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– Rev. Roland Stringfellow is the Senior Pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit, and Rana Elmir is Deputy Director of the ACLU of Michigan.
See page 12

COVER

Eisenhower Dance Company Will Be At Metropolitan Opera House This Season As Part Of Their 25th Anniversary

NEWS

- 4 Briefs: Affirmations Youth Drop-In, Harvest of Hope, UP Pride Fest
- 6 Michigan Pride Coverage
- 8 Mormons Keep Boy Scouts Affiliation; Study Shows Trans Students Have Higher Rates of Eating Disorders
- 10 Papal Visit To US Sparks LGBT Action
- 14 Kentucky Gay Marriage Stand Off
- 15 National LGBT Orgs Respond to Rentboy.com Arrests

OPINION

- 12 Parting Glances
- 12 Editorial Cartoon
- 12 Viewpoint: Meeting At The Intersection of Religious Liberty and LGBTQ Equality
- 14 Creep of the Week: Tony Perkins

LIFE

- 32 Cool Cities: Lansing
- 34 Screen Queen
- 35 Happenings
- 37 Crossword Puzzle
- 37 Cartoon: Couple Of Guys
- 38 Classifieds

Join The Conversation @ PrideSource.com



Meet Ceramicist Spencer Barefield

Applause! See page 16



Detroiters to Make Pilgrimage To Put Face On Trans Catholics

See page 10

ARTS & APPLAUSE

- 16 - 32: Arts & Applause
- 16 Breaking the Mold: Spencer Barefield
- 18-28 Applause Calendar
- 20 Fall Fundraiser Preview
- 22 Eisenhower Dance Celebrates 25 Years
- 23 Artist Gallery Briefs
- 24 Introducing ArtWear
- 30 Stars Align at Wilde Awards



Check Out This Week's Happenings

See page 35

Be sure to head over to Pridesource.com/calendar.html for hundreds more events from arts to theater to LGBTQ friendly events around Michigan.

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BRIEFS

Affirmations Youth Drop-In Center Open House

FERNDALE – The Affirmations Youth Drop-In Center will hold an open house at 6 p.m. on Sept. 18 for all LGBT and ally youth.

The Carl Rippberger Youth Drop-In Center was shut down in the past month to allow for other youth directed programs to strengthen and develop. However, the newly appointed manager of youth programs, Lilianna Angel Reyes, wanted to reengage adult LGBT allies and encourage more programming, such as reopening the Youth Drop-In Center.

“Come join us for a fun night at the open house that launches the new invigorating Drop-In Center,” Reyes said.

The Drop-In Center is a space for youth ages 13-20 to come during weekend hours and spend time watching movies, engaging in discussion and being with their peers in a safe and affirming space. According to Reyes, anywhere from five to 50 youth utilize the drop-in center resources every week, many more so during the fall and winter months.

The open house will provide youth opportunities to learn, grow, socialize and have fun while enjoying the sounds of DJ Tone, snow cones, raffle prizes for local businesses and snacks, treats and non-alcoholic beverages that will be provided by Whole Foods Market.

The new Drop-In Center will be open from 4-9 p.m. every Friday and Saturday. Affirmations will launch an intake system in January, conduct personal referrals and implement other programming steered by the youth including board game nights and arts and crafts nights.

Affirmation is located at 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. For more information on the Drop-In Center or other youth programming, contact Lilianna Reyes at 248-398-7105 or by email at lreyes@goaffirmations.org.

Ozone House To Host ‘Harvest Of Hope’

Ozone House, Ann Arbor’s agency for support and housing for youth and families in crisis or conflict, will host “Harvest of Hope” Oct. 3. The fundraiser benefits the center and will feature food, drinks, music and a silent auction. The ninth annual fundraiser will offer event-goers the chance to learn about the life-changing work done by Ozone House. New to the event this year is the “Hope Challenge,” which involves doubling donations.

Harvest of Hope will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 3. at the Polo Fields Golf and Country Club, 2955 Packard Road, Ypsilanti. Convenient parking is available.

Guests are urged to RSVP by Sept. 18 at www.ozonehouse.org or by calling Sue at 734-662-2265. Tickets are \$150 each. Those who can’t attend but wish to support Ozone House are invited to make a donation instead.

Ozone House is located at 1705 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor.

Upcoming Upper Peninsula Pride Celebrates Year Two

BY AJ TRAGER

MARQUETTE – The second annual Upper Peninsula Rainbow Pride, or Pride Fest, will begin at noon Sept. 12. and will offer an array of activities for the whole family including live music, wedding ceremonies and local and statewide vendors.

UP Pride will be open from noon to 11 p.m. in Tourist Park, Marquette and will feature music and entertainment including: an open mic, live music, a drag show, belly dancers, a fire spinner, a comedian and LGBTQ speakers.

In honor of the recent historic U.S. Supreme Court ruling on same-sex marriage, clergy and ordained ministers will be on hand for those interested in getting married at the festival who have already obtained their marriage license.

A drag show featuring local and statewide drag performers will begin at 9 p.m. and will close out the night before the afterglow party starts at 11 p.m. at Coco’s Restaurant, located at 911 Lake Shore Blvd in Marquette.

Vendors for the festival include The Trevor Project, Equality Michigan, LGBTeesN’More, United By Light, Apothecary, Haggards Bizarre Bazaar, Glass Rainbows, Behennaed, Ron’s Taco Shop, Senors Food Truck and AARP.

Marquette Tourist Park is located at 2145 Sugar Loaf Ave. Camping is available. Contact www.mqtcty.org/parks-tourist.php – for more information.

Upper Peninsula Rainbow Pride was established in the summer of 2013 after a group of individuals from all backgrounds came together with the same goals: bring Pride to the Upper Peninsula, provide a safe space for the LGBT community, offer resources and connect all of the LGBTQIA groups in the UP.

For more information on 2015 UP Pride visit their website at <http://uprainbowpride.com/PRIDEfall2015.htm>.

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Michigan Pride Calls For Change To State's Civil Rights Law

BY AJ TRAGER

LANSING – Despite a morning of rain, thousands of Michigan residents came out to Adado Riverfront Park with rainbow umbrellas and long socks to celebrate the largest Pride festival in the state post marriage equality, Michigan Pride 2015, and to call for amending the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, the state's civil rights act.

Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum was grand marshal of the pride parade which began by Adado Park, flowed through downtown and finished at the state Capitol. Marching in the parade were known LGBT organizations such as the Greater Lansing Umbrella, Westside Lansing Neighborhood, Michigan's International Gay Rodeo Network, Michigan Open and Affirming Coalition of United Church of Christ Churches, PFLAG Lansing, LAAN and Spiral. Affirming and committed allies Yoga State, Stacy's Lawn Show, Puff-n-Stuff, Capitol Area District Libraries, Peace Corps and a few others added their faces to the parade.

The rally was led by Hank Morgan, co-chair of Michigan Pride, and included statements from Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero, 35th District House Rep. Jeremy Moss, Transgender Advocacy Coordinator for the ACLU of Michigan Amy Hunter and former Coalition Manager of Freedom to Marry and Michigan Pride board member Gina Calcagno.

"We've been working on this for years. We did not think that we would get marriage equality and the freedom to marry so quickly. And it's amazing," Calcagno said. "I would be remiss if I didn't say that we still have so far to go. When we talk about the LGBT community we cannot, we cannot leave anyone out. There is no one in our community, and no one in our family, who will be left behind in this

“In addition to not moving forward with an inclusive anti-discrimination law, we've seen a lot of shameful legislation introduced right here in our state capital. So called religious freedom legislation was introduced to allow sincerely held religious beliefs to be used as a shield to deny goods and services to the LGBT community.”

- State Rep. Jeremy Moss (35th-D)

movement.”

Calcagno asked for the audience to call and speak with their state House and Senate legislator to discuss amending ELCRA. Marriage equality was just one stepping stone down the path towards full LGBT inclusion. Current policies on state law books make it legal for a same-sex couple to get married on Saturday but fired from their jobs on Monday. Amending ELCRA by adding sexual orientation and gender identity to the large list of protected classes would make Michigan a more inclusive and welcoming place.

"In addition to not moving forward with an inclusive anti-discrimination law, we've seen a lot of shameful legislation introduced right here in our state capital," Moss said. "So called religious freedom legislation was introduced to allow sincerely held religious beliefs to be used as a shield to deny goods and services to the LGBT community. That hasn't become law yet. But the governor did sign into law a law allowing state adoption agencies to deny homes to children in need of loving families just because the adopting parents were gay or transgender."

According to Moss, 2015 is not the year that the LGBT fight for equality ended. Instead, it is "the year that our fight began anew. Because now, at long last, the U.S. Constitution is on our side," Moss said, requesting that audience members visit miequalitynow.com and sign their name to a petition calling for state lawmakers to take immediate action on HB 4548 and demand that the ELCRA be amended.

"Getting out of bed in the morning should be the beginning of a revolutionary act," Hunter said. "It should not be an act of faith. It should not take an act of absolute courage to get out of bed and face the world as your authentic self. It should not take an act of courage to get an ID that matches your authentic self. It should not take an act of courage to apply for a job. It should not take an act of courage to come out at work and to transition to your authentic self."

Just last month three trans women fell victim to acts of violence, two of them losing their lives. In 2015 so far, 19 trans and gender nonconforming members of the national LGBT community have been found murdered for being who they are. The nation may have marriage equality, but "trans women are dying in our streets," Calcagno said.

"Today should be the beginning of a rising tide of all of our voices. The voices of the trans community, gender queer community and most importantly the voices of those that report to be our ally. Those people that have always mouthed the 'T' and the 'Q' at the end of LGBTQ equality," Hunter said.

Cathy Zahon and her daughter, Elizabeth

See Michigan Pride, next page



Gina Calcagno, former Coalition Manager of Freedom to Marry and Michigan Pride board member speaks at a rally before MI Pride, calling for an amendment to Elliott-Larsen. BTL photos: AJ Trager



State House Rep. Jeremy Moss, D-Southfield, asks MI residents to go to miequalitynow.com and request that the state Legislature take immediate action on passing HB 4548 to add sexual orientation and gender identity to the list of protected classes against discrimination. BTL photos: AJ Trager



► Michigan Pride

Continued from p. 6

Zahon, came all the way to Lansing from Farmington Hills to celebrate their first Pride festival. Elizabeth, 15, has been getting more and more involved in LGBT politics after coming out as bisexual to a welcoming family.

“Seeing the Capitol, seeing the speeches, seeing the support and the number of families that are here is really great!” Elizabeth said.

Cathy was worried about her daughter’s safety at Pride but was pleasantly surprised to see that the atmosphere of the Pride festivals she remembers hearing about in the 80s and 90s hadn’t carried through to 2015.

“I was excited to bring her, and I’m glad that she is getting involved in political stuff because I think we all need to pay attention to our lives and who we elect, and if our representatives are really representing what we want them to represent. It’s really easy to not pay attention, but it is important,” Cathy said.

“It is an awesome day to come out and show our true colors as people that have been sheltered, frowned upon, beat up on – it’s our day to be free,” said Alana Thurman, 19, from Lansing.

Thurman came out to Pride with five of her good friends: Nick Britt, Greg Beeman, Emily Bendall, Rodney Ritchie and Jordan Mayir. Beeman works as a youth pastor at his church and wanted to show his support of his gay brothers and sisters. He would like to see more congregations come out in support of LGBT people of faith and all LGBT identities.

Melinda Sue and her partner, Crystal, are engaged to be married July 15, 2016 after falling in love almost instantly. Sue remembers meeting Crystal and being floored by how well they meshed; together they were at Pride to share in the entertainment, food and the many vendors that came out to support the LGBT community.

“I’m here for the entertainment, food and it feels right. Everybody should feel that everywhere they go, you know, that it’s OK,” Sue said. “This (her relationship) feels normal and feels all right. Just let everybody else out there know that it’s OK to feel the same, not just here but everywhere!”

The Michigan Pride Celebration kick off began Aug. 28 with a white party featuring a performance by country/pop star Steve Grand. Michigan Pride had roughly 90 vendors.



From top: Dawn Smith, 47, and her partner Monica Murray are both Lansing residents and are thankful that the LGBT community is welcome in Lansing.

Cathy Zahon and her daughter, Elizabeth Zahon, from Farmington attending their first pride celebration.

(L-R) Nick Britt, Greg Beeman, Emily Bendall, Rodney Ritchie, Alana Thurman and Jordan Mayir.

Transgender Advocacy Coordinator for the ACLU of Michigan Amy Hunter raised trans-awareness at MI Pride, discussing current transphobic laws and practices that prevent trans people from living as their authentic selves.

All BTL photos by AJ Trager

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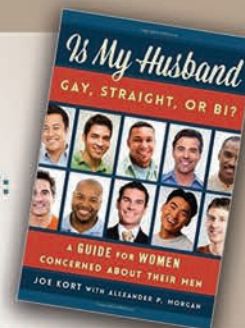
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Mormons Keep Affiliation With Boy Scouts Despite Gay Leaders

BY BRADY MCCOMBS

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) – The Mormon church announced last Wednesday that it will maintain its longtime affiliation with Boy Scouts despite the decision to allow gay troop leaders – preventing what would have been a thundering blow to the national organization.

The decision from senior leaders of the Mormon church – the nation's largest sponsor of Boy Scout units – came as somewhat of a surprise. The church said it was deeply troubled and considering other options when the Boy Scouts announced on July 28 that it would lift its ban on gay adult leaders, while allowing church-sponsored Scout units to continue excluding gay adults.

Church leaders decided to stay with the Boy Scouts after getting assurances they can appoint troop leaders according to their own religious and moral values. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints said in a news release Wednesday.

The Mormon church sponsors nearly 38,000 Scout units with 427,000 boys – accounting for about 18 percent of all youth Scouts.

Officials with the Boy Scouts of America said it appreciates the decision, noting that the organization is successful because of affiliations with groups like the Mormon church.

“The BSA affirms, and will defend, the right of all religious chartered

organizations to select their Scout leaders in accordance with their religious beliefs,” the Boy Scouts said in a statement.

Rick Barnes, Scout executive for the Great Salt Lake Council in Utah, said he was relieved and thrilled by the news.

“We’ve been worried for about four weeks,” Barnes said. If the church were to have left, “it would have meant a lot of rebuilding.”

His council includes 5,500 Scout groups, and all but 100 of those are affiliated with the Mormon church.

The decision was also applauded by Zach Wahls, an Eagle Scout raised by lesbians who heads the advocacy group Scouts for Equality.

“It would have been incredibly disappointing for hundreds of thousands of young boys to be denied that opportunity because of the policy change,” said Wahls.

The renewed commitment from the LDS Church did include an important caveat: The church said it will continue evaluating and refining alternatives to Boy Scouts that would better suit the increasingly global membership of the religion. With more than half of the religion's 15 million members living outside the United States, there has long been speculation the Salt Lake City-based religion will create its own scouting-type program.

