shooting Ang Lee's latest, "Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk," a dramatic comedy about soldiers spending their last few days before returning to Iraq. It co-stars Vin Diesel, Garrett Hedlund, Steve Martin, "Pitch Perfect"'s Ben Platt, and the somewhat reclusive Chris Tucker. The lesson of the moment, then, is this: the work is what lasts, boyfriends and girlfriends (or both) come and go.

Where will 'Fun Home' land next?

Forgive the breathless nature of our enthusiasm for the Tony Award-winning "Fun Home," but Alison Bechdel's graphic memoir turned stage musical is as sweetly intoxicating as a show gets, and we can't help hoping for more success. So here's some speculation, the kind where we hope that just talking about it makes it come true. There is rumor, hinted at by director Sam Gold, of expanding "Home"'s theater audience and opening it in London's West End next, a fairly routine move when an acclaimed musical takes home the top prize. But for theater-deprived audiences in smaller towns, it's the movie that counts. The producers, for their part, are being cagey about a film, standard practice when you're fielding offers. "There's definitely been interest in a film," they've been reported as saying, before adding more non-specific words about being "open to anything" and wanting "to do what's best for (the show)." So, OK, sure, none of this is official news. It's more like people talking around an idea of news, which is how non-news eventually becomes news in Hollywood. Now we wait and hope it does just that.

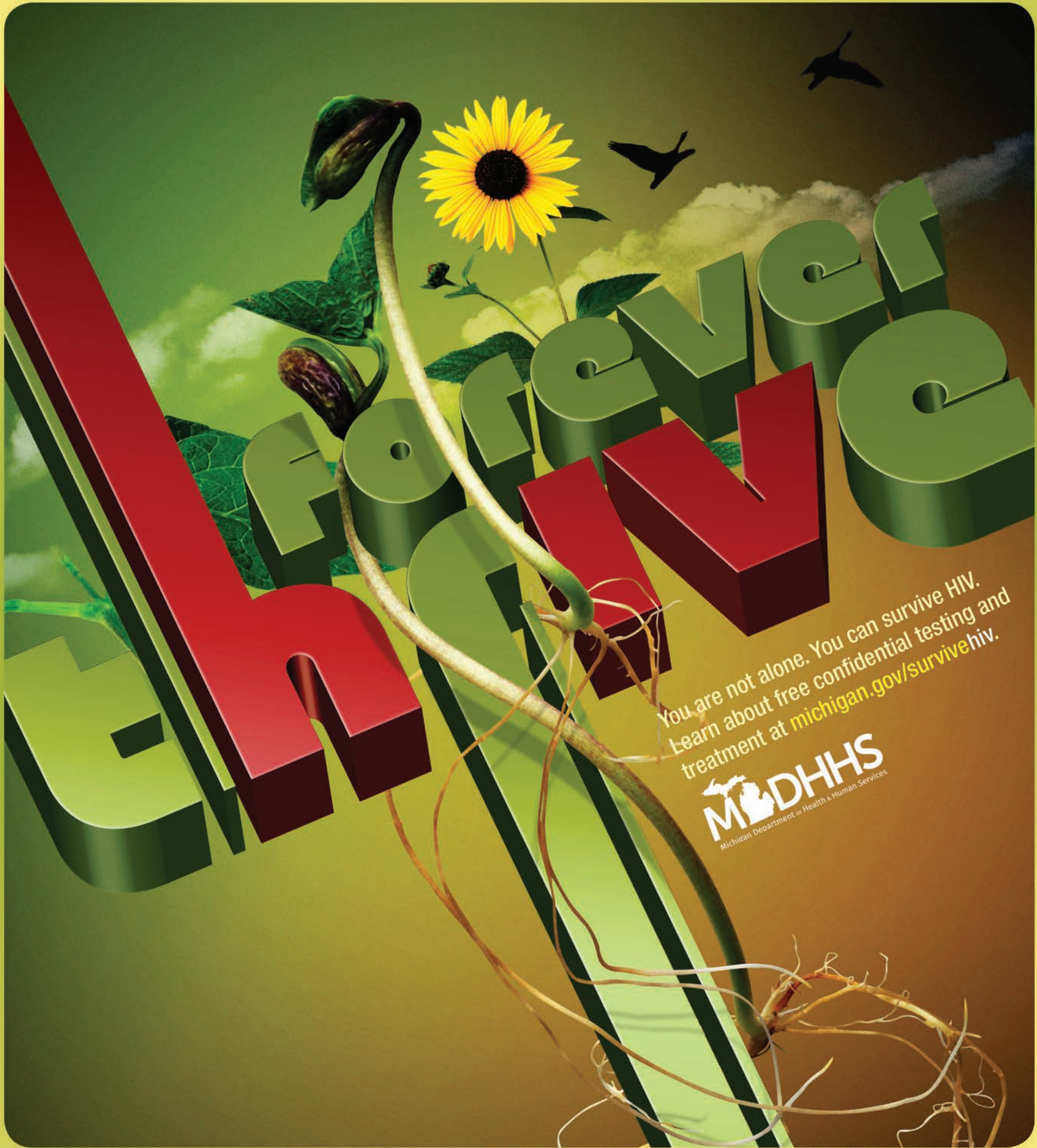
'Out In The Night' coming to Logo

Last year, we reported on "Out In The Night" a disturbing documentary from director Blair Dorosh-Walther that was, then, making the rounds of LGBT film festivals. It's the story of four black lesbian friends – Renata Hill, Patreese Johnson, Terrain Dandridge, and Venice Brown – who were attacked by a man in New York's Greenwich Village, and who then wasted no time defending themselves. It was a violent incident and, for their self-defense efforts, the women were tried and sentenced to between three and 11 years in prison. Meanwhile, they were slandered in racist media reports as "bloodthirsty" and a "gang." Now their story will reach a national audience when Logo Documentary Films presents the film on June 22 as part of an ongoing series of queer docs. The cable channel is to be praised for selecting this hard-hitting, difficult subject matter over lighter, feel-good fare, especially when the cause of LGBT equality is, marriage or no marriage, still as vital as ever. Set that DVR.

Kristen Stewart's 'Long Halftime Walk'

Let's not get "too" excited about Kristen

Romeo San Vicente doesn't flinch. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.



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