Matthew Bowman, an associate professor of history at Henderson State University who follows the Mormon

church closely, said he thinks the decision shows the Mormon church's own scouting program wasn't quite ready yet.

“It's a holding pattern,” Bowman said. “I still think the church is likely to either alter or abandon the Boy Scouts at some point in the future.”

The bond between the Scouts and Mormons goes back to the early 1900s and involved mutual values and principles.

As the religion's membership swelled, Boy Scouts became a rite of passage for Mormon boys, with church covering the cost of troops for congregations, known as wards, and strongly encouraging participation.

Some had speculated the church would cut ties in 2013, when Boy Scouts decided to allow openly gay youth.

Mormon leaders have softened their tone about gays and lesbians in recent years. Church leaders were involved in legislation enacted in Utah in March that extended nondiscrimination protections to gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people.

But those leaders have also made it clear that the church still opposes gay marriage and believes homosexual activity is a sin.

A number of rank-and-file Mormons are pushing the church to become more accepting and welcoming of LGBT members. Groups have formed to represent the movement.

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BTL  
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New Study: Trans College Students Have Higher Rates Of Eating Disorders

BY BTL STAFF

A recent article published in the August issue of The Journal of Adolescent Health, the official journal of the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine, has discovered a greater prevalence of eating disorders in transgender college students compared to their cisgender counterparts.

The study, carried out by members of Washington University at St. Louis, accessed data from 289,024 students from 223 U.S. universities who participated in the American College Health Association-National College Health Assessment II, a national survey of a broad range of health behaviors, outcomes and perceptions among college students.

To identify eating disorders, students were asked if they have been diagnosed or treated by a professional for anorexia or bulimia in the past year. Both cisgender and transgender students identified as

lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual or unsure.

Nearly 16 percent of transgender students responded that they had been diagnosed with an eating disorder in the past year while cisgender students fell between .55 percent for heterosexual men and 3.66 percent for sexuality-unsure men. Cisgender lesbian, gay, bisexual and unsure men and women were two to four times more likely to have been diagnosed with an eating disorder than heterosexual men and women.

The study also measured past-month diet pill use. Thirteen percent of transgender students reported using diet pills within the past month with 1.8 percent of heterosexual men and 4.29 percent of heterosexual women having reported using diet pills.

“Transgender individuals may use disordered eating behaviors to suppress or accentuate particular gendered features. It has been suggested that

striving for weight loss may be a way for transgender women to conform to feminine ideals of slimness and attractiveness,” said the authors of the study, led by Dr. Alexis E. Duncan.

Another reason, the authors point out, is a common trigger of eating disorders is stress, and there is research to suggest the stress levels in these individuals is elevated as a result of belonging to a stigmatized social category.

“Among lesbian, gay and bisexual individuals, a strong link has been found between higher levels of minority stress and poorer mental health outcomes. The same mechanisms are likely at play in transgender individuals, who may be exposed to substantial amounts of discrimination, both on an interpersonal and societal level,” said the authors.

To read the full article, go to www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X%2815%2900087-7/abstract.



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Detroiters Make Pilgrimage To Put Face On Trans Catholics

BY AJ TRAGER

Equally Blessed, a coalition of four Catholic organizations that has spent more than 120 years working on behalf of LGBT people and their families, has planned a number of events, including an LGBT pilgrimage for the pope's visit to the U.S. in late September.

Equally Blessed – comprised of Call To Action, DignityUSA, Fortunate Families and New Ways Ministry – will host a pilgrimage to Philadelphia for the World Meeting of Families, which runs from Sept. 22-27, and has planned educational and outreach LGBT events during the week.

The group was scheduled to host their events at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church during the World Meeting of Families, however after the Archbishop of Philadelphia received the programming in mid-August he decided to pull “the rug out from underneath us,” John Freml, coordinator for the Equally Blessed Coalition, told BTL. The Arch Street United Methodist Church then graciously opened their doors to the group.

“The pleasant but unintended consequences are we are actually closer to the convention now, and we will have more chances to interact with people outside the convention center,” Freml added.

Lui Francesco is one of 22 LGBT pilgrims from more than a dozen families from around the U.S. that have signed up to stay in Philadelphia and be among the estimated 1.5 million people who will flock to the city for the papal visit. He has lived all over the world



Lui Francesco is one of 22 LGBT pilgrims from more than a dozen families from around the U.S. that have signed up to stay in Philadelphia and be among the estimated 1.5 million people who will flock to the city for the papal visit. He has lived all over the world but has spent his adult life living in Detroit.

but has spent his adult life living in Detroit. He currently serves as a new Vision Council board member at Call To Action, as a member of the CTA Anti-Racism Team, as an organizer for CTA 20/30 of Michigan, as a newly elected board member for Michigan Coalition of Human Rights, and as an interpreter/translator.

Francesco is a practicing, young adult Catholic who plans on going to Philadelphia to discuss, with as many people as possible, the importance of trans inclusivity within the church, to raise visibility of trans Catholics and to show how diverse the trans community really is.

“I hope to be the voice and the visual for trans Catholics who are not

able to come out. I want to help put a face on the word ‘transgender,’ so people and (the Catholic) hierarchy can start to see us as fellow members of faith,” Francesco said.

Francesco came from a different faith in an area where, he says, religious freedom wasn't fully enforced. He couldn't get baptized until he came to the U.S.

“I do have my dream from childhood to become a Franciscan monk (or Capuchin Franciscan friar). However, I haven't found any order that would accept me as a monk as of now yet,” Francesco said. “I know I probably won't see a day where I will be accepted as a monk due to my trans status. However, I wish that someday all people of all genders can be

fully included within the Catholic Church. Because the call of the Holy Spirit is valid, and it doesn't become less valid just because of one's gender or gender identity.”

A 2013 study conducted by the Public Religion Research Institute shows that 76 percent of practicing Catholics agree that same-sex relationships should be accepted by society. However, as Freml and Francesco point out, the hierarchy of the Catholic Church seems to be falling behind the progression of their disciples.

“You must consider that the church is not just bishops and hierarchy but also the people of God. But a lot of Catholics don't realize that. So, by having these conversations, we will make that more specifically known and will catch the attention of Archbishop Chaput and other priests,” Freml said.

Francesco wrote a letter to the pope in which he describes feeling like a goat or a sheep without a herd. He has found it difficult to find a church that will accept him as his authentic self and doesn't want to join groups such as the Courage Apostolate of the Catholic Church, which ministers to LGBT Catholics and preaches celibacy instead of acceptance of selves as sexual beings.

Francesco, like his LGBT pilgrim peers, would like to see the hierarchy of power within the church shift its message to that of inclusion instead of a system that more so resembles “Don't Ask Don't Tell.”

“While at the parish level, everyday Catholics may be far more open and loving. It is like

performing first aid, sealing the wound around the nail, making sure the nail wouldn't move around to hurt further,” Francesco wrote in his letter to the pope. “But as long as the core of what harmed us remains in the church teaching, and the words of bishops are still around without being recanted, it is not the cure nor the beginning of a healing process.”

During the convention Equally Blessed will hold a press conference in the chapel of Arch Street United Methodist Church, a variety of workshops on LGBT spirituality and identity and will repeat some programming.

The Call to Action chapter in Philadelphia will provide refreshments for the pilgrim families and invite them in for conversation. Further events will be held at the William Way LGBT Community Center and will cover topics such as parents of LGBT people in the church, exploring gender identity and young adult social gatherings.

“I would like to express gratitude for Arch Street United Methodist Church for being such hospitable hosts for us. And will reiterate my hope that the hierarchy will see the real damage in their words and actions. The eviction silences our voices. We aren't allowed to speak or talk. It does real damage,” Freml said. “With all of the church related firings, families are getting torn apart over these teachings. People are losing their livelihoods and resulting in the bullying of kids in Catholic schools. I hope that they will see us and talk to us. We're not asking for them to change their minds but asking them to treat us with more dignity.”

Ahead Of Pope's Visit, Some Friction Over LGBT Issues

BY DAVID CRARY

AP – The World Meeting of Families, the central religious event of Pope Francis' first visit to the United States, is intended to convey a message of love and joy as it seeks to promote church teaching on marriage. Yet four weeks away from its opening in Philadelphia, friction is mounting as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Roman Catholics lobby for a broader role in the event and organizers move to limit them.

The tensions surrounding the gathering will pose a real-world test of the pope's approach

that emphasizes compassion and welcome while upholding Catholic doctrine that marriage is only between a man and a woman.

The only speakers specifically addressing LGBT issues at the Sept. 22-27 conference are a celibate gay man and his mother. Gays and lesbians can attend the meeting as individuals, but groups supporting gay marriage were denied exhibit space and other official options for presenting their views.

“We don't want to provide a platform at the meeting for people to lobby for positions contrary to the life of our church,” said Philadelphia Archbishop Charles Chaput, the

meeting's host.

Francis DeBernardo of New Ways Ministry, an advocacy group for LGBT Catholics, said Chaput and other U.S. bishops “are putting their heads in the sand.”

“They see LGBT issues as a problem to contain rather than to explore,” DeBernardo said. “The entire Catholic community in the U.S. is having a discussion on this now. Why can't the World Meeting of Families?”

To counter the official message, New Ways Ministry and several allied groups have scheduled various programs – including a workshop on gender identity – to coincide

with the Meeting of Families. The initial plan called for the programs to be held at a Catholic church in Philadelphia, but the LGBT groups said the church's pastor rescinded the invitation at the urging of Chaput's office. The LGBT groups said the events will be relocated to a nearby Methodist church.

Another area of contention is the status of openly gay employees at Catholic institutions in the U.S. Dozens of people have reported losing their jobs at such workplaces since 2010 over their same-sex relationships or support for gay marriage and gay rights,

See Friction, next page

► Friction

Continued from p. 10

including Margie Winters, a married gay teacher dismissed in June by a Catholic school in Philadelphia.

The World Meeting of Families is a triennial Vatican-backed event, held seven times previously starting in 1994 with the goal of strengthening marriage and families. The Philadelphia meeting will be the first in the United States.

The U.S. ambassador to the Holy See, Kenneth Hackett, noting in an interview with The Associated Press that gay marriage is now “the law of our land,” said: “How the pope will deal with that, I think it might be one of the issues of nontraditional marriage that he speaks about or he alludes to.”

He cited Francis’ views on “marriage situations where people are under stress” – because of divorce, or violence in the family, or where single parents are raising children. “So if we look at what he has said in so many previous occasions about extending the generosity and mercy of the church to these different situations, that’s where I think he’ll come down,” Hackett said.

More than two years into his papacy, Francis has disappointed some conservative American Catholics by not speaking about church teaching on marriage as frequently as his predecessors. Instead, he has emphasized

compassion over defending the church on divisive social issues as he tries to bring back Catholics who have left the fold.

In 2013, he seemed to extend that attitude to gays when he responded to a question about a purportedly gay priest by saying, “If someone is gay and is searching for the Lord and has good will, then who am I to judge him?” However, Francis has also affirmed that same-sex relationships and marriages are contrary to church teaching.

Still, nearly 4 in 10 Catholics surveyed by the Public Religion Research Institute and Religion News Service mistakenly believe Francis supports allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry legally. The survey of 1,331 U.S. adults, released Tuesday, had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.4 percentage points.

While in Philadelphia, the pope is scheduled to visit an outdoor Festival of Families on Sept. 26 and celebrate Mass the next day at the conclusion of the Meeting of Families.

Among the more than 15,000 Catholics registered for the meeting are 22 people representing LGBT families on behalf of a coalition called Equally Blessed. Though no official speakers will convey their viewpoints, they hope to engage in conversations with other attendees.

Among the conservative Catholic groups that have been allocated exhibit space at the meeting is Courage International, which describes its core mission as trying to help

people with same-sex attractions lead chaste lives.

Courage has come under criticism from gay-rights activists for supporting the option of reparative therapy for gays and lesbians. The Rev. Philip Bochanski, the group’s associate director, said Courage does not advocate such therapy but respects the right of individuals to pursue it if they feel it’s appropriate

Of the more than 70 speeches and presentations on the official Meeting of Families schedule, only one explicitly addresses gay and lesbian issues. It’s a joint presentation by a celibate gay Catholic, Ron Belgau, and his mother, Beverly Belgau, addressing how Catholic families can respond when a family member comes out as gay.

Ron Belgau, who teaches at St. Louis University while pursuing a Ph.D. in philosophy, is co-founder of a blog called Spiritual Friendship that seeks to promote celibacy as an admirable option for gay Christians.

Belgau said he believes a majority of U.S. Catholics now support same-sex marriage, which became legal in all 50 states under a U.S. Supreme Court ruling in June.

He doesn’t expect the church to change its teaching, but suggests there might be ways to make gay couples feel more welcome – comparable to engagement in the church by many Catholics who use birth control or have

been divorced.

“I’ve always thought the Catholic Church should be as welcoming as it can be to people, even if they’re not fully following the church’s teaching,” Belgau said.

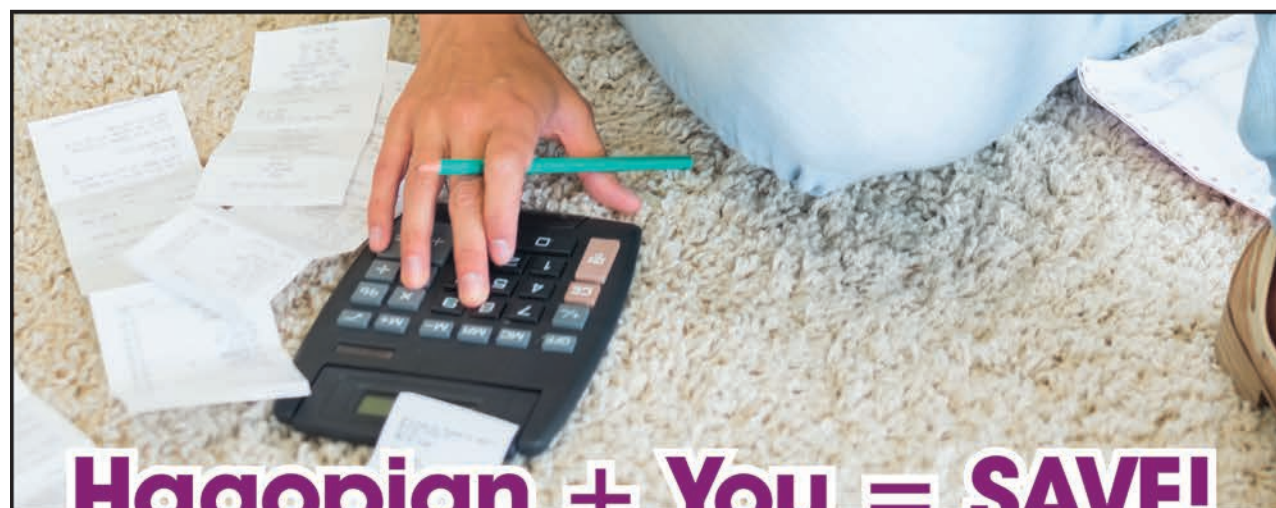
Another speaker will be Douglas Farrow, a professor of Christian thought at McGill University in Montreal. He has written extensively about what he perceives as the harmful consequences of legalizing same-sex marriage, and says the Catholic Church needs to remain firm, but not antagonistic, in promoting its vision of heterosexual marriage.

“Of course there is room for improvement in the way the church responds to its people,” Farrow said. “The church in America needs to be more thoroughly comfortable in its own theological skin ... in order to be more comfortable in these conversations that are so fraught about what marriage is.”

Ken Gavin, spokesman for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, expressed hope that differences on LGBT issues would not spark animosity.

“It is very much possible to show Christian charity and love for all even if you disagree with their point of view,” he said in an email.

Associated Press writers Nicole Winfield in Rome and Rachel Zoll in New York contributed to this story. Follow David Crary on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/CraryAP>.



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All A Matter Of Perspective Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

My friend Jon Strand is a pointillist artist. His art consists of near-micro dots of ink coloration, layer upon layer upon layer. It's no exaggeration that Jon has dotted in his art career spanning over three decades anywhere from 50 to 80 million dots. (I tell him it's a form of mental masturbation).

Jon's colorful art – many titled with poetic names honoring the Nine Muses of the Arts – are large creations, not infrequently measuring 5 feet wide by 6 feet high.

Jon has had two major exhibitions of his work at the Detroit Institute of Arts – currently owning two of his art pieces – and a major retrospective showing a few years back at the Max Fisher Center in Detroit's Orchestra Hall.

For Jon, making art is an act of intense dedication and courage. Jon has glaucoma and is slowly losing peripheral vision in his left eye. He, his studio, his pointillist techniques, his challenging story, were featured on an NBC-TV Channel 4 newscast.

Challenged? Yes! But Jon persists, encouraged I'm sure by his black Labrador Retriever, Archie, now going on four loyal canine years of admiration and devotion as Jon's apprentice sidekick.

In my own right as a prolific writer/artist, I too am gayly compulsive. Since I started writing my Parting Glances column in 1999 – concise, 150-word review history of important LGBT events in the 20th Century – I have written 785 columns. At 600 words per column, my tally prints out at 471,000 words. That's a lot of verbal wind-sailing, to be sure.

As for creating my own rainbow colored, idiosyncratic art pieces, I now average about one creation a day, with over 1,000 Facebook images in five years. (Recently I was befriended by Tiger Pitcher Justin Verlander. And while I have a gay man's minimalist interest in baseball, football, soccer – his liking my art certainly speaks well of him. By the way: if he has any interesting pictures to share, I'll certainly let my readers know.)

May I herewith put to rest a rumor that – Heaven knows how it got started – has been circulating. Namely: there are no intentional, untoward, recreational phallic images. I do believe, however, that any art creation of mine should be such as to allow a viewer's own creative interpretation to be a valid aesthetic response. (Enough said.)

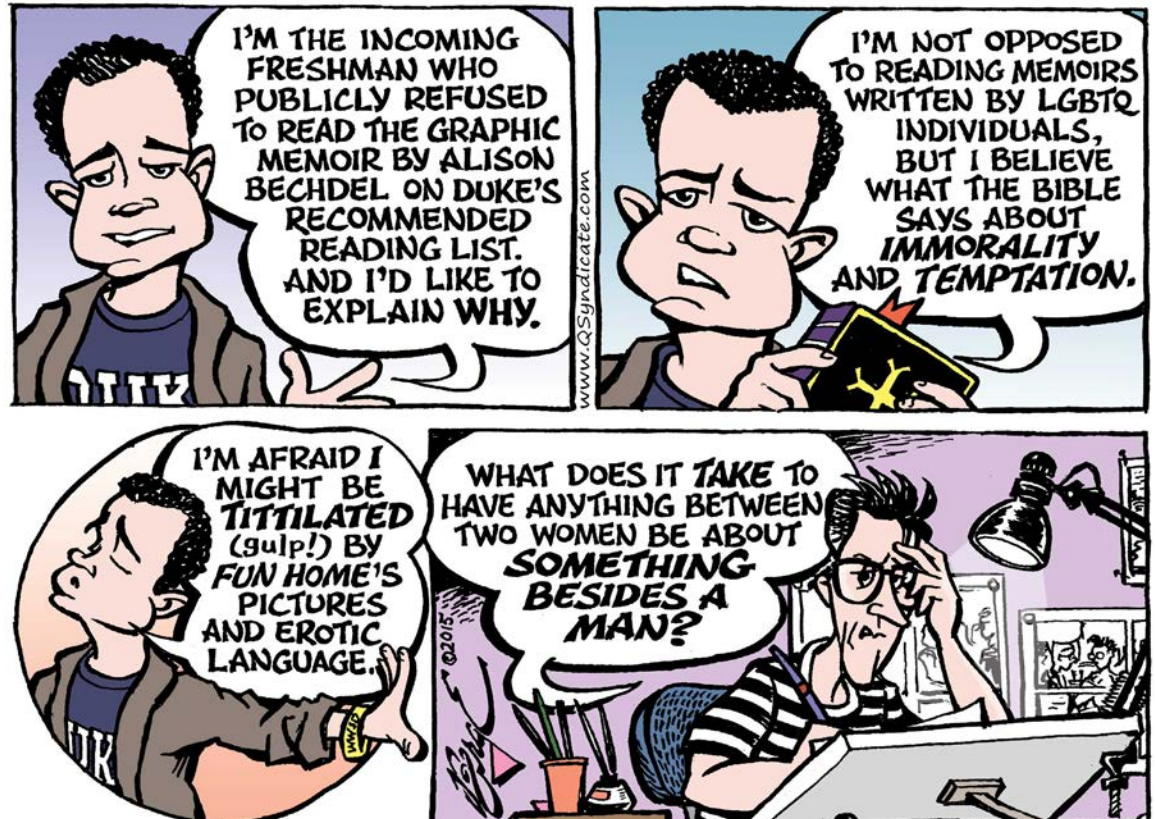
Truth of the matter is, we live in an astonishing era that permits so many opportunities for being creative on an individual basis, whether with cellphone pictures, Photoshop techniques, computer-enhanced design, music-making keyboard orchestrations, self-published novels and poetry – all with instant sharing. It's creative magic! And also highly competitive.

Here's one of my tried-and-true techniques I use to enhance my own creativity. I call it the "Tell Your Brain Thank You Technique." It's simplicity itself, but believe me – it works. Whenever you begin a creative project, say to your brain, "Thank you for this opportunity for making art – or making music, or cooking, or creative writing! Let's explore!"

When you finish, tell your brain, "Thanks for your extra special input!" This technique also works when your brain is supplying you with information. When a forgotten name is recalled. When a forgotten memory is brought into focus. Or, an amorous, inventive encounter. Say, "Thanks!"

If you're an LGBT person, it's pretty certain you're also creative. Good Gay Genes, as the saying goes. Say thanks. Count your creative blessings. You just might be surprised.

Charles@pridesource.com



Viewpoint



OPINION BY BY REV. ROLAND STRINGFELLOW AND RANA ELMIR

Meeting At The Intersection Of Religious Liberty And LGBTQ Equality

At first glance, some might think that religious liberty and LGBTQ equality are mutually exclusive, but that couldn't be further from the truth.

In fact, as advocates for social justice we believe these two ideals are intertwined. As people of strong but different personal faiths, we share the belief that everyone deserves to be treated with respect and acceptance. This is what our Christian and Muslim faiths teach us, and it's a central truth of all faiths. That same truth dwells in the hearts of everyone who seeks equality for all, regardless of their spiritual beliefs.

So we're deeply troubled by the ways "religious liberty" is being used as an excuse to discriminate against LGBTQ people in the public sphere. We fully support religious freedom – a right guaranteed by the Constitution – but the freedom

to worship without interference does not give any of us the right to discriminate.

Especially in Michigan, this is a growing concern. A number of so-called Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) bills are being introduced and passed here, including the law that allows taxpayer-funded faith-based adoption agencies to discriminate against LGBTQ people based on religious objections.

Sadly, the U.S. Supreme Court ruling making marriage equality the law nationwide will only accelerate attempts to discriminate against the LGBTQ community, especially in Michigan where we do not have a statewide law prohibiting discrimination against LGBTQ people.

That's why The Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry and the ACLU of Michigan

Sadly, the U.S. Supreme Court ruling making marriage equality the law nationwide will only accelerate attempts to discriminate against the LGBTQ community, especially in Michigan where we do not have a statewide law prohibiting discrimination against LGBTQ people.

– in partnership with other faith and equality organizations – are hosting a rare gathering of clergy and lay leaders from all religious traditions at the "Liberating Religious Liberty" Symposium on Sept. 10 in Detroit.

The goal of the day-long workshop is to address concerns about the ways the concept of religious liberty is

See Viewpoint, next page

► Viewpoint: Religious Liberty

Continued from p. 12

We're deeply troubled by the ways "religious liberty" is being used as an excuse to discriminate against LGBTQ people in the public sphere. We fully support religious freedom – a right guaranteed by the Constitution – but the freedom to worship without interference does not give any of us the right to discriminate.

being used to justify discrimination against the LGBTQ community and how to counteract those arguments. We'll learn from experts and exchange ideas about ways to engage people of faith in speaking out in support of LGBTQ rights.

Some of the people of faith who will be participating have always been open-hearted to the LGBTQ community, while others have been on a journey to reach a place of understanding and acceptance. We all start from where we are, but by coming together we can find the common ground that exists across all faiths and social justice organizations – the core truths that encourage us to accept and respect everyone as equals.

The workshop is open only to members of the clergy and lay leaders in all faith traditions, but the public is warmly invited to attend an evening reception from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The reception will feature a keynote address by Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR), a national legal organization committed to advancing the civil and human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and their families. The keynote will be followed by a Q&A and the reception will conclude with an open discussion about next steps for community organizing.

We firmly believe that people of faith have a unique opportunity to stand up for the true meaning of religious liberty – the right to live out our faith without interference – while at the same time standing up for the rights of the LGBTQ community. We're proud to work together to help educate people of faith and our entire community on an issue that will bring us one step closer to our ultimate goal of full equality for all, everywhere in this country.

To RSVP for the free reception at the Wayne State University McGregor Memorial Conference Center in Detroit, visit religiouslibertyforall.org.

Rev. Roland Stringfellow is the Senior Pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit, and Rana Elmir is Deputy Director of the ACLU of Michigan.

SAVE THE DATE

Sept. 10
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Kate Kendell, NCLR

Public Reception 5 - 8 p.m.

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Creep of the Week

Tony Perkins

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Remember when the White House lit up in rainbow colors following the Supreme Court decision that legalized marriage equality nationwide? Yeah, well so does Tony Perkins, and he's still mad about it.



Tony Perkins

Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, spoke at a summit of Watchmen on the Wall, an organization of right-wing pastors that took place Aug. 24-25. For two days Perkins and his ilk raged against the gay machine.

"I believe we are at a moment of urgency unprecedented in the history of this country," Perkins said before launching into a Bible story about King Uzziah lighting incense in the temple even though he wasn't, like, holy. But King Uzziah thought he was all that and the priests were like, "Uh, no you don't," and then God was like, "I'm with the priests on this one," and God gave King Uzziah leprosy and he died. Aren't Bible stories fun?

The whole point of this story was to point out that King Uzziah had tried to "turn the sacred into the secular," according to Perkins, which, wouldn't ya know, is exactly what King, er, President Obama is trying to do in the United States of Christmerica.

“The parallel between the pride of Uzziah and the pride of our national leader in shaking his fist in the face of God was stark and alarming.”

– Tony Perkins

"What struck me was that on the eve of this Supreme Court decision, on June the 26th, if you watched the news you saw that the president had bathed the White House in the colors of the so-called gay pride," Perkins said. "The parallel between the pride of Uzziah and the pride of our national leader in shaking his fist in the face of God was stark and alarming."

Never mind the fact that Obama is a Christian and goes to church, I highly doubt he was personally responsible for the rainbow light display. Like, I don't think he placed the lights and put the filters on them or whatever. Grounds staff probably did that. But Obama did say afterwards that it was "pretty cool." Because it was.

"I believe it is time that we see the spiritual leaders of this nation step forward," Perkins said.

And this time he means it! I know that Perkins has been imagining this wave of conservative pastors and their flocks standing up to the giant rainbow tyrant of equality for decades now and getting LGBT people back to where they belong (in leprosy colonies probably). But the force just doesn't seem to be with the haters any more.

"I know many have talked to me, saying, 'As pastors are we going to face prison, are we going to face jail, are we going to be forced to do same-sex marriages?' That may come if we fail to act today," Perkins warned. (P.S. No it won't).

"But the greater threat is to the men and women sitting in your pews every Sunday morning," Perkins continued. "It's to the business individuals, it's to the public servants who will be forced to check their faith at the door of public service. We cannot allow that reverse religious test to take place in this nation and so you must encourage your people to stand firm in the faith."

Yes, people of faith. Stand tall against the tyranny of secular life. The separation of church and state my foot! Oh, the horror of public servants having to do their god damned jobs! Or florists having to bake gay wedding photos or whatever. Thanks a lot, Obama! He'd best not light up the White House in rainbow colors again or God is gonna know exactly where to send the leprosy.

Standoff Over Gay Marriage Licenses Wears On, Despite Ruling

BY CLAIRE GALOFARO AND ADAM BEAM

Editor's Note: As of press time, the U.S. Supreme Court has denied, without dissent, Rowan County Clerk Kim Davis her request for a stay of an order from the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that required her to issue marriage licenses immediately to couples in the case Miller v. Davis. On Tuesday, the American Civil Liberties Union and the American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky filed two motions with a Kentucky district court to hold Rowan County Clerk Kim Davis accountable for her continuing refusal to issue marriage licenses to couples in said case.

MOREHEAD, Ky. (AP) – A familiar scene repeated itself at a rural Kentucky courthouse last Thursday morning: an engaged gay couple marched into the clerk's office, asked for a marriage license and insisted that the latest in a string of court orders proves that they are entitled to one.

Then Rowan County Clerk Kim Davis' office turned them away for the third time.

William Smith Jr. and James Yates walked out of her office, shaking their heads in bewilderment.

Hours earlier, a federal appeals court upheld a ruling ordering Davis to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, rejecting her claims that her Christian faith and constitutional right to religious freedom should exempt her from having to license a union that she finds morally objectionable.

In defiance of the mounting pile of court orders, Davis continues to refuse and the standoff in her office has stretched into its second month.

Some couples, who have grown weary of the ups and downs, have decided to no longer rush to her office the moment a favorable ruling comes down.

"It's getting tedious. We get torn down, built back up, torn down, built back up," said David Ermold, who with his partner have been rejected twice. They did not return

Thursday and decided instead to wait and see what happens over the next several days.

"I just didn't want to go through that again."

U.S. District Judge David Bunning had already ordered Davis to issue marriage licenses two weeks ago. He later delayed that ruling until Aug. 31 or until the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals issued a ruling. The appeals court did so on Wednesday, denying Davis' appeal.

But a deputy clerk in Davis' office told Smith and Yates on Thursday that the office believes Bunning's delay remains in effect until Aug. 31. He refused to give his name or give them a license.

Davis, meanwhile, sat in her office with the door closed. She talked on the phone, ignoring the commotion as the couples, trailed by activists and reporters, poured in through the door and demanded answers. Later, she temporarily closed her office for "computer upgrades," said a note posted on her door. The note indicated the office would reopen in an hour.

The American Civil Liberties Union sued Davis last month on behalf of April Miller and Karen Roberts, a second gay couple and two straight couples.

Miller said they felt vindicated by the federal court ruling. They got out the boxes holding their matching wedding bands, bought days after the Supreme Court's decision in June. They are simple white gold bands, ringed in diamonds.

"One step closer," Miller said. "We might be able to get married in September."

Mat Staver, an attorney for Davis, said he was disappointed with the ruling. He said he plans to file an emergency petition with the U.S. Supreme Court either Thursday or Friday and ask them to extend the delay of the judges' order until the appeal is completed, a process that could take several months.

"The court of appeals did not provide any religious accommodation rights to individuals, which makes little sense because at the end of the day

it's individuals that are carrying out the acts of the office," Staver said. "They don't lose their individual constitutional rights just because they are employed in a public office."

It's unclear how Davis would react if she were to ultimately lose her appeals. She testified in federal court last month she would "deal with that when the time comes." Saturday, she spoke to thousands of supporters at a religious freedom rally at the state capitol, saying: "I need your prayers ... to continue to stand firm in what we believe."

"Regardless of what any man puts on a piece of paper, the law of nature is not going to change," Davis told the crowd.

Davis has said she will not resign. She can only be removed from office if the state Legislature impeaches her, which is unlikely. If she continues to defy a federal court order, a judge could hold her in contempt and order hefty fines or jail time.

"Certainly none of those are appealing to my client," Staver said. "No one wants to be fined or go to jail and she's always been a law-abiding citizen. She's just caught in a very difficult situation."

William Sharp, legal director of the ACLU of Kentucky, said he believes the case "is simple."

"Religious liberty certainly does not allow public officials to deny government services to the public based on their personal beliefs," Sharp wrote in a statement. "All that Davis is required to do in her official capacity as clerk is issue a form. In no way is she being forced to endorse anyone's marriage or beliefs."

Miller and Roberts said they know the legal fight will stretch on. Davis continued to refuse to issue marriage licenses even after Bunning ordered her two weeks ago to do so. The couple expects she will continue to refuse.

"We get all excited. But we know a letdown is coming again," Miller said. "It's going to keep going. It's gonna be a long haul."

"But it felt so good for a minute," Roberts chimed in.

National LGBT Orgs Respond To Rentboy.com Arrests

BY BTL STAFF

NEW YORK – Following the arrests of Rentboy.com chief executive and several employees Aug. 25, national LGBT organizations have called attention to the decriminalization of sex work.

Rentboy.com started in 1997 and allows male escorts to advertise themselves for a fee. Federal authorities seized the website and business and personal assets of seven current and former company executives of Rentboy.com, self-described as the largest male-escort website, for “conspiring to violate the Travel Act by promoting prostitution,” and have deemed it an “Internet brothel.”

CEO of Rentboy.com Jeffrey Hurant, 50, defended his company telling the media, “I don’t think that we do anything to promote prostitution. I think we do good things for good people, and we bring good people together.”

“As alleged, Rentboy.com attempted to present a veneer of legality, when in fact this Internet brothel made millions of dollars from the promotion of illegal prostitution,” said acting U.S. Attorney Kelly T. Currie.

The Transgender Law Center, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, The National Center for Lesbian Rights and Lambda Legal issued a statement Aug. 20 in support of a resolution authored by Amnesty International urging for the decriminalization of sex work, declaring “sex worker rights are human rights.”

“As LGBT rights organizations in the U.S., we join to applaud and support Amnesty International’s recent resolution to protect the human rights of sex workers by calling for decriminalization of sex work, while simultaneously holding states accountable in preventing and combatting sex trafficking, ensuring that sex workers are protected from exploitation and enforcing laws against the sexual exploitation of children,” the statement reads in part.

Each organization authored their own response following the Rentboy.com arrests which brought attention to the U.S. policies on sex work that directly harm LGBT U.S. citizens and called out the allocation of federal resources as “misguided” and “a terrible waste of resources.”

“With this raid, the U.S. federal government is not only jeopardizing countless people’s lives and only source of livelihood, but sending a clear and troubling message that the country is less invested in addressing systemic issues of racial, economic and anti-LGBT injustice than in further criminalizing the individuals most marginalized by those systems,” The Transgender Law Center wrote

“Experience and evidence have shown that criminalization serves only to make those who are vulnerable to harms associated with sex work even more vulnerable.” - NCLR

in a statement.

“Like Amnesty International, the World Health Organization and other medical and human rights organizations, NCLR strongly opposes criminal prosecution of sex work by adults. Experience and evidence have shown that criminalization serves only to make those who are vulnerable to harms associated with sex work even more vulnerable. The criminal charges against Rentboy.com by the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice are misguided and a terrible waste of resources. We are especially concerned about the negative impact on LGBT individuals who have been driven to sex work after being rejected by their families and experiencing other types of discrimination. NCLR strongly recommends that the federal government adopt a strategy aimed at providing essential supports – education, jobs, housing – to LGBT youth and adults who have been marginalized by these serious harms,” said executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, Kate Kendell.

Escorts posted ads including their penis size, pay rate and preferred fetishes and site visitors could then contact them directly. All activity was negotiated between the escort and the client. The federal complaint states that even with a disclaimer telling visitors that they could not exchange money for sex, those acts were “clearly” happening.

“There are so many other important investigations that federal resources should be focused on right now instead of sex workers. Take the appalling murders of trans women of color – now at epidemic proportions across our nation. Sex work is a fact of life – it has been, it is and it will be as long as human beings are around. Criminalization puts the livelihoods, health and lives of sex workers in jeopardy. It’s time for our federal justice system to get its priorities straight and it’s time once and for all to decriminalize sex work,” said Russell Roybal, deputy executive director, National LGBTQ Task Force.

Each defendant could face up to five years in prison and up to \$250,000 in fines.



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BTL photos: Andrew Potter

Ceramicist and digital painter Spencer Barefield comes from a family of fine artists, and now he's planning to make a name for himself with the new Barefield ClayWorks

Breaking The Mold

BY ED ENGLISH

Natural-born talents don't come more naturally than with digital painter and ceramicist Spencer Barefield. He's the son to a musically inclined father and artistically inclined mother, and by the age of 2 he was already learning how to play violin. Although not well, he admits.

"It didn't work for me," Barefield says with a laugh, but it did work for his sister, a professional violinist in New York.

Yet Barefield is still a musician of many sorts. He regularly practices piano and still gives the violin a try. But his instrument of choice is the soft hypnotic hum of the pottery wheel, using careful rhythm and coordination to create a ceramic symphony.

"When I think of my ceramic work and throwing on the wheel, it's a lot like playing an instrument that doesn't have sound," he says. "I feel like what I do with my hands on the wheel, I am capturing this kind of music and rhythm into a pottery piece

but it is there forever."

This fall, Barefield, 28, will debut his pottery work to the public in a new joint business venture with his mom called Barefield ClayWorks.

"There is a delicate balance of the rhythm, flow and mechanical movements, while also incorporating the artistry and figuring out a shape that is pleasing to the eye and very aesthetic," Barefield says about creating art to be sold. He's been steadily working on a collection of pottery pieces for the launch of the business from his in-home art studio. "And hopefully someone will look at it and say, 'Wow, I would like that in my home.'"

Barefield first fell in love with ceramics after being introduced to an artist working with the Empty Bowls Project – an international movement to raise money to end hunger through the selling of artist-made bowls.

"I saw him and his apprentice making all these bowls so fast, one after the other. It was incredible," he remembers. "And so he let me sit down and throw on the wheel for the first time, and I made this bowl. It was

“ I feel like when I am throwing in the wheel, it is just a really meditative sort of thing where you put yourself in this deep state of concentration and you just kind of focus into this rhythm and flow. **”**



clunky and thick,” he laughs, “But I guess it ended up being sold for Empty Bowls. It was my first bowl ever made.”

Inside his family home in Detroit’s historic Palmer Park, the walls are adorned with an intricate collection of pottery and other handmade trinkets by Barefield and are a reminder of his progression as an artist.

“If I look at my stuff now compared to then, it’s cool how that just inspired me to go from that first bowl,” he says. “I feel like when I am throwing in the wheel, it is just a really meditative sort of thing where you put yourself in this deep state of concentration and you just kind of focus into this rhythm and flow.”

Ceramics is where he concentrates but digital painting is where he dreams, says Barefield, drawing up his own themes inspired by artists such as Salvador Dali and Marc Chagall to create a style he calls “interstellar.”

“The possibilities of what life could be like in different worlds and parallel universes,” he explains. “I like to go into other universes in my works, to just paint things that don’t look like our world at all; it’s a kind of way to explore different realms.”

He also uses digital painting to explore different parts of his identity. As he explains, his art is the formulation of all his environmental influences, including the LGBT community.

“I am sure if that is part of me as a person, perhaps some of that goes into my artwork somewhere. So it’s the elements of imagination and things that influence me all around,” he says, explaining he leaves the interpreting of his artwork to his audience. “I love hearing what people see in it because



they can see something that I wouldn’t have necessarily thought of myself.” And he doesn’t spend much time interpreting his identity as an artist.

“Using the word ‘artist’ would be what I would fit into, whether it is a very vague widespread term to cover a whole spectrum,” he adds. As Barefield says, he just wants to inspire people to interpret their own levels of creativity.

“I would like my art to be able to move people in a way that would make them want to better their own creative selves and explore what they can do,” he says. “When you look at my work, you can see whatever you want to see,” and Barefield says he wants people to think just as creatively about themselves.



The artist with his mom, Barbara Barefield, his dad, A. Spencer Barefield, and Devo the dog.

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Melissa Etheridge Comes To DSO

BY BTL STAFF

DETROIT – Singer-songwriter, guitarist and activist Melissa Etheridge comes to the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Oct. 12 to perform songs from her new album, "This is M.E.," as well as other known hits such as "Come to My Window," "I'm The Only One" and "I Want To Come Over."

Etheridge will take the stage at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 12 at Orchestra Hall and will share personal stories about her remarkable journey through life and the inspiration behind some of her most

beloved songs. Tickets for the event start at \$30 with box seats at \$100. The DSO will not appear on this scheduled performance.

Two-time Grammy Award winner Etheridge is known for her iconic voice, profound lyrics and dynamic stage presence. After coming out in 1993, battling cancer nearly a decade later and performing around the world, Etheridge started her own label "M.E. Records" in 2014 and produced a live record later that same year.

The Kansas born, lesbian identified artist is a well known LGBT advocate

and has spoken out on many occasions including: in 2008 when the U.S. Supreme Court of California overturned the state's ban on same-sex marriage, in favor of medical marijuana and in response to California passing Proposition 8 in 2008. She received the honor of having her name on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 2011 and has released 13 studio albums, 38 singles and 32 music videos on Island Records and ME Records.

Orchestra Hall is located at 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. To purchase tickets call 313-576-5111.

Applause!

CALENDAR

MUSIC & MORE

Citizens Bank "Arts, Beats and Eats" A culturally unique presentations of artists, musicians and food exhibits from the Metro Detroit area. Tickets: \$3-5. Downtown Royal Oak, Royal Oak. Aug. 30 - Sep. 7. www.artsbeatseats.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Emmylou Harris & Rodney Crowell" Tickets: \$45-75. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. Sep. 18. 248-399-2980. www.RoyalOakMusicTheatre.com

The Ark "The Accidentals" Tickets: \$15. Free at the door with any student ID. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. Sep. 10. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

Classical

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Charlie Albright" Tickets: \$10-45. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. Sep. 25. 313-576-5111. www.Dso.org

Concerts

Blind Pig "DEATH" 18+. Tickets: \$18-20. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 9 p.m. Sep. 13. 734-996-8555. www.Blindpigmusic.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Kacey Musgraves." Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. Oct. 1. 248-399-2980. www.Aeglive.com

See Applause Calendar, page 20

AWARD WINNING SEASON

2015  2016

THE NEW MEL
BROOKS MUSICAL **Young Frankenstein**
September 11 - October 4, 2015 | Directed by Rich Wilson | Musical Comedy

DISNEY AND
CAMERON MACKINTOSH'S **Mary Poppins**
November 20 - December 20, 2015 | Directed by John Luther | Musical

TRIPLE TONY AWARD WINNER
BEST MUSICAL, BOOK, SCORE **Avenue Q**
January 22 - February 7, 2016 | Directed by Debbie Landis-Sigler | Musical Satire

Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike
April 8 - 24, 2016 | Directed by Rodell Salazar | Comedy

Dreamgirls
June 3 - 26, 2016 | Directed by Jamie Richards | Musical

AUGUST
WILSON'S **The Piano Lesson**
October 16 - 25, 2015 | Directed by Jeffery Nelson | Drama

How I Learned to Drive
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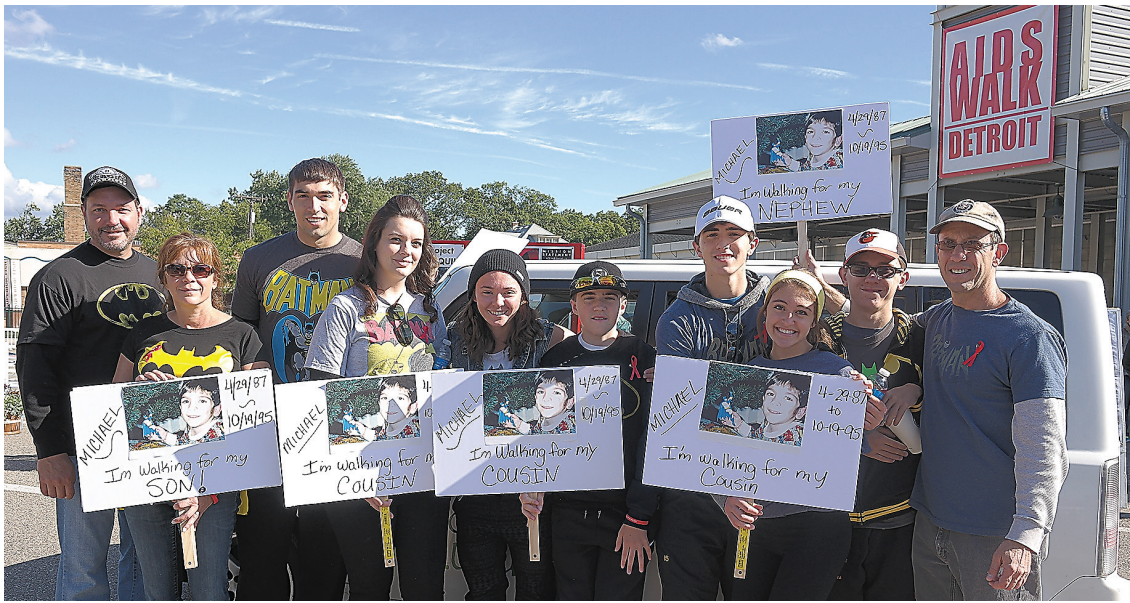
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Last year's walk included Tammy Boccomino, left, who is no stranger to speaking up about HIV and the harm it can cause to a household. She was there with her sister, brother-in-law and a handful of nieces and nephews. Her son, Michael Volante, passed away in 1995 at the age of 8. This year's walk in Royal Oak takes place Sunday, Sept. 13. Visit www.aidswalkdetroit.org. BTL Photos: AJ Trager

Fall Features LGBT Fundraising Festivities

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

Metro Detroit's traditional array of events benefitting local LGBT organizations begins this month.

Walk

AIDS Walk Detroit commemorates its 25th year on Sunday, Sept. 13 with a 5K walk and quilt ceremony. The event is held under the motto, "Walking to end HIV." This is the first year the 5K walk will be held after the two organizations announced their merger. The "Names Project" memorial quilt ceremony will be held before the walk begins.

The event will be emceed by Dr. Partha Nandi, host of the medical lifestyle show, "Ask Dr. Nandi." Nandi practices gastroenterology in Metro Detroit and is a clinical assistant professor at the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine.

Participants can register for the event as individuals, as a group/family or as team. Registration begins at \$25, which will include a T-shirt. Registration and more

information can be found by emailing info@aidswalkdetroit.org or by calling 248-399-WALK. As of press time, AIDS Walk Detroit has raised over \$80,000 and is now hoping to reach its goal of \$225,000 to support programs for HIV/AIDS prevention, education and services for individuals affected. AIDS Walk will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Sept. 13 at the Royal Oak Farmers Market, 316 E. 11 Mile Road. Registration opens at 8:30 a.m.; the quilt ceremony will begin at 9:30 a.m. Visit www.aidswalkdetroit.org for more information.

Voices

Aiming to benefit local LGBTQ and questioning runaway youth, the Ruth Ellis Center (REC) will host its annual "Voices" event on Thursday, Sept. 17. REC, who recently co-hosted a 5K Walk/Run with Fiat (FCA US) in August, is a youth social services agency that serves the needs of runaway, homeless and at-risk youth in Metro Detroit and is the only organization in the country that has a residential program for LGBTQ youth in the foster care and

juvenile justice system.

Famed LGBT comedian Bruce Vilanch will emcee the event, where he will also host a "meet and greet" during the VIP reception. "His comedic style will be a great addition to the program," says Mark-Erwin McCormick, director of development at REC. "We are also excited to premiere an incredible short film produced by the youth of Out In The System, the youth leadership and advocacy program funded by the ARCUS Foundation. There will also be a silent auction with great items to bid on, four enter-to-win packages, a strolling dinner and complimentary bar."

This year's theme for Voices is "Gearing Up For Success"; the event will be presented by Lear Corporation and Between The Lines. "Their (Lear) continued generosity is a testament to their commitment to diversity, equality and the LGBTQ youth who utilize the center's programs and services," says McCormick.

The VIP reception for the event will begin at 6 p.m., with the main event following at 7 p.m. Tickets

See Fall Fundraisers, page 28

Applause! CALENDAR

Calendar

Continued from page 18

The Ark "John Hiatt and The Combo & Taj Mahal Trio" Tickets: \$39.50-75. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 a.m. Sep. 3. 734-668-8397. www.Theark.org

The Ark "Marcia Ball" Tickets: \$30. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Sep. 20. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

The Ark "Nellie McKay" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sep. 19. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

The Magic Bag "Saun & Starr with Third Coast Kings" Tickets: \$15+. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave.,

Ferndale. 8 p.m. Sep. 16. 248-544-3030. www.Themagicbag.com

The Magic Bag "Bobby Whitlock from Derek & The Dominos and Coco Carmel" Tickets: \$20. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 8 p.m. Sep. 29. 248-544-3030. www.Themagicbag.com

University Musical Society "Audra McDonald" After her stunning 2013 Gershwin concert, McDonald returns to UMS for her sixth appearance, featuring music from her most recent recording, "Go Back Home." Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor 7:30 p.m. Sep.

See Applause Calendar, page 22



Young Frankenstein

Stagecrafters

Madcap antics, high-energy dance and a toe-tapping musical score compose the perfect formula for a musical comedy to kick off Stagecrafters' award-winning 2015-16 Main Stage series. "Young Frankenstein" is the musical stage adaptation of Mel Brooks' 1974 black-and-white film of the same name which parodies the 1930s horror movie genre. The show runs Sept. 11-Oct. 4 and is directed by Richard Wilson. Showtimes are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$22-24 and available at www.stagecrafters.org or by calling 248-541-430. The Baldwin Theatre is located at 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak.

Other works to come in Stagecrafters' "Main Stage Series" are Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's "Mary Poppins" Nov. 20-Dec. 20, directed by John Luther; Director Deborah Landis-Sigler's "Avenue Q" Jan. 22-Feb. 7, 2016; "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike," April 8-24, 2016, directed by Rodell Salazar; and "Dreamgirls," directed by Jamie Richards for June 3-26, 2016. Baldwin Theater's "2nd Stage Series" will bring three works. Jeffery Nelson will direct the drama, "The Piano Lesson," Oct. 16-25. Jerry Haines directs "How I Learned to Drive" Feb. 12-21, 2016, and Jay Kaplan will direct the comedy/drama "Casa Valentina" May 6-15, 2016. Barbara Vorges will direct the remaining youth theatre entry, "The Snow Queen," March 3-6, 2016.

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Mon., Oct. 12 at 7:30 p.m.*
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Eisenhower Dance Announces New Season, Celebrates 25 Years

SOUTHFIELD – Eisenhower Dance, Metro Detroit's premier contemporary dance company, is celebrating 25 years of dance. Founded by choreographer and Artistic Director Laurie Eisenhower in 1991, Eisenhower Dance has grown from a small ensemble to a nationally-recognized dance company and pioneer of the growing dance movement in Metro Detroit.

Eisenhower Dance has spent the last 25 years giving life to the repertoire of internationally known choreographers, as well as the highly acclaimed work of Artistic Director Laurie Eisenhower. The company has performed works by choreographers Edgar Zendejas, David Parsons, Lar Lubovitch, Ron de Jesus, Gina Patterson, Lauren Edson and Harrison McEldowney, among others. With a mission centered on collaboration, Eisenhower has partnered with prominent arts organizations such as the Michigan Opera Theatre, the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival, the Warren Symphony, the Immigrant Suns, Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings, the Rackham Symphony Choir, the Motor City Lyric Opera and the Toledo Opera. Eisenhower uses extensive education and outreach programming to foster a love of dance in the next generation of Metro Detroiters.

The company has received support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, the McGregor Fund, the Kresge Foundation and the New England Foundation for the Arts. In 2003, Laurie Eisenhower received the prestigious Artserve Michigan Governor's Award for Arts and Culture - Michigan Artist, and in 2012 was named a Kresge Arts Fellow for her dedication to bringing great dance to Detroit.

"When we started the company 25 years ago, I wasn't sure how long we would survive," Eisenhower said. "It's always tough to keep a nonprofit arts organization up and running. Yet, through the ups and downs, I've been amazed at the support we have received from the community. I'm excited to look both back and forward this season."

To mark this milestone season, Eisenhower will revisit audience favorites from the last quarter of a



century at each of its four Metro Series performances. Each performance will also feature a premiere work by a nationally-known choreographer such as Gabrielle Lamb, Ahmad Simmons and Eisenhower, herself.

"Rather than focusing on only the past, my goal this season is to show the growth of the company," Eisenhower said. "I want to highlight our fabulous and virtuosic dancers in imaginative and exciting choreography."

The company rehearses in Rochester, has administrative offices in Southfield and has schools in Birmingham, Franklin and Rochester. Each year, the company presents a subscription series of performances at four theatres in Metro Detroit and tours nationally.

Eisenhower begins its four-performance Metro Series Oct. 24-25 with a two-day run of "On the Move" at Oakland University's Varner Hall. The performance will include the revival of "Mosaics," an audience favorite from the company's first decade. The program will also include a preview of its newest choreographic commission by nationally-known choreographer Gabrielle Lamb.

The series continues on Dec. 11 with December Dances at the Seligman Performing Arts Center in Beverly Hills. The eclectic program will feature Laurie Eisenhower's popular "Evermore," as well as the premiere of a new work by Eisenhower. In addition, the company will revive "Catharsis," an earlier signature work by

Eisenhower. The December production will feature guest dancers from the Eisenhower Dance Centers and Oakland University's Repertory Dance Company.

The company will take to the Detroit Opera House stage with an exciting silver anniversary performance on Jan. 23, 2016. The group will present its stunning production of Igor Stravinsky's iconic "The Rite of Spring." This collaborative performance will feature lighting design by Kerro Knox 3, set design by Jeremy Barnett and live music by pianists Eugene and Elisabeth Pridonoff and Percussion Group Cincinnati. The program will also include Laurie Eisenhower's "Bolero," with guest dancers from both Oakland and Wayne State Universities.

To conclude the season's festivities, Eisenhower Dance will present a 25th anniversary celebration on April 30, 2016 at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts. The program will include Eisenhower's "Tom's Songs," a heartfelt tribute to her late husband, featuring music by Bob Dylan, Van Morrison and Bonnie Raitt. It will also feature a new work by resident choreographer Ahmad Simmons, a former Eisenhower dancer, as well as numerous other special anniversary events.

Tickets are on sale now. For more information, call 248-559-2095 or visit eisenhowerdance.org.

Applause! CALENDAR

► Calendar

Continued from page 20

17. 734-764-2538. www.Ums.org/performance/audra-mcdonald-2/

University Musical Society "Sphinx Virtuosi" . Rackham Auditorium, 915 East Washington St., Ann Arbor . 4 p.m. Sep. 27. 734-764-2538. www.Ums.org/performance/sphinx-virtuosi/

Other

University Musical Society "K-12 Kickoff Event" Please join us as we launch the 2015-16 season at a special after-school luncheon for teachers. This event is free and open to any interested educator, but registration is required. University Musical Society, Ann Arbor. 4:30 p.m. Sep. 15. 734-764-2538. www.Ums.org/performance/1516-k12kickoff/

Water Access Volunteer Effort "Charity Golf Open" . Western Golf & Country Club, 14600 Kinloch St., Redford. 8:30 a.m. Sep. 22. www.Westerngcc.com

Shows

Sound Board - Motor City Casino "Kim Russo" Tickets: \$30-75. Sound Board, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 2 p.m. Sep. 20. 800-745-3000. www.Motorcitycasino.com

THEATER

5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche It's 1956 and the Susan B. Anthony Society for the Sisters of Gertrude Stein are having their annual quiche breakfast. Will they be able to keep their cool when communists threaten their idyllic town? Tickets: \$10-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742

See Applause Calendar, page 25

The Addams Family

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre

In this darkly comic musical about the classic family, Wednesday Addams has grown up and fallen in love with a sweet, smart young man from a respectable family. Everything will change for the Addams family on the fateful night they host a dinner for Wednesday's "normal" boyfriend and his parents. "The Addams Family" runs Sept. 10-13 at the University of Michigan's Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 N. University, Ann Arbor. Performances are 7:30 p.m. Thursday at 7:30 p.m., 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$13-25 and available through www.a2ct.org or 734-971-2228.

Next up for A2CT is the Shakespeare drama, "Julius Caesar," Oct. 29-Nov. 1 at the Arthur Miller Theatre. This quintessential political intrigue, directed by Kat Walsh, is the bard at his dastardly best. The classic Sondheim musical "Company" rings in the New Year Jan. 7-10, 2016 at the Arthur Miller. Directed by Rachel Francisco, "Company" explores relationships and commitment in true Sondheim style. A2CT ushers out winter with the comedy "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead," March 10-13, 2016, also at the Arthur Miller Theatre. Directed by David Widmayer, Hamlet's hapless duo gets the spotlight in Stoppard's comedy of words. Neil Simon's comedy "Barefoot in the Park" hits the Arthur Miller stage April 21-14, 2016. Wendy Wright directs the zany comedy from the 60s. Just in time for Father's Day, Ron Baumanis directs the musical "Big Fish," June 2-5, 2016, at the Mendelssohn. This poignant musical comedy about a father-son relationship features tall tales, larger-than-life characters and lots of heart.





Dalia Reyes and Matt Fry, staffers at the Detroit Artist Market, show off a unique bicycle-themed sculpture created from an old clock and some scrap bike parts, chains, derailleurs – even some training wheels. DAM will host a charity art auction gala at the Ladder 12 Fire Station in Detroit Oct. 3.

DAM Exposes Unseen Beauty In Bikes, Fire Houses

The Detroit Artist Market's current show, "We The Vehicles: A Tribute to Detroit Bicycle Culture," is all about and for bicycles. Each unique work of art either is a creation from scrap parts of bikes, images of bike parts or is inspired by the feeling of riding a bike. This special show is in partnership with Back Alley Bikes, Detroit's nonprofit bicycle and repair resource center, and runs through the end of September.

On Oct. 3, DAM is hosting the Ladder 12 Art Auction, DAM Gala 1, a fundraiser at the Ladder Company #12 Fire Station near West Lafayette and 10th Street. Dozens of local artists are donating their work for auction, including Sergio De Giusti, Claire D'Aquist, David Brainard, Dawn Cook and Scott Hocking. Michael Chetcuti and Kyle Evans are honorary co-hosts. Tickets are \$150 and available at www.detroitartistsmarket.org and all proceeds benefit DAM.

The Collage Show

Nineteen well-known Detroit artists will be exhibiting their latest collage creations at The Collage Show, curated by juror/participant Jack O. Summers. The exhibit, opening Sept. 5 and running through Sept. 26, takes place at the Hatch Gallery, 3456 Evaline, Hamtramck. 313-346-5465

"Artists taking part in the exhibition will be present on two of those days to talk about their respective creations and offer creative insights on making unique, dramatic and aesthetically intriguing, collages" says Summers, himself a master of the art form. Talks are scheduled at 2 p.m. Sept. 19 and 26.



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Detroit Urban Design Studio Represents Unique Art

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Susan Rogal is passionate about the city of Detroit. She is also passionate about art. As of late, she has intertwined these two passions under the umbrella of the Detroit Urban Design Studio.

“Our motto is taking Detroit art to the streets,” Rogal said. “We are dedicated to bringing distinct, authentic designs to handbags, clothing, accessories and housewares called ArtWear using exceptional source art from Detroit’s regional artists. Our mission is to celebrate regional artists, promote their work, support a living wage and highlight their valuable contribution to Detroit’s cultural legacy. Featuring new artists, designing a diverse, limited edition product line, and providing opportunities for Detroit regional artists is our goal.”

The first artist Rogal partnered with was the late illustrator Gary Grimshaw. From there she added Leni Sinclair, FEL3000ft – Graffiti King Detroit, Michele Lundgren, Carl Lundgren, Darcel Deneau and Kate Paul. Just last week, Rogal signed her eighth artist, none other than Between The Lines contributing writer Charles Alexander.

“We represent graffiti artists, muralists, poster artists, painters, photographers, illustrators and Charles wraps it up nicely,” said Rogal. “His art is going to look smashing on our stuff because it’s more abstract. Treena Ericson, the director at the Scarab Club, said, ‘His stuff would look amazing on a scarf,’ and

it’s true. His work is perfect for product because it’s abstract and it doesn’t really have a beginning or an end. So it was thanks to the Scarab Club director that we kind of met in the middle and he decided to come onboard.”

Alexander said he was honored to

“We want Detroit to thrive in the new century and believe that art and our city’s artists will be vital to Detroit’s future”

– Founder Susan Rogal,
Detroit Urban Design Studio

be asked.

“I was pleased to partner with Susan because there were a number of Detroit artists whose work is being featured,” he said. “Susan was very pleased with me. She showed me some preliminary things she had worked up, my designs being used for hoodies or for ties or things like that. It’s my impression in my meetings with her that she is very anxious to give publicity to Detroit artists and to use their art to merchandize things. They’re planning to expand outside of Detroit to other countries and so forth. I was so impressed with her sincerity. Plus she had excellent credentials.” As she continues to add artists to her brand, Rogal is also expanding her product





Detroit artist Charles Alexander is the latest artist signed on with the studio. Susan Rogal says his art will look “smashing.”

line, especially the housewares division.

“For some of our artists, we have glasses,” she said. “We just came out with ceramic tile. We can take a piece of art and we break it into a 100 parts. So you can do a ceramic wall or a backplash.”

Currently, ArtWear can be found in some 35 stores across Metro Detroit as well as online at artweardetroit.com.

“We are passionate about Detroit’s future,” said Rogal. “We want Detroit to thrive in the new century and believe that art and our city’s artists will be vital to Detroit’s future. We share the belief with many people that there is virtually no equivalent of underutilized potential than (in) Detroit today. We believe by creating opportunities for local artists, and showcasing their talent, that it is a positive way to communicate just one more thing that is great about our city.”

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Applause! CALENDAR

► Calendar

Continued from page 22

Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through Sep. 14. 248-545-5545. www.theringwald.com

Cinderella Tickets: \$35+. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan State University, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. Sep. 22 - Sep. 27. 800-WHARTON. www.Whartoncenter.com

ComedySportz Two teams battle for laughs and points as they make up scenes, games and songs on the spot. A family-friendly show! ComedySportz Detroit, Michigan Actors Studio, 648 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. Through Oct. 31. 877-636-3320. www.comedysportzdetroit.com

Dirty Dancing Wharton Center, East Lansing. Nov. 10-15. Tickets: \$38+. www.Whartoncenter.com or 1-800-WHARTON.

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels Tickets: \$20-22. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. Sep. 10 - Sep. 20. 517-482-5700. www.Riverwalktheatre.com

Inaugural Fall 2015 Kick-Off Event Free; suggested donation of \$20. MITTEN Lab, Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. 11 a.m. Sep. 13. 313-237-SING.

Jersey Boys Wharton Center, East Lansing. Oct. 13-Sunday, Oct. 18. Tickets: \$35+. www.Whartoncenter.com or 1-800-WHARTON.

La Boheme Michigan Opera Theater, Detroit. Oct. 17-25. www.motopera.org.

National Theatre Live George Bernard Shaw's Man and Superman High-Definition Broadcasts from National Theatre, London. University Musical Society, Michigan Theater, 603 East Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Sep. 16. 734-764-2538. www.Ums.org/performance/nt-live-man-superman/

Nunset Boulevard The Little Sisters of Hoboken have been invited to sing at the Hollywood Bowl. They are thrilled at the prospect until they arrive and realize that they are booked into the Hollywood Bowl-A-Rama, a bowling alley with a cabaret lounge. Cornwell's Dinner Theatre, 18935 15 1/2 Mile Rd, Marshall. Through Oct. 24. 269-781-4293. www.turkeyville.com

See Applause Calendar, page 27



Up and coming superstar Lina Tertian sings the role of Mimi in "La Boheme" opening Oct. 17 at MOT. "La Boheme"

holocaust. Opening next March, Aaron Copeland's "The Tender Land" is the quintessential American opera that juxtaposes diversity and conservative morals in the 1930s, a theme hauntingly familiar to today's social conflicts.

The season wraps up with two monumental operatic triumphs, Giuseppe Verdi's "Macbeth" in April followed by Mozart's whimsical classic, "The Magic Flute" in May.

Season tickets and single event seats are available at www.motopera.org.

Michigan Opera Theater

Puccini's masterpiece, "La Boheme," is a timeless treasure that paints the story of a poor young couple seeking a lovers' paradise among resilient, struggling friends in the Latin Quarter of Paris. Some of the most familiar and well-loved arias come from this beautiful opera.

The tragic love story of Mimi and Rudolfo was the basis for the rock musical opera "Rent," with Mimi's fatal tuberculosis instead changed to AIDS in New York during the 1980s. New operatic superstar soprano Lina Tertian sings the role of Mimi in MOT's production. "La Boheme" runs Oct. 17-25.

MOT's other operas this season are "The Passenger" by Mieczyslaw Weinberg, a recently discovered work that looks at one German couple's struggle to face their role in the

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Applause! CALENDAR

► Calendar

Continued from page 25

The Addams Family Tickets: \$13-25. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 N. University, Ann Arbor. Sep. 10 - Sep. 13. 734-971-0605. www.A2ct.org

The Northern Writers' Project Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 31 - Sep. 6. 734-663-0681. www.Pntheatre.org

The Whale Ringwald Theatre, Ferndale. Oct. 2-31. www.UDMarts.com. See ad on pg. 25

The Will Rogers Follies Set in the glitz and glamour of Rogers' Ziegfeld Follies days, the musical tells the life story of the cowboy rope trick artist turned political satirist, philosopher, write, movie star, humanitarian, champion of the underdog and friend of kings and presidents. Tickets: \$37. Barn Theatre, 13351 West M-96, Augusta. Through Sep. 6. 269-731-4121. www.barntheatreschool.com

ART 'N' AROUND

MOCAD "Interchange Art + Dinner Series"

Tickets: \$200+. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 18 - Sep. 24. 313-832-6622. www.Mocadetroit.org

Riverwalk Theatre "Mary Jobin, Oil Painted Landscapes." Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. Aug. 1 - Sep. 30. 517-482-5700.

UMMA "The Art of Tyree Guyton: A Thirty-Year Journey." University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 22 - Jan. 3. 734-763-4186. www.Umma.umich.edu

UMMA "Mine More Coal: War Effort and Americanism in World War I Posters". University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. May 9 - Sep. 20. 734-763-4186. www.Umma.umich.edu

See Applause Calendar, page 28

Sept. 10-13, 2015
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► LGBT Fall Fundraisers

Continued from p. 20

range from \$175-275 and can be purchased at www.ruthelliscenter.org. Voices 2015 will be held at the Waterview Loft at Port Detroit, 130 E. Atwater St., Detroit.

ArtWorks

Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC) and honorary co-chairs Gretchen Gonzales Davidson and Ethan Davidson will host the 20th anniversary of ArtWorks Detroit to round out September's LGBT-centric events. Considered Michigan's premier showcase charity event, the event will begin at 6 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 18 at The Alchemy - Warehouse C, 2051 Rosa Parks Blvd. in Detroit.

"We're thrilled to have reached our 20th anniversary with ArtWorks Detroit," says Terry Ryan, CEO for MAC. "The generosity of the art and design communities in Detroit is tremendous – both have assisted MAC in fundraising since we were first founded. We look forward to hosting artists, designers and their fans at this very special anniversary event."

Event-goers can bid on 150 pieces of fine artwork from many disciplines created by some of the most esteemed artists in and outside of Michigan. The original artwork featured at this annual art event will go to the

highest bidder in live and silent auctions. Pre-bidding was available at www.BiddingOwl.com online in a new twist to the event this year. Proceeds, as Ryan notes, raise "'discretionary' or 'un-encumbered' funds, i.e. dollars that can be used for any agency expense, as opposed to grant funds that are tied to specific functions."

Guests will also enjoy a strolling fashion show, hors d'oeuvres, cocktails and live entertainment.

Leading this year's event are Barbara Bunting (ArtWorks Detroit Co-Founder), Carl Demeulenaere (ArtWorks Detroit Co-Founder, Artist), Peter Gahan (Detroit Art Consultant, Designer), Ted Lee Hadfield (President/CEO, Artpack Services). Other members of the committee include: Antonio "Shades" Agee, Robert Biess, Carlos Borrego, Jeff Cancelosi,



This and dozens of other works of art will be auctioned off.

Applause!

Man's Enormous Problems Explored In 'The Whale'

FERNDALE – The University of Detroit-Mercy's 45th theatre season will open with a new artistic partnership with The Ringwald Theatre in Ferndale with Samuel D. Hunter's "The Whale." We will meet Charlie, played by Joe Plambeck, a man mired in grief and personal conflicts surrounding the loss of his male partner, his relationship to his ex-wife and his nearly estranged daughter. Confined to his home due to a physical malady, Charlie reaches out to the people in his life using the tool he knows best: the written word.

Greg Grobis directs this new play, which premiered off Broadway in 2012, which is known for its powerful emotions and unflinching look at one man's descent into self-destruction.

"The Whale" is a raw, emotional piece that reveals someone with great empathy for everyone but himself, with humor, honesty and touching glimpses of human frailty. Big-hearted and fiercely



Gay playwright Samuel Hunter wrote the award-winning play *The Whale*, a touching look into the psyche of a gay man after the loss of his lover.

funny, "The Whale" tells the story of a man's last chance at redemption, and of finding beauty in the most unexpected places.

Hunter's "The Whale" is the 2013's winner of the Lucille Lortel Best Play Award, Drama Desk Special Award for Significant Contribution to Theatre, and the GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding New York Theatre.

"The Whale" opens Oct. 2 at the Ringwald Theater in Ferndale and runs until the end of the month. Tickets are available www.UDMarts.com

Yuen Hom, Kyle "RISE" Irving, Eric Longs, Todd Peplinski and Steven Schoeberlein.

Danielle and Peter Karmanos, Jr. return as platinum sponsors. Other sponsors are Tito's Handmade Vodka, Jim Beam, Vertical Detroit and Walk Fashion Show. Artpack Services, Inc. of Farmington will professionally install the artwork for the auction display.

Guests may notice that the event, previously part of the larger, three day long "DIFFA," has changed forms. "The event has been at a variety of venues in its history; generally when an event changes venues, it is due mostly to things like costs, or availability of a space on a particular date, or outgrowing a particular venue," Ryan says. "In the last five years, the event has been at College for Creative Studies, Willys Overland Lofts, Joe Dumars Fieldhouse, and two years at the former Federal Reserve building. In those five years, it was one part of a larger event – DINING BY DESIGN – instead of a stand alone. This year, we are not doing the larger event, but returning ArtWorks to a stand-alone event in part to celebrate this anniversary. Too, guests like to see new spaces."

Tickets to ArtWorks Detroit are \$75, including complimentary valet, and may be purchased at www.michiganaidcoalition.org. Proceeds from the event will benefit the work of MAC and its mission to prevent HIV/

AIDS in Michigan by promoting healthy lifestyles, providing and investing in evidence-based, innovative programs and through advocacy and education.

For more information, or to donate, call 248-545-1435.

To keep up with these organizations' events throughout the year, check out BTL's calendar at www.pridesource.com/calendar.html.

Affirmations Fall Fling

Affirmations will host its Fall Fling 2015 this October as a celebration of Metro Detroit's LGBT community and its allies. More than 250 guests will enjoy the "creative, chic affair" held inside Affirmations' 17,000 square foot, state of the art Allan Gilmour and Eric Jirgens Community Center. The event will feature live entertainment, guided center tours, open bar, delicious hors d'oeuvres and decadent desserts. One of Affirmations' signature fundraising events, dollars raised from Fall Fling 2015 will support implementation of Affirmations' life-transforming programs and services. Individual tickets are \$75 per ticket.

Fall Fling 2015 begins at 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10.

For more information, contact Charlotte Myers at cmyers@goaffirmations.org or 248-398-7105. Tickets can be purchased at <http://bit.ly/1EzqYWR>

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The Stars Align At Wilde Awards

WEST BLOOMFIELD – Theater professionals from across Michigan gathered Aug. 31 for The 2015 Wilde Awards ceremony at The Berman Center for the Performing Arts. Presented by EncoreMichigan.com, the most comprehensive resource for news and information about the state's professional theater industry, The Wilde Awards were established in 2002 to honor excellence in Michigan's professional theaters.

"Although I say something similar pretty much every year, this past season was certainly a memorable one – both onstage and behind the scenes," said Donald V. Calamia, co-founder and editor-at-large of EncoreMichigan.com. "New theaters popped up, a few established ones kept a very low profile, and quality work was seen on stages all across the state and in theaters large and small. Plus, we got a new owner not long before the end was imminent. So all in all, I'd call this one heck of a successful season!"

EncoreMichigan.com's new owner and editor-in-chief, David Kiley, was formally introduced to the community. "We have many exciting plans for the near future – including a total redesign of the website this fall," said Kiley.

In total, EncoreMichigan.com's team of critics reviewed 168 productions produced or presented by 49 professional theater companies located in 25 communities across the state during the abbreviated 2014-15 season. Shows had to be performed for four consecutive days or more or over two weekends or more to be eligible for a review. And only shows reviewed by EncoreMichigan.com could be nominated for a Wilde Award.

Now in its 14th year, The Wilde Awards – named in honor of 19th century playwright Oscar Wilde – honored the best productions, performances and technical work produced or presented by professional theaters across the state. Here's a listing of the 2015 winners:



Best Drama, Best Design - Props and Best Design - Sets Winner: Annapurna; The Purple Rose Theatre Company

Applause!

WINNERS: The 2015 Wilde Awards

Best Comedy

"Leaving Iowa," Beth Torrey, director; Tipping Point Theatre

Best Drama

"Annapurna," Guy Sanville, director; The Purple Rose Theatre Company

Best Musical

"Violet," Steve DeBruyne, director; The Dio - Dining & Entertainment

Best Opera

"Elektra," Nicholas Muni, director; Michigan Opera Theatre

Best of the Bard

"King Lear," Frannie Shepherd-Bates, director; Shakespeare in Detroit



Elektra



Kinky Boots

Best Theatre for Young Audiences

"Sleeping Beauty," Igor Gozman, director; PuppetART

Best Touring Production

"Kinky Boots," Jerry Mitchell, director; Broadway in Detroit: Fisher Theatre

Best Performance, Actress - Comedy

Emily Sutton-Smith, "Miracle on South Division Street," Williamston Theatre

Best Performance, Actress - Drama

Inga R. Wilson, "Sugarhill," The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company

Best Performance, Actress - Musical

Mahalia Greenway, "Violet," The Dio - Dining & Entertainment

Best Performance, Actor - Comedy

Brandy Joe Plambeck, "Boeing Boeing," Hilberry Theatre

Best Performance, Actor - Drama

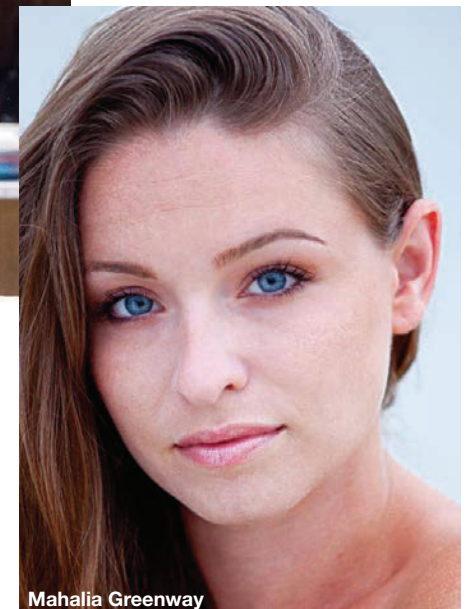
Mike McGettigan, "Buried Child," The Abreact

Best Performance, Actor - Musical

Sebastian Gerstner, "Spamalot," The Encore Musical Theatre Company



Sugarhill



Mahalia Greenway

Best Performance - Opera
Christine Goerke, "Elektra," Michigan Opera Theatre

Best Performance - The Bard
Julia Garlotte, "King Lear," Shakespeare in Detroit

Best Performance - Theater for Young Audiences
Sam Carter, "The Diary of Anne Frank," Flint Youth Theatre

Best Teamwork
Tony Caselli and John Lepard, "The Best Brothers," Williamston Theatre

Best New Script
Linda Ramsay-Detherage, "Sugarhill," The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company



Best Music Direction

Brian E. Buckner, "The Ugly Duckling," Wild Swan Theater

Best Choreography

Irina Baranovskaya and Igor Gozman, "The Crane Maiden," PuppetART

Best Design – Sound or Video

Tim Culver, Cameron Lake and Lauri Rowe, "It's a Wonderful Life: A Radio Play," Great Escape Stage Company

Best Design - Sets

Bartley H. Bauer, "Annapurna," The Purple Rose Theatre Company

Best Design - Props

Danna Segrest, "Annapurna," The Purple Rose Theatre Company

Best Design - Lights

Harley Miah, "Red," Open Book Theatre Company

Best Design - Costumes

Monika Essen, "Frida," Michigan Opera Theatre

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Council Cargle Award for Dedication to the Michigan Theatre Community

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2015-2016: Season Ten



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The Decade Dance
by Joseph Zettelmaier
Mar. 31 - May 1, 2016



Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol
by Tom Mula
Nov. 19 - Dec. 20, 2015



Chapatti
by Christian O'Reilly
May 26 - June 26, 2016



Too Much, Too Much, Too Many
by Meghan Kennedy
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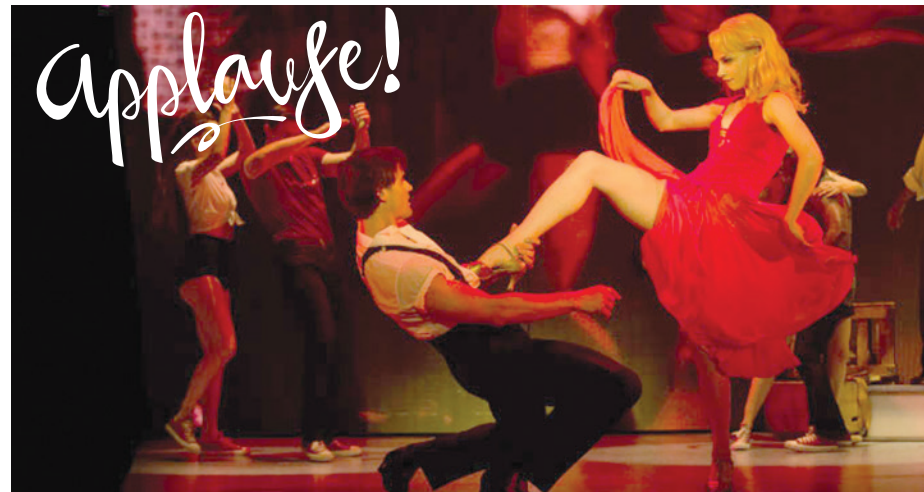
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available at www.whartoncenter.com or by calling 1-800-WHARTON.

Other events for Wharton's 2015-16 season include: "An Evening with Kristin Chenoweth," "Cirque Dreams Holiday," "Riverdance - The 20th Anniversary World Tour," Lang Lang, Metropolitan Opera Rising Stars Concert, Twyla Tharp Dance, The Chieftains, Bobby McFerrin: "Bobby Meets Michigan!" "Act One Family Series," "The Bridges of Madison County" and more.

Renowned 'Jersey Boys' Returns To East Lansing

EAST LANSING – Tony, Grammy and Olivier Award winning hit musical, "Jersey Boys," the story of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons, is returning to East Lansing this fall. Part of the MSU Federal Credit Union Broadway Series at the Wharton Center, the musical will be featured Tuesday, Oct. 13–Sunday, Oct. 18 in the Cobb Great Hall. Directed by two time Tony Award winner Des McAnuff, "Jersey Boys" won the 2006 Tony Award for Best Musical, the 2006 Grammy Award for Best Musical Show Album, the 2009 Olivier Award for Best New Musical, the 2010 Helpmann Award for Best Musical (Australia), and continues to break box office records on Broadway and across North America.

"Jersey Boys" worldwide has been seen by over 22 million people (as of January 2015) and is written by Academy Award winner Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice, with music by Bob Gaudio, lyrics by Bob Crewe and choreography by Sergio Trujillo. The work is the story of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons: Frankie Valli, Bob Gaudio, Tommy DeVito and Nick Massi.

This is the true story of how a group of blue collar boys from the wrong side of the tracks became one of the biggest American pop music sensations of all time. They wrote their own songs, invented their own sound and sold 175 million records worldwide all before they were 30.

The show features all their hits including "Sherry," "Big Girls Don't Cry," "Oh What A Night," "Walk Like A Man," "Can't Take My

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PERFORMING

Jersey Boys

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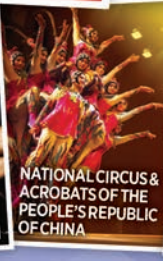
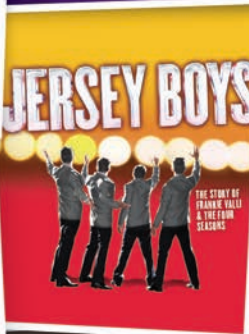
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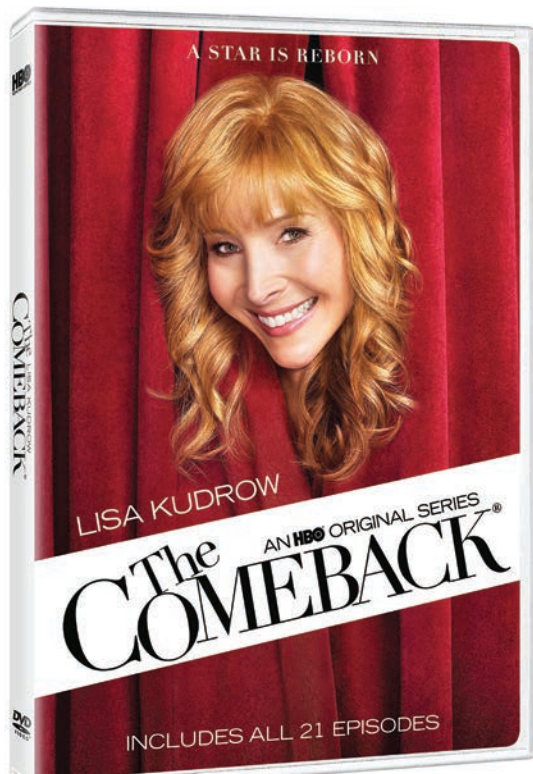
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PRIDESOURCE

Between#Lines Our Fall Home issue will hit the stands Oct. 2!

Screen Queen

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI



The Comeback

When HBO gave their beloved mockumentary “The Comeback” the dreaded cut after its 13-episode run in 2005, it was a sad, sad time for us gays. How would we go on living without our favorite cupcake, Valerie Cherish, a narcissist we loved almost as much as she loved herself? After the show disappeared from our lives, we were now those same Team Val fans hootin’ and hollerin’ at the end of the first season finale. “Give her another take! Give her another take!” Then, bless them, HBO did. Yes, that’s right. Nearly 10 years later, Valerie Cherish got her much-deserved comeback. It would make sense if this was the plan along – resurrect the show nearly a decade later to further meta-ify its very title. Or maybe it was just that “The Comeback” finally made sense to those who couldn’t wrap their heads around the pre-Kardashian world the show inhabited. Never one to miss an opportunity to admire herself, Valerie subtly acknowledges the latter in the first episode, noting that she was hip to reality TV before everyone else. So what now? Shoot a show about a show, cast Valerie Cherish as herself, and have her nemesis, Paulie G, direct it. Get Seth Rogen to play Paulie G. Make even sharper observations about sexism in Hollywood. Then end with some of the most perfect, tear-inducing 10 minutes to ever exist on TV, with Lisa Kudrow turning in a complex, layered performance to demonstrate that, yes, we *do* need to see *that*. And thanks to this comprehensive set, you can. Forever. With past and present commentaries from Kudrow and show co-creator Michael Patrick King, the short “Valerie at ‘Dancing with the Stars’” and the loopable queer-loved classic in its entirety (yes – both seasons!), “The Comeback” on DVD is probably the answer to all of life’s problems.

It Follows

Modern-day horror has not been good to us. Every now and then a studio switches off the conveyor belt and churns out something other than a trashy sequel (see: “The Conjuring,” “The Babadook”), but, otherwise, the genre rarely has anything new to say (yes, you, “Saw” 1, 2, 3, 4, 5...). When it does, it’s a big deal. “It Follows,” then, is a big deal. Bigger than big, actually. Huge. On the surface, the premise seems like yet another teens-in-peril whodunit, but writer/director David Robert Mitchell’s masterful ambiguity gives way to deeper, more provocative musing. After all, what is the “it” that’s following these kids? It could be AIDS; it could also be just the mere

paranoia surrounding the epidemic’s onset in the ‘80s. Beyond its lingering storytelling, “It Follows” is a horror buff’s horror movie, creepy and skin crawly. And the acting? It’s refreshingly on point. So is the camera work, which is gorgeous and moody. On the whole, “It Follows” – as much a tribute to the classics as it is one in its own right – does just that. It stays with you. Scant supplements include a critics-only commentary that breaks down varied facets of the film, including some of its classic-horror influences. And, also, the menacing musical compositions are explored during a standalone talk with their creator because, well, without them, “It Follows” wouldn’t be this bloody good.

The Nanny

Fran Drescher’s nasally-voiced nanny set the bar high for caretakers everywhere – who could compete with her queerness? I mean, first of all, that garish wardrobe, which was obviously drag-inspired. And that mouth, unfiltered and TMI-ready. Fran Fine spoke her mind, which, of course, made it horribly awkward when a job listing brought her to the Sheffields’ swanky palace (in zebra print, naturally), where she shamelessly flirted with the widowed patriarch, Maxwell, razzed his kids, and then, during dinner, dished on a “natural digestive.” She passed the test, got the job, got fired, then got the job again. That was 1993, when the show premiered, but eventually Drescher’s delightfully zany role as “The Nanny” was notable for more than the whiney way she talked. She lived for Barbra Streisand (remember the impersonator during the final season?). One episode was titled “Oy Vey, You’re Gay” and involved a lesbian pass to Fran from none other than

Catherine Oxenberg of “Dynasty.” Also, how about that time Fran actually did drag? And, you know, her star-powered Rolodex, which might as well have been the GLAAD Media Awards guest list: Bette Midler, Estelle Getty, Elton John, Cloris Leachman, Patti LaBelle, Margaret Cho; you get the gist. Because yes. A lot of important gay (ish) icons appeared throughout the span of the show’s six-season, 146-episode run, all of which are permanently etched on discs – with ample commentaries and flashback featurettes – so you never have to forget why you want the ‘90s back.

Bessie

As the leading lady in HBO’s “Bessie,” Queen Latifah’s portrayal of the Roaring ‘20s singer Bessie Smith is a crowning achievement. No, really, bow down; you haven’t seen Latifah this good since... maybe ever. Latifah’s Bessie is a dynamo who knew what she wanted career-wise, got it, and

then became an influential force of nature in the black struggle for equality. The Queen encapsulates her empowering gumption in a rangy role that goes for miles (she goes topless, too, so you know she’s committed). Over 20 years in the making, the pursuit of a Bessie biopic is long overdue, and out writer / director Dee Rees (“Pariah”) knows just where to take this story, portraying Smith as more than a divine singing voice because, well, she was. Bessie was the voice of a community. And of survival. She shut down the KKK when they attempted to set fire to her performance tent, and when a man got too handsy with her, she jabbed him with a piece of stray glass like the baddest badass you’ve ever seen. She slept with men, and she also slept with women. She was unstoppable, and Latifah’s scenes with Ma Rainey (a fabulous Mo’Nique) illustrate Bessie’s unwavering determination to be the best she could be. Rees’ film is a galvanizing slice-of-life biopic rooted in the universality of self-expression. During the extras, which cover the film’s long journey to the screen (featuring Latifah’s less-confident 1996 screen test), Latifah briefly talks about “Bessie” being the most challenging film of her career. A challenge the Queen meets with consummate flair.



Also Out

The Rose

Winfred Sanderson may have put a spell on you – and you don’t have to pretend you didn’t sob buckets during “Beaches” (CC Bloom, we love you) – but the Divine Miss M first brought her most faithful bathhouse-going fans to their, ahem, knees in her star-making role as Mary Rose Foster in “The Rose.” Loosely based on the life of Janis Joplin, Midler turned her now-pristine image inside out to take on the tragic life of a self-destructive rocker. Bette wears her battered heart on her sleeve as she suffuses the part with grit, pathos and musical verve, eventually tearing into your heart with the film’s eponymous send-off song. In addition to archival interviews circa late ‘70s, Criterion’s re-release of “The Rose” – the film’s Blu-ray debut – includes a new sit-down with Milder, who dishes with fascinating candor on the difficulties of “The Rose” and how “I sang until I bled.”

Clouds of Sils Maria

Contrary to popular “Twilight” belief, Kristen Stewart can act. Her eyes aren’t just empty, lifeless Bella vessels after all, and if given the right role – see also “Still Alice,” where she stars alongside Julianne Moore – Stewart can slip out of herself and into the psyche of someone else with remarkable ease. As Juliette Binoche’s assistant, a confident Stewart is effectively orderly as she oversees the day-to-day endeavors of Maria Enders’ (Binoche), a veteran French actress. Starring in a theater production with a younger actress (Chloë Grace Moretz) who’s playing the same role she once played, Maria is forced to face some serious truths. Revelations abound in this chatty showpiece that requires patience to slog through its heady storytelling. Extras... wait, what extras?

Hot Pursuit

In “Hot Pursuit,” Reese Witherspoon and Sofia Vergara are on the run. But from what? To flee every frame of this hot mess of an odd-couple cop comedy? Though you wouldn’t blame them if they tried, not quite. In this laugh-now-feel-bad-about-it-later buddy comedy, Officer Cooper (Witherspoon) and her mob witness (Vergara) bumble their way out of awkward situations, like feigning lesbianism to mitigate a dangerous run-in with a crazed Southerner. Reese does boy drag as she... demonstrates that her cuteness can defy gender? Yes, “Hot Pursuit” is dumb fun. Yes, “The Heat” was much better. And no, we don’t need a sequel. As for the special features: Reese and Sofia bond onset like the real-life BFFs they may or may not be.

Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, Sep. 3

Trivia with Terry and Thirsty Thursday Half off beer and well drinks with student ID. \aut\BAR, 315 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-994-3677. www.Autbar.com

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

Connections 6 p.m. Open to all LGBTQ and Ally youth from 13-18. Join us to meet other LGBTQ and Ally teens and socialize in a safe space. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. www.Kglrc.org

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

Friday, Sep. 4

Bistro Fridays Special menu. \aut\BAR, 315 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-994-3677. www.Autbar.com

Saturday, Sep. 5

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Sunday, Sep. 6

Salsa Night Salsa lessons. \$1 tacos. \aut\BAR, 315 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-994-3677. www.Autbar.com

Pride NA 6:30 p.m. Confidential and anonymous. Open to all individuals impacted by addiction. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. www.Kglrc.org

B.F.'s! 7 p.m. Tickets: \$12 in advance only. Slipstream, 460 Hilton, **Ferndale**. 248-298-9617. www.Slipstreamti.com

Monday, Sep. 7

LGBT Sexual Assault Survivors Groups 5:30 p.m. Any member of the LGBT community, age 13-24, who is a survivor of sexual assault is welcome. This group is open to all LGBTQIAP individuals who have experienced any form of sexual assault in their lifetime. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-345-5595. nschneider@ywcakalamazoo.org www.Kglrc.org

Tuesday, Sep. 8

Karaoke and Half Off Wine \aut\BAR, 315 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-994-3677. www.Autbar.com

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

Free STI & Rapid HIV Testing 5 p.m. Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, Trichomoniasis, Syphilis. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile



Editor's Pick

Comedy For A Cause

Stand-up comic Leslie Ann Thompson will headline Comedy For A Cause, a benefit for the Metropolitan Church of Detroit, at 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12 at Novi's Laff Tracks Comedy Club.

Featured with Leslie are ever-popular actor/director Alex Bozinovic and popular comedienne Emily Syrja, the stellar evening's femcee. Tickets are \$15, with \$9 of each ticket sold to benefit MCCDetroit.

Laff Tracks Comedy Club is located at Break Time Billiards, 30850 Beck Road in Novi. Text 248-924-9578 for reservations. "All bases will be loaded," promises Leslie, Alex and Emily. "A home run for the church!"

Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.Goaffirmations.org

NEST 6:30 p.m. Monthly Bible study focusing on LGBTQ issues. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 508 Denner St., **Kalamazoo**. www.Kglrc.org

Wednesday, Sep. 9

Free Pool and \$1 Off Beer \aut\BAR, 315 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-994-3677. www.Autbar.com

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

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

Thursday, Sep. 10

Loretta Lynn and Martina McBride 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$45-75. Olympia Entertainment, 2211 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 313-471-6611. www.Olympiaentertainment.com

MAC Health 11 p.m. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), 928 McNichols Road W, **Detroit**. 313-863-3934. www.MichiganAIDScoalition.org

Friday, Sep. 11

My Brightest Diamond 8 p.m. Not many people can front a rock band, sing Greckis Third Symphony, lead a marching band procession down the streets of the Sundance Film

Festival, and perform a Baroque opera of their own composition all in a months time. But Shara Worden can. A one-time touring member of the Decemberists, the Detroit-based artist and Ypsilanti High School graduate has collaborated with David Lang, Sufjan Stevens, Laurie Anderson and yMusic, keeping one foot in the classical world and one in the club. University Musical Society, 210 S. Ashley St., **Ann Arbor**. 734-764-2538. umstix@umich.edu www.Ums.org/performance/my-brightest-diamond/

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

Saturday, Sep. 12

New Center Community Services Annual Walkathon 2015 9 a.m. Stand up for mental health. Registration is \$20+. New Center, 1340 Atwater St., **Detroit**. 313-961-3715. syyoung@newcentercmhs.org www.Newcentercmhs.org/Annual-Walkathon

Toastmasters Demo Meeting with GNA Ambassadors Club 11 a.m. Please join us for our inaugural demonstration meeting! GNA (Gender-identity Network Alliance), 290 West Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 810-357-4035. www.Facebook.com/events/1706827116206807/

Upper Peninsula Rainbow Pride Fest 2015 11 a.m. Join us for our second annual Pride Fest. Games, entertainment, food, merchandise, music and more! Upper Peninsula Rainbow Pride, 2145 Sugar Loaf Ave., **Marquette**. uprainbowpride@gmail.com www.Uprainbowpride.com/index.htm

Sunday, Sep. 13

AIDS Walk Detroit 5k through downtown Royal Oak. AIDS Walk Detroit, 316 E. Eleven Mile Road, **Royal Oak**. 248-399-WALK. ckeyes@aidswalkdetroit.org www.Aidswalkdetroit.org

Nick Jonas and Bebe Rexha The Fillmore, **Detroit**.

Wednesday, Sep. 16

ArtWorks: Fashion & Food Trucks Michigan AIDS Coalition, 1600 Clay St., **Detroit**. www.MichiganAIDScoalition.org

Thursday, Sep. 17

Design Detroit Sample 20 restaurant stations. Michigan AIDS Coalition, 1600 Clay St., **Detroit**. www.MichiganAIDScoalition.org

MAC Health 1 a.m. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), **Detroit**. www.MichiganAIDScoalition.org

UMS Student Welcome Party and Open House 11 a.m. Take advantage of an unforgettable opportunity to visit the inside of Hill Auditorium. Learn about how you can be involved. Snacks provided, student tickets available for purchase. University Musical Society, 825 N. University Ave., **Ann Arbor**. 734-764-2538. umstix@umich.edu www.Ums.org/performance/ums-student-welcome-party-and-open-house/

Faith Alliance Meeting 12 p.m. Welcoming new members who would like to be involved with the intersection of faith, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 2208 Winchell Ave., **Kalamazoo**. www.Kglrc.org

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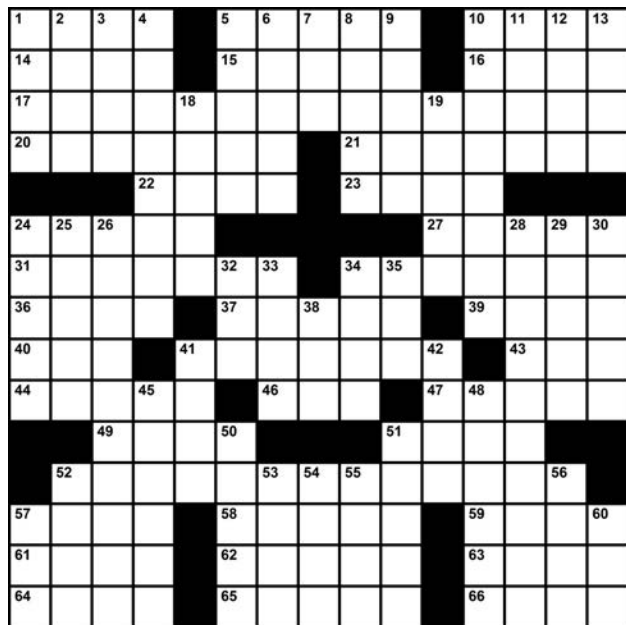
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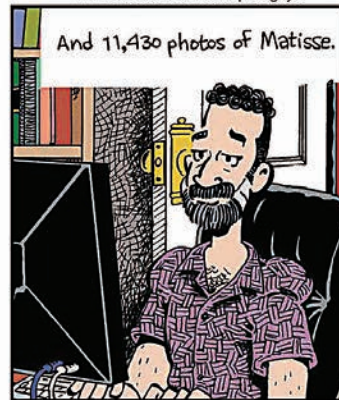
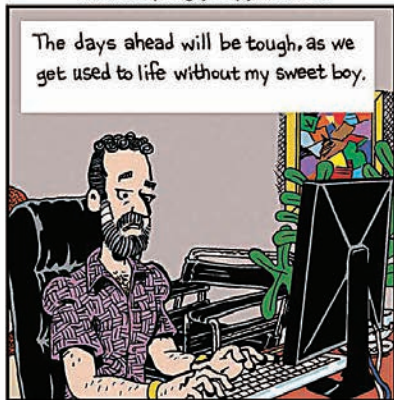
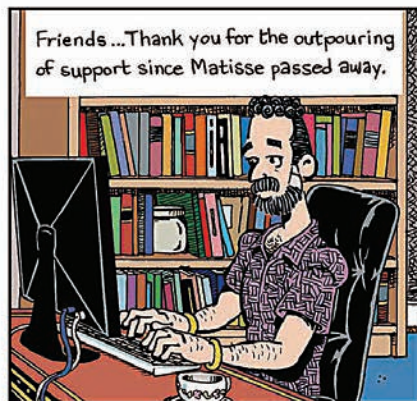
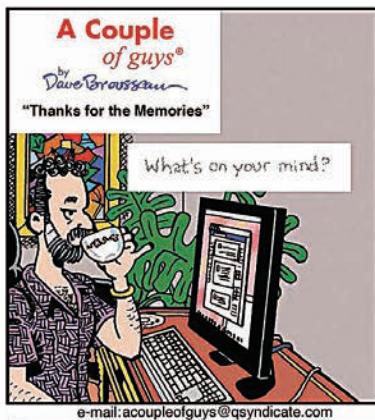
- 34 See 31-Across
 36 Enjoys Rubicon restaurant
 37 Be a success in life
 39 Give the cold shoulder
 40 Chemical ending
 41 Responded to Di's passing away
 43 Drink with jam and bread
 44 "Goodby ___ Jean"
 46 Use your head?
 47 Willing and able partner
 49 PAC of seniors
 51 It might go right to the bottom
 52 Visual effects producer and current love interest of 31-Across
 57 Came to rest
 58 Tickle pink
 59 Gilbert of "Roseanne"
 61 Lorca's pink
 62 Contract conditions
 63 Refrain from tongue use
 64 Sweet opening?
 65 Drivers' rods
 66 Cruising
- Down**
- 1 That's bull, to Frida
 2 Soon, long ago
 3 Frat toga
 4 Violate a property sign
 5 Susan of "Goldengirl"
 6 Length, to a bottom
 7 Gardner of "Show Boat"
 8 Very beginning, slangily
 9 "Candle in the Wind" singer John
 10 Woodcutters' tools
 11 "And another thing ..."
- 12 Ryan of porn
 13 Chloe's role in "Boys Don't Cry"
 18 Butler in "Gone with the Wind"
 19 Harden
 24 Yarn buy
 25 Madrid museum
 26 Saying "Bite me!" to cannibals?
 28 He delivers gifts in stockings
 29 Brought into alignment
 30 In check
 32 A chat room boaster may have a big one
 33 Just one of those things
 34 Material from Sylvia Beach?
 35 Da Vinci's threesome
 38 To's partner
 41 "South Park" composer Shaiman
 42 Cross-dressing
 45 Fruity rum drink
 48 Inventor Otis
 50 Portrayal of Mary and son
 51 Head lock?
 52 It's for skin care
 53 Ms. Swan portrayer Borstein
 54 Psychiatrist Jung
 55 Melissa Etheridge's "Don't Look ___"
 56 Irish tongue
 57 Nero's arts
 60 Palindromist's cry

Twilight Of The Need For Sexual Clarity

Across

- 1 Pastry with fruit, perhaps
 5 "Lesbians ignite!" e.g.
 10 Type of Mary pass
 14 "You want the light ___ off?"
 15 "On the Beach" writer Shute
 16 Alan of "And the Band Played On"
 17 "Twilight" star and former

- love interest of 3-Across
 20 Like some fouts, to Sue Wicks
 21 "Phantom of the Opera" carrier
 22 Phnom ____, Cambodia
 23 What bottoms say when they treat?
 24 Pie fight sound
 27 Jamaican cultist
 31 With 34-Across, sexually ambiguous "Twilight" star



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ANNOUNCEMENTS - COMMUNITY SERVICES

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LGBT-Friendly Wedding And Party Planning Vendors

Find hundreds of resources to plan your event with supportive businesses. BTL has produced the Ultimate LGBT Wedding and Anniversary Expo for five years. Find what you need at www.btlweddingexpo.com

To Place A Classified Ad

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IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION FOR ENGAGED COUPLES



Diane R. Harbour, EA

June 26, 2015 was an historic day in the United States of America. All persons can now marry legally in 50 States. If you are considering marriage there could be tax consequences. The effects can be good or bad. ATS Advisors/Harbour Tax is currently offering a tax consultation to determine the effect - if any - of marriage on your current tax scenario. Affordable, safe and secure tax services from a familiar and long time LGBT community tax professional. Call us to visit any of our six locations for your marriage tax consultation today!

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